

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

August 2025 Edition. In this issue: After Hours Call Register, Safe Plate Day.

MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

From term three this year, Victorian school principals have the authority to suspend or expel students when their behaviour outside school or online puts fellow students and staff at serious risk, a power previously restricted to within the school gate.

These changes bring Victoria in line with NSW and South Australia and are addressing concerns around harmful behaviour that happens outside school hours, particularly online, but affects students and staff safety.

School principals can use these expanded powers only when necessary to protect their school community and appropriate framework is in place to ensure school leaders have the authorisation to act when necessary.

The introduction of these changes are in addition to existing school safety measures, including the Safe Socials resources to help students and families use technology safely, our nation-leading ban on mobile phones in schools and our support of a social media ban for kids - keeping kids safe in the classroom and online.

These new measures send a clear message that harmful behaviour outside of school or online has consequences.

As always, if you require assistance with any State Government matter, please contact my office on 5250 1987 or via email alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au



GOLD COIN DONATION

HAVE YOUR NUMBER PLATE FITTED WITH ANTI-THEFT SCREWS

St Leonards vic Men's Shed

SAFE PLATE DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 - 10.30AM TO 2.00PM

ST LEONARDS MEN'S SHED, COLE STREET, ST LEONARDS



Be sure to head out to St Leonards Men's Shed in Cole Street for their Safe Plate Day on Saturday September 20th from 10.30am to 2.00pm. Getting anti-theft screws fitted is one of the easiest things you can do prevent the theft of your registration plates. It is quick and it is easy. A big thankyou to the St Leonards Men's Shed and Neighbourhood Watch for this fantastic initiative.

When safety becomes everyone's business, communities thrive.



Bellarine Neighbourhood News – **GIVE CROOKS A WORK-OUT**

Protecting personal belongings at the gym requires a combination of good habits, smart storage choices, and security measures implemented by both gym owners and members.

By following the advice below you make it harder and more frustrating for crooks to get away with your gym gear, your phone, your keys or your car.

Here's how to minimize the risk of theft when you are working out:

1. **Carry Only Essentials** – Bring only what you absolutely need for your workout (e.g., phone, water bottle, towel). Leave valuables at home or locked in your car (out of sight).
2. **Use a Lockable Locker** – If the gym provides secure lockers, always use them and bring a strong padlock (preferably a keyless or combination lock).
3. **Keep Items on You** – Use a small crossbody bag, running belt, or secure pocket for keys, phone, and wallet while working out.
4. **Use a Lockable Bag** – If lockers aren't available, consider using a small lockable backpack or gym bag with a built-in combination lock.
5. **Disguise Valuables** – Keep keys and wallets in an old, unmarked gym bag rather than a high-end purse or designer backpack.

6. Stay Aware – If you must use open shelving, place your bag in a less conspicuous spot and keep an eye on it.
7. AVOID LEAVING CAR KEYS IN THE OPEN – Car key theft is often targeted, so keep them in a zipped pocket, locked locker, or with you at all times.
8. Use a Tile or AirTag – Track important items like keys or wallets with a Bluetooth tracker in case they are misplaced or stolen.



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/>



BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER INC.

CONNECTING WITH THE BELLARINE

Five mornings per week, a dedicated team of volunteers of the Bellarine Community Support Register are rostered at our Office where they undertake administration tasks and make Care Calls to residents who have chosen to receive a regular call.

Each year, our Register surveys our Registrants to assist us in evaluating our service to residents of the Bellarine.

This year's survey has provided some very heart-warming sentiments from some of our Registrants. Just a few of the comments received -

- Peace of mind. Knowing you matter.
- Volunteers who keep in touch are generally interested in what's going on with registrants
- Someone to talk to. I live alone. Something to look forward to.
- Meeting new people. Get to know our volunteers.
- Fantastic. Being able to talk to someone each week.
- Link to people. Having a chat. Support.
- Knowing I'm safe and people knowing I'm ok.
- I can talk to you and tell you how I feel about things.
- Makes me happier. I hear your cheery voice.
- Feel safe at home and my family are happy I'm being contacted.

- Interesting discussion. Pleasure to talk to you.
- A sense of security. Live by yourself, it feels secure
- Care about what's going on in your life
- New to the service. Will continue for now. Wonderful idea. Important to have social contact.
- Nice to have someone to contact. Helps to have someone check. Live lone. Makes a difference.
- Talking to care callers is important contact; very nice people calling.
- Contact and support to make sure I'm ok.

These responses show just how much our service and care calls mean to people and their extended family.

WELCOME!

We've recently welcomed three new volunteers to our Register - Christine, June and Ross. They are regular Office admin and Care Callers.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, particularly in administration and care call roles, feel free to call our Office any weekday between 9.30am and 12 noon and learn more about being part of our team. Call us on 5255 3968.



Welcome aboard Christine!

Bellarine and Portarlington Police Stations are in the process of updating our **After Hours Call Register**. All Police Stations in Victoria run an After Hours Call Register. It allows police to contact owners and managers of commercial premises outside of business hours if their property is involved in an emergency or criminal incident. Owners or managers can assist by either printing out the form below or scanning the QR Code. All information is securely held on the local police database. If you have any questions or require any assistance please contact the Bellarine Neighbourhood Unit.

BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au



Bellarine Neighbourhood Business Registration Form

This information is requested to assist police in contacting the business owner should there be an urgent incident or investigation at your business premises, i.e. burglary, theft and damage to premises. The information is secured on a police database.

VICTORIA POLICE

Business Name: _____ Business

Address: _____

Owner/Manager Name: _____ Owner/Manager Phone Number: _____

Owner/Manager Email: _____

After Hours Name: _____ After Hours Phone
Number: _____

After Hours Email: _____

CCTV Available: Y / N

If Yes CCTV Contact



Details: _____

Please take picture of completed form and either scan QR code right or email it back to:

bellarine-neighbourhood-mgr@police.vic.gov.au

The phone call that could have been costly.....

The elderly victim, James answered a phone call on his mobile and spoken to a male who called himself “Paul”. Paul told James that he worked for a company on behalf of the bank that James uses. Paul stated people had been getting scammed out of money and Paul required James to send him money so that he could fingerprint the notes. Paul asked James to go and withdraw \$2000 cash from his bank account and send it to an address in NSW to see if the local branch was subject to scamming. Paul told James that he was helping himself and the bank by helping them crack the case. Paul instructed James to call him when he was at the bank withdrawing the money, and again when he was at the post office to send the money. James has gone and done exactly that. The following day, James received another call from Paul, stating he required a further \$2000 in cash sent to the same address. James went and withdrew the money and posted it. When James went to the bank again to withdraw more cash, he spoke with the information desk and asked if they had heard of this company and it fingerprinting cash for the bank. They informed James that he had been scammed and that he should contact police. James called Bellarine Police station and Constable GAW and Leading Senior Constable RAE attended at his home and spoke with him. Whilst speaking with the victim Constable GAW located the tracking receipts for both packages of cash. Constable GAW contacted Australia Post to ensure the packages were intercepted and not delivered to the offender. NSW Police were alerted to the offenders whereabouts and are awaiting their opportunity to pick him up. James was grateful for the quick action of Constable GAW and her efforts to not only locate and return his cash, but to locate the offender. This story is a timely reminder for everyone that financial institutes and their affiliates will never cold call their customers. Always ask for verification of a caller id and never give out your personal details over the phone. Always call back via the public number listed for your bank or visit a branch if in any doubt. Do not fall victim to scams. Protect yourself and your information at all times. For further information visit www.scamwatch.gov.au or contact the Neighbourhood Policing Unit to deliver a talk on avoiding scams to your community group. (names have been changed)



Scam calls cost Australians \$141 Million last year alone. Don't be a victim!



Fake \$50 in circulation on the Bellarine

Pictured above are copies of fake notes currently in circulation on the Bellarine. They are reasonable facsimiles of the real thing, but are easily distinguished by the word "PROPS" printed beneath the window of the David UNAIPON side. The paper stock is reasonable and feels very similar to the real thing. Bellarine and Portarlington Police encourage shop keepers and businesses to be on the look out for these counterfeit notes.

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



Residents from Sea View's Manor in Ocean Grove recently attended the Bellarine Police Station for a tour. One of the lovely gentlemen Lindsay, was excited telling us the story of how his father Donald Williams was the first police constable at the old Ocean Grove Police Station. LSC Kev HOARE and Sergeant Shane CONNOLLY gave a short presentation on cyber safety, where many questions were asked. Feedback from staff at Sea View's is that this excursion has been spoken about for days.



Did you know that the SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre at 17-21 High Street, Drysdale offers a **Justice of the Peace service** every Wednesday between 10am and 12pm. Available for all your document signing needs and staffed by local volunteer JP's.



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](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. If you have any feedback, please email

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