

# Bellarine Neighbourhood

January, 2025

Providing support for our community that supports us



## BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: The Final Word with Alison Marchant, Harley's on Patrol and Lock your cars.



All emergency services were called to a single vehicle collision in the Geelong bound lanes on Portarlinton Road, Leopold on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January. The lone male occupant of the vehicle lost control as he reached for an item in the passenger side footwell. The vehicle mounted the collision barrier travelling 40 metres on two wheels along the wires before flipping and coming to rest. The “lucky: driver was able walk free from the vehicle and call 000 for assistance. FSV were in attendance to ensure the safe disconnection of the batteries of the EV driven by the male. Whilst thankfully no one was injured in the collision Bellarine police were quick to remind everyone of the dangers of driving whilst distracted.

## **REGISTRANT INFORMATION UPDATE**

Our Register is currently updating all Registrant information. Calls are being made to Registrants by our Office staff throughout January and February to ensure the information we have on our data base is accurate. From time to time, a Registrant may have forgotten to inform us of a change in their circumstances such as a cancelled landline or their next of kin may have moved or their contact information changes. They may wish to add a friend or neighbour as a more appropriate contact in emergency.

It is vital that this information is updated to ensure our data base is accurate so that Police have current information should they need to access it in the event of an emergency.

Do you know someone who lives on the Bellarine who would benefit from a weekly phone call from one of our Volunteers?

The Bellarine Community Support Register operates from the Bellarine Police Station in Ocean Grove.

A weekly check-in call from a Volunteer can significantly enhance the quality of life, emotional health and overall wellbeing of older adults, particularly those living alone.

It can provide a sense of connection, reduce isolation, and even improve physical and mental health outcomes, all while helping family members feel assured that their loved ones are being cared for.

For further information about the Register call the office on (03) 5255 3968 Monday to Friday between 9.30 am and 12 noon.



At the commencement of COVID, Dorothy and her little mate, Harley relocated from Portarlington to North-Western Victoria at the insistence of her son, Michael, and daughter-in-law, Janelle.

Whilst she was pleased to have the company, Dorothy found the Mallee weather severe, farm life stressful, health care limited and she sorely missed her companions from the local Church. (Harley on the other hand was having a hoot of a time, especially post-harvest when the mice were in plague proportions because of the bumper grain crops.)

Four years down the track, Dorothy badly wanted to return to her home. Her health was declining and she was showing signs of depression and anxiety - feeling that she was becoming burdensome to the household.

Michael agreed to his mother's return to the Bellarine but wanted her to move into an aged care facility. Dorothy, however, knew she was not at that stage yet and refused pressure to concede. Finally, Michael and Janelle respected Dorothy's judgement and an Aged Care Package was organized through Bellarine Community Health.

The Community Nurse also arranged for a weekly call to be made to Dorothy from the Bellarine Community Support Register volunteers. Dorothy was able to stay out of institutionalized care, keep her loveable sidekick Harley (who had moved on to chasing possums) as well as reconnect with her former fellow parishioners through The Society of St Vincent de Paul.

Harley on the lookout for water rats



## Locals and holiday makers assist police in Point Lonsdale

Quick thinking locals and visitors assisted police to apprehend a one-man crime spree in Point Lonsdale on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. A 42 year old man of no fixed address allegedly broke into a home and stole a bicycle before proceeding to the caravan park where he committed numerous thefts. Not content with stealing from locals and holiday makers alike the man is also alleged to have lit a grass fire in the Deakin Street park. Seven CFA crews were dispatched to bring the fire under control whilst a second fire was lit near the Point Lonsdale SLSC. The second fire was quickly brought under control. Police were assisted in their search for the offender by a victim who provided police with images of the alleged offender. Sergeant ROBERTS of Bellarine Police was patrolling the area and located the suspect, bringing his crime spree to an end. Sergeant ROBERTS was grateful for the assistance provided by the public in calling 000 in a timely manner and providing descriptions of the suspect that assisted police in tying the offending to him. The suspect was charged with various theft and arson related offenses and remanded in custody to a later date. Any members of the public that witnessed the events and have not been spoken to by police are urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.





**Neighbourhood Watch**  
Let's watch out for each other

Neighbourhood Watch – Bellarine Neighbourhood News

## **VF COMMODORES – THE MOST WANTED CAR IN TOWN**

**VF COMMODORE OWNERS - ACT NOW!**

The increasing thefts of VF Commodores in the Geelong area is a huge concern to the owners of these vehicles.

Take action NOW to protect your pride and joy.

- Fit a steering wheel lock
- Park in a garage, or if not possible, park behind locked gates or in front of another vehicle
- Run a horn bypass to the vehicle
- Fit a brake lock with padlock
- Fit a keypad security system
- Use ignition shields, battery isolators and GPS trackers

For more tips, visit

<https://www.racv.com.au/royalauto/transport/cars/preventing-car-theft.html>

A victim of a VF theft strongly advises not leaving the car unattended at any supermarket, beach or anywhere unless you have fitted further security measures, as these thieves are taking them from absolutely anywhere and in broad daylight.



**BEFORE**



The sad demise of a Holden VF Maloo Ute, once the owner's absolute pride and joy, stolen from the Geelong region in the early hours of 28 December, 2024.

Just four days later, the remains of that car were located on a vacant block in Truganina, as pictured below.

**AFTER**



## LOCK YOUR CARS

Continue to be vigilant and lock your vehicles whenever unattended and take everything of value with you.

Sadly, opportunists are out there checking cars for valuables left in unlocked cars. Ensure it's not your car they find unlocked.

We are all busy juggling work, kids on school holidays, shopping, home and everything else that is life.

And all too often we get a bit careless and leave the laptop in the car ready for tomorrow, or forget to bring the handbag or backpack inside.

Whether you are spending a day at the beach, running in to the supermarket or to pay for fuel – LOCK YOUR CAR!!



AI created image



## POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE



All Victorians are encouraged to contact the Police Assistance Line on [131 444](tel:131444) or visit the Victoria Police Online Reporting service to report non-urgent crimes and events.

The Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting service will take reports or give advice at any time on non-urgent crimes and events anywhere in the state, including:

- property damage
- lost or located property
- theft
- absence from residence registrations
- PartySafe registrations
- other general non-urgent police enquiries

The Online Reporting service is available through the new look Victoria Police website, which improves the way police information and services are found and understood online.

The Police Assistance Line calls are taken by civilian staff at a contact centre in Ballarat, under the supervision of police.

# Police 131 444

Save 000 for emergencies

Version 4  
4 March 2024



VICTORIA POLICE

# Secure your tools

## Key crime prevention tips

- Remove or secure valuable items.
- Lock all doors and close all windows.
- Park in a well-lit and secure area.
- Inventory and mark your tools.

## Theft prevention checklist

### Remove or secure valuable items

- If possible, do not leave any valuables in your vehicles.
- If you must leave valuables in your car, place out of sight in the boot, glove box or toolbox.
- Fix toolboxes to the tray of utes or the floor of vans.
- Lock all toolboxes with a visible lock; visible locks can be a deterrent.
- Install an alarm on toolboxes affixed to ute trays.
- Do not leave documents in your car – your address may be used to locate your home and break into your car or home later. Documents might be used to steal your identity.
- Do not leave house keys or garage door openers in your car – they may be used in home burglaries.

### Lock all doors and close all windows

- Install a car alarm.
- Lock your vehicle when it is unattended, even at work sites.
- Close all windows, including the sunroof.
- Lock external toolboxes and equipment, if they can't be removed.

### Park in a well-lit and secure area

- Park off the street. A locked garage is best or a driveway if you don't have a garage.
- If parked in a driveway, consider the installation of a sensor light and CCTV.
- If you need to park on the street, park in a well-lit area.

### Inventory and mark your tools

- Record serial/model numbers and photograph your tools.
- Mark your property with a unique personal code in the top right-hand corner of the item or near to the manufacturer's serial number. Do NOT use your ATM PIN.

## What to do if your tools have been stolen

- Do not confront the thief. Your safety is more important than your possessions.
- Do not touch anything.
- Call your insurance company.
- Upload stolen property information to [www.propertyvault.com.au](http://www.propertyvault.com.au).

### Report it

- For emergencies, to report a crime in progress, or for immediate police attendance, call Triple Zero (000).
- For non-emergencies, call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or report online at [www.police.vic.gov.au/police-assistance-line-and-online-reporting](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/police-assistance-line-and-online-reporting).

For more information, visit  
[police.vic.gov.au/your-safety](http://police.vic.gov.au/your-safety)





## **The Final Word with Alison Marchant MP:**

As it comes towards the end of summer, it is still a busy time of year here on the Bellarine and I wish to remind you to be safe along our waterways and take extra care on the road. We know many visitors make the trip to our region to experience our beautiful coastlines and local businesses, but we want everyone to get home safe.

### **Services Victoria App:**

Last year, I wrote about the digital driver licences becoming available on the Services Victoria app for all Victorians including L and P platers across Victoria.

Recently, it was announced that a new fuel finder feature will also be coming to the Service Victoria app. This feature will require fuel companies to publicly report their fuel price changes the day before they are in effect – and lock in those prices for 24 hours. This data will then feed directly the fuel finder feature on the app, giving motorists the opportunity to shop around for the best deal when they're ready to fill up.

The Services Victoria app brings together the most popular services and makes them accessible all within the one app.

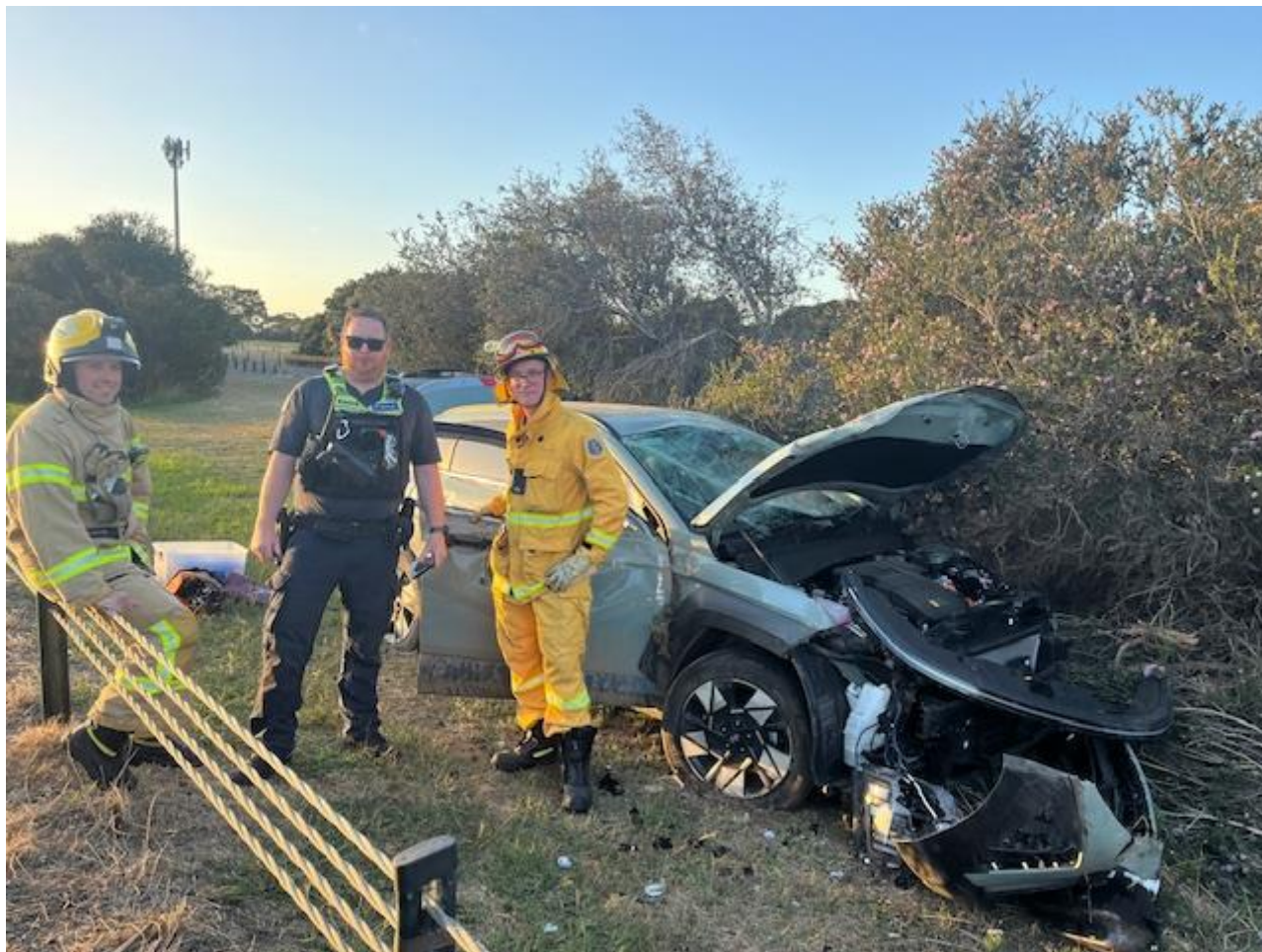
You can renew, check or transfer vehicle or boat registration, apply for a national police check as well as set up digital Veterans cards, Victorian Fishing Licences and Working with Children Check certification all on your phone in the one app.

Other services on the Services Victoria app include:

- Digital Victorian Seniors Cards
- Buy or manage an Ambulance Victoria Membership
- Apply and update a NDIS Worker Screening Check
- Apply to register or renew Victorian Disability Worker Registration
- Report a Worksafe accident or apply for a Worksafe issued licence
- Renew liquor licence
- Find business permits and licences

To access, download the Services Victoria app, or visit [www.service.vic.gov.au](http://www.service.vic.gov.au) to find out more.

**For assistance with any state matter, please contact my office on 03 5250 1987 or via email at [alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au).**



SC DICKSON with members of FSV at the Portarlington Road, Leopold collision site.

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. Am I the only one who noticed the Maloo changed colour.