

Spidey swings into action; Toy Story's billion-dollar buzz; a Dino-era dinner surprise; and a rescue hero rules the waves.

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, July 29 - Spidey swings into action; Toy Story's billion-dollar buzz; a Dino-era dinner surprise; and a rescue hero rules the waves.

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

THE LOWDOWN

A flying reptile gets gobbled up by a dolphin-shaped marine reptile... which is then crunched by an even bigger sea monster. No, it's not the beginning of a new Jurassic World movie... it's an extraordinary fossil discovered in outback Queensland.

The fossil was discovered near Richmond, a small town west of Townsville, in an area that was once covered by a vast inland sea. It belonged to an ichthyosaur, a roughly seven-metre-long marine reptile that looked kinda like a giant dolphin.

The fossil was nicknamed Bob... B.O.B., short for "bag of bones". Scientists put its skull through a powerful 3D scanner and discovered the remains of fish, squid and the jawbone of a flying pterosaur inside its fossilised gut. That makes it the world's first concrete proof that an ichthyosaur ate one of these winged reptiles.

But the ichthyosaur didn't remain top predator for long. Its crushed and mangled bones reveal that it was then attacked and partly eaten by an enormous sea monster called *Kronosaurus queenslandicus*. Talk about the ultimate three-course meal! That prehistoric food chain was rough!

Meanwhile, at 2 pm Aussie east coast time on Monday, phones across Australia lit up and made this rather alarming noise...

[ALERT]

I know, my cats were not impressed!

That was Australia's first nationwide test of AusAlert... a new system designed to warn people in danger zones about bushfires, floods and other emergencies.

Instead of sending individual text messages, it broadcasts one alert from nearby mobile towers to compatible devices, all at once, even if they're on silent.

The government said that the test reached nearly 94 per cent of mobile towers - but that doesn't mean 94 per cent of phones received it. Some didn't sound, some alerts disappeared quickly, and people using accessibility technology reported problems. Officials will now study what went wrong and improve the system before it's planned launch in October.

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 Arkansas, in the United States, where Spider-Man was last week caught on camera performing a real-life rescue.

It comes just as Spider-Man: Brand New Day swings into Australian cinemas tomorrow. But before movie Spidey could begin saving New York again, a real-life Spider-Man was already doing good deeds in Arkansas... no webs or superpowers required.

Under the red-and-blue suit was not Peter Parker, but 20-year-old Christopher Hellenthal, who works at a trampoline park and had just finished a superhero-themed event.

As he drove home, Christopher spotted a man using a wheelchair struggling to cross six lanes of heavy traffic, and still in costume, he leapt out of his car and pushed him safely across.

The whole heroic moment was captured by a city traffic camera and shared by local police. And, of course, we've popped a link for you in the episode notes.

POP CULTURE CORNER

And we're off to the movies again with this story, because Toy Story 5 has gone to infinity... and beyond one billion dollars! That's one billion US dollars, or roughly 1.43 billion Aussie dollars, in ticket sales around the world, making it the biggest movie of the year so far.

And if you've seen Woody, Buzz, Jessie and the gang tackling their newest rival, a kids' tablet called Lilypad, then you helped them reach that enormous milestone.

In case you haven't had the pleasure yet, the story sees Bonnie becoming far more interested in her screen than her toys... which might sound slightly familiar to some families...

This is the third Toy Story movie to make more than a billion US dollars at the cinema, and it's expected to soon become the highest-grossing instalment in the 31-year-old franchise.

Not bad for a bunch of toys...

SPORT TIME

You might have heard that Australia is dominating the Commonwealth Games in Scotland at the moment, but over in Hawaii, another Aussie athlete has paddled his way into the record books.

Twenty-five-year-old Charlie Verco has won his fourth Molokai to Oahu Paddleboard World Championship in a row... That is one of the toughest paddleboard races on Earth.

Competitors cross 52 kilometres of open ocean between two Hawaiian islands... Molokai and Oahu... And this isn't your leisurely stand-up paddleboarding: Charlie races lying or kneeling on his board, powering himself forward with his arms.

He finished the race in 4 hours, 18 minutes and 3 seconds—beating the previous race record by three minutes and finishing almost 50 minutes ahead of the next paddler in his class.

But Charlie's strength and surf lifesaving skills had already been put to an even more important test back in June. While he was training for this event off Sydney's Coogee Beach, Charlie heard cries for help from Leah Stewart, who had been badly injured by a

shark. He wasted no time in paddling over to her, holding her on his board and getting her safely to shore.

A world champion—and a real-life lifesaver. Charlie Verco, Squiz Kids salutes you!

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What does the ichthyosaur's nickname 'Bob' or B.O.B, stand for?
2. How many years have the Toy Story movies been around for?
3. Can you name the two Hawaiian islands that Charlie Verco paddled between...
Half a point each..

SHOUTOUTS

It's Wednesday, July 29 – Get ready to earn your stripes, because today is International Tiger Day! Tigers are the largest wild cats on Earth, with some growing to three metres long and weighing around 300 kilograms, but despite their strength, these mighty predators still need our protection from habitat loss and poaching.

And here's today's tiger fact...no two tigers have exactly the same stripes. Their skin is striped underneath their fur, too, although shaving a tiger to check is definitely not recommended...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Ariana from Windale and Elliott from Williams Landing.

Belated shoutouts go to ... Autumn from Croydon, Laila from Arundel, Isobel from Balmain and Ivy from Warnervale.

A classroom shoutout goes to class 5Y with Ms LeRay at Lakes Grammar School in Warnervale.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Bag of Bones
2. 31... lucky those guys are toys... they never seem to get older..
3. Molokai and Oahu

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.