

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Issue 3, 2024

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: Meet The team at Bellarine Police Station. Information on local crime trends, events, community messages, concerns and a whole lot more.

BSAFE – BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

Recently, I chaired the Bellarine Community Safety Group meeting, the first meeting for this year. The group was first established in 2014 by Lisa Neville in partnership with community leaders and Bellarine Police, with a goal to work together to tackle local safety issues. I am pleased to continue the Bellarine Community Safety meetings to provide communities, using their local knowledge, a real say on matters that are important to them, with a direct line to local police.

It was great to see local representatives from Bellarine Police who were able to discuss recent crime statistics for the area and local issues with Bellarine community members representing their different local organisations including Neighbourhood Watch and many community associations.

The Bellarine Police Newsletter is great resource to provide up to date information with the community, and the Bellarine Community Safety Group is a space for further discussion to take place regarding local matters and concerns.

Discussion in the group focused on local concerns and issues within the Bellarine, as well as what information and resources would be great to promote through this newsletter, so communication within the community can be strengthened.

If you have any concerns you would like to be on the agenda

at the next Bellarine Community Safety Group meeting, please contact my office via email at alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au.

Please remember, if you see suspicious behaviour, you can report this to the Police Assistance line on 131 444.

I take this opportunity to thank the community for their vigilance and looking out for each other, and to keep in mind that all information, no matter how small, may be the missing piece that police need to prevent a crime.

As always, if you require assistance with any State Government matter, please contact my office on 5250 1987 or via email alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au



BELLARINE NEIGHBOURHOOD

My name is Shane CONNOLLY and I am now working to develop a better way of Policing the Bellarine. The bSafe Bellarine platform will help our MP, Allison MARCHANT, and local police in communicating with local schools, councils, community clubs and groups.

Police members enjoy their time in creating relationships with particular areas of the community but there are a number of hurdles that reduce the consistency of developing strong relationships. These hurdles are the member’s shift work commitments including weekends/night shifts, leave and duties elsewhere due to members development, education and developing skill sets.

The Bellarine Neighbourhood Unit can now provide a consistent communication point for members to provide attendance and information to local groups, clubs, mature age residential living and education centres on topics and issues that directly affect their life. The email is:

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

It is one tool that can assist increasing communication on local issues and establishing appointments for police personal.

Police have identified SCAMS as a concern for the older community members within the Bellarine Peninsula. On response, the Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit is delivering information sessions on how to identify and protect yourselves against these crimes.

Police understand the community are aware of, and concerned about, the increase in dangerous operation of ebikes and scooters, family violence incidents and cyber based crimes.

With various groups within the community including our local business groups, shopping centres and members of our Liquor accord, the intention is to disseminate information for all schools and groups so a connection point can be developed. A central email list at Bellarine Police Station now has over 300+ emails for the dissemination of its monthly newsletter. This should enable the bulletin to be forward on far and wide over the Bellarine.



CRIME, WHERE ARE WE AT?

Since catching the thieves taking eBikes and eScooters, it has brought that area of crime right down for the last month. The area where there is still concern is in the Judicial Procedures area pertaining to areas of Family Violence.

This can be said both for Bellarine and Portarlington response zones where it has been reported Bellarine having had 22 such reports and Portarlington 14. This shows, over the last 12 months, increased Family Violence incidents occurring in Portarlington response zone. But for Bellarine response zones it shows a significant decrease in this area of offending.



POLICE VISIT TO WOODLANDS KINDERGARTEN



Bellarine Police had the opportunity in early March to attend the 4 year old groups at Woodlands Kindergarten, Ocean Grove.

Police members were able to interact with the children, keeping them thoroughly engaged, discussing the role of police in society and some ever so important safety information.

The visit proved to be a great success giving the chance for some of our young children to engage with police, understand what police do, look and touch some of the police equipment and get a first hand look in a police vehicle.

Enabling children to be confident to speak to police, getting the point across police's job is to help other people, makes for an invaluable lesson with the possibility of significant learning.

With the Bellarine Peninsula having at least 17 different venues offering 3 and 4 year old Kindergarten Programs, police would love to get to see as many of these kinder groups as possible. Bellarine Neighbourhood has had a huge response from extending the opportunity to provide such a visit to their programs. If you believe there would be benefits of the police attending your early learning program, please do not hesitate to get in contact to make this happen!

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



CRIME STOPPERS VICTORIA

Crime Stoppers is 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.

Any info,
any crime,
any time.

MOBILE PHONES!

(By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)

New road rules have been introduced regulating the use of a range of portable, mountable, wearable and inbuilt devices while driving a vehicle or riding a motorbike. These rules took effect on the 31st of March, 2023.

The rules reflect the significant increase of in-vehicle technologies and other technologies capable of distracting a driver and are designed to help keep people safe on our roads. The rules are expanded from mobile phones and visual display units to cover:

- **Portable devices** (unmounted mobile phones, tablets);
- **Wearable devices** (smartwatches, wearable heads-up display);
- **Inbuilt devices** (Information, navigation, and entertainment systems, heads-up display that is an inbuilt part of the vehicle);
- **Mounted devices** (Heads-up display, tablet, mobile phone, media player etc if securely mounted in or on a vehicle); and
- **Motorbike helmet devices.**

Drivers who hold a full licence in general cannot touch an unmounted portable device, such as a phone, tablet, laptop or any other device while driving.

Rules for portable devices such as unmounted or loose mobile phones, tablets, laptops, media players and game-consoles state you may only connect your Bluetooth device placing it out of sight before you drive and through a 'drive through'.

For mounted devices (mobile phones and tablets) and inbuilt navigation and entertainment systems, drivers can use their mounted or inbuilt systems for functions such as music and navigation, provided they are not entering text, scrolling or viewing images or video. However, drivers can use voice controls for music and navigation.

wearable devices such as smart watches, smart glasses and wearable heads-up displays can only be used with voice controls to accept reject calls, play audio or adjust volumes.

Rules for L and P platers are different to those for fully licensed drivers. The key differences between L&P to fully licenced drivers are:

- Novice drivers are not allowed to operate portable devices in any way while they are driving.
- Novice drivers are not allowed to use voice controls / voice commands to operate a device.
- Novice drivers can use a limited number of functions on devices other than portable devices (e.g. navigation, playing audio material like music/podcasts/audio books) but this must be set up before starting their journey. If they wish to change the function (e.g. change the song or enter a different address), then they must pull over and park to do so. (Inbuilt devices are an exception; novice drivers can tap touch them for some functions.)

Some questions always arising from rules are:

Q. "What if I'm stopped in traffic or at a set of lights?"

A. No, stopped is not parked.

Q. "Is it true passengers can't make video calls?"

A. YES! They are restricted to their portable or wearable devices

Q. "Do all these rules apply on my skateboard, e-scooter and pushbike?"

A. YES!

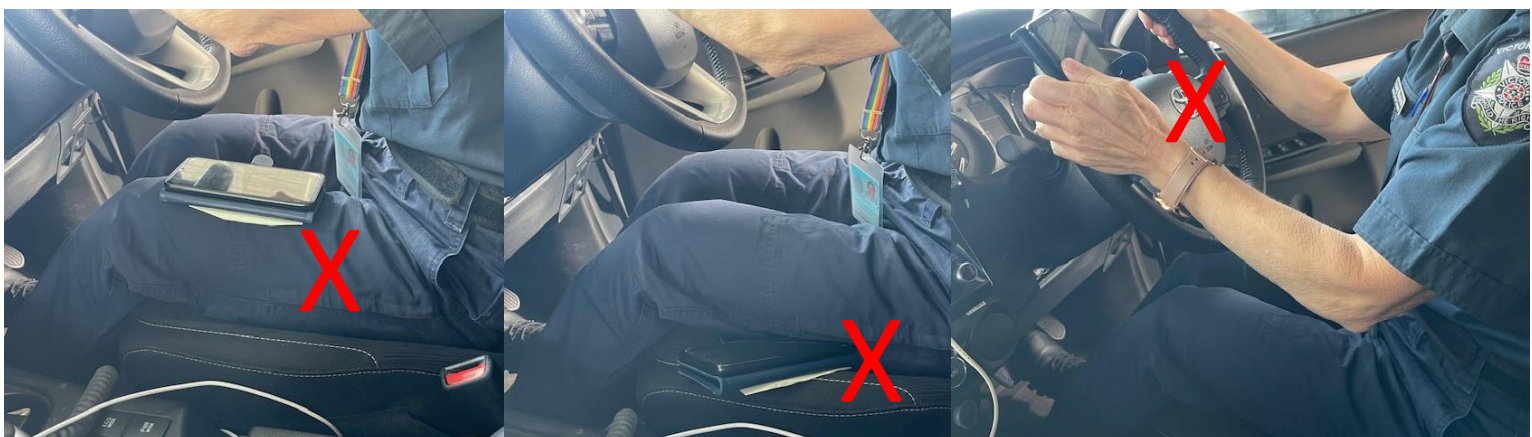
Q. "What if I just pass my device to a passenger in case it rings?"

A. No! You may not touch your portable device whilst driving.

Q. "I just hold my mobile on my lap or in my bra and don't use it, is that ok?"

A. No! You cannot have your portable device accessible whilst driving.

illegal use of a mobile phone (or other device) attracts a \$555 fine and four (4) demerit points. If the matter is heard at court, the fine for illegal mobile phone/device use can be as much as \$1,849.





**Are you looking for a career with more?
More opportunities?
More purpose?**

Police Officer Role

Right across Victoria, from the heart of Melbourne to the most remote country towns, police officers carry out a range of duties that are diverse, rewarding and challenging to help keep the community safe.

The Benefits

- Paid from day one of your 31 week training program at the Victoria Police Academy in Glen Waverley
- Generous leave entitlements including 9 weeks recreation leave per year, as well as shift penalties on top of the base salary
- After completing typically 2-4 years of general duties, you can apply for a specialist police role

Application Tips

- Check you are eligible by reading the suitability checklist
- Check your spelling and grammar, re-read your application before submission
- Disclose ALL prior history including traffic infringements, driving offences, unpaid fines, and all police involvements
- Act on document requests quickly to ensure your application process runs efficiently

To speak to someone about applying please contact the Victoria Police Recruitment Team by phone (03) 8335 5003 or email AAT-ENQUIRIES-MGR@police.vic.gov.au

Quick eligibility and suitability check for Police Officers

- Are you 18 years of age or over?
- Are you an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident?
Note: New Zealand citizens must have a Special Category Visa and live in Australia to submit an application.
- Are you able to undertake shift work (morning, afternoon and night shift), 10 days per fortnight? This includes working on weekends and public holidays.
- Are you willing to carry and use a range of tactical policing options to perform policing duties?
- Are you fit enough to fulfill the physical fitness requirements?
- Do you meet the minimum medical requirements?
- Are you willing to work across different Victorian locations, as per operational needs?
- Do you have a solid understanding of the recruitment process assessments?
- Are you ready to be considered for a role as a police officer?

Attend a Victoria Police Careers Event

The Recruitment Team at Victoria Police run a series of information sessions, fitness test trials, and seminars to provide you with all you need to know about the recruitment process and how to put your best foot forward when applying.

SCAN HERE



Q police careers

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



VICTORIA POLICE



TRAUMATIC EVENTS CAN AFFECT YOU

As police, we are exposed to many traumatic events. But we are not the only ones. Other emergency services are also exposed as well as bystanders, family, friends, witnesses, or any person involved in a traumatic event.

If you are exposed to a traumatic event, it is important you take the time to take care of yourself. You will need to identify if you need to seek further assistance should the need arise.

As it is with traumatic events, most of the time they are unexpected and can be quite distressing. Some people may experience an emotional and physical response immediately whilst others, it may be delayed or appear not to have any reaction at all. All people react to trauma in different ways.

Reactions can vary so much with each individual and can sometimes be hard to identify. Some normal reactions you may experience as a result of an abnormal event may be anxiety or fear, anger, irritability, depression or grief, sleeping issues, mood swings, stomach problems, flash backs, feeling withdrawn, over reaction to things or may even bring up past traumas.

You need to accept that reactions to trauma are normal and give yourself time to recover. Talking about the event to trusted people can help but be prepared to talk to professionals if reactions persist or are affecting your daily activities or enjoyment of life.

Get yourself back to your normal routine and focus on some things you enjoy doing. Eat healthy and spend time with friends or family you're comfortable with. Monitor how you are going and always be prepared to visit the professionals if needed.

There are so many support services out there to assist you with coping. Understand, you are not alone.



Lifeline: 13 1114
www.lifeline.org.au

Kids Help Line: 1800 551 800
www.kidshelp.com.au

BeyondBlue: 1300 224 636
www.beyondblue.org.au
www.youthbeyondblue.com

Mensline: 1300 789 978
www.mensline.org.au

Sane Helpline: 1800 187 263
www.sane.org

Nurse-On-Call: 1300 606 024

Family Drug Help: 1300 660 068
www.familydrughelp.org.au
www.siblingsupport.com.au
www.sharc.org.au

Road Trauma Support Services: 1300 367 797
www.rtssv.org.au

Red Nose: 1300 998 698
www.rednose.com.au

Griefline: 9935 7400
www.griefline.org.au

The Compassionate Friends Victoria: 1800 641 091
www.support.compassionatefriends.org.au

The Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement: 1800 642 066
www.grief.org.au

Victim Support Agency: 1800 819 817

Sexual Assault Crisis Line: 1800 806 292
www.sacl.com.au
www.casa.org.au

Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre: 1800 015 188
www.safesteps.org.au



SCAMS

Scams cost Australians millions of dollars each year. Anyone can be targeted!

Scams are a common way that cybercriminals compromise your online accounts. Scammers' goal is to trick you into paying money or giving away your personal information. They will use email, text messages, phone calls or social media, and often pretend to be a person or organisation you trust.

Knowing what the common types of scams are, and what to look out for could save you from becoming a victim.

Bellarine Neighbourhood will be providing in depth presentations to organised groups throughout 2024. Contact us anytime via our email at BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au to make it happen within your Group.



PARTYSAFE PROGRAM

The Victoria Police Partysafe Program is about minimising the risks to safety at parties such as:

- violence
- intoxicated guests
- gatecrashers.

The program allows you to register your party with the police online through the Service Victoria site. Visit:

www.services.vic.gov.au/find-services/outdoor-and-recreation

The Victoria Police Partysafe Program provides advice to help you set the standard of acceptable behaviour and ensure that safety is maintained at your party.

The vast majority of parties are planned and conducted responsibly. However, despite the care you take there is always a risk that there will be trouble or dangerous situations at your party.

Gatecrashing occurs when uninvited people find out about a party and turn up wanting to get in. In extreme cases hundreds of uninvited people have been known to try and gain entry. This can be a potentially dangerous situation which can lead to property damage, unruly and disruptive behaviour, and can place guests at risk of significant injury.

Unreasonable noise is the most common reason for police attendance at a party. Consider your neighbours when planning and enjoying your party.

Excessive alcohol consumption increases the risk of physical violence, risk taking behaviours, serious road injuries and can result in alcohol poisoning.

EVEN IF YOU OBTAIN PARENTAL CONSENT TO SUPPLY ALCOHOL TO A CHILD, YOU MUST CONSIDER YOUR DUTY OF CARE AND SUPPLY ALCOHOL RESPONSIBLY.

It is illegal for a child (person under 18 years of age) to consume alcohol unless the child is in the company of a responsible adult, who is either the child's parent or guardian, or has the consent of the child's parent or guardian. This means that you must obtain consent from a child's parent or guardian before you can legally provide alcohol to any child at your party.

Arguments between guests, neighbours and others have the potential to lead to physical violence and injuries. Both the ongoing presence of gatecrashers and the excessive consumption of alcohol increase the risk of arguments and their unpredictable escalation.

It is vital that you serve alcohol responsibly and do not allow gatecrashers to linger in or around the party as they may continue to cause trouble.

LOCAL POLICE BEING SEEN WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Local police are taking a stand to be actively seen in the community. Senior Constable Eric TAYLOR, a new addition to Bellarine Police having come from working at Corio Police, is seen here at Surfside Primary School with Principal Peter WALSH.

Police members have been tasked with patrols on school grounds, crossings and surrounding streets during school times but especially during times prior to and at the end of school hours.

Expect to see a lot more police out and about at these locations. All local police members are knowledgeable and perform their job to an exceptional standard. Why not say hello or stop and have a conversation when you see a police member?

Respectful behaviours are important in building strong, healthy and thriving communities. Police will be outlining building and maintaining respectful environments including treating each other with respect and consideration, valuing others and accepting everyone's differences, recognising efforts people are making and achievements obtained, having consideration of your impact on others and calling out bad or anti-social behaviours, especially as this can lead to bullying, harassment and discrimination.

All in all, police will be fostering a positive relationship between themselves and students, but this also extends to all members of our community. Our strong and visible presence will make our community feel safe and build confidence with Victoria Police and its members.

By Leading Senior Constable Anthony SHEEDY



POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE

Police 131 444
 Save 000 for emergencies

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.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Events are happening almost weekly with all our community groups and schools, so why not expand from your usual network and promote your event to as many people as you can.

Community loves supporting community. We are all here to help each other and do the best we can for the best possible outcomes.

If you are a school, raising money for the school, why not get as many groups as you can to come and support your event. If you are a community group, raising money to help those within our community, let us know. We are there to help too.

Concerns can also be highlighted. If there is a concern for you, chances are there is more than just you that has such a concern. Let us know so we can get the word out or get a response to you that may alleviate another community members concerns.

We always value your feedback and concerns responding to all requests made to us. Please email us with whatever we may be able to assist you with.

Bellarine-Neighbourhood-MGR@police.vic.gov.au

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

How Safe is my Place

At Neighbourhood Watch, we aim to help you feel safer and more connected, wherever you live, work, learn or play.

So, we launched How Safe Is My Place, a program which helps you learn where your home, school or farm might be vulnerable to crime and the simple, actionable steps you can take to feel safer.

We have created some fun, interactive tools and resources where you can learn more about security, get some simple and effective tips on how you can safeguard your home or farm, improve your school environment, and help make your neighbourhood an even better place to live.

Take a look - <https://howsafeismyplace.com.au/>

Why not start with our quiz – How Safe Is My House

We have created a comprehensive quiz so that you can review your home and identify the simple things you can do to keep your house and family safe.

Go to <https://howsafeismyplace.com.au/house/>

Feeling safer starts when you take this quiz. Learn how to feel and be safe at your home and learn where your home might be at risk of break-in and get a report with security tips tailored to your home.

Experience augmented reality

If you thought home security was a boring topic, you're in for a surprise. With our augmented reality app, you can tour our virtual home, spot the security risks and discover tips to make your home safer – all from the comfort of your couch.

How Safe Is My Place is a fun, interactive, family-friendly app designed to help you learn how to make your home more secure from break-in.

Neighbourhood Watch at work on the Bellarine

Late last year a poster competition was conducted for students in St Leonards. Six winning posters focused on prevention of theft from cars and contained some great messaging. These were displayed around St Leonards and Indented Head and at caravan parks also. See Ruby's poster and her important message to residents and visitors to the town.



Or scan this QR Code with your smartphone or tablet.



BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER



Resplendent in red, a team of Bellarine Community Support Register volunteers did a little volunteering of their own helping the Geelong Ironman 70.3. We packed athletes' bags, checked in the kids and elite athletes, supervised the kids' triathlon transitions and checked in some very expensive looking bikes to the transition site. There was a lot of fun and bonding amongst the team. Despite the early start in some instances, it was worth the smile on the kids' faces and some cheeky banter amongst the athletes. We are all looking forward to being involved in next year's event. We met some great volunteers from other organizations in the region and the comradery was fantastic!

What is the Bellarine Community Support Register?

The Bellarine Community Support Register is a confidential database of personal, property, medical and emergency contact information that is available to police in case of emergency. It supports the safety and independence of Bellarine residents.

Based at the Bellarine Police Station at Ocean Grove, a small team of thirty volunteers support the Register and undertake various roles within our organization such as Care Callers, Data Entry volunteers, admin duties and Management Committee representatives. Volunteers are also involved in events and

promotions such as information displays, recruitment drives, marketing and fundraising activities in support of the Register.

Why not sign up to the Register yourself for added peace of mind and a sense of safety and security? We provide you with an ID card with your registration number to carry in your purse, phone or wallet, a key tag, a window sticker and a fridge magnet. Regular care calls to you can also be arranged on a daily, weekly or monthly basis, to check in with you re your welfare or simply for a chat should you choose.

Have you or someone you know considered a great volunteering opportunity?

Why not think about the Bellarine Community Support Register.

Be rewarded by knowing you are helping the local community and making a difference.

If you like chatting to people, meeting new people in the area or just want to maintain your administrative skills, why not join our team?

Contact us today –

Email your contact details to

bpsupportregister@bigpond.com

or call our Office Ph.(03) 5255 3968 and one of our friendly team will discuss the opportunities further.

Visit our website - <https://bellarineregister.org.au> and our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/bcsrinc>



**BELLARINE COMMUNITY
SUPPORT REGISTER INC.**

UNLICENCED DRINK DRIVER CHARGED – ST LEONARDS

(By LSC Anthony SHEEDY)

At 2.22am Easter Sunday morning, police have been called by the driver involved in a single vehicle collision Ibbotson Street, St Leonards.

Upon arrival at the scene, police were met by a motor vehicle flipped over onto its roof to the side of the road having lost control. A St Leonards man was the single occupant of the motor vehicle and did not sustain any injuries as a result of the incident.

Police are alleging the male was unlicensed and also conducted a preliminary breath test. This resulted in police testing his breath for alcohol. Police allege the male was in excess of two times the legal concentration of alcohol.

Drivers in Victoria who have a concentration of this level face immediately disqualified from driving in Victoria.

They would face a minimum of a year off our roads and hefty fines. To be able to drive again in Victoria, they would have to justify their capacity to do so to the Court.

A person caught drink driving in Victoria will be required to use an alcohol interlock device when they resume driving. This is a device that stops a person from starting their vehicle if there is alcohol present in their breath. The offender must bear the initial cost as well as the ongoing costs of maintaining and testing the alcohol interlock device.

A significant proportion of road deaths and injuries are caused by drink driving. Recognising factors associated with successful drink driving countermeasures is essential in informing effective drink driving policy and operational decision making.

Driver licence disqualification/suspension is the most effective penalty for drink driving.



EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS ARE UP



Nominations are now open for the Victorian Education Excellence Awards – recognising government schools, principals, teachers, and administrators who are at the top of their class.

The awards acknowledge excellence in inclusive education and Koorie education teams, as well as early career teachers, and those supporting high-ability students.

The awards also support the continued professional development of staff, with professional learning grants of \$20,000 available for each individual award winner, and \$25,000 for each team award.

The winner of the Lindsay Thompson Award for Excellence in Education, which honours Victoria's longest serving education minister and former Premier will receive a further professional learning grant of \$20,000.

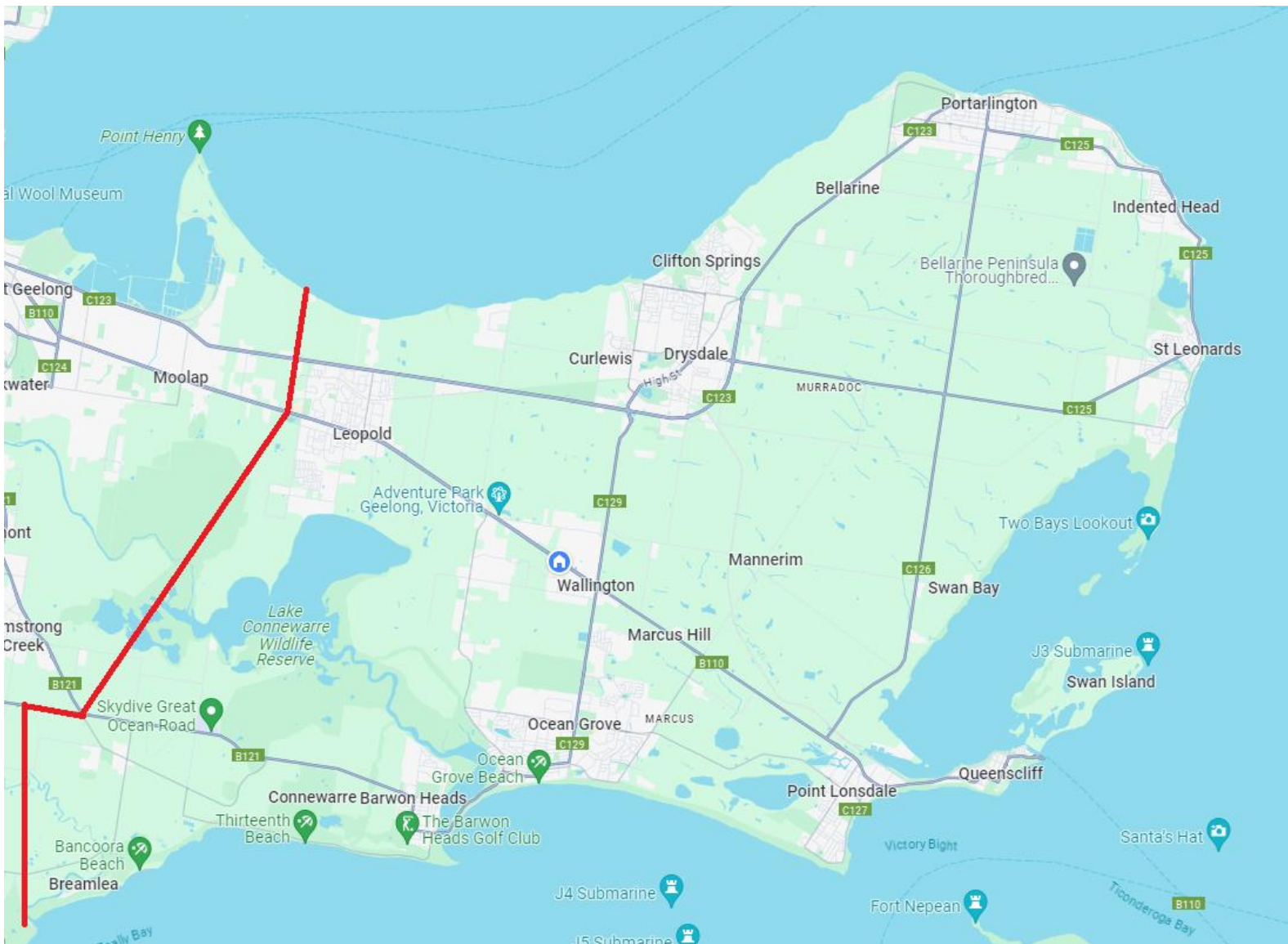
Education Minister Ben Carroll said he encourages all schools to nominate innovative teachers, principals, support staff and teams making a real difference for the next generation.

"Teachers and school staff are some of our most talented people and the work they do enriches the lives of so many young students," he said.

Nominations are made at a school level and open until May 20. The winners of the 2024 Victorian Education Excellence Awards will be announced on Friday, October 25, the day Victoria celebrates World Teachers' Day.

Details: www.vic.gov.au/VEEA

BELLARINE POLICE COVERAGE MAP



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

LSC Anthony SHEEDY