

Getting along together at Bellarine Springs Retirement Community.

We have a wonderful community full of people with a diversity of backgrounds, ages, experiences and expertise, all of whom have had a lifetime to become the people they are today.

We are all individuals with differing opinions and needs but the one thing we have in common is, we have all chosen Bellarine Springs as our preferred community for our current needs and situation.

As in any part of our lives, it is not expected that we all like each other and get on with everyone, but it is expected that we will all respect each other and our differences and ensure we work together to live amicably.

We know not everyone is going to agree with how things are run but be assured that those who do take the time to organise an activity or event are doing it to the best of their ability and in the best interest of all concerned. If you don't like it, you don't need to attend. Put yourself in the other person's shoes before you make comments that cast a shadow. Such comments do nothing but deter people from contributing or getting involved in the future. If you have a recommendation as to how/when/where something should be run, please consider to whom and how you share this information or better still, get involved in running the activity in the future.

There are many times when we will come together in small or large groups, for many and varied reasons. Please keep in mind the following as you participate in community life:

- You can be involved as much in community life as you like. You can attend as many activities as you like or none if you prefer. There are no rules that say you must be involved in community activities.
- Some activities are held for the entire community and all members are welcome to attend. This includes activities/events run by management and others run by the BSRA or individual residents. Some activities require a sign-up and for some you can just turn up. Activities that are for all residents are published in the calendar and/or newsletter, our website and on the Facebook page. Sign-ups, if needed, are on the Activity Station in the Community Centre.
- The Bar is run by a small volunteer group and relies on the generosity of others to assist on Tuesday and Friday nights and for special events. This group makes regular trips to stock the bar, but it is not a pub and provides a limited range of beverages and snacks at very reasonable prices. If the selection isn't to your taste, suggestions that would be in line with the budget for the bar would be considered, but it is impossible to please the palate of such a diverse range of connoisseurs.
- You are able and encouraged to organise your own group functions and book facilities as required. This doesn't mean your function has to be open to all residents, however you can organise an event that you make available to all residents. If you need any help organising an event you can contact the Bellarine Springs Residents Association. The BSRA can be approached to assist in advertising and supporting your event, if it is open to all members.

Community spaces are available to all community members. On occasion, bookings are required. Regular community events such as Tuesday evening Sundowners and Friday evening Happy Hour are a great opportunity for everyone to meet and welcome new residents but also a good time for friends to gather in a relaxed environment.

It is expected that all residents respect this environment and the comfort, both physical and emotional, of others attending.

Please be mindful of the following when sharing spaces with others:

- Be inclusive. Support and welcome all residents to enjoy the activity. Take the time to make space for everyone, especially those who are new or who struggle to find a friendship group.
- The Community Centre can be a noisy environment especially at or nearing capacity. Many residents are hard of hearing or wear hearing aids. Please be mindful of the noise level generated by your table group and ensure it isn't having a negative impact on others. We all recognise that the volume level is

sometimes proportionate to the amount of alcohol consumed. Let's be proactive in reminding our friends if they are getting a bit noisy.

- At times, large groups cannot only be a bit noisy purely by their size, they can also be a bit intimidating for new members finding their feet amongst already established groups. As we welcome more and more new residents over the coming years, please ensure all our residents are made to feel comfortable and welcome.
- We don't know what is going on in the lives of others, including their physical, mental or emotional standing, and nor should we unless they wish to share it. As we age there are a myriad of situations where we may not present in public the way others are used to seeing and interacting with us. Let's be mindful and caring rather than judgemental.
- Bookings can be made for groups/individuals to use any communal spaces. This should be done in a timely manner via email or direct contact with the reception desk. You will be able to determine if your 'wishes can be granted'. It is good to always have a back-up date or venue in case of clashes with other activities.
- The roads within our community are shared spaces with pedestrians, as we do not have footpaths. The speed is strictly limited to 20kmh and not all intersections have traffic control. Please be very careful driving around the village and stop/giveway and make eye contact with other drivers at all intersections to avoid collisions. Reminding your visitors of the same would be appreciated.

We are all adults here. If you have a grievance with someone – speak with that person in a respectful manner, with support if necessary, but don't expect someone else to fix it for you. If you wouldn't say it to them in person, it is best not to say it at all.

We can all agree to disagree, but respectful communication is the key.

It also goes without saying – even though it is about to be said:

- If you open it, close it.
- If you turn it on, turn it off.
- If you unlock it, lock it up.
- If you break it, admit it.
- If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
- If you borrow it, return it.
- If you value it, take care of it.
- If you make a mess, clean it up.
- If you move it, put it back.
- If it belongs to someone else, get permission to use it.
- If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
- If it's none of your business, don't get involved.
- Treat others the way you would want to be treated.