

November 2025

Community Update

Community Safety

It was great to chair the recent Bellarine Community Safety (bSafe) meeting, 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

At the recent meeting, we discussed local police operational services. It is important to highlight that all operational decisions, including where police officers are stationed, or when and where police stations are open are made independently by the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police.

In the Bellarine, it is important to note that the Water Police are now permanently based in Queenscliff, and the Drysdale Station is currently not operational. Across the Bellarine, police officers remain on patrol around the clock, and vans and highway patrols are actively present throughout the peninsula. Last year, both the Bellarine (Ocean Grove) and Portarlington Stations received additional police members, and further officers will be deployed for the summer period.

In addition, Victorian Police Chief Commissioner Mike Bush has recently announced state-wide organisational restructure aimed at putting more police officers back on the streets and into frontline roles, and I welcome this shift toward more visible community policing.

I will continue to advocate for, and support, our local police, while our government strengthens the laws they rely on. Last year, we introduced tougher penalties for serious repeat offenders, and these reforms are already having an impact, but we know there is more to do.

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
- Secure bikes and scooters
- Join Neighbourhood Watch
- Sign up for the Bellarine Community Support Register



With the summer season upon us, please remember to stay safe around our waterways and drive carefully on our roads. Our region welcomes many visitors eager to enjoy our beautiful coastlines and local businesses, and together we can help ensure everyone gets home safely.

Fire Safety

As the weather is warming up, it is important to know how to plan for and respond to fire.

If you don't have a fire plan visit www.fireplanner.vic.gov.au to create a plan in less than 10 minutes to be ready in case of an emergency.

To keep up to date with incidents and warnings please download the VicEmergency app. The VicEmergency app is the best place for advice, as it is constantly updated and provides advice around the actions you must take under different scenarios. This is better than relying on Facebook community posts, where the intentions are good meaning, but they may not have all the information you need.

