

Checking in on our Green Goals; a very messy festival; a chirp-off champion crowned; and human hair toothpaste.

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm [Christie Kijurina](#)

It's Wednesday August 27 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Checking in on our Green Goals; a very messy festival; a chirp-off champion crowned; and human hair toothpaste.

THE LOWDOWN

Hands up if you've turned on a light or charged a device today? Pretty much all of us, right? Well, the way we make that energy is at the heart of some big news this week.

The federal government says Australia is on track to meet its promise under the Paris Agreement... that's a global deal made in 2015 where almost every country agreed to work together to stop the Earth heating too much, keeping the rise below 2 degrees Celsius, and aiming for just 1.5.

Australia's goal is to cut Greenhouse Gas emissions by 43% by 2030, compared to where we were in 2005. So far, we've cut about 30%, so we're more than halfway there. But experts say we need to do better, and South Australia has shown it can be done, running for 99 days last year on 100% renewable energy.

It's not simple, though. Australia also relies on coal and other fossil fuels, which provide jobs and money for the economy. Shifting to cleaner energy is a tricky balancing act.

The Climate Change Authority (a group of experts who advise the government) is about to recommend a stronger 2035 target. And many Aussies are on board, snapping up home batteries and looking ahead to electric cars that could even help power their homes.

So, Australia is on track, but the choices we make in the next few years will shape the planet we all live on. And it's important that leaders know how we feel, so our voices are part of the decisions.

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day we give the world globe a spin and land wherever it stops — and today, we've landed in Spain, where things have gotten seriously saucy!

Welcome to La Tomatina — the world's biggest food fight! Every August, the tiny town of Buñol is invaded by thousands of people, all ready to throw squishy tomatoes at each other. Yep — just for fun!

This messy tradition began around 80 years ago when a group of kids started a food fight, and now, it's an official event. With 120 tonnes of tomatoes grown specially just for this one-hour splat-fest.

Before the action starts, trucks dump the tomatoes into the streets. Then — SPLAT! SPLASH! SQUISH! — people hurl tomatoes, slip in pulp, and cover everything (and everyone) in red goo.

After an hour of fruity chaos, the cannon fires to end the fun, and the streets look like spaghetti sauce — and smell like pizza! And of course I've stuck a link to photos in the episode notes.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

-Play Bird Calls-

(Attenborough- Style) “In the heart of Hong Kong... that is not the call of the brown fish owl... nor the yellow-crested cockatoo... it is the sound of humans trying their best to be birds.”

Over the weekend, the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society hosted its first-ever bird call contest! Almost 100 contestants strutted their stuff on stage, mimicking the calls of species like the Asian barred owlet and the koel. Some even donned costumes.

The top prize went to Bob Chan, who impressed the judges with his spot-on impression of a Eurasian tree sparrow — a tiny bird that lives in the city.

Hong Kong is home to more than 580 bird species, about a third of all those in China, and is a vital stopover for migrating birds. By staging the contest, organisers hope to raise awareness of conservation and protecting habitats for the feathered travellers who depend on them.

WEIRD SCIENCE

Hands up if you love going to the dentist? Yeah... didn't think so. Well, scientists in London may have found a way to make those dreaded dentist visits a whole lot less painful, with help from sheep's wool or human hair!

Here's how it works: teeth aren't bones, and when the tough outer enamel wears away, from sugary or acidic food, not brushing, or just getting older, it never grows back. That's why decay is one of the most common diseases in the world, affecting about 2 billion people.

But, clever researchers have discovered that keratin, a protein found in hair, skin, and wool, can actually rebuild enamel. They took keratin from sheep wool, mixed it with artificial saliva (apparently that's a thing), and watched it form a coating that looked and acted like the real thing — filling in weak spots and protecting teeth.

In just a few years, keratin toothpaste or even a gel that “varnishes” your teeth could mean fewer fillings... and fewer dentist drills. WooHoo! And no, that doesn't mean you don't need to brush your teeth.

BOOK WEEK

Before we start the S'Quiz I need to let you know that we've been busy pouring over your amazing entries from last week's Book Week costume competition, and wow — you really brought the characters to life! There were so many brilliant, creative costumes, we just had to add some extra prizes!

Bryce is now doing the final deliberations (and trying not to get glitter in his eyes), and we'll be announcing the winners in tomorrow's podcast.

So stay tuned — and best of luck, bookworms!

THE S'QUIZ

This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening ...

1. True or False: South Australia ran for 50 days last year on 100% renewable energy?
2. In Spain's La Tomatina festival, what fruit do people throw at each other?
3. Which protein, found in hair, skin, and wool, have scientists used to help rebuild tooth enamel?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, August 27 ... World Rock Paper Scissors Day...This game may have begun wayyy back in ancient China more than 2,000 years ago, where instead of rock, paper and scissors, players used hand signs for a frog, a slug, and a caterpillar. A great way to settle an argument or decide who gets the last piece of cake. Speaking of cake...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Lucinda from Willoughby, Maggie from Aldinga Beach, Kloe from Larrakia Country, Atticus from Doncaster East, AAddie from Middle Harbour and Josh from Tailem Bend.

Belated shoutouts go to... Maddie from Canberra, Saksham (pron Suk-SHam) from St Lucia, Mina from Blackburn, Toby from Forest Lake, Milo from Toorak, Miles from Ballarat, Kester from Dural, Henry from Brown Hill, Connor from Ballajura and Caitlyn and Annie from Sutherland.

Classroom shout outs go to... classes 5B and 5D with Mrs Prior at Sheldon College in Brisbane and classes 5TC and 5JV with Miss Leseig and Miss Vella at John Henry Primary School in Pakenham.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. False ...It was 99 days...
2. Tomatoes
3. Keratin

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or, if you're after a classroom shout out- drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today - We'll be back again tomorrow.

In the meantime ... get out there and have a most excellent day ... over and out.