



Justice Pieces

Issue 88 April 2025

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1. From the President

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the April 2025 issue of Justice Pieces!

Since our last issue of Justice Pieces, I have attended the National Conference in Greymouth, 14-16 March 2025, and must congratulate the West Coast JP Association for organising such a wonderful weekend. The Federation President, Nigel Tate, described it as "Relaxed, Friendly and Collegial".

The Associate Justice Minister, Nicole McKee, opened the Conference and told the gathering that JPs are an integral part of the Justice System, and acknowledged our community service in a variety of ways – Issuing Officers, Nominated Adults, Judicial Justices to name a few.

In her closing comments, the Minister told those present that the JP Federation would be given an increase in funding - this would also be ongoing in the future. Her announcement was met with acclamation from the delegates.

The Plenary Sessions included Succession Planning, Privacy, Localism and, for Association Presidents, a session on ensuring that our Association's data is being archived safely for future reference.

There will be more articles arising from the Conference in later issues of Justice Pieces.

Hope you all enjoyed that extra hour we got from putting our clocks back over the weekend.

Noho ora mai

Carolyn Marshall, JP



2. Professional Development

The Ministerial Professional Development Trainings for 2025 are detailed below:

AFFIDAVITS

Tuesday 15 April	5:15pm - 7:15pm	Wellington District Court, Lambton Quay, Wellington
Saturday 17 May	9:30am - 11:30am	Waikanae Community Centre, Utauta Street, Waikanae

JP WIDER ROLES

Saturday 21 June	9:30am - 11:30am	Whitireia Polytechnic, Porirua
Tuesday 15 July	5:15pm - 7:15pm	Wellington District Court, Lambton Quay, Wellington
Saturday 16 August	9:30am - 11:30am	Waikanae Community Centre, Utauta Street, Waikanae

MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION

Saturday 20 September	9:30am - 11:30am	Wellington Bridge Club, 17 Tinakori Road, Wellington
Tuesday 21 October	5:15pm - 7:15pm	Wellington District Court, Lambton Quay, Wellington
Saturday 15 November	9:30am - 11:30am	Waikanae Community Centre, Utauta Street, Waikanae

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.

3. Donation to the Association

We are very appreciative of an anonymous donation made to the Association of a number of Certified Copy Stamps. These will be presented to new JPs at their swearing-in over the coming weeks.



4. Growing the Future of JP Service - Let's Start the Conversation

We wish to give you an early heads-up that a refreshed **Justice of the Peace Recruitment Campaign** is on the horizon for the Wellington Region - and we'd love your support when the time comes.

Right now, we're in the **early stages** of planning - building understanding, exploring creative approaches, and figuring out the best ways to connect with future JPs. Before we do anything else, we want to **raise awareness** of what being a JP really means in today's world, and why it's such a vital, valued community role.

We're also identifying some of the challenges we'll need to navigate - like increasing public understanding of the role, streamlining information, and finding ways to better reflect the diversity and energy of our region.

Our early focus includes:

- A new **recruitment pamphlet** (with QR code for easy access)
- A more welcoming and informative **website experience**
- A simple, clear **sign-up page**
- **Personal stories and video content** to bring the role to life
- A **social media presence** to help us connect more widely – with help from Vanisa Dhiru MNZM JP

Additionally, **we're working toward a launch in National Volunteer Week (June 16-22)** - a perfect moment to share how JP service supports the heart of our communities.

What You Can Do (Soon)

When we launch, we'll be asking for your help to:

- Share the recruitment materials within your own networks
- Encourage people you know to consider becoming a JP
- Help support new recruits through a buddy system
- Maybe even feature in a short story or video!



But for now, the most important thing is this: **we're starting a conversation.** And we want you to be part of it.

In the meantime, if you already have someone in mind - someone community-minded, reliable, and ready to serve - please don't hesitate to drop a line. We'd love to connect with them early and capture their interest ahead of the formal campaign.

Please email Tim directly at tim.price-walker@jpwellington.org.nz.

Let's work together to grow the next generation of JPs - people who reflect the communities we serve, and who are ready to step into this trusted and meaningful role.

JP Promotion & Recruitment Subcommittee consists of Council members, Tim Price-Walker, Sue Kobar and Carolyn Marshall, and Vanisa Dhiru MNZM JP as Specialist Advisor.

5. Our Two Websites

There are two websites that have useful information for JPs - the Wellington Association website and the Royal Federation website. Both websites contain information for the public and protected information that is just for JPs.

Royal Federation website

www.jp.org.nz



The Royal Federation website is the one that displays JPs' contacts and availability when someone does a Google search for "find a JP". To access the JP content, you need to login using a username and a password. Your username is lastname+jp number (no spaces). If you don't remember your password, click the "forgot password" link and you will be sent an email to reset it.

When you log in, you can click your Profile page to edit your contact details, change your availability information and enter training attended. There is also a link to take the Accreditation test.

Association website
www.jpwellington.org.nz

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
 Wellington

This website contains details of all our Service Desks and many FAQs for the public. There is also a tab called "For JPs Only". When you click this, you will be asked for a password. Contact the [Registrar](#) if you have forgotten this (hint: what is the most common JP task?). After you login here, this is the information you can access.

If you need help, contact the Registrar and let her know which website you are having difficulty with.

Accreditation Instructions
Professional development training notes
Justice Pieces newsletters
Dates of professional development training
Purchase Name Badge, Bus Cards etc.
Do you want to retire or resign as a JP?
Let us know if your contact details are changing
What to do if you are moving to a different Association
Your Association Council members

6. Introducing A Council Member – Maureen Pratchett



Maureen was born in the UK but grew up in Canada. In her mid-twenties, she moved to NZ and found work in the IT industry in Wellington. IT was in its formative years, and she says it was a great time to be a woman in a typically man's world. In the latter part of her career, she was a Project Manager leading large projects for many government agencies.

When dog Molly came along 11 years ago, she decided it was time to retire and smell more of the daisies while the dog was smelling everything else.

She now lives in Waikanae with Molly and her cat Igor. When she is not being the Association Registrar, you will probably find her playing bridge or fixing something that has gone wrong with the bridge club's computers.

7. Our Newest Judicial Justice

Jim Dryburgh successfully completed the Judicial Studies course and is our most recently appointed Judicial Justice and was presented by the Court Panel Manager, Caroline Ludford, with the certificate from Chief District Court Judge approving him to carry out Judicial Justice functions. Jim now joins the Judicial Justices panel working at both the Wellington and Porirua District Courts.



8. Retirement & Long Service

Richard Smith was previously a Justice of the Peace in Palmerston North but has since retired and moved to Waikanae, with his wife, Alison.



Shirley Jarden of Paraparaumu was presented with her 30-Year Certificate of Appreciation and a pot plant.

Shirley has been active as a JP and in several of the wider JP roles. She has built a good relationship with the Paraparaumu Police having been an Issuing Officer for many years and currently active as a Nominated Adult (note: if you didn't know, the Nominated Adult is an adult who is present to support a young person when they are being interviewed by Police).



40 Years of JP Services

Keith Sowry of Waikanae was a farmer when he was first approached to become a JP and was part of the Wairarapa Council.

When he retired from farming and moved to Waikanae. Keith joined the Wellington Branch and continued on with his JP duties both at the Service Desk and at his home. He has spent time on the Council Committee and enjoyed meeting people and being able to help them out. Along with being a Justice of the Peace, Keith trained to become a marriage celebrant. Congratulations Keith, the dedication you have shown to serving your community is very much appreciated. Keith's motto is "you just have to keep going" and clearly he has lived his motto over the past 40 years.



Henry Ward of Waikanae has provided JP services in Roseneath, Oriental Bay and Waikanae. He was also active as a JP at Lake Taupo and Turangi during family vacations. He completed many years of service with the Warrants Board in Wellington and enjoyed years of service to the Wellington Police.



Ruth James of Wellington has been a very active member of the Wellington JP Association. She recalls vividly the process of how she was appointed a JP 40 years ago.

Initially Ruth received a letter from the Justice Department advising of her nomination by the Director of the Wellington Boys & Girls Institute (her employer), then she had a visit from a NZ Police Officer about clearance. She received a letter of satisfaction from the Justice Department advising her appointment. She appeared in the District Court where a Judge led the Oath of Allegiance, and she was presented with her JP Warrant. Training was held in the District Court and different situations were discussed. She was also asked to be a Member of the Nominated Witness Group (Nominated Adult) with two other JPs in her area.



Ruth still enjoys assisting local people mainly with certifying documents including passports and visas etc. Apart from having home visitors, Ruth did duties at JP Service Desk at Kilbirnie Community Centre for many years, and she also visits people who have disabilities and sometimes goes to hospitals and rest homes. She has fond memories of JP functions held at Government House over the years.

30 Years of JP Services

Carol Stigley of Wellington was presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a bunch of flowers by the association's Immediate Past President, Ann Clark on 22nd March 2025. Carol used to provide JP services at service desks in Wellington District Court and Te Awe Library. She is currently serving at service desks in Johnsonville Citizens Advice Bureau and Karori Community Centre. Carol is in great demand at her new home at Bupa in Crofton Downs as a JP.



Linda-Lou Hamilton of Paraparaumu was presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a pot plant by Council Member, Caroline Ludford.

Linda-Lou has thoroughly enjoyed her time as a JP and continues to serve her local community in the Metlifecare Village in Paraparaumu. She was thrilled to receive the certificate and plant as a token of our appreciation.

