

The facts about hantavirus; Nollywood's night of nights; huge-mouthed humpbacks; and a goalpost goof-up

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, May 13 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... The facts about hantavirus; Nollywood's night of nights; huge-mouthed humpbacks; and a goalpost goof-up

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

THE LOWDOWN

You might have heard people talking about something called hantavirus over the past few days...After COVID, words like "outbreak", "quarantine" and "virus" can sound pretty scary... especially when they start appearing in the news again. So what's actually going on?

Well, a cruise ship travelling near South America has been dealing with an outbreak of a rare illness called Andes hantavirus. Several passengers became sick, and sadly three people have died. Now passengers from around the world, including Australians, are being carefully offloaded from the ship and flown home under strict health arrangements. The Australians are being brought back to Western Australia, where they'll stay in quarantine near Perth while doctors monitor them for symptoms. Quarantine means keeping people separated from others for a period of time, just in case they develop symptoms later.

Investigators believe the outbreak may have started after some passengers visited remote parts of southern Argentina before boarding the ship, where infected rodents carrying the virus are known to live.

Now, some people online are comparing this outbreak to COVID. And yes, there are a few similarities: people became sick on a ship, close contacts are being quarantined, and health officials are carefully tracking passengers.

But there's one massive difference.

COVID spread incredibly easily through the air. Hantavirus generally does not. Experts say Andes hantavirus can sometimes spread between humans, but usually only after very close and prolonged contact.

So while hantavirus can be more dangerous for the people who catch it... it's far less likely to spread around the world like COVID did.

So, despite what you might hear in the playground or on the internet.

Remember people: Stop, Think and Check.

There are so many reliable sources of real news - not fake news - at everyone's fingertips online – so next time you hear something or come across a claim online - check it with a reliable online news website before believing it's true. Simple.

Your family probably has a budget... a certain amount of money comes in, and decisions have to be made about where it gets spent. Well, the Australian government has to do the same thing... just with a lot more zeroes on the end.

Last night, Treasurer Jim Chalmers handed down his fifth Federal Budget, with cost-of-living and housing among the big focuses.

Like most budgets, not everyone will agree with every decision. Some people will think the government spent too much, others not enough... and time will tell whether the budget delivers what it promised.

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 Nigeria, where Africa's biggest night in film and fashion has just taken place.

The Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards celebrate the best movies and TV shows from Nollywood, which is Nigeria's giant movie industry... a bit like Hollywood or Bollywood, but based in Nigeria and one of the biggest film industries on Earth.

Now, winning awards is one thing. But on this red carpet, standing out should be an Olympic sport.

One reality TV star arrived in a dress made from more than 500 loaves of bread to promote her baking business. Yes, actual bread. She even had assistants carrying trays of extra loaves around behind her.

Other stars wore outfits inspired by cathedrals, phoenixes rising from flames, and sparkling silver sculptures covered in crystals and glass.

Away from the fashion parade, big winners included the film *My Father's Shadow*, which took home Best Movie, while actress Linda Ejiofor made history by winning both Best Lead Actress and Best Supporting Actress in the same year.

Watch out, Met Gala... you might need to lift your game.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Have you ever yawned so big you felt like your whole face was about to fall off? Well, humpback whales have been doing something a bit like that... except their yawns are bus-sized.

As Australia's annual whale migration begins, researchers are studying a strange behaviour called "gaping", where humpback whales hang their giant jaws wide open underwater while spinning and rolling like enormous ocean ballerinas.

Normally, whales open their mouths wide while feeding on tiny krill, but these whales don't appear to be eating at all. Instead, scientists think it could be social behaviour, whale playtime, or even baby whales stretching their mouths, learning how to feed properly. The behaviour is rarely seen, but scientists have been able to study it thanks to everyday people filming whales and sharing the footage online, proving citizen science can make a real splash.

Meanwhile, the great humpback highway is officially open for business, with thousands of whales beginning their enormous migration north. And if you want to learn more about whales and their incredible migration, keep an ear out for next week's Squiz Kids Shortcut... landing in your podcast feed on Tuesday.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

People do some pretty strange things on the road, but police in the UK say one driver recently scored a spectacular own goal.

Officers in the county of Hertfordshire have shared video of a driver cruising through traffic with a full-sized soccer goal balanced unsecured on top of their car. Not folded down. Not tied on properly. Just... sitting there.

Police say the incident actually happened last year, but the footage was only recently shared online after the driver appeared in court and received a fine equivalent to about 250 Australian dollars.

In the UK as in Australia, driving with an unsecured load is illegal because objects can fall off vehicles and seriously hurt other drivers or pedestrians.

Honestly, though, we think a fine wasn't enough. I wonder if judges are allowed to hand out red cards?

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In today's Spin the Globe story from Nigeria, one celebrity wore a dress made from more than 500 what?
2. During their annual migration, humpback whales travel north from the icy waters surrounding which continent?
3. A driver in the UK received a fine as a penalty for driving with which piece of sports equipment balanced on top of their car?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, May 13 ... on this day wayyy back in 1968, West Australian Ben Carlin completed the only circumnavigation of the globe by amphibious vehicle, an old army jeep that could travel in water and on land.

Ten years, 38 countries, two oceans crossed and when he arrived back at his starting point, not a single person was there to meet him. I've popped a link to a video about this awesome

adventure in the episode notes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjDQs6FWW0s>

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today...Alexa from Kogarah, Ryder from Cromer, Riley from Wagga Wagga, Axel from Perth, Tung from Melbourne, Thomas from South Coogee and Harvey from Forest Lake.

Belated shoutouts go to ... Beau from Rosebery, Louis from Tanunda, Elliot from Nuriootpa, Emma from Kurri Kurri, Maple from Belmont and Rachel and Brooks listening over in Cambridge, England.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Year 6 Trailblazers with Ms Nicholls at Paraburdoo Primary School, class M14 with Mrs Robertson at King's College in Warrnambool, class 5/6T with Mr Meeson at Belmont Primary School and class 3/4 Daffodils with Mr Field at Dural Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Loaves of bread
2. Antarctica
3. A soccer goal

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you'd like a shoutout, or if you want a classroom shoutout... 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.