**Nation pauses for Remembrance Day; Hi-tech space chopsticks; Big weekend of World Cup finals; and what does sandpaper have to do with cricket?**

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, November 12

In Squiz Kids Today …. Nation pauses for Remembrance Day; Hi-tech space chopsticks; Big weekend of World Cup finals; and what does sandpaper have to do with cricket?

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

***THE LOWDOWN***

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Have you noticed a lot of people talking about sandpaper and cricket in the past few days?

And have you found yourself wondering what it's all about?

Briefly: it's about the Australian men's cricket team, and an incident that happened when they were playing in South Africa six years ago.

One of the Aussie bowlers was caught using sandpaper to rough up the cricket ball - to make it easier to get batters out. So yeah - we're talking about cheating.

Three players were suspended and made to take the blame

And the reason it's all come back into the spotlight? Because one of the team members, Usman Khawaja has published a book this week in which he says everyone on the team knew what was happening and it's not fair that these three players were singled out.

With a summer of cricket already well underway - and the scandal potentially reaching deep into the existing Aussie men's cricket team - you can expect that this is one hot topic that's not going to go away quickly or quietly.

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And Australians all over the country paused yesterday at 11am to mark Remembrance Day.

November 11 commemorates the end of World War I ...also known as Armistice Day ... when the guns fell silent on the Western Front. And it's now an important day for us to stop and reflect on the sacrifices made by service men and women in all the different wars Australia has been involved in.

At cenotaphs, schools, RSL and public buildings all over the country, the Last Post was played, a minute's silence was observed, and we all pledged to never forget the selflessness of those who fought in wars so that we can enjoy the life we do today.

Lest We Forget.

***SPIN THE GLOBE***

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Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops .. and today we've landed in Texas - in the United States where some hi-tech chopsticks are getting ready to make history.

The countdown is on for a SpaceX rocket to lift off tomorrow - with scientists planning for the both the rocket booster AND the space ship module that sits on top of it to return to Earth to be re-used.

It's something of a space-recycling first ... with a huge tower having been built with long metal grabby arms - being described as mechanical chopsticks - poised to grab the booster rocket when it - hopefully - returns to earth.

In the past, rocket boosters have gone into space and either fallen back down to earth and crashed, or burnt up on re-entry in the earth's atmosphere or simply been left in orbit to spin around above our heads as space junk.

The SpaceX Starship Flight 15 - if successful - will be the first time both the rocket booster AND the astronaut-carrying space ship module will have returned to Earth to be re-used. We'll keep an eye on what happens and report back in Monday's pod...

***SPORT TIME***

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Twenty six teams representing fourteen nations playing in 53 matches ... and it's all come down to a battle of the Aussies versus the Kiwis ...

The grand finals of the men's and women's Rugby League World Cup will be played this Sunday in Brisbane - with both competitions, perhaps predictably - ending in a face off between traditional footy rivals Australia and New Zealand.

The Jillaroos - the Australian womens' rugby league team - will kick things off Sunday afternoon as they chase their fifth consecutive world cup title .. taking on New Zealand's Kiwi Ferns .. the Kiwi Ferns is the name given to the New Zealand womens' rugby league team.

Then the fellas will take to the pitch to battle it out for bragging rights. If Australia wins - it will be its 13th World Cup title. Can Reece Walsh repeat the hat trick of tries he pulled off against Samoa last weekend? Or will James Fisher Harris lead his team, the Kiwis, to their first world cup win in 18 years?

Crack out the footy franks and settle in ..

***<u>NEWSHOUNDS</u>***

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 he's got his Border Force vest on - furious at a Facebook page being run out of Spain spreading disinformation about how our elections work.

You know how we live in a democracy - meaning everyone over the age of 18 troops off to the polls to cast a vote to choose who they want to represent them in Parliament?

The votes are traditionally cast using a pencil supplied by the people who organise elections .. but voters can use a pen if they want.

The Spanish Facebook page however has started spreading the false information that if you use a pen - your vote automatically goes to the party already in power.

Which is not true.

Now why would people want to spread that sort of disinformation? Because - as we discussed last week - there are people, organisations and sometimes even countries who want to spread lies to create confusion in peaceful democracies like Australia because it serves their own political ends. These are not good people - and often they make money out creating suspicion and distrust where previously there wasn't any.

By making false claims about how our elections work - they hope Australians will start to lose faith in how our system of government works.

It's big and its a lot .. but as kids - we can start to protect ourselves from trouble makers like these by doing as Squiz E always says: and that's to Stop, Think and Check before believing everything we see online.

And a shout out while we're here to the more than 7,000 teachers around the country who have signed up to do Newshounds: our media literacy program for primary school kids. Check it out at squizkids.com.au

***THE S'QUIZ***

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

1. Starting with 'A' what is the other name given to Remembrance Day, November 11?
2. The mechanical arms getting ready to snatch the SpaceX rocket booster out of thin air have been likened to what eating utensil popular in countries like China?
3. What is the name of the New Zealand Womens' Rugby League team?

***SHOUT OUTS***

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It's Thursday, November 12 – on this day in 1933 - so 93 years ago - the first photo was taken of something in the water of the Scottish lake, Loch Ness - which gave rise to the legend of the Loch Ness monster ... and ever since, Nessie has been an object of fascination ... and a boon to the tourism industry in Scotland ..

It’s also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today…Pippa from Maiden Gully, Celine and Eason from Caversham, Aiden from Clyde North and Maja (pron Myah) from East Malvern.

Belated shoutouts go to…

Classroom shoutouts go to… Year 3 class with Mrs O'Kane and Mrs Balatonyi at Inglewood Primary School in Perth, Jacaranda class with Miss McBride at Speers Point Public School in Lake Macquarie and the year 4 classes with Miss Rodaro and Mademoiselle Melançon at Killarney Heights Public School.

**The S’Quiz Answers:**

1. Armistice
2. Chopsticks
3. Kiwi Ferns

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 the Kids v Adults Weekly News S’Quiz …

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