

March 2023

Community Update

It is with pleasure that I write my first column as the Member for Bellarine.

Since my election, I have been overwhelmed by the messages of support and best wishes received from people right across the Bellarine.

Having being born and bred in Leopold, this feedback has been very humbling, and I thank people for it. At the time of writing, I have just delivered my inaugural speech to the State Parliament. You can watch my speech in full on my Facebook page: Alison Marchant – Member for Bellarine.

As I wrote my speech, I reflected on Lisa Neville's significant contributions and my own journey to the State Parliament.

Lisa's service and success was underpinned by something that I know is integral to my job and it is something that is also imperative to me - that community is at the heart of any decision making. As a community, we care deeply about the environment, and I know many people volunteer their time and energy to community service. The people are what makes the Bellarine a special place to live, work and raise a family.

I recall fondly recall growing up in Leopold when it was a small rural township and, for example, attending the Leopold Primary School. Of course, Leopold and the wider Bellarine Peninsula has changed a lot over time, but it is important that we protect the natural beauty of our unique townships and ensure that it is enhanced and not degraded over time.

Which is why I am pleased that the State Government's Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Area and Landscape is a 50-year policy that will protect our community from over and inappropriate development. To the Leopold community - thank you for the privilege of representing you. I make my commitment to work hard every day to deliver the representation that you deserve.

I know the importance of being an accessible local Member of Parliament. 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

