

Dear Registrant,

I am pleased to provide you with our last newsletter for the year. I heard Christmas carols in a store recently and cringed a little, as much as I love this time of year. It has come around very quickly!

We held our 12th Annual General Meeting on the 12th October and presented Volunteer service certificates to those who have achieved milestones of 2, 5 and 10 years' service. We are so grateful for the time and commitment made by all our volunteers.

On the occasions when I have visited the office, I hear the most caring and sincere conversations as our Volunteers engage in the care calls with our Registrants. If you have opted to receive these calls, I do hope they are a part of our service that makes a difference to your day. If you would like to receive a regular call from our Volunteers, please ring the office and let us know.

If you would like to receive a copy of the 12th Annual Report, please contact our office on 5255 3968 between 9.30am and 12 noon Monday to Friday and we will send one to you.

The Committee has been working hard over the last twelve months on improvements in our ability to communicate effectively with our community on the Bellarine to assist in raising the profile of our work. Thanks to your donations and a community grant, we have upgraded our computer equipment to ensure our systems and data base continue to work as effectively as possible. We are also developing a new website that will be up and running soon.

If you know someone whose health and wellbeing could be improved by registering with us, please pass on this newsletter so they can have a read and get in touch.

Let me take this opportunity, on behalf of the Committee and all our Volunteers, to wish you a safe and enjoyable Christmas and festive season. We look forward to supporting you and your families in 2019.

Kind regards,

Gail R Rodgers
Chairperson

REMINDER: The Register office will be closed over the Christmas break from Monday 24th December and reopen at 9.30am on Monday 14 January.

LOCK YOUR LETTERBOX

- Fit a lock to your letterbox to prevent the theft of mail and personal documents.
- Ensure your letterbox is of a size to hold the mail you normally receive. Consider a box large enough to hold an A4 size envelope is ideal, and large enough so mail will not protrude out of the box.
- Have someone collect your mail, and junk mail, when you are away on holidays. An overflowing letterbox is a sure sign no one is home.



BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 12th Annual General Meeting of the Register was held on October 12, 2018.

A new Committee was elected and is as follows:

Chairperson	Gail Rodgers
Treasurer	Bob Jordan
Secretary	Ros Williamson
Office Coordinator	Denise Hibbins
Promotions Coordinator	Marilyn Miller
General Member	Rhonda Rotherham
General Member	Jeremy Gaylard

Certificates of service were presented by Acting Chairperson Ros Williamson to –

10 Year Certificate to Gail Rodgers

5 Year Certificate to Prue McDonough

2 Year Certificates to Jennifer Gibbs, Rhonda Rotherham, Mary Malady, Bob Jordan and
Jeremy Gaylard

The Committee and Volunteers look forward to working with the Register throughout 2019 and continuing to provide support to our Registrants.

FUNDING OUR OPERATIONS

At our recent Annual General Meeting, a good question was asked as to why we continue to seek donations when we had cash reserves of over \$32,000 at 30th June.

During discussion it was mentioned that there was a need to have a good cash reserve to meet both planned and unexpected expenditure noting that the cash reserves had actually reduced by nearly \$10,000 during the 2017/18 year.

During 2018/19 expenditure will be incurred in completing the development of the new website (\$3,000) and completing the Data Base discovery project (\$1,000) that will provide a detailed analysis of our requirements for new software for our registrants data base.

The cost of that software will be quite considerable and whilst grants will be sought to assist with such costs there will no doubt be a further call on our cash reserves. It was also pointed out that when the new data base software is installed, we will incur increased operation costs as we will no longer be able to rely on the wonderful work that Markus has freely contributed on the maintenance of the existing data base that he developed.

FUNDING OUR IT UPGRADES

In our July newsletter we reported that we had upgraded most of our I T equipment including new workstations and monitors; a new colour printer and a new storage device.

The cost of those upgrades was \$7,120 ex GST and we applied for a number of grants to assist in funding the upgrades.

We were successful in gaining three grants being:

\$2,000 City of Greater Geelong Communities Grant program

\$1,000 Ocean Grove Uniting Church Outreach Centre Opportunity Shop (The Dove)

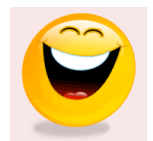
\$2,000 Ocean Grove Connected Communities

We greatly appreciate the support of these organisations.

SOME CHRISTMAS HUMOUR

Good King Wenceslas phoned Domino's for a pizza.

The salesgirl asked him: 'Do you want your usual? Deep pan, crisp and even?'



One Christmas, Joe and Peter built a skating rink in the middle of a field. A shepherd leading his flock decided to take a shortcut across the rink. The sheep, however, were afraid of the ice and wouldn't cross it. Desperate, the shepherd began tugging them to the other side.

'Look at that,' remarked Peter to Joe, 'That guy is trying to pull the wool over our ice!'

ABSENCE FROM RESIDENCE

You can be absent from your residence for a number of reasons. It is important to be proactive about keeping your residence and community safe, especially if you are going away for an extended period of time. Police stations have an absence from residence register, where you can provide your contact information and the times and dates that you will be away.

This information is useful to police and could be used to contact you and /or your emergency contact in case of an incident at your residence or to perform checks in the area during usual patrols. Due to the dynamic nature of calls for police services, Victoria Police cannot guarantee that police will attend your residence during your absence.

If using this service, be sure to notify police when you return, especially if returning earlier than planned.

Ways to register

There are two ways to register your absence from residence.

Online - You can register with Service Victoria, which the Victorian Government has created to make it simpler and easier for you to get things done. Visit <https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/housing-and-property/register-your-absence-from-residence>

At your local police station

- Download and complete the Absence from residence form (PDF)
- Take the form to your local police station so your absence can be noted in the station's register.

COMMON SCAMS AND TIPS TO AVOID THEM - Consumer Affairs Victoria

What is a scam?

Scams are schemes designed to deceive you, generally for the purpose of stealing your money or personal details.

Telephone/rebate scam

Scammers pretending to be from a government, bank or other well-known institution will call, email or text you, saying that you are owed money. However, first you must pay an administration fee or similar to 'reclaim' the money.

Tip: Watch out for unsolicited emails, phone calls or letters saying you have unclaimed funds or are owed money.

Travelling con men scam

Travelling con men are dodgy tradesmen who knock on doors of homes and small businesses, offering to do maintenance work. They may ask for cash before starting work and frequently disappear as soon as you pay them. If they do any work, it is often unfinished or of a poor standard. They move quickly and usually only give a first name and mobile number – so contacting them afterwards is difficult.

Tip: If you suspect a travelling con man is knocking, do not answer. If you do speak to them, ask them to leave. If they refuse, they are breaking the law.

Investment scam

Scammers typically offer 'get rich quick' schemes and investments based on 'secret' information or special software. They claim to be able to predict the outcomes of sports or share trading. After you pay their expensive fees, you will discover that their claims of past performance and guarantees about future results are false.

Tip: Do not let anyone pressure you into making investment decisions, ask for written information and always get independent financial advice.

Online selling scam

Scammers pose as sellers and post fake advertisements offering non-existent products for low prices. These may appear on genuine websites, online classifieds and online auction sites

Tip: When buying items online, use secure payment options such as Paypal or credit card as you may be able to seek a chargeback from your bank or credit card provider if you lose money in a scam.

Romance scam

Scammers approach you on legitimate dating websites and build an online relationship with you, often over weeks, months or years. Once the relationship is established, they will start asking you for money.

Tip: Avoid sending money, personal or financial details to someone you have never met in person, especially if you are looking for love online.

BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER INC.
PO BOX 819, OCEAN GROVE. VIC 3226 TELEPHONE: 03 5255 3968

DONATION FORM

NAME: ID NUMBER:

ADDRESS:

I ENCLOSE A DONATION OF: Please circle the appropriate amount.

\$5 \$10 \$20 \$100 Other \$

All donations of \$2 and over are income tax deductible.

Receipts will be issued only on request. Please tick the appropriate box. YES NO

Donations will be accepted at any Bendigo Bank Branch in the Geelong Region.

Our account details are: BENDIGO BANK Branch 633 108 Account 127715209.

Receipts will be issued only on request.

BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER INC.

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PO Box 819

Ocean Grove Vic 3226

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