

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us

BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: New Bike Track is open, Coffee with a Cop upcoming date, How to keep your business safe and a whole lot more.

OCEAN GROVE BIKE TRACK

On Saturday, 1st of August, Senior Sergeant Dean Parrello and Acting Sergeant Wayne Kiely attended the official opening of the Ocean Grove Bike Park, joining community members, families and local riders to celebrate this exciting addition to the town.

Both officers embraced the spirit of the day, with Acting Sergeant Kiely proving to be an experienced rider and quickly becoming a crowd favourite as he engaged with many of the younger bike enthusiasts.

The new bike park is a fantastic asset for the Ocean Grove community, providing a safe and inclusive space for people of all ages to ride, learn new skills and enjoy the outdoors.

Facilities such as this play an important role in promoting healthy lifestyles, encouraging positive social connections, and creating opportunities for young people and families to come together.

The strong community turnout highlighted the enthusiasm and support for this valuable new recreational space, which is sure to become a popular destination for local residents and visitors.



THE END OF AN ERA, THANK YOU RAE

After an incredible 38 years working alongside Victoria Police, our much-loved clerk Rae has officially hung up her office keys and retired.

While Rae may not have worn the police uniform, her contribution to our stations, our members and our community has been every bit as valuable.

Rae began her Victoria Police journey in 1988 with the St Kilda Traffic Operations Group, after previously working for Telecom Australia. From there, her career took her through Caulfield, Laverton and Corio Police Stations before eventually bringing her closer to home and, in 2013, to Bellarine Police Station where she would become such an important part of our team.

Over the years, Rae has been the person behind so much of the work that keeps a police station running. From maintaining registers and correspondence, processing administration and property records, to supporting members with the countless tasks that happen behind the scenes, Rae has always been someone we could rely on.

In 2002, Rae received a Divisional Commendation for her initiative and quick actions in identifying correspondence relating to a suicidal female, enabling Police and Ambulance to immediately attend the address and locate her.

She has also been recognised throughout her career with Victoria Police Service Medals and Certificates for 10, 15, 20 and 30 years of diligent and ethical service.

After 38 years, Rae has certainly earned the opportunity to slow down, enjoy her coffee a little longer, spend time with family and friends, travel, read those collected books and simply enjoy life at her own pace.

Rae, thank you for being such an important part of the Bellarine Police family.

You will be enormously missed around the station, but we are so incredibly grateful for the years we have had with you.

Congratulations on your retirement, Rae.

38 years is an extraordinary innings and what a legacy you leave behind.

From all of us at Bellarine Police Station, we wish you a very happy, healthy and well-deserved retirement.

Enjoy the next chapter, Rae. You've certainly earned it.

BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER INC.

Feel safe. Feel secure. Have peace of mind.

The Bellarine Community Support Register salutes Raelene Thomson as she completes 38 years of loyal service to Victoria Police that include 13 of those years to our service.

This achievement has taken many forms: volunteer police checks, secure file destruction, bookings and appointments, station entry and exits, safe storage of Registrant information, assistance with moving office locations, support and contacts for police members to access Registrant information anywhere/anytime.

With thanks from all of us.

Bellarine Community Support Register Volunteers.





PARCEL DELIVERIES – KEEP THEM SAFE

When shopping online this weekend, consider how secure your parcel will be sitting at your front door all day until you arrive home after work.

If you're not going to be home when you expect a package to arrive, make other arrangements for delivery or collection.

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, in an apartment foyer, or an unsecured mailroom, is an easy target and super tempting to an opportunistic thief.

Consider these options:

- 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.

For more information, visit <https://nhw.com.au/home-and-property/protecting-your-packages-from-theft/>

DO YOU SECURE YOUR LETTERBOX?

Is your letterbox secured with a keyed lock or padlock?

Mail theft is quiet. Most people don't know it's happened until it's too late.

Whether you've got no lock at all or one that came standard with your letterbox, it's time for a high-security lock - the basic ones are easy to force open.

Visit <https://howsafeismyplace.com.au/> to learn more about the security and safety of your home.



Our **How Safe is My Place** survey tell us that...





COFFEE WITH A COP DATES

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.

Recent events at Café Zoo at Drysdale, Blax Coffee at Gateway Plaza and Coffee Is Here, Leopold were successful community engagement events 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.

Watch this space for more Coffee with a Cop dates over the next few months.

Blax Coffee, Gateway Plaza Leopold

10am, 6th October

and 1st December

Coffee with a Cop - community, connection and crime prevention in action.



Coffee with a Cop at "Coffee Is Here" on Dorothy Street, Leopold. Thank you, Jay, for having us.

SCAMS PRESENTATION

The community came together at The Pavilion, Ocean Grove, on the 11th of August for the informative **“Don’t Take the Bait”** Scams Presentation.

This successful event was expertly organised and delivered through the collaborative efforts of Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine and the Bellarine Community Support Register.

Acting Sergeant Wayne Kiely and Senior Constable Ryan Jones provided valuable insights into the growing threat of scams, including how to recognise common warning signs, protect yourself, and what steps to take if you become a victim.

They were joined by Zara from Bendigo Bank Ocean Grove and Kelly from Crime Stoppers Victoria, who also shared important information and practical advice to help community members stay safe.

The presentation served as a timely reminder that scammers continue to target individuals in many different ways, and that remaining vigilant and informed is one of the best forms of protection.



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 the year. Contact us anytime via our email at BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au to make it happen within your Group.

LEGATEES MORNING TEA

On Friday, 14 August, Victoria Police Legacy hosted a lovely morning tea in East Geelong. Acting Inspector Dean Parrello, Acting Senior Sergeant Jarrod Roberts, Sergeant Shane Connolly, and Senior Constable Amanda Sheedy were pleased to attend and enjoy a wonderful morning of conversation, connection, and companionship.

Victoria Police Legacy is a charitable not-for-profit organisation that provides a range of services and ongoing support to police families across Victoria who have experienced the loss of a loved one. When a serving or retired police officer, protective services officer, or their spouse or partner passes away, Victoria Police Legacy is there to support surviving spouses, partners, and children through difficult times.

A sincere thank you to Loreen Thompson for hosting us, and to everyone who attended and contributed to such a warm and enjoyable morning.



**REPORT ONLINE
ANYTIME**



VICTORIA POLICE

DID YOU KNOW, YOU CAN REPORT



PROPERTY DAMAGE



STOLEN PROPERTY



A STOLEN CAR



BURGLARY (BREAK-INS)



FUEL THEFT



LOST PROPERTY



REGISTER A PARTY



REGISTER ABSENCE FROM HOME



THROUGH VICTORIA POLICE ONLINE REPORTING

report online

ANYTIME



VICTORIA
State Government

YOUR CCTV CAMERAS CAN HELP INVESTIGATE NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME

The Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit has recently been visiting local businesses to update our After-Hours Call Register.

Every police station across Victoria maintains an After-Hours Call Register, which allows police to quickly contact business owners or managers outside normal trading hours if their premises are involved in an emergency, alarm activation, or criminal incident. All contact details are stored securely on a local Victoria Police database and are only used for legitimate policing purposes.

Did you know that Victoria Police also maintain a secure CCTV Camera Register for private residences?

If you have security cameras installed at your home, registering them with Victoria Police can make a significant difference when investigating crime in your neighbourhood.

The register simply records the location of your cameras and your contact details. When an incident occurs, officers can quickly identify properties in the area that may have captured relevant footage.

Instead of spending valuable time driving through streets looking for cameras and knocking on doors, police can contact registered camera owners directly to request footage from a specific date and time.

If you have CCTV cameras at your property or business and would like to register them, please fill in the registration form and return to contact the Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit.



DO YOU HAVE CCTV CAMERAS?

VICTORIA POLICE WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP

If you have CCTV that covers driveways, front yards, streets, rear laneways and security doorbells that activate when pressed, then your local police station would like to add this to our secure database.

All we need is a contact name, address, contact number, camera locations and how long the footage is stored – we will do the rest.

Contact Bellarine Neighbourhood Unit Police Station via email

BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au

Your footage could help us solve a crime.



Community CCTV – Police Information Form

Date completed: _____

Business Name/ Owners Name: _____

CCTV Contact Name: _____

CCTV Contact Number: _____

Email: _____

Address Information

Building/ Street Number: _____

Building/ Street Name: _____

Suburb: _____

CCTV Information

CCTV Location and Coverage: _____
(Driveway, facing north-west)

How many CCTV cameras does the building/property have: _____

How long is the CCTV footage stored in the system: _____

Please take a picture of this form and either scan the QR code or email it back to:
BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au



VICTORIA POLICE

SEARCH WARRANT EXECUTED IN OCEAN GROVE.

On the 13th of August 2026 local police executed a search warrant at an address in Ocean Grove.

Police located and seized over \$100,000 worth of cannabis packaged, ready for distribution.

Investigations remain ongoing. Anyone with information about drug or suspicious activity is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or make an anonymous report via <https://www.crimestoppersvic.com.au/>



Did you know that the Springdale Neighbourhood Centre at 17-21 High Street, Drysdale offers a Justice of the Peace service every Wednesday between 10am and 12pm. Available for all your document signing needs and staffed by local volunteer JP's.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Don't be afraid to speak up, because
someone will be there for you.

Demi Lovato

@demiLovato



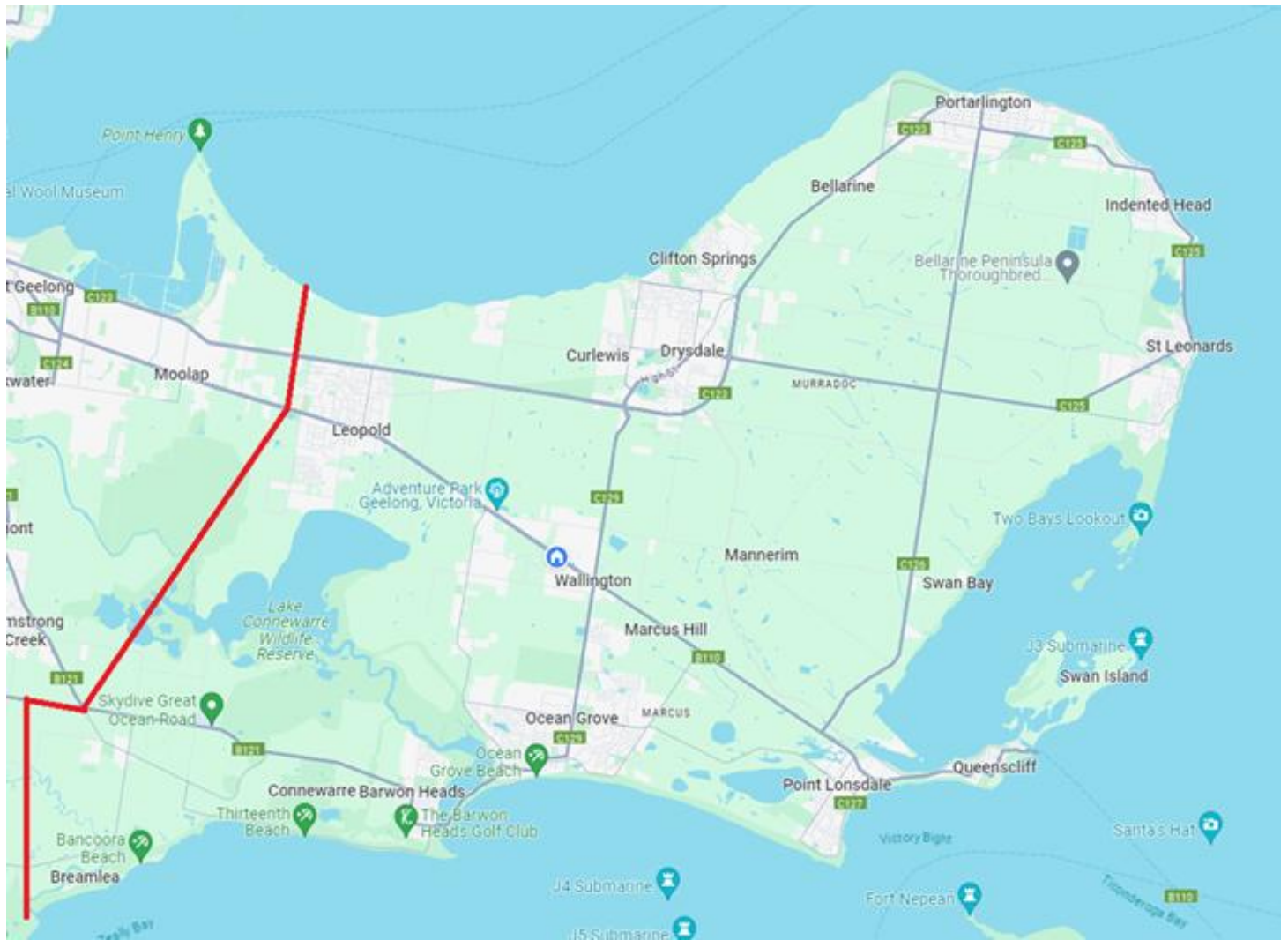
CRIME STOPPERS VICTORIA

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 community, resulting in over 27,600 arrests and the recovery of more than \$406 million worth of drugs, property and cash.



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