

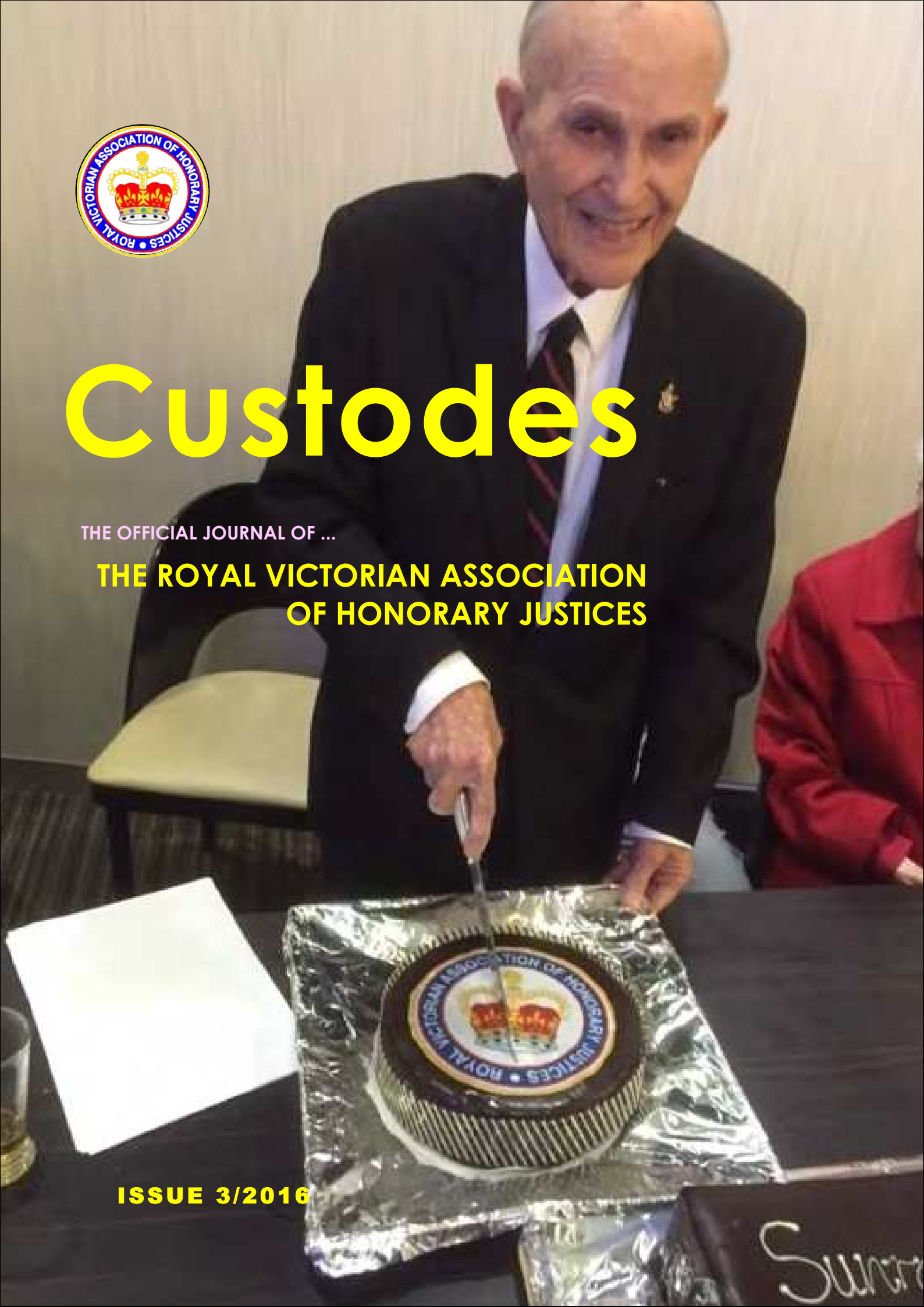


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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ...

**THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION
OF HONORARY JUSTICES**

ISSUE 3/2016



Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

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3/2016

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Front Cover

The Hon. Ken Wright OAM JP FRVAHJ cuts the cake to celebrate 50 years for the Sunraysia Branch.



Dear Members,

I cannot get over how quickly the year has gone. Maybe it's just old age; isn't the adage 'the older you get the faster the years go by'?

Congratulations to all those who achieved membership milestones this year. Our annual dinner was another great occasion celebrating service awards not only with the member concerned, but also with their

families. It was also great to have the Attorney General attend so that he could hear at first hand, how many years of service our association members had given, which he acknowledged in his address. I also trust guests enjoyed and appreciated the address made by Max Perry of Counsel giving some of his experiences over many years at the criminal bar, and particularly paid tribute to the times when he appeared before Justices of the Peace sitting on the Bench. He certainly was a strong supporter of a return to those days.

During the past year, I have had the privilege of visiting many Branches; attending their Annual General Meetings, special events and celebrations or presenting on the new provisions of the *Powers Of Attorney Act 2014* (Vic). Special congratulations to Sunraysia for achieving 50 years as a Branch of RVAHJ.

While we are in the celebratory mood, I would like to especially congratulate those members who have been granted Fellowship status and can proudly use the Post Nominal FRVAHJ after their name.

If there is any member who believes they qualify for a Fellowship please contact the RVAHJ Office directly who will provide you with an application form. The application has recently had a slight modification, which will hopefully clear up any ambiguities and better acknowledge other community contributions, so if you thought you may have been ineligible in the past because you didn't make the 100 points, have a recount as you may now be eligible.

A couple of words of warning, it has come to the RVAHJ's attention that some Justices may be encouraging clients to make a contribution to a charitable cause, which is absolutely in breach of the legislation. Likewise a Justice cannot under any circumstances help anyone fill out any type of Document, you are only allowed to witness and that is all. Anyone found in breach of these rules faces the possible penalty of having their appointment withdrawn. Please be very careful and act accordingly (*read more further on*). Remember that, while you are in the field, if you see something that you believe is wrong or incorrect, please report it to the RVAHJ Office as, on many occasions, we can fix the issue without 'creating a storm' and thereby avoid unnecessary embarrassment or humiliation. That is one of the functions the RVAHJ exists for, to look after members best interests..

Currently, the RVAHJ Board of Directors is actively pursuing further member benefits, and has a number of so

called 'irons in the fire', hopefully you will hear of our successes in the near future.

Last but not least, to all members and their families, please have a wonderful Christmas and/or Festive Season and a safe and happy New Year. I look forward to working with you in 2017 with great hope and excitement.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Norman Wittingslow'.

Norman Wittingslow JP
President RVAHJ

Accident insurance

The other big issue at the moment is accident Insurance!, particularly whether a Justice of the Peace or a Bail Justice is insured whilst they are carrying out their functions of Office. The simple answer is that they are, however the type of insurance needs to be clearly articulated.

This is an excerpt of an email regarding insurance from - VMIA | Risk Management & Insurance, which is the underwriter of the DOJ&R insurance policy.

Quote:

Whilst carrying out JP duties on behalf of the Department of Justice and Regulation (DJR), the JPs are covered by the DJR Group Personal Accident insurance for any injuries they sustain during their JP activities. The Group Personal Accident insurance covers injuries sustained to volunteers of the organisation named in the insurance policy.

Whilst acting in their official capacity, JP liability for third party injury or property damage will be insured by the DJR Public and Products Liability insurance

If JPs are engaged by another organisation to act on its behalf (ie Victoria Police), that organisation will need to ensure their insurance cover will respond. Please note that in this case JPs would be deemed volunteers to Victoria Police and therefore covered under the Victoria Police Group Personal Accident insurance. Also, as volunteers to Victoria Police, JP liability relating to third party injury or property damage would be covered by the Victoria Police Public and Products Liability insurance

Regardless of who has engaged the volunteers, the owner of the premises in which the volunteers are operating is responsible for liability relating to that premises. In this case, if the JPs are operating in a Victoria Police premises without being engaged by Victoria Police to do so, whilst Victoria Police is still required to maintain a premises liability, JPs will be insured under the DJR insurers.

- Cont'd Page 14

Dandenong roster in urgent need of more assistance

On August 24th 2001 the first document signing service was opened to the community. On that day a total of 14 documents, being 9 stat. decs, and 5 affidavits, were processed at the Dandenong Police Station.

At 7.30 pm on July 26th, 2016 Mr Jasbir Singh Grewal had his document processed by Chris Andrews J.P. This document was only one of about 500 processed on July 26th, 2016, but was the one millionth document to be processed by the Dandenong Roster.

The Dandenong R.V.A.H.J. branch is very proud of this milestone.



On 10 October 2016, the City & Northern Branch was fortunate enough to have former Supreme Court Justice Betty King as Guest Speaker.

As one who does not normally accept speaking invitations, Betty (*as she preferred to be called*) provided those present with a unique insight into:

1. her childhood, family, background and appointment to the bar from secondary school through to appointments as a lawyer, County Court Judge and Supreme Court Justice
2. some of the cases, personalities and characters she encountered during her career
3. the process of defending and adjudicating cases and
4. her retirement plans

Whist renown for the red glasses she wore when hearing cases or appearing in press photographs, Betty presented on the night as a normal everyday woman who relates exceptionally well with people of all levels and backgrounds and fitted in naturally with her surrounds.

She described herself as one who had simply exercised a professional role in the community in the field of law and was now enjoying her retirement with no intention of either continuing as a Judge, writing an autobiography or becoming a Speaker at engagements.

A Mum, Grandmother, Aunt, sister, friend, neighbour and carer for her ageing mother as well as one who relied predominantly on public transport to get a round, Betty stressed that whilst she and her fellow Judges were fully aware of community expectations when sentencing, their over-riding obligation remained to temper this with the law as it stands. To that end, she recommended that w

Our hours of operation are 10.00 am - 3.00 pm plus 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm Mondays to Thursdays and 10.00 am - 3.00 pm on Fridays

For the last 4 years this roster has processed over 100k documents and are well on track to repeat this number in 2016. Our sister roster at Springvale is on track to also process 100k documents this year

Both the Dandenong and Springvale rosters are co-ordinated from within the Dandenong branch of the R.V.A.H.J.

In an effort to attract new J.Ps we offer 1 on 1 training, with an experienced J.P before new J.Ps go solo.

Unfortunately there is a massive shortage of J.Ps in the Dandenong - Springvale area. Both rosters are in urgent need of J.Ps for either day or evening rosters. The D.O.J. intakes are not filtering through to our rosters. Where are they all going?

Bob Warren ⚖️

Left to right: First Constable Ward, Mr. Grewal and Chris Andrews J.P.

City & Northern Branch hosts former Supreme Court Justice, Betty King



Above: RVAHJ President, Norman Wittingslow JP & former Supreme Court Justice, Betty King.

when in any doubt about a particular sentence, people could inform themselves by reading the sentences imposed in full on the Supreme Court website rather than relying on media summaries that primarily focus on the sensational aspects of cases.

Betty spoke of her involvement in various trials including those relating to the gangland wars, including her action in banning Channel 9 from showing the Underbelly series in Melbourne pending the outcome of related cases.

Overall, a very informative and enjoyable night.

Terry McKay JP



Sunraysia Branch celebrates 50 years

The Sunraysia Branch of the RVAHJ celebrated its 50th anniversary in September. This was acknowledged with a dinner following the quarterly meeting at which RVAHJ President Norman Wittingslow was in attendance

The Sunraysia Branch was established on 26 September 1966 when the President and Registrar travelled to Mildura for a meeting held at Mildura Law Courts with local Honorary Justices and guests. The Mayor of Mildura at that time, Cr. Ken Wright, was elected inaugural Chairman of the Group

Fifty years on, The Hon. Ken Wright is still a Branch member and regular attendee of the signing centre and was again in attendance to have the honour of cutting a cake to acknowledge the 50th Anniversary.

As well as Norman Wittingslow addressing guests, Ken provided various historic anecdotes from his fifty years as a Justice of the Peace in Mildura.

Current Branch President, Geoff Jones said that RVAHJ Sunraysia is responsible for operating one of the busiest signing stations in regional Victoria which covers an area that includes Robinvale and Ouyen. The service sees an average of 500 clients per month putting it behind only Ballarat among branches in regional Victoria.

During his visit, President Norman Wittingslow bestowed RVAHJ Fellowships on two of the Branch's most long serving and hard working members, The Hon. Ken Wright and Trevor Aust, OAM who between them have held various positions within the Sunraysia Branch over many years. Trevor has also had the unenviable and ongoing responsibility of ensuring that the signing centre roster is covered at all times.

The 50th Anniversary of the Sunraysia Branch was indeed worthy of acknowledgment and local members were honoured that RVAHJ President, Norman Wittingslow, was able to share the occasion.

Marian Tobin
Media Officer 

The Hon. Ken Wright OAM JP FRVAHJ addresses members & friends at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Sunraysia Branch.



Vale, Frederick Tasman Kent JP, Past President

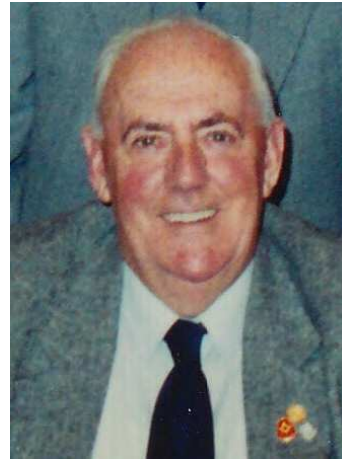
It is with deep sadness that we report the recent passing in October, of our friend and colleague, Fred Kent JP.

Fred will be remembered by many members, as he was extremely active over many years; first as a Justice of the Peace and Independent Witness for juveniles, then as a Bail Justice and Independent Third Person.

Not only did he serve twice as a Director of the RVAHJ (first between 1982 and 1985, resigning to undertake mature-age tertiary studies, then again from 1991 to 2000) he was active on several committees including the Training Committee and the Journal Committee.

He served as Honorary Treasurer between 1997 and 1999 and attended as the RVAHJ's delegate to the Australian Council of Justices' Associations between 1995 and 2001, becoming President of the ACJA in 1999-2000.

In 1995, Fred was elected President of the RVAHJ, serving his two year term with distinction and, in recognition of his dedicated and tireless service to the Association, was awarded Life Membership.



Sadly, in more recent years, Fred's activities had to be curtailed due to ill-health but he remained interested in the 'doings' of the RVAHJ and the changes and challenges to the honorary justice system.

His contribution to this Association, and to the wider community, was an inspiration and he will be much missed by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Farewell, Fred



Our guest speaker for August was Phillip Phelan, Co-ordinator of the Mornington Police Senior Community Register, who spoke about the work carried out by volunteers, enabling the Register to operate at the high level that it does currently.

Having been in operation since 1999, the role of the volunteers is to make contact with registered clients via phone and/or a home visit to ensure they are well and doing okay. For some, this is the only contact they might have with the outside world for much of the time.

Through the Register, the Mornington Police are working to promote a confident, secure and safe environment, whilst the client is either at home or out and about.

Mornington Peninsula Branch News

Although supported by Mornington Police, the Register receives no funding, nor are clients charged to become a member, so public support is paramount in enabling it to continue.

A cheque for \$150 was later forwarded to the Register.



Mornington Peninsula Branch

Gemma Bell, Youth & Community Work Co-ordinator for Fusion was guest speaker at the Mornington Peninsula Justices of the Peace meeting which was recently held at the Frankston Police Headquarters.

Gemma spoke of the work Fusion does, mainly with homeless youth. Her introduction to the organisation (Fusion) stemmed from her previous vocation as manager of a games / electronic shop in Mornington. She became aware of youths hanging around the business and connected with the problems facing them.

On discovering Fusion, "something new, created by a mixture of qualities, ideas & things" Emma resigned from her job and she, with her family, dedicated themselves to looking after homeless youths, offering them a chance to engage in a different lifestyle.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council assist Fusion by allowing the organisa-



Above: JPs Suzanne Phillips, Graham Unwin (Chairman) with Gemma & Marie McIntosh JP

tion the use of a building which was part of the Balcombe Army Camp to accommodate youth and involve them in a normal home environment. The residents (youths) do their share of household activities, making them feel part & parcel of the home. An annual trip to Uluru and connecting with indigenous communities along the way is a highlight to some Fusion youths and members working within the Fusion framework. The happy travellers mix / engage with the traditional land owners during the adventure.

Gemma related many residents' stories - the highs and the lows - her

empathy, compassion and warmth encapsulated the spirit of Fusion and really heightened the awareness of the problem within our society. Gemma was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the chairman and a cheque to assist the important programme.

From: Ian Lyons, Publicity Officer. Phone 59814540

New Members

The president and directors warmly welcome the following new members:

Joy Ahearn BJ HAMILTON
Sharon Andrews BJ..... NARRE WARREN STH.
Debbie Barber JP COWES
Damon Craig JP TYABB
Brendan Danaher BJ BRUNSWICK
Beverley Edwards JP KOO WEE RUP
Christine Elliott BJ BYADUK

Mark Gibson JP BENDIGO
Georgina Hope BJ JP GOLDEN SQUARE
Damian Kennedy JP ECHUCA
Glenn Ludeman JP GOLDEN SQUARE
Darryl Wagstaff JP MARYBOROUGH
Deborah Walsh JP SHEPPARTON




Impartiality & independence— how much help is too much?

JPs understand the need for impartiality and independence in undertaking their duties.

One area of confusion has been "How much help can I give someone in completing a document before I'm no longer considered independent and impartial?"

Many JPs find that clients have no idea how to go about completing a Statutory Declaration or Affidavit and will ask for advice. While it is good customer service to be able to provide information on the structure and requirements of these documents, the problem occurs when you help people to write the substantive *content* of their document.

People put a large amount of weight on the opinions of JPs, and you may not be aware of how much you may have influenced someone's content. It is therefore important that someone who has not been involved in writing the content becomes the independent and impartial witness. If someone would like you to help them complete the document (which is not recommended), they should find another JP to witness it (there are many other options via "Find a JP"). Or they can get someone else to help them complete the content, leaving you free to witness it for them.

Source: Department of Justice & Regulation 



New laws strengthen Working With Children Checks

The *Working with Children Amendment Bill 2016*, introduced on 25 October 2016, will make the application process more rigorous, addressing five key recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Under the reforms, any criminal charges laid against an applicant for serious sexual, violent or drug offences will be considered as part of Working With Children (WWC) Check assessments, regardless of whether they resulted in a conviction or finding of guilt.

The WWC Check Unit can now consider non-conviction charges that may have been dismissed on a technicality, or did not proceed because of the impact on the victim, when deciding on whether to grant an application.

The amendment brings Victoria into line with other states and territories.

Kinship carers – a family member or other person of significance to a child who has been placed in out-of-home care – will now be required to obtain a WWC Check.

From May next year, all new kinship carers will be required to obtain a WWC Check within 21 days of becoming a carer.

Existing kinship carers will have three months from May 1 to apply, and all applications for new and existing kinship carers will be free of charge.

The laws remove the element of supervision from the definition of child-related work – ensuring WWC Checks are required whether contact with children is supervised or not.

Children will be better protected from online predators under the new definition of direct contact, which now includes written, oral and electronic communication and technologies.

An applicant will also be forced to produce further information if they are suspected of breaching the *Working with Children Act 2005*, such as engaging in child-related work without a current WWC Check.

WWC Checks were first introduced in Victoria in April 2006 and more than 1.95 million checks have been issued during the past 10 years.

"The safety of our kids is our top priority" said Attorney General Martin Pakula. "That's why we're introducing new laws which will make the application process for Working with Children Checks stricter and more thorough."

Source: Office of the Attorney General 

Merchandise Order Form
1/2017

PO Box 317, Elwood, Vic. 3184 Ph: (03) 9525 7099

Email: admin@rvahj.org.au Fax: (03) 9525 7765

Item	Cost \$	Qty	Sub-Total
Membership 2017	60.00		
Photo ID's			
JP/BJ Wallet with RVAHJ badge	86.00		
Leather ID Holder on cord	27.00		
Tag with Clip (No PFee)	14.25		
Tag with Cord (No PFee)	14.25		
Dresswear			
Name Badge (Magnetic) ♦	26.95		
Lapel Badge Blue	9.95		
Cufflinks Centenary	19.95		
Tie Bar Blue	12.95		
Tie Bar Red	12.95		
Tie Bar Centenary	14.95		
Tie - RVAHJ	33.50		
Tie - Centenary	33.50		
Scarf	10.00		
Stamps – Self Inking			
ID Stamp *	39.90		
ID Stamp with seal *	47.20		
Certified True Copy	42.35		
Cert'd True Copy with ID & seal *	47.20		
Annexure/Exhibits	47.20		
Change details on your S/I stamp	29.00		
Stamps – Handle			
ID Stamp *	34.00		
ID Stamp with seal *	39.95		
Certified True Copy	34.00		
Cert'd True Copy with ID & seal *	39.95		
Annexure/Exhibits	39.95		
Miscellaneous			
Business Cards (x 100) □	66.00		
Business Cards (x 200) □	99.00		
Oaths Card (No PFee)	3.60		
Window Transfer (No PFee)	4.00		
Processing Fee 1 st Item - \$8.60		\$	
then \$2.60 each extra item -		\$	
(No PFee items excepted)	TOTAL	\$	

SPECIAL ORDERS:

Business Cards:

Name: _____

Reg. No/s. _____ Ph: _____

Fax: Mob:

Address:

Town/Suburb: Pcode

Email: info@openstax.org

◆ **Metallic Name Badge** (Print as you want name to appear):

Name: _____

* **Stamps:** Notes: Full, legal name (no initials) and a street address (not PO Box) required.

Surname: _____

First & Middle Name(s):

Street Address:

Town/Suburb:

Postcode: _____ Reg. No. _____

Delivery Details:

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Contact Phone No. _____

Payment: Post Cheque or Money Order or Deposit Direct to our account: BSB 063-128 Account no. 10331656 or Include Credit Card Details below. (1.5% surcharge on credit card payments).

MasterCard Visa (Note: Phone payments not accepted).

Cardholder Name:

Card No. _____

MMYY Cardholders signature: _____

Another successful Annual Dinner!



Honour Roll 2016

Congratulations to all those members reaching a new membership milestone this year.

60 Years

Cyril A Molyneux JP

BERWICK

55 Years

Keith G Thomas JP

WARBURTON

50 Years

Laurence A Frazer JP

BALWYN

45 Years

George J Crocombe JP

PENSHURST

Keith W Dickson JP

IRONBARK

Ronald T Forbes JP

POINT LONSDALE

Frederick W Glare JP

BEAUFORT

Richard E Hardisty JP

RIDDELLS CREEK

Keith D Holmes JP

MT MARTHA

John J Whelan JP

BROADMEADOWS

40 Years

Terence R Cliff JP

FRESHWATER CREEK

Graham A Colling JP

BENALLA WEST

James M Duggan JP

BAIRNSDALE

George W Griffin JP

MELTON SOUTH

Henri C Hams JP

TRARALGON

Neil A Harrison JP

SURREY HILLS

Shamus B Ingram JP

TOORA

Rodam J Lowe JP

MALVERN

Douglas RP Maloney JP

MOOLAP

Donald J Strachan JP

LILYDALE

Thomas WF Thorpe JP FRVAHJ

BURWOOD

35 Years

Patricia A Anderson JP

MT. ROWAN

Stanley A Baker JP

CRESWICK

Barrie R Cathcart JP

SANDRINGHAM

Michael JM Cheshire BJ JP FRVAHJ

CLUNES

Thomas A Crothers JP

DIAMOND CREEK

John N Dale JP

YACKANDANDAH

Malcolm N Dickson JP

WARRAGUL

Michael E Grosvero JP

MOUNT ELIZA

W Neil Hendrickson JP

BENTLEIGH EAST

Barbara B Kearney OAM. JP

MONT ALBERT

Patrick B Kee JP

GROVEDALE

Bruce ES Lambert JP

TONGALA

Norman B Lloyd JP

MORNINGTON

Raymond H Luscombe JP

SHEPPARTON

Kenneth D Mann JP

ELMORE

Maurice M JP

STRATHMORE

Graeme A Norman JP

LONDRIGAN

Graeme M John Ormandy JP

THOMASTOWN

Alexander Philip JP

CARINGAL

Dusan R JP

CARNEGIE

Ian SA Rainford OAM ED JP

TOORAK

Miklos Tuz JP

WHEELERS HILL

30 Years

Thomas J Murphy OAM JP

ROMSEY

Mervyn G Shaw BJ JP

GOBUR

Philip S Sutton JP

LORNE

25 Years

Felicity CL Allen JP

ST KILDA

Sandra K Anderson JP

NAR NAR GOON NTH.

Dominic Andreacchio JP

MT. MACEDON

Paul Apostoleris BJ

TRARALGON

Angelo Auciello JP

LAVERTON

John A Ayres JP

BELGRAVE

John WS Bailey BJ JP

WANGARATTA

Desley J Beechey JP

BURRUMBEET

Harry H Boram JP

BOUNDARY BEND

Dennis F Boulton JP

BOOLARRA

Joanne H Bourke JP

RUPANYUP

Richard J Brevitt JP

INVERLOCH

John R Bridger JP

POINT LONSDALE

John E Burke JP

STRATHMERTON

Noel R Burleigh JP

WARRNAMBOOL

Ian R Burns JP

GORDON

Brian K Buxton JP

DONCASTER

Philip B Carr JP

BRUNSWICK

Denise J Casey JP

FERN'TREE GULLY

Lothar S Christ JP

DONVALE

Jon LM Cox JP

GREENSBOROUGH

Graham G Crawford JP

VIOLET TOWN

Frank P D'Assisi JP

DONCASTER

Janet De Martinis JP

SUGARLOAF CREEK

Luigi Di Gregorio JP

KEILOR EAST

Barbara R Dickinson JP

TIMBOON

W Bruce Ellis JP FRVAHJ

GISBORNE

Franco Escano JP

ASCOT VALE

Cavell Ferrier JP

FOSTER

Anita M Finn JP

TERANG

William G Franzke JP

TRENTHAM

Anthony Frigo JP

COBURG EAST

Peter G Fulton JP

SEAFORD

Peter R Furzer JP

HILLSIDE

Barbara J Gale JP

THORNBURY

Michael Garrubba JP

DANDENONG NTH.

Anthony R Gawne JP

WANTIRNA

Kubilay Genc JP

GLENROY

Sabatino Giuliani JP

MILL PARK

Malcolm F Gould JP

OCEAN GROVE

Sandra E Gray JP

BRIGHTON

Terrence F Hall JP

MOOROOPNA

Keith A Hamilton JP

LALOR

Elias Hanna JP

GREENVALE

Joan F Hartland JP

FOREST HILL

Leonie T Hemingway JP

PRAHRAN

An Son Hong JP

SPRINGVALE STH.

Catherine M Irvin JP

MITCHAM

Roland Jabbour JP

BRUNSWICK EAST

George R Jackson JP

MORNINGTON

Ronald Jenkinson BJ JP

WILLAURA

Robyn A Jennings JP

MARYBOROUGH

Peter R Johnston JP

NEW GISBORNE

Minoo R Kateli JP

RESERVOIR

Russell JL Kelly BJ JP

MITTA MITTA

Gregory J Kemp JP

BRIGHTON

David H Kerr JP

MERRICKS NTH.

Eng C Khor JP

ASHWOOD

Honour Roll 2016

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 Marion SF Lau OAM JP
 Stella Leonidas JP
 William PW Leung JP
 Raymond T Lord JP
 Edwin D Maclean JP
 Leonard May JP
 Roderick J McConnell JP
 Bernard M McDonald JP
 Anthony F McDonall JP
 Susan J McLeod JP
 Loris A McNamara JP
 Geoffrey H Menagh JP
 Marguerite H Middling JP
 Terrence R Monaghan JP
 Christopher Mosele JP
 Theophilus J Nelson JP
 Peter T Newman OAM JP FRVAHJ
 Luong H Nguyen JP
 Robert W Nimmo JP
 Anthony J O'Callaghan JP
 Ratnasamy P Packiyathan JP
 John Patsikatheodorou JP
 Gary J Percy JP
 Janice I Perrett JP
 Edmund J Perry JP
 Anna T Petruzzelli JP
 Michael A Protopopov OAM BJ JP FRVAHJ
 Waverley G Pyke JP
 George E Quarrier JP
 Michael D Read JP
 Robert J Reid BJ JP
 Peter FB Renkin JP
 Santo Rizzo JP
 Alan J Ross JP
 Ernest A Rowsell JP
 Douglas P Russell JP
 Geoffrey D Russell JP
 Sithat Sithibourn JP
 Ian G Slockwitch JP
 Allan R Smith JP
 Constance M Smith JP
 Denise J Smith JP
 Ian GW Smith JP
 Robert A Spencer JP
 Glynn TE Staggard JP
 Alan C Swann JP

BRIGHTON
 CAULFIELD
 MENTONE
 ALTONA
 DONCASTER EAST
 HAMILTON
 FRANKSTON
 YALLAMBIE
 BURWOOD
 BUNDOORA
 LILYDALE
 COBURG
 TEMPLESTOWE
 BALLARAT
 STAWELL
 DONCASTER EAST
 BRIGHTON
 MOUNT ELIZA
 AVONDALE HEIGHTS
 FRANKSTON
 ASHBURTON
 WANTIRNA STH.
 WESTMEADOWS
 BURWOOD
 YARRAMBAT
 EDENHOPE
 ESSENDON
 KEYSBOROUGH
 STAWELL
 POINT COOK
 BENTLEIGH
 LONDRIGAN
 SHOREHAM
 LOWER PLENTY
 WARRNAMBOOL
 PATTERSON LAKES
 OAKLEIGH SOUTH
 PARKDALE
 SOUTHBANK
 WARRNAMBOOL
 GLEN IRIS
 ASPENDALE
 KILMORE
 BENDIGO
 HARRIETVILLE
 BONBEACH
 LOWER PLENTY

John F Tame JP FRVAHJ
 James P Tempest JP
 John S Turner JP
 Graham I Unwin JP

 Henricus JM Van Emmerik JP
 Barbara R Walker-Donnelly BJ JP
 John A Walsh JP
 Lawrence Webb JP
 Paul E Whip JP
 Robert P Winther OAM JP

SEAFORD
 PATTERSON LAKES
 CARNEGIE
 ASPENDALE
 GARDENS
 BENDIGO
 TOOBORAC
 KEW
 MURRUMBEENA
 BRIGHTON
 DONCASSER EAST

20 Years

Atila Akguner JP
 Elsie J Anderson JP
 Robin G Bland JP
 Myra Borg JP
 Gordon C Chapman JP
 Iris I Chappel OAM JP
 Ashley P Davies JP
 Vilma M De Silva JP
 Patricia Dovaston JP
 Arthur R Excell JP
 Suzanne M Fallon JP
 Angela Flavell JP
 Sheila AM Freeman BJ JP
 Allan H Gandy JP
 John F Garratt JP
 Leslie M George JP
 Be Ha JP
 Margaret L Haycroft JP
 Cameron Heap
 Abdelkader Imlahi JP
 Keith L Jubbs JP
 Garry Larmour JP
 Collin KH Lok JP
 Stephen London JP
 Gregory J McKenzie JP
 Carlos A Perotti JP
 Murray L Scott JP
 David W Uebergang JP
 Patricia C Vejby JP
 Roger G Walker JP
 Kerry F Watson JP
 David J Wirth JP
 Anthony R Wright JP

SOUTHBANK
 STANHOPE
 STONY CREEK
 DIGGERS REST
 MUSKVALE
 DRYSDALE
 BLACKBURN
 CRANBOURNE EAST
 WARRACKNABEAL
 COWES
 MITCHAM
 WERRIBEE
 NEWSTEAD
 SANDRINGHAM
 WODONGA
 CAMBRIAN HILL
 GLEN WAVERLEY
 FOSTER
 SMITHS GULLY
 PASCOE VALE STH
 MORTLAKE
 CHARLTON
 NOBLE PARK NTH.
 BENALLA
 KYABRAM
 CHELSEA HEIGHTS
 DONCASTER EAST
 HORSHAM
 WERRIBEE
 KYNETON
 TRARALGON
 MORNINGTON
 SELBY

RVAHJ E-Mail closing down

Members are reminded that we are in the process of switching off the e-mail facility of our website.

If you have been using the RVAHJ e-mail service, you are *urgently* advised to arrange for another e-mail address.

Don't forget! Update us with your e-mail address so that you don't miss out on any of our E-news communications!

Recognition for service

As a way of recognising significant contributions by members to the Association and the community at large, your Board of Directors has introduced an Award of Fellowship and conferral of post nominals.

Queen's Birthday Honours

We offer our heartiest congratulations to our members

Geoffrey G Ryan AM JP – Brunswick

For significant service to secondary education, particularly to the independent schools sector & to professional organisations

Trevor A Aust OAM JP – Mildura

For service to the community of Sunraysia

Grant Coultman-Smith OAM JP – Beaumaris

For service to the community & to veterans

Joseph R Diffen OAM JP – Torquay

For service to the community through a range of organisations

Irene P Harrington OAM JP – Montmorency

For service to the community through a range of roles

Peter J Martin OAM JP – Stawell

For service to education & to the community.

Dale Allchin JP FRVAHJ
Ian Armstrong OAM JP FRVAHJ
Trevor Aust OAM JP FRVAHJ
K Patricia Brown OAM JP FRVAHJ
Michael Cheshire JP FRVAHJ
Anne Credlin-Russell BJ FRVAHJ
Joseph de Souza JP FRVAHJ
Mary Dunkley-Allport BJ FRVAHJ
John Duscher JP FRVAHJ
Geoffrey Dye FRVAHJ
W Bruce Ellis JP FRVAHJ
Robert Ford JP FRVAHJ
Michael Guinane JP FRVAHJ
Graeme Hilson JP FRVAHJ
Donald Johns OAM JP FRVAHJ
Terence Larkins JP FRVAHJ
Graeme Legge JP FRVAHJ
John Lynch OAM JP FRVAHJ
Vicki McGeoch BJ JP FRVAHJ
Michelle McQuilton JP FRVAHJ
Peter Newman OAM JP FRVAHJ
Bryan Nicholls JP FRVAHJ
Damian Nosedo JP FRVAHJ
Maxwell Pendle JP FRVAHJ
Michael Protopopov OAM BJ JP FRVAHJ
Lawrence Ryan JP FRVAHJ
Neville Seymour JP FRVAHJ
David Smith JP FRVAHJ
Rhonda Smith JP FRVAHJ
Wayne Smith JP FRVAHJ
W Ross Synot OAM JP FRVAHJ
John Tame OAM JP FRVAHJ
Thomas Thorpe OAM JP FRVAHJ
Geoffrey Trevor-Hunt OAM JP FRVAHJ
Peter Wadeson BJ JP FRVAHJ
Robert Warren JP FRVAHJ
Kenneth Wright OAM JP FRVAHJ

PORT MELBOURNE
BRIGHTON
MILDURA
MIDDLE PARK
CLUNE
DONCASTER
KEYSBOROUGH
ECHUCA VILLAGE
WONTHAGGI
MOONEE VALE
GISBORNE
OVENS
WANGARATTA
NUNAWADING
HORSHAM
GISBORNE
EMERALD
CRAIGIEBURN
BRIGHTON
WARRNAMBOOL
MOUNT ELIZA
SEBASTOPOL
GLENROY
KALIMNA
KEYSBOROUGH
MOUNT WAVERLEY
WODONGA
ROCKLYN
ROCKLYN
HAMPTON PARK
NEWTOWN
SEAFORD
BURWOOD
WANGARATTA
STRATHMORE
NOBLE PARK
MILDURA

A reminder about fees & gratuities

We are often faced with the difficult circumstance of members of the public wishing to pay us for our services.

It is important to remember that **it is an offence to accept any fee, gift or gratuity** in return for witnessing documentation and to find a way to refuse gracefully.

Some of our members suggest to clients that they 'pay it forward', whilst others suggest making a donation to their (the client's) favourite charity. However, it is **not permitted** to accept payment yourself on behalf of a charity, nor is it appropriate to keep a charity tin on your desk or counter for the purpose of receiving charitable donations

Accident insurance ~ continued

The Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMLA) provides risk advice and insurance services for the Victorian Government. We work with our clients to improve the quality of life for the Victorian community.

VMLA is a Statutory Authority established by the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority Act 1996 and is a successor in law to the former State Insurance Office.

The policy document, being too large to print, will be supplied via electronic copy to Branches or to individual members if requested by email.



In regards to RVAHJ's Member Insurance Policy, it does cover members for accidents, however it is NOT MEDICAL HEALTH INSURANCE, nor under legislation can it be.

If any member is injured in the course of their duties as a Justice, there is a process to be strictly followed. First and foremost, the member must seek a consultation with a doctor or through an emergency department in a hospital. This will ensure that the appropriate diagnosis is determined and a program for recovery is implemented. It will also record, and to a certain extent be evidentiary, as to how the accident happened and the prognosis for recovery. If appropriate, compensatory damages though insurance can be sought afterwards.

If the person has private health insurance this is course of treatment they can pursue, otherwise they may be reliant exclusively on the public sector, which may take considerably longer, nevertheless these are the two main streams they should follow, given the majority of cases.

For example, if the injury occurs, say in a Police Station, that organisation will have an accident insurance policy to cover this type of occurrence, and there are simple common law provisions to ensure the individual is protected. An analogy would be if a person slipped on a banana skin in Woolworths or Coles, the person would be covered under their policies.

If the injury is of a serious nature, at an appropriate time, an assessment of the persons rights should be made by a Lawyer, expert in the field of personal injury, as to the best course of action to undertake. To this end, there exists many legal firms that represent people in personal injury cases.

Most personal injury insurance protects a person's income and to an extent permanent injury. It must be remembered, personal injury is not an automatic entitlement, as it is a stepped process to identify who is actually responsible for the incident. In many cases the person who is injured may have been a major factor or cause of the injury in the first place

As another example, if a Justice is injured in a car accident on the way to a hearing or a signing centre, the first call is on the Transport Accident Commission; the person cannot simply take their treatment into their own hands and expect their out of pocket costs to be covered afterwards. In addition, out of pocket costs can be significantly reduced if the correct course of action is followed.

Suffice it to say, all personal insurance is complex; by nature Insurers do not simply automatically pay out on any claim received including, but certainly not limited to, Health Insurance, Wage Protection Insurance, Personal Accident Insurance, Public Risk Insurance and Personal Indemnity Insurance. For example, even when making a simple Medicare Claim it has to be in a set, prescribed way, otherwise it will be rejected.

Anyone who believes they have an entitlement to claim for compensation, must take care in making any assumptions, no matter the occurrence and who they perceive to be at fault.

I do hope that this has given some clarification and has not confused people even more. In conclusion I would be happy to attend a Branch or group to discuss the matter on a face to face basis.

NWW



Bairnsdale DSC chalks up 50,000 documents signed

Honorary Justices servicing the Document Signing Centre at the Bairnsdale Police Station, were recently treated to a morning tea hosted by local police.

The signing of the 50,000th document was noted and celebrated. Inspector Luke Smeaton congratulated the JPs on their dedication, saying that the volunteers provided more than just a great service to the community.

“Legislation has changed. The requirements of document certification and proof of identity is becoming more and more important, so we’ve seen an increase in the need for JP service needs,” Insp Smeaton said.

“It’s also important for me, as local area commander, that we get members of the community into their local police station.

“It’s generally an unfamiliar environment where people can feel a bit nervous or anxious. So the JP service brings people in for other reasons.

“It also helps relieve police from the duties of document certification and signing where they can be otherwise used to provide the other safety services that Victoria Police provide.”

If you can be of assistance on a roster, please contact the office for details of local venues. These are important local services that need your support.

2017 Membership Fees

All membership fees become due & payable on January 1 and your invoice for 2017 is on the reverse of the address sheet that accompanied this edition of Custodes.

To reduce our postage and administrative costs, individual invoices are not sent (For your convenience, the membership fee is included on the Merchandise Form on Page 9)

Improvements at Caulfield Document Signing Station

For some time, the JP service at the Caulfield Document Signing Station (DSS) has been only one session per week.

The JPs have often received feedback from the Police to say that they are continually signing documents and the need to increase our services would be more than appreciated.

These comments lead the DSS Roster Co-ordinators at Caulfield, to compare their DSS to others, considering:

- 1) Population of the City of Glen Eira.
- 2) Number of Police Stations in this City.
- 3) The number of documents signed, as reported by the RVAHJ.

An additional roster session was introduced in April 2016, which confirmed the comments made by the Police. To further extend the DSS hours at Caulfield, it was essential to also increase the number of available volunteer JPs and to highlight the advantages of a DSS as a secure and safe place rather than providing a service from their private home.

The "Find a JP" website indicated that there were potentially 100 JPs in the City of Glen Eira suburbs who could be targeted. The most practical means of contacting these JPs was to

obtain the assistance of the Honorary Justice Office, to conduct an email/letter campaign during May/June 2016.

With some success, the Caulfield DSS is now offering five sessions each week and the number of documents being signed in August 2016 saw an increase of 519 percent, as compared to August 2015.

We have also introduced specific training to assist the JPs to perform their role, to act as an independent and objective witness to documents.

When the residents fully realize that the service levels have been increased, there is still potential and a need to further increase the rostered hours. This would also rely on volunteer JPs being able to attend the DSS more frequently.

The success of this exercise has been gratifying, but it has also highlighted the need for JPs to realize that the Honorary Justice Office is committed to moving to a paperless office, and email is their preferred method of communicating to JPs.

This requires all JPs to ensure that their current email address is always updated with the Honorary Justice Office. ⚖️

Roster Co-ordinators, Jan West JP & Les Wigg JP hard at work!



Office Holiday Closures

Please note the following office closures for staff leave:

Friday, 16 December 2016 – Friday, 13 January 2017 inclusive; and

Friday, 7 April 2017 – Tuesday, 18 April 2017 inclusive.

If you require assistance with procedural matters whilst the office is closed, please contact one of the Directors listed in this edition of *Custodes*.



2017 Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Members for 2017 will be held on Thursday, 25 May 2017 at 7.30 pm at 53 Broadway, Elwood 3184.

Business

- (1) To confirm the minutes of the 106th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 28 May 2016
- (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, 2016.
- (5) To appoint an Auditor for the ensuing year.
- (6) To consider any Special Resolutions

The closing date for receipt of Special Resolutions to be placed on the Agenda for this meeting will be 4.00 pm on Tuesday, 31 January 2017.

2017 Biennial Election of the Board

Under the Constitution, at least one half of all Board members retire every two years but are eligible for re-election.

Any Ordinary Member or Life Member of the Association may accept nomination in the prescribed form obtainable from the office and all nominations must be lodged with the Returning Officer, C/- PO Box 317, Elwood, 3184 no later than 4.00 pm on Tuesday, 31 January 2017.

Nominations must be signed by the proposer and seconder who shall in each case be a Life Member or an Ordinary Member of the Association who is not in arrears with his/her subscription. The consent in writing of the person nominated shall be endorsed on each nomination.

Should the number of nominations exceed the number of vacancies on the Board, then a ballot shall be conducted.

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.

Michael Tse JP
Company Secretary

Document Signing Centre Reports

DSC	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Year Total	DSC	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Year Total
Altona Library		166	239	381	1784	Melb Town Hall	1770	1967	1887	1781	15697
Altona RSL		146	100	161	1016	Mildura	1595	1843	2298	2118	16796
Ballarat	4093	4205	9092	4138	41154	Monash Uni					59
Benalla					254	Moonee Valley	1775	2012	1369	1658	14520
Bendigo	637	1035	1463	1412	9979	Morwell	302			799	2218
Box Hill		4868	4426	4154	29457	Myrtleford	91	155	55	49	803
Bright	35	84	27	31	427	Northcote	221	181	282	303	2167
Broadmeadows	4046	3986			26561	Oakleigh					2070
Caroline Springs	746	756	498	397	5372	Pakenham	934	989	1026	856	8480
Caulfield					875	Portland - New	89	40			345
Corio	328	388	537	584	2865	Preston	888	765	912	831	7495
Corryong	38	17	21	27	182	Reservoir	180	70	148	110	1078
Craigieburn	1060	1468	1721	1659	11446	Ringwood	378		490	392	3092
Cranbourne	2784	2501	3155	3298	22426	RMH	1382	2036	3410	1238	14327
Dandenong		9223	9666	10080	72884	Rosebud	491	252	298	262	2368
Drysdale New	71	77	143	79	499	Sale	426			485	2791
Eltham	146	312	275	235	1979	Springvale	8681	7811	9535	9766	75900
Epping	1640	2091	1994	2275	18118	St Kilda	232	96	140	22	1748
Fawkner			2903	2235	11220	Sunbury			486		1179
Flemington	115		40	30	334	Wangaratta	406	581	941	507	5389
Footscray					11377	Wangaratta Library	48	109	90	81	972
Frankston	4777	4776	4839	4804	40189	Warragul		2005	1897	2216	14476
Geelong	2252	4937	3012	2495	21240	Warrnambool	542	630	736	581	5283
Hamilton - New	64	62	44	27	614	Werribee	9294	11957	13980	11750	83523
Hastings - New					97	Williamstown		700	530	285	3512
Horsham	88	120	89	46	653	Wodonga	97	793	1275	1105	13447
Laverton Hub	39	56		45	422	Wonthaggi		1617	739	894	6821
Mansfield	16	47	124	62	455	Monthly Total	22975	41321	44408	38655	640435

New Signing Centre at Austin Health

A new Document Signing Centre is being established at Austin Health and Colleen Woolley OAM JP is calling for expressions of interest from RVAHJ members to join the roster and provide a service witnessing documents to patients, staff and members of the public who will attend this location in Heidelberg.

The service will be rostered Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Free car parking will be available to volunteers, and for those who prefer public transport, plenty is available with the Heidelberg railway station and bus stops adjacent to Austin Hospital.

Austin Health comprises of Austin Hospital, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital and Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre while the Mercy Hospital for Women and the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Wellness & Research Centre are on the same site as Austin Hospital.

Warringal Private Hospital is adjacent to Austin Hospital in Burgundy Street. It is planned that this DSC will cover all of these facilities.

Statistics gathered by the RVAHJ and the Honorary Justice Office (HJO) show there is a substantial and growing demand for DSC services throughout Victoria.

This particular service has been inspired by the wonderful work done by a group of volunteer JsP at the Royal Melbourne Hospital where a DSC service has been running for more than 10 years.

Please note that completion of documentation and routine hospital requirements will need to be completed.

It is also advisable to have the Department of Justice JP ID as well as a "Working with Children" ID (both of these can be easily arranged at no cost to applicants).

For further information, please contact Colleen at colleenw48@bigpond.com or on 9438 5137 or 0419 505 511.



State Trustees would like to say Thanks with a 20% off special offer

State Trustees has been helping Victorians with their financial needs for 75 years.

We recognise that JPs have played a crucial role in helping State Trustees to achieve this. By way of thanks for your ongoing assistance, we'd like to offer you and your partner 20% off the standard State Trustees price for a Will and Enduring Power of Attorney (Financial)*.

To make an appointment or for more information, call 03 9667 6444 or visit statetrustees.com.au



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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 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. The editor reserves the right to edit any material. Submission of any material constitutes permission to edit and publish any material. Articles and letters are most welcome, but are subject to the discretion of the editor.

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Advertising in *Custodes* reaches a state wide audience of influential community leaders and business professionals. Advertising costs: full page : \$345; half page : \$175; quarter page : \$90 & business card : \$45; member discount 20%. Contact the editor for advertising for your business.

CUSTODES DEADLINES

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