

Victoria makes treaty history; a slimy culprit caught in Germany; giant oysters on the move; and the fake astronaut scam.

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 Thursday, September 11 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Victoria makes treaty history; a slimy culprit caught in Germany; giant oysters on the move; and the fake astronaut scam.

THE LOWDOWN

Tuesday was a big day in Victoria's history.... The Victorian Parliament has just introduced historic Treaty legislation with First Peoples, and it's the first of its kind in Australia.

So what's a treaty? Think of it like when your sports team agrees on the rules before a big game. Everyone knows what's fair, everyone's voice is heard, and everyone plays by the same agreement. For First Nations Australians, a treaty is a formal deal with governments, recognising their rights and working out how to make decisions together.

Countries like New Zealand, Canada, and the United States signed treaties with their Indigenous peoples long ago. But here in Australia, it never happened. Even though the then Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, signalled his support for a treaty way back in the 1980s, and the Uluru Statement from the Heart called for one more recently, no national treaty has ever been signed. Hence, some states have started their own processes.

One of the reasons it's needed is what's called Closing the Gap... that's the scoreboard that measures things like health, school results, and life expectancy. Right now, that scoreboard shows a big gap between Indigenous Australians and non-Indigenous Australians.

Victoria has been working towards this moment for about 10 years, through truth-telling and with the First Peoples' Assembly. Now, the laws have been introduced to make a treaty possible — and many see it as the start of something bigger.

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 Germany, where police were called out to deal with a very slippery suspect.

Late at night, residents of an apartment building were being driven mad by doorbells buzzing over and over. At first, they thought it was teenagers playing the old prank known as "ding-dong-ditch." You know, when kids press the bell and run away before anyone can catch them. You'd never do that... right?

But when police arrived, the bells kept ringing, even though there was no one at the door ... at least, no one human. After a closer look, they discovered the culprit was a slug crawling across the doorbell panel, leaving a shiny slime trail behind it and setting off multiple bells.

In German, slugs are called *nackt-schneck-en*, which literally means "naked snails." Gotta love German! This one was gently escorted to a patch of grass nearby ... released with a warning, and told not to press its luck again.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

We talk a fair bit about invasive species on Squiz Kids... that's an animal or plant that isn't native to Australia and causes trouble by damaging the environment, outcompeting local species, or spreading disease. And right now, Australia has two new ones that have biosecurity experts worried.

The first is tiny (about the size of a sesame seed) but it's causing big problems in Western Australia. It's called the Shot-Hole Borer Beetle. It bores into trees, and brings in a fungus that blocks the trees' water and food. Thousands of trees have already been lost. Scientists know they can't wipe it out completely — but they're trialling a solution: an injection straight into the trunk with special chemicals to fight off the fungus... and it seems to be working... fingers crossed!

The second is a giant oyster that can grow to 24 centimetres... almost the size of your school ruler! It's been found in Queensland canals, and could spread as far as Tasmania and Western Australia if left unchecked. Biosecurity experts are calling on citizen scientists to help: if you spot one, take a photo, note the location, and report it. Links to pictures are in the show notes.

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet ... and today his nose is twitching because of a scam that shows just how sneaky some tricksters can be.

Police in Japan say an 80-year-old woman was contacted on social media by a man who claimed to be an astronaut working for the Japanese space agency. Over several weeks, he sent her messages, building her trust with stories about life in orbit. Eventually, he told her his spacecraft was under attack, he was running out of oxygen, and he needed money to stay alive.

Fearing for his life, she sent him about \$10,500 Australian dollars. Only after talking with family did she realise it was all made up.

Police warn that scams like this aren't limited to seniors — young people get caught too when a story feels urgent and believable.

The key takeaway? If someone you only know online suddenly asks for money, stop, think and check with someone you trust.

Teachers, we know how busy school life can be, but, next term if you wrap things up early, Newshounds is the perfect pre-packaged program to plug and play and make those last few weeks fun, engaging and a valuable learning experience. Did we mention it's free? Find out more on the Squiz Kids website.

PROMO

Speaking of term 4 ...We've got a brand new Squiz Kids series launching. **Planet Warriors**. Meet Blaze, Gust, Scraps and Flo — renewable energy superheroes on a mission to change the world one electron at a time, from the way our homes are powered to the gadgets we use every day.

And teachers — each episode comes with ready-to-go classroom activity sheets.

Kicking off on Tuesday, October 14... get set 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. Which Australian state has introduced laws into Parliament to establish a treaty with First Nations People?
2. The German word for slug is *nacktschnecken*. What does it literally mean?
 - a) Shiny trail
 - b) Slippery worm
 - c) Naked snail
3. How big can the invasive giant oyster grow?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday September 11 ... Make Your Bed Day. If you haven't left the house yet, add it to your to-do list. If you're already in the car or at school and you haven't done it ... too late!... so sad... it'll be waiting for you when you get home, though.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Ryan from West Albury, Lincoln from Jerilderie, Teddy from Sylvania Waters, Samson from Annandale, Finn from Ocean Grove and Asher from Forest Glen.

A belated shoutout goes to...

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 5KG with Mrs Gallagher at Proserpine State School, class 5W with Ms Korsman at Holy Spirit Primary School, Kurri Kurri, 3/4 Emojis with Mrs Lenehan at Bald Blair Public School and class 3/4O with Mrs Owen & Mrs McCarty at Glenbrook Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Victoria
2. c) Naked snail
3. Up to 24 cms

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 vs adults weekly news s'quiz... your chance to test who has been paying the most attention this week...

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