



ROYAL VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF HONORARY JUSTICES

ACN 004 226 448

Address: 53 Broadway (PO Box 317), Elwood, 3184
Telephone: (03) 9525 7099 Facsimile (03) 9525 7765
Email: admin@rvahj.org.au Website: www.rvahj.org.au

CHIEF PATRON

Professor David de Kretser, AC
The Governor of Victoria

PATRON

Cr John So JP
The Lord Mayor of Melbourne

PRESIDENT

Rod McConnell JP (03) 9435 0573 pres@rvahj.org.au
0439 080 008

VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Reside (03) 9741 4521 vicep@rvahj.org.au

COMPANY SECRETARY

Leo King 0407 304 266 sec@rvahj.org.au

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Gary Tragardh JP (03) 5967 1497 ipp@rvahj.org.au

HONORARY TREASURER

Fred Kent JP

CUSTODES EDITOR

Erin Marcon 0424 434 198 custodes@rvahj.org.au

COMMITTEES

Membership members@rvahj.org.au
Merchandise goodies@rvahj.org.au
Training training@rvahj.org.au

DIRECTORS

Michael Cheshire JP (03) 5345 3777 jp7913@rvahj.org.au
Mark D'Alterio JP (03) 5133 7832 jp9774@rvahj.org.au
Roger Isherwood OAM JP (03) 8361 0397 jp8124@rvahj.org.au
Chris Reside (03) 9741 4521 bj1763@rvahj.org.au
Laurie Taig JP (03) 9585 8244 jp8016@rvahj.org.au
Michael Tiliacos JP 0438 358 107 jp11146@rvahj.org.au
Ray Walker JP (03) 5497 1693 jp10845@rvahj.org.au

AUDITOR

CHN Herold Ross (Chartered Accountants)

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Cathy Owens JP (03) 9525 7099 admin@rvahj.org.au

EDITORIAL POLICY

The official journal of the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices has appeared, in various formats, since 1910. As is common practice in publications, the current Custodes does not necessarily represent the views of the RVAHJ, since it encourages contributions from a wide cross-section of members and beyond. Articles and letters are most welcome, but are subject to the discretion of the editor.

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Advertising in Custodes reaches a statewide audience of influential community leaders and business professionals. Attractive advertising rates commencing at only \$100 are available. Contact the Editor, Erin Marcon, to discuss value for money advertising for your business.

CUSTODES DEADLINES

Autumn - January 21
Winter - April 21
Spring - July 21
Summer - October 21

BRANCH NETWORK

City & Northern

Mr Bob Williams JP
(B&H) 5427 3366

Dandenong

Mr Nigel Carter JP
(H) 9795 8798

Diamond Valley

Ms Danielle Sinclair
(B) 0414 784 323 (H) 9457 3831

Glen Waverley

Ms Heather Simmonds
(H) 9561 6048 (M) 0438 097 985

Maroondah

Mr Brian Ross-Soden
(H) 9874 7793

Monash

Mrs Kathy Foley JP
(M) 0411 028 658

Mornington Peninsula

Mr Alex Anderson JP
(H) 9787 7485 (M) 0438 897 091

Western Suburbs

Mr John Boles JP
(H) 9311 8931 (M) 0418 102 701

Wyndham

Mr George Quarrier JP
(H) 9369 2841

COUNTRY

Ballarat

Mr Bob Coleman JP
(H) 5342 0941 (M) 0408 519 500

Benalla

Mr Stephen London JP
(H) 5762 3077

Bendigo

Mrs Helen Yorston JP
(H) 5442 8859

Buloke

Garry Larmour JP
(B&H) 5491 1647

Central Gippsland

Mr Don Ferguson JP
(B&H) 5127 1718

Geelong

Deema Johnston JP
(B&H) 5275 7099 (M) 0430 211 916

Gippsland East

Mr John Fox JP
(H) 5156 0269 (M) 0417 556 429

North East Vic

Ms Nancye Byrne JP
(H) 5722 3281

South Gippsland

Mr Ron Hateley JP
(B&H) 5956 9357

South West

Mr Tony Rowe JP
(H) 5599 2081

Sunraysia

Mrs Jenny Bennett JP
(H) 5025 2757

Upper Murray

Carol Allen JP / Jane Mulloy JP
(02) 6076 2050 / (02) 6059 7691

Wimmera

Mrs Shirley Smith JP
(B&H) 5385 7491

Yarra Valley

Mrs Wendy Scott JP
(B&H) 5964 3740

Custodes



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF HONORARY JUSTICES

Turning Point

*The latest on the Association's relationship
with the Department of Justice*

Issue 1 of 2008

Custodes

The official journal of the
Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

Issue 1 of 2008

Credits

Managing Editor – Chris Reside
Editor – Erin Marcon
Desktop Publisher – Cathy Owens JP

Contributors:

Rod McConnell JP Helen Gilhome Leo King
Deema Johnston JP Steve London JP Heather Simmonds



Words of Wisdom

"It is not only what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable"

- Moliere (1622-1673)



Index

2007 AGM Minutes	12
2008 AGM Agenda	3
Back on the soapbox	15
BJ Callout System switched off	6
Branch Bulletins	7
Diary Dates	2
Directors' Activity Statements 2007	8
Directors' Attendance 2007	11
DoJ meetings prove productive	4
Editorial	3
From the President's desk	4
Training Opportunities	13
Welcome to the RVAHJ	3



Diary Dates

Monday 17 March - Tuesday 25 March

Office closed for Easter break

Monday 31 March

Western Suburbs Branch Meeting

Thursday 29 May

Annual General Meeting at Elwood

Saturday 5 July

JP 1 Training (Document Witnessing)

Saturday 26 July

JP2 Training (Independent Person for Police interviews, oversight search warrants, extension to questioning time)



Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of Custodes for 2008. Within its pages, you'll find the latest on the Association's sometimes troubled dealings with the Department of Justice. Has the relationship taken a turn for the better? You'll also read about the Association's trailblazing Bail Justice Call-Out System... and why it's being unplugged for good.

Without doubt, 2007 was an exciting year for this publication. As 2008 develops, Custodes will continue to evolve. This issue marks the debut of a new opinion column from our Managing Editor, Chris Reside. Let us know what you think.

This issue also contains the Directors' Activity Reports for 2007. While space considerations ensure that they are far from comprehensive, these reports do provide an important impression of the work performed by your representatives.

If you have any thoughts on this issue of Custodes, or indeed on any matter relating to Honorary Justices, please drop me a line at custodes@rvahj.org.au.

Erin Marcon
Editor



2008 Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Members for 2008 will be held on **Thursday, 29 May 2008** at 7.30 pm at 53 Broadway, Elwood.

The closing date for receipt of Special Resolutions to be placed on the Agenda for this meeting will be 5.00 pm on 11 April 2008.

Business

(1) To confirm the minutes of the 97th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 31 May 2007.

(2) To consider and, if thought fit, adopt the Annual Report of the Board.

(3) To consider and, if thought fit, adopt the Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended December 31, 2007.

(4) To appoint an Auditor for the ensuing year.

Proxies

Members may appoint a proxy to act on their behalf at the AGM to attend and to exercise all rights and to discharge all duties, which that Member might have. A proxy must be a member of the Association. Notification, in the approved form, must be received by the Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled commencement of the meeting. Proxy forms are available from the office.



Welcome to the RVAHJ

President Rod McConnell JP has extended a warm welcome to the Association's most recent inductees. "On behalf of the Board and greater

membership," he said, "we couldn't be more pleased to have you aboard."

New Members

Eric Altmann JP
William Anson JP
George Armstrong JP
Terence Bates JP
Mitzi Black JP
Robert Boehm JP
Catherine Bolger JP
Dianne Bolwell JP
Valerie Bourke JP
Doreen Burman JP
Oliver Cassar JP
Timothy Corney JP
Joaquim Da Silva JP
Victor Fenech JP
Douglas Glisson JP
Peter Griffin JP
Wilfrid Griffiths JP
Geoffrey Hudson JP

JEPARIT
EDENHOPE
KELLALAC
CAMBERWELL
WATCHEM
YAAPEET
NEWTOWN
HORSHAM
CHARLTON
ALMA
TAYLORS LAKES
KEW EAST
BRUNSWICK
HOPPERS CROSSING
NATIMUK
MILDURA
DIMBOOLA
LONGWARRY NTH

Lyle Johnson JP
Milton Johnson JP
Kaylene Kachel JP
Sandra Lawler JP
John Linn JP
Silvana Marasco JP
Rodney Mason JP
Paul Miller JP
Kyricos Miritis JP
Lynnette Olsen JPS
Suzanne Phillips JP
Leonard Pisasale JP
Janine Reid JP
Robert Reid JP
Glenda Stewart JP
Sui Tse JP
Beverley Wall JP
Janet West JP

MARNOO
SURREY HILLS
ST KILDA EAST
IRYMPLE
ST ANDREWS
NTH BALWYN
GLENROY
GLENROY
MOUNT WAVERLEY
POTSWOOD
MORNINGTON
ROBINVALE
MILDURA
MILDURA
PORTSEA
GLEN WAVERLEY
WOOMELANG
ARMADALE



From the President's desk...

Although the year is well under way, I do extend my best wishes to all members with the hope that our Association might progress and prosper to our mutual benefit in 2008.

The Board's December 2007 decision that I should continue as Association President and Chairman of the Board has not only given me a deep sense of pride, but also a feeling of great humility knowing that I continue to have the support of my fellow Directors.

Each new year brings with it new challenges and opportunities which should be tackled and exploited to the fullest, if we as an Association are to progress in our endeavours to provide the community with the services it requires and deserves. One of those challenges is to make ourselves as Honorary Justices more conspicuous and therefore more accessible to the community at large. On the opportunity front, the re-opening of meaningful dialogue with the Department of Justice gives the Association a renewed energy to advocate for our members at all levels and areas that affects their independent judicial status.

As many members and all bail justices will be aware, the Association terminated its electronic bail justice call-out system effective 15 January 2007. The decision was made after much board debate and communicated to all stakeholders in advance (see separate article). Regardless of the belated actions of the Department of Justice in fulfilling its responsibilities for Bail Justice affairs, all Association members are entitled to feel proud, knowing that the RVAHJ call-out system initiative achieved its objective of providing a structure that enabled the services of all Bail Justices to be called on in an equitable and timely manner.



Five directors have resigned from the board in recent months due to work, health and family commitments. The outgoing directors are Helen Gilhome, Kerry Grills, Trish Vejby, Cesar Melhem and Peter Talbot. On your behalf, I have sincerely thanked each vacating director for their contribution whilst on the board.

The board casual vacancies will be considered over the next few months and present an opportunity to introduce 'new blood' to the board. This is a healthy occurrence in any board, as new directors of necessity bring new ideas and a fresh viewpoint.

From a good governance perspective, a regular turnover of Directors is a positive outcome, as it allows for continuity of experience and policy, whilst also providing an opportunity for other RVAHJ members to contribute their fresh perspectives, energies and time to the Association.

During my visits to Branches in 2007 I was impressed by the enthusiasm that is apparent in most areas, and which I believe is a direct result of the time and efforts of Branch Office Bearers. Whenever possible I shall continue to visit Branches in both the metro and regional areas during 2008, and Directors will be more active in their visitations.

While Directors are elected by the membership to manage the affairs of the Association, those members who believe they should have more direct input into its decision making processes are always welcome to come forward and join a Committee of the Board to put their ideas forward.

Rod McConnell JP
President



DoJ meetings prove productive

Ongoing discussions to mend the rift between the Department of Justice (Court Services Unit) and the Association continue to be constructive, frank and cordial.

In a series of meetings held at the its Elwood office, the Association has been pleased to host the Department of Justice (DOJ) Assistant Director Courts and Tribunal, Mr Andrew Smale and Honorary Justices Coordinator, Ms Julia Young. The recent series of meetings were prompted by an earlier meeting the Director of Court Services, Mr John Griffin on 22

October 2007. At that time the Association sought clarification of the Department's stance on many issues directly effecting honorary justices and the RVAHJ. To date the meetings with Mr Smale and Ms Young have successfully canvassed a wide ranging issues, including:

- plans by the DOJ to implement its own Bail Justice call out system (and subsequent termination of the Association's electronic call out system on 15 January 2008 (see separate article in this edition for more on this)

DoJ meetings prove productive...cont'd

- a request by the DOJ to access data from the Association's excellent honorary justice data base. This request will soon be considered by the Association's board.
- Justice of the Peace training. The DOJ has indicated that it *may* consider the Association playing a role in the provision of Justice of the Peace training if training is to be externally sourced and put to tender. From the Association's perspective, it would simply appreciate the opportunity to competitively and fairly tender for the role of in-service training provider, particularly as it is already delivering a well regarded program involving representatives from the Children's Court, County Court, Victoria Police, Australian Federal Police, Department of Human Services and the State Trustees. The Association has also gone to great lengths completing most of the onerous steps in readiness to establish an independent Registered Training Organisation to offer accredited Bail Justice and Justice of the Peace training.
- Bail Justice training. The DOJ has advised that it intends outsourcing BJ In-service training to another (non-RVAHJ) external service provider. The Association expressed its disappointment at having been denied the opportunity to be involved in Bail Justice in-service training, particularly as it has been Victoria's sole provider of in-service training since the inception of Bail Justices. It has delivered a well regarded course involving representatives from the Children's Court, County Court, Victoria Police, Australian Federal Police and Department of Human Services. The DOJ stance is even more disappointing, given the Association was obliged to develop and deliver Victoria's only in-service program in order to fill a total void in Bail Justice training and needed to provide the course on a shoe string budget at members expense, with little or no DOJ funding.
- potential lease from the DOJ for the Association head office at Elwood. In recent months, officers of the DOJ have indicated that the Association will not receive a lease for its Elwood premises. Subsequently the Association has provided evidence to substantiate its assertion that the Attorney General gave the commitment of a peppercorn lease to the Association in September 2002. Discussions are on-going on this point.
- the honorary justice appointment panel. The DOJ has indicated that the long running membership of an Association representative on the Justice of the Peace Appointment Panel has ended. The Association was not consulted nor formally advised of this DOJ decision and expressed disappointment at the outcome.
- the DOJ's proposed complaints review process. The DOJ has indicated that the Association will not be involved in the honorary justice complaints process, which will now be administered by DOJ staff, who will engage an external investigator if and when considered necessary. Whilst the Association is disappointed at the DOJ's stance, it is particularly concerned at the lack of independence inherent in the proposed DOJ system. The Association advocates for a fully independent review panel to oversee the investigation of complaints, with the authority to terminate appointments being based on an Order from the Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the Attorney General.

"The DOJ meetings have been productive" said RVAHJ President Rod McConnell, "and whilst we do not agree on all matters, we are nevertheless making headway. We have a much better understanding of each other and our respective views. These meetings have been an important opportunity to talk."

The Association is also very appreciative for the opportunity to meet with Mr Smale and Ms Young on such a regular basis.

As the State's peak Honorary Justice membership Association, the meetings with the DOJ provide the opportunity for the DOJ and the Association to communicate freely and allows the Association an opportunity to advocate in members' interests.

The Association hopes the newly restored communications with the DOJ will continue. It serves no one if the Association does not strenuously represent the interests of members, but in doing so, the Association also acknowledges that it will need to adapt and change to reflect the DOJ's much enhanced commitment to honorary justice administration.

"The future looks great for the Association" President McConnell said.

"Unencumbered by many honorary justice administration functions (such as the management of the electronic bail justice call out system), the Association is now free to focus on providing even better direct services to members and advocating in their interest".



Bail Justice call-out system switched off

At midnight on 15 January 2008 the Association's Bail Justice Electronic Call Out System (BJECOS) was switched off. This effectively ended Victoria's only state wide system for scheduling and reporting the activities of Bail Justices. The web based BJECOS is being replaced by an external 24/7 telephone call centre engaged and funded by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The Association's Board reluctantly made the final decision to deactivate the BJECOS during December 2007. "The BJECOS was a great system and all members should be very proud of it" said Association President Rod McConnell, "but given the DOJ's intention to implement a manual telephone call-out system, it is no longer tenable or financially responsible to maintain the BJECOS."

The BJ ECOS was designed to provide a state wide system covering all Bail Justices and police stations. It had several advantages, including:

- ensuring the Bail Justices were rostered and called in a logical and impartial sequence
- providing real-time data on the number of hearings held and their outcome
- allowing Bail Justices to receive regular activity reports showing their BJ activity
- being fully auditable
- being web-based it was available to every police station and bail justice on-line
- being open to all bail justices regardless of RVAHJ membership.

If funding had become available, the Association would have further enhanced the BJECOS to make it even more user friendly and allow greater flexibility in Bail Justice rostering options.

Whilst the BJ ECOS was a relatively inexpensive system for the Association to operate, it nevertheless received no funding for its management, even though an indicative commitment for DOJ funding was given to the Association as early as July 2003. The RVAHJ had on numerous occasions in 2006 and 2007 approached the DOJ to either:

- purchase the BJ ECOS for its own use;
- lease the BJ ECOS for its own use; or

- provide nominal funding (about \$5,000pa) to assist the RVAHJ manage the system.

The cost to the DOJ of engaging an external 24/7 call centre is not known to the RVAHJ. "Whilst the Association respects the right of the DOJ to make its own decisions on bail justice administration, it is flummoxed as to why the Department would not purchase or lease the fully tested and operating BJECOS rather than use tax payers' money to revert to a manual telephone based system" said President McConnell.

"The BJECOS could very readily have been adapted to meet any DOJ requirements."

The BJECOS was developed under the auspices of the Association following a request from Chief Magistrate Ian Gray, to provide a proper rostering and reporting mechanism for Bail Justice activities.

To ensure a smooth transition between systems, the Association gave almost a month's notice of the closure of the BJECOS to all stakeholders, including all Bail Justices, the

Magistrates Court, the Children's Court, the Department of Justice, the Victoria Police, the Australian Federal Police and the Department of Human Services.

The Association will monitor the roll-out and management of the new DOJ callout system and encourages members to provide comments to the Association. The Association will record all constructive comments (positive or negative) and advocate to the DOJ on behalf of all members as necessary.

The Association has received many complaints from bail justices protesting the perceived backward step of reverting to the DOJ's call centre system. Whilst the the Association may concur, it

nevertheless has encouraged all members to fully participate in the DOJ's call centre roster system.

"The truly important issue is that we, as honorary justices, continue to serve our communities." President McConnell said.

"Yes, the forced change to the BJ rostering system is very unfortunate, but it is time to move on, so the Board encourages all Bail Justices to participate fully with the DOJ roster system."





Branch Bulletins

Geelong AGM marks another successful year

The Geelong Branch held its AGM on Monday 3 December 2007. The following committee members were elected:

Chairman: Bob Bailey JP
Vice Chairman: Bruce Scott JP
Treasurer: Robin Chase JP
Secretary: Deema Johnston JP
Roster Coordinator: Joan Scott JP
Helmut Woerner JP

The Geelong Branch is currently providing a service to the public via the Geelong Police Station being Monday to Friday 9.30am to 1.00pm and Corio Police Station being Monday and Friday 9.30am to 1.00pm.

During the course of the year the Justices witnessed 16915 documents at the Geelong Police Station and 2660 documents at the Corio Police Station.

If any JP wishes to support the Police via the Duty roster please contact Mrs. Joan Scott on 5241 4866.

Branch meetings will be held at the Geelong Police Station on 2 June, 1 September and 1 December (AGM).

Western Suburbs Branch Meeting

The Western Suburbs RVAHJ Branch is holding its next meeting at 7.00pm on Monday 31 March at the Sunshine RSL, 99 Dickson Street, Sunshine. The agenda includes an informative presentation on your roles and responsibilities in Power of Attorney documentation by Laura Mazzone, State Trustees Limited. All JP's very welcome to attend. For more details contact the branch chairman, Sam Muscat on (h) 9363 7502

Glen Waverley gears up for 2008

The Glen Waverley Branch meets on the first Monday of every second month at 7.30 pm at the Glen Waverley Police Station.

Forthcoming meetings: Monday 7 April 2008, Monday 2 June 2008, Monday 4 August 2008, Monday 6 October 2008, Monday 1 December 2008.

Chairman Patrick Mahoney heads a very friendly and active group which is always on the lookout for new blood. For further details, call the Secretary on 0438 097 985.

Magistrate addresses Benalla AGM

Twenty members, partners and guests attended the 2007 AGM at Benalla Golf Club on Wednesday 3 October 2007. The meeting observed a short silence as a mark of respect for Ron Daniel JP who had recently passed away. The State Member for Benalla, Mr Bill Sykes, addressed the meeting and

acknowledged Mr Daniel's contribution to the community.

A JP roster has been conducted at the office of the local member for several years, providing coverage from 10.00am to 4.00 pm every Thursday. The service has been well received by the community. From January 2008, the service will instead run from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Current Chairman, Ken Whan and Secretary/Treasurer Steve London were re-elected to office for the next 12 months.

Magistrate John Murphy was the guest speaker at the meeting. John spoke on a wide range of issues relating to his role as a Magistrate and

Coroner. Sentencing was the focus of his address and he explained the many levels and options of sentencing ranging from not guilty up to jail terms with all the variations, orders and programs in between. The Magistrates Court deals with 94% of all crime in Victoria and their jurisdiction is being widened. Drug and Koori courts are now operating with good outcomes. Drugs, alcohol and mental health issues underlie most crimes. The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities will have a big impact on police and court procedures.

Chairman Ken thanked John for his address and for answering such a wide variety of questions. He presented him with a gift of appreciation from the Branch.

GET THE WORD OUT!

This section of Custodes features small news items specifically related to individual branches. Whether you're looking to promote a branch event, celebrate the achievements of a member or call for additional volunteers, this is the place to do it.

Send your branch bulletins to custodes@rvahj.org.au. Contributions may be edited for length and content.

DIRECTORS' ACTIVITY STATEMENTS 2007

The annual publication of Directors' activity statements reflects the Board's ongoing commitment to the principles of good governance. Each Director is asked to provide a very short précis of their work during the preceding year. The resulting statements provide the membership with an insight into the work of their representatives and ensure accountability and transparency.

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Michael Cheshire JP



Position	Director and Honorary Life Member
Appointment	1989
Qualifications	Diploma of Illustrative Photography (RMIT) and various professional training
Home town	Clunes
Profession	Office Manager, Wesley College
Liaison to	Ballarat, Bendigo, North East and Benalla Branches

2007 activities and achievements

- Served as Chair of Communications Committee
- Served as the Association's delegate to the Australian Council of Justices Association (ACJA)
- Continued to serve as ACJA registrar
- Attended Ballarat Branch meetings and commenced work on a membership drive
- Liaised with the Benalla and North East Branches
- Performed duties as a BJ and JP
- Served as RVAHJ historian

Mark D'Alterio JP



Position	Director
Appointment	2002
Qualifications	Silly enough to care
Home town	Morwell
Profession	Shift Production Manager; Company Director
Liaison to	Nil

2007 activities and achievements

- Served as Chair of the Membership Committee
- Served as Chair of the Awards Sub-Committee
- Participated actively in Board meetings
- Attended the office and processed more than 500 emails
- Produced articles for CustodesNote: Due to work commitments and an illness lasting several months, I was not able to devote as much time to the Association as I have in previous years. Thanks to those who stepped up during my absence.

Roger Isherwood OAM JP



Position	Director
Appointment	1993
Qualifications	
Home town	Burnside
Profession	Retired
Liaison to	Northern Justices Branch

2007 activities and achievements

- Assisted at JP and BJ training sessions
- Served as Treasurer of Northern Justices Group and provided assistance in relation to State Trustee requirements
- Contributed to the document witnessing program at the Royal Melbourne Hospital
- Represented the Association at meetings with the Department of Human Services
- Served on the Membership Committee
- Attended swearing-in ceremonies and welcomed newly appointed Justices on behalf of the Association

Leo King



Position	Company Secretary
Appointment	1993
Qualifications	MBA
Home town	Caulfield Sth
Profession	Contractor
Liaison to	Dandenong Branch

2007 activities and achievements

- Maintained the Electronic Callout System and upgraded it to enable State Trustees to locate Justices for Power of Attorney witnessing
- Conducted training sessions for BJ and JP at rural and metropolitan centres
- Attended Monash and Dandenong meetings and ensured that branch concerns were considered by the Board
- Represented the Association with the Courts and Chief Magistrate
- Assisted the Chief Financial Officer with regularisation of the accounting system and the institution of an Association wide independent audit committee to report directly to the Board
- Secured funding and a Commissioners Instruction from Police Command for the BJ Electronic Callout System, though I note that the Department of Justice has unfortunately decided to bypass this initiative.

Rod McConnell JP



Position	President
Appointment	2003
Qualifications	-
Home town	Yallambie
Profession	Retired
Liaison to	-

2007 activities and achievements

- Chaired the Annual General Meeting along with all Board and Executive meetings, including two extraordinary Board meetings
- Member of all Committees
- Launched the BJ training session at Ballarat
- Participated in meetings with Department of Justice, Department of Human Services, Office of the Public Advocate and Victoria Police
- Assisted in State Trustees JP requirements
- Served on the Bail Justice Reference Group conducted by the Department of Justice.
- Addressed the interest meeting at Horsham for the formation of the Wimmera Branch Participated in 21 regional and metropolitan Branch meetings, including the formation of the Wimmera Branch and 8 branch AGMs (guest speaker at 4)

Chris Reside



Position	Vice President
Appointment	2006
Qualifications	Bachelor of Business
Home town	Werribee
Profession	Freelance corporate communications and governance consultant
Liaison to	Wyndham, Western Suburbs and Geelong Branches

2007 activities and achievements

- Managing Editor of Custodes
- Attended Wyndham, Western Suburbs and Geelong Branch meetings and Annual General Meetings
- Organised and chaired Western Suburbs branch 2007 AGM
- Attended all Board and Executive Committee meetings

Laurie Taig JP



Position	Director
Appointment	1996
Qualifications	BJ/JP, RVAHJ trained Indep. Witness, Doc. Witness, Customs Dept; Mechanical Engineering Diploma Training
Home town	Cheltenham
Profession	HR Consultant Project Manager
Liaison to	Mornington Peninsula Branch

2007 activities and achievements

- Participated in meetings with the Department of Justice (Bail Justice Reference Group), the Department of Human Services and Victoria Police
- Oversaw the operation of JP signing rosters throughout the State and supported local coordinators in processing 20,000 documents per month
- Coordinated and participated in RVAHJ JP Signing Centres at Melbourne East and Oakleigh Police Stations
- Branch meetings at Monash, Western Suburbs and as Liaison Director at Mornington Peninsular except for two meetings due to ill health.
- Contributed to the Electronic Call-Out System and advocated against the unjust rejection of the scheme by the Department of Justice
- Liaised with Victoria Police and assisted in the establishment of new RVAHJ JP Signing Centres

Michael Tiliacos JP



Position	Director
Appointment	2007
Qualifications	Bachelor of Arts (University of Melbourne) Bachelor of Business (RMIT)
Home town	Eaglemont
Profession	Senior Public Servant
Liaison to	Diamond Valley Branch

2007 activities and achievements

- Attended most Board Meetings and liaised with the Diamond Valley Branch and members
- Commenced work on the Terms of Reference for the establishment of the Association's Internal Audit Committee
- Provided assistance or advice as required. NB: Due to personal family reasons, my activities for 2007 were unavoidably restricted

Gary Tragardh JP



Position Director & Immediate Past President
Appointment 2000
Qualifications Common Sense
Home town Yarra Junction
Profession Company Director
Liaison to Yarra Valley, South West and Buloke Branches

2007 activities and achievements

- Secured funding for training from stakeholders and served as a presenter at all training days
- Assisted the President with the Annual Dinner
- Assisted Branches in identifying and securing guest speakers
- As Chair of the Awards Subcommittee, arranged certificates and medallions for recipients
- Participated in the Centenary Committee
- Performed a range of administrative duties at the Association's Elwood offices, provided advice to members on a range of issues and produced articles for Custodes
- Assisted with the formation of the Wimmera Branch
- Coordinated the roster for State Trustees Ltd
- Attended all meetings of the Board, Executive, Yarra Valley and South West Branches and State Trustees

Ray Walker JP



Position Director
Appointment 2006
Qualifications Bank Manager;
 Finance & Administration Manager
Home town Donald
Profession Retired
Liaison to Bendigo, Buloke and Wimmera Branches

2007 activities and achievements

- Attended the Bendigo Branch AGM
- Attend Buloke May & November (AGM) Meetings,
- Served as Chair of Buloke Branch
- Arranged and attended an interest meeting for the Wimmera Branch
- Presented the charter to the Wimmera Branch Chair
- Assisted at training days in Mildura



Attendance

In the interests of accountability and transparency, the Board has determined that Directors' attendance records are to be published annually.

**Register of
attendance
by
Directors at
Board
meetings**

Director	Meetings	Attended	Apologies	Absent
Michael Cheshire JP	8	5	3	0
Mark D'Alterio JP	8	4	4	0
Roger Isherwood OAM JP	8	5	3	0
Leo King	8	7	1	0
Rod McConnell JP	8	8	0	0
Chris Reside	8	8	0	0
Laurie Taig JP	8	7	1	0
Michael Tiliacos JP	5	4	1	0
Gary Tragardh JP	8	8	0	0
Ray Walker JP	8	6	2	0



Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting

**Held Thursday 31st May 2007 at 53 Broadway.
Elwood**

Opened 7.30pm

Apologies

John Brenneris OAM JP, Patricia Brown OAM JP, Robert Campbell JP, Don Casey JP, James Cheshire JP, Roger Cotton JP, Mark D'Alterio JP, Cheryl Duff JP, Yvonne Flanders JP, Olga Jackson JP, Jim Kerin JP, Damian Nosedo JP, Cathy Owens JP, Jack Rae OAM JP, Paula Rae JP, Steve Raskovy OAM JP, Joan Scott JP, David Shaw JP, Constance Smith JP, Ron Smith JP, Michael Tiliacos JP, Graeme Unwin JP

In attendance

Laurie Taig, Gary Tragardh, Michael Cheshire, Joy Cheshire, Trish Vejby, Adel Imlahi, Helen Gilhome, Leonard King, Kerry Grills, David Anderson, Fred Kent, Leo King, Rod McConnell, Bruce Latimer, Keith Frampton, Cliff Fisher, Danielle Sinclair, Gerry Kerkvliet, Ubaldo Mantelli, Linda Rainsford, Chris Reside, Alf Alexander, Chandra Bamunusinghe.

Welcome

Association President (AGM Chairman), Rod McConnell JP welcomed all members to the AGM. David Anderson asked whether satisfactory Notice of the AGM had been given. Company Secretary, Leo King, advised that all legal requirements have been met.

Minutes of the 96th AGM

Minutes of the 96th AGM were confirmed. Moved Michael Cheshire JP, seconded by Kerry Grills JP. Carried

Biennial Election Results

Nominations received equaled vacancies and the Secretary declared that the following members were elected: Rod McConnell JP, Mark D'Alterio JP, Michael Cheshire JP, Helen Gilhome, Kerry Grills JP, Michael Tiliacos JP, D.Leo King, were confirmed as elected.

Boards Annual Report

Immediate Past President Gary Tragardh presented a verbal report on the Association's activities for 2006. Moved Laurie Taig JP, seconded Leo King, that the report be received. Carried

Annual Accounts

Kerry Grills JP moved and presented the Report and opened the floor for questions. After some discussion, the Report was seconded by Michael Cheshire JP and carried.

Appointment of Auditor

Motion by Kerry Grills that the auditor, Mark Herold of CHN - Herold Ross be reappointed seconded Leo King and carried

Special Resolutions

1. Motion 1: That Section 13 of the Constitution be changed as follows:

13.1 Composition of Board

The Board consists of the Directors, who shall be elected from among the Ordinary Members and Life Members of the Association. Additionally provision is made for the elected members of the board to appoint up to two (2) external and non-elected directors to the board.

(a) External directors may only be appointed by unanimous vote of the board. Such a vote will be taken at a specially convened meeting to confirm or reject appointment.

(b) External directors shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, and may, by unanimous vote of the board, have a second and final term of two (2) years. Under no circumstance may an external director be appointed for a period exceeding four (4) years in totality.

13.2 Number of Directors

(a) The minimum number of Directors, both elected and appointed, shall be nine (9) and the maximum number of Directors shall be fifteen (15).

(j) ceases to be a Member of the Association for any reason.

(k) external directors are exempt from (j) above but shall be automatically required to relinquish office after a term of two (2) years. Such an initial appointment may be extended for a further term only once. Such extension must be by a separate and unanimous vote of the board.

2. Motion 2: That Section 21 of the Constitution be changed as follows:

21.1 The board may appoint a member of the association to act as the treasurer of the association.

Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting - con'td

2.2 If the treasurer dies or leaves the association the board may appoint a replacement.
Proposed special resolutions moved by Rod McConnell, seconded by Leo King. Carried with the requisite majority.

President and Secretary explained that all directors must now report annually on their activities to the members through Custodes and an attendance table will also be published in the Custodes for member's information.

Matters without notice.

Fred Kent inquired into what was being done to address the attendance work levels of the directors. The

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 7.45pm



Training Opportunities

Training for Justices of the Peace will be held in the Charles Latrobe Theatre at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. The training will be **FREE** for members and those who have applied for membership.

The first training session, JP1, will take place on Saturday, 5 July from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm. JP1 covers your duties and legal responsibilities when Document Witnessing (Affidavits, Statutory Declaration, Certified True Copies and Powers of Attorney).

The second training session, JP2, will take place on Saturday, 26 July from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm. JP2 covers the role and responsibilities of the Independent Person for Police interviews of young people where no parent or guardian is present. It also covers oversight of Search Warrants for the Federal Police and extensions to questioning time.

TRAINING REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the registration form below and return it to the Association (PO Box 317 Elwood 3184) by **Monday, 9th June 2008**.

..... ✂

Name:

BUJP Registration Number Email

Address.....

.....Postcode

Contact Ph: Landline.....Mobile.....

I will be attending the Training Course on (tick each that applies):

- 5th July 2008 – Document Witnessing (JP1) 26th July 2008 - Independent Person (JP2)

Registration for Non Members is \$60.00 per day. Please complete credit card details below (Visa or MasterCard only) or enclose a cheque or money order.

Name on Credit Card..... Expiry Date/.....
MM YY

Amount \$..... Signature.....

..... ✂

Merchandise Order Form

Autumn 2008

PO Box 317, Elwood, Vic. 3184 Fax: (03) 9525 7765
 Email: admin@rvahj.org.au Ph: (03) 9525 7099

Item	Cost	Qty	Sub-Total
Membership 2008 (No PFee)			
Renewal Only (See Notes)	6.90		
Photo ID's (Special Order)			
JP Wallet Δ	80.00		
BJ Wallet Δ	80.00		
Tag with Clip Δ (No PFee)	14.25		
Tag with Cord Δ (No PFee)	14.25		
Name Badge			
Red RVAHJ Logo ◇	17.30		
Blue RVAHJ Logo ◇	17.30		
Onesie			
Red RVAHJ Lapel Badge	9.00		
Blue RVAHJ Lapel Badge	9.00		
Blue RVAHJ Cufflinks	12.00		
Blue RVAHJ Tie Bar	8.90		
RVAHJ Tie	31.50		
Ladies RVAHJ Scarf	31.50		
Stamps - Self Training			
ID Stamp *	29.50		
ID Stamp with seal *	45.20		
Certified True Copy	32.70		
Certd True Copy with ID & seal *	45.20		
BJ ID (Hearing) without address *	23.80		
Stamp Inb replacement *	21.40		
Stamps - Handle			
ID Stamp *	24.95		
ID Stamp with seal *	38.00		
Certified True Copy	24.95		
Certd True Copy with ID & seal *	35.05		
Annexure/Exhibits	33.25		
Miscellaneous			
Car Badge (Metal)	29.70		
Window (Car) Transfer (No PFee)	3.60		
Decal (No PFee)	3.60		
Oasis Card (No PFee)	3.60		
ADD Processing Fee 1st Item	5.50	1	5.50
\$1.65 each extra item (except on No PFee items)	1.65		
TOTAL			

Membership Renewal for:
 Name: _____

SPECIAL ORDERS Complete details required below

Δ **Photo ID's/Tags & Tags:** (Notes 1: Head & Shoulders Photo required; 2: Expiry date applies. Free update card supplied on successful completion of training)
 Name: _____
 Reg. No. _____

◇ **Mobile Name Badge** (Print as you want name to appear)
 Name: _____

* **Stamps:** (Notes 1: Full legal name and a street address (home or business) required - no initials or PO Boxes. 2: We reserve the right to edit wording to comply with legislation and/or space limitations.)
 Surname: _____
 First & Middle Name(s): _____
 Street Address: _____
 Town/Suburb: _____
 Postcode: _____ Reg. No. _____

Delivery Details:
 Postbox: _____
 Contact Phone No. _____

Payment: Send Cheq/Money Order or Cr Card Details below:
 In-date Cheq: MasterCard Visa
 (Note: AMEX, Bankcard, Debit card, Others Club, Phone payments not accepted).
 Cardholder Name: _____
 Card No. _____
 Card Expiry ____/____
 M M Y Y
 Cardholder signature: _____



Back on the soapbox...

Independent sworn officer or rubber stamp monkey?

Call me hypersensitive, but I have increasing concerns about the apparent trend to weaken the role of honorary justice from that of independent sworn judicial officer, to a mere 'rubber stamp monkey'.

Honorary Justices have a long and proud history in Victoria – fulfilling roles as diverse as sitting on the bench, over-seeing gun buy back programs, conducting out-of-sessions hearings, staffing document signing centres and receiving the ever present affidavit.

To date, the independence of the honorary justice has never been in question - as we rightly assumed we acted with impartiality and independence, and in accordance with our respective Oaths of Office. However, is this rosy scenario changing?

Three recent occurrences make me feel that our prized independence may be under threat. Firstly, the October 2007 report of the Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC) contends that Bail Justices make 'administrative decisions' when they conduct bail remand hearings. This is a weakening of the long held view that a bail justice makes a judicial decision when he or she determines to revoke a fellow citizen's liberty and signs a warrant authorising they be locked in a cell for a few hours or days. In my view the BJ's role is not to conduct an administrative review of the police decision not to grant bail – it is to determine the case based on the evidence put before the bail justice and make a judicial decision based on those facts and the law.

I'll let minds greater than mine work out the specific legislative reforms required to enshrine the judicial nature of a BJ's role – but suffice to say, the current review of the Bail Act is an ideal opportunity to strike, and the DOJ, the RVAHJ and members should heed the opportunity to push for this.

Secondly, the VLRC report recommends that the removal of a bail justice be based upon a report prepared by an 'independent external person' appointed by the Department of Justice. Whilst I agree that the Bail Justice removal process needs to be greatly streamlined, I

support the RVAHJ approach which advocates for the establishment of an independent review panel to consider BJ code of conduct breaches and removal from office. This ensures the investigation process and any subsequent recommendation for dismissal to the Governor-in-Council (via the Attorney General) is truly independent and free from perceptions of bias.

Thirdly, the DOJ has taken several decisions in the last year to exclude the oversight of the RVAHJ (the State's peak honorary justice membership organisation) from important forums such as the JP appointment panel and the BJ appointment panel. A representative of the RVAHJ (usually the President of the day) has for many, many years sat on these appointment panels – to reflect the input of current JP's and bail justices into the appointment of potential fellow honorary justices - and also to give the appointment process greater independent oversight.

The resurgence of an energised Honorary Justice function within the Department of Justice is a great thing, and if managed properly, it may indeed see honorary justice administration in this state come kicking and screaming into the 21st century. We should all welcome this. However in my humble view, the DOJ must be careful not to 'throw the proverbial baby out with the bath water' – and do not kill off all that is good about the current honorary justice framework in its well intentioned drive to introduce reform. Change can be a good thing – but the DOJ should manage the change carefully by working with the RVAHJ and stakeholders, and valuing the important independent role of Honorary Justices.

Honorary Justices are independent and must remain so. JP's and bail justices should be wary of subtle moves to quietly strip them of the single most important aspect of their role in any democratic society: their independence.

I'll get off my soap box now...

Chris Reside
Managing Editor

2008 Membership

Membership Fees were due and payable on 1 January.

Renew membership by credit card (Visa or MasterCard only) online at www.rvahj.org.au or fax to (03) 9525 7765 or send cheque/ money order to PO Box 317, Elwood, 3184.

Office Closure

Members are asked to note, that the office will be closed from

Monday, 17 March 2008
until
Tuesday, 25 March 2008.

Can You Help?

Our Roster Coordinators are on the look-out for volunteers to man Document Witnessing desks around the state.

Do you have some hours to spare once a month? If you can't commit to a day, why not put your name down as an emergency?

Contact Cathy on (03) 9525 7099 to discuss assisting with this valuable service.