

Parliament takes on betting ads ; monkey business in the Scottish Highlands;som picture-perfect animals; and the Milky Way's ancient feeding frenzy

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 19 -

In Squiz Kids today ... Parliament takes on betting ads ; monkey business in the Scottish Highlands;som picture-perfect animals; and the Milky Way's ancient feeding frenzy

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

THE LOWDOWN

If I told you a footy team was paying \$2.50 to win, would you know what that meant? Plenty of Australian kids do, and experts say gambling advertisements are one reason why. That close connection between sport and gambling is what proposed new laws moving through Australia's Federal Parliament are intended to break.

For years, betting ads have appeared during sporting matches, on websites and social media, and even on players' uniforms and around stadiums. If you've ever watched a game of footy or cricket, or any sport at all, for that matter, you've probably seen a betting ad or fifty.

Experts worry this makes gambling seem like a normal part of being a sports fan, even though it is illegal for children to place bets.

The proposed law would reduce the number of betting ads shown on television, ban them during children's programs and on-demand shows, and extend the advertising blackout around live sport. Gambling advertising would also disappear from sporting venues and from players' and officials' uniforms, while betting companies would no longer be allowed to pay celebrities, athletes or influencers to promote their products

Yesterday, the bill passed the House of Representatives by 103 votes to 14, with support from the government and most of the Coalition.

But two Coalition MPs crossed the floor to vote against it, joining the Greens and several independent MPs. Unusually, they weren't arguing that the rules were too strict, they said they weren't strong enough and wanted gambling advertising banned completely.

The bill must now pass the Senate before becoming law. With Labor and the Coalition supporting it, it's likely that that will happen.

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 Scotland, where a spot of monkey business has been unfolding in the Highlands.

Luka, the Japanese macaque, escaped from his enclosure at Highland Wildlife Park, inside Scotland's enormous Cairngorms National Park, sometime late on Sunday night. By Monday morning, the adventurous monkey had been spotted several kilometres away, taking a wee wander through the rugged Scottish Highlands. Keepers launched a major search, using a thermal-imaging drone to scan the landscape for Luka's body heat.

Luckily, the great escape had a happy ending. Before the search party could catch him, Luka turned around and returned to the wildlife park all by himself. He'll now receive a health check before being carefully returned to the other macaques. Keepers believe some monkey disagreements may have caused Luka to leave the group in the first place.

You could say Luka went ape... but macaques are monkeys, not apes, so perhaps not.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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Today is World Photography Day, and some of the animal kingdom's biggest posers are ready for their close-ups.

The winners of a British and Irish zoo and aquarium photography competition have just been announced, selected from more than 800 entries.

There were categories for everything from mammals and birds to fish, frogs, reptiles and even invertebrates. There is even a human category to remind us of our place in the animal kingdom.

The competition celebrates the beauty, personality and occasional silliness of animals, while reminding people why wildlife is worth protecting.

The winning photos will feature in a special calendar next year. But we've popped a link to a photo gallery if you want to take a look at some of the wonderful entries right now.

SPACED OUT

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What do a fearsome Kraken, a Greek hero and an enormous sausage all have in common? Believe it or not, they're all part of the Milky Way's family history.

In case you need a refresher... The Milky Way is our home galaxy: a gigantic collection of stars, planets, gas and dust all held together by gravity. It began forming around 13 billion years ago... not long after the universe itself began.

At first, it was much smaller. But gravity pulled it towards nearby galaxies, causing them to merge and making the Milky Way much bigger. Astronomers have now found strong evidence of a massive collision about 12 billion years ago with a galaxy they've named Low-energy-Kraken-Heracles.

By comparing their chemical ingredients, researchers can work out where they were born. It's kinda like galactic archaeology: the old galaxy has disappeared, but its clues remain scattered through the Milky Way. Our galaxy later swallowed another wonderfully named galaxy, Gaia-Sausage-Enceladus... and it's still growing today.

There's no official rulebook for naming these vanished galaxies. The astronomers studying them suggest nicknames based on their discoveries, and if different teams use different names, those names can end up being combined. One Australian scientist suggested calling the newly identified galaxy 'Koala', because both koalas and its stars are low energy.

What a missed opportunity.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What type of monkey was the Scottish escapee?
2. What is an invertebrate?
3. Which well-known Aussie animal did an astronomer want to name a low-energy galaxy after?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, August 19 – and as I mentioned earlier... it's World Photography Day - On this day wayyy back in 1839, the French government revealed the instructions for one of the first practical ways of taking a photograph. The complicated process involved a silver-coated copper plate, dangerous chemicals and several minutes to capture one picture. Cameras have changed enormously since then, but one tradition remains the same: someone always blinks.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today ... Asher from Forest Lake, Tyson from West Albury, Ivy from Leura, Francis from Ermington, Isabelle from Lewisham, Millie from Camberwell.

A belated shoutout goes to ...Tariq from Plumpton, Dany from Carnegie, James from West Pymble, and Adrien, who's listening all the way over there in Paris, France.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... Class Pre-Primary Stingray with Miss Tills at Beaconsfield Primary School, Room 2 with Miss Grey also at Beaconsfield Primary School, and Class 1A with Mrs Rogers at Tyabb Primary School

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Japanese macaque
2. An animal without a spine
3. A koala

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.