

**Hottest Spring on record; Tassie ferry marooned in Scotland; Big-selling baggy green; and beware the fake weather posts.**

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, December 5 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Hottest spring on record; Tassie ferry marooned in Scotland; Big-selling baggy green; and beware the fake weather posts.

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

***THE LOWDOWN***

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If it feels like it's been unusually warm where you live over the past few months - that's because it has been.

Official numbers from the Bureau of Meteorology (that's the weather forecasting people) were released yesterday showing that Australia just experienced its hottest spring on record.

On average, the temperature across the country was 2.5 degrees warmer than usual throughout spring - warmer than spring has ever been since records started being kept back just over 110 years ago.

And there's more to come - now that we're officially in summer - the heatwave conditions that have swept large parts of the country are predicted to linger for a little while longer.

Poor Santa .. I hope he's planning to pack his boardshorts for when he gets Down Under

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The most trusted brands for 2024 have been announced - and in what is perhaps no great surprise for anyone who gets dragged with their mum and dad to the hardware store on a weekend - Bunnings has come out on top.

The hardware superstore chain was our most trusted brand for the year, followed by Aldi, KMart, the car maker Toyota and computer, phone shop Apple.

Trust means that they are brand whose products we like, whose service is reliable and and who we feel doesn't rip us off as shoppers.

And with every list of winners, there are also losers. According to the market research firm Roy Morgan - the least trusted brands for 2024 are Optus, Woolworths, Coles, Qantas and Facebook.

### ***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 Scotland ... again! Didn't we land there yesterday with Loch Ness? Must get that globe looked at over Xmas.

The reason we're in Scotland again is because a HUUUGE ferry that was built in the Scandinavian country of Finland to take passengers and cars and trucks from Melbourne to Devonport in Tasmania - has had to take up residence in a port in Scotland because the port in Devonport isn't yet big enough to receive it. Oops a daisy.

The brand new Spirit of Tasmania will sit in dock in Scotland waiting for the wharves and jetties of Devonport to be upgraded to allow it to berth there. That's fancy technical sailor talk for pulling up so passengers can get on and off.

As my father in law always says: failure to plan is planning to fail. Thanks Grazza.

### ***SPORT TIME***

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It's 76 years old, is a bit ragged at the edges and faded across the brim - but an old green hat has nevertheless sold at auction this week for almost half a million dollars.

Why? And what does it have to do with sport?

Because the hat is a baggy green - which is the hat Aussie cricketers wear when they are chosen to play for their country - and this particular baggy green belonged to one of the greatest batsmen Australia has ever produced, a bloke by the name of Don Bradman.

Don't believe me? How about this: in a match once he scored 100 runs in only three overs. That is just nuts.

I've stuck a link to some grainy old TV footage of Bradman in action in today's episode notes - in which The Don himself reveals the secret of being a good batsman: watch the ball and concentrate.

If only it were that simple, eh?

## **NEWSHOUNDS**

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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 today his nose is pointing to the skies and is twitching away madly after coming across not one but TWO crazy examples of misinformation spread on social media.

The first one is a claim that the recent storms in Wales were caused by a secret High-Frequency Audio research facility in the country, which disturbed weather patterns causing the massive storm that caused widespread flooding. Squiz-E has watched enough *Stranger Things* to sniff out something fishy ... and in this case, it's a loopy conspiracy theory that people are sharing because they forgot to check whether the claim was true.

The second is the equally nutso claim doing the rounds on social media that the recent floods in Spain were caused by a secret program of cloud seeding ... an actually real process whereby perfectly safe chemicals are put into the atmosphere by planes to create clouds and make it rain. Kids: can I just say this once and hope you carry it through life hereafter? If you see or read or hear claims about secret government science labs or experiments causing all sorts of chaos - pull out your Newshounds magnifying glass and STOP, THINK and CHECK, like Squiz-E does, before believing it.

And if you want your class to become better at spotting misinformation when they come across it online - join the more than 3,500 primary school classrooms who have already signed up to our free media literacy program, Newshounds. It's easy to do, the podcasts take only ten minutes per session, there's a comprehensive teacher manual and a student workbook - all waiting for you to download and use as an end of term activity waiting for you at our website: [squizkids.com.au](http://squizkids.com.au).

*INSERT PROMO - Kids Q&A Interview with Santa Claus*

(Xmas bells) Can you hear that? They're reindeer bells - and that means Christmas is just around the corner. Have you ever thought how cool it would be to chat to Santa? To actually have that big fella in red answer any and all questions you might want to throw at him?

Well - we've pulled a few favours with a couple of elves we know and we've pulled off something of a Christmas miracle. Yes, ladies and germs: presenting the first ever Squiz Kids Q&A with Santa Claus. He's VERY busy right now - but he's nevertheless agreed to take the Squiz Kids hot seat and answer any questions you send in for him. If you've got a question you'd like Santa to answer, email it to us at [squizkids@thesquiz.com.au](mailto:squizkids@thesquiz.com.au) ... We'll choose the best dozen and put them to Santa himself.

And thanks to our friends at Warner Bros. - just by sending in a question- you'll go into the draw to win a family pass to Movie World on the Gold Coast ... How cool is that? So don't just sit there! Email us your questions already! You've got until Monday 9 December .. so get busy!

## **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 Scandinavian country was the Tassie ferry now docked in Scotland originally built?
2. How many degrees warmer, on average was this spring compared to previous years for which records have been kept?
3. Name the Aussie cricketer whose baggy green sold this week for almost half a million dollars.

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Thursday, December 5th ... only 20 sleeps until Christmas !! Aaaagh! It's also the birthday of my daughter Rosie - whose voice you hear every morning in the Squiz Kids intro .. happy birthday Rosie!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today ...

Archer from Launceston, Willow from Leura, Miles from Old Bar, Isobel from Albany Creek, Thanacharat from Wentworth Point and Lewis from Koolunga.

Belated shoutouts go to... Olivia from Bracken Ridge, Bella from Richmond and Oscar from Yass

Classroom shoutouts go to... Class 5C with Ms Clark from Burwood Public School, year 1 NASA with Mr Colyer at Our Lady of the Way Primary School in Emu Plains and class 3TW with Mrs Williams at Belgrave Heights Christian School.

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

1. Finland
2. 2.5c
3. Don Bradman

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.

And a reminder - if you celebrate a birthday over the Christmas break, send us your birthday shout-out by Friday December 13, and we'll make sure to include you in the weekly Quizzes that will be going out each Friday of the school hols.

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 Weekly Quiz.

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