

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

November 2025 Edition. In this issue: Christmas is Coming.....

MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

The State Government has announced a new approach to preventing youth crime across Victoria, launching a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) modelled on the successful programs in Glasgow and London. The VRU will focus on stopping crime before it starts by addressing its root causes.

The Unit will coordinate existing crime prevention programs, identify gaps and develop new initiatives. Its first major project will pair at-risk children with mentors from 16 Yards – former offenders who have turned their lives around and now support young people to do the same.

While Victoria already has several crime prevention programs, they are not always data-driven or well-connected, which leaves room for improvement. We also need innovative approaches that respond to the evolving ways young people are being drawn into violent crime. Importantly, these solutions must involve the whole community – not just government.

There are no simple answers to youth crime, but early intervention remains the most effective way to prevent youth crime, and this new strategy reflects that commitment.

As we head into summer, when our roads and waterways become busier and our region welcomes many visitors, it's a timely reminder that

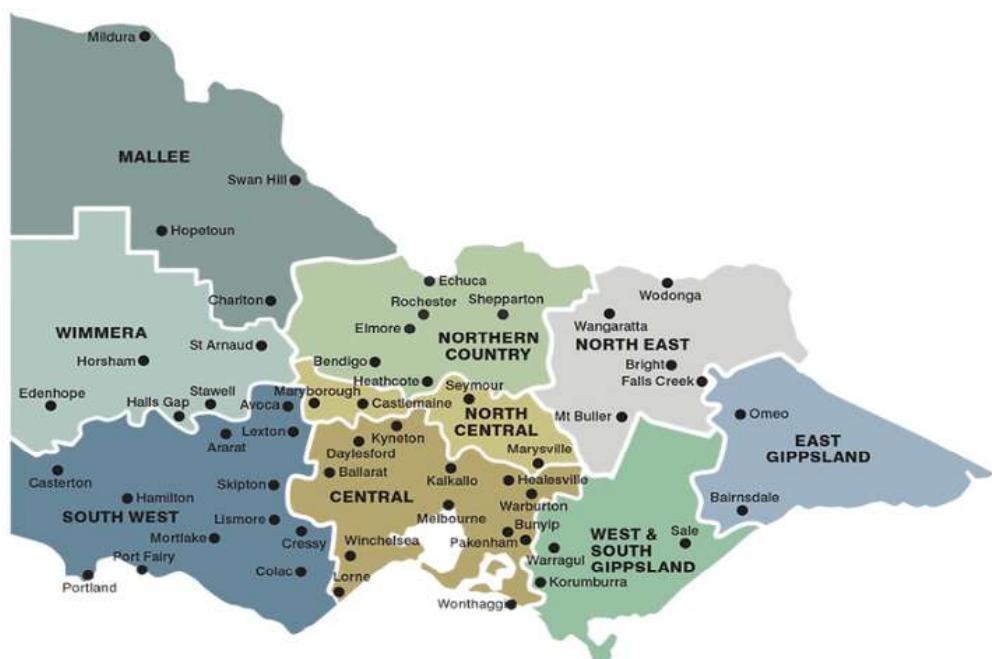
community safety takes many forms. Slowing down, driving to the conditions and planning ahead all help ensure everyone gets home safely.

It's also important to be prepared for fire. The Fire Danger Period is when the CFA restricts the use of fire in the community. This is to help prevent fires from starting. The 2026 Fire Danger Period commences on 1.00am Monday 24 November 2025 for the City of Greater Geelong and Borough of Queenscliffe municipalities.

It is important to note that the Fire Danger Period is not the same as Total Fire Bans, which are declared by the CFA on days when fires are likely to spread rapidly and be difficult to control.

You can keep informed on Total Fire Bans, as well as emergency information and warnings through the Vic Emergency App or website – emergency.vic.gov.au

If you need any assistance with any state matters, please contact my office on 0352501987 or via email:alison.merchant@parliament.vic.gov.au





Lions Club Ocean Grove Barwon Heads presented Sergeant Steve TAYLOR and Acting Sergeant Matt Wensley with 2 boxes of their Lions Club Trauma Teddies at the Ocean Grove Bowling Club on the 18th of November. The teddies are used to help police officers engage toddlers and young children in times of distress. The important work done by community groups such as the Ocean Grove Lions Club cannot be underestimated. We thank them for their contribution and ongoing support with this special project.





On Tuesday the 4th of November, Senior Constable Sam GOWER (above) and Leading Senior Constable Mick TATLOCK presented to a very enthusiastic group of kids at the Bella Wiyn Biralee Kinder in Drysdale.





Coffee with a Cop at Brown Shugar in Curlewis on the 6th of November.



BELLARINE COMMUNITY EVENT

Thursday
27 November
2025

Indented Head
Community Hall
1:30pm – 2:30pm

FREE EVENT

Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine

Come along to hear from our expert speakers on
Safety on the Bellarine, Elder Abuse & Crime Stoppers!

RSVP

text to Rhonda Rotherham 0418 351 913 or
[email: r.rotherham@bordernet.com.au](mailto:r.rotherham@bordernet.com.au)

Stay on for a cuppa
and chat afterwards
if you can.



Please attend if
you're free and
support a joint
BCSR/NHWB
initiative.



BELLARINE COMMUNITY
SUPPORT REGISTER INC.

Feel safe. Feel secure. Have peace of mind.

CRIME
STOPPERS
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1800 333 000
VICTORIA

Neighbourhood Watch
Bellarine

Remembrance Day Service November 11th 2025



Leading Senior Constables Kevin HOARE and Mick TATLOCK attended at wreath laying ceremonies this Remembrance Day at Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove. With them was work experience student Kyan from Covenant College. Kyan had a big week, not only did he get an inside look at the dream job of his future, but he also secured his Learners Permit. Look out for Kyan on the roads of City of Greater Geelong and the Burrough of Queenscliff.





Bellarine

Stronger together. Safer together.

Neighbours are one of the best defences
against crime. Be part of the solution —
connect, share, and stay alert.

Follow us on Facebook



BEWARE THE GRINCHES

With the Christmas shopping frenzy ramping up, it is a busy time for many of us.

Remember to check that your car is locked and all valuables have been removed before you head off to the shops.

5 ways to ensure your online shopping reaches you

With the Black Friday sales coming up late November, consider the best way to make sure your purchases arrive safely.

Will your parcel be safe on your doorstep all day while you are at work? Have them sent somewhere secure if you're not going to be home.

Online shopping is great – just a couple of clicks and in a few days your purchases are at your door – most of the time. However, as we move more of our regular shopping to be online, the chances of your parcels being stolen from your doorstep is increasing.

Here are 5 handy tips to increase the chances of your online shopping reaching you safely.

1. Choose click and collect.

If the online shop offers it and you live relatively close to the store location, choose “click and collect” rather than delivery by mail or courier.

2. Make sure your safe place is actually safe.

Many online stores now give you the opportunity at checkout to specify a preferred location to leave your deliveries if you're not home. Your safe place could be behind the shed, under the tank, or with a neighbour. If you have a MyPost account with Australia Post, you can also indicate where you would like parcels left or ask them to take parcels to the nearest post office if you're not home. However, be cautious of doing this – there aren't many hiding places that a thief hasn't thought of.

3. Get parcels sent to a secure locker.

Some companies, such as Australia Post, Sendle and Amazon have secure lockers located throughout Victoria where parcels can be sent. You enter your chosen parcel locker as your delivery address at the online checkout.

4. Install a parcel letterbox.

If you receive a lot of parcels, consider installing a parcel letterbox, which is designed to safely house parcels as well as letters. They usually have a large flap for parcels and a narrow slot for letters. The doors to each compartment are lockable, with either a key or a pin code – some even have smart locks.

If you're buying something of value, choose to have the parcel tracked and need a signature on delivery. If the seller doesn't offer these options, consider buying the item elsewhere.

5. Have parcels sent somewhere else.

Consider having your parcels sent to your work address if that's allowed. Or perhaps you have a kind neighbour, friend or family member who's retired or works from home and wouldn't mind receiving parcels for you.



Waiting for your Black Friday shopping to arrive but you can't be home for it?

Re-direct it.



We welcome all enquiries regarding Neighbourhood Watch. Email us at nhwbellarine@gmail.com or visit our website – www.nhw.com.au . If you wish to complete a membership application, go to <https://nhw.com.au/find-a-group/>

BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

The Annual General Meeting of the Bellarine Community Support Register was held on 21 October, 2025.

We welcome Gary Coombes to the role of Chair for the coming twelve months and look forward to his input as the organization moves into its next operational phase.

Gary was the Officer in Charge of Bellarine District police in 2006 when the Bellarine Community Support Register was first set up and worked for two years to get it to a fully operational stage with the support of his Police Command.

As we enter the 20th year of service to the Bellarine community, it is fitting to have Gary as the Chair and acknowledge the thousands of residents, family members, pets, neighbours, friends and emergency service officers who have benefitted from its existence.

At the same time, we salute Jenny Speed as she steps down from the Committee having positioned the organisation to review its Volunteer Management structure and capacity in the coming months. Jenny remains with us as a Volunteer and has offered to assist the Committee with short term projects, if required.

We welcome our new committee:

Chair Gary Coombes

Vice Chair Leonie Saundry

Secretary Carol Tozer

Treasurer Lyn Codd

General Members: Glenys Francis, Cheryl Linford, Rhonda Rotherham, Alex Auletta,

Christine Smith and Sandra Lea-Wood.

FUNDRAISING BBQ

A BIG day at Bunnings Leopold BBQ on Saturday 18 October for our very first attempt at this.

It proved a very successful day thanks to all who supported us on the day. And without our wonderful volunteers, it simply would not have been possible. Thank you all.



How do you
get help in
an emergency



Call 000

There are language interpreters available

Call '000' when there is a danger to life, health or property:



Accidents

Active
crimes



Serious illness /
injury

Family
violence



Fire /
Hazards

Call 000 when you need help from:



Police

for serious crimes that are happening now



Ambulance

for serious injury or illness that needs
urgent medical help



Fire

for incidents with fire, hazards or where
rescue is required



Call 132 500

for storm, flood, tsunami or earthquake
emergency in Victoria (non life-threatening)



Call 131 444

for non-urgent crimes and events requiring
police or for general police enquiries

When you call 000 you will be asked:



Which service you need (police, fire or ambulance)



The exact location or address of
the emergency



You can request a language interpreter if you need to

Other questions you may be asked:

What has happened? How many people are injured?
Is there any violence or weapons? Is there any smoke or fire?
Is anyone trapped? Is the patient awake? Is the patient breathing?

The call-taker will guide you through the process and
organise the right help. Remember to:



Stay on the line



Remain calm



Listen to the
call-taker
and answer
any questions



Choose to remain
anonymous if
you wish

ESTA 000

Saving Time Saving Lives



Sergeant Shane CONNOLLY regales the 1st and 2nd Ocean Grove Cub Pack with tall tales and the occasional truth about policing. Here Sergeant CONNOLLY tells the story of when he was first trooper on the scene at the arrest of bushranger Rufus T. Thunderbolt at Lavers Hill Miners Camp on the 10th of March 1872.

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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