



FIAT JUSTITIA
RUAT CAELUM



Justices'

QUARTERLY

July 2025
Volume 94
Number 3

Four generations of JP service

Busy time for regions

Regional conferences

The five annual regional conferences will all take place in quick succession in September.

- The Northern conference will be on September 6-7, hosted by the Franklin association in Pukekohe from 10am on Saturday and running until around 12pm on the Sunday. This has several good speakers in addition to the Board representatives.
- On the same weekend we have the Southern conference both hosted by, and held in, Ashburton – again, there is a full programme of speakers lined up for this event.
- Next up is the Northern South Island Central regional conference hosted by Nelson Tasman, to be held in Nelson on September 13.
- The following day, September 14, it's the turn of the Auckland regional/association conference in Auckland.
- Finally, we have the Southern North Island Central regional conference, hosted jointly by the Hutt Valley and Wellington associations, in Palmerston North on September 20.

I encourage all Justices to attend these events. There is much to be gained at them, through collegial discussions and focusing on targeted topics of interest to all. Please contact your association registrar to register your interest in attending.

Additional Government funding

Those that were at the Federation Conference in Greymouth will have heard that our Minister has garnered additional support for the work of the Federation and JP associations over the next three years.

The Board was asked at Conference what we intended to do with the additional funding, and since then we have reviewed our budget and determined that, once the new funding arrives, we would like to increase funding to the following areas in support of the work Justices do throughout the country.

1. Increase the funds made available for organising regional conferences.
2. Increase funding to court panels to allow for additional training opportunities for judicial Justices.



Federation President Nigel Tate

3. Raise the amount that is provided for service desks throughout the country for things such as stamps and promotional material.

4. We also feel that there is a need to increase Professional Development Advisor support nationally and will be making additional funds available for this role in particular.

5. At the same time as providing the above opportunities for associations, we have agreed that we will not increase current capitation levels for at least the next three years of the current Outcome Agreement.

Board positions

I know it seems early, but there will be at least two regional conferences where there will be an opportunity for candidates for regional representatives' positions on the Board to give a short presentation on what they feel they can offer the Federation's governance, as representatives of the Northern and Central regions. Both the incumbent representatives have indicated that they will

not be putting their names forward for re-election to their current roles. If these roles interest you or you feel another member is suitable, please have a discussion with your current representative and find out what is involved.

Interview panels for new JPs

It appears that there has been little if any movement in the range of ages for new Justices being nominated and interviewed, and that when we look at our interviewers around the country, most are very experienced and therefore more mature. I wonder if having an additional interviewer that is one of your younger members, if not the youngest, could achieve a range of benefits.

One is obvious: having younger views on who might become Justices sends a rejuvenating impression to the public and at the same time encourages younger Justices to become more involved in association leadership earlier, achieving similar objectives, and possibly in turn attracting more younger Justices.

Give it a try and please let us know how it goes.

Nigel Tate

CONTENTS

From the National Manager	2
Citizenship certificate change	3
COVER STORY: Four generations of JPs	4
Education	5
An eye to the future	13
Watchdog needed	15
Crossword	16
Hubbard	inside back cover
Appointments	outside back cover

FEDERATION OFFICERS

Patron:
The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro GNZM QSO
Governor-General of New Zealand
President: Nigel Tate JP
Immediate Past President:
Peter Osborne JP
Vice-President: Carol Buckley JP
Northern Regional Representative:
Ric Odom JP
Auckland Regional Representative:
Tony Kortegast JP
Central Regional Representative:
Laurie Gabites JP
Southern Regional Representative:
Anthony Brien JP
Acting Federation Kaumātua:
Iwi (Allan) Te Whau JP
Honorary Solicitors: Buddle Findlay
National Manager and Registrar:
Tony Pugh JP MBA BBS ACA
Professional Development Advisor:
Shinae Skelton BA LLB
Administrator:
Simone Baxter BDes (Hons)
Editor Justices' Quarterly:
Geoff Davies JP

Electoral laws overhauled



The Government is overhauling outdated and unsustainable electoral laws including stopping same-day enrolment, Justice Minister Paul Goldsmith (right) has announced.

"Allowing late enrolments, however well-intentioned, has placed too much strain on the system. The final vote count used to take two weeks, last election it took three," Mr Goldsmith said in a media release.

"If we leave things as they are, it could well take even longer in future elections. The 20-day timeframe for a final result will likely already be challenging to achieve at the next election without changes.

"Therefore, the Government has agreed to close enrolment before advance voting begins. People will need to make sure they enrol or update their enrolment details by midnight on the Sunday, before advance voting opens on Monday morning.

"This is a significant, but necessary change. The Electoral Commission will have plenty of time to run an education campaign to ensure people understand the new requirements. For Australia's federal election earlier this year, the enrolment deadline was 26 days before election day. I have every confidence New Zealand can manage within the 13-day deadline.

"We've also agreed to a range of other changes, including creating a new offence to strengthen the rules around treating near voting places. There has been some confusion in the past around what is and isn't treating. This will make the rules crystal clear.

"The donation threshold for reporting the names of party donors is also being adjusted from \$5000 to \$6000, to account for inflation."

Key changes include:

- Closing enrolment 13 days before election day to reduce pressure on post-election timeframes.
 - Requiring 12 days of advance voting at each election.
 - Introducing automatic enrolment updates so the Electoral Commission can update people's enrolment details using data from other government agencies.
 - Enabling greater use of digital communication by removing postal requirements for enrolment.
 - Creating a new offence that prohibits the provision of free food, drink or entertainment within 100 metres of a voting place while voting is taking place. It will be punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000.
 - Reinstating a total ban on prisoner voting.
- The Bill makes a wide range of other changes including:
- enabling special vote processing to begin earlier
 - increasing the Electoral Commission's board from three to up to seven members
 - setting a single deadline for all candidate nominations
 - changing party registration requirements and timeframes
 - providing flexibility on the contact details that can be included in promoter statements.

The Government is progressing a separate bill to amend the Constitution Act 1986 to ensure the continuity of executive government in the post-election period.

ON THE COVER: New Eastern Bay of Plenty association JP Chanelle Hayward, left, with EBOP registrar Janie Storey, was sworn in recently, making her the fourth generation of her family to hold the office ... story P4. On the bench behind them are EBOP president Jenny Mahoney and Judge Louis Bidois. Picture: ROSEMARY SLOMAN



2025 AGM outcomes

Remits and notices of motion

For what might be the first time, there were no remits or notices of motion submitted by member associations for consideration at the Annual General Meeting in March. This leaves little to be said here about the AGM.

However, since the announcement at the AGM by Associate Justice Minister Nicole McKee of an increase in financial support for the Federation, a significant amount of work has been undertaken by the Board and staff to assess the most beneficial way to apply that funding when it is received. This includes a near full rewrite of the Outcome Agreement with the Ministry of Justice. Expanded expectations around privacy, data collection and protection, digital management and record maintenance are expected to be included in the new agreement.

Constitutions

As associations prepare, approve and submit new constitutions to ensure compliance under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, the approved constitutions will be

made available for presidents and registrars to access via the Federation website.

The Federation constitution re-build is under way, with consideration being given to any nuances in member associations' new constitutions. For example, not all associations are incorporated, and not all associations are registered charities.

Royal Honours

Included in this Justices' Quarterly (on P16) is a list of current Justices of the Peace who were honoured in the King's Birthday Honours 2025. Congratulations to them all. Many of the official citations refer to the individual's work as a Justice, but also highlighted was the vast range of different public service roles held by association members.

Nominations for Federation Board roles

Nominations for Board roles open on August 1, and must be received by November 1 2025. Further information is available from your association.

Cutting court backlogs

Court case backlogs will be further reduced through extra funding to improve court timeliness and access to justice, Justice Minister Paul Goldsmith and Courts Minister Nicole McKee announced in a Budget media release.

"Justice delayed is justice denied. Waiting months or years for a case to be resolved only adds to the frustration and trauma for victims and, indeed, all court participants," Mr Goldsmith said.

"While there has been progress, it's really important that we keep things moving. This funding will do exactly that."

Budget 2025 provided New Zealand's courts with \$246 million of additional funding over the next four years.

"This funding will support the ongoing operation of specialist courts, tribunals, the District Court, senior courts, the Coroners Court, and the legal aid system."

"This Government is supporting the courts to be more efficient and minimise delays, to ensure everyone can navigate the process smoothly and have trust and confidence in the system," Mrs McKee said.

"An efficient court system that delivers timely justice is an important part of the Government's plan to restore law and order. Through Budget 2025 we are making sure we keep our foot on the pedal."

In the year ending March 31 2025, cases disposed of within expected timeframes has stabilised at 81%, after almost a decade of declining timeliness.

Backlog cases have decreased by 9% to 7067, while active cases decreased by 3% to 37,920, with a reduction of 1074 cases on hand.

Disposals of District Court jury trials are at historically high levels, reflecting the approach of applying additional resources to reduce the post-Covid backlog of trials in Auckland courts.

Change to NZ citizenship certificate

The Certificate of Citizenship is an official document issued to people who are New Zealand citizens (either by grant or descent).

From 2025: the descent certificate

From May 2025 the New Zealand citizenship by descent certificate will no longer include the signature and position title of the general manager.

2012 to 2025

The New Zealand Citizenship certificate by grant or by descent during this period is the same as the current version (portrait with a green fern background) with the inclusion of the signature and the position title of the General Manager.

Appearance of and identifiers in the current New Zealand citizenship certificate are:

- a “coat of arms” seal printed in black – before April 2019, the coat of arms was embossed, with no colour
- a watermark of a kiwi and two ferns when held up to the light and a red map of New Zealand in the bottom right-hand corner
- the words “DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS TE TARI TAIWHENUA” are repeated, with no spaces in the background
- the title in Maori reads Te Tohu Kiriraraunga
- there is a silver fern, the words New Zealand and Aotearoa and a kowhaiwhai (koru) pattern in the background.

Information in the certificate includes:

- given name(s) and surname(s)
- date of birth
- place of birth
- gender
- effective date of citizenship
- certificate number.



Pre-2012 certificates

There is no validity period associated with a citizenship certificate. Certificates issued in early 2012 or before then look significantly different to the current certificate.

Between 1991 and 2012

These certificates were in landscape format with a blue floral border.

Older certificates

These were in A5 landscape format.

Family’s JP service up to 4th generation

By ROSEMARY SLOMAN

When it comes to the James family, the example of giving back to the community was set almost a century ago, and continued in the Whakatane courthouse recently, when the fourth generation (and first woman) of the James family, Chanelle Hayward (nee James), was sworn in to serve the Eastern Bay region as a Justice of the Peace.

It all started in Palmerston North, when Robert Halliday James took the Oath to become a Justice. He was followed by his son Owen Bradburn James, who also served in Palmerston North, and in his footsteps came his son: well-known Whakatane District Councillor Wilson James (aka the unofficial Mayor of Awakeri),

an Eastern Bay of Plenty farmer. Wilson has served our community well as a JP – he is a former president of the EBOP association and is the current co-ordinator of JP service desks throughout the region.

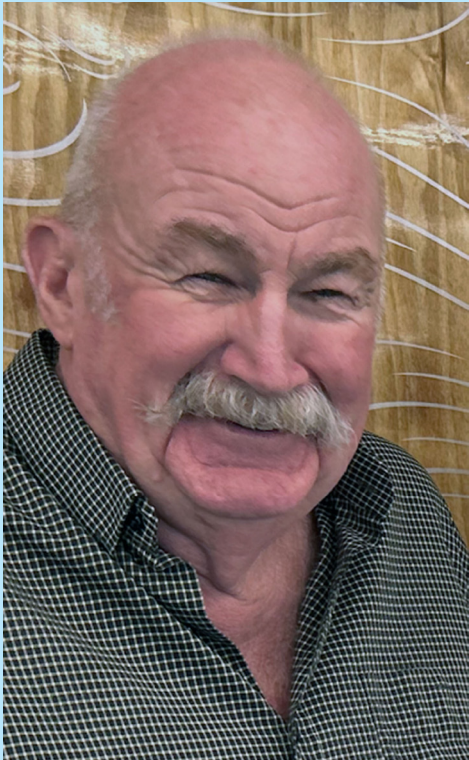
But there’s more: in the early 1960s Wilson had, along with his own father, two uncles who were also serving Justices – Cecil Hook James in Palmerston North and Neville James in Auckland. We understand that Robert Halliday James and his three sons serving as JPs was a first in New Zealand.

And now, with Wilson’s daughter Chanelle’s appointment, the legacy of giving back continues.



Chanelle Hayward nee James

• Do you belong to or know of a family with a similar history of JP service? If so, send the story to the editor at merlin81@xtra.co.nz ... there could be a great series for the Quarterly here! – Editor



Wilson James



Wilson’s father Owen Bradburn James



Wilson’s grandfather Robert Halliday James

From the Professional Development Advisor

judicialtrainer@jpfed.org.nz



Shinae Skelton

Separated but living together



Couples are now more frequently choosing to remain living at the same residence after separating.

There are many reasons for this. For separated couples who own a home jointly, selling their property may prevent them from affording to each buy a home, given the high cost of housing as well as the separated couple having low equity in their own property. Likewise, rental properties are more affordable on a dual income. Separated couples who have children together may find childcare easier to arrange when continuing to reside together.

Can separated couples who live together apply for a dissolution of marriage? Must they provide additional proof of separation when the parties indicate in their

application that they continue to reside together?

The Ministry of Justice has confirmed that they understand that separated couples must sometimes, out of necessity, continue to reside together. Accordingly, the Ministry team responsible for processing applications for dissolution of marriage does not question applicants who indicate they are continuing to reside together.

The applicants' oath or affirmation in their affidavit confirms that the couple have been separated for a minimum period of two years (the affidavit refers to this as "living apart"). The Ministry takes the applicants at their word.

Seeking validation by JP signature



Those who have had clients present them with sovereign-citizen styled “affidavits” or similar documents will be familiar with the insistence of some of these clients that their document must be legitimised by a Justice of the Peace adding their signature.

Where the document purporting to be an affidavit does not meet the legal requirements for an affidavit, your signature as a Justice of the Peace will not legitimise the document.

Despite this, a group defined by its anti-government sentiment often places great value on the assistance of Justices of the Peace. This may be due to a lack of understanding of how Justices of the Peace are empowered – namely by the New Zealand Government and New Zealand legislation.

How are Justices of the Peace empowered by the Government and legislation?

1. Justices of the Peace derive their powers and functions from New Zealand legislation, primarily

the Justices of the Peace Act 1957.

2. To become a Justice of the Peace, the person must first be nominated by their local electorate Member of Parliament.
3. The nominee is interviewed for the role by a representative from the Ministry of Justice (as well as their local Justice of the Peace association).
4. The person must be provisionally approved by the Associate Minister for Justice.
5. The provisionally approved Justice of the Peace must complete training that has been approved by the Secretary for Justice.
6. The nominated person is ultimately appointed by the Governor-General, who is a representative of the King.
7. The Justice of the Peace’s appointment is published in the Gazette – the official newspaper of the New Zealand Government.
8. The Justice is sworn in by a District Court judge.

The process of becoming a JP is supported by every branch of government

To become a Justice of the Peace, a person must have the support of their local electorate MP, who belongs to the legislative branch of government. Every Justice of the Peace appointment is considered parliamentary business, given there is a legislative requirement for appointments to be published in the Gazette.

They must have the support of the current Associate Minister for Justice, who represents the executive branch of government. The Ministry of Justice, also

belonging to the executive branch, is involved in the interviewing of the nominee, facilitates the overall nomination process and approves the initial training provided.

The Governor-General, representing the Crown, provides the final approval for the appointment of a Justice of the Peace.

District Court judges, representing the judicial branch, take the nominated Justice’s oath or affirmation.

JP jurisdiction is derived from Government legislation

Your jurisdiction to take statutory declarations and affidavits comes from the judicial powers granted to you via the Justices of the Peace Act 1957.

Section 4 of the Act sets out the functions and powers of Justices of the Peace. Those functions are:

- to take oaths and declarations under the provisions of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 or any other enactment
- to carry out such functions and exercise such

powers as are conferred on Justices by the Criminal Procedure Act 2011 or by any other enactment (your ability to use these powers is limited by section 3B. See the article below about sitting as a second Justice of the Peace in court).

Justices of the Peace are, by convention, trusted to undertake additional tasks, due to their standing in the community. For instance, taking certified copies is a task that has been entrusted to Justices of the Peace, but it is not a legislated duty.

What is 'the Gazette'?

The New Zealand Gazette is the official newspaper of the New Zealand Government. It is an authoritative journal of constitutional record and contains official commercial and government notifications that are required by legislation to be published.



New Zealand Gazette

and Legislative Councils. Today the New Zealand Gazette is published by the Department of Internal Affairs (formerly the Colonial Secretary's Office).

History

The Gazette is the longest-running publication in New Zealand and has its roots in the Oxford Gazette, which was first published in 1665 when King Charles II moved to Oxford to escape the plague in London. The Oxford Gazette was used to communicate matters of state to King Charles and his court, and later became the London Gazette. Many Commonwealth countries still have a gazette today.

In 1840, a number of gazette notices were published in Russell and Paihia. In 1841, the first New Zealand Government Gazette was published in Auckland by the Colonial Secretary. Early editions included appointments and proclamations such as the formation of the Executive

For most of its 175 years, the Gazette was printed in weekly editions every Thursday, with supplementary editions such as Customs, Professional and Trade Lists including the Valuers, Marriage and Civil Union Celebrants Registers, and special editions such as the New Year's and Honours Lists.

In October 2014 the printed edition was replaced by the official online version, which was published every Thursday. In October 2017 the last weekly edition was published and the New Zealand Gazette began to publish notices continuously.

Source: <https://gazette.govt.nz/about-us>; Department of Internal Affairs on behalf of the Crown. Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand Licence: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/nz/>

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.

Sitting as a second JP in court

I'm not a judicial Justice, but I know that sometimes two JPs sit in court together. Can I sit as a second JP in court alongside a JP who is a trained judicial Justice?

In short, the answer is no. You must have undertaken training in the use of your judicial powers before you can sit in any capacity in the District Court.

Technically, all Justices of the Peace have judicial powers and functions. This is why you take a judicial oath to become a Justice of the Peace. The Justices of the Peace Act 1957 outlines Justice of the Peace powers and functions to include section 4(b) “to carry out such functions and exercise such powers as are conferred on Justices by the Criminal Procedure Act 2011 or by any other enactment”.

However, there is a limitation on your ability to use your judicial powers and functions.

Section 3B requires JPs to have undertaken training before they can exercise their judicial powers in the District Court.

3B Justices to undertake training before exercising judicial power or function

(1) A Justice (other than a District Court Judge or a Judge of the Māori Land Court) must not exercise or perform any judicial power or function unless he or she has completed training in the exercise and performance of judicial powers and functions to the satisfaction of the Chief District Court Judge.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a Justice appointed before the commencement of the Justices of the Peace Amendment Act 2007.

Any person who has been appointed as a Justice of the Peace from April 14 2007 onwards is required by law to have undertaken training in the exercise and performance of judicial powers and functions to the satisfaction of the Chief District Court Judge, before they can sit in the District Court (s3B (1)). Currently, the Chief District Court Judge requires Justices of the Peace to have completed the Judicial Studies Course to satisfy this condition.

What about those who were appointed as Justices of the Peace before April 14 2007?

The exception in subsection 2 was included to ensure that those Justices of the Peace who had been sitting in court as judicial Justices of the Peace, could continue to sit in court, despite not having completed training “to the satisfaction of the Chief District Court Judge”.

That is not to say that those JPs sitting as judicial Justices prior to April 14 2007 were untrained.

It has been a requirement for JPs who wish to undertake judicial duties to undertake training in those duties before they can sit since June 1984.

When this requirement was first imposed, training was conducted by the New Zealand Technical Correspondence Institute.

The Technical Correspondence Institute was formed in 1946 in liaison with the Army's AEWS (Army Education and Welfare Service). Located first at Buckle St, then in Lower Hutt, it later became known as The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand.

The requirement for Justices of the Peace to complete additional training before undertaking

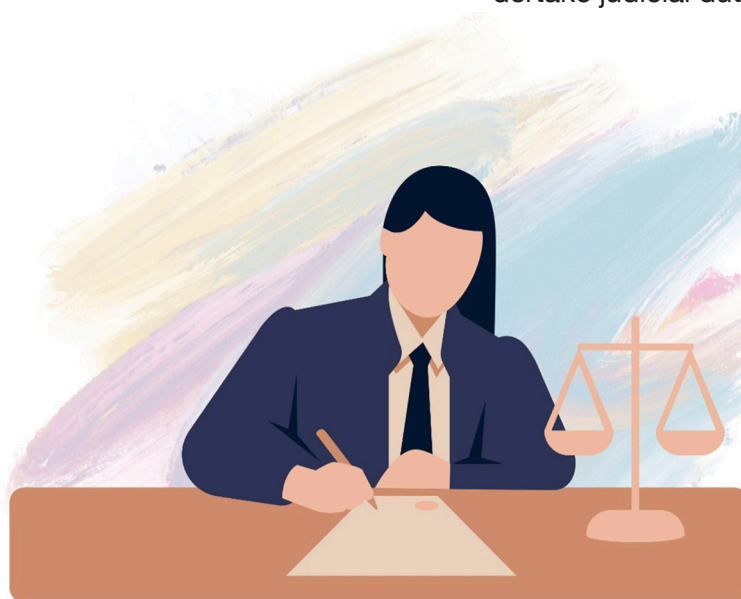
judicial duties was in place for 22 years, before this requirement became officially legislated in 2007 by the Justices of the Peace Amendment Act.

The purpose of s3B(2) of the Justices of the Peace Act 1957 was to ensure that those Justices who had completed training, and had been sitting in court for the past 22 years, could continue to do so, undisrupted by a new (in 2007) legislative scheme.

If I was sitting as a second Justice of the Peace in court, would I really be “exercising judicial powers”?

In many cases, the Criminal Procedure Act requires there to be two Justices of the Peace sitting in the court, for those Justices of the Peace to be empowered to make any judicial decisions. The law does not differentiate between the two Justices of the Peace – one does not have more power nor is one more responsible for exercising judicial power than the other. Each Justice of the Peace exercises their power jointly, and equally.

Accordingly, both must be properly empowered by legislation to utilise their judicial functions and powers before they can sit in court.



Hospital bed signatures

Sometimes, a client may be restricted to a hospital bed and may believe they require the assistance of a Justice of the Peace.

Arranging an appointment

Some associations have a hospital-based service desk. Occasionally, inquiries from the public seeking a JP to travel to them at the hospital are forwarded to the relevant association registrar, who may know of a JP willing to travel.

What are your obligations?

There can be pressure to make sure that you can achieve the client’s needs as soon as possible, par-

ticularly if the client is very unwell and their request is urgent.

You must follow the same rules and obligations you would when dealing with an ordinary Justice of the Peace task, regardless of how sympathetic or urgent the client’s circumstances are. You cannot cut corners, for example, by witnessing a will without a second witness present.

Clients may be in a particularly vulnerable position and their circumstances may create pressure for them to make decisions quickly. Do not hesitate to recommend the client speak with a lawyer, even over the phone, if you are concerned that they need independent advice.



An unusual request

We received this inquiry from a member of the public: can a JP witness me taking a soil sample?

The client wished to take a soil sample from a property not belonging to them. They wanted a Justice of the Peace to witness the taking of the sample and the sample being submitted to a testing facility.

We recommended the client discuss their need for a soil sample with a lawyer.

The client may need advice about getting permission to take the soil sample and it was likely that they ultimately intended to use the samples as evidence

to support a case or application of some kind, which was likely legal in nature.

While a Justice of the Peace may be inclined to assist a client with a request like this, there are unseen legal issues that Justices of the Peace are not in a position to navigate. For instance, is there a specific method of sample collection that the client is required to follow to meet the requirements of the agency, tribunal or court to which the samples will be submitted? Is there a professional body that has an established practice of taking soil samples? Would the witness be required to give testimony?



If you have a question as a Justice of the Peace, it can be convenient to type it into Google and have a search engine scour relevant sources on your behalf.

AI is also more frequently being drawn upon to answer questions and verify facts.

Be certain of the validity of the sources you use or that are used by your preferred search engine.

Be aware of where websites source their information

Government websites

Government websites are generally reliable sources of information for that government agency or department's processes and requirements. Some government websites will explain legal requirements but will neglect to refer users to the relevant legislation.

Examples include the Ministry of Justice website and the Parliamentary Counsel Office's New Zealand Legislation website.

New Zealand databases or advisory websites with professional oversight

There are several reputable New Zealand-based websites seeking to provide advice on relevant issues such as criminal law, family law, navigating local council regulations or the court process. Where those websites have clear professional oversight, for instance, the website is published by a law firm, or where professionals have contributed to the material, you can give the published information more weight – for example the Community Law Website and Online Manual.

This is a dependable website seeking to provide free legal advice to the public. They have a small publications team which produces an annually updated 1000+ page community law manual which is

also available for free on their website.

Open-source databases or websites with unclear sources

Websites that do not clearly identify their writer or provide their sources should be given less weight than those who clearly establish how and why they provide their information. This includes discussions on social media where members of the public provide advice but do not give evidence or sources to support their position. An example of this is Wikipedia.

Wikipedia follows an “open source” model which can make it inherently unreliable.

Nearly every Wikipedia page can be updated by any person. You do not need to register with Wikipedia to make an edit to a page. While there are checks in place for other parties to verify the accuracy of information on a Wikipedia page, these are mostly community-driven, which makes it easy for incorrect information to be overlooked or validated.

See for example, the Wikipedia page on “List of post-nominal letters (New Zealand)” which incorrectly lists “JJP” as a post-nominal that Justices of the Peace may use if trained as judicial Justices of the Peace.

The title “judicial Justice of the Peace” is informal and only used internally by the Federation and associations to clearly identify those JPs who have completed the necessary training and are able to sit in the District Court.

Using AI

Artificial Intelligence can be a useful tool to find relevant sources to answer your questions, but it is recommended that you read those sources yourself. AI may not correctly interpret those sources and the summary you receive as an answer to a query might be misleading.

We asked the AI programmes Copilot and ChatGPT: “Does a Justice of the Peace who sits as a judicial officer in the NZ District Court have specific post-nominal letters they can use?”

These are the answers that were provided.

Copilot

In New Zealand, **Justices of the Peace (JPs)** are entitled to use the post-nominal letters “JP” after their name once appointed. This applies regardless of whether they perform ministerial duties (like witnessing documents) or judicial duties (such as presiding over minor cases in the District Court).

However, there’s no additional or separate post-nominal designation specifically for JPs who serve in a judicial capacity. Even when they sit as judicial officers in the District Court, they continue to use just “**JP**” as their formal post-nominal.

Cited source: [Justice of the Peace | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#)

ChatGPT

In New Zealand, a Justice of the Peace (JP) who sits as a judicial officer in the District Court does not have a specific post-nominal letter associated with that role. The standard post-nominal for a Justice of the Peace is “JP” (Justice of the Peace), and this designation remains the same regardless of whether the individual is performing judicial duties in the District Court or fulfilling other functions such as witnessing documents or officiating at citizenship ceremonies.

There is a separate designation, “Judicial Justice of the Peace” (JJJ), which applies to JPs who have been appointed to perform judicial functions. However, this designation does not confer a unique post-nominal letter; both JPs and JJJ holders use “JP” as their post-nominal. Additionally, retired JPs may apply to use “JP (retired)” as a post-nominal, subject to approval by the Secretary for Justice. [profilbaru.com+2iab.me+2en.wikipe-dia.org+2](#)

In formal contexts, such as court proceedings, a JP acting as a judicial officer is typically addressed as “Judge [Surname]” rather than using a specific post-nominal. This practice aligns with the convention that judges in the District Court are referred to as “Judge [Surname]” in both written and spoken forms.

Therefore, while a JP performing judicial duties in the District Court holds a significant role, they do not have a distinct post-nominal letter beyond “JP”.

These answers are mostly correct, although the more fulsome answer provided by ChatGPT er-

roneously suggests Justices are referred to as “Judge” when in court (rather than “your Worship”. Copilot provided its source without being asked. It is recommended that you check that source yourself, to verify that the AI interpretation is correct.

We then asked Copilot and ChatGPT: “Do Justices of the Peace have the power to exercise judicial powers and functions”. Their answers are below. The incorrect or misleading information is underlined.

Copilot

In New Zealand, Justices of the Peace (JPs) are empowered to exercise judicial functions through a combination of legislative authority, formal training, and judicial swearing-in.

Here’s how it works:

- Legal Authority

JPs have no inherent jurisdiction—they can only exercise powers explicitly granted by legislation.

Key statutes include:

- Justices of the Peace Act 1957
- Criminal Procedure Act 2011
- Oaths and Declarations Act 1957

These laws define what JPs can do and under what circumstances.

- Training Requirements

Before a JP can perform judicial duties, they must:

- Complete a specialised training programme provided by their local Justices of the Peace Association.
- Demonstrate understanding of court procedures, legal principles, and ethical responsibilities.

- Judicial Appointment

Even after training, a JP cannot act judicially until they are:

- Formally sworn in by a District Court Judge.
- Assigned to judicial duties within the District Court, where they may preside over minor criminal matters, bail hearings, and some traffic offences.

So, it’s not just a title—it’s a structured pathway involving law, learning, and judicial oversight. If you’d like, I can walk you through the exact sections of the Justices of the Peace Act that outline these powers.

ChatGPT

In New Zealand, Justices of the Peace (JPs) are empowered to use their judicial functions through

statutory authority, appointment by the Governor-General, and judicial training overseen by the Ministry of Justice and the Royal Federation of NZ Justices' Associations (RFNZJA).

Here's a detailed explanation of how this empowerment works in NZ:

• 1. Statutory Authority

JPs in New Zealand exercise their powers under various laws, most notably:

Key Legislation:

- Justices of the Peace Act 1957 – Establishes the role and functions of JPs.
- Criminal Procedure Act 2011
- Summary Proceedings Act 1957
- Search and Surveillance Act 2012
- Oaths and Declarations Act 1957

These laws empower JPs to:

- Witness and sign statutory declarations and affidavits.
- Take oaths and affirmations.
- Issue summonses and search warrants.
- Conduct preliminary hearings.
- Remand defendants in custody or on bail (in limited cases).
- Hear and determine some minor summary offences (Judicial JPs only).

• 2. Appointment by the Governor-General

JPs are formally appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Minister of Justice. To be considered:

- Candidates are usually nominated by a Member of Parliament.
- They must pass a Ministry of Justice vetting process.
- They must demonstrate good character, integrity, and a willingness to serve the community voluntarily.

• 3. Judicial Empowerment and Training

Two Types of JPs:

1. Administrative JPs – Carry out non-judicial functions (e.g., witnessing documents).
2. Judicial JPs – Are specially trained to sit in court and carry out certain judicial roles.

Judicial JPs:

- Must complete extensive training via the RFNZJA and Ministry of Justice.

- Are warranted by the Chief District Court Judge to perform court duties.
- May preside in District Courts on matters such as:
 - o Bail hearings.
 - o Traffic offences.
 - o Adjournments.
 - o Preliminary hearings for more serious charges (without making final rulings).

They may sit alone or as part of a JP panel, depending on the case.

• 4. Oaths and Oversight

JPs swear an oath of allegiance and office, binding them to:

- Impartiality.
- Confidentiality.
- Proper application of the law.

They are also accountable through:

- The Royal Federation (which supports standards, training, and complaints handling).
- The Ministry of Justice and Judiciary, for judicially acting JPs.
- Removal by the Governor-General for misconduct or incapacity.

The answers provided by Copilot and Gemini are incorrect or misleading, for the following reasons:

The judicial training that must be completed before Justices may exercise their judicial functions in the District Court is separate from their initial training to become Justices of the Peace.

Judicial training is provided by the Federation (not associations) to the satisfaction of the Chief District Court Judge.

Being sworn in by a District Court judge is not a necessary step to becoming a judicial Justice of the Peace. It is one of many steps necessary to become a Justice of the Peace (and of course, a person must be a JP before they can be trained and authorised to act as a judicial Justice of the Peace).

Completion of judicial training does not give Justices of the Peace powers under the Search and Surveillance Act. Justices of the Peace may complete separate training to become an issuing officer under that Act; this is a separate role from being a judicial Justice of the Peace and the training and authorisation process is completely different.

An eye to the future in a new century of service

Past Federation President RACHAEL O'GRADY (right) reflects on achieving a positive future

The Federation is an organisation with an unparalleled history in New Zealand. That has previously been acknowledged when in 2014 Justices of the Peace celebrated 200 years of service.

We are now reaching some new milestones with the Federation and many associations having celebrated their centenaries. Reaching these milestones is testament to value and longevity. It represents an untold level of commitment from generations of members who are the heart of the organisation - the people who have freely contributed their time and expertise, their vision and foresight, which have steered us in a responsive, measured way through the years.

Here we are now in 2025, heart still beating strongly, limbs intact, brain sharp and still devoted to the kaupapa, absolutely devoted collectively to our individual commitment to "do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of New Zealand, without fear or favour, affection or ill will". Having scored our first century as a Federation there should be no resting on our laurels as we look forward and ensure that the values and ideals we cherish as Justices of the Peace are preserved for the future.

If the Federation and the role of Justices of the Peace are to remain relevant as the world continues to change and evolve, clever planning and leadership, collaborative relationships and partnerships and member engagement will be required, lest we forget the old adage advocating the importance of planning, as failing to plan can result in planned failure. For organisations, planning is an ordered and structured activity which I believe comes in three distinct forms: strategic, workforce and succession. In other words, the hierarchy of planning begins with the strategic plan, which serves as a foundation for a workforce plan, which subsequently provides a foundation for a succession plan.

1 Thinking strategically

- a. For our organisation, which has a remarkable history packed full of traditional ways of doing things which do have their place, we have to be mindful as to whether doing what is conventional is easy and comforting or if it is crippling and preventing us from making the progress we need to survive. However, and this is a big however, without knowing our history and without knowing what has happened to bring us to where we are now, we are bound to repeat mistakes of the past. *Kia whakatōmuri te*

haere whakamua: I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past. To achieve the next level of transformation, we build on the past and the "now".



- b. Given the increasingly complex challenges of our ever-developing world (generational, cultural and economic forces) more energy needs to go into strategic thinking and planning. If we use the example of when we were children we were told to stop, look and listen before crossing the road, then as adults looking to strategically plan in order to successfully navigate the changing operating landscape we need to think in the same way. Stop! Clarify the vision and goals. Look! Look at the trends, opportunities and challenges. Listen! Deliver what clients and members need and want. Ensuring there is a robust strategic plan in place will enable the development of a clear roadmap to achieving an inspiring vision of the future.

2 Members are the lifeblood of any organisation - the "workforce"

- a. As an organisation committed to a future of providing competent Justice of the Peace services to all New Zealanders, we need to take a planned approach to address recruitment and retention of our workforce - our JPs. Fundamental to meeting our workforce needs are engagement through training and ongoing professional development. We also need to be building whanaungatanga, relationships and connection, working together and providing our members with a sense of belonging.
- b. Today, a source of delight is that we are such a mixture of people. Justices appointed now are representative of tangata whenua and other ethnicities who have come to make New Zealand their home. Also, the rapid evolution of our society over the past 50 years has created a situation where our oldest members were born into a world that our youngest members do not relate to in any way. So, if the Federation and member associations are to thrive into the future, they need to understand the new demography and

address all the differing needs of our Justices and our clients. That may mean confronting and responding in ways we never had to before.

- c. People, our clients, are looking to engage with organisations who can deliver results, not rhetoric. Our clients don't care how many members there are, they care that they are readily able to access competent JP services. Therefore, as an organisation we need to develop measurements of success around productive outcomes (not membership numbers) and be able to demonstrate the tangible difference they make.

3 Succession planning is a big part of preparing for the future

It is not something that can be left up to chance. Smart succession planning is strategic and deliberate. Smart succession planning not only ensures the smooth flow of administering roles, but it is also a tool that keeps the individuals with the right skillsets engaged and committed in our roles as Justices, as association council members, and as Federation Board members.

Succession planning is a multi-pronged approach where it is important to examine unspoken beliefs about tenure, and where it is critical to know where the organisation is headed and know the competencies required for success in the operating environment now and into the future. There is also a need for a broader understanding of strategic issues that have an impact upon the organisation, and a need for individuals with the ability to collaborate and

communicate effectively. Addressing diversity is also a critical weapon in an organisation's arsenal as it broadens the range of options and opportunities available in decision-making and service provision, because there are more expansive thoughts, perspectives, experiences and exposures weighing in.

Losing knowledge is a big risk to an organisation. It happens when experienced individuals retire or leave the organisation. Effective succession planning involves capturing and transferring institutional knowledge, and building and maintaining a culture. It ensures that crucial information and expertise are not lost during transitions.

When it comes to succession planning, each of us in some way has the opportunity to contribute to the present for the benefit of those in the future. None of us owns our specific role or position, but we give it our best. And when we give our best, the joy is in being part of something that outlasts us.

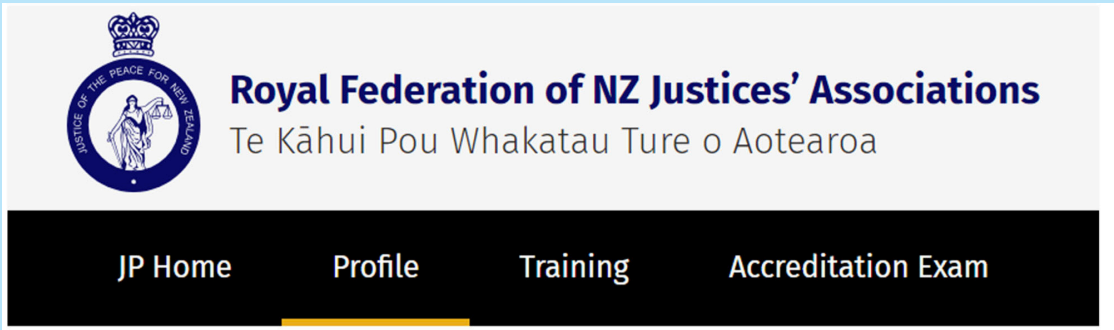
Fundamentally there will be things that will not change, as these things are the pillars of history that Justices of the Peace rest upon. However, staying true to the objects of our organisation in the 21st century requires a strong commitment to continuous improvement to ensure sustainability for the long term.

Let us hope for a positive future, but not rest on our laurels, and do what we can to make our role as relevant but different, as it has been for 800 years.

"A body in motion tends to stay in motion": Isaac Newton

Update your email address on the website

If you have a new email address, make sure you update your justiceofthepeace.org.nz profile. Log in to the website, and go to your profile page.



Scroll down to the textbox named "Email" and enter your new email address.

Email

enter your email address here

Scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Save".

Save

You must keep your email address up to date if you would like to receive Accreditation update reminders, Quarterly update reminders and to be able to reset your password in the event you forget your login details.

Counter-terrorism watchdog needed – legal expert

Associate Professor John Ip (right) of the University of Auckland says an independent watchdog would shine a light into the shadowy world of security and counter-terrorism



Since the 2019 Christchurch mosque attacks, New Zealand has introduced several counter-terrorism laws, significantly expanding state power. Now, a legal expert says it's time to follow the UK, Australia and Ireland in appointing an independent watchdog to keep that power in check.

In his paper "The case for an independent reviewer of counterterrorism legislation in New Zealand" Professor John Ip said although necessary, counter-terrorism legislation often lacks provision for ongoing oversight.

Counter-terrorism legislation, he said, is characterised by a government's need to react to an incident decisively and quickly, leaving little time for public input, legislative deliberation or scrutiny. Once on the books, counter-terrorism legislation is rarely repealed and difficult to ratchet back.

"This makes scrutiny and oversight essential, especially given the potential impact on individual rights and freedoms."

Since 2019, New Zealand has introduced counter-terrorism legislation including the Terrorism Suppression (Control Orders) Act, the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Act, and the Counter-Terrorism Acts (Designations and Control Orders) Amendment Act. But Professor Ip says this relative flurry of legislation hasn't been matched by any permanent oversight mechanism.

"It's important that any unintended consequences, gaps and shortcomings are brought to light and that the public have confidence that the powers conferred by counter-terrorism legislation are being used appropriately."

He argues that creating an independent review entity would enhance public understanding, facilitate evidence-based policy-making and augment existing legal and political avenues of scrutiny and oversight.

"Countries around the world quickly react to acts of terrorism, and in this, we see expansion, or at the very least, some consolidation of the power of the state. We see the creation of a stronger national security state. And as this is happening, we should strengthen the oversight and control of those same institutions."

However, the options for oversight currently available have limitations. "As is typical of national security matters, secrecy shrouds the operation of counter-terrorism law. Secrecy around national security creates a problem - those who might provide oversight often don't have access to the whole picture."

"In the courts, legal challenges depend on individuals bringing cases, but secrecy can mean a wrong can't be established because of a lack of publicly available evidence. When they do hear cases, without a comprehensive picture, judges are also likely to be more deferential."

Temporary review bodies such as public inquiries also have limits. For example, the terms of reference for the Royal Commission into the March 15 attacks meant that the commission was not allowed to look into the police's initial response.

"These kinds of inquiries and bodies also stop existing once they deliver their final report. If the Government chooses not to act on the recommen-

dations, there's little option of following up or pushing for change later on.

"These limitations, including that more specialised review bodies tend to be either ad hoc or otherwise circumscribed in scope, suggest the need for something different."

In his paper, Professor Ip examines overseas models, including the UK's Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation (IRTL). The IRTL is legally qualified, independent of government, and has access to the same classified information as ministers, enabling impartial, informed oversight.

Unlike courts, which look into specific cases, the IRTL has a broad mandate to review counter-terrorism legislation as a whole.

While the UK model is interesting, he said, New Zealand might more closely follow the formal statutory approach exemplified by Australia's Independent National Security Legislation Monitor, and to a lesser extent Ireland's Independent Examiner of Security Legislation. Both are created by legislation with clearly defined powers and responsibilities.

"A permanent independent office, with comprehensive access to information, could review the operation of counter-terrorism legislation here and publish reports with findings and recommendations."

"Independent review bodies play a crucial role in shining a light into the shadowy corners of the world of security and counter-terrorism."

– University of Auckland Media Release

King’s Birthday Honours for JPs

Congratulations to the 19 Justices named in this year’s King’s Birthday Honours List who are members of associations. They are listed below, with their association membership in brackets.

New Zealand Order of Merit

Dame Companion (DNZM)

Patel, Ranjna, ONZM QSM (Auckland)

For services to ethnic communities, health and family violence prevention

Officer (ONZM)

Martin, Peter David (Auckland)

For services to the community, particularly Pacific and LGBTQ+ communities

Walker, Neil William (South Taranaki)

For services to primary industries and the community

Member (MNZM)

Bhandari, Dr Santosh Prasad (Auckland)

For services to the Nepalese community

Graham, Elizabeth Helen (Liz) (Hawke’s Bay)

For services to Māori and education

McCallum, Lloyd James (Southland]

For services to the dairy industry and the environment

Prakash, Sunit (Wellington)

For services to the IT industry and the Indian community

Turner, Diane Anita (Eastern Bay of Plenty)

For services to governance, seniors and Māori

King’s Service Medal (KSM)

Barrett, Tina May (Rotorua)

For services to the community

Browne, Judith Marion (Whanganui)

For services to the community

Cousins, Margaret Jean (Hutt Valley)

For services to local government and the community

Dennis, Gavin Lloyd (Eastern Bay of Plenty)

For services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the community

Eeles, Edwin John (Eddie) (Auckland)

For services to pipe bands

Kaur, Parminder (Canterbury)

For services to multicultural communities

Loe, Kevin Francis (Marlborough)

For services to the community and agriculture

McCracken, Annie Elizabeth (Anne) (Southland)

For services to the community

Perrin, Alison Isabel (Rotorua)

For services to the community and music

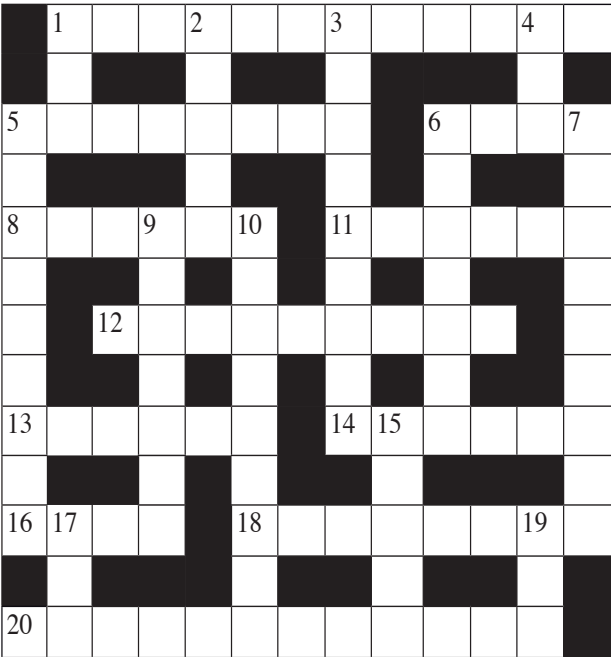
Sloman, Rosemary Jan (Eastern Bay of Plenty)

For services to the community

Smallfield, Roberta Jane (Jane) (Otago)

For services to historical research and the community

CROSSWORD



ACROSS:

1 One using scientific knowledge to solve practical problems

5 Large reception room

6 Crows calls

8 Act insincerely or deceitfully

11 Assert something without proof or evidence

12 Very thick pieces of bread

13 Axilla

14 Stupid person (sl)

16 Norse god of thunder

18 Star unit (anag)

20 Skills in which people are expert

5 Things go wrong when its upset

6 Style of music

7 Explains in detail (6,3)

9 Soldier

10 Largest of Cook Islands

15 Cause to get out of bed

17 Fruit of a rose

19 ...---...

DOWN:

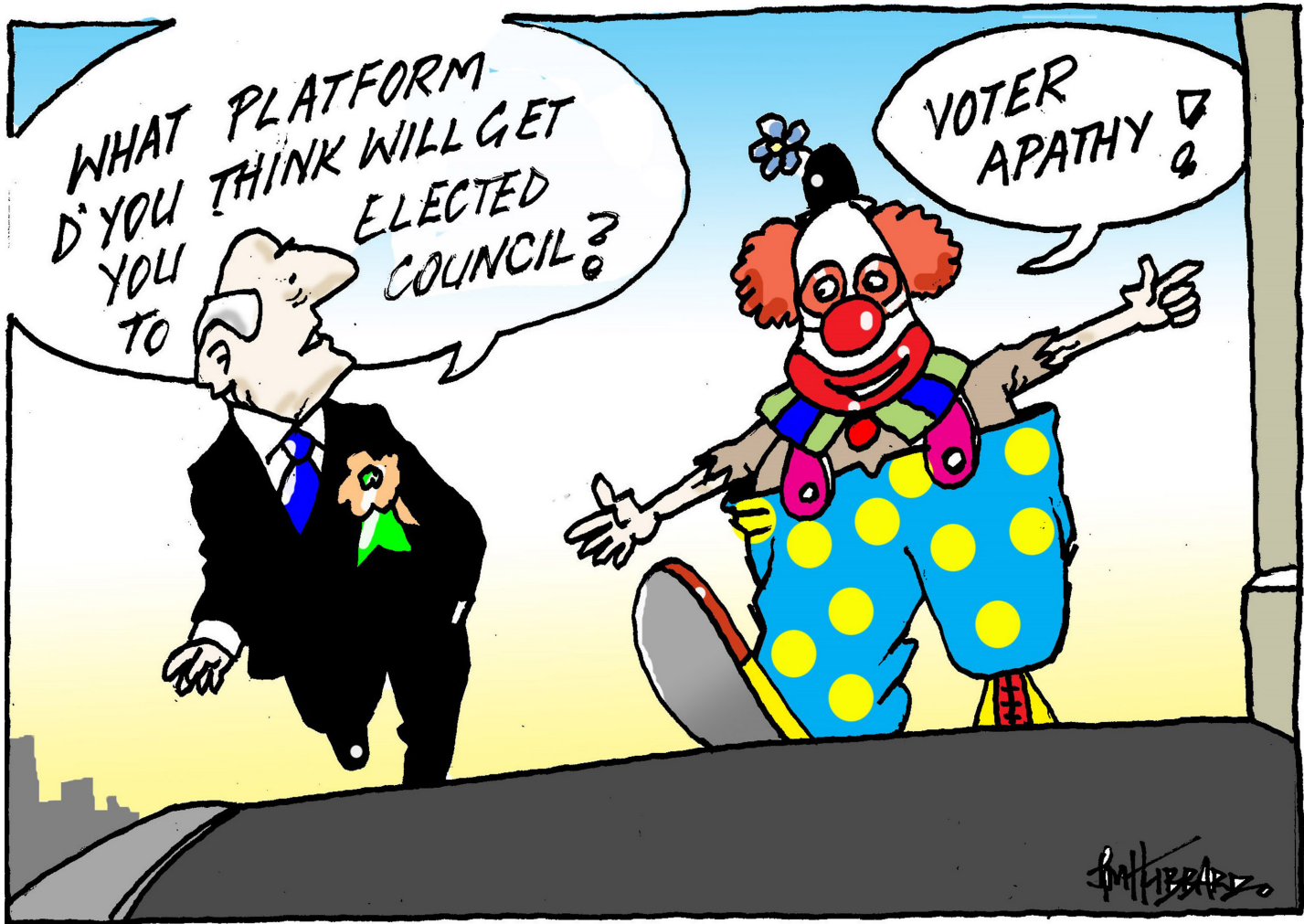
1 Sn




2 Large group of people

3 Criticised (someone or something) harshly

4 Familiar saying

S	E	I	L	I	T	V	I	C	E	d	S
O			S		G				I		
L	S	I	R	U	L	V	N		R	O	H
U				O		O		E		R	
O	G	N	O	R	D		L	I	d	M	R
S			S		E		O		O		C
T		S	d	E	L	S	R	O	O	D	E
T			L		S		V		R		T
E	G	E	T	T	V		R	E	L	T	d
d			V		B		D				d
S	M	V	C		M	O	O	R	E	L	N
V					V		O			I	
L	S	I	G	O	T	O	N	H	C	E	L



<p>CERTIFIED TRUE COPY OF A DOCUMENT PRESENTED TO ME AS AN ORIGINAL</p> <p>Signed</p> <p>Date</p> <p>#1 <input type="checkbox"/> Size: (38mm x 14mm) Price: \$36.00</p>	<div></div> <p>#6 <input type="checkbox"/> Size: (20mm x 20mm) Price: \$36.00</p>	<p>JP RUBBER STAMPS</p> <p>Prestige Print (1965) Limited PO Box 9256, Wellington Telephone 04 802 5471</p> <p>How to Order For the fastest and easiest method order online: www.prestigeprint.co.nz/jpstamps OR Email your order and enquiries to: merv@prestigeprint.co.nz</p> <p>Note: Fields below will be used for stamps #3/#4/#7/#8/#9</p> <p>First Name: _____</p> <p>Last Name: _____</p> <p>JP Number: _____</p> <p>City: _____</p> <p>Delivery Address</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>My Order: Stamp Total: _____</p> <p>Add - Shipping : \$10.50</p> <p>Total Owing _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Internet Bank Payment to: Westpac 03 0558 0020633 00</p>
<div></div> <p>#2 <input type="checkbox"/> Size: (20mm x 20mm) Price: \$36.00</p> <p>Full Name, JP #88888 WELLINGTON Justice of the Peace for New Zealand</p> <p>#3 <input type="checkbox"/> Size: (38mm x 14mm) Price: \$36.00</p> <p>Max Smith Marriage Celebrant</p> <p>#4 <input type="checkbox"/> Size: (38mm x 14mm) Price: \$36.00</p>	<p>Certified true copy of a document presented to me as an original</p> <p>Signed</p> <p>Date</p> <p>Full Name, JP #88888 WELLINGTON Justice of the Peace for New Zealand</p> <p>#7 <input type="checkbox"/> Size: (60mm x 40mm) Price: \$79.00</p>	
<p>EXHIBIT NOTE</p> <p>This is the annexure marked " " referred to within the affidavit/statutory declaration _____ and sworn/affirmed/declared at _____ this _____ day of _____ 20 _____ before me</p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p>#5 <input type="checkbox"/> Size: (70mm x 35mm) Price: \$86.00</p>	<p>Certified true copy of</p> <p>that represents the named individual</p> <p>Signed</p> <p>Date</p> <p>#8 <input type="checkbox"/> Size: (70mm x 35mm) Price: \$86.00</p> <p>Certified true copy of</p> <p>that represents the named individual</p> <p>Full Name JP - Reg: 88888 - Wellington Justice of the Peace for New Zealand</p> <p>Signature..... Date.....</p> <p>#9 <input type="checkbox"/> Size: (70mm x 35mm) Price: \$86.00</p>	
<p>Prices include GST. Shipping flat rate: \$10.50</p>		

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.

Ballantyne, Kerry David, Auckland
Bishop, Emma Mary, Auckland
Blomgren, Janice Mary, Auckland
Borland, Mary Grace, Napier
Cadman-Smith, Alison Jill, Maungaturoto
Eaton, Katie Patricia, Bluff
Efford, Christopher Nigel, Greymouth
Egan, William John, Nightcaps
Fowler, Jose Luis, Auckland
Greaves, Thomas, Upper Hutt
Hammond, Karen Maree, Tuatapere
Hooper, Amelia Jane Kearins, Auckland
Iqram, Abu Sayeed Mohammad, Auckland
Jamieson, Kirsty Louise, Stratford
Kaur, Kamaldeep, Christchurch
Lim, Benjamin Weijun, Christchurch
Lineham-Peters, Shelley-Ann, Invercargill
Little, Ellen Jean, Lumsden
Lukiyanyuk, Victoria Iurievna, Christchurch
Marilla, Hernando, Ashburton
Nicholls, Shaun Robert, Okato
Park, Candice Caroline, Ataahua
Patel, Neeraj, Auckland
Pilbrow, Esther Catharina, Te Kauwhata
Ransley, Ella Marie, Cambridge
Scull, Jeremy Peter, Snells Beach
Selwyn, Peter David, Auckland
Southworth, Christopher Stephen, Christchurch
Stewart, Rhonda Mary, Renwick
Veale, William Lewis Te Moreitu, Te Kuiti
Williams, Kim Hine, Te Puke

Dated at Wellington
this 25th day of May 2025
Hon Nicole McKee
Associate Minister of Justice

Abel, Heather Jean, Harihari
Anderson, Mark James, Marton
Ashcroft, Katie, Palmerston North
Beatson, Gareth Raymond, Tairua
Bell, Natalie Raewyn, Nelson
Bhati, Jennifer Maree, Featherston
Bolt, Sean, Christchurch
Clark, Tamsin Aroha, Blenheim
Davis, Parekohatu, Whanganui
Fernandes, Natalina, New Plymouth
Flutey, Scott Thomas Vincent, Whanganui
Girijadharan, Rohit, Blenheim
Goodare, Raymond Wayne, Hamilton
Gray, Stuart Douglas, Reefton
Harris, Kevin James, Rolleston
Hussain, Asif, Akaroa
Khurram, Syeda Narjis, Napier
McInnes, Brendan Douglas, Rolleston
McLaggan, Lance Scott, Taupiri
Paku, Kay Maree, Gisborne
Read, Darrell Paul, Wellington
Scanlon, Lorraine Susan, Westport
Seel, Sarah Evelyn, Hamilton
Silcock, Kyle Thomas, Motueka
Sinclair, Annabelle Jane, Wellington
Swan, Glenda, Wellington
Tangaere, Julie Margaret, Hastings
Travis, Georgia-Rose, Rolleston
Westerby, Paula Barletto Andrade, Wellington
Wijngaarden, Nicole, Wellington
Wilson, Robyn Linley, Prebbleton
Wright, David James, Methven

Dated at Wellington
this 4th day of July 2025
Hon Nicole McKee
Associate Minister of Justice

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.

Published by the Royal Federation of New Zealand Justices' Associations and designed by Word for Word, Titahi Bay.