

Custodes

The Official Journal of the Association Issue 4 2020

home of the award winning

ONLINE JP Service



STATE AWARDS
VOLUNTEERING VICTORIA

2020 Innovation and Resilience Award



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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Elwood, Victoria, 3184



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Elwood, Vic, 3184



Facebook.com/
honoraryjustices



www.rvahj.org.au

From the President's Desk

Dear fellow Justices,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. There's a spring in people's steps all across the State and some of our Document Signing Stations are starting to open, even in the metro area.

2020 has been an amazing year, for so many reasons:

- We launched a new, online training platform to help keep members up to date on all the changes to legislation
- We encouraged the Department of Justice to recruit a whole new tranche of more than 200 JPs, with more to come in future years - In other regions
- We started a renewal process to update the Association Constitution and Branch By Laws
- We celebrated our first ever stand alone, RVAHJ branded Document Signing Centre, at Swan Hill
- We helped the community get their documents witnessed in the midst of a lockdown - and won our first ever award for doing it
- We saw quite a few of our members recognised for their outstanding contributions to the community with Order of Australia and other awards
- We supported our members with tools and online meetings "regular coffee shop sessions" to help us all stay connected during the tough times
- We worked with members to keep them safe during Covid-19 with information, safe plans and organising with HJSS the PPE reimbursements

It would be easy to talk about 2020 as the year of Covid-19, but I prefer to think of it as a situation that helped us all bond together more, get to know each other better and work together to find ways to keep doing the community work we do best.

Thank you to all our BJs and JPs who performed amazingly during 2020 - your dedication to the role and commitment to the community fuels the work we do at the Association.

Thank you also to our stakeholders - HJSS, DJCS, DHHS and the whole justice network of Victoria.

But especially thank you to the people of Victoria who honour us all with their generous trust and respect for the role we do.

On behalf of the Board and the Association, I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday and a wonderful New Year.

Paul Mracek

Paul Mracek JP FRVAHJ
President



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

Welcome to Custodes Issue 4 2020



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COVER
This issue's cover features our new Award Winning
ONLINE JP service.

This fourth edition of Custodes for 2020 is only being produced in digital format.
We are not printing and publishing a paper version of this edition.

Feature Article

The restrictions of Covid-19 severely limited our ability to provide essential witnessing and certification services for the community. The Government made some requisite interim changes to the Oaths and Affirmations Act, and after a flurry of activity by RVAHJ volunteers, the Online JP service was born. The service has been embraced by the community as a new way of getting their documents witnessed and will become an essential component of our service offerings even after Covid has been conquered.



COVID19 Innovation & Resilience Grassroots Award
Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices
2020 State Awards
volunteering
VICTORIA

Our new Award Winning **ONLINE JP SERVICE**

Witnessing Statutory Declarations, Powers of Attorney, taking Affidavits and a myriad of other semi-judicial witnessing and certification activities has always been a face-to-face activity. Justices of the Peace volunteers provide this service for the community.

Covid-19 changed everything in the JP world, but it did not stop the community need for these services. In response, the Government changed the Oaths & Affirmations Act to allow for online remote witnessing of these documents.

The Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices (RVAHJ) stepped up and built an online witnessing service, complete with training and support programs to help Justices of the Peace continue their essential community service. We call this service Online JP.

Online JP means that the community can now have their documents witnessed and oaths taken without the need to meet face to face. This removes any of the risks associated with Covid-19 transmission. Using a web camera (Zoom) a JP can watch someone sign their documents, send them to the JP over email and then they can watch the JP witness the documents and then take their oath on video.

To implement and support the new program, RVAHJ built and delivered a three part training program for JPs. An online training module covers the basic principles and processes for online witnessing.

This is backed up by small group online training sessions to review and consolidate the learning.

One on one testing and practical sessions to prove in each JPs unique IT setup rounded out the training package.

The community feedback about **Online JP** has been terrific. People find the service easy to access and easy to use. Our team is indebted to some of the JPs who stepped up and committed an enormous amount of time and effort to make this service happen.

Special thanks to Colleen Woolley OAM JP FRVAHJ who was an essential part of helping Paul get the program together and make sure it was useable by our JPs.



"It's astonishing the impact OnlineJP has had in our very wide-spread community, including Victorians temporarily located interstate and Aussie ex-pats overseas. There is little doubt it's an integral part of Victoria's Justices of the Peace service into the future. From our point of view, once you've used the technology a time or two, it's very easy indeed and what's more, the community loves it."

Colleen - OAM JP FRVAHJ

"It was efficient. It was straight forward. It worked and it achieved the goal. I absolutely value this service."

Belinda - Declarant



"I live remotely in a rural area so it would have taken me half a day to get this done if I didn't have your services"

Leanne - Declarant

"First time doing it, it was pretty easy. Handy to be able to do it at home."

James - Declarant



If you would like to learn more about the Online JP program or get involved as part of the witness roster, please reach out to Paul on 0418 885 122 or call the RVAHJ office.

ONLINE JP SERVICE SUMMARY

- More than 800 Sessions so far...
- 5 Star Google Reviews (5 out of 5)
- 5.0 ★★★★★ 39 Google reviews
- Supported people from Cambodia, Columbia, USA, UK & Australia
- Fully funded by RVAHJ members



STATE AWARDS
VOLUNTEERING VICTORIA

Volunteering Victoria announced RVAHJ and our **Online JP** Program as **WINNER** of the 2020 Innovation and Resilience Award. The award was announced at the sixth annual State Awards by video broadcast on Thursday 26 November 2020.

"The State Awards celebrate the incredible examples of leadership and contribution volunteer-involving organisations, their leaders and volunteers make in our communities," said Scott Miller, Chief Executive of Volunteering Victoria. "Leaders of volunteers play an important role in building and maintaining an effective volunteer effort. Congratulations to all the winners at our State Awards this year," added Miller.

The award was presented to RVAHJ by Mark Pearce, CEO of Volunteering Australia.

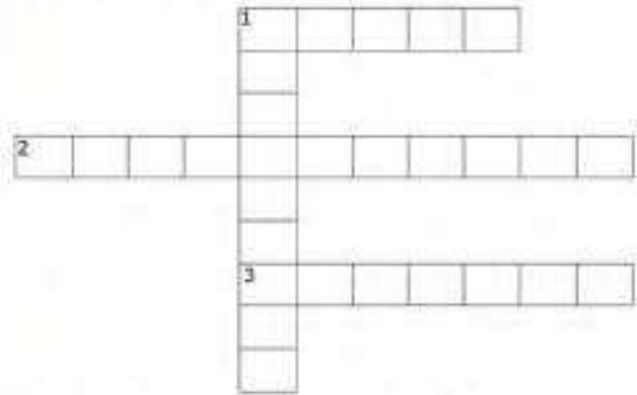


Mark said: *"The winner of this award embraced technology during a really difficult time and developed an innovative solution to ensure that they were able to continue to deliver their essential community service."*

We reckon it's terrific to get some recognition for all the hard work put in by so many of Victoria's Justices of the Peace - over many, many years. This award is testament to everyone on the team.

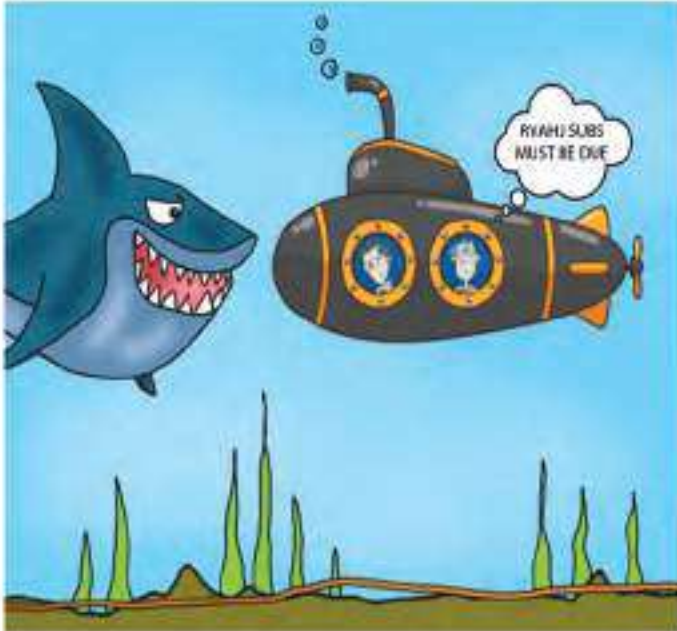
BITS & PIECES BITS & PIECES BITS & PIECES

RVAHJ NEVER A CROSS WORD



- ACROSS**
1. The Association
2. Free
3. Dependable

- DOWN**
1. Esteemed



We are planning to introduce a new Fellow badge. Here is an example of how it will look:



By the way, we remind JPs and BJs that use of the FRVAHJ post nominal is conditional upon being a paid up member of the Association.



**MURRAY MALLEE
TRAINING
CO. LTD.**

Our heartfelt thanks to Geoff and the team at Murray Mallee Training Company for their amazing support providing a specialised Document Signing Station for the community in and around Swan Hill

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW JPs

We congratulate you on this important life changing decision - welcome to our team!

Visit www.rvahj.org.au to join the Association - you can start off as an Associate Member today!



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

How often have you gone looking for something to help with your JP or BJ work, only to spend hours searching and not finding anything?

Check out:

www.rvahj.org.au/resources

A new, 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:
 - Presentation
 - One pager info sheet
- PoA and Advanced Care Directives
 - Presentation
 - One pager info sheet
- DSS and Branch Tools
 - Posters
 - Videos

Plus lots more as we add them



Dear Mandy and the HJSS team

Despite all our whining and lots of complaining, we just want you all to know that, deep down, we really do appreciate all the hard work your team does for us.

And we know we don't say "Thank You" enough. So **THANK YOU.**

from all the JPs and BJs
across Victoria

XXX

BRANCH NEWS

Here is just some of the latest news and announcements from our network of 25 RVAHJ Branches across the State. Do you have a story from your local branch that you would like to share? Send in your ideas to Cathy at admin@rvahj.org.au.

Wombat found at Trafalgar High

In Nov 2020, Trafalgar High School was given a certificate of appreciation from RVAHJ for the school support to the community of Trafalgar to access the services of a Justice of the Peace (JP). David (Wombat) Lyons JP is employed full time at the school has offered an open door to the community for accessing a JP on its site and given the community more flexibility about when it can access a JP.

When COVID 19 hit, the school followed the advice of Department of Justice and Community Safety and found ways for the service to continue in the open air at the site's boundary.

The School's 2020 and 2021 Student Leadership teams along with school principal Ms Jane Mersey accepted the certificate of appreciation by mail as COVID 19 restrictions prevented a more formal presentation.



Photo L to R: Back - Cooper Burgess, Ms Jane Mersey, Oscar Robinson. Front - Dylan Gauci, Nyah Makin, Chloe Rees, Ellie Farmer



Bob Bolch Heads North (just a little way)

Bob Bolch and his wife Shirley are relocating, not to a warmer climate where Bob was first appointed as a JP in Queensland (1997) but to just up the road in Dandenong. Bob has resigned from Chairperson of the Mornington Branch & Co-ordinator of the Frankston DSS on July 17th due to change of address. He is now involved in JP work at Springvale DSS.

Bob was appointed as a Victorian JP in August 2004 and opened the Frankston DSS in August 2005 after conducting a feasibility study as to the establishment of such a service to the public. From October 2008 to October 2010 Bob set in train 4 other Signing Centres on the Peninsula. Always mindful of what fellow JPs/BJs put into the community, he in conjunction with Victoria Police set up "The 100 Club" which recognises the work carried out by members at Signing Stations on the Peninsula.

Bobs' other achievements since arriving in Victoria are Chief Commissioners Citation for assistance to Victoria Police 2013. In 2017 Bob was awarded an OAM, Victorian Senior of the year for services to the Mornington Peninsula Community & a Fellowship of RVAHJ. Bob was appointed as chairperson of the branch in November 2018.

Bob is adamant that without the assistance of his wife Shirley he could not have accomplished these achievements. On his 75th birthday Bob was treated to a Sky Dive Adventure that he found exhilarating, he believes that Shirley had something to do with it, he is thankful that he is living in Victoria as she mentioned something about Bull Riding for his next birthday, Good On You Shirley.

We wish Bob & Shirley well in their new residence,
with thanks Mornington Peninsula Branch.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Members for 2021 will be held on Thursday, 27 May 2021 at 7.30 pm at 53 Broadway, Elwood 3184. Members will also be able to attend via electronic means (details to be advised).

Business

- (1) To confirm the minutes of the 110th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 23 July 2020.
- (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, 2020.
- (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 Friday, 29 January 2021.

2021 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 Friday, 29 January 2021.

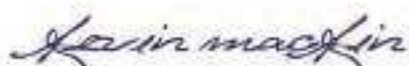
Nominations must be signed by the proposer and seconder who shall in each case be a Life Member or an Ordinary Member of the Association who is not in arrears with his/her subscription. The consent in writing of the person nominated shall be endorsed on each nomination.

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 financial 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.



Kevin Mackin BJ
Company Secretary

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.

Reflections on the Plight of Refugees during the Pandemic

by Dr Katrina Alford JP

The refugee family entered the Corio Cop Shop on the eve of the Covid 2020 crisis with hundreds of documents for the rostered Justice of the Peace to stamp and "sign here", organised courtesy of Diversitat. Father smelt badly, his overalls smattered with the blood and guts of dead chickens from his work at the chicken abattoirs in suburban Breakwater, south of Geelong. (More than one in five Corio-Norlane workers are unskilled labourers, more than double the proportion in Geelong, Wyndham or Victoria.)

They looked like five refugees from hell - from the Thai refugee border camps after fleeing from the Myanmar murderous mission against Rohingya Muslims. Tiny people by Australian standards, they were so skinny, such young parents of three girls, father looked tired and fearful, mother timid, children hiding behind mother's burkha and scarves, no English at all but a few key words from eldest school-age daughter/translator for the family.

Close to 200 signed documents later, mother refused offer of soft drinks and fruit for her children from the JP. They smiled, slightly, the little girl whispered "thank you". They left. The JP left her desk, followed them outside, shaking hands, welcoming them to Australia, little cuddles for the girls. Mother teared up. Father suppressed a smile. They walked down the road back to Diversitat for more settlement business.

A week later the JP and her Victorian colleagues paused volunteer work on Cop Shop JP rosters. By August 2020 Victoria's pernicious "second wave" of the deadly coronavirus struck thousands of people in Melbourne and spread to regional Victoria including nearly 200 people and mounting deaths in the Geelong region.

And the worst local Covid cluster for Corio-Norlane residents? The chicken processing factory in Breakwater, where hundreds of recent refugees and asylum seekers worked in cramped conditions at the abattoirs/slaughterhouse to provide KFC and home-cooked chicken dinners for the more fortunate well-fed citizens of Victoria. In the meantime, the Corio Cop Shop JP prays for the Myanmar man and his family.





There is much happening in the Bail Justice world. Sometimes it can be hard to keep across it all. Thankfully we now have a RVAHJ Bail Justice Committee who are looking out for us all.

Bourke Street Coroners Findings

The most important outcome we should all consider from the recent Coronial Inquest into Bourke Street is to spare a thought and a prayer for the poor Bail Justice who was treated so harshly by Police, Government, media and some in the general public. No Bail Justice should ever have been allowed to "hang out of dry" in such a way.

The recommendations from the Coroner mainly focussed on Police. Two recommendations have a direct impact on Bail Justices. (1) That bail hearings be recorded and (2) That Police present a complete brief and are trained properly to participate in bail hearings.

Recording of Bail Hearings

Our position is that if bail hearings are to be recorded, then they should all be recorded - not just those conducted by BJs but also those conducted by Police. Further, that the recording process be modelled on the Magistrates' Court systems rather than by VicPol body cameras. Magistrates' Courts record audio only and have existing practices in place to ensure the independent protection of the recordings together with proper access protocols.

Interim Accommodation Orders

A paper expressing concerns that some in DHHS may have used the Covid opportunity to remove the need for independent review of their IAO decisions was put to the Public Affairs and Estimates Committee enquiry into the Omnibus legislation. The paper has been formally accepted and we anticipate a fair hearing of our position.

Bail Justice Advisory Panel Update

We have yet to hear anything further on this initiative. Some BJs have been advised that they have been nominated to the panel. Others have been advised that were not successful. We understand that support processes, including a secretariat are being established. We expect to hear more in due course.

Bail Hearings Online Trial

Reportedly the trials are going well. Some BJs advise that the inability to bail an accused person without going into a Police Station (where you can remand online without leaving home) does not engender fairness in the process. There have also been a number of audio quality concerns and poorly trained remote staff.



We're in this together - BJ Peer Support = Any Time
www.rvahj.org.au/bj-peer-support-network/



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

Naveed Jamil - Caroline Springs
Dale White BJ JP - Garfield

.....there is a lot of space here to add more new members. Maybe you know a JP or a BJ who might join us? Maybe there are people in your Branch who enjoy all of the benefits of the Association but have not gotten around to joining yet?

New Justices of the Peace who have completed training are eligible to join as Associate Members - and then transfer as full members as soon as they have been sworn in.

Please encourage all JPs and BJs across Victoria to join our member-based Association. Members helping members help the community.

RVAHJ NEVER A CROSS WORD



ACROSS

- The Association
- Free
- Dependable

DOWN

- Esteemed

Honouring our newest LIFE MEMBERS

Trevor Aust OAM JP FRVAHJ

John Duscher BJ JP

John Ayers JP

Robert Bolch OAM JP FRVAHJ

Joseph de Souza JP FRVAHJ

Norman Gibbs OAM JP FRVAHJ

Loretta Cormack JP BJ (Ret'd) FRVAHJ





Honour Roll

In 2020, the following members reached a new milestone of RVAHJ membership.
We congratulate them and thank them for their ongoing support.

55 Years Service

Roy Geier JP

50 Years Service

John Phillips JP

William Sorraghan OAM JP

45 Years Service

Hazel Blakeley JP
Alan Fry JP

Thomas Bowery JP
Geoff Harlock JP

David Chen JP
John Holt JP

Loretta Cormack JP FRVAHJ
Bryan Woodward JP FRVAHJ

40 Years Service

David Ash BJ JP
John Beynon OAM JP
Don Ferguson JP FRVAHJ
Noel Keyte JP (Ret'd)
John Pettifer JP
Samuel Teed JP

Bruce Aumann JP
William Carlyle JP
Colin Findlay JP
Bernie Lamers JP
Don Presley JP
Ross Tolliday JP

Peter Barber JP
Dominic Cutri JP
Sil Garoni JP
Rod Lomax JP
Lawrence Ryan JP FRVAHJ

Robert Barnes JP
Geoffrey Dupuy JP
Alan Hall JP
Elizabeth Lovett JP
Neville Seymour JP FRVAHJ

35 Years Service

Tony Allan JP FRVAHJ
Frank Stephens JP

Elvie Gothard JP
Angelo Torresan JP

Steven Hassan
Panayiotos Yiannoudes JP

John Maddock BJ JP

30 Years Service

Graham Abbott JP
Pamela Baker JP
John Boles JP
Francis Cengia JP
Dale Daly JP
Rodney Ferris JP
Ken George JP
Stephen Gore JP
Larry Hall JP FRVAHJ
Graeme Hosken JP
David Jordan JP
Jeff Lowe JP
Richard Lewczuk JP
Ugo Lo Iacono JP FRVAHJ
Philip Maskrey JP
Norman Mermelstein JP
Joe Parker JP
David Pockett JP
Ian Robottom JP
Bruce Shand JP
Geoffrey Sussman OAM JP FRVAHJ
Michael Tobin JP
Dawn Watson JP

Sante Agostino JP
John Barber BJ JP
Rupert Brown JP FRVAHJ
Darryl Cross JP
John Duscher BJ JP
Michael Findlay JP
Hunter Gill JP
David Graham OAM JP
Graeme Hill JP
David Jenkins JP
Vasilios Kardamitsis JP
Eric Lauritsen
Peter Lewis JP
Judith Mackieson JP
Alan Matthews JP
Andrew Michael JP
Donald Parsons BJ JP FRVAHJ
Steve Raskovy OAM JP OLY
Brian Ross-Soden BJ
Graham Short JP
Ken Tang JP
Gary Tragardh JP FRVAHJ

Dale Allchin JP FRVAHJ
Neil Barker JP
Gordon Buller JP
Clive Cunneen JP
Mal Dubock JP
Noel Fitzpatrick JP
Joseph Giuffre JP
Tim Greene JP
Harry Hill JP
Grant Johnson JP
Noel Kenny JP (Retd)
John Leung JP
Ron Lim JP
John Maddern-Wellington JP
Graham McDonald JP
Sam Muscat JP
Graeme Peterson JP
Colin Riley BJ FRVAHJ
Don Roy BJ
Christopher Smithwick JP
Chris Thomas JP
Marilyn Wallis JP

Barry Baker BJ JP
John Bennett JP
Graeme Burrows JP
Carmen Dainton JP
Gordon Elder BJ
Vincent Gardiner JP
Robert Gordon JP
Frank Harris OAM JP FRVAHJ
Judy Hocking JP
Jeremy Johnson AM JP
Leo King BJ
Gabriel Leveleky JP
Peter Lo JP
Lindsay Margetts JP
Gordon McFarlane JP
Minh Ngo JP
Norm Pinder JP
Donal Robinson JP
Kerryn Severino BJ JP
Maria Sudano JP
Miles Tiller JP
Murray Waugh JP



Honour Roll

In 2020, the following members reached a new milestone of RVAHJ membership.
We congratulate them and thank them for their ongoing support.

25 Years Service

Sandy Anderson JP	George Bafitis JP	David Burdett JP	Kevin Caine JP
Beverly Cook OAM JP	Anthony Dal-Corobbo JP	John Dunn JP	Geoffrey Dye BJ (Retd) FRVAHJ
Malcolm Fletcher JP	John Green JP	John Jackson JP	Bruce Levy BJ JP
Bernice MacKenzie JP	Peter Marke JP	Vicki McGeoch BJ JP FRVAHJ	Ross McKenzie JP
Peter Meeking OAM JP	Vladimir Nagic JP	Bert Rance JP	Don Ripper JP
Wayne Smith BJ JP FRVAHJ	Maureen Snart JP	Mohammed Taiyab JP	Hoang Tran JP
Anthony West JP	Norman Wittingslow JP	Trevor Wyatt JP	

20 Years Service

Brian Amatruda BJ JP	Maureen Arnup JP	Jenny Bennett JP	Barry Blake JP
Jan Burke JP	Geoff Coulsell JP	Nancy Dean JP	Robert de Souza-Daw JP
Michael Foender JP	Robert Francis JP	Raoul Grinter JP	Mir-Mohamed Habib JP
Charles Haddad JP	Harold Heslop OAM JP	Karelyn Jones JP	Kenneth Kayler-Thomson JP
Lynette King JP FRVAHJ	Greg Leeder JP	Viesha Lewand JP	Garry Lockett BJ JP
Vince Maher JP	Michelle McQuilton BJ JP FRVAHJ	Susan Miles JP	Thomas Nieuwveld JP
William O'Connell JP	Mary O'Connor JP	Graeme Porter JP	Michael Rumpff JP
John Schauble BJ JP	David Smith JP FRVAHJ	Julie Sutherland JP	Caroline Talbot JP
Neil Thornton JP	Luciana Turicchi JP	Ray Walker JP	Angela Walsh JP
Terry Walsh JP	Mervyn Ward JP	Terry Webster JP	Kevyn Williams JP

15 Years Service

Barbara Butterworth JP	Janine Byrne JP	Margaret Campbell JP	Nigel Carter JP
Warren Clarke JP	Patrick Connally JP	Robin Egan JP	Ian Elston JP
George Fishlock JP	Kevin Fry BJ	Bill Gani JP	Gina Gardenal JP
Warwick Glendenning JP	Athol Graham JP	Marlene Gunn JP	Lorraine Harris JP
Timothy Horlock JP	Peter Hunt JP	Annette Kelly JP	Young Kim JP
Biriam Mery JP	Kaye Misuraca JP	Debra Mudra JP	Jane Mulloy JP
Rhonda O'Donnell JP	Dianne Padgham JP	Len Patterson JP	John Philip JP
Wayne Richards JP	Anthony Robbins JP	Kay Smart JP	Glenda Stanley JP
Ray Swanson JP	Damian Tang JP	George Thompson JP	Gary Thorn JP
Peter Watts JP	Bruce Wensor JP	Elizabeth Whykes JP	David Wright JP
Helen Yorston JP			

*Your commitment and dedication to the
Honorary Justice role, and to the Association
is appreciated by us all. Thank You.*



Honour Roll

In 2020, the following members reached a new milestone of RVAHJ membership.
We congratulate them and thank them for their ongoing support.

10 Years Service

Nancy Alexander JP	Pam Anstee JP	Manjit Aujla JP	Marion Barnes JP
Judith Beever JP	Alan Bowes JP	Krys Burcon JP	Anthony Clarke KGSJ JP
Carmel Clemson JP	Reg Cooke JP	May Croxford-Rowswell JP	Terry Dunn JP
Neale Emerson JP	Peter Flaherty JP	Earlene Gellert JP	Allan Harris BJ JP
Jack Harrison JP	Kevin Harrup JP	Imad Hirmiz JP	David Hoare JP
Michele Howard JP	Amy Huia JP	Paul Kirkpatrick JP	Cheryl Linke JP
Garry Luxford JP	Michael Mangiameli JP	Neville Mawson JP	Jennifer McCoy JP
Rod McKenzie JP	Lisa McLellan JP	Norm McWilliam JP	Jacki Miller JP
Tim Murphy JP	Jenny Nicholls JP	Margaret Nicholls JP	Kaye Ormsby JP
Sam Parasol OAM JP FRVAHJ	Peter Paul JP	Campbel IReid JP	Bronwyn Rowe JP
Tania Sacco JP	Rhonda Smith JP FRVAHJ	Greg Speirs JP	Nola Spicer BJ JP
David Ward JP	Jason Woo JP	Tony Zalewski JP	Richard Ziegeler BJ

*Your commitment and dedication to the
Honorary Justice role, and to the Association
is appreciated by us all. Thank You.*

What the heck is a Confrere?

A confrere is much more than a fellow worker or colleague. It is not quite a best mate or BFF. It is an esteemed peer – a trusted and respected partner working together for a common outcome.

As you may know, we are soon to be joined by up to 200 new Justices of the Peace as part of an ongoing program to build up the ranks of JPs across the state. The initial groups will come from Wyndham, Melton, Hobsons Bay and Dandenong with more to be added in other regions next year. To support these new JPs, and all existing JPs, the RVAHJ is introducing a JP Peer Support Program. We call the program RVAHJ JP Confreres.

Confreres is a great word to describe this group. It comprises a group of expert JPs, taken mainly from our ranks of RVAHJ Fellows, who have offered to step up and support not only the new JPs but also any JP who is faced with a problem and needs someone to call.

Confreres will be available every day of the week, including weekends from 9am until 9pm on a roster. We will soon publish the roster, with a list of names and phone numbers. You will also be able to find the list on our web site.

The program is being driven by our Association Vice President, Rod Lavin JP FRVAHJ. If you would like any further information about the program, feel free to give Rod a call on 0408 395 495 or by email at rodneylavin@bigpond.com



Divorce - Columbian Style

by Colleen Woolley OAM JP FRVAHJ

TWO
REMOTE
WITNESSING
STORIES

Will wonders never cease!

I've just finished the afternoon remote witnessing session. The very first one was (surprise, surprise!) a divorce affidavit. This one turned out to be one with a difference!

The soon-to-be-ex-wife asked me if it was at all possible for her husband to join us so he could sign as well. I fully expected him to walk in from a room nearby. Not so.

She seemed to be faffing about a bit so I asked if he was outside or nearby? She said she had just sent him a text and I thought, oh no, he's going to have to drive over from somewhere. Not so.

As things transpired, she was in Bogota, Colombia, South America and he was in lovely downtown Kensington, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia!

So, soon-to-be-ex-husband joined the Zoom session, she signed her part of the paperwork, dropped it in the Chat panel, he picked it up from there and signed (lots of screen sharing happening here) and then he uploaded it to the Chat panel. I downloaded from there, shared, signed, dropped it back in the Chat panel and they simultaneously downloaded, opened and checked the document. Voila! All done.

Remote Witnessing + IT Training for free

I have to share another quick one from this afternoon with you. A lovely lady of Southern European extraction (I think) had a fair idea about using Word and had written up her idea of an affidavit. "Angelo, ANGELO" she called when I asked her to drop it in the Chat panel. 15 year old Angelo duly arrived but while he was on the way I had a closer look at the document (still in the Word format) and noticed that there was no proper jurat and just before her signature, she had written "Thank you and Kind Regards"!

Needless to say, she was supplied with a proper affidavit in Word format. She did a major cut and paste. Angelo got involved again and everyone was happy. By the time we finished, the lady was able to download from Chat herself and open the document to check all was well.

Just another day at the office.



WE WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AT HJSS, DJCS, AG's, DHHS AND VICPOL THE VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE SEASON AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



from the whole team at RVAHJ



GOLCONDA GROUP

YOUR COMPLETE WEALTH SOLUTION

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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 Advisers 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. Lic. 15 (FPA), AFP, SSATM Authorised Rep: 243177



Making a REAL difference to our clients and our community!

2020 Special General Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Special General Meeting of Members held via electronic meeting (Zoom) on Thursday 1 October 2020 commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Directors Paul Mracek JP FRVAHJ (President & Chairman), Rodney Lavin JP FRVAHJ (Vice President), Geoffrey Legge JP (CFO), Kevin Mackin BJ (Company Secretary), Linda Rainsford BJ FRVAHJ, and Norman Wittingslow JP and Ordinary Members John Barber BJ JP, Kim McAliney BJ JP, Murray Wilson BJ FRVAHJ, Colleen Woolley OAM JP FRVAHJ and Cathy Owens JP FRVAHJ (Minute Secretary).

APOLOGIES: Nick O'Connell JP, Rhonda Smith JP FRVAHJ & D Noseda JP FRVAHJ

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

- 1) To consider and, if thought fit, adopt changes to the Constitution of the Association which modify the Objects of the Association (Clause 3) to be more in keeping with the current direction and other minor changes to add clarification.
- 2) To consider and, if thought fit, adopt changes to the Branch By Laws of the Association which add the capacity for Branches to conduct online meetings, addition of a members behavioural statement and other minor changes to add clarification.

The President opened the meeting at 7.34pm, thanking everyone for their attendance.

He noted that the review of the Constitution and Branch By Laws had been raised at the Annual General Meeting held earlier this year and that this additional General Meeting would be called to vote on proposed changes. The President's report, proposed changes and invitation to this meeting have been published according to requirements.

He went on to advise that the challenge, over the last few years, is that the image of honorary justices has deteriorated within the community, and one of the key imperatives is to change this perception to being more outwardly community focussed.

The President opened the floor for questions and discussion on the proposed changes. C Woolley requested further clarification on point h). It was explained that we wish to provide opportunities for other activities for members such as Independent Persons etc.

K Mackin noted that it is not a requirement that changes to the By Laws be put to a General Meeting of Members.

R Lavin queried the wording of paragraph 13 of the By Laws, suggesting it was unclear. Instead of "Branches are requested to forward their minutes and details of upcoming meetings so that details of all upcoming meetings, so that any opportunity to publicise them is available to other members and branches." Should read: "Branches are requested to forward their meeting minutes and details of upcoming meetings to Head Office, so that forthcoming meetings may be advertised and made available to other members and branches."

Motion: That the proposed changes to the Constitution, as advertised, be approved.

Moved: K Mackin Seconded: C Woolley. CARRIED

Motion: That the proposed changes to the By Laws, as advertised, be approved.

Moved: K Mackin Seconded: K McAliney CARRIED

Attendees were invited to ask questions. K McAliney queried whether the outcome of the meeting would be published in Custodes and was advised that it would. R Lavin commented that updated versions of the documents need to be uploaded to the website and he was assured they would be. R Lavin thanked the President and Secretary for their time-consuming preparatory work. The President also thanked N Wittingslow for his assistance.

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Members are invited to view the revised Contitution and Branch ByLaws online at www.rvahj.org.au/members-area/download/

Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices



BOOK NOW

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DINNER
and Awards Presentation

Featuring

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Attorney General

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in the afternoon

SATURDAY 20th MARCH 2021

open doors 6:30pm | dinner starts 7:00pm

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We are immensely grateful for the support of the Department of Justice whose sponsorship of this event has allowed us to keep the prices so amazingly low this year

Orders are not confirmed until full payment is received

OTHER STUFF
OTHER STUFF
OTHER STUFF

SOLILOQUY ON FALSE JPs

To JP, or not to JP, that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to volunteer
The time and effort in outrageous portion,
Or to take title amongst
a sea of indifference
And we opposing end them.
To lie—to cheat,
No more; and by our quest
to say we end
The misuse and the false
nobility
That phony JPs are heir to;



apologies to William Shakespeare



The Elwood Office will be
closed over the holiday period
from
11 December 2020
until
19 January 2021

LAST CHANCE

2021 Biennial Election of the Board

Nominations for RVAHJ Board positions must be lodged
with the Returning Officer, C/- PO Box 317, Elwood, 3184
no later than 4.00 pm on Friday, 29 January 2021.

Nomination forms are available from the office.

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

Justice of the Peas



RVAHJ Face Masks

NOW
available

only \$10 each
including postage



To do list

1. Book Annual DINNER 20 Mar

2. RENEW RVAHJ Subscription

3. Complete and Post CENSUS

4. Remind Pat to JOIN RVAHJ

5. Order new RVAHJ stuff

* Have a terrific break over the holidays

RVAHJ Merchandise

Here are some of our terrific, new RVAHJ products. Raise your profile with these "crown" branded items.



Baseball Cap - Grey (Polyester)

Price: \$15.00

Postage: \$9.50



Ladies Bondi Short Sleeved Shirt (Charcoal)

65% Polyester, 35% Cotton Poplin

Twin chest pockets

Waist and bust darts for shape

Curved hem - can be worn in or out

Price: \$35.00

Postage: \$15.00

Sizes	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
Garment Half Chest (cm)	45.5	48	50.5	53	55.5	58	60.5	63	65.5	68



Mens Bondi Short Sleeved Shirt (Charcoal)

65% Polyester, 35% Cotton Poplin

Twin chest pockets

Twin back shoulder pleats

Curved hem - can be worn in or out

Price: \$35.00

Postage: \$15.00

Sizes	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL
Garment Half Chest (cm)	53	55	57	60	63	66	70	78



Deluxe Canvas Tote Bag

35.6 x 35.6 x 7.6 cm

100% Natural 260 g/m² cotton

Price: \$25.00

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Have you secured some of these terrific new RVAHJ items? Demand has been high order now



Personalised Business Card Front

RVAHJ Business Cards

Quantity: 250
Size: 91 x 55mm
Matte Finish
Optional Reverse Side
Price: \$35.00
Postage: \$10.00



RVAHJ Face Masks

Breathable Cotton
2 Ply
Price: \$10.00
Postage: \$included

NEW



RVAHJ Cafe Latte Mug

Height: 95mm
Top Diameter: 88mm
Bottom Diameter: 60mm
Material: Ceramic
Outside Colour: Dark Grey
Price: \$27.50
Postage: \$10.95



Single Drink Coaster



Set of 4 Drink Coasters

RVAHJ Drink Coasters

Diameter: 90mm
Single Price: \$18.00
Set of 4 Price: \$35.00
Postage: \$6.95

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 Box 317 Elwood
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RVAHJ Merchandise Order

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Café Latte Mug	<input type="text"/>	\$27.50	\$10.95	\$38.45	
Drink Coasters					
Set of 4	<input type="text"/>	\$35.00	\$6.95	\$41.95	
Single	<input type="text"/>	\$18.00	\$6.95	\$24.95	
Baseball Cap	<input type="text"/>	\$15.00	\$9.50	\$24.50	
Ladies Bondi Short Sleeved Shirt	Size: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$35.00	\$15.00	\$50.00
Mens Bondi Short Sleeved Shirt	Size: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$35.00	\$15.00	\$50.00
Face Mask - Covid 19	<input type="text"/>	\$10.00	inc.	\$10.00	
Deluxe Canvas Tote Bag	<input type="text"/>	\$25.00	\$12.00	\$37.00	
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ABN: 29 004 226 448

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



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