

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Issue 27, 2026

Providing support for our community that supports us

BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: Update from Member for Bellarine Alison Marchant, community messages, Operation Regal, and a whole lot more.



MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT

Applications for 20% Off Rego Rebate Now Open

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.

This rebate is available to everyone who owns a Victorian registered light vehicle, including concession card holders and Victorian Seniors Card holders who may have already received a discount on their vehicle registration payment.

There are several ways to apply:

- **Online** through the Service Vic app or at service.vic.gov.au
- **Call** 132 VIC (132 842) for assistance or to apply over the phone
- **Receive in-person assistance** at either my office at Gateway Plaza, Leopold or at one of my mobile offices across the Bellarine in July.

Upcoming mobile offices will be located at:

- **Queenscliff Neighbourhood House** – Thursday 25th June, 10am-12pm.
- **St Leonards Community Space** - Wednesday 8th July, 1pm-3pm.
- **Portarlington Neighbourhood House**, Tuesday 14th July, 10am-12pm.
- **Ocean Grove Neighbourhood House**, Thursday 16th July, 10am-12pm.

If you are coming to a mobile office, make sure you bring with you:

- Your vehicle registration number
- Your driver's licence number
- Your BSB and account number

I encourage anyone who is eligible to take advantage of this rebate and the savings it provides.

MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT

Additional Cost-of-Living Support for Drivers:

- **myLearners Free Lesson** - a free in-car session delivered by an accredited driving instructor to teach learner drivers essential road safety skills, and help supervising drivers gain the confidence to support their learner drivers.
- **Free L and P Licences** - new learner drivers will save up to \$51.40 in learner licence and online testing fees. While probationary drivers will save up to \$133.30 in probationary licence and online hazard perception testing fees.
- **TAC L2P Program** - assisting young learner drivers who do not have access to a supervising driver, or appropriate vehicle, gain driving experience required for a probationary licence.
- **Free Registration for Eligible Trade Apprentices** – If you're a trade apprentice using your car for work, you may be eligible to get 100% off your registration renewal.

Find out more at

www.alisonmarchantmp.com.au or if you need assistance with any state matters, please contact my office on 03 5250 1987 or via email

alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au

Alison Marchant MP

Member for Bellarine






Are you ready to be

POLICE FIT

Scan the QR code to download the **POLICE FIT** app to view our new and exclusive fitness test videos and tips on how to complete and prepare for the Victoria Police fitness test today!



Available for download from the App Store and Google Play



Victoria Police is made for ambitious people looking for a career with more challenges, excitement, purpose, and possibilities.



MADE FOR MORE

GRIP TEST

GOAL You will need to achieve 30kg or higher on both hands.

HOW Grip the dynamometer with one hand out in front of your chest at shoulder height. Keeping your arm completely straight, squeeze for approx. 3 seconds then release. Repeat with opposite hand.

WHY To measure your finger, hand and forearm strength.

TIP Forearm strength is equally important as hand strength for this test and don't forget to work harder on your non-dominant side.

PUSH UPS

GOAL You will need to achieve five successive push ups on your toes.

HOW Start by lying flat on the ground with your hands below your shoulders and your toes making contact with the floor. Then, push up, keeping your back and arms straight. Then, continuing to keep your back straight, lower your torso until your arms are at a 90 degree angle from shoulder to elbow, with your body in a straight line. Repeat five times.

WHY To measure your upper body strength.

TIP Ensure you follow correct technique, focus on being able to control each push up and practise to be able to do more than the five reps required for the test.

PRONE BRIDGE

GOAL You will need to hold the bridge position, maintaining a straight line from shoulders through the hips, knees and toes for 60 seconds.

HOW Lie face down and align your toes under your ankles and place your forearms under your shoulders. Then lift your body in a straight line, balanced on your forearms and toes while looking at your hands. Hold this position for 60 seconds.

WHY To measure your core strength.

TIP Be sure to maintain a straight body position and train to hold this position for more than the 60 seconds required.

BEEP TEST

GOAL You are required to attain a level of 5.01 on the beep test.

HOW Mark out a 20 metre course on a flat surface with markers at each end. Use the beep test audio in the POLICE FIT app and ensure that you are running the segments in the required timeframe as denoted by the beeps.

WHY To test your cardiovascular and aerobic fitness.

TIP Remember to ensure that one foot touches or crosses over the line at each turn and practise to achieve more than the 5.01 required.

ILLINOIS AGILITY TEST

GOAL You are required to run the full course in 20 seconds or less.

HOW Set up the course with the correct measurements. Full measurements can be viewed in the Illinois Agility Test fitness preparation video via the POLICE FIT app. Start by lying flat on the ground, hands beside your shoulders and run the course without touching any markers.

WHY To test your speed and agility.

TIP Practise your starts to be able to pop up with speed from the floor position and transition into a sprint quickly. Remember to avoid hitting the markers as you weave through the course.

SWIMMING TEST

POLICE APPLICANTS ONLY

GOAL You are required to swim 100 metres in 4 minutes, using any stroke or combination of strokes, without stopping or allowing your feet to touch the bottom of the pool at any time.

HOW Start in the water holding on to the edge of the pool. You will need to swim the 100 metres without stopping, ensuring that you touch each end of the pool before pushing off to swim the next lap.

WHY To assess your ability to save yourself or others in the water.

TIP You may need to undertake swimming lessons if you are not a strong swimmer. Train to achieve more than the 100 metre distance required in the 4 minute timeframe to provide you with confidence on testing day.

RETAIL THEFT CAN NOW BE REPORTED BY PAL & OLR

The Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting is the best way to report non-urgent crimes and events.

Recently it has been announced that reports of retail theft can now be reported by PAL & OLR. Retailers can self-report online and any digital evidence can be uploaded that will be automatically assigned to a police member to commence their investigation.

This is currently only available to retailers in North-West Metro Region, Southern Metro Region and Western Region. It will be rolled out to Eastern Region at the end of the month.

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.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.”

ALAN WILSON WATTS

REPORT ONLINE ANYTIME



DID YOU KNOW, YOU CAN REPORT

-  **PROPERTY DAMAGE**
-  **STOLEN PROPERTY**
-  **A STOLEN CAR**
-  **BURGLARY (BREAK-INS)**
-  **FUEL THEFT**
-  **LOST PROPERTY**
-  **REGISTER A PARTY**
-  **REGISTER ABSENCE FROM HOME**



THROUGH VICTORIA POLICE ONLINE REPORTING

 report online





ANYTIME



SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

Local residents attended the recent Policing on the Bellarine Forum in Drysdale, featuring presentations from Bellarine Police Officers and Kelly Taylor from Crimestoppers Victoria. Police provided an overview of staffing across Ocean Grove and Portarlington Police Stations, current station opening hours and policing coverage across the Bellarine Peninsula. Residents were reminded that at least two police vans are on duty across the Peninsula during day shifts.

Police highlighted ongoing road safety operations, particularly targeting speeding in high-risk areas including 13th Beach Road, Swan Bay, Banks Road and Portarlington–Queenscliff Road where speed limits have been reduced following fatalities.

The forum also showcased the strong partnerships between Bellarine Police, Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine and Bellarine Community Support Register through initiatives such as Coffee with a Cop, Safe Plate Days and community information sessions. Police also continue to work closely with local schools on presentations covering anti-bullying and anti-social behaviour awareness.

Residents were encouraged to report suspicious or concerning incidents to the Police Assistance Line or anonymously through Crimestoppers Victoria, including the upload of camera or dashcam footage. Speakers emphasised that even small pieces of information may assist Police in solving crimes and improving community safety. Visit <https://www.crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime/>

Member for Bellarine Alison Marchant was also in

“It is great to see the Bellarine community coming together to help keep locals and visitors safe. Events like the Police Forum show the strength of collaboration and communication between police and the community, and remind us all that everyone can play a part in crime prevention and community safety.”

“Thank you to the Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine volunteers for hosting such a successful forum, and to everyone involved for their ongoing commitment to making the Bellarine an even safer place to live and visit.”

If you or someone you know would like more information about Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine, email Rhonda nhwbellarine@gmail.com





WHAT SIGNAL IS YOUR HOME SENDING?

Your home sends signals - even when you're not watching. 🏠

Unlocked side gates. No sensor lights. Mail piling up. These small details tell a story you don't want to tell.

The good news? Small changes make a big difference.

Take our free "How Safe is My Place" Quiz and get personalised tips to help protect your home!

Visit: <https://howsafeismyplace.com.au/>



BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

National Volunteer Week 2026

Volunteer Week Afternoon Tea

Our Register volunteers were celebrated at an Afternoon Tea and Trivia during National Volunteer Week – a perfect time to thank our wonderful Bellarine Community Support Register volunteers for the care, compassion and commitment that they show to the Bellarine community. Each make a meaningful difference to those our organization supports.

Delicious scones and sandwiches by Feed Me Bellarine were enjoyed amid a Trivia Quiz and lots of chatter. It was a wonderful opportunity for our volunteers – old and new to come together. Thanks Debbie and Elizabeth for organizing this special event.

Volunteering Geelong Expo

The Bellarine Community Support Register attended Volunteering Geelong Expo at Geelong West Town Hall to promote the organisation, acknowledge our current volunteers and provide information to those who might like to join the organisation.

Promotion Drive

The Register has commenced a drive to increase Registrant numbers. Our aim is to register 120 Bellarine residents to the Register by June 30, 2027.

We began our campaign at Feed Me Bellarine where we shared information with volunteers about the benefits of being part of the Register.

You will also see us at Coffee with a Cop events across the Bellarine in coming months and at other community events.

If you know someone who would benefit from the service we offer, call us at the Office weekday mornings 9.30am – 12 noon on 03 5255 3968 or visit our website www.bellarineregister.org.au where you can learn more about our service and register online.



BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

A Caring Voice Creates a Path to Respite with the Bellarine Community Support Register

When Julie became the full-time carer for her adult son who lives with disability, her days revolved entirely around his needs.

Finding time for herself seemed impossible and she often felt isolated and overwhelmed.

After registering with the Bellarine Community Support Register (BCSR), Julie began receiving regular calls from a volunteer.

What started as a friendly weekly conversation soon became an important source of support.



The volunteer listened, encouraged Julie to talk about her challenges and helped her recognise that looking after her own wellbeing was just as important as caring for her son.

During one of their conversations, the volunteer suggested enquiring about local respite options available on the Bellarine.

With encouragement and information provided through BCSR, Julie explored respite services and was eventually able to access regular support under the mantra of 'who cares for the Carer.'

Having a few hours each week to recharge has made a significant difference to Julie's wellbeing.

She now feels more connected to her community, less isolated and better able to continue in her caring role whilst also looking after her own needs.

Julie says that the regular calls gave her "someone to talk to who genuinely understands and cares about my situation."

BCSR Volunteer indirectly helped Julia take her first step towards seeking the support that she needed to look after her own wellbeing so as to better look after her son.

This story highlights how a simple phone call from a BCSR volunteer can provide connection, encouragement and access to services that improve the lives of both carers and those they support.

If you know of a carer who might benefit from a weekly call from the Bellarine Community Support Register, contact the office on 03 5255 3968 for more information.

VICTORIA POLICE COMMUNITY SENTIMENT SURVEY – 2026

Victorians are being invited to share their thoughts on community safety in the fourth annual [Victoria Police Community Sentiment Survey](#).

A promotional poster for the Victoria Police Community Sentiment Survey 2026. The background is dark blue. At the top left, a light blue box contains the text 'HOW CAN WE KEEP YOU SAFER?'. Below this, the main title 'Complete the Community Sentiment Survey' is written in large, white, sans-serif font. To the left of the title is a QR code. To the right of the QR code, the text 'NOW OPEN' is in white, followed by 'Scan the QR code or head to engage.vic.gov.au/vicpol-2026' in a smaller white font. In the top right corner is the Victoria Police crest and the words 'VICTORIA POLICE'. At the bottom, a light blue banner contains the text 'OUR COMMUNITY • YOUR SAFETY • OUR PRIORITY'. On the right side of the poster, there is an illustration of a diverse group of people, including a police officer, a person in a wheelchair, and a person in a hijab, standing together with speech bubbles above them.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The annual Community Sentiment Survey provides an opportunity for all Victorians to share their safety concerns, how they would like to interact with police, and where Victoria Police can focus efforts to keep our communities safer.

The survey supports the Neighbourhood Policing Framework and is for people of all backgrounds who live, work and socialise in Victoria.

The survey is anonymous.

WATER POLICE SQUAD

Last year Victoria Police were determined to improve the safety of people on the water and as a result Queenscliff Police station became an official base for the Water Police Squad.

Water Police now berth at the Queenscliff Marina allowing them to spend time to patrol the Bellarine Peninsula.

It is important to ensure that if you are thinking about taking out your boat to access our beautiful beaches and waterways this time of year that you are prepared and obey the rules.

Boaters must have:

- Required **safety equipment** for your vessel.
- **Wearing your Lifejackets when required** (this is one of the main reasons people drown).
- Have checked the weather forecast
- Checked Fuel Supply, Battery and Motors on vessel before launching.
- Notified someone where they are launching from, how long they will be gone where they are going and when to raise alarm if not returned.
- PLB's are also amazing for emergency response to help rescue operations to locate the incident location.

Safe Transport Victoria website has all the information in relation to boating rules and



DECKEE App provides Victorian boaters with a smarter way to get information on mandatory safety equipment and waterway rules specific to the waterway they're on.

The free app packed with the tools, alerts, and information needed for a successful day on the water. Plus, the Boating Vic camera feeds from boat ramps can also be accessed via the app, keeping users connected at every stage of their adventure.

Already used by thousands of boaters nationwide, DECKEE adapts to provide a unique user experience based on your State or Territory. Whether you're cruising the Victorian waterways or exploring elsewhere, DECKEE has you covered.

DECKEE allows Victorian boaters to:

- Plan their next adventure on the water with detailed maps, facility information, official warnings, live webcam feeds, speed zones, restricted areas, and community insights.
- Access personalised equipment checklists, boating forecasts, regulations, and the latest updates from Safe Transport Victoria to ensure they're always ready for a safe day on the water. Automatically log their activities when out on the water and share their live location to give friends and family peace of mind.
- Seamlessly link to Safe Transport Victoria's



OPERATION REGAL

As you may have seen throughout the community, Victoria Police ran Operation Regal over the King's Birthday long weekend. Great teamwork on display with Geelong Highway Patrol members joining Bellarine police at a Preliminary Testing Site in Queenscliff.

Members conducted alcohol and drug testing while maintaining a visible presence on local roads to help keep the community safe during one of the busiest travel periods of the year.



Police can be anywhere, anytime

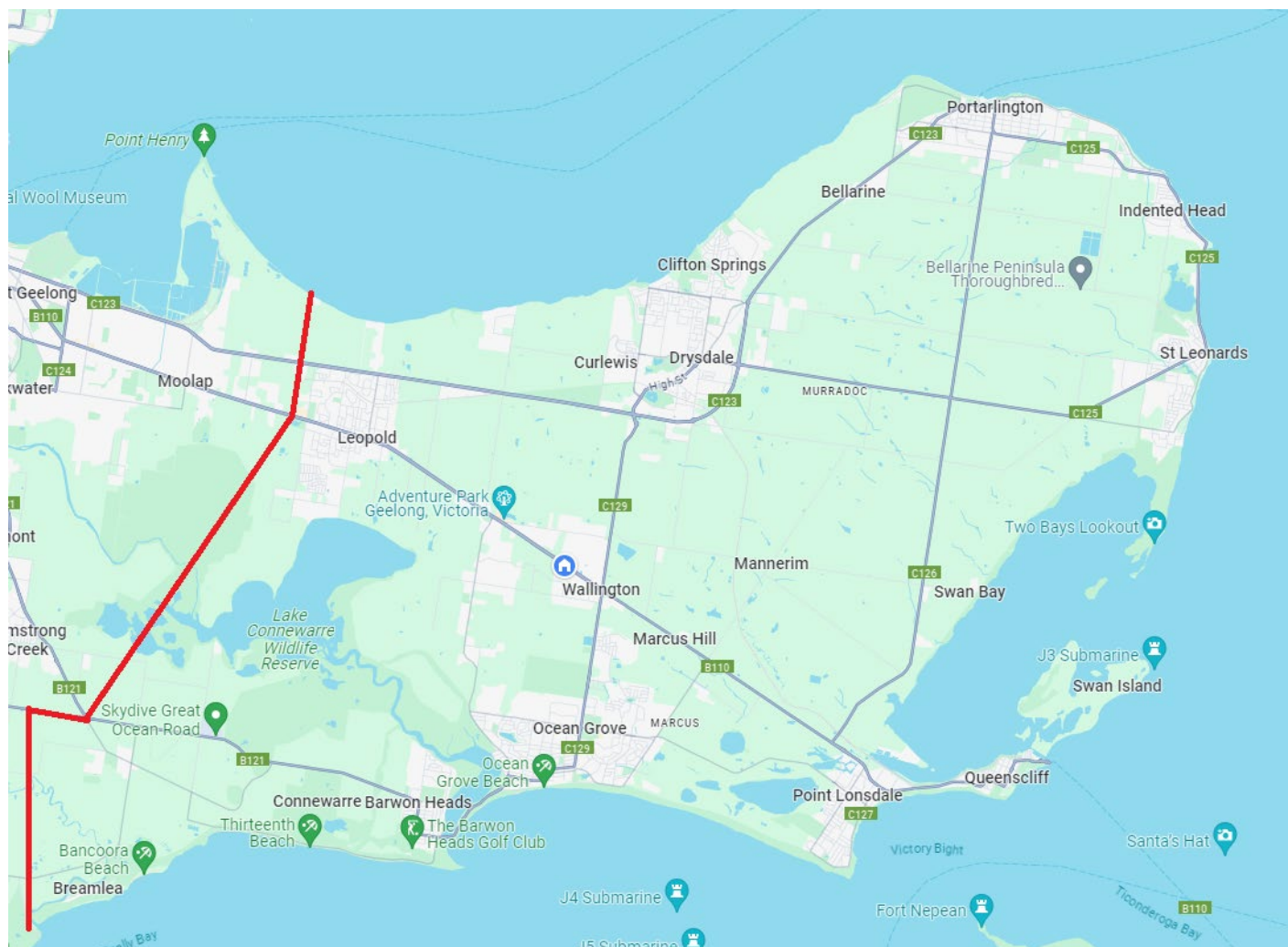
Victoria Police are out day and night, keeping our roads safe and stopping people from doing the wrong thing.

Whether it's a back road, a main road or a highway there are officers undertaking road safety operations, all day, every day. So just because you can't see the police, it doesn't mean the police can't see you.

If you choose to take risks and break the road rules, chances are, you will be caught.



TAC Transport
Accident
Commission



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