

**Mice plague hits Aussie farmers; Arsenal's historic win; Koalas caught in fake news; and meet one super tall baller.**

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 21 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Mice plague hits Aussie farmers; Arsenal's historic win; Koalas caught in fake news; and meet one super tall baller.

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

***THE LOWDOWN***

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For those of us who live in a city - the idea of having a mouse in the house - unless it's a pet - is enough to give us the chills.

So put yourselves for a moment in the shoes of Aussie grain farmers - from Western Australia, to South Australia, NSW and even into Queensland - who are currently fighting a mouse plague.

What's a mouse plague? It's when the population of wild mice suddenly explodes in a region - meaning entire communities are overrun with rodents.

Think Pied Piper of Hamelin .. but in an outback, Aussie farm setting.

Favourable weather conditions combined with favourable food conditions has seen mouse numbers explode across wide swathes of rural Australia - with reports of up to 8,000 mice per hectare in some areas.

What does that look like? Imagine 8,000 mice swarming over 2 football pitches. That's what that looks like.

What does that feel like? It's mice in your paddocks, mice in your farm machinery, mice in your kitchen, bathroom - and yes - in your bedroom. So many mice that even the pet cat doesn't know where to start ...

Where do they come from? Well - the thing is - mice can give birth to a litter of up to 10 baby mice every 20 days ... and they can start having babies from the age of only six weeks old. So - yeah -there's that.

A program to control and contain their numbers has been launched - which has left farmers with their fingers and toes crossed ... and pet cats happy for the assistance, i'd say.

### ***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 England - where football team Arsenal have broken a 22 year drought to win the English Premier League.

Any Gunners fans out there? Well - congratulations to you.

There were wild celebrations in the streets of north London yesterday after Man City failed to beat Bournemouth leaving Arsenal with an unassailable lead at the top of the table ...

Unassailable ... means cannot be beaten. Use that in a sentence today .. I dare you.

Meanwhile .. closer to home - and fans of Auckland FC and Sydney FC will be hoping their teams can pull off an Arsenal and win the A-League grand final which takes place this Saturday night across the ditch in Auckland ... the first time an A League final has been played in New Zealand. May the best team win ...

### ***SPORT TIME***

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Look - because it's a Thursday and a whole lot of you will be getting ready for netball, soccer or footy games this weekend - let's stick with the sporting theme.

And our wandering eye was arrested today by the emergence of a new talent on the NBL basketball scene in the shape of JK Mach - an Aussie basketball player who stands at a massive 229cm - that's 2 metres and 29 centimetres .. or 7 foot five inches tall.

The 18 yo is so tall - and so good at basketball - that he's already attracted the attention of scouts for the NBA - which is the professional league in the United States – you know? The league that features the LA Lakers, the New York Knicks, the Oklahoma City Thunder - and the best team, the Minnesota Timberwolves ..

And speaking of young Aussie athletes to watch ... while Gout Gout and Luke Kennedy have been breaking records left-right-and-centre on the sprint track - another name popped up into the headlines this week in the form of Eddie Nketia (N-keet-ya)... who ran 100 metres in 9.74 seconds over the weekend - with the help of a sturdy wind .. making him yet another exciting Aussie athlete to watch.

Spoilt for choice, we are.

### **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 this week, he's snuffled his way into a case of koalas being caught up in a fake news social media scandal.

A photo of dead koalas recently appeared on Facebook and X - accompanied by a caption claiming they had died because wind and solar farms were being built on land they lived on.

But it was revealed to be a fake. The koalas had sadly died as a result of being hit by cars or attacked by dogs - or disease. None of which are great - to be sure.

So why would someone claim it was the fault of wind farms or solar farms?

Because, people are often spreading disinformation - which is information they know to be untrue - to try to convince ordinary internet users of a particular point of view or opinion.

In this case: people opposed to renewable energy like wind and solar, using our universal love of koalas to spread disinformation and try to convince internet users like you and I that wind and solar farms are bad for the environment.

It's why we always need to do as Squiz-E says whenever we come across a piece of content online - and that's - say it with me ... STOP, THINK and CHECK.

And if you're interested in learning about renewable energy - check out our excellent Squiz Kids podcast series, Planet Warriors – available wherever you get your podcasts or via the squiz kids website ... You're welcome.

### ***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. Which English football team has just won the Premier League?
2. How tall in centimetres is rising star baller, JK Mach?
3. How many seconds did it take sprinter Eddie Nketia to run 100 metres? Was it a) 9.74 seconds b) 19.74 seconds or c) 49.74 seconds?

### ***SHOUT OUTS***

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It's Thursday, May 21 ... today is Outdoor Classroom Day ... where teachers are encouraged to try to teach one lesson in the great outdoors today .. hope it's not raining wherever you are ...

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

Bianca from Forest Lake, Jake from Tanilba Bay, Harry from Exeter, Declan from Pakenham, Tashi and Emma from Glenmore Park, Milena from Chinchilla, Shravana from Glenfield and Summer listening over in the United Kingdom.

Belated shoutouts go to ...

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 3P with Mrs Macdonald at Southport State School, class 5C with Mr Cabbassi at Saint Augustine College in Brookvale, class 2C with Ms Clark at Kellyville Public School and class 6M with Miss Murray at Rainbow Street Public School in Randwick.

**The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. Arsenal
2. 229 cms
3. a) 9.74 seconds

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](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.