

NAPLAN gets underway; Tap water turn off in NT; Tillies do or die match; and satellite crashes to Earth.

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, March 12

In Squiz Kids Today ... NAPLAN gets underway; Tap water turn off in NT; Tillies do or die match; and satellite crashes to Earth.

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

THE LOWDOWN

You go to the tap, turn on the water and drink it. It's something we all do - without thinking - every day of the week.

But after days and days of flooding rain - residents of the city of Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory were being warned not to drink the water coming out of their taps yesterday - and instead being urged to boil it before drinking.

That's because the big flood that has gripped the NT - usually one of the hottest and driest places in the country - had impacted the dam that supplies water to Darwin residents and its water treatment plant.

The NT of course is not the only part of the country that was going underwater yesterday.

The Queensland city of Bundaberg also had to break out the snorkel as the Burnett River broke its banks - forcing the evacuation of hundreds of residents. Boats were pulled from their moorings, cars and shops went underwater and schools were closed for the

day as heavy rainfall in the region sent millions of litres of water into the river catchment.

Mother Nature eh? She sure is awesome ..

–

Speaking of awesome ... how are those NAPLAN tests going? What fun!

More than 1.3 million of you in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sat the first day of NAPLAN yesterday - as warnings were issued by the examination authority NOT to freak out.

Head of the Australian curriculum authority underscored that the tests are only for the government to work out what improvements need to be made to our education system.

So relax ... do your best. And don't put any unnecessary pressure on yourself.

That is an order!

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 orbit around the Earth - about 250 kilometres above our heads, in fact - where a 13 year old satellite is spinning around, about to burn through our planet's atmosphere and come crashing back down to Earth.

The 600kg Van Allen Probe spacecraft was sent up into space in 2012 - to conduct important scientific research. It has since completed its mission - and is now preparing to return.

Now, NASA says most of the satellite will burn up and disintegrate before it reaches the Earth. And there's no real way of predicting exactly where it's going to fall or when - though they're thinking it could be next Tuesday. But scientists say there's only a one in 4,200 chance of any human being conked on the head by a wayward bit of satellite - so no need to wear your bicycle helmet to bed or anything.

SPORT TIME

It's do or die time tomorrow night for the Matildas in the Asian Women's Cup - as they take on North Korea in a quarter final tonight in Perth. The winner will advance to the semis, the loser will be sent packing. Come on Tillies! You've got this!

And Super Netball fans can whip out their pleated skirts this weekend, as competition on the 2026 season gets underway. Proceedings will kick off Saturday afternoon with the Mavericks and Giants, followed later that evening by the Thunderbirds and Swifts.

Contact!

And a special Squiz Kids shout out to Aussie Paralympian Michael Milton. The para-alpine skier competed for Australia in Italy this week - only days after having surgery on a leg fracture. He only has one leg, mind you. And he uses that leg to ski at incredibly fast speeds down a winding mountain race course. He finished 23rd in his heat - so no medals on the horizon - but still, at the age of 52 and at his 6th Paralympics and with 11 Paralympic medals already to his name - we reckon he can take a bow - thanks Michael - you have done yourself and your country proud.

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet - and today, he's hiding in his kennel in the corner of our office - completely worn out, after a week spent chasing down misinformation arising from the war in Iran.

Christie chatted about this last week - but it's just gotten so intense, Squiz-E is warning about it again.

The problem? Generative AI has made it so easy to create fake videos - it's so easy to be tricked when we're online.

You see - there's a thing called propaganda. That's when untrue information is spread by one side or another in a war - to try to make it seem they are doing better in the conflict than perhaps they are. Because as much as wars are fought with missiles and fighter jets - they are also fought with information. And especially misinformation and disinformation.

Now - if you've done Newshounds, you'll know that both of these sorts of information are not to be believed. They are being created by people - or in this case, countries - who want you to think or feel or react in a certain way - to suit their own purposes.

And as Newshounds - you know how important it is to STOP, THINK and CHECK before believing everything you see online. Be it on YouTube or Instagram. And we have to be careful not to believe influencers .. people who might be popular on social media, but

are not official news outlets and sometimes let their opinion or agenda sneak into their content.

Phew – no wonder you’re so tired Squiz-E ... this Newshounding is a full-time gig.

And teachers: if you’d like your class to become Newshounds - head to squizkids.com.au to sign up to our free media literacy classroom resource.

You’re welcome.

THE S’QUIZ

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

1. Aussie Paralympian Michael Milton competed in which event this week - was it a) para-wheelchair curling b) para-alpine skiing or c) para-sailing?
2. Name the capital city of the Northern Territory, where residents have been told to boil their water.
3. Which country do the Matildas play tonight in their do-or-die quarter final?

SHOUT OUTS

It’s Thursday, March 12 ... on this day, waaaaay back in 1913 - the Foundation Stone was laid in Canberra - to mark the naming and beginning of construction of the city .. so how about that?

It’s also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Kevin from Canberra, Lucas from Kallungur, Arthur and Eve from Rosewood, Ayla from Tanilba Bay, Harvey from Bellevue Hill, James from BELmont, April from Mount Evelyn, Alex from Denistone, Jet from Brighton, Hamish from Bangalow and Hywel from Alfred Cove.

Belated shoutouts go to... Ellie from Darwin, whose birthday was in January... so that’s a very belated shoutout to you Ellie!

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 3P with Mrs Macdonald at Southport State School, class 3C with Minimbah State School, class 5C with Mr Cogran at Casino Public School, class 5A with Miss Louisa at Mark Oliphant College in Adelaide, Year 4 Banksia with Mrs Woolcock at Marian Catholic School in Townsville and class 5C and Ms Rao at Jindalee State School

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. b) para-alpine skiing
2. Darwin
3. North Korea

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 kids v adults weekly news s'quiz

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