

**Ragasa roars across Asia; Egypt's 3,000-year-old security siren; a moon mission countdown; and five million view a fake.**

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 25 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Ragasa roars across Asia; Egypt's 3,000-year-old security siren; a moon mission countdown; and five million view a fake.

That's what's making news, kid style.

**THE LOWDOWN**

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Have you ever experienced a tropical cyclone in northern Australia? They're massive spinning storms that bring fierce winds, flooding rains and dangerous storm surges. The very same kind of storm is called a typhoon when it forms in the northwest Pacific Ocean, around places like the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Hong Kong and southern China. And right now, those countries are facing the biggest storm of the year so far: Super Typhoon Ragasa.

Ragasa has already battered Taiwan, dumping more than half a metre of rain and washing away bridges and cars. In Hong Kong, the highest typhoon warning with winds close to 300 kilometres an hour was raised this week. Schools and businesses shut, supermarket shelves were stripped bare, and hundreds of flights were cancelled. And in southern China, almost 400,000 people have been evacuated, and seawalls have been reinforced against storm surges of up to five metres.

Scientists note that storms this powerful are rare, though some studies suggest warmer oceans could make the strongest ones more intense. Either way, Ragasa is a reminder of just how important preparation and clear communication are when nature unleashes its full force.

And to all the Squiz Kids listening in from those parts of the world, we're hoping you stay safe and dry.

## ***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 Amarna, Egypt — an ancient city where archaeologists may have solved a 3,300-year-old mystery.

Buried in the ruins of a workers' settlement called Stone Village, researchers found what looked like an ordinary cow toe bone. But on closer inspection, they spotted a neat hole drilled through it.

Archaeologists don't believe it is a toy or a musical instrument. By piecing together evidence from microscopes, historical records and location and creating a replica, they discovered: when blown through, it plays one sharp note, more screech than song. Small, simple, but powerful — a 3,000-year-old security siren. Take a listen.

[Whistle]

Like today's police radios, this whistle may have been a tool for communication — used by guards to call for backup if tomb robbers were lurking near the royal cemetery. Simple, but powerful — a 3,000-year-old security siren.

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## ***SPACED OUT***

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Are you into Greek mythology? You might know NASA's first Moon missions were named after the Greek and Roman god, Apollo. Well, Artemis was Apollo's twin sister — the goddess of the Moon and of the hunt — so it's a fitting name for NASA's new lunar program.

After more than 50 years, astronauts are set to fly around the Moon again. Artemis II is scheduled for February 2026, when three astronauts from NASA and one from the Canadian Space Agency will blast off from Florida on a ten-day journey. They'll travel further into space than any human has ever gone, orbiting about 9,200 kilometres beyond the Moon before swinging back to Earth.

The crew will live in the Orion capsule, testing life-support systems and collecting data on how human bodies cope with deep space. The mission won't land, but it's a crucial

step towards Artemis III, which aims to put astronauts back on the Moon's surface later this decade — and eventually, build a base for future missions to Mars.

If you love all things space, make sure you tune in on Wednesday next week when I chat with Australia's very first astronaut, Katherine Bennell-Pegg... we talk the skills that came in most useful in her training, what jobs she might do in space, and what shooting stars might actually be made of... it's not what you might think...

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## **NEWSHOUNDS**

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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 even kings, queens, and presidents can be victims of fakes.

Remember how Bryce told us last week about Donald Trump's visit to England? Well, one video now claims he saluted while Darth Vader's *Imperial March* played — but in reality, it was the US national anthem. Another AI image shows him eating spaghetti while King Charles gave a speech. Funny? Maybe. True? Definitely not. Trusted news footage proves both are fakes.

Why make this stuff? Sometimes for laughs, sometimes to embarrass, but often just to trick people — and it works. One Aussie Facebook post of the Star Wars clip has been viewed more than 5 million times. That's why it's so important to Stop, Think and Check — and sniff out the fakes, just like Squiz-E.

Teachers, if you're planning Term 4, Newshounds is ready to roll: pre-packaged, fully resourced, free, and perfect for keeping your class engaged while you're reporting. You're welcome.

## **SCHOOL HOL CONTENT + SPOTLIGHT**

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Feeling like you're climbing a hill made of jelly? That's the tell-tale sign it's the end of term. Kids, parents, teachers — we're all counting down the days. Unless, of course, you're in Queensland, Victoria or the NT ... in which case, you're already on holidays and probably doing cartwheels.

This is our last week of daily news for the term — but don't go anywhere. We've lined up loads of fun school holiday content for you to enjoy through our website or your favourite podcast app.

You'll get two brand-new episodes of *Squiz Kids Spotlight* — I nabbed an interview with Australia's very first astronaut, Katherine Bennell-Pegg. How amazing is that?

And Bryce will be sitting down with political writer Annabel Crabb to chat about her new book *There's A Prawn In Parliament House...* (yep. There actually is one) Plus, we've got brainteasers to keep your brains buzzing, a School Holiday Movie Guide, Squiz Kids Science Shorts, and not one but two Bumper School Holiday Quizzes.

It all kicks off next week and runs right through the holidays.

And don't forget — if it's your birthday between September 29 and October 12, your shout-out will be waiting for you when we're back with daily news on October 13.

## **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. What is the name of the Super Typhoon battering Asia?
2. Which type of bone was the ancient Egyptian whistle made of?
3. What is the name of Apollo's twin sister that the current NASA moon missions are named for?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Thursday, September 25 ... Today is the 25th anniversary of Cathy Freeman's famous 400 metre run into the history books... winning gold at the Sydney Olympic Games... I've stuck a link to video in the episode notes in case you've never seen it.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today...

Scarlett from Springvale, Hamish from Sandringham, Oli from Albury and Olly from Lobethal, Gideon from Mt Gravatt, Jack from Goulburn, Hudson from Old Bar, Alfie from Cammeray and Holly from Central Mangrove.

And belated shoutouts go to...

*(EB note QLD & Vic on hols)*

Classroom shoutouts go to... Class 1/2S with Ms Saul from Lane Cove West Public School, class 4S with Mrs Morris and class 1 Green with Mrs Harle both from St Paul's School in Bald Hills and Room 19 with Miss Amy at Walkerville Primary School.

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

1. Regasa
2. Cow toe bone
3. Artemis

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 with

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