

Operation Fairy Penguin; Earthquake in Indonesia; Socceroo's Michael Jackson moment; and the world's ugliest dog.

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 Monday, August 17 -

In Squiz Kids today ... Operation Fairy Penguin; Earthquake in Indonesia; Socceroo's Michael Jackson moment; and the world's ugliest dog.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Wildlife conservationists in Victoria will today head out to some of the state's best known beaches, armed with a truckload of bird flu vaccine, as part of an operation to try to protect Australia's fairy penguin population from the disease.

In what is being described as the biggest, and most ambitious wild bird vaccination effort of its kind, attempts will be made to vaccinate some 5,000 fairy penguins in places like Philip Island - world famous for its colony of the cute little critters.

In much the same way we humans receive vaccines to protect them from some of the world's nastiest diseases - the program will see an army of vets administer two separate shots of the bird flu vaccine to the Philip Island penguins, over a period of two weeks.

It comes as cases of bird flu among Australian native birds continues to increase - with governments and health authorities doing what they can to keep the bird flu at bay.

Now: as we've talked about before on the pod: bird flu poses only a very, very low risk to humans - and pet birds, if they're kept away from birds in the wild, are generally considered safe too.

But as Christie's excellent chat with a bird flu expert last week explained - it's up to all of us to be on alert for signs of sick birds - keep our distance from them first and foremost - and report them to the government authorities.

I've stuck a link in today's show notes explaining how to do that- as well as a YouTube link to Christie's chat with an Aussie bird flu expert.

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 Indonesia - where that rumbling crust of the Earth's tectonic plates has just shifted again causing a series of large earthquakes.

This week, it's the island of Flores, off the coast of Indonesia and the larger Indonesian island of Sumatra where the quakes have struck - measuring 7.7 and 6.2 in magnitude respectively.

Rescuers were rushing to the epicentre of Indonesia's quakes yesterday, to be confronted by flattened buildings and thousands of shocked and suddenly homeless locals. Epicentre is the place on the Earth's crust where the quake happens and the violent movement of everything on the surface is the strongest.

This weekend's quakes in Indonesia come only a week after the South American country of Colombia was rocked - literally - by a large earthquake - which itself came only weeks after neighbouring country Venezuela was shaken to its core by a huge earthquake, which was followed by a large quake on the Japanese island of Kyushu - not to mention the recent eruption of volcano in Guatemala, and the eruption over the weekend of Europe's most active volcano, Mt Etna in Sicily - a link to video of which I've stuck in the show notes.

What is going on down there under our feet?

If you're keen to understand more about how volcanoes and earthquakes happen - have a listen to our Squiz Kids shortcut on the topic - a link to which I've also stuck in the show notes. Because we like to give.

SPORT TIME

The FIFA World Cup was only a couple of months ago - but it seems like a lifetime since we were all burning the midnight oil and setting early alarm clocks to watch the world's best footballers do their thing.

One of the breakout stars of the World Cup was our very own Socceroo - the very talented striker from Adelaide, Nestory Irakunda.

The cheeky forward kept crowds entertained with his Michael Jackson inspired celebrations whenever he scored - imitating the 80s pop star's signature dance moves.

And he's taken his love for MJ one step further over the weekend, posting a Michael Jackson inspired music video to announce his move from English club, Watford to Portugal's Sporting CP ...

I've stuck a link to the video in today's show notes - so you can see Nestory show off his dancing skills again .. as the lad from South Australia celebrates a transfer for which the club has reportedly paid almost \$30million.

That will buy him a lot of silver glitter MJ gloves ..

ANIMAL KINGDOM

And so to one of our favourite animal competitions of the year. Right up there with the Fat Bear Competition ... I'm talking about the competition in California to find the World's Ugliest Dog ..

Every year, some of America's least attractive dogs gather in Sonoma County to see who will win the annual prize and be crowned the world's ugliest.

Now, it has to be said, that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Which is to say: what one person finds attractive, another might think is not. And certainly: as the link to a photo gallery in today's show notes demonstrates: owners love these mutts no matter how interesting their facial features.

But in the end: there could only be one winner - and this year, that honour went to Jinny Lu - a rescue pug with a dangling tongue and bulging eyes.

And look - well done to Jinny Lu - because she was runner up last year and this is her fourth year competing for the title .. which shows the importance of persisting and why you've just got to keep on showing up.

Squiz Kids Salutes you Jinny Lu.

BOOKWEEK CALLOUT

Now don't forget – as if you could - that Book Week is almost upon us. And that means getting dressed up as a character from your favourite book to parade around the school oval or quadrangle.

We love a bit of Book Week here at Squiz Kids - because we love books. And we want to see how clever and creative your costumes are this year.

When you're all dressed up - get an adult to take a photo of you and send it squizkids@thesquiz.com.au - and we'll post the pics to our socials, so everyone can appreciate how creative you are.

Be sure to include your name, age, where you're from and which character you've dressed as. There'll be prizes for the best ones. And teachers: we want to see what you dress as too!

Can't wait to see what you come up with ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which Australian capital city does Soccerroo star Nestory Irakunda come from?
2. What species of penguin are wildlife conservationists setting out to immunise against bird flu in the Australian state of Victoria this week?
3. What sort of a dog is Jinny Lu - winner of the 2026 World's Ugliest Dog competition?

SHOUTOUTS

It's Monday, August 17 – birthday of Aussie rapper The Kid Laroi ..

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today ... Genevieve from Banana, Jhett from Craigie, Harlen from Kurri Kurri, Myles from Lane Cove North, Vinnie from Lane Cove and Evie from Graceville.

A belated shoutout goes to ...Kelsie from St Ives

Classroom shoutouts go to ... Class 5S and their teacher Mrs Solimo at Wangaratta West Primary School, Gunwingger Class and their teacher Mrs Rivers at Mount Brown Public School in Dapto, and class 3T students from St Philips Christian College in Newcastle who want to send a shoutout to their wonderful teacher Miss Jones.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Adelaide
2. Fairy Penguins
3. Pug

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 an excellent Squiz Kids Shortcut on Dinosaurs ... specifically, the extinction event that saw a massive asteroid the size of Mt Everest slam into Earth millions of years ago - causing the dinos to disappear and other animals to thrive ... it's a fascinating time travelling shortcut you won't want to miss.

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