

Giant crabs enter missing adventurer tale; New York's horses get a rest; AI videos that aim to divide; and here comes the rugby league World Cup!

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, October 15 -

In Squiz Kids today Giant crabs enter missing adventurer tale; New York's horses get a rest; AI videos that aim to divide; and here comes the rugby league World Cup!

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

THE LOWDOWN

As this podcast goes to air this morning, scientists should be closing in on - if not already arrived at - the scene of one of the world's great mysteries.

I'm talking about what could be the wreckage of a famous explorer's plane at the bottom of a lagoon in the Pacific Ocean.

I'm talking - as I did earlier this week - about the plane belong to US adventurer Amelia Earhart - who disappeared while trying to fly around the world way back in 1937.

And as the world watches to see whether the scientists are able to confirm whether an object at the bottom of a lagoon on Nikamuroro island in the tiny nation of Kirabati is in fact Amelia's long-lost plane - there's another curious theory circulating about how Earhart disappeared without a trace ... and this one involves giant crabs.

The coconut crab is native to Nikamuroro island - and according to Smithsonian Magazine, a reliable source of information on all things related to the natural world - they are omnivores - meaning they eat both meat and plants, like humans.

Unlike humans, coconut crabs are renowned also for having some of the most powerful claws in the animal kingdom – capable of cracking open coconuts, even.

Can you see where this is heading? Cover your ears if you're squeamish ...

One theory that's never really been proven or disproven, is that the intrepid adventurer Amelia crash landed on Nikamuroro - and whether severely injured or dead - was despatched neatly by the coconut crabs. Despatched is a fancy word in this case for eaten ...

Eugh ..

In 1940, three years after Amelia's disappearance, researchers discovered part of a human skeleton on the beach at Nikamuroro ... and then, in 2007, an experiment was conducted with a pig's carcass left to the crabs .. to see what would happen to it .. and it was eaten.

Suffice to say: the scientists who are back on the deserted tropical island this week trying to solve the mystery are making a point of not camping on the island overnight.

Who could blame them?

And for your viewing pleasure over the weekend, I've stuck a link in today's show notes to a YBS Youngbloods video on coconut crabs ..

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 New York city in the United States, where soon the clip clop of horses hooves in Central Park will be but a distant memory.

The new city mayor has decided to call time on the 165 year old tradition of horse and carriage rides through one of the world's most famous parks in one of the world's best known cities.

The authorities say its for health and safety reasons - as the park has become ever more crowded - but also out of fairness to the horses - to give them a rest and make sure they can live their best horsey life.

Thankfully: the time honoured tradition is still captured in time thanks to a heap of movies - including Home Alone 2 - classic - and Elf ... umm .. did someone say Christmas???

(JINGLE BELLS)

Only 71 sleeps to go ... just sayin'

SPORT TIME

I don't know about you - but my weekend is sorted with all of the sport that's about to take place ..

Kicking off tonight is the Rugby League World Cup - with the best mens and womens players from all over the world playing for the right to say they are the best league team oin the planet ... it's the Olympics of rugba league, people – albeit with about 190-odd fewer countries participating .. but I digress.

The Aussies take on the Kiwis tonight to kick off the mens' competition - while Samoa and Australia will battle it out tomorrow night for the start of the women's comp - with games between countries like France, England, Tonga, Fiji and even Lebanon happening right through until mid-November. Settle in!

Meanwhile, the Aussie men's cricket team will be looking to make the most of their stunning win this week in the first Test against South Africa – can Matt Renshaw pull another rabbit out of his batting hat for the Second Test that starts Monday?

If you need me this weekend - I'll be on the couch ..

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet ... and - well – will you look at that? He's found another AI-generated video that's been created on purpose to create division and stoke suspicion.

I'm talking about a fake video on a Facebook page called the Aussie Bulletin, apparently showing Muslim men praying on the streets of downtown Melbourne, blocking trams and taking up space on the footpath.

So Squiz-E got to sniffing with his friends from AAPFactcheck - and they discovered tell tale signs that the video was AI generated ... fuzzy faces, fuzzy words on signs, strange

proportions. By pulling out his magnifying glass, Squiz-E also found a watermark on the video, called SynthID, indicating it was made by AI.

And further investigation by our trust Internet Detective Dog friend found that the Facebook page - despite being called Aussie Bulletin - was managed by someone in the country of Sri Lanka ..

Now why would someone create this fake video? Precisely because it has the potential to make unsuspecting people on Facebook think poorly of Muslims who might pray in public places ... because it feeds prejudices and that creates divisions in our community, and makes people suspicious of cultures and religions that might be different to their own.

Luckily, as Newshounds, we know to STOP THINK and CHECK before believing everything we see online – and we also know that in reality is: for the most part, Australians all get along no matter where people are from.

Thanks Squiz-E – you’ve done it again.

And if you’re a teacher keen to see how kids in your class can start to think critically about the flood of content they’re exposed to online - become one of the 6,000 teachers around the country who have signed up to do Newshounds - our free media literacy program for primary kids.

WOOF!

Q+A CALL OUT

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Calling all Squiz Kids in NSW ... and any outside of it, for that matter.

Here’s your chance to play a role in how your state is run ... as we hurtle ever closer to a very special Squiz Kids Q+A with NSW Premier Chris Minns ...

It’s the podcast where you - the kids - get to ask the questions.

Premier Minns has bravely agreed to take the Q+A hotseat – which is your chance to show him just how smart kids are - and hurl some curly questions at him ..

What’s with the plan to ban on screens in NSW classrooms? Why doesn’t he want kids on social media? What does a Premier actually do, anyway? Why is he a Canterbury Bulldogs fan? And does he really eat cereal at night after every meal?

Send in a single question, get together as a class and send in a bunch of questions - just be sure to send them quicksticks by emailing 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. What is the word to describe an animal that eats both meat and plants?
2. Which country is the Aussie men's cricket team currently playing in and against?
3. Name one of the two movies I mentioned that features horses and carriages in New York's Central Park ..

SHOUTOUTS

It's Thursday, October 15 – today is Global Handwashing Day ... and look, as a dad of two, I cannot say too loudly how important handwashing is ... hygiene and cleanliness people ... get on board

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Deborah and Eli from Ashmont, Mia from Rosewood, Otis from Belmont, Rosie from Corinda and Dahlia from Highbury.

Belated shoutouts go to ... Phoebe from Goonellabah, Cary from Wavell Heights and Eleanor, Rylee, Cooper and Mrs K - all from Kurri Kurri.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 5MB with Ms Belton at Mercedes College in Springfield, class 11D with Ms Abbi and cottage class with Joh and Toulia - both at Trinity Gardens Primary School and lastly to to class 5 Blue with Mrs K at Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School in Kurri Kurri.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Omnivore
2. South Africa
3. Home Alone 2 or Elf

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

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