

Mission to solve Amelia Earhart mystery; Panama rocked by earthquake; Brodie's king of the mountain; and the world's oldest tortoise.

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, October 12 -

In Squiz Kids today Mission to solve Amelia Earhart mystery; Panama rocked by earthquake; Brodie's king of the mountain; and the world's oldest tortoise.

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

THE LOWDOWN

And we begin the week with an expedition that's underway as we speak - with historians and archaeologists making their way to a tiny tropical island in the South Pacific in a bid to solve one of the world's great mysteries.

Way back in 1937, a brave American woman called Amelia Earhart attempted to fly around the world in a small plane.

Now - in 2026 - you might think flying around the world is no big deal. You get on a jumbo jet and away you go.

But back in 1937 - planes were pretty simple, and small, and had to stop in lots of little islands and far flung countries to refuel all the time, because they couldn't carry all that much fuel.

Amelia had set off from North America, flown via the tippy top of South America, across the Atlantic Ocean, right across the continent of Africa, up through the Middle East to fly across the continent of Asia, down to Papua New Guinea - and when she was crossing the South Pacific Ocean - she disappeared. Never to be seen or heard from again.

I've stuck a link in today's show notes to a map of her remarkable journey.

Scientists from an American university will today arrive by boat to a remote island in the South Pacific, called Nikumaroro Island - where satellite photos show the faint outline of what *could be* an aeroplane sitting at the bottom of a lagoon ...

Could it be Amelia Earhart's plane? And could the mystery of her disappearance finally be solved?

Keep listening this week as we'll be sure to update you on what they find there ...

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 Panama - which might be the first time ever that we've landed there ... and that's because a large earthquake shook the country over the weekend, causing buildings to tumble and houses to shudder.

Panama is a small country in Central America - that's the part of the world that connects North America to South American continents.

Rather unhelpfully, it's also located on the edge of what's called the Pacific Ring of Fire - a 40,000-kilometre, horseshoe-shaped tectonic belt that surrounds the Pacific Ocean basin.

Panamanians - the name given to the 4.6 million odd people who live there - were woken in the early hours of Saturday morning as the ground beneath them shuddered violently .. sending many into the streets.

The earthquake measured 7.7 on the quake magnitude scale .. a scale in which a magnitude 3 is considered minor - and a magnitude 8 is considered catastrophic. So - 7.7 is really up there.

Happily - at the time of recording this podcast - no one was seriously injured.

SPORT TIME

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There was triumph and heartbreak on the mountain yesterday as the Bathurst 1000 car race once again delivered in the drama stakes - and petrol heads everywhere had the time of their lives.

Brodie Kostecky pulled off a come-from-behind win for the ages to claim his second title down on the Mt Panorama race track yesterday afternoon - beating to the finish line Anton de Pasquale who was on track to win the race ... until he ran out of fuel ...

Exactly how you run out of fuel in car race when that's literally one of the most important things you need... I just don't know .. but then, I'm not a motorsport enthusiast - so what do I know?

What I do know is that the Wallabies - the Australian men's rugby team - had their six match unbeaten streak under new coach Les Kiss came to a screaming halt on Saturday night in New Zealand against the All Blacks ... despite only being two points down at half time, the Wallabies crumbled to a 50-19 defeat at Eden Park.

Ouch. That's got to hurt.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

And so to the tiny island of St Helena, off the west coast of Africa, we go ... where scientists have begun to study the oldest living land animal to discover the secrets to living a long and happy life.

Jonathan is a giant tortoise - and at 194 years old - he's widely considered to be the oldest land animal in the world.

Stop and think about that for a moment ... born in 1832, Jonathan was alive at the time of Abraham Lincoln and Queen Victoria, born only 40 years after when the first European settlers came to Australia ... he's seen some stuff.

And now scientists are doing a series of tests on him to discover the secret to living long.

And surprise, surprise ... they've started to conclude that taking life slow is essential to a long and - presumably - happy life.

Jonathan's not a rusher ... he doesn't fill his days with 100 things ... slow and steady wins the race.

Hmmm ... I reckon I could take a leaf out of Jonathan's book ...

Q+A CALL OUT

NSW Premier Chris Minns

Kids of NSW ... now you're back at school - it's the perfect time to remind you to get your questions in for the big Squiz Kids Q+A with none other than your Premier, Chris Minns ..

That's right - the fella in charge of your state has agreed to take the Squiz Kids Q+A hotseat to answer any question you might want to ask him ..

Like: what's his favourite footy team, or is his favourite take away pizza or fish and chips - or why is he against screens in classrooms or why does he think kids shouldn't be on social media before the age of 16 ..

It's the first time a sitting NSW Premier has agreed to a kids Q+A - so here's your chance to be part of a little bit of history ..

Send your questions quicksticks to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au ... the ten best will be selected – and if your class sends in a bunch of questions, you'll go into the draw to win a special Face Time Classroom Call In from me.

So don't just sit there ... get your thinking caps on already - you've only got until October 23 to get your questions in ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Ending in 1000 and named after the town in NSW where the race takes place, what's the name of the big motorsport event that took place in Australia yesterday?
2. Name the intrepid adventurer who disappeared while trying to circumnavigate the Earth in a plane back in 1937.
3. How old is Jonathan the world's oldest giant tortoise?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, October 12 – the World Championship Pumpkin Weigh Off is taking place in California in the US today ... we do love a giant vegetable here at Squiz Kids ..

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

Jasper from Vermont South, Ivaan and Aria from Kogarah, Anna from Hurstville, Imogen from Maylands, Arslan from Croydon, Dallas from Gumdale, Mackenna from Banana, Darcy and Chloe from Shoalhaven Heads, Mia from Ashburton and Inanna from Waterloo.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 2L with Mrs Lowe at Balgowlah Heights Public School, room 3 with Ms Farrokhy at Mount Barker Primary School, class purple with Mrs Dawson at Goonellebah Public School and class 4W with Ms Francis listening from over at the Dulwich College in Singapore.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Bathurst 1000
2. Amelia Earhart
3. 194

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.

And finally: if you love Squiz Kids, we'd love you do us a favour and hit follow on Apple Podcasts or Spotify or wherever you're listening to us. And while you're there, why not share this episode with someone you think would enjoy it too? The only way we can continue to do what we do is by growing and in order to grow, we need your support -

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today - we'll be back again tomorrow with a special Squiz Kids Spotlight episode - with indigenous science expert, author and influencer Corey Tutt.

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