

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

May 2025 Edition: In this issue: Truth telling children, emergency exercise.

MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

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Recently, I had the valuable opportunity to attend a large-scale, multi-agency emergency response exercise held in Wallington.

This exercise brought together a broad range of local emergency service organisations and support agencies, including VICSES, CFA, Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, St John Ambulance, and several other support agencies.

The event was expertly hosted by the Bellarine Unit of VICSES and served as an important and highly realistic training scenario.

The exercise simulated a major incident involving a truck and a passenger bus, presenting a complex and high-pressure environment in which the various agencies worked collaboratively to manage the emergency. The event required careful coordination and clear communication between all agencies, along with their specialised skills and resources.

It was truly remarkable to witness the collaboration and professionalism demonstrated by all involved. Watching emergency responders from different services come together, share information, and respond as a team demonstrated the importance of building strong working relationships between organisations – relationships that are vital when real emergencies occur.

Of course we hope that nothing like this ever happens, but the learnings from the exercise will benefit all responders.

Thank you to all our emergency workers and volunteers for your dedication, service and the incredibly hard work you do every day to protect our community and save lives.





If you ever need assistance with a state matter my office is here to support you. You can contact my office on 5250 1987 or via email alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au

Neighbourhood Policing Unit Scam Talk



This month Leading Senior Constable HOARE attended at the Pelican Shores Estate in Leopold to deliver a talk to the local residents on avoiding scams. The residents were taken by the presentation and everyone left with the tools required to avoid becoming a victim of online and telephone scams. If you would like to organise a presentation on a variety topics contact the Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit to find out how we can assist you.

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



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

Roundabout Road Works

A reminder to all drivers on the Bellarine to be aware that there are major road works across the Bellarine this winter. Blackrock Road and Barwon Heads Road roundabout is moving ahead. The Thacker Street and Grubb Road roundabout upgrade will commence shortly. As always be mindful to stick to roadwork speed limit as signed.



Meet our Police Chaplain John MINOTTI.

John has been involved in the Bellarine community in numerous capacities over the years. John visits all the police stations within WD1 on a weekly basis to speak with members in a one-on-one confidential capacity. John has attended Bellarine Police Station with a home baked cake or slice made by his lovely wife Gayee each week for the last 25 years! John is always happy to listen to our stories over a cup of coffee, be they about an incident that you attended or trouble at home with a precocious 4 year old. John is available to members out of hours and is regularly called upon to support members involved in critical incidents whenever they occur. John is part of the Victoria Police Chaplain service which has provided support to members statewide since 1974. The chaplaincy is a recognised arm of the welfare services branch with members from multiple faiths. John can often be seen out and about on the Bellarine enjoying a coffee with friends, swinging a golf club or kicking the footy with his grandchildren.

What to do if you or someone you know is experiencing family violence

If you or someone you know or care about is in an unhealthy, abusive or violent relationship, there are some simple things you can do to get help or provide support.

Whatever your situation, it's important to know that help is available. There are a range of support services you can reach out to if you're experiencing violence at home or in a close relationship, or if you suspect that a friend, family member or neighbour may be experiencing family violence.

If you are experiencing violence

Call Triple Zero (000) if you need police or an ambulance immediately.

If English is not your first language, call Triple Zero (000) and tell them your language. They will connect an interpreter.

Reach out to one of the support services listed below.

If you can't report the violence or seek help yourself, tell a friend, family member or neighbour as they can contact police or a support service on your behalf.

If you suspect family violence

It can be hard to tell if someone is experiencing family violence – there may be no obvious signs. Safe Steps provides some signs you can and should look out for.

If you are concerned for the safety of a neighbour, friend or family member, you can reach out to police or one of the support services listed here. It doesn't have to be an emergency.

However, if you become aware that a person is in immediate or urgent danger because of family violence (for example, you overhear loud threats of physical harm made against your neighbour by their partner or parent), you should immediately call Triple Zero (000).

Safe steps www.safesteps.org.au Phone: 1800 015 188 (toll free)

1800 RESPECT www.1800respect.org.au Phone: 1800 737 732 (toll free)

Women's Information and Referral Exchange www.wire.org.au Phone: 1300 134 130 (cost of local call)

Kids Helpline www.kidshelpline.com.au Phone: 1800 551 800 (toll free)

Mensline Australia www.mensline.org.au Phone: 1300 789 978 (cost of local call)

InTouch www.intouch.org.au Phone: 1800 755 988 (toll free)

Djirra www.djirra.org.au Phone: 1800 105 303

Men's Referral Service www.ntv.org.au Phone: 1300 766 491 (cost of local call)

Orange Door www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au

Legal Aid www.legalaid.vic.gov.au Phone: 1300 792 387 (cost of local call)

What happens if I call for help?

If you contact police, they will take steps to ensure that you and your family (or the person you are calling about) are protected and will connect you with support services.

These services are available to help people experiencing violence feel safe and supported and to assist people using violence to change their behaviour.

Making a safety plan

Safety planning is thinking about things you can do to be safer when living with violence or abuse.

The best way to make a safety plan is with the help of a support service. Some of the things you may wish to consider include:

Speak to neighbours you know and trust. Ask them to call police on Triple Zero (000) if they hear violence or abuse.

Have a safe place to go if you need to leave.

Keep a list of important numbers in your wallet or mobile phone that you can call in an emergency, such as local taxis, crisis accommodation and the local police station.



Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other

FROM BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

Do you know anyone 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 and does just that to those who request it.

A weekly check-in call from a Volunteer can significantly enhance the quality of life for couples caring for each other or where one partner is caring for the other.

Joan and David from Indented Head moved from Hawthorn in 2001 when David retired.

‘It was so quiet here then but we don’t regret a minute of it – especially after what happened to David.’

Joan had read about the Bellarine Police Community Support Register in The Port Report when the service commenced in 2006 and signed them up. ‘It was the best thing we ever did.’

Their initial Volunteer Caller was a former Portarlington Police Member and local resident. ‘Barry was a wonderful man. He was never in any hurry to finish a chat. We missed him dreadfully when he died.’

Their new BCSR Caller, Margaret was alerted to unusual activity one morning when David answered the phone instead of Joan. When asked, David said that he did not know where his wife was. The Caller asked David to check all the rooms in the house, the garden and garage. When David finally returned to the phone call, he was quite agitated.

Margaret noted that their First Emergency Contact, Warrick lived next door. Once David agreed, Margaret called Warrick to be informed that Joan was having a day procedure at the Epworth Hospital. Warwick said he would go in and reassure David that Joan was ok and sit with him until Joan returned.

When Margaret informed David of all this, David calmed immediately.

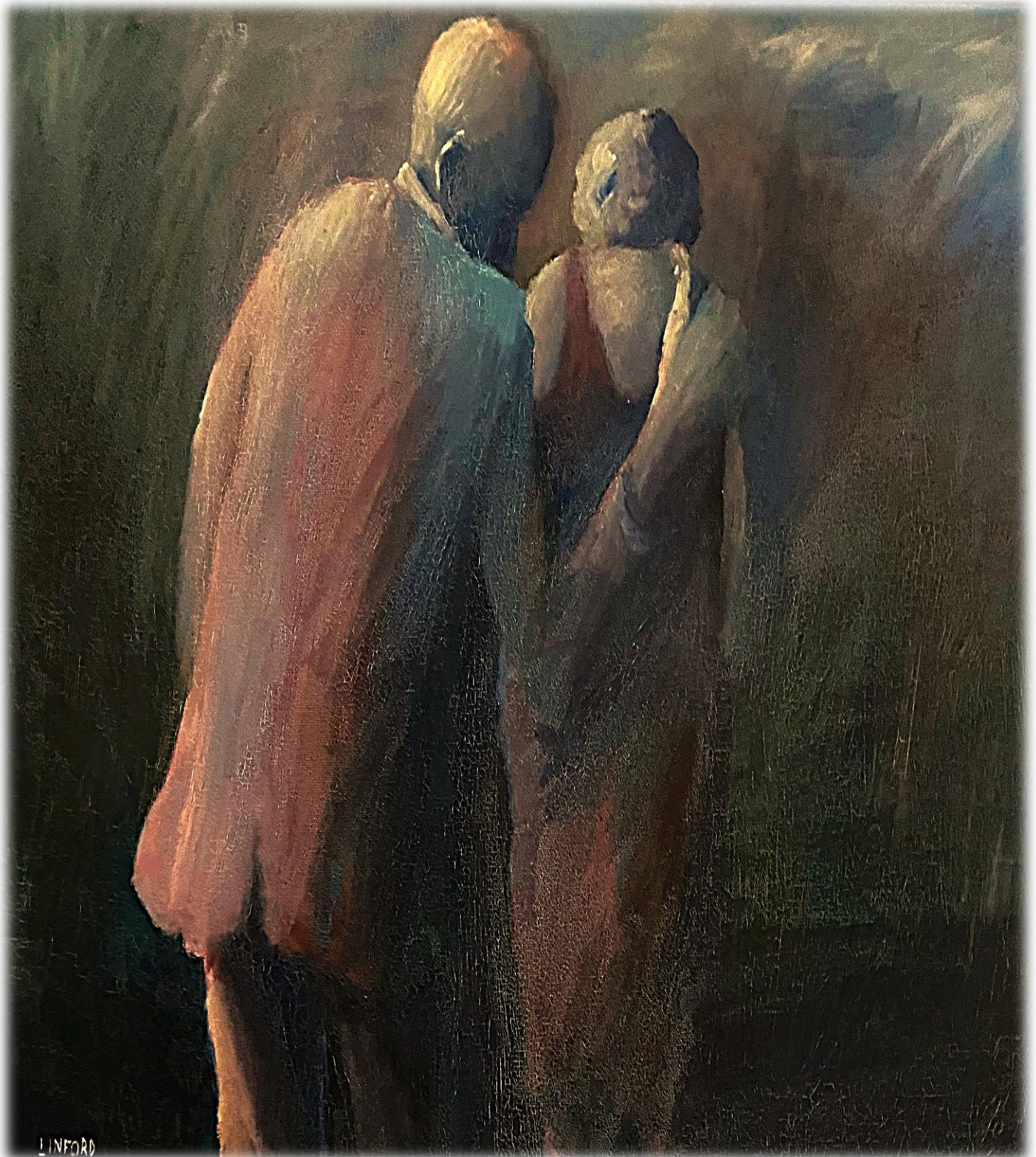
Acting on Margaret’s advice, the neighbour then rang Joan and David’s son, Jarrod to tell him what was happening. Later that day, Jarrod left a message on the BCSR office phone to say how appreciative he and his family was for alerting them to what turned out to be a significant decline in David’s memory.

As a result, they were putting in place some MyAgedCare home visits and respite support through Bellarine Community Health should there need to be future separations between the couple for any other reason.

Joan, in particular, was the most relieved. ‘I can’t thank you enough’ she said when her Monday morning calls resumed. ‘I was beside myself not knowing what to do.’

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](mailto:bpsupportregister@bigpond.com) and find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bcsrinc>





Kindergarten Cop

LSC HOARE and Natalia BOERS (work experience member) attended the Boorai Centre over 3 days this month and presented to 150+ Kindergarten students on the duties of the police. All the students got to go through the police van which they found very exciting. Police heard a number of interesting comments from the students:

“My Mum uses her phone in the car all the time.”

“My dad does not wear his bike helmet.”

Naturally we did not believe any of this to be true. 😊

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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

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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