



Royal Association of Justices of Western Australia (Inc)

MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF JUSTICES ASSOCIATION

Newsletter December 2024

President's report

RAJWA Council

In case you weren't able to attend the AGM, the members of our Council are Deputy President, Mr Rob Green JP, Treasurer, Ms Kiri Campbell, Councillors Mr Merv Wright JP, Dr Catharine Phillips JP, Mr Malcolm Collier JP, Ms Michelle O'Driscoll JP and Mr David Carbonell JP. Since the AGM, we have welcomed Mr Steve Leeson JP to Council on a casual appointment. Welcome everyone and I look forward to working with you all.

Council Meetings

At our most recent Council meeting it was agreed that future meetings would be held on the second Saturday of each month, primarily to allow any Council member who might be working full-time during the week to attend. So far, we have been able use a Dome Café meeting room, which because we are a not-for-profit association, allows us to use it free of charge. Of course, the bonus for Dome is that all of us buy a coffee and/or a snack.

Joint JP Associations' Meeting

On Saturday 30th November 2024, representatives of the Royal Association of Justices of Western Australia Inc. (RAJWA), the Fremantle JP Association Inc., the Justices of the Peace Alliance Inc. and the Regional Association of Justices of the Peace met to discuss how we could work together for the benefit of our members and all JPs.

It was agreed that we should call the overarching body the "WA JP Council" which would meet every three months, with each association appointing a couple of representatives to it. The meetings would primarily focus on JP training needs, particularly regarding online training and all the electronic documents JPs now see when witnessing documents. It was agreed that the current training provided by the Department of Justice, although useful and good, didn't go far enough to cover these issues. It was also agreed that a steering committee might need to be appointed to develop the training packages, before being able to discuss it further with the Department of Justice. Our next meeting will be held in March 2025.

Signing Centres

All of our branches do a wonderful job in managing the signing centres within their area. However, we can always do with more volunteers, so if you are able to, please let our Registrar know (registrar@rajwa.org.au) and your details will be forwarded to the relevant branch.

Season's Greetings

On behalf of the Council and all members of RAJWA, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May the festive season be one of happiness, joy and good health for you and your family.

Brian J. Dodds JP

Treasurer's report

Greetings to our members. Thank you for the continued support you give to our community and to our Association.

In July your initial membership subscription invoice for this financial year was distributed to you all via email or post. In August and September I emailed and posted individually to members that had an outstanding invoice and at the end of October a statement reminder was emailed to unfinancial members.

We would like to thank members who responded and paid their membership fee. We still have 121 members that are unfinancial and I will be following up with these members in the new year.

This payment is still an enigma!! On the 1st of August we received a membership payment that unfortunately has no details of the member: all we have on our bank statement is "Membership JP Bank of QLD". If anyone that has accounts with Bank of QLD thinks this may be their payment, please get in touch so we can allocate it to the correct person.

I wish you all a merry and safe festive season 🍷🌿🎉

Kiri Campbell JP

What If...?

Editor: David Carbonell JP

This will be a new series of scenario situations that JPs have been involved with which might be a little unusual or perhaps wonder "what would I do?" The scenario described might include a solution or describe how it was managed. Should the scenario be more of a question, then a small panel of experienced Justices will provide a possible answer. This will be their opinion only based upon the relevant legislation and experience, perhaps with similar situations.

To start the ball rolling, this is one scenario I experienced a year or so ago. I was asked by a WA Police detective to hear, in my home, an urgent search warrant application related to firearms. The story was quite involved and took a while to explain. Towards the end, the detective stated to me the Tactical Response Group (TRG) officers had surrounded the property and "...are just waiting for your determination of the application before they can proceed into the house, but please don't let that influence your decision and take as long as you need".

I immediately had a mental image of a house with a team of 6-10 heavily armed police officers surrounding it, waiting for a phone call before they could proceed into the property. Or perhaps they were just parked outside!

Should the last statement have any influence on my decision? It's a shame he said it as I have often reflected on this situation. I had actually decided before he said it to grant the search warrant anyway as it had met the requirements, and I was satisfied the grounds were reasonable. But if there were any doubts to my decision, then knowing there were a number

of people waiting for my decision and firearms are involved could have put undue pressure on me.

Ultimately the JP is the final step in the process before the privacy of an individual's home/vehicle/building is legally intruded upon. Regardless of any perceived pressure, we have to ensure the steps we have been told to follow within our professional development training and JP Handbook are followed, but ultimately the grounds must be reasonable to approve the application.

I understand there used to be a time when after a search warrant had been executed the JP had to view the items taken and concur with the warrant. This has not been required for many, many years so we never know the result of the warrants which we approve, unless we happen to see in the media if there has been a court case.

I have been a JP for 27 years and until 5 years ago had not heard many search or order to produce warrant applications. Since I retired, and been more available, I have attended to between 150 and 200 applications. Whilst most are fairly straight forward, there are always some that need clarification, but only one which I have refused - so far.

If you have a What if... scenario or question you would like to share, please send to the Registrar at RAJWA. Depending on responses, it may take a couple of editions before it is included in the newsletter.

From the Registrar

Welcome to our bumper end-of-year edition.

Office

We receive many public enquiries about JP and signing centre availability each week, and we are always pleased to help. Kiri and I also generally answer member enquiries each day, which is always a pleasure. The office phone is forwarded to a mobile when we're not in the office. In keeping with RAJWA practice, **we will not attend the office in person between December 17 and January 3 but will continue to answer your emails and enquiries.** No merchandise will be sent out in that time.

Merchandise

So far as merchandise goes, we are pleased with our limited purchase of A5 hard-cover notebooks in purple, white, blue, green and black that finally arrived last week. We have had regular requests for such an item. The notebooks are 160 pages with RAJWA logo on front and have an elastic closure and bookmark ribbon. Price is \$15. I am already using mine to note matters such as the time and date of approving an OTP or Warrant. Mine is purple: easier to spot in my JP bag that way. Other colours as shown, but we only have a few in stock. In keeping with enquiries, we are happy to insert an Oath and Declaration template, as pictured. This can be laminated or glued into the front of the notebook. We are also happy to insert a printed statistics form in keeping with our online one in the member area.



Notebook insert



Oaths on split ring, about 150mmx50mm

Something different: I met a JP who carries a colour-coded set of oaths and declarations on a split ring, with each piece laminated. I've mocked up an image as above and we are happy to build you a set with your preferred wording, laminate and mail to you for \$5 a set.

Statistics

Statistics are due at the end of December. Your statistics are important evidence of the work we do for our society and for government. The more we get, the more evidence we have. Please take advantage of our online forms in the member area of the website. If you have not yet created your member profile or have forgotten your password, please feel welcome to contact me for assistance. The categories in our online form are primarily a guide, and some of you may record them differently, but the numbers are what count.

For those who prefer to keep a separate record, I have updated and attached the Excel form we used to send out. This has been pre-formatted for your convenience, so all you have to do is fill it in and then copy and email the relevant section to us half-yearly.

Stamp survey

Thanks for taking part in our recent survey in which we asked if you would like us to add JP stamps to our merchandise. 30% of our members responded, with 27% in favour of our offering a range. In the interest of fairness, I have written to local companies for quotes and will submit them to Council for discussion at their January meeting.

End of year special

Time to unwind! With feedback from several of our esteemed Councillors, I built a JP-aligned Word Search and a similar but larger crossword for you. Both are attached to this email. This is a one-off seasonal gift. If you need the solution for either, you will find them on our website member area, or the word search answer might be cunningly concealed somewhere in here.

Have a safe and rewarding festive season, with a Happy Chanukah also to our members who enjoy those days of family time.

Special birthday wishes for our oldest serving JP, Rabbi Coleman, who turned 106 years old this week and is still helping others. הולדת שמח.

Gillian Colclough JP

Member profile

Thank you to Karen Hattaway JP for sharing her story. Please feel free to nominate a JP for

this section or self-nominate. Each of the existing and new members who have been profiled in this newsletter recently will receive a lovely Volunteering Australia pen from us this week.



Karen Hattaway JP's story began when 'at the age of 33, I became one of New Zealand's youngest Justices of the Peace in 2005. This was a significant milestone, driven by my deep commitment to community service and the recognition of a gap in younger JPs stepping up to serve.

I wanted to make a meaningful difference, not only for my local community but also for people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. My professional background includes roles such as Victim Support Worker, Court Services - Victim Advisor, and Non-Sworn Watch-house Assistant with Auckland Central Police. These roles exposed me to the challenges faced by individuals from all walks of life and underscored the importance of accessibility and understanding in public service.

After living in New Zealand my entire life, I made the decision in 2014 to move to Perth, with my two children Vivian and Benjamin embracing new opportunities while continuing my commitment to serving the community.

Since then, I have volunteered extensively in the Lakelands, Mandurah, and Rockingham areas, contributing to a variety of initiatives and roles. I am a member of the Latter Day Saints church. For the past eight years, I have also worked as a North Team Leader, where I have championed the SDA union movement, representing our members in regional and northern Perth Areas.

My role allows me to address issues and employer demands, such as statutory declarations, helping individuals navigate these challenges in these demanding conditions. Being a JP has given me a unique platform to support a wide range of community members.

I am deeply privileged to serve in this role, and my diverse background enables me to connect with people from all walks of life. My journey is driven by a deep passion for continuing to serve the public.

New members

We welcome two new members this month: Harry Collins JP and Jacqueline Smith JP.



Harry Collins JP

Harry tells us that 'after serving with Fremantle Hospital for 38 years I retired in 2014 at 76. My JP work started in 1993. I joined RAJWA, and Fremantle Branch in 1993. I trained at Joondalup Court for bench work and served on the rosters of Perth and Fremantle as well. I worked in all the Prisons as a V.J. for many years until I turned 70.

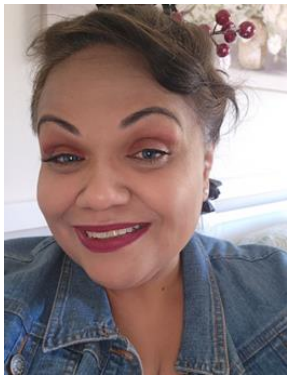
In Fremantle Branch I served as Roster Chairman, and became President for 8 years, and became a life member of Fremantle in 2005. On formation of the Fremantle Association of

Justices, I was elected Treasurer from 2012 till Dec 2024. All this time I have been involved with Booragoon/Melville signing centre, for the past 16 years as their Coordinator.

I organised a signing centre at Fiora Stanley Hospital in 2014 which is still operating, and I have been on call at SJOG Murdoch for many years: in the past seven, I have joined forces with Kathleen Heath, working together at the Hospital for emergency signing documents.

My door has always been open to Police and the public alike. I have enjoyed all my work associated with the Justice system and will continue for as long as possible.'

Jacqueline Smith JP



Jacqui tells us that 'I'm originally from NSW, grew up in Sydney then moved to Jervis Bay on NSW South Coast. I'm a Library officer by trade. I worked for Blake Dawson Waldron as a legal library clerk and then at the reference desk local at my local library. I have always had an interest in law and languages and enjoy travel.

I also worked for local radio station 97.2 FM in a show called 'Weird wild and wacky with Ms Jacqui.' I enjoy music from the 1930s to modern and love swimming. I love swimming: I'm with the dolphins' ladies. I'm very into community work and I'm looking forward to serving my community.'

Branch news

Three of our branches had Christmas gatherings recently. Unfortunately, I have no photos from the Armadale and Hills gathering and offer my humble apologies. I made up for that when joining the crews at Mandurah/Murray and Brand and Districts. Mandurah/Murray met at [Murphy's Irish Pub](#) in Mandurah and enjoyed great food with outstanding service. Thanks to the social committee for their great table decorations, door prizes and organising skills.

On a very warm day, Brand members enjoyed gathering at the [Pink Duck](#). The organisers excelled themselves yet again and the bingo to collect our Secret Santa gifts was also beautifully done thanks to Fiona and to the caller, Merv, who might need to practice his bingo skills rather than call everything Legs something. The table decorations included some RAJWA originals from Karen Wright, with candles and some individually labelled gavels.

There will be a Volunteering Australia pen going out to the first member who emails Registrar to identify every person in the following photos, regardless of branch.





Left: little gavels made by Karen Wright. These would make a great gift: let us know if you would like more details.

Happy New Year, Justices.