

# Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us



## BELLARINE POLICE

March 2025 Edition: In this issue: policing forum, roadworks begin, duck season.

### MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

This month, the State Government has announced new laws around bail for community safety.

These new laws include prioritising community safety in bail decisions, creating the toughest bail laws ever for serious offences, including a new bail test that is extremely hard to pass targeting repeat offenders of the worst crimes, and ensuring respect for the rules with new bail offences, including a second-strike rule for offenders. In addition, to reduce knife crime, machetes will become prohibited weapons, with exemptions to be available for legitimate use.

Since I was elected two years ago, community safety has been a top priority. 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 Bellarine police and chair Bsafe, our Bellarine Community Safety Group that provides a direct link between the community and law enforcement. Through this partnership, crime trends and local concerns are discussed and prevention and education initiatives, such as SCAM WATCH awareness sessions, licence plate anti-theft screw days, and school education sessions on cyber and road safety are promoted.

Police presence in our area has also been strengthened, with additional officers assigned to the Bellarine and Portarlington police stations and the Water Police now permanently stationed at Queenscliffe Harbour.

I thank the local police for their commitment to Bsafe and our community.

If you ever need assistance, my office is here to support you. You can contact my office on 5250 1987 or via email [alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au)



# Victoria Police

## Geelong PSA Neighbourhood Policing Forum



VICTORIA POLICE

The Victoria Police Neighbourhood Policing Forum welcomes local services and community members to talk with police about what issues are important in your community.

The forum will explore topics including:

- Current crime trends and crime prevention
- Family violence
- Young people
- Road policing
- Drugs and drug related crime.

The Neighbourhood Policing Forum will be run by a Victoria Police panel and questions will be taken from the audience throughout the event.

Registration is a must.

To attend, please register by sending your details to:

[GEELONG-PSA-LAC@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:GEELONG-PSA-LAC@police.vic.gov.au)

(Ctrl + Click to follow link)  
or scan the QR code.

To submit a question prior to the forum:

[GEELONG NHP questions](#)

(Ctrl + Click to follow link)  
or scan the QR code.

### Event details

**Date:**  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

**Time:**  
5:30pm – 8:30pm  
(Doors open 5:15pm)

**Location:**  
Geelong West Town Hall,  
Albert St (Cnr Pakington St),  
Geelong West VIC 3218



Scan here to  
register your  
attendance

## Got a question for police?

Scan the QR code to submit  
prior to the forum



POLICING • PEOPLE • PARTNERSHIPS



**Sergeant CONNOLLY** and **Leading Senior Constable HOARE** from the Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit presented to the Ocean Grove PROBUS at the Ocean Grove Cricket Club rooms at the Shell Road Pavilion. Sgt CONNOLLY spoke about internet phishing and online shopping scams. Topics covered how to look after yourself when using a computer or mobile phone to do your shopping. How to report to the government or police if you suspect you have been scammed. Around 70 people were on hand to hear the talk.





If you would like to have the Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit give a presentation at your school, sports club, association or workplace please contact us at

[BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au)

We can present on community safety, target hardening, bullying, scams, theft prevention and many other topics. Email us now to see how we can help you and the Bellarine community.

## Barwon Heads Airport Roundabout, Connewarre

Works to upgrade the intersection of **Barwon Heads Road, Blackrock Road and Staceys Road in Connewarre**, will start in March 2025. The intersection is one of the worst intersections on the Bellarine for high harm collisions involving vehicles and bicycles. The works include the construction of the new raised roundabout to replace the existing crossroad intersection, installation of new line marking, signage and street lighting to improve visibility at the intersection. Relocation of school bus stops, providing improved parking options, and implementation of a reduced speed limit of 80km/h at the intersection. Crews will be on site from Monday to Friday, between 7am and 6pm, with the possibility of some weekend works. The project is expected to take up to nine months to complete. Traffic management will include lane closures and reduced speed limits to protect the safety of crews and road users. There may be side road closures, with signed detours where required. Road users are encouraged to plan their journey to minimise disruptions. Given the exposed nature of the work site we urge caution when driving through the site and ask that everyone keeps to the allocated speed limit. Police will be patrolling and enforcing speed limits to ensure the safety of road users and everyone involved in the project.



The logo for Bellarine Community Support Register Inc. features a dark blue rectangular background with the organization's name in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. To the left of the text is a graphic consisting of several overlapping squares in shades of blue and grey, creating a grid-like pattern.

# **BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER INC.**

**Feel safe. Feel secure. Have peace of mind.**

## **Bellarine Community Support Register – Item for Bellarine Neighbourhood News March/April**

### **A BUSY START TO 2025**

The beginning of 2025 has been a busy time for us at the Bellarine Community Support Register.

To assist with funding our Register, our **EXCEPTIONAL** volunteers have supported some fund raising initiatives in the community throughout January.

The first of these and over a six week period, was to assist with the **MOBILE CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME** site at Bellarine Bayside Caravan Park at Portarlinton. Each Tuesday and Thursday over a four hour period, our volunteers joined in manning the station, greeting and assisting customers, scanning barcodes and packing the cans and bottles.

Twenty four volunteers and family members assisted with this project that has provided us with funds to further our operations.

Our Co-ordinator, Debbie, presented Bellarine Bayside Caravan Park and Tomra with acknowledgement certificates of their support of us.

And on February 1 and 2, five volunteers were part of a team of 321 volunteers who covered 815 positions across the 5 event days – making the **CADEL EVANS GREAT OCEAN ROAD RACE 2025** a huge success.

Being a traffic marshal got our volunteers up close and personal with the riders.

And .... in March we will be assisting with roles in the lead up to and on the day of the IRONMAN 70.3 GEELONG to be held on 23 March.

## **Barwon Community Legal Service**

### **Free Legal Support for Renters**

Facing issues with your rental? Did you know that we provide free legal help for renters living in the Barwon region?

If you are experiencing rental stress or are having problems with your tenancy, please contact our Rental Stress Lawyer on 1300 430 599 or visiting our website and requesting an appointment:

<https://www.barwoncommunitylegal.org.au/contact-us/request-an-appointment/>





## **The Police Assistance Line**

You can call the Police Assistance 131 444 to report some non-urgent crime and events anytime, anywhere.

Examples of non-urgent crimes and events include:

- burglary including at a commercial property or a home with no occupant present
- general theft (including theft of a motor vehicle)
- property damage
- lost property
- general enquiries.

Save 131 444 to your phone contacts to report non-urgent crimes in the future.

All calls to the Police Assistance Line are recorded and retained by Victoria Police. This is for training and policing purposes.

## **When not to use the Police Assistance Line**

The Police Assistance Line cannot assist you with urgent matters or emergencies, including:

- family violence
- assault
- shop theft or petrol drive-offs
- a crime that is happening now
- if you see something or someone suspicious

In these incidents where there is an emergency, contact [Triple Zero \(000\)](#).

**Never be embarrassed to ring 000**

## **Duck Season 2025:**

The Victorian Government announced the following arrangements for the 2025 duck hunting season:

Season open – 8.00am on 19 March 2025

Season closes – 30 minutes after sunset on Monday, 9 June 2025

Daily bag limit of nine (9) game ducks per day for the 2025 season.

The hunting start time is 8:00am until 30 minutes after sunset for the first five days (19-23 March, inclusive), then from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset for the remainder of the season.

Seven game duck species are permitted to be hunted during the 2025 season. Species permitted are Pacific Black Duck, Mountain Duck, Chestnut Teal, Grey Teal, Pink-eared Duck, Wood Duck and Hardhead.

**Hunting the Blue-winged Shoveler is prohibited.**

Bellarine Police will be actively patrolling the State Game Reserve at Lake Connewarre for the duration of the duck season checking licences, use of lead shot, bag limits and the like in support of Game Management Authority and their authorised officers.





## **Our Lady Star of the Sea Visit**

Sergeant CONNOLLY and Leading Senior Constable TATLOCK from the Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit visited the grade 3 cohort at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Ocean Grove. They delivered a talk to the group on the difference on the law and the polices role in upholding the law. After the talk the children were given a tour of the police mini brawler. Feedback from the children and teachers was very positive. The Bellarine Neighbourhood Unit is available to present to school children from Prep to Year 12 on a variety of subjects. Please reach out to us if you would like to discuss our attendance at your school or junior sporting club.



Does your school, sporting group, community group or business group want a police presentation?

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](mailto: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](mailto:BELLARINE-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au)

