

## **Action on supercharged E-Bikes; there's a bear in the air; backyard sausage burials; and some sticky science**

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, December 3 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Action on supercharged E-Bikes; there's a bear in the air; backyard sausage burials; and some sticky science...

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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Have you seen kids zooming around on e-bikes lately? All across Australia, they're becoming super popular, but some of them are also super powerful, which is why governments and police are stepping in.

Most e-bikes are totally fine. They're designed to help you pedal until you reach 25 kilometres an hour (which is pretty fast by the way). But police in NSW, Queensland and Victoria say more and more kids are riding super-powered electric bikes that can go as fast as motorbikes. Some have been clocked at 70 to 90 kilometres an hour, which is way faster than a bike is meant to go, and has led to some very serious crashes.

So, leaders around the country are hitting the brakes. In NSW, the government is tightening the rules so only the safe, slower e-bikes are allowed on roads and footpaths. In Queensland, police are running special crackdowns, seizing illegal bikes, and warning families about buying the wrong kind online. And in Victoria, police say that if a bike is powerful enough to be a motorbike, they'll treat it like one, with fines, confiscations and strict road-safety checks.

And a quick message for all you kids: if your parents have said, “Hmm... maybe not an e-bike for Christmas,” I promise, they’re not trying to spoil your fun, they’re just trying to keep you safe. Loads of families are making the same call right now.

If you do have an e-bike, make sure it’s the legal kind, always, always wear a helmet, ride slowly around others, and remember that footpaths and shared paths are for sharing. Staying safe, and helping others feel safe, is the real power-up.

## ***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 England, where students are leading a very important search mission... for a missing teddy bear.

Last month, year 7 and 8 students at Walhampton School, working with the Southampton University Spaceflight Society, spent weeks planning a high-altitude science experiment to launch a weather balloon into the stratosphere — complete with cameras, sensors... and two passengers: Bradfield Bear and a toy badger named Bill.

The balloon soared an incredible 27 kilometres above Earth, capturing spectacular footage as it climbed. But somewhere over Henley-on-Thames, Bradfield was jostled loose and drifted away. I’ve popped a link to the remarkable video in the episode notes.

The balloon and Badger Bill, landed safely back in a field, but Bradfield hasn’t been spotted since.

The school has now issued a Facebook alert, asking locals to check gardens, rooftops, sheds and hedges for any sign of their missing space traveller.

Teachers and students remain hopeful as the mission to bring Bradfield Bear home continues.

## ***WEIRD SCIENCE***

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What’s the weirdest thing you’ve ever found stuck under a school desk? Don’t answer that. Because while some gum at school might be a few years old... the gum in this story is 10,500 years old. Yep, ten thousand, five hundred. No wonder you’re not supposed to have it in class!

Archaeologists in Estonia have discovered a piece of ancient “gum” — not mint, watermelon or bubble-blast... but a wad of birch bark tar. Birch bark tar is like the ancient world’s Blu Tack... a sticky black goo made by heating up the bark of birch trees. It was strong enough to glue tools together, waterproof enough to patch cracks, and soft enough that chewing it helped warm it up so people could mould it.

When scientists analysed the DNA trapped inside the tar, they discovered it had been chewed by a teenage girl with brown hair and brown eyes, a big surprise because many people assumed northern Europeans at the time all had blonde hair and blue eyes.. Other ancient wads discovered have had multiple sets of tooth marks, suggesting some people shared theirs. Eww. Just... no.

And speaking of gum — this Saturday’s Squiz Kids Science Short is all about Chewing Gum...Can we ‘stick’ to the facts? Tune in to find out!

### **POP CULTURE CORNER**

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From chewing gum to burying sausages... yes, really. Thanks to social media - and an old European superstition, some engaged couples in Australia are now digging tiny sausage graves in the backyard, all in the hope of perfect wedding weather.

The tradition, which likely comes from parts of Central Europe and the United Kingdom, goes like this: bury a sausage before the big day and hope the weather behaves. Raw or cooked? Doesn’t matter. Pork, beef, chicken? You choose. The rules are fuzzy...

A couple in the Adelaide Hills even buried a raw sausage with their bridal party and chanted “rain away”... but still ended up with more than 20 millimetres of rain on the day.

You could say, their good-weather wishes hit a snag. [Mum joke alarm]

Ahhh the Mum Joke Alarm strikes again!

### **XMAS PROMO**

Oh my days...Christmas is getting closer and closer... and here at Squiz Kids HQ, we’re on high alert, because the Big Bloke in Red could land on our rooftop any day now and we need to be ready, because he’s agreed to take the Squiz Kids Q+A hotseat again this year! But... he’s super busy, so we need your Santa questions by this Friday.

If you’ve ever wanted to ask him how the reindeer fly, how the magic works, or whether

he actually likes fruit mince pies, now is your chance. Email your questions to [squizkids@thesquiz.com.au](mailto:squizkids@thesquiz.com.au).

And while we wait for the sleigh to touch down... has one of Santa's Scout Elves arrived at your place yet? Remember, they're watching, they're reporting back to Santa, and wow... they are getting into some wild positions this year. One was even found inside a taco. A taco!

We've got your best Elf on the Shelf pics up on social media, get an adult to take a look on Instagram..And make sure to send us yours, and we'll post it.

And yes.. there's a prize for the wackiest Elf hiding spot.

So get those Santa questions in, keep an eye on your Elf... and let the Christmas countdown begin!

### ***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. Legal e-bikes in Australia must cut out at what speed?  
A) 10 km/h  
B) 25 km/h  
C) 100 km/h
2. Scientists discovered that the Stone Age teenager who chewed the ancient "gum" had what colour hair and eyes?
3. What are some Aussies doing in the hopes of getting good weather on their wedding day?

### ***SHOUT OUTS***

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It's Wednesday, December 3... It's the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and this year it's all about making sure everyone... no matter their abilities ... can fully participate, be supported, and feel included in their communities. Now, that's worth all of us getting behind.

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

Parina and Austin from Vermont South, Olivia from Indooroopilly, Jett from Exeter, Mae from Eglington, Hudson from Pakenham, Charlie from Mount Pleasant, Amelia from Carlingford, Clancy from North Sydney, Jock from Red Creek and Gabriel from Kyle Bay.

Belated shoutouts go to... Millie from Paddington, Parker from Kurri Kurri and Marko from Sydney.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 4E with Mr Evans at The Anglican School in Googong, Prep F with Madame L at Whites Hill State College and class 5L at Thomas Hassall Anglican College in Middleton Grange and a happy birthday to their teacher Mrs Bye.

*And a reminder - if you celebrate a birthday over the Christmas break, send us your birthday shout-out by Friday December 12, and we'll make sure to include you in the weekly Quizzes that will be going out each Friday of the school hols.*

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

1. b) 25 km/hr
2. Brown hair and brown eyes
3. Burying a sausage

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 our Shortcut to The Moon

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