

Stinky whales and corpse flowers; Paris church bells ring again; AFLW semis are on; and the ghost Halloween parade.

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 14 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Stinky whales and corpse flowers; Paris church bells ring again; AFLW semis are on; and the ghost Halloween parade.

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

THE LOWDOWN

And it's a special stinky edition of The Lowdown today as crowds gather on opposite sides of the planet to get a whiff of something very smelly.

Starting in Geelong, right here in Australia, where crowds of locals have queued for hours to stick their nose into the bloom of a most unusual flower.

Called the 'corpse flower', and growing at the Geelong Botanic Gardens, it's a weird looking plant that only flowers once every 10 years - and even then the bloom only last for 24-48 hours. It's like seeing a shooting star - but in a garden.

The corpse flower is so-called because when it blooms, it released a smell that is putrid - which is a fancy way of saying really, really, stinky. Like, maybe, if a bag of prawn heads had been left in your wheelie bin and out in the sun for week ... that sort of stink.

I've stuck a link to video of the flower and people smelling it in today's episode notes.

On the other side of the planet, there are crowds gathering around a fake dead whale on the shore of a lake in a country called Azerbaijan. And that's for an altogether different reason.

You see: something called the COP29 climate talks are taking place there - which is where countries from all over the world come together to discuss how to stop global warming.

And a bunch of artists have created a full-sized model of a dead sperm whale - and stuck buckets of rotting fish inside it - to make a statement about why its important for the world to protect the environment and look after our Earth.

I've stuck a link to a photo of the smelly art installation in today's episode notes.

And that's the Stink Edition of The Lowdown officially over - you can stop holding your breath.

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 in Paris ... ahh, the city of love ... where three new bells have been delivered to one of the world's most famous cathedrals.

You've heard of Notre Dame cathedral, right? Maybe you've seen the animated movie the Hunchback of Notre Dame? It's one of the most famous churches in the world and in 2019 - it almost burned entirely to the ground.

Carpenters and builders and clever stone mason repair people have been working for the past five years to rebuild her - and she's set to re-open at the end of this year - ahead of schedule.

And when she does, it will be with three brand new bells - because what is a cathedral without bells? And for a nice sporting touch: one of the bells is from the Paris Olympics and was dinged by every athlete that won a sporting gold at the Stade de France. Nice.

SPORT TIME

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We love a bit of footy here at Squiz Kids - which is why we've been loving all of the action in the AFLW - that's the women's AFL league - and cannot wait for this weekend's semi finals.

Heat up the popcorn people as the Crows take on the Dockers on Saturday afternoon, and then treat yourself to some footy franks for dinner later on Saturday night as the Hawks take on the Power. It's do or die in this elimination set of semis. And what about

the fact that the Crows and Power are both in the semis ... there's clearly a lot of AFL talent among the girls in Adelaide ..

Meanwhile: if that's not enough footy for one weekend - set your alarm for 3am on Monday morning. No, really, your parents will love it. As the Wallabies hope to ride the momentum of their massive win against England last weekend and take out another victory against Wales.

C'mon Aussies!

NEWSHOUNDS

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 this week, his trusty nose is twitching after hundreds of people in the Irish capital of Dublin were tricked by fake social media posts to attend a Halloween parade that never happened.

Just before Halloween - people in Dublin started to see posts on TikTok that looked official, saying there was going to be a Halloween parade down the main street of the city. And so hundreds of people rocked up and stood patiently on the parade route - only for nothing to happen. It was a hoax. And people fell for it: because they didn't do what Squiz-E the Newshound tells us to do - and that's to Stop. Think and Check before believing everything we come across online.

Mental note to self: must get Newshounds into Ireland ... what's Newshounds? It's only our free media-literacy resource for primary school classrooms. New and improved. Free for any teacher to sign up to. And a shout out to our friend Sarah Weston - also known as giftedandtalentedteacher on Instagram - for posting about Newshounds. If you're among the newbies who have just signed up - welcome aboard.

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 famous cathedral in Paris that just got its bells back?
2. In which city in Ireland were people tricked by a hoax halloween parade?
3. Which Aussie capital city has not one, but two teams in this weekend's AFLW semi finals?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, November 14 ... today is King Charles' birthday .. and it's also the birthday of famous French painter Claude Monet - if you've never seen his artwork called water lilies, google it immediately. Plus it's my mum's birthday - so happy birthday to Diane Corbett.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Lilia from Brocklehurst, Maeve from Guyra, Grek from Donvale, Connie from Virginia and Archie from Kingscliff but currently travelling around Australia.

Belated shout outs go to ... Charlotte from Concord and Hannah listening over in Colima, Mexico.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 3 Gold with Miss Cafarelli class at McCauley Catholic Primary School, class 4DM with Mrs Malane at John Henry Primary School in Pakenham, Class 3JD and Ms Walker at Brightwater Public School and class 1HM with Ms Wilson at St Martin of Tours Primary School in Rosanna.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Notre Dame
2. Dublin
3. Adelaide

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 Adults vs Kids Quiz - it's the perfect way to test who has been paying the most attention to the week that was.

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