

**Australia's climate risk revealed; China's viral loo-roll video; an airbag idea taking off; and Jess Hull makes history.**

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, September 17 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Australia's climate risk revealed; China's viral loo-roll video; an airbag idea taking off; and Jess Hull makes history.

**THE LOWDOWN**

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Did you know that before you head out on a school excursion, your teachers have to write up a risk assessment? It's a list of possible problems and how to prepare for them, so the whole class stays safe.

Australia has just done the same thing, but for the whole country. The very first National Climate Risk Assessment has been released. It maps out what risks climate change brings, like hotter heatwaves, rising seas, floods and droughts. Scientists modelled three versions of the future with 1.5, 2 and 3 degrees of global warming.

The point of the assessment is to have a plan. Governments, businesses, communities and First Nations peoples can use the data to get ready by deciding where to direct resources and how to adapt. Later this week, the government will set a 2035 target for cutting greenhouse gas emissions, showing Australia's leadership in the global effort. And speaking of plans ... keep your ears peeled for our brand new Planet Warriors series next term, featuring our renewable energy superheroes who'll show you how renewable energy fits into a plan to combat climate change.

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Meanwhile, across the Torres Strait, Papua New Guinea celebrated 50 years of independence yesterday. PM Anthony Albanese is in PNG with Prime Minister James Marape, and the two are expected to sign a defence treaty today — a promise to help

each other if needed. Want to know more about our nearest neighbour? Check out our fabulous Squiz the World episode on PNG. The link is in the episode notes.

## **SPIN THE GLOBE**

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Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops, and today we've landed in... China, where a video's gone viral on social media, apparently showing a brand new kind of toilet paper dispenser.

According to the clip, users can't just grab paper. Instead, you either scan a QR code and watch an ad on your phone, or pay 7 cents for a strip. The machine then spits out your ration. The video has sparked laughter and disbelief online.

It's important to say this video hasn't been verified... so we don't know if it's the real deal. But given China's history with loo roll, it's not impossible. Many public restrooms in China don't provide toilet paper at all, and visitors are expected to bring their own.. And back in 2017, Beijing's Temple of Heaven Park even installed facial-recognition loo paper dispensers, rationing one strip per person every nine minutes. And there are toilets where you need to scan a QR code to access paper... but no official verification on the ad watching....

So, ad-for-toilet-paper? Unconfirmed — but the story has certainly unfolded quickly.

## **SPORT TIME**

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What's your favourite event at the school athletics carnival? The sprints, the throws, the jumps? If you love it and keep training, one day we might be reporting on *you* at the World Athletics Championships — which are happening right now in Tokyo.

The biggest headline so far? Swedish pole vault superstar Armand Duplantis has done it again — smashing his own world record for the *14th* time, soaring 6.30 metres into the sky. But it hasn't all been smooth sailing. On the opening day, the brutal Tokyo heat — more than 32 degrees — saw several athletes in the 35 kilometre race walk collapse and need medical help.

For Australia, there's plenty to cheer. South Aussie pole vaulter Kurtis Marschall cleared 5.95 metres to claim bronze. The trio of Peter Bol, Luke Boyes and Peyton Craig missed out in the 800, but Jessica Hull made history — winning Australia's first-ever World Championships medal in the 1500 metres, a brilliant bronze.

And the action's not done. Matt Denny in discus and Nicola Olyslagers in high jump are medal hopes later this week. Plus, if you're still up at 9:15 tonight, don't miss teenage sprint sensation Gout Gout making his senior international debut in the 200 metre heats.

## ***WEIRD SCIENCE***

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Do you know anyone who gets nervous before flying? Thanks to two engineering students from India, planes may one day be a whole lot safer.

Their invention? A system designed to protect passengers in a crash using giant airbags, like the ones in cars, but on the outside of the plane. Placed on the nose, belly and tail, the bags would inflate in under two seconds if sensors and artificial intelligence detected an unavoidable accident.

Made from super-tough fabric (the kind used in bulletproof vests) they'd be strong enough to withstand enormous impact. And yes, there are some amazing AI images of what it could look like... I've popped a link in the episode notes.

It's still just a concept, but it's already sparking interest in the James Dyson Award, a global design competition run by the vacuum cleaner inventor himself. If it works, this is one idea that really could take off.

## ***THE S'QUIZ***

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

1. Which Pacific Island nation celebrated 50 years of independence yesterday?
2. What does a social media video show someone doing to access toilet paper?
3. Which event did Kurtis Marschal win a bronze medal in?

## ***SHOUT OUTS***

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It's Wednesday, September 17 ... Grab your banjo, your spoons and your guitar... it's International Country Music Day... Yeeha!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Ibadat from Forest Lake, John from Springvale, Charlotte from Bullarah, Bastien from Maroubra, Dhruv from Glen Waverley and Anthony from Merrylands.

And belated shoutouts go to... Arlo from Mordialloc and Kiah from Devonport.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Class 6R with Mrs Roy at Saint Stephens College in Coomera, the year 4/5 Grasshoppers with Ms Pots at St Peters Public School, class 6C with Mr Cogan at Casino Public School and Room 3 with Mrs O'Kane at Inglewood Primary School.

### **The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. Papua New Guinea
2. Watching an ad on their phone
3. Pole Vault

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](mailto: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.