

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

September 2025 Edition. In this issue: Vale Neal and Vadim.



The tragic loss of Leading Senior Constable Neal THOMPSON and Senior Constable Vadim de WAART-HOTTART and the severe injuring of a third at Porepunkah in recent weeks is a reminder of the dangers faced by the officers of Victoria Police every day across the state. Members of both Portarlington and Bellarine police stations have been overwhelmed with the support offered by the public. Whether a kind word whilst passing you in the street or a conversation in the station when a sympathy card is handed over, all these interactions from the community we support mean so much to us.



MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

I extend my deepest sympathies to all members of Victoria Police following the horrific incident in north-east Victoria and the tragic loss of two dedicated officers, Senior Constable Vadim de Waart-Hottart and Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompson, who died while on duty in August.

Like many in the Bellarine community, I am incredibly grateful for the continued service and dedication of Victoria Police members.

Our local police work tirelessly around the clock to keep the Bellarine safe. While our region is a supportive and close-knit community, we are not immune to challenges such as theft, scams, road safety concerns, and domestic and family violence.

I regularly meet with local police and chair bSafe, a community-led group that connects Bellarine organisations and community members directly with law enforcement. bSafe provides an important platform for collaboration, communication, and proactive problem-solving.

In addition to working closely with Victoria Police, I also meet regularly with other emergency services including CFA, Ambulance Victoria, SES, Coast Guard and Fire Rescue Victoria who all play a vital role in supporting our community. These services work together with a strong sense of cooperation and shared purpose to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the Bellarine.

Our next bSafe quarterly meeting is scheduled for October, and I look forward to sharing updates with the community on the key topics discussed and any actions arising.

If you need any assistance with any state matters, please contact my office on 03 5250 1987 or via email alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au



Leading Senior Constables' HOARE and MONTEITH at Ocean Grove Marketplace meeting the public

Coffee with a Cop is an ongoing initiative that allows members of the public to approach police in relaxed and familiar surroundings. You can see police at the numerous shopping centres around the Bellarine once or twice a month. The officers are always approachable and take seriously the enquiries, feedback and issues raised to them by members of the public. It is a great opportunity to meet the team at Bellarine and Portarlington Police Stations.

Coffee with a Cop

Sit down, have a coffee, ask questions and share what's on your mind.

BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

OUT AND ABOUT

Our Register volunteers have been out and about on the Bellarine promoting the Register in recent weeks.

Bunnings Leopold Father's Day Family Event on September 4 where Bellarine Police, Neighbourhood Watch and our Register attended alongside other community groups.

It seems some were heading home in the back of a divvy van!!



Community Safety Pop Ups at Curlewis, Kingston and Marketplace Ocean Grove - Thanks to these shopping centres for hosting our Community Safety Information Pop Ups where Bellarine Community Support Register, Neighbourhood Watch and Bellarine Police chatted with quite a number of residents about the Register, registering interest in Neighbourhood Watch and general community issues.

BUNNINGS LEOPOLD BBQ SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER

As part of Crime Prevention Month, Bellarine Community Support Register and Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine will be running the Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Leopold on **Saturday 18 October**.

Come along and support us.

Crime prevention information will be available and personal alarms, UV pens and Faraday Pouches will be available for purchase.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

BCSR will be holding its AGM on Tuesday 21 October 2025, 1.15pm for lunch with the meeting beginning at 2pm at the Ocean Grove SLSC. The Committee meet 6 times a year, bi-monthly at a few locations on the Bellarine. It's an opportunity for you to share your community knowledge, expertise in local affairs, meet like-minded people, and share your skills. Please think about nominating.

FUNERAL SCAMS

At a recent meeting with our Register's sponsor, Kings Funerals, Beth King urged us to share with our Registrants and the community, to be aware of funeral scams targeting grieving families and friends.

Fake live stream memorials are a type of funeral scam where fraudsters send out bogus links to live-streamed funeral services, often via social media, to trick mourners into paying for access or making donations to fake accounts. These scammers operate by scanning public funeral notices and creating fake profiles that pose as family members, then send friend requests and fake links to trick people out of money and personal information.

Australian Funeral Directors Association CEO Dale Gilson says scammers are using fake Facebook accounts with information and photos of the deceased, and may request information such as credit card details, and donations to family members.

The association says funeral directors have been issuing warnings to families and their communities after being alerted to scams targeting their businesses.

Fake GoFundMe and memorial sites are other ways scammers are attempting to prey on the grieving, and Mr Gilson recommended people always check the legitimacy of sites with family members before donating.

Since the COVID pandemic, online farewells have grown in popularity, allowing people to attend from any location.

To safely watch live streamed funerals, mourners should contact the funeral home directly for details. Keep in mind that funeral directors will never ask for personal or financial details through social media. If you ever doubt the legitimacy of live stream links or communications, contact your funeral director.

Anyone targeted is urged to report scam activity to www.scamwatch.gov.au and to the online platform where it occurred, such as Facebook.

Stay vigilant and protect yourself and your loved ones.

If you see a scam, or are the victim of foul play, you are encouraged to report it to authorities via: www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam





**Crime
Prevention
Month** | **Oct
2025**

Supported by



Most crimes aren't planned.

Most locks aren't used.

Start smart habits now.

2025 Crime Prevention Month theme

Crime Prevention Month is a key initiative led by Neighbourhood Watch Victoria to shine a spotlight on the power of local communities in creating safer, more connected neighbourhoods.

Throughout the month, we aim to amplify the message that crime prevention is a shared responsibility, and that even small actions can make a big difference. By working together, raising awareness, and providing practical resources, we can help reduce opportunities for crime and build stronger, more resilient communities.

And what better time than this month, to put up your hand and get involved with Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine.

Start by simply following our Facebook page -
<https://www.facebook.com/nhwbellarine>

7-Day Crime Prevention Challenge

The 7-Day Crime Prevention Challenge is a fun and interactive social media campaign run by Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine.

Each day for the week 6 – 12 October, we will post a question or scenario designed to get people thinking and talking about crime prevention. Participants comment with their answers or tips, and use a #LocationHashtag to compete for the title of “Most Crime Prevention Aware Neighbourhood” on the Bellarine!

Get involved by following Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine Facebook page –
<https://www.facebook.com/nhwbellarine>

Bunnings Leopold BBQ Saturday 18th October

As part of Crime Prevention Month, Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine and the Bellarine Community Support Register will be running the Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Leopold on Saturday 18 October.

Come along and support us.

Crime prevention information will be available and personal alarms, UV pens and Faraday Pouches will be available for purchase.

TRADIES - PROTECT YOUR TOOLS

TIME FOR ACTION - MARK AND IDENTIFY YOUR TOOLS

Don't leave tools unattended or in an unlocked vehicle. Criminals are opportunistic. If they see little risk and high value, your tools are gone. During 2019 there were 20,000 reports of stolen tradies tools. Many of these were from vehicles.

Keep your vehicle locked, your tools out of sight, and both in a lock up garage.

Mark your tools and keep a record

Clearly mark your tools with a unique identifier, such as your driver's licence number with a "V" before it. Use an engraver or a UV pen. These are available from Neighbourhood Watch.

While marking your tools might not prevent them from theft, it can make them less attractive to steal as it can lower their value and make it harder for thieves to resell them. It's also easier for police to identify your tools and return them to you when stolen and recovered.

Put a sign or sticker on your ute or toolbox saying all equipment and tools are marked. These are available from Neighbourhood Watch Greater Geelong. Email us at nhwgreatergeelong@gmail.com

Consider popping expensive tools inside your home overnight or on the weekend.

You can also look at using data dots – unique identification numbers encoded on polyester substrate to form microdots that act much like DNA.

Property Vault – www.propertyvault.com.au offers an online "vault" in which to record your tools, etc. Take a look.

Consider adding an air tag to tradies trailers and tool boxes.

Taking photos of your tools and identifiable features can also help police track them down in the event they have been stolen.

Ultra Violet Marking Pens for sale

Neighbourhood Watch has Ultra Violet Marking Pens available for sale at \$5 each.

These are ideal for marking tools.

Email us at nhwgreatergeelong@gmail.com to order your pens



Be a car detective



Hi kids!

Earn your police detective's badge by checking your family's car for the items on this checklist. Can you answer "no" for all 12 things?

Thanks for helping us keep everyone safe.



Check the car

		Yes	No
	Are any of the doors or the boot unlocked?	☒	☐
	Are any windows open far enough that you can reach your hand in?	☒	☐
	Is there a key in the ignition?	☒	☐

Now look through the car windows. Can you see any of these items inside that might be worth stealing?

		Yes	No
	Keys	☒	☐
	Garage remote	☒	☐
	Sunglasses	☒	☐
	Money	☒	☐
	Bags or backpacks	☒	☐
	Wallets or purses	☒	☐
	Phones or iPads	☒	☐
	Laptops	☒	☐
	Letters with your home address on them	☒	☐

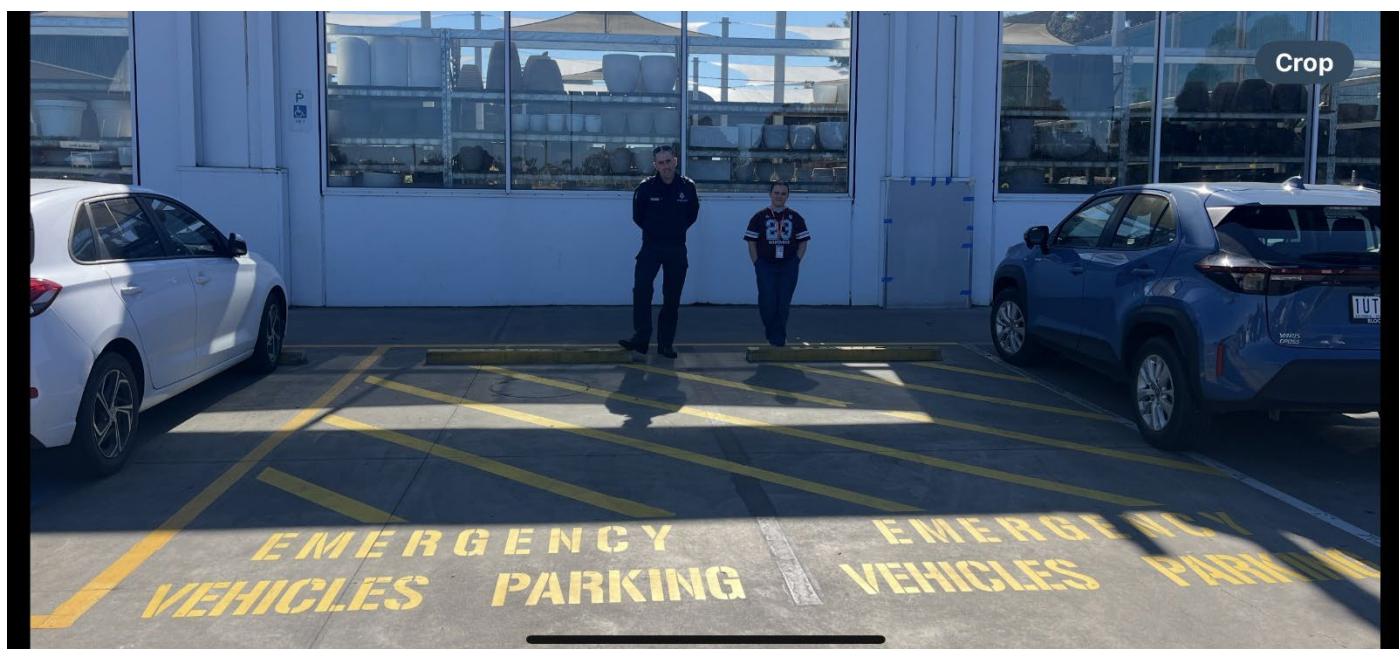
How many "no"s did you cross off?

___/12



We welcome all enquiries regarding Neighbourhood Watch. Email us at nhwbellarine@gmail.com or visit our website – www.nhw.com.au . If you wish to complete a membership application, go to <https://nhw.com.au/find-a-group/>





Leading Senior Constable HOARE and work experience student Emma from Matthew Flinders show off the new Emergency Vehicle Parking bays at Gateway Plaza Leopold.



Surely the Bellarine and Portarlington Police cannot be far off getting our hands on one of these to park at Gateway Plaza! The Lykan Hypersport is one of the fastest and costliest global supercars. The Abu Dhabi police force got its hands on this beast that gets a flat-six 3.7 litre engine making 770 hp and 960 Nm. It can touch 100 kmph in only 2.8 seconds and has a top speed of 385 kmph.

Bellarine and Portarlington Police Stations are in the process of updating our **After Hours Call Register**. All Police Stations in Victoria run an After Hours Call Register. It allows police to contact owners and managers of commercial premises outside of business hours if their property is involved in an emergency or criminal incident. Owners or managers can assist by either printing out the form below or scanning the QR Code. All information is securely held on the local police database. If you have any questions or require any assistance please contact the Bellarine Neighbourhood Unit.

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



Bellarine Neighbourhood Business Registration Form

This information is requested to assist police in contacting the business owner should there be an urgent incident or investigation at your business premises, i.e. burglary, theft and damage to premises. The information is secured on a police database.

VICTORIA POLICE

Business Name: _____ Business

Address: _____

Owner/Manager Name: _____ Owner/Manager Phone Number: _____

Owner/Manager Email: _____

After Hours Name: _____ After Hours Phone
Number: _____

After Hours Email: _____

CCTV Available: Y / N

If Yes CCTV Contact



Details: _____

Please take picture of completed form and either scan QR code right or email it back to:

bellarine-neighbourhood-mgr@police.vic.gov.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.



Does your school, sporting group, community group or business group want a police presentation?

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)

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