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## TINNED TUNA TASTE TEST

Frank Sweet dives into 20 cans to find the best  
**GOOD FOOD LIFTOUT**



## BELFAST ERUPTS

David Crowe speaks to locals on the riot-torn streets  
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## AT THE COALFACE

Paul Sakkal: Labor's plan to paint Hanson as 'anti-worker'  
**NEWS PAGE 8**

# ROOS AWAKENING

Veteran Australian star Mathew Leckie and his Socceroos teammates are ready to shake up the planet when they launch their 2026 World Cup campaign against Turkey on Sunday. The tournament – hosted by Canada, Mexico and the United States – begins today.

**SPORT PAGE 40**



Photo: Getty Images

## US and Iran continue to trade strikes

Ahmed Tolba

The United States and Iran have traded air attacks for a second straight day and US President Donald Trump has vowed further strikes if Tehran does not immediately agree to a peace deal. The US military said its latest attacks targeted "military surveillance capabilities, communication systems and air defence sites across Iran" in response to what it called Tehran's "unwarranted and continued aggression".

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## AUKUS fear over Trump

**EXCLUSIVE**  
Paul Sakkal

Former Labor minister Bill Shorten raised concerns about Donald Trump being elected and compromising the AUKUS deal in a crunch cabinet meeting in 2023 when Prime Minister Anthony Albanese won endorsement for the submarine deal. *The Age* has unearthed details of how Labor signed off on the AUKUS "optimal pathway".

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# Teens risk mental harm after year of social media

Melissa Cunningham  
Health reporter

Children aged 12 to 13 are the most at risk of mental health issues from heavy use of social media and show a worrying decline in their psychological wellbeing after just one year.

These are the findings of a landmark decade-long study, led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, which examined the behaviour and mental health of almost 1200 Melbourne

children. The researchers found that during the ages of 12 to 13, the dangers of using social media for two hours or more a day rose sharply, particularly among girls.

They found that for every 100 girls of this age group who were using social media for at least two hours daily, there were about 11 additional cases of high depressive symptoms and poorer wellbeing detected a year down the track, when compared with peers who used it for less than an hour a day.

Dr Nandi Vijayakumar, a cognitive neuroscientist at Deakin Uni-

versity and a lead researcher of the study, said the risk peaked during early adolescence for several reasons including the onset of puberty and the beginning of a time when girls become increasingly sensitive to peer approval and exclusion.

"This is when young people first start using social media, typically, and learning how to navigate online interactions, but it is also a period of rapid brain development and important social changes," Vijayakumar said.

She said parts of the brain responsible for emotion regulation

were also still maturing, meaning adolescents might be less equipped to manage the more challenging aspects of social media, such as social comparisons and bullying.

"While the effects were modest at the individual level because this is so common among adolescents, even modest increases in risk could translate into potentially meaningful impacts at the population level," Vijayakumar said.

Melbourne teenager Lauren Linton was 12 when the city was

**Continued Page 4**

## VicRoads still down

Max Stevens, Angus Delaney

Car owners remain unable to register new vehicles and book driver tests online, nearly a week after an IT failure crashed the VicRoads online portal.

The website went down last Friday and was supposed to be fixed over the long weekend. However, any mention of when services will resume has now been removed from the VicRoads site.

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# VicRoads chaos drags on after IT bungle

Max Stevens, Angus Delaney

Car owners are still unable to register new vehicles or book driver tests online, nearly a week after an IT failure caused by a bungled system upgrade crashed the VicRoads online portal.

The bungled "major upgrade" to the VicRoads site left Victorian motorists unable to perform basic functions such as checking their registration and scheduling a test to get their driver licence, and there is no end to the disruption in sight.

The website went down last Friday and was intended to be offline over the long weekend as the IT system was upgraded. However, any mention of when services will resume has now been removed from the VicRoads site, and a spokesman would only say the site would be fixed "as soon as possible". The automated phone system is also down.

VicRoads has advised customers "most transactions" can be done over the phone or in person at one of the organisation's customer service centres. Customers attempting to use VicRoads' online systems are

greeted with the message: "We're making a major upgrade to our systems to deliver faster and more modern services. This is part of our commitment to simplify licensing and registration solutions, and to keep pace with the needs of Victorians today and tomorrow."

"During this time, some online services may not be available. If you are unable to access a service online, please try again later."

*'It's very inconvenient for us and the customers.'*

Jeff Zaninelli, owner of second-hand dealership JZ Motors

Jeff Zaninelli, the owner of second-hand dealership JZ Motors in Ferntree Gully, said many customer transactions had been affected by the outage over the past week. Some customers who had bought cars in recent days had been unable to renew their registrations, Zaninelli said.

"We've got a lot of other vehicles

that the roadworthy [certificates] are unable to be issued, which is putting a bit of a strain on things," he said.

"[There's a] cash flow issue as well, which affects us at the other end. It stops us buying cars because we're not delivering cars."

Zaninelli said he had to be patient, but "it's very inconvenient for us and the customers".

VicRoads has been largely silent on the issue, only posting to Facebook on Wednesday afternoon that "some services are temporarily unavailable" and thanking people for their patience.

VicRoads turned off comments for the recent post. However, unrelated VicRoads Facebook posts from May have been flooded with commenters in recent days asking why they have been unable to access VicRoads' online services since June 5.

VicRoads' website advises people that if their licence or registration is due, they can still pay via BPAY using the payment details at the bottom of their first payment notice, which they will receive by email or post.

## Kew VicRoads tower to be bulldozed

Gemma Grant

The former VicRoads site in Kew will not be retrofitted for housing, after the state government made a last-minute pivot and decided to completely demolish the former municipal building.

The future of the 2.5-hectare block on Denmark Street has been a source of debate for over a decade. It has long been sought after by developers due to its size, transport connections and location in an affluent suburb.

Yesterday, a government spokesperson said in a statement that the decision to demolish the building and develop a new precinct would offer the best housing outcomes for the community.

Demolition of the seven-storey structure will start this week and is expected to be completed by mid-July. The government has previously said that a total of 500 homes

were expected to be built across the site, with 125 within the retrofitted building.

"Following extensive work with industry, the southern building on the old VicRoads site will be demolished," the government spokesperson said. "This will deliver more homes than originally planned while creating high-quality open space and better connections through the precinct."

The spokesperson was unable to provide details on how many houses would be built, or about how tall a new development would be.

Last year, Development Victoria was investigating whether the building could be refurbished to accommodate 125 homes, as part of a program that would encourage developers to retrofit old buildings for residential use.

The state government has previously flagged its intention to sell the land to developers that would be

required to allocate at least 10 per cent of dwellings as affordable homes. The loosely defined term intends to provide housing for people on low to moderate incomes.

But there have also been calls, including from Kooyong MP Monique Ryan, to turn the site into a more significant allotment of social and affordable housing.

Additionally, Boroondara Council has long been pushing to gain ownership of the "tail" section of the site, a thin section of land that it would like to develop into green space and a bike path.

Boroondara Mayor Wes Gault said that the council had submitted a proposal to the planning minister to buy the "tail" land.

"The former VicRoads site in Kew is an exceptional location for a new residential development, and we look forward to seeing its redevelopment in the coming years," Gault said.



Shooters, Fishers and Farmers party MP Jeff Bourman, who drives a Ford Ranger. Photo: Jason South

"It's only fair that the road operator recovers more revenue from vehicles that are contributing more to the tear and wear of the infrastructure," he said.

A Victorian government spokesman said under contractual arrangements, Victorian toll road operators were entitled to charge lower tolls for vehicles classified as

cars, higher tolls for light commercial vehicles and the highest tolls for heavy commercial vehicles. "An inquiry into how private utility vehicles are classified on Victorian toll roads is ... under way - focusing on making sure tolling remains fair, appropriate and fit for purpose," he said. A spokesman for Transurban declined to comment.



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