



June 2010

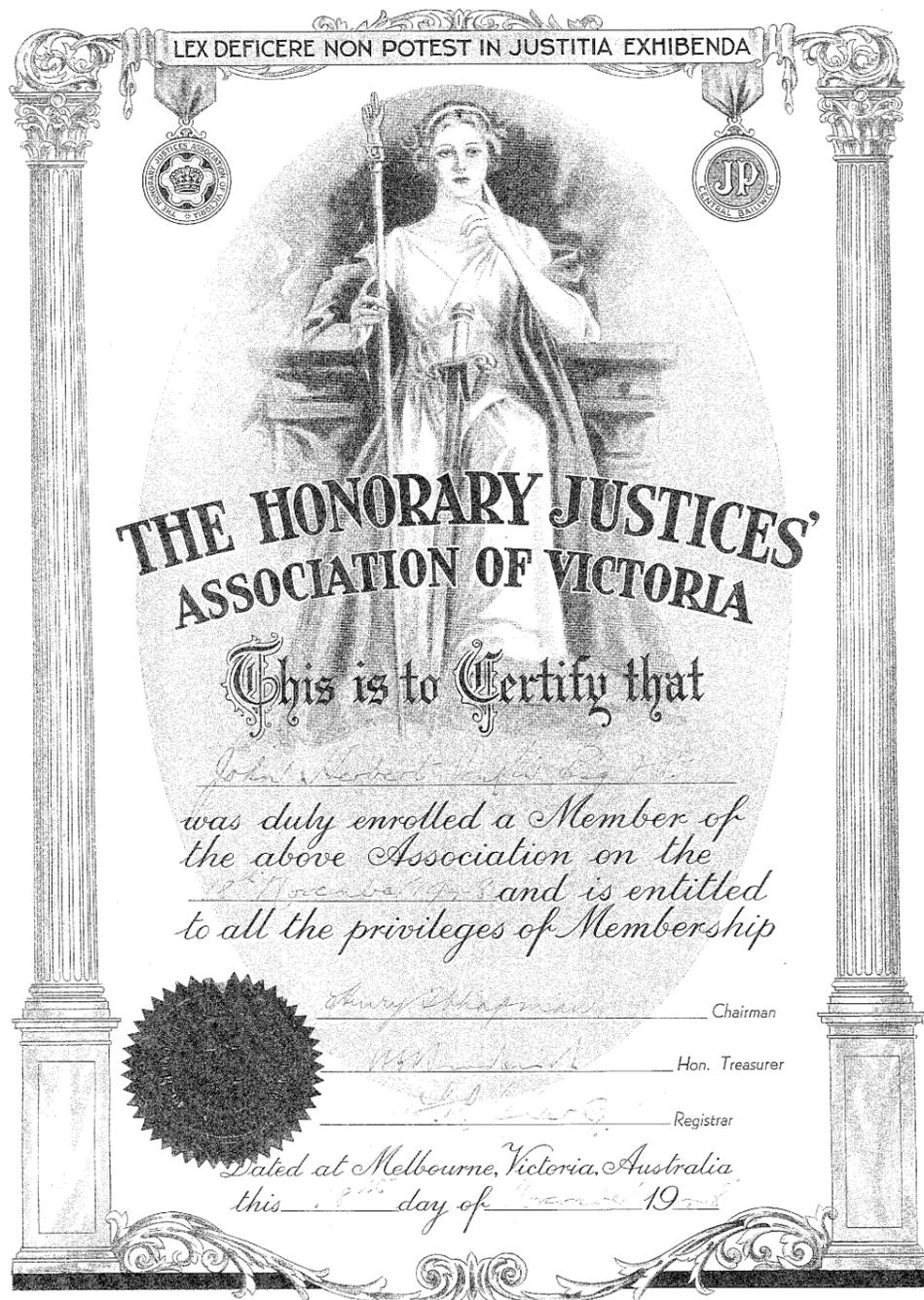
Issue 2

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF

HONORARY JUSTICES

Custodes

Centenary celebrations in full swing



1910 Membership Certificate

Centenary celebrations update—Branch news—RVAHJ/State Trustees MOU
Susan Guice JP in the Spotlight—Australia Post witnessing documents
RVAHJ Code of Conduct—Training update—Signing centre update
Review of maximum penalties—plus much more.

From the President's desk



The centenary year has really got off to a great start. Together with other board members I have had the privilege of attending several civic receptions in municipalities across Victoria on behalf of the Association. Bendigo and Horsham Councils, the Yarra Ranges Shire, City of Casey and Mildura Council have all held receptions for JPs and BJs acknowledging and thanking them for their service to the community.

This is a wonderful gesture from local government councils recognising the work of volunteers across Victoria.

I encourage all branches to hold a function during this very important year. The Centenary Committee has developed promotional tools for use by all branches. Why not set up a display at your local shopping centre, council office or other suitable location using our new display. See display panels in photos at right.

I am pleased to advise members that the Association is to continue its partnership with the office of State Trustees for a further three years. The renewed Memorandum Of Understanding between our respective organisations will mean the great friendship which exists and our training commitments will continue into the future. State Trustees relies heavily on the good will and availability of JPs for the witnessing of documents, particularly Powers of Attorney, and in return they assist with our training requirements. I trust this relationship continues long into the future.

The revised Constitution was adopted at the recent AGM and now becomes the guiding document for the RVAHJ. The Constitution is written in plain language and is much easier to read and understand. The updated version will be posted on the RVAHJ website.

Our Annual Dinner will again be held at the Treacy Conference Centre in Parkville on 20 August 2010. If you have never been to an RVAHJ annual dinner I encourage you to come to this one. In our centenary year this function promises to be a great success with a wonderful guest speaker and presentations of worthy members of the Association who have given great service to the community. I invite you to join the board and myself at this very special event.

In closing I would like to remind members of the important example that we as honourable members of the community are expected to set both in dress code and behaviour. Our image in the community is very important and I encourage you to remember this at all times and maintain the high standards we set as Justices of the Peace and Bail Justices. Included in this edition of *Custodes* is a summary of our Code of Conduct. Please take a moment to review it.
Garry Runge JP, President



Centenary celebrations in full swing

Display is now on the road

After much discussion, planning and work, the travelling display is now on the road. Warrnambool, Bendigo, Horsham quickly followed up by Mildura are the first to mount this informative and professional display.

This is the first time the Association has delved into marketing in this manner and it will be a wonderful way to showcase our history, dating back to Richard the Lionheart, the early days of settlement in Australia and Victoria, while explaining what justices do for the community. The display has been written and designed by centenary chair Michael Cheshire. The rostering work is being managed wonderfully by Norm Gibbs.

In Bendigo, the City of Greater Bendigo used the display of six stands like this one to backdrop the civic reception they put on for all the justices in the Bendigo area, to celebrate and thank them for their contribution over so many years. It would be hard to find a more historic and beautifully restored building to launch the display for this area but in the Bendigo town hall. This great building dates back to the goldfields and expresses the money around at that time.

President Garry Runge and Chair of the Centenary Committee and president of the Australasian Council of Justices' Associations, Michael Cheshire joined the Mayor of Bendigo, Bendigo branch Chair Ian Dyett and many justices in the town hall. Bendigo Mayor, Cr Rod Campbell spoke of the long and distinguished work done by justices and thanked them for their contribution. He said the day was provided as a celebration of the centenary while thanking everyone concerned. In responding to the mayor's speech, president Garry gave a view of the history of the role of the Association and indicated what may be the direction for the future.

The display now travels to many parts of Victoria for both manned and unmanned displays. The Association has created three display sets which are available for this our centenary year and for events into the future. The wording of the displays, while recognising the centenary year, will not date and may be used next year and onwards.

There is still much time available should branches wish to hold their own display. Some branches may wish to use the display more than once. Remember that the display may be used as a stand alone show and does not require manning. It has been designed to roll up and fit the smallest car boot and can be simply erected in a council foyer, a bank area or shopping mall.

Should public liability insurance be required, we have it and proof can be provided quickly. Any branch wishing to use the display who have not yet booked it, please contact Norm Gibbs on either:

email - psim1310@bigpond.net.au
phone 9807 8801 or 0412 000 244.

He shall be glad to hear from you.

Michael Cheshire JP

Travelling display panel example



Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

Victorian Justice

Justices of the Peace have been operating in Victoria since 1836, when there were 3 appointees who originally were appointed. With the growth of population accelerating after the discovery of gold, by 1851/2 there were over 10,000 Victorians inhabitants. As a consequence, there was an increase in the number of Justices of the Peace, as it became necessary to man the courts, as Justices of the Peace were the Magistrates under the legal situation in force in those times.

The Victorian association of justices was formed in 1910. For most of the first half of the Victorian association, the Lord Mayor of Melbourne held the office of President. Heads of all municipalities became Justices of the Peace upon their election. Most continued to hold the office after their term of office.

In July 1961, Royal ascent was given that the right to use the prefix "Royal" had been given for the association to now be given the title "Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices". As from 29 August 1961. The Victorian Governor has for many years been the Chief Patron, and the Lord Mayor of Melbourne has been a Patron.

Centenary celebrations in full swing cont

Centenary Seminar Quo Vardis

As part of our centenary celebrations, we shall be holding a Seminar. The focus of the seminar shall be *Quo Vardis – Where to from here?* The seminar will be held later this year and information and an invitation to participate shall go out in *Custodes*.

A more opportune time could not be found to launch into some discussions on what is the role of the honorary justice in years to come. In fact the Attorney-General and his Department of Justice felt it was so important that they have contributed funding to assist us in running it. Our thanks go to the Attorney for his support. Chair of the Centenary Committee, Michael Cheshire came up with the concept following discussion with other justices around our State and taking in what has been gained as president of the Australasian Council of Justices' Associations (ACJA).

"In the last few years the ACJA has moved to looking at its core business and decided it was time to review the role of the justice and consider how to partner Attorneys-General in reaching new goals. Working groups are currently discussing the issues and are creating papers for action. It is the best time for people involved in the judiciary in Victoria to come together to consider our future." said Michael.

It is expected that people from across the judiciary, police and other interested parties will be invited to speak at the seminar.

Michael Cheshire JP

Letter of support to Harry Gibcus and the sub-committee

Dear Harry,

Following up on our telephone conversation earlier, I decided to write a short letter to you regarding the mobile display, at Warrnambool.

Firstly let me congratulate Justices Mantelli, Cheshire, Gibcus, and Gibbs, and any others involved in the initiation of the display. The banners, history and other relevant information, logo and table cloth were superb.

Commencing on Monday the 10th of May through until Friday the 14th of May. The display was manned by Justices between 10am to 2pm. A roster in place involved two Justices at a time, manning it in two hour intervals.

The history information gleaned by Mr Michael Cheshire was used as handout information, along with application forms for JP's and BJ's on request.

Folk were made aware that new applications were not being processed at the moment, never the less a total of 16 JPs and one BJ application was handed out, with the intention of being prepared for future application.

A couple of days prior to the launch of the display, I contacted the following news papers, the *Warrnambool Standard*, *Portland Observer* and *Hamilton Observer*, all servicing the South West Catchment. The purpose was to arrange for David Atkinson JP/BJ of Warrnambool, Ted Kennett JP President of Portland, and Roger Hallam JP of Hamilton to be interviewed concerning the upcoming mobile display. This was a successful venture, both the newspaper editorials and the Target venue were obtained at no financial cost.

The actual launch of the display was conducted by Mr. Michael Neoh, the City Mayor. Also in attendance was S/Constable Mick Smart an arranged police presence, and the Manager of Target Mrs Lindy Hirniak, along with a number of Justices. Following the launch those gathered, enjoyed a coffee at Gloria Jeans in the Arcade paid for by the Branch.

Many positive comments were expressed from passing pedestrian traffic, concerning the display and information given out. A number of people were unfamiliar with the role of Justices in the community.

The week proved to be a very interesting and enjoyable experience, due to the response of the public.

Personally, I appreciated the opportunity via the display, to not only introduce myself as a JP to people, but also make the public aware of our endeavours to help them, in fulfilling the role of JP's/BJ's, in some instances 24/7. The mobile display at the South West branch, Warrnambool was extremely successful in achieving this goal.

Harry, please let all involved in this initiative be made aware of our appreciation for the work that has been done, and for giving our branch the opportunity to present the display to the best of our abilities.

Wishing you all success in this endeavour.

Kind regards,

Bruce Turner JP, RVAHJ SW Branch Secretary.

Branch news

Benalla branch by Steve London JP

Twenty members, partners and Guests attended the 2009 AGM at Benalla Golf Club on Oct 14.

Business included discussion of :-

The Government Review of the role of JP 's in Victoria.

It was agreed that all members should put in a submission to the Review.

Signing Service Roster

The operation of the weekly Roster at the office of Bill Sykes MP has been running for several years now and provides a JP on duty 10 – 3 every Thursday. Over 400 documents were witnessed this year. It gives the public a service on a regular basis and is well received by the community.

Association Centenary

The Branch considered the Travelling Display proposal but decided not to participate in the program.

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

Guest Speaker was Bill Froude Deputy Registrar Magistrates Court. Bill has worked in the Court System since 1971 both in Melbourne and several country areas. He currently works in Wangaratta doing mostly County Court and Supreme Court duties.

He outlined the history of the Office of JP through to the days when we sat on the bench hearing cases and determining sentences. This changed in 1979 when JP' s no longer had civil jurisdiction and in 1984 when they no longer sat in the Court. The role has continued to diminish and now there are a wide range of people who can witness documents etc. so the role of JP 's is again under review.

It is important for JP 's to respond to the review and to let the Government know our views.

Bill then discussed a wide range of topics including his role in the community, the jury system, crime rates, changes in the community, publication of court proceedings, closure of court houses etc.

Frank Stephens moved a vote thanks to Bill for his interesting address and for giving up his time to speak to us tonight.

President Ken Whan gave Bill a small gift from the Branch.

Editor 's Note: Apologies are extended to the Benalla Branch for neglecting to include this report in the last edition of Custodes.

Wimmera branch by Shirley Smith JP

The members of the Wimmera Branch were very honoured to be given a Civic Reception by The Mayor of the Horsham Rural City Council, Cr. Michael Ryan, for the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices. This was held on Friday 14th May 2010 in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Horsham. Local dignitaries and Council members were also invited to the evening.

Mr. Kerryn Shade, CEO and Master of Ceremonies welcomed everyone and read Wotjobaluk Statement and official apologies. Mr. Shade then proposed two toasts – Royal Toast, the Queen, and RVAHJ Centenary.

The Mayor Cr. Michael Ryan also welcomed everyone to Horsham and said he was delighted to be able to host such an evening for Justices from the Wimmera, as there were members from at least six different Shires in attendance. He spoke of the history of the Association and that it was appropriate that it was Volunteer Week, as all the work done by Justices is voluntary. Cr. Ryan then introduced Mr. Garry Runge, President RVAHJ.

Mr Runge thanked Cr. Ryan for the invitation to attend this evening in his official capacity, and also spoke of his experiences in the police force, and his involvement with the Association. He thanked all present for honoring the toast to the Association.

Mr. Neil Thornton – Chairman of the Wimmera Branch spoke about the RVAHJ being like a family. We are all there to support and learn from one another and most importantly to make friends. How else would we have met so many wonderful people without being a member of the RVAHJ or the Wimmera Branch. Mr. Kerryn Shade officially closed the reception.

At 7.00 p.m. Justices moved to the R.S.L. Club in Horsham for dinner.



L-R Mrs Sue Runge, RVAHJ President, Mr Garry Runge JP Horsham Rural City Council Mayor, Cr Michael Ryan, Mrs Shirley Smith JP, Mr Neil Thornton JP, Mr Don Johns JP, OAM, and Mr Kerryn Shade JP.

Branch news cont

More from Wimmera branch by Shirley Smith JP

On Thursday 13th and Friday 14th May the Wimmera branch hosted the Travelling Display to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices, which was held in the Plaza Shopping Centre, Darlot Street, Horsham.

Members of the branch were in attendance with the display on both days and it was a wonderful way to bring to the attention of the public the history and significance of Justices. Many people stopped to read the banners, others asked questions. One of the most asked questions was "What do you do?"

On wonders, do we have an image problem??????

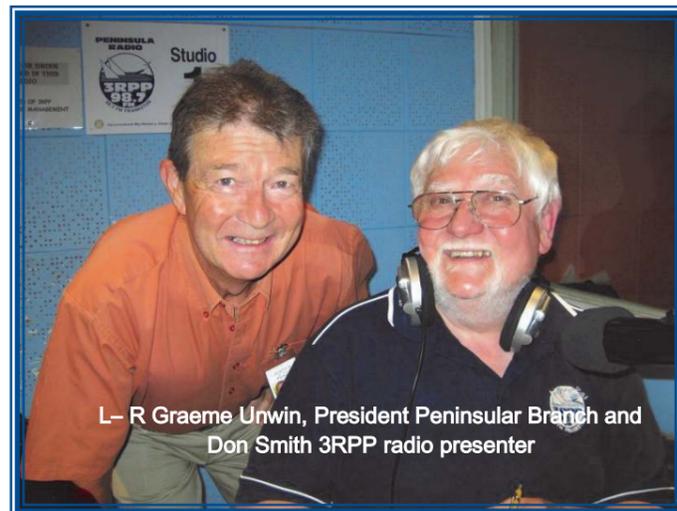


L—R Mr Neil Thornton JP Chairman Wimmera branch,
Dr John Wellington JP

Mornington Peninsular branch

By Ian Lyons JP, Publicity Officer.

The Peninsula branch's genesis for our centenary celebrations involved a 20 minute interview "Peninsula Update" on radio 3RPP with presenter Don Smith and our Chairman Graeme Unwin. The topics of discussion included talk on our celebrations (travelling display/ City, Shire involvement) and the work carried out by volunteer Justices—Signing Centres/Out of Sessions Bail Hearings etc.



L- R Graeme Unwin, President Peninsular Branch and
Don Smith 3RPP radio presenter



Office of the Public Advocate

Volunteer Opportunity

Help protect the human rights of people with a disability.

The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) seeks volunteers for its Community Visitors, Community Guardian and Independent Third Persons (ITPs) programs.

Community Visitors monitor services for people with a disability and/or mental illness and help resolve issues affecting residents and patients of services with 24-hour care.

Community Guardians are volunteers appointed by the Public Advocate to act as independent guardians for Victorians with a disability.

ITPs facilitate communication for people with a cognitive disability or a mental illness when interviewed by Victoria Police if they are an alleged offender, victim or a witness.

All three programs operate throughout the state, and volunteers are sought from all parts of regional, rural Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne.

The Office of the Public Advocate manages all three volunteer programs and provides training and support.

To find out more:

email your name and postal address to opavolunteers@justice.vic.gov.au or call 1300 309 337 (cost of a local call) and leave your name and number.

For further information about OPA or the volunteer programs, visit: www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au and follow the links.

Proposed new RVAHJ—State Trustees MOU

The RVAHJ, together with State Trustees Ltd have agreed to continue the existing mutually beneficial partnership for a further three years. Terms of the agreement remain the same as in the past but with some additions which are primarily based around the State Trustees utilising opportunities to communicate directly with the RVAHJ membership.

“ The renewed MOU between our respective organisations will mean the great friendship which has existed will continue into the future, ” said RVAHJ President, Garry Runge.

The State Trustee advertising campaign will commence in Issue 3 of Custodes.

“ State Trustees relies heavily on the good will and availability of JPs for the witnessing of documents, particularly Powers of Attorney, and in return they assist with our training requirements. I trust this relationship continues long into the future, ” said Garry Runge.

CRIME RATE DOWN 5.7

Crime in Victoria dropped by 5.7 per cent per 100,000 population last year.

Crime statistics released last month (March) showed that last year Victoria recorded a 6.3 per cent drop in robberies, a 7.2 per cent decrease in house burglaries, and theft of and from motor vehicles were down by 13.5 and 15 per cent respectively.

Figures for the October to December quarter reflect a 9 per cent drop in street assaults compared to the year before, and significantly, a 20.9 per cent reduction in the city.

Other statistics include:

- a 9 per cent decrease in crime against property;
- a 3.9 per cent decrease in drug offences;
- a 16 per cent decrease in burglary (other than residential).

Source: Police Life - April 2010

Book now Annual Dinner

Don't risk missing out on this special annual event.

To secure your table you must book early.

See booking form overleaf.



Special edition Centenary Envelope

Include in this issue of Custodes is a free centenary gift for you. It is a complementary RVAHJ Centenary envelope which recognises the wonderful contribution made by honorary justices to the Victorian community. If you would like to purchase these special edition envelopes please complete the order form on page 18.

Annual dinner

Members and friends are cordially invited to attend the RVAHJ

ANNUAL DINNER 2010

Guest Speaker

Mr John Griffin,

Executive Director, Courts, DOJ

- When:** Friday, 20 August 2010
- Time:** 7.00pm for 7.30pm
- Where:** Treacy Conference Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville (Melways ref: Map 29 F12)
- Cost:** \$57.00 per head. Drinks at bar prices.
- Dress:** Lounge suit/After 5
- RSVP:** 30 July 2010 (or until sold out)

BOOKING FORM - RVAHJ Annual Dinner - 20 August 2010

Please complete the booking form below and return by with payment to:

Administration Officer, RVAHJ, PO Box 317, Elwood 3184, email admin@rvahj.org.au or fax (03)9525 7765

Please list first and last names of all attendees

- 1) _____ 2) _____
- 3) _____ 4) _____
- 5) _____ 6) _____
- 7) _____ 8) _____

No. of tickets..... @ \$.....per head TOTAL.....

Postal Address (for delivery of tickets) _____

Contact Ph: (____) _____ Mob: _____

Email: _____

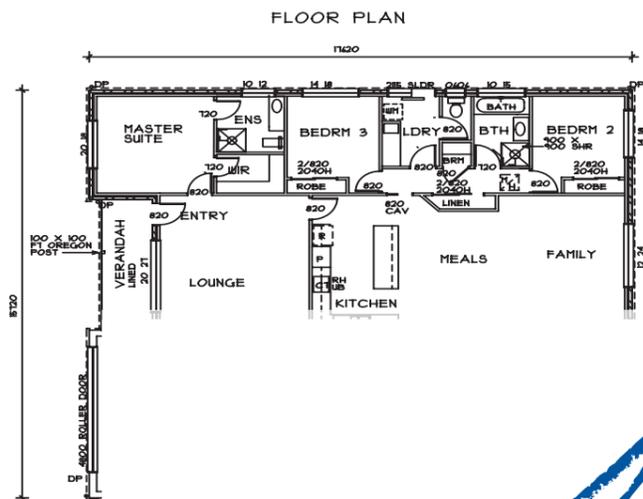
Please complete credit card details or enclose a cheque or money order

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard (Sorry, Amex, Diners Club, Debit cards and phone payments not accepted).

Credit Card No. _____ Expires: ____ / ____ / ____

Name of Cardholder _____ Signature _____

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*More information in the
next issue of Custodes*

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JP in the Spotlight - Susan Guice JP

Is Susan Guice the changing face of the Victorian honorary justice system? A young working mother of two school age children who believes that whilst the face of the honorary justice system is changing for the better, more can be done.

Why did you become a JP and how long have you been one?

I was at a point in my working life where I felt it was time to do some voluntary work. My brother-in-law who is a BJ commented on how rewarding he found his role. He explained what being a JP entailed and it sounded just perfect. Working as a professional public servant I felt the fit between being JP and my job went hand in glove.

You could be considered an example of the changing face of the Victorian honorary justice system. How do you respond to such a claim?

Before considering becoming a JP I had a perception that most JPs were older, retired men. As a “youngish” working mother I felt I would be able to offer a different perspective. I believe there is always room for change and whilst for some change might be scary, it is a good thing. Appointing more women as JPs will bring the honorary justice system into the here and now and I hope that I have played a small part in that.

Tell us a bit about your life, family and hobbies.

I love living in Rowville. My husband and I built our home in 1989 and we have lived there ever since. I love to read, knit and I am a passionate member of the Geelong Football Club. My daughter Sarah and I go and watch as often as we can. My husband, who is also a career public servant, and I take an active part in our children’s sporting activities. We have two children, Sarah 18 who is doing her final year of VCE and hoping to go on to become a teacher, and Matthew 16 currently in Year 10 and who is passionate about cricket. They both have lots of friends and our house is always overflowing with young people which is lovely.

What are the challenges faced by JPs today?

I think the main challenge for a JP is to remain fresh and current. We need to raise the awareness and keep the focus moving forward. For me personally, I need to ensure I am able to allocated enough time to the role given my work and family commitments. It’s hard to be available when you work full time.

Any highlights or memorable moments in your role as JP?

It’s early days for me in the role but a highlight is to experience the gratefulness of the people I see. They are surprised it’s a free service and are really appreciative of that.



Susan and daughter Sarah

What traits make for a good JP?

First and foremost is a desire to give back to the community. During my training I’ve heard some JPs talk about costs etc and I think they have got it completely wrong. This is a service and something that makes me feel good to be part of.

If you could send a message to the world what would it be?

I guess I just want everyone to accept, appreciate and respect others. If we did this the world would be a better place.

What is the future for JP’s as you see it?

I think we have a bright future as long as we continue to embrace change and move with the times.

Would you encourage young people to seek appointment as a JP?

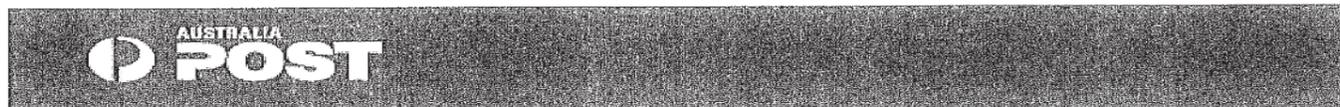
Yes as it provides a great opportunity to meet and assist a variety of people. To provide a much needed service to the community makes you feel like you are making a real contribution.

Who are the five people you would invite to dinner?

Wilbur Smith (favourite author), Gary Ablett Jnr (Geelong footballer), Barbara Korosa (my best friend), Jenny K (my manager at work. She is a great role model), and lastly, Marie Lucas (my deceased grandmother whom I miss terribly. She had such an impact on my life and we shared so much).

Australia Post witnessing documents

The RVAHJ is acutely aware that Australia Post is offering document witnessing services. This appears to be a commercial decision by Australia Post as they are charging a small fee for their services. Given a fee applies it's likely the community will be inclined to continue using JPs as their preferred choice instead of Australia Post. Below is a copy of what is on their website.



Witnessing documents

We provide two witnessing services:

- we can witness a signature on a document for you
- we can certify a photocopy is a true copy of an original document.

We also offer [100-point ID checks and identity verification](#) as a separate service.

Witnessing your signature

Some documents require the signature of a witness - for example, a statutory declaration. We provide our signature witnessing service free of charge*.

How to have a signature witnessed at Australia Post

Simply bring your document to the counter of any Australia Post retail outlet and sign it in the presence of an Australia Post staff member, who will counter-sign your document on the spot.

Certifying documents

In many cases, our counter staff can certify documents as being true copies. Whether we can certify your document depends on the organisation asking for the certified copy. Different organisations have different criteria for who is eligible to provide this service for them*.

How to have a document certified at Australia Post

- Check with the organisation requiring your true copy that Australia Post staff members are eligible to certify your documents for you
- Bring your original document plus a photocopy in to any Australia Post retail outlet. Some outlets have photocopiers and can take copies of your documents for you. However, there may be a fee for this service - ask at your local outlet
- We'll certify your photocopy as a true copy while you wait.

Fees

A fee of \$3.95 is charged for each document that we witness as being a true copy of your original. There is no fee for this service if you have one of the following government-issued concession cards:

- Centrelink Pensioner concession card
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner concession card
- Centrelink Health Care card.

Find a post office that witnesses signatures and documents

Any Australia Post retail outlet can help you with signature and document witnessing. [Post Office Locator](#) can help you find one near you. Or call **13 POST (13 7678)**.

* Please note we don't process forms, verify content or perform identity checks as part of our free document witnessing or document certification service. We do, however, offer [100-point ID checks and identity verification](#) as a separate service.

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<http://auspost.com.au/personal/witnessing-documents.html>

27/04/2010

Welcome new members

President Garry Runge JP extends a warm welcome to all new members of the Association.

Pamela Dawn Anstee JP	HASTINGS
Owen Michael Barber JP	SOMERVILLE
Marion Rose Barnes JP	KYABRAM
Colleen Leonie Bowden JP	CRANBOURNE WEST
Judith Christine Grace Brennan JP	PENSHURST
Krystyna Lucy Burcon JP	BALLARAT
Eliana Del Carmen Catrileo JP	BRAYBROOK
Kathryn Julie Clark JP	DONALD
Anthony Lowen Clarke KSJ JP	BALLAN
Carmel Monica Clemson JP	BULLENGAROOK
Reginald James Cooke JP	MELTON
Adam Darbyshire JP	MARIBYRNONG
Terry Arthur Dunn JP	STAWELL
Neale Thomas Emerson JP	DRIK DRIK
Paul Fisher JP	SUNBURY
Peter Denis Flaherty JP	SEAFORD
George Galanopoulos JP	NORTHCOTE

Karen Greenidge JP	ROWVILLE
Ibrahim Salim Haddad JP	HAMPTON PARK
John Fraser Harrison JP	BENALLA
Kevin Bede Harrup JP	DROMANA
Imad Hirmiz JP	ROXBURGH PARK
Michele Julia Howard JP	ESSENDON WEST
Amy Taumihi Huia JP	ALTONA
William James Johnson JP	CROYDON
Alan Ray Katz JP	MOORABBIN
Abdul Haruun Khan JP	CAIRNLEA
Brendan Robert Kincade JP	SOMERVILLE
Paul Stuart Kirkpatrick JP	BENDIGO
Anneliese Jane Luz JP	NORTH CAULFIELD
Michael Angelo Mangiameli JP	ECHUCA
Peter Robert Martin JP	ECHUCA
Neville James Mawson JP	EUROA
Karyn McCallum JP	MT MARTHA
Lisa Anne McLellan JP	WHEELERS HILL
Norman Edward McWilliam JP	WERRIBEE
Anthony Francis Milczakowsky JP	GREENSBOROUGH
Jacqueline Joan Miller JP	CHELSEA HEIGHTS
Timothy James Murphy JP	KEVINGTON
Jennifer Kaye Nicholls JP	WHEELERS HILL
Margaret Jean Nicholls JP	BOX HILL
Kaye Louise Ormsby JP	CARRANBALLAC
Samuel Parasol OAM JP	CAULFIELD NORTH
Peter James Paul JP	COWES
Lynette Ellen Phelan JP	RINGWOOD NORTH
Wayne Morris Pinner BM VA JP	MOOROPNA
Campbell Stewart Reid JP	ORMOND
Salvatore Romano JP	THOMASTOWN
Bronwyn Lynette Rowe JP	WANTIRNA SOUTH
Gregory Ian Speirs JP	HEATHCOTE
Nola Gaetana Spicer JP	ESSENDON
Mark John Stephen JP	KEILOR EAST
Roma Patricia Taylor JP	CHURCHILL
Jennifer Maree Tucker JP	MOAMA
Leanne Joy Venables JP	OFFICER
Nagamuthu Ramalingam Wickiramasingham JP	DANDENONG
Jaesun Woo JP	BURWOOD
Yvonne Mary Wood JP	NUNAWADING
Michael James Worton JP	BRIGHT
Antony Michael Zalewski JP	SOUTH MELBOURNE

Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following members who have achieved another membership milestone.

NAME	HOME CITY	AWARD	NAME	HOME CITY	AWARD
Thomas William Beaton JP	COWES	50	William James Carlyle JP	EAGLEMONT	30
Ivon Henry Hutcheson JP	GOLDEN SQUARE	50	Dominic Cutri JP	WOORINEN	30
Geoffrey Walter Cunningham JP	BALLARAT	45	Geoffrey Maurice Dupuy JP	LOCKWOOD	30
Keith Ronald Farfor JP	ST KILDA	45	Garnet George Edwards JP	BLACKBURN	30
Roy George Geier JP	ST KILDA EAST	45	Leonard Fairweather JP	GUILDFORD	30
Athol Herrick Kelly JP	SOUTH YARRA	45	Donald James Ferguson JP	MOE	30
Keith James Munday JP	WODONGA	45	Colin Russell Findlay JP	PLENTY	30
Raymond Eric Albert Barton JP	MODEWARRE	40	Alan George Free JP	WEST MEADOWS	30
Bruno Bonomo JP	BALWYN NTH.	40	Alfred Silvester Garoni JP	UPPER GUNDOWRING	30
Donald William Hayden JP	PIANGIL	40	George Arthur Gillingham JP	LAKE CHARM	30
Frederick Wilson Newman MBE. JP	SEYMOUR	40	Allan Charles Guy JP	DIAMOND CREEK	30
John Phillips JP	SALE	40	Alan Beaumont Hall JP	RAVENSWOOD	30
Kevin Severino JP	ALFREDTON	40	Douglas Martin Heiner JP	WODONGA	30
Raymond Ernest Smith JP	HORSHAM	40	Graeme Sidney Hilson JP	NUNAWADING	30
William John Sorraghan OAM JP	DARRAWEIT GUIM	40	Clifford Abner Robert Hoath JP	BOX HILL	30
John Francis Terrill JP	RUTHERGLEN	40	Noel Tennent Keyte JP	HORSHAM	30
Noel Beverley Thomson JP	TRAFALGAR	40	Harold Rodney Lomax JP	FOSTER	30
Lawrence John Wakeling JP	BRIGHTON	40	Elizabeth Stewart Lovett JP	SANDRINGHAM	30
David Lees Baird JP	MARLO	35	Valerie Dawn Mason JP	WANGARATTA	30
Hazel Ann Blakeley JP	BRIGHTON	35	William Francis McGinty OAM, JP	PROBINVAL	30
Thomas Bradley Bowery JP	GLENROY	35	Lawrence George	BACCHUS MARSH	30
David Edward Chen JP	MOUNT WAVERLEY	35	Franklin John Porter JP	ALTONA	30
Loretta June Cormack JP	ALTONA MEADOWS	35	Donald James Victor Presley JP	YARRAWONGA	30
Alan Thomas Fry JP	ECHUCA	35	Robert Henry Roberts JP	DONVALE	30
Valmai Selby Goller JP	LEONGATHA	35	Lawrence Matthew Ryan JP	MOUNT WAVERLEY	30
Colin Athol Gracie JP	CAVENDISH	35	Neville Gordon Seymour JP	WODONGA	30
Victor John Haag JP	KYABRAM	35	Yvonne Ruth Shady JP	SKIPTON	30
Geoffrey Noel Harlock JP	WARRNAMBOOL	35	Samuel Richard Teed JP	BALWYN	30
Francis Gerald Holland JP	SERPENTINE	35	Ross Stuart Tolliday JP	LILYDALE	30
John Nicholas McCann Holt JP	NEWTOWN	35	John Kinlock Clement Walker JP	GLENROY	30
Reginald Kinnersly JP	CLUNES	35	Dorothy Ellen Williams JP	GLENTHOMPSON	30
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Robert Winstanley Barnes JP	PORT MELBOURNE	30			
Peter Goulding Baxter JP	BENDIGO	30			
Russell John Beynon JP	BAIRNSDALE	30			
Robert Clyde Brown JP	EMERALD	30			
Nancy Louise Butler JP	MORNINGTON	30			

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL JPS

This is a section taken from the RVAHJ Code of Conduct.

It has been included as a reminder to all regarding your obligations as a JP.

Introduction

Our legal system is based on the principle of integrity and independence of the Judiciary.

This Code provides ethical standards for the promotion and preservation of these principles. This provides the minimum acceptable standard of conduct applicable to all Honorary Justices.

1. Personal Propriety and Behaviour.

(a) Honorary Justices are to maintain and promote such standards of conduct that are likely to uphold the integrity and independence of the office.

(b) Honorary Justices are to respect and comply with the law and conduct themselves in a manner to promote public confidence in the integrity and independence of the Judiciary. They are to avoid behaviour, which might bring the office into disrepute or undermine the impartiality, fairness or character of the honorary justice system.

(c) Honorary Justices are to always act impartially, not allowing their judicial conduct or decision to be influenced by their family, social or other circumstances.

(d) Honorary Justices are not to convey, or permit others to convey, the impression that they are in a special position of influence.

2. Judicial Responsibilities

(a) Honorary Justices are to give due precedence to their judicial and administrative duties, without undue detriment to their personal or business life.

Q "I was asked to sign a Statutory Declaration that had been carefully folded so that only the jurat was visible. The Declarant didn't want me to read it. What should I do?"

A We must be sensitive to the fact that many documents that come before us are of a highly personal nature, however, we are obligated to check the document for corrections, annexures or attachments. Explain that you are required to check the document to ensure its correct completion and that your concern is with form rather than content. If they still object, advise them that you are unable to act as the witness.

Q "I was asked to witness a Statutory Declaration, but the Declarant didn't have any ID. Am I still able to witness it?"

A Declarant is not obliged to prove his/her identity. Rather, we act as witnesses to the fact that they have declared that they are the Declarant, that they have signed the document with their true signature and that the contents are true and correct, making them liable to a charge of perjury if their declaration is false. However, it is good practice for the justice to enquire whether they are the person named as the Declarant, and whether the name has been filled in correctly; for example, has a middle name been left out, has it been anglicised etc?

(b) Honorary Justices are to perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice.

(c) Honorary Justices are to comply with the requirements of the law, and be faithful to that law.

(d) Honorary Justices are to be unswayed by partisan interests, public clamour, fear of criticism or appeal.

(e) Honorary Justices are to maintain order and decorum in proceedings before them.

(f) Honorary Justices are to accord to every person who is legally interested in a proceeding, full right to be heard according to law.

(g) Honorary Justices should abstain from public comment about any matters or proceedings subject to their jurisdiction.



Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

ACN 004 226 448

Chief Patron: The Governor of Victoria

Patron: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne

BAIL JUSTICE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dear Fellow Justice,

The Association will be running a professional development day for Bail Justices (including those Justices who have passed the Department's training and are awaiting their swearing in) on **Saturday 17th July 2010 AT NO COST TO MEMBERS** (non members \$100.00). Reference materials, lunch and morning tea will be provided.

The day is presented by experienced practitioners and will provide a forum to discuss all matters relating to out of hours hearings.

Topics include – The Bail Act and the Bail Justice; Process & Procedure, Conduct, Location and Responsibility. Children Youth and Families Act - Protection Applications & After Hours Placement; Section 4, Exceptions and Alternatives. Tips and tricks some different perspectives.

DATE: Saturday, 17th July, 2010
TIME: 9.00 am to 3.30 pm (approx)
VENUE: Charles Latrobe Theatre, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Parkville
RSVP: 30 June, 2010
REGISTRATION from 8.40 am

Please complete the registration form below and return to Cathy Owens at the Association (PO Box 317, Elwood 3184), email admin@rvahj.org.au or fax (03) 9525 7765

I will be attending the Bail Justice Professional Development on 17th July 2010

Name of attendee: _____ Phone _____

BJ/JP Registration No: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Ph: _____ Mobile: _____

Non RVAHJ Members – please complete credit card details of enclose a cheque or money order for \$100;.00

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard (We regret, Amex, Diners Club & phone payments not accepted).

Credit Card No. _____ Expires: ____ / ____ / ____

Name of Cardholder _____ Signature _____

Training on the Mornington Peninsula

By *Fay Hunter JP*

Secretary, Mornington Peninsula Branch

It was heartening to welcome so many JPs to our training day held at the Aspendale/Edithvale RSL one fine Saturday in May. Approximately 70 members attended, and Leo King did not disappoint; with his easy manner of delivery and vast knowledge of the requirements of our role even longer-term JPs went away with just a little more education and understanding of changes in legislation, policy and procedures.

The RVAHJ believes that training is an essential aspect of our role, and President Garry Runge was on hand to support this belief. Garry encouraged professional development every two years to ensure members are kept up-to-date with ongoing changes, and spoke about the advantages of belonging to a Branch. It is easy to feel isolated and out of touch, and being part of a Branch enables an exchange of ideas or concerns, networking with other members in a professional and social environment, and the security of knowing you are undertaking your role in line with current procedures.



“ One great outcome of the day was the signing up of 14 new members,” said Garry Runge. “Mornington Peninsula arranged the entire day and they are to be commended for the efforts. And what a great spin off signing so many new members,” he added.



The Mornington Peninsula branch is most grateful to the RVAHJ for their support and assistance for the day, and appreciated the attendance of president, Garry Runge and board member, Harry Gibcus, and it was especially nice to see Laurie Taig for a short while. Thank you to all who attended and made the day the success that it was.



Signing centres kept busy

Warragul Signing Centre

Numbers of Documents signed for the months December/January/February

Affidavits.....	8
Statutory Declaration.....	118
Certified True Copies.....	516
Miscellaneous.....	37

Total number of Documents signed 679

Co-ordinator

In charge at the
Warragul Police Station
Kevin Potter J.P

Melbourne Family Court

Some amazing statistics from the Melbourne Family Court, Friday 7th. between 0900 and 1300hrs there were 3 documents requiring a JP 's signature.

Friday 21st. between 0900 and 1300hrs there were 230 documents requiring a JP 's signature.

Monday 24th.between 0900 and 1340hrs there were 530 documents requiring a JP 's signature.

The main cause of the increase on Monday was 9 affidavids of over 30 plus pages with alterations and change of dates requiring re swearing with 9 sets of separate 30 plus annexures,

In my 40 years since being appointed a JP I have never had such a busy day.

Stats supplied with thanks by John J Whelan JP No 5866

(Married 58 years this August, 5 children, 12 Grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren.) **Ed's Note: Another amazing set of stats!**

New signing centre opens in Pakenham

Chance for justice

JUSTICES of the Peace will now be stationed at Pakenham Police station three days a week.

The service, launched this month, means locals can expect speedier service for the signing of legal documents.

Royal Victorian Honorary Association of Justices of the Peace President Garry Runge said JPs offered an important service to the community.

"We've been doing it for nearly six years at police stations and courthouses across Victoria. Members of the community can come and have documents witnessed and it relieves the need for police to be at the counter to sign documents," he said.

"Over 1.5 million documents have been signed by JPs in Victoria in the last six years, which is a massive saving to the community and police resources, which are better used elsewhere."

JPs are required to sign statutory declarations and affidavits.

Volunteer JPs will be stationed at the Pakenham Police station between 1.30 and 3.30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



From left, Senior Constable Deanne Collins, Senior Sergeant Alan McCarthy, JP Leanne Venables and Garry Runge, President of the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices of Peace. 447B7
Picture: Donna Oates

Centenary merchandise

Don't miss out on this limited edition merchandise specially created to commemorate the Association's first 100 years. Fill in the special order form now to ensure you don't miss out.

Also don't forget our regular items are also available such as business cards, stamps badges and our updated Oath cards. See the merchandise order form on the reverse of the address sheet

Australia Post pre-paid centenary envelope
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Centenary Merchandise Order Form

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Community to have input

The community will be asked to have their say as part of a review of maximum penalties for about 250 Victorian crimes.

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General Rob Hulls announced in March that he had asked the Sentencing Advisory Council to review the maximum penalties for about 250 Victorian crimes, including drug offences, to ensure penalties were in line with community expectations.

“ This review will ensure that penalties for crimes under Victorian law reflect society ’ s views, as well as making the criminal law more consistent and effective, ” Mr Hulls said.

“ Maximum penalties reflect the seriousness with which an offence is viewed – both by the Parliament and the community – and provide a guide for courts when sentencing offenders. ”

Mr Hulls said the review would be conducted in tandem with the overhaul of the Crimes Act, which is currently underway and is intended to be introduced into Parliament next year.

“ The Crimes Act 1958 has been amended many times but has never been comprehensively reviewed. Victoria ’ s serious offences therefore contain many inconsistencies and anomalies, ” Mr Hulls said.

“ For instance, currently robbery and assault with intent to rob have a maximum penalty of 15 years but assault with intent to rape has a maximum penalty of 10 years. Also, kidnapping has a maximum penalty of 25 years but the similar offence of

“ This review of the Crimes Act to simplify, modernise and rationalise offences provides an opportunity to reassess current maximum penalties as part of an integrated set of reforms.

“ This should lead to clearer offences with more appropriate maximum penalties, fewer trials aborted due to technicalities and less stress for victims. ”

Mr Hulls said the last substantial review of maximum penalties was conducted in 1989. He said he had asked the Sentencing Advisory Council to review three aspects of maximum penalties:

- The appropriateness of current maximum penalties for specific offences;
- The need for the establishment of guiding principles for a hierarchy of penalties and changes to the existing sentencing scale; and
- Consideration of changes to the penalty scale, including the creation of a new level of imprisonment of three years.

“ The Sentencing Advisory Council is made up of legal experts, police, victims ’ groups and community and is best placed to conduct a review into the appropriateness of maximum penalties contained in the Crimes Act, ” Mr Hulls said.

Source: Office of the Attorney General

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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.

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