

Christmas Island crab march; Switzerland's rescue robots; Big weekend for Aussie sport; and Halloween goes green.

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 Monday, October 27-

In Squiz Kids Today ... Christmas Island crab march; Switzerland's rescue robots; Big weekend for Aussie sport; and Halloween goes green.

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

THE LOWDOWN

And we start the week with a good news story as Christmas Island's famous red crabs begin their annual migration this week with signs that a conservation program there is working.

The annual march of more than 100 million red crabs - yes, you heard correctly, one hundred million - is one of the great nature spectacles in the world. Right up there with the wildebeest crossing the Serengeti and the flight of the snow geese - the crab march brings the tiny territory of Australia - located smack bang in the middle of the Indian Ocean - to a standstill. Roads are cut off by the hordes of crabs, footpaths overrun - as the crabs do their sideways dance from the tropical rainforest to the ocean. A sight that attracts thousands of tourists every year.

But for the past few years, the red crab population was threatened by an invasive species - called the yellow ant - which competes for food with the crabs and sprays an acid on the poor crustaceans which was severely reducing its numbers.

But clever conservationists introduced a wasp from Malaysia which has removed a food source the ants thrive on - which has managed to control ant numbers and give the crabs room to scamper uninterrupted.

A natural solution to maintain a natural wonder of the world.

How good is that?

And yes, I've stuck a link to video of the crab march in today's episode notes .. you're welcome.

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 Switzerland - where clever scientists and computer programmers are showing off a new breed of robots ready to come to the rescue.

Magnecko is a four-legged robot with magnetic feet, capable of climbing walls - which could one day save humans from dangerous work situations ... and Ro-bao is robot that moves like a snake - and could one day help to save people trapped in collapsed buildings - like, say, after an earthquake.

Robao has a camera, light, microphone and speaker in its head – and can slither into tiny, cramped spaces looking for survivors .. and even deliver through its head life saving food, water and medicine.

I've stuck a link to video of the clever robots in today's episode notes - because science is just so cool ... —

SPORT TIME

If you're a sports lover like me - you will be as worn out as I am this morning after Australia's sports stars showed the world how it's done on the weekend.

The incredible sporting feats began on Friday when everyone's favourite teen sprint sensation Gout Gout brought his world-beating form to the inter-school athletics competition in Brisbane.

The kid from Ipswich - fresh from running against the best sprinters in the world in Tokyo three weeks ago - blitzed the competition in the GPS athletics meet in Brissie on Friday - breaking his own record in the 400m running 46.14 seconds for his school, Ipswich Grammar.

Also breaking a bunch of records - but on completely the other side of the world at the weekend - was Aussie swimmer Mollie O'Callaghan - who carved up the competition in the Swimming World Cup in Toronto, Canada.

The five-time Olympic gold medal champion showed she is the rising swim star to watch setting a new short course record in the 200m women's freestyle with 1 minute 49.36 seconds .. that's fast!

Also lighting up the international sporting stage at the weekend - and flying the Aussie flag while they were at it - were the Aussie men's rugby team, the Wallabies - who held out a determined Japan to win 19-15 in Tokyo on Saturday afternoon. While all the way over there in London, the Kangaroos - the Aussie men's national rugby league team - smashed the English national team 26-6 - with a couple of lovely tries to Reece Walsh on debut. Here at home yesterday, the Aussie women's national rugby league team, the Jillaroos, smashed Samoa 60-0 in the Pacific Championships ...

But then Samoa got their own back when the men's national team took on Tonga at Suncorp Stadium in front of a 40,000 strong crowd - beating Tonga by 34 points to six ... after a massive storm with lightning and hail interrupted the game by more than an hour and a half .

POP CULTURE CORNER

—

Trick or treat people! It's only four sleeps until Halloween – and this year, we're all being urged to try to make Halloween green ..

All those lolly wrappers, all those plastic decorations, all those fake cobwebs ... sure they're loads of fun and part of the whole spooky experience .. but as Halloween in Australia gets bigger every year - there are calls for us all to be a bit mindful of the impact it has on the environment.

Opt for real pumpkins instead of plastic ones - or if you do go for plastic pumpkins and skeletons and stuff - make sure you recycle them for use again next year. Don't single-use plastic your decorations ...

One council in Adelaide has even banned fake cobwebs - after local birdlife and insect life were getting caught in it and dying. There are enough zombies and ghosts and ghouls floating around on Halloween as it is without sending some of our native animals to an early grave.

Still have fun - of course - and fill your boots when it comes to scamming lollies off the neighbours - just maybe make sure you leave as light a footprint as possible ...

As any good ghost would ...

Q+A CALL OUT

—

And as our Federal Politicians head back to Canberra today .. it's a shout out this morning to Henry from Brown Hill this morning for his excellent suggestion on how to get our Federal politicians to behave in Question Time ...

Henry suggests House Speaker, Milton Dick - he's the bloke you see on the TV news at night refereeing all those rowdy politicians - does what his football coach does when kids aren't listening - and that's to stand with his hand in the air, not saying a word, until every kid on the field also raises their hand and falls silent.

I like that ... I also love Elodie from Seventeen Mile Rocks' suggestion ,, which is for Milton to say: "Hands on bottoms! Now speak in quiet voices!" – I'd love to see our politicians being forced to put their hands on their bottoms!

We're doing a Squiz Kids Q+A with Milton in a couple of weeks - and he's looking for the best suggestions from Aussie kids on how he can bring the House of Reps to order .. if you have a suggestion of what he might say or get them to do - send it to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au - quicksticks - and it could be one of the ones he reads out in an upcoming session of Federal Parliament ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What's the name of the island where crabs are on the march?
2. Which country hosted a showcase of rescue robots this weekend?
3. Name the Aussie swimmer smashing records in the pool in Toronto?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, October 27 ... yesterday was Grandparent's Day in Australia ... so if you're near one today - give them a belated hug - or otherwise call or text or FaceTime them so they know how much you love them ..

Today's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Keeva from Belmont, Spencer from Picton, Finn and Harvey from Forest

Glen, Tilly and Hazel from Devonport, Natalie from Wallaroo, Dodhi from Kurri Kurri, Harriet from Croyden, Christian from Harrington Park, Isaac from South Ripley, Nicole and Ricky from Forest Lake, Patrick from Cheltenham, Luna from Exeter, Cruze from Kallangur and Avery from Sans Souci.

And a belated shoutout goes to Ado listening over in Tokyo, Japan.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Class 4B with Mrs Patterson at Mount Crosby State School, class 5C with Mrs Corry at St Johns Anglican College in Forest Lake, Year 4 with Mr Young at Bayside Christian College in Hervey Bay and class 6B and 6P with Ms Barker and Mrs Pedersen at Malanda State School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Christmas Island
2. Switzerland
3. Mollie O'Callaghan

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 Episode 3 Planet Warriors Tidal Energy .. where we get to meet Flo - the next member of the Planet Warriors super connected superhero gang.

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