

**Tillies go for glory; Ukraine's sad anniversary; Kiwi bird makes berry bounce back;  
and the cave-dwelling cheetah mummies.**

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 Thursday, February 26

In Squiz Kids Today ... Tillies go for glory; Ukraine's sad anniversary; Kiwi bird makes berry bounce back; and the cave-dwelling cheetah mummies.

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

***THE LOWDOWN***

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Have you got your green and gold scarves ready? Have you heated up the popcorn and got your cheering voice warmed up?

Because starting this weekend - we're about to launch into three weeks of football mania as everyone's favourite Aussie athletes, the Matildas take on the world in the Women's Asian Cup.

Competition kicks off in Perth this Sunday - when the Tillies - including Mary Fowler, Sam Kerr, Hayley Raso and Mackenzie Arnold - take on the Phillippines at Perth's Optus Stadium.

The Asian Cup - as its name suggests - will see the likes of South Korea, China, India and Japan take on the Tillies for the title of Asian champion.

Over three weeks of competition, the best womens' soccer players in Asia will be booting it out in stadiums all over the country - with the final scheduled for March 21.

Lets gooo!

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Yesterday marked an anniversary that the world would rather not have had - as the war in Ukraine ticked over into its fourth year.

In that time, hundreds of thousands of soldiers and civilians - that's normal people like you and me - have been killed in the conflict between Ukraine and its neighbouring country Russia.

And while peace talks have taken place during the past four years - and are in fact expected to happen again this week - there's no real sign of the fighting coming to an end any time soon.

Another reminder to be thankful for living in a country that is not in the midst of a war - and to never take for granted how lucky it is to go to school, play sports on the weekend and generally go about your life without the threat of bombs overhead.

## ***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 Saudi Arabia - a kingdom in the deserts of the Middle East - where archeologists have discovered cheetah mummies in an underground cave.

No - not cheetahs who had baby cubs with them .. I'm talking mummified cheetahs - animals that had walked the earth up to 4,000 years ago - but whose remains have been kind of sort of preserved by a natural process of mummification ... you know, like an Egyptian mummy.

The cool part? Apart from the whole cheetah mummies thing ... is that scientists have managed to identify DNA in the mummies that could help them bring a long-lost subspecies of cheetah - the Northwest African cheetah back from extinction.

Extinction is a fancy word for when a species of animal or plant disappears from the face of the earth.

Cheetah mummy zombies .... Sounds like a kids' movie waiting to happen ...

## ***ANIMAL KINGDOM***

On the subject of species coming back from the brink of extinction ... Melbourne Zoo this week welcomed four new snow leopard cubs to its ranks - when mummy snow leopard Miska delivered a litter of bouncy little bubs.

It's a great shot in the arm for snow leopard conservation efforts - with leopard numbers in the wild under pressure - and the species generally being considered as vulnerable to extinction.

The cubs will stay in a private enclosure with Mum until April - when they'll be put out on display ... booking my ticket to Melbourne as we speak ...

And speaking of species making a comeback ... good news from New Zealand too where the endangered kakapo bird posting a sudden increase in numbers.

The kakapo is one of New Zealand's favourite birds ... flightless, curious and charismatic. But it's notoriously bad at reproducing ... until this season - where it's thought the flourishing of a local berry which puts the birds in the mood for kissing and cuddling has seen a subsequent spike in kakapo chicks.

Must be some magic berries ...

## **NEWSHOUNDS**

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound pops his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back in fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet - and today his nose is twitching like a crazy dog after coming across a bunch of AI generated videos on Facebook.

The videos - which are not real - show immigrants to Australia demanding special treatment from the Australian government.

Squiz-E and his friends at AAP Fact Check did some sniffing around - to discover the videos were being made by someone who wants to paint immigrants in a bad light - to make it seem they are saying things and doing things they have never said or done.

And this is the danger these days. We have to be constantly on the lookout when we're online for stuff that is not real. Because many times - like in this instance - the stuff is being created to create divisions in the community ... to make one group suspicious of another.

And you're going to hear a lot in the coming weeks about something called a Royal Commission into antisemitism and something called social cohesion ... which is a fancy term for everyone getting along together.

Because, as we've said lots of times on this podcast: tolerance of others and celebration of difference is what makes this country great.

Thanks Squiz-E for keeping us on our toes when we're online.

And if you'd like your kids to be among the 5,000 classrooms currently signed-up to do Newshounds - our free digital literacy program - head to [squizkids.com.au](https://squizkids.com.au) and get involved. Stop, think, check, people.

### ***Q+A Callout***

Ok folks - we're getting close to the cut off date for questions for Dr Karl.

Everyone's favourite scientist has agreed to do a Squiz Kids Q+A - and answer whatever curly question you might have for him.

Send your question in as a class or as yourself — just make sure you send it in before next Tuesday.

Email [squizkids@thesquiz.com.au](mailto:squizkids@thesquiz.com.au) or head to the Squiz Kids website and follow the instructions to record your question.

### ***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. Which country do the Matildas face off against this Sunday in Perth?
2. In which country did archaeologists find cheetah mummies in a cave?
3. Name the species of quirky New Zealand bird that's enjoying a berry-inspired population bounce.

### ***SHOUT OUTS***

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It's Thursday, February 26... on this day waaaay back in 1606, a Dutch explorer named Willem Jansz landed at Cape York - at the top of Queensland - becoming the first known European to set foot on the continent. It would be another 160-odd years before Captain James Cook followed.

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

Ostein from Kensington, Ava from Vermont South, Blaise and Eabha from Paraburdoo, Noah from Pymble, Olivia from Ermington, Ray from Cammeray and Emilie from Goornong.

A belated shoutout goes to... Iris listening over in Brooklyn, New York - hope the snow is not too heavy there today!

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 4W with Miss Stephens at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Bardon, class Buru3 and Miss Schmitzer at Googong Public School, class 6 Gold with Mrs Glover at Mt Carmel School in Yass and Green Room with Mrs Bartlett at Harrington Public School.

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

1. Philippines
2. Saudi Arabia
3. Kakapo

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 the Kids vs Adults Weekly News S'Quiz

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