

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

January/February 2026 Edition. In this issue: Where have all the tourists gone?

MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

Last month, I attended the Coast Guard Queenscliff Open Day as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations. It was fantastic to see such strong support from across our community, with many organisations coming together to celebrate and share important safety information. Representatives from the Water Police, Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, SES, CFA, local Surf Life Saving Clubs and the Australian Border Force were all there, showcasing the vital role they play in keeping our community safe. It was a pleasure to catch up with many local residents and mark this significant milestone together.

It has been a busy start to 2026, including the introduction of free public transport across Victoria for all under 18s. This initiative ensures young people can stay connected, whether travelling to school, sport, work or social activities, while also helping to ease cost-of-living pressures for families. From the beginning of the year, weekend travel has also become free for Victorian Senior Card holders, with carers and Disability Support Pension recipients included from 1 February.

While the new free public transport initiatives provide an important boost for families, young people, seniors and carers, there is still work to be done to better connect our local communities.

In the coming weeks, the **Bellarine Bus Network Review** will commence, exploring ways to enhance public transport across the peninsula. I look forward to the community having the opportunity to take part, as your experiences will help shape a stronger, more accessible transport system.

Keep an eye out for more information on how to get involved in the Bus Network Review on my website www.alisonmarchantmp.com.au, social media or in our local Bellarine newspapers.

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





On Tuesday the 3rd of February Sergeant Shane CONNOLLY, Leading Senior Constable Mick TATLOCK and Senior Constable Danielle KUCHENMEISTER presented a program to students at St Ignatius College in Drysdale. The very informative sessions covered the online harms that are faced everyday by our young community members.



E-scooter Road Rules

Tougher penalties as e-scooters are made permanent.

e-scooter riders cannot

- Ride on the footpath
- Use a mobile phone while riding
- Ride while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Carry passengers or animals or ride in tandem
- Ride a high-speed e-scooter, one capable of more than 25 km/h
- Ride on roads that have a speed limit over 60 km/h

e-scooter riders must

- Be aged 16 years and over
- Not exceed the maximum speed of 20 km/h
- Ride only on shared paths and roads that have a speed limit up to 60 km/h
- Wear a helmet at all times
- Follow traffic rules
- Use lights and reflectors





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



Bellarine Neighbourhood News – February 2026

Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine

Camp Safe was the focus of a popup display at the Portarlington Holiday Park on 20 January.

Bellarine Bayside in collaboration with Bellarine and Portarlington Police and Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine focussed on providing safety information to campers – especially around ensuring the security of bikes and scooters - as well as a Sausage Sizzle for kids.

Huge thanks to all who made the day possible. Bellarine Bayside management and staff went above and beyond to organize equipment and have staff assist. Police from Portarlington and Bellarine Stations attended and connected with visitors to the Bellarine and kids were able to check out the police vehicles in attendance. Neighbourhood Watch provided safety and security advice as well as offering one way security screws for vehicle owners.

This was a very successful first project for the newly launched Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine and the team of wonderful volunteers. Congratulations Team.

BIKES and E SCOOTERS

Bikes and E Scooters are often easy targets over the summer holiday period, particularly in our beachside towns.

Whether you are just running into a mate's place, at home, at the shops, in the caravan park or at holiday homes, remember to secure your bikes and e scooters to prevent their theft.

- Use a good quality D or U lock.**
- Lock it to a fixed, immovable object that can't be broken or moved.**
- Lock the frame and wheels to the parking infrastructure with one or more locks, especially if your wheels have quick release mechanisms.**
- Whenever possible, keep your bike inside your home or in a locked shed or garage.**
- Engrave the letter "V" and your drivers' licence number (or another unique identifier) on the frame, apply data dots or attach GPS trackers.**
- Take photos of your bike, including identifying features, marks and accessories.**

- Register your bike on BikeVAULT – a free service, supported by Neighbourhood Watch Victoria. You can record your bike's make, model, colour and serial number and even upload photos of it. Take a look - <https://www.propertyvault.com.au/bikevault/>

ALWAYS LOCK YOUR BIKE, even if it's parked in your garage, your carport or on your balcony or if you're only leaving it unattended for a short period.

LOCK YOUR CARS

Sadly, opportunists are out there checking cars for valuables left in unlocked cars. Ensure it's not your car they find unlocked.

Continue to be vigilant and lock your vehicles whenever unattended and take everything of value with you.

We are all busy juggling work, kids on school holidays, shopping, home and everything else that is life.

All too often we get a bit careless and leave the laptop in the car ready for tomorrow, forget to bring the handbag or backpack inside.

Whether you are spending a day at the beach, running into the supermarket or to pay for fuel – LOCK YOUR CAR!!

Let's keep our neighbourhoods safe! #Lockyourcars



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/>



The Bellarine Peninsula Lions Club continue to support the community with their donations of trauma teddies. Senior Constables Eric TAYLOR (left) and Ryan JONES passed some on to the staff at Surfside Primary to assist them during counselling sessions and 1st aid treatment of their students. Eric and Ryan are police liaison officers for Surfside Primary in Ocean Grove.

**Coffee with a Cop at the Shugar Beach Café' St Leonards.
1/1370 Murradoc Road, St Leonards.**

Monday 16th of March 10am to 11:30am



Grab a Coffee and Cake for \$3.00, sit down, ask questions and share what is on your mind with your local police.



Monday 16th of March 10am to 11:30am, see you there!

Bellarine and Portarlington police were out in numbers over the summer period to enforce the road laws. We saw really pleasing results from breath testing stations run at various times of day and night all across the Bellarine. Low numbers of drivers recorded positive results and the feeling amongst police is that the anti drink driving message is cutting through with the local community.



Members from Portarlington, Bellarine and the Water Police had the privilege of being involved in the 50 Years of the Coast Guard, Queenscliff, Volunteer Marine rescue event at Queenscliff. With all the assistance these volunteers provide members of Vic Pol, it was great to show our appreciation and be involved in the Open Day. Over 2000 people attended and showed their enthusiasm not only to the Coast Guard, but CFA, SES, Boarder Control, Fisheries, AV, SLSV - Queenscliff just to name a few.



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

For more information go to
<http://www.esta.vic.gov.au/language-options>



Catch of the Month:

A quick thinking local called 000 to report the suspicious activity of 2 males in the Drysdale Woolworths carpark early last month. Our observant local saw the men get out of a vehicle that was full of baby formula tins and enter the Woolworths store. They took two trolleys straight to..... you guessed it, the baby food aisle. Thanks to our callers description of the thieves and their car registration they were apprehended on Portarlington Road a short time later by the local police and over \$3000 worth of baby formula was recovered. The baby formula had been stolen from supermarkets across the Bellarine. The 2 thieves were remanded and have been linked to an organised theft syndicate that has stolen over \$250,000 worth of baby formula from supermarkets across the state. Never hesitate to call 000 if you see something that just doesn't look right.

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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