

June 2024

Community Update

New Medium Tanker for Leopold CFA

Recently I was able to join members of the Leopold Fire Brigade to thank volunteers for their incredible service to our local community and to officially hand over a new medium tanker into their fleet thanks to funding from the Victorian Government's Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP).

VESEP is an annual grants program that supports Victorian emergency service volunteer groups to purchase essential equipment or make minor facility improvements so they can continue their work assisting the community in an emergency.

The Leopold Fire Brigade is home to 53 members, including 30 operational members who respond to around 154 incidents every year, including rescues, motor vehicle accidents, and grass, scrub and house fires.

This new tanker is a valuable asset to the brigade with the capacity to carry 2350L of water to suppress fires and incorporates a crew protection system to help protect volunteers during a burnover.

Portarlington Ferry

Exciting news for the Bellarine! The Port Philip Ferry service from Portarlington to Melbourne will continue for another four years as part of our Labor Government's \$30 million investment in better bus and ferry connections in the last budget.

This is fantastic news, as communities know just how important this is for our region's economy. It not only supports local residence in having another transport option to Melbourne but the tourism that comes to support our local businesses.

From June, ferry passengers will also benefit from a revised bus network, which will see the public bus timetable better align with the Ferry service, meaning more locals can access the Ferry without having to worry about driving or parking their car.

In 2022, the Labor Government completed an incredible \$10 million upgrade to Portarlington Pier, to provide all-weather access from the foreshore to the ferry services, and this government has continued to back the ferry service for our Bellarine Peninsula once again.

The ferry service continues to grow in popularity attracting thousands of passengers every month and I'm so proud to get this terrific outcome for our growing communities.

Keep Up to Date in the Community

Safety in our community is vital and I am pleased to continue the Bsafe representative group who meet with local Bellarine police.

In addition, it was terrific to be out with local policemen and women at the Gateway Plaza for a 'Coffee with a Cop'. Shoppers were able to speak directly with police or myself about any issues while enjoying a free coffee. Thank you to everyone who stopped by.

