

Super corals in global reef rescue; Gippsland's Gumboot Gift; new record for Barefoot Lego Dash; and Emil the celebrity moose.

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 Wednesday, September 10 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Super corals in global reef rescue; Gippsland's Gumboot Gift; new record for Barefoot Lego Dash; and Emil the celebrity moose.

THE LOWDOWN

So here's some good news for coral reefs everywhere that are being battered by global warming.

In the same week that Australia's Great Barrier Reef is being assessed by UNESCO - the world authority that has our reef listed as one of the natural wonders of the world - comes news out of our Pacific Island neighbour, Palau - of a special type of coral that seems to have adapted to warmer waters.

One of the side effects of the greenhouse effect and global warming is obviously sea temperatures rising - and in Australia - that has led to what's known as 'coral bleaching' - where the beautiful corals that make up the reefs around our coastline are under stress and turn a ghostly white.

But scientists have reported this week that new heat resistant strains of coral are flourishing in Palau - a tiny country in the Pacific Ocean north of Papua New Guinea. And the plan now is to study why they are doing so well in the warmer waters, and potentially transplant some of these corals to places like our very own Great Barrier Reef.

Because science is clever like that ...

And on the subject of the Pacific Islands - there's a big meeting taking place in our Pacific neighbour, the Solomon Islands ... a meeting of all the presidents and prime ministers of the Pacific Island countries - including Australia's own PM, Anthony Albanese - where climate change will be on top of the agenda.

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 Austria, where a wandering moose called Emil has become a hoofed superstar.

Moose are the largest members of the deer family, usually found in the forests of northern Europe. Emil was probably born in Poland, but like lots of teenage male moose, he set off exploring. He's plodded south through the Czech Republic and Slovakia before trotting into Austria, a trek of hundreds of kilometres.

People along the way have been cheering him on, and he even has a Facebook group with thousands of followers. But, wildlife experts keep reminding everyone that Emil is no cuddly mascot, he's a wild animal, so it's best to admire him from afar. Conservationists are quietly hoping he'll settle in a nearby national park.

It hasn't all been smooth sailing, though. On Saturday evening, Emil wandered onto the tracks at Austria's main railway station, shutting down the Vienna-Salzburg line for hours. And since then, this moose on the loose has vanished again. He's got everyone guessing where he'll mooove to next. See what I did there? (DAD JOKE ALARM) – yeah fair enough -that's definitely one of my worse dad jokes ever.

SPORT TIME

With footy finals underway and the netball season upon us and cricket being played by our national teams - there's plenty of sport around to talk about.

But it's a sport of a most unusual kind that we're throwing a spotlight on today - following the running of the annual Gumboot Gift.

It's a running race - similar to the Stawell Gift in Victoria - a dash across 120 metres of prime dairy farming land in the Gippsland district to see who can run the fastest in gum boots.

If you've ever tried to run in knee-high gumboots - you'd know how hard that is. And because so many of the people attending last week's South Gippsland Dairy Expo are farmers - they all have their own gumboots and have developed their own unique styles of running in them.

The winner of this year's women's event, Sarah Lewis, said rain and mud made this year's race all the more challenging. Rain, mud, gumboots and a running race .. Peppa Pig eat your heart out.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

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From the Gumboot Gift to the Barefoot Lego Dash – today's podcast really does have it all.

What's the Barefoot Lego Dash, I hear you ask?

It's something that if you're not familiar with - your parents most definitely will be.

And it's off to New Zealand we go for this story, where a Kiwi mum has gone viral after video of her running 100m, barefoot, across Lego pieces in pursuit of a Guinness World Record.

As any parent who's woken in the middle of the night to make a dash for the loo only to have their path interrupted by a few random, spiky bits of Lego lying on the living room floor will attest .. it's an obstacle course that is common in households around the world.

And New Zealand mum Gabrielle Wall has broken the Guinness record for the 100m barefoot Lego dash - doing it in just over 24 seconds.

Ah yes ... but how many pieces of Lego did she have to pull out from between her toes afterwards? Ouch .. just so much ouch.

PROMO

With so much chat in today's podcast about climate change and global warming - it seems like the perfect opportunity to point you to a brand new Squiz Kids series that will be dropping in Term 4 ..

It's called Planet Warriors - and you're about to meet a bunch of super-connected, superheroes who are changing the world one electron at a time.

Blaze, Gust, Scraps and Flo are just four of the superheroes you're about to meet .. busily changing the way our TVs, ipads, homes and classrooms are powered.

And teachers: because we know you love a classroom resource - Christie has been busily developing an excellent set of activity sheets to go with each podcast.

Kicking off on Tuesdays in Term 4 ... get ready to join the Planet Warriors planet-saving crusade.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. On which islands is the Pacific Leaders Forum taking place?
2. What's the name of the moose charging around Austria and the Czech Republic?
3. A New Zealand mum has sprinted barefoot across 100 metres of Lego in how many seconds? Was it a) 8 seconds b) 24 seconds or c) 10 minutes and 48 seconds because she kept stopping to pull out bits that were embedded in her feet?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday September 10 ... birthday of Aussie footballing star, Sam Kerr ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Holly from Indooroopilly, Everleigh from Exeter, Ruby from the Gold Coast, Luke from Kallangur, Harriso from Grasmere, Daniel from Goolwa and Remy from Brisbane.

A belated shoutout goes to... Skyla from Blayney.

Classroom shoutouts go to... all the students at Brungle Public School, class 5/6A with Mr. Metske and class 5/6C with Mrs Perry at Devonport Primary School, class 4B with Mrs Farrell at St Christopher's Primary in Holsworthy and class 5D with Mrs Flaherty at Cannonvale State School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Solomon Islands
2. Emil
3. b) 24 seconds

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.