

Rise and rise of womens' sport; Myanmar's massive ruby find; seeing through virus misinfo; and here comes Eurovision.

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, May 14 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Rise and rise of womens' sport; Myanmar's massive ruby find; seeing through virus misinfo; and here comes Eurovision.

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

THE LOWDOWN

All eyes in the footballing world will be turned to Brisbane - in Queensland, Australia tonight as the Women's State of Origin kicks off tonight.

And it comes at a time where women's sport right around the world continues to become more and more successful, more and more popular, and more and more interesting for young players looking to make a career out of their sporting talent.

For those listening outside of the rugby league playing states of Qld and NSW - and those listening overseas - the State of Origin series is a big deal in Australian sport. It's where the best players from the league-playing states of Qld and NSW play against each other in the best of three series.

The first game - won by NSW, or the Blues as they're otherwise known - broke records in terms of the number of people tuning in to watch the match on television - and tonight's game is expected to do the same.

More people tuned in that night to watch the women go head-to-head than tuned in to watch men play in a regular round of the AFL.

It comes as women's football in Europe grows in appeal and stature, as women's cricket here in Australia and around the world becomes ever more popular and women's basketball in the United States knocks the lights out when it comes to viewers, fans and quality of games.

It's what called the 'professionalising' of a sport. Which is to say: that a sport grows big enough to attract lots of fans that it starts appearing on TV and streaming services and is able to start paying its players more - so that eventually, the players can do that sport as a job.

Until recently: playing sport professionally has been harder for women than for men. But happily that is changing by the day ..

— BREAK

One professional sportswoman who knows all about how things have changed in the last couple of decades is Jamaican-born Aussie netballer, Romelda Aiken George.

This weekend, Romelda will take the court for her 255th professional game ... breaking the all time Aussie record in the process.

She started playing professional netball in 2008 ... long before any of you were born. And get this: in that time she has scored a remarkable 9,716 goals ..

Romelda: Squiz Kids salutes you ...

And while we don't want to be premature with our Salutes ... we're keeping a careful eye on one of basketball's GOATS - Le Bron James - who reports say is considering a retirement after his team, the LA Lakers were bundled out of the NBA playoffs by the Oklahoma City Thunder yesterday ... watch this space

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 Myanmar .. a beautiful country wedged between Thailand and India - where the world's second largest ruby has just been discovered.

The gemstone weighs 2.2 kilograms - or 4.8 pounds - and measures 11,000 carats ... that's carats CARATS not CARROTS ... because measuring a gemstone in terms of rabbit food would be weird.

A carat is the measurement used to determine the weight of a gemstone .. the more carats, the heavier the rock, generally the more valuable it is. For context: the average diamond engagement ring in Australia and the US is about 1 carat.

So yeah- an 11,000 carat ruby is a thing ...

And while this new discovery is a biggie - it's nothing compared to the world's biggest ruby, which was also found in Myanmar, about 30 years ago, and which weighed 21,000 carats.

Imagine the ruby slippers Dorothy could have whipped out out of that beauty?

POP CULTURE CORNER

That most ridiculous time of the year has rolled around again my friends .. when some of the most wild, wacky and possibly unhinged musical performers in the world compete in the Eurovision Song Contest.

This year's competition is being held in Vienna - the capital of the European country of Austria - and semi-finals are already underway in preparation for the big finale this coming Sunday.

Australia's entrant is Delta Goodrem. No, I don't know why Australia is part of a European song contest, either. But let's just go with it. And people in the know are predicting Delta and her song Eclipse could finish in the top five this year - which would be amazeballs.

Though I had a sneak peek at some of the other finalists rehearsals yesterday and I have to say for comedy purposes alone, my money is on Norway, France or the United Kingdom ... the latter of which has a song with the nonsensical, German-inspired lyrics "eins, zwei, drei with the spice of pepperoni". How catchy.

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 snout is twitching because of the hantavirus.

Not because he has caught the dreaded virus - mind you - but because he's sniffed out a whole lot of misinformation that's circulating online about the hantavirus being the new COVID.

You may have heard about the hantavirus on the news ,, and Christie talked about it in the pod yesterday.

It's a nasty virus that comes from rats which has infected a bunch of people who were travelling on a cruise ship.

You don't have to travel far on social media or get sucked into too many YouTube rabbit holes before you come across someone claiming hantavirus is the new COVID - despite assurances from proper scientists and credible health authorities that there is no evidence to suggest it is able to spread as easily as COVID did.

What's the rule here kids when we come across any content online trying to convince us of something? That's right, we do as Squiz-E always tells us and that's to STOP, THINK and CHECK.

Don't believe everything you see. Don't take at face value everything you read or hear. Pull out your Newshounds magnifying glass and be a good internet detective.

(INSERT WOOF) ... yes, that's right Squiz-E. Good boy!

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What's the capital city of Austria, where the Eurovision Song Contest is taking place this weekend?
2. What's the name of the country where the world's largest rubies have been found?
3. Name the legendary US basketball player who is reportedly thinking about hanging up his sneakers and retiring?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, May 14 ... birthday of Aussie actress Cate Blanchett and Star Wars creator George Lucas .. so, MAy the Fourteenth be with you if ut's your birthday today ... (DAD JOKE ALARM) – oi - what's the dad joke alarm doing down here in Shout outs?

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Ashton from Forest Lake, Molly from Shoalhaven Heads, Mika from Bondi and Maya from Petersham.

Belated shoutouts go to ...

Classroom shoutouts go to... Class 4C with Mr Alizzi at Our Lady of the Way Catholic Primary School in Petrie, class 5D with Mrs Chand at The Willows State School in Townsville, class 5AM with Ms Murphy at Albany Hills State School and class 3/4 with Ms McFarlane at Mount Riverview Public School - and a shout out to Ms Waltz and her fifth grade class from Inman Intermediate in Nixa, Missouri in the United States – it's great to have you listening - and I'll email some answers to your questions later today ...

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Vienna
2. Myanmar
3. LeBron James

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.