



# ROYAL VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF HONORARY JUSTICES

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## 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

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# Custodes



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF HONORARY JUSTICES

## Vale Lindsay Hodge OAM JP

One of life's true gentlemen

A wonderful aspect of being involved with the RVAHJ is the people we meet and learn from. Sadly, one of its greatest teachers and a true gentleman passed away on Friday 27 February 2009. Lindsay Hodge was a mentor to many Honorary Justices and a legend in many Honorary Justice circles, particularly in Melbourne's west.

In a remarkable voluntary career, Lindsay Hodge was appointed a Justice of the Peace on the 18th April 1964; sat on the bench of the Magistrates Court for 20 years; was elected to the Committee of the Association in 1970 (to assist with the training of Justices); became a State Councillor in 1974 and served 24 years 9 months; was awarded Life Membership in 1990; was State President of the Association from 1991 to 1993 (the first Western Suburbs member to become President.); retired from the State Council in 1998 and was awarded the honourable title of Emeritus Councillor of the Association.

The thoughts and hearts of all at the RVAHJ go to Lindsay's family as they mourn their loss and celebrate his remarkable life.



**Issue 1 of 2009**

# Custodes

*The official journal of the  
Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices*

## Issue 1 of 2009

### Credits

Managing Editor – Chris Reside  
Desktop Publisher – Cathy Owens JP

### Contributors:

Helen Gilhome JP    Chris Reside    Garry Runge JP  
Danielle Sinclair    Michael Tubb JP    Ken Wright OAM JP

### Photographs

Chris Bahen    Sunraysia Daily    Michael Tubb JP



### Words of Wisdom

*“Try not to become a man of success, but rather, try to become a man of value.”  
Albert Einstein*



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## Diary Dates

**Saturday, 21 March 2009**  
Document Training - RMH, Parkville

**Thursday, 2 April 2009**  
Office closes for Easter break

**Tuesday, 14 April 2009**  
Office re-opens

**Saturday, 16 May 2009**  
Document Training - Geelong

**Thursday, 28 May 2009**  
RVAHJ Annual General Meeting

**Saturday, 11 July 2009**  
Document Training - Traralgon



## From the President's desk...

This is my first article for *Custodes* in the capacity of President of the RVAHJ. Can I say how delighted and honoured I am to have been elected to the position at the December 2008 Director's meeting. The role of Honorary Justices is, of course a part of the historical landscape of this country originating centuries ago. The service to the community provided by Justices of the Peace and Bail Justices is outstanding and we form an extremely important part of the Justice System in Victoria. I consider it a privilege to have been elected as President of this honourable association.

I must publicly express my thanks to the Immediate Past President, Rod McConnell who performed outstandingly during his time as President. On behalf of all RVAHJ members I thank Rod for the time and effort he has committed to the association.

Now, a little about me. I am a very happily retired member of Victoria Police having served in uniform in the 1970's at the Prahran police station. I then joined the Criminal Investigation Branch and served the rest of my career as a detective with the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence, National Crime Authority, Internal Security Unit and finally the Ethical Standards Department. I retired in 2004 at the rank of Detective Senior Sergeant to pursue other interests.

In 2003 I was elected as a councillor in my local municipality and served as Mayor of the Cardinia Shire council for two terms. I found this experience very rewarding and it afforded me an opportunity to continue serving my community.

In 2008 I was elected to the Board of Directors of the RVAHJ and later accepted the offer to stand for the position of President. There is a great deal to learn about the role of President of the RVAHJ and I would like to thank each of the directors for their support and advice as I move into the role.

The RVAHJ is in need of change and together with my fellow directors I have scheduled a strategic workshop in early 2009 to discuss how we can take your organisation forward and make it more relevant for the membership. We will be relying heavily on your responses from the members survey conducted in 2008 to assist us in formulating the right strategies for the RVAHJ.

In the near future you will find changes to our web page with the creation of a more modern appearance with much more information for your use. I encourage members to access the web page on a regular basis and provide us with feedback on the type of information you would like to see posted.

The board recognises the importance of the branch structure throughout Victoria and the great work done by the Chairs, Secretaries and officer bearers of the branches. I will be encouraging RVAHJ branch liaison officers to visit their respective branches as often as possible. I also encourage branch members to speak with the liaison officers and let them know your issues and concerns. By opening the lines of communications between the board and the branches we will have a greater understanding of how we, as directors, can assist the membership.

Our centenary year is of course in 2010 and the board is excited about this wonderful event. Any association, which boasts 100 years service to the community, should rightly be proud of itself. I have therefore established a committee to start planning for the 2010 celebrations. Much is already

planned for the centenary year and I will be encouraging as many members as possible to participate in the festivities. I am also pleased to inform you that in 2010 the President of the Australasian Council of Justices' Association will be one of our very own directors, Michael Cheshire JP. So, 2010 promises to be a wonderful celebration

for everyone to enjoy.

There is much more to talk to you about, but I am still feeling my way around in this new role. I really want to get to know as many members as possible and get an understanding on how we can progress the aims of the RVAHJ in your best interests. Please feel free to communicate with me by phone, email or letter so I can work for you as President.

When I next visit your branch please come up and say hello, in the meantime there is much to do and I look forward to representing you as your President.

Regards,  
Garry Runge JP  
President  
RVAHJ



### Introducing Garry Runge JP, our new President

At the December meeting of RVAHJ Directors, Garry Runge JP was elected as President of the Association and Chairman of the Board for 2009. Outgoing President Rod McConnell, who did not seek re-election due to health and family concerns, offered his unqualified support to Garry in what will be a busy year leading up to the Association's Centenary in 2010. Garry is no stranger to the workings of voluntary organisations, and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Presidency of the RVAHJ. More will be heard from Garry regarding his outlook and plans for the Association's future in the next edition of *Custodes*.



# Welcome to the RVAHJ

President Garry Runge JP extends a warm welcome to the Association's most recent inductees.

On behalf of the Board and greater membership, we are pleased to have you aboard.

## New Members

Leanne Bailey JP	CRAIGIEBURN	Garry Nash JP	WANGARATTA
Jeanette Biddle JP	APOLLO BAY	Frank Neulist JP	ARARAT
Rodney Boyd JP	DEER PARK	Jeffrey Newham JP	MERRIGUM
Joanne Brinsmead JP	IRYMPLE	Mark O'Brien JP	COBURG NORTH
Murray Brown JP	HOPPERS CROSSING	Simon O'Callaghan JP	ECHUCA
Nancy Bulner JP	SANDRINGHAM	Monica Parnis JP	WERRIBEE
Ann Burton JP	WARRAGUL	Eileen Pica JP	IRYMPLE
Ngaire Butcher JP	CRANBOURNE	Ezzeddine Rafhi JP	COBURG
Duncan Cameron JP	PARKDALE	Bernard Reid JP	NELSON
Joseph Carrozza JP	TEMPLESTOWE	Lisa Reid JP	BORONIA
Ratry Chanty JP	NARRE WARREN SOUTH	Wilma Robin JP	WILLIAMSTOWN
Simone Christie JP	BIRCHIP	Kym Robinson JP	DROUIN
John Clark JP	WARRNAMBOOL	Lindsay Rotherham JP	MOOROOLBARK
Kevin Davey JP	PAKENHAM	Philip Ruby JP	ANDERSON
Melissa Deegan JP	WODONGA	Geoffrey Ryan JP	WILLIAMSTOWN
Edward Eastman JP	KEILOR EAST	Kevin Ryan JP	YARRA GLEN
Guillermo Esquivel JP	CRANBOURNE	Sally Secomb JP	KILSYTH SOUTH
Dawn Ferrier JP	ECHUCA	David Shepherd JP	MILDURA
Paul Flakus JP	BEAUMARIS	Terrence Simpson JP	EDENHOPE
Barbara Flood JP	MENTONE	Elizabeth Skidmore JP	CORINELLA
Ian Goldie JP	LAKES ENTRANCE	Srikantharajah Suppiah JP	EPPING
James Hayne JP	EMERALD	Nenia Tavrou JP	ASCOT VALE
Ronald Hearn JP	MORNINGTON	Deborah Taylor JP	NOORINBEE
Julian Hood JP	BENDIGO	Lynette Teasdale JP	RUPANYUP
Robert Hough JP	PATTERSON LAKES	Colin Thompson JP	ARARAT
Lisa Hunter JP	KIEWA	Stephen Thurling JP	ALTONA
Natalie Kiel JP	NICHOLS POINT	Maria Trinci-Caristo JP	IRYMPLE
Wendy Lacey JP	WOODEND	Bruce Turner JP	WARRNAMBOOL
John Lennon JP	FLORA HILL	Russell Twitt JP	BELMONT
Giovanna Lentini JP	PORT MELBOURNE	Adrian Tyler JP	RUPANYUP
Gregory Leonard JP	ROXBURGH PARK	Taualii Vaivai JP	HAMPTON PARK
Lorelle Logan JP	KORUMBURRA	Peter Wadeson JP	ESSENDON
Alberto Lopez JP	NARRE WARREN SOUTH	Henderika Watts JP	LANGWARRIN SOUTH
John McKenna JP	GLENHUNTLY	Cheryl Webb JP	MILDURA
Joseph Mercieca JP	DAISY HILL	Samuel Wood JP	SOUTHBANK
Charu Mishra JP	WODONGA	Rosalind Woodman JP	ROSEBUD
Hazel Mouat JP	KEILOR PARK	Malcolm Wyeth JP	HORSHAM



## Voluntary Workers Insurance

Members will be pleased to know that a Voluntary Workers Insurance Scheme has been instituted by the Board, which will provide personal insurance cover for all FINANCIAL MEMBERS of the Association.

The insurance will give protection to justices from their departure point to their *direct* destination and return to perform honorary justice duties or to attend RVAHJ-approved activities, such as branch meetings and training sessions.

Even better news is that this cover has not increased the 2009 membership fee, so make sure your payment is up to date!



## Annual General Meeting of members 2009

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Members for 2009 will be held on Thursday, 28 May 2009 at 7.30 pm at 53 Broadway, Elwood.

### Business

1. To confirm the minutes of the 98th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 29 May 2008.
2. To declare the Biennial Election of Directors.
3. To consider and, if thought fit, adopt the Annual Report of the Board.
4. To consider and, if thought fit, adopt the Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended December 31, 2008.
5. To appoint an Auditor for the ensuing year.

No other business for inclusion in the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting was lodged in writing prior to the closing time of 5.00 pm 31 January 2009.

### 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.

## MINUTES OF THE 98<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT 53 BROADWAY ELWOOD ON THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008 COMMENCING AT 7.30 pm

### Present:

Rod McConnell, Laurie Taig, Fred Kent, Helen Gilhome (Minutes), Sui Cheung Tse, Gary Tragardh, Chris Reside, Linda Rainsford, Graham Unwin, Michael Tiliacos, Gerry Kerkvliet, Cliff Fisher, Danielle Sinclair, Ray Walker (Skype)

### Apologies:

Cheryl Duff, Yvonne Flanders, Roger Isherwood, Len King, Damian Nosedo, Cathy Owens, Bert Rae, Joan Scott, Leo King, Lindsay Hodge, Harvey Dunkley, Bill O’Niall, John Pearce.

### Welcome

Association President (AGM Chairman), Rod McConnell JP welcomed Members to the AGM and introduced those Board Members who were present.

### Minutes of the 97<sup>th</sup> AGM

Minutes of the 97<sup>th</sup> AGM as printed and circulated were confirmed. Moved Laurie Taig JP Seconded Gary Tragardh. CARRIED

### Board’s Annual Report

President, Rod McConnell JP presented his report as follows: In presenting this report on behalf of the Board of Directors it would be fair to state that in general the year ended 31 December 2007 was an extremely difficult and disappointing year for the Association, even though the year ended with a more promising outlook regarding our relationship with the Department of Justice.

In hindsight the Board may have been too preoccupied in its criticisms of the Department of Justice, rather than directing its energies to bring about an early restoration of cordial relations; a situation for which the Board has to bear some responsibility. At the time however, a thawing of the Department of Justice / RVAHJ impasse looked most unlikely in the absence of a strong and targeted initiative from the Board.

Nevertheless, in spite of all the difficulties encountered, the Board endeavoured to become more transparent in the reporting of its activities to members. This initiative was clearly demonstrated with the controversial “Stalling Tactics” article in Custodes, which resulted in an overwhelming response from members supporting the airing of the issues creating the impasse with the Department of Justice.

Subsequent to its August 2006 decision to do so, in the absence of a favourable response from the Department of Justice to purchase lease or rent the Association’s Call-out System, the Board agonised throughout 2007 over the date for the implementation of that decision to shut down the Call-out System.

### Constitutional Amendments

Amendments made to the Constitution at the last Annual General Meeting allow:

- (a) for the Board to appointment up to a maximum of two external non-elected Directors to the Board, and
- (b) (b) For the Board to appoint a member of the Association to act as Treasurer.

### Board of Directors

The Board continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis with the use of “Skype” for those Directors not able to attend in person. Again in its transparency endeavours for the benefit of members the Board has directed that Director’s Activity Statements for each completed year will be published in the first Custodes edition the following year.

New Directors Michael Tiliacos who was elected at the Annual General Meeting in May, and Cesar Melham who was the first external non-elected Director to be appointed under the amended Constitution, were both welcomed to the Board.

# MINUTES OF THE 98<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING cont'd from previous page

During the year both Vice President Trish Vejby and the Chief Financial Officer Kerry Grills found it necessary to tender their resignations from the offices they occupied, but both continued to act as Directors. Director Chris Reside accepted his appointment to the office of Vice President as did Director Ray Walker to that of Chief Financial Officer.

## Committees

The drafting of the Terms of Reference for an Audit Committee began toward the end of the year with the expectation of completion and presentation for approval by the Board in early 2008.

Unfortunately the Membership Committee did not function as in the past due to the leave of absence granted to the Chair, and the inability of the Board to appoint an interim Chair during the absence period.

As part of the planning for our Centenary in 2010 the Board resolved to appoint a Committee to develop and promulgate a publicity program to further publicise the Association and its members. This program will involve Branches and the Association itself in the lead-up to our Centenary celebrations.

## Membership

Association membership numbers remained steady at around 2340 as at 31 December. The loss of members through death and resignation was evenly balanced by the gain of new members.

## Branches

While the majority of our branches are in good shape in terms of attendances and activities at meetings, there is an obvious fragility present in others. Liaison Directors now have the responsibility of ensuring that Branch Secretaries are advised of new members of the Association with a view to encouraging them to seek Branch membership as well.

After rejecting the Board's authority over it, a distasteful, but necessary Board decision was put into effect in June that removed the Executive of the Western Suburbs Branch from office. The rejection of authority ended a long history of antagonism towards the Board and brought about the Board's decision. Subsequently a break-a-way group was formed by those opposed to the RVAHJ, and the remaining Western Suburbs Branch members went on to elect a new Executive.

Following a successful interest meeting at Horsham in September the "Wimmera Branch" received its charter authorising it to function as a branch of the RVAHJ. Unfortunately, with dwindling numbers and the attendant lack of interest, the East Yarra Branch was forced into closure in December.

## Finance

As will be reported by the Chief Financial Officer the Association's financial position remains sound.

In a conscious effort to assist members in a world of ever increasing costs the Annual Membership Subscription was maintained at the 2007 level.

## Training

JP training and Bail Justice refresher training for both members and non members of the Association was continued in both metropolitan and rural areas, with good attendances, and expressions of satisfaction from those who attended.

The Department of Justice has been asked to include the Association when it calls for tenders to develop and deliver JP Training, but no assurance that tenders will be called has been received.

## Department of Justice

A five Director delegation met with the Department of Justice, Executive Director, Courts, in October in an attempt to break the impasse between the two organisations. The Association was advised that as the administration of, and the provision of services to Honorary Justices now rested entirely with the Department of Justice, the Association would no longer have representation on Honorary Justice Assessment Panels, nor would it be involved with Bail Justice refresher training as Victoria University would continue with all Bail Justice Training.

At that same meeting the Department advised that it would continue to roll out its Alternative Roster System for bail justices without reference to the Association.

This notification became the catalyst to implement the decision to switch off the Bail Justice Call-out System; the decision to be executed on 31st January 2008, after allowing for prior and adequate notice to all Bail Justices, and other stakeholders.

Some success did come from the same October meeting with the invitation to re-open relations with the Department of Justice albeit to discuss other matters of concern and interest relating to Honorary Justices in particular.

Meetings with Department of Justice Officers have failed to resolve the situation regarding the Association's use of these Elwood premises. The lease sought by the Association and agreed to by the Attorney General some years ago has not eventuated. The likelihood that a lease will ensue appears to be slim indeed, but negotiations with the Department of Justice are continuing.

Directors have continued to represent the Association at Department of Justice sponsored Bail Justice Reference Group meetings where consensus recommendations on issues affecting Bail Justices are made to the Department. The Association will continue to argue for a total re-think of the "Policy and Guidelines - Addressing Complaints or Allegations" document put forward by the department which denies natural justice to Honorary Justices by virtually allowing the department to be the investigator, judge and if need be, executioner, in complaints and allegation matters involving Honorary Justices.

## Review of the Bail Act

It must be noted here that the Final Report of the VLRC on its Review of the Bail Act contained many recommendations that were based on the submissions prepared on behalf of the Association by Secretary Leo King. However there are some recommendations with which the Association is at variance, and the Board intends to address these issues in a further submission to the Attorney General.

# MINUTES OF THE 98<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING cont'd from previous page

## Annual Dinner

The Association was honoured to have its Chief Patron, the Governor of Victoria Professor David de Kretser AC and Mrs de Kretser present at our Annual Dinner in August, where the Governor delivered a most interesting and thought provoking address.

Certificates of Service ranging from 25 to 50 years were presented to the 32 members in attendance, from the 134 members eligible for this recognition of their service.

Director Helen Gilhome was a recipient of the Association's Distinguished Member Award, in recognition of her outstanding voluntary work in the implementation, and coordination of the electronic Bail Justice Call-out system.

Acting Inspector Peter Attard was presented with a plaque of appreciation in recognition of his contribution and co-operation during the recent hand gun buy-back scheme.

## State Trustees

The Memorandum of Understanding with State Trustees whereby the Association provides the services of properly trained Honorary Justices for document witnessing purposes in return for funding for training purposes has continued to the benefit of both parties.

## Resignations of Directors

Late in December the Board reluctantly accepted the resignations of Directors Helen Gilhome and Cesar Melham, both resignations resulting from personal situations that prevented their continuance on the Board.

## General

Significant on-going savings have resulted from the new telephone services contract negotiated by former Director Len King.

The Board again recognises of the untiring work and devotion to duty of Cathy Owens in

her role as Administration Officer for this Association.

The Board is anxious to assure all members that it strives to act in their best interests, but that it can only do so effectively if it has the continued support and constructive input from members.

On a personal note I must thank Vice President Chris Reside, IPP Gary Tragardh and Secretary Leo King for their unqualified support and assistance to me during 2007, and to the Board that saw fit to re-elect me as President of the RVAHJ for 2008.

Motion: The President's report be received and circulated amongst Members. Moved Cliff Fisher JP Seconded Laurie Taig JP CARRIED

Copy of President's Annual Report will be posted on the Association website and in Custodes.

## Annual Accounts

Ray Walker spoke to the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement. The accounts are unaudited which nevertheless comply with ASIC requirements. Last years accounts have gone to ASIC. This years accounts – file to be sent to Auditors and an extension has been requested from ASIC.

MOTION that the Balance Sheet as tabled be accepted. Moved Ray Walker JP Seconded Linda Rainsford CARRIED

## Auditor

Motion by Ray Walker JP that Mark Herold of CHN Herold Ross be reappointed Seconded Laurie Taig JP. CARRIED.

## Matters without notice

Motion by Laurie Taig JP that a vote of thanks is extended to President, Rod McConnell JP for his hard work, during what was both personally and professionally a difficult year. Seconded Cliff Fisher JP. CARRIED.

There being no further matters the meeting closed at 8.10 pm



## Training opportunities

Our training course covering your duties and legal responsibilities when witnessing Affidavits, Statutory Declarations, Certified True Copies, Powers of Attorney and wills will be held on –

16 May 2009 at Geelong Police Station, 110 Mercer St, Geelong

11 July 2009 at St James Church, Gray St, Traralgon

The course will commence at 9.30am (register from 9.15am) and will be FREE for members and those who have applied for membership.

Please complete the registration form below and return it to the association (PO Box 317, Elwood, 3184 or fax: (03) 9525 7765

Name: .....

BJ/JP Registration no. .... E-mail: .....

Address: .....

.....

Contact Ph: (Landline) ..... (Mobile) .....

16 May 2009 - Geelong  11 July 2009 - Traralgon



## New appointments for County Court and OPP

The Victorian Government has announced the appointment of two new County Court judges and a new Solicitor for Public Prosecutions.

Mark Gamble SC and Howard Mason have been appointed judges of the County Court and Craig Hyland has been appointed Solicitor of Public Prosecutions.

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General Rob Hulls said all three would bring extensive legal experience to their roles and make a significant contribution to Victoria's justice system.

"The County Court appointments will provide the court with additional resources to deal with its workload including additional resources for Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR)," Mr Hulls said. "ADR has significant benefits in terms of freeing up court time and reducing cost and delay, improving the experience of court users, and encouraging judges to manage litigation."

Mr Gamble, a barrister for 17 years, has been a Senior Crown Prosecutor with the Office of Public Prosecutions since 2007. Mr Mason, a barrister for more than 30 years, has practised generally in the area of

criminal law at both trial and appellate level. Mr Hyland, the new Solicitor for Public Prosecutions, joined the NSW Office of the Director for Public Prosecutions in 1988. Before his appointment he was Assistant Solicitor for Public Prosecution (Operations) where he managed the Sydney operations overseeing 120 staff and a significant budget.

"The Victorian Office of Public Prosecutions has a national and international reputation for excellence and has undergone significant changes in recent years including the establishment of a new Specialist Sexual Offences Unit," Mr Hulls said.

"Mr Hyland will continue the existing organisational change program at the OPP which makes it more responsive to the changing needs of the criminal justice system, ensures the independent role of the DPP is properly supported, and supports initiatives that reduce delay and encourage early intervention.

"The Government will continue working with the DPP and the OPP to enhance the operation of Victoria's prosecution service."

## Social networkers to confront family violence online

The Victorian Government will harness the power of Facebook and Bebo in the fight against family violence, Deputy Premier and Attorney-General Rob Hulls has announced.

The \$1.5 million family violence public awareness campaign, Family Violence. Victoria has had Enough, began in December and supports the new Family Violence Protection Act.

Launching the internet-based component of the campaign, Mr Hulls said Facebook and Bebo would reach a broader and younger audience and increase community awareness of the new family violence laws.

"The Brumby Government is taking action to protect young people," Mr Hulls said.

"Young people can too often be caught up in family violence as innocent and defenceless bystanders or as victims themselves. They also often witness their parent, guardian or even their sibling being subjected to, or the perpetrator of, violence against another loved one.

"The Family Violence Protection Act 2008 and the Enough campaign aim to provoke change. They are about changing attitudes and changing lives and today we are asking Facebook and Bebo users to sign up to the family violence pages and help effect that change."

The Facebook and Bebo sites can be accessed at [www.familyviolence.vic.gov.au](http://www.familyviolence.vic.gov.au) and provide information about the new legislation, further advice on how to get help and links to personal stories of family violence survivors.

Women's Affairs Minister Maxine Morand said the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 recognised the harmful impact of family violence on children, by explicitly stating that family violence is perpetrated on a child who is exposed to it.

"By using social networking sites like Facebook and Bebo, we hope to reach more of Victoria's young

people, sending the clear message that family violence is not acceptable in any culture or community regardless of socioeconomic status, health, education, religious beliefs, gender or age," Ms Morand said.

Mr Hulls said new statistics tracking family intervention orders in the Magistrates' Court reflected the success of the Brumby Government's continuing family violence reforms.

"A higher number of such cases are now being brought to the attention of the justice system, where once these cases may never have seen the inside of a court room— causing untold grief and harm to families," he said.

He said the number of family violence intervention order applications made to Magistrates' courts had risen from 15,000 in 2002-03 to 19,000 in 2006-07.

During that period, the number of children under the age of 15 listed as an aggrieved person on a family violence intervention order increased from 22.2 per cent to 32.4 per cent.

"This is due to changes allowing children to be listed as a party on an intervention order, which shows the justice system recognises young people who may see or hear family violence as victims who require protection," Mr Hulls said.

He said the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 provided police with new powers through Family Violence Safety Notices which they can issue after-hours to protect victims of family violence.

The legislation also supports victims of family violence and their children to stay in their own homes if they wish and it contains initiatives to prevent victims being re-traumatised by their court experience.

The Statistics of the Magistrates' and Children's Court of Victoria, Intervention Order Statistics 2002-03 to 2006-07 report is available at [www.justice.vic.gov.au](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au)



## Branch bulletins

### Ballarat



*Above: Ballarat justices come together to enjoy an end of year barbecue*

On 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2008. Ballarat Justices enjoyed a very pleasant BBQ organised by the Ballarat Police in appreciation of the efforts of the Document Signing Team.

A/Inspector Peter McCormack expressed their gratitude and recognised the JP's contribution to the Community.

### Diamond Valley



*Above: Secretary Danielle & partner Jeffery take a well-earned rest after feeding the Diamond Valley justices & their families!*

Members of the Diamond Valley Branch got together on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December at Simpson Barracks Army establishment at McLeod, for the branch annual barbie lunch. It was great to see many of the new

members come along for the first time. Some of the members brought their families along to enjoy a splendid variety of barbecued meats and salads prepared to the usual high standard again by Branch Secretary Danielle Sinclair and her partner, Jeffrey. There was no shortage of food and certainly enough for those returning for seconds. The venue was in the grounds of the sergeants' mess, which has a well covered area set out with large tables and good protection from the weather, and very close to the bar.

Simpson Barracks is the venue for the Diamond Valley Branch meetings, and is central to most members meeting there every two months except during the Christmas holiday period.

### Sunraysia



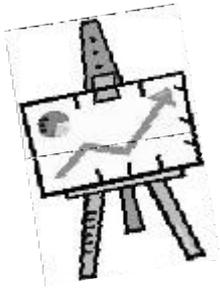
*Above: Snr Sgt Bill Panagiotaros, Sunraysia Branch Chairman, Ken Wright & Treasurer Trevor Aust, meet to discuss the launch of the document signing roster at the Mildura Police Station. (Photo courtesy of the Sunraysia Daily)*

The Sunraysia Branch has successfully established a document signing roster at the Mildura Police Station.

This follows a trial roster on Saturday mornings during July and August 2008 and the success of similar rosters in other areas. The roster began on Monday 5 January and it is intended that it will continue every week day from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm throughout 2009.

Arrangements are currently being made for a roster to be established at Red Cliffs and Merbein (although not at the Police Stations, as they are closed from time to time).

Volunteers are to be commended for providing this vital service to their community, with a particular mention of Chairman Ken Wright and Treasurer Trevor Aust for liaising with Police to arrange the roster. Supt Whiting said it would free her officers for more "hands on" police work.



## Membership satisfaction survey informs RVAHJ strategic plan

During May 2008 a *Members' Satisfaction Survey* was posted to 300 RVAHJ members selected at random. 175 members responded to the survey; designed to gather members' perceptions about the Association and inform the RVAHJ's strategic planning process.

The survey population was large enough to draw some general observations about members' views, and highlighted several areas in which the board may want to 'drill down' with further member consultations.

This was a confidential survey so individual members could not be identified. The analysis did however break respondents into three distinct categories:

- Those living within 100km of the GPO of the Melbourne GPO
- Those living between 100 – 250km from the Melbourne GPO
- Those living 250+ from the Melbourne GPO.

The survey highlights many strengths of the RVAHJ, and, just as importantly, many constructive criticisms.

### Members

- Respondents had on average been RVAHJ members for 15 years. Only 1% of respondents was aged between 31 and 40, 9% were aged 41 – 50, 29% were aged 51 – 60, and 61% were aged over 61.

used by the Board to build on the positive outcomes and address deficiencies in members satisfactions.

### RVAHJ subscription

83% of respondents agreed that their RVAHJ subscription was good value for money. 13% felt it was not. A rounding discrepancy accounts for the missing 4%. 85% of respondents agreed they would willingly pay slightly more for their RVAHJ subscription.

A sample of respondents' comments includes:

- "apart from Custodes – no benefit"
- "limited value"
- "very rarely hear from anyone from the association other than fees due or newsletter"
- "never 'invited' to join a branch or told which branch to contact. Total isolation.
- "as a free service to the community, it seems that paying for the privilege of offering a free service is somewhat unbalanced"
- "State Government should pay our fees as our services are free."

One third of respondents felt their RVAHJ membership was essential to their role as an honorary justice. A further 59% felt it to be generally beneficial. 16% of respondents thought the RVAHJ was irrelevant to their HJ role, or offered 'not much' benefit.

	Within 100km	100-250km	250+km	State average
Custodes	4	4	4	4.0
Email newsletters (E-news)	1	1	1	0.6
Web site www.rvahj.org.au	2	2	1	1.4
Membership / service awards	1	2	1	1.5
RVAHJ merchandise	3	3	3	3.0
Advocating in interests of HJ	2	3	2	2.5
Responding to members' questions	2	2	2	1.9
Communication with branches	1	1	1	1.1
Keeping me informed about RVAHJ news	3	4	4	3.5

- Almost one third of respondents had an annual income between nil and \$35,000. 10% of respondents had an annual income of \$95,000 or greater.

### Branches

- One third of respondents (35%) do not feel welcome at branch meetings. This increases to 46% of respondents from branches more than 250km from the Melbourne GPO.
- Only one quarter of all respondents (26%) regularly attend branch meetings.
- Metropolitan respondents are less likely to attend a branch meeting (17%), than a respondent living more than 250km from the Melbourne GPO (37%).
- Metropolitan respondents (15%) felt branch meetings were less informative than country branch meetings (34%).

### RVAHJ services

See table for scores on a range of services ( zero is 'very bad' & 5 is 'exceptional'. The various scores will be

### About the RVAHJ

Less than half of all respondents (46%) felt the RVAHJ is an innovative and responsive organisation and only 49% felt a valued member of the RVAHJ. Conversely however, 68% of respondents felt that the RVAHJ has advocated strongly on behalf of honorary justices and 60% felt that their independence as an honorary justice is critical to the role. The majority of respondents (53%) did not feel welcome to attend an RVAHJ function of branch function.

### Communications

Custodes was the most popular way of receiving communication from the RVAHJ (44%), followed by posted letters (42%) and email (19%). The website was the preferred communication means of only 2% of respondents. When scoring RVAHJ communication from zero ('very bad;') to 5 ('exceptional'), respondents gave the RVAHJ a score of 3.3 Two thirds of respondents felt they received sufficient information from the RVAHJ.

# SALE!

Check out these specials!

RVAHJ Pens now \$39.95 and RVAHJ clocks now \$24.95 - Only while stocks last!  
(Order form on reverse of address sheet)



## RVAHJ business cards now available

RVAHJ Business Cards are now available in lots of 100 @ \$59 for 100 and \$94 for 200.

To order, complete the details below and forward with payment by fax or post.

*\*Note: Sample at right is not to scale and the RVAHJ Logo will be in colour.*



Royal Victorian Association of  
Honorary Justices

**John Citizen JP**  
Justice of the Peace 12345

29 Smith Street  
ELWOOD 3184  
jp12345@rvahj.org.au

Ph: 9525 9999  
Fax: 9525 9995  
Mob: 0401 999 999

### BUSINESS CARD ORDER FORM

<b>Field 1: Name</b>	
<b>Field 2: Office</b> (Circle one)	Justice of the Peace    Bail Justice    Both <b>Reg. No/s.</b>
<b>Field 3: Address</b>	
<b>Field 4: Suburb/Town</b>	<b>Postcode</b>
<b>Field 5: Email</b>	@rvahj.org.au (or tick box to leave field blank) <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Field 6: Phone</b>	<b>Field 7: Fax</b> <b>Field 8: Mobile</b>
<b>Quantity:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 100 cards @\$59 <input type="checkbox"/> 200 cards @ \$94 <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <b>No. of cards</b>	<b>Sub-total \$</b>
<b>Plus Post &amp; Hand: (\$6.00 first 100 cards, add \$2 per 100 cards thereafter)</b>	<b>Post &amp; Hand \$</b>
<b>Delivery Address:</b>	<b>TOTAL \$</b>
<b>Contact phone</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque/Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card
<b>Credit Card Details</b>	
<b>Credit card type (MasterCard/Visa only)</b>	
<b>Cardholder's name:</b>	
<b>Cardholder's signature:</b>	
<b>Credit card number:</b>	
<b>Expiry date:</b>	

# DIRECTORS' ACTIVITY STATEMENTS 2008

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



<b>Position/s</b>	Director, ACJA Councillor, Communications & Media Chair, Past President, Life Member
<b>Joined Board</b>	1989
<b>Qualifications</b>	Diploma of Photography (RMIT)
<b>Home town</b>	Clunes
<b>Profession</b>	Office Manager, Wesley College
<b>Liaison to</b>	Ballarat, Bendigo

#### 2008 activities and achievements

- Regularly attended Ballarat & Bendigo Branches
- Created Media Kit for branches
- 12• Attended Australasian Council of Justices' Associations & elected Vice President

### Glenda Frost JP



<b>Position</b>	Director
<b>Joined Board</b>	2008
<b>Qualifications</b>	Dip Accounting - Reg Tax Agent
<b>Home town</b>	Rowville
<b>Profession</b>	Public Accountant - Tax Agent Private Practice
<b>Liaison to</b>	Dandenong

#### 2008 activities and achievements

- Attended AGM Dandenong
- Attended Casey Council dinner to honour local Justices
- Attended Dandenong Annual dinner
- Asset control Portfolio

### Rod McConnell JP



<b>Position</b>	President
<b>Joined Board</b>	2003
<b>Qualifications</b>	-
<b>Home town</b>	Yallambie
<b>Profession</b>	Retired
<b>Liaison to</b>	Diamond Valley, City & Northern, Nth East, Upper Murray

#### 2008 activities and achievements

- Chaired 5 Board and all Exec Meetings; restructured the Board following Director resignations
- Attended and spoke at Training sessions
- Represented the RVAHJ at the DoJ JP & BJ Reference Group meetings
- Negotiated a 3 year MOU with State Trustees for training funding
- Attended various meetings with Vice President Reside and DoJ officers to re-establish previous cordial relations
- More open reporting of Board decisions in Custodes
- Brought about a more formalised response to Branch and Member concerns
- Attended at 19 Branches, Chaired 7 AGM meetings and Guest Speaker at 5
- Commissioned a review of the RVAHJ Constitution, and the writing of our 100 year history
- Oversaw appointment of the Audit and Governance Committee, and re-structuring of office procedures
- Introduced a Voluntary Workers Insurance scheme for financial members
- Together with Director Laurie Taig brought about a comprehensive review of the DoJ Policy on Complaints Procedures affecting all Honorary Justices

## Linda Rainsford



<b>Position</b>	Director, ID/Website oversight
<b>Joined Board</b>	2008
<b>Qualifications</b>	-
<b>Home town</b>	Ringwood East
<b>Profession</b>	<b>Executive Services Officer</b>
<b>Liaison to</b>	Maroondah and Benalla Branches

### 2008 activities and achievements

- Appointed to the Board in May 2008 and participated in all Board meetings since.
- Membership Committee member.
- Part of a 3-person selection panel for prospective Board members.
- Website updates completed as required and redevelopment project of the association's website underway.
- Attended Benalla Branch AGM.
- Attendance at Maroondah Branch meetings.

## Chris Reside



<b>Position</b>	Vice President
<b>Joined Board</b>	2005
<b>Qualifications</b>	Business degree (RMIT)
<b>Home town</b>	Werribee
<b>Profession</b>	CEO, Abbeyfield Australia
<b>Liaison to</b>	Western Suburbs, Geelong & Wyndham

### 2008 activities and achievements

- Supervising editor for Custodes
- Coordinated membership satisfaction survey

## Garry Runge JP



<b>Position</b>	Director (elected President December 2008)
<b>Joined Board</b>	2008
<b>Qualifications</b>	Bachelor of Arts (Police Studies) Associate Diploma of Police Studies
<b>Home town</b>	Beaconsfield
<b>Profession</b>	Retired member of Victoria Police
<b>Liaison to</b>	-

### 2008 activities and achievements

- Appointed Director in August 2008
- Attended Dandenong branch meeting
- Re-structured RVAHJ Board (following election as President)
- Liaised with Department of Justice
- Liaised with Society of Notaries

## Laurie Taig JP



<b>Position</b>	Director
<b>Joined Board</b>	1996
<b>Qualifications</b>	BJ, JP, Mediation Certificate (RMIT), RVAHJ trained-Indep't Witness, Doc. Witness, Customs, Mechanical Engineering Diploma Training
<b>Home town</b>	Mentone
<b>Profession</b>	Agreements Assessor, Aust Govt Workplace Authority
<b>Liaison to</b>	Mornington Peninsula, Dandenong, Glen Waverley

## 2008 activities and achievements

- JP Rosters Coordinator, establishing new rosters at Mildura, Ringwood, Chelsea, Mornington and Caulfield Police Stations. Attended presentation of certificates for JP's at Bairnsdale Police Station
- Attended all Board meetings
- Attended allocated Branch meetings as Liaison Director and others as a Director
- Represented the RVAHJ at all DoJ JP and Bail Justice Reference Group meetings
- Represented RVAHJ President at a dinner in honour of Justice Volunteers at the City of Casey
- Met with delegation from China

## Michael Tiliacos JP GSC AIMM MAIES



<b>Position</b>	Director, Chairman-Audit & Governance Committee
<b>Joined Board</b>	2007
<b>Qualifications</b>	Bachelor of Arts (Uni of Melb) Bachelor of Business (RMIT)
<b>Home town</b>	Eaglemont
<b>Profession</b>	Senior Public Servant
<b>Liaison to</b>	Diamond Valley

## 2008 activities and achievements

- Attended most Board meetings and liaised with Diamond Valley branch and members
- Represented the Association at DoJ Reference Group meetings
- Contributed to the Association's response to the DoJ Complaints Policy
- Advocated on behalf of members and supported the establishment of members insurance
- Drafted Terms of Reference of Association's Audit & Governance Committee
- Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee

## Ray Walker JP



<b>Position</b>	Director, Chief Finance Officer
<b>Joined Board</b>	2006
<b>Qualifications</b>	Bank Manager, Finance & Admin Manager over 45 years
<b>Home town</b>	Donald
<b>Profession</b>	Retired
<b>Liaison to</b>	Buloke, Sunraysia, Wimmera

## 2008 activities and achievements

- Attended Buloke branch meetings and have been re-appointed Branch Chairman
- Attended Wimmera branch meetings at Stawell and Natimuk.
- Chief Finance Officer

## Norman Wittingslow JP



<b>Position</b>	Director
<b>Joined Board</b>	2008
<b>Qualifications</b>	
<b>Home town</b>	Essendon
<b>Profession</b>	
<b>Liaison to</b>	

## 2008 activities and achievements

- Being only recently appointed to the Board, Norman did not provide an activity report for 2008.



## Back on the soapbox...

### Black Saturday

Black Saturday, 7 February 2009 will long be remembered for the loss of life and havoc wreaked upon Victoria. Few of us have not been touched by the fires: whether directly and personally, or through close friends, family members or work colleagues who have suffered loss. Still more of our community have been part of the remarkable emergency services response, including the Herculean contribution of thousands of CFA and SES volunteers.

It would be trite in a small column like this to wax long and lyrical about the savagery of the Australian landscape or mourn the tragic loss of life. Suffice to simply say, that the hearts and thoughts of all at the RVAHJ go to those impacted so greatly by the event. Sometimes fewer words mean more.

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

Chris Reside



## Address of authorised witness on documents

It is a requirement under legislation that honorary justices write or otherwise print, their name and address under their signature when witnessing documentation. This has long been a cause of concern for many members who did not wish to put their private address on documents.

We are happy to advise that the Department of Justice has recently authorized honorary justices to use the department's address when witnessing documents. The DOJ's current address is: C/o

Victorian Dept of Justice, 436 Lonsdale St, Melbourne, 3000.

However, members are cautioned that the DOJ is expected to relocate to Carlton sometime this year, with a further move over the next two years. Consideration of this should be made before purchasing any stamps with the department's address.

Members are reminded of their obligation to advise the Department of Justice of any change to their address or contact details.



## Honoured (& honourable) members

Congratulations to the following members who received awards within the Order of Australia on Australia Day -

**Mrs Valda Lawrence OAM JP** of Queenscliff - For service to local government through the Borough of Queenscliffe Council and to the community, and

**Mr Robert Marshall OAM JP** of Melton - For service to the community, particularly through improvements in local health services.

Congratulations also to Beverley Wall JP of Woomelang who, late last year, was named Victoria's Local Hero of the Year for her efforts in maintaining services in the Mallee town.

Finally, a special thank you to all of you who contacted the office to offer your services during the bushfire crisis. Well done everyone!

## OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note, the office will be closed from Friday, 3 April 2009 to Monday, 13 April 2009 inclusive.