

# Bellarine Neighbourhood

Issue 1, 2024

Providing support for our community that supports us



## BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: Meet The team at Bellarine Police Station. Information on local crime trends, events, community messages, concerns and a whole lot more.



### A LETTER FROM THE OIC

Welcome to the first issue of the Bellarine Neighbourhood Newsletter. My name is Anthony FRANCIS and I have recently been appointed the Officer in Charge for the Bellarine Peninsula area. I have been heavily involved in the Bellarine Community for many years having an understanding of the impact of the seasons on our community and local issues these effect.

In conjunction with our local member of Parliament, Alison MARCHANT, we are focusing on bSafe Bellarine and areas we can improve our community engagement.

I understand the importance of involving the community in what we do. Clear communication from our Chief Commissioner Shane PATON indicates a focus on our community groups, including schools, to create stronger relationships and support. This information will assist our community in having a safer environment.

As such, I have created a new unit at Bellarine Police to strengthen developing relationships and providing better information flow for our community.

Finally, I would like to wish our community a great 2024 and look forward to promoting Bellarine as the enviable place to be.



**Bellarine Police OIC**  
**Senior Sergeant Tony FRANCIS**

## OUR ORGANISATION

Victoria Police was established in 1853 and provides policing services to the Victorian community 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We uphold the law to promote a safe, secure, and orderly society. Our vision is for a community in which everyone is safe and feels safe, those affected by crime feel supported, and those who break the law are held to account.



## VALUES

Our organisational values underpin our policies, procedures, practices, and how we interact with the community and each other.

### Respect

Everyone is treated fairly and with dignity and feels valued and included.

### Leadership

Being people-focused, confident but still humble and committed to living our values.

### Professionalism

Being accountable, transparent, and committed to maintaining the highest standards of conduct.

### Support

Having empathy and being genuinely committed to responding to the needs and wellbeing of others.

### Integrity

Acting with honour, being fair and respectful of both the law and human rights.

### Safety

Safety is at the heart of our purpose, it is fundamental to, and underpins, everything we do.

### Flexibility

Providing a service that is agile and evolves with the community's needs.

## SERVICE

- responding to calls for assistance in matters of personal and public safety, emergencies, and serious incidents
- preventing crime through a range of proactive community safety programs
- detecting and investigating offences and bringing to justice those responsible for committing them
- providing a visible presence within the community and at major events
- supporting the judicial process to achieve efficient and effective court case management, providing safe custody for alleged offenders, supporting victims, and ensuring fair and equitable treatment of victims and offenders
- providing professional prosecution services to support judicial proceedings
- aiding coroners with their investigations into deaths and fires and support to our members who are investigating matters on behalf of coroners
- managing and coordinating major emergency responses with other agencies
- promoting safe road-user behaviour
- conducting private security and firearms licensing
- conducting national police record and fingerprint checks. For further information about Victoria Police services, including regional maps, please visit our website: [police.vic.gov.au](http://police.vic.gov.au)

## POLICE IN THE BELLARINE

The Bellarine Peninsula has 4 police stations which are made up of 71 sworn police members, Ocean Grove (Known as Bellarine), Queenscliff, Drysdale and Portarlington. Bellarine being a 24hr Station providing continual support to our local community.

What area do we cover? Look at the map on page 8 of this newsletter.

## BELLARINE NEIGHBOURHOOD

What is it?

With new leadership in the Bellarine has come new focus. One being bringing the community together with the endeavour to provide a 'point of contact' for our schools, community organisations, sporting clubs and aged community. The importance of this line of communication has been identified leading to the creation Bellarine Neighbourhood whose entire focus will be to provide this.

This type of liaison within the school groups is not a new thing. But we will be adapting our current model to work with our 17 primary and secondary schools to bridge the gap between police, our local youth, youth leaders within the schools and our community organisations.

Sergeant Shane CONNOLLY will head this group. Shane has been a sworn member of Victoria Police for in excess of 30 years with vast experience working within the community. Leading Senior Constable Anthony SHEEDY will also form part of the unit. Anthony has in excess of 23 years of policing experience with over 10 years of that policing the Bellarine area.

What will we provide?

Schools: There has been a program in place for the last few years where we have been able to provide a point of contact with you by way of a position based email account. This is no longer active having been encompassed by Bellarine Neighbourhood which will provide more consistency and a broader scope of available service. The new contact for you will be:

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

The last in depth police in schools program wrapped up almost 19 years ago in 2005. Our view is to have a lot more involvement within the school environment. We want to highlight students perception of police, provide an interaction with students outlining our approachability understanding that we a just people too. With this, we want to work with schools, look at some goals together on your timetables and more. A personal email will be sent to put this into fruition.



## SCAMS

Scams cost Australians millions of dollars each year. Anyone can be targeted!

Scams are a common way that cybercriminals compromise your online accounts. Scammers' goal is to trick you into paying money or giving away your personal information. They will use email, text messages, phone calls or social media, and often pretend to be a person or organisation you trust.

Knowing what the common types of scams are, and what to look out for could save you from becoming a victim.

Bellarine Neighbourhood will be providing in depth presentations to organised groups throughout 2024. Contact us anytime via our email at [BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au) to make it happen within your Group.

**SCAMS**  
**TARGET YOU**  
**PROTECT YOURSELF**

## BSAFE – BELLARINE



Provided by Alison MARCHANT MP

The Bellarine Community Safety Group, often referred to as bSafe, was established in 2014 by Lisa Neville in partnership with community leaders and Bellarine Police, with a goal to work together to tackle local safety issues. I am pleased to continue the Bellarine Community Safety meetings as I am fully committed to ensuring the ongoing operation of this important initiative and our safety on the Bellarine.

At a grassroots level, the work of the group provides communities, using their local knowledge, a real say on matters that are important to them, with a direct line to local police.

Since bSafe was created, the group has effectively addressed many concerns raised by residents across the Bellarine.

In 2024, the Bellarine Community Safety Group will continue to develop initiatives to address local community safety issues, allowing a space for communities to have a say on matters that are important to them and local residents.

The group is working to strengthen its communications within the Bellarine communities, in keeping residents and visitors on the peninsula informed on matters of community safety.

If you have any concerns you would like to be on the agenda at the next Bellarine Community Safety Group meeting, please contact my office via email at:

[alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au).

[www.bsafebellarine.com.au](http://www.bsafebellarine.com.au)



S/C Emma Gaudelius, Alison Marchant MP, SGT Jane Arnold,  
LSC Mark Wakeling



### CRIME STOPPERS VICTORIA

Crime Stoppers is an independent not-for-profit organisation that partners with the community, media and police to encourage people to prevent crime and to confidentially share what they know about unsolved crime or suspicious activity.

Crime Stoppers believes everyone has the right to feel safe from crime. We share practical advice on how you can protect your community, and the people and things that are important to you.

When you make a report, you don't have to leave your personal details with us, your call isn't recorded and, if you make a report online, your IP address isn't stored. You are in control of the reporting process – you choose how much information you share and whether you want to remain anonymous.

Since its start in Victoria in 1987, they have received over 1.33 million tips from the community, resulting in over 27,600 arrests and the recovery of more than \$406 million worth of drugs, property and cash.

### BELLARINE CRIME, WHERE ARE WE AT?

So, what is the highest contributor of crime recorded on the Bellarine Peninsula over the last three months? Believe it or not our highest contributor is Justice Procedures. This category includes offences such as Breaches of Family Violence/Person Safety Intervention Orders and Bail conditions etc.

Assaults and deceptions have also been a problem having had 75 of each category investigated over the later months of 2023.

Family violence have made up 26% of our reported crime over the 3 months totalling 154 incidents over the period.

## eSCOOTER UPDATE



The Department of Transport's e-scooter (*also known as eScooter, electric scooter and iScooter*) trial on Victorian roads has been extended for a further six months from October 2023, until March 2024.

Key elements of the extended trial include:

- E-scooters must not be ridden by any person under 16 years of age
- E-scooters can only be ridden on roads that have a speed limit of 60 km/h or less
- Privately owned e-scooters are now permitted to be ridden on any roads in Victoria with a speed limit of 60km/h or less, providing the device has a maximum speed capability of 25km/h
- E-scooters must not be ridden at a speed exceeding 20km/h
- E-scooters must not be ridden on footpaths
- Riders must wear a helmet
- Mobile phones are not permitted to be used on e-scooters
- E-scooters must not carry more than one person
- Riders must not consume alcohol while riding an e-scooter
- The prescribed concentration of alcohol (PCA) for the rider of a compliant e-scooter is 0.05 regardless of the status or conditions on any motor vehicle licence and irrespective of the age of the rider. Note - riders of non-compliant private e-scooters are subject to a 0.00 BAC unless they hold a full and unrestricted motorcycle licence.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Victoria police has a Chaplaincy Unit. Police chaplaincy is often described as 'loitering with intent' – They seek to engage with police employees, families and veterans in a manner that is professional, confidential and with 'calming informality'. Police Chaplains are Pastoral & Spiritual care-practitioners who understand the significance and importance of a holistic approach to human 'wellbeing'.

It's about being present with members, with frequency and regularity in order to foster relationships and build trust. This approach to the provision of support for employees of Victoria Police and their families is instrumental to the spiritual and pastoral care that they offer, providing confidential, empathetic and meaningful care and support in a manner that is genuinely 'person centred and directed'.

## POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE

# Police 131 444

Save 000 for emergencies

Victoria Police officially launched a 24-hour police assistance phone line and online reporting service for the community to connect with about non-urgent crimes and events.

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 Office Careers



Make a difference every day in a role as a police officer, protective services officer (PSO), police custody officer (PCO), or Victorian Public Service (VPS) employee.

Victoria Police is an inclusive workplace, and values all ages, genders, cultures, religions and sexual orientations in our employees.

**Not challenged in your current job?**

**Think it's time for a change?**

**Do you want a career instead of "just a job"?**

**A career with Victoria Police may be made for you.**

We are hosting an exclusive Careers Information Session for members of the community who are interested in a career with Victoria Police.

Come along and learn more about the recruitment process, training at the Police Academy, general duties policing, career pathways, specialty units and more.

You will also have the opportunity to speak with;

- **Police Officers**
- **Protective Services Officers (PSO)**
- **Police Custody Officers (PCO)**
- **Victorian Public Servants (VPS)**

This is a unique opportunity to observe the exciting world of policing. Members of the public are not usually granted access to the VPC, so get excited about this chance and grab a ticket.

- **When: Thursday 15th February 2024.**
- **Where: Victoria Police Centre, 311 Spencer Street Docklands, Melbourne 3008.**
- **Arrival: Strictly between 4pm – 4:45pm, you cannot attend if you arrive after 4:45pm.**
- **Information Session start: 5:00pm | Finish: 7:00pm - including Q&A session.**

All attendees will need to present photo ID to gain entry to this event. Please bring minimal personal items to ensure a smooth event check-in, one small bag per person is allowed, please note this item will be checked.

## CONTACT

Victoria Police Recruitment Team, 8.00am-4.00pm (Monday - Friday)

(03) 8335 5003

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



VICTORIA POLICE

## BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

The Bellarine Community Support Register is an incorporated, non-profit organisation established in 2006 at the Bellarine Police Station in Ocean Grove.

## BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER INC.

It is supported by the Victorian Government, local government and Victoria Police, and governed by a local Committee of Management. There are a number of similar services around the State which are listed on the Victorian Government's Seniors Online websites and on some local government websites.

The Bellarine Community Support Register's purpose is to enhance the feeling of safety and security, confidence and sense of wellbeing of those in need of support living on the Bellarine Peninsula.

As at June 2018, The Register had about 1,400 registrants and 30 volunteers. Assistance provided to registrants includes:

- About 2,000 care calls made by Register volunteers to local people on the Register
- Quarterly newsletters distributed to registrants with news and safety tips
- Facebook page, regularly updated with safety and other relevant information

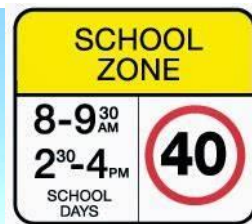
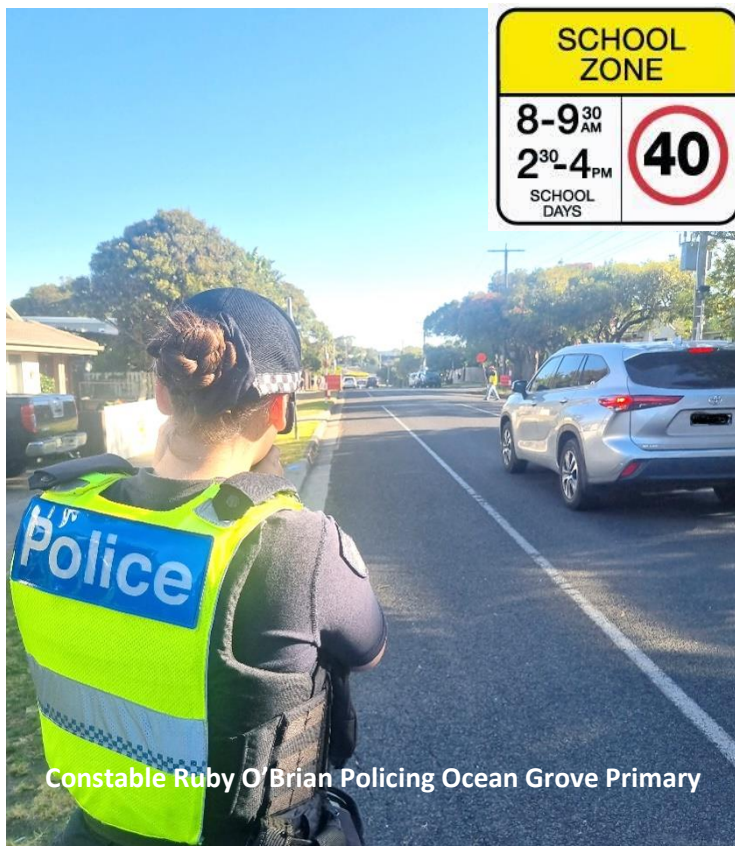
To register, people must live on the Bellarine Peninsula, which includes the following towns and areas: Barwon Heads, Bellarine, Clifton Springs, Connewarre, Curlewis, Drysdale, Indented Head, Leopold, Mannerim, Marcus Hill, Moolap, Ocean Grove, Point Lonsdale, Portarlington, Queenscliff, St Leonards, Swan Bay and Wallington.

The Register is not just for older Bellarine residents. It covers residents who feel vulnerable or isolated. This could mean people who live alone, or whose family or close friends live a long distance away. Or it could be a person who is a carer for someone who is disabled or temporarily incapacitated. Or it could be a person who is disabled and lives independently.

There are many benefits to register. If, for example, you collapse anywhere, police can access the Register for next of kin and medical contact information so that you can get faster treatment. Also, if the Register indicates you have a dependent person or animal in your home, arrangements can be made to take care of them until you recover.

Maybe worth considering?

## EYES ON SCHOOL ZONES



Say goodbye to the sleep ins, sleep overs at the mates' house and those homework free nights. School is back and kids on the Bellarine are back to class. With this comes into force our school zone speed limits.

Police will be out at crossings ensuring the safety of our school going community. Safety of our community is the utmost so ensure vigilance and attentiveness in these zones as failure to do so could be tragic or score you police contact and fines.

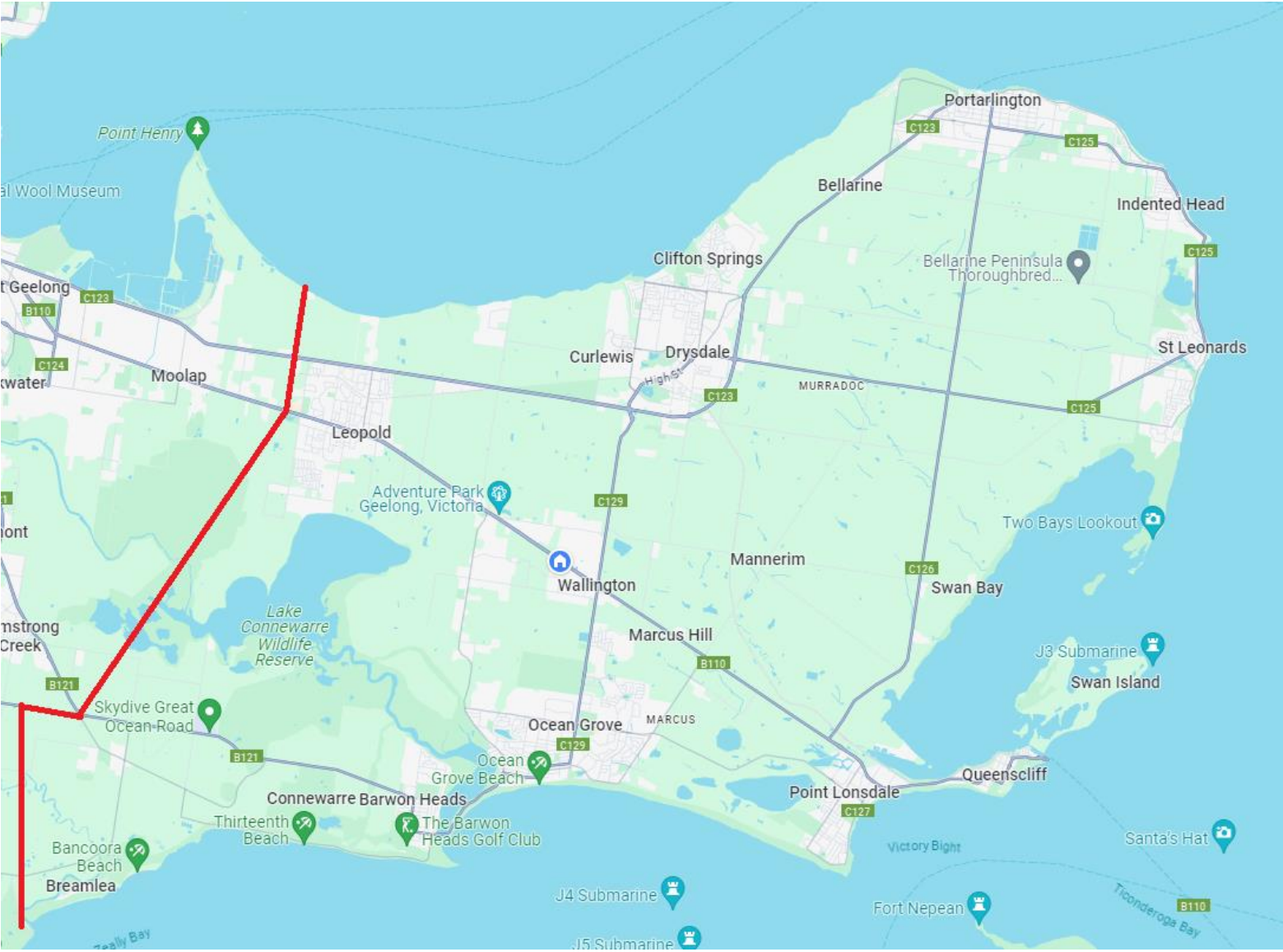
There is absolutely no excuse for speeds in these zones. All school speed zones are clearly marked. School speed zones have now been in place for over two decades so, what could an excuse be right?

As police, we have heard it all. "I'm running late", "I wasn't concentrating", "I didn't see the sign", "I thought I was in a 60km/h zone" etc..etc..etc..

By LSC Anthony SHEEDY

Constable Ruby O'Brian Policing Ocean Grove Primary

BELLARINE POLICE COVERAGE MAP



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)

LSC Anthony SHEEDY