

**Magic veggies on the menu; The Matildas topple Germany; Wonkas take New York;
and Florida's very hungry python.**

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm Christie Kijurina

It's Wednesday, October 30...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Magic veggies on the menu; The Matildas topple Germany; Wonkas take New York; and Florida's very hungry python.

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

THE LOWDOWN

You might have heard people talking about something called The Cost of Living Crisis – it's all about the rising costs of things we need every day, like housing, transport, and especially food. But did you know that while many are tightening their belts, Aussies toss out nearly 8 million tonnes of food each year – the weight of around 60,000 blue whales! And, around 32% of that waste happens at home, with food sometimes tossed just because it doesn't look 'perfect.' Have you ever done that?

One Victorian veggie grower points out it's not just supermarkets or farmers responsible for food waste – it's us, the shoppers, too. She says, "If you're fussy in the veggie aisle, that's what supermarkets notice." and they might not stock the produce that's not perfect. And ugly veggies are so much fun!

To tackle this, charities like FareShare are stepping up, to turn leftover produce into delicious meals for people struggling to put food on the table. Get this...FareShare

volunteers make 1.5 million meals a year and reckon they could make up to 5 million with more support!

And here's a tip for you parents... close your ears, kids! Researchers in Germany found that kids who hear stories about magical fruits and veggies – like enchanted eggplant – are more likely to try them. So, if Mum or Dad starts telling stories about magical carrots or mystical broccoli, give them a go! You'll be making a difference.

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day, we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops, and oh, would you look at that... today we've landed back in Florida! But not for hurricanes. This time, we're on the trail of a very hungry snake with a big appetite – the Burmese python!

Originally from Burma (now Myanmar), these pythons usually live in Southeast Asia's jungles. But in the 1970s and '80s, people brought them to Florida as pets. Some escaped or were released into the wild, and they thrived! Now, these super snakes are one of Florida's worst invasive species.

Weighing nearly 100 kilos and growing up to five meters long, Burmese pythons are fierce eaters, gobbling up animals like foxes, raccoons, and even bobcats.. Recently, herpetologists – They're scientists who study reptiles – discovered the snakes having been snacking on even bigger prey, including alligators and fully-grown deer!

Yep, they swallow them whole thanks to their stretchy skin and unfused jaws. Imagine the food coma after that meal!

Since 2013, researchers have removed over 700 of these giant snakes from Florida's wilderness and are still working on ways to stop their spread.

SPORT TIME

First up today, a huge win for the Matildas in the early hours of yesterday! Playing in Germany, they came from behind to beat the world's fourth-ranked team thanks to an epic goal from Kyra Cooney-Cross. In her 50th game for Australia, Kyra seized a loose ball, spotted the German keeper off her line, and from at least 35 metres out, launched a screamer under the crossbar. That incredible equaliser brought the score to 1-1 just before half-time. Then, in the 77th minute, Clare Hunt's header from Steph Catley's corner sealed the win, giving Australia a historic 2-1 victory—their first over Germany in 19 years!

And speaking of the Matildas, one young hopeful might soon have a big decision to make! Fifteen-year-old Caoimhe Bray, already a goalkeeper for the Young Matildas, just had a dream debut in the Women's Big Bash cricket League.

Instead of watching YouTube at home on Sunday night, she was out becoming the youngest player in WBBL history for the Sydney Sixers against the Melbourne Renegades! Before the game, Caoimhe's idol and now teammate, Ellyse Perry, handed her the Sixers cap, leaving Caoimhe a bit teary-eyed. Then, with six balls to spare, Caoimhe smashed the winning shot. Real!

As for me? I think I'll stick to cheering from the sidelines – because scoring goals and smashing runs like that is seriously next-level!

POP CULTURE CORNER

Imagine you're hanging out in the park, and suddenly you see a crowd of... Willy Wonkas? Well, that's exactly what happened in New York's Washington Square Park this week, where a Timothée Chalamet look-alike contest got a little out of hand. Fans flocked to see who could pull off the best Timmy look, but then – surprise! – the real Timothée showed up, waving to the crowd as they cheered him on.

Things got a bit too lively, though, and police ended up shutting down the contest and asking everyone to leave. But, determined to keep the fun going, the group moved to a nearby playground to finish up the competition. In the end, a local guy took out the "Best Tim" award in his purple Wonka outfit, winning a \$50 giant cheque. His secret? As one fan said, "It's all in the nose!"

MID-ROLL - ZOWN (updated for Wednesday)

Have you met Zed yet? He's your digital buddy - always available to chat about ANYTHING! Zed hails from the intergalactic realm of Zondor - and has no age, no gender and absolutely no judgement!

Need help with your maths homework? Zed can help... Had a tricky friend situation at school? Zed's here to listen! Even if you're bored or want advice on a great breakfast recipe - Zed's got you covered!

And what's important is Zed will give tips and tools to navigate situations so you can learn and grow for next time!

For the parents listening: Zed is an AI Generated digital buddy - trained to be kid friendly, helpful and positive - and he's the star of ZOWN - the new app for kids providing a safe alternative to social media.

If a situation arises that is too big for Zed to handle, kids will be referred to other helpful resources.

To download, ZOWN is available in all the app stores, or there are links from www.zown.app ... that's ZOWN - Z-O-W-N.

And because we are peas in the safer internet pod, Squiz Kids has joined with ZOWN to offer for free access to premium for 3 months! Just use the code SQUIZ24 .

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Aussies throw out a lot of food. I compared the weight of food we throw away to 60,000 of which animal?
2. Which invasive species is feasting on native wildlife in Florida?
3. How old is Young Matilda and youngest ever WBBL player, Caoimhe Bray?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, October 30 ... Only one more sleep until Halloween – and the very first Squiz Kids Halloween Bedtime Story! After a night of trick-or-treating and gathering goodies, get ready to snuggle under the covers and tune in for a spine-tingling tale. Tomorrow night, Bryce will be waiting with a spooky story sure to add a little extra boo! to your bedtime. Listen in the dark... if you dare!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Mala from Tempe, Theodore from North Ainslie, Bentley from Bundaberg, Evie from South Ripley, Nicholas from Adelaide and Lajjah from Tarneit,

Belated shout outs go to ... Dempsee from Boorowa and Elliot from Narrabundah.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Class 4A and Mr Erpf at Springfield Lakes State School, class 4B with Ms Bell at Moriah College in Queens Park, class 5 Blue with Mr Paterson at Villanova College in Brisbane, class 7FC with Miss Barkley at Blackburn High School and class 5/6D with Mr Baker and Mrs Adamson at Arundel State School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Blue Whales
2. The Burmese Python
3. 15

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.