

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Issue 8, 2024

Providing support for our community that supports us



BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: New look emergency markers, safe plate days, community messages and a whole lot more.



MEMBER FOR BELLARINE ALISON MARCHANT FOR THE BELLARINE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

- Upcoming pedestrian crossings for Shell Road Roundabout in Ocean Grove.
- Stage 2 of Barwon Heads Road Upgrades

As the end of the year approaches, I am looking forward to our final Bellarine Community Safety Meeting for 2024 with local Bellarine Police and community representatives to discuss the busy upcoming holiday period approaching, recent crime statistics and road safety behaviour.

As summer approaches and more visitors come to the Bellarine, our roads will get busier. Please drive safely and be mindful of all road users including pedestrians and cyclists. There are many road maintenance and upgrade projects on the go, so please ensure to take care when passing through roadworks so all workers can complete their work and get home safely.

Bellarine road projects that are currently underway include:

- Further safety rails for Bellarine Highway.
- Upgrades for Murradoc Road nearing St Leonards.
- Grubb Road and Smithton Grove, Ocean Grove intersection upgrade.
- A new intersection at Stacey's Road and Barwon Heads Road.



(Not the actual roundabout 😊)

The new roundabout and pedestrian upgrades at the intersection of Bay Shore Avenue and Jetty Road in Clifton Springs were recently completed with the speed limit adjusted to ensure the busy intersection is now safer for drivers and pedestrians, as well as boat users who are entering the harbour.

For more information on road upgrades in the Bellarine, or if you have any concerns you would like to see on the agenda at the next Bellarine Community Safety Group meeting, please contact my office on 03 5250 1987 or via email at alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.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 2024/25. Contact us anytime via our email at BELLARINE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-MGR@police.vic.gov.au to make it happen within your Group.



Forget it? You'll regret it

Ensure your car is locked before bed, every night!

Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other
Greater Geelong

BELLARINE
POLICE GROUP



About three weeks after a 16-tonne whale washed up on a beach on 13th Beach, its body was finally removed.

The whale's remains had lingered near the Barwon Heads Bluff for far longer than some in the community would have liked, with the carcass attracting sharks to local waters.

Believed to be a fin whale, the second largest species of whale, the 14-metre-long carcass drifted on to the beach near Barwon Heads Bluff on September 13. After initially being left to decompose the decision was made to cut the carcass into pieces and remove it to landfill.

Prior to this reports of members of the public stealing parts of the whale were received. It is illegal to interfere with a whale, dead or alive as per Section X of the Wildlife Act 1975. Anyone with information with regards to the illegal removal of the whales parts is urged to call **Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000**



The new emergency markers address this issue, offering a standardised system that is immediately recognised by 000 operators.

What this means for beach users:

- 1) Look out for new emergency marker signs
- 2) In an emergency call 000
- 3) Quote the unique code on the nearest marker to the 000 operator
- 4) If no green marker is visible, describe your location as clearly as possible

The installation of these signs is being carried out in stages. The 60 initial markers of Stage 1 have been installed. Stage 2 is currently being assessed and will focus on oceanfront locations. Barwon Coast aims to complete this stage early next year and further enhance the safety coverage of our coastline.



New emergency markers for Barwon Coast

Barwon Coast has taken the significant step forward in safety with the installation of 60 new emergency markers along the coastal reserve from Collendina to Breamlea. These markers are part of the Triple Zero Victoria emergency marker system, designed to pinpoint exact locations during emergencies in open spaces.

What are emergency markers?

Green signs with white text, displaying a unique six character alphanumeric code. This code is linked to Triple Zero’s Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system Providing vital information such as precise location, GPS coordinates, road access routes and other crucial data. When a person in distress quotes this code to a 000 operator, it enables swift and accurate dispatch of emergency services to the exact location.

Why the change?

The familiar yellow beach location signs have served the community well but they are not integrated with the 000 CAD system. This can limit emergency services response.



The Recruitment Process Explained

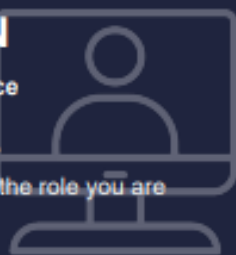


MADE FOR MORE

There is no one key attribute, skill or experience that Victoria Police looks for in our police officer applicants. Instead, it's your overall suitability for the role that will improve your chances. Applicants may undertake more than one gateway at a time during the recruitment process.

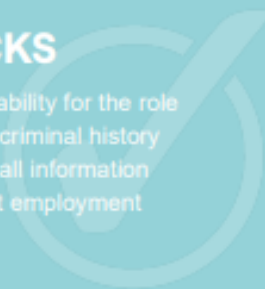
ONLINE APPLICATION

- Apply at www.police.vic.gov.au/police
- Takes approx. 45 minutes
- Pay attention to spelling and grammar
- Do you have a solid understanding of the role you are applying for?



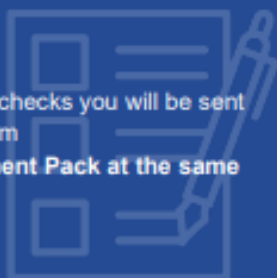
PRELIMINARY CHECKS

- Review applicants eligibility and suitability for the role
- Assess applicants basic driving and criminal history
- It is important that you fully disclose all information relating to your history including past employment



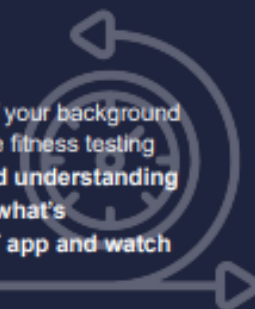
ENTRANCE EXAM

- If you are successful at preliminary checks you will be sent an invitation to sit the Entrance Exam
- You will also receive your Document Pack at the same time as your Exam invitation



FITNESS TEST

- Following the successful completion of your background checks, you will be invited to attend the fitness testing
- To make sure you have a really good understanding of the fitness test components and what's expected, download the POLICE FIT app and watch the fitness test video and tutorials



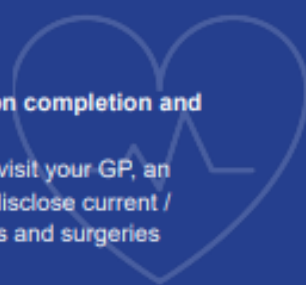
PSYCH TESTING

- You will be required to undertake an online psychometric screening
- Applicants may be invited for a one-on-one psychological interview



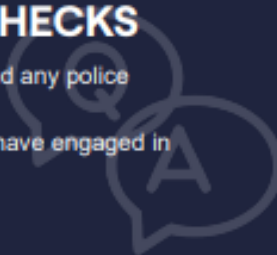
HEALTH CHECKS

- A medical booklet will be sent on completion and pass of the entrance exam
- Complete your medical booklet – visit your GP, an Audiologist and Optometrist and disclose current / previous health conditions, injuries and surgeries



COMPREHENSIVE CHECKS

- Assess your employment history and any police involvements
- Disclose all your associations who have engaged in criminal activity
- Social media checks



PANEL INTERVIEW

- Scenario based questions
- You will be asked for examples from your work or life (experiences from part-time jobs, sporting clubs and/or volunteer work); awareness of your strengths and weaknesses; how you work in a team environment; deal with difficult people and conflict resolution; your motivation for applying; and your understanding of the role



Q police careers





SAFE PLATE DAYS ON THE BELLARINE

Protect your Plates from being stolen and used to commit crimes.

Bellarine Neighbourhood (A Bellarine Police unit) in collaboration with Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine are conducting three Safe Plate Days where you can have one-way screws fitted to your vehicle's number plates for as little as a gold coin donation. These will be held between 9.00am and 1.00pm at:

Ocean Grove Market Place, Shell Road, Ocean Grove Saturday 26 October

Leopold Gateway Plaza, Saturday 9 November

Portarlington WG Little Reserve Saturday 7 December

Did you know?

Number plates are a prime target for thieves, with over 20,000 thefts reported in Victoria each year, averaging more than 55 incidents daily. They rank as the most frequently stolen item from vehicles. It only takes 3-5 minutes to unscrew your plates if they are installed with normal screw.

About tamper proof/one-way screws

Using tamper-proof or one-way screws to secure registration/number plates can offer several benefits in terms of preventing theft and misuse for criminal activities:

Deterrence: The presence of tamper-proof screws sends a clear message that the plates are secured and tampering with them is difficult. This can act as a deterrent for potential thieves who may be looking for an easy target.

Reduced Theft: Tamper-proof screws make it more challenging for thieves to steal license plates. The added difficulty may dissuade individuals who are looking for quick and easy targets, reducing the overall incidence of theft.

Prevention of Misuse: Stolen license plates are sometimes used in the commission of crimes, such as robberies, hit-and-runs, or other illegal activities. By securing plates with tamper-proof screws, the likelihood of such misuse is diminished.



Cost Savings for Vehicle Owners: When license plates are stolen, vehicle owners may face costs related to replacing the plates, reporting the theft to authorities, and dealing with potential legal issues arising from the misuse of the stolen plates. The use of tamper-proof screws can help mitigate these costs by preventing theft in the first place.

Enhanced Security: One-way screws are designed in a way that makes it easy to install them but difficult to remove. This ensures that the plates remain securely attached to the vehicle, providing enhanced security against tampering.

Removal: If you wish to remove the plates – perhaps on the sale of your vehicle or to fit personalised plates, you can remove the screws with a special removal tool. Most police stations will have this tool as do some of our Neighbourhood Watch Groups. Contact Neighbourhood Watch for more information – email us at nhwbellarine@gmail.com.

HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM

Find this information and more at <https://nhw.com.au/cars-and-vehicles/how-to-decrease-your-chances-of-getting-your-car-stolen/>



BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER

Each year, our Register conducts a satisfaction survey with Registrants who choose to receive calls as part of the Register's service.

This year again, our Volunteers surveyed 10% of those receiving calls and invited them to answer 3 questions with the following answers provided to this important question:

What's the best thing about the Register?

Among the responses were these:

- **Someone knows that you are still alive;**
- **Knowing other people care besides family;**
- **Connecting with someone and feeling cared for;**
- **Knowing the consistent contact will occur and feeling cared for;**
- **Calls are enjoyed because it's known that BCSR cares about people's wellbeing;**
- **Receiving a safety and wellbeing check;**
- **I know I'm safe because I live on my own;**
- **It's nice to talk to someone.**

These responses validate our service to the residents of the Bellarine and show it is appreciated and does offer the safety, security and peace of mind that we provide.

WHO CAN REGISTER WITH US? ...ANYONE ON THE BELLARINE

One of our Volunteers had a visit at the office from a Bellarine resident. This gentleman had recently moved into a retirement village and wanted to join the Register. However he was mistaken in thinking that he was unable to join the Register because of the low level care he received at his new residence.

We accept registrations from all Bellarine residents – permanent [homeowners](#), holiday home [homeowners](#), young people, people from diverse backgrounds. Anyone who would benefit from an additional layer of security.

Perhaps you know someone who may benefit from being registered with our service. Chat to them about it or obtain our brochure and registration form by calling us on (03) 5255 3968 or visit our website for more information and to complete our online registration form.

<https://bellarineregister.org.au/>

**BELLARINE COMMUNITY
SUPPORT REGISTER INC.**

Feel safe. Feel secure. Have peace of mind.

POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE



All Victorians are encouraged to contact the Police Assistance Line on [131 444](tel:131444) 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.

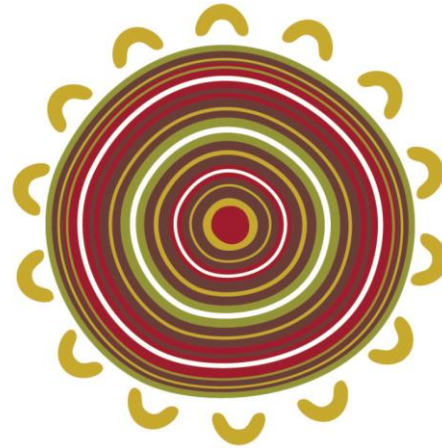
Police 131 444

Save 000 for emergencies

The Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) Program

The Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) Program was implemented in 2005 to address Recommendation 231 of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC), to strengthen relationships and facilitate communication between Victoria Police and Aboriginal people across the State.

The Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers, more commonly referred to as ACLOs, play a pivotal liaison role for Victoria Police and the Aboriginal community. The ACLO role has proven capability to assist police in providing effective service delivery and positively influence perceptions of community safety for Aboriginal Victorians.



This design represents the make up and Complexity of the Aboriginal community. Just like the rings of a tree these rings represent the years and years of knowledge and understanding that the community has been privileged to have handed down by the elders that have worked hard to pave the way and to address the needs of their people. The half circles around the outside of the rings traditionally represent people sitting around and having a yarn around a meeting place. In this design, they represent the 13 ACLO's that were initially brought on board by Victoria Police to meet and discuss the best interests of their communities and to share knowledge to strengthen those communities.



WD1 ACLO Patricia FOLEY with Senior Sergeant Anthony FRANCIS after addressing the members of the Bellarine Police Station last month.

Animals in hot cars:

With Spring here and Summer on the way, it is timely to remind the community of the dangers of leaving unattended dogs (or any animals) in vehicles. On a typical Australian summer day, the temperature inside a parked car can be as much as 30 to 40 degrees Celcius higher than the outside temperature. On a 30 degree day the temperature inside the car could be as high as 70 degree Celcius. 75% of the temperature rise occurs within the first 5 minutes of closing the vehicle. 90% of the temperature rise occurs within 15 minutes. Dark coloured vehicles reach slightly higher temperatures than light coloured vehicles. The greater the amount of glass in the car (eg hatchbacks) the faster the rise in temperature. Larger cars heat up just as fast as small cars and interior trim makes no difference. Having the windows down 5 centimetres casuses only a slight drop in temperature. In the test vehicle the temperature was 78 degrees Celcius with closed windows and 70 degrees Celcius with all windows open 5 centimetres.

Our pets cannot respond to heat in the same way that we do. Humans have sweat glands all over our bodies that help us regulate our temperature. We are also capable of opening a door and getting out of a hot vehicle which our pets cannot. Dogs and cats only have a few sweat glands in their feet and around their noses. They rely on panting and external cooling to lose heat. Their coats can also predispose them to heatstroke.

Heatstroke is a state of hypothermia (elevated core body temperature above the normal range) resulting in heat injury to tissues. Heatstroke occurs when heat generation exceeds the body's ability to lose heat. Heatstroke is a very serious, life threatening condition. It can cause damage to your pets internal organs, to the point where they stop functioning and can be rapidly fatal.

If you find a pet in a hot car, Victoria Police should be contacted immediately by calling 000. Police officers have the power to break into a vehicle to resuce an animal suffering from heat exposure.

DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS
SHARE THIS TODAY AND SAVE A DOG'S LIFE

In hot stuffy vehicles dogs cannot cool themselves down, even with the windows open.

Never leave a dog alone in a car.

If it's 22°C outside, inside the car it can get to 47°C within 60 minutes.

Heatstroke can be fatal in dogs.

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 political messages. If you have any feedback, please email

BELLARINE-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au

