

Paris Olympics go out with a bang; Tahiti's photobombing whales; Queensland's sneaky crocodile; and the science of bin chickens.

INTRO

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, Aug 12 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Paris Olympics go out with a bang; Tahiti's photobombing whales; Queensland's sneaky crocodile; and the science of bin chickens.

THE LOWDOWN

As you wake up this morning, the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics is taking place in the Stade de France - and the door closes on Australia's most successful Olympics ever.

Carrying the flag on behalf of the 461 athletes who have so capably represented us on the world stage were backstroke queen, Kaylee McKeown and sailing gold medallist, Matt Wearn.

Both were chosen because they had gone 'back-to-back' - which is fancy sporting speak for winning gold at the Tokyo Olympics for their event three years ago - and then winning gold again in Paris. And in the case of Kaylee - doing it in not one, but two individual events. Amazing.

Performing at the ceremony - which is still happening as we press publish on this podcast - were Billie Eilish, Snoop Dogg (of course) and California band, the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

And that's because the host city of the next Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2028 will be Los Angeles in the United States - the home of Hollywood and entertainment capital of the world. Can't wait.

Paris has been a remarkable Olympics for Australia - dominated by the medal winning efforts of our female athletes. Go girls!

And at the end of the Games the medal tally looked like this: The United States at the top of the table with 40 gold medals and 126 overall, closely followed by China also with 40 gold and 91 medals overall, with Japan in third position with 20 gold medals - and sitting pretty in fourth place with 18 gold, 19 silver, 16 bronze and 53 medals overall - Australia.

Not bad given that we are country with a population of only 26m, compared to the United States who has 333 million and China with its 1.4 billion people ...

And if you thought you were going to get any sleep ... think again - because the Paralympics begin on Wednesday - and that will be a whole new level of inspiring ..

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops .. and it's a special Animals In Unexpected Places edition of Spin The Globe ... starting with a photobombing whale in Tahiti.

Clearly wanting to get a good view of the Olympic surfing semi-finals, a whale jumped up out of the water behind the competitors over the weekend and was captured mid air by photographers. It's spectacular stuff and I've stuck a link to it in today's episode notes.

Moving right along - and a groundhog has had to be rescued in the United States after becoming stuck inside a claw machine at a putt-putt mini golf course.

You know those machines that are full of stuffed animals - and you put your money in and manoeuvre a metal claw to try to pull one out? Yep - the groundhog had somehow crawled its way in there and had to be pulled out by a park ranger.

I'm getting Caddyshack vibes ... and that's a reference that will only make sense to the over 40s among you ... and yes, I've stuck a link in today's episode notes to a photo of that too ..

WEIRD SCIENCE

If you live in any of the eastern and southern state of Australia - you'll be familiar with the ibis ... the white feathered, skinny-legged, long beaked, bald-headed bird that stalks every picnic and hovers by every bin.

Well - it turns out they're not called bin-chicken for nothing .. with a scientific study finding that ibises like to build their nests and have their babies within close proximity to rubbish tips.

Researchers at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland spent months studying ibis habitats and behaviours and concluded that they like to establish colonies - where several hundred birds can nest and breed - close to the rubbish tips from which they scavenge for food - with the report recommending planning measures to discourage the birds from nesting close to people's homes. Because as anyone who lives near or has comes across an ibis colony will know – they are properly noisy and very stinky. Ewwwww.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

He's been dubbed the Houdini of Hughenden - and thanks to him the residents of Hughenden, smack bang in the middle of dinosaur country in mid-west Queensland - are thinking twice about dipping their toes into the local lake.

I'm talking about a freshwater crocodile, people, which has mysteriously taken up residence in the local, man-made lake which is a popular swimming spot in summer.

Locals have called him Houdini ... which was the name of a very famous escape artist - because the croc has managed to escape capture now on several occasions.

The local council thought the freezing winter temperatures over the past couple of months might have done him in - but nope - he was spotted again last week - with councillors now calling for help to locate and remove him.

Don't mind me: I'll just be over here just scratching Hughenden's lake off my list of must-swim destinations for this summer ..

BOOK WEEK PROMO

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(ADULT SCREAM) Ahh yes ... do you hear that? That's the sound being made by parents all over Australia as they realise Book Week is fast approaching - and they haven't yet worked out their kids' costumes for the parade ..

Well - because we love Book Week as much as the next parent - we're launching a competition for the best outfits. All you have to do is take a photo of your Book Week outfit, and upload it to your mum or dad's Instagram account with the hashtag, SquizKids or by tagging us, @ [Squiz Kids](#) – and we'll re-share them.

Thanks to our friends at Allen+ Unwin, we've got some super-cool book packs to give away to the best outfits. And teachers: we've got a prize for the best dressed teacher too.

Book Week starts on Monday August 19 - but we're taking entries from now until the end of the big event. So don't just sit there - get glue gunning already!

And a shout out to some of the wonderful entries that have already come in - including the student who recreated the house and balloon scene from the Pixar movie up .. though I'm worried your balloons are going to deflate by the 19th ... god speed to you.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In the waters off which beautiful South Pacific islands did a whale photo bomb Olympic surfing this week?
2. Which city in the United States will host the 2028 Summer Olympics + Paralympics?
3. What's the cheeky, popular nickname for the ibis?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, Aug 12... today is World Elephant Day ... which is just awesome, because elephants are one of mt favourite animals in the world ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Fletcher from Yass, Alexi from Bundaberg, Harry from West Albury, Flynn from

Abbotsford, Tilly from Riddells Creek, Owen from Woongarra, Arthur from Cairns, Sophie from Essendon, Vivi from Stafford, Sanvi from Leppington, Marlee from Moranbah, Jayden from Waterloo and Oliver from Black Forest.

Belated shoutout go to... Lucie from Kangaroo Lake, Liam from Epping, Jerome from Queensland and Silas (pronounced Sigh-less) listening over in San Diego, USA.

Today's classroom shoutouts go to... class 5/6A with Travis at Abbotsford Primary School in Melbourne, class Ibis 2 with Mr Gonnella at Cooloongup Primary School, class 3W with Mrs Weatherhead and Miss Nicole at Pacific Pines Primary on the Gold Coast, class G7 with Miss Peacock and class L8 with Mrs Coffey and Mrs Treg at Highgate Primary School in Perth and lastly the year 4 classes with Mrs Door, Miss Kay and Mrs V at St Agnes Primary School in Mount Gravatt.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Tahiti
2. Los Angeles
3. Bin Chicken

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 with our Squiz Kids Shortcut to Roald Dahl.

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