

## **Oreos - exhibit A in court; a beakless bird becomes the boss; robots outrun humans in China; and a Queensland bushie rolls the dice**

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, April 22

In Squiz Kids Today ... Oreos - exhibit A in court; a beakless bird becomes the boss; robots outrun humans in China; and a Queensland bushie rolls the dice

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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Have you ever spotted a special deal at the supermarket and thought... hang on a second... is that actually cheaper? Well, that question is now at the centre of a big court case here in Australia, with supermarket giant Woolworths facing off against the consumer watchdog, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, or ACCC for short.

The ACCC's job is to keep businesses honest, making sure companies don't trick customers, and that prices and advertising are fair and truthful. Think of them as the referees of shopping.

Yesterday, they told the court that they think Woolworths may have misled customers by promoting "Prices Dropped" deals that weren't really discounts at all.

One example they're using is a family pack of Oreos. The ACCC says the price sat at \$3.50 for a long time... then jumped up to \$5 for just a few weeks... before being advertised as "dropped" to \$4.50. So even though it looked like a discount... shoppers were actually paying more than before.

Woolworths strongly disagrees, saying rising supplier costs meant the higher price was fair, and the discount was real. And it's not just Woolworths, the ACCC is running a very similar case against Coles too.

With cost-of-living pressures hitting families hard, the outcome of these cases could shape how discounts are advertised across Australia, and whether shoppers can trust those bright, bold price tags.

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Speaking of big price tags...

A life jacket that was worn by a survivor from the world's most famous shipwreck, the Titanic, has just sold at auction for a jaw-dropping price.

It went for about \$1.3 million Australian dollars or just over \$900,000 US dollars.

The life jacket was used by first-class passenger Laura Mabel Francatelli, who escaped the ship when it sank 114 years ago last week.

If you didn't catch yesterday's Shortcut to The Titanic... what are you waiting for?

## ***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 Aotearoa New Zealand... where a bird named Bruce is pecking his way to the top... quite literally.

Bruce is a kea, one of the world's smartest parrots, known for being curious, clever, and just a little bit cheeky. But Bruce has something that sets him apart. He's missing the top half of his beak. Now you might think that would leave him in a flap...But nope. Bruce has flipped the script. Scientists studying the keas at the Willowbank Nature Reserve have found he's actually the alpha male, the top dog (or bird) in his group — using his lower beak like a tiny sword. He crouches, lunges, and even charges at rivals, a bit like medieval jousting. And here's the wild part, he didn't lose a single showdown last year. Not one.

That all means that Bruce has first access to food, plenty of grooming from other birds, and... top-tier bird boss status. Now, normally, at Squiz Kids, we wouldn't exactly cheer on... *stabby behaviour*. But in Bruce's case?

This is a story about adapting, innovating... and proving that sometimes, what makes you different... can make you unflappable [mum joke buzzer]...I was waiting for the mum joke buzzer!.

We've stuck a link to photos and video of Bruce in action in the episode notes.

## **BELIEVE IT OR NOT**

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Imagine lining up for a big race... stretching... getting in the zone...and then spotting your competition... who is made of metal.

In Beijing, China, on the weekend, more than 100 humanoid robots took on 12,000 human runners in a half-marathon. And some of the robots didn't just keep up...They left the humans in the dust.

The fastest robot finished the 21-kilometre race in 50 minutes and 26 seconds - much quicker than any human on the day... and even faster than the official world record for a half-marathon, which is 57 minutes and 20 seconds.

And, even more impressive... many of these robots weren't being controlled by people. They were running themselves, using sensors, cameras, and clever algorithms to navigate

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Rewind just one year, and it was a very different story. At last year's event, most robots were falling over, overheating, or just... giving up. Only six managed to finish, and the fastest took nearly three hours.

So this year's race? It's a huge step up.

## **POP CULTURE CORNER**

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What do you get when you mix cows, a cattle station, and a board game? A big idea straight out of the Aussie outback.

Out in western Queensland, a self-described "old bushie" named Steve Hawe has created his very own board game, inspired by the sport of campdrafting.

If you're not familiar, campdrafting is where riders on horseback separate a cow from the herd and guide it through a tricky course — part skill, part speed, and part... don't-let-the-cow-get-away.

The idea struck Steve while he was staring at a drawing on a station kitchen wall — and before he knew it, he was up late jotting down ideas and sketching out how the game might work.

In his version, players move around the board competing in campdraft events... while also dealing with the challenges of an outback road trip.

Now, testing a board game isn't easy when your nearest neighbours are miles away, so Steve teamed up with designers and tapped into online communities to help bring the game to life.

It's still early days... but one thing's clear, Steve's giving it a proper crack.

## **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. How many years ago did the Titanic sink?**
- 2. What type of bird is Bruce?**
- 3. An Aussie bushie created a board game based on which outback sport?**
  - a) Campdrafting**
  - b) Cattlecrafting**
  - c) Draftcamping**

## **SHOUTOUTS**

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It's Wednesday, April 22 ... Earth Day! On this day wayyy back in 1970, something pretty extraordinary happened. Twenty million Americans poured into the streets, parks, and town squares across the United States to say: *we love this planet, and we want to look after it.* That was the very first Earth Day. And it's now been happening for 56 years!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today ... Scarlett from Leura, Olivia from Mount Nathan, Luna from Joyner and Addison from Wynnum.

Belated shoutouts go to... Sylvie from Fannie Bay, Nora from Woodford, Grayson from Kurri Kurri, and Marcus from Glenalta.

And Classroom shoutouts will resume next week.

**The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. 114 years
2. A kea (a New Zealand parrot)
3. *a) Campdrafting*

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.