

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

June 2025 Edition. In this issue: Introducing our new OIC.

MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

Bellarine Community Safety Group – Quarterly Update

Last month, we held our quarterly meeting of the Bellarine Community Safety Group (bSafe). The session focused on key local issues and how we can strengthen community communication—particularly through this newsletter.

A prominent topic was the growing popularity of e-scooters on the Bellarine. We discussed current regulations and want to remind everyone of the following rules to ensure safe and legal use:

- Riders must be at least 16 years old
- Speed is limited to 20km/h
- Helmets are mandatory
- E-scooters must not carry passengers
- They can only be used on shared-use paths or roads with speed limits of 60km/h or less
- **E-scooters are not permitted on footpaths**

For full details, please visit: www.police.vic.gov.au/electric-powered-scooters-e-scooters

Another key discussion point was the recent public transport announcements in the 2025/26 State Government Budget. From 1 January 2026, children and young people under 18 will be eligible for free travel on all public transport across Victoria—fantastic news for families and a big step in reducing travel costs.

This follows a recent commitment to provide free weekend public transport for Victorian Seniors Card holders, while continuing discounted travel during weekdays.

The budget also includes funding for a comprehensive review of the Bellarine Peninsula bus network. As part of this review, community members will have the opportunity to share their views on proposed improvements to routes, timetables, and overall service quality.

I'll keep you informed throughout this process and make sure everyone has a chance to get involved as we work toward a more connected and accessible Bellarine.

As always, if you require assistance with any State Government matter, please contact my office on 5250 1987 or via email alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au



New Officer in Charge for Bellarine Police Station



I'm pleased to introduce myself as your new Officer in Charge at Bellarine Police Station. It's an honour to take up this role, and I look forward to working closely with the community to ensure community safety is front of mind.

For the past four years, I've been based at D24, Victoria Police's state communications centre, where I gained valuable experience coordinating police responses across the state. Prior to that, I proudly served as the Officer in Charge at Portarlington Police Station.

My policing journey in the region began in 2009, and I've been fortunate to work across several roles throughout the greater Geelong area. This community is one I know well and care deeply about. I'm passionate about proactive policing, building strong community relationships, and supporting my team to deliver the best possible service to the public.

I'm looking forward to getting out and about, meeting more of you, and continuing the great work already underway.

E-scooter Road Rules

Tougher penalties as e-scooters are made permanent.

e-scooter riders cannot

- Ride on the footpath
- Use a mobile phone while riding
- Ride while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Carry passengers or animals or ride in tandem
- Ride a high-speed e-scooter, one capable of more than 25 km/h
- Ride on roads that have a speed limit over 60 km/h

e-scooter riders must

- Be aged 16 years and over
- Not exceed the maximum speed of 20 km/h
- Ride only on shared paths and roads that have a speed limit up to 60 km/h
- Wear a helmet at all times
- Follow traffic rules
- Use lights and reflectors



Scan the QR code to learn more

For more information (including community language translations) transport.vic.gov.au/Road-rules-and-safety/E-scooter-road-rules



Department of Transport and Planning

Machete ban

A machete is a broad-bladed cutting knife. Examples include but are not limited to the images below.



From September the 1st Victorians cannot own, use or sell a machete. Keep an eye on our newsletter for the upcoming machete amnesty. In the meantime if you wish to surrender a machete you can attend either the Portarlinton or Bellarine Police Stations prior to the amnesty. The procedure is as follows: attend in person at the police station during open hours. Leave your machete in your car. Inform the police member that you have a machete to surrender before returning to your car to bring it in for surrender. For further information on the upcoming full ban on machetes' and amnesty visit www.vic.gov.au/machete-ban

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



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



POLICE
.VIC.GOV.AU
131 444



VICTORIA POLICE



The Police Assistance Line 131 444

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



**How safe is
my vehicle?**

Neighbourhood Watch Report

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH LAUNCHES NEW VEHICLE SECURITY QUIZ TO COMBAT RISING THEFT

In response to growing concerns about vehicle theft and items being stolen from vehicles across Victoria, Neighbourhood Watch, supported by RACV, has launched: *How safe is my vehicle?*, an online quiz designed to help Victorians protect their cars and belongings from theft.

The release of the new quiz is timely given new data released on 20 March, 2025, from the [Victorian Crime Statistics Agency](#) has revealed theft of motor vehicles has increased by almost 8,432 in the last 12 months, up 41.5 per cent. Theft from a motor vehicle also increased by almost 19,000 in the last 12 months, up 33.32 per cent. Both figures represent a ten year high.

The free ***How safe is my vehicle quiz*** provides practical advice, security recommendations, and step-by-step guidance for vehicle owners to protect their vehicle, including caravans.

Neighbourhood Watch CEO Bambi Gordon said every Victorian should feel confident about their vehicle's security.

"The *How safe is my vehicle* quiz puts practical prevention tools directly into the hands of vehicle owners, empowering them to take proactive steps to protect their vehicle," Ms Gordon said.

"This initiative comes at a crucial time as vehicle-related crime continues to impact Victorian communities."

The report generated from the quiz, includes:

- Information about the latest anti-theft technologies
- Best practices for secure parking
- Practical tips to prevent theft from vehicles.

"We've created a valuable resource that addresses a pressing community need aimed at making Victorian communities safer," Ms Gordon said.

The initiative is supported by local Neighbourhood Watch volunteer groups who will help raise awareness and provide hands-on guidance to community members.

Top 10 Local Government Areas experiencing vehicle-related crime

Theft of a motor vehicle	Theft from a motor vehicle	Numberplate theft
1. Melbourne (1633)	1. Melbourne (4373)	1. Casey (2063)
2. Casey (1537)	2. Casey (3826)	2. Hume (1699)
3. Hume (1413)	3. Wyndham (3622)	3. Greater Dandenong (1494)
4. Wyndham (1398)	4. Hume (3070)	4. Wyndham (1316)
5. Greater Dandenong (1184)	5. Darebin (2983)	5. Brimbank (1271)
6. Darebin (1035)	6. Greater Dandenong (2905)	6. Monash (1064)
7. Monash (1008)	7. Monash (2720)	7. Darebin (1018)
8. Brimbank (922)	8. Port Phillip (2685)	8. Whittlesea (998)
9. Port Phillip (885)	9. Brimbank (2600)	9. Merri-bek (969)
10. Geelong (854)	10. Geelong (2522)	10. Frankston (857)

This tool is the latest in a series of free resources from Neighbourhood Watch, supported by RACV, including *How safe is my place*, *How safe is my farm*, *How safe is my apartment* and *How safe is my school*.

Victorian vehicle owners are encouraged to secure your vehicle and prevent crime by completing the quiz at howsafeismyplace.com.au/vehicle/.



FROM BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2025

From our Chairperson, Jenny –

Welcome to National Volunteer Week - a great time to acknowledge the great work of those who volunteer their time, money, expertise and advice at Bellarine Community Support Register but also for other groups and clubs in the same capacity.

Having only been with the organisation a short time, I am only now becoming aware of the actual number of volunteer hours that contribute to sustaining this great Bellarine service. However, I am estimating that it is in excess of 4,000 hours per year that can be quantified and many more that cannot.

A truly amazing group of volunteers. Thank you all.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2025

During National Volunteer Week this year we celebrated the power of volunteering to bring people together with the theme “Connecting Communities.” At the Bellarine Community Support Register (BCSR) we use simple communication to connect our Volunteers to registrants across the Bellarine Peninsula.

We call our Registrants to check on their wellbeing. In April 2025 we made 211 care calls, Monday to Friday. Our dedicated Care Callers get great joy connecting with our community; they enjoy every conversation and every bit of news that is shared with them.

We have 40 volunteers doing many amazing jobs. There is a promotions and fundraising team talking to various community groups and encouraging people to register with us.

Experienced Data Operators input registrants’ details for use by the police in emergencies. Our service is overseen by a volunteer committee of management and we celebrated our wonderful volunteers with a Thank You afternoon tea during National Volunteer Week.

PERSONAL INFORMATION UPDATES

Our Volunteers continue to work through the task of updating your personal information. Thank you for taking the time to ensure that our database is as up-to-date as possible for police in case of a personal emergency.

DONATIONS

Thank you to those who have generously donated funds to help keep our service going. We do rely on them to help support our work and we are grateful for any contribution that you feel you can make.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SUPPORTERS

BCSR wishes to acknowledge Bunnings Leopold for their ongoing support to our organisation. Each

year we attend community events for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter and Christmas.

Container Deposit Scheme donors include: The Groove Cafe, Ocean Grove; the Potato Shed, Drysdale; the Ocean Grove Men's Shed and the Drysdale Retirement Village. Woolworths Supermarkets and IGA Point Lonsdale and Barwon Heads have provided gift cards to purchase

Want to find out more about the Bellarine Community Support Register?

Call our Office on 03 5255 3968 between 9.30am and 12 noon weekdays for more information. Or you can email us -bpsupportregister@bigpond.com and find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bcsrinc>





Did you know that the SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre at 17-21 High Street, Drysdale offers a **Justice of the Peace service** every Wednesday between 10am and 12pm. Available for all your document signing needs and staffed by local volunteer JP's.





Sergeant Shane CONNOLLY of our Neighbourhood Policing Unit attended the Christian College Expo at the Waurn Ponds Campus earlier this month. Shane spoke with upcoming school leavers about the various career paths available within Victoria Police. Shane regaled them with tales of his exploits as both a simple country policeman and high-flying big city detective. Victoria Police Recruiting Branch stated their phones were ringing off the hook after Shanes' presentation.

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

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