

Roblox in the spotlight; Delta does us proud in Vienna; Magic Round footy delivers; and the hot dog munching fox.

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 Monday, May 18 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Roblox in the spotlight; Delta does us proud in Vienna; Magic Round footy delivers; and the hot dog munching fox.

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

THE LOWDOWN

With its estimated 350 million users every month, including what researchers estimate is at least half of the Australian population aged six to thirteen - the online game Roblox has once again come under the spotlight with worries kids' are being encouraged to gamble while playing the online game, and regularly being scammed out of their pocket money.

Research published yesterday by Sydney University found that kids who played Roblox had been encouraged to gamble - buying Robux and then enticed to try their luck on things like loot boxes.

Games inside Roblox like Dress To Impress, Grow A Garden and 99 Nights In The Forest introduced kids as young as six to gambling concepts that would normally only be appropriate for adults.

The study found that while Roblox presented itself as an online game, for play - it had increasingly become a place to separate kids from their pocket money.

Which is a perfect moment for me to recommend Session 9 of our media literacy program, Newshounds - which walks primary school students through the tricks used by gaming companies and app designers to trick us out of our money.

Check it out at squizkids.com.au.

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 Vienna - the capital of Austria - where Australian singer Delta Goodrem yesterday finished fourth in the Eurovision Song Contest.

In a golden dress covered with more than 7,000 crystals, and soaring above her piano on a special hydraulic lift, the Aussie songstress did Australia proud belting out her new ballad Eclipse - and in so doing, beating the vast majority of other European nations in the prestigious - if a little nutty - song competition.

Bulgaria took out this year's competition - with a catchy tune called Bangaranga.

Delta was voted second best performer by the professional juries of each of the 25 countries competing - but got bumped down to the fourth when it came time to the audience vote.

The voting system of the competition has come under criticism for being open to manipulation.

No matter: Delta - you are a winner in our eyes - and Squiz Kids Salutes you.

SPORT TIME

Don't let anyone tell you there's such a thing as too much footy ... as the NRL Magic Round wrapped up in Brisbane yesterday - rugby league - and the people who sell food and drinks at Suncorp Stadium - was most certainly the winner on the day.

It all kicked off under rainy skies on Thursday with the second Women's State of Origin match - which saw the NSW Blues claim this year's shield beating the Queensland Maroons in a tight fought match 14-10.

Then it was the turn of the fellas, with big wins to the Sharks, Dolphins on Friday, wins for the Sea Eagles, Cowboys and Storm on Saturday and victories yesterday to the Knights, Warriors and Panthers.

Organisers reckon some 150,000 rugby league fans flocked to Brisbane for the festival of the boot, clocking up a reported half-a-million dollars in merchandise sales .. that's whole a lot of jerseys, flags and fridge magnets ...

And don't think you can escape footy today - with the mens' State of Origin teams expected to be named today ... let the games begin ..

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

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Police in Canada had their hands full on the weekend after being called to a neighbourhood barbecue to investigate the case of the missing hot dogs.

When they showed up - officers were met with the sight of a red fox - its snout snuffed with hot dog frankfurts simply staring at them, as if to say: "Yes, can I help you with something?"

Meanwhile - in Boston, in the United States - preparations are underway for the FIFA World Cup – the biggest sporting event in the world.

And to prepare to for the biggest sporting event, they've unveiled plans to build the world's biggest soccer ball ... measuring 45 feet in diameter - or 13 metres. That's one big ball ..

The World Cup kicks off in the the USA, Canada and Mexico from June 12. Prepare yourself for plenty of late night viewing ..

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which country has a fox snuck off with a mouthful of hot dogs?
2. In which Aussie city was the magic round played this weekend?
3. Out of 25 countries in competition, what remarkable place did Delta Goodrem secure for Australia in the Eurovision Song Contest?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, May 18 ... the French Open tennis tournament starts in Paris today .. and on this day, 25 years ago, a loveable green ogre called Shrek and his pal Donkey burst on to movie screens - spurning no fewer than three sequels and two Puss in Boots spin-offs ..

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Ariana from Windale, Roman from Lithgow, Matilda from Mt Riverview, Poppy from Orange, Lulu from Research, Mikayla from Albany Creek, Emma from Innaloo, Joven from Yarrawonga and Ava from Griffith.

Belated shoutouts go to ... Tessa from Campbelltown, Jaxson from Ashmore and Dominic from Barden Ridge.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Class 5C with Mrs Corry at St John's Anglican College in Forest Lake, class 5/6 with Mrs Hutt and Mr Dever at Exeter Public School, Year 4 Blue with Miss B at Mount Saint Patrick Primary School in Murwillumbah and class 5Y with Mrs LeRay at Lakes Grammar Anglican School on the Central Coast.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Canada

2. Brisbane

3. Fourth

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 squizekids@thesquize.com.au or fill out the form on our website.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squize Kids Today - we'll be back again tomorrow.

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