

CHAIR'S REPORT JUNE 2024

Welcome to you all as we head towards the middle of winter. I trust this finds you well and secure in the knowledge that the Bellarine Register continues its work for you as having resumed operations from the Bellarine Police Station in Ocean Grove.

NEW CO-ORDINATOR

We welcome Debbie MacLeod to the Volunteer Co-ordinator role. Debbie has enjoyed a 40 plus year career in the health system and brings a wealth of knowledge, care and expertise to the position. We also thank Denise Hibbins for her dedicated commitment to the organization's Volunteers and Registrants, conducting the service from her own home during COVID.

KEY TAGS

The introduction of the key tag during Christmas 2022 was very popular. We are phasing out the stickers at the end of this month for those whose ID number may have rubbed off. If you require a sticker between now and then, please contact the office on 5255 3968. All new registrations will have permanent numbers affixed to the keytag.

DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations. We rely on them to help fund office supplies, newsletter printing and general postage and continue to be grateful for all contributions toward ongoing operational costs.

REGISTRANT NEXT OF KIN

At times, it is necessary to contact your next of kin if we have been unable to make contact with you for your regular care call.

A number of our Registrants have next of kin who live in Melbourne and interstate.

Perhaps there is a neighbour or friend who lives nearby that you could add to your list so that we may contact them to check on you in the first instance, before elevating it to a Welfare Check in conjunction with our local Bellarine District Police.

If you wish to add another contact person, please call our Office on 5255 3968 or email us and we can assist you in that way..

bpsupportregister@bigpond.com

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Finally sincere thanks to our band of Volunteers who quietly but competently keep the service ticking along in the background to serve us all so very well.

BCSR CHAIR VACANCY

This will be my last newsletter to you as Chairperson. After a 3 year-term supported by an extremely competent Committee of Management, I will be stepping down from the role at this year's AGM. Together, it has been an honor to have overseen our renewal as an organisation after a very turbulent period in world history. If you know of anyone who might be interested in the position please contact Rhonda Rotherham at r.rotherham@bordnet.com.au.

Kind regards



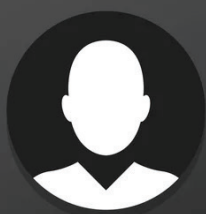
Leonie Saundry

Chairperson

Bellarine Community Support Register.

M: 0448 754 671

E: imsaundry@bigpond.com



5255 3968



Decline



Accept

**Our Register's phone
number is 5255 3968.**

**Please answer the call
if you see this number.**

**Please save this
number to your
contacts list.**



SCAMS



Scams cost Australians millions of dollars each year.

Anyone can be targeted!

Scams are a common way that cyber criminals compromise your online accounts. Scammers' goal is to trick you into paying money or giving away your personal information. They will use email, text messages, phone calls or social media, and often pretend to be a person or organisation you trust.

Knowing what the common types of scams are, and what to look out for could save you from becoming a victim.

Bellarine Neighbourhood will be providing in depth presentations to organised groups throughout 2024.

Contact us anytime via our email to make it happen within your Group.

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

ABSENCE FROM RESIDENCE

You can be away from your home for many reasons.

Letting police know is a proactive way you can help keep your home and community safe.

This is even more important if you'll be away a long time.

When you register with police, you provide:

- Your contact information.
- Times and dates you'll be away.
- Who to contact while you're away.

Police stations have an *absence from residence* register.

This information could be used to reach you or your emergency contact if there is an incident at your home or to perform patrols in the area.

Due to the dynamic nature of calls for police services, Victoria Police cannot guarantee that police will attend your property during your absence from your home.

Be sure to notify police if returning earlier than planned.

REGISTER ONLINE

To register your absence from residence online, visit <https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/housing-and-property/register-your-absence-from-residence>

You can also register at your local police station. To do so, download and complete the absence from residence form: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/home-and-property#absence-from-residence>

Take the completed form to your local police station to be noted in the station's register.



HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME WHEN YOU GO AWAY

If you're going on holiday, making your home look occupied when you're not there is a good way to put off unwanted intruders.

Most break-ins happen when there's no-one home. Before you go away, take time to secure your home and reduce the chance a thief breaking in by following these simple tips.

LOCK UP

Make sure all doors and windows are shut and locked, including sheds, garages and gates.

Remove any spare keys you have hidden outside the home and keep any spares out of sight inside the house.

DON'T BROADCAST YOUR HOLIDAY

Don't announce on social media that you're going away. You can post your holiday snaps once you've safely returned home.

Set your social media accounts to "private" or "friends only" and delete any followers you don't know.

MAKE IT SEEM LIKE YOU'RE AT HOME

Get timer switches for your lights and radio or television, if you don't have smart home technology. Set them to turn on and off at times of the day when you would normally use them.

Make sure the lights come on in the living areas of your home, and not in the hallway, for example. Tuning your radio to a station which is mostly talking is better than a music station.

ASK A NEIGHBOUR TO HELP

Ask a neighbour you trust to keep an eye on your property and help make it look like you're there. Tell them when you're going and when you'll be back. Ask them to:

- park their car in your driveway to make it look like you're at home
- clear out your letterbox
- open and close blinds at appropriate times of the day
- put your garbage bins out on collection day and bring them in again.

CANCEL DELIVERIES

Cancel any regular deliveries such as newspapers and food boxes and arrange for Australia Post to hold or redirect your mail.

LIGHT UP WITH SENSOR LIGHTS

Install motion sensor lights around the entry to your home if you don't already have them.

Before you head off, test that they're working and angled correctly. Consider getting solar-powered sensor lights.

CONSIDER A SMART CAMERA

While most security cameras are more useful for catching crooks than deterring them, installing camera doorbells or motion sensor cameras disguised as floodlights can come in handy when you're not home.

Invest in the models that link with your smartphone, so if you do have an intruder at home

you'll receive a notification and can even see and talk to them in real time.

Hang some washing on your line and bring it in again.

REDIRECT MAIL

Arrange for Australia Post to hold or redirect your mail. Put a "no junk mail" sticker on your letterbox.

FREE HOME SECURITY PRE-HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

There are usually a truckload of things you need to do and get ready before you go away. So, trying to remember all the simple things you can do to keep your home secure, can be tough.

We've taken the hassle out of that by preparing a free home security holiday checklist. Download it and fill it out as part of your trip preparations.

<https://nhw.com.au/home-and-property/how-to-protect-your-home-when-you-go-away/>



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.

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

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GEELONG
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& St Leonards
Neighbourhood Watch

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- Record exactly how to be remembered at the service, in your own unique way.
- A Funeral bond can help preserve your pension entitlements.

Call our team or visit our website
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on **03 5248 3444**

www.kingsfunerals.com.au



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



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