

CORONAVIRUS RECOVERY

VAXX V FICTION AT MAD DEMO

Cops use pepper spray

**OLIVIA JENKINS
BRIANNA TRAVERS
SHANNON DEERY**

PROTESTERS clashed with police in ugly scenes at an anti-vaccination rally in Melbourne on Saturday.

There were multiple arrests at the South Yarra protest, with officers using pepper spray as they fought to bring the crowd under control.

More than 500 people attended to campaign against the nationwide coronavirus vaccine rollout, which begins on Monday.

Victoria Police said 20 people were arrested, and 15 of them would receive penalty notices for breaching the chief health officer's directions.

Five have been charged on summons for resisting arrest, hindering police and refusing to provide details.

Protesters gathered from noon at Fawkner Park before causing traffic chaos as they marched on busy roads in the area.

The event drew a heavy police presence, with officers from the public order response team, the mounted brigade and highway patrol assisting regular duties officers.

When the crowd descended on St Kilda Road, some police had bottles of water thrown at them and protesters were pepper-sprayed.

The crowd also yelled abuse at reporters and targeted TV crews with cries of "report the real news".

Chants of "freedom, freedom, freedom" rang out during the march, along with shouts of "we will not comply".

One organiser using a megaphone encouraged protesters to yell "f--k Dan Andrews".

Many attendees waved signs and donned colourful costumes.

Most did not wear face masks and social distancing was not taken seriously.

One man's Australian flag was

taken off him as he refused to dismantle a pole it was fixed to. Most of the crowd dispersed by 3pm

The Melbourne event was one of 11 across Australia to protest against "mandatory" vaccination.

The federal government has said the vaccine program will not be mandatory but it's likely some "high risk" workplaces may insist on employees getting the shot.

Speaking elsewhere in Melbourne on Saturday, Labor MP Bill Shorten had one message for the protesters. "Please, think about everyone else," he said. "I would just say to the anti-vaxxers, you're actually making it hard for the whole country."

Saturday's rally has authorities on high alert for the commencement of the vaccine rollout in Melbourne on Monday.

Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton said "fervent anti-vaxxers" were in the minority and should be ignored.

He said others had concerns about the way in which the COVID-19 vaccines had been fast-tracked.

But he reassured Victorians that after more than 150 million vaccines had been distributed worldwide, there was evidence they were safe.

"The reality is, it's gone through a really rigorous quality and safety review process," Prof Sutton said.

"All of those individuals who have received the vaccine are monitored, and if there are signals that indicate that there is an issue with safety, we would have seen that so far."

Prof Sutton said Australian authorities would continue to review and monitor safety and quality data.

"There will be an ongoing process of monitoring these vaccines," he said. "We've got a long track record in Australia of monitoring vaccine safety and efficacy. And the reality is, it is genuinely our way out of this."

"I'm going to be getting it. I'm going to absolutely be recommending it to my family, my

friends, anyone who's eligible, and it will be really important that we can roll it out, widely."

Opposition spokesman David Southwick slammed the protesters as irresponsible, saying they risked the safety of the wider community.

"All the way through this pandemic it just has not been the time to protest," he said.

"I would say to protesters, you might have a view, that's your right, but protesting puts everybody at risk."

Mr Southwick said the majority of Victorians wanted and needed the vaccine.

"If you don't like it, don't take it," he said.

"This vaccine is not compulsory. Those people who don't agree with the vaccine don't have to take it, quite frankly."

One of the speakers at Saturday's event was Independent MP



Protesters defy COVID restrictions to voice their fear of possible efforts to make being vaccinated mandatory.



MEET THE PROTESTERS



NATHAN GLOVER
Marched because police continue to stifle efforts of those protesting their right to get back to work. "I had five days off because of this. We can't have that. Until that stops, we can't stop doing this."



DEE
Protested to help people maintain their right to nominate themselves to be vaccinated. "We don't want the vaccinations to be mandatory, my kids are fully vaccinated. I'm not an anti-vaxxer."



CORALIE STOW
Attended the rally as she believed the speed at which the vaccine was rolled out was a "serious concern". "It was so rushed out because of the pandemic that there hasn't been sufficient testing."

FACEBOOK IS PLAYING HARBALL IN AUSTRALIA BECAUSE IT KNOWS THE WORLD IS WATCHING » PETA CREDLIN COLUMN PAGE 23



THE SHARP END



Police clear anti-vaccination protesters from Fawkner Park. Pictures: JAKE NOWAKOWSKI, DAVID GERAGHTY



Our staff fall foul of heavy hand of law

A SUNDAY Herald Sun journalist and photographer were arrested while covering the protest against the coronavirus vaccine.

Reporter Olivia Jenkins and senior photographer Jake Nowakowski were handcuffed and escorted away after being caught in a group of anti-vaccination protesters at Fawkner Park.

Ms Jenkins and Mr Nowakowski were wearing their Sunday Herald Sun accreditation cards around their necks and identified themselves as journalists but were detained by police and then given a notice that they may be issued with a \$1652 fine for failing to comply with the chief health officer's directions.

Both were wearing masks, Ms Jenkins even abused by one protester for doing so, and were released by police after about 10 minutes.

"I was really shocked they arrested us knowing we were from the media," Jenkins said.

"The officers who arrested us weren't rough. But it was very confronting. We were there to cover the protest — to do our jobs — just as the police were there to do theirs."

Nowakowski said: "Police started clearing protesters from the park. We found ourselves in one of these police encirclements. Once we presented to police we were media, they let us out."

"Almost immediately afterwards we found ourselves in another cordon with a handful of protesters. There wouldn't have been more than seven of us."

"Specialist police started coming in and arresting individ-



Jake Nowakowski (top) and Olivia Jenkins under arrest.

uals. At no time were we given the option to leave."

Nowakowski added: "The police knew we were media. We had our identification out. They just came in and arrested us. They handcuffed us and they took us away for processing."

Sunday Herald Sun editor Nick Papps said the actions of police were unacceptable.

"We understand police have a job to do but the arrest of Olivia and Jake is an appalling misuse of power by Victoria Police," he said. "Our reporter and photographer were just doing their jobs and made it clear they were members of the press."

"Yet they were handcuffed, frogmarched and then issued with notices. This is not how democracy operates and this is not how Victoria Police should uphold the right."

Victoria Police advised it was looking into the incident, including reviewing body-worn camera footage, and had not issued any fines over the matter.

Catherine Cummings who took to the stage telling the crowd she was "pro vaccine" but "pro-medical choice".

When she asked the crowd to socially distance into groups of 20 she was met with boos before a chant of "freedom, freedom, freedom" erupted from onlookers.

Another speaker said the pandemic was the "most abhorrent war in the history of mankind".

"They are trying to keep us safe from a non-existent pandemic," a speaker called Jacqui told the crowd.

She falsely claimed there was no medical, scientific or physical evidence to support the pandemic.

It is understood the government has no plans to introduce measures to ensure the safe rollout of the vaccine despite the protests. Victoria Police did not comment on any potential safety measures.

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ROGER CONWAY

Against the administration of "forced medication" that is new to medical experts. "Not only is it rushed, but it's a new type of technology, so we're concerned about the effects it might have."



CAROLYN CONWAY

Attended because she is worried possible negative side effects of the jab are not being widely reported. "There needs to be transparency about that. It is far too rushed."



'SPARTAN'

Marching as he dislikes the "lack of transparency" displayed by government throughout the "false" pandemic.

"I am getting sick of this vaccinations bulls--t. The Victorian people do not deserve being fed a vaccine with side effects."

Sunday

The arrest of these two, who were clearly wearing their passes and identified themselves as members of the press, smacks of a police state and shows a complete misunderstanding of the role the police should play.

Our journalist and photographer had all the relevant passes and permits to lawfully cover the rally, identified themselves repeatedly, and yet they were still handcuffed, marched away from the protest and issued with notices for fines - for doing their job.

EDITORIAL PAGE 63

HAMISH McLACHLAN'S ONE-ONE INTERVIEW SERIES RETURNS TODAY. HAME LEARNS THE SECRETS OF A SUCCESSFUL AFL COACH TURNED HORSE TRAINER » PAGES 38-39



**BULLDOGS
BACK IN
TOP SPOT**



SPORT

**TIPS TO
GET KIDS
MOVING**



PAGE 15

**WHY KAH'S
FINALLY
PROUD**



HAMISH McLACHLAN EXCLUSIVE PAGES 12-13

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Herald Sun

Sunday

Protestors and on-lookers in Bourke St.
Pictures: Mark Stewart,
Rebecca Michael



LOCKDOWN LUNATICS

Thousands of law-breaking protesters have put the state at risk of a new Covid outbreak and a longer lockdown after taking to the streets - to rally against lockdowns and vaccinations.

STREETS OF MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY ERUPT IN VIOLENCE, SPARKING COVID HEALTH ALARM, REPORTS P4-6

Deal for Pfizer boosters

JAMES CAMPBELL

AUSTRALIA has inked a deal for another 85 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine - to be used as booster shots from February next year.

Under the agreement, which will include any updated versions designed to deal with emerging variants, 60 million doses will arrive in

Australia from the first quarter of 2022 with another 25 million doses in 2023.

The deal means the country now has more than 280 million vaccine shots on order.

The federal government believes the booster rollout will need to start in late February.

FULL REPORT, PAGE 3

Sunday SPECIAL REPORT
in partnership with the federal government

TICKET TO FREEDOM

YOUR JOB QUESTIONS ANSWERED

LIFTOUT INSIDE

Sydney in a nightmare

JESSICA McSWEENEY

THE NSW outbreak is spiralling out of control with 163 new coronavirus cases announced on Saturday.

The state's darkest day of the pandemic also saw a violent demonstration in central Sydney, with thousands of protesters potentially sparking a superspreader event.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian last night said she was "utterly disgusted by the illegal protesters".

Health authorities warned the thousands of people at the anti-lockdown rally to urgently get tested for the virus. Police had arrested 57 people by Saturday night, but up to 3500 may be fined.

FULL REPORT, PAGE 6



MISS WORLD CONTENDER TAKES ON RACISTS

GOSSIP
QUEEN
P16-17

OUTBREAK OF SUPER STUPIDITY

Fears of deadly virus at city protest

OLIVIA JENKINS
LAURA PLACELLA
ASHLEY ARGOON

THOUSANDS of maskless anti-lockdown and anti-vax protesters marched through Melbourne CBD on Saturday with authorities fearing it could cause a deadly super spreader event.

Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Luke Cornelius last night blasted the “selfish” protesters and said their actions risked a “mass spreading” of the dangerous Delta variant.

The protests threatened to sink increasing optimism the state was on top of the latest outbreak and was set to come out of lockdown on Tuesday night with just 12 new cases reported on Saturday.

Police on Saturday night were hunting a cowardly protester who threw a large bollard at a mounted police officer, hitting her head.

Six people were arrested and four were charged after a rolling protest that saw battles with police over a four-hour period.

The protesters had broken laws to stay within 5km of their home, wear masks and to socially distance in a defiant rally to oppose lockdowns and vaccinations.

Police fined 67 people for breaking the 5km rule, six for wearing no face masks, three for traffic offences and one each for failing to move on and breaching bail.

Police said they expect to issue more fines in the coming days as they combed through footage.

In a day of unrest, tens of thousands of protesters also took to the streets in NSW and Queensland.

“We will not stand by while selfish people deliberately choose to put every Victorian at further risk of the spread of the highly contagious and dangerous Delta variant,” Mr Cornelius said.

“It beggars belief that the protest could, if mass spreading occurs, result in an extension of the very thing they are protesting



PROTESTER MAKING A POINT WITH A HELMET AND FLAG

and “Sack Dan Andrews”. Demonstrators ignored social distancing measures as they made their way through the city, travelling along Swanston, Bourke, Russell, Lonsdale, Queen and Flinders streets, before arriving at the steps of Parliament House, where the smell and smoke from flares filled the air.

Several demonstrators climbed atop tram shelters, before protest organisers addressed the crowd, megaphone in hand.

“Today we have demonstrated that when we come out in numbers, we cannot be stopped,” one speaker shouted.

Organisers said the next protest was planned for September 18.

Earlier in the day Professor Sutton said he felt “like we’re on track” to ease restrictions in Victoria from 11.59pm on Tuesday.

He expected new cases to be recorded in the lead-up to Tuesday, but “they should be decreasing over time”.

There was “no magic number” of cases to ease restrictions, but the aim was having no new exposure sites.

Of the 12 new Victorian cases, five were linked to the AAMI Park outbreak, three to Ms Frankie restaurant in Cremorne, two to the Burnley St apartment, one was a student at Bacchus Marsh Grammar and another was linked to Young and Jackson’s pub.

There was a strong wastewater detection in the northern suburbs – with residents in Glenroy, Hadfield, Oak Park and Pascoe Vale urged to get tested.

Victoria’s downward trending data came as NSW recorded its worst ever number of daily Covid cases with 163 infections.

A public health response was launched on Sunday at the Lacrosse Building in Docklands, with residents asked to get tested urgently and isolate.

A pop-up testing was set up nearby and a deep clean was carried out in the complex.

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for: an end to the current lockdown and a reopening of business, which is something we are all working so hard to achieve.”

Chief health officer Brett Sutton also slammed the protesters. “Letting infections potentially overwhelm our health system will cause illness and death at an awful scale,” he said.

“Let’s not pretend that ‘marching for freedom’ will actually deliver the precious freedom that we all need and desire.”

Police said the protest organisers were not co-operative and would not consider changing the date of the demonstration to when the outbreak was over.

“As a result, we had to roster hundreds of police to this event because of their selfish actions and blatant disregard of others,” Mr Cornelius said.

Police officers began pepper spraying and wrestling protesters to the ground after they refused to disperse outside Flinders Street Station about 2.30pm.

Scores of men, women – and even children – began to swell about noon, when swarms of on-foot and mounted police formed a blockade at the intersection at Flinders and Swanston streets to keep the protesters at bay.

Protesters could be heard chanting: “No more lockdowns”



LINES OF POLICE GREET PROTESTERS ON FLINDERS ST, MELBOURNE

Pandemic of pain as extra 212 people a day call Lifeline

SARAH BOOTH

CALLS to mental health help-lines have spiked as Victorians find themselves living through their fifth lockdown.

But services have warned the real impact may not be seen for some time, particularly among children who can have a delayed response to major events.

Demand for Lifeline servi-

ces jumped by 29 per cent in Victoria between June 26 and July 22, compared with pre-Covid data from the same period in 2019.

That’s an extra 212 Victorians every day who reached out. National demand increased by almost 25 per cent in the same period with more than 80,000 calls placed.

Importantly, the spike in demand does not mean calls go

unheard with the service answering 90 per cent of calls on average.

Lifeline chairman John Brogden said people should know they could call Lifeline “any time of the day or night”.

“With a sudden rise in Covid-19 cases and subsequent lockdown for people in three states, we know there will be an increasing number of people who will struggle with iso-

lation, separation from family and heightened anxiety,” he said.

“We want to reassure every individual that we are here for you, 24/7, on 13 11 14.”

A Beyond Blue spokeswoman said the service had seen a small jump, but numbers were already elevated to begin with.

“Since the lockdowns, contacts are up from an already high base,” she said.

“Volumes from Victoria were up about 12 per cent over the first four days of the lockdown (compared to the equivalent four-day period the week before), and this comes on top of a 20 per cent increase on pre-Covid volumes this year.”

LIFELINE: 13 11 14
KIDS HELPLINE: 1800 55 1800
BEYOND BLUE: 1300 22 4636
coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au

Euro tick for teen vaccine

THE European medicines watchdog has approved the use of Moderna’s Covid vaccine for children aged 12 to 17, making it the second jab for adolescents on the continent.

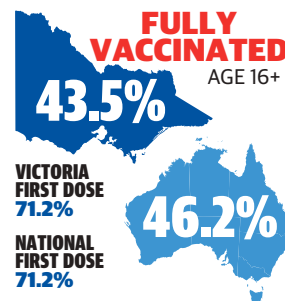
It follows the approval of Pfizer/BioNTech for European youngsters in May.

Australia’s TGA approved the Pfizer jab for children aged 12-15 this week.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 \$3.50 (inc GST) HERALDSUN.COM.AU

Herald Sun

Sunday



Picture: Jason Edwards

SUBURBAN WAR ZONE

Mindless thuggery tore at the heart of Melbourne on Saturday afternoon as violent louts turned peaceful streets into battlegrounds.

REPORTS, PICTURES PAGES 4-7

Outdoor dining, travel limits ease, but long wait for real freedom

DAN'S SLOW ROAD

EXCLUSIVE
MATT JOHNSTON

EXTENDED travel limits in Melbourne, outdoor dining and face-to-face school classes are set to return next month under the first stage of Premier Dan Andrews' road map out of lockdown.

The road map, which will begin once 70 per cent of Victorians

over 16 are fully vaccinated, likely in late October, introduces "cautious" changes at first, amid fears hospitals may be overwhelmed by spiralling case numbers.

The controversial 9pm curfew will be axed, while Melbourne travel limits would be expanded to up to 25km and some hospitality venues would reopen with tight caps or limits to outdoor

service only. But the most substantial changes won't be made until 80 per cent of people are double-vaccinated – likely by mid-November.

Health officials and senior ministers met on Saturday night and will continue discussions on Sunday morning to finalise the route out of lockdown.

FULL REPORT, PAGE 7

NO.1 FOR FOOTY

EIGHT-PAGE BROWNLOW LIFTOUT

PAGE 37



BONT IN POLL

MAX GAWN POSTER

INSIDE



BAILEY READY TO RUMBLE

DEES INJURY SCARE

SPORT

VIOLENT CLASHES



PROTEST MASK



10 officers hurt as hundreds take to streets 'just for a fight'

**BRIANNA TRAVERS
OLIVIA JENKINS
SARAH PERILLO**

AN ANGRY and volatile mob clashed with police – injuring 10 officers – during a violent anti-lockdown protest that shut down Melbourne's CBD, Richmond and parts of Kew for several hours.

Rocks, bottles and traffic cones were hurled at frontline police while other officers were assaulted and trampled on as tempers boiled over in Richmond.

Police estimate 700 anti-lockdown protesters gathered on Bridge Rd as part of a worldwide "freedom" rally on Saturday from noon until late afternoon.

Of those, 235 were arrested and slapped with \$5452 fines

for breaching chief health officer directives – a total of \$1.2m for government coffers.

Some face jail time, with others being charged for assaulting police and riotous behaviour, as well as weapons and drugs offences.

Of the 10 officers injured, six required hospital treatment for injuries including a broken nose, broken elbow, broken finger and torn muscles.

Commander Mark Galliot said most of the protesters were angry young men who turned up to take on officers.

"What we saw was a group of protesters that came together not to protest freedoms but simply to take on police," he said. "We saw angry, aggressive young males there to fight the police."

"In some instances we saw police getting trampled, which they don't come to work for."

"We don't come to work to get assaulted and end up going home with broken bones."

Commander Galliot defended the move to shut down Melbourne's public transport

network, saying police estimated 6000 people were planning to gather in the CBD before the unprecedented action was taken.

"It was a great preventive measure," he said.

"By shutting down the public transport system as we did, it kept all those people out of the city."

"If we hadn't done that, we could've had thousands in the city. We appreciate it was a great disruption."

Commander Galliot said 2000 police officers were deployed throughout the day, costing the state hundreds of thousands of dollars.

A police car was also damaged in the chaos.

The demonstration lasted several hours and drew significant attention from curious onlookers.

Police will now trawl through thousands of hours of footage from officers' body cameras to intensify the hunt for those protesters who have not yet been arrested or fined for illegal behaviour.

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**WATCH
THE
FRIGHTENING
VIDEO**
heraldsun.com



Melbourne team creates finger-prick test for vaccine boosters

**EXCLUSIVE
MATT JOHNSTON**

MELBOURNE researchers have developed a groundbreaking finger-prick test that shows when people need Covid-19 vaccine boosters.

The test, created by world-leading experts at the Burnet and Doherty institutes, shows when immunity to the virus lags and needs to be topped up.

Results can be obtained in fewer than 20 minutes, giving people an indication of how susceptible they are to coronavirus and when they need another jab.

While the test does not check for current infections, it will predict a person's immunity to new and emerging variants and can be used for large groups.

The Covid-19 NAb-Test

works by accurately measuring the level of neutralising antibodies to the virus, which are critical for people's immune response.

Doherty Institute immunology expert Dale Godfrey said this new tool was unique.

"Other rapid tests don't measure the important 'neutralising antibodies' that block virus infection," Professor Godfrey said.

"This is the advantage of the Covid-19 NAb-Test and what makes it a valuable addition to our diagnostic toolkit."

The Andrews government provided \$500,000 to kickstart the project, through its \$31m investment into coronavirus research.

The test is at the prototype stage, but Burnet and Doherty institutes chiefs are in commercial discussions to progress

the widespread use in Victoria and around the country.

Burnet Diagnostics Initiative chief scientific officer David Anderson said the collaboration made the most of local areas of expertise.

"We could not have made such rapid progress without this funding from the Victorian government," Professor Anderson said.

Innovation, Medical Re-

search and the Digital Economy Minister Jaala Pulford said: "Building confidence in our immunity against coronavirus will become increasingly important as Victoria and Australia open up."

"This work is testament to the world-class research skills and expertise we have in Victoria and will give us better understanding of the coronavirus."

CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Officer thrown to ground in clashes

OLIVIA JENKINS IN KEW

ANTI-lockdown protesters threw a female police officer to the ground and pelted police with water bottles in clashes in Kew on Saturday.

Footage filmed by the Herald Sun captured the moment the rally erupted when more aggressive protesters charged at police blockades on Victoria Parade.

The numbers at Saturday's rally were down on the almost 10,000-strong crowd seen at last month's protest that saw nine police officers hospitalised. But the 700 people estimated to have marched on Saturday resulted in the mobilisation of hundreds of police officers from at least 20 police stations.

Early on, protesters had tried to rattle police officers who had set up a wall of blue but the lines were eventually broken in brawls that led to at least one female officer being pushed to the ground and trampled.

The majority of protesters did not wear masks and were doused with pepper spray and held at bay with batons as the brawling escalated. Profanities were hurled at police all afternoon and one protester even used an umbrella to protect the unruly mob from the pepper spray.

Several marchers also tried to scale the gorge on Victoria Parade in a bid to escape arrest in a pinch-point between two walls of on-foot officers. Tensions between officers and marchers boiled over at the gorge about 1.30pm, after crowds splintered off Church St and Bridge Rd in an attempt to evade police.

Police were also observed wrestling people to the ground as the smell of pepper spray filled the air, leaving several protesters incapacitated and begging those around them for water.

The sea of police officers collectively yelled "move" and "forward" in a final warning to the straggling demonstrators before marching forward and deploying the pepper spray.

KEW



Police clash with anti-lockdown protesters on Barkers Rd, Kew. Pictures: Jason Edwards, Alex Coppel, Getty Images



Picnic pick-me-ups

FAMILIES flocked to parks and picnic areas on Saturday as Melbourne welcomed the return of outdoor gatherings.

Ringwood Lake Park was buzzing as people enjoyed the first form of social activity to be permitted as vaccination rates increase.

Covid hospital worker Mandy Francis had been unable to drop in to see parents Marilyn and Lindsay,

and said the picnic reunion marked a "beautiful day".

"It feels like you're finally living again being able to get out and see people," Ms Francis said.

"It's everything, being able to see elderly parents when we haven't been able to do anything with them, but all of us are double vaccinated and it's great to see things changing."



Mandy Francis, with partner Justin and dog Harley, met her parents, Marilyn and Lindsay, for a picnic on Saturday.

Biden in Covid summit

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden will host a virtual summit with world leaders on Wednesday to discuss the coronavirus pandemic – a day after he addresses the United Nations General Assembly.

"This meeting is about expanding and enhancing our shared efforts to defeat Covid-19" and would seek to "align on a common vision" against the virus, White House

press secretary Jen Psaki said, adding that the summit would build from previous gatherings of world leaders and ministers "in fora like the G7, G20 and Act Accelerator to rally civil society, NGOs, philanthropists and industry, along with world leaders, and align on a common vision for defeating Covid-19 together".

The US is the biggest donor of vaccines around the world.