

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us

BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: Upcoming community presentations, messages from Bellarine Community Support Register and Neighbourhood Watch, e-bikes and e-scooters and a whole lot more.

COFFEE WITH A COP A GREAT SUCCESS IN DRYSDALE

On Wednesday 8th of July, Bellarine Police joined Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine and the Bellarine Community Support Register at Café Zoo in Drysdale for a successful Coffee with a Cop community engagement event.

It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout, with many local community members taking the opportunity to drop in, enjoy a coffee, and have a friendly chat with police and community groups. Events like these provide a valuable opportunity for residents to ask questions, share concerns, and connect with local services in an informal and welcoming environment.

Bellarine Police would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the positive atmosphere throughout the morning. A special thank you also goes to the amazing staff at Café Zoo for their warm hospitality and support in hosting the event.

Building strong relationships between police and the community is an important part of keeping our neighbourhoods safe, connected, and informed. We look forward to seeing more community members at future Coffee with a Cop events across the Bellarine.



BELLARINE AND PORTARLINGTON POLICE DETECT INCREASE IN DRINK DRIVING

Bellarine police are continuing to make our local roads safer, with a 300% increase in drink driving penalties compared to the same period last year.

Portarlington Police have also seen an increase of 100% in drink driving offences over the last year.

Our members are out on the roads every day and night, patrolling both our main roads and the quieter backroads throughout the Bellarine. These patrols aren't just about enforcing speed limits they're about keeping our community safe by identifying dangerous driving behaviour before it leads to tragedy.

One concerning trend has been the number of probationary (P-plate) drivers detected driving after consuming alcohol. P-plate drivers must have a zero blood alcohol concentration, and choosing to drink and drive not only places lives at risk but can also result in significant penalties, licence loss and long-term consequences.

Several drink driving offences have also come to police attention following collisions, serving as a timely reminder that alcohol and driving simply don't mix. Every impaired driver taken off our roads is a potential crash prevented.

As we move through the cooler months, Bellarine and Portarlington police will maintain a strong road policing presence with random breath testing, speed enforcement and high-visibility patrols.

Before heading out, take a moment to plan your trip home. Whether it's arranging a designated driver, booking a taxi or uber, or staying the night, making a safe choice could save a life.

Together, we can all help make the Bellarine a safer place to live, work and travel.



Are you made for more?

SCAN HERE

MADE FOR MORE

Victoria Police is made for ambitious people looking for a career with **more challenges, excitement, purpose and possibilities.**

- Opportunities for career progression.
- Be paid from day one of training.
- Nine weeks leave a year.

Authorized by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

VICTORIA State Government 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.



MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT

Recently, we announced two new projects that are being delivered across Bellarine as part of the State Government's Safe Local Roads and Streets Program. This funding is helping councils deliver important road safety improvements, including pedestrian crossings, intersection upgrades and traffic calming measures. More than 430 projects have now been approved across Victoria, with all 79 councils participating in the program.

Projects funded in this round across Bellarine include a \$750,000 upgrade to the Harding Street and Pier Street intersection in Portarlington, which will deliver a new roundabout, raised pedestrian crossings and a reduced speed limit, as well as a \$215,000 investment on Clifton Springs Road in Drysdale to deliver a raised priority crossing and a reduced speed limit.

Local roads make up 87 per cent of Victoria's road network and are used by communities every day to travel to school, work, local businesses and essential services. This program is helping councils deliver practical upgrades that reduce the risk of crashes and improve safety for all road users.

While these projects will make our roads safer over the long term, ongoing maintenance is just as important. By reporting any road issues you notice, you can help ensure they are investigated and resolved as quickly as possible. Reporting issues through the correct channels helps keep our roads safe and well maintained for everyone.

You can report issues on local roads to the City of Greater Geelong via www.geelongcity.vic.gov.au/services/roads-streets-and-transport/report-road-issue.

If the issue is on a state road, urgent hazards that present an immediate danger should be reported by calling 13 11 70. Non-urgent road issues can be reported online via www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue.

Find out more about road upgrades at www.alisonmarchantmp.com.au or if you need assistance with any state matters, please contact my office on 03 5250 1987 or via email alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au



Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine Thanks Geelong Connected Communities for Helping Launch a New Era

Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine has thanked Geelong Connected Communities for providing the vital start-up funding that has enabled the newly established organisation to make a strong and professional beginning across the Bellarine Peninsula.

The funding has allowed the volunteer-led organisation to purchase essential promotional and operational resources including banners, brochures, display equipment, prizes and community engagement tools. These resources ensure volunteers can present a credible image while attending community events, markets, festivals and safety information sessions.

Chair John Gibbs said first impressions were important when introducing a new community organisation.

"As a newly established organisation, it was essential that we looked organised and experienced from day one," Mr Gibbs said.

"The support from Geelong Connected Communities has allowed us to establish a strong identity and engage confidently with residents across the Bellarine Peninsula. Having quality promotional materials and equipment helps people recognise who we are and gives them confidence in the information and services we provide."

Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine is committed to working with local communities, Victoria Police, councils, businesses and community organisations to improve community safety, prevent crime and strengthen neighbourhood connections.

The equipment funded through the grant will be used at community events throughout the peninsula, enabling volunteers to provide crime prevention information, promote property security initiatives, discuss current scam trends and encourage residents to become involved in making their neighbourhoods safer and more connected.

"We sincerely thank Geelong Connected Communities for believing in our vision and investing in our future," Mr Gibbs said. "Their support has given us the tools to establish a trusted presence throughout the Bellarine and will benefit our communities for many years to come."

Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine looks forward to continuing its work with community partners to build safer, more connected neighbourhoods across the Bellarine Peninsula.

SCAM AWARENESS PRESENTATION

Tuesday 11 August, 2026 2.00pm

The Grove Pavilion, Cnr Presidents Avenue and The Avenue, Ocean Grove

Hear from Victoria Police, Crimestoppers and Bendigo Bank and learn how to protect yourself from Scams.

Bring a friend, bring a neighbour.

A FREE event.

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.

The Bellarine Police Neighbourhood Unit, along with Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Stoppers Geelong and Bendigo Bank will be providing in depth presentations.

Contact us anytime via our email at

BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au to make it happen within your Group.

EVENT DETAILS

Date:

11th August, 2026

Time:

2:00pm— 4:00pm
(Doors open from 1:50pm)

Location:

The Pavilion,
Presidents Ave & The Avenue,
Ocean Grove VIC 3226

All are welcome to join, Bendigo Bank, Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Stoppers Geelong and Bellarine Police for an informative afternoon.

DON'T TAKE THE BAIT

FREE COMMUNITY SCAM AWARENESS PRESENTATION

Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine in partnership with the Bellarine Community Support Register invite you to a **SCAM PRESENTATION** to be conducted at

The Grove Pavilion
cnr Presidents Ave
and The Avenue
Ocean Grove

Tuesday 11 AUGUST 2026
from 1.50 pm for
2.00 pm start - 3.15 pm

NO RSVP REQUIRED

KNOWLEDGE PROTECTS YOU

Scam examples shown:

- Your parcel delivery failed. Click here to reschedule.
- URGENT! Unusual activity on your account. Verify now.
- I've fallen in love with you. Can you send me a gift card?
- Investment Opportunity. High returns Guaranteed!
- Account Suspended. Click the link to restore access.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Bendigo Bank

BELLARINE POLICE

CRIME STOPPERS
1800 333 000
Victoria

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Benefit
Geelong

Neighbourhood Watch
Bellarine

CITY OF GREATER
GEE LONG

WITH SUPPORT FROM

BELLARINE COMMUNITY
SUPPORT REGISTER INC.

BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

FAREWELL TO TWO OF THE BEST

Recently the Bellarine Community Support Register Committee farewelled two Committee members who have both made exceptional contributions to the Register over a number of years in the areas of governance, remote operations during COVID and overseeing the bedding in of our new database and so much more. Thank you ladies for your huge contributions to our organisation. We wish both Leonie and Glenys all the very best in retirement.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER WITH BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER?

BCSR is staffed by 40 volunteers guided by a volunteer committee of management. We provide a free service that is available to everyone living on the Bellarine Peninsula.

We currently have a healthy number of established and new volunteers but we

always welcome new volunteers joining us from the local community. If interested, call our Office on 5525 3968 Monday to Friday 0930 – 1200 or email us bpsupportregister@bigpond.com

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

In this, our 20th year of operation, we are keen to reach out to the wider Bellarine community to promote our free service.

We encourage any community group, to invite us to present to your group. We present for about 15-20 minutes and provide brochures and registration forms.

We have strong connections with Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine, Bellarine Wellbeing Connect, bSafe and the Bellarine Police.

If your group is interested in a presentation, call our Office on 5525 3968 Monday to Friday 0930 – 1200 or email us bpsupportregister@bigpond.com



BELLARINE POLICE LEND A HELPING HAND

Bellarine Police members Senior Constable John REILLY and Tahlia GAW recently went above and beyond to assist a local community member who was stranded with a flat tyre, causing a traffic obstruction.

The officers rolled up their sleeves and changed the tyre by hand, helping the driver get safely back on to the road and ensuring traffic could continue to flow.

What could have been a stressful situation for the motorist was quickly resolved thanks to Senior Constable John REILLY and Tahlia GAW's willingness to lend a hand.

While many people associate policing with responding to emergencies and enforcing the law, moments like these are a reminder that our local police are also committed to supporting the community in everyday situations.

Its simple acts of kindness like these that highlight the dedication of our local police, who are always willing to lend a helping hand when our community needs them most.



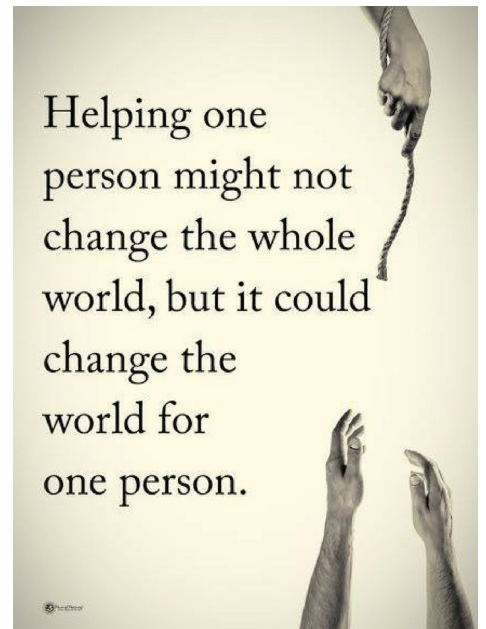
Q: WHAT DOES THE FITNESS TEST INCLUDE?

A: You must be complete all below components to pass the test.

- Beep test to level 5.01
- Grip test (30kg in each hand)
- Illinois agility run (≤ 20 s)
- Push-ups (5x on toes)
- Prone bridge hold for 60 seconds
- Swim 100m in four minutes

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person.



SERIOUS E-SCOOTER CRASH HIGHLIGHTS ROAD SAFETY RISK

Constable CAMPBELL and Senior Constable WICKSTEAD from Bellarine Police Station attended a serious road incident on The Terrace, Ocean Grove, at approximately 8:15 pm on Wednesday, 8 July.

Police were called after two youths riding a high powered e-scooter crashed while attempting to stop. One of the youths, who was standing on the rear of the e-scooter and was not wearing a helmet, fell from the scooter and sustained serious injuries to their head, neck and shoulder.

Police revealed the e-scooter was capable of travelling up to 75 km/h, classifying it as a motorcycle under Victorian road laws. The rider did not hold the appropriate motorcycle licence required to operate the vehicle.

The rider underwent a preliminary breath test, which returned a positive result for alcohol. A subsequent evidentiary breath test conducted at Bellarine Police Station recorded a blood alcohol concentration of 0.112.

The e-scooter was seized, and the rider is expected to face court at a later date.

Both e-scooters and e-bikes can be a convenient, cost-effective form of transport however, they can lead to serious injuries. E-bikes and e-scooter's have proven to be dangerous.

Its is illegal to share an e-scooter with another person and it increases the risk of falls, especially in young people as they have less experience with road safety

As police continue their efforts to keep our roads safe, every driver has a role to play. Whether it's planning a safe way home after drinking, obeying speed limits, avoiding distractions, or ensuring everyone is wearing a seatbelt or helmet, small decisions can make a big difference.



E-BIKES

In Victoria, a legal e-bike has

- A maximum continuous rated power of no more than 250 watts
- Motor assistance that cuts off after reaching 25km/h
- Functioning pedals.

When you purchase an electric bike to use on public roads, make sure it meets the standards of a legal electric bicycle in Victoria.

People of any age can ride an e-bike without a licence in Victoria. The road rules for e-bikes are the same as for bicycle riders.

You cannot register your e-bike as a vehicle in Victoria.

E-BIKE MODIFICATIONS

Ensure that any modifications to your e-bike does not compromise safety for speed.

E-bikes with the following modifications are illegal to ride on public roads and areas as a bicycle:

- Toggle switches to override the power and wattage limits
- Motor which continues to provide power after reaching 25km/h
- The motors have a combined continuous rated power output greater than 250 watts.
- No functional pedals fitted with an internal combustion engine (e.g. petrol powered).

FINES FOR HIGH-POWERED E-BIKES

An e-bike that exceeds the power and speed limits could be considered a motor vehicle. You could be fined for:

- Driving an unregistered motor vehicle, and
- Driving without a valid licence.

E-BIKE SAFETY

Take care when riding your e-bike on shared roads and footpaths. Remember to:

- Slow down and use your bell when passing pedestrians
- Use your headlights during low light, for example at night, in bad weather, and in poorly lit areas
- Ride on the correct side of the road, with the flow of traffic
- Ensure your tyres remain properly inflated
- Make eye contact with drivers and other road users, especially at intersections.

REPORT DANGEROUS RIDING

If you notice dangerous riding on your community's footpaths or roads, contact **Crime Stoppers** on [1800 333 000](tel:1800333000).

For emergencies, to report a crime in progress, or for immediate police attendance, call [Triple Zero \(000\)](tel:000)



E-SCOOTES

Legal e-scooter use

Use of e-scooters is legalised in Victoria.

You can legally ride an e-scooter in Victoria if you:
ride on:

- Shared-use paths (not on footpaths), or
- Roads that have a speed limit up to 60km/h

- Are at least 16 years old
- Wear a helmet
- Do not travel more than 20km/h
- Do not use your mobile phone
- Do not carry a passenger (dinking).

Legal e-scooter definition

A legal e-scooter is defined as a vehicle that:

- Is designed for use by one person
- Has a maximum speed of 25 km/h when ridden on level ground
- Transports a person while the person is
- Standing or seated
- Has two wheels (one in front of the other)
- Has a footboard between the front and rear wheels
- Is steered by a handlebar
- Does not weigh more than 45kg
- Is propelled by a motor, or by the person pushing one foot against the ground.

An e-scooter that falls outside the scope of this definition is considered an unregistered motor vehicle, and is liable to penalties.

Offences while using e-scooters

Offending whilst riding an e-scooter may result in the loss of any driver licence or permit held.

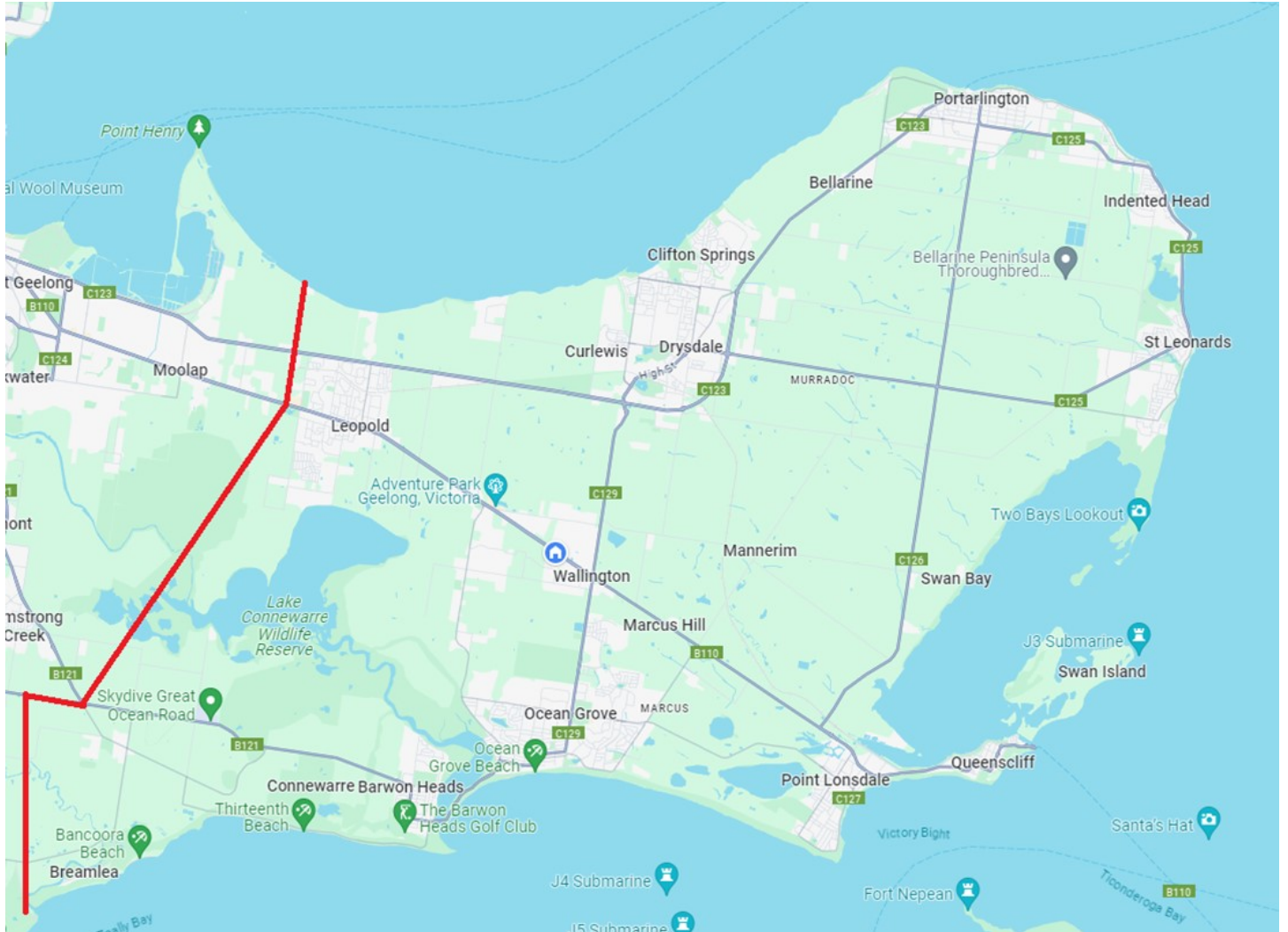
Victoria Police may enforce laws including:

- Unlicensed riding
- Unregistered motor vehicle
- Failing to wear a helmet
- Riding on a footpath
- Careless riding
- Using a mobile phone while riding

To enforce these laws, Victoria Police can:

- Stop riders and require them to state their name and address
- Require the rider to undergo alcohol and drug testing
- Impound privately owned e-scooters if relevant offending is identified
- Impose on-the-spot fines if offending is identified
- Issue charges to appear before a court if offending is identified
- Issue an immediate driver licence ban if offending is





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. If you have any feedback, please email

BELLARINE-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au