

Japan rocked by earthquake; Australia's new fastest man; Knights and Demons in fake news scam; and a bee road train to the rescue.

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, July 30

In Squiz Kids today ... Japan rocked by earthquake; Australia's new fastest man; Knights and Demons in fake news scam; and a bee road train to the rescue.

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

THE LOWDOWN

And we start today's podcast in Japan, where the world was reminded of the awesome, destructive power of nature on Tuesday night when a 6.8 magnitude earthquake shook the earth causing widespread damage.

The earthquake's epicentre was on the island of Kyushu - the large island at the bottom of Japan - home to some 12.4 million people.

Epicentre is the word used to describe the spot on the map where an earthquake occurs underground, and where it's at its most powerful.

Rescue efforts were underway yesterday after the earthquake caused the collapse of bridges, the flattening of temples, the derailling of trains and the partial destruction of a shopping centre.

A 6.8 magnitude quake is a big one. An earthquake measuring 3 or 4 on the magnitude scale is considered small, whereas 6 is considered to be strong, while anything measuring 8 or 9 is considered a major, catastrophic quake.

Just last month, the South American country of Venezuela was struck by a 7.5 magnitude quake which caused widespread damage to the capital city, Caracas – a natural disaster that will take years for Venezuela to recover from.

Why do earthquakes happen? They happen where the earth's tectonic plates meet ... the so-massive-it's-hard-to-imagine plates of Earth's crust that fit together like a haphazard, not-quite-right, always-on-the-move jigsaw rub up against one another .. sometimes getting stuck for a bit - until the pressure builds up and friction builds until a sudden slip takes place - making everything on the surface above shake violently.

Japan is used to earthquakes, because it sits on top of not two, but four major tectonic plates - which are constantly on the move and rubbing up against one another.

Australia sits in the middle of a tectonic plate - and so is mostly unaffected by earthquakes. I've stuck a link in today's episode notes to a map of the world showing where the tectonic plates sit and intersect. The places where they meet are places where volcanoes can often be found - and where earthquake activity is more common.

To our listeners in Japan - and to those in far away Venezuela - be safe - and may the recovery be speedy.

And if you're interested to learn more about Earthquakes and Volcanoes - have a listen to our excellent Squiz Kids Shortcut on the topic ... just search for it in your favourite podcasting app, dive into the searchable database on our website - or hop in via the link in today's episode notes.

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 Glasgow in Scotland - where else? - where Commonwealth Games records seem to be tumbling by the day and where Australia continues to rule the roost with a huge haul of medals.

And it was our track and field stars turn to shine overnight on Tuesday, with 100 metre sprint star, Brisbane’s own Lachie Kennedy, breaking the Australian record with a 9.85 second silver medal winning run leading the pack.

Lachie’s 9.85 seconds was 0.08 seconds faster than the previous Aussie record of 9.93 seconds, which had stood for 23 long years ... well done Lachie.

He now holds the honour of being Australia’s fastest man ... what an incredible achievement!

And a hat tip to Ghana’s Esem Emmanuel who broke the Games record clocking 9.83 seconds - only two one-hundredths of a second faster than Lachie – which is a shorter than it takes for the average human to blink ... wrap your head around that.

And not to be outdone, Aussie sprinter Torrie Lewis became the first Australian woman in history to run 100m in under 11 seconds, sprinting to a bronze medal with her 10.99 seconds time. Did it by a whisker!

Squiz Kids Salutes you both!

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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Hands up who likes honey? Me too - love it on a bit of toast, love it over my yoghurt at breakfast, love it in my signature sticky beef stir fry.

If you’re a lover of honey - you would know that its made by bees. But what you might not know is that right now, Australia’s bee population has been devastated by something called the varroa mite.

It’s a nasty little parasite that feeds on bees and spreads deadly disease among them.

And because bees are crucial to pollination – which is a process that allows plants to grow seeds and produce fruits - the impact of the varroa mite is being felt by farmers who rely on bees to keep the natural cycle of things going.

And so - if you happened to be on the Nullabor Highway - connecting Western Australia to South Australia over the past week or so - you may have passed semi-trailers making a distinct buzzing sound.

That's because thousands of hives of healthy bees have been shipped across the country to pollinate fruit trees in South Australia.

It's like a superhero, bee express to the rescue! Which reminds me: it's been a while since I've watched The Bee Movie ... if you've never seen it, do yourself a favour and get streaming already.

NEWSHOUNDS

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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 got the headgear on and ready to go into battle for his favourite footy clubs – again – after fake social media posts starting popping up again.

This time, it's the West Tigers and Newcastle Knights from the NRL world and the Melbourne Demons from the AFL world caught up in Facebook scam sites - with fake stories circulating online about players, coaches and players' families.

There are claims about players quitting to look after their sick mothers, players being ruled out of finals because of injury and even reports of club legends strapping on the boots again to come back and play again. None of which are true.

They're fake Facebook fan pages created by people in countries like Vietnam - to simply create click bait - sensational headlines that are made up but they know will attract people's attention - just so they click on it and get sucked onto a website full of dodgy ads.

Now - as Newshounds - you mob all know the importance of STOP, THINK and CHECK - how you need to do that whenever you're online. But our parents and grandparents are quite as savvy as you all are when it comes to the internet - so its up to you to gently remind them that mis- and disinformation is everywhere online.

And for teacher and parents already using Newshounds - Squiz Kids' very own media literacy classroom resource - stay tuned over the next couple of weeks for some news about changes to the way the program is going to be delivered ... if you're not yet a subscriber to my free newsletter - now would be a good time to sign up – just head to the home page of squizkids.com.au.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Name the AFL team caught up in a Facebook fake?
2. How many hundredths of a second separated Australia's Lachlan Kennedy from Ghana's Esem Emmanuel in the Commonwealth Games men's 100 metres race?
3. What insects are being shipped across the country to pollinate fruit trees in South Australia?

SHOUTOUTS

It's Thursday, July 30 – look up tonight to catch the July full moon - also known as the buck moon - because in North America - where it's summer - this is the time that young male deer, or bucks, grow their antlers ...

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

Fletcher from Rosewood, Mngobi (pron Naw-bee) from Yass, Lexi from Gladstone, Zac from Kensington, Libby from Warnervale and John from Gowanbrae.

Belated shoutouts go to ...

Classroom shoutouts go to Class 2M with Mrs Miller at Holy Cross Primary School in Glendale, class 3 Watego with Mr Lock at St Finbarr's Catholic School in Byron Bay and class 2M with Ms Murphy at Wenona School in North Sydney.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Melbourne Demons
2. Two hundredths of a second
3. Bees

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

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