

Custodes

The Official Journal of the Association Issue 1 2019



Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

*The peak membership body for Victoria's
Justice of the Peace and Bail Justice volunteers*



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Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

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Farewell, Roger

Earlier this year, former RVAHJ Director, Roger Isherwood OAM JP (Ret'd) sadly passed away.

Roger was a Director from 2001 to 2008 and was instrumental in the formation of the City & Northern Suburbs branch in 1994, serving as its first Chairman until 1996.

A former Councillor and Mayor, Roger was extremely active in his community and will be much missed.

1/2019

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Dear Members...

We should all by now, have received an information pack from the Department of Justice and Community Safety (the Department) outlining the key factors of the Oaths and Affirmations Act 2018 with

which honorary Justices must be conversant and I am proud to announce that the RVAHJ, in liaison with the Department, has the opportunity to provide training and information sessions to our members and others on the responsibilities and practical application of the Oaths & Affirmations legislation. The RVAHJ training component, lead by its Vice President Paul Mracek, has been very active in liaising with the Department and, to date, information sessions have been delivered to a professional association, some branches and a Document Signing Centre Group.

The RVAHJ is in an excellent position to provide the training and information sessions on the practicalities of the Oaths and Affirmations legislation and acknowledges the support and close cooperation received from the Department in this training liaison.

* Training requests must be directed to the RVAHJ office in the first instance.

Two key elements, both of which took immediate effect from 1st March 2019, is the wording, which must be said aloud by those presenting Statutory Declarations or Affidavits for witnessing -

Declaration for Statutory Declaration

'I, [full name of person making declaration] of [address] declare that the contents of this Statutory Declaration are true and correct.'

Oath for Affidavit

'I; [name of person making oath]' swear [or promise] by Almighty God [or the person may name a Deity recognised by that person's religion] that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct.'

Affirmation for Affidavit

'I, [name of person making affirmation], solemnly and sincerely affirm that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct.'

Child or Cognitively Impaired Deponent

I, [name of person making the promise] promise that I have told the truth in this affidavit and it is correct.

As my two year tenure is quickly coming to an end, I take this opportunity to once again thank all those branches and Justices' groups I have had the privilege of visiting over the last two years, for the warm reception given to both myself and my wife Gillian and it would be very remiss of me not to extend my appreciation to Gillian for her support and encouragement during the term. Of course, the success of an organisation such as the RVAHJ, is not incumbent on any one person and to that end, I extend my sincere gratitude to the great support and guidance I have received during my term from Past President Norman Wittingslow; CFO and Past President Glenda Frost and from Vice President Paul Mracek. Their support and counsel during my tenure has been invaluable and very much appreciated.

Geoffrey Legge JP CPA
President RVAHJ



New Members

The president and directors warmly welcome the following new members:

Robyn Hale JP
Harvey Hilary-Taylor OAM JP
Lesley Maher JP

BEACONSFIELD UPPER
ESKDALE
NYAH WEST

Branch news

Ballarat

The annual dinner of the Ballarat Branch of RVAHJ was held on Tuesday February 12th at Barklys, Ballarat. The night was very well attended by Honorary Justices, their partners and guests. Michael Cheshire JP was MC for the evening.

Guest speaker Trevor Oliver entertained attendees with stories of his fascinating career and his extensive community involvement. He talked about growing up in the country and playing football for South Melbourne as well as being involved in other sports. He trained as a diesel mechanic but currently operates a tow truck business. He has been awarded two bravery awards for actions taken at accident scenes where he saved lives. Although Trevor spent many years in Buangor he currently resides in the Bacchus Marsh area. He spoke at length about his history with the Lake Goldsmith Steam Preservation Association, of which he is currently President, and gave many interesting statistics as well as amusing anecdotes. Chairman Harry Gibcus JP responded to Trevor's talk and presented him with an engraved gavel.

A/Superintendent Damien Christensen talked about the value of the Document Signing Centre which is held on weekdays at the Ballarat Police Station. He said that it provided an invaluable service to the community and allowed police officers to have an extra 153 eight hour shifts on the ground. In 2018, 57,324 documents were signed.

Commander Paul Naylor thanked all the participating Justices on behalf of Victorian Police. He then assisted Chairman Harry Gibcus JP with the presentations for the "100 Club". This year, two people were presented with certificates and badges: Michael Beaumont JP and Peter McPhan JP.

Norman Wittingslow JP, Past President, RVAHJ spoke briefly about the importance of the Ballarat Signing Centre and said that the Ballarat Centre was one of the busiest in the state.

All attendees enjoyed a delicious meal, a chance to chat with fellow Justices and listen to interesting speakers.

Jackie Warner
Secretary
RVAHJ Ballarat Branch

Justice volunteers sought for Doncaster police station roster

Hours are: **Mon-Wed 11.00am to 2.00pm** Contact Tony Nigro if you can help
Thu-Fri 11.00am to 5.00pm on: 0419 304 212

NOTICE OF THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Members for 2019 will be held on Thursday, 30 May 2019 at 7.30 pm at 53 Broadway, Elwood 3184.

Business

- (1) To confirm the minutes of the 108th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 31 May 2018
- (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, 2018.
- (5) To appoint an Auditor for the ensuing year.

No other business for inclusion on the Agenda was lodged in writing prior to the advertised closing date.

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 financial member of the Association.

Notification, in the approved form, must be received by the office at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled commencement of the meeting. Proxy forms are available from the office.



Oaths & Affirmations Act ~ now in effect

The Oaths & Affirmation Act 2018 took effect on 1 March 2019.

There are a number of changes that Honorary Justices need to be aware of and a number of questions that have been raised about the changes.

1) Is there a particular form that must be used for an Affidavit?

Under existing law, each court or tribunal specifies the requirements for Affidavits used in that court or tribunal. Regulations made under the Oaths and Affirmations Act 2018 specify the basic contents and requirements for all Affidavits, although it is not mandatory to adopt the prescribed form. Courts and tribunals may also customise the content of particular Affidavits to suit their requirements in court rules.

2) Is there a particular form that must be used for a Statutory Declaration?

Yes, under the Oaths and Affirmations Act, a Statutory Declaration must be in the form prescribed by regulations. However, there is a transitional period, until 1 January 2020, when Statutory Declarations in the old format may still be accepted.

3) There is now specific wording which the Declarant/Deponent must say aloud (see our centre pages for a reminder sheet (to cut-out & keep) of the wording.

4) Where there are annexures to a Statutory Declaration or Affidavit, a 'certificate' must be attached (by the witness or the Declarant/Deponent). Both the Declarant/Deponent and the witness must sign the certificate in each others presence. We have queried the Dept of Justice & Community Safety on what form this 'certificate' should take and will advise the answer as soon as available.

5) The question of whether or not electronically-generated documents should now be accepted as 'original' has been raised. It is now up to the certifier to "use their best judgement" to determine whether a document is 'original'. Honorary Justices may consider it best to continue using the Statutory Declaration method, whereby the person makes a printout an attachment to a Statutory Declaration and declares it to be an unaltered copy of the document received from the issuing authority.

5) We are awaiting advice from the Dept. of Justice & Community Safety regarding the wording on previously-issued Certified True Copy stamps. We believe it unlikely that certified-true copies would be rejected on the grounds of not using the new wording (as it is very similar) however, we will report if advised otherwise.

Should you have any other questions raised by the new legislation, please let us know.



**Our new Oaths card
will make it easier!**

**Our new laminated Oaths card is
now available.**

Now with the new wording for
Declarations & Affidavits,
simply hand the card to the Declarant/
Deponent to read the required wording
aloud

Still only \$3.60 !

OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE

Please note, the office will be closed

**Friday 12 April 2019
to
Monday, 22 April 2019
inclusive.**





How Victoria's borders impact Justices

The Surveyor-General of Victoria, Mr Craig Sandy, explains how Victoria's border with other states affect Honorary Justices.

Victoria has some of the most complex state borders in Australia. This makes it difficult for Honorary Justices (HJ) to understand the extent of their jurisdiction when working close to these borders. The following text will provide a guide for HJ's when performing their role. If you have any doubt, please contact Surveyor-General Victoria. Contact details will be provided at the end.

There are three borders: one each with New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania. This article will consider each border and the unique challenges that they provide.

The **South Australia - Victorian border**, the source of significant legal action for many years is now mostly resolved.

The border signs and indicators, seen on public roads provide a suitable source for understanding this border.

With all borders if you have any doubt about the location that you are proposing to operate you are able to contact Surveyor-General Victoria.

New South Wales - Victoria border has two components. The section from the coast to the source of the Murray, described as the Black- Allan line.

This line is a surveyed line and is well marked and defined. The location of this part of the border is in rugged terrain.

Many modern projects have either preserved the historical marks or renewed/replaced marks along this part of the border.

The second component follows the River Murray.

Victoria's rights along the river, end at the top of the southern bank. Therefore, all of the water is in New South Wales.

The location of the top of the southern bank in most cases is easily seen. There are places where significant development has made this more difficult. For HJ's, the easiest way to ensure you are in Victoria is to stay on the southern side of the river. If in doubt, please ask.

Tasmania - Victoria border, the most complex border and the one that has not been tested in court.

This article will not try to explain this border. The focus will be on a JP understanding the extent of Victoria.

Generally, if your work is on the land and the islands that can be seen from the Victorian coast then you are within the Victorian jurisdiction.

You can check this by determining the municipal authority with responsibility for an island that you may need to perform your role. If a Victorian authority, then assume part of Victoria.

The same applies for Tasmanian islands. If, however, you are asked to perform your role in Bass Strait, then I would suggest that you would not be in your jurisdiction. If in doubt, please ask.

Mr Craig Sandy
Surveyor-General Victoria contact details
sgv.surveyors@delwp.vic.gov.au
03 91940282

Branch news

Geelong

Graham Alston Park AM JP KSJ, steps down as the Geelong Branch Secretary after 9 years.

Alston became a Justice of the Peace on 3rd March, 2009 and within months, he'd taken on the role of Secretary of the Geelong Branch.

He was first awarded an OAM, then the AM, for his service as Chief Commissioner, Scouts Victoria. On his retirement, he was honoured as a Life Member, Scouts Victoria.

He became a Knight of the St John of Jerusalem in 2018.

He is shown at right, receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for his service as Branch Secretary from RVAHJ President, Geoff Legge JP



The President and Directors cordially invite members and friends to their

2019 Annual Dinner

Enjoy a 3-course meal
and hear our Guest Speaker
(to be announced)

When: Friday 30 August, 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Where: Treacy Conference Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville
(Mel ref: Map 29 F12)

Cost: \$80 per head Dress: Suit & tie/After 5

Seats are limited! Order your tickets now

By post:	Attn: Cathy Owens PO Box 317 ELWOOD 3184	
By fax:	Fax: (03) 9525 7785 E-mail: ad.officer.rvahj@gmail.com	
Attendees names (please indicate if a vegetarian option required):		
1.		6.
2.		7.
3.		8.
4.		9.
5.		10.
No. tickets @ \$80 per head:		
Payment accepted by Credit card/cheque/money order/direct deposit (BSB: 633-108 Account: 160973715)		
Credit card details		
Card type - <u>Visa</u> or <u>Mastercard</u> only:		
Credit card number:		
Expiry date:		
Cardholder's name:		
Cardholder's signature		
Your postal address (for delivery of tickets)		
Name:		
Street Address / PO Box:		
Suburb / Town:		
Postcode:		
Contact Ph:		

Bookings close: 19 August (or when sold out!)

Branch news

Mornington Peninsula

"This is why Mornington Peninsula Branch runs so well". Chairman, Bob Bolch JP OAM is pictured at right, in his younger years demonstrating his Karate skills; Bob was a Master of two Dojos' (karate schools). Who is going to argue the point with the Chairman??? At the recent meeting, Chairman Bob reported on the passing of our esteemed colleague Peter Newman and on the resignation of Patrick Marshall as a JP. Bob is the co-ordinator of the Frankston DSS and has worked with both of these gentlemen over many years.

Mornington DSS co-ordinator Barrie Emerton said that the signing centre is running smoothly with 12 members on two days a week. Chris Warwick reported that the Hastings Signing Centre has eight members, that they are contemplating operating an extra day & will discuss this with the Officer in Charge of the Hastings police station.

Helen Alcock Rosebud DSS co-ordinator said that she had personally contacted approximately 100 JPs with only 2 agreeing to assist at the centre.

It was decided unanimously that future branch meetings will be held quarterly and not every second



month as has been the case for many years. The next meeting will take place at Rosebud Police Station on Wednesday June 5th. On Wednesday, September 4th, Hastings police headquarters will be the venue with Frankston police station hosting the AGM & General meeting on Wednesday December 4th -- all meetings commence at 7-30pm.

Frankston, Dandenong & Springvale DSS co-ordinators have been lobbying the HJO about trying to recruit more JPs to staff their respective DSS, to no avail.

During the meeting Chairman Bob presented members with 10 quiz questions that we can expect to be asked in the course of our duties. With changes to Acts & Legislation, being a JP is an ongoing learning curve with clients expecting more from us.

JPs/ Bail Justices who would be able to assist at Signing Centres on the Mornington Peninsula should contact Bob Bolch on 0412 155634.

Mornington Peninsula Branch news, presented by Publicity Officer, Ian Lyons

VALE

The Mornington Peninsula Branch pays tribute to two branch members who have passed away.

Graham Ian Unwin JP

One week after our meeting, Chairman Bob informed us of the passing of Graham Unwin, long time Chairman of our branch. He was a fine gentleman and will be missed by our members. Branch members attended the funeral on February 21st with many attendees standing for the duration of the service as the chapel was crowded to capacity.

Peter Thomas Newman OAM ED JP FRVAHJ

Peter lived with his wife Fay in Mt Eliza and, although he already had a busy schedule, he decided he could spare some time to work on the document witnessing roster at the Frankston Police Station.

Commencing in May 2010, he attended over 100 times and was eager to assist when other team members could not attend. His organisational expertise and extensive knowledge made him an ideal recipient of membership to the 100 Club.

Peter was a retired Army Colonel, with 30 years service in many areas. Other experience included: Executive Director Australian Fire Protection Association (1984-1985), Consultant MPW Australia (1985-1987), Hospital Management (1987-1994), Local Government Commissioner (1994-1997), School Council President, Rosebud Secondary College (1996-1999), Community Support Frankston Material Aid Fund Inc. Trustee (1998-2019), Rotary International (1981-2019), President Ranelagh Residents Association (1997-1999) & Chairperson, Melbourne Veteran & Services Support Centre (2008-2018).



Justice of the Peace (Victoria) Information Aide Summary

Oaths & Affirmations

Oath

I, [name of person making oath], swear [or promise] by Almighty God [or the person may name a god recognised by the person's religion] that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct.

Affirmation

I, [name of person making affirmation], solemnly and sincerely affirm that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct.

Child or cognitively impaired deponent

I, [name of person making the promise] promise that I have told the truth in this affidavit and it is correct.

To be spoken aloud in front of the Justice of the Peace or Bail Justice

Statutory Declarations

Declaration

I, [full name of person making declaration] of [address], declare that the contents of this statutory declaration are true and correct.



New Forms

A Prescribed Statutory Declaration Form effective from 1 March 2019. Older formats can be used until 31 December 2019 but new forms must be in place before 1 January 2020.

A new, but not prescribed form of Affidavit effective from 1 March 2019. There is no transition period.



Independent, Trusted, Respected

Certifying Copies

Certified copy of an original document

Certified to be a true copy of the original seen by me.

Certified copy of a certified copy
Certified to be a true copy of another certified true copy seen by me.



Penalties

Making a false Stat Dec: 600 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years or both.

Present a false copy for certification: 600 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years or both

Making a false statement by oath, affirmation or affidavit: Perjury – up to 15 years imprisonment



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Justice of the Peace (Victoria) Information Aide Summary

Overview – What Witnesses Certify

What Witnesses Certify	Enduring Power of Attorney (EPOA)
Decision making capacity	That the person appears to have decision making capacity at time of signing in relation to the making of the EPOA
Understands nature & effect	That the person appears to understand the effect of their decision to make the EPOA
Freely & voluntarily signs	That the person appears to freely and voluntarily sign the document and in the presence of the witnesses
Eligibility to be a witness	That you are eligible, 2 witnesses required – One Authorized to sign Affidavits or Registered Medical Practitioner & One Adult Supportive Attorney – 2 witnesses required – One Authorized to sign Stat Dec & One Adult
What Witnesses Certify	Appointment of medical treatment decision maker
Decision making capacity	That the person appears to have decision making capacity at time of signing in relation to making the appointment
Understands nature & effect	That the person appears to understand the nature and consequences of making the appointment
Freely & voluntarily signs	That the person appears to freely and voluntarily sign the document and in the presence of the witnesses
Eligibility to be a witness	That you are eligible, 2 witnesses required – One Authorize to sign Affidavits or Registered Medical Practitioner & One Adult
What Witnesses Certify	Advanced Care Directive
Decision making capacity	That the person appears to have decision making capacity at time of signing in relation to each statement in the directive
Understands nature & effect	That the person appears to understand the nature and effect of each statement in the advance care directive
Freely & voluntarily signs	That the person appears to freely and voluntarily sign the document and in the presence of the witnesses
Eligibility to be a witness	That you are eligible, 2 witnesses required – One Registered Medical Practitioner & One Adult Note: Ensure that you are not an appointed medical treatment decision maker for the person.



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New reforms introduced to Parliament

New reforms will help victims of sexual or family violence offences who want to speak publicly about their experiences, as part of changes introduced into Parliament.

The Open Courts and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2019, re-introduced into Parliament on 19 February, will amend existing laws to reinforce the presumption in favour of open justice and the disclosure of information in Victorian courts.

The Bill will require that suppression and closed court orders only be used when necessary, such as where publication of information would be unfair, or risk harming victims or other parties.

Under the proposed amendments, courts will have to give reasons for making suppression orders, outlining the basis on which it is made, its duration, and the scope of information it covers.

Victims will be able to apply to the court for orders allowing their identities to be published if they are aged 18, provide their consent, and if there are no other reasons why the information should not be published.

Existing laws that prevent the publication of prior youth convictions will also be amended to allow the County and Supreme Courts to publish relevant convictions in the sentencing remarks of adult offenders.

Judges will have the discretion to include a person's juvenile convictions if they are sufficiently similar to the offences for which the person is being sentenced. In applying discretion, judges must take into account the person's criminal history and chances of rehabilitation.

In addition to the proposed changes, the Government last year asked the Victorian Law Reform Commission to review contempt of court laws and enforcement of suppression orders.

The Commission is due to report to government on 31 December 2019.

Source: Office of the Attorney General

The Justice Legislation (Police and Other Matters) Bill 2018, which passed the Legislative Council in March, will help police crack thousands of unsolved crimes by removing the need for Police to obtain a court order to take DNA samples from certain suspects and offenders, including adults suspected of committing an indictable offence.

Currently there are more than 55,000 crime scene DNA profiles held by police that do not match any person's profile. These crimes could be explained with new DNA evidence that will be collected under the new laws.

The new powers will enhance Victoria Police's ability to identify criminals, particularly serious recidivist offenders, reduce the administrative burden on police and courts, and help solve serious and high-volume crime. Police will also be able to take DNA samples without a court order from 15 to 17-year-olds suspected of serious offences.

New offences and higher penalties will also apply to people who seek to harm police officers, protective services officers (PSOs), police custody officers (PCOs) and custodial officers. Under the changes:

* Discharging a firearm when reckless to the safety of a police officer or PSO (including firing into the air or at the ground) will be made an offence punishable by up to 15 years in jail

* Intimidation of a police officer, PSO, PCO, custodial officer, youth custodial officer or their families will be an offence punishable by up to 10 years in jail

* Armed offenders found guilty of common assault against a police officer or PSO on duty will face higher penalties of 10 years in jail, or 15 years if the offender was armed with a firearm or imitation firearm.

A new offence has also been created to target organised crime gangs. Trafficking in a commercial quantity of a drug of dependence, carried out for the benefit of, or at the direction of, a criminal organisation, will be punishable by up to life imprisonment.

The quantity of heroin for large commercial or commercial trafficking offences has also been reduced, bringing it in line with equivalent quantities for ice. This will mean that more heroin dealers will face the higher penalties applying to those offences. Offenders will also face harsher asset confiscation powers.

The Bill, which will now go to the Governor for Royal Assent, will also enable police to address and disrupt suspected serious criminal activity among second-hand dealers, including the auto-wrecking and scrap metal industry.

Source: Office of the Minister for Police & Emergency Services

MINUTES OF THE 108th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT 53 BROADWAY, ELWOOD ON THURSDAY 31st MAY 2018
COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

PRESENT:

President & Chairman Geoff Legge, Rodney Lavin, Ben Loois, Damian Nosedo, Cathy Owens, Linda Rainsford, Rhonda Smith & Norman Wittingslow.

WELCOME:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm welcoming those present and thanking them for their attendance. Apologies from the following members were received:

APOLOGIES:

Cheryl Duff, Glenda Frost, Rosemary Garoni, Sil Garoni, Joe Giramondo, Andrew Harrington, Cathie Irvin, Ron Milne, Paul Mracek, Nick O'Connell, Mary O'Shannassy, Joan Scott, Felicity Smith, Michael Tse & Bob Williams.

MINUTES OF THE 107th AGM:

Moved N Wittingslow, seconded R Smith that the minutes of the 107th AGM be taken as read and approved. CARRIED

ANNUAL REPORT:

The Chairman highlighted several items from the Board's Annual Report, which is reproduced herewith:

As President, it gives me great pleasure to give my 1st Presidential Report at this, the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

The last year has been not only very challenging but also rewarding, and I take this opportunity to sincerely thank those Directors who have assisted me and made a genuine and valuable contribution to the RVAHJ. A special thanks Paul Mracek, Vice President and Glenda Frost, Chief Financial Officer, for their continued loyalty and support. Likewise I also acknowledge Cathy Owens (Administration Officer) for her dedication and contribution to the RVAHJ. Her knowledge and breadth of experience in dealing with questions or tricky situations by the membership, I know, is greatly appreciated.

The role of President demands many challenges and many sacrifices, both in time and money, however, in spite of those challenges I have enjoyed my first term as your President as it has been an honour and privilege, particularly attending so many Branches and meeting so many Justices on a personal basis.

Our relationship with the Honorary Justice Office and, in turn the Department of Justice and Regulation, is sound and on a very good and respectful base. On this note I take this opportunity to thank the Honorary Justice Office and the Department for their respective support over the term. .

Involvement with the Australasian Council of Justices Associations (ACJA) is a worthy organisation to cross-fertilise ideas and meet to discuss mutual difficulties and of course opportunities. The RVAHJ's relationship and engagement should be continued and we look forward to the opportunity to host the ACJA Annual conference in October 2019.

This year saw the introduction of a new accounting system and in conjunction with that system took the opportunity to review our governance framework to ensure that we align our business procedures with contemporary business and corporate practices for the benefit of our members. Governance procedures and framework is an ongoing process and to that end I greatly appreciate the combined support from our Vice President for investigating and implementing the new accounting software and our chief Financial Officer with the governance framework. The system and governance practices introduced will underpin and foster the long-term sustainability of the RVAHJ.

Many members ask what the RVAHJ is doing for them and I am very pleased to announce that as your association, the RVAHJ has been able to actively assist many members in the Status Confirmation process in order for them to continue their important community focused role as Justices. Additionally, the RVAHJ has been active to ensure that members and branches are across changes affecting Justices such as Enduring and Medical Powers of Attorney and to that end, encourage members to contact the office if they are experiencing concerns in their appointment as a Justice.

The introduction of the Post Nominal of Fellow of the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices is another initiative introduced by your Association & I acknowledge the many members who have achieved the status of FRVAHJ to be honoured for their countless hours of dedicated and tireless community involvement.

The RVAHJ has an exciting future ahead, and the way forward must be guided by diligent directors and a committed membership who have the best interests of the association at heart.

Geoffrey Legge President

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Chairman noted the Chief Financial Officer's apology and referred those present to the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017, as presented.

The end of year loss of approx. \$7000 was noted. The Board will continue their efforts to minimise costs and raise revenue in 2018. To this end, the President noted a change of telephone provider which will reduce ongoing expenditure.

R Lavin queried the accounting of merchandise which is to be followed up.

Moved G Legge, seconded N Wittingslow to accept and adopt the annual accounts as presented. CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

On behalf of the CFO, N Wittingslow reported timing issues with the current auditor and recommended appointing a new auditor. He advised that Ms Susan Riley, an experienced auditor, had agreed to act as auditor, if appointed.

Moved N Wittingslow, seconded L Rainsford, that Ms Susan Riley be appointed auditor for the forthcoming year. CARRIED

MATTERS WITHOUT NOTICE:

The Chairman opened the floor to any matters without notice.

Discussion arose regarding information relevant to Justices, such as the recent changes to the Powers of Attorney Act. It was suggested that the training sessions previously conducted by the RVAHJ be re-introduced.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.05 pm and invited those in attendance to stay for a light supper those in those present to stay for a light supper.



Membership fees became due January 1st

Despite extreme financial pressure, membership fees for 2019 remain at \$62.00 for Ordinary members and \$20.00 for Associate members.

*** Pay your 2019 and 2020 fees in the same transaction and you'll save \$2.00. ***
That's \$122.00 Ordinary and \$38.00 Associate membership.

Also, for your convenience, we are now accepting credit card payments for membership by telephone (MasterCard & Visa only).

Do you need to update our bank account details for EFTPOS payments?
Our new bank account is: **Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 A/c no. 160973715**



Recognizing Excellence

We congratulate the following members who were recognised in the Australia Day Honours list for contributions to their communities.

Neil Armstrong OAM JP

Neil Brock OAM JP

John Duscher OAM BJ JP FRVAHJ

Vernon Fettke OAM BJ JP FRVAHJ

Be Ha OAM JP

Salem Haddad OAM JP

Raymond Luscombe OAM JP

Brian Samuel OAM JP

Patricia Vejby OAM JP

McCrae

Oxley

Wonthaggi

Werribee

Glen Waverley

Balwyn Nth

Shepparton

Caulfield Nth

Werribee

Service to the community

Service to the communities of Oxley & Milawa

Service to the community of Wonthaggi

Service to the community of Wyndham

Service to the Vietnamese community

Service to the Lebanese community

Service to the community of Shepparton

Service to the Jewish community

Service to the community



*We also congratulate **Joan Scott JP**, from Grovedale, who has been inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.*

Joan has been a Justice of the Peace since 1989, also serving as a Bail Justice for 12 years until statutorily-retired and as a volunteer Independent Third Person (ITP) since 1992.

In addition, Joan is a volunteer Corrections Independent Support Officer with Corrections Victoria, attending disciplinary hearings for prisoners who have an intellectual disability as well as an Independent Person with the Youth Referral & Independent Person Program (YRIPP).

A well-deserved recognition for outstanding service!



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RVAHJ Facebook report

The Association Facebook pages continue to grow from strength to strength.

There are two pages—www.facebook.com/honouraryjustices for the public and www.facebook.com/groups/306894373364282 for members only.

The public page focuses on general interest stories and the promotion of JP and BJ activities in the community. We recognised those members who received Australia Day honours, shared some news stories including “Police call for more JPs” which appeared in the Star Weekly from Wyndham and the latest series of DoJ videos. We are reaching more than 1,000 people each month through organic referrals and shares.

Thanks to all the JPs and BJs who share these posts because it is only through such shares that we grow our exposure.

The ‘super secret members only page’ is getting a lot of traction with terrific information sharing and discussions. Responding to member enquiries, we have addressed issues including “Tips and Tricks” for Powers of Attorney, Affidavits, Wills, Oaths, the Points

System for Identification, the right way to use your Post Nominals, the new Oaths and Affirmations Act and some tricky bail hearings.

It’s also a great way to share what is happening in your Branch. Send us any Branch news, rumours or funny stories to social@rvahj.org.au.

In February, we emailed each State Member of Parliament (both houses) asking them to share some of our mini-videos on their Facebook pages. We are hoping to use this to promote the great work that JPs and BJs do in the community. So far, Hon Ed O’Donohue (Shadow AG) Mr Brad Battin and Mr Darren Cheeseman have shared our videos on their community pages.

If you would like to join the RVAHJ Facebook community but need some help getting started, send us an email to: social@rvahj.org.au and we’ll try to assist.

Kevin Mackin
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Signing Centre Statistics

DSC	2018	Jan	Feb	2019
	Yr Total			Yr Total
Altona Library	1669	59	96	155
Altona RSL	1588	26	96	122
Baccus Marsh	300	54	42	96
Ballarat	57324			0
Benalla	769	0	155	155
Bendigo	13610	837		837
Boroondara	3812	0	460	460
Box Hill	48704			0
Bright	417	19		19
Broadmeadows	27492	1304	1780	3084
Carrum Downs	2229	399	385	784
Caulfield	2855			0
Corio	3589	253	289	542
Corryong	239	29	66	95
Craigieburn	22215	1393		1393
Cranbourne	45432			0
Dandenong	75102	4321	5361	9682
Drysdale	453			0
Epping	25140	1564	1517	3081
Family Court	13702	1970	2017	3987
Fawkner	38620	1157	963	2120
Flemington	502		15	15
Footscray	19743	2282	2209	4491
Forest Hill	7450			
Frankston	16930	3153	3661	6814
Geelong	21242	1839	1951	3790
Glen Waverley	39636			0
Hamilton	898	98	70	168
Hastings	1555	186	73	259
Horsham	1996	70	48	118
Laverton Hub	639	20	32	52
Mansfield	751	110	95	205
Melbourne West	17960	1516		1516

DSC	2018	Jan	Feb	2019
	Yr Total			Yr Total
Mercy - Austin Health	16250	629	1037	1666
Mernda	2595	113	124	237
Mildura	21427	1427	1530	2957
Moonee Ponds	17979	223	2156	2379
Mornington	1285	225	446	671
Morwell	3757			0
Mt Waverley		0	769	769
Myrtleford	780			0
Northcote	1944			0
Oakleigh	15954			0
Pakenham	10164	546	746	1292
Portland	749			
Preston	6380			0
Probate Court	76564	5105	5486	10591
Reservoir	2711			0
Ringwood	4979	283		283
RMH	18451			0
Rosebud	2826	258	289	547
Sale	1540			0
Springvale	83304	4630	5613	10243
Sunbury	2671			0
Swan Hill	1489	295	298	593
Traralgon	2948			0
Wangaratta	7321	489		489
Wangaratta Library	1836	192		192
Warragul	19095	1647	1407	3054
Warrnambool	6345	449	382	831
Werribee	52952	4189	4465	8654
Williamstown	3109	98	621	719
Wodonga	10469	582	823	1405
Wyndham North	11877	988	1366	2354
Wonthaggi	8281	859	711	1570
Total	930795	22659	21381	44040

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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.

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CUSTODES DEADLINES

Issue 1 - March 1 | Issue 2 - July 1 | Issue 3 - November 1



Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

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