

Cyclone Fina smashes Darwin; Kenya's maggot rubbish revolution; Toy Story turns 30; and Travis Head saves the day.

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, November 24 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Cyclone Fina smashes Darwin; Kenya's maggot rubbish revolution; Toy Story turns 30; and Travis Head saves the day.

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

THE LOWDOWN

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Residents of Darwin are this morning assessing the damage from Cyclone Fina after it smashed into the coastal capital of the Northern Territory over the weekend.

Dramatic video from the height of the storm showed trees being uprooted, cars being squashed by falling power poles and roofs being ripped off buildings as Fina crossed the coastline as a Category Three cyclone ... where 1 is mild and five is next-level, head-for-the-hills intense.

Happily, there were no reports of injuries - even as the cyclone is reported to have caused part of the roof of the Royal Darwin Hospital to collapse.

Hundreds were without power yesterday as the storm brought down power lines.

Yesterday, there were fears for residents in remote communities in the far north of Western Australia as Fina moved west, gathering speed and intensity as it went - reaching Category Four around midday.

Darwin is no stranger to tropical cyclones. Back on in 1974 - long before any of you were born - on Christmas Day, in fact, a Category 4 cyclone called Cyclone Tracy flattened the city and caused widespread damage.

Stay safe up there Squiz Kids listeners!

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 Kenya ... where maggots are being farmed to solve the world's waste crisis.

You know how flies are attracted to rotting organic matter - right? Be it meat or vegetables or dog poo? And they love nothing more than to lay eggs in that stuff that turn into maggots and slowly break down that matter by eating it?

I know - gross right, and I hope you're not eating breakfast ..

But the process is being put forward as a planet friendly way to deal with the mountains of garbage that humans produce - and a science lab in Kenya is using black soldier flies to do the dirty work.

The black soldier fly maggot can eat double its body weight in a single day - meaning it can chomp through a whole lot of rubbish. And to complete the circle: maggot poo can be extracted and used as a fertiliser - to grow more food - and the maggots themselves can also be used as a high protein food for farm animals like chicken and fish.

And again - apologies if you're eating breakfast ...

SPORT TIME

Umm What exactly just happened in the First Test of The Ashes. There were jaws on the floor for a whole two days over the weekend as one of the most action-packed, surprising Ashes Tests in the history of the famous rivalry unfurled.

Day one, the Aussies bowled out a struggling England for 172 runs in only 32 overs - shout out Mitchell Starc - and it seemed as if things were all going the Aussies' way. But then England's fast bowlers tore through Australia's batting line-up - knocking out the home team for a paltry 132 .. oh dear. By the time we came into bat for the second innings, Australia needed 205 runs to win .. Enter Travis Head - who proceeded to smash the red leather ball all over Perth Stadium hitting England's bowlers for six - wracking up a remarkable century in record time and helping Australia to a win in the

First Test ... if you blinked, you missed it - with this Test Match finishing three days early and marking the first time since 1921 that a Test Match has lasted only two days. Too bad if you had tickets for Day Three

Meanwhile: the Brisbane Lions have booked themselves into another AFLW Grand Final after beating Carlton by 35 points and setting up a replay of last year's Grand Final as they prepare now to take on the minor premiers, the North Melbourne Kangaroos.

The Roos pulled off a victory against the Melbourne Demons at the weekend and will defend the premiership next Saturday night against the Lions in Melbourne. Woo-hoo!

POP CULTURE CORNER

It's a little early in the podcast for birthday shoutouts - but a very special birthday happened over the weekend which is worth noting.

Toy Story turned 30 years old ..

Yes, that's right - it was 30 years ago this weekend when the world first met Woody and Buzz and their kooky bunch of toybox friends. And if you look back at the first Toy Story movie and compare it to the latest one, Toy Story 4 - you can see how much computer animation has improved in that time.

And just when you thought it was safe to venture back into the toybox ... the trailer is out for Toy Story 5 - which hits cinemas this year ... I've stuck a link to it in today's episode notes ..

And speaking of the movies .. the adventures of Elphaba and Glinda have captured the imaginations and hip pockets of movie goers everywhere - with the movie Wicked: For Good breaking all sorts of ticket sales records over the weekend .. with over \$150m earned at the US box office - it's the second biggest movie opening weekend after the Minecraft Movie ... did someone say chicken jockey?

XMAS PROMO

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(sleigh bells) Can you hear that? That's the sound of Christmas fast approaching .. and we couldn't be more excited.

As we continue the countdown to the most magical time of the year - Squiz Kids is getting into the Christmas spirit.

As per Squiz Kids tradition, we've managed to convince Santa Claus himself to hop into the Squiz Kids Q+A hotseat again this year – answering ANY questions you might have for him. It's your chance to say hi to the big fella and ask him how he makes the magic of

Christmas work - from reindeers, to elves, to toy workshops and sleighs. If you have a question you'd like Santa to answer - email it through to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au.

And because too much Christmas is never enough .. we're launching an Elf On The Shelf competition too ... Elves will be arriving in households around the country in the next couple of weeks .. and we want to see what wacky places they find themselves in in the lead up to Christmas. Email photos of your Elf to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au and we'll share them on our socials .. and there'll be a prize for the weirdest and wackiest Elf hiding spot. Those crazy elves ..

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which country are black soldier fly maggots leading a rubbish revolution?
2. What's the highest category cyclone you can get?
3. Name the Aussie cricketer whose inspired century at the crease helped Australia to a First Test victory in The Ashes.

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday November 24... it's Fairy Bread Day! Get some hundreds and thousands on your sandwich today! And it's also the W Awards tonight - where the best and fairest winner of this year's AFLW will be named ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Sophia and Nila from Forest Lake, Pamela from Bullarah, Tom and Fergus from Exeter, Axel and Jaden from Bundaberg, Thorin from Fernvale, Victoria from Lindfield, Elizabeth from Bronte, Chelsea and Rafferty from Peakhurst and Lathika from Victoria.

Belated shoutouts go to... Molly and Darcy from Pakenham, Angie and Sia from Riverwood and Marc from Rochdale.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 4/5M with Mrs McNabb from Albury West Public School, class 5B with Mr Butchatsky and Mrs Robinson from Thomas Hassall Anglican College in Middleton Grange and class 2N with Ms Deaton from Runcorn State School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Kenya
2. Five
3. Travis Head

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 a wonderful Squiz the World to Switzerland.

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