

Ebike ban for under 16s; creatures from the deep in the Caribbean; Squiz-E on the propaganda trail; and the world's tallest baller.

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 26

In Squiz Kids Today ... Ebike ban for under 16s; creatures from the deep in the Caribbean; Squiz-E on the propaganda trail; and the world's tallest baller.

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

THE LOWDOWN

E-bike and e-scooter riding kids ... consider yourselves on notice.

New laws introduced yesterday in Queensland will ban kids under 16 from riding an e-bike or an e-scooter in what the government there describes as an attempt to crack down on a craze that has swept the nation.

From July, kids in Queensland will need a learner's permit - and be at least 16 years old - before they're allowed to hop on an ebike or an e-scooter.

Police will soon be patrolling streets stopping and fining e-bike or e-scooter riding kids under 16 - with fines of up to \$500 handed out on the spot - and plans to pursue parents for the money.

Oh dear.

Queensland will join Western Australia as the first two states in Australia to introduce the under 16 e-bike ban ... with reports that NSW is looking to follow suit soon.

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Have you ever had one of those house guests that just don't know when they've worn out their welcome?

That would be Narelle ... the tropical cyclone that Just. Won't. Go. Away.

Folks in Western Australia were yesterday on cyclone watch as the weather system that has already wreaked havoc in far north Queensland and Northern Territory seemed to be pausing off the coast of northern WA, ready to gather a bit more steam and create a bit more chaos.

The Bureau of Meteorology was even suggesting yesterday that Narelle could make her way south down the coast of WA towards Perth.

Enough already Narelle ... on yer bike!

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 the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea — the picture postcard region of Central America home to some of the most beautiful tropical islands in the world ... where cameras have gone deep beneath the sea and discovered creatures never seen before.

It's hard to imagine in this day and age that there might be parts of the planet that humans have never explored .. but the deep sea is one such place - and for the first time, scientists have sent cameras as deep as 6,000 metres below the surface - that's 6 kilometres down, friends - to discover a whole new world, to paraphrase a certain little mermaid.

Swimming sea cucumbers, a pelican eel with a glowing pink tail and a dragonfish with a glowing rod under its chin are just three of the marvelous new creatures discovered.

And if you love the idea of going deep under the ocean's surface, keep your ears peeled on Sunday morning for this week's episode of From The Vault - where we dust off the Squiz Kids Shortcut to the Deep Sea ...

SPORT TIME

You'd think if you were 2 metres tall, you'd be the tallest person on the basketball court, right?

Wrong. Especially if you're playing a US college game against Olivier Rioux ...

The new college basketball recruit from Canada has gone viral online after photos emerged of him towering over opponents at the NCAA basketball March Madness tournament.

Standing at an eye-watering 2 metres and 36 centimetres - or 7 foot 9 in the old measurement - the freshman took the court on the weekend and made history as the tallest player to ever take the court and to score in the college tournament.

Pity the kid who had to mark him ... Hassane Diallo ... who is a comparatively teeny tiny 2 metres and 8 centimetres - or 6 foot eight. All he could do was stand there and look up.

And yes, I've stuck a link to a photo of the moment in today's episode notes.

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 his nose is twitching away madly with the amount of propaganda that's popping up online ..

If you listened to the Squiz Kids Shortcut to propaganda on Tuesday, you'd know that propaganda is untrue information that is spread - often by governments - and often in times of war - to push a certain story or point of view.

And today it's a post on social media claiming Australia only has 18 days worth of petrol left before it runs out.

Which - to be clear - is not true.

It's a post that was shared by an Iranian news outlet - linked to the Iranian government who is currently at war with America and Israel.

It uses a graphic from SBS News - which is a credible news source here in Australia - but with the help of photoshop, it's gone and changed some numbers to make it seem like our petrol reserves are much smaller than they are.

Why? Because - as we talk about in the Shortcut - in times of war especially, it's often just as important to win the information wars, and alter your enemies perceptions and throw them off balance, as it is to win the war with guns, planes and ships.

Luckily though - as Newshounds - you've always got your magnifying glass out when you're online - ready to STOP, THINK and CHECK before believing everything we see.

Newshounds: it's our free plug + play media literacy classroom resource - used by over 5,000 Aussie teachers around the country. Get involved already - while you still can - at squizkids.com.au

PM FOR A DAY

So many clever Aussie kids .. so many clever ideas on what they'd do if they were Prime Minister For A Day .. and it's all leading up to next Tuesday.

That's right. One of those clever Aussie kids is right now packing their bag getting ready to fly to Canberra on Tuesday to be Prime Minister For A Day - as the winner of the competition we've been running this past month.

Once there, they'll visit Question Time, get a personalised tour of Parliament House and even meet the actual PM himself!

Wowsers!

Be sure to tune into the special Squiz Kids episode publishing first thing Tuesday morning where we share some of the cleverest and funniest entries, reveal the finalists – and crown the winner.

Can. Not. Wait ..

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which country does super tall basketball player Olivier Rioux come from?

2. Starting with 'C' what's the name of the sea - S-E-A - where tropical islands abound and scientists have just sent cameras into the deep?
3. What's the name of the tropical cyclone hovering off the coast of WA - that just won't go away!

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, March 26 ... if you see people wandering about in purple today - that's because it's International Epilepsy Awareness day .. a condition that one in 26 people will be diagnosed with in their lifetime. Rapper Lil Wayne is among them ..

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

Elio from Forest Lake, Ibrahim from West Albury, Isla from Belmont, Harper-Grace from Windale and Molly from Little Bay

Belated shoutouts go to...

Classroom shoutouts go to... Kindergarten class with Ms Hood at SCEGGS Darlinghurst, class 6TMG with Mr Goodbourn at Christ Church Grammar School in Perth, class 4/5X with Miss X at Tahmoor Public School, class 3/4D with Miss I at Gladstone Views Primary School, class 5AM with Mrs Murphy at Albany Hills State School - and a special shoutout goes to Mrs Evans at Holy Spirit Catholic Primary in Kurri Kurri who is celebrating a birthday today!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Canada
2. Caribbean Sea
3. Narelle

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 the kids v adults weekly news s'quiz ..

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