

New pandas for Adelaide Zoo; New Zealand's whale treaty; the country kid off to the Olympics; and the lion with a watch on its tongue.

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 June 17 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... New pandas for Adelaide Zoo; New Zealand's whale treaty; the country kid off to the Olympics; and the lion with a watch on its tongue.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Australia's favourite panda visitors, Wang Wang and Fu Ni will say goodbye to their home at Adelaide Zoo at the end of the year, to be replaced by a new panda pair.

That's the announcement that was made yesterday by the second most powerful man in China, Premier Li (Chung)Qiang, as part of an important visit he's making this week to Australia.

Wang Wang and Fu Ni have been on loan to Australia from their home country China since 2009 ... so, just on fifteen years. The loaning of the pandas was meant as a friendly gesture by China. And certainly, they've done their job - delighting thousands of visitors to Adelaide Zoo with their cute-fest antics. The Chinese Premier yesterday paid a visit to the zoo - to check in on Wang Wang and Fu Ni and said he was delighted to see how happy and healthy they appeared to be. And though it was time for them to return to their home in China - a new pair of pandas would be sent to Adelaide Zoo by the end of the year to replace them.

It's a panda exchange program ... wonder if I could exchange my teenage kids for a pair of giant pandas ... they would surely eat less.

The Chinese leader will continue his visit to Australia today by meeting with Australian PM, Anthony Albanese - and will also travel to Western Australia. It's the first time in seven years a high ranking Chinese official has been to visit Australia - and may pave the way for a visit by the Chinese president himself.

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 - oh look - we've landed just across the Tasman Sea in Aotearoa New Zealand - where a Maori king has signed a pledge to treat whales like people.

What's a pledge? It's a promise. And why is this Maori king promising to treat whales like people? Because, on behalf of his people, he believes it will help to protect and conserve them.

Whales are an important sea creature in Maori tradition. Maori legend has it that whales helped guide the Maori people in their canoes across the oceans to New Zealand.

But now, many whale species are under threat. And so the pledge, or treaty, to assign personhood to whales is meant to ensure they have the same rights as human beings to cross the oceans without being interfered with and the right to live in an ocean habitat free from pollution.

The Maori king has already convinced leaders of South Pacific Islands like Tahiti, Tonga and the Cook Islands to sign the treaty. And he's hoping that England's king, King Charles, will do likewise when he comes to Samoa later this year.

SQUIZ KIDS SALUTES

You've probably noticed there's been a lot of competitive swimming going on in Brisbane this past week - as Australia's best swimmers take part in trials for the Paris Olympics and Paralympics. And there have been some awesome stories in amongst the Mollie O'Callaghans and Ariare Titmuses and Kyle Chalmers. But this Squiz Kids Salutes is for a swimmer you might not have heard of: a bloke called Ben Armbruster from the small country Queensland town of Stanthorpe - who surprised selectors, the country and even himself by coming second in the 50m men's freestyle and booking himself a seat on the plane to Paris.

It's an achievement that owes as much to his parents as it does to his dedication to training and determination to win. Living in country Queensland meant waking up at 5am every morning to drive an hour to the nearest pool to train before school - and sometimes in winter not being able to train because the temperatures were near freezing and the local pool didn't have heating. And so - to all the mums and dads out there who wake up at the crack of dawn or stand on sidelines or courtside long into the night - Squiz Kids Salutes you. Your kids probably

don't say it all that often: but deep down they appreciate everything you do.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

And it's a double header Animal Kingdom this morning - as we go from the savannahs of Africa to a suburban home in America.

First, it's Aussie wildlife vet Chloe Buiting - whose Instagram is going off after she posted video of a Apple i-watch strapped to a lion's tongue.

Now - you're asking yourself, why would anyone one strap an i-watch to lion's tongue? And how exactly would they convince the lion to stay still long enough to do it? Apparently it's a field vet hack for measuring the animal's heart rate - keeping track of the blood that's pumping through the tongue. And it's all part of Chloe's work as a vet out in the wild. I've stuck a link to video of the tongue-tied big cat in today's episode notes ... the sound of it snoring under anaesthetic is quite adorable.

Meanwhile - in Des Moines Iowa, the Guinness Book of World Records has named Kevin the Great Dane the world's tallest dog. Kevin measures 7ft high when up on his hind legs .. but he's the epitome of a gentle giant. As you'll see from the video link in today's episode notes: he loves snuggling on the couch with his family, is terrified of the vacuum and eats six to ten cups of dog food every day. Sounds like my teenage son ... except replace dog food with loaves of bread.

CCC Oh, and there goes the Classroom Companion Clarion, indicating that today's Classroom Worksheets are linked to these stories. Today, you can brush up on your editing by fixing our spelling mistakes and adding in all of the punctuation to make this story shine. You can find this week's Classroom Companion and search for many more curriculum aligned worksheets in our archive, by going to squizkids.com.au and signing up to the Squiz Kids Classroom for free. You're welcome.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What's the name of the small town in country Queensland where new Olympian Ben Armbruster comes from?
2. What does Aussie wildlife vet Chloe Buiting strap to lion tongues to measure their heart rate?
3. What's the name of the dog who's just been named the world's tallest?

SHOUT OUTS

It's June 17 ... it's rapper Kendrick Lamar's birthday ... plus National Eat Your Vegetables Day in the United States .. so eat your greens people!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Amber and Lucy from Yass, Benjamin from Goulburn, Ella from Armadale, Xavier from Ballarat, Ahoora from Willoughby, Jerryson from Coffs Harbour, Yuki from Forest Lake, Ayda from East Ryde, Louie from Tempe, Emma from Woodville, Emma from Yankallia, Jax from Dubbo, Hartley from Greenwich, Lexie from Somerville, Ella from Ripley Valley and Yuzuki listening over in Japan.

A belated shoutout goes to... Brax from Medowie

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 420 with Ms Gilchrist at Langwarrin Park Primary School, Mr Erickson's class at Wirreanda Public School, class 3S with Mrs Twigg at Goulburn South Public School, Mrs Bradshaw's class at Snowy Valleys School in Tumut, class 4E with Mr Ellem at Yarrabilba State School and all of the students at Killarney Vale Public School.

And a couple of special shout outs today - to Jack from Kingsville, who's a big fan of broccoli – and Etta and Maeve from Croydon in Sydney.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Stanthorpe
2. I-watch
3. Kevin

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or if you want a classroom shout out - 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.