

Bellarine Neighbourhood

December, 2024

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: Vulnerable road users, Christmas in the Grove.

MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

As we come into Summer, I'd like to firstly wish you all a Merry Christmas and safe holiday season. As the weather warms up, I remind you to be safe along our waterways and take extra care on the road. We know many visitors make the trip to our region to experience our beautiful coastlines and local businesses, but we want everyone to get home safe.

Since June, the Victorian Water Police have been based permanently in Queenscliff and have been called to more than 180 incidents this year across the bay. Being a varied coastline, I encourage everyone who is going out on the water, whether it be to swim, surf, fish, ride jet skis or go boating, to follow the rules, check your safety equipment is up to date and be respectful out on the water.

Over the busy season more officers are brought to the Queenscliff base to increase the police's capability to respond to incidents as fast as possible, with the additional support of the local Coast Watch Ocean Grove and Coast Guard Queenscliff.

I'd like to say a big thank you to our local Victorian Police, both on the water and the roads, for dedicating their time over the Christmas period to the safety of Bellarine locals and visitors.

I'd also like to acknowledge and thank all of our volunteers who work tirelessly over the busy summer months, including members of the CFA, SES, Surf Life Saving Clubs, Marine Search and Rescue Units and all of the incredible community members involved in our local food-relief support services over the holiday period.

We live in an incredible place, where so many generously give back to our community.

As always, if you require assistance with any State Government matter, please contact my office on 5250 1987 or via email alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au

Grass Fire – Marcus Hill

The afternoon of Saturday the 16th of November saw a grass fire head towards homes at the Oakdene Estate, from Marcus Hill. CFA were quickly on scene and fought the fire. The fire burnt around 5 acres but was extinguished without any damage to property. Police were on standby to evacuate nearby residents but thankfully were not required. It is a timely reminder to be aware of weather conditions and your surroundings. Every home should have a fire action plan and all members of the household know what to do and when to enact it. For more information visit [Your Bushfire Plan | CFA \(Country Fire Authority\)](#) or type “CFA fire plan” into your favourite internet search engine.





Staying safe as a pedestrian

When using footpaths, streets, or crossing roads, stay safe by following pedestrian rules.

Pedestrian safety requires good judgement, awareness and common sense when out running or walking in public.

Things a pedestrian should do

When walking or running in public you should always:

- use traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, pedestrian refuges, and overpasses and bridge underpasses
- make eye contact with other road users to make sure they've seen you
- walk straight across roads when crossing
- watch for oncoming traffic, even while crossing the road
- always crossing the road at a crossing or at traffic lights.

Following the above tips also sets a good example for children and other pedestrians.

Things a pedestrian should not do

You should not:

- cross a road near the crest of a hill or on a bend (motorists may not see you in time)
- step off the road kerb onto the road until the traffic has stopped or cleared (traffic may not have time to stop)
- walk out onto the road from between parked vehicles (drivers may not be able to see you).

Staying safe as a cyclist

When out riding, wear the right safety equipment and keep your bike in good condition.

Remember, it is [against the law for drivers to not give you enough space to ride safely on roads](#).

When passing cyclists, motorists must give:

- at least one metre passing distance in speed zones up to 60km/h
- at least 1.5 metres passing distance space in zones over 60km/h.

Things a cyclist should do

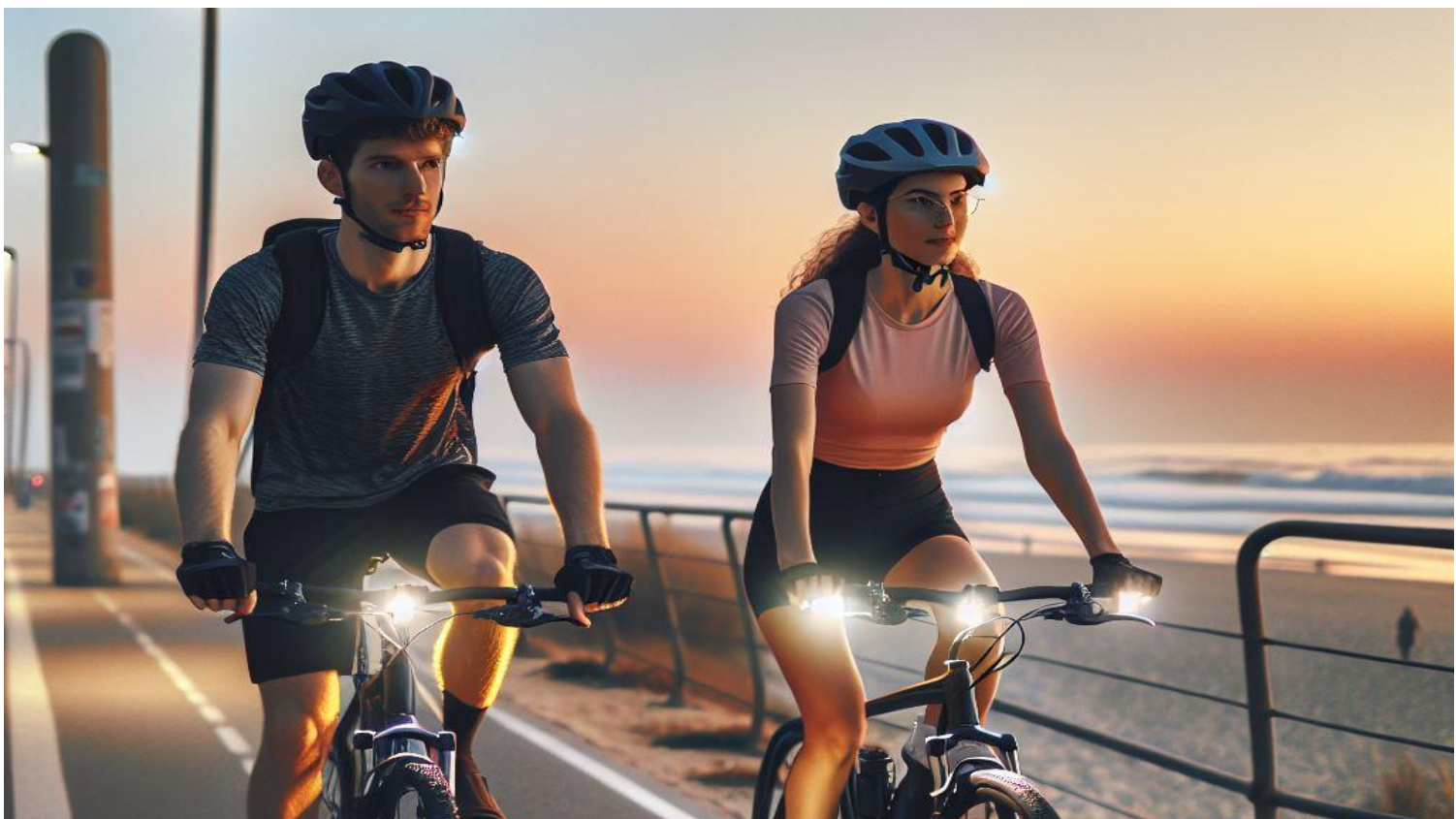
When riding your bike on roads, bike tracks and footpaths you should:

- slow down near schools, shopping centres and other pedestrian areas
- be aware of pedestrians, motorists and other traffic
- change lanes or make a turn on the road after you're sure approaching drivers have seen you before
- make eye contact with drivers if possible
- wear reflective clothing or something light in colour (especially at night)
- have a front and rear light on your bicycle
- use your lights when riding in the evening or in low light.

Things a cyclist should not do

You should not:

- assume that a pedestrian or driver has seen you
- leave the house without safety equipment
- wear dark clothing at night
- ride a bike without a front or rear light.





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



Sergeant GRAINGER, Leading Senior Constable TATLOCK, Leading Senior Constable COURTNEY at Christmas in the Grove

Christmas in the Grove

Wednesday the 4th of December saw the Christmas in the Grove event come to The Terrace again. The community was out in force for a night of music, fun, food and shopping. Santa dropped in for photographs with children, parents and pets. The council began shutting down The Terrace to traffic in the early afternoon to allow traders to expand their footprint onto the roadway and for musicians and artisans to set up. It was a fantastic family event that is well supported by the traders and the community.

Leading Senior Constable Mick TATLOCK of the Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit reported that there was no trouble whatsoever during the afternoon and evening. LSC TATLOCK is pictured above with Sergeant Ben GRAINGER on his right and Senior Constable Norma COURTNEY on his left. Sergeant GRAINGER is in charge of the Coast Watch Unit that is deployed across the Bellarine and Surfcoast during the busy summer period. Look out for their crew during summer and feel free to approach them and say hello when they are out and about in the community.



**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**



A big thankyou to all the contributors to the BNN this year:

Bellarine Community Support Register.

Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine.

Alison Marchant MP

Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and all the best for 2025.



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.