

**Sydney's new airport's ready for boarding; a sweeter future for Nigeria's gorillas;
the WNBL's back and on Fire; and Squiz-E sniffs a fishy fake.**

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 Thursday, October 22 -

In Squiz Kids today Sydney's new airport's ready for boarding; a sweeter future for Nigeria's gorillas; the WNBL's back and on Fire; and Squiz-E sniffs a fishy fake.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Are we there yet? It's a question Sydney has been asking about its second major airport for decades. And this Sunday, the answer is finally ... yes!

Western Sydney International Airport, located at Badgerys Creek (about 20 kilometres from Penrith, if you know Sydney), will welcome its first commercial passengers on October 25.

Discussions about a second Sydney airport have been happening for 80 years, since 1946 and this site was chosen 40 years ago, wayyy back in 1986... some of your parents might not have even been born when the decision was made.

But why does Sydney need another major airport? Well, Kingsford Smith is Australia's busiest, handling more than 42 million passengers last year. That's well over 100,000 arrivals and departures a Day! It also has limits on how many planes can take off and land, and restrictions on flying through the night. The new airport can operate around the clock, giving Sydney more room for flights as the city grows.

Cargo planes have already been carrying goods through the airport since July. Now, it's time for people and their suitcases. Just check your ticket carefully, Sydney travellers ... "wrong airport" is one very awkward way to start a holiday!

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 Nigeria ... again! We've barely unpacked from this week's Squiz the World, but there's promising news for those critically endangered Cross River gorillas we met. And chocolate!

Let me explain... Hershey, makers of the chocolate treats Hershey's Kisses and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, has pledged two-and-a-half million US dollars to a four-year rainforest project in the Cross-River State, in Nigeria's south-east.

Its partner is the Wildlife Conservation Society, that's the conservation organisation that runs New York's Bronx and Central Park zoos and protects wildlife around the world.

You see, chocolate is made from the beans of the cocoa tree, but clearing rainforest to grow it, in countries like Nigeria, can leave wildlife homeless.

The plan is to help farmers earn a living while keeping forests standing, including growing cocoa alongside other trees and helping communities protect local wildlife.

That could potentially mean safer homes for gorillas, better livelihoods for farmers and a more reliable cocoa supply.

Win Win Win.

SPORT TIME

Australia's women's basketball season is underway, and if the opening round was anything to go by, we're in for a treat!

Townsville Fire's Abbey Ellis has wasted no time finding her shooting boots! She helped her team recover from 14 points down to beat Adelaide Lightning 86-68 on Tuesday. Her 47 points set a club record, and no WNBL player has scored that many in 21 years! Round two begins today. Talk about setting a high bar!

There's basketball buzzing overseas too, with the men's NBA season tipping off this week. Keep an eye on Chicago's Josh Giddey and Atlanta's Dyson Daniels. Both Aussies

have four-year contracts worth 100 million US dollars each. Yep, you heard that correctly!

Meanwhile, the women's WNBA is deciding its champion, with the Atlanta Dream and Golden State Valkyries each chasing their first title.

And if you prefer bats to baskets, Baseball's World Series begins on Saturday morning Aussie time.

It's Major League Baseball's championship showdown, with the Milwaukee Brewers taking on the Tampa Bay Rays. Instead of one grand final, they play up to seven games, and the first team to win four is champion. Neither club has lifted the trophy before, so let the history-making begin!

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 today his nose is twitching because something is literally FISHY!

A video of a red-lipped batfish has attracted millions of views online. Imagine a fish wearing bright red lipstick and walking along the ocean floor and you've pretty much got it... But, here's the twist: that animal really exists uh huh. But the viral video was made using artificial intelligence, or AI. It even fooled a news station in Toronto in the USA, which went ahead and shared it.

Real fish. Fake footage.

So, what's a Newshound to do?

Squiz-E reckons there's an important lesson here: checking the animal is real is only HALF the job. You also need to check the clip.

Someone can use a real animal, person or place to make an invented scene look believable. And when a familiar news outlet shares it, we might forget to ask questions.

That's our cue to STOP, THINK and CHECK.

STOP before hitting share... even if everyone else seems convinced.

THINK about who created it, why they posted it and what they want you to believe or do.

And CHECK where the footage came from. With an adult's help, look for the original post, any AI labels and independent checks of the video itself. Ten accounts sharing the same clip aren't ten separate pieces of evidence!

Next week is Media Literacy Week, and at the end of the podcast each day from Monday to Friday, we'll be sharing one of our Newshounds top tips... Listen in! And teachers, if you'd like your class to learn all these fabulous fact-checking skills, you can sign up to Newshounds, our nine-part podcast lesson series for free. You'll find it all and more at squizkids.com.au

And thanks Squiz-E, you've done it again [Howl]

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 name of Sydney's existing major airport, the busiest one in Australia?
2. Name one of the two choccies I mentioned made by Hersheys
3. How many points did Townsville's Abbey Ellis score for her team this week?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, October 22 – It's CAPS LOCK DAY... Just don't go around shouting at everyone in person... on the page is fine, but just for today, yeah?

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Benji from Yass, Charlotte from Shoalhaven Heads, Jordan from The Gap and Tony from Sippy Downs.

A belated shoutout goes to ... Tobias from Horsley.

Classroom shoutouts go to...class 507 with Ms Bannan at Langwarrin Park Primary School, class 4M with Ms Miller at Lake Clarendon State School and class 2M with Mrs Manning at Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar in Tweed Heads.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Kingsford Smith - named after Australian aviation pioneer: Charles Kingsford Smith
2. Hershey's Kisses and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
3. 47

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.