



Justice Pieces

Issue 89 June 2025

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Inside this issue

1. From the President
2. Professional Development Update
3. Zoom Training
4. Wellington JP Honoured in King's Birthday Honours List
5. Help Us Recruit the Next Generation of JPs – Now with QR Code
6. Long Service & Retirement
7. Our Newest Justices of the Peace
8. Thank you, Alan Hart!

1. From the President

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the June 2025 issue of Justice Pieces!

It has been wonderful to see so many of our Wellington JPs receive certificates of 30 years' and 40 years' services as Justices of the Peace, and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank them all for what they have done for the community. I'm sure you will enjoy reading their JP journey in the following pages. Our communities are being well served.

Our Professional Development Co-Ordinator, Jim Dryburgh, is keen to hear from members about topics for discussion at future training sessions. The topics for the rest of this year have been outlined in the Professional Development Update, but if there is a topic you want to learn more about, please let Jim know. There are also two "Beyond the Basics" Zoom sessions being planned in June/July. These have proved to be popular sessions in the past so make sure you register to reserve your place. And a reminder to update your training information on the JP Federation website when you have completed a training session.



Noho ora mai

Carolyn Marshall, JP

2. Professional Development Update

"Wisdom.... comes not from age, but from education and learning." — Anton Chekhov

Some of you will recall me introducing myself recently, as a new member of the Council. I just wanted to also let you know that I have assumed responsibility for the Ministerial Professional Development Portfolio for our Wellington JP Association.

Thank you to everyone who found the time to attend training for the first 3 sessions of the year where we dealt with affidavits. It was particularly pleasing to get a bumper turnout (39) at the Kapiti presentation of this training theme.

It is really encouraging to see training and accreditation being prioritized by our association members. Do remember if you did attend one of these sessions to record it in your Federation online profile to keep your JP accreditation up to date. Please also do just monitor your due date to retake the accreditation test which, as I am sure everyone knows, is valid for 24 months from when you last passed the test.

For the next segment of 3 opportunities, starting at 09:30 21st June 2025, at Whitireia in Porirua, we will look at the wider roles available to JPs, where we will hear from a panel of JPs involved in some of those roles. We will also examine a couple of general scenarios for group discussion. This session will be repeated at Wellington District Court on 15th July 2025 at 5:15pm, and again, at Waikanae Community Centre, on 15th August 2025 at 9:30am.

While the current plan for the last 3 sessions of the year (Sep/Oct/Nov) is to present a session on marriage dissolution, I am keen to hear from you, if there are other things that you consider more pressing, more topical, or which might address trends or challenges which you are experiencing in your day-to-day activities as Ministerial JPs. If I hear a groundswell, favoring a higher priority, I will certainly consider adjusting the forecast plan for those last 3 sessions of the year to meet the demand.

On a similar vein I am interested to hear from anyone, as we approach the second half of the year, about any subjects you would like to have addressed in the training plan for 2026. Please if you have any suggestions contact me at gesopflo@aol.com and put WJPA Professional Development in the subject line.

Jim Dryburgh



3. Zoom Training

You should have all received an email from the Professional Development Team, offering a training session by Zoom. If you have difficulty attending in-person training events, a Zoom training can help you meet your professional development requirements.



The session is called "Beyond the Basics" and you can choose between two dates:

Thursday 26 June 5:45 to 7:00pm or
Thursday 10 July 5:45 to 7:00pm

You will need to [register](#) for this training. About a week before your selected date, you will be sent the link to attend the session and some scenarios for discussion at the session.

Numbers will be limited so please do let us know if your situation changes and you find yourself unable to attend.

Any questions can be addressed to [Audrey Fell-Smith](#) of the Professional Development Team.

4. Wellington JP Honoured in King's Birthday Honours List

We are proud to share that one of our members Sunit Prakash, and his wife Lalita Kasanji have been recognised as Members of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the King's Birthday 2025 Honours List for services to the IT industry and the Indian community.

Since 1995 New Zealand has recognised only about fifteen recipients for services to Information Technology. This is the very first awarded to members from the Indian community.

The husband-and-wife duo co-founded the [New Zealand Centre for Digital Connections with India](#) in 2023 to accelerate and incubate digital and tech collaboration between the two countries.



In a rare trifecta, they follow in the distinguished footsteps of Mrs. Ruxmani Kasanji - Lalita Kasanji's mother - who was awarded a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2019 for her services to the Indian community.

We warmly congratulate Sunit and Lalita on this well-deserved honour and wish them continued success in their endeavours.

5. Help Us Recruit the Next Generation of JPs – Now with QR Code

We are excited to let you know about a new initiative from the Wellington Justices of the Peace Association to support JP recruitment - using a QR code!

We have printed small information cards with a scannable QR code that takes people directly to our recruitment page, where they will find details about becoming a JP and a simple [Google sign-up form](#).

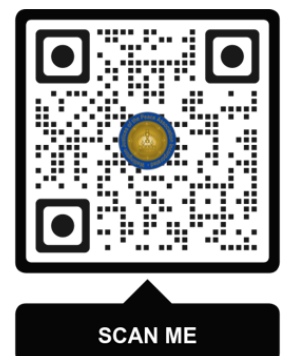
If you are having conversations with someone who might make a great JP, it is super easy to connect them with us - just offer the card and they can scan it on the spot. Once they submit the form, our President, Carolyn, gets in touch to chat with them about their interest. It is a small personal touch, but a powerful one.

Of course, if this works, we can produce posters and flyers to help spread the word.

So far, five people have already expressed interest and have spoken directly with Carolyn. It is working!

We're asking for your help to:

- **Keep a QR card handy at your service desk.** Printed cards will be distributed shortly, but you can also print the [QR code](#).
- **Keep a copy at home.** If you run JP appointments from home, print and display this QR code in your workspace.
- **Share the QR code.** Pass it on to people you know who would make excellent JPs!



Thanks so much for your ongoing support and service. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact [Tim Price-Walker](#).

6. Long Service & Retirement

40 Years of JP Services

Lynette Berry of Raumati Beach received a certificate of appreciation from Carolyn Marshall (President) for her 40 years of dedicated JP services to the community.

As a JP, Lyn has dealt with remands, traffic offence appeals, affidavits of identification of accident fatality, search warrants, mental health at the police station, National Election annexure official count, in addition to the ministerial work she enjoys. She is currently doing home visits if a client is medically incapacitated and needs JP Service and finds Service Desk work interesting and varied.



Lorraine Rainham of Whitby was presented with her 40 Year Certificate along with a gift of appreciation from the Association. Lorraine is an active JP as she is aware how much her service means to her community.



She says the highlight of her JP career so far has been her role as a Judicial JP as she loves understanding how the law works and how to apply it. She has now stepped down from that role and is back working full time

at the Accident Investigation Commission.

In the early 1990s Lorraine became the first female Royal Federation Registrar and worked with 3 Presidents, Stan Hackwell, David Pezaro and Clive Ray.

She says it's a shame JPs don't meet for monthly lunches in the city anymore as it was great way to socialise with colleagues.

30 Years of JP Services



Anthony George of Waikanae Beach has enjoyed 30 years of JP services to the community.

Tony acknowledges our trainers and writers who do an exceptional job ensuring our knowledge is current and our Manuals continually updated, which mirrors changes in our country's growth in cultural awareness, diversity, and relentless change in legislation.

As the Police Search Warrant Register, Tony valued the relationship between Police and judicial JPs for a Search Warrant. He would further emphasise to the public that our services accrue no financial charges and we are more available than ever to our communities by having Service Desks in public libraries and community centres.

Tony wishes to acknowledge all JPs for doing a remarkable and largely unheralded public service to a very high (and demanding) standard, the cost of which if left to the Judiciary would likely be prohibitive. He would encourage all to continue to develop their knowledge, ask questions, seek advice, say "no" when getting out of their depth, and make it as convenient as they can to make themselves available to those who need JP services.

Anthony Sutcliffe of Strathmore was presented his 30 Year Service Certificate by Carolyn Marshall (President).

Tony was involved in JP services at the Te Awe Library Service Desk for many years and is currently the Co-ordinator at Service Desk Wellington Hospital.



Leslie Stephens of Ngaio was presented his 30 Year Service Certificate by JP Council member Audrey Fell-Smith who was lucky enough to sample a sip of his delicious home-made damson flavoured gin.

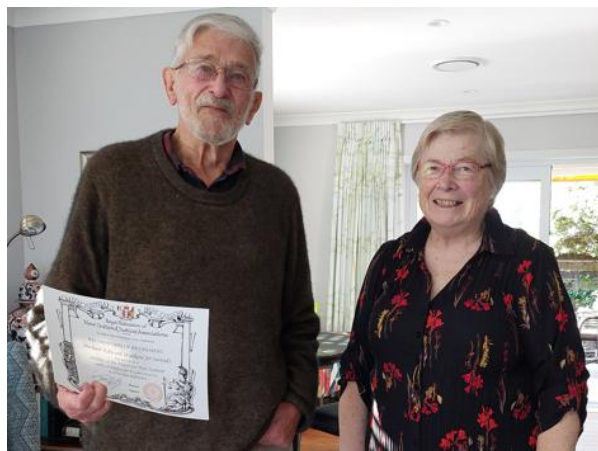
Les and his wife Audrey are self-sufficient in many different varieties of fruit from their own garden in Ngaio and have enough grapefruit growing to last them 8 months for breakfasts. When he is not gardening or serving his local community as a JP, he looks after the La Cloche café group as "the one who pays the bills" as he has a number of accounting qualifications. Les was also a Wellington City Councillor, elected at a by election, and served a couple of terms under Mayor Jim Bellich.



Retirement

Michael Watkins of Waikanae has retired as a JP.

Mike is originally from Havelock North and was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1981, before becoming a Judicial Justice. Mike joined the Hawkes Bay Justice of the Peace Association Council in 1984 and took up the Registrar role in 1996 for 10 years. Mike moved to the Kapiti Coast 3 years ago and is enjoying his retirement in Waikanae. Carolyn Marshall, Wellington JP Association President, presented him with a certificate of appreciation for his JP services for over 40 years and wishes him well.

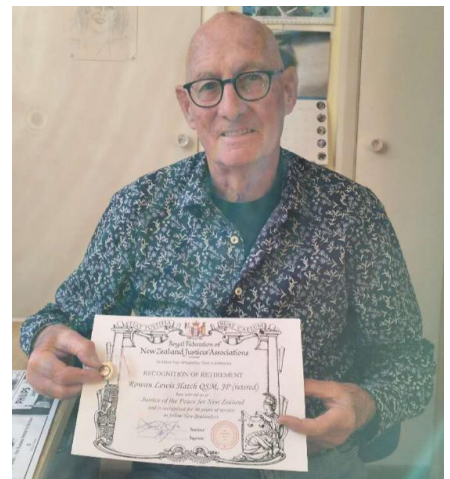


Rowan Hatch, QSM received his Certificate of Appreciation and JP Retired Badge from Juping Zhou (Council Member) after providing JP services for over 30 years.

Rowan really missed the luncheons that the Wellington JP Association used to hold regularly. It was a good opportunity for socializing as well as training.

From the early 1970s until last year, Rowan was the pharmacist in Seatoun, and totally immersed himself in community events, including Market Mornings and Annual Christmas Parades. He spearheaded the 20th and 25th Wahine Commemorations and was Chairman of the Wahine Memorial Committee, organising the construction of the Wahine Memorial on the Seatoun foreshore.

Rowan has lived in Seatoun with his wife, Suzanne, for over fifty years and has a loving family of two adult children and five grandchildren.



7. Our Newest Justices of the Peace

David Stefan Barnes and Jane Elizabeth Gaudie were sworn in by His Honour Judge Black at Wellington District Court on 10th April 2025.



David Barnes was born in Auckland and spent most of his early years there before moving to Wellington.

He has an Honours degree in Political Science from the Victoria University of Wellington and a Certificate of Higher Education in History from the University of Oxford. David has worked in the strategic/public policy area for over 30 years, spanning portfolios such as tourism, foreign affairs, local government, immigration and education.

David's biggest love is his extended family but community service is also important to him. David is a member of the Rotary Club of Port Nicholson, a freemason and Chair of the Erskine Residents' Society in Island Bay. He also volunteers at Everybody Eats, a koha-based social enterprise restaurant in Wellington. David is of Italian background and speaks Italian fluently. He lives in Island Bay.

For David, becoming a Justice of Peace is another opportunity to serve the community.

Jane Gaudie was born in Wellington but grew up in Napier and on finishing school trained as a nurse in the now demolished Napier Hospital. Her nursing career was varied including working in a bush hospital in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea, a Nursing Officer in the NZ Armed Forces, and working in the public health system.

Following a period of being a mum, Jane returned to the workforce as the Practice Manager for her husband's dental practice. It seemed a good time to retire when they sold the practice just before Covid struck. To keep busy Jane has now become involved in the Johnsonville Citizens Advice Bureau which satisfies her need to be of use plus enabling her to pursue her love of research.

In becoming a JP Jane is following both her father and her grandfather's footsteps, her grandfather being an Honorary Registrar of the Wellington JP Association many years ago. She is looking forward to being of service to the community.

On 17th April 2025, we introduced our 4 new JPs Leon Adam Downes, Tosina Patea, Timoteo Benjamin Williams and Unaiki Thomas to His Honour Judge Davidson (far left) and His Honour Judge Mika (far right) at a swearing-in ceremony at Porirua District Court.



Leon Downes is a proud Kāpiti Coast local, whose career began with Fletcher Construction, where his skills led him from apprentice to tradesman and later into management. For the past 25 years, he has been a key figure in Prestige Ceilings Limited, becoming owner and director in 2018. Beyond business, he mentors apprentices through BCITO, ensuring high industry standards.

Leon's community involvement is extensive. A life member of Randwick Rugby League Club, he has held leadership roles at club, regional, and national levels, including serving on the New Zealand Rugby League board appointments panel. He has also contributed to the Waikanae Boating Club, earning life membership in 2023.

A devoted family man, Leon is looking forward to supporting his community through the role of Justice of the Peace.

Tosina Patea was born and raised in the beautiful islands of Tokelau. She and her partner, Miti Miti have been blessed with 8 children and 16 wonderful grandchildren who bring immense joy to their lives.

As a proud Pacific Islander, her cultural heritage plays a significant role in who she is today. She is fluent in 4 languages, which have been an invaluable asset in her career and daily life. Currently, she works as a Receptionist/Administration Assistant at the Porirua Kāpiti Community Law Centre. This role allows her to connect with others and give back to the community she deeply cares about.

An active member of the Matauala Atafu Tokelau Community Porirua and a parishioner of the PIC Church of Christ the King, Porirua, her faith and community involvement are integral to her life. She strives to live with purpose, kindness and gratitude every day.

Timoteo Williams is dedicated to serving vulnerable communities and those in need. As the Senior Pastor of Menorah Prayer Mountain since 2017, he has been instrumental in guiding his congregation.

In his role as Presbyter for the AIM (Agape International Ministries) Wellington District, he oversees five churches.

As the founder of All Hearts Zero Waste Furniture Store, Timo champions sustainability in the community. He leads travel tours to Israel twice a year.

An educator at heart, he is a former principal and current lecturer at Agape Bible College, holding a Bachelor of Biblical Studies and a Master of Theology. He is also a certified Financial Mentor through Massey University.

His community service includes volunteer work with the Ole Nu'u Trust Food Bank and pastoral care at Nuanua Pre-school. He is looking forward as a Justice of the Peace to serving the public.

Unaiki Thomas is of Ngāti Toa descent, born and raised in Porirua, married and lives in Titahi Bay, and a 5 minute walk to her marae at Takapūwāhia.

Una works full time at the Ministry of Education. Now in her 35th year of government service, educated in Porirua and Wellington, and a graduate of Victoria University with a Bachelors and Masters degrees in Education. She is Secretary at the local RSA, and a playing member at the local Bowling Club where she has also served as Secretary. She is a member of the Ngāti Toa kaumatua kaunihera that meets monthly. It was at one of these meetings where she became interested in the work of JP's not only as a service in the community and her Iwi, but particularly for Kaumatua who may be reluctant to share personal information with a stranger.

She would like to encourage younger members of her Iwi to consider service as a JP.

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

8. Thank you, Alan Hart!



Thanks to **Alan Hart** for his commitment organising the roster for JP Service Desk at the Paraparaumu Library for the past five years.

This is Alan (on the right) with fellow JPs at a special morning tea held for him.



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Thanks to our contributors to this issue of Justice Pieces, which included Carolyn Marshall, Audrey Fell-Smith, Caroline Ludford, Jim Dryburch, Tim Price-Walker, Sunit Prakash and Juping Zhou.

If any of our members have suggestions for articles, please let the [editor](#) know.