

Piastri's desert decider; King's crown jewels custard-bombed; Outfoxing feral foxes; and the seal that walked into a bar.

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, December 8 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Piastri's desert decider; King's crown jewels custard-bombed; Outfoxing feral foxes; and the seal that walked into a bar.

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

THE LOWDOWN

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It was heartache in the desert overnight as Aussie Formula One driver, Oscar Piastri watched the driver's championship slip between his fingers ... coming in second place in the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix behind Dutchman Max Verstappen - followed by teammate Lando Norris - whose podium finish was enough to clinch him the 2025 Drivers' championship.

Called the 'decider in the desert' the championship could have gone to either driver, depending on the outcome of the race. Oscar needed to win the race to claim his first ever drivers' championship - but it will have to wait another year.

It's been a crazy old Formula One season for Melbourne-born Piastri.

For a good part of the middle of the season - only a couple of months ago - the 24 year old was leading the pack and looked set to become only the third Australian to win a Formula One championship.

But then his McLaren team mate Lando Norris quickly caught up - and while the two team mates were battling it out, competitor from another team entirely in the shape of Red Bull's Max Verstappen started zooming up behind them.

Showing what a class act he is: Oscar was among the first to race up and congratulate his team mate at the end of the race. Now that's a true champion.

— INSERT BREAK

And it was sealed with a six for the Aussies last night when captain Steve Smith smashed the cricket ball for six - claiming the second Test in the Ashes series - and sending England back to the sheds wondering where it all went so wrong.

Australia was just too strong at the Gabba - short for Woolloongabba, the suburb in Brisbane where the city's famous sports stadium sits .. it's lower order batsmen holding out all day Saturday to frustrate the visiting English - and Aussie bowlers cutting through their ranks with ruthless efficiency.

So that's two Test matches for nil for Australia in the best of five series - which now moves to Adelaide.

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 London - in the United Kingdom - where the crown jewels have been covered in apple crumble and custard.

It's been a rough year for crown jewels, generally speaking. What with the robbery of France's crown jewels from the Louvre museum earlier this year. And this weekend it was the turn of the British crown jewels - a collection of crowns and sceptres and diamond encrusted orbs.

Protestors snuck into the Tower of London, where the crown jewels are kept, and threw a tray of apple crumble and a jug of custard over the display cabinet containing the Imperial State Crown .. the one King Charles wears on special occasions.

The protestors said it was to symbolise the monarchy and democracy were crumbling ... see what they did there?

The crown was not damaged. But pity the poor sod that had to clean it up ..

Fun fact: the Imperial State Crown has 2,868 diamonds and 17 sapphires.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

And so to New Zealand - just across the Tasman Sea - where a seal pup has walked into a bar.

Sounds like the start of a joke .. but it wasn't for the owners of a bar at the top of the South Island when the little visitor flopped his way into the bar in the middle of rush hour - and hid for a while behind a toilet.

At first, people in the bar thought it was a dog - because it was a dog-friendly establishment. But when they realised it was a not a pup of the canine variety - it was lured into a cage using salmon from the kitchen that would normally go onto a pizza ..

Local wildlife rangers were called who collected it and released it on a nearby island.

What an adventurous little pup ...was probably just after a pup-a-ccino.

(DAD JOKE ALARM) – ahhh - who doesn't love a dad joke on a Monday morning?

WEIRD SCIENCE

Controlling feral foxes - and stopping them from impacting native wildlife - is a serious business here in Australia - where it's estimated that there are more than 1.7 million feral red foxes in the wild.

Feral means they live in the wild - are not under any sort of human control - and eat whatever they can wrap their sharp little teeth around. Including turtle eggs - which they find especially tasty.

Scientists in north east Victoria - near Wodonga - have come up with a clever way to put foxes off turtle eggs. They've been injecting chicken eggs with a non-toxic substance that makes foxes vomit when they eat them ... and burying those eggs in turtle egg nests.

The results have been really positive. The foxes are starting to avoid turtle eggs - because no one likes an upchuck. Outfoxing the foxes .. five stars ...

XMAS PROMO

The countdown to Christmas is on people! And that means whipping yourselves into a Santa-inspired frenzy before the big fella in red straps himself into the sleigh, fires up his reindeer and performs his once-a-year magical present dumping feat ..

Are you on his naughty or nice list this year? It's not too late to get on the nice list .. you've still got 17 sleeps to go to be extra nice to your mum and dad, brothers and sisters, friends and classmates ..

A big thanks to all the Squiz Kids who sent in a question for Santa for our Santa Claus Q+A ... we've stopped taking questions, because we've got to get the selected ones to the North Pole and back - before the Q+A is published on Tuesday 16 December.

That week also marks the beginning of our School Holiday Content schedule - loads of excellen audio and video content to keep you entertained over the hols - including on the Squiz Kids YouTube channel which we're excited to say has been added to the YouTube Kids platform - and therefore sits outside the teen social media banned sites.

And don't forget to keep sending us photos of the wackiest place your Elf on The Shelf has found itself this Yule to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au ... and for a giggle, get an adult in your life to check out our Instagram page where we've been publishing the funnier ones ...

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

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Short for Woolloongabba, the name of a suburb in Brisbane, what's the sports stadium called where the Second Ashes Test was played this weekend?
2. In which country did a seal pup wander into a bar?
3. How many sapphires are in the Imperial State Crown? Is it a) 17 b) 70 or c) 700?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, December 8... it's National Brownie Day in the United States - and I'm talking the chocolate slice, not the junior Girl Guides - but a shout out to all the Brownies out there. It's also pop star Nicki Minaj's birthday ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Tilda from Belmont, Oliver from Exeter, Nike from Albury, Alex from Concord West, Ryan from Vermont South, Evelyn from Fernvale and Issy from Pakenham.

A belated shoutout goes to... Oscar from Frenchs Forest

Classroom shoutouts go to... the Senior class with Mrs Kennis at Aspect Riverina School in Wagga Wagga, class 1M with Mrs Macdonald at Southport State School, class and Room N16 with Mrs Gorge at Eddystone Primary School.

And a special shoutout to all the kids at Jolimont Primary School in Perth - especially Grade 6 - who I had the pleasure of meeting last week when I popped in with your local Federal MP, Kate Chaney to see Newshounds in action in your classroom. It was so cool to meet you all ...

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. The Gabba
2. New Zealand
3. 17

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 - Tomorrow on Squiz the World, we're travelling to a place of extremes, a country so long and narrow it looks like someone stretched it like spaghetti, where NASA tested the Mars Rover, and where Patagonian winds can literally knock you off your feet. But don't worry the people know how to party, and the empanadas alone are worth the trip.

Buckle up... we're off to Chile.

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