

Gold rush in the mountains; China's robot revolution; Bettongs bounce back from the brink; and Ed Sheeran comes full circle.

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, February 16 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Gold rush in the mountains; China's robot revolution; Bettongs bounce back from the brink; and Ed Sheeran comes full circle.

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

THE LOWDOWN

There's gold in them thar hills! — is a famous line from a famous book by the famous American writer Mark Twain ... and thanks to a bunch of heroic sporting efforts in the mountains of Italy over the weekend - it's become a catch-cry for the Aussie Winter Olympics Team.

And that's because Australia is having its best ever Winter Olympics, in terms of medal wins, thanks to the efforts of athletes including snowboarder Josie Baff and moguls skiers Cooper Woods and Jakara Anthony.

The Aussie gold rush began early on Friday - Australian time - when the NSW South Coast's very own Cooper Woods came seemingly from out of nowhere to claim gold in the men's moguls event.

Moguls is a downhill ski event, where you ski really fast over lots of bumps and throw in a couple of jumps and mid-air somersaults for good measure. My knees hurt just thinking about it.

The gold kept flowing for Australia then when Josie Baff from Cooma, down in the Snowy Mountains, beat the field in the snowboard cross event to claim her first ever gold

medal ... a remarkable feat given she'd stumbled in her heat and came into the finals ranked 17th ..

And then it was Jakara Anthony's turn to claim the sweetest gold medal of Australia's games yet ..

Having already won a gold medal in the women's moguls event at the Winter Olympics in Beijing four years ago - Jakara went into Friday's competition as the favourite to win gold again in that same event. But an uncharacteristic stumble on the course saw her tumble out of contention. And she was devastated.

But like all good champions, she picked herself up, dusted herself off and turned her attention to the next competition – the dual moguls - which is where you do the same crazy bumpy run with somersaults whilst racing a competitor to see who gets down the mountain fastest ... it's nuts.

Jakara blitzed the field - and yesterday found herself standing once more on the winner's podium at an Olympic Games, kissing her second Olympic gold medal - making her Australia's most successful winter Olympian ever.

What a champion ..

And a special shout out too to Scotty James - who became the first Australia to win three Winter Olympic medals at the weekend - grabbing another silver medal to add to the bronze and silver medals he won at the last two Games. Legend ..

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 China - where robot revolution is in the works.

Authorities in China are increasingly looking to robots to fill jobs as the birth rate there slows down.

Fewer babies being born means fewer workers in the future to fill jobs – so the government is investing heavily in creating a future workforce of robots.

China is already home to half of the world's working robots - with factory floors all over the country filled with robots doing work that used to be done by humans - helping to make everything from electric vehicles to solar panels. And with artificial intelligence getting more intelligent by the day - its a trend that is expected to continue.

On the subject of electric vehicles - be sure to tune in to Squiz Kids tomorrow for our Shortcut to EBikes and E-Scooters .. how they're suddenly everywhere on the streets and why kids have to be super careful when using them.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Alright - given that it's a Monday and we could all do with some super cute, super good news to kick off the week - try this on for size ..

An endangered species of Aussie marsupial, that's about the cutest thing you ever will see, is back from the brink of extinction thanks to a conservation program in South Australia.

The brush tailed bettong is a teeny tiny cousin of the kangaroo - cute as a button but under threat since Europeans came to Australia and the feral cats that accompanied them almost wiped out their numbers in the wild.

But an indigenous led conservation program on South Australia's Yorke Peninsula has seen a resurgence in bettong numbers – simply by creating a massive fenced off area for them to thrive, untroubled by feral cat predators.

Bettongs 1 - Feral Cats 0 - and we couldn't be happier about that ..

POP CULTURE CORNER

The Ed Sheeran concert juggernaut has taken off in Australia - with the ginger-haired pop star packing out stadiums all over the country this week.

More than 70,000 people packed into Accor Stadium in Sydney on Friday night to see the singer play 29 of his chart topping hits - with massive crowd sing-alongs the order of the day.

Reflecting on the success he's had right around the world, the singer-songwriter told concert-goers on Friday night that he doesn't take a second of it for granted. Not least because he remembered how 15 years ago he was busking in front of the Opera House to a crowd of about 20 people.

From 20 to 70,000 ... that's quite the improvement ..

Sheeran's Loop tour will see him perform in Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide later this month before he heads to South America and the United States later this year.

Proof that if you have a guitar, a passion for music and a whole lot of determination - the world is your oyster.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Name the marsupial who's enjoying a population surge in South Australia thanks to an indigenous conservation program.
2. Which English popstar once busked outside the Sydney Opera House to a crowd of only 20 people?
3. Name the Aussie moguls skier who this weekend became Australia's most successful Winter Olympian ever.

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, February 16 ... birthdays for Aussie sprinting champ, Cathy Freeman and chart topping pop star The Weeknd ..

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Alyssa from Terrey Hills, Sanyam from Forest Lake, Charlotte from Paraburadoo and Georgia from Rosewood.

Belated shoutouts go to... Rory and Ledger from Exeter and Yalara-Lee from West Albury.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Year 5 with Miss Driver at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School in Rosewood, classes 5BR and 5RB with Miss Bates at Wellers Hill State School in Tarragindi, class 4H with Mr Hutchinson at St Ives North Public School and class 5A

with Mr Guy at Mansfield State School with a special mention to the students studying animal adaptations this term. Lastly a shoutout to class 5/6S with Mrs Spruce and Mr Scanlan at Morpeth Public School who have just started listening to Squiz Kids and are loving it! Welcome aboard Morpeth Public School - it's great to have you!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Bettong
2. Ed Sheeran
3. Jakara Anthony

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 our Shortcut to EBikes and EScooters - a must listen for every kid and parent out there.

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