



Justice Pieces

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1. From the President



Kia ora koutou,

I hope that you all had a happy and enjoyable Easter break and managed to catch up with family and friends. Daylight saving has ended, and we are heading towards the colder months of the year, so please stay safe!

Thank you to those of you who responded to the Professional Development Survey which we sent out in March. We do appreciate the feedback as it enables us to plan our Professional Development calendar and provide trainings on the topics you have suggested. We will give a summary of the responses in the next Justice Pieces.

Recently, I attended the JP Federation National Conference, which was held in Wellington. The calibre of the presenters was excellent, and it is evident from listening to these presenters, that the demographics of New Zealand are changing. More older people (65+), fewer births, plus regional population changes will present challenges and opportunities in the future. It was also very pleasing to hear each presenter make particular mention of the wonderful work that is carried out by Justices of the Peace throughout New Zealand.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Justice Pieces.

Noho ora mai

Carolyn Marshall, JP



2. Royal Federation National Conference and AGM

A delegation of four attended the conference and AGM with Caroline Ludford as the Official Photographer. Council attendees were Carolyn Marshall, Juping Zhou, Tim Price-Walker and Ann Clark and we were pleased to see Joy Dunsheath there who paid her own way. Anne Williams and Lorraine Rainham were there for dinner. Gordon Noble Campbell was the Master of Ceremonies and did an excellent job.

The Conference had some good speakers and the workshops provided food for thought. On the Sunday we heard from Rt Hon Chris Finlayson KC and he shared with us his thoughts on Crown Treaty relations and settlements and on some of the current political environment. His background in law and Te Tiriti led to a very insightful session. We then heard from Emeritus Professor Paul Spoonley who talked about the current and forecast demographics for New Zealand and its distribution and hinted at the implications for the country and civil society. Workshops took place on



Joy Dunsheath, Juping Zhou, Ann Clark, Carolyn Marshall, Tim Price-Walker & Caroline Ludford

Sovereign Citizens, Succession Planning which incorporated increasing diversity and a workshop on communications for modern times.

The AGM incorporated speeches from the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Justice, Andrew Kibblewhite (but no time for questions) and the Chief District Court Judge, Heemi Taumaunu. Wellington delegates had the pleasure of sharing the dinner table with his Honour in the evening.

One of the remits was to grant automatic accreditation to new JPs who had passed the first test which leads to Gazettal and swearing in. The Association voted against this. Our view, shared by many others, was that while new JPs might be technically aware, they have not had enough practical experience to demonstrate they can carry out all procedures correctly and handle all situations appropriately. This remit did not pass.

There was a remit that every alternate AGM and Conference should be online. The Association also voted against this as our view is that there is scope for reducing costs of in-person conferences, but the face-to-face conversations are invaluable. This remit was not passed.

The Association also voted against a proposed capitation increase. Our view was that the Federation Board had not allowed sufficient advance notice to consider the motion and they provided inadequate explanation as to the need for the funding request. However, this motion did pass after a change of heart by the Auckland Association to support the increase. As a result, the Association will have to do some careful work on our budget for 2024/2025.

Probably the most disappointing item was the withdrawal of the paper on the Federal Structure Review. Our view was the paper presented had quite a few suggestions and recommendations which had merit. We were interested to hear the views of other associations and thought even if people did not want to vote on the recommendations, they should all have been discussed and a direction of travel confirmed. As it is, we have lost another year and opportunity for change for the better.

The next conference is on the West Coast at Shantytown!!

3. Professional Development

The Ministerial Professional Development Trainings for 2024 are detailed below:

BACK TO BASICS WORKSHOPS

Saturday 25 May	9:30am - 11:30am	Waikanae Community Centre, 28-32 Utauta Street, Waikanae
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CHALLENGING SITUATION WORKSHOPS

Saturday 8 June	9:30am - 11:30am	Wellington Bridge Club, 17 Tinakori Road, Wellington
Tuesday 9 July	5:15pm - 6:45pm	Wellington Bridge Club, 17 Tinakori Road, Wellington
Saturday 10 August	9:30am - 11:30am	Waikanae Community Centre, 28-32 Utauta Street, Waikanae

MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION WORKSHOPS

Saturday 14 September	9:30am - 11:30am	Wellington Bridge Club, 17 Tinakori Road, Wellington
Tuesday 8 October	5:15pm - 6:45pm	Wellington Bridge Club, 17 Tinakori Road, Wellington
Saturday 16 November	9:30am - 11:30am	Waikanae Community Centre, 28-32 Utauta Street, Waikanae

We encourage suggestions for training topics and welcome your input. Please contact Carolyn via email at carolyn.marshall@jpwelington.org.nz with any suggestions or enquiries.

And don't forget our full Annual Schedule can be found after you log in to our Association website.

4. Introducing A Council Member – Audrey Fell-Smith



I have been a JP since 2011 and a JP council member on and off since about 2016. I have been the Chair of the Operations and Services Committee since 2017. It is great to meet so many colleagues and work on initiatives to benefit JPs and the public. Our committee has a number of dedicated JPs who strive to ensure our public facing profile maintains its professional standards.

At the time I was sworn in at Nelson, I was a CAB volunteer working with Chin refugees who had no family in NZ and wanted to sponsor a family member to come to NZ. At the time I was running the family pip fruit orchard and completing my Legal Executive studies.

I am still a CAB volunteer, and this voluntary work underpins my ethic of assisting those who need support.

I moved to Wellington in 2012 to study at Victoria University where I completed a double degree in Criminology and Cultural Anthropology graduating in 2015.

Other life skills come from a varied work history from working with the Brewers at NZ Breweries in the old Thorndon complex, working as a telecine operator and technician at TV One at Avalon and as a journalist and news reader for Radio Fifehire and Radio Avon.

5. Our Newest Justices of the Peace

We introduced our newest JPs, Stephanie Dorothy Clare & Jonathan Paul Manns, to His Honour Judge Black at a lovely swearing-in ceremony on 25th March 2024, with Jon delivering the oaths of allegiance and the judicial oath in Te Reo Māori.

Stephanie is a registered nurse with over 35 years of nursing experience. In the past two decades she has predominantly worked in not-for-profit roles as a Clinical Leader for Parkinson's New Zealand, Chief Executive of Age Concern New Zealand where she had considerable understanding of working with older people and their families within the community. She is now the Executive Director of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. She has also lectured and marked at the University of Otago for Postgraduate Nursing Studies.

She was nominated for the Women of Influence Community Award 2018 and a judge for Senior New Zealander of Year Awards 2020 and 2021.

She is a Board member for the Neurological Foundation NZ and Home4All, a community-based day care facility aimed to bring pride, joy and respect to people in early stages of dementia.

Jon is the Head of Strategic Advisory, Government and Public Sector at global real estate services firm Jones Lang LaSalle. He is an internationally recognised expert in the fields of urban planning and real estate development and was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire by HM Queen Elizabeth II in the 2022 Jubilee honours list for services to Planning, Real Estate and Built Environments.

He is currently Chair of the Policy Advisory Group for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in New Zealand and Deputy Chair of Property Council New Zealand's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. He is also a Patron and Trustee of the Thrive Foundation, which works to support young people from disadvantaged and ethnic minority communities by creating pathways into commerce and civil society. He has been working extensively with Te Iwi Māori in relation to property management and investment arising from Te Tiriti Settlements.



Congratulations from the Wellington Justices of the Peace Association on your appointment and welcome to our Association!

6. Notary vs JP

Different countries use the terms Notary (or Notary Public) and Justice of the Peace quite differently. In New Zealand, a Notary is a specially authorised lawyer who can officially witness signatures on legal documents, collect sworn statements, administer oaths and certify the authenticity of legal documents for use overseas.

In India, a Notary is an impartial witness who verifies signers and ensures they have entered into agreements knowingly and willingly, whereas a Justice of the Peace is a judicial officer of a lower court elected or appointed by means of a commission to keep the peace.

In the United States, a Notary Public is a person appointed by a state government whose primary role is to act as an impartial witness when important documents are signed, whereas a Justice of the Peace is a public officer authorized to preside over a local court of limited jurisdiction.

If you are brought a document from a foreign country which requests a Notary to administer, you should check what the title of the document is, and what it is asking the JP to do. Then advise the client that you are not a Notary in New Zealand and ask them if they still want you to process it. You cannot administer the document as a Declaration or an Affidavit unless the jurat includes the correct words specified by the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 (which foreign documents will not have). Your role on this type of document therefore is just to witness the client's signature. Hand write "signature witnessed by", sign the document and add the date. Your stamp will indicate that you are operating as a Justice of the Peace for New Zealand. If it is an American document, to avoid confusion with the date format, it is best practice to write the month name rather than use the month number.

7. Expired Identification Document

For the purposes of identification, the requirements are with the receiving agency and in the case of an expired passport or driver licence, the question is whether the receiving agency think it is acceptable.

Most NZ driver licences have the expiry date on the back. If the agency wants a valid driver licence, the back needs copying and certifying.

8. KiwiSaver Withdrawal

A further reminder that we really need to check instructions provided in the form. There is no point in just taking the Declaration if ID is required and if the ID certification needs to be done by the Statutory Declaration administrator. Please check for the appropriate wording for the copy certification and ask client to check website until satisfied that we have the right information to proceed.

9. New British Passports

Just like the NZ passport there is a signature box on new British Passports that needs to be completed before you start certifying copies. Unlike NZ passports, it is just above the spine of the passport if you open flat and to the right. These passports will have been couriered to the UK person living in NZ. On British passports issued and delivered to UK addresses, the signature is embedded on the picture page.

10. Thank You George Best

The gathering held at the Johnsonville Club on 14th March was an opportunity to thank George Best for all his years of service in Johnsonville and also a chance for the other JPs on the roster to get to know their colleagues in a convivial setting.

George has been a JP for 34 years. It would be difficult to estimate how many people he has seen as a JP over that time. Many of those years were spent on the Johnsonville Service Desk – the last 8 years as Service Desk coordinator. Although George is stepping down from the coordinator role he will still be doing shifts at the service desk until the roster is at full complement. Thank you, George, for all your input and service at Johnsonville.



JPs on the Johnsonville Service desk along with 2 partners (absent Christine Turner)

Thanks also to Margaret McNie for taking over the coordinator role at Johnsonville and for organising the gathering.

11. JPs Social Gathering

A group of 26 JPs representing Wellington, Porirua and Kapiti came together for a very pleasant luncheon at The Winemakers Daughter Te Horo on 10th April. It was an opportunity to converse with fellow JPs while enjoying lunch.

A speaker, Senior Constable John Stewart, gave a very informative speech on his policing style as a community cop and the outcome.

It was agreed unanimously by the attendees that this sort of function should be repeated with or without training included.



Thanks to our contributors to this issue of Justice Pieces, which included Carolyn Marshall, Ann Clark, Audrey Fell-Smith and Dianne Roberts.

If any of our members have suggestions for articles, do let us know.