



Justice Pieces

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1. From the President

Kia ora koutou

Thank you to Helen Climo, Vice President, for her work on putting together a plan for Professional Development for our membership in tikanga Māori. I am very pleased to report that Council has approved a provider and the funding to support the plan for Professional Development for all our JPs in Te Ao Māori. I was very fortunate to hear the Chief District Court Judge and the Chief Youth Court Judge speak at the Royal Federation National Conference. Both stated that all Justices of the Peace play a hugely important role in the Justice system. Central for both speakers was the focus on responsiveness to our customers. We need to listen to our customers, understand what they need, make good decisions and enable meaningful participation and ensure our systems are inclusive of all people.

It has been a period of contrasts for me with January being busy with service delivery and then a month off sailing Bluff to the Ross Sea Antarctica via the Sub Antarctic Islands and back to Bluff, then full on service delivery with a Happy Easter in Wellington District Court. My thoughts are turning to succession planning for Council membership. So can I ask that you have a think about what skills we need on Council and what you may be able to contribute. I would welcome a confidential chat about the work of Council and what you can bring.

Here are some postcards from the edge.

Ngā manaakitanga

Ann Clark JP



2. Understanding Te Tiriti

Understanding Te Tiriti

A number of Justices of the Peace in our area have requested Professional Development in the area of Te Tiriti and Te Ao Māori. We have all taken the Judicial Oath of Office and are Judicial Officers. The Chief District Court Judge His Honour Heemi Taumaunu spoke at the recent National Conference about the important role all Justices of the Peace play throughout the Justice Sector.

The Justice Sector wishes to be more responsive to the needs of Māori and to Te Tiriti. This is starting to be included in Court practice, and JPs are also increasingly taking up the challenge to be more responsive to New Zealand's dual cultural heritage. The Ministry of Justice has a short 12-minute video explaining why: [Te Ao Mārama | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#).

The Wellington Justices of the Peace Association Council are planning to offer introductory workshops about Te Tiriti, starting a conversation about what it means, to all JPs in the Wellington region over the next few months. The workshops have been developed by an organisation called [Groundwork](#), and are highly regarded.

These workshops can be done as self-paced workshops, and are designed to be completable individually, which isn't always such a great way to learn, so we will offer face-to-face professional development sessions, where everyone in the room can complete the "course" working together preferably in groups in a comfortable environment. These will count towards JP accreditation requirements.

Alternatively, if anyone wishes to work through the online workshop on their own, please contact Helen Climo: ahclimo@gmail.com.

Introduction to Te Ao Māori workshops

Following up from the Groundwork's workshops, we will later offer some "icebreaker" workshops, to help JPs build the confidence to find out more about Te Ao Māori. These workshops will be relaxed and exploratory, and would include pronunciation, customary concepts, values, world view, and simple greetings.

These will be face-to-face learning through experience and are being developed especially for us. More will come soon.

When dates and venues are finalised, you will receive invitations to these.

3. Casual Vacancy for Council

Iride McCloy has resigned from Council. Council can appoint someone for the remainder of the term till the AGM but have decided to manage with a vacancy. We are still able to be quorate. The Kapiti area has strong representation on the Council through Carolyn Marshall, Caroline Ludford and our Registrar Maureen Pratchett.

4. Constitution Changes

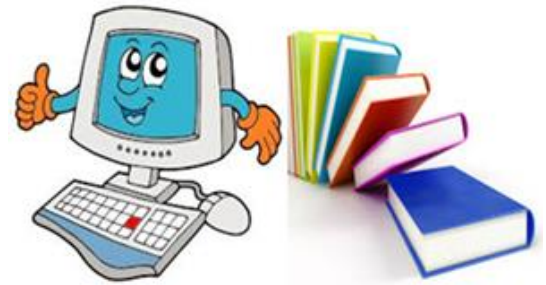
Many of you will be aware that the new Incorporated Societies Act has been passed. Regulations are due for release in September this year with no further consultation. The Act makes clear what the requirements are for the Constitution to be approved and our current Constitution needs some work. One that we as a Council want to focus on is the disputes area to make it clearer and distinguish between disputes between members and disputes that arise from our customers about the service they received or did not receive.

Any suggestions for constitutional change are welcome and any offers to contribute to this work would be appreciated.

5. Ministerial Professional Development

The Professional Development Trainings have begun for the 2023 year, and there have been two Training Sessions in the Wellington Area. Thank you to all those who attended.

The Kapiti Training is scheduled for Saturday 13 May 2023, commencing at 9:30am but take note that this session is at a different venue as our usual location, the Waikanae Community Centre, is being refurbished and will not be available. For this session we have booked the Paraparaumu Memorial Hall. This training is the last in our Back-to-Basics series.



Our next Professional Development Trainings will concentrate on a review of AML/CFT.

Training Topic: *Back to Basics – Statutory Declarations and Affidavits*

Saturday 13 May	9:30am - 11:30am	Paraparaumu Memorial Hall, Corner Aorangi and Tutanekai Streets, Paraparaumu
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Training Topic: *A Review of AML-CFT*

Saturday 10 June	9:30am - 11:30am	Wellington Bridge Club, 17 Tinakori Road, Wellington
Tuesday 11 July	5:15pm - 7:00pm	Wellington Bridge Club, 17 Tinakori Road, Wellington
Saturday 12 August	9:30am - 11:30am	Waikanae Community Centre, 28-32 Utauta Street, Waikanae

Training Topic: *Marriage Dissolution*

Saturday 9 September	9:30am - 11:30am	Wellington Bridge Club, 17 Tinakori Road, Wellington
Tuesday 10 October	5:15pm - 7:00pm	Wellington Bridge Club, 17 Tinakori Road, Wellington
Saturday 25 November	9:30am - 11:30am	Waikanae Community Centre, 28-32 Utauta Street, Waikanae

Any suggestions for Training Topics are always welcome – please don't hesitate to contact Carolyn by email: carolyn.marshall@outlook.co.nz.

6. Citizenship Ceremonies



Citizenship ceremonies are held several times a year in Wellington, Porirua and Kapiti, hosted by the Mayors of those cities. After being on hold due to Covid, these have now resumed. Each year, the Mayor usually asks the Association to provide a JP who can attend the ceremony and be available to administer the oath in the event that the Mayor and/or their deputy are unable to attend for some reason. This year, the Association asked for expressions of interest in attending these from our accredited membership.

Thanks to Lois Baillie for her service over many years in arranging representation at the Porirua and Wellington ceremonies. Lois has decided to step aside from this role although she will continue to read out the names at

Wellington in a private capacity – to ensure every name is pronounced correctly.

Juping Zhou has kindly offered to take on the task of co-ordinating attendance for Porirua and Wellington ceremonies. The Kapiti Sub-Committee will make its own arrangements.

7. Recent Service Issues

Our current professional development training is about Statutory Declarations and Affidavits. It was therefore disappointing to have two clients return to one of our Service Desks with incomplete Statutory Declarations: one for Kainga Ora and one for a Probate matter. Both required annexures/exhibits and both had the annexures clearly referenced on the text, with the probate one having the annexure wording already there on the two annexures which just needed completing by the JP who took the Declaration. Do take the time to read carefully the document you are administering – each client deserves nothing less. In both cases, the clients were working to deadlines, and these made it much more difficult for them.

The issue of property transfers has been raised by one JP. If in doubt you do have the right to decide not to act. In the case raised the client decided they did not want a JP service. We see many Authorisation and Instruction forms for the electronic registration with LINZ of property transactions. But there have been less formal alleged transfers of property between people. These may raise concerns for you. If in doubt you could check with a colleague for their advice.

8. National Conference

Apart from it being a Covid super spreader event, of note was a discussion about the future of National Conferences of all the Member Associations. A motion was put that these be rotated through Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington although they would be run by whichever Association was volunteering to run the event. Your Council decided to vote against this motion but knew that Auckland would have enough votes to wipe out all other associations' votes added together. There was considerable challenge from the floor on the motion and in the event Auckland abstained and the motion was lost. Thanks to Auckland for their very principled decision.

BUT it is the Royal Federation's 100-year anniversary in 2024 and Conference decided that the Royal Federation should take responsibility for the Conference and it should take place in Wellington. So anyone who is interested in lending a hand please let Ann Clark know and in what capacity and all offers of help will be passed on.

The 2023 Invercargill Conference was the first in-person conference since the last one held in Wellington and a lot of people came up to Wellington President, Ann Clark, to say what a great conference it was and of particular note was the speech by Sir Bruce Ferguson on the unknown soldier. So THANK YOU to Pat Waite, Lisa Beighton, Sir Bruce Ferguson, Duane Williams, Ross Buxton and Adrian Douglas whose names came up several times.

It is pleasing to note the capitation fee we pay to the Royal Federation remains unchanged at \$20 plus GST.

9. Home Visits

There is no official guidance on home visits to provide JP services. Anecdotally, these have been the exception rather than the rule. Some of the reasons for these include performing private citizenship ceremonies, providing JP services to terminally ill clients and to someone who had experienced significant injury resulting in them being housebound. The decision to make a home visit is entirely up to the JP, and in making this decision, the JP should consider their own personal safety. If you do agree to a home visit, notifying someone of where you are and how long you expect to be and then reporting in that you are safely away from whatever setting may be appropriate.

If you feel unable to help and the person cannot get to a service desk, refer the client to the [Contact Us](#) form on our website: www.jpwellington.org.nz. If they explain the service they need and give their location, our capable Registrar will find someone willing to help.

10. Useful Information on Our Website

Do you have a JP question you would like an answer for? You may find the answer in the FAQ section of our website (www.jpwellington.org.nz). Or you may find the answer in the documents on our [Professional Development Training notes](#) page which you must login to access. And if you don't find it there, do let us know as we regularly update the website based on comments and questions from members.

Recent additions to the website Professional Development Training notes page include 3 short-animated video clips on certifying identity documents for Anti-Money Laundering (AML) purposes, certifying non-identity documents and processing affidavits. There is also a detailed set of instructions for performing Marriage Dissolutions.

On the website, you will also find our full annual training schedule.

To log in to the website, your User Name is `firstname.lastname`. If you have forgotten your password, click the *Lost your password* link. The system will send you a link so you can set a new password. The system will suggest a very complicated strong password for you, but you may want to replace it with a password you are more likely to remember.

Once you are logged in, all the useful JP information is under the JP Corner tab.

If you have any difficulty logging in or need more help, email the registrar at registrar@jpwellington.org.nz.

11. Long Services

Certificates of Appreciation for long services are produced by the Ministry of Justice annually and are signed by the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Justice.

At the Wellington Back-to-Basics Training held on Tuesday 11th April 2023, we had the pleasure of presenting Certificates of Appreciation and gifting pot plants from the Association to three of our JP's (see group photo below).



Marcia Isles (2nd left) has achieved 30 years' service as a JP, Bhukhan Parbhu (left, with his wife 2nd right) has achieved 40 years' service as a JP, and Christopher Nevill has achieved an outstanding 50 years' service as a JP. We warmly congratulate them on these milestones and a big thank-you for their service as JPs in the community.

Thank
You



Also receiving a 30 year Certificate of Appreciation was Adrian Turner JP, here being presented by Ann Clark JP, President. Adrian said it did not seem like 30 years but was delighted at the recognition and had thoroughly enjoyed his work as a JP and appreciated the support of many JP colleagues. He was gifted a small pot plant which is lurking in the carrier bag.