

## **Big win for Aussie penguins; Tarantula season in the desert; the very curious koala; and Mario Kart blindfold champion**

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 Wednesday, October 9...

In Squiz Kids Today... Big win for Aussie penguins; Tarantula season in the desert; the very curious koala; and Mario Kart blindfold champion

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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It was a good day for Aussie penguins yesterday following news that one of our largest marine national parks will be quadrupled in size - extending important environmental protections to a whole host of amazing sea life.

Way down below Australia, as you look on it on a world globe, is Antarctica - the great frozen continent to our south. And on the edges of Antarctica is a big marine national park called the Heard and McDonald Island Marine Park - about 4,000 kms south west of Perth.

It's a national park that takes in volcanic islands and ice shelves and vast stretches of the Southern Ocean - and all of the creatures that live on and in them.

And following an announcement yesterday by Australia's Environment Minister, Tanya Plibersek, the park is going to quadruple in size. Quadruple means we times something by four.

This national park is already home to huge populations of seals, petrels, albatrosses and penguins - so the expansion of habitat for them all is considered a big win.

I've stuck a link in today's episode notes to a website all about Australia's Antarctic Program .. you're welcome.

### ***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 the United States, in the deserts of Colorado, to be specific, where the ground is alive with tarantulas on the march - and spider lovers cannot get enough.

Tarantulas, as you might already know, are great big spiders with famously hairy legs. If you've ever seen or read Harry Potter - think Aragog - the massive spider. But not quite that big.

In real life, they're actually quite placid - which is a fancy word for chilled - and don't pose a danger at all to humans.

So why are so many tarantulas on the move in Colorado? Because the males are out looking for girlfriends - and it happens every year. Love is in the air, spider-style.

The town close by where the spiders live throws a festival every year - where thousands of spider lovers - or arachnophiles - flock to join in the eight-legged fun.

### ***ANIMAL KINGDOM***

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A curious koala almost brought Sydney Trains to a standstill last Friday after wandering onto a suburban station platform and clambering up its stairs.

Early morning commuters at Casula station were astonished to hop off the train to find a koala on the station's stairs. The koala spent almost half an hour exploring the station, checking out the lift, clambering up and down its stairs - before a couple of police officers were called to shepherd the furry thrill seeker back into nearby bushland.

I've stuck a link in today's episode notes to CCTV of the marvelous marsupial's adventures. Enjoy!

### ***POP CULTURE CORNER***

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Hands up if you've ever played Super Mario Kart? Yeah - I thought so. It's back on the screens at my house right now - and I have a 16 year old. So who knows what that's about.

Maybe it's got something to do with the news from Germany that a Super Mario 64 speedrunner has just broken a Guinness World Record for doing the game's 16-star challenge in under 20 minutes ... get this ... while he was blindfolded.

Yep - that's right. He's played the game SO many time that he was able to complete it with a blindfold on - without actually seeing the screen.

I wonder if it still counts as screen time if you're not actually looking at the screen?

With my parent hat on: I'm going to say yes. With my 'oh alright, I know how much you all love gaming' hat on, I'm going to let you know I've stuck a link to the YouTube video of the blindfolded champ in today's episode notes. But it's only to be watched if an adult says ok - and if you've done all your school work and homework ... you hear?

## **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. In which US state are tarantulas coming up out of the ground?
2. What's the name of the frozen continent to the south of Australia?
3. A gamer in German completed Mario Kart 64 blindfolded in under how many minutes to break a Guinness Record?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Wednesday, October 9 ... today in Stockholm in Sweden the Nobel Prize for Chemistry will be awarded .. and later this week, the big one, the Nobel Peace Prize will be announced. Watch this space ..

And because many States enjoyed a long weekend - we've got a heap of birthday shout outs for today - and for Monday - that we need to get through - because there are so many i think it warrants cracking out the ol birthday reggae tune ... hit it ..

It's a happy birthday today to .... Aiden from Castle Hill, Bastien from Oran Park, Darci from Aldinga Beach, Sophia-Ruby from Cardiff South, Cara from Lindfield, Daisy from Woolloongabba,

And belated birthday shout outs go to ... Amelia from Yarralumla, Eva and Jack from Heathcote, Emily from Heidelberg, Jayden from St Ives, Lily from Churchill, Alice from Narre Warren, Fahreza (pronounced Fah-Reeza) from Tempe, Izzy from Rapid Bay, Margaret from Canberra, Emilia from Allambie, Betty from Allambie Heights, Atharv from Oran Park, Axel from Numurkah, Harrison from Paddington, Luke from Forest Lake, Eva from Flora Hill, Callan from East Victoria Park and Kei (pronounced K) from Preston.

Classroom shoutouts for those of you back at school in Queensland, Victoria, WA and Northern Territory go to... Class 419 and Mrs Wilson at Langwarring Park Primary School, class 5B and Mrs Bye at Gumdale State School, classes Prep Green and 3 Green with Mrs Fogg and Mrs Connolly at St Paul's School in Bald Hills and Miss Kulbicki's class at Gladstone Public School. Lastly a shout out to the 5/6 class at St Joseph's Primary School in Yarra Junction and a special thankyou to your teacher Mrs Traynor for helping us with the brand new Newshounds website launch!

### **The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. Colorado
2. Antarctica
3. 20 minutes

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](mailto: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.