Justices QUARTERLY

NZ

ORTH SHORE MP'S CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Fay Mason JF

Simon



FIAT JUSTITIA

RUAT CAELUM

IORTH SHORE MP'S CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

rrie Mason JP

Simon

July 2024 Volume 93 Number 3



Busy time for the Board

Over its first four months in office, the Board has met four times, once in person after the Centenary Conference and three times since via Zoom. We are focused on managing the Federation's affairs as cost-effectively as possible while ensuring everything is done as it should be.

We have met with Associate Minister of Justice Nicole McKee to discuss the issues facing the Federation and our associations, and continue this dialogue with Ministry officials. Several associations have approached MPs and, in some instances Ministers, to outline what they feel we need. Although this can sometimes create additional support, it can also cloud the message we are trying to get through to the Government, so I would ask that any approaches are first forwarded to associations and then Tony Pugh in National Office or me, to help ensure consistency.

Communications

With the launch of our Communication Strategy, we have already produced three "Informed by the Board" newsletters after Board meetings to inform associations and their members of what is happening at the Board level. We have sought feedback on these and the strategy itself from associations, and hopefully, members can provide input via their association.

Non-accredited Justices

We will communicate with all non-accredited Justices who have been sworn in over the past 10 years to encourage them to meet the commitment given at interview. This, however, isn't just applicable to Justices of less than 10 years' standing: many past that milesone might not realise the extent of legislative changes and should, therefore, keep themselves up to date and show this by completing the Accreditation assessment.

Federal Structure Review

We have Board members who are focusing on the Federal Structure Review. We hope to have an initial set of questions out to associations in time for these to be discussed with members before the annual round of regional conferences, where we would like associations to provide additional guidance before further development. If you have specific input that you would like included, please speak with your association leadership before regional conferences.

Remember, all regional conferences are open to all members of the region's associations, so ask about the agenda for your region and book early.

Regional

conferences	Dates	Venue
First Central	August 17	Blenheim
Second Central	August 24	Palmerston Nth
Northern Region	August 24-25	Rotorua
Southern Region	September 7-8	Timaru
Auckland/AJPA AGM	September 22	Parnell



Federation President Nigel Tate

Courts and Judicial JPs

As part of our contract for services with the Ministry of Justice, we agree to manage the training, education, and provision of Judicial Justices to sit in the many courts around New Zealand. We take this obligation seriously and, as such, allocate the court rostering task to associations to manage via their court panel managers. It is extremely important that this work is done in a professional manner to meet our obligations under the contract with the Ministry of Justice.

2024 association AGMs

To allow the Board to be represented at your AGMs, it would be helpful if you could work with adjacent associations in your region where appropriate to have these on consecutive days so that we can attend. Also, if not already done, please inform your regional representative of the times, dates, and venues. I am happy to attend as many of these as possible where I haven't already visited your association. Alternatively, Vice-President Carol Buckley, or regional representatives will attend.

Nigel Tate

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AND ITS AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS Te Kāhui Pou Whakatau Ture 0 Aotearoa

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FIAT JUSTITIA RUAT CAELUM Let justice be done, though the

heavens may fall

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NEWS

Tougher sentences on the way

The Government is reforming sentencing to ensure criminals face serious consequences for crime and victims are prioritised, Justice Minister Paul Goldsmith (pictured) announced last month.

"In recent years, there has been a concerning trend where the courts have imposed fewer and shorter prison sentences despite a 33% increase in violent crime," he said.

"Public confidence in the ability of our sentencing system to deter and denounce offending has diminished.

"This Government is committed to restoring law and order in New Zealand and that means ensuring that offenders face serious consequences for their criminal actions.

"The changes we are making send a strong message that victims are the priority of this Government rather than offenders."

The upcoming reforms will strengthen the criminal justice system by:

• capping the sentence discounts that judges can apply at 40% when considering mitigating factors unless it would result in manifestly unjust sentencing outcomes

• preventing repeat discounts for youth and remorse - lenient sentences are failing to deter offenders who continue to rely on their youth or expressions of remorse without making serious efforts to reform their behaviour

 responding to serious retail crime by introducing a new aggravating factor to address offences against sole charge workers and those whose homes and businesses are interconnected, as committed to in the National-Act coalition agreement

• encouraging the use of cumulative sentencing for offences committed while on bail, in custody, or on parole to denounce behaviour that indicates a disregard for the criminal justice system, as committed to in the National-New Zealand First coalition agreement

• implementing a sliding scale for early guilty pleas with a maximum sentence



Justice Minister Paul Goldsmith

discount of 25%, reducing to a maximum of 5% for a guilty plea entered during the trial - this will prevent undue discounts for late-stage guilty pleas and avoid unnecessary trials that are costly and stressful for victims

• amending the principles of sentencing to include a requirement to take into account any information provided to the court about victims' interests, committed to in both coalition agreements.

"These reforms clearly signal an expectation that appropriate consequences are imposed, and the needs of victims are prioritised," Mr Goldsmith said.

"Judges will of course continue to have discretion to consider the individual circumstances of each case to ensure sentencing does not lead to manifestly unjust outcomes.

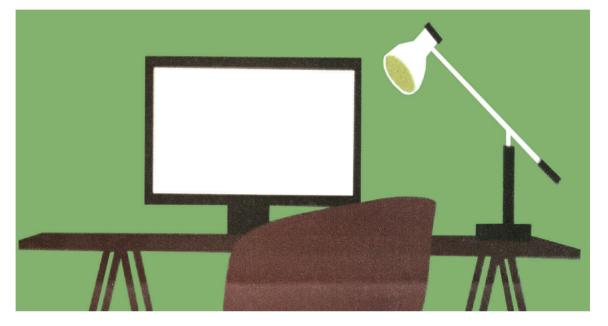
"This announcement is just one part of the Government's extensive action to restore law and order. We are delivering 500 additional Police and giving them more powers to go after criminal gangs, speeding up court processes, restoring the Three Strikes legislation, establishing military-style academies and creating a Serious Young Offender category to make powerful interventions in the lives of young offenders."

ON THE COVER: North Shore couple Fay and Barrie Mason have both served as JPs for over 50 years, 102 years combined, and their service has been honoured with certificates from both their local MP, Simon Watts (pictured with the Masons), and the Auckland association . . . story p16



Accreditation

Accreditation was introduced on Julv 1 2016 – eight years ago. Since then, several thousand Justices of the Peace have become accredited by attending education sessions provided by their associations, and successful completion of the online Accreditation test. Accreditation not only assures the public of your



competence, but it improves your confidence. As in previous years the Accreditation test has undergone a review to ensure it reflects current practice and situations. The revised questions went live in early July.

As part of the review of Accreditation questions an analysis of members was undertaken to determine potential areas for improvement. One area of non-performance identified was in the group of members who were appointed in the past 10 years. A significant number of newer members are not currently accredited. Associations have been made aware of the importance of ensuring that newer members become accredited to help ensure competent performance into the future.

'Xtra extra'

Over 27% of members have an @xtra.co.nz email recorded with the Federation (and likely with their local association too). In May Xtra introduced a charge for customers who had previously not paid for the service. As a result of the new charge, there may be members who have changed their email provider. If you have changed email, please remember to advise your association and change the contact details in your profile on the Federation website.

Maintaining your contact details ensures the public can contact you, agencies can verify you, and Accreditation reminders reach you.

'Find a JP'

Members' listings on the Federation website are provided for two reasons.

First, members of the public seeking the services of a Justice of the Peace can locate one who lives in their local area. Unless the client has already established a relationship with a JP or has received a referral, they will not be searching by name. Instead, the search will be by suburb, city or postcode. It is important that addresses on the website provide an indication of the location of the member's residence – a PO box number does not provide useful information for the public.

Second, as a result of AML-CFT requirements, agencies are using the website to confirm the bona fides of the Justice. If a Justice cannot be identified quickly, agencies are increasingly rejecting documentation. Reasons for non-identification include the Justice's stamp showing a different name to the website, or a "nickname" being used (or "known as"). When the facility to remove, temporarily, one's contact details from the website is used it should be when appropriate (overseas travel, or illness for example), not to reduce contact and availability for the public.

Nominations for Board roles

Nominations for Board roles open on August 1, and must be received by November 1 2024. Further information is available from your association.

Century of success

Thank you for the invitation to join you today, for what is an extremely significant Annual General Meeting and Conference – a celebration of 100 years of the Royal Federation of New Zealand Justices' Associations.

For a century now, the Federation has provided essential support for Justices – backing them to provide crucial and voluntary service to their communities.

The theme of your Conference is celebrating success and informing the future.

I do want to outline for you today some of the issues and initiatives that are shaping our present and our future.

But we should pause first to acknowl-

edge the years and years of hard work that have led the Federation to where it is today, and the many thousands of people that have been helped along the way.

The hard work and the tireless voluntary efforts of all JPs have helped support the development of strong and stable institutions in our society.

The relationship with the Federation and all JPs is a longstanding one, and one the Ministry values highly.

The Federation has continually helped to build a robust suite of voluntary services, helping communities all over New Zealand.

That the body has stood for 100 years is a reflection of the enduring significance of JPs in our community. It remains a key part of the justice system, in my view.

The stability represented by 100 years of the Federation seems especially important in the situation we find ourselves in in the 2020s - a time where conversations challenging our institutions can get quite febrile.

As an aside, I note that one of your sessions is on dealing with so-called "sovereign citizens" – and I'm interested in hearing how that session goes, and how you deal with them.

The growth of the sovereign citizen movement is an example of that growing polarisation.

On one level, the ideas sovereign citizens espouse are, as one judge put it, a load of "mumbo jumbo".

But the fact that these views are growing in their popularity is worrying.

This is essentially a group of people who believe that they can exempt themselves from the laws of the land – or at least the laws of the land that don't suit them.

They deny the authority of core institutions of state.

At the Ministry, we see a large volume of sovereign citizen correspondence – often with meaningless documents that they have asked JPs and others to witness.

The courts and Police are also having to deal with them.

Amid this noise and often unconstructive debate, the Federation has remained firm in supporting its members.

JPs play a crucial role in supporting New Zealanders to undertake important transactions, and progress significant life events by witnessing and certifying documents and taking statutory declarations.

Equally importantly, judicial JPs continue to play a huge role in supporting timely court services.

More than 200 Judicial JPs provide 8000 hours of service every year, handling 40,000 events per annum.

More than 230 service desks around the country, including in courts, provide 1300 hours each week, interacting with and hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders every year.

And so, what of the future for the JPs and the Federation?

I acknowledge that the members of the Federation are getting older, with an average age of 72. I stand in awe of your collective wisdom and experience.

I'm sure that thought is being given to attracting the next generation of Justices, and to the potential of new and existing technologies in aiding and building services.

I note that the Federation itself has said that its future lies with millennials and Generation Z.

There are some promising signs for the future.

The story on Bronson Blackbourn in the Otago Daily Times is a great example. Bronson was sworn in in June 2022 at the age of 21, making him New Zealand's youngest Justice of the Peace.

Ministry update

I'd like to give you a quick update on where things are at with the Ministry of Justice, Te $T\bar{a}h\bar{u}$ o te Ture, and what we can see coming.

It has certainly been a busy period for us.

Secretary for Justice ANDREW KIBBLEWHITE was one of the keynote speakers after the official opening of AGM/Conference 2024 in March Supporting the operation of the courts is our BAU, but some significant cases over the past 12 months have required a different approach.

The coronial inquiry into the terrorist attack on the Christchurch masjidain was the largest that New Zealand had experienced. It had a lot of interest from victims, families, and interested parties, as well as the media both in New Zealand and overseas.

The Whakaari criminal trial also saw high interest from victims and families as well as the media both in New Zealand and overseas.

More recently, we've been working with our new Ministers, and I am delighted that Minister Nicole McKee has been able to join you for your Conference, as well as Chief District Court Judge Heemi Taumaunu.

Our focus continues to be on reducing delays in the courts, and maintaining access to justice,

There are several strands of work under way in this area.

We, of course, have a new Government, and we've been working closely with our new Ministers to action their priorities.

I can report that effective, timely court services are as much a priority for our Ministers as they are for the Ministry.

The Government has been very clear they also expect a focus on this, as well as on the rights of victims and on law and order.

There are several strands of work under way to increase timeliness in the courts.

In April last year the Chief District Court Judge and I established the District Court Timeliness Programme Board to ensure oversight of Ministry and judicial initiatives to improve timeliness.

In parallel to this, there is a portfolio of work to prioritise initiatives that will have the biggest impact on the justice system, to make sure there are better outcomes for people who participate in the system.

For example, priority-based rostering and scheduling is being led by the judiciary, and supported by the Ministry.

This targets judicial and justice sector resources at the District Courts with the largest backlogs of case.

We are also working to revitalise our aging court infrastructure and digitise our case management system through Te Au Reka (a new digital case management system that will help to transform the administration of justice in New Zealand) and on the co-design and collaborative delivery of justice services and other new ways of working.

Lasting transformation will come from working with local communities, Māori, the judiciary and our partners in the justice sector. Under the judicially-led District Court Te Ao Mārama Programme, we are partnering with iwi and communities to ensure all court participants, including victims and whānau, are seen, heard and understood. We've already had some encouraging results – in Kaitāia, for example.

The focus on court timeliness is just one aspect of our work. We've also been busy working on the Government's 100-day plan, which includes several justice initiatives.

This has included work on the new Government's plan to end taxpayer funding for section 27 reports for sentencing hearings (sometimes known as "cultural reports").

It's also included work on changes to Police and court powers in relation to gangs that the Minister of Justice announced last weekend.

Infrastructure

While much of the public's attention will be focused on policy and legislative settings, you'll be aware from behind the scenes that the Ministry also has to continue its focus on upgrading its IT and property infrastructure.

That's an issue that those of you working in the courts will be very aware of.

We've done a lot of work over the past few years on our digital foundations. And in some ways, the pandemic has helped us, pushing us to reconsider how we work and roll out new technology.

The flagship project is obviously Te Au Reka, which is progressing well. This is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary, respecting our joint and separate responsibilities.

Te Au Reka will make a significant difference to all who access and participate in courts and tribunals.

It will reduce the potential for further harm to people accessing the court system, improve access to justice and increase the accountability, transparency, and effectiveness of court and tribunal administration.

On the property front, the Ministry is working through a programme to drive major court projects and upgrades where they are needed.

This includes the building of new courts in Whanganui and Tauranga, and progressing seismic strengthening of three of New Zealand's busiest courtrooms: the Auckland District Court, Hamilton District Court and Wellington High Court.

Finance

Perhaps the most pressing immediate issue for us, but one that will shape our future too, is the current financial environment.

I'm sure you're aware that all Government agencies have been tasked with finding significant savings.

The Ministry has a 6.5% savings target. This means that we're facing a tight fiscal environment.

As you will appreciate, there is a Budget-sensitive process under way, and I am limited in what I can say to you today.

What I can say that the Ministry is working to identify savings options, with a continued focus on delivering frontline services.

We remain committed to Judicial Justices of the Peace working in courts, and to supporting the work performed daily by over 5000 member JPs.

Conclusion

I want to end by underlining our gratitude to the Federation, and to all Justices for your continued service.

You are a group of people who do so much for others. It is inspiring\, and your commitment to helping people and serving your communities is truly to be admired.

From the Professional Development Advisor



JPs and land transactions

Land transactions (for instance, land transfers, easements, leases or covenants) must be registered with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ - Toitū Te Whenua).

In many cases, registration is handled by lawyers and conveyancers. Lawyers and conveyancers are able to lodge many forms electronically on LINZ's online portal, Landonline. This is called e-dealing. Non-practitioners cannot lodge documents with LINZ via e-dealing.

Certain documents can only be lodged manually, in paper form. This is called

manual dealing. Documents may be lodged manually with LINZ by private individuals and non-practitioners and practitioners who have been granted dispensation.

Certain requirements must be met when documents are lodged via e-dealing or manual dealing with LINZ. Sometimes Justices of the Peace are asked to assist in meeting those requirements, and a client might ask you to make a statutory declaration and provide your identification.

Some useful definitions of LINZ terms

What is an instrument?

An instrument is a document which is being registered against a title, such as a transfer, easement, lease or covenant. Paper instrument means an instrument which is being lodged in a manual dealing.

What is a dealing?

Dealing is the word LINZ uses to describe an instrument or group of instruments being submitted for registration. A dealing can include more than one instrument - for example, a withdrawal of caveat and transfer submitted together. A dealing is assigned a number (e g 12345678) and each instrument in the dealing will have a related number (e g 12345678.1).

What is a manual dealing?

Manual dealing means a dealing which is completed on paper and lodged with LINZ for registration by post, courier or in person at their Hamilton or Christchurch offices. Manual dealings have different requirements than e-dealings, which are lodged by lawyers and conveyancers electronically using Landonline.

Authority to lodge

All land transactions must be properly authorised by or on



behalf of the landowner and other relevant parties. This is an essential safeguard to ensure that only bona fide (legitimate) transactions are lodged for registration.

Proof of identity

Establishing the identity of your client is an essential safeguard against identity and property fraud in conveyancing transactions. The certifying practitioner is ultimately responsible for ensuring reasonable steps have been taken to verify the identity of the client.

How might a Justice of the Peace be involved in a land transaction?

Most instruments are lodged with LINZ by lawyers and conveyancers via e-dealing. Land Transfer Regulations require practitioners to first have authority to act in accordance with regulation 7 of the Land Transfer Regulations 2018.

The practitioners must:

- ensure they have proper authority from their client
- take reasonable steps to ensure their client has legal capacity
- · verify the identity of their client
- retain the evidence they have relied on to support those certifications.

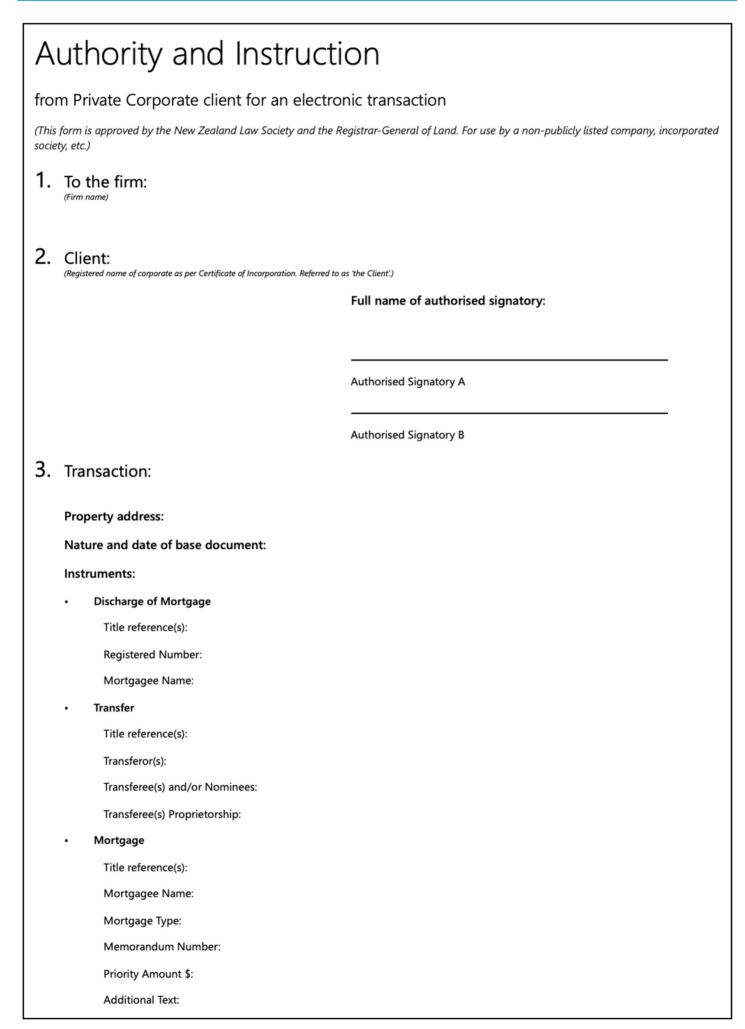
To this end, practitioners ask their clients to complete an authority and Instruction form which a Justice of the Peace may be asked to witness. Practitioners will also need to verify their client's identity and may delegate this to a JP.

Justices of the Peace assisting with a Land Transfer will likely be asked to:

- witness an Authority and Instruction Form
- certify a copy of the client's identity and verify that the client resembles their identification.

When an instrument is being lodged by a lawyer or conveyancer, the client should receive instructions from them on how to process the appropriate documentation. It is very important that these instructions are followed by the Justice of the Peace. If you are in doubt, you and your client should contact the conveyancer, solicitor or whomever provided the instructions for further guidance.

Authority and Instruction Forms typically look like this:



4. Authority and Instruction:

I confirm that:

- a) I am properly and duly authorised by law to sign this authority on behalf of the Client
- b) this authority is binding on the Client
- c) this form is for the transaction noted above
- d) I am 18 years of age or over
- e) the Client is not subject to any statutory management order, the appointment of a receiver or liquidator, or similar
- f) the Client has passed the necessary resolutions as required by its empowering constitution, rules, or statute to authorise the transaction noted above
- g) as required by regulation 7 of the Land Transfer Regulations 2018 I irrevocably authorise and instruct you on behalf of the Client to register the instruments above as an electronic transaction
- I understand that by signing this form the Client is legally bound by the electronic instruments certified and registered on its behalf pursuant to this authority and instruction as if such instruments had been signed by me personally on behalf of the Client, and
- i) I understand that the authorised transaction will become a matter of public record upon registration.

Signature of Authorised Signatory A		Date		
Signature of Authorised Signatory B			Date	
Each signatory named must sign pers	sonally. 'For and on beha	alf' is not accept	table.	
5. Signatory identificatio		e form below.)		
	Passport	NZ Driver	NZ Firearms	Other
	Passport	NZ Driver Licence	NZ Firearms Licence	Other Photo ID
Authorised Signatory A	Passport			
		Licence	Licence	Photo ID
Authorised Signatory A Authorised Signatory B Attach copy of photo ID used or record		Licence	Licence	Photo ID

a) I have witnessed the signatory(s) sign this form

b) I have sighted the original form(s) of photo ID ticked above

c) I have attached a copy of the photo ID(s) used, and

d) the signatory(s) appearance, name(s), and signature(s) match the signatory(s) photo ID used.

Signature of person confirming identity

Full name of person confirming identity

Occupation

Phone/Email

For office use only:

Is this a high risk transaction?

- No The transaction does not qualify as a high risk transaction (see the notes to the form below).
 - Yes Attached is a document connecting the client to the property and a file note of the steps taken to confirm identity.

Notes to the form:

- 1. The full legal name of the corporate as registered must be used.
- 2. Practitioners must comply with the Land Transfer Act 2017 and the Authority and Identity Requirements for E-Dealing Standard (see also the Authority and Identity Requirements for E-Dealing Guideline).
- 3. Where the person who is signing this form is doing so under a power of attorney (PoA) the authenticity of the PoA and the identity of the attorney must be confirmed.
- 4. Where required, attach a copy of the PoA (if it is not deposited with LINZ) and the relevant certificate of non-revocation.
- 5. For guidance on electronic signatures see the Authority and Identity Requirements for E-Dealing Guideline.
- 6. For guidance on high risk transactions see the Authority and Identity Requirements for E-Dealing Guideline.
- 7. A faxed or emailed copy of this form is acceptable.
- 8. The consent of prior mortgagees, lessors, etc. must be obtained where necessary.
- 9. Source: Appendix 2, New Zealand Law Society Property Law Section Guidelines.

Online Education Pages Index

You can now search for specific articles in the online Education Pages Index.

Login to Justicesofthepeace.org.nz



Go to the Justices' Quarterly Education page index.

Manual dealings (also called paper dealings)

When a document is being lodged with LINZ manually, a Justice of the Peace may be asked to witness the signing of the instrument and verify the identity of the client. In addition, under the Land Transfer Regulations 2018 the Justice, as a witness, may be asked to make their own statutory declaration.

Justices of the Peace assisting a client with a manual dealing to be submitted to LINZ may be asked to:

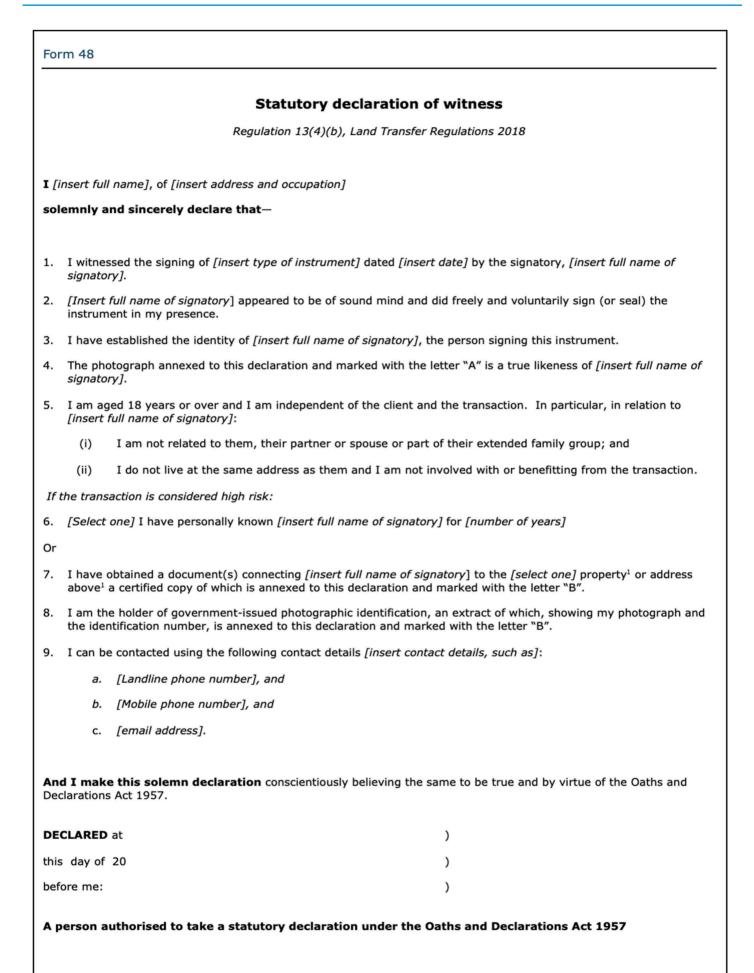
- · witness the client signing a document
- verify the client's identity, by viewing their identification document
- certify a copy of the client's identity document as a true copy
- complete their own statutory declaration confirming they have verified the client's identity and attaching their own photographic identification.

There is no legal requirement that a client must have the assistance of a Justice of the Peace to complete this process. Given the onerous requirements, where you must not only act as a witness but make your own statutory declaration (presumably visiting a second Justice) and provide the client (who may be a stranger to you) with a copy of your own identification, there is no duty on a Justice of the Peace to consent to assist, if you are not comfortable meeting the requirements.

Where you choose to decline to act, you should refer the client to an alternative party, such as a lawyer.

The statutory declaration that witnesses make when assisting with a manual dealing looks like this:

8



10 Image: Certified copy of a sovereign Certified copy of a sovereign citizen affidavit

Previous articles have looked at what to do when presented with an affidavit that may potentially be a sovereign citizen affidavit. See "This is not an affidavit", April 2023; "This is not an affidavit!: part 2", October 2023; and "Sovereign citizen wants an affidavit taken – can I do it?", April 2024.

What do you do when a client requests you certify a copy of a document purporting to be an affidavit?

About New Zealand affidavits

In New Zealand, affidavits are documents intended to be submitted to the court. The deponent (person making the affidavit) makes an oath or an affirmation that what they have written in their affidavit is, to the best of their knowledge, the truth. These documents are submitted to the court in support of certain court applications (such as applications for dissolution of marriage) and can sometimes be relied upon in lieu of oral witness testimony.

For a document to be accepted as an affidavit by a New Zealand court, it must meet all the legal requirements set out in the District Court Rules, Family Court Rules, High Court Rules, the Oaths and Declarations Act and any other relevant legislation.

Certified copies and the courts

The process for certifying copies of documents arose out of convention and a need for organisations to receive some assurance that the documents they were receiving were genuine copies. Certified copies are requested because it is acknowledged that it is impractical to ask clients to part with original documents.

The process of certifying copies of documents is an unlegislated convention that would fail to meet any of the legal requirements courts must observe when receiving documents. It is unlikely that a court would ever request a certified copy of an affidavit when it is able to request an original affidavit.

Certified copies of affidavits and pseudo-affidavits for other purposes

There is no legislation preventing a Justice of the Peace from certifying a copy of an affidavit or a pseudo-affidavit, if that certified copy is not intended to be submitted to a New Zealand court.

However, Justices of the Peace do not certify copies of documents simply for the sake of certifying documents. The catalyst for a client seeking a certified copy of a document is an organisation requiring a copy of that document. The Justice's role is to assist the client



in meeting the receiving agency's document requests.

If a client requests a Justice of the Peace certify a copy of an affidavit or a pseudo-affidavit, the Justice should ask the client for instructions from the receiving agency and an indication that the receiving agency will accept this kind of document. If no receiving agency has requested a certified copy of the affidavit or pseudo-affidavit, then there is no need for a Justice to certify and they should decline to act:

"I'm happy to certify a copy of a document if an organisation has asked you to provide them with a certified copy. If you can get an email from that organisation with instructions about the kind of document they need you to submit to them, then I can assist you."

When declining to act, direct the client to an alternative such as Community Law or the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Why might a person want a copy of their pseudo-affidavit certified when no organisation has requested a certified copy?

One of the characteristics of sovereign citizen-type beliefs is an erroneous understanding of the law. This can be seen in the unusual and illegitimate documents put forward by sovereign citizen clients as "affidavits". It is not unusual for a person with sovereign citizen beliefs to want multiple copies of a pseudo-affidavit to send to various authority figures.

When requesting a Justice to certify a copy of a pseudo-affidavit, the client might believe that the Justice's stamp and signature may add further authenticity and consequence to the document. This is one reason why Justices should refrain from certifying documents unless there is a genuine and legitimate need for a certified copy.

Powers of attorney

There are two kinds of powers of attorney that a Justice of the Peace may encounter: ordinary powers of attorney (sometimes simply called powers of attorney) and enduring powers of attorney.

The common factor in these documents is that there is a donor and an attorney. The purpose of the document is for the donor to give the attorney some authority over their personal or business affairs.

The differences between an ordinary and enduring power of attorney are in the nature of the authority granted to the attorney and the longevity of the power.

Ordinary powers of attorney

This is a document in which the donor gives the attorney authority to act for them on certain matters, either personal or business. For example, if the donor is going overseas, they may give the attorney power to make certain decisions to care for their property. This type of power is only temporary. If the donor is declared mentally incapable, an ordinary power of attorney is cancelled.

A Justice of the Peace may act as a witness for either the donor or the attorney. This is a general witnessing task that any person not related to the parties or involved in the arrangement can undertake. If asked to witness one of the parties' signatures, you do not need to write "Justice of the Peace".

The main features of an ordinary power of attorney are that it is:

- temporary in nature
- gives less power over the donor compared to an enduring power of attorney
- is cancelled upon the donor's mental incapacity
- a Justice of the Peace can witness the signature of either the donor or the attorney.

Enduring powers of attorney

These powers of attorney are regulated under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988 because they involve the donor granting the attorney significant authority over their affairs.

There are two kinds of enduring powers of attorney: property, and personal care and welfare.

For enduring powers of attorney relating to property, the donor can decide when the property attorney is to be granted authority (either immediately or once the donor is declared mentally incapable). These arrangements grant the attorney authority over the donor's property including investments, bank accounts and property assets.

Enduring powers of attorney relating to personal care and welfare only become active when the donor becomes mentally incapable. A certificate from a doctor is required to invoke this power. When active, the attorney has the authority to make decisions concerning the donor's general care, welfare and medical care.

When making an enduring power of attorney, the donor can choose to appoint more than one attorney or a trustee corporation for property but only one independent attorney can be appointed for personal care and welfare.

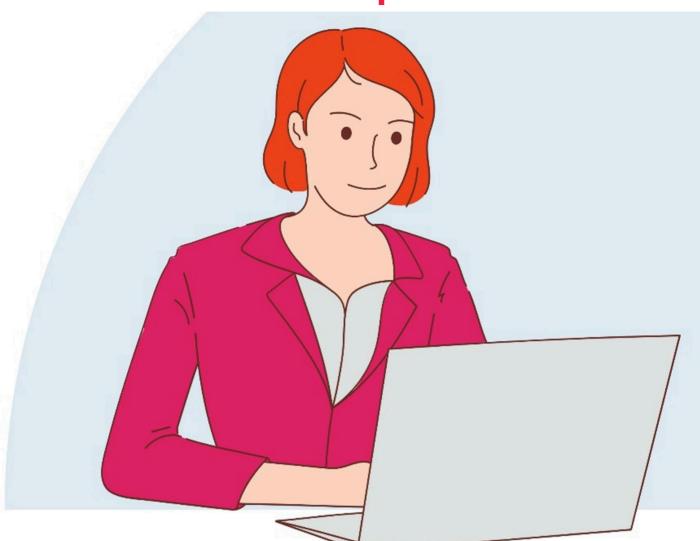
A Justice of the Peace may act as a witness for the attorney. This is a general witnessing task that can be undertaken by any person not related to the parties or involved in the arrangement or acting as the donor's witness. You do not need to write "Justice of the Peace".

A Justice of the Peace may not act as a witness for the donor. The donor is granting another person significant power over their life and personal affairs. The law requires that the donor be provided with legal advice before signing. The donor's signature must be witnessed by a lawyer, qualified executive or an authorised officer of a trustee corporation.

The main features of enduring powers of attorney are that:

- there are two kinds: property, and personal care and welfare
- they are regulated by the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988
- they commence or endure when the donor becomes mentally incompetent
- they give significant authority to the attorney
- a Justice cannot be a witness for the donor.

Accreditation test updated



The Accreditation questions were updated on July 1. Questions are based on content from the Ministerial Manual and Justices' Quarterly Education pages from April 2022 until April 2024.

Here are some tips for reading the Manual and The Quarterly and answering Accreditation questions.

There are three kinds of guidance offered to JPs in the Manual and The Quarterly, outlined below.

Things you must do

For example, you must write or stamp an exhibit note on each document to be attached as an exhibit to an affidavit. Where the Manual directs that a Justice must do something, this indicates that a document will not be properly executed or a responsibility properly met, if this action is not taken.

Things you may do

Things you may do are different from those a Justice must do. These are steps that are open, or even recommended, for you to take but are not required of you. For example, as per 6.7.1 of your Manual, if the client has already signed an affidavit before visiting a Justice, the Justice may ask the client to cross out their original signature and re-sign the document. Alternatively, the Justice may accept the signature written on the document.

The reason for differentiating things you must do from things you may do is so that you, as a Justice of the Peace, know when you might exercise flexibility and approach a unique circumstance in a different way, and when you must rigidly follow the instructions outlined in the Manual.

Things you must not do

As with things you must do, things you must not do are rigid processes or practices that Justices must follow without variation. For instance, if an original will is attached as an exhibit to an affidavit, you must not staple that document to the affidavit (see 6.9.6).

The third quarter-century: 1974-99

In September it will be 100 years since the beginnings of today's Federation, and former Federation Registrar ALAN HART is telling the story over the four issues of Volume 93 of the Quarterly in calendar 2024. This is part three, from 1974....

For many current Justices of the Peace this third quarter of our existence to date becomes almost a personal one. Most JPs serving today were at school at least, or starting work during these decades. Some of the events we have witnessed over this quarter-century bring mixed feelings. For some they were years of extreme challenge with exposure to new technologies, while others suffered from fiscal variations and hardships.

But first, a question arising from the previous article: following the granting of the addition of "Royal" to our title in 1966 many may have wondered as to the implications of the late Queen's death and the ascension of King Charles in 2022. The Federation has confirmed with the relevant authorities that this continues, irrespective of the change of monarch.

Changes in society

I have endeavoured in these articles to avoid references to the political world as such, as we all have our own views on which path or direction is "correct". Come what may, our organisation is still apolitical; although individual JPs are drawn from all aspects of the spectrum, we are united in the aim of serving the communities in which we live. However, that is not to suggest that we serve in a vacuum, as all political decisions, by whatever faction is in power, will affect us both in our work as well as personally.

What a quarter-century the period 1974-99 was for most people. Oil shocks - who would have imagined the carless days of 1979-80; liquor licensing changes - the end of the "6 o'clock swill"; the explosion of coffee shops (almost like London in the 1700s); fantastic new wineries and new hospitality venues such as II Casino in Wellington, along with countless others around the country catering for the new-found wealth of some of the new entrepreneurs, all of which came to a sudden and dramatic halt with the crash of markets in 1987/88; the divisions of the 1981 Springbok tour; the 1985 bombing of the Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour.

We also saw the increase in the arts, not just such shows as Roger Hall's plays which were very close to home for many, like "Gliding On". New in music in those days were masterpieces by Andrew Lloyd Webber and shows such as Les Misérables. In sports we saw the first Rugby World Cup in 1987 – victory, on home soil!

Technology advanced in leaps and bounds – financially we saw the introductions of ATMs, credit cards other than American Express, eftpos and personal computers becoming widespread in most homes. But that same technology also brought the fear of catastrophic collapse of society with the alarms at



1980s brick cellphone and personal computer

the end of the millennium and its bug, and fears of the imminent crash of computers which never came to pass (and there are still some systems relying on MS-DOS). Who in those days would have envisaged the explosion of the internet that has since occurred? How quickly were mobile phones adopted once they changed from the old "brick".

Our economy was battered and bruised with endless restructuring and changes. Can you recall the impact of the United Kingdom entering the European Union, then war in Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait, to all of whom we sold various commodities? For some the environmental changes were mixed, such as in tourism generally, and adventure tourism.

Our population grew rapidly with various attendant issues, not the least of which was a dramatic shift and densification up north. The numerical increase was accompanied by the diversification of ethnic backgrounds introduced by our new citizens.

Judicially, after the Erebus disaster, who will forget "an orchestrated litany of lies"?

Changes for JPs

All of us alive and now serving our communities as Justices of the Peace were affected one way or another by the above events but surprisingly, as a movement it almost passed us by.

The biggest changes for us arose from the decision at the Jubilee to create what became the Justice of the Peace Education Trust (JPET) which helped fund an exponential increase in training we provided either directly or through such as the old Technical Correspondence Institute (later The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand - TOPNZ). We were able to achieve this in part due to the funding both from our own efforts as well as some Government support which saw the first director of training (Harry Israel) appointed in 1976. At national level we also finally got a home of our own – a tiny room annexed to the old Wellington District Court. Equally after decades of endeavour we managed to get a small funding grant from the Government– first of \$9000 in 1976 (\$96,731 in 2024 terms) but rising over the years to reach \$150,000 (now \$280,579) by 1999.



As an organisation our membership rose from 5409 to 7532 or about a 39% increase. While that sounds a rather dramatic increase, reflecting our country's population which rose from just over three million to just under four million, in essence the ratio to population remained roughly the same at two JPs per thousand.

The single most dramatic change in relation to our composition as an organisation lay in the rapidly changing demographics of the country, which saw an increasing number of new JPs appointed from other than traditional groups. The 1977 Annual Report showed that at that time our numbers reflected a major imbalance, with 91% being male and only 9% female. From the imperfect survey on which this was based, some 96% were described as of European background with a tiny number of other ethnicities represented. Age-wise the demographics were no better, with about 57% aged over 60. Ten years later a more precise table provided by the Secretary for Justice showed of a total 8156 JPs in the country (82% of whom belonged to an association) 17% were female, and while the ethnic mix remained about the same, it still did not represent what our overall society was becoming.

That said, this quarter was an equally challenging one, which was perhaps foreshadowed by the Conference at Whangarei in March 1975 being affected by the remnants of Cyclone Alison. We also saw the commencement of the then Children and Young Persons Act as well as the introduction of a Marriage Amendment Bill which included provision for certain JPs to be considered for appointment as celebrants.

As mentioned above we became much more active in our own efforts with the director of training in 1976 being active in both providing material for all JPs as well as organising numerous regional and local training seminars. Individually we were also heavily involved with changes in our judicial environment, with Auckland to the forefront in both services to the court as well as organised training for those involved, culminating in their facilitating a two-week residential

seminar in 1979.

The introduction of the expanded role for Visiting Justices to prisons in 1980 saw two JPs appointed while the following year two other JPs were appointed as referees for the newly established Small Claims Tribunals (now Disputes Tribunals). Appointment to similar roles continued later in the quarter when the role of community magistrates was created, and of the seven JPs appointed as such in 1999, four were already serving in court, including Mary Symmans and Robyn Paterson, the first and third female Federation Presidents respectively.

Federation firsts

While our composition on a gender basis only slowly changed, this quarter-century saw numerous firsts which included the election in 1989 of Mary Symmans as Northern Regional Representative (subsequently the first female President, in 1994) and in 1991, Lorraine Rainham was appointed as Federation Registrar. Mary had just retired from the then Executive when the next female regional representative was elected - Julie McKendry (Central), who was Vice-President in 1999 and became President the following year. Since then, there have been a further four female Presidents.

As well as these roles, the editorship of the Quarterly passed to a female in 1989 when long-serving editor Link Warren retired and was succeeded by Jennifer Brice.

Another first (and so far, only) was in parent-child leadership of the Federation, which came about in 1997 when Tony Israel was elected President following the long service of his late father Harry Israel who had been President in 1974/75. The Israel family's service as JPs included Ida – Harry's wife and Tony's mother.

Our judicial work continued to change, reflecting such legislation as the 1993 Mental Health Act, which removed JPs as such from previous roles; the Roper report on violence; MMP; the merging of the Traffic Safety Service into the Police in 1992; the Summary Offences Act 1982 which widened JPs jurisdiction; and the overarching seminal work of the 1978 Royal Commission on the Courts with its 246 recommendations, many of which were implemented at various times over the succeeding years.

A home of our own

As mentioned earlier, the efforts over many years to secure a national office finally came to fruition on December 4 1985 when a small room on the Whitmore St side of the old Wellington District Court building (see page 15, now the site of the Supreme Court) was made available. The then Registrar, Lance Osborne, had recently retired from his main employment and was in the office for 20 hours a week.

There were various changes in the office space while the "new" Wellington District Court in Ballance Street was being constructed, especially over 1992/93 when temporary facilities were provided at Mayfair



Chambers on The Terrace before settling back into a small area near the Youth Court in the District Court on the corner of Stout and Ballance Sts. Fortunately, this was slightly larger and enabled the then Registrar, Ken Little, and Dick Williams, the national trainer, to have some much-needed space to work in as well as for the expansion of the machinery – the first PC had been installed only in 1992. Volunteers especially assisted with many administrative tasks. Staffing was still only part-time even with additional administrative tasks involved including an expansion of the membership records and provision of training material, both initial and ongoing, especially for TOPNZ.

The end of 75 years

The third quarter was clearly a rather mixed one, with some highs and many lows, but almost constant change.

Internationally we had seen visits to and from our Australian colleagues including the then president of the Australian Council of Justices' Associations and the registrar of the Queensland Justices Association visiting and speaking at Conference 1994 in New Plymouth. Similarly, on several occasions representatives of the Federation were involved in or attended meetings of the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association, particularly a regional conference held in Auckland in 1983.

Domestically the highlight for many who attended the 1995 Conference in Hamilton was a formal reception at Tūrangawaewae marae in Ngāruawāhia by the Maori Queen (Te Arikinui), Dame Te Atairangikaahu, and Tainui.

Successes were in advances for training of JPs both new and longer-serving, primarily through our own efforts and the JPET, supplemented by gaining a modicum of Crown funding. We had seen a change (albeit small and slow) in both gender and ethnic base of our members and leaders. The attainment of a staffed national office was a plus, and we moved slowly moved to full-time staffing and expanded as funding allowed over the next quarter. Our director of training slowly morphed from the initial expenses reimbursed only role to a part-time one and for a brief period, a contracted outside professional training provider (The Jones Group).

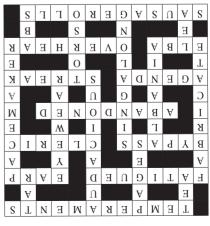
Some failures, if indeed they were, included the perennial postponement of numerous endeavours to agitate for compulsory training associated with a desire to get our own Act updated. We made it to the Cabinet table on several occasions only to be consigned down the list with dog control – to which the then President's famous response was "well, we had better bark louder". Our reaction to the changes with the courts from 1976 on seems in retrospect to have been limited and confrontational at times rather than truly effective. (But equally, earlier Presidents held meetings in hotel rooms - a location far from conducive to good governance decisions.)

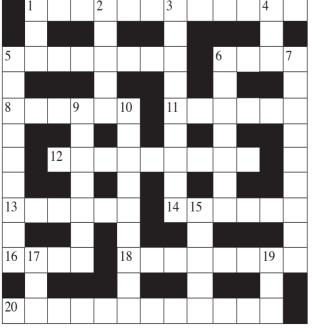
To what extent some of these successes or failures reflect on us as an organisation we can but conjecture.

What do you think?

CROSSWORD

- 7 Map a creek (anag)
- 9 Western Balkan country
- 10 Karaoke eq
- 15 Upper body
- 17 Pasture, meadow
- 19 Core





- ACROSS:
 - 1 Dispositions
 - 5 Exhausted
 - 6 OK Corral lawman
 - 8 Diversion
- 11 Religious leader
- 12 Forsaken
- 13 Things to be done list
- 14 Characteristic
- 16 Napoleon's island of exile
- 18 Eavesdrop
- 20 Chris Hipkins' campaign delicacy (7,5)
- DOWN:
- 1 Brew 2 Summonses
- 3 Bold
- 4 Seaman
- 5 Contrive
- 6 Glasses

Auckland honours long service

A special celebration morning tea was held before an Auckland association council meeting earlier this year to acknowledge the outstanding service of five Justices who have completed at least 50 years' service. Family members were also invited to attend this very happy occasion, celebrating over 310 years of voluntary service.

Those honoured included Stanley Letica, aged 101, who has been an active JP for 60 years, while husband and wife JPs Barrie and Fay Mason have 102 years between them.

The Masons' service has also been recognised by North Shore MP Simon Watts, who presented them each a "North Shore MP's Certificate of Appreciation" for their 50+ years of individual service, describing their service to the community as "extraordinary" (see front cover).

Barrie was appointed in July 1972, and Fay in October 1973. Barrie's first years as a JP included being tutored by senior JPs in weekly traffic courts and on depositions hearings. He remembers that often the duty solicitor was future Prime Minister David Lange.

Fay was one of the first government employees to be appointed at a time when few women held the role. Her early duties included sitting as a nominated witness, often after midnight, at the local police station as a youth was interrogated about their activities.

Barrie also became a marriage celebrant in 1977 and has officiated in 2345 marriage ceremonies across Auckland and elsewhere. For the past 25 years he has been a funeral celebrant as well.

Naturally, after a century of carrying out JP duties the Masons have a wealth of anecdotes.

"When living in Mt Eden in the 1970s the phone would regularly ring in the middle of the night," Barrie remembers. "Usually, it was the police wanting a search warrant or to convene a coroner's court. In those days Mt Eden had numerous rest homes and elderly residents sometimes died in their sleep. The police were then called and needed identification statements of when a staff member had last seen the



Margaret Wilson receives her 50 years' service certificate from Auckland association president Alan Martin. At left is her daughter Diane Ramsay, also a JP. Other recipients are, from top, Stanley Letica, 101, who has now served for over 60 years, Gerald Hunt and John Peebles.

person alive and when they found them deceased.

"On multiple occasions when we asked when they wanted to do this the reply was now - we are at your gate. Consequently, the JP officiated in a dressing gown!"

Fay's background as an educator and interest in adolescent welfare meant she was always willing to give up sleep to be a nominated witness at a youth interview at the local police station. Frequently the young person was refusing to cooperate with the police officers but once reassured that with the JP present they would get a fair hearing they were generally compliant. They knew their rights, but some would drag it out as long as possible as they were more afraid of being taken home than going to the cells for the night, she said.

"This century JPs are required to deal with a far wider range of documents than was common when we were appointed. At first for us it was mainly statutory declarations, affidavits and certified copies.

"Today, particularly if serving on a service desk, one can be confronted in a single shift with AML documents with their varied wordings, numerous changes in immigration-related forms, ID documents to confirm, certifying copies from electronic sources, veri-





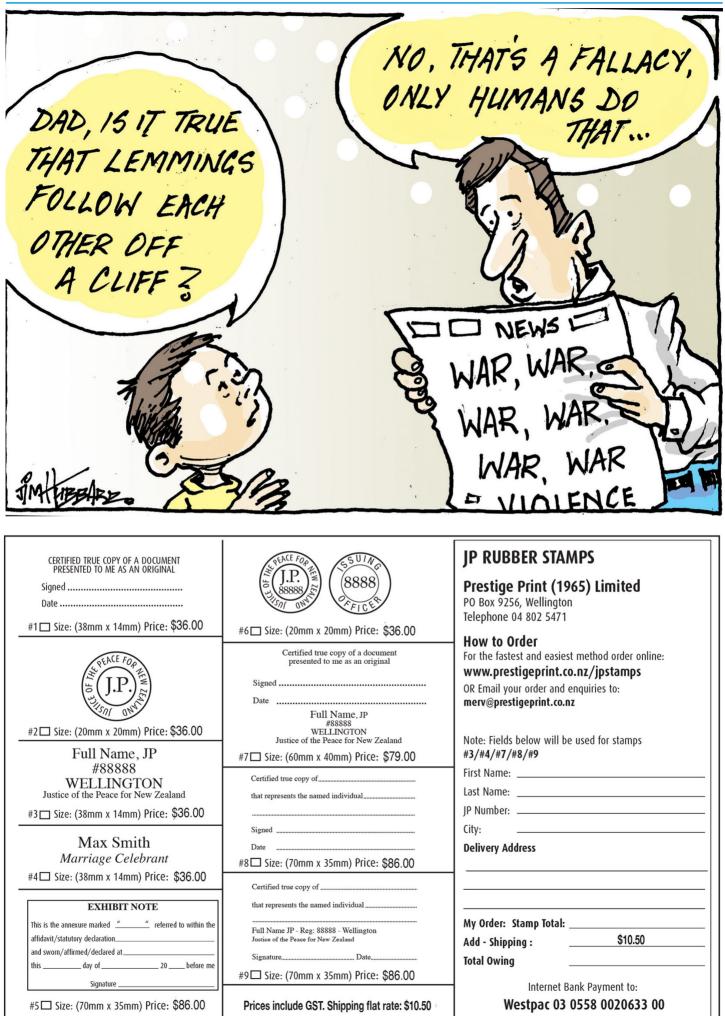


fying address documents for school enrolments and confirming parent/ guardian IDs, and witnessing marriage dissolution documents as well as statutory declarations, affidavits and certified copies.

"Service desks at malls, libraries and Citizens Advice Bureaus provide an easily accessible and reliable service to the community."

Barrie and Fay are firmly of the view that Accreditation is important for Justices. A changing society, new laws and regulations require ongoing learning. Keeping JPs knowledge up to date via hub sessions, local JP groups and online training has been invaluable as well providing added credibility, they said.

Today Barrie and Fay enjoy performing ministerial duties - "being active JPs certainly keeps us in touch with our community."



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.

Awatere, Hinemoa Ruataupare Breiteneder, Rotorua Bonser, Raymond George, Auckland Chapman, Marissa Hayley, Drury Chapman, John Leslie Kendall, Auckland Davidson, Joseph Peter, Invercargill Delos Santos, Carlos Conte, Rotorua Dhaliwal, Avinash Kaur, Auckland Fierek, Anna Lena, Nelson Fippard, Judith Ann, Auckland Janif-Shahin, Sharina Yashmeen, Auckland Leppik, Karina Martin, Christchurch Martin, Leigh, Rolleston Mati, Faaliliu, Nelson McWilliam, Nigel John, Morrinsville Mansouri Garakani, Masoud, Auckland Mills, Samuel Raymond, Auckland Mofassir, Amina, Hamilton Nicolson, Anna Leigh, Otautau

Piercy, Maria Patricia, Rangiora Prescott, Christine Amanda, Auckland Pull, Rachael Elizabeth, Christchurch Ranjit, Rohit, Ashburton Sears, Anthony John, Waiheke Island Sharma, Deepak, Auckland Sidler, Joane Andre, Kumeu Taumoepeau, Sione Malumu Havea, Levin Toa, Rouruina Ann-Marie, Hamilton Van Niekerk, Cleressa, Auckland White, Adele Joanne, Auckland Whyte, Gavin Scott, Auckland Wong, Lap Kuen, Auckland Dated at Wellington this 29th day of May 2024 Hon Nicole McKee Associate Minister of Justice

King's Birthday Honours for JPs

Congratulations to the 12 Justices who appeared in this year's King's Birthday Honours List. They are listed below, with their association membership (if applicable) in brackets

Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) Candy, Anne, QSO

For services to Māori and local government

Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM)

Fegan, Peter Ralph (Ralph) (Otago) For services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the community

Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM)

Chapman, Frank Philip (Philip) (Nelson-Tasman) For services to health

Nelson, Linda Rosemary (Auckland) For services to people with intellectual disabilities

Oakes, Frances Mary Latu (North Otago) For services to mental health and the Pacific community

Companion of The King's Service Order (KSO) Cunningham, Elizabeth Hera (Canterbury) *For services to governance*

King's Service Medal (KSM)

Berry, Lance Basil (Central Districts) For services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the community

Carter, Brian Rex (Whanganui) For services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand

Dwyer, Jacqueline Ann (South Taranaki) For services to the community

McNeur, Peter Donald (Wairarapa) For services to education and the community

Webb, Robert John Ryrie (Rob) (Whanganui) For services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the community

Williams, Glenn Victor (Bay of Plenty)

For services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the community

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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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