

Footy gets a theme park; Rwanda's school-meal mission; Australia's wild house guests; and the Pope farms aura.

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, September 9 -

In Squiz Kids today ... Footy gets a theme park; Rwanda's school-meal mission; Australia's wild house guests; and the Pope farms aura.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Hold on to your supporters' caps, beanies and scarves, rugby league fans, because the National Rugby League is making plans for an NRL theme park. It's expected to be called NRL World and based in Sydney's inner suburbs.

Now, before you start imagining a Reece Walsh roller-coaster or Kalyn Ponga's Tower of Terror, this probably won't be a sprawling amusement park like Disneyland.

Plans include video games, coaching clinics, big-screen match parties and augmented-reality activities. That's technology that places computer-generated characters and objects into the world around you, possibly allowing visitors to line up beside simulated NRL stars, play for their favourite club or experience the thrill of running onto the field. There could also be birthday parties, school-holiday activities and plenty of team merchandise.

If the Sydney venue is a hit, there are also plans for a Queensland version, and even a mobile NRL World that could take the fun to fans around the country.

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 Rwanda, a small, landlocked country in East Africa, just south of the Equator, where plans are being made to put more nutritious, locally grown food onto children's lunchtime plates.

Here in Australia, many of us arrive at school knowing we'll have food to eat at lunchtime. We don't always stop to think how lucky we are, or how hard it would be to learn and concentrate on an empty tummy.

Rwanda already has a huge school-meals program, and around 200,000 children regularly eat food enriched with extra vitamins and minerals. Now, a charity called the Rockefeller Foundation is discussing with Rwanda's government how the program could grow, quite literally, by buying more beans, vegetables and grain directly from local farmers, and include cleaner cooking equipment for school kitchens

That would give kids healthy fuel for learning and provide farming families with regular customers for their crops. Win, win.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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Bats in the curtains, sugar gliders under the sink and koalas on the bed are just some of the unexpected house guests uncovered by a new study into Australian wildlife.

A report released last week by researchers from the University of Melbourne examined more than ten years' worth of calls to Wildlife Victoria, recording almost 2,400 encounters involving 36 native species.

Possums were the most frequent visitors, while microbats, wombats, birds and reptiles were also discovered in roofs, walls, garages, air conditioners, and letterboxes. There was even an echidna in a pantry pulling appliances off the shelves.

But behind the adorable house-crashing is a serious problem. As bushland and old trees disappear, animals that would usually shelter in natural hollows are looking for substitutes.

The researchers say we should start designing homes that make safe space for wildlife, with possum boxes, nesting places and animal-friendly lighting.

Just perhaps not in the pantry. Some boundaries are important... even for echidnas.

POP CULTURE CORNER

—

The Catholic Church has entered the group chat, and even the Pope is joining in.

It happened last Friday at the Vatican's annual Family Feast, an end-of-summer celebration for Vatican employees and their families with games, performances, pizza and inflatable attractions.

Pope Leo gave a talk where he decided to test the crowd's maths and his knowledge of viral trends.

"How much is six-seven?" he asked, before supplying the mathematically correct... but decidedly uncool... answer: thirteen.

Teenagers then called out, asking him to say "aura." He repeated it back, earning another big laugh.

Meanwhile, a top priest in Chile, called a Cardinal, has also joined the trend, telling young people that studying hard, helping others and bringing joy to the world are excellent ways to farm aura.

For any grown-ups wondering what's going on, *aura farming* means doing something that makes you look effortlessly cool or impressive.

If this continues, we may have to change the name of this segment to Pope-Culture Corner... [Mum Joke Buzzer]... arrr no aura for me then, just the Mum Joke Buzzer...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which Australian city is expected to become home to the first NRL World?
2. Which native Australian animal was found raiding someone's pantry?
3. Which popular slang word did teenagers convince Pope Leo to repeat?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, September 9 – On this day, wayyy back in 1947, the world's first *actual* computer bug was found.

Engineers working on the enormous Harvard Mark II computer discovered that a moth had become trapped between two electrical contacts. They carefully removed it, taped it into their logbook and wrote beside it: "First actual case of bug being found."

People were already using the word bug to describe mechanical faults, but the moth helped make the term "computer bug" famous.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Lyla from Rosewood, Callum from Shoalhaven Heads, Teddy from Ferny Grove, Curtis from Toowoomba, Valentino from Beveridge, and Jesse from Dover Heights.

Belated birthday shoutouts go to... Dylan from Karrinyup

Classroom shoutouts go to ... Class 5MJ and their teacher, Mr Johnson at Mount View Primary School in Glen Waverley, Class 5/6B and their teacher, Mr Blain at Belmont Primary School, and Class 4H and their teacher, Mr Hutchinson at St Ives North Public School.... And we hear you've had a birthday recently, Mr Hutchinson, so a big happy birthday to you!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Sydney
2. Echidna
3. Aura

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you'd like a shoutout, or if you want a classroom shoutout, or parents, if you'd like to shout out a class or a wonderful teacher... 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.

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