

Celebrating Aussie Citizenship Day; Japan's record-breaking 100 year olds; big weekend for AFL and NRL; and taming the AI robots.

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, September 17 -

In Squiz Kids today ... Celebrating Aussie citizenship day; Japan's record-breaking 100 year olds; big weekend for AFL and NRL; and taming the AI robots.

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

THE LOWDOWN

As you make your way to school today, or sit in your classroom staring out the window - take a moment to have a look at your surroundings and reflect on what it means to be Australian.

That's especially important today, because it's Australian Citizenship Day ... a day to celebrate all the great things that come with being an Aussie.

It's also timely: as the government will unveil its migration policy today - which is to say, it will outline how and when and why people from other countries will be allowed to move to Australia.

According to the organisers of Aussie Citizenship Day, today is a day to think about all the things we have in common as Australians - and think about all of the many things that unite us.

It's also a day to celebrate our democracy ...

What's a democracy? It's the way of running a country where the people who live in it have the power to choose their leaders by voting for them.

You know those sausages you eat every now and then in your school playground on election days when your mum and dad go to vote? That's democracy in action.

Today, there will be special citizenship ceremonies all over the country .. where migrants pledge allegiance to the Australian way of life ... a way of life that includes freedom of religion, respect for the law, equal opportunity for all people, no matter where they come from or who they are - and embracing the good ol' Aussie 'fair go'.

According to government figures, Australia is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world - with people from all different countries and cultures calling Australia home ... and more than 6 million new citizens welcomed to Australian shores since 1949.

Bewdy ...

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 Japan — which has just broken a new record for old people ...

And I mean really, really old people.

According to Japan's health ministry, more than 100,000 people in Japan are over the age of 100.

Someone over the age of 100 is called a centenarian ... because a century equals 100.

Figures show Japan is now home to 107,677 centenarians, the highest number in the world - and get this, 88% of those Japanese centenarians are women.

The oldest woman in Japan is a 114-year-old from Kyoto City and the oldest man is a 112-year-old from Kumamoto.

Whatever they're eating ... I want some of that.

SPORT TIME

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And we're officially at the pointy end of proceedings in the AFL, with the preliminary-finals underway this weekend to determine who will play in the upcoming Grand Final at the MCG.

Strap yourselves in Swans and Dockers fans as your teams face off tomorrow night in Sydney ... will the men from Fremantle make it to the big dance, as the grand final is known, or will the home team hold out?

And who will the winner meet in the Grand Final? We'll know the answer to that on Saturday evening when the Brisbane Lions take on the Hawthorn Hawks at the fabled MCG. Can the Lions go back-to-back-to-back with a grand final appearance, or will the Hawks spoil the party?

Either way: it's set to be quite the party with none other than Aussie pop star Kylie Minogue lined up to provide half-time grand final entertainment on Saturday week ...

Meanwhile - the NRL comp - the Sydney Roosters will take on the Cronulla Sharks on Saturday in an elimination final - with the winner going on to face the Dolphins. While Sunday will see the New Zealand Warriors play the Newcastle Knights, with the loser bowing out and the winner going on to play to Penrith Panthers.

It's footy people ... get excited!

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday, Squiz E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ and reports back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet .. and today he's nose is twitching after stumbling across an Ai-generated magazine cover - predicting a future where AI has ruined the world.

It's a lot.

The magazine is called The Economist - and it's famous for being a reliable source of news and information. But by using tools like SynthID - an AI chatbot verification tool - Squiz-E has been able to detect that the magazine cover, which has been shared widely on social media is a fake.

What's not fake - however - is the debate that's currently raging about whether or not the companies responsible for the world's most popular and powerful AI robots need to slow down a bit - for the sake of the planet's future. It's a conversation that is going to dominate headlines for months to come - that's how big a deal it is.

What's abundantly clear to Squiz-E however, is that no matter the outcome of that debate - being able to tell what's real and what's not when you're online - and thinking

critically about the content we all consume - or, STOPPING, THINKING and CHECKING as Squiz-E tells us to do - is only going to become more and more important in all of our lives.

And a shout out to the more than 6,000 teachers around Australia who have already understood this and have signed-up to a Newshounds account and starting using Squiz Kids' very own, very free media literacy resource – check it out via squizkids.com.au ...

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Can you hear that? The sound of seagulls ... beaches And that's because the school holidays are almost here ... and while we take a couple of weeks off alongside you all to plan some brilliant new episodes for the end of the year, there'll still be plenty happening on the Squiz Kids podcast channel over the hols! From Monday, look out for daily brain teasers and keep your eyes peeled for some cracker Kids vs Adults Road Trip Quizzes - plus some new Science Shorts and some favourites from the Squiz Kids vault. So keep us in your ears... and have a cracking holiday!

And of course if you have a birthday over the next two weeks - we'll give you a shout out in the Bumper Quiz on the Friday of the week your birthday falls ... just send your request to squizkids@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. Starting with 'D', what's the name of the system of government in which the people in the country vote to decide who leads them?
2. If you were a centenarian, at least how old would you need to be?
3. Name the Aussie popstar lined up to provide half time entertainment at the AFL grand final.

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, September 17 – birthday of famous Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes ... and tomorrow, if you're interested, is National Cheeseburger Day in the United States .. mmmm... cheeseburgers ...

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

CJ and Christopher from Dunsborough, Dhruv (pron Drew) from Glen Waverley, William from Capalaba and Aiden from NarreWarren.

Belated Birthday Shoutouts go to....

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 4B with Mrs Cotton at Holy Spirit Primary School in Kurri Kurri, class 5W with Miss Weller at Saint Augustine's Catholic Primary School in Sydney and class 4C with Mrs Conroy at Central Coast Grammar School in Erina.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Democracy
2. 100
3. Kylie Minogue

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 .

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