

# Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us



## BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: Changes to laws for violent and serious crimes, special visits to our local kindergartens, community messages, concerns, and a whole lot more.

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, we celebrated International Women's Day. This is a day to recognise the achievements and contributions of women from all over the world.

The official UN theme for International Women's Day this year is **"Balance the Scales"** focusing on achieving genuine equality for Women and Girls.

For Women in Victoria Police, "Balancing the Scales" has been an ongoing journey. Dating back to 1917 where the first female police agents were employed. At the time, the roles for women police were extremely limited. They were not sworn

members of the police force; they had limited powers, and they were paid half the salary of male officers.

Despite the barriers that our women have been faced with over the past century, there have been significant breakthroughs for women in Victoria Police. They were officially sworn in as police members, granted powers of arrest, gained access to the same equipment as male officers, permitted to carry a firearm on their person and being allowed to wearing trousers.

Today women make up 28% of Police and PSO's in Victoria. Our women are serving in all areas of the force from frontline first responders to detectives working in the criminal investigation units to prosecutors and senior leadership roles across the State.

Women in Victoria Police serve their community with strength, resilience, and extraordinary dedication.



They are not only police officers, but also mothers, daughters, sisters, partners, and friends. They are women who carry the weight of both professional duty and personal responsibility.

Every day they face situations that many people never encounter, responding to trauma, critical incidents, and moments of profound human vulnerability. The work can take a toll across many areas of their lives, yet they continue to show up with courage, compassion, and commitment. They must be brave even if the job they attend terrifies them, they must also be kind, caring, and trustworthy in the moments when the community needs reassurance the most.

They stand as powerful role models showing young women and girls that strength and empathy can exist side by side, and that leadership, integrity, respect, professionalism, compassion, and courage are qualities worth aspiring to.

International Women's Day provides an opportunity to reflect on how far women in policing have come.

The achievements of women in Victoria Police are a testament to their dedication and resilience and it is also a reminder of the importance of achieving equality.



## MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

In March, I joined my Geelong regional Labor MP colleagues to co-host a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) forum at the Murran Hub, bringing together community organisations, service providers and local leaders from across Geelong and surrounding areas to hear directly about the VRU's role and how collaboration can help stop violence before it starts.

The VRU works across government, alongside police, education, health and community services to address the drivers of violence early.

A strong First Nations lens underpinned the discussion, acknowledging the over-representation of First Nations people in the justice system and as victims. The forum highlighted the importance of culturally informed, community-led solutions that reflect local knowledge and lived experience.

What stood out clearly was the importance of taking a health-based approach to violence – understanding and addressing underlying causes, rather than simply responding after harm has occurred.

This approach recognises that issues like mental health, education, housing and community connection all play a role in prevention. By working together across these areas, we can better support young people and families and build safer, stronger communities.

I'd like to sincerely thank all the organisations and community representatives who attended and contributed to such a constructive discussion. The insights and dedication shared on the day are essential as we continue this work.

The Violence Reduction Unit is helping communities like Bellarine and the Greater Geelong region connect the dots and intervene earlier, where it can make the biggest difference.

**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](mailto:alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au)**



## A VISIT TO QUEENSCLIFF KINDER

On Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th March, members from Bellarine Police, alongside Senior Sergeant PARRELLO, attended Queenscliff Kindergarten.

Leading Senior Constable TATLOCK and Senior Constable GAUDELIUS engaged with the children, sharing insights into the role of police and what they do in the community. The students were especially excited to explore the police vehicle and learn more about its features.

Visits like these play an important role in helping young children build positive relationships with their local police. Early interactions in a friendly and supportive environment can help foster trust, reduce fear, and encourage children to see police as approachable helpers within their community. Establishing these connections at a young age supports a strong sense of safety and belonging as they grow.

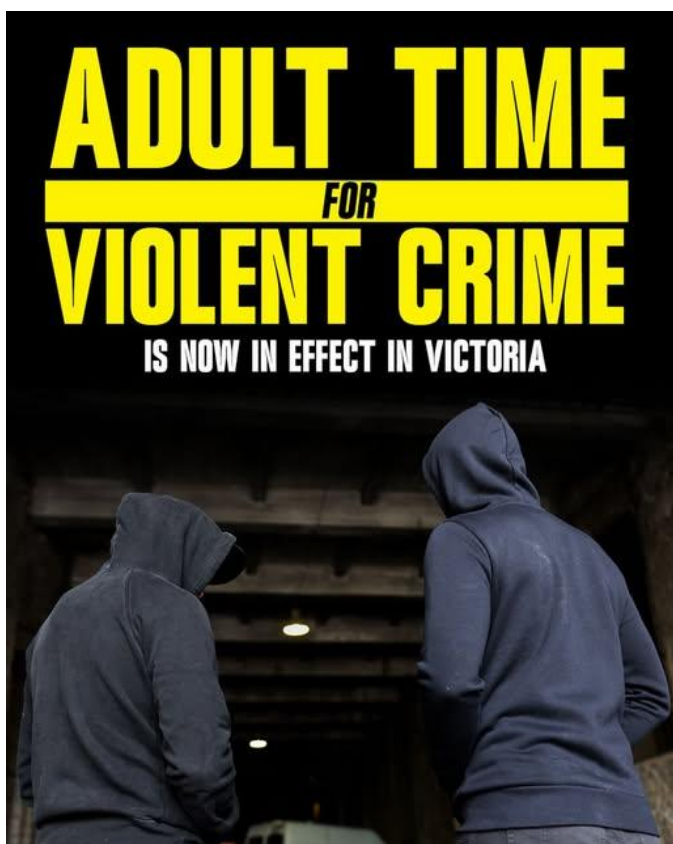
The visit was a wonderful opportunity to build positive connections and inspire curiosity among the young learners.



## ADULT TIME FOR VIOLENT CRIME

New laws in Victoria have come into effect on February 27, 2026. It targets young offenders aged 14 and older who commit serious crimes like aggravated home invasions, carjacking, aggravated burglary and other serious, repeated violent offences.

Previously, the Youth Justice Act 1992 capped sentences for children, now serious offences can have children face the same maximum penalties as adults.



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*balance is not  
something  
you find*

*it's something  
you create.*

—JANA KINGSFORD

## SCAMS



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](mailto:BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au) to make it happen within your Group.



## DON'T LET YOUR ROAD TRIP TURN INTO A TRAUMA

An 18-year-old probationary driver has had his vehicle impounded and will face court after allegedly travelling at 130km/h in a 60km/h zone while on his way to work.

Police from Bellarine Police Station detected the vehicle at more than double the posted speed limit. The driver, who had recently obtained his probationary licence told officers he was late for a shift at work.

The vehicle was immediately impounded at a cost of \$1305.00 and the driver is scheduled to appear before a Magistrate at a later date.

A/S/SGT JOHNSTON said that “speed remains one of the leading causes of serious injury and fatal collisions. No job, appointment or deadline is worth risking your life or the lives of others”.

Police will be out in force over the long weekend targeting high-risk driving behaviour including speeding, impaired driving, distraction, and seatbelt offences.

Fast food, fast driving is the fastest way to lose your licence!



Recently a driver who had just finished working a nightshift was on their way home when they have fallen asleep at the wheel.

The driver veered off the road and travelled approximately 30 metres before colliding head on with a power pole causing the vehicle to flip.

Falling asleep at the wheel is a major cause of serious road crashes in Victoria, contributing to 16-20% of fatalities and injuries. Victoria Police warn that fatigue impairs driving, and techniques like turning up the music do not work!

### How to Prevent Fatigue

- Plan Ahead: Get 7-9 hours of sleep before a long drive.
- Take Breaks: Stop every 2 hours for 15-30 minutes to stretch or walk.
- Share Driving: Switch drivers to avoid exhaustion.
- Nap: Take a short power nap if needed, but do not rely on it as a long-term solution.

*If you feel tired while driving, stop in a safe place immediately.*



# The Recruitment Process Explained

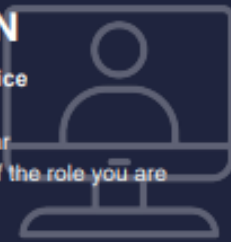


## MADE FOR MORE

There is no one key attribute, skill or experience that Victoria Police looks for in our police officer applicants. Instead, it's your overall suitability for the role that will improve your chances. Applicants may undertake more than one gateway at a time during the recruitment process.

### ONLINE APPLICATION

- Apply at [www.police.vic.gov.au/police](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/police)
- Takes approx. 45 minutes
- Pay attention to spelling and grammar
- Do you have a solid understanding of the role you are applying for?



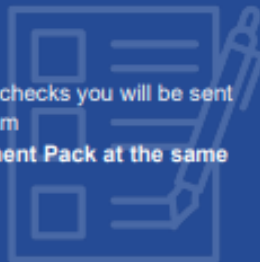
### PRELIMINARY CHECKS

- Review applicants eligibility and suitability for the role
- Assess applicants basic driving and criminal history
- It is important that you fully disclose all information relating to your history including past employment



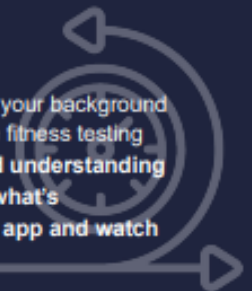
### ENTRANCE EXAM

- If you are successful at preliminary checks you will be sent an invitation to sit the Entrance Exam
- You will also receive your Document Pack at the same time as your Exam invitation



### FITNESS TEST

- Following the successful completion of your background checks, you will be invited to attend the fitness testing
- To make sure you have a really good understanding of the fitness test components and what's expected, download the POLICE FIT app and watch the fitness test video and tutorials



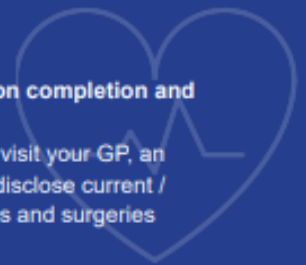
### PSYCH TESTING

- You will be required to undertake an online psychometric screening
- Applicants may be invited for a one-on-one psychological interview



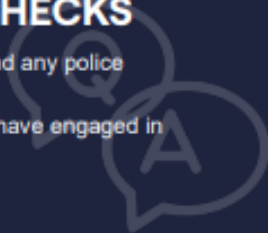
### HEALTH CHECKS

- A medical booklet will be sent on completion and pass of the entrance exam
- Complete your medical booklet – visit your GP, an Audiologist and Optometrist and disclose current / previous health conditions, injuries and surgeries



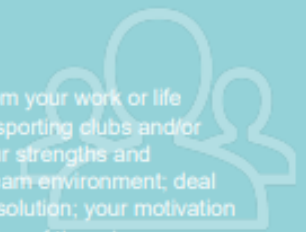
### COMPREHENSIVE CHECKS

- Assess your employment history and any police involvements
- Disclose all your associations who have engaged in criminal activity
- Social media checks



### PANEL INTERVIEW

- Scenario based questions
- You will be asked for examples from your work or life (experiences from part-time jobs, sporting clubs and/or volunteer work); awareness of your strengths and weaknesses; how you work in a team environment; deal with difficult people and conflict resolution; your motivation for applying; and your understanding of the role



Q police careers





## Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine

### SAFETY IN NEIGHBOURS

Neighbourhood Watch Victoria's first major campaign, Safety In Neighbours, is out now 🏠

Safety in Neighbours is a campaign that celebrates the strength in numbers, encouraging communities to look out for one another and reinforcing that staying safe starts with being connected.

#### What does 'safety in neighbours' mean?

It's a play on 'safety in numbers' — but focused on community. When we all lock up, thieves leave. It's about neighbours looking out for each other by taking small, practical actions together. By locking up, you're locking in safety for your whole street.

Nice neighbourhoods are more than what the property pages tell you. More than picket fences or pretty parks.

More than amenities and avocado toast.

Neighbourhoods are nice because the people who live there, value their space and their safety.

The click of a car fob, the twist of a key, the flick of a latch... it isn't about shutting one another out. It's about pitching in to protect the place you all call home. When would-be thieves find there's no way in, they soon learn there's little to be 'found' in your neck of the 'hood.

**The safer your street, the stronger your community, the more secure your suburb.**

**So lock your car. And your front door.  
Use your keys, please.**

Find out more about the campaign here:

🔗 <https://nhw.com.au/program/safety-in-neighbours/>

## What's happening with Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine?

**We have been active since our launch in November, and we continue to be with these events listed below.**

**MONDAY 16 MARCH** - CUPPA WITH A COPPA, 10.00 AM - 11.30 AM, SHUGAR BEACH CAFÉ, ST LEONARDS

**SATURDAY 21 MARCH** – BUNNINGS LEOPOLD COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION DAY 10am -2pm

**THURSDAY 26 MARCH** - BUNNINGS LEOPOLD EASTER FAMILY EVENT 6pm – 8pm

**SATURDAY 18 APRIL** - SAFE PLATE DAY 9.00 AM - 12 NOON KINGSTON VILLAGE, OCEAN GROVE

**TUESDAY 21 APRIL** - CUPPA WITH A COPPA 10.00 AM - 11.30 AM, BLAX COFFEE, GATEWAY PLAZA, LEOPOLD

**WEDNESDAY 27 MAY** - POLICING ON THE BELLARINE, 1.00 PM - 2.30 PM, SPRINGDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, DRYSDALE

#### Get involved with Neighbourhood Watch

**Bellarine** – join us as a volunteer or simply as a supporter -Email us – [nhwbellarine@gmail.com](mailto:nhwbellarine@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook –

<https://www.facebook.com/nhwbellarine>

Complete our survey:

[NHW Bellarine Survey](#)



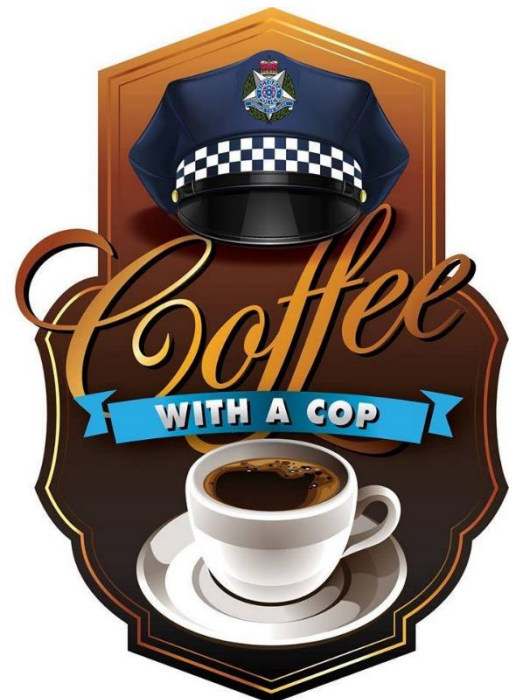
# BELLARINE COMMUNITY EVENT



Come along and hear from our expert speakers about Safety on the Bellarine

MONDAY 16 MARCH	CUPPA WITH A COPPA	10.00 AM - 11.30 AM	SHUGAR BEACH CAFÉ ST LEONARDS
SATURDAY 18 APRIL	SAFE PLATE DAY	9.00 AM - 12 NOON	KINGSTON VILLAGE OCEAN GROVE
TUESDAY 21 APRIL	CUPPA WITH A COPPA	10.00 AM - 11.30 AM	BLAX COFFEE GATEWAY PLAZA LEOPOLD
WEDNESDAY 27 MAY	POLICING ON THE BELLARINE	1.00 PM - 2.30 PM	SPRINGDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE DRYSDALE

Stay for a coffee, ask questions, and share what's on your mind  
**Building Connections between Police and their Local Community**



## BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

### The Card in His Wallet

George had been looking forward to the bus trip for weeks. Living on the Bellarine, he didn't often travel far these days, but the community group had organised a day trip into outer Melbourne. It was a chance to get out, see a bit of the countryside and enjoy a good lunch with friends.

The morning started well. The bus was warm, the conversation lively, and the views through the window slowly changed from coastal roads to busy suburbs. George sat quietly about halfway down the bus, enjoying the ride.

Not long after they passed through one of Melbourne's outer suburbs, George began to feel unwell. At first it was just a wave of dizziness. He thought it might pass, but within minutes he became pale and disoriented. The passenger beside him noticed something wasn't right and called the driver.

The bus pulled safely to the side of the road while other passengers helped George sit comfortably. Someone called an ambulance, and while they waited, the driver looked through George's wallet for identification.

Inside was a **Bellarine Community Support Register (BCSR) ID card**.

The card provided George's name and the important contact details needed if something went wrong. The driver passed the information on when emergency services arrived. Police were notified and were able to quickly contact George's family on the Bellarine to let them know what had happened and which hospital he had been taken to because police had access to the database in case of emergency.

Within a short time, George was in good hands at the hospital, receiving treatment. Meanwhile, his family already knew where he was and what had happened, saving hours of worry and uncertainty. Later that evening, when George was feeling much that small card had been.

"If Dad hadn't been carrying his BCSR card," she said, "we might not have known where he was for hours. Instead, we were informed straight away."

For George, it was a simple thing — just a card in his wallet. But on that day, it made all the difference.

**The Bellarine Community Support Register helps ensure that if something happens when you're away from home, the right people can be contacted quickly. Sometimes the smallest piece of information can make the biggest difference.**

For more information on how to have your details registered, call 03 5255 3968 or email [bpsupportregister@bigpond.com](mailto:bpsupportregister@bigpond.com)



## A VISIT TO HEADSTART EARLY LEARNING CENTRE OCEAN GROVE

On Thursday 5th March, S/C Rachael LAPPIN, Bellarine work experience student, Flora BRIGGS, and Leading Senior Constable Mick TATLOCK attended at Headstart Early Learning Centre, Ocean Grove, where we discussed the finer aspects of policing with a very engaged group of young people.

Thanks to local Lions Club for the donation of the teddy that was presented to the kinder.

The Victoria Police Work Experience Program provides a fantastic opportunity for high school students considering a career within Victoria Police. Students are placed at participating police stations and department units where they will have the opportunity to observe and learn from our Police Officers, Protective Services Officers, Protective Custody Officers and VPS personnel.



### 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.

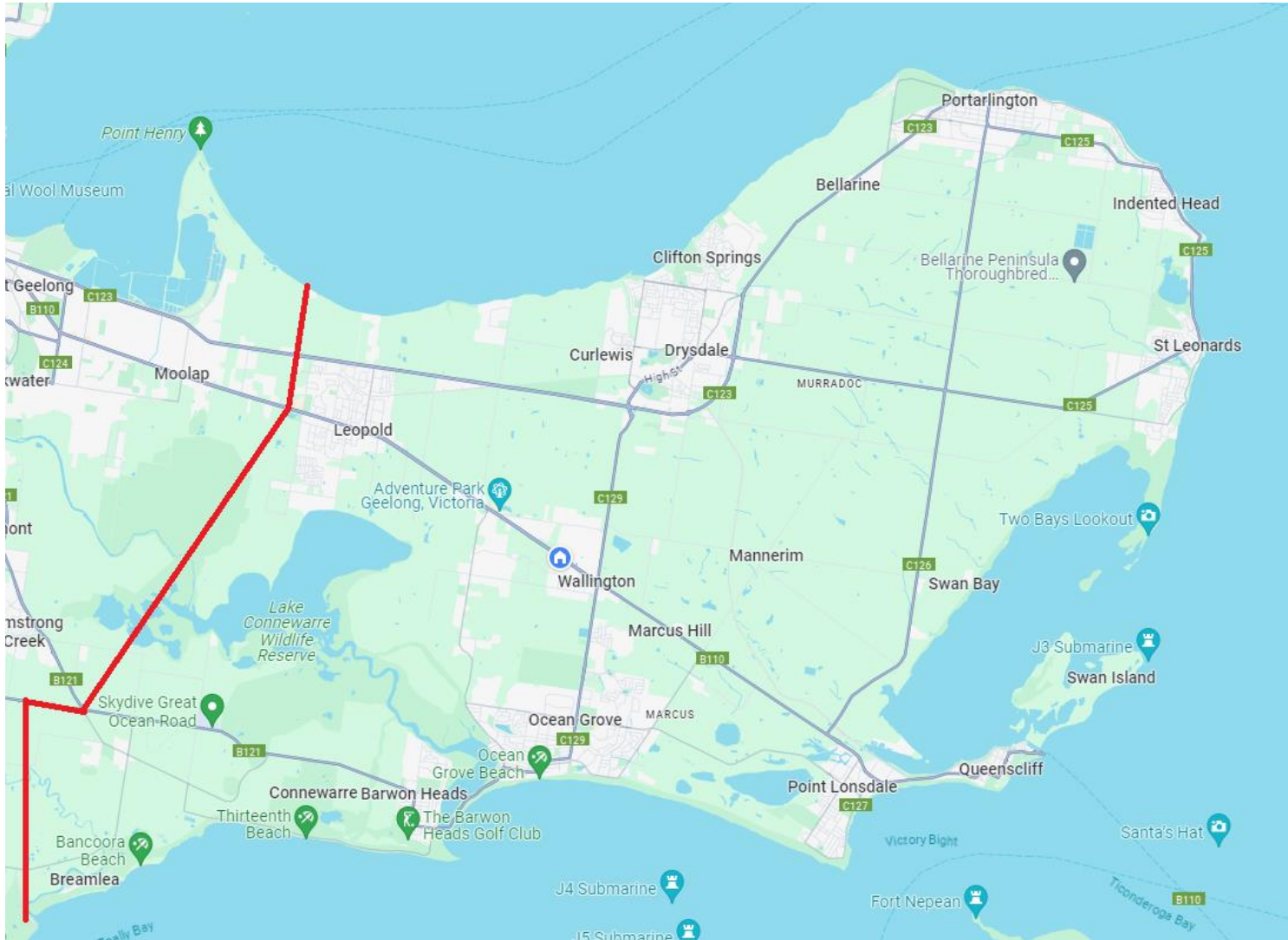
Crime Stoppers believes everyone has the right to feel safe from crime. We share practical advice on how you can protect your community, and the people and things that are important to you.

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

**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](mailto: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

[BELLARINE-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:BELLARINE-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au)