



Herald Sun

SAYONARA DUSTY!

POLICE LAUNCH CHOPSTICK KILL THREAT PROBE **P5**

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**Labor leader
forced to
apologise
after being
filmed using
his mobile
phone while
driving at
40km/h**

SHORTEN TEXT DRIVE SHAME

OPPOSITION Leader Bill Shorten has been caught on camera using his mobile phone while driving.

The video, obtained by the *Herald Sun*, shows the Labor leader using his phone with both hands for at least six seconds as he drives along Kings Way at 40km/h.

Mr Shorten said he did not recall why he was using his phone but admitted he shouldn't have been

TOM MINEAR

doing it. "Like most drivers, I always try to do the right thing," Mr Shorten said last night.

"But there's no doubt that using your phone while driving is the wrong thing to do — there's no excuse for it. I shouldn't have done it and won't do it again."

CONTINUED PAGE 2

AUSSIE WONDERS

TWIN TONS

SPORT



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Herald Sun

\$10 FOR 28 DAYS

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WEATHER PAGE 60

TODAY
MIN 14
MAX 20
Partly cloudy with a high chance of showers

TOMORROW
MAX 19
Partly cloudy

SUNDAY
MAX 25
Partly cloudy

MONDAY
MAX 28
Mostly sunny

Tatts

WEDNESDAY LOTTO:
Draw 3511: 17, 35, 41, 45, 38, 13
Supps: 21, 10 Div 1: Jackpots to \$1 million Div 2: \$10,455.20 Div 3: \$1218.00 Div 4: \$63.50 Div 5: \$33.40 Div 6: \$21.60
Powerball results may be missing from some papers due to the draw being later during daylight saving.
For full results, go to tatts.com/tattersalls

ARE YOU A QUIZ MASTER?

S D
E H I
P L R

In making a word each letter may be used only once, and the centre letter must be included. No slang, hyphens, apostrophes or plurals ending in 's'. Minimum four letters.
Good 20, Very good 28, Excellent 34

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION
besot bestir bier biro bisque bistre bistro bite
biter bilser bore bout brie briquet bruise brut
brute burse burst busier bust buster bustler obit
obtuse orbit rebus rebut ribose robe robust sober
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Vegemite maker spreads its tax liability

THE maker of Vegemite and the Cherry Ripe is under pressure to come clean over its tax practices after revelations its parent company has dodged paying millions abroad.

The Australian arm of the Mondelez group — which owns iconic brands Cadbury and Kraft — could now be hauled before a Senate inquiry over its use of favourable tax jurisdictions to minimise its liabilities.

ROB HARRIS

The global food giant lawfully avoided paying millions of dollars of tax — despite sales of almost \$5 billion and profits of almost \$300 million last year in the UK.

Labor senator Sam Dastyari, who has led a campaign against multinational corporate tax evasion, has written to the company asking it to reveal how much tax it's paying.

Among the questions posed by Senator Dastyari on behalf of the Senate Economics References Committee is the group's use of tax havens to minimise tax liability.

The company wiped out Cadbury's UK tax bill last year with the help of interest payments on a massive debt listed as a bond on the Channel Islands stock exchange.

Mondelez Australia, which has shrunk Cadbury chocolate

bars to cut costs, increased profit by 43 per cent last year to \$1.74 billion after slashing expenses and booking a \$30 million tax credit.

Mondelez Australia did not return the *Herald Sun's* calls yesterday, but a statement from its global headquarters said the group paid corporation tax based on the laws of the countries in which it operated, paying "hundreds of millions" in tax annually.



Focus on Vegemite's maker.

Fury at slap on wrist

Shoplifters walk free

NEARLY a quarter of all shoplifters don't even cop a fine for a crime that costs Victoria billions of dollars every year.

The retail industry says stronger penalties are needed with shoplifting costing the industry more than \$1 billion during pre-Christmas trading.

Court figures over the past three years reveal:

ABOUT 22 per cent of shoplifters walk free without being fined or sentenced after having their case discharged, dismissed or adjourned with an undertaking;

ABOUT 23 per cent receive a fine, 11 per cent a wholly suspended sentence and 22 per cent go to prison; and

FIGURES show 20,672 people committed the offence of shoplifting last year but this data does not include when police decide not to take the matter to court and instead issue an infringement notice.

According to research conducted by the Australian Retail Association, shoplifting will cost the industry \$1.4 billion in the six weeks to Christmas.

ARA executive director Russell Zimmerman said penalties needed to be stronger to act as a deterrent.

ANTHONY GALLOWAY

"We would like to see stronger penalties but they also need to take into account the background of the offender," he said. "Theft is a serious problem for retailers, accounting for around 3 per cent of all retail spend."

Mr Zimmerman said retailers were addressing the issue with an increased security presence, closed circuit television and radiofrequency tags. But he warned retailers were being forced to raise the price of their products to take into account shoplifting.

"The more that happens in the way of fraud and products being stolen from shelves, the retailer has to actually build that into their margin," he said.

"Despite new and sophisticated technologies aimed at stopping these criminals, thieves are also becoming smarter and employing their own advances in techniques to commit crimes."

Myer spokeswoman Melanie Ward said the company reported all shoplifters to police and had 6000 CCTV cameras across its stores.

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Bill Shorten using his phone while driving.

SHORTEN FILMED USING MOBILE PHONE WHILE DRIVING HIS CAR

FROM PAGE 1

He had just dropped his children off at music practice when the video was captured. He could not rule out that he was texting at the time.

The witness who filmed the video — taken at 11.07am on August 23 — said he first noticed the white 4WD when it failed to take off when a traffic light turned green.

He then took out his phone to film the car after watching it swerve between lanes in front of him, driving at a slow speed that was frustrating other drivers.

"He was driving all over the place," the witness told the *Herald Sun*.

He realised Mr Shorten was behind the wheel as he passed the car while filming.

"He's one of our leaders ... he should be setting an

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example," he said. The witness said he decided to come forward after hearing about Mr Shorten's other accident.

Research from VicRoads shows taking your eyes off the road for two seconds or more doubles your risk of crashing. The penalty for using a mobile phone while driving is a \$443 fine and four demerit points.

Mr Shorten's latest driving

misdeemeanour has emerged less than a month after he sideswiped several cars when he spilt coffee on his lap behind the wheel.

He sideswiped "a number" of cars but no one was injured in the incident. Mr Shorten was half an hour late to a press conference in the city.

That incident occurred just 120m from where Mr Shorten infamously got into an argument with a shop owner about a \$4.80 pie in 2012. The "big misunderstanding" saw Mr Shorten storm out of the North Carlton Convenience Store.

He was accused by owner Annie Huang of verbal abuse after she offered to microwave him a pie.

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TOM ELLIOTT, PAGE 26

Plans to extend tram routes and improve service

MELBOURNE'S tram network could be extended and light rail corridors built, including a route along the Eastern Freeway to Doncaster, a blueprint reveals.

A report to be handed down today urges a multi-billion-dollar revolution of the tram network to improve services, cater for the city's growth and speed up commuter travel time.

Recommendations in the paper, that was prepared by Rail

ALEKS DEVIC

Futures Incorporated, include:

WAYS to improve tram right of ways and speed up trams;

CHANGING road rules, including use of hook turns to all roads with trams;

BOOSTING the number of trams with at least another 75 supersized E-Class trams; and

INCREASING the frequency of services.

The report recommends light rail for four new routes, including:

BALLARAT Rd in Sunshine to link universities, employment centres and hospitals;

SPENCER St to North Melbourne station, then via Dynon Rd to Footscray station;

USING the central median of North and Wellington roads, extending from Rowville via Monash University and

then through to Ormond; and

A DONCASTER line along Alexandra Pde, the Eastern Freeway and Doncaster Rd through to Doncaster Hill.

Melbourne has the world's biggest tram network, with 250km of double track and 1763 tram stops. But the report's wishlist includes plans to connect it to major shopping centres and activity hubs.

There are 17 proposed route

extensions from 300m to 3.2km. Among them are trams running to Chadstone Shopping Centre, Westfield, Airport West and extending Route 96, which runs from East Brunswick to St Kilda, through to Elwood.

Other extensions would see routes leading to activity hubs in Keilor, Carnegie, Glen Iris, Moorabbin and stations, including Caulfield, Ashburton and Coburg's Merlynston station.



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WE'RE FOR VICTORIA

Herald Sun



Hoons swindle car rego costs

EXCLUSIVE
MARK BUTTLER

HOONS and cheapskates are rorting the state's registration system by exploiting a scheme for classic car enthusiasts.

Some young hoons are using the system to drive powerful vehicles that they could not ordinarily use under restricted licence conditions.

Other car owners are simply looking to save big money on their registration bills.

The number of Victorian vehicles on club permits was 8500 in 2010. It has now boomed to 65,000.

Those who have the permits must be members of approved car clubs and associations, allowing them to drive their vehicles on the road for private use for 45 or 90 days a year, depending on the amount paid.

Cars must be older than 25 years. One club official said while most people were genuine car buffs, there were instances where members appeared more interested in getting cheap rego than any activities.

The savings are huge. While regular registration for most cars costs more than \$700, the club permit fee is \$142.

"This is how some hoons get around driving prohibited vehicles," a police officer said.

"They're paying less than a quarter of what we pay. They're rorting the system."

The *Herald Sun* has been told a log book system aimed at ensuring permit-holders stayed below the stipulated number of days was being abused. Many drivers were happy to gamble on not being pulled over or to have the book handy with only the date to be quickly inserted if intercepted.

In other cases, motorists get club permits so they can use their older car as a second vehicle. Police said action would be taken against anyone abusing the system.

CONTINUED PAGE 4

Chelsey and Melanie with a photo of their brother, Bailey Patman, who drowned near Seaford jetty in January 2012.
Picture: JASON EDWARDS

**Swim push as
79 children
drown in 10 years**

SAVE OUR KIDS

SEVENTY nine Victorian children have drowned in the past decade, but three out of five of the state's students still leave primary school unable to swim.

A further 637 children have been rushed to hospital after nearly dying in water, with lifesavers rescuing another 390 children every summer.

**TOM MINEAR AND
ANGUS THOMPSON**

The alarming figures have prompted the *Herald Sun* to today back a campaign that the State Government introduce compulsory swimming lessons in primary schools for all students.

CONTINUED PAGE 6

As child drownings reach alarming numbers, authorities hatch a

TEACH THEM

Save our kids in the water

FROM PAGE 1

Still coming to terms with the tragic drowning of nine-year-old Bailey Patman at Seaford beach in January 2012, sister Chelsey is also making a heartfelt plea for children to learn to swim.

Life Saving Victoria is leading the campaign after producing a landmark report which found three in every five children finished primary school without being able to swim a lap of an Olympic pool.

"This is a huge concern and Life Saving Victoria is looking to address this issue with a number of strategies, including having all children in the primary school system learning to swim," Life Saving Victoria chief executive Nigel Taylor said. "It's these basic skills that will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

The tragic drowning of nine-year-old Bailey Patman at Seaford beach in January 2012 prompted Coroner Caitlin English to mirror the call for curriculum-based water safety lessons. She told the *Herald Sun*: "Every primary school-aged child needs to know how to swim."

She said Bailey's death could have been prevented.

"If anything positive can come from Bailey's death, the introduction of compulsory swimming lessons for primary school students could save lives and spare other families and communities the anguish of losing a child in these circumstances," Ms English said.

"Swimming is an essential life skill, and I find it alarming that three out of five children in grade six are unable to swim to basic standards."

Emergency Services Minister Jane Garrett said the State Government was looking at ways to make access to swimming lessons easier.

Of drowning fatalities in the past decade, 37 were children aged between five and 19 who could have been given swimming lessons at school. Boys were the victims in four of every five drowning tragedies involving a child.

Life Saving Victoria figures show another 25 kids aged five to 19 go to hospital every year after nearly drowning. Life-savers also rescued 390 children every summer, with 73 per cent of those aged six to 20.

More than two-thirds were rescued when they got into trouble swimming outside the flags at patrolled beaches.

tom.minear@news.com.au
EDITORIAL, PAGE 22

WAVES OF MISERY



KYLE VASSIL, 10

Drowned in a waterhole in Toolangi while on a school camp in 2010. He was swimming for about five minutes before he got into difficulty and his classmates and teachers tried to save him.



JIMMY NGUYEN, 15

Drowned at South Melbourne beach in 2009. Paramedics tried to revive him for an hour when he went swimming after his friends had returned to shore.



BAILEY PATMAN, 9

Was found lying face down in the water at Seaford Beach after splashing about in the shallows with his friends in 2012.



LEIGHTON ERBS, 16

Drowned in 2013 near Cape Paterson. He and some friends were knocked off some rocks by a freak wave and washed out to sea. Friends tried valiantly to save him.

FATALITIES

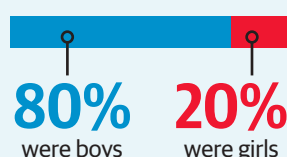
79

children have drowned in the past decade in Victoria

32 were aged 0-4

16 were aged 5-9

31 were aged 10-19



58%

drowned at the beach, in a river, creek or dam

49%

were walking or playing near water when they drowned and

21%

were swimming

NEAR DROWNINGS

637

children were taken to hospital after nearly drowning in the past decade in Victoria

389 were aged 0-4

79 were aged 5-9

169 were aged 10-19



RESCUES

3122

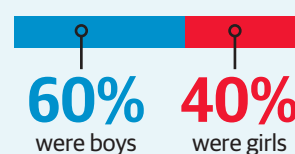
children were rescued by lifesavers between 2007 and 2015, an average of 390 a year

That makes up **60%** of total rescues by life savers in Victoria

27% were aged 0-5

42% were aged 6-10

31% were aged 11-20



70%

were swimming outside in the flags in patrolled areas

14%

were swimming between the flags and

14%

were in unpatrolled areas

SWIMMING ABILITY

A 2013 survey of **253 teachers** — representing about **9300 grade 6 students** — found:

60%

of kids could not swim 50m, the benchmark for children

40%

of kids could not float for more than two minutes, another key benchmark

39%

of kids had inadequate water-safety knowledge

Grade 6 students from Banyan Fields Primary take a floating test. Picture: DAVID CAIRD



GET THEM SWIMMING, KEEP THEM GRINNING

A MELBOURNE aquatic centre is taking the extraordinary step of testing the swimming ability of every grade 5 and 6 pupil in the area, fearing it has some of the worst swimmers in the state.

The Peninsula Aquatic Recreation Centre is testing children from 33 primary schools in the City of

ANGUS THOMPSON AND TOM MINEAR

Frankston to understand the breadth of the problem.

The expansive study, which began last week, is being undertaken in response to a Life Saving Victoria survey that found 60 per cent of pupils leaving primary school can't swim

the length of an Olympic pool.

Being able to swim 50m and float for more than two minutes is the benchmark skill level for children entering high school.

PARC chief executive Tim Gledhill said the centre was joining LSV and the YMCA in calling on the Victorian Government to

make primary school swimming lessons compulsory.

"It has been found that Victorian children's swimming ability is significantly lower when compared to other states and, anecdotally, we know that children living in the Frankston local government area are among some of the

lowest," Mr Gledhill said.

An LSV study found Frankston was the worst beach in the state for drownings, claiming six lives in the 10-year period to June 2012.

The death of Bailey Patman, 9, off Seaford beach in January 2012, has prompted his family to join the cry for subsidised

radical plan for our primary school children to learn how to stay alive

ALL TO SWIM



Girls keep vigil in honour of brother

ANGUS THOMPSON

MELANIE Allan casts solemn eyes over the bay beyond Seaford Pier with her sister Chelsey by her side.

On a hot October evening, the tiny waves barely crest as they cruise into shore at 7pm.

The only crashes come from children jumping into the ocean just metres from where nine-year-old Bailey Patman's life ended more than two years before.

"It was about this time when he drowned. And the water was that calm," Melanie, 21, says of her brother.

Bailey and his siblings grew up just streets away in the bay-side suburb between the city and Frankston.

The beach is part of their upbringing and the girls still visit frequently, keeping the memory of their brother close.

"I'd feel guilty if I went to another beach ... I don't want to swim anywhere else," Melanie said.

But the water to the right of the jetty — where Bailey drowned — is off limits.

On that side, Melanie won't venture beyond the white-wash, or put her head beneath the water for fear of conjuring her brother's face.

Bailey, with his beach-blond mop and disarming smile was like "five kids in one."

At a skate park on his BMX or scooter, he was daring. But when it came to the water — ever obedient and responsible — he drew his boundaries.

"He was very aware, he knew the limits of where he could handle the water, and it still happened," Chelsey said.

Bailey told his friends he was just going to "splash



around" when he accompanied them to the beach on January 19, 2012. He and a friend dived into the waves together, realising after time they had drifted from their original spot.

The group moved on and thought Bailey was joking as they saw him splashing about.

But then he was discovered lying face down in the water.

A supervising adult tried to resuscitate Bailey with the help of a bystander, and he was flown to hospital, where he died later that night.

Grief has etched a new-found vigilance into Bailey's sisters.

Melanie and Chelsey now watch over strangers' children as if they are their own to prevent other youngsters falling victim to a "very preventable accident".

Bailey struggled to learn how to swim at school.

His mother, Kylee, was able to teach him how to dog paddle but a friend claimed Bailey couldn't swim at all.

Melanie believes her little brother would still be alive if he had been a stronger swimmer in the surf.

Coroner Caitlin English investigated Bailey's death and agreed that swimming lessons could have saved his life.

"On a calm and sunny afternoon in the middle of the summer school holidays, Bailey drowned at his local beach because he did not know how to swim," she told the *Herald Sun*.

"This case is a tragic and clear example of a preventable death."

Ms English backed Life Saving Victoria's call for all primary school students to be taught to swim.

It's a campaign that has the support of Bailey's family.

"I just want everyone to benefit from this," Melanie says.

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Chelsey and
Melanie Allan.
Picture: JASON
EDWARDS

swimming lessons.

Factors such as low income and cultural diversity have been seen as barriers to swimming ability, and parents have labelled time and cost as the biggest hurdles.

Mr Gledhill said up to 11 schools — many from disadvantaged areas — didn't participate in

swimming lessons and their costs would be subsidised in the program.

The bayside area, which includes suburbs like Seaford, Langwarrin and Carrum Downs, has an average household income of just \$1140 and a high migrant population.

"The proximity of the bay, especially for Frankston and

Mornington Peninsula residents ... means learning to swim is essential to save lives and prevent unnecessary deaths," Mr Gledhill said.

Jennifer Vormwald, assistant principal of Banyan Fields Primary School, said she hoped all students could swim by the time they leave grade 6.

Chickenpox hits school

KATHRYN POWLEY
EDUCATION REPORTER

Vaccine urged as virus strikes 80 primary pupils

CHICKENPOX has swept through a Melbourne primary school just months after it was told to warn its community to keep away from newborns, the elderly and frail due to its low immunisation rate.

A quarter of the children at Brunswick North West Primary School have contracted chickenpox in the past fortnight.

The school, with a roll of about 320, has seen about 80

students off school this week with chickenpox.

The school declined to comment, but in a newsletter in May, principal Trevor Bowen wrote to parents noting that 73.2 per cent of pupils were immunised, compared with 92 per cent within the local postcode.

Mr Bowen said that after talks with Department of Health officials, he had been

advised to include this statement in the newsletter: "Due to immunisation levels at our school, caution should be exercised to limit exposure for the following individuals: Recently born babies and infants, the elderly, anyone with an illness or condition which results in the diminution of the body's immune system, children who are part or unimmunised."

He said the school was tol-

erant of many different "opinions and beliefs", including those held on immunisation.

While some people chose not to vaccinate their child as it was "detrimental" to the child's health, others believed immunisation was one of the best ways to protect children and safeguard the health of others and future generations, he wrote.

Victoria's acting chief

health officer Prof Michael Ackland, told ABC Melbourne he was not surprised by the size of the outbreak.

"From time to time we get clusters of chickenpox in schools. One of the most important things that we can do is have our children vaccinated," Prof Ackland said.

He said the chickenpox vaccine protected about 80 per cent of children immunised

and a booster was recommended when children reached year 7. "I can't emphasise enough that vaccination is one of the most important public health measures we have access to," he said.

In Victoria, chickenpox is a notifiable disease and parents must provide an immunisation status certificate to their school regardless of whether their child is immunised or not.

But students are not excluded from school on the basis they are not immunised.

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Banyan Fields Primary students Aaliyah, Gemma, Belen, Jarrod, Harrison, Harry and Jaxson swim at Frankston. Inset, the Herald Sun report. Picture: JASON SAMMON

COMPULSORY swimming lessons for children are a step closer in Victoria, with the State Government launching a \$100,000 trial in one of the state's worst drowning hot spots.

About 200 students from Banyan Fields Primary School in Carrum Downs will get 10 lessons on water survival skills next year in a before-school program.

It comes after the Herald

TOM MINEAR

Sun revealed 79 Victorian children drowned in the past decade, with three out of five students finishing primary school without knowing how to swim.

Life Saving Victoria is campaigning for lessons to be made compulsory in schools.

A landmark trial for Shepparton kids was run earlier this year, with next

year's lessons to be held at Frankston's Peninsula Aquatic Recreation Centre.

Grade 5 and 6 pupils will learn to float and tread water, as well as rescue strategies and CPR, while being taught about the risks around water.

Emergency Services Minister Jane Garrett told the Herald Sun some kids were missing out on learning the basic survival skills that

could avert tragic drownings.

"This is an important trial because it will give us a snapshot of swimming capability among our kids," Ms Garrett said.

"We need to see what can be done to address this issue and I'm looking forward to a full evaluation of this trial."

Life Saving Victoria chief Nigel Taylor said the trial would help develop a program of swimming

lessons, which would ease the burden on schools.

LSV figures show 41 people drowned in the Mornington Peninsula region, including Frankston, in the past decade.



Jobless spike hides real point

PAUL GILDER

VICTORIA'S unemployment rate has bucked the national trend to lurch back above 6 per cent, but economists say the headline figure belies a strong growth engine under the hood.

While 71,400 jobs were added across the country in November, bumping the national jobless rate down to an 18-month low of 5.8 per cent, Victoria went the other way.

Although the state created 12,900 net jobs, despite erasing

1400 part-time positions, the result wasn't enough to keep its rate from climbing 0.6 percentage points to 6.2 per cent, official figures showed.

That puts it well behind the leader, New South Wales, which boasts a jobless rate of 5.2 per cent, followed by Queensland at 5.9 per cent.

But the picture's not so bad: more Victorians are seeking

work than a month ago, and fulltime roles are being created — many in important parts of the economy such as retail and hospitality.

"Victoria's result is more about month-to-month volatility," CommSec chief economist Craig James said. "It's hard to believe the Victorian economy has hit the wall in one month while Queensland has gone gangbusters."

BUSINESS DAILY, PAGE 61



Market food draws a crowd.

VIC MARKET HOOKS VISITORS

QUEEN Victoria Market is Melbourne's top attraction for international tourists, its annual report says.

More than half of the foreigners who visited the city in the past year went to the market.

An average 30,000 people a night attended the summer night market, which runs from November to March.

"Tourists typically visit markets to experience the local culture around food

buying, however their main economic value to the market is with the special merchandise traders," the report said.

It revealed that the market earned \$4 million in parking fees and \$18.2 million in trader fees, and recorded a net after-tax profit of \$364,000 in 2014-15.

As of July this year, there were 691 traders, comprising 537 stallholders and 154 leases for shops and storage.