

**A global squeeze on oil; droids deliver fast food; Aussie athletic excellence; and a do-it-yourself quantum computer.**

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm Christie Kijurina -

It's Wednesday, March 25

In Squiz Kids Today ... A global squeeze on oil; droids deliver fast food; Aussie athletic excellence; and a do-it-yourself quantum computer.

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

***THE LOWDOWN***

---

Last week, Bryce broke down why tensions in the Middle East, and a place called the Strait of Hormuz, are sending fuel prices climbing. Well... since then, things haven't settled down.

US President Donald Trump has issued an ultimatum to Iran. An ultimatum is like a "do this, or else" warning... like when mum says, "Clean your room or there's no dessert." In this case, it's telling Iran to reopen that key shipping route or face possible military action.

But then... another twist.

He's extended the deadline, saying talks are now happening behind the scenes. Iran says... not so fast — claiming no talks are happening at all.

Phhht... confusing!

So right now, the world is watching closely. And it matters here in Australia because Diesel fuel powers the trucks that deliver food, the machinery on farms, and the transport of goods across the country.

The government says there's enough fuel for now and is urging people not to panic buy, while also making plans to keep supplies steady.

And while this is serious, there's still a chance for talks.

Because, like when things get heated on the playground — the best way forward... is to stop, take a breath, and talk it out.

## ***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 your next McDonald's order might be taken by a robot.

At a McDonald's restaurant in Shanghai, humanoid robots — machines designed to look and move a bit like humans — have been trialled to greet customers, deliver food, and even entertain diners.

And yes... they were dressed in full McDonald's uniforms.

Videos on social media show the robots working behind the counter and carrying trays, while other adorable robot helpers zipped around the restaurant — with kids chasing after them. There's a link to the video in the episode notes.

For now, the robots were only there for five days as part of a special opening at a science and technology museum. But it's a glimpse into a future where your next meal might come with a side of technology.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SK-K9nSscGU&t=38s>

## ***SPORT TIME***

What does it take to run 1500 metres in under four minutes?

According to Aussie runner Jessica Hull, it takes patience, belief... and knowing your moment is coming.

Hull has just stormed to silver at the World Athletics Indoor Championships in Poland over the weekend— becoming the first Australian woman to break the four-minute barrier indoors with a time of 3:59.45. And she wasn't done there — she was backing it up from a bronze in the 3000 metres the day before.

Teammate Adam Spencer joined the podium party, winning bronze in the 1500 metres after sticking to a clever race plan — hugging the inside lane before sprinting through and when the gap opened up he just sent it!

And in the 800 metres, Peter Bol just missed a medal but set a new Australian record, finishing fourth in a super quick time. All up, Australia brought home five medals from the championships — a strong showing against athletes from more than 100 countries. And as Hull put it... she knows her time is coming. Which means that gold medal... well, it might not be far away.

### **BELIEVE IT OR NOT**

What if building one of the world's most powerful computers was a bit like... putting together Ikea flatpack furniture — except instead of a wobbly bookshelf, you end up with a machine that could change the future?

Believe it or not, you can now buy a DIY quantum computer kit.

Now... if you're a bit uncertain, quantum computers aren't like the ones you use at home. Normal computers use bits — ones and zeros — like a light switch that's either on or off to do their computations. Quantum computers use qubits, which are more like a spinning coin. While it's spinning, it's kind of heads and tails all at the same time.

Yep. Brain officially doing cartwheels.

That means quantum computers can tackle problems that would take normal computers years, like designing new medicines or cracking super-tricky codes.

Until now, these machines have cost hundreds of millions — even billions — of dollars and lived in high-tech labs. This new kit still costs about \$1.6 million Aussie dollars (that's about \$1.1 million US dollars)... so you'll still need a very generous piggy bank. And you'll need around three months of training and close to a year to build it.

So... not exactly a Sunday afternoon project. Allen key not included. But it does mean something pretty amazing...The future of computing is slowly moving out of giant labs...And into the hands of people curious enough to build it. Maybe that's you!

## **THE S'QUIZ**

-----

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

1. In which Chinese city have humanoid robots been serving up burgers and fries?
2. In what two track events did Aussie runner Jess Hull win medals in, over the weekend?
3. How much will a DIY Quantum Computer set you back?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

-----

It's Wednesday, March 25 ... World Maths Day...A day that celebrates all things numbers — from adding up your pocket money, to solving tricky puzzles, to the kind of maths that helps launch rockets into space. Today's a great day to remember — maths is everywhere.

And sometimes... it can even be fun.

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

Daniel from Maitland, Marigold from Wollstonecraft, Isla from Albany Creek, Elly from Innaloo and Franca listening over in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Belated shoutouts go to... Ario from Melbourne, Harvey from Mount Riverview, Audrey from Beaumaris, Carsen and Oscar from Canberra and Adjabde from Ripley Valley.

Classroom shoutouts go to... classes 3/4 Yarra and 3/4 Wurriga with Mrs Willis and Mrs Owen at Glenbrook Public School, class 3/4B with Mrs Spiteri at Malabar Public School, classes P to 6 with Ms Scheiwe at Prairie State School, class 4W with Mrs Weier at St Aidan's Anglican Girls School in Brisbane, class 6 Spirit with Mr Shaw at Holy Spirit Catholic School in Bray Park and class 5C with Mrs Tyers at The Willow State School in Townsville.

**The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. Shanghai
2. 1500m and 3000m
3. \$1.6 million AUD or \$1.1 million US

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

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