



# Bellarine Springs Newsletter

## March 2026



Barwon Heads Bluff

# A message from our Village Manager

KENT HODGSON



## **The Bellarine & Mornington Peninsula Open Day**

Join us on Friday 20th of March, from 10am to 2pm for the Bellarine Springs Open Day. There will be presentations, arts & craft stalls, and it forms part of a collaborative showcase of other retirement living villages across the Bellarine and Mornington Peninsulas.

## **Retirement Villages Legislation Update:**

To date the Victorian Government has advised that they wish the changes proposed in the New Retirement Villages Act to commence on the 1st May 2026.

However, the detail around the changes "The Regulations and Standard Forms" have not yet been released to the Victorian Retirement Village Industry.

In simple terms, the regulations are ultimately the operating manual for the proposed legislation. The Retirement Living Council as a representative of the Industry through the Property Council, is petitioning the Victorian Government requesting a deferment of the requirements until all the information is released and time given to implement the proposed changes.

As soon as more information is available on how the changes will affect the operation of the village, we will let you know.

## **Emergency Pendants**

Testing Emergency Pendants - Stages 1 and 2.

It's time to continue our regular testing of these devices. Please keep an eye out for updates in the monthly newsletter and Buzz. When it's your scheduled turn, remember to test the emergency button on your pendant between 9am and 1pm, Monday through Friday.

If you're uncertain about your home's stage, don't hesitate to ask the reception staff for assistance.

## **New Residents**

Welcome to Bellarine Springs, a vibrant community where new beginnings await! We are thrilled to have you join us and become part of our warm, welcoming neighborhood.

Here at Bellarine Springs, you'll find activities designed to enrich your lifestyle and foster connections with fellow residents.

Whether you're exploring The Village, participating in community events, or catching up with other residents for a coffee, tea or a drink at Happy Hour, you'll quickly feel at home.

Our team is here to support you every step of the way, ensuring your transition is smooth and enjoyable.

Once again, welcome to Bellarine Springs—where community and comfort come together!

Any Questions please don't hesitate to see reception.



# A message from our Sales Manager- Fiona Olin

Happy March!

The real estate market remains steady, making it an excellent time for prospective residents to sell their homes. With a strong 66% clearance rate recorded in February, conditions continue to be favorable.

Our advertising campaign is in full swing across print, radio and digital and we're already seeing the positive impact. We are heavily invested in spreading the word — you may have seen the positive comments on our Facebook page from Channel 9's Travel Guides, Kevin and Janetta and we are working with them to coordinate some radio airtime on 3AW in the coming months promoting Bellarine Springs!

It's been wonderful to see new residents embracing community life — from the recent mussel night to resident happy hours and our monthly morning teas. It truly is a pleasure watching everyone settle in, connect, and enjoy their new lifestyle. We look forward to welcoming many more new residents in the weeks and months ahead.

Please also note that we will be participating in the Bellarine and Mornington Peninsula Retirement Village Open Day on Friday 20th March, with over 15 villages in Mornington and 8 on the Bellarine. Everyone is welcome, so don't hesitate to invite your friends and family along. Please don't forget the Resident Refer a Friend program when inviting family/friends for the Open Day, forms can be found at reception or via myself. Thank you. Further event details will be shared soon, so please keep an eye out.

Thanks for all the smiles 😊



**Fiona Olin**  
**Sales Manager**  
**0455 112 360**



# Grounds and Maintenance Team Report

Autumn has arrived, which means it's time to prepare for the colder months.

For veggie patch enthusiasts, now is the time to prepare garden beds and begin planting garlic, root veggies, and spring bulbs.

The Grounds & Maintenance Team will continue major cutbacks across the village, along with targeting invasive grasses in certain areas. To do this, a selective herbicide will be used and will be easily visible by additionally using blue agricultural dye.

Please avoid these areas, particularly while walking pets throughout the village.'

Thank you for your cooperation while we undertake this process.

Grounds and Maintenance Team



**VILLAGE POP-UP MARKET**

SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026  
10AM - 4PM

**Expressions of Interest**  
Close on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

- We plan to hold a Market Day in the Pavilion.
- Stallholders must be residents in the Village.
- The Market will be advertised outside the village and open to the public on the day.
- We are after Expressions of Interest from residents who would like to have a stall. Please fill in the form on the Activity Station.
- You keep your raised funds or donate them as you see fit.

Any queries see Steve Merriman or Jean Konings.

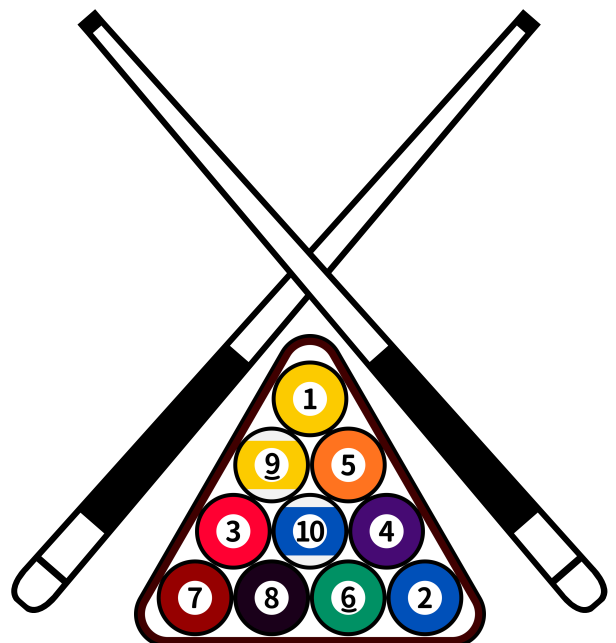
## Chick with Cue Sticks!

Every Tuesday @ 1:30pm

In The Community Centre

Come in a join along, no experience necessary!

New players are welcome!



# *The Bellarine & Mornington Peninsula Open Day*

We are going to be part of the Bellarine Peninsula Retirement villages Open day on Friday 20th of March and we are looking for residents to assist at our Village on the day.

The activities being proposed that we need assistance or volunteers for are:

- BBQ Sausage sizzle
- Devonshire tea
- Crafts on display and market
- Resident market stalls- Stalls must be registered
- Meet and Greet Ambassadors

For more information or IF you like to help out, please let Megan or Hayley know at reception.

Your help would be much appreciated.



## ***BSRA president's report***

The third month of the year already. Time really does seem to have wings.

What a mixture of weather we've had these past 3 months. One couldn't help wondering where our long, warm (not hot) sunny days of summer have gone. Mind you, if it is only the weather we have to complain about then we are very lucky.

Our great social activities committee and other residents have continued to keep us entertained and busy with events and great to see so many of these functions well supported.

Make sure you keep up to date with what's happening around our lovely village by reading your emails, newsletters and information placed at the activity station.

Good to hear the travel stories from residents who have recently returned from trips and we wish safe travels to those about to embark on adventures.

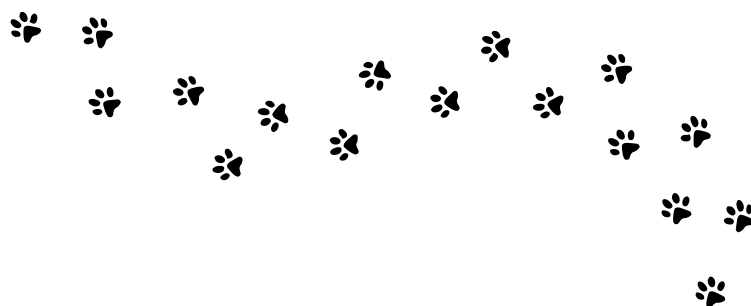
I can't finish without a reminder to all residents to take care when using the roads within the village.

Walkers keep to the side of the roadway and drivers observe the 20km speed limit. We want to keep everyone safe.

A respectful reminder to all dog owners to take a poop bag and pick up after your pet please. Believe it or not, after many notices about this, it is still happening.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy month ahead.      🐾   🐾

Kind regards,  
Sue Kuter



# MOVIES

Time does roll on. These two movies are worlds apart but both exceptionally well done in their own way. I hope you'll find fun in watching them.



"The Car" from 1977 is a supernatural film that has become a genuine cult classic.

A mysterious black car goes on a murderous rampage terrorising a small town. No one knows its origin or who is driving it or why. The local Sheriff ( James Brolin) only knows he has to stop this seemingly indestructible machine but has no way of achieving it.

Thurs March 12th @ 2.30pm

"Mr Right" from 2015 is rolled into comedy, romance, action and very quirky. Unlucky in love Martha (Anna Kendrick) meets Francis (Sam Rockwell) who seems different to the other guys.

Really different! That is if you don't count that he's a hit man on the run from a cartel, but for Martha he just might turn out to be Mr. Right. In fact they could be a killer couple.

As I said, definitely quirky but quite delightful.

Thurs March 26th @ 7.00pm

See you at the movies

David



## Protect Against Scams Presentation

Join us in The Theatre Room on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of March from 3pm-4pm for a 1 hour presentation about:

- How to protect your personal information from scammers
- How to safely make friends online
- How to spot investment scams
- Where to go for help

Facilitated by your friendly local Librarian

Please sign up at Activity Station





# VIP SERIES

The first session of the VIP 2026 series held 10th February was titled: "The First Laugh - What's in Store and Humour is a Serious Business". The session was attended by approximately 25 residents and provided an overview of presentations for 2026 covering a diverse range of topics including maintaining physical health, advanced care planning, history of surveying borders, and the geology of climate change.

The main part of the session focused on the topic of humour - what it means, how children develop a sense of humour, the difference between humour and comedy and types of humour with plenty of examples. The unique part of this session was that the lecture notes were wholly generated by AI! I had asked Microsoft Co-Pilot to provide notes for the session and the general consensus was that it had done a pretty good job.



Regards

Rod Wellard



If you have watched the news over current times there is a growing issue of home fires being caused by lithium-ion batteries.

It was brought to our attention by this great article on the RACV website.

What causes lithium-ion battery fires and how to prevent them -RACV.

We know that in the event of a fire our homes have smoke detectors and all the necessary alert systems. But I think everyone's preference would be to not test them.

Poor quality Lithium-ion batteries in cheap devices can potentially be a fire hazard. Can I encourage all residents to read the article [www.racv.com.au/royalauto/safety-security/lithoim-battery-fire-safety.html](http://www.racv.com.au/royalauto/safety-security/lithoim-battery-fire-safety.html) and look at what devices you have in your home, how they are being charged and if you can take action to minimise risk. For example, installing a simple timer onto your device to cut power after a certain time.



# five.good.friends

Advocacy and the right support: our Members say it best!

When Five Good Friends Member, Keith, faced a serious health crisis, expert support from his Nurse Concierge helped both him, and his wife Jenny, continue enjoying the independence of village life.

"Since I got my package, it has made my life easier. We're very, very impressed with Five Good Friends," shares Keith.

With trusted guidance through the My Aged Care process, Keith now receives support with cleaning, gardening, podiatry and chiropractic care. The impact has been felt by Jenny too: "Our Helper scrubbed the shower until I could see the grout again. She's a lovely girl and such a hard worker."

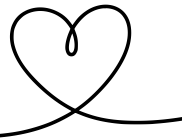
Today, Keith continues giving back to his community with caring support that keeps him confident and connected.

His advice for other village residents? "Don't wait until a crisis hits — give Five Good Friends a call before you need help. Everything starts falling into place from that first conversation."

Book a free consultation with your Nurse Concierge — a booking sheet is available at the village reception.

Ali is next in the village on Wednesday 4th March and Tiaha will be visiting on Wednesday, 25th March.

Or contact our Care Advice team on 1300 787 581.



Plan for your future needs now, **stay healthy in your home for longer.**

Call 1300 787 581  
fivegoodfriends.com.au

 five.good.friends



# Mussel Night

A big thank you to Tracey and Peter from Advanced Mussel Supply for their amazing contribution to our community event. Their presentation on the local mussel industry's history was both interesting and informative, giving us a better appreciation for our region's heritage. The highlight of the night was definitely the tasty freshly cooked mussels and sauces they made, which impressed everyone. We also want to thank Mel, Frank, and the whole team for their hard work in making the night a success. Your efforts are appreciated by all!



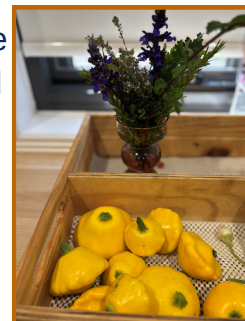
## Gardening Group

Sunday 1 March and Summer is officially over and we are now in the season Autumn . 🍁🔥🍁🔥🍁🔥🍁🔥

We continue to have good crops of zucchini, yellow squash, cucumbers, lettuce and rhubarb. Our tomatoes are starting to turn red but Very slowly!! We will continue to harvest but if they are still green by mid March we will offer them to the wonderful ladies who are wanting to make green tomato chutneys.

It is always lovely to see residents , drop by and say hello, as they go on their daily walks or go out the back gate to Drysdale.

Maria R



| Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                            | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>8:45 am: Cycling Group</p> <p>9am Gardening group</p> <p>9am Handyman services</p> <p>10am Chair Yoga at Pa</p> <p>11am Aqua</p> <p>1pm Aqua</p> <p>1 pm: Mahjong at CC</p> <p>2:pm: Rumikub at CC</p> <p>1:30pm: Scrabble at CC</p> <p>3pm Book club</p> | <p>9am: Walking group</p> <p>1pm: Craft at pavilion</p> <p>1:30pm: Pickleball</p> <p>1:30pm: Chicks Cue Sticks</p> <p>2pm: Indoor bowls at CC</p> <p>5pm: Sundowners</p>                                             | <p>9.15 am: Bus to Drysdale</p> <p>9.30am Tai Chi at Pavilion</p> <p>9am Social Tennis</p> <p>1pm: Mahjong at CC</p> <p>2 pm: Rummikub</p> <p>6:45pm: Triva Night</p>                                | <p>9.30am Exercise - Penny</p> <p>11:00am: Aqua</p> <p>1:30 pm: Social Bridge</p> <p>2pm: Golf Croquet</p> <p>2pm: Indoor bowls at CC</p> <p>2pm: Cuppa and games</p> <p>2pm Blokes, Billards, Beers at CC</p>                                  |
| <p><b>Public Holiday</b></p> <p><b>Office closed</b></p> <p>8:45 am: Cycling Group</p> <p>9am Gardening group</p> <p>1 pm: Mahjong at CC</p> <p>2:pm: Rumikub at CC</p> <p>1:30pm: Scrabble at CC</p>                                                        | <p>9am: Walking group</p> <p>10.30am Birthday morning</p> <p>1pm: Craft at pavilion</p> <p>1:30pm: Chicks Cue Sticks</p> <p>1:30pm: Pickleball</p> <p>2pm: Indoor bowls at CC</p> <p>5pm: Sundowners</p>             | <p>9.15 am: Bus to Drysdale</p> <p>9am Social Tennis</p> <p>9.30am Tai Chi at Pavilion</p> <p>1pm: Mahjong at CC</p> <p>2 pm: Rummikub</p> <p>6.30pm Bingo at CC</p>                                 | <p>9.30am Exercise - Penny</p> <p>11:00am: Aqua</p> <p>1:30 pm: Social Bridge</p> <p>2pm: Golf Croquet</p> <p>2pm: Indoor bowls at CC</p> <p>2pm: Cuppa and games</p> <p>2pm Blokes, Billards, Beers at CC</p> <p>2:30pm: "Movie " The Car"</p> |
| <p>8:45 am: Cycling Group</p> <p>9am Gardening group</p> <p>10am Chair Yoga at Pav</p> <p>11am Aqua</p> <p>1 pm: Mahjong at CC</p> <p>2:pm: Rumikub at CC</p> <p>2 pm: Scrabble at CC</p>                                                                    | <p>9am: Walking group</p> <p>1pm: Craft at pavilion</p> <p>1:30pm: Pickleball</p> <p>1:30pm Chicks Cue Sticks</p> <p>2pm: Indoor bowls at CC</p> <p>2pm Five Good Friends at CC</p> <p>5pm: Sundowners</p>           | <p>9.15 am: Bus to Drysdale</p> <p>9am Social Tennis</p> <p>9.30am Tai Chi at Pavilion</p> <p>1pm: Mahjong at CC</p> <p>10am Social Tennis</p> <p>2 pm: Rummikub</p> <p>7pm: Whisky night at Pav</p> | <p>9.30am Exercise - Penny</p> <p>11am Aqua</p> <p>1pm Aqua</p> <p>1:30pm: Bridge at Pav</p> <p>2pm: Golf Croquet</p> <p>2pm: Indoor Bowls CC</p> <p>2pm: Cuppa &amp; game</p> <p>2pm: Blokes, Billard &amp; Beers CC</p>                       |
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| <p>8:45 am: Cycling Group</p> <p>9am Gardening group</p> <p>10am Chair Yoga at Pav</p> <p>11am Aqua</p> <p>1 pm: Mahjong at CC</p> <p>2:pm: Rumikub at CC</p> <p>1:30pm: Scrabble at CC</p>                                                                  | <p>9am: Walking group</p> <p>1pm: Craft at pavilion</p> <p>1:30pm: Pickleball</p> <p>1:30pm Chicks Cue Sticks</p> <p>2pm: Indoor bowls at CC</p> <p>5pm: Sundowners</p>                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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## Friday

## Saturday

## Sunday

6

9am Gardening group  
10am: Musical Moments  
1pm: Mahjong at CC  
2pm: Rummikub at CC  
5pm: Happy Hour at CC

7

10am: Pickleball

8

2pm Left, right and centre  
at Community centre



**Village Handyman services** - Nathan  
March 9th from 9am.  
Book in at reception \$15  
per 15 minutes

13

9am: Gardening group  
10am: Musical Moments  
1pm: Mahjong at CC  
2pm: Rummikub at CC  
5pm: Happy Hour at CC

14

10am: Pickleball

15

2pm Left, right and centre  
at Community centre



**Hairdresser**  
Sally is located in  
the community centre  
hairdressing salon.  
Please contact her direct  
on 0428 150 094 to  
arrange your  
appointment.

20

9am Gardening group  
**10am: Musical Moments-  
cancelled**  
10.30am Fish Van  
1pm: Mahjong at CC  
2pm: Rummikub at CC  
5pm: Happy Hour at CC

21

10am: Pickleball

22

2pm Left, right and centre  
at Community centre

**Hairdresser - wed only**  
Karon is located in  
the community centre  
hairdressing salon.  
Please contact her direct  
on 0427 565 735  
to arrange your  
appointment, Wed only.

27

9am Gardening group  
10am: Musical Moments  
10am: Westfield Bus  
1pm: Mahjong at CC  
2pm: Rummikub at CC  
5pm: Happy Hour at CC

28

10am: Pickleball

29

2pm Left, right and centre  
at Community centre



**Physiotherapist**  
Keegan FitzGerald is  
located in the  
practioners room in  
community centre  
0411 096 099 to  
schedule appointments.

# March

