

# Bellarine Neighbourhood

Issue 5, 2024

Providing support for our community that supports us



## BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: Bullying, it's never ok, information on local crime trends, community messages, concerns and a whole lot more.

### BELLARINE NEIGHBOURHOOD

(By Senior Sergeant Tony FRANCIS)

The Bellarine Neighbourhood Unit has now been in operation for 4 months. We have been very fortunate to be supported by our Member for Bellarine Allison Marchant and the bSafe programme which consists of many partners from the Bellarine to establish a community safety group.

We have started off creating a better relationship with the primary schools and Secondary schools which has given local police a better understanding of the issues and growing concerns on the Bellarine.

In our five newsletters we have provided the community with up to date information on the decriminalisation of public drunkenness, legislation on scooters, mobile telephone laws, scams and sextortion just to name a few. This bulletin focuses on what is bullying and legislation pertaining to reporting and enforcement.

Our police members working on the Bellarine have been out and about speaking with the community and so far this year have presented at 40 school and kindergartens groups. It is clear that email and phone scams are having a large impact on our community and our members have presented to 18 groups of aged care and gated community living.

The next few months will be rather busy as the unit have 19 presentations booked in on scams. Apart from presenting on

scams they have presented on home security and safety, to businesses on theft, reporting on recidivist offenders, trespassing and dealing with anti-social behaviour.

Our focus in the foreseeable future is on business and sporting groups on the Bellarine. Starting with updating our business after hours information to provide better service and communication to our sporting groups. This will assist in supporting our licensee at managing their Liquour Licenses.

Sporting groups are extremely important in any community and hopefully we can assist in areas of wellbeing and providing information and assistance to both senior and youth teams.



Sergeant Shane COMNOLLY, Dave BULLOCK and LSC Roger LAWRY

## SERIOUS BULLYING IS CRIMINAL!

(By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)

In June 2011 the Crimes Amendment (Bullying) Act 2011 was enacted. This legislation was implemented to allow police to take action in cases of serious bullying. The amendments were known as Brodie's Law after Brodie Panlock who committed suicide after being the victim of serious workplace bullying. Unfortunately, other young people have also committed suicide after being the victim of bullying.

Victoria Police members now have the power to intervene in cases of serious bullying and hopefully save the lives of other victims. Police can help stop bullying through the intervention order process. Brodie's Law amended the legislation on intervention orders relevant to stalking by including bullying type behaviours in the definition of stalking, allowing for orders to be issued. This is relevant to the section of the Personal Safety Intervention Orders Act 2010.

Police also now have the ability to lay criminal charges for stalking under the Crimes Act as bullying type behaviours have been included.

Bullying can occur in a number of contexts, in the workplace, at school, via social media or in the home. Whatever the context, it can have serious and sometimes tragic outcomes.

Police will always consider the provisions of Brodie's Law, firstly whether an intervention order is warranted, and secondly whether a criminal offence of stalking may have been committed. Appropriate action will always be taken.

Bullying becomes stalking when a person (the offender) stalks another person (the victim) by making threats to the victim, using abusive/offensive words to or in the presence of the victim, performing abusive/offensive acts in the presence of the victim, directing abusive/offensive act towards them, trying to put the victim in fear for themselves/others or causing any physical/mental harm (with this it includes self harm which also includes suicidal thoughts).

With society as it is in this technological age, online bullying and harassment is more prevalent than ever. It is ultra important to keep your social media account private and only allow friend or follow requests from people you know, trust and are friends with.

Caution really needs to be taken with all your information. You should limit the amount of personal information you provide to social networking platforms. This is especially important when it comes you providing your full name, address and areas that you visit or are visiting.

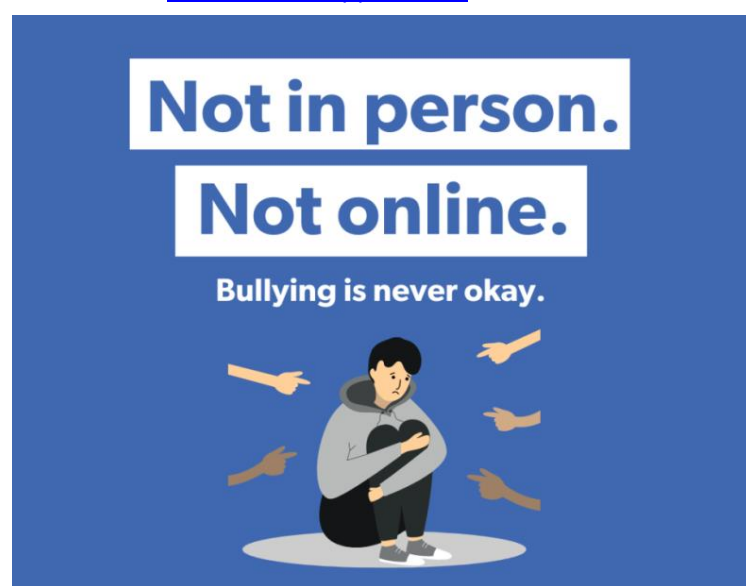
Always be careful what type of images you are sharing. Once your image is out there, it is out there forever. Be aware of what's in the background of these images as well. They can provide clues to where you are, what you're doing and more. This is why metadata should be limited with shared images.

Parents and carers really need to be vigilant when it comes to children's online activity. Parental controls are always a good idea and it is recommended to always have open and honest conversations about online risks. If you find that your child is the victim of online harassment, you need to notify their educators/managers so they are aware of the situation.

If you find you are being bullied or harassed, you need to start collecting evidence immediately. Take screenshots of the incidents and ask the individual to stop. Ask them to delete what they have posted or shared if they have done so. Sometimes it may be difficult, but try not to respond to mean or hurtful comments. You need to block this person and tell someone you trust. Steps need to be taken to report them to the administrators of these platforms and request them to remove the data. Keep in mind, no issue is too small.

An important step then is to report the matter. Here are some sites to assist with reporting:

- Report cyber abuse (regardless of your age), or image-based abuse to the eSafety Commission:  
[www.esafety.gov.au/report/what-you-can-report-to-esafety](http://www.esafety.gov.au/report/what-you-can-report-to-esafety)
- Report a cybercrime, incident or vulnerability:  
[www.cyber.gov.au/acsc/report](http://www.cyber.gov.au/acsc/report)
- For emergencies, to report a crime in progress, or for immediate police attendance, call Triple Zero (000).
- For non-emergencies, call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or report online  
[www.police.vic.gov.au/police-assistance-line-and-online-reporting](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/police-assistance-line-and-online-reporting)
- Report anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or [www.crimestoppers.com](http://www.crimestoppers.com)



### WATER SAFETY WITH THE WATER POLICE (By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)

A couple of schools over the last month have been lucky enough to have a visit from the Water Police Squad focusing on water safety, EPIRB's, boating and correct life jacket size, type and use.

The Water Police Squad within Victoria Police provides specialist support for the State of Victoria through the role of coordinating all marine search and rescue incidents, law enforcement of the marine environment, overarching responsibility for port security operations and provides marine counter terrorist capabilities.

The Bellarine Peninsula being surrounded by water puts all of us in a position where the Water Police Squad provide an important role throughout our waterways. This led to the permanent deployment of part of this unit taking up residence at the Queenscliff Police Station. Members from the squad are rotated on a shift basis where Sergeant Shane FRANKE heads the team.

### MENS HEALTH WEEK – 10-16 JUNE, 2024

(By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)

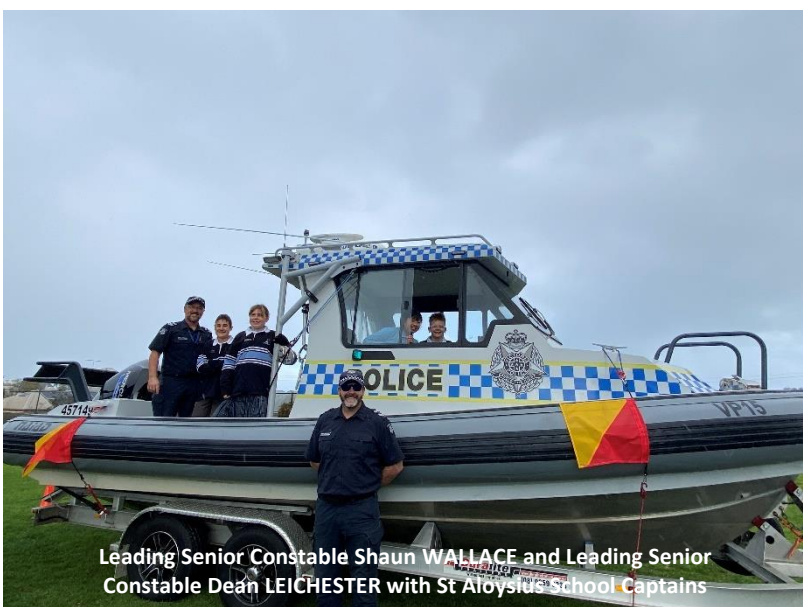
The theme of Men's Health Week 2024 is **Men's Health CHECKS** - focusing on encouraging men and boys to build healthy habits by identifying small changes they can make that benefit their health and wellbeing.

Men's Health Week was started in the United States by the US Congress in 1994 to heighten awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys.

In Australia, there were small and localised Men's Health Week events in Victoria and then in New South Wales from about 2000 onwards. Since then, Men's Health Week has gained traction, with organisations and community groups across the world celebrating the contributions men and boys make to our society.

In Australia, Men's Health Week provides a platform for challenging and debating key issues in men's health and to raise the profile of men, their health outcomes and health needs around the country each June. Our approach celebrates the strengths of men, the contributions they make, and the important roles they play in society.

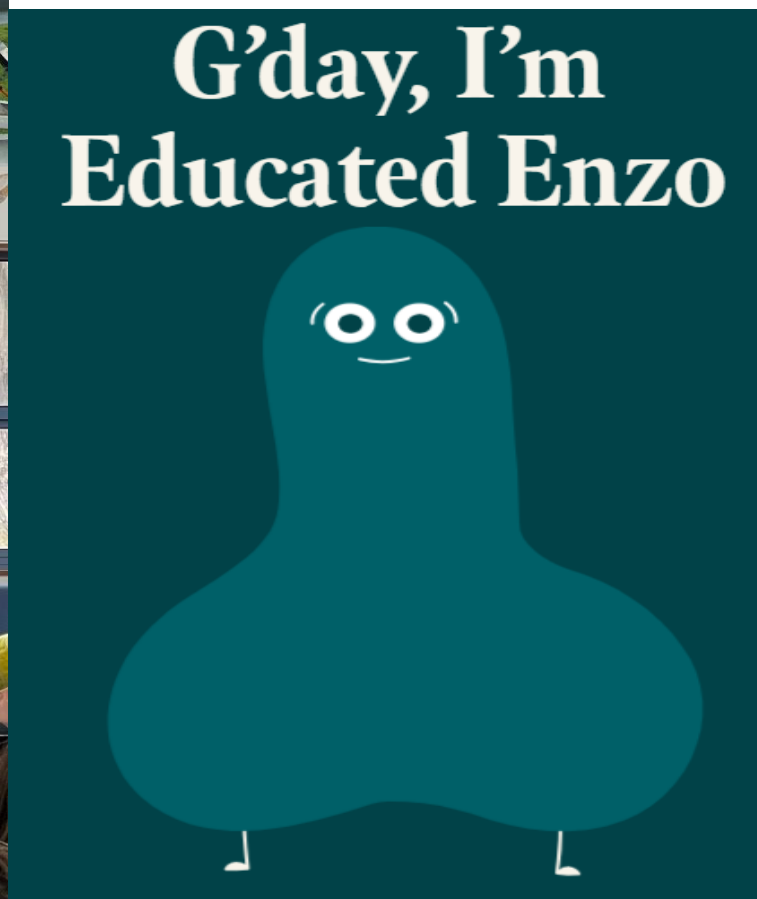
A message from [www.GoodHealthHeroes.org.au](http://www.GoodHealthHeroes.org.au) that is passed on from 'Educated Enzo' is: "I listen to my body, and I'm proactive about dealing with health niggles before they become major problems. Instead of burying my head in the sand or scrolling socials for advice, I know where to go for reliable health information and get regular check-ups with my doctor."



Leading Senior Constable Shaun WALLACE and Leading Senior Constable Dean LEICHESTER with St Aloysius School Captains



Leading Senior Constable Shaun WALLACE and Leading Senior Constable Dean LEICHESTER with Mr FRASER and Year 6 Surfside Primary



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

### PARLIAMENT INQUIRY INTO ROAD SAFETY

Earlier this year I spoke about chairing the Legislative Assembly Economy and Infrastructure Committee, investigating the impacts of road safety behaviours on vulnerable road users. Last month in parliament I tabled the report that outlined the findings of this inquiry.

The committee investigated how our road safety behaviours changed during and post the COVID pandemic and how these changes have impacted our most vulnerable road users.

In 2023 vulnerable road users made up 36 per cent of lives lost on Victorian roads and in 2022 almost half.

The final report has 61 findings and provides 56 recommendations for the Victorian Government to consider.

The inquiry found that, while there is a lack of published supportive data, anecdotal evidence suggests Victorian drivers' behaviour worsened during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of increased aggression, impatience, risk-taking, inattention and rule breaking.

The inquiry also found that new travel patterns have emerged since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic with reduced public transport patronage and increased travel by car, as well as an increase in cycling, walking and the presence of delivery drivers on our roads. Remote working means these patterns are likely to continue.

The Committee also recommends; creating a vulnerable road users' advisory group to contribute to the development of road safety interventions; reviewing the flexibility of speed zoning guidelines with the aim to decrease suburban 'rat running'; reviewing the location of pedestrian crossings on arterial roads to ensure there are regular crossings linked to public transport stops, activity centres and schools; prioritising road treatments in regional areas and running a targeted campaign on regional road safety to improve safety for vulnerable road users and encourage safer behaviours on regional roads.

The Committee received more than 300 submissions and held six days of hearings.

Road safety is something we all have a part in, and I greatly appreciated the opportunity to be able to hear from a wide range of witnesses and experts to determine how we can improve road safety for our wider community. We need to do everything we can to reduce our road accidents and fatalities, so all road users can get to their destination safely.

The report is available to download from the Committee's site:

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/roadsafetybehaviours/reports>



Member For Bellarine Alison MARCHANT



### CRIME, WHERE ARE WE AT

As we approach the cooler months, the trend of crime seems to alter at this time of year. Residential burglaries and associated crime lower with fewer daylight hours and the more likelihood of occupants being home whilst it's dark. But it doesn't necessarily mean there is a significant reduction in crime.

What it means is there is a higher likelihood the criminals out there move their focus more to commercial burglaries and associated crime. As with the more likelihood residents are in their homes, so to the chances of not being seen in the darkness around these types of premises.

Don't become complacent around your security especially around your commercial premises. Ensure you have adequate security lighting, the ability to secure the premises with criminals not just having to break a window and consider a quality CCTV system with live notifications.





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.

## Explore roles and careers within Victoria Police

Victoria Police is an organisation with over 22,000 staff across 350 locations. We are committed to growing a diverse workforce that is representative of the communities we serve – including diversity of age, gender, culture, religion, and sexual orientation.

There are four career pathways at Victoria Police:

- Police Officer;
- Protective Services Officer;
- Police Custody Officer; and
- Victorian Public Servant.

### Police Officer role

Right across Victoria, from the heart of Melbourne to the most remote country towns, police officers carry out a range of duties that are diverse, rewarding and challenging to help keep the community safe.

### The benefits

- Paid from day one of your 31 week training program at the Victoria Police Academy in Glen Waverley.
- Generous leave entitlements including 9 weeks recreation leave per year, as well as shift penalties and allowances on top of the base salary.
- After completing typically 2–4 years of general duties, you can apply for a specialist police role.

### Application Tips

- ✓ Check you are eligible by reading the suitability checklist.
- ✓ Check your spelling and grammar, re-read your application before submission.
- ✓ Disclose ALL prior history including traffic infringements, driving offences, unpaid fines, and all police involvements.
- ✓ Act on document requests quickly to ensure your application process runs efficiently.

### Attend a Victoria Police Careers Event

The Recruitment Team at Victoria Police runs a series of information sessions, fitness test trials, and seminars to provide you with all you need to know about the recruitment process and how to put your best foot forward when applying.

SCAN HERE



## Quick eligibility and suitability check for Police Officers

- Are you 18 years of age or over?
- Are you an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident?  
Note: New Zealand citizens who do not currently reside in Australia are eligible to apply however will need to reside in Australia and hold a special category visa prior to commencing employment.
- Are you able to undertake shift work (morning, afternoon and night shift), 10 days per fortnight? This includes working on weekends and public holidays.
- Are you willing to carry and use a range of tactical policing options to perform policing duties?
- Are you fit enough to fulfill the physical fitness requirements?
- Do you meet the minimum medical requirements?
- Are you willing to work across different Victorian locations, as per operational needs?
- Do you have a solid understanding of the recruitment process assessments?
- Are you ready to be considered for a role as a police officer?

🔍 police careers

Victoria Police Recruitment Team  
(03) 8335 5003  
policecareers-mgr@police.vic.gov.au



**MADE  
FOR  
MORE**

SCHOOL VISITS CONTINUING ACROSS THE BELLARINE

(By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)



Leading Senior Constable Anthony SHEEDY with Beacon Point Pre-School

Bellarine Police have been continuing to provide presentations to all our school groups. We have attended 16 presentations over the month of May alone.

Each group we attend offers a valuable chance to educate and address the perceptions of police in society. With the opportunity to ask questions directly and feel comfortable with police in their presence.

If your learning group would like the police to impart information pertaining to police, their role in society and of course, our approachability, please do not hesitate to contact Bellarine Neighbourhood at:

[BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au)



Leading Senior Constable Tom HOLMES at Portarlington Pre-School

STOLEN PROPERTY FOUND AND RETURNED

(By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)



Sergeant Shane CONNOLLY With Local Personality Max SCHALLER

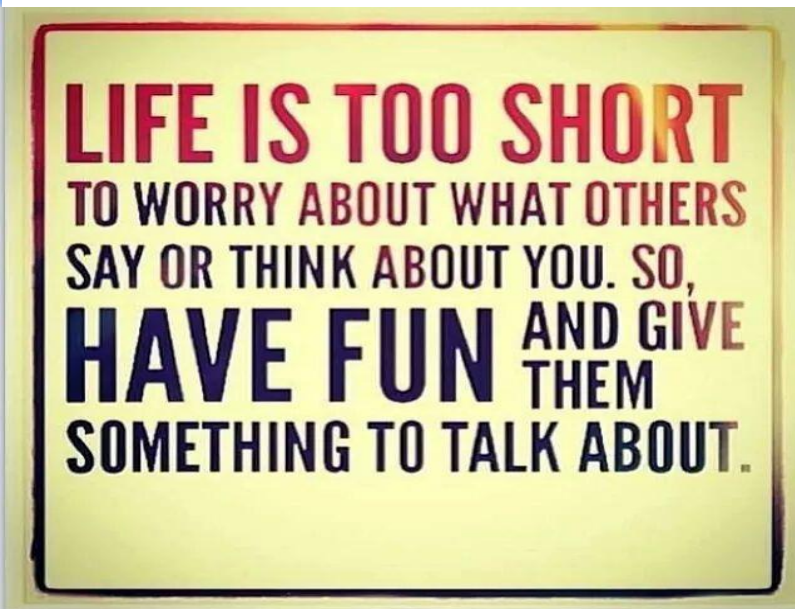
On the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, 2024, local personality Max SCHALLER attended a local beach where he took his ebike and locked it to a fence with a heavy steel lock. He returned just over an hour later to notice his bike had been stolen.

Max made enquiries with a caravan park a short distance away who captured a male and female leaving the area with Max's scooter on their CCTV. Devastated, Max searched the area to no avail. Max said, "I work at the local bottle shop and the bike is my sole method of transport".

During the month of February, local police took reports for 43 thefts of ebike/escooters.

Police investigation, warrants and arrests led to the recovery of many of these ebikes/escooter where Max's was recovered from the other side of the bay. It has received a 'nice new paint job' however, he has it.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



**CAUGHT! 174KM/H SWAN BAY ROAD** (By SGT Dave BROCKWAY)

As we head into Winter the community on the Bellarine Peninsula will see a greater presence from Geelong Highway Patrol. We will be out in force with Operation Saturation which is an operation where we flood the area with high visibility policing to target all road related offences including speed and drink driving.

The operation on its first day was highly successful when Geelong Highway Patrol spotted a vehicle driving along Bellarine Hwy at 116km/h in the 80km/h speed zone. Police have continued to follow vehicle onto Swan Bay Road, Wallington, where they further detected the drivers speed at 174km/h in the 80km/h speed zone.

Police finally caught up with the 22 year old male from Ocean Grove, in Banks Road, Marcus Hill, where they detected further offences including drug driving.

The driver will subsequently be charged by summons and have to attend the Magistrates' Court at a later date. His car was impounded and he's off the road.



Finally, a reminder for the local community that it's important to be aware of school times and school locations. We are continuing to see members of our community speeding through school zones placing our children at risk. So please look for the signs and slow down.



To conclude, we all need to take care our roads and ensure that we work together in the community to stamp out bad road behaviour. You may have seen our vehicles around the Bellarine so don't be alarmed we are here to keep everyone on the road safe so please say Hi when you see us!

**So, I guess this is your warning slow down and take care as we will be around!!!**

Lives Lost In 2024 To Date:

**121**



## CAREER AND PANEL EXPO

(By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)



## NEWLY CREATED DISABILITY LIAISON OFFICER POSITION

(By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)

The Disability Liaison Officer (DLO) role is a contact point for people with disability if they encounter barriers to accessing police services. DLO's also help build connections with the broader disability community in their local area and build the knowledge and skills of their colleagues.

DLO's are in place across every Police Service Area, Transit and Public Safety Command and State and Emergency Support Command across Victoria.

Victoria Police employees utilise DLO's so they can provide support and advice in relation to improving Victoria Police services to people with disability. It could include questions about:

- how to engage and respond to people with disability;
- best communication tools and techniques;
- reducing barriers when people with disability engage with the justice system; and
- local partnerships and support services.

The role was first developed in response to a recommendation of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC) in [Beyond Doubt: The experience of people with disability reporting crime report \(2014\)](#)

More recently, the [Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability](#) has recommended all police services should introduce adequate numbers of dedicated disability liaison officers. The Chief Commissioner of Police agreed for Victoria Police to lead on this recommendation.

Community policing is central to Victoria Police's role. It involves listening to the needs of the community, understanding these needs, and responding. Engagement between Victoria Police and the community help to increase trust and confidence.

All members of Victoria Police will be capable of meeting the policing needs of Victoria's diverse communities. For a variety of reasons, not all members of the disability community feel comfortable accessing police services. People with a disability may encounter the criminal justice system as a victim, witness, suspect or accused, or even in need of help for non-crime related matters. Victoria Police are committed to improving their relationship with the disabled community. This will lead to:

- increased trust and confidence to report crime and other matters to police;
- enhanced quality of information and witness testimony, leading to more successful prosecutions;
- increased use of tailored responses and reasonable adjustments; and
- reduction in victim trauma by ensuring people with disability have every opportunity to be heard/respected.

Bellarine Police had the opportunity to participate in a Career's and Panel Expo for St Ignatius College late May. We were fortunate enough to speak to students and parents from Years 9-12 assisting with information and pathways for employment within Victoria Police.

The turn out was fantastic and we certainly were able to pass on information to countless enquirers.

## 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.





## ONLINE SAFETY

One letter can actually help you detect whether the browser you are visiting is safe.

Still unsure what we mean by that? Our article <https://nhw.com.au/fraud-scams/what-is-ssl/> covers a beginner guide to make sure you are staying safe while browsing.

### What is SSL?

It is a common term used when discussing cyber safety and it plays an important role to keep your data safe.

You may have heard the term before when somebody discusses the importance of checking it when you browse the Internet.

**SSL stands for Secure Sockets Layer.** Think of SSL as a secret code. It helps your information remain safe between your web browser and the website's server. This is to ensure that your private information such as credit card numbers cannot be seen or exposed to someone else on the internet. The best way to spot it is if you see a padlock symbol in the website address which keeps your info safe.

### How can you check?

#### Look for HTTPS

Make sure the website's URL begins with <https://> rather than just <http://>. The 'S' stands for secure and indicated that the website is using SSL to protect your data.

#### Inspect the SSL certificate

By clicking the padlock icon next to the website's URL in your browser's address bar, it will display the SSL certificate info. Verify whether the certificate is issued to the correct organisation to ensure the name matches the website you're on.

#### Checking its Validity

Browsers such as Chrome and Safari would add a notification page before you enter a website that has an expired certificate. It could be an indication that the website has not been properly maintained and compromised security. Take the warnings seriously and avoid entering any sensitive information.

#### Use Trusted Browsers and Tools

Well-known and updated web browsers are known for a reason. They often have built in security features to help detect suspicious websites and invalid SSL certificates. Online tools or browser extensions

## POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE

All Victorians are encouraged to contact the Police Assistance Line on [131 444](tel:131444) or visit the Victoria Police Online Reporting service to report non-urgent crimes and events.

The Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting service will take reports or give advice at any time on non-urgent crimes and events anywhere in the state, including:

- property damage
- lost or located property
- theft
- absence from residence registrations
- PartySafe registrations
- other general non-urgent police enquiries

The Online Reporting service is available through the new look Victoria Police website, which improves the way police information and services are found and understood online.

The Police Assistance Line calls are taken by civilian staff at a contact centre in Ballarat, under the supervision of police.

**Police 131 444**  
 Save 000 for emergencies

## BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

### SCAM AWARENESS TRAINING

Bellarine Community Support Register in conjunction with Neighbourhood Watch St Leonards are hosting a Scam Awareness Training session for the community on MONDAY 17 JUNE 2024 at St Leonards Memorial Hall. 1342 Murradoc Rd. St Leonards, at 10am.

Bellarine Police members will conduct the training.

ALL WELCOME. Bring a friend, bring a neighbour - just don't miss this important session.

### OFFICE RELOCATION

We have relocated!

Same address, but we have moved downstairs in the Bellarine Police Station.

The new office is up and running. Both computers and laptop are connected and tested, printer connected and tested, and data card machine connected and tested. Thanks to Johnno from Bay IT who totally nailed it earlier this week.

So, we are fully operational!

Thanks to Bellarine Police for the remodelling to accommodate our new space, and to our Co-ordinator Debbie for an amazing job in managing the move.

### MARKUS HAS RETIRED FROM BCSR

We recently acknowledged the retirement from BCSR of Markus Stadler, a volunteer of 18 years with our Register.

Markus was the clinical psychologist who retired in his 60s to learn how to become a software developer and programmer. Markus developed Bilbiware, the database that has sustained the organization for the last 18 years. It has been far more than the development, programming and administration of the BilbiWare database – it has also been the training of our volunteers and Bellarine Police Members.

Thirteen other Registers around the State also purchased BilbiWare. Markus trained their personnel and provided a Help Desk to support the new software users. During this time, Markus continued to refine the database during its evolution, donating all proceeds to the Bellarine Register.



Markus STADLER – Retiring BCSR Member

The database contains a Registrant's contact information, next of kin, Doctor's name, spare key location and/or key safe pin and pet information. Police are able to access this information in the event of an incident and make the necessary contacts with nominated persons. If necessary, they can also share any relevant medical information to emergency services that you may have provided when you register.

Utilitise IT, a Geelong-based company, has developed a new collection and retrieval information system called *Safeguard* that has been based on Bilbiware.

It will now provide BCSR with protection to complement and anticipate increased privacy, technology and security advancements when fully operational.

Without Markus, there would have been no Register.

### WHERE ARE MY KEYS?

Have you ever lost your keys while walking or shopping? Or perhaps you have found keys and handed them in to Police? The Bellarine Police Station has found keys that are awaiting their owners. As there is no identification on the keys, sometimes it is impossible to find their owners.

We can assist you to, hopefully, be reunited with your keys. Register with the Bellarine Community Support Register and we will issue you with a key tag complete with your registration number. If keys are lost and handed into Police, a quick check of our database, and you and your keys will be together again.

It's that easy!

Go to our registration page <https://bellarineregister.org.au> to complete your registration or call our Office between 9.30 am and 12 noon weekdays on 5255 3968 and we can send you a registration form.

**BELLARINE COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT REGISTER INC.**

**Feel safe. Feel secure. Have peace of mind.**

## DRINK DRIVER CAUGHT NEARLY 5 TIMES THE LEGAL LIMIT

(By Senior Constable Joel JAHN)

Early May 2024, Police were called to a 2 vehicle collision on Leviens Road, St Leonards, where the offending driver allegedly lost control of their vehicle through a roundabout and collided with another vehicle parked in a residential driveway. The parked vehicle had the owner seated in the driver seat preparing to leave their premises.

On police arrival the offending vehicle, a small white hatch, was observed parked in the street with significant front end damage, but there was no driver to be seen. The parked motor vehicle, a dark coloured BMW SUV was also observed in a front yard at the location with significant damage to the rear of the vehicle.

Police allege they were able to catch up with the offending female driver shortly after the collision where they demanded a preliminary breath test indicating the driver's breath contained alcohol. It is also alleged the driver was not licensed to drive a motor vehicle in Victoria at this time.

It is alleged the female driver also had a passenger in the front passenger seat of her car at the time of collision. Thankfully no one was injured as a result.

The alleged driver was taken to the Bellarine Police Station for the purposes of a breath test. It is alleged the driver had a concentration of alcohol approximately 5 times the legal limit.

Such an alcohol concentration would result in a loss of licence and being disqualified from obtaining a licence for a period of 2 years. The accused faces criminal charges and will have to attend the Magistrates Court at a later date.

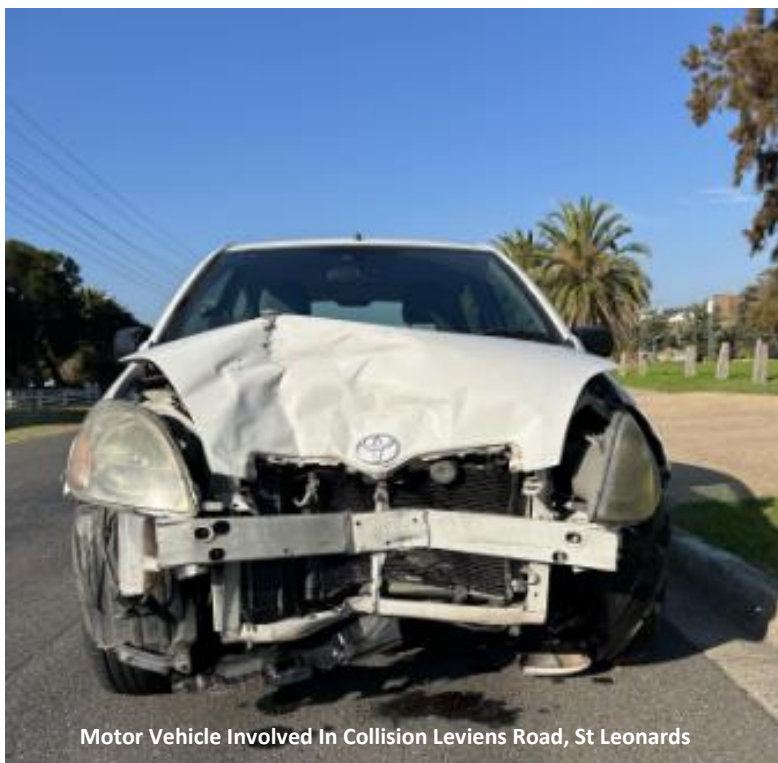
## E-SCOOTER TRIAL EXTENDED FOR FURTHER 6 MONTHS



The Department of Transport's e-scooter (*also known as eScooter, electric scooter and iScooter*) trial on Victorian roads has been extended for a further six months from April 2024.

Key elements of the extended trial include:

- E-scooters must not be ridden by any person under 16 years of age;
- E-scooters can only be ridden on roads that have a speed limit of 60 km/h or less;
- Privately owned e-scooters are now permitted to be ridden on any roads in Victoria with a speed limit of 60km/h or less, providing the device has a maximum speed capability of 25km/h;
- E-scooters must not be ridden at a speed exceeding 20km/h;
- E-scooters must not be ridden on footpaths;
- Riders must wear a helmet;
- Mobile phones are not permitted to be used on e-scooters;
- E-scooters must not carry more than one person;
- Riders must not consume alcohol while riding an e-scooter; and
- The prescribed concentration of alcohol (PCA) for the rider of a compliant e-scooter is 0.05 regardless of the status or conditions on any motor vehicle licence and irrespective of the age of the rider. Note - riders of non-compliant private e-scooters are subject to a 0.00 BAC unless they hold a full and unrestricted motorcycle licence.



Motor Vehicle Involved In Collision Leviens Road, St Leonards

STAR OF THE SEA BIKE RIDE

(By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)

Members of Bellarine Police had the opportunity to assist Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School year 6 students with their bike ride travelling from the school grounds to Howard Harmer Oval, Barwon Heads, in early May.

Police members rode with teachers and students and were also able to assist with some traffic direction along the way. It was brilliant to be able to cheer the kids on their way and the weather was certainly on everyone's side!



**CRIME STOPPERS**  
.com.au  
**1800 333 000**

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.

**Any info,  
any crime,  
any time.**



**WARRANT EXECUTED AT LEOPOLD HOUSE** (By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, 2024, a number of police members from Bellarine Police engaged in a planned response to executing a search warrant on a residential address in Leopold. Information had been received that drugs, being cannabis, were being grown at the address.

Police swooped on the address at 8:45am, covering all entrances of the target address securing the residents immediately. The premises, including all yards and sheds, were searched.

The rear yard had numerous large plants, recently cultivated, planted in the ground and surround pots on entry to the yard. A greenhouse was located with an intricate setup where two extremely large plants were located. Another couple of large plants were also located in a smaller greenhouse attached to the main one. All the plants were dug from the ground, catalogued and secured in the presence of the resident.

The main bedroom of the house contained a black 'drying tent' containing a large quantity of cuttings.

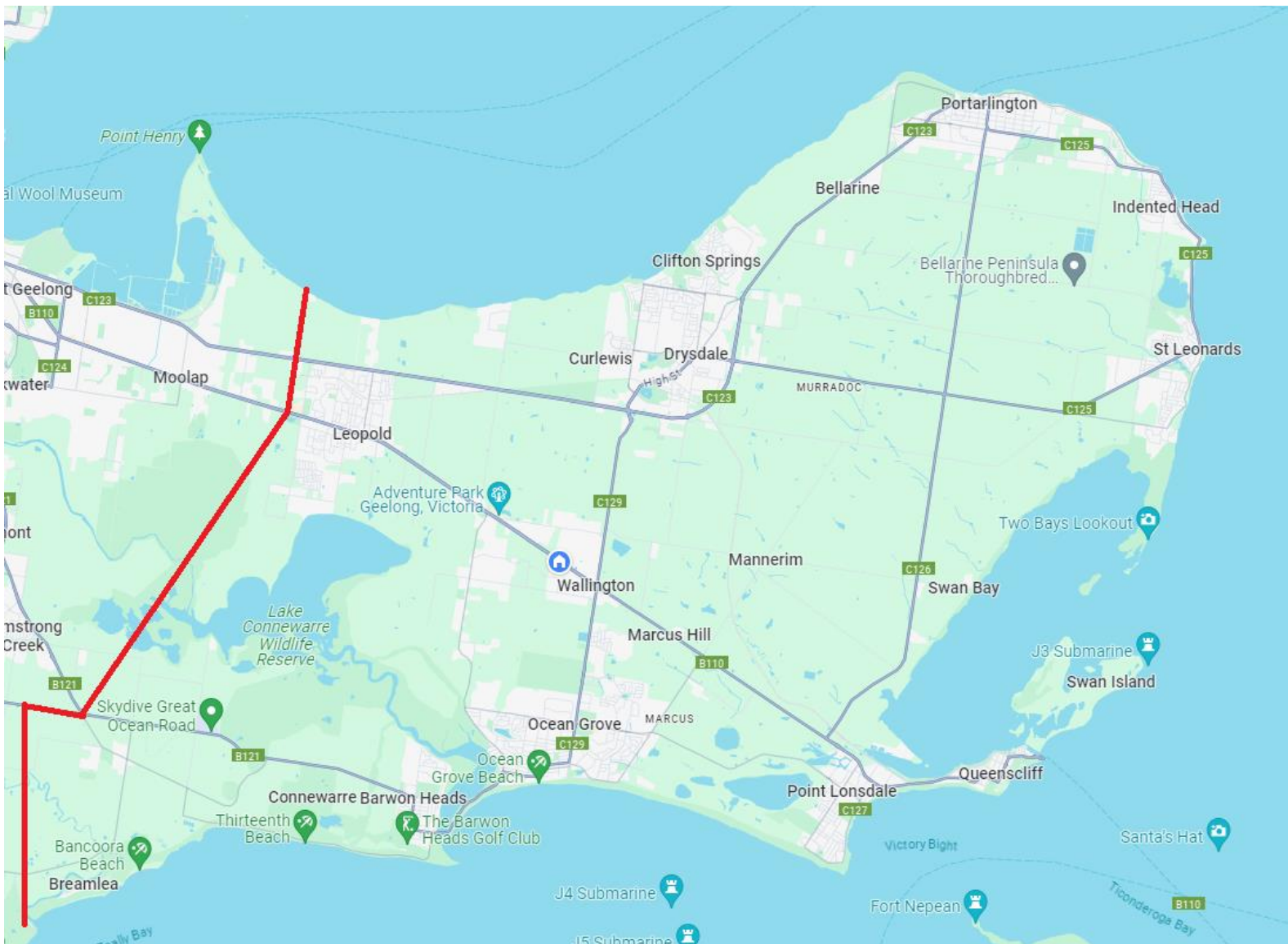


The male from the residence was then arrested and bailed to the Geelong Magistrates' Court to mid-July in answer to the charge of traffic drug of dependence being cannabis and others

A large safe was also located in the house containing a large quantity of coffee jars filled with dried cannabis.

If you have information to pass on to police remember it can always be passed anonymously through Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000

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)

LSC Anthony SHEEDY

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