



Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

Bellarine

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See Something, Say Something

Local residents attended today's 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 attendance.

"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

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Should you buy an OBD lock?

On Board Diagnostic locks are growing in popularity as a car theft deterrent, but how effective are they really? While they may delay access to your vehicle's diagnostics port, they are easy to remove and, if installed incorrectly, can damage your car's systems. This article explores the limitations of OBD locks and highlights stronger alternatives like steering wheel locks and Faraday pouches for a more reliable approach to vehicle security.

The Limitations of OBD Locks

While OBD locks offer some deterrent value, they are not a comprehensive solution. There are several important limitations to keep in mind:

They provide only a minor delay - most OBD locks can be removed in just a few minutes using basic tools. Professional thieves often have experience with these devices and may not be slowed down significantly by their presence. This makes the OBD lock a minor barrier rather than a strong preventive measure.

Consider Stronger Alternatives for Vehicle Protection

Instead of relying solely on an OBD lock, consider combining more proven methods that provide layered security.

Steering wheel locks

Steering wheel locks remain one of the most effective physical deterrents against theft. They are visible, which can deter thieves before they even attempt entry. Removing a quality steering lock requires time, tools, and creates noise - factors that increase the risk for a criminal and discourage follow-through.

Faraday pouches for keyless entry vehicles

Keyless entry systems are especially vulnerable to relay attacks, where criminals use signal amplifiers to intercept your key fob's signal and unlock the car remotely. A Faraday pouch blocks the key's signal entirely, preventing this method of entry. These pouches are inexpensive, easy to use, and are an essential tool for anyone with a keyless ignition system.

You can purchase a reliable Faraday pouch here: www.carguard.com.au/?ref=NeighbourhoodWatch

A Layered Approach is Best

The most effective way to protect your vehicle is through a layered security approach. Each added barrier increases the time and effort required to steal your car, which greatly reduces the likelihood that it will be targeted. A recommended setup includes:

- A visible steering wheel lock to deter physical entry
- A Faraday pouch to block key signal theft
- Optional use of an OBD lock if installed correctly and used in combination with other devices

Thieves typically look for the easiest target. By making your car more difficult to access quickly and quietly, you significantly improve your vehicle's security.

Before you leave home, take a moment to lock up properly.

Turn this into a daily routine and reduce your risk of break-ins.

What's on your checklist?

Stay Safe



Before you leave home checklist

- Doors locked
- Windows secured
- Garage closed
- Lights/timers set
- Valuables out of sight

