

September 2025 Community Update

Veterans Day

I recently attended a moving tribute and service hosted by the Ocean Grove Barwon Heads RSL Sub-Branch to honour those who served in the Vietnam War. As the Last Post rang out across Ocean Grove Park, the sound of children playing in the nearby playground served as a poignant reminder of the peace and freedom so many fought to protect.

This year marks 59 years since the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966, a defining moment in Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. We remember those who served, those who were wounded, and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Thank you to all RSL branches and volunteers who helped organise Veterans Day services and continue to support our local veterans and their families.

Power Saving Bonus Program Now Open

The Power Saving Bonus program opened on 25 August 2025, offering a \$100 payment to eligible Victorian concession card holders. This initiative aims to ease cost-of-living pressures and encourage Victorians to compare energy offers and save on household bills.

To be eligible for the new \$100 Power Saving Bonus, Victorian households must:

- Have a recent residential electricity bill
- Hold one of the following concession cards:
 - o Health Care Card
 - o Pensioner Concession Card
 - o Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card
 - o Veterans' Affairs Gold Card

Applications are open now and will remain open until the end of the year. Please note that only one payment is available per household.

Applications can be submitted online through the Victorian Energy Compare website – compare.energy.vic.gov.au

If you need assistance with your application, visit my office or a local neighbourhood house with your latest electricity bill.

Keeping Our Community Safe

Since being elected nearly three years ago, community safety has been a top priority for me. While the Bellarine is a safe and supportive community, we are not immune to challenges like theft, scams, road safety issues, and domestic violence.



I regularly meet with local police and chair bSafe, a community group that provides a direct line from Bellarine organisations and community groups to law enforcement. Through partnerships with bSafe and Neighbourhood Watch, we focus on prevention and education, including:

- SCAM WATCH awareness sessions
- Licence plate anti-theft screw days
- School programs on online safety & road rules
- "Coffee with a Cop" community sessions

Keep informed with community updates by following the Bellarine Police Newsletter, a great resource on how we can all play a part in building a safe neighbourhood. You can find the latest newsletter, and all previous editions, on my website www.alisonmarchantmp.com.au

The Bellarine Police Newsletter shares important tips on how to keep our community safe including:

- Report suspicious activity to the non-urgent Police Assistance Line - 131 444
- Lock your cars and secure your home
- Join Neighbourhood Watch
- Sign up for the Bellarine Community Support Register
- Keep looking out for one another

