

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

February 2025 Edition: In this issue, E-Scooters, IRIS, Kindergarten Cops & more.



All services rolled out to a low speed collision this month in Ocean Grove. The two vehicles involved were extensively damaged. Police Forward Commander Sergeant Shane CONNOLLY said “an out of control vehicle reversed out of a drive way into a parked vehicle causing their vehicle to end up on top of the parked vehicle. No injuries but the driver was taken to hospital for observations.” Luckily given the time of night there were no pedestrians or other vulnerable road users about. Members of the public need to be aware of their surroundings and situation when manoeuvring their vehicle especially around their home or when parking at shopping centres and town centres. There were 23 manoeuvring collisions requiring hospitalisation recorded in the City of Greater Geelong in the preceding 12 months by the TAC. Of the 23 people hospitalised due to manoeuvring collisions 13 of them were cyclists or pedestrians that were struck by manoeuvring vehicles.





Over the last couple of weeks, the Bellarine has experienced a number of weather events that have caused our emergency services to be very busy. I'd like to acknowledge and say a big thank you to members of The Bellarine SES Unit who were out throughout multiple nights in the storms removing trees and helping with property damage. They are dedicated volunteers who give up their time to assist our community at all hours of the day, and we are incredibly lucky and thankful to have them.

Over this busy time, Powercor also deployed extra crews to the Geelong region to assist the community. It is vital that in the event of a fallen powerline, to stay away and immediately report to Powercor by calling 13 24 12.

I'd like to also thank the CFA, Victorian Police, both on the water and the roads, Marine Search and Rescue Units and all of our incredible community members involved in our local support services over this time. We have had a very busy start to 2025 with not only the recent storms, but also hot weather that has resulted in our beaches crowding with both locals and visitors. The support of our Surf Life Saving Clubs and emergency services has been vital over this time to ensure that everyone on the Bellarine has been able to enjoy our beautiful beaches safely.

During times like these, when there are significant weather events occurring, it is important to stay up-to-date with any emergency advice, including evacuation alerts. If you haven't already, download the VicEmergency App. It can provide you with live updates and emergency warnings, helping you to prepare for and respond to emergencies across Victoria. You can find out more about the VicEmergency app at www.emergency.vic.gov.au.

If you require assistance with any further assistance or support with a State Government matter, please contact my office on 5250 1987 or via email alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au



Constable LOEFFLER and Senior Constable RAE (right) on patrol in Queenscliff. Constable LOEFFLER uses the latest mobile computer technology supplied to police, the IRIS device. IRIS allows police to conduct checks, investigate crimes, gather evidence, enter reports and scan drivers' licences amongst other things. Constable LOEFFLER joined the Bellarine Police Station for a week of patrol duties as part of her course work at the Victorian Police Academy. Constable LOEFFLER is due to graduate in the coming months and will be joining us at Bellarine Police Station mid-year.

Neighbourhood disputes

Key tips

- Get the right information.
- Go to the right place for help.
- Seek legal advice.

Dispute resolution checklist

Communicate calmly

If it is safe to do so, try speaking to your neighbour. They may not be aware it is a problem.

- Stick to the key issue.
- Consider the other person's point of view.
- Consider whether you need to apologise or acknowledge past disagreements.
- Make sure you are talking to the person who can make a decision.
- Consider whether a letter would be clearer and less emotional.
- If you speak a different language to your neighbour, ask a friend or family member to help translate.

Get the right information

Contact your local council: www.viccouncils.asn.au/find-your-council.

- For noise complaints.
- For dumped rubbish, illegal or abandoned cars.
 - Snap, Send and Solve' application is an efficient way to report these issues to your local council.
- For issues with your neighbour's pet.
- Councils can address long-term issues such as

machine or animal noise.

Contact Victoria Police

- Victoria Police can investigate criminal matters, including personal safety intervention order breaches.
- Police may attend a noise complaint if it is happening regularly or if the noise suggests another crime is being committed.

Contact the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria

- The Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria provides free dispute resolution services, so people can avoid going to court.
- The Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria can assist with:
 - residential tenancy disputes
 - neighbour disputes involving trees and fencing
 - disputes between members of a club
 - workplace disagreements
 - noise issues.

Contact the Magistrate's Court of Victoria

- To apply for a personal safety intervention order call 9087 6111 to book an appointment.
- If your application is approved, a Magistrate will hear your case.
- More information about the process is available: mcv.vic.gov.au/intervention-orders/personal-safety-intervention-orders/applying-intervention-order-psio.
- For non-urgent questions contact the court via email: customerassistance@courts.vic.gov.au

What to do if you feel unsafe: If you experience threatening behaviour from your neighbour, do not confront them. If you are hurt by your neighbour or are concerned for your safety.

Report it: for emergencies, to report a crime in progress or for immediate police attendance, call Triple Zero (000)

For non-emergencies, call the Police Assistance Line on 131444 or report online at www.police.vic.gov.au/police-assistance-line-and-online-reporting

The great weather combined with the distances required to traverse the Bellarine have led to an increase of the usage of E-Scooters and E-Bikes over the last couple of months. The majority of users are courteous and safely navigating our streets. Unfortunately the minority of riders that flout the laws receive the overwhelming amount of attention in our community. With the end of the holiday season it is hoped that we will see a decrease in instances requiring police attention. For local riders the above summary is for the information and education of riders and especially the parents of young riders. In the coming months Bellarine and Portarlington Police will be looking at ramping up their response to the illegal use of E-transport on the Bellarine Peninsula. The initial education phase of this response will lead into an enforcement phase over the coming months. The illegal use and modification of E-Scooters and E-bikes have been responsible for many serious injury collisions involving riders, pedestrians and drivers over the last three years. It is worth remembering that under Victorian road law E-Scooters are not considered to be a motor vehicle so **TAC coverage does not apply**. Just like cyclists, E-Scooter riders are responsible for costs caused by collisions.

PENALTIES APPLY FOR E-Scooters & Bicycles YOUR ACTION, YOUR DECISION

Ride a non-compliant e-scooter (i.e. one capable of travelling faster than 25km/h, which is considered an unregistered motor vehicle) \$988.

Failing to wear a helmet on an e-scooter \$395.

Ride an e-scooter if under 16 years of age \$296.

Carry another person or animal on a e-scooter \$247.

Ride an e-scooter on a road with a speed-limit greater than 60 km/h \$198.

Exceed speed limit on an e-scooter (20 km/h max) \$346.

Ride an e-scooter while consuming alcohol \$395.

Ride an e-scooter alongside another rider (riding 2 abreast) \$247.

Use a handheld mobile phone whilst riding \$593.

Fail to obey traffic lights \$494.

Riding as a passenger \$247.



Leading Senior Constables HOARE and TATLOCK from our Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit were on hand to assist the children from Woodlands Kindergarten on their visit to the Bellarine Police Station. Both members regaled the children with their stories of policing leaving the children in awe and in no doubt that crime does not pay on the Bellarine. The sirens proved a bit much for some of the children but they know to tell their parents to move to the left when driving and an emergency vehicle is approaching from the rear. If your community group is interested in a tour of one of our police stations feel free to reach out to the unit.





Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au

BIKES and E SCOOTERS

Bikes and E Scooters are often easy targets over the summer holiday period, particularly in our beachside towns.

Whether at home, at the shops, in the caravan park or at holiday homes, remember to secure your bikes and e scooters to prevent their theft.

- Use a good quality D or U lock
- Lock it to a fixed, immovable object that can't be broken or moved
- Lock the frame and wheels to the parking infrastructure with one or more locks, especially if your wheels have quick release mechanisms.
- Whenever possible, keep your bike inside your home or in a locked shed or garage,
- Engrave the letter "V" and your drivers' licence number (or another unique identifier) on the frame, apply data dots or attach GPS trackers.
- Take photos of your bike, including identifying features, marks and accessories
- Register your bike on BikeVAULT – a free service, supported by Neighbourhood Watch Victoria. You can record your bike's make, model, colour and serial number and even upload photos of it. Always lock your bike, even if it's parked in your garage, your carport, on your balcony or if you're only leaving it unattended for a short period



BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER INC.

Feel safe. Feel secure. Have peace of mind.

Our Register is currently updating all Registrant information. Calls are being made to Registrants by our Office staff throughout January and February to ensure the information we have on our data base is accurate. From time to time, a Registrant may have forgotten to inform us of a change in their circumstances such as a cancelled landline or their next of kin may have moved or their contact information changes. They may wish to add a friend or neighbour as a more appropriate contact in emergency. It is vital that this information is updated to ensure our data base is accurate so that Police have current information should they need to access it in the event of an emergency.

Page 9



**WHEN YOU
NEED US,
BUT NOT
THE SIRENS**

 **POLICE**
VIC.GOV.AU

131 444


VICTORIA POLICE


VICTORIA
State
Government



On Tuesday the 4th of February Senior Constable KUCHENMEISTER from the WD1 Proactive Policing Unit attended at St Ignatius College with Sergeant Shane CONNELLY and Leading Senior Constable Mick TATLOCK from the Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit. Senior Constable KUCHENMEISTER gave a presentation to around 300 Year 8 students on bullying and online bullying. The presentation covered various topics including:

What is bullying.

What to do if you are bullied.

How and where to report bullying.

The support services available to students, school staff and parents.

How to support a friend who is being bullied.

We received great feedback from the staff and students present. If you would like the unit to assist your school or community organisation with a presentation on bullying, scams, target hardening and the like contact us at :

BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au



VICTORIA POLICE



Are you LGBTIQA+?

We have LGBTIQA+ Liaison Officers
(LLOs) that can assist you.

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Find your local LLO and LGBTIQA+ Community
Safety Information, visit [police.vic.gov.au/
LGBTIQA-community-safety](https://police.vic.gov.au/lgbtqia-community-safety) or scan the QR code.





Senior Constables' TATLOCK and HOARE show the Woodlands Kindergarten children the lights and sirens whilst on their tour of the Bellarine Police Station.

Page 12

Have something you would like to say?

Have an article to contribute to our newsletter to be distributed to our community groups?

Have a community event you would like to add?

Anything else? Email us at:

BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer: This newsletter is produced and published by the Bellarine Police Station. All content has been authorised for publication by the Officer in Charge, Bellarine Police Station. The intent of this publication is for enhancement of police community connection and not for commercial nor political messages. If you have any feedback, please email

BELLARINE-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au

