

MESSAGE FROM O.I.C. BELLARINE POLICE

As we move into our second COVID summer, this one certainly looks like it will be very different to the last.

With the lifting of CHO restrictions we are envisaging large numbers of holiday makers coming to the Bellarine to holiday and celebrate Christmas, New Year's Eve and Australia Day.

Police are already planning for this and we will be running pro-active policing operations focusing on road users, (traffic) as well as those that use the water, (boating). We will also see more police working on the Bellarine with extra members rostered and tasked to perform duties on the Bellarine and Surfcoast.

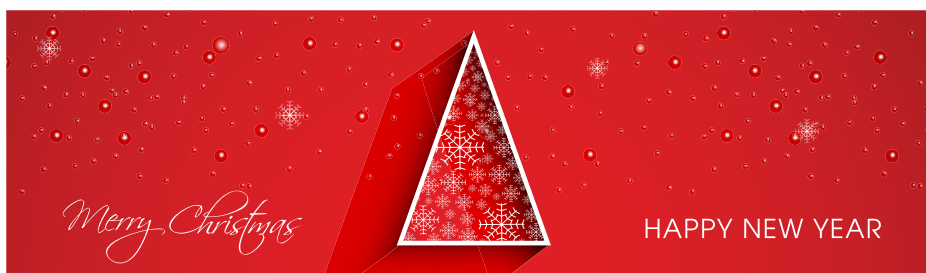
This year for local police has been hard, with member deployments to Melbourne for a month to assist with hotel quarantining, border patrols for two weeks in Mildura and traffic patrols on the Princes Freeway to ensure metro people were not coming into regional Victoria during the height of the pandemic. As well as doing this we have still provided a policing service to our local communities on the Bellarine and we are looking forward to providing an even better service over the summer period.

One of the highlights for the year was to finally be able to get the Bellarine Community Support Register, (BCSR), back where it belongs and working out of the Bellarine Police Station. The police station seemed very quiet without the BCSR volunteers popping in. I understand how hard it has been for the BCSR during the last year and I acknowledge how you have all worked together to keep this worthwhile cause going.

To all the volunteer members of the Bellarine Community Support Register, can I wish you all the very best for the summer period and festive season and thank you all for your dedicated service. Many regards

Adrian Bickley | Senior Sergeant
Bellarine Police Station

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Registrants

Welcome to this Christmas edition of the Bellarine Community Support Register Newsletter.

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly provided our Register with the opportunity to move to a different kind of service whilst operating away from our office.

We are grateful to our Volunteers for their generosity and flexibility in working from home, as we are to you, our Registrants, for your willingness to assist us with this change from our usual operational style.

We have just moved back into the Bellarine Police Station and we are preparing to upgrade our service to ensure that your confidential information continues to be safe and secure. Thank you to **Utilitise IT** for their generous service donation in order to help us make this happen.



We continue to be grateful to the Officer in Charge, Sen. Sgt. Adrian Bickley for supporting our operations and welcoming us back to the Station.

Thank you sincerely for your donations to our service. They most certainly help with ongoing operational costs and are greatly appreciated.

We had requests from you for Morning Teas to be organised in different locations across the Bellarine.

Thanks to funding from the City of Greater Geelong, we will be hosting these for you and potential registrants in Autumn 2022. Venues and dates to be decided. More information will be available in the February Newsletter.

Watch this space!

From our Committee, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and supported Christmas and New Year.

We are having a break from Friday 17 December 2021 and looking forward to returning on Monday 09 January 2022 to welcome in the New Year and to catch up with you all again.

Warm regards

Leonie Saundry
Chairperson
Bellarine Community Support Register.

GOING ON HOLIDAYS?

If you are going away for holidays and won't be available for your scheduled call, please contact the office by phone or email to advise of your absence.

If a Registrant does not answer their call, we try several times and leave a message, but if there is no response, we then contact the next of kin. This may save our volunteers and your next of kin much worry when you are unable to be contacted.

Our Office will be closed from Fri 17 December until Mon 09 January, 2022.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE REGISTER

Bellarine Community Support Register (BCSR) held its Annual General Meeting on 28 October 2021 when a new Committee was elected.

This will ensure the smooth and ongoing operations of the Register as it celebrates its 17th year of providing a free volunteer service to residents on the Bellarine Peninsula.

One service provided by the Register is our Care Calls to Registrants who request them. These calls have been particularly important during the past two years with the isolation experienced by many due to COVID lockdown restrictions and the inability to have family, friends and loved ones visit.

We acknowledged two long term Committee members – Chairperson Gail Rodgers and Jenny Gibbs - who both stepped down from the Committee but will remain with the Register as volunteers.

Gail joined the Register Committee in 2007 as the Register was establishing on the Bellarine.

In 2016, Gail took on the role of Chairperson and has led the organisation through 3 strategic planning cycles as well as securing the pro-bono services of Utilitise IT in the development of a new database called Safeguard.



Gail Rodgers
Chairperson: 2016 - 2021

Also retiring from the Committee was Jenny Gibbs after a combined contribution of 12 years. Jenny has driven the distribution of brochures and presentations to community/ service groups which has been most challenging in the past 12 months. Jenny's considerable commitment over her many years as an Office Volunteer, Care Caller and Committee member has been outstanding and greatly valued.

Two recognition awards for 15 years of service were awarded to Barry Collinson and Markus Stadler. Both Barry and Markus have provided incredible dedication to the organisation over this time. We thank them for their commitment and service.

Additional service awards were presented to acknowledge 5 years service to Rhonda Rotherham, Jenny Gibbs (both previously served) and Bob Jordan. Lyn Codd received a 2 year certificate.

The organisation thanks all its volunteers for their dedicated contribution to the organisation. Without their preparedness to continue the service from their own homes, using their own resources, the Register would have been forced into hibernation during the COVID pandemic.



Jenny Gibbs
Office Volunteer, Care Caller and
Committee Member: 2009 - 2021

ANN NICHOL AWARD



**Tom from Utilitise
with Markus Stadler**

The Register Committee has instituted an award to acknowledge an individual/s who have made a significant contribution to the Register. It has been named the **Ann Nichol Award** in honour of the founding Chairperson of the Bellarine Community Support Register, Mrs Ann Nichol OAM.

This Award acknowledges the significant and continuing contribution over a number of years by a Volunteer (Member) in pursuit of the organisation's goals and objectives.

The announcement of the inaugural Ann Nichol Award recipient was made at the Annual General Meeting. The recipient was Mr Markus Stadler, a volunteer with the Register since 2006.

Markus has been involved in the development, programming and administration of the BilbiWare database used by our Register where residents' personal information is available to authorities in emergency situations. He has provided advice and support to the Officer in Charge of the Bellarine Police Station, training to the new Police Members and Volunteers in the use of the database.

Markus has made a significant contribution to the organisation by providing a substantial income to BCSR through the sale of BilbiWare licences to thirteen registers in the State of Victoria.

With the need for a modern equivalent of Markus' BilbiWare developed in 2006, Markus supported the investigation of a new database for the organization.

With Markus' input, Utilitise IT is close to completing a new database package called Safeguard.

We await its arrival.

BACA DONATION

Bellarine Community Support Register was one of several Bellarine organizations who were the recipients of generous donations made by Bellarine Aged Care Association (BACA) upon their closure. The recipients were selected by BACA based on their roles of facilitating older individual's enjoyment and life enhancement.

BACA was a not-for-profit, community association established to provide a voice, advocacy and support for models of service delivery and accommodation on the Bellarine.

The BCSR Committee is delighted to have received these funds which will be used to ensure our ongoing goals are achieved.

A Correction

When the Friends of Ann Nichol House group was discontinued in 2015 it was agreed that all remaining funds be transferred to the Bellarine Aged Care Association (BACA) with the proviso that they would continue to be used to support and be a voice for older Bellarine residents. Recently, due to changed circumstances, the BACA Committee decided to cease operating and to donate all remaining funds to six existing Bellarine community organisations, one of which is BCSR.

In early October 2021, along with representatives of the other community organisations, Jenny Gibbs, Volunteer and Committee Member, represented BCSR at a function to recognise and publicise the generous handing over of a total of \$36,000 to those six organisations. The function was reported in the 7 October 2021 issue of the Bellarine Times. Unfortunately, the print edition indicated that Jenny represented the 'Bellarine Parkinson Support Group' rather than the Bellarine Community Support Register. A correction was made to the on line edition but no correction was able to be inserted in the following week's print edition.

BACA closure sees funds reinjected back into the Bellarine

BY VINNIE VAN DORSCHOT

A SELECT group of community organisations are now able to give back to the community because of the dissolution of one of the region's most well-known advocacy groups. Six selected groups will share in the amount of \$36,000 after the Bellarine Aged Care Association (BACA) was dissolved due to various factors. After BACA endured a year's hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions, it hosted

The organisations that were selected by BACA were chosen based on their primary work facilitating older individuals' enjoyment and life enhancement. These organisations include the Bellarine Community Support Register, Cherished Pets Foundation, Compassionate Hearts on the Bellarine, Pt Lonsdale United Church (Kirk's Place), Bellarine Parkinson's Support Group and the Porepunkah Lions Club. But over the years, the Bellarine Peninsula has grown, and other organisations are being formed which appear to meet community needs, therefore BACA's future had become very limited according to the association. Compassionate Hearts on the Bellarine is one of the organisations to receive funding from the BACA, a sunbrite neonale in the region who

IN – HOME COVID 19 VACCINATIONS

The Bellarine Community Support Register has been advised that the Western Victoria Primary Health Network is supporting a number of General Practices within the Bellarine service area to complete in-home COVID-19 vaccinations for vulnerable persons within the community.

Eligibility to access this service includes, but is not limited to;

- those who are experiencing homelessness, including those living on the streets, in emergency accommodation, boarding houses or between temporary shelters;
- people with disability or are frail and cannot leave home;
- people in rural and remote areas with limited healthcare options, including those who cannot travel to a regional centre;
- culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse people, especially asylum seekers and refugees and those in older age groups who may find it difficult to use mainstream services;
- those who are not eligible for Medicare and live in an area without access or choose not to access a state, territory or Commonwealth Vaccination Clinic;
- aged care and disability workers, with consideration to all auxiliary staff working on-site;
- new residents relocating into aged care facilities and
- people who would have difficulty getting vaccinated for other reasons without a visit to the home (those reasons do not need to be specified).

Access to this service is simple, and as easy as contacting the general practice directly to book a home visit.

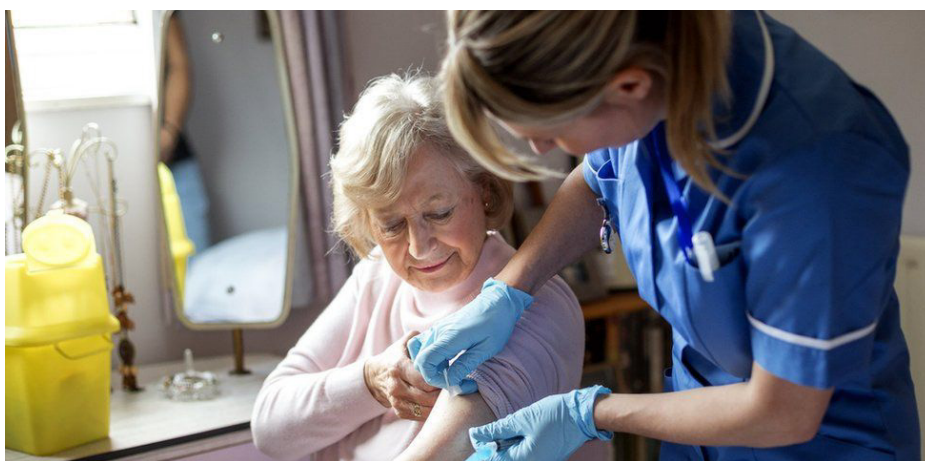
Participating clinics within your region are:

Epic Health

27 Guthridge Street, Ocean Grove
03 5256 2500
homecv@epichealth.com.au

Barwon Heads Family Practice

1/86 Hitchcock Ave, Barwon Heads
03 4244 1030
manager@barwonheadsfamilypractice.com.au



BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER INC.

PO BOX 819,OCEAN GROVE. VIC 3226 TELEPHONE: 0480 228 674

DONATION FORM

NAME: _____ ID NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

I ENCLOSE A DONATION OF: ☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: _____
Please tick the appropriate amount.

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 **127 715 209**.

BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER INC

Proudly supported by

Kings FUNERALS
HERE FOR YOU

If undeliverable please return to:
Bellarine Community Support Register
PO Box 819
Ocean Grove Vic 3226



**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**