

January 2026  
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# Justices' QUARTERLY



FIAT JUSTITIA  
RUAT CAELUM

JPs support  
unique Niuean  
land workshop

adidas



# The way forward

With 2025 now behind us, it is time to look forward to our role as JPs in the future. It is with great admiration that I scan the membership of our associations and see the many years of service that have been provided to our communities.

The Federation has the role of supporting associations to develop and grow membership and professionalism in our collective efforts to ensure ongoing service to the public we serve. While our approach to these initiatives may sometimes differ from that of our member associations, our collective objective and focus should primarily remain consistent, as this is what adds to our strength as an entity.

There are several areas that we as your leadership have focused on over the past few years.

## Supporting local service and community access

Regional JP associations, co-ordinated through the Federation, continued grassroots work across the country:

- regional conferences and meetings bring JPs together to share insights, build networks, and ensure best practices are shared across regions
- associations focus on recruitment and community engagement, such as outreach campaigns, to attract new volunteers and ensure JP services are visible and accessible
- practical issues like maintaining up-to-date JP listings on Federation platforms help agencies and the public verify JP services, ensuring smooth processing of documents and legal formalities.

These efforts support the Federation's mission of ensuring equitable access to basic justice services for all New Zealanders, particularly in communities with limited access to formal legal systems.

## Advocacy and sector representation

The Federation remains a strong advocate for its members, representing their views to government and contributing to public policy discussions affecting justice administration.

- It has actively engaged with legislative reform processes, including submissions to government on modernising the Incorporated Societies Act, emphasising good governance, transparency, and the unique structure of its member associations.
- Leaders have worked with justice sector officials on



**Federation President Nigel Tate**

issues such as JP competency and Accreditation, pushing for frameworks that enhance the quality and reliability of JP services nation-wide.

Such advocacy helps ensure that the role of JPs remains relevant and respected within New Zealand's evolving justice landscape.

## Professional development and training

A core part of the Federation's work — and one that continued throughout the year — is the education and training of Justices of the Peace.

- The Federation supports JP training programmes, including the Judicial Studies courses that prepare JPs for judicial duties in District Courts. These structured courses combine online learning with practical placements, mentorship, and assessment under judicial oversight; this is a set requirement under our Outcomes Agreement with the Ministry of Justice, to provide enough judicial JPs to meet court needs in the various association areas.

- Ongoing professional development workshops and regional conferences offered opportunities for JPs to deepen their understanding of roles beyond basic administrative duties. This is important, as many deal with complex situations in their communities.
- National gatherings continue to add value to our relationships, and we are looking forward to this continuing in late February at the national AGM/Conference in Dunedin on February 27–March 1. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing ideas of how we might grow our service.

Continued focus on professional standards helps ensure that JPs across New Zealand provide consistent, competent, and accessible services to the public. This led to a review of the Accreditation questions and structure, both of which are reviewed regularly.

## Looking ahead

As our Federation embarks on its second century, its work remains grounded in core values of service, professionalism, and community support. By balancing celebration with strategic planning, the Federation continues to strengthen its foundations for the future — enhancing training and competence frameworks, deepening engagement with government, and maintaining the grassroots services that define the role of Justice of the Peace in New Zealand life.

**Nigel Tate**

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE

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(Incorporated)

AND ITS AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS  
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Let justice be done, though the heavens may fall

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**NEWS**

# Gang laws mark one year

The Government is tracking well ahead of its violent crime reduction target as it marked a year since its tough gang laws came into effect, Justice Minister Paul Goldsmith and Police Minister Mark Mitchell said in a November 2025 press release.

"The latest New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey shows there were 147,000 victims of serious violent crime in the 12 months to August. That's 38,000 fewer victims than when we came into government, and 9000 fewer than our last update," Mr Goldsmith said.

"We announced nine targets in March 2024, which included 20,000 fewer victims of serious violent crime by 2029, equating to 165,000 victims. We are tracking well ahead of that, although we know there is still more work to do," he said.

"One year ago, gangs were confronted with a new harsh reality - one where they can no longer behave as if they're above the law by taking over our streets, intimidating the public, and making a mockery of our criminal justice

system," Mr Mitchell said.

"This is tough legislation. That is the point. Gang members make up less than one quarter of one per cent of the New Zealand adult population, yet are linked to about 18% of serious violent crime. We make no apologies for getting tough on law and order."

Since the Gangs Act (2024) came into effect, Ministry of Justice and Police data shows there have been:

- 182 patches seized
- 643 insignia items seized
- 178 firearms seized
- 856 charges for Prohibited Display of Gang Insignia in Public Place
- 255 finalised charges and 188 convictions.

"I want to acknowledge and thank our police, who are working hard to hold gang members to account for their behaviour and criminal activities. I am very proud of the work they are doing every day to make our country safer," Mr Mitchell says.

**ON THE COVER:**

JPs at the Niue Land Court workshop, from left, Karl Vasau, Fou Alene-Tumaki, Tapuakimana Togiapoe and Elviso Togiamua. Story P3

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TONY PUGH reports from the Federation office

## FROM THE NATIONAL MANAGER

### AGM/Conference 2026

The 2026 Royal Federation Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference will take place in Dunedin, hosted by the Otago association. The AGM/Conference will commence on Friday February 27 and run through to Sunday March 1. Contact your association for more details.

#### Elections

The results of the nominations for Federation Board positions were:

**President:** One nomination – Carol Buckley (to be confirmed at the AGM)

**Vice-President:** One nomination – Ric (Richard) Odom (to be confirmed at the AGM)

**Immediate Past President:** Nigel Tate

#### Regional Representatives:

Auckland: Advised Tony (Anthony) Kortegast

Northern: One nomination Claire Steer

Central: One nomination Fiona Parkinson

Southern: One nomination Anthony Brien

As there was only one nomination received for all positions, no elections are required.

Claire and Fiona will join the Board with effect from the end of Conference 2026, on Sunday March 1.

#### Remit

One remit has been received for consideration at the AGM. Details of the remit, which relates to the introduction of a protocol in respect of Justice of the Peace (Retired), will be provided to associations before the AGM.

#### Constitution (re-registration under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022)

A revised constitution was considered at a Special General Meeting in late November. After minor immediate amendments, the draft was distributed to associations for feedback. This feedback will inform the final document for approval at the AGM.

#### Changes to statutory declarations

The Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 was recently amended to allow declarations to be administered via audio-visual means, a process temporarily used during COVID-19 lockdowns but discontinued in August 2022. The Federation was not given advance notice of the legislation change. Further details will soon be sent to associations, and the Ministerial Manual (online) will be updated.

**When did you last update your contact details?**

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



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



Workshop participants at the Holy Trinity Church Hall in Otahuu

# Big turnout for workshop

**Franklin association JP KARL VASAU was one of four Justices who attended a unique workshop for the Niuean community in Auckland last year . . . .**

We are always looking for ways to lift our presence and profile to ensure that JP services are accessible by all communities in New Zealand.

In October last year some of the Niuean community from across Auckland gathered for the day at a workshop on “Niuean Genealogy and the Land Court Process”. It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout at the Holy Trinity Church Hall in Otahuu, all eager to delve into crucial aspects of Niuean land laws and processes.

We had the privilege of learning from a Niue Land Court expert and lawyer, Romero Toailoa, who guided us through important legal frameworks, essential documents, and the intricacies of the land court system in Niue. His expertise provided invaluable clarity and understanding for all attendees, especially regarding the process of establishing family connections (genealogy) to prove interests and connection to Niue Island land.

Four Niuean JPs from the Franklin and Auckland associations were also in attendance. They were able to showcase and promote the vital services JPs offer. We play a crucial, practical role in supporting the Niuean people, and indeed all Pasifika people, to access the land court process by:

- witnessing signatures: verifying the identity of individuals signing official documents, which is essential for land applications, agreements, and other court filings.
- certifying true copies: certifying copies of documents like birth certificates, death certificates, and old court orders—all of which are vital pieces of evidence for land claims and genealogy cases.
- taking statutory declarations and affidavits: admin-

istering oaths for formal written statements used as evidence in court, ensuring their authenticity and legal standing.

Our services, which are free and voluntary, are indispensable for ensuring that all documents submitted to the Niue Land Courts are legally sound. Our presence at the workshop highlighted the comprehensive support available to Niueans navigating these important matters.

Workshops like these are essential for empowering our Pasifika community with knowledge and ensuring the preservation of our heritage and land rights. It was also important to showcase the services we provide as JPs and lift our profile in the Pasifika community. It was a truly enriching experience!



**Workshop organiser Maliaga Erick and Niue Land Court lawyer Romero Toailoa. Pictures: KARL VASAU**

## Judicial Studies students attend course practicum



Back row, left to right:  
 Judge Barbara Morris,  
 Chris Martin, Tony Hassan,  
 Richard Boyde-Mason, Ian  
 Kerrisk, Joe Asghar, Anthony  
 Searle, Gillian Lennox, Ed  
 Van Den Broek, Ray Pitch.  
 Front row, left to right: Lor-  
 raine Fowlie, John Hought-  
 on, Latisha Kelly, Sherri  
 Towler, Maria Piercy, Sonali  
 James, Carol Buckley, Ric  
 Odom

On November 13-14 last year 15 students attended the annual Judicial Studies Course practicum held in Wellington, and were assessed by Judge Barbara Morris for service as Judicial Justices of the Peace. The practicum was facilitated by Federation Professional Development Advisors Simone Baxter and Alex Milinni, and we were fortunate to have the support of the Public Defence Service, the Police Prosecution Service and the Wellington District Court, who provided participants to help us facilitate the various sessions we planned, along with Ric Odom and Carol Buckley from the Federation Board and local JJP Ann Clark (Wellington) and Gavin Hodder (Wairarapa). The National Executive Judge, Judge James Johnston, observed four sessions across the two-day course and provided

valuable feedback to the students in attendance. Sessions covered Ethics, Challenging Behaviours, Family Violence, and Judge-alone Trial Protocol, led by Judge Morris, followed by interactive mock courts. Additional practical workshops included Court Security, run by Court Security Officer Krishna Kalicheti and Carol Buckley, and Charging Document Preparation run by District Court deputy registrars Fenella Rothwell and Taylor McSweeney-Bigg. Judge Morris has now stepped down from the course after 10 years of assessing, sharing her knowledge, expertise and support. We have appreciated her humour, and her encouragement to follow a process, keep things simple, and speak with clarity. Judge Johnston will take over from her. — **Alex Milinni**

## Action plan to combat meth harm

The Government has agreed to a bold and comprehensive action plan to combat methamphetamine harm in New Zealand, Justice Minister Paul Goldsmith (right) has announced.

“Meth is a scourge on our society. Consumption doubled last year and ultimately, increased meth use fuels organised crime and destroys lives. This Government’s primary justice target is to reduce the number of victims of crime.

“The Prime Minister tasked the Ministerial team to find effective ways to address this growing issue. Today we’re delivering. I’d like to thank my colleagues Mark Mitchell, Matt Doocey, Casey Costello, Nicole McKee and Karen Chhour for all their hard work,” he said.

“Significant action is already under way, including investment in Customs, reviewing maritime security powers, police recruitment, establishing the Ministerial Advisory Group on Organised Crime, and Border Security Bill amendments.

“The Government has agreed to a suite of actions it can promptly take, and has directed officials to begin working on them immediately.”

These include:

- A hard-hitting nationwide media campaign over



four years, to deliver a consistent message and raise public awareness about meth-related harm, funded out of the proceeds of crime fund.

- Allocating \$30 million over four years to increase the services available to communities hardest hit by meth, within the Vote Health mental health and addiction budget.
- Directing Customs, the Defence Force and the Government Communications Security Bureau to undertake a series of maritime operations to disrupt organised crime networks operating across the Pacific Ocean.

- Increasing police enforcement abilities, including being able to intercept communications and search evidence stored electronically.
- Enabling police to reclaim ill-gotten gains from organised crime groups as quickly and effectively as possible.
- Consulting the maritime sector on a suite of proposals to strengthen border security and shut down opportunities for organised criminals to operate through our ports, such as strengthening background checks.

# From the Ministerial Professional Development Advisor

[trainer@jpfed.org.nz](mailto:trainer@jpfed.org.nz)



Alex Milinni

## Changes to the Family Proceedings Act

As covered in the January 2025 issue, Ashley's Law, which came into effect in October 2025, amended the Family Proceedings Act 1980 to allow individuals who hold a final protection order to apply for immediate dissolution of a marriage or civil union.

This removes the previous requirement for a two-year separation period in cases involving family violence. The change is intended to provide greater protection and to enable victims to legally end relationships without unnecessary delay.

The Family Proceedings (Dissolution of Marriage or Civil Union for Family Violence) Amendment Act 2024 came into effect on October 17 2025, introducing section 39A to the Family Proceedings Act 1980. This amendment provides an additional ground for dissolution, specifically aimed at improving access to justice for protected persons.

These changes provide greater protection for victims of family violence, allowing them a new avenue for applying for a dissolution of marriage or civil union as a protected person without having to live separately for two years as required by the irreconcilable breakdown of relationship grounds. The criteria under this amendment for getting a dissolution as a protected person are that:

- either the applicant or their spouse or partner must be



domiciled in New Zealand, and

- the applicant has a final protection order, or registered foreign protection order, in place against their spouse or partner.

A joint application is also possible if both parties have final protection orders against each other.

### Key points for S39A applications

- The two-year separation requirement does not apply.
- Parties do not need to be living apart.
- A copy of the protection order must be annexed to the affidavit - it does not need to be the original or a certified copy of the original.
- The protection order must be the final order, issued by either the Criminal or Family Court, or

be a registered foreign protection order.

- Affidavits for dissolution cannot be done online.

### Changes to the forms

- New application forms (packs three and four) are being developed for S39A protected persons applications - a joint form and one-party form.
- New forms for S39A applications will be available for the public in courts and online in the coming months.
- The current forms (one and two) will be phased out but are currently still valid where S39A doesn't apply.
- The existing forms for S37 irreconcilable breakdown applications are also being updated to bring them in line with the Family Court Rules 2002.



Form FP 14C

**Joint application for dissolution order: protected person under protection order**

Section 39A, Family Proceedings Act 1980

In the Family Court	FAM No: _____
at _____	[place]
[Applicant's full name]	
[Applicant's address]	
[Applicant's occupation] <b>Applicant (1)</b>	
[Applicant's full name]	
[Applicant's address]	
[Applicant's occupation] <b>Applicant (2)</b>	

[Set out full description of document (including whether it is made without notice or on notice), its date, the Act under which the document is filed, and, in the case of an affidavit or affirmation, the name of the deponent and in whose support it is filed.]

Joint application for dissolution order: protected person under protection order (section 39A, Family Proceedings Act 1980) made by	
_____	[name]
and	_____
_____	[name]
dated _____	

This document is filed by

[name and address for service, and, if filed by lawyers, the name and telephone number of the acting lawyer.]

apply for an order dissolving the marriage or civil union between my spouse (or partner) and me.

This application is made on the ground that protected person under a final protection order made against my spouse or civil union partner that is in force at the date of filing this application.

I say:

[select the option that applies below]

1. I am domiciled in New Zealand.  
**or**  
 1. My spouse (or partner) is domiciled in New Zealand.  
**or**  
 1. My spouse (or partner) and I are both domiciled in New Zealand.

2. I am a protected person under a final protection order made against my spouse (or partner) and the protection order is in force at the date of filing this application.

[select the option that applies below]

3. There are no children of the marriage or civil union.  
**or**  
 3. If an order dissolving the marriage or civil union is made, I propose to make the following arrangements for the day-to-day care, maintenance, and welfare of the children of the marriage or civil union:

Day-to-day care:

[give details below]

Maintenance:

[give details below]

## Correction to dissolution of marriage forms

The Ministry of Justice has advised that a minor wording error in dissolution of marriage (irreconcilable breakdown) forms has been corrected

On both the joint application and one-party dissolution application forms for irreconcilable breakdown, paragraph 11 incorrectly stated:

"The arrangements referred to in paragraph 8 of this affidavit are as follows:"

This should read:

"The arrangements referred to in paragraph 10 of this affidavit are as follows:"

The online forms have now been corrected and the error will also be fixed in the next print run of the hard copies. The current printed stock will continue to be used until it runs out.

If you receive any queries from participants using the older printed forms, please explain that paragraph 11 should refer to paragraph 10, not paragraph 8.

Also, in the pack three "Joint application for dissolution order: protected person under protection order" form, paragraph 2 should read (as shown in the image): *"I am a protected person under a final protection order"*. This has been brought to the Ministry's attention and fixed.

If you find different wording, please email me at [trainer@jpfed.org.nz](mailto:trainer@jpfed.org.nz) and I can email you the correct form, and provide any other information or answers to inquiries.

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/hdxysdsh>

# Handling documents related to final protection orders

## What is a final protection order?

Final protection orders are issued by the Family Court under the Family Violence Act 2018. They become final and permanent after three months if not challenged. They protect the applicant and named persons from family violence and impose conditions on the respondent (e.g. no contact, must surrender firearms).

Justices of the Peace do not interpret or enforce protection orders. Your role is to:

- certify copies of the order
- witness affidavits or statutory declarations related to the order.

## How to recognise a final protection order

- The document will be entitled “Final Protection Order”.

- They are issued by the Family Court.
- They are usually accompanied by an information pack for the respondent.

<https://tinyurl.com/3xjtfdx>

## Best practice for JPs

- Check the ID of the person presenting the document.
- Ensure the document is complete and unaltered.
- If authenticity is in doubt, do not certify – refer the person to the Family Court or a lawyer.

## Foreign protection order

There have been inquiries to the District Court about getting a form or template for the registration in New Zealand of an international or foreign-issued protection order.

# Handling foreign protection orders

There is no separate client form for registering a foreign protection order in New Zealand. The system generates a notice of registration, which is not an order itself and will not have a New Zealand court seal. An original Australian order should have its own seal and will be attached.

Currently, only Australian protection orders can be registered and enforced in New Zealand, so translation is not required. No certified copy of a translation is needed (not applicable).

When filing for dissolution, the existence of a protection order does not remove the need to address care of children. Respondents may still have parenting responsibilities.

If a child is named in a protection order, include the order details (reference number, issuing court, and date) in the care of children section. Do not attach the order unless specifically requested.

When a foreign protection order is registered in New Zealand, it creates a Case Management System (CMS) case with a reference number. This means it will appear in the system like an application, so it can be searched if someone later files a dissolution application involving a registered Australian order.

For further information:

<https://tinyurl.com/4ehz3k7z>

There can be different requirements at different courts - if in doubt ask at your local court or email us at [trainer@jpfed.org.nz](mailto:trainer@jpfed.org.nz)

FV 16

**r328(1)**  
**NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN PROTECTION ORDER**  
 Section 219, Family Violence Act 2018

In the Family Court at Court_Name	Case_Number Case_Number_Old
Applicant Applicant_Details_list	
Respondent Respondent_Details_Full_list	
<b>*Associated Respondent</b> <b>AssocParty_Details_list</b> <b>AssocParty_Occupation</b> <i>Delete if it does not apply</i>	
<b>NOTE</b> <small>Rule 311 of the Family Court Rules 2002 permits the applicant's address to be omitted from the heading.</small>	
<b>To:</b> <b>Respondent_Name</b> <b>Respondent_Address_Street</b>	
<small>An order was made for Applicant_Name at the ASK_FPFForeignCourtType Court at ASK_FPFForeignCourtName on ASK_FPFForeignDate.</small>	
<small>I have registered the order today, in this court.</small>	
<small>The order protects the following people:</small>	
<small>Applicant_Name Child_Name_list OtherPartyPerson_Name</small>	
<small>Child_DOB_list</small>	
<small>Now that this order has been registered in New Zealand, it will be treated like a protection order made by a Court here. A copy of a New Zealand protection order is attached to this notice. While you are in New Zealand, you must comply with the conditions set out in that order.</small>	
<small>Date: Order_Date</small>	
<small>Signature: _____ Deputy Registrar</small>	

## The District Court CMS template

# Changes to the Oaths and Declarations Act

Changes to the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 came into effect on November 27 2025 and were published online on December 1 2025:  
see <https://tinyurl.com/3de3kxp8>

The Statutes Amendment Act 2025 makes changes to the Oaths and Declaration Act 1957, confirming that where an oath, affirmation or statutory declaration must be taken in the presence of the person administering or taking it, that requirement can be met using an audio-visual link.

## Key points for JPs

- Check the receiving agency is aware of this method and will accept it.
- Confirm what the client is sending you and how many pages you will receive, when the appointment is made.
- Justices can witness statutory declarations, oaths, and affirmations via a real-time video call (not audio only).
- The client's camera must stay on during the entire process.
- The declarant must sign the document while on the video call. The JP must be able to see the client signing the document in view of the camera.
- The signed document (or a clear photo/scan) must be sent to the JP promptly so they can sign.
- Justices of the Peace must still confirm identity of the declarant, even over video.
- Ensure you have noted on the document that the statutory declaration, affidavit, or certification was completed online via audio-visual means.
- Once you have completed the task required by the client, it is their responsibility to send the document on to the agency.
- Even when you take a statutory declaration over an audio-visual link (such as Zoom or Skype), the client must still sign the document with a wet ink signature - electronic signatures are not permitted for statutory declarations under New Zealand legislation.
- Delete or dispose of the documents. Delete any and all communication with the client (original email, downloads, and all other emails, both in your inbox and sent items). Destroy securely any documents you have printed, certified and scanned.
- Make a note in your logbook that you met the client via audio-visual means.
- If you do not feel comfortable administering documents in this way, or do not have the appropriate equipment to do so, advise the client on how to find another JP who can help.



## Test your knowledge

This Justice of the Peace development quiz has been created from a recent training document used and provided by the Waikato association. It reflects key points discussed in professional development sessions to help JPs stay informed and confident in their duties.

- 1 When certifying a copy, what must a JP do?
  - a) Read the entire document
  - b) Sight the original document
  - c) Only check the first page
  - d) Ask the client to confirm authenticity
- 2 Is it a JP's responsibility to read through the client's document?
  - a) Yes, always
  - b) Only if it's a statutory declaration
  - c) No, it is not your responsibility
  - d) Only for affidavits
- 3 If a client brings only the statutory declaration page of an online application, what should the JP do?
  - a) Refuse to witness the signature
  - b) Witness the signature and note that the full document was not sighted
  - c) Ask for the entire document before proceeding
  - d) Treat it as a full statutory declaration without comment
- 4 What is considered best practice for record-keeping?
  - a) Record date, client name, and number/type of signed documents
  - b) Record full address and contact details
  - c) No record is necessary
  - d) Only record ID details
- 5 Do JPs have to initial all pages of an affidavit?
  - a) No, only the signing page
  - b) Yes, every page except the signing page
  - c) Only if requested by the client
  - d) Only for High Court affidavits
- 6 If parties to a joint affidavit appear separately, what must each JP do?
  - a) Nothing extra
  - b) Complete an exhibit note for each attachment on each occasion
  - c) Sign only the main affidavit page
  - d) Refer them to the same JP

• **Answers on P12**

# Electronic and digital signatures

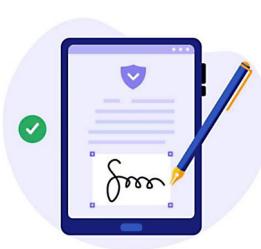
Technology is changing the way we handle documents, and Justices of the Peace in New Zealand are seeing more electronic and digital signatures than ever before (particularly since COVID-19).

Knowing what these signatures mean, when they're acceptable, and how to deal with them is key to maintaining best practice and protecting the integrity of your JP duties.

## What are electronic and digital signatures?

You might hear the terms electronic signature and digital signature used as if they mean the same thing, but they do not.

**Electronic signature:** This is a broad term for any electronic way of showing agreement or approval. It could be a typed name, a scanned handwritten signature, ticking a box, signing with a stylus, or even clicking "I accept" on an online form.



**Digital signature:** This is a specific type of electronic signature that uses encryption and certificate-based authentication. It confirms who signed the document and ensures nothing has been changed. Digital signatures are more secure and carry stronger legal weight.

### Electronic Signature

*Jane Smith*

### PDF Digital Signature

Jane Smith

Digitally signed by Jane Smith  
Date: 2025.12.12 14:49:06

## Electronic signature vs digital signature

In New Zealand, both types are recognised under the Contract and Commercial Law Act 2017, which says electronic signatures can be legally valid if they meet certain conditions.

Under the Act (part 4, sub-part 3), an electronic signature must meet the following requirements:

- 1 Identify the person signing and show their approval of the information.
- 2 Be reliable for its purpose and the circumstances.
- 3 Be accepted by the other party involved.

If these requirements are met, electronic signatures are fine for most commercial and administrative documents.

## When can't you use them?

Some documents still need traditional signing and witnessing. These include:

- wills
- affidavits

- statutory declarations
- powers of attorney
- some documents where legislation specifically requires the document to be witnessed.

These exclusions are especially important for Justices of the Peace, who are often asked to witness or certify documents like statutory declarations, affidavits or wills.

## When electronic signatures are acceptable

As a JP, you might come across electronic signatures in situations such as:

- certifying copies of documents that were signed electronically (e.g. employment contracts, tenancy agreements)
- witnessing signatures on documents that aren't legally excluded from electronic signing
- providing ministerial services where the signature itself doesn't need legal witnessing (e.g. verifying identity for a certified copy).

Before you proceed, it is prudent to ask the client to confirm in writing that a digital or electronic signature will be accepted for their purpose.

You must not witness or accept electronic signatures for:

- affidavits and statutory declarations (under the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957)
- wills and powers of attorney, which have strict formal requirements.

In these cases, the signature must be handwritten and witnessed in person. If someone presents an electronically signed version, explain that it can't be accepted and outline the legal requirements.

## Best practice

To ensure an electronic signature is accepted, it is best practice to:

- Use a reputable e-signature platform (e.g. DocuSign, Adobe Sign) that provides a secure, tamper-evident audit trail, including the time, date, and IP address of the signer.
- Ensure that all parties involved (including the court) have consented to the use of electronic signatures.

Electronic and digital signatures are now common, and JPs need to handle them confidently and lawfully. By knowing where they're valid and where they're not, you can provide clear, consistent service to the public.

If you're unsure, check the Ministerial Manual or seek advice from your local association. Remember: your role isn't to interpret the law, but to apply it with care, clarity, and professionalism.

# Overseas documents – what you need to know

Every country has its own laws about who can take a statutory declaration or certify a document. There's no universal standard.

Check the form first:

- If the form or instructions say a New Zealand Justice of the Peace can administer the declaration, take the declaration as usual.
- Do not change any wording on the form.

How to sign:

- After your signature, write or use your Justice of the Peace for New Zealand stamp.
- Make sure your name and JP number are clear so

the overseas agency can verify you.

If the form doesn't mention New Zealand Justice of the Peace:

- Ask the client to confirm you're allowed to act.
- They may need to check with their embassy, high commission, or the receiving agency.

## Important reminder

- It's the client's responsibility to confirm you have jurisdiction to sign.
- The overseas agency decides whether they accept your signature – not you.

## Apostilles simplify authentication overseas

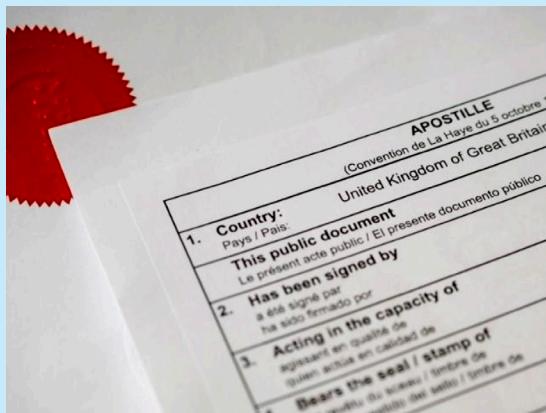
An apostille certificate in New Zealand is an official government endorsement that verifies the authenticity of a document for use overseas. It confirms that the signature, stamp, or seal on the document is genuine, making it legally recognised in countries that are part of the Hague Apostille Convention.

An apostille is used when you need to present New Zealand documents such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, academic records, or legal documents in another country. Instead of going through a lengthy embassy legalisation process, the apostille simplifies this by providing a standardised certificate.

New Zealand joined the Hague Apostille Convention on November 22 2001, which means documents issued in New Zealand can be apostilled for use in other member countries.

### Who issues apostilles in New Zealand?

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) is the designated authority responsible for issuing apostille certificates. Their Authentication Unit handles both apostilles and traditional authentications (used for countries



Model of an Apostille as annexed to the Convention

APOSTILLE (Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961)	
1. Country: .....	This public document
2. has been signed by .....	.....
3. acting in the capacity of .....	.....
4. bears the seal/stamp of .....	.....
Certified	
5. at .....	6. the .....
7. by .....	.....
8. No .....	.....
9. Seal/stamp: .....	10. Signature: .....

not part of the Hague Convention). Applications can be made online or by post, and the DIA will attach the apostille certificate to the original document or a notarised copy.

### Can a JP make certified copies for an apostille?

No, Justices of the Peace do not have jurisdiction to certify copies required for an apostille. Notary publics are able to provide this service because the DIA requires notarisation for certain documents before issuing an apostille. If they need an apostille, refer them to the DIA Authentication Unit or a notary public.

### A few tips

- Always ask the client what the document is for before you start.
- If it's for overseas use, check the instructions carefully.
- When in doubt, refer to a notary public or the DIA.
- Keep your wording simple and consistent: "Certified true copy of the original document sighted by me."
- Remember: Your authority is under New Zealand law only. Overseas agencies make the final call.

# Certification and statutory declarations

## – navigating attachments and agency requests

Justices of the Peace in New Zealand are frequently called upon to witness statutory declarations and certify supporting documents for a wide range of personal, legal, and administrative purposes. While these tasks may seem routine, they often involve nuanced decisions that require careful adherence to legislation and best practice – especially when external agencies request specific formats or wording.

One common area of complexity arises when a statutory declaration is accompanied by supporting documents, such as a copy of a passport, and the requesting agency provides instructions that conflict with established JP procedures. Understanding how to manage these situations is essential to ensure the documents you witness or certify are accepted.

When a statutory declaration references an attachment - such as proof of identity, travel documentation, or financial records - it's important to distinguish between the declaration itself and the supporting material. Under the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957, the declaration must be witnessed in person, with the declarant affirming the truth of its contents voluntarily and with full understanding.

Supporting documents, while often essential to the purpose of the declaration, are not part of the declaration. They must be treated as separate items for the purposes of certification. This distinction is critical when agencies request that documents be attached or certified in a particular way.

A request we have seen recently from agencies is for certification to be placed on the reverse side of a document, particularly identity documents like passports. While this may be intended to preserve the appearance of the original, it directly contradicts best practice guidance outlined in the Ministerial Manual.

Certifying on the back of a document introduces several risks:

- It may be overlooked or separated from the content it refers to.
- It can create ambiguity about which side was actually certified.

- It increases the potential for tampering or misuse.

Best practice is clear: certification should be placed on the same side as the content being verified, and where possibly slightly over the edge of the document as not to obscure the stamp and not cover any of the details in the document.

Agencies may also provide specific wording they wish to see on certified documents. If the agency has provided this, ensure that you follow their instructions so that the document will meet the requirements. When there is no statement provided, use the statement as per the Ministerial Manual.

### Best practice steps

When presented with a declaration and supporting documents, JPs should follow these steps:

**1 Witness the declaration properly:** Ensure the declarant completes the declaration in your presence. Confirm they understand its contents and are signing voluntarily. Apply your signature, name, JP number, JP designation, and date in accordance with the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957.

**2 Certify supporting documents separately:** Treat the passport copy or other attachments as separate documents. Certify them using the wording specified by the agency or if nothing is provided, the standard wording on the front side, ensuring your certification is clearly visible and directly associated with the content.

**3 Provide guidance when needed:** If the agency's instructions conflict with JP standards, explain the rationale for your approach to the client.

By adhering to best practice and following the guidance in the Ministerial Manual, even when faced with conflicting instructions, you protect yourself and the client from potential confusion.

When in doubt, refer to chapters 3 and 9 of the Ministerial Manual, consult your JP association, or seek clarification from the Federation.

# KiwiSaver hardship withdrawal applications

Hardship withdrawal applications are showing up more often at JP service desks. Many providers now allow clients to complete most of the process online.

## Best practice

If possible, ask the client to print the entire application. Administer the statutory declaration in the usual way - initial each numbered page (except the signing page).

This ensures the declaration clearly relates to the full application.

## What's happening now

- Some providers (e.g. AMP) email clients with instructions such as "Print the final page and take it to a JP."
- JPs often see only one page – a statutory declaration stating: "The information provided by me in or with this form is complete, true and correct."
- The risk: There's no clear link between that declaration and the full application if the client hasn't printed it.

## Suggested approach

- Explain the risk – that the declaration refers to a form you haven't seen.
- Ask to see the provider's email for context.

Administer the declaration as usual, but clearly mark the page as "P1 of 1", and record in your logbook that only one page was presented.

## Online Education Pages Index

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

Log into [Justicesofthepeace.org.nz](https://www.justicesofthepeace.org.nz)

### JQ Magazines

[Read more](#)

### Justices' Quarterly Magazines

From January 2023 the JQ magazine is available online only.

[Go to the Justices' Quarterly Education page index](#)

## Quiz answers

### • From page 8

(1) **b**

Ministerial Manual P24: S3.2.1

3. *Sight the original document*

(2) **c**

Ministerial Manual P16: S2.15

*"... it is not your responsibility to read the client's document."*

(3) **b**

*This is becoming more common and is unlikely to be other than a pro forma application (or similar) provided by an agency. Our Manual doesn't address this specifically. The JP still needs to ask the question in S5.4 of the Manual, on P47. However, to clarify what has been done, the JP may also want to note that they witnessed the signature but had not sighted the whole document.*

(4) **a**

Ministerial Manual P96: S9.8

*"Keeping a record ... is contained in point 6 of the Code of Conduct and is best practice."*

Ministerial Manual P112: S11.8.2

*Maintain a record of activities, provided the information stored is not used in any manner contrary to the Privacy Act.*

*The most common practice is to record date, name of client, and number/type of signed documents.*

(5) **b**

Ministerial Duties Manual P16: S2.13

*"Initialling every page is compulsory for affidavits except the signing page."*

*Not included in the Ministerial Manual is any reference to High Court Rules 2016 – Rule 9.76 applies particularly to pro forma affidavits such as those for Dissolution of Marriage or Civil Union, and for those affidavits prepared by a lawyer, for example.*

(4) *if an affidavit has more than 1 page –*

*(a) the deponent must initial or set the deponent's mark on each page (not including the cover sheet) that precedes the page on which the statement by the taker in accordance with subclause (3) appears; and (b) the taker must initial each of those pages.*

6) **b**

Ministerial Manual P73: S6.12.5

*"Remember, when parties to a joint application have their affidavit taken on separate occasions, an exhibit note must be completed for each attachment on each occasion."*

# Celebrating fellowship and achievement

**Federation Past President RACHAEL O'GRADY stepped down as President of the Australasian Council of Justices' Associations at the organisation's recent AGM and Conference in Canberra. This report covers the Council's activities and achievements in 2025, and her reflections on her 10 years on the Council.**



The 2025 Australasian Council of Justices' Associations (ACJA) AGM and Conference, held in Canberra on October 10-11, was marked by remarkable fellowship, teamwork, energy and hospitality. Hosted by the Australian Capital Territory Justices of the Peace Association (ACT JPA), the event brought together 18 Justice of the Peace delegates representing 10 member associations.

The proceedings began on Friday afternoon with an engaging discussion forum. Delegates focused on key topics including "Use of AI Technology", support and resources for smaller associations, and each association outlined the services they provide to their communities, which highlighted variations across the jurisdictions.

Saturday's AGM opened with remarks from Caitlin Tough, Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly, representing the Attorney-General's office. Alongside fulfilling the constitutional requirements of the AGM, attendees were given the opportunity to reflect on the operational performance and progress of the past year.

Strategically, 2024-2025 was a year in which the Executive, sub-committees and ACJA members worked collectively towards achieving the organisation's goals, demonstrating significant progress on several fronts. This included but was not limited to the Zoom forums facilitated by the Executive, which have become a much-valued

medium for member associations to share and discuss ideas on set topics. The two forums in 2025 were on "Raising the Justice of the Peace Profile in the Community" and "Constitutions for Contemporary Organisations".

Inter-Jurisdictional Comparisons, compiled by Vice-President John Carpendale, remain a valuable resource for member associations. This year saw the introduction of a Comparative Analysis of "Training and Professional Development" and "The Public Profile of the Justice of the Peace". The latter analysis used actual data to provide a comprehensive overview of the differences in public profile strength across jurisdictions. During the Conference, John guided delegates



**Beverly Alley . . . honoured for outstanding service to the council**

through this latest analysis, which is expected to be highly beneficial for many associations.

Following John's presentation, Paul Mracek (Victoria) delivered an overview of a new series of five podcasts centred on the theme "Empowering Governance" (above). These podcasts, along with supplementary materials are publicly available at <https://ac-ja.org>

To acknowledge and celebrate significant achievements by councilors, three awards were presented this year. Certificates of Appreciation for five years of service to the Council were awarded to Rodney Lavin (Victoria) and Leonie Timms (Fremantle). A Distinguished Service Plaque for outstanding and exemplary service to the Council was approved by the AGM and presented to Beverly Alley (ACT) during the Saturday night dinner. Beverly was commended for her unwavering commitment over 15 years - a journey marked by wisdom, meticulous attention to detail, and a steadfast spirit of service.

As announced at the 2024 AGM I did not seek re-election as ACJA President, and the sole nominee for the role, Paul Mracek, was duly elected. Beverly Alley was re-elected as registrar, with John Carpendale (Queensland) continuing as Vice-President and Christine Cordingley (New South Wales) as deputy registrar. John has indicated that he will not seek re-election in 2026.

The AGM and presentations were complemented by two guest speakers: Chief Magistrate and Chief Coroners Lorraine Walker, who addressed bail matters, including a few anecdotes to emphasise particular points, and Jenna Priestly, representing the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, who discussed changes to the Commonwealth statutory declaration, and the upcoming 2026 review of those changes.

The Conference concluded in grand style with the Saturday night dinner, where delegates and their partners were joined by ACT JPA members to celebrate the ACT association's 35th anniversary. The dinner's guest speaker, barrister and former ACT Attorney-General Bernard Collaery, delivered a thought-provoking speech on the importance of truth and justice.

Looking ahead, the 2026 ACJA Conference will be hosted by the Western Australian and Fremantle associations in Fremantle.

### Reflection on ACJA Council service

Since 2016 I have had the privilege of being an ACJA councillor, a member of the Education and Training and Membership Support Services committees, and the honour of being Vice-President from 2019-2021 and President 2021-2025. Having participated in a good deal during the course of those ten years the following reflections were included in my final President's report:

"On first joining ACJA there were earnest efforts to achieve 'harmonisation' across all jurisdictions.

And while I absolutely maintain that variation is the enemy of quality, looking from the outside (from a New Zealand perspective) I couldn't get my head around how 'harmonisation' could possibly ever be achieved with the fragmentation between and within Australian states which makes progress difficult to achieve. I have therefore been delighted to have been part of the transition to instead place a greater focus on what is within the control of ACJA member associations, but without losing sight of the importance of advocating for the delivery of a consistent and professional JP service in all Australasian jurisdictions.

"There was, and still is, a future for this body, with the Council using its combined wealth of experience to the advantage of member associations. That collective insight across jurisdictions is one of the greatest tools the ACJA has in keeping alert to changes to our Justice of the Peace environment. Being part of the ACJA I have witnessed first-hand how bringing voices from across the jurisdictions together is a powerful way to share feedback, generate new ideas, and tackle challenges together. It has been fantastic to see, and be part of, the camaraderie and the focus on collective growth.

"Collaboration is central to the work of the ACJA and the commitment to being a network of cohesive and capable Justice of the Peace associations. The move to regular newsletters and Zoom forums has steered the ACJA away from being seen as 'quiet and inactive' and shown there is much more to the Council than when councillors had only a once-a-year face-to-face annual meeting."



## President retires

A highlight of the Saturday night dinner at the ACJA AGM and Conference was a presentation from the Executive to outgoing President Rachael O'Grady, for her leadership and dedication during her term. It was acknowledged that under her stewardship the ACJA has strengthened and become more relevant, enabling her to hand over an organisation in good health with strong potential to the incoming President.

Writing in the ACJA's December newsletter, new President Paul Mracek paid tribute to her contribution.

"We all benefit from those who have contributed tirelessly before us and with this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution by Rachael O'Grady in her 10+ years of service as a councillor and over the past four years as President of the ACJA," he said.

"Rachael's vision and dedication in conjunction with the Executive team of Beverly Alley (registrar), Christine Cordingley (deputy registrar) and John Carpendale (Vice-President) have established in the ACJA, a peak body that looks to build connection, knowledge, partnership and advocacy for all Justices of the Peace and their associations across Australasia. Thank you, Rachael, for all that you have achieved, and all our best wishes for a well-earned rest and continued success in all your future volunteer activities."

### ACJA Member Associations



ACT Justices of the Peace Association Inc.



Northern NSW Federation of Justices of the Peace.



Royal Federation of NZ Justices' Associations



Queensland Justices Association



Gold Coast Justices Association



Royal Association of Justices of South Australia Inc.



Tasmanian Association of Justices of the Peace Inc.



Association of Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for the Declarations Inc.



The Royal Association of Justices of Western Australia



Fremantle Association of Justices Inc.



Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

# New Year Honours for JPs

Congratulations to the 16 Justices named in this year's New Year Honours List who are members of associations. They are listed below, with their association membership in brackets.

## New Zealand Order of Merit

### Companion (CNZM)

Roa, Professor Thomas Charles (Tom) (Waikato)  
For services to Māori language and education

Trott, Donald Stanley Mackintosh ONZM (Whanganui)  
For services to opera

### Member (MNZM)

Edgar, Judene Louise (Nelson Tasman)  
For services to governance, local government and the community

Eynon-Richards, Jane Frances (Rotorua)  
For services to the community

Johansen, Kāren Eirene (Gisborne)  
For services to education and human rights

Kennett, Richard William (Otago)  
For services to conservation and Search and Rescue

Napier, Vivien Lewanna (Viv) (Wairarapa)  
For services to local government and the community

Powar, Ravinder Singh (Waikato)  
For services to ethnic communities

Stirling, Arihia Amiria QSM (Auckland)  
For services to education and Māori

## King's Service Medal (KSM)

Fuller, William Robert (Far North)

For services to the community

Harris, Paul David (Canterbury)

For services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the community

Knowles, Barbara Joy (Franklin)

For services to the community and to Members of Parliament

Myer, Gordon Leonard (Auckland)

For services to the community

Nicholas, Aere Anne (Auckland)

For services to the community

Singh, Harjinder (Harjinder Singh Basiala) (Franklin)

For services to the Punjabi community

Toleafoa, Reverend Wayne Saunoa Moegagogo

(Hawke's Bay)

For services to Pacific communities

## Mass claims, mixed results

With class actions making headlines, legal researchers are asking whether they deliver fair compensation and deter repeat offending.

Mass class actions for personal injury claims don't always deliver justice for victims or deter wrongdoing, research suggests.

In an article in the bi-monthly journal *Laws*, Auckland Law School senior lecturer Nikki Chamberlain (right) and Professor Michael Legg (University of New South Wales) have examined how class actions, which enable groups with similar claims to pursue a case collectively, operate in Australia and New Zealand.

They say that while class actions can compensate claimants and deter wrongdoing to some extent, significant issues hinder their effectiveness - that "class actions are necessary, but often not sufficient".

Although large compensation payments are often awarded, these payments can come years after the wrongdoing was committed, which is particularly problematic when personal injury is involved.



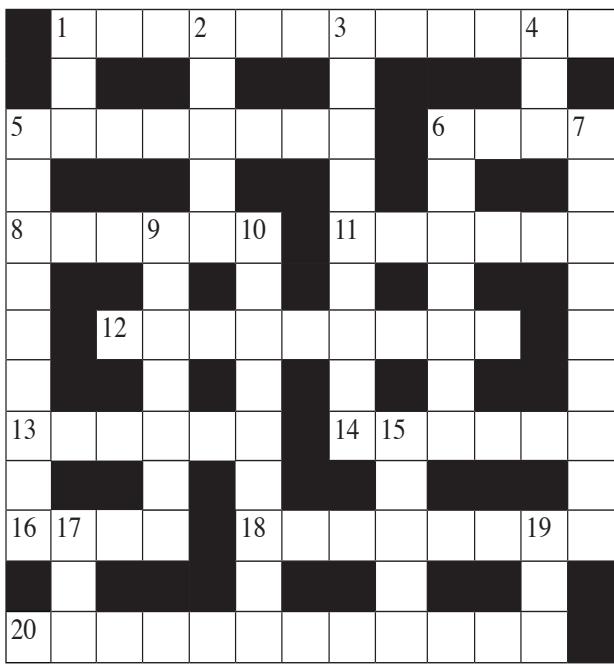
Ultimately, said Ms Chamberlain, this raises questions about whether there's a more effective way to remedy mass damages, and her ongoing research digs deeper into options, including New Zealand's regulatory approach under the Accident Compensation Act.

In the article, Ms Chamberlain and Professor Legg analyse the Australian and New Zealand class action systems, prior research, and three case studies.



Three judges were in attendance for the swearing-in last year of new Taranaki association JPs Kimberley Olsen and JB Smith, who is a long-standing security officer at the New Plymouth District Court. From left to right: Kimberley Olsen, Judge Gregory Hikaka, Judge Lyn Harrison, Judge Anthony Greig, JB Smith (in Highland dress), community magistrate Carla na Nagara, and Terry Heaps, president of the Taranaki association. Court registrar Courtney McKerrow is at rear. Away from his duties at the District Court, JB Smith is a well-known piper and drummer in Taranaki pipe bands. Judge Hikaka, who was association patron, has since retired, and Judge Harrison is taking over the role. Picture: KAREN LAURANCE

#### CROSSWORD

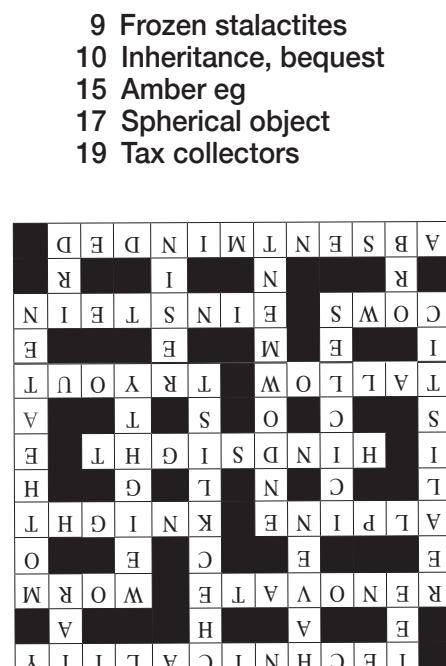


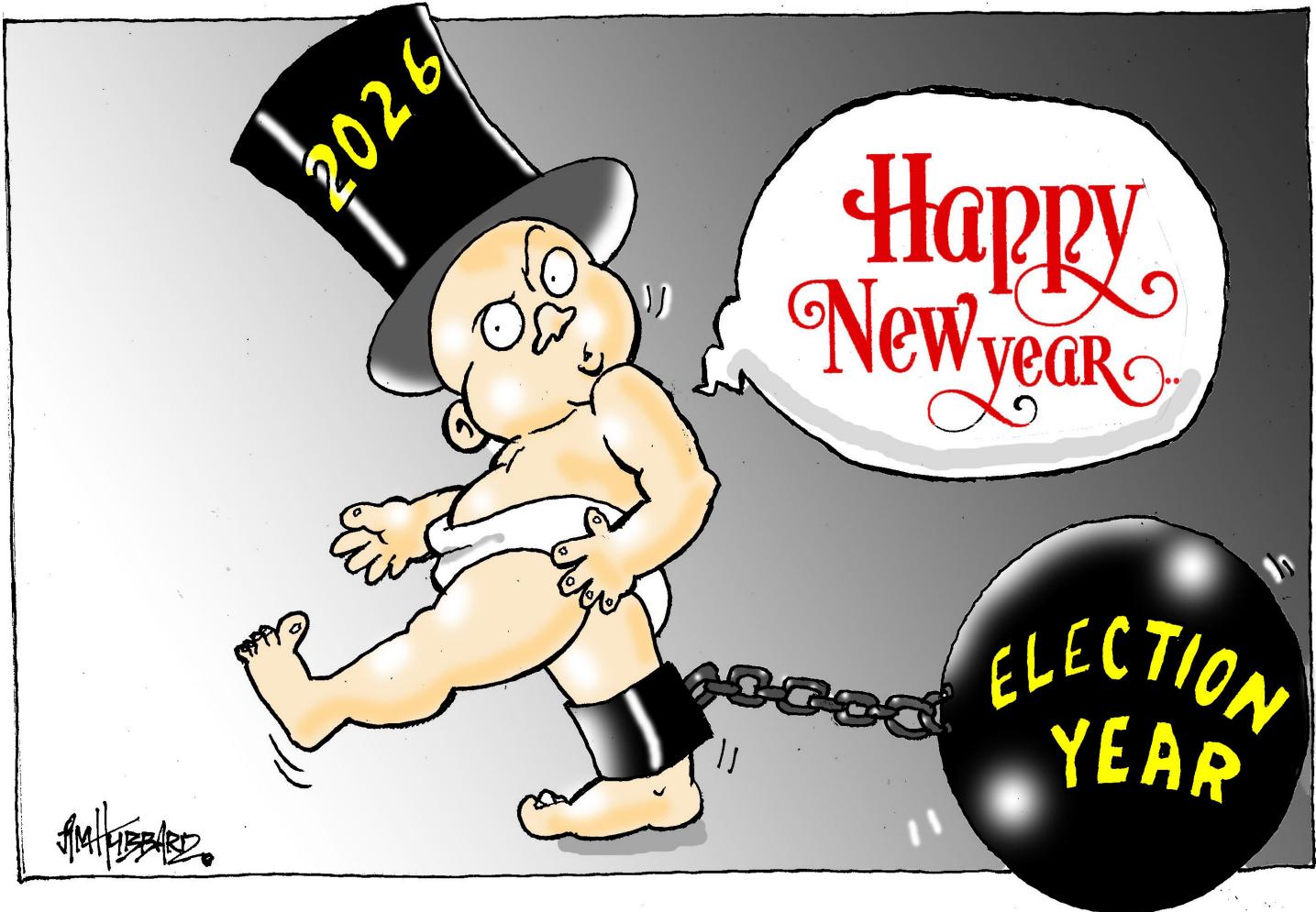
#### ACROSS:

- 1 Legal loophole
- 5 Modernise
- 6 Computer virus
- 8 Of mountains
- 11 Chevalier
- 12 Retrospection
- 13 Rendered animal fat
- 14 Test (3,3)
- 16 Intimidates
- 18 ie tennis (anag)
- 20 Lost in thought

#### DOWN:

- 1 Lightweight shirt
- 2 Refuge
- 3 Registry
- 4 Sailor
- 5 Practical, pragmatic
- 6 Heavy, ponderous
- 7 Ragged, shabby (4-5)





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PRESENTED TO ME AS AN ORIGINAL

Signed .....

Date .....

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Full Name, JP  
#8888

WELLINGTON

Justice of the Peace for New Zealand

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Max Smith  
Marriage Celebrant

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**EXHIBIT NOTE**

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and sworn/affirmed/declared at \_\_\_\_\_  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_ before me  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#5  Size: (70mm x 35mm) Price: \$86.00



#6  Size: (20mm x 20mm) Price: \$36.00

Certified true copy of a document  
presented to me as an original

Signed .....

Date .....

Full Name, JP  
#8888  
WELLINGTON

Justice of the Peace for New Zealand

#7  Size: (60mm x 40mm) Price: \$79.00

Certified true copy of.....

..... that represents the named individual.....

.....

Signed .....

Date .....

#8  Size: (70mm x 35mm) Price: \$86.00

Certified true copy of .....

..... that represents the named individual .....

.....  
Full Name JP - Reg: 88888 - Wellington  
Justice of the Peace for New Zealand

Signature..... Date.....

#9  Size: (70mm x 35mm) Price: \$86.00

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JP Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

**Delivery Address**

\_\_\_\_\_

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**My Order: Stamp Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Add - Shipping :** \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.50

**Total Owing:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Westpac 03 0558 0020633 00**

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.

Ahuja Hardik, Christchurch	Apache, Marissa Gabutero, Methven
Alexander, Deborah Mary, Karapiro	Cardno, Judy Patricia, Hari Hari
Bala-Supramaium, Gangasudhan, Ngaruawahia	Christensen, Gina Marie, Feilding
Banks, Colleen Lynette, Whakatane	Davies, Jonathon Peter, Lower Hutt
Case-Miller, Anne-Marie, Hamilton	Dittmer, Bryan, Tuakau
Chand, Anup, Auckland	Fairhurst, Helen Evelyn, Te Kauwhata
Chandra, Praneil, Auckland	Fowler, Joyce, Rotorua
Daruwalla, Roshni, Auckland	Goldsmith, Keryn Tracy Arahia, Tikitiki
Fauwad, Nobia, Auckland	Haylock, Garth Alan, Spring Creek
Ferrier, Phillip Mark, Hastings	Hoban-Watson, Louise Kathleen, Christchurch
Hamill, Carolyn Louise, Whakatane	Jackson, Raechelle Therese, Christchurch
Li, Jiebin, Auckland	Johnston, Christine Jane, Christchurch
McNaughten, Gareth Peter, Warkworth	Karena, Aaron Riki, Dannevirke
Messervy, Nigel Graham, Napier	Khan, Abdul Raiyaaz, Christchurch
Miller, Casey Anne, Gisborne	Kurian, Leya Miriam, Carterton
Nambiar, Narendra, Christchurch	Lea, Sione Fakavamoeatu, Christchurch
Nath, Nicolas Ronesh, Christchurch	McEvedy, Margaret Mary, Christchurch
Ngataki, Kandi Awhina Maxine, Tuakau	Mishra, Sanat Kailashnarain, Wellington
Pak, SeungHee, Hamilton	Norden, Brigitte, Levin
Pearce, Robyn Ruth, Pukekohe	Owen, Patricia Anne, Wairoa
Pollock, Kerrie Angela, Waitoa	Piper, Nigel Victor, Wellington
Pualau, Harry, Auckland	Russell, Kiri Lee, Greymouth
Ram, Jainenth Jyotish, Te Awamutu	Scott, Anita, Hawera
Raumati, Marlene Hemepo, Te Kauwhata	Seymour, Andrea June, Gisborne
Robért, Elyse Katherine, Paekakariki	Shannon, Mary-Anne, Feilding
Sadeghi, Amir, Auckland	Singh, Kultaran, Papamoa
Saré, Andrew Kerry, Christchurch	South, Richard Ashley, Rangiora
Smith, Russell Blakeley, Te Aroha	Sullivan, Jeremy Daniel, Christchurch
Titcombe, Hirata, Wellington	Taani, Gloria Te Paki Leokava, Kawerau
Turnbull, Adele Rachael, Auckland	Wood, Suzanne Ashford, Cromwell
Vala, Karisma Maree, Rotorua	Young, Kerri Ann, Dunedin
Waqanivala, Elisapeci Samanunu, Paraparaumu Beach	

*Dated at Wellington  
this 8th day of October 2025  
Hon Nicole McKee  
Associate Minister of Justice*

*Dated at Wellington  
this 19th day of November 2025  
Hon Nicole McKee  
Associate Minister of Justice*

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

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