

December 2024

Community Update

As we come into December, I'd like to firstly wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and holiday season. If you are just starting your Christmas shopping, I encourage you to try and shop local first and support our local businesses. And if you have visitors, take them around our wonderful Bellarine, there's so much to discover right near home.

I also wish to acknowledge that Christmas can be a difficult time for some. If you need any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. There is local food-relief support (Feed Me Bellarine 0422 798 791), free mental health support (Geelong and Queenscliff Mental Health and Wellbeing Local 1800 573 151) and community services such as Orange Door (23-25 Palmerston Street, Drysdale) or Lifeline (13 11 14) that can provide assistance.

I do hope you can enjoy some time relaxing with friends and family, and I look forward to continuing to work hard for you into 2025.

Fire Safety

As the weather is warming up, we've already seen a number of fires across the State, including one in Ocean Grove recently. Victoria is one of the most fire prone areas in the world. It is important to know how to plan for and respond to fire.

If you don't have a fire plan visit www.fireplanner.vic.gov.au to create a plan in less than 10 minutes to be ready in case of an emergency.

To keep up to date with incidents and warnings please download the VicEmergency app. The VicEmergency app is the best place for advice, as it is constantly updated and provides advice around the actions you must take under different scenarios. This is better than relying on Facebook community posts, where the intentions are good meaning, but they may not have all the information you need.

Portarlington Mussel Festival

On the second Saturday of January the annual Portarlington Mussel Festival takes place in Portarlington Park against the backdrop of the stunning coastline.

A great day out for the whole family celebrating local mussels, produce, beer and wine with live music over five main stages all day long.

Leopold Tennis Club

I'm excited to attend the opening of the Leopold Tennis Club Pavilion this month. I am proud the Victorian Government's Local Community Sport and Recreation Projects fund was able to contribute \$1 million to ensure the upgrade was made possible alongside \$720,000 from the City of Greater Geelong.

The upgraded facility features an accessible car bay, accessible public toilets, female-friendly club amenities including showers, internal and external storage, a social space and a kiosk and kitchen area.

