

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Issue 6, 2024

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: Bullying, it's never ok, information on local crime trends, community messages, concerns and a whole lot more.



MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

YOUTH JUSTICE BILL

I am looking forward to this month's meeting of the Bellarine Community Safety Group, where we will have Leading Senior Constable Anthony Sheedy and Acting Senior Sergeant Jarrod Roberts discuss the recent crime statistics and what this means for the Bellarine. The bSafe group consists of community members who represent different associations and townships in the Bellarine.

At this month's meeting I will also be discussing the new Youth Justice Bill that was introduced to Parliament last month. This Bill creates a new standalone Youth Justice Act, providing a new framework for youth offending in Victoria. The current youth justice legislation framework has not been systematically reviewed since 1989.

This Bill continues the significant reform undertaken since 2017 guided by the Youth Justice Review and Strategy. Most notably, the Bill will raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years of age and support young people to comply with their bail conditions.

These new laws will also mean stronger consequences for those who engage in serious, high-risk and repeat offending, and also enable earlier intervention and diversion for lower-

level offenders – because diverting young people from risky behaviour is the most effective way to keep them and the community safe.

It's not simply just a matter of tightening our laws – our police response, our courts and our youth justice system must also address why these complex young people are behaving the way they are.

While Victoria has one of the lowest rates of youth offending in Australia, we know there is always more we can do.

This Bill is addressing what we can do next to prevent children or young people from entering the youth justice system.

You can contact Alison Marchant's office on 5250 1987 or via email at alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au



Member for Bellarine Alison MARCHANT

DIGITAL DRIVER LICENCE

(By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)

Following a successful trial in Ballarat, Services Victoria and Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) have rolled out the Victorian Digital Driver Licence (DDL) state-wide on the 13th of May, 2024.

A DDL offers Victorians an easy, secure and private way to access their licence from their phone. The digital licence is not currently available for learners and p-platers but will be by 2025.

What is DDL?

DDL is a quick, easy, and secure way to provide your licence status, access licencing information to verify your identity, or prove you are over 18. Your digital driver licence can be accessed directly from the myVicRoads or Service Victoria app.

You can use your digital licence:

- to prove your right to drive.
- as proof you're over 18 at licensed venues or
- anywhere you need to prove your identity (such as retailers or hotels)

Using a DDL is optional at the moment as physical licences will continue to be issued for all Victorian drivers and can continue to be used for identification purposes.

Haven't got yours yet? You can obtain your DDL online but you'll need a [myVicRoads account](#).

For businesses, digital driver licences give you verified information with a quick scan of a QR code. They're a secure and trusted tool for licence, identity, and proof of age checks. The DDL features a secure QR code which can be scanned to verify authenticity and prevent fraudulent use. Businesses, authorities and others will be able to check a licence is valid using their smartphone.

It may take time for some businesses to update their processes to accept DDL, so please continue to carry your physical licence as it gets introduced across the state.

Where a person is asked to produce a DDL, be aware data is updated regularly from the VicRoads Driver Licence System and features a QR code that refreshes every 90 seconds. Where a person is unable to produce a DDL due to an inoperable electronic device, it will constitute an offence unless a defence of 'reasonable excuse' for not being able to do so.

So, if you're like me and don't like to carry your wallet around with you this will alleviate the need to carry your physical licence whilst you are driving. It will all be available to be produced on your mobile device if required and this will meet your obligations to do so.

BUSINESS CONTACT IS COMING

Over the next few months, Bellarine Neighbourhood, as part of Bellarine Police, will endeavour to attend all commercial premises within the Bellarine Peninsula. This will be all retail, commercial, in fact all places organisations can be found/communicated with.

We will be gathering your up to date contact information, the best contact person for your organisation and security/CCTV information. It will also provide a point of contact for you to assist with general questions and also provide advice.

Once this information is obtained, we expect there will be ongoing contact from Police with areas of concerns, advice and any questions organisations may have.

So expect us to see you soon out and about remembering, we are there to help. We are happy to be attend any meetings from organised incorporations or group if requested on specific topics on areas of concern as well.

It would also be an opportunity to relay any concerns you may have whilst we are at your group. All staff are highly skilled and knowledgeable, especially on local issues and certainly approachable. So, use this source whilst we are there.

On a final note, your up to date contact information can be an integral part of your business when it comes to a situation outside business hours where police need to make contact in an emergency. It can make a difference when it comes to speaking to the right person in a timely manner that has access to vital information that may be required.

CRIME – WHERE ARE WE AT

June has seen a dramatic increase in burglaries and also theft related offences across the Bellarine Peninsula. There were 15 burglaries, one where there was someone home during the incident, and 35 reported incidents of theft. Motor vehicles have also been getting stolen having seven reports of theft of motor vehicles for June. A timely reminder to secure your cars.

Deceptions (SCAMS) has had a slight decline, but still having numerous reports coming through. Bellarine Neighbourhood has had presentations running within the community and it appears it may be finally having an impact. If your are part of a group/organisation and would like a presentation to your members on SCAMS please do not hesitate to email us at BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au to book in.

Family violence incidents is remaining an issues for us also.



HANDGUN FOUND ON LOCAL BEACH

(By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)

SCAMS

Whilst out for a walk, a local resident had a huge surprise. Whilst walking along the Barwon River, not too far from the Barwon Heads bridge, Ocean Grove, the member of the public saw something on the sand bank believed to be a firearm.

Closer inspection confirmed their suspicion where police were notified immediately. They stood guard until police attended a short time later to take over the terrifying find.

Police managed the scene and seized the firearm being confirmed as an 8mm H.SCHMIDI OSTHEIM/RHOEN MOD5a. This is a very small, easily concealed, German made handgun. The scariest part is the fact a very short distance from the firearm was a loaded magazine for that said gun.

This type of find, if found by the wrong person or children, could have had dier consequences.

Investigation in relation to the discovery continues where are this point in time it is unclear if the firearm was used in any incident. What is clear is the fact the firearm was unregistered and not at the location for very long.

The firearm will now undergo ballistic and forensic testing to assess if the firearm can be linked to any unsolved gun crime out there.

This is a good time to educate your children, friends and family on the safety of firearms and to never ever touch anything found suspected of being a firearm. Instead, the area needs to be cordoned off and the item be contained in an area inaccessible to anyone.



Scams cost Australians millions of dollars each year. Anyone can be targeted!

Scams are a common way that cybercriminals 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 at BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au to make it happen within your Group.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I wonder if
common sense will
ever make a comeback?



Representation of Firearm Located



VICTORIA POLICE

Careers with Victoria Police

When choosing an exciting new career, it's not just about who you are, but who you'll be.

Explore roles and careers within Victoria Police

Victoria Police is an organisation with over 22,000 staff across 350 locations. We are committed to growing a diverse workforce that is representative of the communities we serve – including diversity of age, gender, culture, religion, and sexual orientation.

There are four career pathways at Victoria Police:

- Police Officer;
- Protective Services Officer;
- Police Custody Officer; and
- Victorian Public Servant.

Police Officer role

Right across Victoria, from the heart of Melbourne to the most remote country towns, police officers carry out a range of duties that are diverse, rewarding and challenging to help keep the community safe.

The benefits

- Paid from day one of your 31 week training program at the Victoria Police Academy in Glen Waverley.
- Generous leave entitlements including 9 weeks recreation leave per year, as well as shift penalties and allowances on top of the base salary.
- After completing typically 2-4 years of general duties, you can apply for a specialist police role.

Application Tips

- ✓ Check you are eligible by reading the suitability checklist.
- ✓ Check your spelling and grammar, re-read your application before submission.
- ✓ Disclose ALL prior history including traffic infringements, driving offences, unpaid fines, and all police involvements.
- ✓ Act on document requests quickly to ensure your application process runs efficiently.

Attend a Victoria Police Careers Event

The Recruitment Team at Victoria Police runs a series of information sessions, fitness test trials, and seminars to provide you with all you need to know about the recruitment process and how to put your best foot forward when applying.

SCAN HERE



Quick eligibility and suitability check for Police Officers

- Are you 18 years of age or over?
- Are you an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident?
Note: New Zealand citizens who do not currently reside in Australia are eligible to apply however will need to reside in Australia and hold a special category visa prior to commencing employment.
- Are you able to undertake shift work (morning, afternoon and night shift), 10 days per fortnight? This includes working on weekends and public holidays.
- Are you willing to carry and use a range of tactical policing options to perform policing duties?
- Are you fit enough to fulfill the physical fitness requirements?
- Do you meet the minimum medical requirements?
- Are you willing to work across different Victorian locations, as per operational needs?
- Do you have a solid understanding of the recruitment process assessments?
- Are you ready to be considered for a role as a police officer?

Q police careers

Victoria Police Recruitment Team
(03) 8335 5003
policecareers-mgr@police.vic.gov.au



MADE
FOR
MORE



Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS AGAINST THEFT

Your business is your livelihood. And while every business is different, security measures are pretty much universal. It's important to know the practical, proactive steps you can take to protect your business and keep yourself, your staff and customers safe.

Crime costs businesses billions of dollars each year – whether that be through burglary, robbery, shoplifting, property damage, scams, employee theft, fraud or data breaches.

It can be particularly devastating to a small business, who can lose customers, staff, precious assets and money, let alone the motivation to recover and move on.

Despite the challenges in funds and staff numbers that many small businesses face, there are cost-effective strategies you can take to protect your business from crime.

1) Set up a security system

Installing a monitored security system will not only help you and police in the event of a theft, it will also act as a deterrent for potential thieves.

Make sure cameras are visible or display signs that tell customers that a security system is in place.

2) Make sure the outside of your business protects the inside

- Make sure your business is visible by using good exterior lighting.
- Install sensor lights in dark areas around the premises so they light up if someone approaches.
- Keep any outside shrubbery neat and tidy
- Remove potential climbing aids like skip bins, trees or ladders near windows or roofs.
- Consider installing bollards across the front of your business to stop possible ram raids.

3) Use your entries and exits

Use electronic sensors to alert staff when someone enters or exits the business

Avoid placing large, solid items, like blinds, shelves or signage near the entry to keep the view in to and out of your business clear and eliminate any potential hiding spots for thieves.

4) Work with staff to secure your business

Train staff on security protocols so they know what to do to help secure your business.



Provide staff with written procedures so they can correctly follow any security measures you have in place.

Ensure staff know what to do when closing the business prevent after-hours break-ins. Often thieves target businesses outside of trade hours, as there won't be people around.

Educate staff in the best practices for managing stock, customers and payments.

5) Control access

Make sure all doors and windows have strong, good quality locks, including skylights and access holes. Regular re-key locks and update any access codes. Keep track of which third parties, such as cleaners or contractors, have keys or access cards.

6) Get to know your business neighbours

Engaging with your local business community can be a powerful preventive measure. When people come together as a community, they not only feel safer, they are safer.

Reach out to your neighbouring businesses and connect via a private Facebook Group or What's App. Stay in touch, keep an eye out for one another and report any suspicious behaviour to police.

Consider forming a Neighbourhood Watch business group for mutual support and shared strategies. We would be happy to meet with you to provide advice and motivation. Email ceo@nhw.com.au for more information.

For more information around protecting your business, visit our website - <https://nhw.com.au/category/small-business/> and learn more about

- [How to prevent an armed robbery and what to do if one happens](#)
- [How to prevent retail theft and what to do if you witness it](#)
- [How to protect tradie tools from theft](#)
- [10 simple low-cost ways to make your store safer](#)

BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

A TELEPHONE CALL MEANS SO MUCH

One of the Register's oldest Registrants, Allan, receives weekly phone calls from our Register simply to check in with him and have a conversation and much needed connection.

At 93 years of age, Allan grieves for his recently deceased wife. They were married for 64 years.

He told his caller recently that his first wife left him with a baby girl all those years ago and that he raised his baby with the help of his mother whilst he went to work. Twenty years ago, this only child

died tragically. He finds it difficult to reconcile this with his very strong religious faith.

Alf has any number of services attending to his physical needs each day which he fully appreciates. However, no service personnel have time to sit down and have a chat with him because their time is so limited and they have so many things to do.

In Allan's words: "You can still be alone in a room full of people", he said.

"You (the Register volunteer) are the first person that I've spoken to in three days. I am very grateful for the calls and enjoy the conversations because (the volunteers) are always so bright and genuine."

Sometimes Allan was hard to find when we called. He would go to the shops on his scooter and have a coffee, get sidetracked talking to someone he knew or had just met, and the time would slip away. He is always so positive and so friendly and just needs a bit of company. And our volunteers can provide just that.

Perhaps there is someone you know who may benefit from a regular call from our Register volunteers. If so, please recommend the Bellarine Community Support Register to them. Visit our website for more information or to complete an online registration. <https://bellarineregister.org.au/>

BE SCAM AWARE

A Scam Awareness Training session will be held on MONDAY 22nd JULY at 10am at the Bellarine Training and Community Hub, 1 John Dory Drive, Ocean Grove. This FREE session will be conducted by Bellarine Neighbourhood (Bellarine Police members). Just an hour of your time will provide you with information on potential scams risks you may face.

Come along.

Fifty people attended the St Leonards event on June 16 with some extremely positive feedback received.

**BELLARINE COMMUNITY
SUPPORT REGISTER INC.**

Feel safe. Feel secure. Have peace of mind.

POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE

**WHEN YOU'VE...
LOST
SOMETHING
VALUABLE
...YOU DON'T
NEED THE SIRENS**

**SAVE
131 444**  **POLICE
VIC.GOV.AU**
FOR NON-URGENT SITUATIONS

 **VICTORIA**
State Government

All Victorians are encouraged to contact the Police Assistance Line on [131 444](tel:131444) 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

STOLEN CAR TORCHED

(By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)

On Friday the 5th of March, at 11.05pm, the police have been called to attend a motor vehicle fully ablaze in Whitehorse Road, Moolap, near the intersection of Bellarine Highway.

On attendance police have observed a black Nissan Elgrand on fire at the specified location. CFA were notified and the car fire was extinguished.

The scene was assessed by police where no accelerants were located nor any other evidence of significant value at the scene.

A Whittington man, the owner of the motor vehicle, alleges the car was last sighted parked outside his private residence in Whittington at 7.00pm that night. The owner of the motor vehicle was not aware his motor vehicle had been stolen until receiving a call from the police asking about it.

Police took a report for the theft of motor vehicle where this is currently being investigated by Senior Constable Chris PEDERSEN at Bellarine Police Station.

The victim in the matter is assisting police with the investigation where there is possible CCTV of the theft. Cameras are located at the scene of the theft but at this stage it is not clear whether it captured the incident or not. When received, the CCTV will be assessed in the hope of identifying these criminals.

**CRIME STOPPERS VICTORIA**

Crime Stoppers is an independent not-for-profit organisation that partners with the community, media and police to encourage people to prevent crime and to confidentially share what they know about unsolved crime or suspicious activity.

Crime Stoppers believes everyone has the right to feel safe from crime. We share practical advice on how you can protect your community, and the people and things that are important to you.

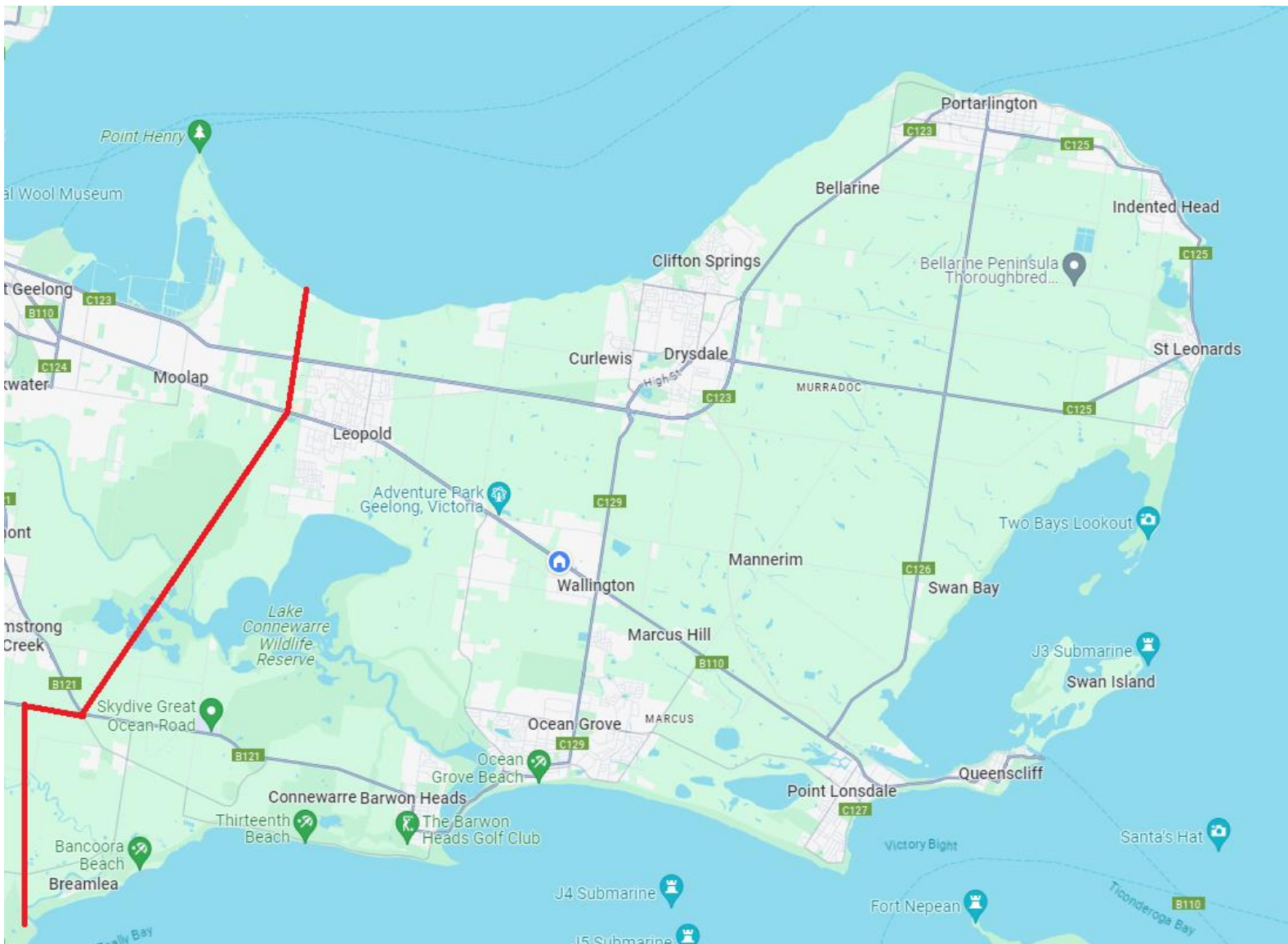
When you make a report, you don't have to leave your personal details with us, your call isn't recorded and, if you make a report online, your IP address isn't stored. You are in control of the reporting process – you choose how much information you share and whether you want to remain anonymous.

Since its start in Victoria in 1987, they have received over 1.33 million tips from the community, resulting in over 27,600 arrests and the recovery of more than \$406 million worth of drugs, property and cash.

**Any info,
any crime,
any time.**



BELLARINE POLICE COVERAGE MAP



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

LSC Anthony SHEEDY

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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