



# 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

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# Custodes



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF HONORARY JUSTICES



CELEBRATION!



ANNUAL DINNER 2008



Issue 3 of 2008

# Custodes

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

## Issue 3 of 2008

### Credits

Managing Editor – Chris Reside

Editor – Erin Marcon

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### Contributors:

Michael Cheshire JP

Rod McConnell JP

Shirley Smith JP

Glenda Frost JP

Garry Runge JP

Norman Wittingslow JP

Helen Gilhome

Heather Simmonds

Photographs  
Michael Tiliacos JP



### Words of Wisdom

*"This is the final test of a gentleman: his respect for those who can be of no possible value to him."*

- William Lyon Phelps (1865-1943)



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### Diary Dates

**Tuesday 21 October 2008**

Deadline for the next issue of Custodes

**Saturday 25 October 2008**

Document Witnessing Training - Ballarat

**Cover page photos:** Top left, Guest speaker, Justice Lex Lasry; Top right, Justice Betty King with Ian Dyett JP & Fred Kent JP, 25 & 35 year certificate recipients; Bottom left, 45 year certificate recipients, Max Watson JP & Bruce Latimer JP; Bottom right, Master of Ceremonies, John Cheetham JP



## Editorial

Before we kick off this issue, I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you about a semi-regular feature that we'll be debuting in next issue of Custodes. 'Faces of the RVAHJ' will provide readers with informative and entertaining snapshots of members from throughout the state. This will be a real showcase for the wonderfully diverse (and dispersed) membership of the Association.

Who will be profiled in the first iteration of the column? That would be you, of course. (I bet you saw that one coming). Simply respond to the prompts below and email them to [custodes@rvahj.org.au](mailto:custodes@rvahj.org.au). Don't forget to include a photograph!

- I am a member of the ..... Branch
- I have been an Association member since...
- I became an Honorary Justice because...
- The best piece of advice I ever received was...
- The achievement of which I am most proud is...
- Over the next 12 months I hope to...
- My favourite novel is...

- My favourite film is...
- My favourite song is...
- Don't forget to include a photograph!

Returning to the issue at hand, you're in for a treat. This edition of Custodes features the inaugural missives from your new Directors, highlights the introduction of the Association's Media Kit and celebrates the incredible success of the signing centres, not to mention our coverage of the Annual Dinner 2008. All the regulars are back too, including columns from the President and Vice-President.

If you have any thoughts on this issue of Custodes, or on any issues relating to Honorary Justices, please drop me a line at [custodes@rvahj.org.au](mailto:custodes@rvahj.org.au). I look forward to hearing from you.

Erin Marcon  
Editor Custodes



## 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

John Balsillie MBE JP	SPRING GULLY	Neville Johnson JP	ENDEAVOURS HILLS
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Leanne Jackman JP	DADSWELLS BRIDGE	Ruth Warren JP	BERWICK



## From the President's desk...

As we approach our centenary it is appropriate that we ensure our constitution and other regulations remain relevant to current thinking and language. To that end a review of our constitution is to be undertaken by the Ethics Committee, chaired by former Director Len King JP. Members are encouraged to submit suggested amendments for consideration during the review. The constitution in its current form may be viewed on our website home page.

Having reached the mandatory retirement age for Bail Justices, Director Roger Isherwood OAM JP has retired from the Board after serving there for seven years. Apart from his Board duties Roger also acted as the Liaison Director with the Western Suburbs, and the City and Northern Branches. As a Bail Justice, Roger served the community well and was rarely unable to answer a call for his services. We wish Roger well for the future, and thank him for his contribution to, and participation in, the Association's affairs as a Director.

At its August meeting the Board approved three recommendations for the filling of casual vacancies on the Board, appointing Mrs Glenda Frost JP, Mr Garry Runge JP and Mr Norman Wittingslow JP as Directors of the Association. I am confident that the expertise and experience these new Directors will bring to the Board in a variety of fields will be of great benefit to the Board and ultimately to all members.

With a full house once again our Annual Dinner was a great success, and this year The Honourable Justice Lex Lasry proved to be a popular and entertaining guest speaker to an attentive audience of members and guests. His Honour's humour was a pleasant prelude to his more passionate message



regarding human rights, particularly where they are sorely lacking in various countries, and a better understanding our own judicial system. Later in the evening, and on behalf of all Association members, I personally congratulated the 24 recipients of Service Awards who were present to receive them, amongst whom was 94 year old Calvert Clarke JP, who received his 50 Year Certificate of Service Award.

The question as to whether Bail Justices need to have the Working with Children Accreditation has again been raised, this time through the Bail Justice Reference Group (BJRG). It is the Association's view that the background checks made of an individual prior to his/her appointment as a Bail Justice ought to suffice and that accreditation should be automatic upon appointment. The Department of Justice (DoJ), through the BJRG, has requested a definitive answer regarding this matter. In like manner, the DoJ has been asked to consider allowing the address on a JP's stamp to be c/o the DoJ itself. This is regarded as a security matter particularly for those JPs who work within the prison system and witness documents for prisoners. When and if requested, all that is necessary for authentication by the Department is the JP's name and number which does not alter with any change of address.

The next JP and BJ Reference Group Meetings have been rescheduled to November, where the Association's submission on the latest draft of the DoJ Policy and Complaints Procedures should be an agenda item. The outcomes will be advised to members in due course. My thanks to those members who took the time to involve themselves and responded to these important issues that affect all Honorary Justices.

## Media Kit a hit!

For too long, Honorary Justices have been unheralded contributors to their local communities. Wouldn't it be beneficial to let everyone know about the great work happening out there? Such publicity may also attract fresh candidates for appointment as Justices of the Peace or Bail Justices.

Chair of the Communications Committee, Director Michael Cheshire JP has recently formulated a Media Kit and sent copies to each of the Association's Branches. The material within the kit will enable Branches to more easily attract media coverage for local Justices of the Peace.

In fact, the kit has already paid dividends, attracting positive media coverage for A.W.G. Pearce

JP in particular and the Association in general. Check out the September 2 edition of the Buloke Times for further details. (The story in question is featured on the front page!)

If any Branch has not received a copy of the Association's Media Kit, please email Michael Cheshire at [jp33@bigpond.com](mailto:jp33@bigpond.com) or telephone 5345 9333 (business hours) or 5345 3777 (after hours).

"As we move towards the centenary for our association, it is appropriate for us to seek more coverage by way of good news about our work." said Michael Cheshire.

"We have a great story to tell, and it is up to us all to follow up with our local media."



## Powerful advice

### Important IAO guidance from Children's Court Magistrate Peter Power

A new policy is now in place that will eliminate the requirement for Bail Justices in Interim Accommodation Order matters, where there is less than 24 hours until the next court day. The following information was provided by Peter Power, Children's Court Magistrate.

*"The change brings the "safe custody" process into line with a strict reading of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic). Section 242(2) of the CYFA provides that "a child taken into safe custody under s.241 must be brought before the Court for the hearing of an application for an interim accommodation order as soon as practicable and, in any event, within one working day after the child was taken into safe custody". Section 242(3) of the CYFA which enlivens the jurisdiction of a bail justice provides that "Unless a child is brought before the Court under s.242(2) within 24 hours after the child was taken into safe custody, he or she must, subject to s.242(4), be brought before a bail justice as soon as possible within that period of 24 hours for the hearing of an application for an interim accommodation order". Apart from s.598 (which does not in any event involve a bail justice), the other sections dealing with apprehension of children with or without warrants all refer back to ss.241 & 242 (see e.g. s.270(7)). So you can see that the legislation - which is in identical terms to ss.69(4) & 69(5) of the predecessor Children and Young Persons Act 1989 (Vic) - contemplates an apprehended child being brought straight to Court if this can be done within 24 hours and only brought before a bail justice if the child cannot be brought to Court within 24 hours.*

*The legislation has not changed at all from one Act to the other. I do not know why the previous practice had sprung up and had been part of the procedure in this State for so long but it was a practice which was not strictly in accordance with the legislation. However, that did not invalidate the practice because it did not impact adversely on the rights of parents, children or anyone else.*

*What then happens to an apprehended child in the period between being removed from parental care and brought before the Court or bail justice? Section 242(5) of the CYFA provides the answer: "Until a child taken into safe custody under s.241 is brought before the Court or a bail justice for the making of an interim accommodation order, the child may only be placed (a) in an out of home care service; or (b) if there is a substantial and immediate risk of harm to the child, in a secure welfare service; or (c) in other accommodation approved by the Secretary in accordance with the*

*prescribed criteria (if any)." This is in identical terms to s.69(7) of the CYPA.*

*I should emphasize that the rationale for the change was not any concern about the decision-making ability of bail justices. It was not a desire by DOHS - or for that matter by DOJ or the Court - to cut bail justices out of much of the loop because of any implied criticism of the BJ's role. I say "much of the loop" rather than all of the loop because s.242(3) of the CYFA makes it clear that bail justices must remain integral to the process on Friday evenings, Saturdays & Sundays up to 10am and also on the eve of any public holiday.*

*The reason for the change is as follows. Earlier this year the workload of the Children's Court had reached something of a crisis point. Judge Grant took an opportunity to enable the Attorney-General personally to witness how overcrowded and understaffed the Melbourne Children's Court had become. This resulted very quickly in an assessment of the staffing needs of the Court being performed by Boston Consulting Group. In the process BCG conducted extensive interviews with various stakeholders. One of the recommendations of BCG's assessment was for the appointment of additional magistrates and registrars to the Children's Court of Victoria. As from 01/07/2008, we now have 2 additional magistrates, 1 additional acting magistrate and a number of additional registrars. Further increases are proposed for future years. This has meant that Melbourne Children's Court now has the ability to run an "apprehensions court", a luxury we have never had in the past. We expect all cases in which children have been apprehended overnight to be ready for mention - and if necessary contest - no later than 11am each day. Any cases in which children have been apprehended earlier in the day are mentioned as quickly as possible provided that the relevant paperwork is filed at Court by 2pm. In the past it would frequently happen that the "apprehensions" were not able to be mentioned until after 4pm because of the pressure of other Court work. To read the legislation strictly - and to bring the child straight to Court within 24 hours - enables DOHS to cut several hours out of the apprehension processing pathway for each family and makes it easier both for DOHS and the family members' solicitors to have the case ready for mention by 11am. So far we have found that the changed process - which has been in effect for about 5 weeks - is working well and children, parents, DOHS staff & Court staff are getting away from Court a lot earlier than had previously been possible.*

*There has been, of course, no change in procedure for remand/bail applications for children charged with criminal offences."*

# ANNUAL DINNER 2008

## Gallery

Held on Friday 22 August 2008, the Association's Annual Dinner had it all: great company, sublime music and the opportunity to hear from one of Australia's most respected legal figures. All in all, a triumph!



*Above: Justice Lex Lasry shares his experiences as a human rights advocate and recent appointee to the Supreme Court of Victoria with an appreciative audience.*



*Above: Ben Cirillo and Fred Kent stand shoulder to shoulder after each received certificates acknowledging 35 years of service.*



*Above: Bruce Latimer shares a joke with President Rod McConnell after receiving a certificate celebrating 45 years of service.*



*Above: After wowing us at the Treacy Centre in 2007, Amelia and the BJs return for another outstanding performance.*



*Above: Director Helen Gilhome and Laura Mazzone (State Trustees) catch up for a chat.*



*Above: Receiving certificates for 30 years of service were James Beovich, Brian Stahl, Dennis Konidaris, Margaret Harris, Geoff Freer, Graeme Neill, Willi Carney and Bob Williams.*

# ANNUAL DINNER 2008

## Service Certificates

The presentation of service certificates was again a highlight of the annual dinner. This year, 116 members were awarded certificates, with 24 of those in attendance on the night. Of particular note was the presentation to Calvert Clarke of a certificate marking 50 years of tireless dedication to the cause. "It was my sincere privilege to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of Calvert and the many other members celebrating milestones," said President Rod McConnell.

### *Recipients of 25 Year Certificates*

On hand to receive certificates recognising 25 years of Association membership and service to the community were Norman Banner, Robert Black, Bruce Brisbane, Ian Dyett, Robert Gersch, Leslie Kausman, Norma McCausland, John McConachy, Danny McDowell, Kerryn Shade and Gim Yeo.

Unable to attend, but also receiving certificates, were Bill Ager, Herbert Alexander, Peter Baldwin, John Beable, John Cameron, Lindsay Cameron, William Chapman, Gwenda Fiedler, Dorothy Fitch, Ken Foglie, Vittorio Gigliotti, Ivan Gilbert, Kevin Giltrap, Neville Goldsmith, Roger Hallam, George Holmes, Peter Howard, Marlene Jager, Clarice Lees, Peter Leonard, Ian Mill, Peter Natoli, David O'Toole, John Perks, Norm Pollack, Dale Sayers, Robert Seiffert, Murray Shannon, Thomas Synan, Ron Tobias, Boniface Town, Noel Tyrrell and Dale Wilding.

### *Recipients of 30 Year Certificates*

On hand to receive certificates recognising 30 years of Association membership and service to the community were James Beovich, Willi Carney, Geoff Freer, Margaret Harris, Dennis Konidaris, Graeme Neill, Brian Stahl and Bob Williams.

Unable to attend, but also receiving certificates were, Frank Bennett, George Bildstien, Brian Blake, Catherine Bond, William Calder, James Cameron, Kenneth Clarke, Ellen Collis, Norman Coutts, Barry

Cross, Jean Cull, John Currie, Helene Dennis, Sandra Dynon, Nancy Ead, John Egan, Graeme Gillard, Ian Gould, Peter Hobson, Allie Holt, Morris Jacobs, Karl Jonsson, Lewis Kent, Hurtle Lupton, Peter Morrissy, Edmund Pearce, Peter Penning, John Sullivan, Hugh Thomson, Derek Willard and John Ziltzer.

### *Recipients of 35 Year Certificates*

On hand to receive certificates recognising 35 years of Association membership and service to the community were Ben Cirillo and Fred Kent.

Unable to attend, but also receiving certificates, were Kevin Andrews, Bruce Beck, Peter Davey, William Davey, John Frewen, Kevin Hamling, Norman Harper, John Howard, Harold Lenard, John McMahon, James Mills, Des O'Meara, Kenneth Peoples, William Sommers, Keith Walton, Stanley Watt and Robert White.

### *Recipients of 40 Year Certificates*

Unable to attend, but receiving certificates recognising 40 years of Association membership service to the community were William Crofts, William Hudson, John Nevins, Irwin Parsons, Allan Peisley and Keith Pretty.

### *Recipients of 45 Year Certificates*

On hand to receive certificates recognising 45 years of Association membership and service to the community were Bruce Latimer and Maxwell Watson.

Unable to attend, but also receiving certificates were Chris Chris and Ron Gleeson.

### *Recipients of 50 Year Certificates*

On hand to receive a certificate recognising 50 years of Association membership and service to the community was Calvert Clarke. Unable to attend, but also receiving certificates, were Victor Huf, Antonio Lamberti and Alfred Pearse.



*Above: President Rod McConnell congratulates Calvert Clarke on 50 years of Association membership.*



## From the wire...

### A national judicial system?

Attorney-General Rob Hulls has called for the development of a national judicial system that would allow judges to move between different jurisdictions. Mr Hulls made the call in response to a proposal by Federal Attorney-General Robert McClelland to set up a national judicial complaints system.

Mr Hulls said while he welcomed the Commonwealth's proposal, the establishment of a national complaints system should be based on a national judiciary. Mr Hulls said that the "development of a national judiciary is crucial. It would provide greater consistency and uniformity in the provision of judicial services in Australia and facilitate the movement of judicial officers between jurisdictions."

Mr Hulls said that while there were a number of constitutional and legal issues that would need to be resolved, a nationally integrated judicial system had the potential to provide a more consistent national approach to litigation and to further resolve any substantive problems facing the development of a national legal market.

### Where Are My Wots-er-names? A poem by Kay Armstrong

*I've again misplaced my 'wots-er-names',  
And I really can't think where,  
I've searched all through the 'thing-a-me-bob',  
But they certainly weren't in there,*

*I've turned the 'wots-it' inside out,  
And there, to my delight,  
I found a thing I had misplaced,  
Only just last night,*

*I've looked out in the laundry,  
And in the bathroom, where,  
I found a tub of margarine,  
I wonder how that got there?*

*I thought about the garden,  
So retraced my steps outside,  
But efforts to locate the things,  
My 'wots-er-named' defied,*

*I'm absolutely puzzled,  
I don't know where they've gone,  
Just let me think about it,  
Oh, look, I've got them on.*

### \$100K to combat racism

The Springvale Monash Legal Service has been given a \$100,000 grant to develop a plan for combating racism in their community.

Attorney-General Rob Hulls said the grant, which has been made by the Legal Services Board, will be used for research into the development of education tools to teach local youth about human rights and racism issues.

"In order to combat racism in the community, we must realise our obligation to teach young people about their human rights and responsibilities, and the effects of racism.

The funding will enable the Springvale Monash Legal Service to develop ideas for the 'Combating Racism, Building Communities' project over the next year.

The Springvale Monash Legal Service will collaborate with the Western Suburbs Legal Service and the Fitzroy Legal Service as well as community partners. Together, they will develop a human rights and anti-racism education program for schools in the western, south eastern and inner northern suburbs of Melbourne.

The Legal Service will also develop strategies to counter negative stereotyping of people from different cultural backgrounds and to raise awareness of the challenges they face.

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## New faces on the board

Three new Directors have been appointed to fill casual vacancies on the Association's Board. Your new Directors are Glenda Frost JP, Gary Runge JP and Norman Wittingslow JP.

Custodes offered the new Directors an opportunity to introduce themselves to the readership. Directors Frost Runge and Wittingslow provided the following material.

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

#### Glenda Frost JP

Thank you all for the chance to participate and become more involved with the Association. I introduce myself to you as a mother of two daughters and grandmother of 14 year old Jordan and 18 month old Jackson.

I was born at home 59 years ago in Richmond Victoria to a keen tigers supporting father and a Swans mother (go Swans). Raised on a farm in the Diamond Valley, I moved to the City of Knox in 1971 with my first husband.

In 1982 found myself a sole parent, I returned to studies and became an Accountant and Tax Consultant. I married fellow accountant, Max in 1990 and set up Practice in Belgrave as Belgrave Taxation Services.

Being self employed allowed us to travel extensively, and together, we have visited most countries & cultures.

In my spare time I enjoy and support the Arts, being an "Arts Angel" and am involved with the RSPCA as foster parent and sponsor a litter of puppies each year for the Guide Dogs Victoria.

When I was raising my daughters I took up Badminton, playing pennant for many years and becoming a coach for juniors, later, indicating my follow through with most things.

I became a Justice of the Peace on 5 September 2006 and am on the roster for Dandenong Police Station and on call for the State Trustees witness scheme.

I look forward to assisting and supporting the members of the Board in any way I can with a vision for a bright and positive future for the Association.



### 2009 Board elections

In accordance with the Association's constitution, an election of Directors will be held in 2009. The time frame for elections is rather lengthy as it is tied to publishing dates for Custodes and the requirements of the Constitution itself. In summary the nomination and election process is as follows:

- nominations will be formally invited in the December 2008 edition of Custodes
- if the number of nominations exceeds vacancies, an election will be held and all candidates will be invited to lodge a 100 word statement and

#### Garry Runge JP

I reside in Beaconsfield with my wife Sue and enjoy serving the community as an Honorary Justice, having been appointed in 2004. I joined the Victoria Police in 1977 and retired after 27 years, having served at the Prahran Police Station, the Criminal Investigation Branch, the National Crime Authority and finally in the Ethical Standards Department.

On retirement I was elected Mayor of Cardinia Shire Council and served in that position for two years.

I have a passion for teaching and was recently employed as a sessional lecturer in Criminology. I currently work at the Office of Police Integrity and look forward to adding value to the Board in my capacity as a Director.



#### Norman Wittingslow JP

I spent my entire life living in Essendon as two generations before me. I attended Moonee Ponds West Primary School and then Essendon High School.

I started work for ICI as a Trainee Industrial Chemist and was then conscripted and served two years National Service in the Army. After this I joined the family business, which had picture theatres, transport and did seating installation.

I started a Masters Degree in Business Administration, which led me to become the Managing Director of Freemasons Hospital for 13 years.

I went back to University and completed a Law Degree and currently I am a practicing Barrister and Solicitor.

In total I have served on ten Boards of Management and numerous committees.

I am married to Judith and have two children and five grandchildren.

I look forward with great anticipation to participating in and serving the RVAHJ.



photograph for publication in the March 2009 edition of Custodes

- ballot forms will be included in March 2009 edition of Custodes and all financial members will be invited to participate in the vote
- the result will be declared by the Returning Officer following the close of voting and take effect immediately following the Association's Annual General Meeting to be held in April /May 2009

All members are encouraged to consider nominating for the Board. It is a challenging, time consuming and often demanding role, but also immensely satisfying. If you have the relevant skills, life experience or business experience to bring to the table, you should consider nominating.



## Looking for that special Christmas gift?

The following gift ideas are available from your Association, but only in very limited quantities.

### KOESKIN SATCHEL



This splendid Koeskin Satchel (looks and feels like leather) has a tasteful Association logo. It's a perfect size, big enough for the laptop, but far from cumbersome.

It features a flap style with a zipped compartment at the rear. This is ideal for all of your pads, pens, stamps, umbrella and whatnots. It features both a handle and shoulder strap.

A number have already pre-sold, so please order early.



**\$69.95 + postage (\$10.00 1st item)**

### SCHAEFFER PEN

This beautiful brushed chrome Schaeffer pen is presented in its own gift box. This is a smooth writing, quality pen that anyone would be proud to own. The name of your association has been laser engraved onto the barrel of each pen. (*Note, Association name is shown at right in black, for visibility purposes only*). Colour of ink is black.



**\$49.95 + postage (\$6.00 1st item)**

### ALARM CLOCK



With easy to read numerals, in a traditional, analogue style, this beautiful clock is presented in a sophisticated, polished chrome case which has been laser-engraved with the association's logo. (*Engraving shown in black at right for visibility purposes only*).



Features: Quartz analogue movement  
Easy to read numerals  
Alarm function  
Automatic (battery) operation

**\$29.95 + postage (\$6.00 1st item)**

### KEY RING

Featuring the Association logo superbly embossed in silver, set against a black background, this stylish silver-bordered key ring is an ideal gift for any member. The key ring ships in its own black gift box.

**\$8.95 + postage (\$4.00 1st item)**





## ORDER FORM

Name	
Telephone	Email
Postal Address:	

Indicate your order below

Payment method (tick one)

KOESKIN SATCHEL

Credit card

SCHAEFFER PEN

Cheque / Money Order

CLOCK

KEY RING

\*Postage 1st item

Extra items postage



\*Postage rates - please include the 1st item postage charge plus \$2 per item thereafter. For example, to purchase a satchel, pen and key ring, add \$10 as the 1st item postage and \$4 for the extra items. To purchase the clock and the key ring, add \$6 as the 1st item postage and \$2 for the extra item.

TOTAL

## CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Card Type (Visa or MasterCard only)
Credit Card Number
Credit Card Expiry Date
Card holder's Name
Card holder's Signature

Once complete, post order form to Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices, PO Box 317, Elwood, Vic. 3184 or fax it to (03) 9525 7765. No telephone orders please.



## Signing centres approach a million signatures

Document signing centres serviced by Honorary Justices are continuing to grow in number and demand. Currently there are 36 document signing centres across Victoria with venues including country and metropolitan police stations, the Royal Melbourne Hospital, the Melbourne Family Court and Probate Court.

The Centres are established under the auspices of the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices and manned by Justices of the Peace. A local roster coordinator schedules JPs on each roster. The Association's State Roster Coordinator, Laurie Taig, oversees the commencement of new sites (using a protocol agreed with Victoria Police) and maintains monthly ongoing statistical reporting.

Non Association members are also very welcome to serve on any document signing centre roster.

The first document signing centre at a Police Station was established in Dandenong and now approximately 36,000 documents are signed across the state each month. At that rate, the Association anticipates that the one millionth document will be signed during late 2008.

Victoria Police have welcomed the growth in document signing centres as they greatly relieve sworn police officers from hundreds of hours of administrative work. Several police stations, including Geelong, Bairnsdale and Werribee have held barbeques or morning teas to recognise those serving on JP rosters.

Honorary Justices wishing to serve on a roster should contact their local roster coordinator or Cathy Owens in the RVAHJ office on 03 9525 7099.



Wednesday 4 June 2008: The East Gippsland Branch enjoyed a morning tea courtesy of the local constabulary before receiving certificates recognising their contribution to the community.

Saturday 30 August 2008: It's the Wyndham Branch in the spotlight this time as the local arm of the Victoria Police expressed its gratitude to these hardworking volunteers





## Branch bulletins

### Wimmera Branch hears from noted JP

Though coughs, colds and the flu caused some members to be absent at the Wimmera Branch Meeting, held at Minyip on Thursday 14 August 2008, good food, a warm room, and wonderful fellowship made for a very happy evening.

Twelve members were in attendance, together with partners and guests. The guest speaker was Harry Ludwig, a Minister of Religion, and a Justice of the Peace for 30 years. He spoke of the history of JPs, touching on the development of the concept under Richard the Lionheart and Edward III.

Mr Ludwig also discussed his time in Papua New Guinea as an executive member of the Eastern Highlands Province Rehabilitation Committee. There he

worked with criminals, prisoners, and parolees. He participated in rehabilitation projects and village courts. He was also University Chaplain and Chaplain of the National Sports Institute.

In Australia, Mr Ludwig served in Queensland (where he became a Justice of the Peace), South Australia and Victoria. He remains a JP in South Australia, where he was invited to undertake special training to become Inspector of Prisons, a role he found to be extremely rewarding.

While in South Australia, he was involved in the Review of Justices of the Peace, as requested by their Attorney-General. All present enjoyed Mr Ludwig's intriguing and wide-reaching address.

### 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](mailto:custodes@rvahj.org.au). Contributions may be edited for length and content.



### Tips for handling unusual stat decs

As most Honorary Justices will know, not all Statutory Declarations are straight forward. Here are a few tips for handling less common irregularities in Statutory Declarations:

#### Blank spaces to be crossed out

To ensure a Statutory Declaration is not amended after it has been witnessed, the authorised person must rule a crossed line through any blank space and initial the crossing.

#### Corrections and erasures

Corrections to Statutory Declarations which are discovered at the time of witnessing should be neatly crossed out, the correct word inserted, and the change initialled by the authorised witness.

#### Multiple page statutory declarations

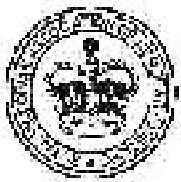
Where a statutory declaration covers more than one sheet of paper the authorised person should number

and sign each sheet at the foot to prevent the later substitution of pages. (For example: 1 of 3, 2 of 3, 3 of 3.)

#### Re-declaring

If a Statutory Declarations contains an irregularity in form or content, the declarant (the person making the declaration) may be required to re-declare a corrected Statutory Declaration. The corrected Declaration (with changes initialled) may be re-declared before the original authorised person or before any other authorised officer. In these cases, the same formula is used in the taking of the fresh Declaration and all the same requirements must be met. However an additional (slightly modified) attestation clause should be added:

*Re-declared at this day of 2008  
before me*



# Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

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

## DOCUMENT WITNESSING

The following training for Justices of the Peace will be held **AT NO COST FOR MEMBERS** (and those who have applied for Membership).

**Date:** October 25th

**Time:** 9.00 am to 3.30 pm

**Venue:** Trench Room, 1st floor, Ballarat Town Hall,  
Sturt St, Ballarat.

**Registration on arrival:** 15 minutes before start time.

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..... Email .....

Address .....

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

**Non RVAHJ Members** - Please complete credit card details below or enclose a cheque or money order (cost is \$70).

<b>Credit Card Details</b>	
Card type (MasterCard/Visa only; no phone payments):	
Credit Card Number:	
Expiry date:	
Card holder's name:	
Cardholder's signature:	



## Back on the soapbox...

### What do you call a JP on steroids?

Bail Justices are a lot like atrioventricular valves.\* They perform an important function, they work for free, they operate at all hours day or night, they have a peculiar title, and most of the population has no idea they exist!

I've lost count of the number of times I have been asked to explain what a Bail Justice does. No, we don't work in prisons. No, I'm not a 'jail buster' (though that always gets a smile out of me), and no, we don't "lock up crims to teach them a lesson."

My general response is to methodically explain the notions of:

- an independent sworn judicial officer
- a voluntary and honorary role
- independent oversight of the State's power to deprive a citizen of his or her liberty
- being available at all hours
- serving a low profile but essential service in a democratic society

But if all that fails, I just tell people a Bail Justice is a JP on steroids. That generally does the trick!

The wider issue here is that Bail Justices (and to a lesser degree JPs) have an appallingly low public profile, particularly amongst 18 to 35 year olds. On several occasions recently, I have asked teenagers and young adults what they understood by JP or Bail Justice and the response almost always included a combination of the words 'old' and 'fart', occasionally I got 'they do legal stuff don't they?' and sometimes a reference to the 'hoity toity upper class.'

The current public perception of Honorary Justices is not a true reflection of today's honorary justices. As I meet more and more Honorary Justices, I am consistently pleased to see the diversity amongst you. Our ranks include women and men, rich and poor, straight and gay, able bodied and physically

challenged. I've encountered Justices of Koori, Greek, Slovak and Asian origins (to name but a few). The faces of Honorary Justices are now more reflective of our communities. The vast majority of Honorary Justices are interesting and engaging, ordinary people, all quietly providing a damned important community service. But still, the general population does not understand who we are or what we do.

Now I'm not saying that flashy Coca Cola billboards and loud radio commercials are the answer, but it would certainly improve the understanding and profile of Honorary Justices if there was some prudent community education. For example, astute initiatives could include:

- including an Honorary Justice subject in school civics programs
- recognition of Honorary Justices by the Department of Justice during Volunteers Week
- a low-key community advertising campaign

The Association has compiled a media kit to assist Branches promote the Honorary Justice role within their respective communities, but I think a broader Victorian or national approach would also have much merit. It may seem inconceivable today, but why shouldn't there be a Victorian or Australian communication strategy to raise the profile of the Honorary Justice role in the community? Food for thought? Until then, I'll probably remain a 'JP on steroids'.

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

**Chris Reside**  
**Managing Editor**

*\*Atrioventricular Valves are flaps of tissue that separate the two chambers of the heart, known as the atrium and ventricle. The valves prevent backflow from the ventricle into the atrium during contraction.*

### Strong turnout for training

Organised by the Dandenong and Glen Waverley Branches of the Association, JP in-service training was held at Dandenong Police Station on Saturday 9 August 2008. The Association's very experienced facilitator, Leo King, took the large group of JPs through the detail of document witnessing, declarations, affidavits and working with the State Trustees in regard to powers of attorney. Two representatives from State Trustees were in attendance to speak to the group.

Among the attendees were four new JPs and a number of others who were introduced to the Association for the first time. The future of the RVAHJ

in the south eastern suburbs looks healthy. It was also very pleasing to note that there were seven JP Document Signing Centres represented last Saturday: Cranbourne, Dandenong, Frankston, Melbourne East, Narre Warren, Oakleigh and Springvale.

Sincere thanks are extended not only to Leo King for his excellent and often humorous presentation but also to Bob Warren (Dandenong Branch) and Patrick Mahoney (Glen Waverley Branch) for their wonderful effort to engage the interest of so many local JPs and to ensure the use of the Dandenong Police Station conference area and facilities.