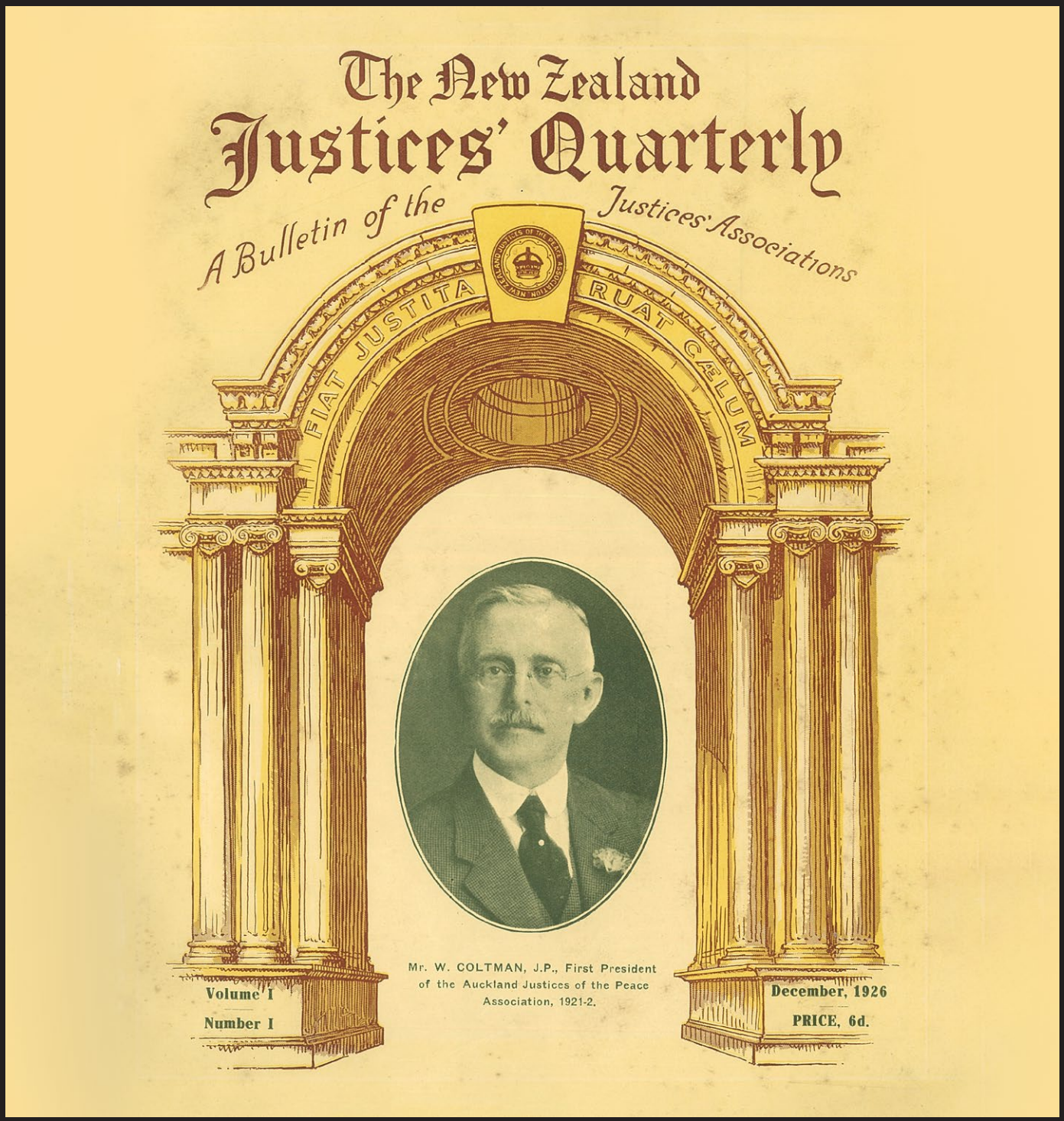
October 2026
Volume 96
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Justices' QUARTERLY

FIAT JUSTITIA
RUAT CAELUM



Celebrating 100 years of the Quarterly

Focusing on the future

Tēnā koutou katoa – hello everyone

I recently spent time in Wellington with the National Office team. Rae McPhee is settling well into her role as National Manager, and the team is making steady progress in clarifying roles, responsibilities, expectations, and the culture of their working environment. They have embraced a practice of kotahitanga — unity, togetherness, and collective action — which will support a cohesive and collaborative approach to serving our member associations.

Change is a funny thing. It is normal, and it is necessary. Yet when change feels forced upon us — when people or structures around us shift — it can feel unsettling, even threatening. It can destabilise our sense of safety and familiarity. But change can also be energising. It creates opportunities to examine what we do, how we do it, and who we do it with, both now and into the future. It allows us to question whether our approach is effective, or whether it has slipped into compliance and tick-box activity. It prompts us to consider what is relevant, what adds value, and what genuinely benefits the people we are here to serve.

With this in mind, several areas of work are under way:

- information and communications technology — reviewing current and future needs for our website, information storage, and the many systems that support our behind-the-scenes operations
- policy development — strengthening and guiding our operations through updated HR, health and safety, and performance and development policies
- strategy refresh — ensuring our strategic direction is meaningful, relevant, and aligned with the needs of associations, and that our operations deliver on those needs
- alternative pathways — exploring different ways to achieve desired outcomes while working through proposed changes to the Justices of the Peace Act 1957 via the Private Member's Bill
- Best Practice Manual updates — suggesting changes to the Best Practice Manual to reflect current Justice of the Peace practice
- cultural lens — ensuring our work meets our obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Our approach is simple: we will not shy away from the changes we need to consider. Instead, we will take small, manageable steps — and we will take people with us. We will do with, not do to.

Conversations at regional conferences confirmed that focusing on the future needs and potential demands of Justices is the right thing to do. We must remain relevant in the services we deliver, understand rapidly evolving technology and its impact on us and our clients, and plan for the development of skills and knowledge that will make this possible.



Federation President Carol Buckley

Recruiting Justices who are comfortable in an ever-changing environment is critical. In fact, we will increasingly rely on generations following the Baby Boomers to lead and influence the future of the Justice of the Peace role.

Baby Boomers (1946-1964) value a strong work ethic, financial and work stability and personal independence and self-reliance. They experienced the civil rights movement, and anti-Vietnam war protests following World War 2. While not digital natives, many have adapted well to smartphones, social media and online communication. They prioritise family and strong community connections.

Generation X (1965–1980) grew up in an era of significant change. They are self-reliant, resilient, resourceful, and independent. They value stability and financial security and were the first generation to grow up using computers.

Generation Y/Millennials (1981–1996) experienced life both before and since the internet. They value creativity, diversity, inclusion, and meaningful contribution. They thrive in collaborative and flexible environments.

Generation Z (1997–2012) are fully immersed in the digital age. They are diverse, pragmatic, quick to adapt to technological change, and value innovation, flexibility, and opportunities for self-development.

More recent generations contain the individuals who will ensure the role of Justice of the Peace remains relevant, accessible, inclusive, and sustainable — whatever the future may look like. Technology will undoubtedly shape much of our work, but the human connection we provide will always matter. We must not lose sight of this. It remains one of our greatest strengths and one of the most important values we offer our communities.

He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata! What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people!

Carol Buckley

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(Incorporated)
AND ITS AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS
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FIAT JUSTITIA RUAT CAELUM
Let justice be done, though the heavens may fall

July 2026 Vol 95 No: Three

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From the National Manager

In my first months as National Manager, the most important thing I have learned is that we have an extraordinary network of Justices of the Peace across the motu. Every day, JPs demonstrate dedication, professionalism, and a genuine commitment to serving their communities. Their contribution is invaluable and continues to strengthen public trust in our service.

A key focus for National Office has been listening to associations and understanding how we can better support their work. Through these conversations, we are hearing common themes around Accreditation support, Justices of the Peace development, clear communication, succession planning, and maintaining accessible services for local communities.

In response, the Federation is focused on strengthening communication, improving resources, supporting Accreditation pathways, and creating more opportunities for associations to share ideas and successful initiatives. We are also exploring new ways to modernise how we work while ensuring consistency across the national network.

As community expectations continue to evolve, so too must the JP service. We are seeing increasing diversity within our Justices of the Peace and changing expectations around accessibility and service delivery. These changes present opportunities to ensure our service remains relevant, trusted, and responsive to the needs of New Zealanders.

Behind the scenes, National Office continues to support associations through governance assistance, training resources, Accreditation, stakeholder relationships, and national co-ordination. Our aim is to enable local associations and JPs to focus on what they do best: serving their communities.

Looking ahead to 2027, our focus is on consistency, connection, and community. We will continue working alongside associations to strengthen national consistency, support Justices of the Peace, enhance public trust, and prepare the Federation for future needs.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work being done by associations around the country. We look forward to sharing more stories of innovation, service, and success in future issues of the Quarterly. Together, we continue to make a meaningful difference in communities across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Rae McPhee

Money from criminals to fund new initiatives

Money seized from criminals will fund nine initiatives to reduce violence, prevent reoffending, and disrupt the drug trade, Associate Justice Minister Nicole McKee has announced.

"Criminals profit from other people's misery. We are taking that money off them and putting it to work protecting New Zealanders," she said in a media release last month.

"The Proceeds of Crime Fund has allocated $14.58 million to initiatives focused on fewer victims and safer communities.

"That means intervening before young people's offending escalates, helping victims escape violence, and giving Customs better tools to stop drugs at the border.

"New Zealanders expect money taken from criminals to deliver results. Following our refocus of the Fund, these investments must directly contribute to reducing violent crime.

"We have already exceeded the Government's target of 20,000 fewer victims of violent crime by December 2029, but we want to go even further," she said.

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, but AI has not been used in writing articles for the Education pages. – Editor

ON THE COVER: The cover image for this issue is the cover of the first issue of the Justices' Quarterly, published 100 years ago in December 1926 … story P2.

Quarterly turns 100

By Quarterly Editor GEOFF DAVIES

Although the Royal Federation of today had its beginnings in 1924, the Quarterly (in full then, as now, the New Zealand Justices' Quarterly) was not launched until December 1926, when the first issue appeared under the editorship of John Hill Fray (below), a founding vice-president of the Auckland association in 1922 (and the man who moved the motion to establish the Federation two years later). It is now one of New Zealand's oldest magazines in continuous publication; apparently the only one that predates us is Kaitiaki Nursing New Zealand, which dates back to1905.

To pay detailed tribute to a publication that has served an organisation and its membership body for 100 years would obviously take considerable space; there are so many highlights and points of interest just in the years that I have been editor. We'll leave it at saluting those who had a part to play in bringing this magazine into being and those who have "kept the faith" with their intent over the past 100 years. The Foreword (editorial) from the first issue, reproduced at right, might also be of some interest; many of the sentiments expressed in it are just as important today as in December 1926.

Those who would like to read into the Federation's history can find a four-part series written by former Federation Registrar Alan Hart telling its story in the 2024 issues of the Quarterly: https://justiceofthepeace.org.nz/GroupMembersArea/JQ-Magazines



Mr J.H. Fray.

FOREWORD.

TWENTY-EIGHT years ago the first Justices Association was established in South Australia, and the movement has spread throughout Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland and India.

The London Association has as its President the Right Hon. Viscount Haldane.

The Associations are constituted on similar lines in every case and have the same objects, viz:— To promote fraternity among members; to uphold the status of Justices; to secure efficiency of service; to be true to King and Empire, and maintain the Laws and Constitution without fear or favour.

The Associations are a power for good, not only in raising the status of Justices, but in extending their usefulness to their fellow citizens.

In this, our first issue of a Justice's magazine in N.Z., we desire to draw attention to the importance of the work that is being done by those holding the Commission of Justices of the Peace.

The office is one of great antiquity, dating from the fourteenth century. Indeed they were recognised at an earlier date. Blackstone says, "Before the present constitution of Justices was invented there were peculiar officers appointed by common law for the maintenance of the public peace. In the year 1327 the popular election of "Keepers of the Peace" was superseded by the King's commission. The statute of 1327 (Edward III, St. 2 c 16) is regarded by Blackstone as originating the modern system of appointing of Justices of the Peace.

The duties of the Justices of the Peace may be classified as Ministerial and Judicial. In both of these spheres each year sees more and more provision being made for their services.

Justices' Associations in England, Scotland and Australia have their magazine and for some time past it has been the expressed hope that New Zealand would have its periodical disseminating information helpful to the members of the Justices' Associations.

City members have the advantage of hearing lectures and addresses from members of the Bench and Bar, but country members have little opportunity in this respect. It is hoped that this journal will in some measure bring into close touch the city and country Justices, and help to instruct and consolidate them in their aims, and assist them in the discharge of their important duties.

Correspondence on all Justices' matters will be always welcome. Questions appertaining to the work of Justices will be placed before qualified men and answered for the information of our readers.

It will be our constant desire to assist in every way by the publication of articles, addresses, and lectures of interest to Justices, and we ask your co-operation in making this magazine a success.

Conference with purpose and perspective

By Northern Region Representative CLAIRE STEER
Pictures: RAY PITCH

The Far North association delivered an outstanding conference that was both relevant to the work of Justices of the Peace today and thoughtful about the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Our thanks go to Ray Pitch, Sailesh Singh and Phil Higham for putting together a programme that was engaging, appropriate and forward-focused. Kingston House in Kerikeri provided the perfect setting for a weekend of learning, discussion and fellowship.

The conference began with a warm welcome to the Far North, with members of Ngāti Kura leading the mihi whakatau, accompanied by Dover Samuels, who led the mihi and karakia. Our thanks go to Emma Hepi and Federation kaumātua Iwi Te Whau for facilitating this important and meaningful opening to the conference.

The opportunity to begin the weekend in this way was a fitting reminder that, wherever we gather as JPs, we are privileged to work within and alongside communities with their own histories, traditions and connections to place.

Iwi Te Whau also brought a valuable cultural perspective to the conference through two workshops: “Navigating Te Ao Māori: Cultural Safety and Support for JPs” and “Cultural Support Mapping”.

These sessions provided an opportunity for JPs to deepen their understanding of te ao Māori and consider how cultural awareness and cultural safety can strengthen the way we engage with the people and communities we serve.

The workshops encouraged attendees to look beyond simply understanding cultural concepts and to consider how we can apply that understanding in practical ways within our roles as JPs. Cultural Support Mapping provided a particularly useful framework for considering the networks, relationships and sources of support that can assist us when navigating cultural matters.

The sessions complemented the wider conference theme of ensuring that JPs remain responsive, informed and connected to the communities in which we work.



Claire Steer, the Northern Region Representative on the National Council, delivers the opening address to the conference.

Looking beyond the everyday

We were fortunate to have Federation President Carol Buckley join us for the first day before departing on an overseas trip. Carol provided an update on the work of the Federation, which was well received by attendees.

There is a great deal happening behind the scenes within the Federation, and it was valuable for members to have a snapshot of that work and the direction in which the organisation is moving.

Federation Vice-President Ric Odom and I also ran the Stargazing workshops. With the Federation Conference having taken place in March, we were conscious of needing to avoid a repeat of that programme. Instead, we deliberately took a different approach, looking at issues that may not immediately appear to have a direct connection to the day-to-day work of a JP, but which nevertheless have the potential to affect how we serve our communities.

One such issue is artificial intelligence (AI).

I presented an overview of AI as the next iteration of the digital world and explored why it is a technology that JPs should understand, even if they have little or no intention of using it themselves.

At first glance, AI may seem somewhat removed from the work we do. However, our clients and communities have access to these tools too. Understanding what AI can do, and its limitations, is therefore becoming increasingly important.

Following the presentation, attendees had the opportunity to experiment with AI themselves, working in small groups to pose a variety of questions to ChatGPT.

The exercise produced some fascinating discussion. One observation was how the responses generated by AI can appear to reflect or accommodate the assumptions, language and perspectives contained within the questions being asked. This prompted a useful conversation about the importance of critical thinking, questioning information and understanding that technology does not necessarily provide an objective or infallible answer.

It was, in short, a fascinating glimpse into a rapidly developing area of technology and an opportunity to consider what it might mean for our work in the future.

Planning for the future

We then turned our attention to strategic planning – a particularly interesting exercise for a member-based organisation.

There was some initial concern from one member that the Federation was effectively asking its members to do the work of the Federation. I took a different view.

As a member organisation, I believe it is important that members have an opportunity to contribute at the initial stages of strategic thinking and potential change. Our members are the people who understand, at a practical level, the needs, expectations and aspirations of JPs around the country.

Giving members a voice at the beginning of the process helps ensure that future strategy is grounded in those realities.

Regardless of differing views about the process, the workshop produced some excellent work and, importantly, that feedback has now been provided to the strategy sub-committee for consideration.

Managing difficult people

Mark Ambler, from the Hauraki Coromandel association and The People Practice, provided an informative and practical presentation entitled “Managing Difficult People”.

Mark offered excellent advice, along with real-world examples of how challenging interactions can be reframed and managed more constructively.

Given the wide range of people and circumstances JPs encounter in their work, these are valuable skills. Sometimes the difference between a difficult interaction escalating and being successfully resolved can come down to how we approach the situation in the first place.

An evening of fellowship

The conference dinner was held at the Bay of Islands Golf Club, providing an opportunity to relax and enjoy the company of fellow JPs.

We were privileged to have District Court Judge Greg Davis as our guest speaker. Judge Davis was an engaging and entertaining presenter, and his address was very well received by those attending. Interestingly, AI also featured in his presentation, perhaps confirming that this is a subject that is increasingly difficult to ignore!

Sunday provided an opportunity for attendees to participate in breakout sessions.



Judge Greg Davis presented Sally Macauley QSM with her Certificate of Appreciation for 30 years of service as a JP at the conference dinner.

This year, we deliberately made space for Judicial JPs and trainers to come together and engage with colleagues in their respective areas.

The feedback on this format was very positive. Providing an opportunity for people with similar responsibilities and experiences to share ideas, challenges and practical knowledge proved valuable, and I am sure this is something we will look to incorporate into future programmes.

Following the conference, a post-conference survey was circulated, with approximately half of attendees taking the time to complete it.

We appreciate everyone who provided feedback. The information gathered will help us identify what worked well, what could be improved and what members would like to see incorporated into future conferences and programmes.

A successful conference is ultimately about more than the programme itself. It is about bringing people together, creating opportunities to learn from one another, challenging ourselves to think differently and ensuring that our Federation continues to respond to the needs of its members.

The Far North association should be congratulated on delivering a conference that achieved all of those things.

Thank you once again to Ray, Sailesh and Phil, to my right-hand man Ric Odom, Iwi Te Whau and everyone who contributed to the programme, and especially to the wonderful attendees who made the weekend such a success.

Looking ahead

And finally, we are delighted to announce that the 2027 Northern Regional Conference will be hosted by the Hauraki Coromandel association. We look forward to welcoming JPs from across the region and building on the momentum of this year’s conference. The location and dates will be confirmed and announced in due course. We hope to see you there!

From the Professional Development Advisor

trainer@jpfed.org.nz



Shinae Skelton



Providing JP services by audio-visual link

More clients are asking to access Justice of the Peace services online. Recent changes to the law now allow statutory declarations and affidavits to be completed by audio-visual link (video-conference).

Certified copies may also be completed by video conference if the receiving agency confirms that it will accept this method. However, current anti-money laundering (AML) guidance makes clear that certifying copies of identification documents by video-conference does not meet AML identity-verification standards. This distinction is explained in more detail on P8 in the story “Certified copies for AML purposes”.

Before the meeting

The client will usually contact you to arrange a video meeting.

Agree on a time and a video-conferencing platform. Be clear about who will send the meeting link and exchange an email address or another suitable online contact method. Before the meeting, ask the client to email you a copy of the document or arrange for a physical copy to be delivered.

Confirm in advance how the client will receive the completed document. You may scan and email it back, or the client may arrange for a third party to collect it. The client is responsible for arranging collection or delivery.

You will need:

- a device capable of video-conferencing – a smartphone is sufficient
- access to a video-meeting platform, such as Facebook Messenger, Zoom or Microsoft Teams; many platforms offer a free option
- a printer and paper, unless the client arranges delivery of a physical copy
- a scanner, or a smartphone app that can photograph a document and convert it to PDF.

During the video meeting

During the video-conference, you must be able to carry out the same document checks as you would when meeting the client in person, as far as reasonably possible.

Confirm who else is in the room with the client and assure the client that you are participating from a private setting.

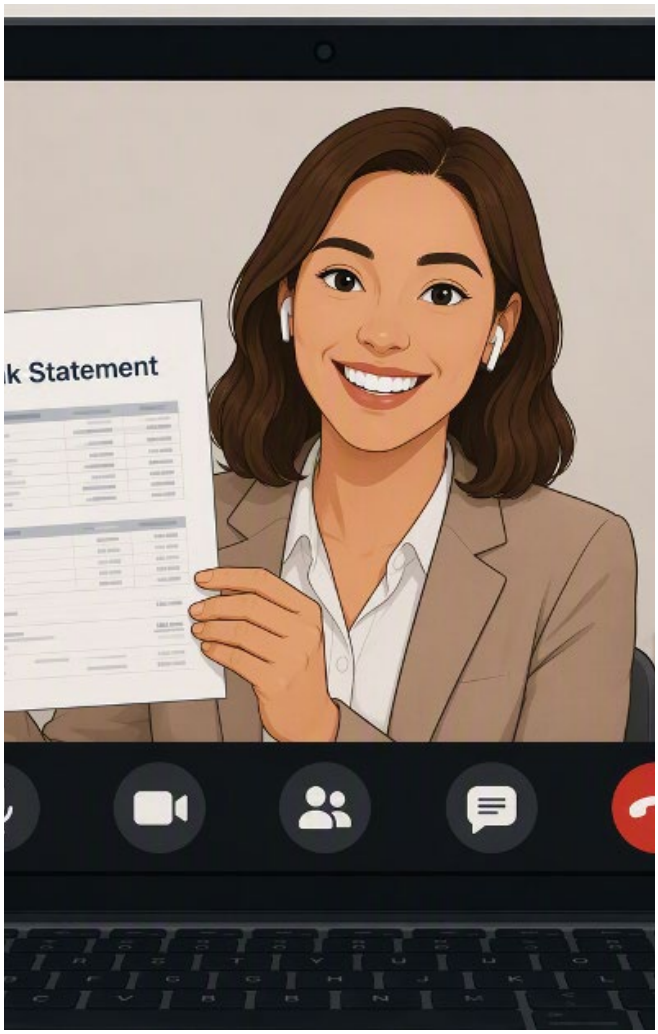
Record the appointment in your logbook and note that it took place by video-conference.

Ministerial Manual updated

The Ministerial Manual has been updated to reflect changes to the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957, and other changes to legislation and government policy.

You can download the updated version of the Manual from justiceofthepeace.org.nz

After logging in, scroll to the bottom of the home page where you will find the latest version of the Manual and a summary of the changes made to the Manual in 2026.



Certifying copies by video-conference

Verifying identity by video-conference is inconsistent with the best practice set out in the Identity Verification Code of Practice 2026 (see “Certified copies for AML purposes” on P8). If a client asks you to certify an identification document by video-conference for AML purposes, ask them to confirm with the receiving agency whether that method meets the agency’s AML identity-verification procedures.

There are no equivalent best-practice guidelines for certified copies made for non-AML purposes. If the receiving agency confirms that it will accept a copy certified by video-conference, you may proceed.

Ask the client to hold the original document up to the camera so you can examine it as closely as the circumstances allow. You may ask them to move, tilt or otherwise manipulate the document to help you inspect it.

Statutory declarations by audio-visual link

The Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 has been amended to enable affidavits and declarations to be taken via audio-visual link:

Section 2 – Interpretation

audiovisual link means facilities that enable audio and visual communication between people in different places

Section 2A – Requirements relating to oaths, affirmations, and declarations may be met by audiovisual link

(1) Where this Part requires an oath to be taken, or an affirmation or a declaration to be made, in the presence of the person administering the oath or affirmation or taking the declaration (the administrator), that requirement may be met using an audiovisual link (subject to subsections (2) and (3)).

(2) The oath or affirmation may not be administered, and the declaration may not be made, by audio communication only.

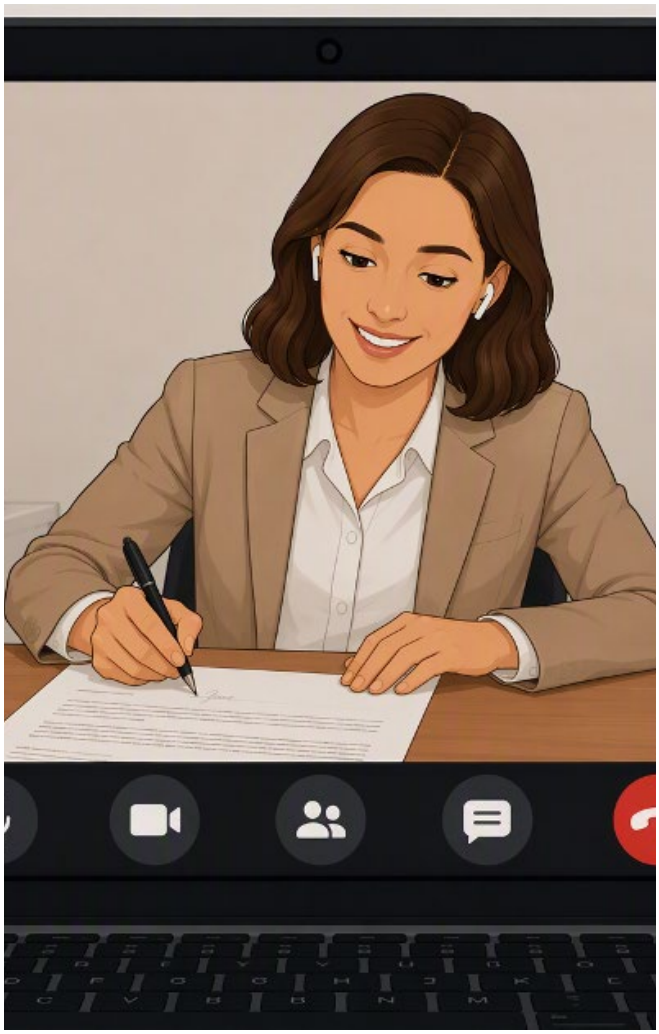
(3) If the oath, affirmation, or declaration is, or is required to be evidenced, in a document,—

(a) the administrator must be satisfied that the person taking the oath, or making the affirmation or declaration, signed the document concerned in the course of the audiovisual link; and

(b) as soon as practicable after signing the document, the person must send the signed document (or a photograph or scan of the signed document) to the administrator for the administrator to sign.

When taking a declaration or affidavit by video-conference, carry out the same checks you would complete in person, as far as the circumstances allow. Ask the client to show the document to the camera so you can check for alterations or gaps and confirm that the pages are numbered. The client will need to initial any alterations and cross out any gaps and initial those at your direction.

Ensure that the client has completed the sections of the declaration or affidavit that they are required to complete.



Take the client's declaration, oath or affirmation and watch them sign the document. You must be satisfied that they signed it during the video meeting, so ask them to position the camera clearly enough for you to see the signing.

The client must also initial every page aside from the signing page.

The client must then send the document to you as soon as is practicable.

Upon receiving the declaration or affidavit, complete the document in the usual way.

Returning the completed document

If you email the completed document, take care to use the correct address. Replying to the client's original email can reduce the risk of error. Ask the client to confirm receipt, then delete every copy from your device.

Posting documents to or on behalf of clients is not recommended. If email is not suitable, the client may arrange for a third party to collect the completed document.



Certified copies for AML purposes

Best-practice guidance for AML identity verification

The Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Act 2009 (the Act) creates requirements for agencies whose businesses pose the potential for money to be laundered or used to finance terrorism. Those requirements include that agencies (called reporting entities by the Act) take steps to verify the identity of their clients.

The Identity Verification Code of Practice 2026 outlines suggested best practice for reporting entities about how to properly verify their client's identity.

What is a reporting entity?

A reporting entity is an agency or organisation with responsibilities under the AML/CFT Act. These include carrying out customer due diligence, verifying identity and reporting suspicious activity.

Justices of the Peace may know these organisations as receiving agencies. They are the agencies that ultimately receive certified copies prepared for clients for AML purposes.

The Code outlines the identity-verification pathways that reporting entities may choose. These are:

1. Face-to-face verification using physical documents
2. Verification through the Digital Identity Services Trust Framework
3. Other Electronic Identity Verification methods
4. **Certified copies of identity documents**

The first three pathways allow reporting entities to verify a client's identity directly, without the involvement of a third party such as a Justice of the Peace.

Justices of the Peace may act as "trusted referees" under the fourth pathway. In this role, a Justice of the Peace certifies a copy of the client's identification document and confirms that the copy accurately represents the client.

What is a trusted referee?

The Code describes trusted referees as people whom reporting entities may rely on to verify a client's identity by certifying a copy of the client's identity document.

According to the Code, a trusted referee must be at least 16 years of age and must be:

A Commonwealth representative (as defined in the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957);

A member of the police;

A Justice of the Peace;

A registered medical doctor;

A kaumātua (as verified through a reputable source);

A registered teacher;

A minister of religion;

A lawyer (as defined in the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006);

A notary public;

A New Zealand Honorary Consul;

A Member of Parliament;

An accountant (within the meaning of section 19 of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants Act 1996);

A person who has the legal authority to take statutory declarations or the equivalent in New Zealand;

A Māori Land Court official (Registrar as defined by Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 or Regional Manager).

A trusted referee must not be related to the customer, the customer's spouse or partner, a person who lives at the same address or a person involved in the transaction or business requiring the certification.



Suggested best practice for agencies receiving copies of identity documents

According to the Code:

- A reporting entity may accept a certified copy of an original identity document.
- A reporting entity may receive a certified copy in person, by post or other means of delivery, including electronically.
- A reporting entity must incorporate procedures, policies and controls that provide enhanced assurance that the person being dealt with is the genuine holder of the claimed identity where there are reasonable grounds for a concern that a copy may not be genuine.

The Code gives examples of procedures, policies and controls that reporting entities may use to obtain enhanced assurance of a client's identity. These include checking a register to confirm that the certifier is eligible to act as a trusted referee, contacting the trusted referee to confirm the certification, and requiring an original "wet ink" copy.

Reporting entities may also use procedures, policies and controls to obtain enhanced assurance that a copy is genuine. These may address inconsistencies in the certification, poor-quality copies or evidence of tampering.

Although the Code requires reporting entities to establish their own procedures, policies and controls, it sets the following minimum expectations for certified copies made for AML purposes:

- certification must be carried out by a "trusted referee"
- certification must include:
  - the trusted referee's name and signature
  - the trusted referee's capacity to act as a trusted referee
  - the date of the certification
  - a statement to the effect that the certified copy is a true copy of the original document
- certification must have been carried out in the twelve months preceding presentation of the certified copy; and
- the identity document (or combination of identity documents) certified must be listed as an acceptable form of identification in the Code.

The Code also sets minimum requirements for verifying client identity using a certified copy of an identification document.

- the photograph on the certified copy must be clearly visible and
- either:
  - for certified copies presented by the client to the receiving agency in person, the photograph on the certified copy of the identity document must be visually compared to the person that presents it to establish the likeness; or
  - where the certified copy is not presented by the client to the agency personally (for example, it is emailed or posted to the receiving agency), the certified copy must include a statement from the trusted referee to the effect that the document provided represents the identity of the named individual.



What this means for JPs

The Code recognises that a copy of an identification document certified by a Justice of the Peace can satisfy the Act's identity-verification requirements.

However, each reporting entity decides which procedures, policies and controls it will apply, including the certification wording it requires a trusted referee to use.

Based upon the examples of best practice provided by the Code, it will be common for reporting entities to confirm that you are a Justice of the Peace by searching for your listing on "Find a JP" or by contacting you directly to confirm you were the certifier.

The Code identifies requiring original "wet ink" copies as a possible best-practice measure. A reporting entity may therefore require a customer to submit the physical document that you signed or stamped rather than a scanned copy.

The Code requires Justices making certified copies for AML purposes to write their name and signature, their position as a Justice of the Peace, the date of certification and a certification statement. These requirements are consistent with the advice in the Ministerial Manual.

Why AML certified copies should not be completed by video-conference

One of the alternate identity verification pathways outlined in the Code is referred to as "Other electronic identity verification (EIV) methods". EIV methods allow an agency to verify their client's name and date of birth remotely (i e not face-to-face) from an online source such as RealMe or the New Zealand Transport Agency driver check system.

In addition to confirming the customer's name and date of birth from another online source, the agency must also use a mechanism to confirm that the client is the genuine holder of the identity they are claiming. Recommended ways to do this include an in-person visit or even using robust facial recognition software (including a liveness test) to bind the person being dealt with to the image on their identity document.

The Code specifically notes "the supervisors do not consider that video conferencing technology involving the customer holding up a copy of their identity document can itself satisfy this requirement".

What does this mean for Justices of the Peace?

The Code states that video-conferencing is not enough for a reporting entity to confirm that a client matches their identification. It follows that a third party, including a Justice of the Peace, cannot satisfy that requirement on the entity's behalf by video-conference alone.

This represents a change from the advice currently in the Manual at 3.4.4 which suggests that it is acceptable to certify a copy of a document for AML purposes, including verifying the client's identity, if the receiving agency permits.

If the client cannot appear in person

If a client needs their identity verified for AML purposes and cannot meet you in person, refer them back to the receiving agency (reporting entity).

Certification by a trusted referee is only one of the four identity-verification pathways available under the Act. If the client cannot meet a JP in person, the receiving agency must offer another pathway that enables it to meet its obligations.

The Code also provides for identity verification when a client is overseas. Copies of identification documents provided by a customer resident overseas must be certified by a person who is authorised under the law of that country to take statutory declarations or their equivalent.



About issuing officers

The purpose of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012 (the Act) is to provide a consistent and transparent set of rules governing how New Zealand Police and other government enforcement agencies carry out searches, seizures and surveillance.

In addition to New Zealand Police, a range of regulatory and enforcement officials have powers under the Act, including:

- fisheries and forestry officers
- animal welfare and wildlife inspectors
- Immigration and Inland Revenue officers.

In most instances, police or enforcement officials must make an application to be permitted to undertake a search, seizure or surveillance effort.

Those applications are made to either judges or issuing officers.

Under the Act, there are few restrictions on who may be appointed as an issuing officer. Court registrars and JPs currently perform this role, including 285 JP issuing officers.

Issuing officers are authorised for a three-year term but may apply to be authorised for a subsequent term.

What does the role involve?

Issuing officers most commonly receive a call from an applicant, asking if they are available to receive an application.

Applications must be in writing unless the law permits an oral application and circumstances are urgent enough to justify an oral application.

Applicants usually travel to the issuing officer. This means that police or other officials will travel to your workplace or, most commonly, your residence.

Local courts receive most applications during business hours. This means that JP issuing officers are most likely to receive applications at night and in the early hours of the morning and these applications are probably urgent in nature.

If applying in person (rather than orally, over the phone), you will be presented with a written application. You must read this application to determine whether the applicant has provided enough information and evidence that the legal grounds for granting the warrant (or production order) have been met.

Applicants can apply for a production order. These are requests to third parties in possession of data that is relevant to an investigation, for example, an order made to a phone company to provide the applicant with phone records relevant to an investigation.

Applicants can apply for a search warrant to search a place, vehicle or thing that is reasonably suspected to contain evidence relevant to an investigation.

Applications for production orders and search warrants are tied to investigation of an offence that has been, will be or is being committed.

Less frequently, you may receive applications for other activities under the Act. These include applications from Oranga Tamariki to remove children urgently from their guardians. Judges, rather than issuing officers, typically deal with these applications.

Reading the application

Applications can be lengthy. They will describe suspected offences that have been committed, are being committed or may be committed. They will also explain why the applicant believes that relevant evidence will be found at the location to be searched or that a particular organisation holds relevant information.

The issuing officer's duty is to ensure that the information in the application satisfies the legal grounds for granting the search warrant or production order. This involves familiarising yourself with what parts of the Search and Surveillance Act to apply, understanding what the relevant sections require and making sure that the police (or other agencies) meet the legal standards set by the Act.

Skills an issuing officer needs

You need to have an eye for detail. Details need to be consistent throughout the application (phone numbers, addresses, names etc.)

You need strong reasoning skills. You are the decision-maker – the responsibility rests with you. Has the applicant provided enough reliable evidence to establish reasonable grounds to suspect that an offence has been, is being or will be committed?

You need to be able to think critically. All evidence is not equally credible, and you need to fairly and reasonably evaluate the quality of the evidence presented to you.

You need to be self-assured. Police officers will knock on your door, sometimes from specialised units with extensive expertise in their fields. Regardless of how confident or competent the applicant is, you need to be prepared to deny the application based upon the quality of the information presented to you.

You need to be available at odd hours. Given the nature of the applications you are likely to receive at night, it is unreasonable to ask the applicant to delay their application if you are unprepared to work late at night.

You need to be prepared to read graphic information. Applicants need to provide evidence that a crime has been committed and the relevant information, written or visual. With violent or sexual offending, the relevant evidence may be difficult to read or view.

You need to be able to maintain professional distance. Although the applicant may view your work as a service to them, your role is more nuanced. You are there to ensure that the state does not unreasonably infringe upon private citizens in the course of pursuing justice.

Granting an application

If you are satisfied that the applicant has met the requirements for a warrant or production order to be granted, you must then sign the warrant or order. A copy of the warrant or order will be presented to the person subject to the search or who is required to comply with the production order.

As a measure of protection, issuing officers have the option to use a confidential issuing officer number in lieu of their name.

What happens when things go wrong?

Sometimes a warrant or production order will be challenged in court. This usually occurs when a search results in evidence being obtained and that evidence is used to prosecute someone for offending. The defence may seek to challenge the evidence on the basis it was improperly obtained by an invalid warrant or production order. When this happens, the court will examine the application and whether it was made and granted according to the law.

When an application is reviewed by the court, the Ministry of Justice's office of legal counsel provides representation and will appear in court in the issuing officer's stead. It is unlikely the issuing officer will be called to give evidence.

Interested in becoming an issuing officer?

The current issuing officer term ends in September 2027. Associations will need to nominate a new list of Justices of the Peace to serve as issuing officers for the 2027–2030 term. Look out for an invitation from your association to express interest in the role in 2027.



Some of the JPs in attendance at the Central Region northern conference. Picture: NADINE NICHOLLS

Mix of local and wider themes on Central agendas

Central Region Representative FIONA PARKINSON reports from the two Central Region conferences

Central Region Justices came together for two conferences in August, both exploring the theme "The Evolving Justice of the Peace: Skills for a Changing World". Although each conference had its own speakers and local flavour, several parts of the programme were shared, giving delegates across the region the opportunity to consider the same challenges, ideas and possibilities for the future.

The South Island conference, hosted by the Marlborough association, was held on August 22 at the Alzheimer's Centre in Blenheim. Thirty-two JPs from the Nelson Tasman and Marlborough associations came together for the day. Following a warm welcome from David Whyte, the vice-president of the Marlborough association, District Court Judge Christopher Macklin set the scene perfectly with an entertaining and thought-provoking address entitled "My View from the Bench".

He spoke about the growing challenge artificial intelligence poses to the authenticity of evidence, including text messages and bank statements. His message was clear: JPs need to remain vigilant, check information against original or authoritative sources and ask to see original records whenever there is doubt. He also cautioned that we are moving towards a "post-truth" world in which it may become increasingly difficult to tell what is genuine and what has been artificially created.

In "Where Did I Put My Keys?", Catherine Donnelly JP, former manager of Alzheimer's Marlborough, gave delegates a valuable insight into the world of mate wareware – dementia and cognitive impairment. She highlighted the growing number of people living with dementia and the enormous contribution made by families and carers. Catherine reminded us that a person's cognitive ability can vary and that some clients may need more time, patience and support. Her presentation encouraged us to think carefully about how we can ensure clients living with dementia feel understood, are treated with dignity and are appropriately supported when using our services.

The North Island conference followed on Saturday August 29 at the Distinction Palmerston North Hotel and Conference Centre. Hosted by the Central Districts association, it brought together 70 Justices from around the region. Following a mihi whakatau and welcome from Wiremu Te Awe Awe and Palmerston North Mayor Grant Smith, Rhia Taonui JP opened the day with a thought-provoking presentation on the future of Justice of the Peace services through the lens of access to justice. Rhia represented New Zealand as the official NGO delegate at the United Nations in March, and was honoured with a 2025 Palmerston North City Council Civic Honour Award for two decades of championing cultural inclusion and equity for Māori, Pasifika, women, and youth.

She reminded us that genuine access is not simply about making services available; people must also understand those services and feel confident using them. While technology will continue to change the way we work, trust, service, cultural understanding, sound judgement and professional competence will remain at the heart of what we do.

Rhia also suggested that a secure JP app could support more consistent recording of services, reduce duplication and provide a clearer picture of community demand, barriers and gaps. This information could help associations and the Federation make better decisions about where services, clinics and additional JP capability are most needed.

Senior Constable Dean Fawcett, from the Police Frauds and Scams Division, supported by Wairarapa area commander Inspector Nick Thom, then gave a very interesting presentation on scams and frauds. He shared some sobering facts, along with sad stories of people who had fallen victim to scams. New Zealanders lose around $8 million to scams every day (approximately $2.3 billion every year) with very little of that money ever recovered.

Dean also spoke about the emotional harm caused by scams, which can often outweigh the financial loss. Victims may experience embarrassment, shame, emotional distress and a profound loss of trust. He encouraged Justices to keep themselves informed through trusted sources such as Netsafe and reminded us to report suspected fraudulent use of a JP stamp, or any other suspicious activity, to Police by calling 105.

While the morning programmes reflected the interests of each conference, several elements were shared across both days. Federation Vice-President Ric Odom provided delegates with an update on the work of the Federation and National Council.

Jane McLeod JP, chief information officer at Rotorua Lakes Council, joined both conferences online for "Digital IDs and Online Ministerial Work – What's Here Right Now and What's Just Around the Corner". Jane took delegates through developments in digital identity services and what these could mean for the future work of JPs. She also highlighted the increasing sophistication of deepfake video and voice technology, reminding us to look for warning signs, question any sense of urgency and use another method of verification when needed. Her practical advice for delivering remote JP services safely included checking that digitally witnessed documents will be accepted, verifying the client and their surroundings, observing the signing in real time and securely deleting personal information once the service has been completed.



Judge Christopher Macklin's topic at the Top of the South conference was "My View from the Bench". Picture: FIONA PARKINSON



Catherine Donnelly, former manager of Alzheimer's Marlborough, spoke to delegates in Blenheim about dementia and cognitive impairment. Picture: FIONA PARKINSON

After lunch, delegates at both conferences took part in a practical workshop led by Ric Odom and me. The session began with participants using AI to explore three connected futures: society in 2050, the future role of Justices and the future of the JP organisation. This led into lively group discussions around three proposed strategic pillars: Be First, Be Seen and Be Relevant. The ideas and feedback gathered across all regional conferences will help inform the Federation's strategy.

The two conferences provided valuable opportunities for JPs to come together, make connections and share practical ideas to take back into their work with clients. Special thanks go to the Marlborough and Central Districts associations for the warm hospitality and careful organisation that made both days such a success.

Positive feedback from Auckland attendees

By Auckland Region Representative TONY KORTEGAST
Pictures: BRUCE KILMISTER



Attendees at the Auckland regional conference

The Auckland Regional Conference was held on Sunday September 20 at the Parnell Hotel and Conference Centre, with 133 attendees. Following opening remarks and acknowledgement of JPs who had passed away over the previous year, as well as the many life members present, the conference programme commenced with an address by AI change manager Virginie Lacrosse entitled “Have You Met Claude?”

Virginie introduced our JPs to the rapidly evolving world of artificial intelligence and touched on how this may impact the delivery of JP services in the future. The talk was entertaining and coloured by some real-life experiences in dealing with false AI. The intent was to assist those who had not really had much direct dealing with AI to at least understand how AI was shaping our future and how it would influence what Justices might need to deal with in the future.

Following this entertaining talk, we divided into three groups and ran through some practical examples, using “Claude” to ask questions about how AI saw the future of JP services. While we experienced some practical difficulties doing this in three large groups in one room, the exercise was nevertheless successful and a lot of people commented that it really opened their eyes to what was going on in the AI world.

Federation President Carol Buckley then addressed the conference and introduced the new National Manager, Rae McPhee, who spoke briefly about her experiences after just a few weeks in the job. Carol then spoke about the agenda that the National Council is following leading towards the Federation Conference in Napier early next year. Carol commented on the Private Member’s Bill and what the Federation was doing to take the themes from that Bill forward through improvements to the MoJ’s Best Practice Manual, as well as pursuing other legislative options where the Manual alone would not resolve the issues.



Auckland association life member Sherryl Wilson presents the Sherryl Wilson Cup for outstanding commitment and service to inaugural winner Patricia Wade.

Carol noted that feedback on the Federation's paper had now been received, with the Federation extending the timeframe by a month to ensure that all associations had an opportunity to respond. The Federation is now reviewing the feedback, which was overall very supportive of its proposed approach, and a communication will soon be going out to associations on this topic.

As the Auckland Region Representative I then briefed the conference about the work that is going on at the Federation in relation to its Strategy, noting that it is early days, and that the National Council had a strategic planning session planned in October. However, following feedback from the Stargazing discussions at other regional conferences, it is pretty clear that there needs to be a reset and a firmer work plan developed at national level. It is the National Council's intent to embody tikanga Māori in our processes and not separate it. While the Federation already has a strategy through to 2030, it is relatively high level. With the change of National Manager there is an opportunity for a reset of the work plan and the National Council will be basing this on three proposed pillars:

Leading — Arataki

Engaging — Turipū

Building — Whakatipu

At the work session in October the National Council will be building from these pillars and will be aiming to present its refreshed strategy at Conference 2027.

The Auckland conference wrapped up with an excellent lunch which was enjoyed by everyone before the Auckland association AGM in the afternoon.

Feedback from attendees was extremely positive and the AI presentation really seemed to hit the spot. All in all, it was a very successful event; thank you to all of the Auckland council members who volunteered on the day as well as our registrar Bruce Kilmister who did his usual fine job of organisation.

Conversation and Connections Forums

By Southern Region Representative ANTHONY BRIEN

This year, the Southern Region took a different approach to its traditional regional conference programme.

Rather than holding a full conference, two Conversation and Connections Forums were organised, with one held in Christchurch and the other in Dunedin. Justices of the Peace travelled from all around the region to participate in these events.

The purpose of the forums was to continue the important conversations about the future of the JP network in a rapidly changing world. Discussions focused on how JPs see their role evolving, the opportunities and challenges facing the service, and what will be needed to ensure the JP movement remains relevant and effective for future generations.

Each forum was intentionally designed as a concise two-hour session, followed by an enjoyable lunch that offered additional opportunities for networking and informal discussion. While the lunch was certainly appreciated, the strong attendance demonstrated the genuine interest JPs have in contributing to conversations about the future direction of the role and its organisations.

The forums also provided an important opportunity for Southern Region JPs to share their views with me as their representative on the National Council, to bring to the council. Participants were encouraged to provide feedback on issues that matter most to them and on the actions they would like the Federation to consider in supporting JPs and strengthening the network.

The conversations were lively, constructive, and highly engaging. Equally importantly, the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues from across the region was warmly received, reinforcing the value of maintaining strong relationships within the JP community.

It is important to note that these forums do not constitute a permanent departure from the Southern Region conference model. Over the coming months, discussions will be held to gauge interest in hosting a regional conference in 2027 and to explore how such an event might best meet the needs of JPs across the region.

The Southern Region appreciates the willingness of members to engage in these conversations and looks forward to continuing the dialogue as plans for 2027 are considered.



What to expect

The Conference will be held at the Napier War Memorial Centre, right on Napier's famous Marine Parade and a short walk into the CBD. It is a purpose-built venue that uniquely combines spectacular outlooks with functional layout.

With no AGM component to accommodate, the Conference programme will be devoted to matters of significant interest to Justices of the Peace now and into the future. The programme will include networking opportunities, workshops and interactive sessions, inspiring keynote speakers, and planning for the future and innovative solutions.

As the Art Deco capital and one of the 12 "Great Wine Capitals", Napier offers an impressive range of accommodation, cafes and restaurants, and plenty to see and do, all within walking distance to the Conference venue.

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Amerian, Sirous, Upper Hutt
Baker, Lesley, Te Kauwhata
Barnes, Rosalie Gay, Masterton
Benns, Rachel Anne, Auckland
Berry, Michael Samuel, Auckland
Blunden, Christopher Dennis, Masterton
Brown, Shirley Robyn, Tokoroa
Burns, John, Kaukapakapa
Bush, Kevin Wordsworth, Auckland
Chen, Shi Ying, Upper Hutt
Everiss, Barbara Anne, Orewa
Forbes, Dorothy Margaret, Tauranga
Gill, Benjamin Stuart, Greytown
Gillespie, Benjamin Jon, Omakau
Hennessy, Whitney, Matamata
Jamieson. Deborah Marie, Queenstown
John, Plex, Hamilton
Jupudi, Partha, Upper Hutt
Khan, Shabnam Rashid, Lower Hutt
Li, Shao Ying, Auckland
Liang, Minqi Shelly, Wellington
MacCulloch, Jane Sidey Mary, Auckland
MacKenzie, Euan Neilson, Hokitika
McLaughlin, Rosemarie Daphne, Tauranga
Pancoust, Helen, Puhoi
Redpath, Jack Sioux, Cambridge
Rinil, Smitha Merin, Lower Hutt
Solanki, Dimple, Whakatane
Stuart-Black, James Samuel, Wellington
Turoa, Limaree Sharon, Auckland
Wolfsbauer, Denise Kaye, Koputaroa

Dated at Wellington
this 8th day of July 2026
Hon Nicole McKee
Associate Minister of Justice

Aiton, Russell Alexander, Dobson
Bond, Melanie Helene, Paraparaumu
Bottrill, Daniel Terrance, Gisborne
Britt, Steven Mark, Christchurch
Campbell, Alan Stephen, Auckland
Chadha, Roshni, Auckland
Clark, Elizabeth Jane, Christchurch
Dhillon, Gurpreet Singh, Upper Hutt
Griffith, Kirsten Elizabeth, Nelson
Haridhasan, Vinutha, Lower Hutt
Kaur, Jaspreet, Auckland
Kaur, Mandeep, Auckland
Kelliher, Denis Raymond, Christchurch
Kuncha, Venkata Krishna Sunil Kumar, Auckland
Longhurst, Christopher Evan, Napier
McAnearney, Tania Mary, Auckland
McCown, Nicole Marie, Upper Hutt
McKee, Ian Richard, Christchurch
Mirko, Cherie Lynette, Gisborne
Nyayapati, Ravi, Auckland
Paku, Olivia Lynnette, Christchurch
Paul, Jose, Auckland
Perkins, Katie Teresa, Auckland
Rangaswamy, Subburaj, Auckland
Richardson, Lynne Elizabeth, Auckland
Rongo, Davidene Ellen, Auckland
Senerath-Dassanayake, Nilupul Ruvanmaanil, Auckland
Silochan, Kamanie, Auckland
Taito, Ropeti, Upper Hutt
Thomas, Roslyn Diana, Wairoa
Wood, Jeffrey James, Warkworth

Dated at Wellington
this 21st day of September 2026
Hon Nicole McKee
Associate Minister of Justice

THE NZ JUSTICES' QUARTERLY
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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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