

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Issue 9, 2024

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: Digital drivers licence, road safety, community messages and a whole lot more.

MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

Digital Licences: Earlier this year, digital driver licences rolled out across the state giving Victorians the option to carry their licence on their phone. This month, digital driver licences have become available for L and P platers across Victoria, ensuring that whether you have your wallet on you or not, you can have your ID on you at all times.

Digital licences have undergone rigorous privacy and security testing and can be updated in real time if there are changes to licence conditions or personal information like home addresses.

Physical licences are not changing, the digital licence is simply another option that can make it easier when picking up a parcel, visiting a licensed venue or driving around.

This digital access to driver licences adds to the other government issued cards that can be accessed digitally including Working with Children Check, Seniors cards or fishing licences.

To access and set up your digital licence, download either the VicRoads or Services Victoria app, or visit www.service.vic.gov.au to find out more.

Fire Safety : As the weather is warming up, we've already seen a number of fires across the State, including one in Ocean Grove recently. Victoria is one of the most fire prone areas in the world. It is important to know how to plan for and respond to fire.

If you don't have a fire plan visit www.fireplanner.vic.gov.au to create a plan in less than 10 minutes to be ready in case of an emergency.

To keep up to date with incidents and warnings please download the VicEmergency app. The VicEmergency app is the best place for advice, as it is constantly updated and provides advice around the actions you must take under different scenarios. This is better than relying on Facebook community posts, where the intentions are good meaning, but they may not have all the information you need.

For assistance with any state matter, please contact my office on 03 5250 1987 or via email at alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au.



VICTORIA POLICE

Road Safety for Older Pedestrians

An important safety message from
Assistant Commissioner Doug Fryer

Road Safety for Older Pedestrians – a safety message from Victoria Police

Between 2011 and 2015, there were 66 pedestrians aged 70 or above killed in collisions. Although only accounting for one tenth of the population, the 70 up age group accounted for about one third of all pedestrian fatalities in that time period. There were also six collisions involving pedestrians who were riding motorised mobility scooters during this time, however there is no indication that there is an increase in fatalities involving older pedestrians using these aids. These statistics are similar across the developed world.

With increasing age and a decline in general health it is likely that older people will be taking one or more prescription medications on a regular basis, many of which are likely to affect their ability to use the road safely. Moreover, not all medications have clear and understandable messaging of their likely impairment on a person's mobility, especially pedestrian performance.

Both aging and medication can gradually affect a person's ability to cross roads safely. This is shown in the contributing factors to the 66 collisions including:

- Failing eyesight and hearing
- Poor gap selection
- Inability to judge the speed and distance of approaching vehicles
- Limited mobility and
- Slower movement.

These contributing factors can also be accentuated by what the Victorian Coroner described as the "...legal maze through which drivers and pedestrian traffic must negotiate, to determine right of way ...". As a consequence it has been determined that VicRoads, AustRoads (both of whom develop road rules) and local councils need to work toward eliminating the confusion.

But in the meantime what can you do to increase your safety as a pedestrian;

- Always cross roads at traffic lights or at marked crossings when available or at least intersections - even if you have to walk a little further
- Walk and cross with other pedestrians whenever possible
- Give yourself more time to cross by waiting for a newly turned green or walk signal
- Keep scanning for vehicles as you cross
- When crossing roads – take the shortest route. If there is a pedestrian refuge cross the road in two stages
- Wait for vehicles to stop completely
- Make eye contact with the driver before crossing in front of a vehicle
- Use the footpath when available
- Watch for turning vehicles, before stepping off the kerb and while crossing
- Do not step off the kerb before checking for cyclists
- Consider your own mobility – be mindful of how quickly you can move – it may take you longer than you think to cross the road or get out of the way of moving vehicles
- Make sure you know how to use any mobility device (stick, frame or scooter) before leaving home

For your safety, always be aware of yourself, aware of your surroundings and be alert!

Community Safety



with



Neighbourhood Watch Greater Geelong

We invite preschool, primary and secondary school students in the Greater Geelong and Surf Coast region to participate in the Neighbourhood Watch Community Safety Poster Competition for 2024.

All junior artists are encouraged to submit a creative poster with a community safety message in the following age groups:
Preschool to Year 2, Year 3 – 6, Year 7 - 12

Let's get creative!

- You can work in teams or individually to produce an amazing poster.
- It can be either A3 or A4 size using any medium, from paper to digital.
- Any art material and digital technology can be used, including paint, textas, crayons, pencils, collage materials, original photographs and digital graphics (extra points if you can add the Neighbourhood Watch logo)

PRIZES TO BE WON!

1st Prize: \$50 Kmart voucher

2nd Prize: \$30 Kmart voucher

3rd Prize: \$20 Kmart voucher

(for each age group)

Deliver your posters to any of these locations:

Bellarine Police Station, 67-69 The Parade, Ocean Grove

Geelong Police Station, 110 Mercer Street, Geelong

Neville Richards Real Estate, 1377 Murradoc Road, St Leonards

OR Email to nhwbellarine@gmail.com

Entries close: Friday 29 November, 2024 at 5.00pm, winners announcement will be on the 6th of December 2024

Keeping your car safe at the beach during summer.

The warmer weather the last couple of weeks brought extra visitors to the Bellarine to enjoy our beautiful beaches, bays, restaurants, bike paths, wineries and other attractions. We saw a slight uptick in crimes involving the theft of motor vehicles (TOMV) and theft from motor vehicles (TFMV). These offences were focussed around the beaches and bayside carparks. The theme tying these crimes together was the breaking of key lock boxes that were attached to vehicles. Whilst key lock boxes are in theory a great idea they are only a hinderance to an honest person. They let the offender know that your keys are with your car and you are not. Even the most robust of the models available are easily rendered useless by an offender with a small club hammer and a couple of seconds alone. Consider the use of a waterproof key bag or wallet that you can take with you into the water. Many small models can be worn under a wetsuit and there are larger bum bag style ones available for your wallet and phone. As always secure your vehicle and leave your valuables at home so that you can enjoy a great day on the Bellarine. Our dedicated Coast Watch Patrols commence on Monday the 18th of November and continue through until early February to provide additional resourcing during the busy summer months. Remember if you see out members out and about feel free to approach them with any of your thoughts, concerns or even just to say hello.





Neighbourhood Watch – Bellarine Neighbourhood News

Protecting your packages from theft: As Christmas approaches and cyber sales pop up, it's time to think how safe your deliveries will be in your letterbox or at your front door.

More than a million parcels are reported stolen in Australia each year. With Australians increasingly shopping online, that number is likely to rise.

We understand how convenient it is to get something delivered to your door within a few days – or even hours – of ordering it. But if you're not home to receive it, a package sitting at your front door, in your driveway, or in an apartment foyer is an easy target and super tempting to an opportunistic thief.

When you're ordering: If you have the option, schedule the delivery to happen when you know you'll be home.

Leave a note or delivery request to the seller giving specific details about where to leave the package if you're not at home. Make sure it's somewhere out of sight and can't be seen from the street.

Ask for tracking with your package. You may need to pay a little extra, but you will receive notifications about when, specifically, the package should arrive.

Select "click and collect", if given the option, and have your order delivered to a collection point near you, such as a local branch of the store, a newsagent, petrol station or pharmacy.

Consider adding signature confirmation to your delivery, so that the package can only be left with someone who signs for it or be taken to the nearest post office or collection point.

Never instruct delivery drivers and couriers to leave your package "in a safe place". There is always a risk in leaving a parcel unattended and your definition of a safe place might be a thief's definition of "help yourself".

If you're not going to be at home: When the delivery company sends you a notification about the expecting delivery date/time, don't agree for them to "leave it in a safe place" – specify a secure location at your house, that can't be seen from the street.

Arrange to have packages delivered to your workplace.

Have parcels redirected to your local post office for collection.

Organise with a trusted neighbour to keep a lookout and collect the parcel when it's delivered.

Arrange for your packages to be sent to a trusted neighbour, friend or family member who's usually at home.

Register for a free Australia Post parcel locker near you and have your orders sent there.

Other safety measures: If you regularly get packages delivered to your home, invest in a lockable parcel box, which works similar to a public post box. Deliverers open the top door of the box, place parcels on the flap and once the lid is closed, parcels can only be removed through a locked door at the bottom.

If you're ordering something valuable, pay a little extra for parcel insurance.

Set up simple motion sensor security camera at your front entry that will send notifications to your smartphone when the camera is triggered. You can log in from your smartphone to see what's happening in real time. With some models you can even have a conversation with the person on camera. And if a parcel is stolen from your home, you can provide the footage to police.

Make sure your letterbox has a high quality, strong letterbox lock and that the mail slot is narrow enough so a hand can't reach in and remove your mail or small package more information, visit <https://nhom.au/home-and-property/protecting-your-packages-from-theft/>

BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

Each year, our Register conducts a satisfaction survey with Registrants who choose to receive calls as part of the Register's service.

This year again, our Volunteers surveyed 10% of those receiving calls and invited them to answer 3 questions with the following answers provided to this important question:

What's the best thing about the Register?

Among the responses were these:

- **Someone knows that you are still alive;**
- **Knowing other people care besides family;**
- **Connecting with someone and feeling cared for;**
- **Knowing the consistent contact will occur and feeling cared for;**
- **Calls are enjoyed because it's known that BCSR cares about people's wellbeing;**
- **Receiving a safety and wellbeing check;**
- **I know I'm safe because I live on my own;**
- **It's nice to talk to someone.**

These responses validate our service to the residents of the Bellarine and show it is appreciated and does offer the safety, security and peace of mind that we provide.

WHO CAN REGISTER WITH US? ANYONE ON THE BELLARINE

One of our Volunteers had a visit at the office from a Bellarine resident. This gentleman had recently moved into a retirement village and wanted to join the Register. However he was mistaken in thinking that he was unable to join the Register because of the low level care he received at his new residence.

We accept registrations from all Bellarine residents – permanent **homeowners**, holiday home **homeowners**, young people, people from diverse backgrounds. Anyone who would benefit from an additional layer of security.

Perhaps you know someone who may benefit from being registered with our service. Chat to them about it or obtain our brochure and registration form by calling us on (03) 5255 3968 or visit our website for more information and to complete our online registration form.

<https://bellarineregister.org.au/>

**BELLARINE COMMUNITY
SUPPORT REGISTER INC.**

Feel safe. Feel secure. Have peace of mind.

POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE



All Victorians are encouraged to contact the Police Assistance Line on **131 444** or visit the Victoria Police Online Reporting service to report non-urgent crimes and events.

The Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting service will take reports or give advice at any time on non-urgent crimes and events anywhere in the state, including:

- property damage
- lost or located property
- theft
- absence from residence registrations
- PartySafe registrations
- other general non-urgent police enquiries

The Online Reporting service is available through the new look Victoria Police website, which improves the way police information and services are found and understood online.

The Police Assistance Line calls are taken by civilian staff at a contact centre in Ballarat, under the supervision of police.

Police 131 444

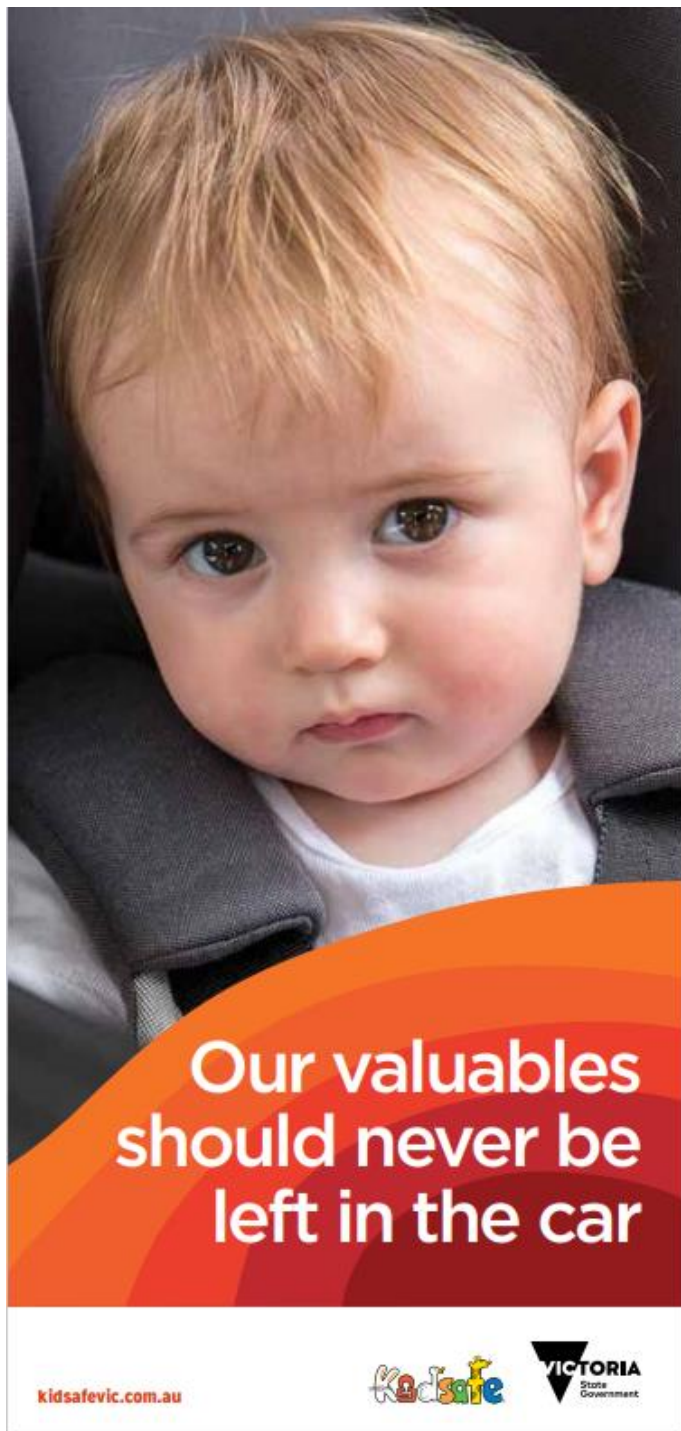
Save 000 for emergencies



Police, CFA and Ambulance were called to a two car collision on the corner of Queenscliff and Swan Bay Roads, Swan Bay on the morning of Thursday the 14th of November. A delivery van was flipped on its roof during the incident and the two occupants were lucky to escape the wreckage with only minor injuries. The other vehicle involved was also extensively damaged.

With the approaching Christmas, New Year and Australia Day festivities almost upon us it is a timely reminder for all of us that use the roads on the Bellarine to slow down and take heed of control signals at intersections. As the influx of tourist commences on the Bellarine police will be out patrolling our roads as part of our Coast Watch Patrol and Operation Backroads which specifically targets the roads connecting the towns on the Bellarine.

Always drive to the conditions and observe traffic controls on the Bellarine.



**Our valuables
should never be
left in the car**

kidsafevic.com.au



Our valuables should never be left in the car

Leaving children unattended in a car on any day is dangerous, let alone when it's hot. It could result in serious injury or death. In Victoria, it is against the law to leave children unattended in a car. Parents or carers could face fines or up to six months' jail.

What are the risks?

Even on mild days, the temperature inside a parked car can be 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the temperature outside.

Within five minutes, the temperature in the car can double. When it's 30 degrees outside, your child could be suffering in up to 60 degree heat.

As a child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adults, the impact of this heat on a child's body is almost immediate. This puts them at greater risk of life-threatening heat stroke, brain injury, heart and lung failure, and dehydration.

Large cars heat up just as fast as smaller ones. Leaving the windows down slightly has little effect on the inside temperature. Tests have shown that when windows are left open by 10cm, it reduces the inside temperature by only five degrees.

**For more information about car safety, please visit:
kidsafevic.com.au
For an emergency, call 000**

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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