

**Cyclone Zelia leaves her mark; Chilean kayaker swallowed by whale; a train-fixing robot dog; and the fastest kid in Australia.**

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 Monday, February 17

In Squiz Kids Today ... Cyclone Zelia leaves her mark; Chilean kayaker swallowed by whale; a train-fixing robot dog; and the fastest kid in Australia.

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

***THE LOWDOWN***

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The clean up is underway in Western Australia's Pilbara region today after Cyclone Zelia smashed into the coast at the weekend, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of locals.

The remote town of Marble Bar was worst hit, with roofs being ripped from some homes and flood waters completely submerging others as the Category 4 storm tore through.

Category 4 is the second most powerful cyclone you can have - with winds of up to 280 km/h.

Happily - as of yesterday, there had been no reports of anyone being seriously hurt.

Tropical cyclones in that part of Australia are not unusual - but the frequency with which they are happening - which is to say how regularly they seem to occur - and the intensity of them - which is to say how strong they are and how much damage they do, has experts pointing to climate change and a warming planet as partly to blame. Cyclones form when warm water out at sea is sucked up into the atmosphere. The warmer the water, the greater the likelihood of a destructive storm.

It follows of course the devastating floods that smashed Far North Queensland last week - where receding flood waters have left behind a red, muddy, mossie-infested mess. Eugh.

Meanwhile in Tasmania - firefighters are battling bushfires amid reports that it could also snow there. In summer. Because it's all a bit topsy turvy ..

## ***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 Chile - in South America - where a man has been swallowed by a whale.

Adrián Simancas was kayaking with his dad last week when the sea suddenly erupted beneath him. A humpback whale, mouth wide open, scooped him up before spitting him right back out! And luckily for us, his dad captured the whole thing on camera! And yes, of course, there's a link to the video in the episode notes...

So what was the whale thinking? Was it hungry, or was it just a case of mistaken identity? Almost definitely the latter, say experts. You see, humpbacks feed by lunging through schools of fish and krill, straining them through their baleen—kind of like a giant sieve in the whale's mouth. Their throats, however, are tiny—only about the size of a human fist—so, in reality, Adrián was never going to end up on the menu.

A lucky escape for Adrián... and possibly a reminder to be careful where you kayak!

[CCC]

Oh, there goes the Classroom Companion Clarion—our first one for 2025! That means there are worksheets waiting for you on the Squiz Kids website. And today, they're all about cracking the case of *who, what, where, when, why, and how*—using this very story! They're teacher-produced, aligned to the Australian Curriculum, and perfect for kids in Grades 2 to 6. So, head over to [squizkids.com.au](http://squizkids.com.au) and check them out

## **SPORT TIME**

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We've spoken before in Squiz Kids about Aussie teenage running sensation Gout Gout from Brisbane ... well the super sprinter has gone and done it again on the weekend, breaking a record in the 400 metres.

The 17 year old Gout ran the distance in a blistering 46.2 seconds .. the fastest Aussie of his age to do so in 35 years.

And his coach said afterwards it was just a time trial .. so you know, maybe he wasn't even trying all that hard.

The Brissie boy will run again in the Queensland titles in mid-March before skipping his way into the Australian titles in Perth in April - before taking place in a famous Aussie sprint that happens every Easter in Victoria called the Stawell (pr: stall) Gift.

Run like the wind Gout Gout!

## **WEIRD SCIENCE**

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A robot dog that comes to the rescue of stranded trains! That sounds like the plot of a kids' cartoon. Except it's real life in Paris - and is set to become real life in Sydney too.

For years now a robot dog called Perceval has been helping the humans who run the Paris Metro - which is the city's train network - perform repairs and keep the trains there running cleanly and safely.

Now there's news that Perceval may soon be patrolling a train near you, with reports at the weekend that robot dogs may soon be travelling on the new train line being built to Sydney's new Western Sydney Airport.

The other benefit of robot dogs, of course, is that they don't shed much, they don't leave their hair all over the house, and you don't have to constantly pick up their pooh.

Winner!

## **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. Which state of Australia is experiencing unusual summer snow?
2. Starting with k, what's the name of the teeny tiny sea creatures that whales like to eat?
3. Name the Aussie teen sprinter who's breaking records each time he steps on the track?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Monday, February 17... it's pop singer Ed Sheeran's birthday - plus the birthday of famous Aussie poet, Banjo Paterson .. you might know a little poem he wrote called Waltzing Matilda?

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Talia from Wentworth Point, Olivia from Yarraville, Charlotte from Paraburdoo, Kathryn from Oran Park, Miller from Mill Park, Brandon from Castle Hill, Ziggy from Brisbane and Rameen listening over in Zanjan, Iran!

Belated shout outs go to... Billy-Bob from Fernvale, Luca from the Gold Coast, Riley from Moree and Felix from North Ringwood.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... classes LA11 and LA15 with Miss Leech and Mr Morrison at Atwell Primary School, class 3L with Mrs Leine at Wellers Hill State School,

Class 5/6P with Miss Parker at Riverview State School, class 4/5M with Mrs McNab at Albury West Public School and class 420 with Mrs Bannan at Langwarrin Park Primary School.

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

1. Tasmania
2. Krill
3. Gout Gout

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or, if you're after 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 with a special Squiz Kids Shortcut on Designer Animals .. it's a good one - all about how pet dogs used to be wolves and house cats used to be wild and how - over time - humans have bred designer pets.

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