

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

October 2025 Edition. In this issue: Coffee time and e-scooters.

MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP



It was great to chair the recent Bellarine Community Safety (bSafe) meeting, a community group that provides a direct line from Bellarine organisations and community groups to law enforcement. Through partnerships with bSafe and Neighbourhood Watch, we focus on prevention and education, including:

- SCAM WATCH awareness sessions
- Licence plate anti-theft screw days
- School programs on online safety & road rules

- **"Coffee with a Cop" community sessions**

At the recent meeting, we discussed local police operational services. It is important to highlight that all operational decisions, including where police officers are stationed, or when and where police stations are open are made independently by the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police.

In the Bellarine, it is important to note that the Water Police are now permanently based in Queenscliff, and the Drysdale Station is currently not operational. Across the Bellarine, police officers remain on patrol around the clock, and vans and highway patrols are actively present throughout the peninsula. Last year, both the Bellarine (Ocean Grove) and Portarlington Stations received additional police members, and further officers will be deployed for the summer period.

In addition, Victorian Police Chief Commissioner Mike Bush has recently announced state-wide organisational restructure aimed at putting more police officers back on the streets and into frontline roles, and I welcome this shift toward more visible community policing.

I will continue to advocate for, and support, our local police, while our government strengthens the laws they rely on. Last year, we introduced tougher penalties for serious repeat offenders, and these reforms are already having an impact, but we know there is more to do.

With the summer season upon us, please remember to stay safe around our waterways and drive carefully on our roads. Our region welcomes many visitors eager to enjoy our beautiful coastlines and local businesses, and together we can help ensure everyone gets home safely.

As the weather warms up, it's also important to be prepared for fire. If you don't have a fire plan, visit www.fireplanner.vic.gov.au to create one in less than 10 minutes.

To stay up to date with incidents and warnings, download the VicEmergency app. It provides up-to-date information and clear advice on what actions to take in different situations.

If you need any assistance with any state matters, please contact my office on 0352501987 or via email:alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au

E-Scooter and E-bike update:

Fuzzy marketing by importers and dodgy retailers continue to lead people to believe that their E-Scooters, E-bikes and petrol powered bicycles can be legally ridden on Victorian roads.

The start of October has seen police on the Bellarine step up their enforcement of the rules around E-Scooters and non-compliant bicycles. 5 Caution notices were issued for riding an unregistered motorcycle (petrol powered bicycles) and 3 were seized for destruction (much to the horror of their owners!). 8 tickets were issued for failing to wear a properly fitted and adjusted helmet whilst riding an e-scooter at the cost of \$411 each.

8 warnings were given out for various offences including riding on the footpath, riding on a roadway with a posted speed limit in excess of 60 km/h and carrying a pillion passenger.

2 teenagers were detected travelling on the same e-scooter at night along Thacker Street, Ocean Grove at 74km/h with no lights and no helmets. Another teenager on a converted e-bike stunned police as he blew by them at 66km/h on Shell Road. All riders will be looking for well paying jobs over the school holidays to pay off their fines.



Portarlington Coffee with a Cop



Coffee with a Cop is an ongoing initiative that allows members of the public to approach police in relaxed and familiar surroundings. You can see police at the numerous shopping centres around the Bellarine once or twice a month. The officers are always approachable and take seriously the enquiries, feedback and issues raised to them by members of the public. It is a great opportunity to meet the team at Bellarine and Portarlington Police Stations.



Portarlington Police were out and listening to the community they serve on Tuesday the 22nd of September. Enjoying a coffee and more at the Newcombe Street Café in Portarlington.

Coffee with a Cop

Sit down, have a coffee, ask questions and share what's on your mind.



OIC of Portarlinton Police Station Sergeant Jane ARNOLD and Senior Constable Luke INNES speak to members of the Bellarine community at the Newcombe Street Café



Stronger together. Safer together.
Neighbours are one of the best defences
against crime. Be part of the solution —
connect, share, and stay alert.

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4 Ways Young Families Can Make Your Home And Child Crime Safe

Here are four ways families can make their home both child safe and crime safe, from teaching kids not to open the door to putting keys in smarter spots.

Building these habits early makes safety second nature.

Learn more with our How Safe Is My Place quiz.
www.howsafeismyplace.com.au



Register your cameras

The Safer Places Network is a voluntary, localised community resource that makes it easier for police to respond to crime, without compromising the privacy, autonomy, or control of camera owners.

It's smart, free, low-effort and it deters crime.

Take a look at how it works. Visit <https://saferplaces.com.au>

Park Wisely

Out for a ride with your mates, or alone – when you park your bike or scooter and leave it unattended, ensure you have locked it securely.

Lock your bike to a bike hoop or a secure pole or railing. If you don't have a locking device with you, have a mate watch out for your ride.

For added security, consider fitting an Air Tag or similar to your ride.

And at home, store your bike in a locked shed, garage or in the house to keep them secure.

REMEMBER THE RULES – LOCK YOUR BIKE – STAY SAFE

Do you have CCTV at your home or business?

Join the Safer Places Network, a partnership with Neighbourhood Watch Victoria

By registering your camera, you're helping police know where footage might be available when investigating crime.



 **SAFER PLACES NETWORK**

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

We welcome all enquiries regarding Neighbourhood Watch. Email us at nhwbellarine@gmail.com or visit our website – www.nhw.com.au . If you wish to complete a membership application, go to <https://nhw.com.au/find-a-group/>



With Spring and sunny weather comes visitors to the Bellarine. Impaired driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs is one of the biggest killers on Victorian roads. Bellarine and Portarlington Police are committed to keeping the community safe and taking impaired drivers off our roads. Random breath testing stations are being set up anywhere, anytime across the Bellarine to help ensure the safety of all road users on the Bellarine.

Why drinking, then driving is dangerous

- 1 in 5 drivers killed on our roads have a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) .05 or higher.
- Driving while under the influence of alcohol affects perception, vision, concentration, reaction time and causes drowsiness – all of which increase the risk of a crash.
- Alcohol can affect us in different ways from one day to the next – that's why there's never a 'safe' amount to drink when you're planning to drive.
- If everyone avoided driving after drinking, the number of road fatalities could be reduced by up to 20%. That's around 50 lives that could be saved every year.



OIC of Bellarine Police Station Senior Sergeant Dean PARRELLO and the one and only Sergeant Shane CONNELLY were at Bunnings Leopold to take questions from the community and Bunnings staff this month.

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 BELLARINE-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au