

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

July 2025 Edition. In this issue: Rescue 203, Document Signing

MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

Update from Member for Bellarine, Alison Marchant

It was a great honour to officially hand over the keys to the new Marine search and rescue boat, RESCUE 203, to Coast Guard Queenscliff only a few weeks ago.

This incredible, state of the art vessel was Co-designed by Coast Guard volunteers and features cutting-edge technology and enhanced safety measures. It represents a significant investment in our region's marine safety and supports the vital work of our Coast Guard volunteers.

The waters beyond the bay, through the Rip and into Bass Strait, are notoriously treacherous. With its improved capabilities, this new vessel will equip the crew to respond effectively in challenging conditions.

The vessel, featuring state of the art navigation and operating systems, including GPS, forward looking infrared radar, and radio direction finding equipment, will support the police operations and the CFA as well as search and rescue operations to those in distress, assist and tow damaged or disabled boats, help with shore-based recovery operations, and transport sick and injured people.

Coast Guard Queenscliff have over 50 volunteer members who all give up their time to train and be available to support the boating public 24/7. Last year, Queenscliff Coast Guard responded to 93 on-water incidents, some very much life and death situations.

Next year, Coast Guard Queenscliffe will celebrate 50 years of service, an incredible milestone for every volunteer who has dedicated their time to this extraordinary job.

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





When safety becomes everyone's business, communities thrive.



Bellarine Neighbourhood News – Item from Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch Victoria was launched over 40 years ago and continues to evolve. We operate as a modern for-purpose organisation, blending community wisdom with contemporary tools to prevent crime before it starts. Our programs help people assess their own safety, take practical steps, and stay informed — to secure their homes and small businesses, improve the safety of their families, and make Victoria safer.

From supporting police to educating households and small businesses, our work in the real world and online is about building a community where crime struggles to take hold.

We educate, we activate, and we partner — with Victoria Police, RACV, local councils, schools, and increasingly, the business sector. We run digital campaigns, community events, training sessions, and offer self-assessment tools that have already helped thousands of Victorians. Our reach is large, but our approach is personal — because when safety becomes everyone's business, communities thrive.

Here on the Bellarine, Neighbourhood Watch is partnering with Bellarine Community Support Register and recently trialled a joint project to conduct a community safety information display at the Bayview Central Curlewis together with Bellarine Police members.

The Community Safety Information Pop Up saw us engage with a steady stream of shoppers to the Centre and we were able to inform them of the

Register and its role in the community as well as gauging interest in the development of a Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine group which would give residents and neighbourhoods the confidence and tools to be safer.

If you missed us at Curlewis we will be conducting further information sessions at other towns on the Bellarine. Watch out for us.

The impetus for this project was an enquiry to Neighbourhood Watch from a young Curlewis mum who has been the victim of burglary – twice – at her home in Curlewis and was concerned at the ongoing thefts in the area. Her words resonated with us - “We as the community need to band together in a new way and really stamp out all the crime in the area!” To which she added “I have three babies to protect!”

So, let’s band together and make Neighbourhood Watch happen on the Bellarine.

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/>

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BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

The Card in Mick's Wallet

The call came through on a quiet Thursday afternoon—someone had collapsed near the new pier in St Leonards.

When paramedic Tahlia arrived, she found a man slumped on a bench near the water, barely breathing. Locals recognized him immediately: Mick, a familiar face in the local community. A fisherman, a storyteller, and a regular at the local café.

Tahlia and her partner quickly stabilized him—low oxygen levels, clammy skin, unresponsive. They couldn't get a word from him. Time was tight. They had to move.

At the hospital, as Mick was wheeled into emergency, Tahlia gathered what little information she could. His mobile phone was locked. But when she opened his worn leather wallet, she found something useful: a **Bellarine Register ID Card**, marked "In Case of Emergency – Registered."

It had a small note on the back: *Police access only – next of kin information on file.*

Without hesitation, Tahlia called the local Bellarine Police Station. She advised the police member who answered: "I've got a Mick Hanrahan

here, unconscious. We found a Bellarine Support Register ID card in his wallet,” she said. “Can you check if he has next of kin listed?”

There was a short pause on the line. Then the member replied, “Yes. He listed his sister—Siobhan. Lives in Drysdale. Mobile number too. I’ll call her now.”

Within 20 minutes, Siobhan arrived at Geelong Hospital, breathless and worried but grateful. She hadn’t spoken to Mick in a few weeks, assuming he was out fishing. “He always goes off the grid,” she said to Tahlia, wiping her eyes. “But he’s never ended up here.”

Mick spent two days in hospital. Turned out he’d had a sudden drop in blood sugar and dehydration—nothing life-threatening in the end, but serious enough that he would’ve been in danger without quick action.

Later that week, when Mick woke up and was told what had happened, he chuckled. “Good thing I signed up for that bloody Register,” he mumbled. “Didn’t think I’d ever need it.”

Siobhan just shook her head. “You’re lucky. You keep that wallet glued to your hip.”

In a town like St Leonards, where everyone knows your name and the Register quietly supports first responders behind the scenes, a simple card in a wallet made all the difference. And for Mick, the old fisherman who nearly drifted too far, it meant being found in time—with family by his side.



E-scooter Road Rules

Tougher penalties as e-scooters are made permanent.

e-scooter riders cannot

- Ride on the footpath
- Use a mobile phone while riding
- Ride while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Carry passengers or animals or ride in tandem
- Ride a high-speed e-scooter, one capable of more than 25 km/h
- Ride on roads that have a speed limit over 60 km/h

e-scooter riders must

- Be aged 16 years and over
- Not exceed the maximum speed of 20 km/h
- Ride only on shared paths and roads that have a speed limit up to 60 km/h
- Wear a helmet at all times
- Follow traffic rules
- Use lights and reflectors



Scan the QR code to learn more

For more information (including community language translations)
transport.vic.gov.au/Road-rules-and-safety/E-scooter-road-rules



Department
of Transport
and Planning



On the 7th of July 2025 Sgt Connolly attended LIFESTYLES Ocean Grove and spoke with the Wellbeing Group in regard to policing on The Bellarine. Wellbeing groups are extremely important in the community and offer a lot of friendship and support to individuals. This group meet every month over breakfast and have guest speakers on various topics on the Bellarine.

[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

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 and find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bcsrinc>



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

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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