

**Driverless cars on horizon; its AFL footy finals time; Squiz-E heads for the clouds;
and Molly, our new world surf champ!**

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

I'm Bryce Corbett -

It's Thursday, September 4 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Driverless cars on horizon; its AFL footy finals time; Squiz-E heads for the clouds; and Molly, our new world surf champ!

THE LOWDOWN

Ok - I want you to close your eyes for a second ... well - not you Mum or Dad if you happen to be driving the car.

And I want you to imagine what the roads and cars of tomorrow might look like.

Because we all spend a lot of time in cars, on the roads - it's a big part of all of our lives.

When you closed your eyes, did you imagine flying taxis and driverless cars?

Because in the next couple of weeks, we'll be taking a little hop into the future as the Australia's first self-driving cars take to the streets.

What's a self-driving car? It's pretty much what it sounds like. A car that can operate without a human hanging on to the steering wheel or operating the brake and accelerator.

A popular car brand is expected to press SEND on the software update to its electrical vehicles which will mean they can drive themselves.

Now, this particular version of self-driving cars requires someone to be in the driver's seat and watching the road - in case they need to intervene and take control of the vehicle.

But in cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco and Austin in the United States, there are fully-driverless taxis already operating - you simply order the taxi using an app on your phone, punch in your destination and it shows up to collect you and drive through the traffic to deliver you where you want to go.

And there are plans for these fully driverless taxis to operate here one day - with the Federal Government looking at changing rules to allow them to roll on our roads from as early as next year.

Imagine having a driverless car drop you off to school? How cool.

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops - and today we've landed in the waters off Fiji where Aussie surfer, Molly Picklum has just been crowned the best womens' surfer in the world.

The 22 yo from the NSW Central Coast overcame a nasty bout of the flu to soldier on surf some incredible waves to beat the best surfers in the world to claim the title.

It elevates Molly to the heights of long-time Aussie world champ, Stephanie Gilmore - who won eight-straight womens' world surfing championships from 2015 until 2022.

Molly revealed after the competition on Tuesday that she was sick as a dog going into it - and not sure she was going to be able to surf. But she dug deep, find those reserves of grit that champions seem to possess - and pulled off a stunning session to impress the judges and claim the trophy.

Molly P - Squiz Kids Salutes you.

SPORT TIME

Hold onto your supporters' scarves and crack out the footy franks people .. it's footy finals time - with the first games of the AFL finals season kicking off tonight.

All eyes will be on Adelaide Oval tonight as the Crows take on the Pies in the first finals game - with minor premiers Adelaide hoping to show the same form that's gotten them to the top of the ladder at season's end to topple Collingwood.

Tomorrow will see the clash of the felines - when the Cats take on the Lions at the MCG - in a game that many commentators say could well be the match-up we'll see for the grand final at the end of the month.

Then on Saturday, its the GWS Giants versus the Hawthorn Hawks in Sydney .. the Giants have won the last nine out of ten games they've played .. can they make it ten?

And the weekend will wrap up in Perth, where Fremantle will be hoping the home ground advantage is enough to give them the edge over first time finalist, the Gold Coast Suns.

Oh ... and look – did you notice how i used the word - ‘versus’ - as a noun? I know you lot love it - but it’s not technically proper English to use ‘verse’ as a verb .. as in, when you say “This weekend we’re going to verse the Tigers” .. that’s not correct English.

Well - someone has to keep standards up around here ..

NEWSHOUNDS

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Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his head into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he’s sniffed out on the internet ... and today, he’s most upset - because there he was enjoying a lovely afternoon in the park in Brisbane recently, when his day was ruined by some truly silly disinformation online.

If you live in Brissy - you might remember a couple of weeks back there was a most incredible cloud formation in the sky. Called ‘undulatus cloud formation’ the clouds appeared like great big fluffy tubes, stretching out in a patterned formation as far as the eye can see.

Except some silly trickster on Instagram posted a photo of the cloud formation and made the baseless claim that they weren’t clouds, but actually a special sort of aerosol COVID vaccine that had been spread across the sky by the government.

This, my friends, is what we call a conspiracy theory - and they’ve been around forever and they’re always spread by people who are trying to create fear and confusion by making up lies - and now with social media - it’s much easier for them to do it.

But as Newshounds - you all know how important it is to STOP, THINK and CHECK before believing everything we see online - especially on social media.

And if your school hasn’t yet joined the thousands around the country who have taken advantage of Squiz Kids’ very own, very free media literacy program, Newshounds - head to squizkids.com.au to check it out now.

And a special shout out to Prospect Primary School in Adelaide - where I’ll be heading next Thursday with South Australia’s Education Minister to see Newshounds in action in the classroom. Can’t wait to meet you all!

THE S’QUIZ

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

1. In waters off which nearby tropical island country did Molly Picklum pick up her world championship title this week?
2. Which AFL team from Queensland is in the AFL finals for the first time ever?
3. What's the word kids often say instead of versus that really gets my goat?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, September 4 ... today is International Taekwondo Day .. in the event that's your chosen sport .. it's also Beyonce's birthday - so HB Queen Bey - and on this day 132 years ago, an English kids author called Beatrix Potter published a story called Peter Rabbit to entertain a 5 yo boy she knew ... little did she know it would go on to become the entertainment juggernaut it is now ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Aaron from Forest Lake, Zoe from Templestowe, Keida from Petrie, George from Kangaroo Lake, Jack from Bowden, Lucas from Tennyson Point, Aidan from Guyra, Amalia from Kurri Kurri, Teingkah from Heidelberg West and Harry listening over in Whitianga, New Zealand.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Class 5K with Miss Klemke at Koorringal Public School in Wagga Wagga, all the grade 5 classes and teachers at John Henry Primary School in Pakenham, class 5G and Ms Gunson from St Ives Primary School, class 5C with Ms Ozolins at Patricks Road State School in Ferny Hills and Year 4 Blue with Miss B at Mount Saint Patrick Primary School in Murrwillumbah.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Fiji
2. Gold Coast Suns
3. Verse

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 with the Kids v Adults Weekly News S'quiz

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