

Remembering Port Arthur; a running record tumbles; Chonkers the chunky sea lion; and the world's biggest snack store

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 29

In Squiz Kids Today ... Remembering Port Arthur; a running record tumbles; Chonkers the chunky sea lion; and the world's biggest snack store

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

THE LOWDOWN

Yesterday, survivors, families and community members gathered quietly at Port Arthur Historic Site, laying flowers and taking a moment to remember. They were marking 30 years since the Port Arthur tragedy. Port Arthur is a historic site in Tasmania, visited by tourists from around the world. On that day, April 28, in 1996, people were there doing ordinary things... walking around, learning about history, enjoying time together... when a gunman killed 35 people and injured 23 others.

The attacker was arrested and later sentenced to life in prison. What followed changed Australia, with strict new gun laws introduced and thousands of firearms removed from the community.

The tragedy also led to the creation of the Alannah & Madeline Foundation, named after two young victims, which now helps keep kids safe.

Thirty years on, the anniversary was marked quietly, remembering those who were simply going about their day, and the changes that followed.

A quick update to a story Bryce mentioned on Monday. A man has now been arrested and charged after an attempted shooting at a major dinner event in Washington, D.C. that US President Donald Trump was attending.

Security officers stopped the man before he could reach the main room. One officer was shot but was protected by a bulletproof vest and is expected to be okay. Investigators are now working to understand how it happened, and whether anything more could have been done to prevent it.

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 San Francisco, in the United States, where a supersized sea lion has become the talk of the town.

This stellar sea lion has been nicknamed "Chonkers"... and once you see him, you'll understand why. He weighs around 900 kilograms or 2,000 pounds, about as heavy as a small car. At 3 metres long, he is more than double the size of the smaller California sea lions hanging out at the famous Pier 39.

Now, sea lions love to huddle together for warmth and safety, but when Chonkers joins the group, things get... crowded. Videos show him clambering onto already-packed floating docks, causing them to dip and wobble, and sometimes sending his neighbours tumbling into the bay. Yes, I've stuck a link to the video in the episode notes

Stellar sea lions usually live in colder waters near Alaska, and while they do visit California from time to time, they don't usually stay this long. Scientists say sightings like this can also tell us something important about changing oceans, and how wildlife is adapting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjHkQgp1i48&t=13s>

SPORT TIME

Last week, we heard about robots outrunning humans in China, but even the robots might have struggled to keep up with what happened in London this weekend.

At the London Marathon on Sunday, Kenya's Sebastian Sawa (*SAH-way*) did something once thought impossible, running the full 42.2 kilometre marathon in under two hours, finishing in 1:59:30.

For years, that two-hour mark has been like a giant locked door in running, and Sawa has just burst straight through it. Ethiopia's Yomif Kejelcha (*YOH-mif keh-JEL-chah*) followed him through just eleven seconds later in his London debut.

In the women's race, Tigst Assefa (*ah-SEH-fah*), also from Ethiopia, set a new women's world record in 2:15:41.

Behind them, a record 59,830 runners filled the course, setting a new record for participation.

Barrier smashed. New level unlocked.

POP CULTURE CORNER

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How would you like to try chicken-flavoured milk? Or yoghurt flavoured like pork belly? How about cola that tastes like salt?

You can try these snacks and many, many, many more at Snack Kingdom in Changsha, China. This newly opened mega-store has just been crowned the largest snack shop on Earth, covering a massive 12,000 square metres... that's about 30 basketball courts.

The creators wanted to make snack shopping feel like a visit to a theme park. Visitors enter through a glowing "snack corridor" before exploring aisles packed with more than 35,000 treats from 70 countries, made by 6,500 different brands.

The store has been so popular since opening that it had to pause sales for a few days just to restock and manage the crowds. And, get this... if you tried one snack a day... it would take 96 years to get through them all...

I've popped a link to video in the episode notes... prepare to be overwhelmed...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQI4p_4IZu8

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. At a major dinner event in Washington, D.C. attended by Donald Trump, security officers stopped a man before he could reach the main room. What protected one officer who was shot?
2. In San Francisco, a giant Steller sea lion nicknamed "Chonkers" has been causing a stir. About how much does this supersized sea lion weigh?
 - a) 90 kg
 - b) 300 kg
 - c) 900 kg
3. The giant snack store in Changsha is so big that trying one snack per day would take an incredibly long time. How many years would it take to try them all?

SHOUTOUTS

It's Wednesday, April 29 ... Viral Video Day... a day dedicated to celebrating the clips that have taken over the internet and been watched by millions... sometimes billions... of people around the world.

What makes a video go viral? Honestly, nobody really knows. Most videos that are *made* to go viral... don't. And most videos that *do* go viral were never meant to leave someone's camera roll. That's the magic of it.

My personal favourite involves Yoda and some seagulls. I've popped the link in the episode notes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9t-sLLI30E>

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

Rocco from Shoalhaven, Oli from Petrie, Sacha from Ryde, Lilly from The Whitsundays, Nalini from Currumbin Valley and Josh from Cherrybrook.

A belated shoutout goes to Abbie from Russell Lea.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 6B with Ms Conlin at Saint Francis Xavier's Catholic School in Cairns, class 3 Watego with Mr Lock at St Finbarr's Catholic School in Byron Bay, class 3/4 with Mr B at Culcairn Public School and a whole school shout out to Jindalee State School and their principal Mrs Munker.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. A bullet-proof vest
2. c) 900 kg
3. 96 years

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up or even if it's in December, send it through to us now and we'll 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

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