

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

May 2025 Edition: In this issue:

MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

In early April, I visited the newly upgraded Ocean Grove Ambulance Station with the Premier.

The upgraded facilities include improved sleeping areas, training rooms, improved security with vehicle access, and upgraded medical and delivery rooms. Providing our paramedics with these facilities, supports the work they do, and their ability to quickly respond to local emergencies across the Bellarine Peninsula.

Our paramedics are not alone in providing essential emergency services within our region. As we come to the end of another busy holiday season, I'd like to say a big thank you to our local Victorian Police, both on the water and the roads, for dedicating their time over the Easter period to the safety of Bellarine locals and visitors.

I'd also like to acknowledge and thank all of our volunteers who work tirelessly across the Bellarine, including members of the CFA, SES, Surf Life Saving Clubs, Marine Search and Rescue Units.

All of these services have been involved in various incidents recently, and I can't thank them enough, for the challenging work they do.

We do live in an incredible place, where so many generously give back to our community and I'm sure many of these services would welcome more volunteers, so if you've ever thought about joining, now is the time!

It is still a busy time of year here on the Bellarine with several road upgrades taking place across the Peninsula and I wish to remind you to take extra care on the road.

To find out more about current and upcoming road upgrades visit www.alisonmarchantmp.com.au



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

Alec with the Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit during work experience



My name is Alec I am a Year 11 student at Surf Coast Secondary College. I have been fortunate to spend a week of work experience at the Bellarine Police Station. I am currently completing Legal studies and have an interest in Policing and Law. On attending Bellarine Police station for a week, I was assigned to the Bellarine Neighbourhood Unit that has contact with the local community groups and schools on the Bellarine. I was not sure what to expect but quickly learnt how busy the members are with different patrols and investigations. I started off with administrative work, but LSC HOARE then provided me insights into how to investigate crimes involving graffiti and theft. I was fortunate on visiting the Queenscliff Police Station where the Marine Police Operate from. I was taken out on the Police Boat and provided with all the safety instructions and cleared boats from the rip between The Bellarine and The Peninsula to allow large ships entry to Port Phillip Bay.

I most enjoyed talking to the members on patrol from which I have learned a great deal about their work and commitment to their jobs.

Sgt Shane Connolly and Leading Senior Constable Mick Tatlock took me to Geelong Police Station to show me other units and their functions and roles in the community. During this experience I have learnt about the many functions of Victoria police and how they communicate and interact with the community. I have greatly appreciated and enjoyed the week.



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



Easter and ANZAC Day commemorations and holidays were close together this year. The confluence of public holidays, school holidays and great weather saw the Bellarine bustling with visitors. With Bellarine and Portarlington Police turning out in support of Operation Compass over this period. Operation Compass was a statewide effort to remove impaired drivers from the roads over the holiday period to improve the road safety of all road users. At the half way mark of Operation Compass our members had performed over 500 breath tests on drivers.

Stop kidding yourself. If you drink, don't drive.

The safest way to know for sure that you are under 0.05 BAC is to completely separate drinking and driving. There are many factors that can impact BAC readings such as sex, age, weight, fatigue levels or tolerance to alcohol - no one can accurately judge their BAC, especially if they've had a few drinks.

So, if you're planning to drink, don't drive. Plan a safe way home instead.



Drink Driving

Drink driving is one of the biggest killers on Victoria's roads. Around **one in four fatal crashes involve drivers and riders with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) over the standard legal limit of 0.05.**

Driving while under the influence of alcohol affects **perception, vision, concentration, reaction time** and **causes drowsiness** – all of which increase the chances of having a crash.

Alcohol can affect us in different ways from one day to the next – this means there's never a 'safe' amount to drink when you're planning to drive.

It is also important to remember that some drivers must meet a 0.00 BAC at all times whilst driving.

Once alcohol is in your blood stream, your liver is responsible for removing it. There is nothing you can do to make this happen any faster.

If your blood alcohol level is above 0.05 (or 0.00 for certain drivers) and you want to drive, the only thing that will get your blood alcohol level below the legal limit is waiting for your liver to do its job –BUT don't forget your blood alcohol level will continue to increase for at least an hour after you finish your last drink

With a BAC of 0.15, the risk of being involved in a crash is more than 20 times greater than with a BAC of zero.

The way to avoid drink driving is simple - if you're going to drink, plan not to drive.



Safe roads



Safe vehicles



Safe speeds



Safe people



Pedestrian Safety Improvements for Ocean Grove

The Grubb Road and Shell Road intersection, pedestrian safety upgrade has commenced. Construction is planned to last around eight weeks.

This busy intersection connects schools, residences, sporting and recreation facilities, restaurants and emergency services facilities. As part of the upgrade, Transport Victoria will construct raised pedestrian crossings on three legs of the intersection to reduce the risk of high-severity pedestrian crashes.

Upgrades include:

- Construction of raised pedestrian crossings (wombat crossings) near the roundabout on:
 - Thacker Street
 - Tuckfield Street
 - Shell Road
- Construction of footpaths to improve pedestrian connectivity
- Improved lighting.

The project is part of the Victorian Government's Safe System Pedestrian Infrastructure Program, in partnership with Transport Accident Commission (TAC). From late April 2025, there will be changes in traffic conditions along Grubb Road, Shell Road, Thacker Street and Tuckfield Street while these works are underway.

Works will be undertaken from Monday to Friday, with the possibility of weekend work. Traffic management, including lane closures and reduced speed limits, will be in place during construction to protect the safety of crews and road users. Local police will be regularly attending the site to ensure adherence to road work speed limits.

For more information about this project, please visit [Grubb Road and Shell Road intersection pedestrian safety upgrade - Transport Victoria](#).

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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