

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE**

**Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic and resulting restrictions in place, the Register Office is closed for an indefinite period.**

To contact the Register, please phone **0480 228 674** during Office hours 9.30am – 12 noon, Monday to Friday, or email [bpsupportregister@bigpond.com](mailto:bpsupportregister@bigpond.com)

## **TELEPHONE CALLS TO REGISTRANTS**

Our amazing volunteers from the Register continue to make care calls to our Registrants during this isolation period due to COVID19.

All volunteers have been and will be making calls from their homes and their own phones. This symbolizes our volunteers' desire to keep you connected during this time.

If you would like a care call from us, please call the Office mobile number 0480 228 674. You may opt for weekly, fortnightly or monthly care calls. Think about it. Our volunteers are always ready for a chat.

If a registrant does not answer their phone on the day that the care call is made, the next-of-kin will be contacted that same day. If next of kin or emergency contact cannot be made, then a welfare check will be organized by Bellarine Police.

## **BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020**

The Register held their Annual General Meeting on Friday 4 September via Zoom. We were pleased that Snr Sgt Adrian Bickley, Bellarine Police, was able to join us.

Volunteer Service Recognition Awards were announced and their dedication and commitment was acknowledged. Recipients were as follows:

Ten years' service	Helen Shedden
Five years' service	Glenys Francis and Denise Hibbins
Two years' service	Sandra Uthmeyer and Wendy Medhurst

The committee acknowledged the resignation of Committee member - our Secretary, Ros Williamson who has been a tireless contributor to the Register. Ros has been a huge part of the development, support and growth of our organisation and she will be greatly missed.

The Committee also acknowledged the contribution made by retiring Committee member, Jeremy Gaylard. Jeremy was the Register's representative on the B Safe Bellarine Committee.

Our new Committee for 2020/2021 was elected and we introduce them here:

Chairperson: Gail Rodgers  
Secretary: Leonie Saundry  
Treasurer: Bob Jordan  
Committee Members: Rhonda Rotherham, Jenny Gibbs and Co-ordinator Denise Hibbins

We look forward to working together to continue to deliver our service to the community.

## **A MESSAGE FROM VICTORIA POLICE –**

### **HAVE THE TOUGH CONVERSATION WITH AN ELDERLY DRIVER**

Over the past twelve months there has been a rise in collisions involving elderly drivers, a total of 86 collisions, which resulted in twelve serious injuries and two fatalities.

The main causes being failing to give way and poor car control such as pressing the wrong pedal. As drivers get older, skills can diminish and the rise of being injured or killed in a collision can increase.

Whilst discussions with family members over the decision of whether to drive a vehicle can be a sensitive issue, the safety of road users should be paramount.

If family have concerns about elderly drivers, VicRoads or Police can be contacted and have the licence reviewed which maybe a case of a driver having a driving assessment to check their ability to drive a vehicle or the decision to hand in a licence maybe a safer option for all.

A number of elderly drivers have been through this process and had further driving lessons to improve their skills and longevity on the road. You're never too old to learn new skills.

Courtesy of Eyewatch Geelong Police Service Area

## **MIND**

Mind is one of Australia's leading mental health service providers. They have been supporting people with mental illness, as well as their families, friends and carers for over 40 years.

**MIND have a 24 hour helpline: Call 1800 875 204**

### **Mind services & COVID-19**

The information below is provided by Mind -

Mind is committed to safely supporting our clients and families through the COVID-19 outbreak. The mental health issues related to lockdown and the pandemic are especially hard for people with depression.

We have made some changes within our services to ensure we protect our clients and their families, our staff, and the community, while continuing to provide support to our clients and families throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.

All of these practices and our business decisions are informed by guidance from the Australian Department of Health, our partners, NDIS and World Health Organisation (WHO).

For general advice on COVID-19, please look at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

If you have been in contact with a Mind staff member or client and are unwell or have been exposed to COVID-19 please advise us immediately by emailing [healthsafetyandwellbeing@mindaustralia.org.au](mailto:healthsafetyandwellbeing@mindaustralia.org.au)

To learn more about MIND, visit their website <https://www.mindaustralia.org.au/about-mind/what-mind-does>

## **BE SCAM AWARE**

Your personal info is valuable. Scammers will try to steal it.

And with coronavirus restrictions, there's been a massive shift towards working, socialising and operating in the digital world.

Our growing use of technology gives scammers more chances to trick you into giving away your personal and financial details. They then use these to steal your identity and take your money. It can take years to recover your identity once you lose it.

Here are some simple steps you can take to protect yourself:

1. Don't be pressured into giving away your info.
2. Lock your mailbox.
3. Shred any sensitive documents you no longer need.

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## BE SCAM AWARE continued

4. Check your credit report using a reputable credit reference bureau at least once a year.
5. If you're unsure if a contact is legit, don't give them any personal info.

The ACCC has launched a podcast for National Scams Awareness Week, which shares tips on how to protect your personal and financial details from scammers. Subscribe here: <https://bit.ly/322zhZA> #scamsweek2020

Courtesy of Neighbourhood Watch Victoria

## IT'S SPRING – NOW IT'S TIME TO PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY FOR THE FIRE DANGER PERIOD

Landowners and tenants should be preparing their properties well before the start of the Fire Danger Period. A lot of things can be done in the garden and around the home to improve the chances of surviving the impact of a bushfire or fast moving grassfire.

Now is the time to clean up leaves, twigs, bark and long grass around the home and farm properties as fires cannot be lit in the open air during the Fire Danger Period without a written permit from CFA or a Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.

During the pre- Fire Danger Period clean up, if you plan to burn those piles of fallen branches, bark and leaves, call the VicFire Burn-off notification line on 1800 668 511 to avoid an unnecessary fire brigade callout.

Once the Fire Danger Period has been declared in your municipality by CFA, lighting a fire in the open without a permit can attract a penalty of \$17,000 and twelve months imprisonment.

There are even greater restrictions for Total Fire Ban days due to the greater risk of fire.

To view or download the Can I or Can't I brochure, go to the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 226 226



## FINANCIAL ABUSE

Financial abuse is the illegal or improper use of a person's property, finances and other assets without their informed consent or where consent is obtained by fraud, manipulation or duress.

It usually occurs between an older person and a family member but can also occur with carers or friends.

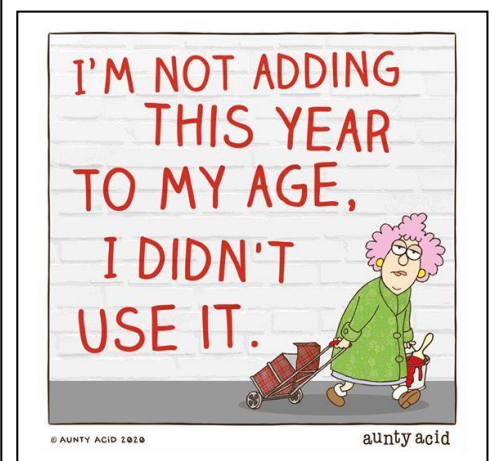
Financial abuse may involve:

- # A family member taking a loan with a promise of repayment but not paying the money back
- # Stealing money or using an older person's banking and credit card without consent
- # Forcefully encouraging changes to a will or other legal document
- # Sale of any property or assets without authority or consent
- # Forced transfers of property

For free, confidential information on a situation you believe may involve financial abuse please contact Seniors Rights Victoria on 1300 368 821.

Our experienced people are available to offer support and assistance. We honour the trust shown to us and respect the choices our clients make.

Courtesy of Seniors Rights Victoria - <https://seniorsrights.org.au/your-rights/financial-abuse>



**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.

Proudly supported by

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*together with Kings Funerals*

If undeliverable please return to:

**Bellarine Community Support Register**

PO Box 819

Ocean Grove Vic 3226

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