

The President, the plane and secret escape; Wallaby on the run in Netherlands; a Bunnings sausage saga; and shark scientists on hurricane watch.

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, August 13 -

In Squiz Kids today ... The President, the plane and secret escape; Wallaby on the run in Netherlands; a Bunnings sausage saga; and shark scientists on hurricane watch.

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

THE LOWDOWN

It sounds like something straight out of a spy movie ... the President, the plane and the secret escape.

But it happened in real life, as reports circulated yesterday that US President Donald Trump snuck out of his presidential plane, Air Force One, via a catering truck container to be whisked onto a different aircraft and snuck out of the country of Turkiye.

It all took place about a month ago, after world leaders had gathered in Ankara - the capital of the country of Turkiye, for something called a NATO Summit - which is where the countries of Western Europe and the United States get together to talk about how they can cooperate with each other.

And the US Prez usually flies in and out of these big international meetings in a special jumbo jet, called Air Force One. It's like no other plane you've ever been on ... let's just say it ain't no Jetstar or Spirit or Easyjet flight ..

Air Force One is kitted out like a hotel inside - with beds and couches and living rooms and offices across three separate levels, bathrooms with showers and two gourmet kitchens that can feed 100 people at a time.

It's also incredibly hi-tech - with a control command centre on board that allows the President to run the country whilst in the air and special mid-air defence systems that allow it to deflect missiles ... so you know, it's a thing.

Except it wasn't considered safe enough for Donald Trump to travel on for this particular trip - and so, after boarding Air Force One, he was snuck out the other side in a catering container and squirrelled secretly onto another plane.

Because yes: sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction ...

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 the Netherlands ... in Europe ... where a wallaby has been on the run for six months and shows no signs of being captured.

According to a Dutch broadcaster, the little hopper escaped from a zoo in the Netherlands six months ago, and despite 20 - yes, that's right - twenty attempts to capture it, the critter keeps hopping away whenever zookeepers get within coo-ee of it.

And because it's summer over there, and the forests and fields are green, the wallaby has plenty to eat out in the wild - meaning it's in no great rush to go back to the zoo.

Why is this country called The Netherlands, I hear you ask. Because 'nether' means under or below, and a large portion of the Netherlands is either at or below sea level. How amazing

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Speaking of the sea ... and sharks have begun to work as scientists off the east coast of the United States.

Researchers have begun attaching sensors to shark fins to help them collect data which - get this - may help to predict hurricanes.

It works like this ... the sharks swim about the ocean, the sensors measure things like ocean temperature and levels of salinity – which is a fancy word for how much salt there is in the water – and that data, beamed back to scientists on land, is analysed and used to identify patterns which could give us early warning signs of when a hurricane is about to form.

Scientist sharks! The Octonauts would be so proud.

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 today, his nose is twitching because the delicious smell of a Bunnings sausage is wafting on the air.

And that's because social media has been flooded with fake images designed to stir up anti-migrant feelings - including AI-generated photos of Bunnings barbecues being replaced by Indian food stalls.

Squiz-E came across the images and - before believing they were real - did what any good Newshound would do ... and that is STOP, THINK and CHECK.

A quick reverse image search of the photo revealed it had been made using AI - meaning it was fake. Created and shared online by people who want people to believe something as quintessentially Australian as the Bunnings sausage sizzle was under threat by migrants and their different culture and foods.

Frankly: I'd much prefer a butter chicken to a scabby old sausage, but each to their own.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What sort of big weather events do scientists hope sensors attached to shark fins will help them predict?
2. The Netherlands is called The Netherlands because a significant portion of the country is a) below sea level or b) above sea level?
3. What's the name of the plane used to transport the US President?

SHOUTOUTS

It's Thursday, August 13 – one of my favourite days of the year because its ... drum roll please ... International Left Handers Day (CHEER) – why is that one of my favourite days? Because I'm left handed .. and a shout out to the all my fellow lefties out there ..

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today ... King from Vermont South, Imogen from Old Guildford, and Emmelien listening all the way over there in The Netherlands - keep an eye out for that wallaby Emmelien ...

A belated shoutout goes to ...

Classroom shoutouts go to ... Class 3AC at The Scots College Brighton Preparatory School in Dolls Point, Class 3/4 at Culcairn Public School and their teacher Miss B, and Class 4/5/6A Magpies and their teacher Mrs Murphy at Albury North Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Hurricanes ... or cyclones as we call them in the southern hemisphere
2. a) below sea level
3. Air Force One

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.