

Operation Whale Rescue in Tasmania; Billie Eilish fever grips Australia; the lake that's being loved to death; and the secret tunnel to Disneyland.

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, February 20

In Squiz Kids Today ... Operation Whale Rescue in Tasmania; Billie Eilish fever grips Australia; the lake that's being loved to death; and the secret tunnel to Disneyland.

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

THE LOWDOWN

In what could be a storyline from your favourite Octonauts episode, it was Operation Whale Rescue in Tasmania yesterday after more than 150 whales beached themselves on a remote part of the Apple Isle's coastline.

A pod of false killer whales - estimated to be more than 150 - had beached themselves near Arthur River yesterday morning. When a whale beaches itself, that means it swims up onto land.

And although whales are mammals - and therefore breathe the same oxygen that you and I breathe - they also need for their skin to be wet.

Whales have an incredibly thick layer of insulating blubber but without water to keep them cool, they overheat and dehydrate - which is a fancy word for losing all the water in their system that all mammals require to stay alive.

Rescuers had rushed to the scene of the beaching yesterday - but it wasn't clear last night how many of the whales would be saved.

Why do whales beach themselves like this? And why is it often entire pods that beach themselves? Scientists still don't have an exact answer. But one theory is that if the leader of the pack is sick or injured and beaches itself, whales have such a close bond in their pod that they all follow suit.

And here's a fun fact: even though they are called false killer whales, they are actually part of the dolphin species.

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 New Zealand - just across the ditch - where the world's clearest lake is being loved to death.

National park rangers on the South Island have been forced to request visitors to Lake Constance clean their boots before visiting to protect the lake from an unwanted algae.

Lake Constance has become a really popular tourist destination ever since it was declared to have some of the clearest water in the world.

And of course - with popularity has come all the world wanting to visit it, and because everyone wants to see it and have a selfie next to it - the very thing that makes it special is in danger of being destroyed.

There's a nasty algae which can be transported on the bottom of visitor's shoes. Which is why we've always got to be mindful of the natural biodiversity of any place and be careful not to disturb it if at all possible.

Or as the saying goes: make sure the only thing you leave behind is footprints.

POP CULTURE CORNER

—

Hands up if you're a Billie Eilish fan? Hands up if you - or one of your older brothers or sisters or cousins - is going to be among the thousands who attend her concerts here in Australia over the next few weeks?

The singing sensation kicked off her Hit Me Hard And Soft tour of Australia in Brisbane on Tuesday night - and the critics have been raving about it.

Critics are people whose job it is to go and review things - sometimes bands, sometimes restaurants. Nice gig.

The American singer-songwriter - whose most famous and successful songs were written with her brother, Finneas - will play 12 shows in Australia - four shows here in Brissie, then four in Sydney, then four shows in Melbourne.

All of which is super cool, because I am going on Saturday night with my daughter Rosie. Now, what am I going to wear?

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. Because there are SO many fishy things on the internet.

And this week his nose is twitching after stumbling across a TikTok video of a secret tunnel into Disneyland.

What the what? I mean, hold the phone and stop the presses. There's a secret tunnel into Disneyland! This is unbelievable.

Well, actually, it turns out that it is unbelievable. A fact checking organisation called Snopes analysed the video and found that it was two separate videos spliced together. One of a man entering a cave. And another completely separate video of inside Disneyland park in California.

Worryingly: the video was watched more than 4 million times. So who knows how many silly people believed it was real.

But not you, huh? Because I'm sure your classroom is among the almost 4,000 around Australia that has signed up to do Newshounds - Squiz Kids very own, completely free digital literacy classroom resource teaching kids how to spot misinformation when they come across it online. Get amongst it via the Squiz Kids website. Woof!

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 lake in New Zealand with super clear water (for now)?
2. What sort of whales have beached themselves in Tassie?
3. In which Australian city has Billie Eilish kicked off her Aussie tour this week?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, February 20... today is Rhianna's birthday ,, happy birthday Rhianna. It's also National Love Your Pet Day ... but seriously, isn't that everyday?

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Harrison from Yarraville, Sami from Vermont South, Emily from Normanhurst, Samuel from Concord, Clarence from South Perth, Teddy from Wallabadah, Ava from Mansfield, Tate from Atwell, Alice travelling around Australia and Franklin listening over in Westminster, England.

Belated shoutouts go to... Parker from Langwarrin and Fletcher from Atwell.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 5/6W with Mr Wright at Bundaberg West State School, class 5D with Miss Chand at The Willows State School in Kirwin, class 5/6AM with Mrs Murphy at Albury North Public School and Grade 1 in room 509 with Mrs Church at The Hong Kong International School.

Lastly a special shoutout to class 6D with Mr Oberg at Cannonvale State School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Lake Constance
2. Fake killer whales

3. Brisbane

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 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 the Kids vs Adults Weekly News S'Quiz.

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