

August 2023

Community Update

Bellarine Community Safety Group

Recently I chaired the Bellarine Community Safety Group meeting, the second meeting for the year. The group, first established in 2014 by my predecessor Hon Lisa Neville, brings together community representatives and the Bellarine Police in order to work together to tackle local safety concerns.

I am committed to continuing the groups works to ensure that I hear the concerns of local residents and provide information or resolutions to assist with any safety issues. Importantly the group also has a direct line to local police who attend the meetings.

This recent meeting came with positive news that overall crime has decreased in the Bellarine. Car break-ins have decreased, as more people have begun to consistently lock their doors, but it's important to stress, that people need to continue this habit of locking up to deter opportunistic theft.

Unfortunately, it has been very disappointing to see more graffiti in the Leopold area. I have raised this issue of graffiti with local police and they have recently conducted several investigations, including an arrest for graffiti crime in Ocean Grove. But please, if you see suspicious behaviour including graffiti on private property, please call and report to the Police Assistance line - 131 444. You should also report graffiti that's on public property to local council's Graffiti Hotline on [03 5272 4319](tel:0352724319).

Evidence shows the faster graffiti is reported, the quicker it can be removed and acts as a more effective deterrent to vandals.

I take this opportunity to thank the community for their vigilance, and keep in mind that all information, no matter how small, may be the missing piece that police need to prevent a crime.

The Bellarine Community Safety Group will work to strengthen their communications with the Leopold community, but if there is anything you would like to raise with me, please contact my office.

Power Saving Bonus

Since the fourth round of the State Government Power Saving Bonus opened in March, an estimated 21,233 people in the Bellarine have received the \$250 rebate.

This program was introduced to ensure Victorian households have access to more immediate power bill relief and are checking they are on the best energy deal, especially during the winter season.

I strongly encourage households to participate in this round of the Power Saving Bonus before it closes on August 31st, even if you participated in an earlier round.

You can find out more at compare.energy.vic.gov.au or by calling 1800 000 832 or visit my office for assistance.

