

Justices'

QUARTERLY



FIAT JUSTITIA
RUAT CAELUM

October 2025
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Number 4

JPs gather for
annual regional
conferences



Board out and about

Over the past month or so, Board members have been conspicuously out and about amongst our membership. Starting with the first association AGM in late August, followed by the five separate regional conferences: at Ashburton in the Southern Region, Pukekohe in the Northern, the Central Region's Upper-South-Island conference in Nelson, then Auckland and finally the Central Region's Lower-North-Island conference in Palmerston North (jointly hosted by the Wellington and Hutt Valley associations).

It has been quite enlightening to see that much of the content discussed at these conferences, although developed by the individual host associations, has been quite consistent around processes and cultural inclusion. There have been some great takeaways from each. [Regional conference coverage: PP3-4, 13-16]

Over October and November Board members will be attending the rest of the association AGMs, and I have also attended the Australasian Council of Justices' Associations Conference and AGM in Canberra.

Thank you and farewell to Shinae and Simone

It was with great sadness that we farewell current staff members Shinae Skelton and Simone Baxter as they move on to new stages of their lives, each with additions to their families and in Shinae's case, a move up north to Whangarei with her husband starting a new job there. Simone, however, will be back in late 2026.

The Board, and I am sure the associations that have had dealings with them, wish them all the best and thank them for their commitment to the roles they performed with us over the years. We all wish them well with their respective family additions.

Welcome to Katrina, Janine and Alex

As those that attended the regional conferences would have heard, we have three new staff members, expanding our support for associations. Welcome to:

- Katrina Villareal - covering administration for the National Office



Federation President Nigel Tate

- Janine McIntosh - looking after professional development in the judicial area

- Alex Milinni - looking after professional development in the ministerial area.

Once they have had time to settle in, your associations will start to get to know them.

Federation Constitution

Like each of your associations, the Federation has been drafting our over-arching Constitution. We have this at a final stage at present and expect to forward it to associations this month, in time for a Special General Meeting (SGM) involving the presidents of each association to be held in November to approve it. We will ensure that you have plenty of time to discuss this beforehand.

It is also anticipated that the SGM will include a decision around centralisation of the national Conferences into either three or four main centres with associations being able to host these in their respective closest venue.

Board composition

As you will know, your Board members are elected for a one-year term and we are in the process of accepting nominations for two upcoming vacancies, the Central and Northern Regional Representatives. Laurie Gabites (Central) has filled the role admirably for the past six years and the Board acknowledges all the work he has done over this time. Laurie has decided to go nomadic in his new camper (and on e-bikes) with his wife Jennifer, while Ric Odom (Northern) and his wife Jenny have relocated to Nelson in search of a more balanced lifestyle. However, his expertise will still be available after the Federation AGM in another role.

Nominations for all Board positions close on November 1, and we expect to be able to notify associations soon after that date of who has been nominated for the various positions.

We have also recently approved a position description for our cultural advisor, and this will be going out very soon seeking expressions of interest via associations.

Nigel Tate

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AND ITS AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

Te Kāhui Pou Whakatau Ture O Aotearoa

EDITOR: GEOFF DAVIES JP

Email: merlin81@xtra.co.nz

Telephone: 021 900 228

NATIONAL OFFICE: TONY PUGH JP

PO BOX 5005 WELLINGTON

Telephone 04-918-8114 Fax 04-918-8034

Email: registrar@jpfed.org.nz

Website: www.jpfed.org.nz

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FIAT JUSTITIA RUAT CAELUM

Let justice be done, though the
heavens may fall

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FEDERATION OFFICERS

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Tony Pugh JP MBA BBS ACA

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Shinae Skelton BA LLB

Administrator:

Simone Baxter BDes (Hons)

Editor Justices' Quarterly:

Geoff Davies JP

ON THE COVER: Franklin association president Christine Stuart addresses the Northern Regional Conference, held in Pukekohe. Picture: RIC ODOM

Kiwis give their verdict on the justice system

New insights into New Zealanders' perceptions of the justice system have been published for the first time, the Ministry of Justice said in a recent media release.

The latest New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) included a new section called Public Perceptions.

This module asked respondents about their trust, confidence and perceptions of fairness and efficacy in the New Zealand justice system.

"There are many different factors that can affect people's trust in the justice system," Secretary for Justice Andrew Kibblewhite said.

"These can include people's personal experience with the justice system, or what they've heard from whānau, friends and the media.

"Their trust in the Government and public institutions more generally can also be a factor."

"For example, whether or not a person has been the victim of a crime and their experience of reporting that crime or going through legal proceedings can influence how much trust they have in the criminal justice system," he said.

Key findings

- Most New Zealanders (78%) had at least some trust in the justice system, and almost half (45%) had high trust.
- Trust in the justice system tended to vary for different groups. For example, New Zealand Europeans, Māori, and members of the LGBTQ+ community had less trust in the justice system than the New Zealand average, while Asian New Zealanders had more trust.
- Forty percent of New Zealanders had high confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, while 47% had high confidence in its fairness.
- People who have been the victim of



Secretary for Justice Andrew Kibblewhite

a crime had less trust in the justice system and rated the criminal justice system less effective and fair than the New Zealand average.

- Most people were concerned about nation-wide crime but were not so concerned about crime in their neighbourhoods.
- For example, 80% of adults expressed serious concern about burglary in New Zealand, but only 40% were as concerned about burglary in their own community.

The findings provided an invaluable yardstick for the Ministry of Justice, Mr Kibblewhite said.

"Strengthening people's trust in the law underpins all the work of the Ministry of Justice. That's why these results as well as future trends are so important to us."

About key results – public perceptions of the justice system

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) is an annual national survey about New Zealanders' experiences of crime that has been running for seven years.

Public Perceptions is a new module of the NZCVS. Interviews for the module were conducted with around 6,500 people between October 2023 and October 2024. Trends over time will be available in future NZCVS publications.

[Read the PPM key results report \[PDF, 6.4 MB\]](#)

Articles appearing in the Quarterly may have been generated or enhanced, in part or whole, using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. Readers are encouraged to verify statements to their own satisfaction. The use of AI cannot always be detected. - Editor



AGM/Conference 2026

The 2026 Annual General Meeting and Conference will be hosted by the Federation in Dunedin over the weekend of 27 February 27 – 1 March. Remits and notices of motion must be received at the Federation office no later than November 1 to be considered by the AGM. Registration forms will be provided to associations for distribution to their members.

Federation Board nominations

Nominations are currently open for positions on the Federation Board for 2026/27, and close on November 1. The roles of the regional representatives, Vice-President and President are eligible for nomination.

Judicial Studies Course

The current cohort of students started the Judicial Studies Course in April and will complete the course in late November. The next course is currently scheduled to start in April 2026. If you are interested in undertaking the course please contact your local court panel, president or registrar.

Use of stamps

This item appeared 12 months ago, but there has been little improvement:

The Federation office is experiencing a significant increase in the number of inquiries from agencies seeking confirmation of the authenticity of a Justice of the Peace where the signature is not clear. Agencies will delay actioning of their client's documentation if the JP details are not clear on the document.

All Justices should be using stamps with their full names and JP number. The name on the stamp should match the gazetted name (unless legally changed, for example by marriage).

The use of "known as" names can

have a detrimental effect on the timely processing of documentation as it can add an additional step in the verification process for the agency concerned.

Compliance with AML/CFT requirements

In conjunction with the above, by far the most common formal complaint relates to Justices disregarding an agency's specific requirement for identity verification. Where special wording is explicitly requested, it should be used – ignoring the request by using different words, or a standard stamp, is very likely to result in rejection of the document and the client may have to start over, causing totally unnecessary delays.

Newsletters, circulars and Informed by the Board

Newsletters sent to the Federation by associations are loaded to the members-only section of the Federation website, as are the circulars which provide information about the activities of the Federation. Informed by the Board is provided to all associations in the days following a Board meeting and is also available on the website. Informed by the Board provides an update on the most recent Board meeting.

Staff changes

Sadly, Professional Development Advisor Shinae Skelton is leaving the Federation and moving to Northland. Shinae is also expecting her second child in the next few weeks. Shinae has had an enormous role since joining us in 2018 and will be missed.

Administrator Simone Baxter will also be leaving soon on maternity leave. She will be back in late 2026.

I wish them both all the very best, as I am sure readers will too.

As a result of additional funding being provided by the Ministry of Justice, an additional 0.6FTE employee has been added to the Federation staff. This will provide expanded resourcing for both ministerial and judicial work. The two new professional development staff are introduced in the Education section of this issue.

Our new Administrator is Katrina Villareal, who introduces herself below.



I'm Katrina Villareal and I am the new Administrator in the Wellington National Office.

I studied at Victoria University of Wellington, where I completed a Bachelor of Design Innovation, majoring in Media Design.

Before this role, I took a few years to focus on raising and spending time with my son. I am now looking forward to returning to the workforce and contributing to the team here.

Outside work, I enjoy spending time outdoors, whether it's going for walks, going to local markets, or finding new cafés and restaurants.

I look forward to getting to know you all.



Federation interim cultural advisor Iwi Te Whau, far left, acknowledges the Franklin association council, whose members present were from left, Mike Chetty, registrar Christine Rupp, Shaneel Kumar, president Christine Stuart, Garth Wilcox and Stu Britnell. Picture: RIC ODOM

Strengthening purpose and cultural understanding

By Northern Regional Representative RIC ODOM

The Northern Regional Conference was held on September 6-7 at Valley School, Pukekohe, hosted by the Franklin association. Forty-eight JPs attended, representing seven of the nine associations in the region, with the Auckland association president and registrar also attending

The conference opened with a warm welcome from Iwi Te Whau, the Federation’s interim cultural advisor, followed by remarks from Franklin president Christine Stuart and myself as the regional representative.

Early discussions focused on key challenges facing associations today. Delegates highlighted a number of topics including ensuring all JPs contribute fairly; safety in the home; communications between associations and their members; and addressing succession planning. These conversations reflected a shared desire to strengthen the sustainability and vitality of JP associations.

Federation Vice-President Carol Buckley and I then led a session on constitutional updates. With most associations having already revised their constitutions, attention turned to the Federation’s own Constitution and whether registering as a charity offers practical benefits.



Franklin association life members Les Marinkovic and Marie Appleton cutting a cake made for the conference. Picture: DIANNE LASENBY

One of the most valued sessions explored “Cultural Respect and Safety”. In a dynamic format, five Franklin JPs representing Māori, Indian, Dutch, Filipino and Middle Eastern backgrounds shared their perspectives on cultural challenges. Small group discussions allowed participants to reflect on how associations can better understand and support diverse communities. Attendees strongly endorsed the idea of including this topic at the Federation Conference.

Saturday concluded with a presentation by myself on “Organisational Clarity”, emphasising the importance of clearly defined roles to foster shared purpose, to strengthen credibility with stakeholders, and to enhance the experience of members. The day ended with a lively dinner at the Pukekohe Cosmopolitan Club, where District Court Judge Gerard Winter spoke passionately about the vital contribution of JPs to the justice system, particularly in easing the workload of the courts.

Sunday began with an update on the Federation’s new Strategic Plan, with delegates walked through the Board’s approach starting with a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis and culminating in key outcomes designed to advance the Federation’s mission. Associations were encouraged to consider aligning the relevant parts of their own planning to the Federation’s strategic priorities.

The final open forum generated robust discussion on succession planning, JP appointment criteria, relationships with local MPs, and ongoing challenges with Accreditation, particularly for members with English as a second language. Encouragingly, steps are already under way to address some of these concerns.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, praising both the organisation of the event and the value of the programme. The conference closed with confirmation that the Far North association will host the 2026 Northern Regional Conference.

The weekend highlighted the enduring strength of the JP movement: a commitment to service, a willingness to confront challenges, and an openness to embrace cultural understanding and organisational clarity as pathways to a stronger future.



The guest speaker at the conference dinner was District Court Judge Gerard Winter. Picture: DIANNE LASENBY



JPs deep in discussion at the Northern Regional Conference. Picture: DIANNE LASENBY

From the Ministerial Professional Development Advisor

trainer@jpfed.org.nz



Simone Baxter

New PD team joins Federation

Janine McIntosh: Judicial Professional Development Advisor

I'm Janine McIntosh and I am pleased to have been appointed Judicial Professional Development Advisor at the Federation. I bring to the role over two decades of leadership in legal and judicial education, most recently as director of Te Kura Kaiwhakawā – the Institute of Judicial Studies. During my time there, I led transformative change as Te Kura evolved into a high-performing organisation delivering innovative and inclusive professional development for judges across Aotearoa. My work also extended into the

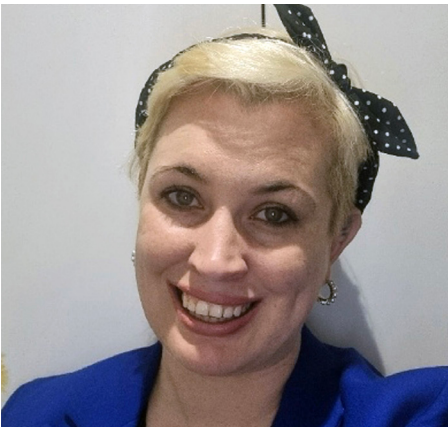


Pacific, where I initiated and led the Pacific Justice Sector Programme, building partnerships

and securing funding to support judicial capacity-building in 15 nations. In 2023, I was appointed to the Board of Governors of the International Organisation for Judicial Training, and in 2024 became its Regional Deputy President for Asia and the Pacific. I hold degrees in psychology, law, and teaching, and bring strategic vision and relational insight to my work. I remain committed to service, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and judicial independence, now focusing on mentoring and professional development within the justice community.

Alex Milinni: Ministerial Professional Development Advisor

I'm excited to be joining the team supporting Justices of the Peace in my new role as Ministerial Professional Development Advisor. I bring over 10 years of experience working across New Zealand's public sector including at the Defence Force, Independent Police Conduct Authority and Oranga Tamariki, with a background in corporate co-ordination, administration, and executive assistance. Outside work, I love swimming and hikes, and am an avid reader.



I can be found scrapbooking on a rainy day when not discover-

ing new trails with my partner, and have recently become more involved in volunteering. Family is important to me, although they're quite spread out - I'm from Taranaki, grew up in Upper Hutt, and have recently returned to Wellington after a stint in Melbourne. I look forward to contributing to the JP community in a meaningful way and interacting with you.

Use of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools may have been used in the creation of the Education pages to assist or enhance the content. The information used has been reviewed and confirmed as accurate at the time of publication.

Understanding Power of Attorney and Enduring Power of Attorney



In New Zealand, legal instruments like (ordinary) Power of Attorney (POA) and Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) are vital tools for managing personal affairs, especially when individuals are unable to act for themselves. While both allow someone (the “donor”) to appoint another person (the “attorney”) to make decisions on their behalf, they differ significantly in scope and duration.

A Power of Attorney is typically used for short-term or specific purposes—for example managing property or finances while the donor is overseas. Crucially, it becomes invalid if the donor loses mental capacity. In contrast, an Enduring Power of Attorney is de-

signed for long-term use and remains valid even if the donor becomes mentally incapable. There are two types of EPAs: one for property and one for personal care and welfare. The property EPA can be activated immediately or upon incapacity, while the care and welfare EPA only takes effect once the donor is deemed mentally incapable.

Key differences:

FEATURE	(ORDINARY) POWER OF ATTORNEY (POA)	ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY (EPA)
Validity	Only while you are mentally capable	Continues even if you lose mental capacity
Purpose	Typically for short-term or specific tasks (eg managing affairs while overseas)	Long-term planning for property and personal care decisions
Activation	Effective immediately and ends if you lose capacity	Can be set to activate immediately or only upon loss of capacity
Types	Usually covers property or financial matters	Two types: Property EPA and Personal Care and Welfare EPA
Legal Requirement	Less formal, often not offered by lawyers	Requires legal advice and formal documentation

Role of a Justice of the Peace

Justice of the Peace have specific limitations when it comes to Powers of Attorney. While a JP can witness the signature of a donor on an ordinary Power of Attorney, they cannot witness the signature on an Enduring Power of Attorney. This restriction exists because EPAs require the donor to receive independent legal advice from a qualified legal professional before signing. The legal advisor must certify that the donor understands the implications of the EPA and is not under duress - responsibilities that

fall outside the scope of a JP’s authority. For the attorney, the limitations on who can witness the signature are significantly less. Anyone who is not the donor or the person who witnessed the signature of the donor can witness the signature of an attorney. It is important to note that as there is no specific role that the witness has, if you witness for an attorney, you should do this as an ordinary person and not include your Justice of the Peace credentials or stamp.

Reminder about wills

In New Zealand, a valid will requires two witnesses who are not beneficiaries of the will. These witnesses must be present when the will-maker signs the document or acknowledges their existing signature, and they must also sign the will in the will-maker’s presence.

Supporting multi-lingual clients

It’s quite common for a JP to assist clients who come from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. While many New Zealand residents speak English fluently, some may face challenges communicating in the language.

The Federation frequently receives requests from members of the public seeking a JP who speaks a specific language. To support this need, the Federation’s website includes a language filter function. Users can search by location first, then narrow down results by spoken language.

It’s crucial that your profile is kept up to date to keep this system effective. If you are fluent in any languages in addition to English, please log in to the Federation website and update your profile accordingly. You can indicate that you can assist with other languages by selecting the appropriate languages at the bottom of your profile page below the address section and then saving your profile. By updating your profile with your language skills on the Feder-



ation website, you’re letting your community know: “I’m here for you - and I speak your language.”

Balancing availability with being reasonable

As a Justice of the Peace, you commit to being reasonably available to the public. While clients may appreciate immediate assistance, you are not expected to be constantly on call.

Clause 3 of the Code of Conduct states that Justices should “willingly and courteously manage the duties required at any reasonable time of the day and night”. This does not imply round-the-clock availability - such expectations are neither practical nor sustainable. The emphasis here is on the word reasonable.

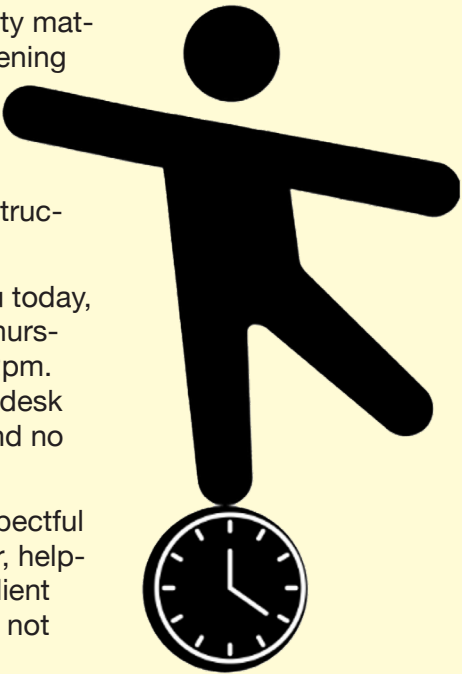
It is entirely appropriate to decline a request for immediate service, but you should always offer alternative options such as a service desk, another local JP or a different time

when you are available. How you communicate your unavailability matters: a response like “I’m gardening right now, call someone else” may unintentionally heighten a client’s stress or frustration.

Instead, consider a more constructive approach:

“I’m not available to assist you today, but I can meet with you any Thursday or Friday afternoon from 2pm. Alternatively, our local service desk at [location] is open [hours], and no appointment is needed.”

This kind of response sets respectful boundaries while offering clear, helpful alternatives, ensuring the client feels supported, even if you’re not immediately available.



Impartiality matters: avoid acting for family and friends

The role of a JP is built on trust, neutrality, and integrity. While it may seem harmless to witness a signature for a relative or certify a document for a close friend, doing so can compromise the impartiality that underpins your office and may even raise red flags for the agencies receiving those documents.

Section 9.4 of the Justices of the Peace Manual clearly advises:

“You should not witness a signature, take an affidavit or declaration, or certify a copy for any member of your own family.”

Although there is no legal prohibition, the guidance is

firm: it is always preferable for another Justice or authorised person to carry out the task. Even a certified copy signed by a JP who is related to the presenter may be viewed by some agencies as lacking neutrality. The same caution applies to close friends.

This is not about questioning your integrity - it's about protecting the credibility of Justices of the Peace and ensuring that every transaction is free from perceived bias.

A perceived bias refers to the impression that someone may be unfairly influenced or partial, even if no actual bias exists—it's about how others interpret neutrality or fairness.

The Codes of Ethics and Conduct: compasses for impartiality

The Manual's guidance is reinforced by the Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics, which outline your responsibilities:

- **Code of Conduct clause 5:** In the carrying out of duties of a Justice of the Peace disclose any interest or relationship likely to affect impartiality or which might create an appearance of partiality or bias, and refrain from participating in such circumstances
- **Code of Ethics clause 1:** Carry out their statutory, judicial and ministerial duties in a proper manner and administer the law in so far as they are authorised and called upon to do so, without fear or favour, affection or ill will, in accordance with their Judicial Oath and in the most conscientious manner possible
- **Code of Ethics clause 2:** Maintain the integrity and dignity of the office through ethical conduct, good example, high standards of Citizenship, and by not acting in a manner which is unlawful or likely to bring disrepute to the office of Justice of the Peace

These principles apply not only to family and friends, but to any situation where your impartiality could be questioned such as assisting a colleague with a

declaration related to a project you're involved in.

Why agencies are paying attention

In today's regulatory environment, agencies - especially those subject to anti-money laundering laws - are vigilant.

Documents certified by someone with the same surname as the client may trigger scrutiny or rejection. These organisations are legally obligated to monitor for signs of fraud, and a perceived conflict of interest can undermine the validity of the documentation.

Best practice: refer and reassure

If approached by a friend or family member, the best course of action is to politely decline and refer them to another Justice of the Peace. This protects both you and the client, and reinforces the professionalism of the office.

Impartiality isn't just a guideline—it's a cornerstone of your role. By maintaining clear boundaries, you uphold the trust placed in you and preserve the dignity of the Justice of the Peace office.



Keeping records is essential

In the role of a Justice of the Peace, precision and accountability are not just ideals — they’re expectations. One of the most effective ways to uphold these standards is by maintaining a clear and consistent record of your ministerial tasks.

Best practice backed by the Code of Conduct

Clause 6 of the Code of Conduct encourages Justices to keep a record of their ministerial duties. This isn’t about creating lengthy reports - it’s about ensuring traceability and protecting the integrity of your work.

A well-kept record typically includes:

- Date and time of the service provided
- Type of document administered
- Location (e.g. home, workplace, public venue)
- Client’s name (optional, but useful for verification)

Even if you see only a handful of clients, relying solely on memory is insufficient. A simple logbook or secure digital record can make all the difference.

Why it matters

Maintaining a record isn’t just a procedural formality, it’s a safeguard. Agencies might contact you to verify whether a document was administered by you. Without a record, you risk uncertainty or delay. With one, you can respond confidently and accurately.

Recent cases have highlighted the value of this practice. In one



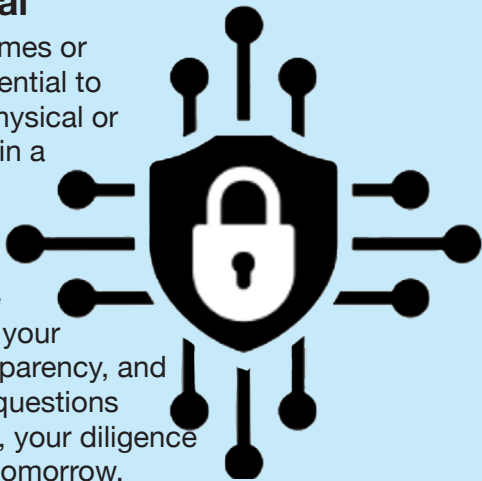
instance, a JP was contacted by an agency to confirm whether they had administered a document for a particular client. Thanks to their logbook, the JP could quickly confirm they had not seen the individual. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the JP’s stamp and signature had been

fraudulently copied from a previous document and misused. This example underscores the importance of record-keeping, not just for your own protection, but to uphold the credibility of the office and prevent misuse of your credentials.

Secure storage is crucial

If your records include client names or other identifying details, it’s essential to store them securely. Whether physical or digital, your log should be kept in a location that protects client confidentiality and complies with privacy expectations.

In short, a simple record can be your strongest ally. It reinforces your professionalism, supports transparency, and ensures you’re prepared when questions arise. As a Justice of the Peace, your diligence today protects your reputation tomorrow.



When did you last update your contact details?

It is important that the details appearing on the website are up to date, so that members of the public requiring assistance or receiving agencies

verifying authenticity can contact you. Please log on to the Federation website and check your contact details are current.



Documents to accompany a statutory declaration or affidavit

Recently, a member of the public contacted us after visiting a Justice of the Peace to complete an affidavit with attachments. The JP advised they couldn’t assist because the attachments lacked exhibit notes, leaving the client confused and unsure of how to proceed.

This situation highlights the importance of understanding the correct procedure when a client presents an affidavit or statutory declaration with attachments or exhibits.

Let’s refer to the Manual. Sections 5.9 and 6.9 outline the correct process. When a document is referenced and attached to a statutory declaration or affidavit, it is referred to as an attachment, annexure, or exhibit. These terms are often used interchangeably, but they all refer to supporting documents that form part of the sworn or declared statement.

Each exhibit must be clearly mentioned in the affidavit or statutory declaration and identified using a unique letter or number, typically consecutive letters such as A, B, C, and so on. The exhibit itself must then be marked with the corresponding letter or number, preferably in the order it is mentioned in the main document. If the attachment is not already marked, you should write the letter clearly at the top of the front page of each exhibit.

In specific cases, such as affidavits supporting an application for marriage dissolution, certain documents must be attached and assigned specific identifying letters as outlined in the relevant instructions. These requirements are often set by the court or legal process involved, so it’s important to check any accompanying guidance.

In addition to being marked, each exhibit or attachment must also include an exhibit note. For court documents such as affidavits, this is mandatory under the High Court Rules 2016, Family Court Rules 2002, and District Court Rules 2014. For statutory declarations, it is considered standard legal practice and must always be completed to ensure the document is properly recognised.

What is an exhibit note?

An exhibit note is a written or stamped statement on an attachment that links it to the affidavit or statutory declaration. It confirms that the document is part of the sworn or declared statement and ensures legal integrity and compliance with procedural requirements. The note typically includes the identifying letter or number,

the name of the person making the declaration or affidavit, and the date it was sworn or declared.

Who completes the exhibit note?

It is uncommon for documents to arrive with exhibit notes already printed or stamped. As the JP, you are responsible for ensuring that each attachment is properly referenced and marked. First, confirm that the attachment is mentioned in the affidavit or statutory declaration. If it is not, the client must amend the document before proceeding.

Once confirmed, you should either stamp (if you have an exhibit stamp) or clearly write the exhibit note on the document, taking care not to obscure any content. The suggested wording for exhibit notes is provided in the Manual.

- **For statutory declarations: see section 5.9.4**

This is the letter marked A referred to in the statutory declaration of Joe Rawiri Bloggs declared at Wellington this 12th day of June 2023 before me:



Jane Doe JP 1234
Justice of the Peace

- **For affidavits: see section 6.9.45**

EXHIBIT NOTE

This is the annexure marked " A " referred to within the affidavit of Joe Rawiri Bloggs and sworn/affirmed at Wellington this 1st day of April 2023 before me

Signature 

If an exhibit consists of multiple pages, you do not need to write an exhibit note on each page, nor is it necessary to number or initial individual pages. The exhibit note on the front page is sufficient to link the entire document to the affidavit or declaration.

The power of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a futuristic concept confined to science fiction. It is a powerful force reshaping industries, societies, and the way we live, work, and interact. From personalised recommendations on streaming platforms to autonomous vehicles navigating complex environments, AI is embedded in our daily lives in ways both visible and invisible. Its power lies not just in automation, but in its ability to learn, adapt, and make decisions, often at superhuman speed and scale.

Understanding AI tools

AI is a term that’s becoming increasingly common in everyday conversations, news articles, and even government discussions. But for many people, especially those not working in technology, it can feel vague or even intimidating. What is AI, really? And more importantly, how might it affect the work of JPs in New Zealand?

What is AI?

AI stands for Artificial Intelligence, which refers to computer systems that can perform tasks that usually require human intelligence. These tasks include understanding language, recognising patterns, solving problems, and even making decisions.

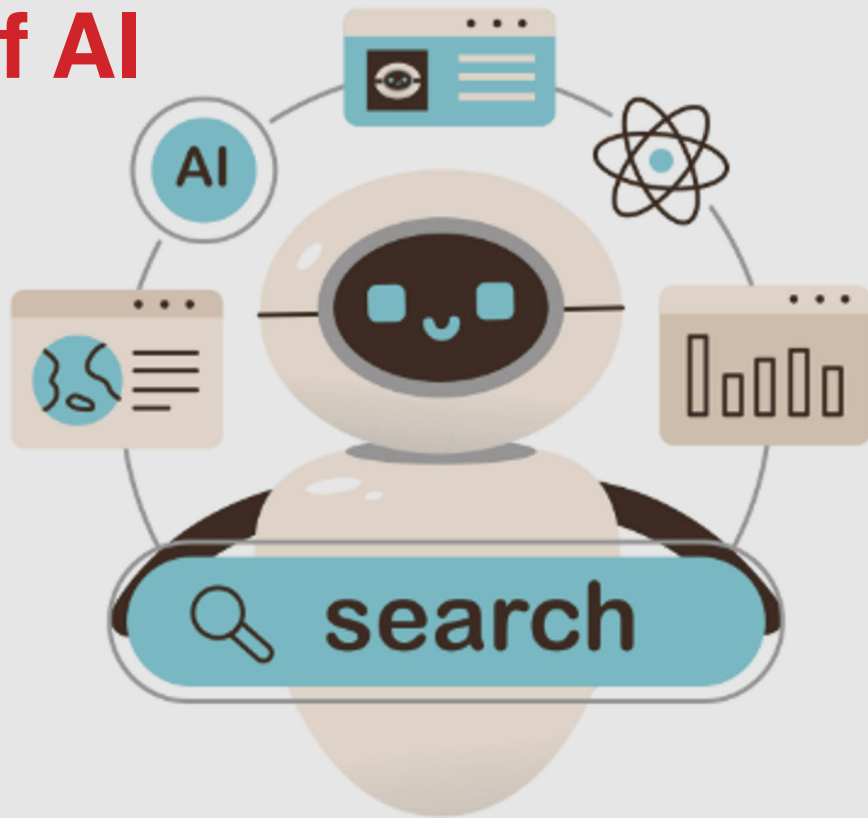
Unlike traditional software that follows strict instructions, AI can “learn” from data. For example, if you show an AI thousands of examples of handwritten numbers, it can learn to recognise new ones on its own. This ability to learn and improve over time is what makes AI different - and powerful.

ChatGPT and Copilot

Two popular AI tools you may have heard of are ChatGPT and Copilot. These are examples of language models, which means they are designed to understand and generate human language.

- ChatGPT is a conversational AI developed by OpenAI. You can type a question or prompt into it, and it will respond in natural language. People use it for writing help, answering questions, summarising documents, and more.
- Copilot is a similar tool developed by Microsoft, often integrated into programs like Word, Excel, and Outlook. It helps users write emails, create documents, analyse spreadsheets, and perform other tasks more efficiently.

These tools don’t “think” like humans, but they are



trained on vast amounts of text and can produce surprisingly useful responses. They are not perfect, and they can make mistakes -but they are improving rapidly.

AI and the work of JPs

Justices of the Peace in New Zealand perform a wide range of duties, including witnessing documents, certifying copies, taking declarations and affidavits, and for some, sitting in court hearings. While AI is unlikely to replace the human judgement and integrity required for these roles, it may influence how certain tasks are carried out.

Here are a few ways AI tools could affect JP work:

1 Document preparation and review

AI tools can help members of the public prepare documents more accurately before they visit a JP. For example, someone might use ChatGPT to draft a statutory declaration or affidavit.



This could reduce errors and improve clarity, but it also means JPs may encounter documents that were generated by AI and need to be checked carefully for accuracy, appropriateness and alignment with legislation.

2 Public access to legal information

AI chatbots are increasingly being used on government websites to answer common questions and members of the public are using AI programs to ask for advice



or information on processes. While AI programs contain a wide range of knowledge, the information that they provide is sometimes inaccurate or based on information that is misleading or irrelevant to the particular topic at hand. This may lead to clients coming to JPs with a misunderstanding of the process or the requirements of documentation they need assistance with.

3 Training and Support

AI tools could be used to support JP training by summarising legislation, explaining procedures, or even simulating scenarios. This might make learning more accessible, especially for new JPs or those in remote areas. However, it is key to remember that when using AI in this capacity, what is produced still needs to be reviewed for accuracy.



What to look out for

As AI tools become more common, JPs should be aware of several key considerations:

Accuracy and reliability

AI-generated content can sound convincing but may contain errors or misinterpretations. JPs should not assume that a document or explanation produced by AI is correct without reviewing it carefully.

Privacy and confidentiality

AI tools often process large amounts of data, and some may store or share information with external servers. JPs should be cautious about entering sensitive or personal information into AI platforms.

Human judgement still matters

AI can assist with tasks, but it cannot replace the human judgement, ethical reasoning, and legal responsibility that JPs bring to their roles. Decisions about whether a document is appropriate, whether a person understands what they are signing, or whether a declaration is valid must still be made by a JP.

Keeping up with change

Technology is evolving quickly, and it's important for JPs to stay informed. This doesn't mean becoming tech experts, but having a basic understanding of how these tools work and how they might affect your duties is increasingly important.

A tool, not a replacement

Artificial Intelligence is one of the most transformative technologies of our time. Its power to learn, adapt, and evolve makes it a catalyst for change across every sector. But with this power comes the

responsibility to guide its development ethically and inclusively.

AI tools like ChatGPT and Copilot are just that—tools. They can assist with writing, research, and organisation, but they do not replace the role of a human.

As these technologies continue to develop, JPs may find them useful in certain contexts, but they should approach them with caution and curiosity.

An example of what an AI program can create

To demonstrate how these programs can create text, I prompted Copilot to turn Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 into a Kiwiana-themed rap. See what it developed below.

Here's the original:

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
 Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
 Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
 And summer's lease hath all too short a date;
 Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
 And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
 And every fair from fair sometime declines,
 By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
 But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
 Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
 Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
 When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:
 So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
 So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

And here's the Kiwiana rap:

Should I compare you to a summer's day in Aotearoa?
 Nah, you're sweeter than hokey pokey, more chill than a koru's aura.
 May's got winds that rattle the flax and shake the trees,
 But you stay calm like a beach breeze in Piha seas.
 Summer's lease? Bro, it's gone in a blink,
 Like a flat white cooling by the kitchen sink.
 Sun gets fierce, then hides behind the cloud,
 But you glow steady — humble, not loud.
 Beauty fades, like gumboots worn and torn,
 Nature shifts, like a sheep shorn at dawn.
 But your summer? It's locked in place,
 Like a tūi's song — full of grace.
 Death can't claim you, not even close,
 You live in lines like a haka's prose.
 As long as Kiwis breathe and eyes still see,
 This verse right here? It keeps you free.

Praise for JPs from Minister

By Auckland Regional Representative TONY KORTEGAST

The Auckland Regional Conference and association AGM were held on Sunday September 14 at the Parnell Hotel and Conference Centre. The conference was attended by around 100 delegates and included representatives from the Federation Board, neighbouring associations and Auckland association life members.

The day kicked off with registration and time for coffee, pastries and networking. After a welcome and introductions by myself as Auckland Regional Representative, karakia and acknowledgement of life members and other distinguished guests, there was a slight hiatus when our keynote speaker, Whangaparaoa MP and Cabinet Minister Mark Mitchell received an unexpected call from the Prime Minister just as he was parking his car. This lasted for about 40 minutes and resulted in the need for a hasty programme reshuffle!

Mr Mitchell (who is Minister of Corrections, Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery, Minister for Ethnic Communities, Minister of Police and Minister for Sport and Recreation) spoke engagingly and in depth about current law and order trends and strategies in New Zealand. In essence the Government is taking a significantly stronger policing stance than was previously the case and while this is putting some stress on the judicial system, progress is being made, with violent crime statistics now improving significantly.

The Minister was extremely supportive of the work being carried out by Justices of the Peace, all of whom, he stressed, are volunteers. He reflected that without our JPs and the work they do, the justice system would struggle to function, and it is therefore essential that we make the community support and volunteer role of a JP an exciting prospect for young New Zealanders.



Auckland association president Ian Gibson with conference guest speaker Mark Mitchell MP. Picture: ROHINI SUBBIAN

The Minister then engaged in a lively Q&A session with delegates and stayed for morning tea and discussions with delegates present. He was formally thanked for his talk by Auckland association president Ian Gibson, who also presented him with a token of appreciation.

Following morning tea, we returned to the update of the Federation's workplan, presented by Federation President Nigel Tate. Nigel updated delegates about the increased funding for Federation activities, which the Federation was very pleased to see confirmed earlier in the year, and how it would be spent. In essence, about half the extra funding is to be devoted to bolstering the Federation's head office staffing, with a particular emphasis on supporting and improving training offerings across all 28 associations. Nigel also commented on recent Federation staff changes and noted that an additional full-time person is being added to the Wellington team to improve overall support to member associations.

The strong training efforts and resources being provided locally by the Auckland association training team were acknowledged. Nigel reinforced the Federation's eagerness to work with Auckland to leverage the resources Auckland has developed for the benefit of other associations. Efforts in this area will be ramped up as part of a Federation national training group, and Auckland has confirmed that it is keen to assist with this where it can.

Nigel also summarised the increases in the court panel management allocation and increases in the funding for service desks and regional conferences. This was all well received, as was the concluding outcome that there would be no increase in the capitation fee for associations for the next three years.

Nigel then reflected on the Federation Board processes and commented on the importance of strong regional representation. Nominations for Board members are open until November 1, and new regional representatives will be needed this year in the

Northern and Central regions. He also commented on the Private Member's Bill which is supported by the Auckland association and is currently "in the parliamentary process".

He said that although the Federation supports a number of the principles embodied in the draft Bill, currently it does not support it in its entirety, and that the Federation has made a strong commitment to continuing to work with Associate Justice Minister Nicole McKee on matters of legislative reform related to JP activity nationally, as this is a core Federation role.

We then moved to a presentation of the Federation's strategy and workplan, presented by Federation Vice-President Carol Buckley. Carol reviewed the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis that had been undertaken, and which underscores the core strengths of the Federation. The weaknesses detected in relation to reliance on volunteers, variability in training nationally, data regarding JP activity, and the aging JP cohort are all key areas that are stimulating strategic response from the Federation across all associations.

Key areas of focus in the current workplan are increasing the use of digital platforms for training, attracting younger JPs, and strengthening partnerships with government. Threats to achieving improvement and a more stable

long-term view include changing Government priorities and funding models, "competition" from alternate service providers (e.g. regarding who may be authorised to take statutory declarations), increasing compliance and accountability requirements and a general decline in the willingness of people to volunteer their time.

Carol commented that the Federation's approach is to represent associations strongly at national and government level by **being first** (the Federation's leadership mandate on behalf of its member associations), **being seen** to be doing the work, and **being relevant** to its member associations. The Federation and its Board are fully committed to pursuing this strategic agenda on behalf of all of its member association.

Nigel and Carol were formally thanked for their presentations by Auckland association vice-president Carly Gunn.

The final item on the programme was a presentation by Don Graham, chair of the association's Support Group and Service Desk Committee. Don announced that the Auckland association is introducing an annual recognition award, to be named the Sherryl Wilson Cup. This is named in honour of Sherryl's decades of service as a JP and is aimed at recognising an Auckland JP who through their actions demonstrates exceptional commitment to their role. The award will be

made annually based on a nomination process by JP peers. The first award of this recognition will be made at next year's conference. Details of the nomination process are to be provided on the association website.

This brought the conference to a close, and delegates then enjoyed a pleasant lunch, which provided further opportunity for networking and catching up with friends and colleagues.

Overall, almost all the formal and informal feedback from delegates indicated the conference was considered enjoyable and useful.

After lunch, the association's AGM was held, chaired by association president Ian Gibson. As the association's administration and finances continue to be well managed, the main topic of the AGM was finalising and adopting a new constitution. A proposed constitution had been developed, approved and circulated by the council. Several aspects of the document attracted comment from members present and while this resulted in some lively debate, ultimately the constitution was adopted following the agreement of some amendments.

This was a great milestone achievement that provides clarity in the association's rules and processes and ensures the association is compliant with the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Succession the focus for Central

By Central Regional Representative LAURIE GABITES

There were 35 registrations for the South Island Central Regional Conference, held in Nelson on September 13, hosted by the Nelson-Tasman association.

The second, North Island conference was at the Manawatu Golf Club the following Saturday, and there were 45 registrations for that. All 10 associations in the region attended one or other of the conferences.

The theme of the conference was

SUCCESSion, with some speakers looking from the outside in and some from the inside out.

We started the conference with a panel of the Police District Commander, a District Court judge and the local MP. They offered an insight into the role of JPs and some advice and support to ensure success and succession moving forward.

At Nelson the guest speakers were representatives of the Restorative

Justice Trust. They provided interesting insights into their role and possibilities for how Justices might help in the restorative justice space.

At each conference the focus was around change and of course succession. It was wonderful to see the engagement of participants encouraged by the opportunity to be part of looking to the future and how to get there.

At both conferences participants



Police District Commander Superintendent Dion Bennett addressing the conference with (left to right) Central Regional Representative Laurie Gabites, District Court Judge Lance Rowe and MP for Palmerston North Tangi Utikere (a past president of the Central Districts association) also on stage. Picture: AMIT KAKROO

worked in small groups to explore questions about modernising selection, governance, membership and leadership.

From the Nelson conference the key takeaways included to:

- streamline processes
- recruit and retain the right people
- build stronger community links
- foster inclusive leadership for future growth.

The second conference held in Palmerston North started in a similar way with a panel of the Police District Commander, a District Court judge and the local MP. Their focus was on how we can work together and collaborate on issues of common interest.

The conference then had a presentation from Tim Price-Walker, a change manager who is also a member of the

Wellington association. He provided handouts which have been shared electronically with participants.

He provided a framework that defines five Elements of Successful Change (ADKAR):

- A – awareness
- D – desire
- K – knowledge
- A – ability
- R - reinforcement

He also provided participants with some helpful tactics for managing resistance to change. We then worked in groups to discuss several scenarios with questions focused on the use of ADKAR. The scenarios were:

- succession
- funding
- diversity

- active (aging) membership
- technology
- strategic planning

Groups then presented the results of their discussions back to the wider conference.

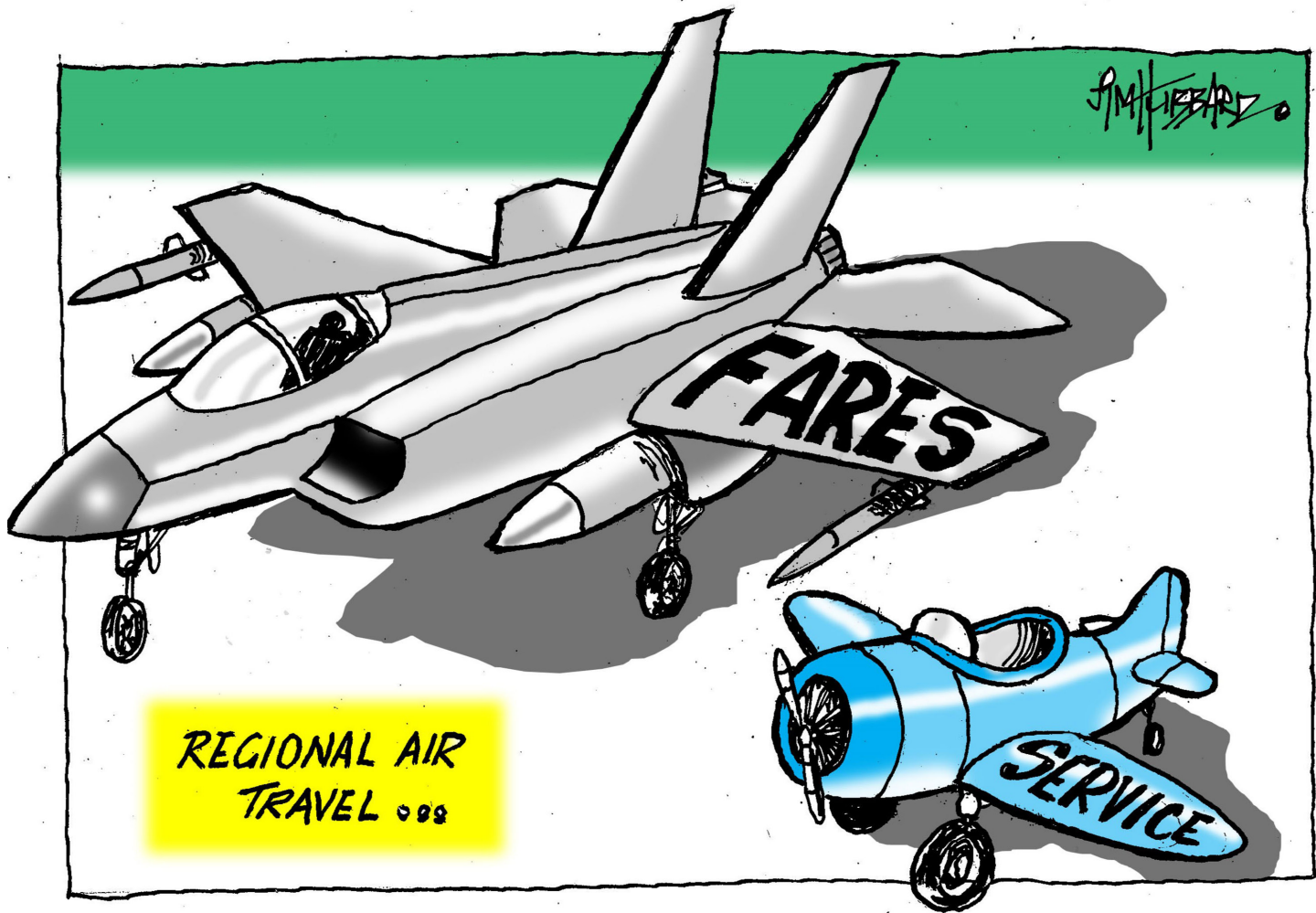
If associations would like to know more, please contact the Central Regional Representative.

These were great opportunities to work together as a region and share ideas and thoughts for moving forward. Participants at both conferences were highly engaged and it is thanks to them that the days went so well.

Special thanks go to the Nelson-Tasman association for the “top of the South” conference and to the Hutt Valley and Wellington associations for the lower North Island gathering.



Nelson-Tasman association president Billie Watmuff (third from right) thanking the council members for the work of putting the “Top of the South” conference together. Picture: SARAH KERBY



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PURSUANT to section 3 (1) of the Justices of the Peace Act 1957, Her Excellency the Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the following persons to be Justices of the Peace for New Zealand.

Akbar, Aadil Basha, Auckland
Atkinson, Kevin John, Tauranga
Binning, Murray Frank, Kumeu
Blake, Shayne Andrew, Auckland
Carter, Andrea Jane, Ashburton
Coldicutt, Brayden Ross, Napier
Crawford, Charles Noel, Cave
Fisk, Christine Maureen, Havelock
Fleischl, Juliet Anne, Auckland
Fouhy, Catherine Helen, Wellington
Geck, Cushla Isobel Ann, Pukekohe
Glasgow, Allie Ailsa Helen, Upper Hutt
Hitchin, Robert George, Auckland
Kaur, Damon Jot, Hastings
Leech, Josephine Frances, Wellington
Manase, Jaria Mussa, Auckland
McIvor, Andrew David, Auckland
McKinley, Dawn Elizabeth, Lower Hutt

Millar, Karen Robyn Susan, Auckland
Millard, Marcia Janice, Inglewood
Ngobi, Terisa Telesia, Levin
Orr, Regan Andrew, Palmerston North
Puna-Graham, Linda Merata, Auckland
Raina, Ernesto Ermanno, Matarangi
Roberts, Graeme John, Auckland
Robin, Raji, Palmerston North
Saldanha, Audrey Perpetua, Auckland
Singh, Christina Jyoti, Lower Hutt
Slappendel, Caroline, Wellington
Smart, Russell John, Tauranga
Waugh, Alison Margaret, Auckland

*Dated at Wellington
this 11th day of August 2025
Hon Nicole McKee
Associate Minister of Justice*



At the Central Regional Conference in Nelson ... from left, District Court Judge Jo Rielly, who is the Nelson-Tasman association patron, Nelson MP Rachel Boyack and Police District Commander Superintendent Tracey Thompson, who formed a panel discussing the role of JPs, and what success and succession look like. Past Federation President Terry Byrne facilitated the session. Picture: SARAH KERBY.

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THE NZ JUSTICES' QUARTERLY
Published in January, April, July and October

Opinions expressed in this journal, whether editorially or by contributors, do not necessarily represent the views of the Royal Federation of New Zealand Justices' Association (Inc). Contributions on matters affecting Justices and their associations are particularly welcome, but all contributions are subject to the discretion of the Editor. Contributors are requested to forward matter to the Editor, Geoff Davies, email merlin81@xtra.co.nz, to reach him not later than the last day of November, February, May and August to be available for publication in the upcoming issue.

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