

Custodes

The Official Journal of the Association Issue 2 2020



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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Facebook.com/
honoraryjustices



www.rvahj.org.au

From the President's (socially distanced)Desk

Dear fellow Justices,

In speaking to a number of people lately many have said that things have slowed down during this Covid~19 pandemic time. For the Association, nothing could be further from the truth!

Over the past couple of months, the team has been very active supporting members with information and guidance on how to remain safe, as well as the best practices to minimise risk. We are particularly pleased with the response to our Tuesday morning online group discussions. Members share their knowledge and experiences and raise concerns that we try to address. It's a really friendly team atmosphere and most members have mastered the use of the technology – and of course we provide assistance to anyone who needs it.

The interim changes to Oaths and Affirmations – allowing for electronic signatures and witnessing on Affidavits and other documents plus changes to the Bail Act has progressed to the "regulations" stage. It is these regulations that define how the new laws are implemented. We are seeing a number of significant changes which may have some long-term impact too.

The most important thing we can all do is to reach out to one another - call a BJ or JP, even if you don't know them very well, and ask "How are you?" People are concerned and even stressed by all the Coronavirus news and as Honorary Justices we are also facing times of change and increasing uncertainty. Fellowship and the desire to help others is one of the most important values that the Association brings to our members. We are here to help and support each other, it just takes the first step to ask.

Especially in time of emergency it is more important than ever that we stay in contact more often to make sure that we look after each other, as well as our community. For the association to be able to help you in these times, we need you to help us and let us know your current contact details...especially your mobile number and email address that way we can make sure that we can update you quickly especially now.

It is also that time of the year where it is necessary for us to hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM). As a result of the restrictions due to the Coronavirus we have scheduled our AGM for Thursday, 23 July 2020 at 7.30 pm. Due to the limited size of our meeting room at Elwood, this year you can join in using Zoom from your computer or telephone. Additional details are on Page 10 and of course it would great to see you there.

Paul Mracek
President

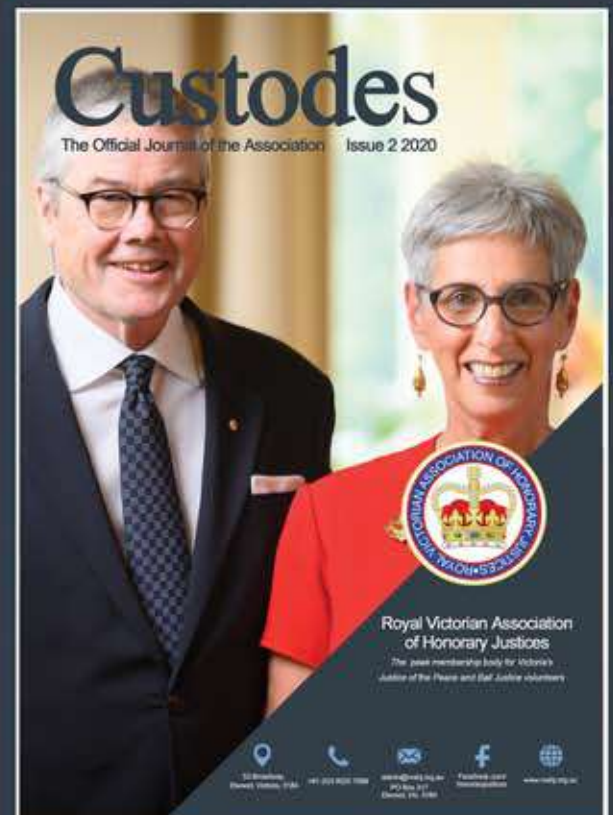


Paul Mracek JP
MIEAust, CPEng, NER, APEC Engineer
IntPE(Aus), FAIM, GAICD, FRVAHJ

Welcome to Custodes Issue 2 2020

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COVER

This issue's cover features our Chief Patron, The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria and her husband Mr Anthony Howard AM QC.

You can read the Governor's message to Honorary Justices on page 11.

Stay Safe Out There

Coronavirus can spread after close contact with an infectious person, through droplets from a cough or sneeze, and touching of contaminated services.

We encourage all Honorary Justices to keep up the good work and reduce the spread.

Feature Article

"A man for all seasons" is an idiom applied to one who is ready to cope with any contingency and whose behaviour is always appropriate to every occasion. Robert Whittington applied this description to the English statesman and scholar Sir Thomas More (1478–1535), and it was used by Robert Bolt as the title of his 1960 play about More. It is a very apt description of the way our Honorary Justices have acquitted themselves during this Covid-19 pandemic.



HONORARY JUSTICE for ALL SEASONS

Many in the community see what we do as Essential Services by helping those in need, especially in these changing times. Many of our members have provided thousands of hours across many years of volunteered service to their communities.

The challenge of course with the current virus emergency is that many members are in the vulnerable category and are extremely susceptible to the consequences from this virus. Like Thomas More, they have done the most appropriate thing and distanced themselves from those they normally serve in the community. The whole Honorary Justice community thanks one and all for their help and commitment at this time. It is all our duty of care to ensure that these Honorary Justices and their extended family remain safe and well.

We know that it has been hard for these JPs and BJs. At heart, they are the sort of people who jump in and get the job done. To have to step back and be unable to support their local community is going against the very nature and values of many members.

The strength within the Association is that we have a diverse range of people from different backgrounds and ages. This has provided the possibility for those who are perhaps not so much at risk the scope to look at different ways to manage and mitigate most of the potential for infection whilst still offering the essential services that JPs and BJs provide.

Everybody is doing what they need to and for those who can, please stay the course – and don't let your guard down for a second. There are those in the community who continue to need you.

Here are some good examples of how some members are managing the situation:

- Meeting outside – one JP meets at a table outside the local library. She maintains social distancing and uses a good dose of sanitiser before and after the visit. Of course, she wears a mask too.
- Another JP asks anyone coming for witnessing to bring their own pen. And then wipes down everything before and after the visit as well.
- Many have set up signing stations in their front room or near the door, with sanitiser stations in place.
- Those who have a separate business location have set up signing stations at their reception area, with all the necessary PPE needs

However you are managing this, please keep it up. We thank you.

Covid~19 has also brought us some surprising and unexpected benefits. The good working relationships the Association has with HJSS and the DoJCS get even stronger every day as we cooperate to face this challenge together. Most members would not know that the HJSS has been working with a skeleton staff over the past months. They are doing an amazing job working through the implementation of the Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Bill, helping to look at building an alternative location network to use, finding a way to support JPs and BJs with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), recruiting and training 200 new JPs, setting up a BJ Advisory Panel and a myriad of other day to day tasks and projects.

The HJSS have a challenge with resources. Whilst we cannot fix this, the Association continues to offer our support, advice and assistance wherever we can to help the HJSS and the broader Honorary Justice community. The challenge at the moment is to use the resources that are available on what is important and provide the greatest value to all Honorary Justices and the community. So in the meantime, let's make sure that we provide the HJSS the opportunity to focus on what is really needed and remember that urgent and important are not the same thing. If you have a significant concern or challenge, feel free to escalate it to the Association and we will try our best to assist.

We all value the significant contribution Amanda, Sylvia, Ardre and Shiraj, supported by their interim Director – Mr Fayyaz Kahn and the rest of the DoJCS team are making to help all Honorary Justices. Next time you are talking to them, take the time to say "thank you" and recognise their outstanding efforts.

The HJSS team has prioritised JP recruitment across Victoria in 2020. The first priority recruitment areas, based on numbers of JPs per population, existing historical expressions of interest and a benchmark of a particular number of JPs in local areas, were Hobsons Bay, Greater Dandenong, Melton and Wyndham. More than 200 applicants were selected to progress to the training and assessment stages.

Due to the Covid~19 impacts, HJSS have prioritised all applicants finalising the online learning modules and are monitoring their progress into June 2020. A group from Wyndham has completed the training/assessment process in March 2020 and are progressing to be sworn in as JPs as quickly as practicable. Future recruitment priorities include Greater Geelong and Ballarat over the coming months.

The Association has been even more active than usual in supporting Honorary Justices during this unprecedented time. Most of our efforts have been directed towards communication and connecting as well as assisting with the impact of the restrictions and helping solve other issues that have arisen:

- We're coordinating, with HJSS, those available JPs to help the community find an available witness or certifier
- We are driving a solution to provide PPE, or a cost recovery program, for JPs and BJs who need it
- We've established a terrific online Zoom meeting every Tuesday morning – Coffee with the President – to help all JPs and BJs stay in touch and up to date on all things Honorary Justice
- We've set up the BJ Peer Support Service to help BJs get advice or guidance when things go awry in the middle of the night
- Our Facebook pages are getting a real good workout – with lots of activity, discussion and answers
- We're developing a new online training program for all members to access, to be released shortly
- And lots more to come

Now, more than ever before in the history of our Association, is the time for members and non-members to come together. And we are all responding by coping with the contingencies that arise almost every day and continuing to lead by example showing what behaviour is appropriate to every occasion.

It's what Honorary Justices do. We all have to do what we can, as Sir Thomas More said:

"What part soever you take upon you, play that as well as you can and make the best of it."

We are all in this together.

Annual
DINNER
and Awards Presentation
 Keynote Speaker
Hon. Jill Hennessy MP
 Attorney General

**Due to Covid~19 restrictions
 our Annual Dinner & Training event
 is postponed until March next year**



Thank you

谢谢

The RVAHJ Board and Members sincerely thank
NATIONAL LIAISON COUNCIL OF CHINESE AUSTRALIAN
 for their gracious donation of face masks and oxygen equipment
 to help RVAHJ members during this pandemic

*Special thanks to Mr Anson Hong JP - for his 28 years of community
 service as a JP and for arranging this fine gift*

Honour Roll
 Corrections from the last issue
please accept our sincere apologies

50 years
 Ronald Milne JP – MOUNT ELIZA

45 years
 Ronald Alexander JP FRVAHJ – MOUNT MACEDON

30 years
 Wayne Deacon JP FRVAHJ – SALE

25 years
 Rodney Lavin JP FRVAHJ – TRARALGON STH

10 years
 Joan Lentini JP – PORT MELBOURNE

Order of Australia Nominations
 The Association will nominate a member for an
 Order of Australia when that member achieves
 one of the following milestones:

- A Member of the Association and active
 Honorary Justice for 20 Years
- A RVAHJ Fellow who has held that position
 and been active in Association activities for
 10 years
- A RVAHJ Board member with at least 10 years Honorary
 Justice service and active membership



Branches and Individuals may recommend a member for the
 nomination. A comprehensive justification for the nomination
 is required. A recommendation cover sheet is available from
 the office.

**Community
 GRANTS**

Many Local Government Councils &
 Shires run Community Grants Programs
 they often close around late January.
 Get in NOW to check what
 you need to do



Members of the **Mornington Peninsula Branch**
 meeting at Carrum Downs

See Branch News Page 9 for more



Unlock savings and convenience.

AS A MEMBER OF THE RVAHJ YOU HAVE ACCESS TO MBA'S COMPLETE END TO END CAR PURCHASING SERVICE THAT PUTS YOU IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.

As your advocate we take the stress and hard work out of purchasing your new car. Experience the MBA Car Assist difference and see how we can help get you behind the wheel. Contact MBA Car Assist today!



1300 119 493
mbacarassist.com.au



Resources

for RVAHJ Branches and Members

www.rvahj.org.au/resources

A special place on our web site with easy access to a range of tools especially for those times when you need to find the latest info:

- Oaths and Affirmations:
 - Presentations
 - One pager info sheets
- PoA and Advanced Care Directives
 - Presentations
 - One pager info sheets
- DSS and Branch Tools
 - Posters
 - Videos
 - Branch Web Page info

Plus lots more

Branch Chairs Recognised

BRANCH CHAIR



In recognition of the importance of the RVAHJ Branch Network to the support of JPs and BJ's across the State, the Association is making available these terrific new "Branch Chair" badges to each Branch at no cost.

Please contact the office to arrange delivery of yours. Thank you all for your continued great work and commitment to the Association.





MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE

During these challenging months of Covid-19, I would like to assure you that the City of Melbourne is committed to providing assistance and support to all members of our community.

Justices of the Peace and Bail Justices play an important role in our city and continually demonstrate a dedication to service. I am comforted to know that your knowledge and experience plays an important role in navigating us through these unprecedented times.

The Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices stands by three words to encapsulate the service you provide: Independent, Trusted and Respected. However, during this period of uncertainty, I would like to add another word: Leadership.

This pandemic has forced some of you to remain isolated and refrain from witnessing or hearing duties. Despite these temporary restrictions, we continue to value your service and know that you will be back helping the community just as soon as it is safe to do so.

As part of our justice system, your role helps create a safer community. It is important to ensure you take the time to take care of yourself during this unprecedented pandemic.

To those Justices of the Peace and Bail Justices who are still able to serve, please take the necessary precautions and follow the guidelines.

Thank you to all Justices of the Peace and Bail Justices for your continued dedication and support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sally Capp'.

Sally Capp
Lord Mayor



Sally is Patron of our Association

BRANCH NEWS

Only a little bit of Branch News in this edition. We love to feature new and interesting items from Branches. Please try to include a good resolution (300dpi) photo if you can. Please send your items to our team at custodes@rvahj.org.au



Your Friend the Financial Advisor

Dear Fellow Justices,

As volunteer JP's & BJ's, you collectively contribute more than 385,000 hours each year of your time to support your local community. As a fellow volunteer and JP, we at Golconda Group would like to acknowledge your contribution by offering to help support YOUR future.

Today, Golconda Group supports in excess of 1,300 clients with their financial future and journey to achieve their goals. We now wish to extend this offer to yourselves as volunteers and key members of your community.

As part of this offer we introduce to you [full access to our financial services priced to recognise the role each of you play in our communities](#). We are also building a network of Financial Advisors throughout Victoria that are equally as inspired and will honour this offer so that you can deal with someone closer, if distance is an issue for you.

Please give us a call on 03 50330109 to discuss or visit www.golconda.com.au to see what we can do for you.

Yours sincerely,

Brendan McKenzie

Brendan McKenzie

Director/Financial Advisor

Adv, Dip. FS (FP), CFP, SSA™ Authorised Rep: 293177



Making a REAL difference to our clients and our community!

Mornington Branch News

The quarterly meeting (4.3.20) of the branch was held at Carrum Downs Police Station and hosted by Brent Clyne JP, FRVAHJ, co-ordinator of the Signing Centre. Several items that directly affect members were discussed. Items included for information and discussion were News from Dandenong DSS, Problems at Springvale DSS, AHPRA certification problems, Queensland - Land Titles Changes & information regarding New Statutory Declarations Forms (Vic).

Chairman, Bob Bolch OAM, JP, FRVAHJ informed members that Births/ Deaths/ Marriages documents no longer need to carry a Police Station stamp. Regarding the witnessing of Queensland "Land Titles Documents" a motion was carried that we will not certify these documents pending advice from the Honorary Justice Support Service. There can be no point in members witnessing these documents unless we carry out the requirements of Queensland authorities. One of the requirements discussed at length by our members was the filling out a "Record of Titles Registry Form" which must be kept by the JP for seven years. Chairman Bob is also a Queensland Justice and has witnessed and RECORDED over 50 transactions since the legislation was introduced in September 2019, he is prepared to process these documents at the Frankston Signing Centre.

The next meeting of the branch is to be held at Mornington Police Station on June 3rd @ 7.30

Further details on 0412 155 634 or Email bob.bolch@bigpond.com.



MORNINGTON
PENINSULA
JUSTICES

HAMILTON ROSTER STATS TO END 2019

Incorrectly published as 814, should have been 1014

Our apologies for the error

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices ACN 004 226 448

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices will be held on Thursday, 23 July 2020 at 7.30 pm AEST at 53 Broadway, Elwood. Due to current COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, the Elwood venue which has a limited capacity (of up to 7 people) is reserved for Office bearers use. RVAHJ Members who wish to participate in the AGM may do so online using Zoom or by telephone, details provided after registration. Registration is required to join the AGM virtually through Zoom using the following details:

Register in advance for this meeting at <https://tinyurl.com/ya4dqr2c> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Please contact the office by email admin@rvahj.org.au or call by phone if you are in need of any assistance.

Business of the Meeting:

- 1) To confirm the minutes of the 109th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 30 May 2019 (published in Custodes Issue 2, 2019)
- 2) To consider and, if thought fit, adopt the Annual Report of the Board.
- 3) To consider and, if thought fit, adopt the Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended December 31, 2019.
- 4) 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.

Elections for Directors are held in each odd numbered year (RVAHJ Constitution Clause 15.1) the next of which will be in 2021.

Proxies must be received by the Admin Officer at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting. Proxy forms are available from the office.

Dated: 31st May 2020

By Order of the Board

.....
Paul Mracek JP FRVAHJ
PRESIDENT

Ron Milne JP Hangs Up His Pen

after 51 years of service to the community

I well remember my induction in 1969 as a JP with several other members of the community, conducted by our Attorney General at the time on the stage of the Supreme Court when as the Officer was about to introduce us to the audience, a late arrival dashed onto the stage - it was my brother who believing he was late, entered a side door of the building & joined the gathering (very temporarily).

My Certificate states my appointment dated from 17th July, 1969, so service since is well into the 51st year. Following nomination by the Late Sam Loxton (the worthy Australian cricketer & member of our State Parliament) as a representative for the western side of Melbourne extending to the Mt. Macedon and Kyneton areas, I served fortnightly in the Footscray Court, assisting periodically the sitting Court Magistrate & also my fellow Justices in the second Court when not required by the Magistrate.

Subsequent changes to Court procedures in the 1980's discontinued that practice, but I was most thankful for the opportunity of seeing at first hand how our laws were administered. It was during this period I became firstly associated with the Diamond Valley Justice group serving on their committee for several years. I subsequently became an executive member of our Council & Treasurer for ten years - my services were acknowledged in June, 1994, with the presentation of the Ten Year Certificate of Merit Award.

Having now served in the Mornington Peninsular region for some time, but in my 88th year, it's time to retire.

Ron played cricket for Melbourne and Richmond for 20 years (including Captain), was a farmer in the Murray Valley for 14 years, was a Foundation Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Association and much, much more. If you ever get the chance to chat with this unassuming gentleman, you will learn a lot. Thanks Ron, for your service.



Ron Milne JP - receiving his 50 Year Service award in 2019



**Message from HE the Governor
of Victoria, the Hon. Linda Dessau AC
and Mr Anthony Howard AM, QC**

It has certainly been a difficult start to the year, with parts of our State so heavily affected by bushfires and now the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19.

First and foremost, we care about the health and well-being of all Victorians and hope that those associated with our Patronages are safe and well cared for. We all need to stay across the advice of our health authorities, which are constantly updated and can be found at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au and www.health.gov.au.

We have seen the anxiety in the community caused by COVID-19, and its effects. Of course, anxiety like this is understandable at a time of such uncertainty. But it is important, now more than ever, to remain calm and to work together.

It is a time too for gratitude to all those who are working so hard to look after our medical and emergency needs, to care for the vulnerable, to keep essential services running and to respond to this unfolding situation.

We are conscious that many of our Patronages are amongst those groups. We express to them the gratitude felt by all Victorians. We would be pleased if you would convey that to your members for us.

We are conscious too that a number of our Patronages will be celebrating particular anniversaries or achievements during this period, when large groups of people will be unable to gather together. Others will have members who are likely to feel acutely the cancellation of their normal events and activities. That, and the social distancing practices now in place, will often bring a sense of isolation. Each person, each organisation, will experience these upheavals in different ways. Our thoughts are with them all.

Although for now Government House will not be able to welcome guests in the usual way, we remain as eager as ever to communicate with Victorians across the community. How lucky we are to live in an age when we have technology to assist us.

With that in mind, we encourage you to keep in touch and to write to the office if there is any way we can connect with your organisation, now or in the future, remembering that many engagements can be conducted through online technology. Requests can be made to requests@govhouse.vic.gov.au.

Please take care of each other. This is a time when we all need to check on family, neighbours, the elderly, workmates who are working off-site - anyone who might be alone or doing it tough.

The Hon. Linda Dessau AC

Anthony Howard AM, QC

BAIL TRAZER

Blazing a Trail Forward for Bail Justices in Victoria

The Bail Justice world is continuing during the Covid-19 pandemic. BJ's report that hearings continue, albeit perhaps with a little slow down. The recent temporary change that removes the need for DHHS to seek a BJ after hours hearing before removing a child from their parents is of significant concern - the oversight Bail Justices bring to the IAO process is an important check and balance that must be retained in the longer term.



Your RVAHJ Bail Justice Committee

We are really pleased to share the names and contact details of our new RVAHJ Bail Justice Committee. Please feel free to reach out to them about your BJ questions or concerns:

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Clare Adams BJ | 0428 326 825 | colada@netspace.net.au |
| Andrew Harrington BJ JP | 0408 504 359 | andrew@harringtonhomes.com.au |
| Kim McAliney BJ JP | 0439 377 646 | kim@mcaliney.com.au |
| Kevin Mackin BJ | 0458 222 673 | kevin.mackin@gmx.com |
| Linda Rainsford BJ (Chair) | 0418 333 568 | ljrainsford@bigpond.com |
| Wendy Williams BJ | 0419 349 899 | wwilliams00@bigpond.com |



Changes to BJ Role during the pandemic

As advised by HJSS, during the Covid-19 pandemic, Bail Justices will no longer be asked to decide requests for Interim Accommodation Orders (IAOs) by the Department of Health and Human Services. This is causing some real concerns for BJs who feel it may be the beginning of removing BJs from the process in the longer term. We hold that it is absolutely essential that the role be maintained to provide the necessary check and balance needed before a child is (sometimes forcibly) removed from the care of the parent of guardian.

Other flagged changes yet to be detailed include the possibility for remote bail hearings by video link. It is unclear how this will work, especially given the technical barriers that need to be overcome and most importantly the potential impact on those most vulnerable in our society - children, aboriginal persons and people at risk who may be applying for bail and who are currently given a fair opportunity by the BJs.

Who Ya Gonna Call? Bail Justice Peer Group Network

In the middle of the night or on weekends, Bail Justices often find themselves all alone with no support. Now you can call a colleague - any time of the day or night, for advice, guidance or support (or if you just need to talk through a challenging problem). The latest contact list for the Peer Group can be seen at:

<https://www.rvahj.org.au/BJ-peer-support-network/>

We are pleased to make this service available to all BJs - including those who may not be members of the Association - because it is the right thing to do. Thanks to HJSS for sending the list out.

Bourke Street Coroner's Inquest Update

The Coroner's Office advises that they are holding another short round of hearings during June. The final report is expected to be released in August. It is certain to be interesting reading.

HJSS Bail Justice Advisory Panel

We trust that many of our highly respected and knowledgeable BJs have nominated themselves for the new HJSS BJ Advisory Panel. The Association was instrumental in driving the establishment of this new group to provide advice to HJSS about the issues, challenges and improvements in the operation of Bail Justices. Our own BJ

Committee was, in part, set up as a vehicle to facilitate consolidated RVAHJ input to this new Advisory Panel.



New RVAHJ Lapel / Hat Badge

Here is a new addition to the merchandise range.
NOW AVAILABLE



Lapel Badge

Size: 30mm
Brooch Pin
Price: \$12.50
+ Postage

Note: the new badge is quite large - 30mm. That's about 1 1/4 inches in the old money - just a smidgeon bigger than a 20c piece.

Order your new lapel badge on the order form on the reverse of the address sheet in Custodes.

A Brilliant Idea! - Thanks Carolyn

Carolyn Dickinson JP is a nurse - she has pulled together these terrific PPE Packs to help her Springvale DSS team during this Covid~19 time. Carolyn can provide the information on what is in the pack for those who are interested, please contact Cathy for details. Carolyn has donated a limited number that we will forward to those BJ's active during the COVID~19 emergency.



New Director Appointed

The Association is pleased to advise that Kevin Mackin has been appointed to fill a casual Board vacancy. Kevin is a Bail Justice in the South East suburbs.

Kevin's background is in marketing IT solutions as a General Manager and Marketing Manager at IBM, Telstra, Cisco, WebEx, Coremetrics and Hightail. He worked in Silicon Valley (USA) as a Marketing Director for a number of years.

At RVAHJ, he is Custodes editor and drives much of our social media.

He is on the training and also the fundraising committees.

Please join us in welcoming Kevin to the team.



Kevin Mackin BJ

Follow RVAHJ on Facebook



facebook

Are you missing out?

More than 3,000 people check out our RVAHJ Facebook page every month

www.facebook.com/honoraryjustices

and nearly 200 Justices of the Peace and Bail Justices keep up to date with the latest information, advice and gossip on our super secret members only page. It's so easy, even young people can do it!



Welcome

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the RVAHJ team:

Alan MacConnell BJ - Werribee
Peter McPhan JP - Bacchus Marsh
John Mitchell JP - Leopold
John Pascoe Jr JP - Richmond



The Board has approved revisions to the RVAHJ Honours & Awards system. Our system has been re-built to be even more:

- Simple and easy to understand
- Totally transparent
- Fastidiously fair
- Achievable by ordinary, hard working members
- Relevant to Honorary Justice work
- Consistent with comparable Awards

RVAHJ bestows the following four (4) Honours:

- Life Membership
- Fellowship (FRVAHJ)
- Meritorious Service
- Certificate of Appreciation

RVAHJ Service Awards:

- From 10 Years then each 5 year anniversary

RVAHJ Certificates:

- Membership Certificate
- Branch Charter

RVAHJ Life Membership

The award of Life Membership is the most prestigious award that the Association bestows on a member and quite rightly is awarded to only a very small number of individuals.

Qualification – meets any of the following:

- Significant meritorious service to the Honorary Justice community
- Order of Australia recipient recognised specifically for their service as an Honorary Justice and who has been a RVAHJ member for at least 10 continuous years
- 20 years of significant service, and membership, including active participation in Branch executive roles for at least 10 years (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, DSS Coordinator etc)
- Board member with at least 10 years Honorary Justice service and membership who has held the roles of President, Vice President and Immediate Past President

Life Members have an important role to play in our organisation. As esteemed “elder statespersons” of the Association, they commit to:

- Provide informal advice and guidance to the current Board
- Represent the Association at Branch and other community activities
- Present Awards
- Identifying and supporting fundraising activities
- Leverage their community and other contacts for the benefit of the Association

Life members are not required to pay an annual membership fee to the Association starting from the first year following the year in which they were appointed as a Life Member. Many Life Members, recognizing the value that the Association brings, choose to make a donation to the Association of equivalent value as the then current membership fee.

Meritorious Service

The Meritorious Service honour recognises outstanding contribution to the Association in a significant way that is above normal service expectations and is widely recognised by their peers.

Qualification – meets any of the following:

- Outstanding contribution in a Branch executive position or DSS Coordinator role for at least 3 years
- A single instance of brilliance or act widely acknowledged by peers and/or the community as an outstanding effort
 - Must have at least 5 year service
 - Must not have served on the RVAHJ board for the preceding 2 years





Fellowship - FRVAHJ

The RVAHJ Fellowship is awarded to members who have displayed outstanding commitment to their Honorary Justice role and the Association over a solid period of time.

Qualification is based on service time and activity – meets any of the following:

- For a JP: 5 years service + 200 signing station rosters, or 10 years service
- For a BJ: 5 Years service + 500 hearings, or 10 years service
- For Branch office holders: 5 years Branch officeholder service +80% meeting attendance
- For RVAHJ Board members: 5 Years Board service + 80% meeting attendance

RVAHJ Fellows are the "cornerstones" of the Association.

They hold an honourable position of respect amongst their peers and commit to:

- Active participation in their local Branch or Association committee activities, which, depending on individual skills and capabilities, may include but is not limited to:
 - o Presenting Association training
 - o Providing learned articles for Custodes
 - o Identifying and supporting fundraising activities
 - o Historian activities
- Active recruitment of new members
- Peer support, advice and guidance to other members
- Driving a positive and inclusive fellowship for all members
- Providing constructive feedback to continuously improve the Association and the value we bring to members

Certificate of Appreciation (For Organisations/Individuals non member)

The Association is assisted in many of its tasks and undertakings by organisations and individuals who are not members of the association. The award is to recognise the service and assistance that those individuals and organisations provide on behalf of the Association.

Qualification – meets any of the following:

- An individual or organisation that has contributed to the Association in a significant and measurable way that is widely recognised by the membership
- An individual or organisation who has provided the Association and its membership, through their commitment, recognised benefits that have enabled the Association and its members to provide a better level of service to the community. This ability will have been enhanced by their involvement
- An individual or organisation who has demonstrated through their community or civic involvement a significant role in the recognition of Honorary Justices and the Association

Service Awards

Service awards recognise the length of service of an Honorary Justice. Service is measured from the date of appointment as a member of the Association (RVAHJ):

- 10 Years
- 15 Years
- 20 Years
- 25 Years
- 30 Years
- 35 Years
- 40 Years
- 45 Years
- 50 Years

OTHER CERTIFICATES

For completeness, there are two other certificates available, related but not integral to the Awards system:

- Membership Certificate (ordinary, associate and honorary)
- Branch Charter (upon branch formation)



RVAHJ – Honours & Awards Nomination Form

(Attach as a cover sheet to a Statement of Justification in support of the nomination)

The President

Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

PO Box 317 Elwood, Vic. 3184

Fax: (03) 9525 7765

E-mail: pres@rvahj.org.au

Nominee's Name: BJ JP

of (address)

is hereby nominated for the following award of the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices (RVAHJ) Association:

- Life Membership
- Fellowship (FRVAHJ)
- Meritorious Service Award
- Certificate of Appreciation (Organisations/Individuals non member)

Service Awards do not need a nomination. Select here if you want a duplicate (\$8 fee)

- Service Award 10 Years 15 Years 20 Years 25 Years
- 30 Years 35 Years 40 Years 45 Years 50 Years

On the basis that he/she fulfils the following required criteria:

Life Membership

Any of the following:

- Significant meritorious service to the Honorary Justice community (justification statement attached)
- Order of Australia recipient recognised specifically for their service as an Honorary Justice and who has been a member for at least 10 continuous years
- 20 years of significant service and membership, including active participation in Branch executive roles for at least 10 years (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, DSS Coordinator etc)
- Board member with at least 10 years Honorary Justice service and as a member who has held the roles of President, Vice President and Immediate Past President

Fellowship (FRVAHJ)

Qualification is based on service time and volume – meets any of the following:

- For a JP: 5 years service +200 signing station rosters, or 10 years service
- For a BJ: 5 Years service +500 hearings or 10 years service
- For Branch office holders: 5 years Branch officeholder service +80% meeting attendance
- For RVAHJ Board members: 5 Years Board service +80% meeting attendance

Meritorious Service

Any of the following:

- Outstanding contribution in a Branch executive position or DSS Coordinator role for at least 3 years (justification statement attached)
- A single instance of brilliance or act widely acknowledged by peers and/or the community as an outstanding effort (justification statement attached)

Plus must meet each of these:

- Must have at least 5 year service
- Must not have served on the RVAHJ board for the preceding 2 years

Certificate of Appreciation (Organisations/Individuals non member)

Any of the following:

- An individual or organisation that has contributed to the Association in a significant and measurable way that is widely recognised by the membership
- An individual or organisation who has provided the Association and its membership, through their commitment, recognised benefits that have enabled the Association and its members to provide a better level of service to the community. This ability will have been enhanced by their involvement
- An individual or organisation who has demonstrated through their community or civic involvement a significant role in the recognition of Honorary Justices and the Association

Service Award

Please attach a copy of the Nominee’s appointment certificate or other such documentation to substantiate the length of service claimed.

Proposer: Signature:
(Print name)

Contact ph:Date:.....

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Nominations must be accompanied by a \$5.00 processing fee for the Meritorious Service Honour and \$40.00 for the Fellowship Honour. The Life Membership Honour and the Service Awards do not require a processing fee.
2. Where the proposer is nominating themselves, the Statement of Justification must include a Statutory Declaration attesting to the contents of the nomination
4. Life Membership, Fellowship and Meritorious Service Honours may only be awarded to, and held by, financial members of the RVAHJ.
5. The Nominator must be a current JP and/or Bail Justice for Victoria.

Contributory First Mortgage Investment

Variable rates between 7.00% p.a. and 8.50% p.a.
(Dependent on loan purpose and conditions)

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| > Security | Registered First Mortgage |
| > Security Type | Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Rural, Vacant Land, Subdivision and Construction |
| > Loan to Value Ratio | Up to 66.66% |
| > Interest | Paid monthly directly into your bank account |
| > Locations | Predominantly Victoria |
| > Valuations | All security property is valued by professional registered valuers |
| > Minimum Initial Deposit | \$10,000 |
| > Loan Term | Up to 3 Years |
| > Fees | There are no fees charged to the Member |
| > Remarks | There is a strong demand for funds |
| > Choice | Investment in specific Sub-Scheme(s) RMBL will require your approval prior to investment of your funds |

Please call (03) 9708 8938 to speak with a fellow JP in the first instance to make an introduction.

59 years of mortgage management experience.

You should first read and consider the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) dated September 2017, and we encourage you to seek your own independent advice before making a decision to invest with RMBL Investments Limited. Funds for investment can only be accepted by completing the investment application form accompanying the PDS. There is a risk that the investment may achieve lower than expected returns. See the PDS for further details. RMBL does not guarantee the subscription monies nor the interest payment by the borrower.

Docklands Breast Cancer Sanctuary

A new \$2million Think Pink Living Centre at Docklands, funded and developed by major property company Mirvac, is set to become a special sanctuary for thousands of women and their families facing the emotional and economic challenges of Breast Cancer. The Think Pink Living Centre is located on the Ground Floor, 81 South Wharf Drive, Yarra's Edge, Melbourne Docklands.

The Think Pink Living Centre has become a beacon of support, love and friendship at every stage of the breast cancer journey from initial diagnosis, through treatment and onto survivorship. Breast Care Nurse and Manager of the Think Pink Living Centre, Andrea Cannon says "The Living Centre provides direct emotional, practical and physical support through a comprehensive range of programs focusing on wellness. The establishment of the new centre in Forge at Yarra's Edge Docklands provides many opportunities to expand our services," Ms Cannon said.



Bail Justice, Wyndham City Councillor and Think Pink Board Member, Kim McAliney BJ JP pictured above left with the Board Members of the Think Pink Foundation said, "the Think Pink Living Centre provides a unique free service for women and their families at an extremely stressful time and the new location is easily accessible to families in the west of Melbourne." RVAHJ members wanting to access Think Pink please call 9820 2888

COVID~19 Emergency Measures for Electronic Signing and Witnessing

Witnessing a Statutory Declaration by Audio Video

The COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) (Electronic Signing and Witnessing) Regulations 2020 came into force on 12 May 2020. The Regulations are temporary and will sunset after 6 months. They provide for electronic signing and witnessing of Statutory Declarations, Powers of Attorney and Wills. The provision for electronic signing and witnessing of Affidavits was covered under the Omnibus Act.

The Association recommends Justices of the Peace and Bail Justices:

- Only consider using these processes as an absolute last resort
- Exercise extreme care when using technology with which you are not familiar - and NEVER use it for the first time in a remote client meeting
- Become completely au fait with these Regulations - this page is a simple overview - there are many details to cover to do electronic witnessing properly and the Declarant will be relying on you for expert knowledge
- If you do use this process, document everything in detail. Record the session and retain detailed notes.

Simplified Overview of the Process for Witnessing and Signing a Stat Dec Electronically

Step 1

You must meet all of the usual requirements in s30(3) of the Oaths & Affirmations Act

Step 2



The Declarant and the Witness appear before each other over an Audio Video link
They both must be able to see each other and watch what the other is doing
The Witness watches the Declarant sign the Stat Dec



Step 3



The Declarant makes a copy of the signed Stat Dec together with any attachments and certificates and transmits them electronically to the Witness



Step 4



Whilst the Declarant is watching by Audio Video Link, the witness dates and signs the Stat Dec, signs or initials each page, adds their JP (or BJ) stamp plus a statement that the Stat Dec was witnessed using an audio visual link in accordance with the Regulation and transmits it all electronically back to the Declarant



Step 5



The Witness watches whilst the Declarant writes a statement on the Stat Dec that it is a true copy of the original and that the conditions of the new Regulations have been met. The Declarant then signs and dates the statement.



The Stat Dec is now complete

NOTE: These steps must all be completed on the same day;
the process for Affidavits and PoA follow a similar model

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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

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CUSTODES DEADLINES

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



Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

Independent, Trusted, Respected