

**Taylor Swift takes a final bow; Santa Tracker is switched on; PNG gets its footy team; and cow fart fake news.**

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 12 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Taylor Swift takes a final bow; Santa Tracker is switched on; PNG gets its footy team; and cow fart fake news.

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

***THE LOWDOWN***

-----

More than ten million fans, an estimated three billion dollars in ticket sales, 149 concerts in fifty cities across 19 countries over a period of 18 months ... that's the final wrap of the biggest concert tour series the world has ever seen after Taylor Swift finally hung up her guitar earlier this week and let the curtain finally fall on her all-conquering Eras Tour.

Playing her 149th concert in Vancouver, Canada, Tay Tay told the crowd - plus the millions watching hundreds of live streams on social media - that the tour had been the thrill of her life so far- thanking fans all over the world who had joined her on the friendship-bracelet festooned journey.

Some 4 million Aussies alone queued to get tickets to her Australian shows - each one more than 3 hours long. And of all the 149 shows, her concert at the MCG in Melbourne clocked up the largest crowd with 96,000 Swifties packing into the arena.

All those extraordinary numbers add up to the biggest selling concert tour in the history of ever ... beating such crowd pleasing acts as Coldplay, Ed Sheeran, Elton John and U2.

So what next for the biggest selling, most streamed artist of 2024? There's talk of a movie, a documentary about the Eras tour, the Taylor Version re-release of her albums Reputation and Taylor Swift and even a musical. But for now - a well-earned rest and Christmas with her family.

Happy Christmas Tay Tay.

## ***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 North America – where the US air force has switched on its Santa Tracker - ready for when the big fella from the North Pole makes his annual sweep around the world.

NORAD stands for the North American Aerospace Defense Command ... and it's an official US military outfit - whose normal job is to monitor the airspace above the United States to keep an eye out for aircraft that's not supposed to be there. It has some of the most advanced radar and tracking systems in the world - and every year, it uses those systems to track the progress of Santa's sleigh as it takes off from the North Pole on Christmas Eve and makes its way around the world.

I've stuck a link to the NORAD Santa Tracker in today's episode notes ...

—

And on the subject of Santa ... a huge thank you to everyone who sent in a question for Santa Claus for our upcoming Squiz Kids Q+A with Santa himself .. we had a flood of excellent questions from all over the country .. hundreds of them. And while we won't be able to put every question to Santa - each one of you has gone into the draw to win a family pass to Movie World on the Gold Coast ... plus, we've sent all of your names to the North Pole to make sure you are put on the nice, and not naughty list.

The Santa Claus Q+A will drop on this podcast feed on Christmas Eve Eve ... Monday December 23 .. make sure you've subscribed to Squiz Kids in your fave podcasting app and you won't miss out.

## ***SPORT TIME***

—

Standby for a big announcement in the rugby league world today as the NRL officially unveils plans to create a team for the national competition in Papua New Guinea.

Yes - that's right - from 2028 you can expect your favourite team flying up to PNG a couple of times each season to play against what will be only the second international franchise to join the NRL - after the Auckland Warriors joined in 1995 ... up the wahs!

Rugby league is HUGE in Papua New Guinea - where it's considered the national sport. And many players from PNG are already in the NRL comp - including Rhyse Martin, Justin Olam and Xavier Coates all have PNG heritage.

Game on!

## **NEWSHOUNDS**

—

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshounds 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 twitching because of the bad smell that's been coming off one particular piece of disinformation doing the rounds of social media.

A piece of disinformation about cow farts. No wonder his nose is twitching .. pheeweee.

Studies have shown the methane that's produced when cows burp and fart contributes to climate change. So clever scientists developed a supplement to feed cows which makes them less gassy. It's all been tested and proven to be safe for humans who drink milk or eat meat - but there are nevertheless memes on social media, promoted by fringe politicians, suggesting it's all part of a grand conspiracy - which is a fancy word for a secret plot. And as we know, when people read stuff on social media and believe it without STOPping, THINKing and CHECKing - as Squiz-E always tells us to do - it can create a misinformation snowball - with people sharing stuff without checking if it's true.

Scientists and dairy farmers and supermarkets have had to come out this week to everyone to calm the farm - and yes, that pun was intended.

And for any teachers out there looking for a good end-of-term activity for their classrooms: why not join the more than 3,500 primary school classrooms around the country who have signed up to do Newshounds - our free digital literacy program - teaching kids to recognise misinformation when they come across it online. Visit [squizkids.com.au](http://squizkids.com.au) to sign up today.

## **SUMMER PROMO**

*(seagulls, beach soundtrack) Ahhh ... can you hear that? It's the sound of summer. And it's the sound of Squiz Kids going into summer holiday content mode as of next week -*

*servicing up a whole bunch of cool kids content to keep you entertained over the long Christmas holiday break.*

*This week is our final week of the daily news pod - but we're not leaving you in the lurch.*

*There will be Shortcuts every week - including an excellent one next Tuesday on the Science of Santa - a Bumper School Holiday Kids v Adult Quiz every Friday, BrainTeasers to keep the cogs turning, special holiday-themed episodes of Squiz The World and not forgetting our first ever Squiz Kids Q+A with Santa Claus himself. Just make sure you've subscribed to Squiz Kids in your favourite podcasting app and you won't miss a thing.*

## **THE S'QUIZ**

-----

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

1. In which city in Canada did Taylor Swift perform her final concert of the Eras Tour this week?
2. Name the gas that cow burps and farts produce that contributes to global warming.
3. What year will a Papua New Guinea team be part of the NRL?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

-----

It's Thursday, December 12th ... its Gingerbread House Day - have you built and decorated yours for Christmas yet? It's also only 13 sleeps until Christmas morning!!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Eddie from Yass, Billy from Middle Harbour, Lily from West Albury, Harvey from Canberra, Michaela from Brighton East, Lucynda from Mundaring, Evie from Brunswick West, Beau from Newcastle, Kirsten from Forest Lakes and Sophia from Highett.

Classroom shoutouts go to class 4 white with Ms Napier at St Antony's of Padua School in Picton, class 5/6 with Ms Davey at St Patrick's Primary School in Walcha, and class 6T with Miss Teitzel at Jimboomba State School.

## The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Vancouver
2. Methane
3. 2028

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.

Don't forget - if you celebrate a birthday over the Christmas break, send us your birthday shout-out by **TOMORROW**, 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 the kids v adults weekly news S'quiz ... .

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