Bellarine Neighbourhood

Issue 25, 2026

Providing support for our community that supports us

BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: Update from Member for Bellarine Alison Marchant, community messages, Reservist are making a comeback, and a whole lot more.

MEMBER OF BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT

Update from Member for Bellarine Alison Marchant

There are many great announcements from the recent 2026/27 State Budget to share with the Bellarine community.

From Monday 1 June to Friday 31 July 2026, you can apply for a 20% rebate on your vehicle registration payments. This will save up to $186 per vehicle on the 2025-26 vehicle registrations, and the rebate will be available for up to 2 light vehicles per person.

Applications will open from Monday 1 June via the Service Vic app or website. Throughout June and July, there will be a series of mobile offices across the Bellarine to receive assistance in applying for your rebate. Find out more about where the mobile offices will be located via my website ***www.alisonmarchantmp.com.au***

In addition to this rebate, after free public transport in April and May, fares will now be reduced to half price for the remainder of the year. Public transport will remain free for people under 18, and free on weekends for Victorian Seniors Card holders, carers, and Disability Support Pension recipients.

These measures are designed to ease cost-of-living pressures while encouraging more people to make use of our public transport network.

I am also proud to share that we will be introducing a cross Bellarine bus service from Drysdale to Ocean Grove!

I am so pleased to have been able to secure funding in the 2026/27 State Budget for this service. It has been a journey – from petitions to meetings with community groups, to inviting the Minister to the Bellarine to see our bus routes firsthand and finally securing a Bus Review to hear exactly from the community what they are after, this announcement has been years in the making.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the Bellarine Bus Review throughout March and April this year. The review formed part of a broader assessment of bus services across the Geelong, Bannockburn, and Bellarine region. Notably, 44% of all responses came from the Bellarine, highlighting how strongly our community cares about improving local transport.

The introduction of a cross Bellarine service is just one outcome of the review, and there will be more information to come, but for now this is a great win for our community following years of advocacy.

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

Police Reservist – Frontline Support Officers

Victoria Police have created a position for former members with at least two years of service to return as a Police Reservist.

This initiative is to help free up valuable frontline members and have Police Reservist support them with station-based duties as a Frontline Support Officer.

The role of a Frontline Support Officer (police reservist) will consist of answering phones, assisting with enquiries, taking reports and supporting case preparation.

Frontline Support Officers will be rostered on eight-hour shifts on weekdays and are entitled to nine weeks of recreational leave.

Reception duties consume over 1.4million frontline hours each year. With the assistance of a Reservist taking on these tasks they will give frontline members more time on the road to assist with the community and crime prevention.

There have been over 450 former police members already express their interest.

This opportunity is also available to other Australian jurisdictions, as well as those who have served in New Zealand or the United Kingdom.

If this is something that interests you or someone you know register your interest, head to the Victoria Police website.

https://www.police.vic.gov.au/register-your-interest...

CRIME STOPPERS .com.au 1800 333 000 NSW

CRIME STOPPERS VICTORIA

Crime Stoppers in 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.

OPERATION EARLY BIRD COMMENCES ACROSS THE BELLARINE

Bellarine Police are currently assisting the Geelong Highway Patrol as part of **Operation Early Bird** a targeted road policing operation focusing on dangerous driving behaviours during the early morning hours.

As the name suggests, the operation is aimed at intercepting motorists during the early part of the day, with police targeting offences including speeding, red light infringements and other risky driving behaviour that places road users at risk.

The operation officially commenced today, 25TH of May, with police already intercepting 12 vehicles and issuing 13 electronic penalty infringement notices (ePins).

Police are reminding all motorists that road safety enforcement can occur anytime and anywhere, with operations such as these designed to help reduce road trauma and keep the community safe.

Drivers are encouraged to slow down, obey traffic signals and remain alert while travelling on our roads.

Police 131 444

Save 000 for emergencies

Victoria Police officially launched a 24-hour police assistance phone line and online reporting service for the community to connect with about non-urgent crimes and events.
All Victorians are encouraged to contact the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 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.

HOW SAFE IS MY BUSINESS

Your Business Deserves to Feel Safe

Start with a free assessment built for Victorian small to medium businesses

Learn how to identify risks and strengthen security across your business

Running a business means wearing a lot of hats. Security doesn't always make it to the top of the list and that's completely understandable.

How Safe Is My Business is a free quiz designed to help you take stock. It asks the questions worth asking about your physical premises, day-to-day operations, and digital setup. Then it gives you a personalised report with practical, straightforward steps you can actually act on.

Whether you're a solo trader or managing multiple sites, in retail, hospitality, trades, or professional services, it's built around your business and not a generic checklist.

https://nhw.com.au/program/how-safe-is-my-business/

Prefer a conversation?

Our team offers free live online presentations for Victorian small business chambers

and networks.

We'll cover what to look for and how to act on it.

How Safe Is My Place is an initiative of Neighbourhood Watch Victoria, supported by RACV.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

It was lovely to be involved with Bunnings Leopold Mothers Day event on Saturday 9 May and celebrating all the Mums.

Congratulations to the winners of our two personal alarms.

WARNING TRADIES!

Thieves are targeting utes and trailers, often going for what's visible or not secured.

We encourage you to take extra steps to secure your gear - perhaps removing very valuable tools and storing in the garage.

There's a strong market for second hand tools so try making your tools harder to resell by making them as unattractive as possible.

⭐Get an "All Tools Are Marked and Tracked" sticker for your ute, van or trailer from Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine or from BELLARINE, PORTARLINGTON, WAURN PONDS OR GEELONG POLICE STATIONS or message us here.

⭐Clearly marking or engraving your ID details on tools will make them much harder for thieves to resell, easier for you to report and recover, and more likely to discourage theft in the first place. Neighbourhood Watch recommend that, for the best chance of recovery, you mark your tools with 'V' followed by your driver's licence number i.e. V123456.

⭐Ultra violet pens are available from Neighbourhood Watch – message us here to purchase.

⭐Mark them with bright spray paint, stickers and electrical tape to put off potential buyers.

⭐Removing or covering the tool brand name and brand colours will also help devalue the item.

⭐If you have your tools registered on Property Vault https://www.propertyvault.com.au, you can mark them as stolen if they get nicked.

PLEASE REPORT ALL SUCH INCIDENTS OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY IN YOUR STREET TO Triple Zero if it's happening now, or to Police Assistance Line 131 444 or online to Crimestoppers.

Find out more here:

https://nhw.com.au/.../how-to-protect-tradie-tools-from.../

Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other

Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other
Bellarine

PRESENTS THIS IMPORTANT COMMUNITY EVENT:

Policing on the Bellarine

Bellarine Operations presentation that details functions of each
Station on the Bellarine

WEDNESDAY 27th MAY

1pm – 2.30pm

SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre, 17 – 21 High Street, Drysdale

BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

National Volunteer Week 2026

The Bellarine Community Support Register has attended a Volunteering Geelong Showcase event to promote the organisation, acknowledge our current volunteers and provide information to those who might like to join the organisation. (Pictured Debbie MacLeod and Louise Smillie and the PowerPoint slide from the big screen.)

BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER INC.

Feel safe. Feel secure. Have peace of mind.

SafePl8 Day

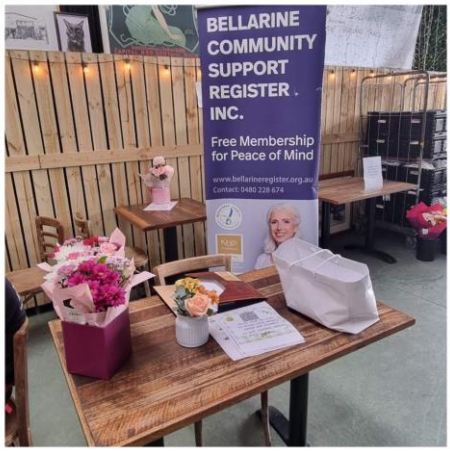
Ninety vehicles had their number plate screws rep laced during a recent SafePL8 Day at the Kingston Shopping Centre. BCSR worked alongside Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine to organise the event. Thanks to Kingston Village and the State Emergency Service Bellarine for their assistance. (Pictured Jed from the SES with a very satisfied customer and his pooch)

Feed Me Bellarine

Feed Me Bellarine hosted BCSR Volunteers in a recent promotional drive. Thanks to Lana Purcell for encouraging registrations and also to *Benefit Geelong* for funding a revamp of promotional materials. (Pictures volunteers from both organisations hearing stories, answering questions and expressing interest).

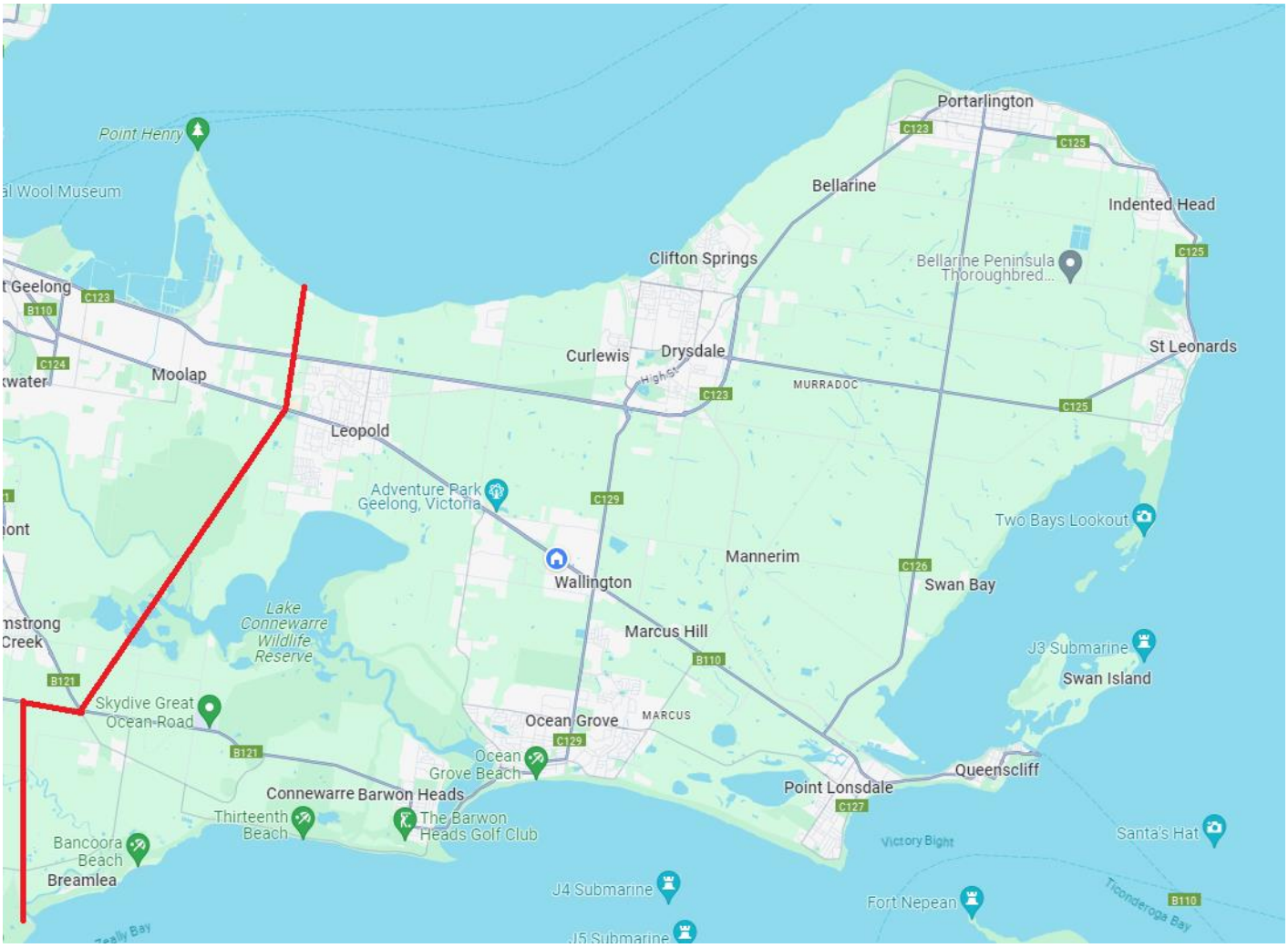
BCSR Contact Details

If you or someone you know would like more information about the Bellarine Community Support Register, telephone 5255 3968 or visit https://bellarineregister.org.au to register online.



Pictured is Bellarine Police Station's very own Leading Senior Constable Steven REA. Taking what appears to be a well-deserved break… when in fact the divisional van has a flat tyre.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



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

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 pollical messages. If you have any feedback, please email BELLARINE-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au