



Justice Pieces

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1. From the President

Kia ora koutou,

It is hard to believe that I am nearing the end of my first year as President of the Wellington Justices of the Peace Association. Already the first notice of our AGM in November 2024 has been sent to you all. It has been a busy year, and one that has seen a huge learning curve for me.

Some of the highlights have been:

- attending Swearing In ceremonies of our new JPs at Wellington District Court
- attending the National Conference in Wellington
- attending an Issuing Officer training and being part of the team to nominate Issuing Officers for the next 3 years
- attending Citizenship Ceremonies
- presenting Long Service certificates to JPs who have done 20 Years' Service and in one case, 50 Years' Service.

I am looking forward to next year, which will no doubt be just as busy, and just as interesting.

Noho ora mai

Carolyn Marshall



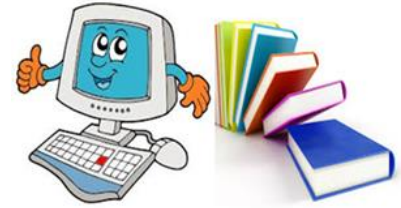
2. Professional Development

The Ministerial Professional Development Trainings for rest of the year are detailed below:

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

A trial zoom PD session was held recently with 14 attending. This was aimed at those who could not attend usual PD sessions, including the JP on the Chatham Islands. The session worked well, and attendees were given the discussion topics prior to the zoom. All those attending had input into the discussion. Attendees felt it was a great way to upskill and get themselves ready for re-accreditation. Another session is planned but no date has been set yet.



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

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

3. 2024 AGM

This year's AGM will be on 2 November at Whitirea College, 3 Wi Neera Drive, Porirua. Put it in your diary!

4. Introducing A Council Member – Carolyn Marshall

Carolyn has been a JP for 14 years, initially in the Eastern Suburbs where she worked on the Service Desk in Kilbirnie. After moving to Waikanae in 2019, she joined the volunteers on the Paraparaumu Library Service Desk. Carolyn joined Council in October 2022, and then picked up the reins of President a year later in October 2023.

Carolyn has been involved with volunteer work most of her life and enjoys being involved in the community. She has served on various committees, including Plunket and a School Board of Trustees when her children were little, and then joined a D.A.R.E (Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education) Committee and a Youth Trust, before relocating to the Kapiti Coast.

She enjoys life on the Coast, and although her involvement in JPs keeps her pretty busy, she does find time for her children and grandchildren, and enjoys quilting and family history research 'in her spare time'.

5. Enhancing Professional Development

In March, the Association surveyed members to understand their professional development needs. With a 36% response rate from 300 invitees, the insights gained are invaluable for shaping future training programs. A copy will be emailed to members or you can look at it by clicking [PD Survey](#).

Survey Highlights:

- Participation and Satisfaction:
 - 65% attended professional development sessions last year, showing strong commitment.
 - Satisfaction was high, with diverse topics being appreciated.

2. Barriers to Attendance:
 - Time constraints (16%) and health/personal issues (6.5%) were major barriers.
 - Distance to venues was a challenge, suggesting a need for online options.
3. Preferred Training Methods:
 - In-person workshops (73%) and guest speakers (62%) were favoured, followed by email newsletters and a mix of methods.
4. Desired Topics and Skills:
 - Popular topics include administering affidavits, marriage dissolutions, and certified documents.
 - Key skills of interest are handling unusual requests, digital record keeping, and ICT skills for online activities.
5. Volunteering and Support:
 - 43% currently volunteer at service desks, with others interested if suitable locations are found.
 - Many experienced JPs are willing to mentor and support newer members.

Action Plan:

Over the next 12 months, the Council will focus on these initiatives as part of our action plan:

1. Enhanced Accessibility:
 - Investigate online training sessions to accommodate those with time constraints and health issues.
 - Explore additional venues closer to members to reduce travel barriers.
2. Diverse Training Offerings:
 - Introduce new topics and skills based on member interests, such as digital record keeping and handling unusual requests.
 - Incorporate more guest speakers from relevant fields to provide broader perspectives.
3. Volunteer Engagement:
 - Develop a volunteer program to match JPs with suitable service desk opportunities.
 - Promote mentoring and networking to facilitate knowledge sharing and support for new JPs.
4. Continuous Feedback:
 - Establish regular feedback mechanisms to ensure training programs remain relevant and valuable.
 - Encourage members to suggest improvements and new ideas for professional development.

By implementing these initiatives, we aim to create a supportive and effective environment for all Wellington Justices of the Peace, ensuring they are well-equipped to serve the community with competence and confidence.

6. Funding Applications

Following the recent letter to members advising an increase in the annual subscription fee for the 2024/2025 financial year, Council is exploring additional income streams for our Association, including applications for funding from community trusts and NZ Lotteries.

We would be pleased to hear from anyone who has had experience in preparing funding applications and who would be able to assist with this process.

Please contact Carolyn Marshall: carolyn.marshall@jpwelington.org.nz.



7. Constitution



In October 2023, the Incorporated Societies Act (2022) was passed into law, and all existing Incorporated Societies, including our Association, will need to re-register under the 2022 Act.

The new Act has many new requirements for items that need to be included in an Incorporated Society's Constitution in order to be compliant with the Act. For most Incorporated Societies, this has meant a complete rewrite of their Constitution.

Your Council has been engaged in this mammoth task over many months and we now have a draft that is ready for member feedback. This will be sent to members in the very near future.

Your feedback will be collected and incorporated into a final draft which will be reviewed by a legal expert before a Special General Meeting is called in the first quarter 2025 to approve the new Constitution.

8. Retirement & Long Service



Chris Turver of Waikanae has retired after almost 20 years as a JP.

Chris is a former Vietnam war correspondent, Greater Wellington Regional Councillor for Kapiti, Chairman of the Electra Trust, President of Paraparaumu RSA, Commodore of Waikanae Boating Club and active member of Waikanae Lions Club.

Chris was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2016 for services to journalism, local government and the community.

Lois Baillie of Wellington was presented with her 30 Year Certificate of Appreciation and a bunch of flowers by Council Members, Audrey Fell-Smith, Ann Clark and Juping Zhou.

Lois has been a very active member of the Wellington JP Association. She was on the Operations and Services Committee of the Association setting up rosters for Wellington and Porirua citizenship ceremonies for a few years.

Lois continues to provide JP services at JP Service Desk Wellington Central and is a friendly face people will find every Tuesday at Te Awe Library.



Thanks to our contributors to this issue of Justice Pieces, which included Carolyn Marshall, Maureen Pratchett, Juping Zhou and Tim Price-Walker.

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