

Bellarine Neighbourhood

Providing support for our community that supports us

BELLARINE POLICE

This issue: Coffee with a Cop upcoming date, Father's Day, Cyber Safety and a whole lot more.

SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE YEAR 12 STUDENTS GET BEHIND THE WHEEL OF ROAD SAFETY

On Monday, 7 September, Acting Sergeant Aaron Thanas along with Sergeant Shane Connolly attended Saint Ignatius College Geelong to deliver an important road safety presentation to Year 12 students, focusing on the risks and consequences associated with impaired driving.

The presentation was organised following contact from Year 12 students who were seeking information and assistance regarding current driving issues and trends affecting young drivers. It provided an opportunity for students to ask questions and gain practical knowledge as they prepare for greater independence on the roads.

Acting Sergeant Thanas discussed a range of topics, including the dangers of drink driving and drug driving, the consequences of driving while impaired, police powers, penalties and the importance of making safe decisions behind the wheel.

The presentation also covered the laws surrounding e-bikes and e-scooters, including the responsibilities of riders and the importance of understanding the rules before using these increasingly popular forms of transport.

Having previously worked in Highway Patrol, Acting Sergeant Thanas was able to draw on his professional experience and provide students with insight into the real-world consequences of impaired driving and the incidents police encounter on our roads. His personal experiences helped reinforce that road safety is not simply about avoiding a fine or penalty, the decisions made behind the wheel can have lasting consequences for drivers, passengers, families and the wider community.



Students, teachers and parents were all in attendance and provided highly positive feedback following the presentation.

A big thank you to the Year 12 students for taking the initiative to seek out information and start these important conversations.

Open discussions between young people, their families, schools and police are an important part of building safer roads and helping young drivers make informed and responsible choices.

Drive safely, look out for each other and remember — getting there safely is always the most important destination.

BELLARINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REGISTER INC.

Feel safe. Feel secure. Have peace of mind.

REGISTRANT RECRUITMENT DRIVE

The Bellarine Community Support Register is currently running a Registrant Recruitment Drive to raise awareness of the service we offer to Bellarine residents.

Our volunteers have been out and about recently with presentations to community groups and in October we will be conducting information displays at local events across the Bellarine, including:

October 6	Coffee with a Cop Gateway Plaza, Leopold
October 10	Live Love Leopold, Leopold Primary School
October 21	Coffee with a Cop, Ocean Grove Marketplace
October 28	Don't take the Bait Scams Presentation at Springdale, Drysdale

Come and say hello and learn more about our service.

Do you know someone who may benefit from being registered to provide some peace of mind for family?

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU....

We offer peace of mind for you and your parents on the Bellarine.

The Bellarine Community Support Register offers safety, security and connection by

- Being part of a secure local database accessible only by police in the event of an emergency
- Their own personal and confidential registration card to keep in their wallet
- A regular call from our wonderful, friendly volunteers
- Community connection through our ongoing communication with registrants.

Contact us to learn more and register today!

Visit our website: <https://bellarineregister.org.au/>

EMAIL: bpsupportregister@bigpond.com

PHONE (03) 5255 3968

TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

*Thank you
for your
support!*

88

REGISTRATIONS
RECEIVED

*We're making
great progress!*

..... **120**
THE TARGET

*Help us reach
our goal!*

EVERY
REGISTRATION
MAKES OUR
COMMUNITY
*Stronger and
Safer!*

BELLARINE COMMUNITY
SUPPORT REGISTER INC.

Feel safe. Feel secure. Have peace of mind.



Neighbourhood Watch
Bellarine

Working together for a *safer, stronger* Bellarine.



BELLARINE NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

SECURE YOUR VEHICLE'S NUMBER PLATES

Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine is encouraging vehicle owners to take precautions to protect their vehicles following a sharp rise in number plate theft.

Stolen vehicle number plates are expensive to replace and can be used by criminals to commit other crimes.

It's really important for everyone who owns a vehicle to take preventative measures to safeguard their number plates.

Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine recommend the following tips to help prevent number plate theft:

- Use anti-theft screws: Install anti-theft screws on your number plates to deter thieves from easily removing them.
- Park in well-lit areas: Whenever possible, park your vehicle in well-lit and populated areas to reduce the risk of theft.
- Utilise security cameras: If you have access to security cameras, position them to monitor your vehicle and deter potential thieves.
- Consider anti-theft devices: Explore the use of anti-theft devices such as locking plate frames or security markings to add an extra layer of protection.
- If your number plates are stolen, it's important to report the theft immediately to local police and VicRoads.

You must obtain a new set of plates from VicRoads. You should also notify your insurance company, roadside assistance AND TOLL PROVIDERS of your new registration details.

For more information on how to prevent your number plates from being stolen, visit the Neighbourhood Watch Victoria website www.nhw.com.au.

REPORT STOLEN NUMBER PLATES

If the incident is happening now, the suspect is still on scene or if anyone is injured or in immediate danger, call Triple Zero (000).

For non-emergencies, report through our Online Reporting service, or call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

In addition, if you drive without number plates, you could be fined and receive demerit points.



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



Stop thieves stealing your number plates



Get free one-way, anti-theft screws fitted on the spot.

Saturday 17
October
9am to 12pm

Gateway Plaza
Carpark, 621-659
Bellarine Highway,
Leopold

Gold coin donation to
Neighbourhood Watch
is appreciated.

 **Neighbourhood Watch**
Let's watch out for each other



SECURE YOUR VEHICLE'S NUMBER PLATES AT TWO UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 3 at W G Little Reserve, Newcombe Street,
Portarlington 9am – 12 noon

October 17 at Bunnings Leopold Carpark, Bellarine
Highway, Leopold, 9am – 12 noon

Stop thieves stealing your number plates



Get free one-way, anti-theft screws fitted on the spot.

Saturday 3 October
9am to 12pm

W G Little Reserve,
Newcombe Street,
Portarlington

Gold coin donation to
Neighbourhood Watch
is appreciated.

 **Neighbourhood Watch**
Let's watch out for each other



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER - CRIME PREVENTION MONTH

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| October 3 | Safe Plate Portarlington, Venue to be confirmed. 9am – 12 noon.
Fitting security screws to vehicle number plates.
Gold coin donation appreciated. |
| October 6 | Coffee with a Cop - Blax Coffee, Gateway Plaza Leopold 10.00am |
| October 17 | Safe Plate Bunnings Leopold 9am – 12 noon
Fitting security screws to vehicle number plates.
Gold coin donation appreciated. |
| October 21 | Coffee with a Cop, Ocean Grove Marketplace 10.30am |
| October 23 | The Changing Mind & Positive Ageing Expo 2026,
City of Geelong Bowling Club 10.30 am– 2.30pm
A free event |
| October 28 | Don't Take the Bait Scams Presentation Springdale Neighbourhood Centre 2.00pm
A free event |

DON'T TAKE THE BAIT

FREE COMMUNITY SCAM AWARENESS PRESENTATION

Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine in partnership with the Bellarine Community Support Register invite you to a **SCAM PRESENTATION** to be conducted at

SPRINGDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
17 – 21 High Street, DRYSDALE

28th OCTOBER, 2026
2:00pm – 4:00pm

NO RSVP REQUIRED

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Bendigo Bank

BELLARINE POLICE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



WITH SUPPORT FROM



CELEBRATING DADS AND COMMUNITY AT BUNNINGS LEOPOLD

On Thursday, 3 September, Sergeant Shane Connolly, Senior Constable Deb Moloughney and Constable Leith Fraser joined the Father's Day family celebrations at Bunnings Leopold.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for local families to come together, have a chat with their local police, and of course, take a closer look at the police van!

The children were excited to explore the van and ask questions, while parents and carers enjoyed the chance to meet our local officers in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Events like these are a great reminder that community policing is about more than just responding when something goes wrong. It is about getting to know our community, building relationships and being there for families.

CELEBRATING OUR POLICE DADS

Father's Day also gave us an opportunity to recognise the many Victoria Police officers who are dads themselves.

Being a police officer is a job that comes with responsibility, long hours and, at times, difficult and challenging experiences. But behind the uniform are dads who also have school drop-offs, family dinners, weekend sport, bedtime stories and all the everyday moments that make being a parent so special.

Our police dads spend their working days looking after and protecting the wider community, before heading home to their own families and balancing both roles is something worth celebrating.

This Father's Day, we thank all the dads in our Bellarine community, including our own Victoria Police dads, for everything they do for their families and for the community they serve.

A big thank you to Bunnings Leopold and Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine for bringing everyone together and to all the families who stopped by to say hello. It was fantastic to see so many smiles, questions and curious little faces around the police van.



Cyber Action Year 2026

Take action to protect your networks and digital infrastructure now and into the future.



As we leave September and look to October, buying lolly bags in case a child decides to knock on the door this Halloween, The National Office of Cyber Security (NOCS) have asked us all to recognise October as Cyber Security Action Month.

As police officers, we spend a lot of time advising business owners on how to secure their physical premises. We talk about deadbolts, security cameras, and keeping high-value stock out of sight after hours. You wouldn't leave your storefront open overnight, yet local businesses are potentially leaving their digital front doors unlocked.

This October marks **Cyber Security Action Month 2026**. This year's theme is a simple but powerful directive: **"Stay secure. Take a second."**

Cybercriminals don't just target multi-national corporations; they look for the easiest target. To a digital thief, an unpatched software vulnerability or a weak password is the exact equivalent of an unlatched window.

When a business falls victim to ransomware or data theft, the fallout is devastating. It stalls operations, drains bank accounts, and shatters the trust you have built with your local customers.

Proactive Policing: Check Your Vulnerabilities

We want to prevent crime before it happens. This month, I am urging every local business owner and individual to conduct a digital "walkaround" of their IT and check for these common vulnerabilities:

- **Outdated Software:** Cybercriminals actively exploit known flaws in old software. Ensure your operating systems, apps, and security software are updated regularly. Turning on automatic updates is the easiest way to patch these holes.
- **Weak or Reused Passwords:** If a hacker cracks a single password that you reuse across multiple accounts, they have the keys to your entire kingdom. Switch to passphrases and use a secure password manager.
- **Missing Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):** MFA is one of the most effective roadblocks you can put in front of a criminal. Even if they steal your password, MFA stops them from gaining access. Turn it on for email, banking, and accounting software.

Unsecured Backups: If your systems are compromised, a recent, offline backup is your absolute lifeline. Ensure your data is backed up regularly and kept disconnected from your main network.

Take a Second

Cybercriminals rely on speed, panic, and pressure. They send urgent emails pretending to be suppliers changing bank details or authorities demanding immediate payment.

Our advice is the same online as it is on the street: **take a second**. Pause and verify. If an email or invoice looks slightly unusual, call the sender using a known, trusted number—not the number printed on the suspicious document.

Cybersecurity is no longer just an IT issue; it is a fundamental part of keeping your business, your staff, and your customers safe. Let's work together to keep our local business community secure, both online and offline.

If your business experiences a cyber incident, report it immediately to the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) via cyber.gov.au or call the Australian Cyber Security Hotline on 1300 CYBER1 (1300 292 371).

OPERATION SCOREBOARD

Victoria Police is warning motorists there will be zero tolerance for drink and drug driving this AFL Grand Final long weekend as it launches a major road policing blitz across the state's roads.

It comes as new police data reveals almost 1,000 motorists have now been nabbed drink or drug driving over the AFL Grand Final long weekend period over the past four years.

Operation Scoreboard, which kicks off on Friday, will see police highly visible and enforcing on Victorian roads in an effort to reduce road trauma.

There will be a significant focus on impaired drivers, with increased roadside alcohol and drug testing to be conducted.

Police are reminding motorists that they should expect to be tested anywhere, anytime this weekend, with significant penalties in place for those caught driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Victorians celebrating the AFL Grand Final festivities are being urged to plan ahead, utilise alternative transport or arrange a designated driver.

Police are reminding motorists that they should expect to be tested anywhere, anytime this weekend, with significant penalties in place for those caught driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Operation Scoreboard runs from 12:01am Friday 25 September to 11:59pm on Monday 28 September 2026.

For more information and tips for staying safe on the roads this long weekend, visit the [Road Safety page](#) on the Victoria Police website.





Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other
Bellarine

Help protect your business today!

Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine (NWB) in partnership with the Bellarine Neighbourhood Policing Unit is commencing a Bellarine Business Watch Safety Project in October 2026 to coincide with Victorian Crime Prevention Month. It is aimed at helping local businesses prevent crime, protect property and support police.

Bellarine Police and Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine are working together to help create safer, better-connected and more informed neighbourhoods.

Through NWB events like Coffee with a Cop, Police Information Sessions and Safe Plate Days, residents have regular opportunities to meet Bellarine police, ask questions, raise concerns and access important safety information in a friendly, informal environment.

Local businesses are key partners in keeping our community safe.

In support of this, Bellarine Police maintain a business register containing after-hours contact details which police can access in the event of an after-hours emergency.

CCTV camera locations and details can also be registered to assist criminal investigations both on site and around the home.

Together, Bellarine Police and Neighbourhood Watch Bellarine are building on connections between police, residents and businesses—because connected communities are safer communities.



**Take the
business
safety quiz!**



**Register after
hours business
contact details**



**Register property
CCTV camera
information**

ACTION 1**Take the business safety quiz!**

**Learn how
to secure
your
business**

Identify the risks
that matter most
to your business

**HOW SAFE IS YOUR BUSINESS?**

How Safe Is My Business is a free, practical online quiz designed by Neighbourhood Watch Victoria to help businesses identify security risks and improve crime prevention.

The quiz considers physical security, day-to-day business practices and digital security, then provides a personalised report with practical steps the business can take to improve its safety.

It is suitable for businesses of all sizes and types, from sole traders and retailers to hospitality, trades and professional services.

Take the free quiz: *How Safe Is My Business*.

A safer business starts with knowing where the risks are.



**Scan the QR code to take the
business safety quiz.**

<http://www.howsafeismybusiness.com.au>

ACTION 2

Register after hours business contact details

AFTER HOURS BUSINESS REGISTER

Every police station across Victoria maintains an After Hours Call Register, which allows police to quickly contact business owners or managers outside normal trading hours if their premises are involved in an emergency, alarm activation, or criminal incident.

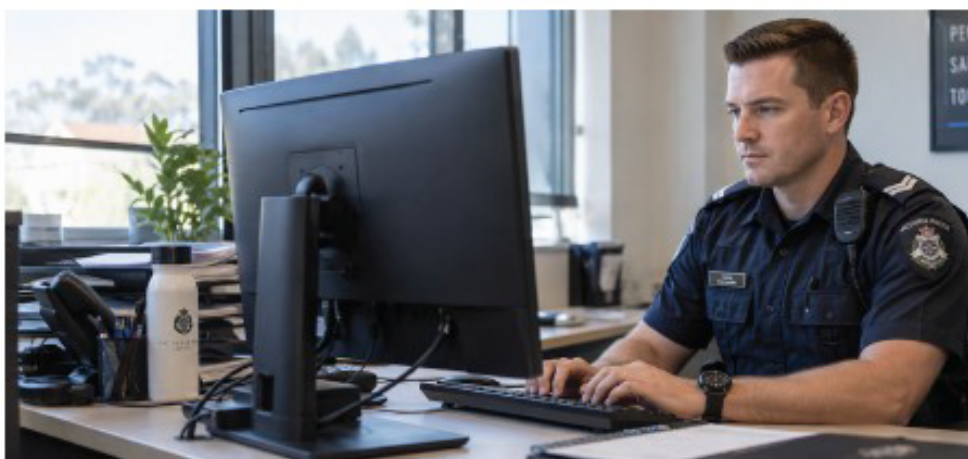
All contact details are stored securely on a local Victoria Police database and are only used for legitimate policing purposes.



Business Name		
Business Address		
Owner/ Manager	Name	
	Phone Number	
	Email	
After Hours Contact Name		
After Hours Contact Number		
After Hours Email		



Take a photo of the above information and either scan QR code or email it to: **bellarine-neighbourhood-mgr@police.vic.gov.au**



Information
provided will
be stored
on a secure
database.

ACTION 3

Register property CCTV camera information

Victoria Police maintain a secure CCTV Camera Register for private residences as well as businesses.

If you have security cameras installed, registering them with Victoria Police can make a significant difference when investigating crime in your neighbourhood.

The register simply records the location of your cameras and your contact details.

When an incident occurs, officers can quickly identify properties in the area that may have captured relevant footage.

Instead of spending valuable time driving through streets looking for cameras and knocking on doors, police can contact registered camera owners directly to request footage from a specific date and time.

If you have CCTV cameras at your property or business and would like to register them, please fill in the registration form, take a photo of below and email it to:

bellarine-neighbourhood-mgr@police.vic.gov.au

Property Details	Description	
	Address	
Business/owner	Name	
	Phone	
	Email	Sheedy, Amanda (Amanda.Sheedy@police.vic.gov.au) is signed in
CCTV Contact	Name	
	Phone	

CCTV Information

Location <i>eg. driveway</i>	
Coverage <i>eg. North west</i>	
How many CCTV Cameras does the building/property have?	
How long is the CCTV footage stored in the system?	
Today's date	



Take a photo of the above information and either scan QR code or email it to: **bellarine-neighbourhood-mgr@police.vic.gov.au**

This information will be stored on a secure database.



BELLARINE POLICE OUT AND ABOUT

Spring Has Sprung on the Bellarine!

Spring has officially arrived, the weather is warming up and the school holidays are in full swing!

That means plenty of families will be out and about enjoying everything the Bellarine has to offer. Over the school holidays, you can expect to see your Bellarine Police out and about across the community whether that's in the divisional van, on bike patrol or on foot.

So, if you see us, come and say hello! Our patrols are a great opportunity for us to connect with our community, have a chat and make sure everyone is enjoying the holidays safely.

E-bikes & E-scooters

With the warmer weather, we also see more people getting out on e-bikes and e-scooters.

Before heading off, make sure you know the rules and that your bike or scooter is legal to use. Riders should also wear a properly fitted helmet, obey road rules and be mindful of pedestrians and other road users.

Parents the school holidays are a great time to have a conversation with your kids about where they can ride, how to stay safe and the importance of following the rules.

Understanding the rules helps keep riders, pedestrians and the wider community safe.

So, enjoy the sunshine, get outside, explore our beautiful Bellarine and look out for one another.



Youth Road Safety Fact Sheet



Whether you're biking or riding an e-scooter, follow these simple road safety tips to stay safe and have fun on the move!

MODIFIED OR PETROL POWERED BICYCLES

- Illegal.



MOTORBIKES

- To ride on or off-road it must be registered with a full or recreation registration
- Helmet must be worn at all times.



E-BIKES

- 25 km/h MAX speed
- Motor cannot provide power at speeds higher than 25km/h
- Helmet must be worn at all times
- No passengers
- Cannot be ridden on footpaths.

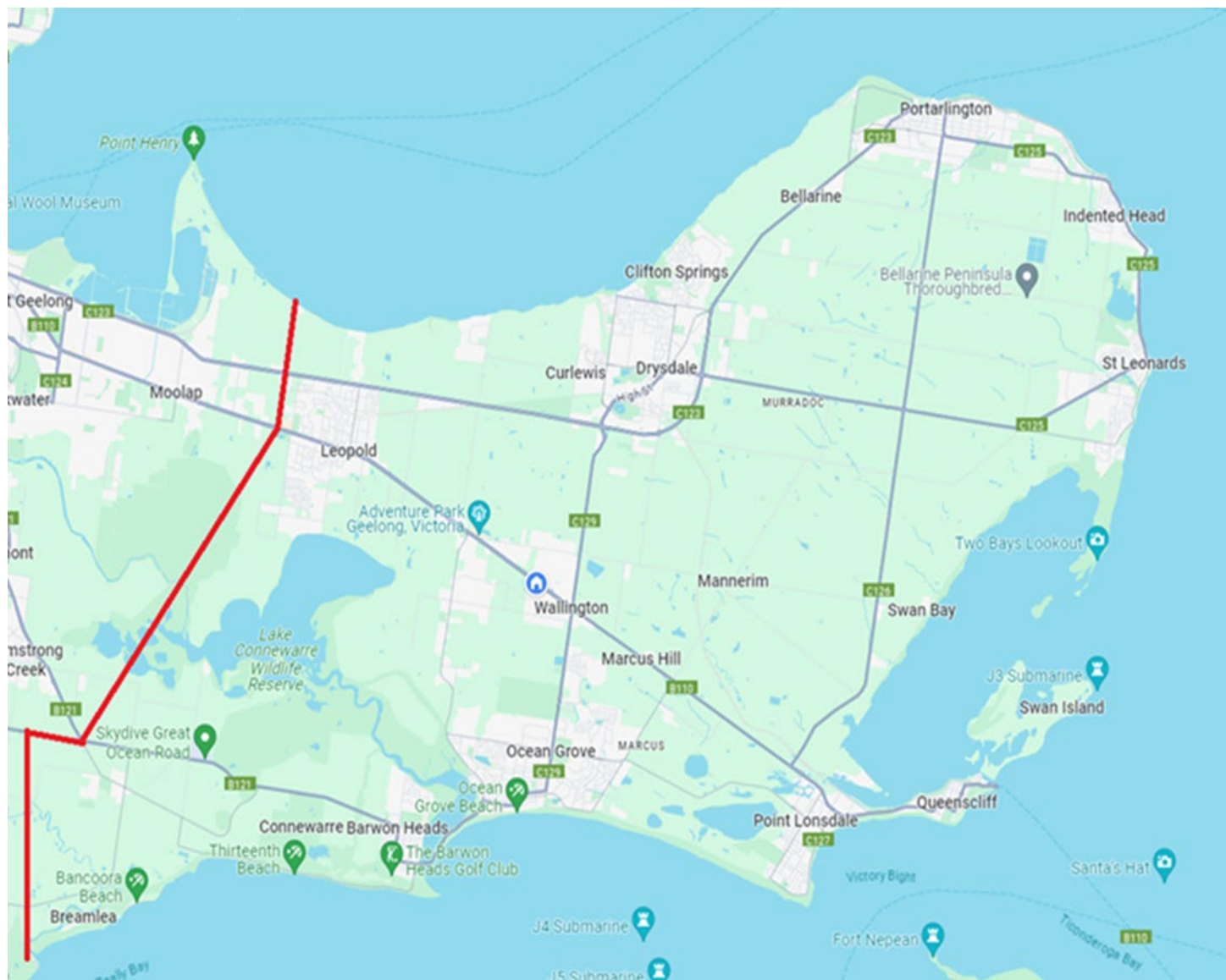


E-SCOOTER

- Be aged 16 yrs or over
- Max speed 20 kmph
- Helmet must be worn at all times
- No passengers
- Cannot be ridden on footpaths.



For more information, visit police.vic.gov.au/road-safety



Have something you would like to say?

Have an article you would like to contribute to our newsletter to be distributed to our community groups?

Have a community event you would like to add?

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