

March 2024

Community Update

Community Volunteers

It's been a pleasure to be able to visit many of our incredible volunteer run organisations on the Bellarine. Recently I visited the Bellarine SES, an organisation solely run by volunteers who do tremendous work to help the community in need. Our Surf Life Saving Clubs have patrolled beaches over a busy season and many of our sporting clubs rely on volunteers, mostly parents of kids playing sport. Rotary Clubs, Salvation Army, Lions Clubs, View Clubs, toy libraries, environment groups and many more organisations all have committed volunteers.

One theme that continue to be raised is the challenge to attract new volunteers to continue the incredible work within the community. If you're looking to meet new people, learn new skills or are wanting to give back to the community, please consider reaching out to a local organisation to see how you can participate! As someone that has volunteered over my life, I can honestly say you will get more back than you give.

Successful Grants

It has been an incredible start to 2024, as the Bellarine has been very successful in securing multiple grants in the first part of this year. These grants can make an incredible difference in our community, and I thank the community members who advocate and worked through the application process for the array of grants that have been available.

Last month, I was able to visit Headstart Early Learning Centre in Ocean Grove to congratulate them on receiving a grant to support their bush kinder program. I love the bush kinder program, allowing children to learn through play in natural, outdoor setting such as bushlands, parks and beaches – all of which we have in abundance in the Bellarine. Woodlands House Childcare and Lonsdale House Childcare were also successful recipients of the grant, providing a number of opportunities for kids in the Bellarine to be able to explore their natural environment.

I have also visited two bowls clubs, with newly updated facilities. The St Leonards Bowling Club have beautiful renovated their clubrooms, with a new deck, shed and bathroom facilities. The club and community love it and I must say it's a great place for meal and Friday night raffle too!

Barwon Heads Bowling Club opened their brand-new clubrooms this month, with an incredible new social area, storage space, outdoor undercover veranda for spectators and more. This new upgrade means the club now has the space to recruit new members and expand their community.

Lastly, I want to congratulate the Bellarine Bears Baseball Club, Indented Head Yacht Club, Point Lonsdale Bowls Club, the Portarlington Demon Football and Netball Club and the Drysdale Badminton Club who were all successful in receiving the latest round of the Sporting Club Grants Program, to go towards new uniforms or equipment to ensure the clubs can all continue to build and thrive within the community.

I am very proud to be able to deliver and support our great community here on the Bellarine, and I look forward to continuing to advocate for more grants throughout this year.

