

Aussie bird flu outbreak worsens; Spider-Man's massive weekend; Salty sea dogs ride the waves; and some very Hungry Hippos

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, August 5 -

In Squiz Kids today ... Aussie bird flu outbreak worsens; Spider-Man's massive weekend; Salty sea dogs ride the waves; and some very Hungry Hippos

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

THE LOWDOWN

If you're walking along a beach or through a park and spot a bird that looks sick, there's one very important thing to remember: look, but don't touch.

That advice follows a worrying discovery on a small island off South Australia's south-east coast, where a number of greater crested terns have died, and others have become sick. A greater crested tern is a large seabird often found around Australia's beaches, rocky islands and coastal waters. Scientists have confirmed that bird flu was responsible.

Bird flu spreads mainly between birds through their droppings, saliva and other bodily fluids. The serious H5N1 strain only reached Australia for the first time in June, and the government and wildlife agencies have been preparing for its potentially devastating effects.

Experts say the risk to humans is very low - so no need to worry about your own health - and so far the virus hasn't been found on Australian chicken farms. And there are things we can all do to slow the spread.

Firstly, never touch a sick or dead bird, keep your pets well away if you do see one, and tell a trusted adult, who can report it to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline. There's a link in the episode notes.

And keep listening later this week, because we're hoping to speak with a wildlife health expert about bird flu... including what to watch for and how we can help protect ourselves, our pets and Australia's wildlife.

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 Idaho, in the United States, where four very hungry hippos have helped one man make history.

Sadly, not real hippos... just plastic ones.

If you've never had the pleasure...Hungry Hungry Hippos is a children's board game in which four players rapidly press levers, making their colourful hippos lunge into the middle of the board and gobble up little balls. Usually, whoever collects the most balls wins.

But when the Rush family sat down to play recently, they had a different challenge ... beat the world record ... and they did... Their Hungry Hippos swallowed up all those balls in a lightning-fast 3.75 seconds!

And the occasion was extra special because it gave David Rush 200 Guinness World Records held at the same time... making him just the third person ever to reach that remarkable mark. Hip - Hippo - Hooray! [Mum Joke Buzzer] argh.. That wasn't even a joke! That pesky Mum joke buzzer!

SPORT TIME

It's time for a Sport Time / Animal Kingdom mash-up today, as California's coastline was taken over by some seriously salty sea dogs.

Fourteen four-legged surfers paddled out at Linda Mar Beach on Saturday for the 10th World Dog Surfing Championships, watched by thousands of cheering humans.

There were tiny pups, hefty Labradors and everything in between. Some had ridden plenty of competition waves before; others were complete rookies. They tackled solo surfing, shared boards and stand-up paddleboarding (it was the humans standing up,

not the dogs, in case you were wondering). And safety came first: every canine competitor wore a flotation vest, and their humans remained close enough to lend a hand if needed.

And this wasn't simply a matter of staying upright. Judges considered how well each dog handled its board, the difficulty and distance of its ride, and whether it looked cool, calm and confident doing it.

Wild water brought the contest to an early finish before an overall champion could be decided. Instead, Rippin' Rosie, the labrador, received the Spirit of Surfing Award.

And with proceeds helping local animal charities, these dogs were making waves for a very good cause.

<https://www.instagram.com/reels/Dbi3DrAzo8t/>

POP CULTURE CORNER

Look out, Avengers... Spider-Man has just snatched one of your biggest records.

Spider-Man: Brand New Day, starring Tom Holland as everyone's favourite web-slinger, has delivered the largest opening weekend ever at cinemas across the United States and Canada.

After the final tickets were counted, the movie had earned approximately \$514 million Australian dollars in North America over three days.

That was just enough to swing past 2019's Avengers: Endgame, whose opening weekend was worth about \$510 million Australian dollars.

And the numbers become even more astonishing when ticket sales from the rest of the world are added in. Globally, Brand New Day opened with roughly \$1.33 billion Australian dollars.

This is Tom Holland's fourth solo movie as Spidey. So while Peter Parker's superpowers include climbing walls and shooting webs, Tom Holland can add one to his list: filling cinemas at a record rate!

SA JOB

Attention to our South Australian listeners .. especially those of the teacher and educator variety ... Newshounds is hiring.

We're about to launch an exciting new chapter of our award-winning media literacy program across primary schools in sunny South Australia - and we're looking for someone local - to help us roll it out.

Someone who knows the local landscape and is passionate about joining our mission to make Aussie kids the most media literate in the world.

You'll find a link to the job description in today's episode notes, or on the careers page of the Big Squiz website - www.thesquiz.com.au

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. How many Guinness Records does David Rush now hold all at one time?
2. Can you name the labrador that received the Spirit of Surfing Award on the weekend?
3. What is the name of Spider-Man's alter ego... meaning when he takes off his mask, what is his ordinary name?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, August 5 – The Day which in the United States is dedicated to your undies... knickers, pants, undergarments of all kinds...Did you know that people have been wearing basic cloth or animal skin wraps as undies for thousands of years, and in the Middle Ages you might have had long pant-like drawers, tied up with a draw string to cover your nether regions. Modern undies are a relatively new invention....The things you learn!

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

Austin from Forest Lake, Bobby from Rosewood, Evelyn from Yass, Leo from Mansfield, Aviana from East Lindfield and Miss Sasha from Gladstone.

Belated shoutouts go to ... George from Secret Harbour and Sarach (pron SAH-rach) Jacob and Rhylen - all from Kurri Kurri.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... Room 3 with Mrs O'kane & Mrs Balatony at Inglewood Primary School, year 6 with Mrs Sitters at Greenock Primary School and class 6 Gold with Mrs Glover at Mt Carmel School in Yass.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. 200
2. Rippin' Rosie
3. Peter Parker

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 with a very special, very important Shortcut.

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