Wildlife warriors and princesses save the planet; China's robots greet world leaders; a pterodactyl video goes viral; and the hippo that ate a hat.

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 19

In Squiz Kids Today …. Wildlife warriors and princesses save the planet; China's robots greet world leaders; a pterodactyl video goes viral; and the hippo that ate a hat.

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

THE LOWDOWN

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What do you get when you take a princess, a wildlife warrior, a pop band, some absolutely incredible ideas and prize money worth almost ten million dollars?

That would be the Earthshot Prize – and one of the best good news stories going around.

Created by Prince William, and featuring Australia's own wildlife warrior Robert Irwin as an ambassador, the Earthshot awards prizes of almost two million dollars every year to five of the best ideas on how to save this little ol' planet we all live on.

This year's awards were held in Mumbai in India on Tuesday night.

There are five Earthshot awards given out every year: one for an initiative that is Protecting and Restoring Nature, one for an idea that is Cleaning our Air; a third for a project that is Reviving our Oceans, the fourth for a Waste Free World and the fifth to an idea that is helping to Fix our Climate.

Australia had a finalist in the mix - thanks to the Indigenous Desert Alliance and its Right Way Desert Fire initiative … a program of burning controlled bushfires in the outback to help prevent out of control wildfires.

Their category however was one by the country of Bhutan for its program of forest conservation.

Princess Catherine - William's wife - was also on hand to celebrate the planet warriors, UK pop band Take That performed (ask your parents …) and Robert Irwin took part in the Children's Earthshot Awards - celebrating incredible Save The Planet ideas from kids your age.

The winning ideas in the Children's Earthshot included a low-cost cooling crate that keeps roadside vegetables fresh in extreme heat and an air filter made from natural materials to clean the air in schools and homes near factories.

Brilliant … Because looking after our Earth is the responsibility of all of us …

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 China … where dancing robots and robotic ice cream dispensers have been rolled out to welcome world leaders at the APEC Summit.

APEC stands for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation – and it's a group of 21 of the world's countries that sit around the Pacific Ocean … think the US, China, Thailand, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Mexico and Chile. Oh - and of course, Australia.

The leaders of those countries meet every year - to talk about how they can cooperate to the benefit of everyone who lives in the Asia-Pacific region.

But this year's Summit is attracting lots of attention because of a meeting that will take place there today between US Preisdent Donald Trump, and China's President, Xi Jinping. The two leaders of two of the world's most important superpowers ..

And because it's all happening in the city of Shenzen - which is the hub of China's robots industry - there are robots at every turn – from a troop of them doing a welcome dance, to a robot arm handing out soft serve ice cream, to robots kick boxing.

It's the future people —hold on tight .. .

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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And now to the curious story of the hippo that ate a hat ...

And vets at a zoo in Cincinatti in the United States are carefully monitoring one of their star attractions, Fiona the hippo - after a freak accident saw her gulp down the knitted cap of a visitor to the zoo who perhaps got a little too excited.

According to reports - the knitted cap was thrown into the air by its owner, hit an overhead fan which flicked it into a very small opening at the top of Fiona's enclosure - plonking it into the water where Fiona promptly gobbled it down.

Oops a daisy.

Now - I don't know if you've ever eaten a knitted hat – I hope for your sake you haven't. But once in the tummy - they can get caught in the intestines - which is why Fiona is on 24/7 vet watch ..

She's also being fed a bunch of laxatives – which is a medicine to help you poo - in the hope they will help her pass the hat naturally, without them needing to operate.

Gives new meaning to the term: hungry hippo ....

NEWSHOUNDS

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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 rolling about the floor laughing after people on social media saw a video of a pteradactyl flying above a town in Mexico … and thought it could be true.

The video shows what looks very definitely like a pteradactyl – those wacky flying dinosaurs that flew about the Earth's skys about 200 million years ago - gliding above a small village in Mexico.

I've stuck a link to the video in today's show notes ..

Now - because he's a good detective dog - and he always knows to STOP, THINK and CHECK before believing everything he sees online - Squiz-E did a bit of research. He looked closely at still images in the video and saw misshapen words on signs on buildings - a tell-tale sign it had been made using AI.

He also checked credible news sites - to see if there had been any real journalists or trusted news sources reporting on something as remarkable as a dinosaur reappearing on Earth after millions of years. Because: you know, that would be big news. But there was nothing…

And so he concluded the video was fake … and all the social media users liking it or sharing it - were spreading misinformation … which is information that's not true.

Thanks Squiz-E - you've done it again!

SANTA Q+A

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(SLEIGH BELLS)

I don't know about you lot .. but I am psyched for Christmas .. and with only 36 sleeps until Christmas Day – things up North Pole way must be getting SUPER busy .

Which is why we're super lucky that Santa and Mrs Claus have agreed to take time out of their pre-Xmas schedule to answer any questions you have for them.

Because that's how much Squiz Kids mean to them ..

Thanks to everyone who's sent in a question already … if you'd like to ask Santa and Mrs Claus a question and hear yourself on the Squiz Kids podcast, either hop onto the Squiz Kids website and follow the links to record it - or send your question via email to squizkids@thesquiz.com.

And on the subject of all things Christmas … keep your ears to the ground … as well as chatting to the Clauses - we'll also have a special Squiz Kids chat with the elves who run Santa's Post Office waaaay up there at the North Pole …

You know those letters you pop in the mail box addressed to Santa? They go to an actual post office high in the snowy Arctic Circle, staffed by elves - and one of them has agreed to down tools for a moment to reveal the magic that makes it happen. In this podcast feed in the coming weeks …

Because … say it with me … it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas …

(SLEIGH BELLS)

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which country were the Earthshot Prizes held earlier this week?
2. In which country is the APEC Summit taking place this week?
3. What's the name of the hippo that ate a hat?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, November 19 – today is World Toilet DAy … and I know that makes you giggle … but it's actually a very serious topic … according to the United Nations, some 3.5 billion people on the planet today don't have flushing toilets or proper sanitation ..

It's also World Philosophy Day … philoosophy is the art of **thinking hard about big questions** that do not have easy or obvious answers … so have a deep think today.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today… Jemima from Clothiers Creek, Valerie from Turramurra, Freya from Castle Cove, Wilfred from Maitland, Elwyn from Melbourne and Freya listening over in Singapore.

Belated shoutouts go to…

Classroom shoutouts go to… class Sky 4 with Mrs Cobcroft, Mr Donkin and Mrs Freeman at Ashtonfield Public School, class 6N with Mr Diaz at Chesterhill Public

School and a special shoutout to UWC International School in Singapore, who just discovered Squiz Kids. Welcome aboard! We're so glad you're listening.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. India
2. China
3. Fiona

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.