

October 2023

Community Update

PORTARLINGTON FERRY TO CONTINUE

As the weather warms up, it's great to see people out and about, enjoying all that is offered on the Bellarine.

It's not only the locals who know the joys of living on the Bellarine, but many visitors are attracted to our region, benefiting our local businesses, and driving our tourism economy.

That's why it was important to continue to support the Port Phillip Ferries that service the Bellarine with their ferries travelling from Portarlington and Docklands each day. Last month the Government extended funding for another 12 months, ensuring it can continue to grow and support the wider region.

Catching the ferry is a great way to travel to and from Melbourne. Not only is it great for day trips, but it also means more regular work commuters can continue utilising the service, as well as an opportunity to bring tourists directly to the Bellarine Peninsula. They play a big part in the success and growth of our tourism sector.

Similarly, the Premier recently visited the Oakdene Winery at Marcus Hill to announce a \$170 million regional tourism package that will build even further on our renowned tourism sector. This will include bringing more events and new attractions to regional areas like the Bellarine. It will support local businesses, like Oakdene Winery, who have also been successful in securing a grant to expanding their offerings, adding a restaurant and art gallery to their new cellar door. Two additions I am very excited to visit when they open.

Another incredible Bellarine attraction is the newly upgraded Bellarine Railway. With 16.5 kilometres of line between Queenscliff and Drysdale, the heritage trains can now travel smoothly through our exquisite scenery. The Victorian Government granted \$3.4 million to this iconic experience, with the Bellarine Railway, the Q Train, an award-winning dining experience and Blues Train, benefitting from this investment.

These are just some examples of a larger Bellarine jigsaw, that when put together, is a vibrant destination. We must continue to work together to realise further opportunities.

With fantastic offerings right here on the Bellarine I encourage everyone to enjoy what the Bellarine has to offer, and welcome visitors to our region, to continue to support our businesses, experiences, and events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Hooked On Bellarine Festival will be held on National Gone Fishing Day on the 8th of October in Portarlington. Families can come along and enjoy local produce, attend cooking classes and test their fishing skills.

The Hooked On Festival will run alongside the free VicFishKids event, where fishing clinics will run to teach kids the ins and outs of fishing. To book a spot visit: www.vfa.vic.gov.au/vicfishkids

We're lucky to have great access to some of Port Phillip Bay's best fishing on the Bellarine and there's no better way to start a lifelong passion for fishing, by joining these free clinics.

Find out more at: www.vfa.vic.gov.au/hookedonbellarine

