

Cyclone Narelle packs a punch; Historic win in SA; Tillies take a tumble; and Punch has a brand new friend.

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, March 23

In Squiz Kids Today ... Cyclone Narelle packs a punch; Historic win in SA; Tillies take a tumble; and Punch has a brand new friend.

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

THE LOWDOWN

You would think with a name like Narelle - the tropical cyclone that swept across the top of Australia at the weekend would be gentle and lovely. Like a great aunt who brings a tea cake when she visits.

But oh no ... Narelle packed a punch as she slammed into the Queensland and NT coasts this weekend - leaving thousands without power in Cape York and sending hundreds to the sandbagging stations in regional communities like Katherine - already sodden after weeks of rain.

Sodden is a fancy word for soaked ..

Narelle left a path of destruction in her wake as she passed over Cape York - the pointy bit of Australia at the top of Queensland - knocking down trees and downing power lines.

Then she swung over the Gulf of Carpentaria before smashing into the Northern Territory - bringing heavy rains to a part of the country which only two weeks ago was recovering from floods.

Weather experts were yesterday watching nervously to see if Narelle gathered strength again as it crossed into Western Australia ... making that three states or territories visited by Narelle in as many days.

And not even a tea cake in sight ... how rude

The only thing that was raining down on South Australia at the weekend was the sweet sound of victory for Labor Premier Peter Malinauskas - who led his party to an historic election win.

It's four more years in power for Mali - as he's known to friends - after folk in South Australia voted overwhelmingly to give his government another stint running the state.

Speaking after his big win, Malinauskas read out a poem by Henry Lawson and said our differences and our tolerance of those differences is what makes Australia great.

Hear hear!

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 Seoul in South Korea - where the city was brought to a standstill at the weekend following the reappearance of the world's biggest boy band.

I'm talking about BTS - the boy band that was forced to take a little break when each member had to do mandatory military service.

Because in some countries, all young people are required to do a year's worth of army training - it's the law.

There were no signs of army uniforms or marching in formation, however, at the BTS comeback concert however - only high-powered choreography, full-throated singing and thousands and thousands of screaming fans.

The concert marks the release of a new album - which reports say sold 4 million copies on its first day of release - and the beginning of a 79 date world tour -which will see the lads perform in Sydney and Melbourne next February.

SPORT TIME

There were tears of joy - and plenty of sadness too - as the Women's Asian Cup came to a close on Saturday night with the Matildas narrowly losing to Japan by one goal to nil

The Tillies went into the final in Perth as underdogs - ranked 15th in the world compared to Japan's 8th world ranking. And it was always going to be a steep hill to climb to beat Japan who had cruised through the competition relatively untroubled ..

But nevertheless, hopes were high .. and the crowd was kept on the edge of their seats as the Matildas attacked the Japanese goal again and again - but just could not convert their chances into points.

Finally, the difference was Japan's remarkable goal - kicked in the 16th minute of play, a belter of a ball from outside the box which sailed past goalie Mackenzie Arnold's finger tips to just catch the corner of the net.

Chin up Tillies – you did the country proud!

ANIMAL KINGDOM

I'm a big believer that being the kind kid in the playground is just about the most important and impressive thing you can be.

Which is why I felt a surge of love this weekend upon hearing the news that Punch the world's loneliest monkey, has a brand new friend.

You remember Punch? The baby monkey in a Japanese zoo who went viral a month ago when he was bullied and forced to play alone by nasty older members of his monkey troupe?

He took to hanging out with a plush toy orangutan that zookeepers had given him.

Well - good news - because new video from the zoo shows that Punch has a friend.

His name is Moe and he and Punch are besties - spending their days rolling and wrestling and cuddling one another.

Punch: we couldn't be more happy for you.

And yes, of course, I've stuck a link to video of Punch and his new bestie in today's episode notes.

PM FOR A DAY

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The South Australian election wasn't the only voting process that took part over the weekend ... voting also took place for Squiz Kids' PM For A Day competition.

Judges, including House Speaker Milton Dick, kids' author Annabel Crabb and the Communications Minister Annika Wells were busy going over a bunch of finalists' videos in preparation to name a winner at a special ceremony at Parliament House on Tuesday March 31.

Who will it be? Which one of you clever kids will be named Prime Minister for the day .. and get a personalised tour of Parliament House, attend Question Time and even meet the actual Prime Minister?

And a huge thank you to all of the kids who sent in videos, explaining what one thing they would do to make Australia a better place if they were PM for a day ... there were just under 500 videos sent in - from all corners of our beautiful country - and I watched every single one of them.

You are all winners in my eye - so give yourselves a pat on the back ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Name the city - the capital of South Korea - where BTS performed a comeback concert this weekend?
2. Which political party won the South Australian election this weekend? Was it Labor or Liberal?
3. What's the name of Punch the monkey's new best friend?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, March 23 ... cuteness overload alert - because it's National Puppy Day in the United States ... shut the front door ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Claudia from Bald Blair, Elsie from Canberra, Asher from Gladstone, Mia from Goonellabah, Vivien from Suffolk Park, Aedan from Kirup, Harnav from Forest Lake, Isaac and Lucas from Mansfield, Spencer from Wagga Wagga, Indie and Ollie from Glenbrook, Layla from Kalgoorlie and Willis from Ocean Grove.

Belated shoutouts go to... Myles from Mount Riverview, Skye from Hampton and Will from Lancefield.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Year 5 class with Ms Mongan at Glass House Mountains State School, class 5 Blue with Miss Murphy at Macauley Catholic Primary School in Bondi, class 5/6B with Miss Brain at Griffith Public School, class 6 Alpine with Mr Atkinson at Leura Public School and class 2/3MK with Mrs Moore and Mrs Kavanagh at Hamilton North Public School in Newcastle.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Seoul
2. Labor
3. Moe

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 a brand new Squiz Kids Shortcut to Propaganda ...

Propa-what? Propaganda my friends.

This is a really important one. Throughout history, the way people think and act has been shaped by propaganda - which is usually untrue information that is spread to influence behaviours ... it's especially common in times of war - and with the advent of AI - it's never been more dangerous - or hard to spot. Vital listening for you all, friends..

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