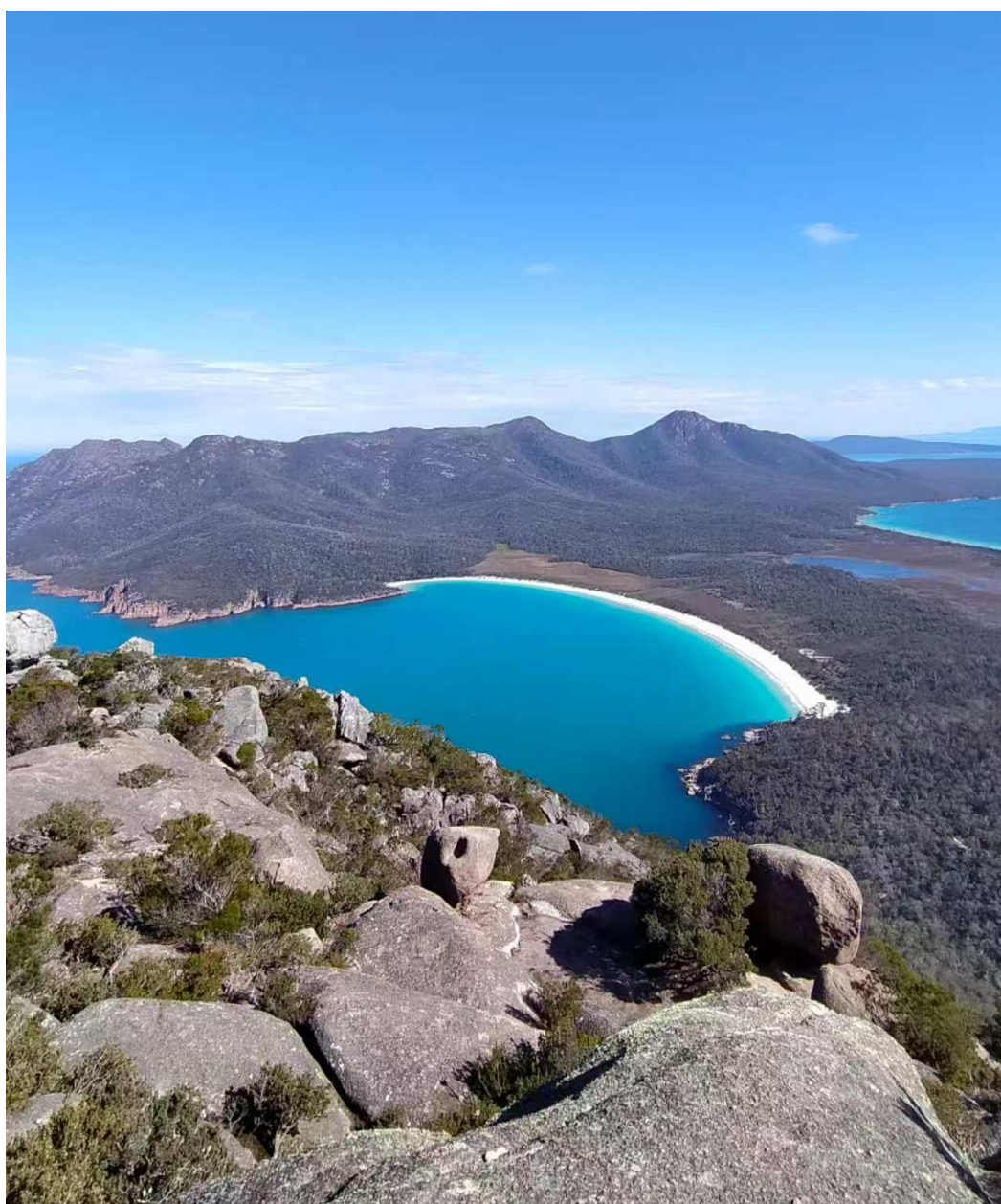


TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE INC



Journal

VOL 6 | JUNE 2026 ISSUE



TAJPI JUNE 2026 ISSUE

Note: Opinions expressed editorially or by contribution do not necessarily represent the views of the Tasmanian Association of Justices of the Peace Inc (TAJPI)

TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE INC

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Robin is a retired Medical Education Advisor, educator and counsellor, active community volunteer, avid traveller and reader, and proud mother of four with nine grandchildren.

03- From the AG

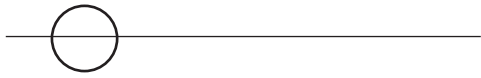
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13 Meet Our Treasurer

Barry Chandler JP, our Treasurer, is a highly respected square dance leader whose 50+ years of service have earned him Life Membership, National Roll of Honour recognition, and Life Patron status.



President's Report

Hi all,

So far, the weather has been extremely mild. I do enjoy autumn; it's my favourite time of the year, with all the beautiful colours in the trees. I guess winter will hit with a bang soon enough. The rain has arrived in recent days, and I'm sure the farmers are most appreciative.

The Association VP, John Hayton, will be taking some sick leave over the next few months, so we wish him all the best for a speedy recovery, and we look forward to seeing him back on deck around July. In the meantime, Jonathan Cahill will be coordinating PD.

Recently, two NW JPs have received significant awards. Jonathan Cahill received a Volunteer of the Year Award for his service to the Burnie Surf Club. He has also been a JP for many years. A recently retired JP, Rhys London, received an OAM for his service to the Wynyard area as both a JP and a community pharmacist. Rhys also received a 50-year Service Certificate from HJATNW. Congratulations to both of you on these wonderful achievements.

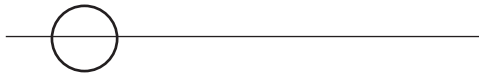
A second round of membership cards is underway and should be ready soon. Cards will be mailed out once completed.

The Association website and IT systems are being thoroughly overhauled, so members should be able to access information, previous PD materials, etc., once everything is complete.

Lyn, our Membership Coordinator, has been away on holiday, and Wendy Dick filled in during her absence. I thank Wendy for her efforts over the past month. Wendy will be taking over Lyn's position when the time comes for Lyn to step aside.

Signing centres continue to be a vital service to their communities. Thanks to Keith for coordinating this essential service.

The Patron of our Association, Her Excellency Governor Barbara Baker, will step down from her role in the coming days. Her successor, Caroline Wells, will be appointed soon afterwards. We have requested that Caroline continue in the role of Patron if she wishes



President's Report

to do so. Hopefully, we will have the opportunity to meet Her Excellency once she has settled in.

I hope members are happy with the format of the journal. Personally, I think it is great, and Patricia does a wonderful job. We thank her immensely.

Regards,

Lorraine Smith JP
President, TAJPI

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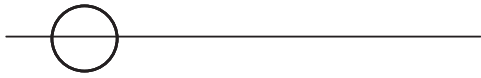
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Attorney General's Update



It is my pleasure to write to Tasmania's Justices of the Peace with a May update of the Government's justice agenda.

I was delighted to attend the Tasmanian Association of the Justices of the Peace Inc. 2026 State Seminar on 28 March in support of the JP community. It was a pleasure to hear from JPs representing all the regions of our beautiful State who, as put by one of the speakers, are 'the unsung heroes of the justice system'. The presence of Tasmania's Justice of the High Court of Australia, the Hon Justice Robert Beech

-Jones, at the Seminar is proof of the recognition of the important role JPs play in the administration of justice. I thank the Association for organising this event.

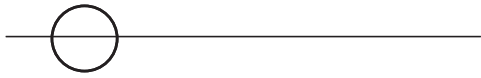
Our Government is continuing to deliver reforms that acknowledge past wrongs, strengthen protections for vulnerable members of our community, and ensure that those who break our laws are held to account.

The Tasmanian Government's historical forced adoptions redress scheme will open for applications on 15 June 2026. The scheme will provide a redress support payment of \$75,000, consisting of both a redress payment and payment for psychological and counselling support. Historical forced adoptions caused significant pain and suffering for so many women, and we want to recognise all those mothers who have been affected by these practices.

The Government is also reviewing the feedback to the 'Strengthening Our Responses to Family Violence in Tasmania' discussion paper. We are listening to the community and justice stakeholders and are working through the significant and varied feedback improve how our legislation addresses the blight of family violence.

Our Government is progressing reforms to the Monetary Penalties Enforcement Act 2005 to ensure that the Monetary Penalties Enforcement Service (MPES) has the tools available to collect outstanding debts as originally intended by the Act. Importantly, the amendment Bill will provide a mechanism to collect debts by persons who have been fined in Tasmania but are based interstate, through a reciprocal enforcement process

(Continued on page 3)



Attorney General's Update — continued

(Continued from page 2)

between participating jurisdictions. At the same time, the Bill will enhance fairness by removing the publication of enforcement debtors' personal details, as well as strengthening privacy protections for the public.

Our Government has commenced consultation on legislation addressing recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry's 2023 Report. The proposed Bill aims to deliver better protection of children and young people, improve information sharing across government, and ensure strong accountability across public institutions in Tasmania and is open for consultation until 7 June 2026.

Significantly, this Bill will grant victims of crime the right to seek an independent merits review of compensation decisions of Criminal Injuries Compensation Commissioners through the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

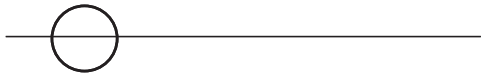
We have also released a discussion paper titled 'Modernising the Residential Tenancy Act' for community consultation. This ensures that reforms are identified to improve protections for tenants while preserving the right of property owners and housing providers to make reasonable decisions about the use and management of their property.

The discussion paper reflects our Government's commitment to ensuring tenancy legislation remains contemporary and effective to deliver better outcomes for all Tasmanians. Public feedback can be made until 12 June 2026.

15 May 2026 marked National Corrections Day. I was pleased to mark the occasion with some of Tasmania's dedicated correctional officers. This year's theme, 'Extraordinary Work, Extraordinary People,' recognises the skill, professionalism and commitment of our correctional workforce – people whose contributions to community safety, rehabilitation and justice are often unseen, but deeply felt across Tasmania.

I have been particularly interested in supporting our rehabilitation programs. One such example is the 'Job Ready Program', currently being piloted at the Risdon Prison Complex. The program engages those nearing the end of their sentence and prepares them to transition back into the community.

The program includes nationally recognised training and practical skills such as safe



Attorney General's Update — continued

(Continued from page 2)

work practices, communication in the workplace, use of tools and equipment, and assistance with job readiness including CV writing and employment referrals. As a Government, we make no apology for being tough on crime, but while people are in prison, we are providing pathways to rehabilitation and a better future.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Fairbrother has been selected to construct the new Burnie Courts Complex. The replacement Burnie Courts Complex represents a significant investment in Tasmania's justice system. The project will improve access to justice in the North West by providing contemporary infrastructure for all court users and stakeholders.

I look forward to continuing to bring reforms to improve the justice system and to foster the positive relationship between Government and the JP community.

Guy Barnett

Deputy Premier

Attorney-General

Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation

Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs



Department of Justice

Personal Safety for Justices of the Peace

Volunteering as a JP is an important and valued service to the Tasmanian community. Every day, JPs assist members of the public with witnessing documents, certifying copies and administering declarations. While this role is rewarding, it is also important for JPs to prioritise their own personal safety when arranging appointments with members of the public.

Although many JPs provide services from their homes, this is generally not recommended unless the JP personally knows the individual. Wherever possible, appointments should be arranged in locations that appropriately balance privacy and personal safety.

When arranging to meet with a member of the public, the following general personal safety considerations may assist:

- ask for the person's full name and contact details when making the appointment
- ask what type of document requires witnessing so you can be prepared and allow sufficient time for the appointment
- arrange a clear meeting time and location
- consider meeting in an appropriate location that balances the need for both personal safety and privacy, such as:
 - a public library meeting room
 - a community or neighbourhood house
 - council offices
 - a JP document signing centre
 - another suitable office or meeting space.
- avoid meeting people alone in isolated locations
- carry a mobile phone whenever possible
- let a trusted friend or family member know where you are going and when you expect to return
- if travelling after dark, consider choosing well-lit and busy areas and remain aware of your surroundings.

(Continued on page 5)



Department of Justice

Personal Safety for Justices of the Peace

(Continued from page 4)

It is also important to remember that dealings between a JP and a member of the public are confidential. Meetings should therefore take place in a setting where documents cannot easily be viewed by others and conversations cannot be overheard.

If a JP agrees to attend a person's home to provide services, they should carefully consider their personal safety and individual circumstances. JPs are encouraged to prioritise their personal safety and exercise their own judgement when arranging appointments.

Importantly, JPs are not expected to

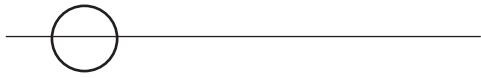
tolerate abusive, threatening or aggressive behaviour from members of the public. If at any stage you feel unsafe, end the interaction immediately. In an emergency, contact emergency services on 000.

The Department of Justice appreciates the ongoing contribution made by Tasmania's JPs and encourages all JPs to make personal safety a priority while continuing to provide this valuable community service.

For further information or assistance, please contact the Manager, Justices of the Peace by email at jp@justice.tas.gov.au or telephone 6166 1429.

The Department of Justice has recently updated the Statutory Declaration form align with the Oaths Act and is now available on the website.

Link below: [Statutory declarations | Department of Justice](#).



Southern Report

Witnessing Statutory Declarations after Fraud

If you've noticed more people arriving at your Document Signing Centre (DSC) needing a statutory declaration for a bank refund, an unauthorised transaction, or early release of superannuation due to fraud, you're not imagining it. Scam-related declarations are one of the fastest-growing reasons people seek out a JP, and banks and super funds usually require the declaration to process a claim.

The clients are often distressed, embarrassed, or in a hurry, or all three, so it's worth remembering that a JP's job in these situations is not to investigate the scam or judge the merits of the claim. Your role is simply to be satisfied the person understands the document they are signing and that they are signing it freely.

That said, a little patience goes a long way. Slowing down, explaining the process, and giving the person a moment to compose themselves can make a genuinely difficult experience less stressful, without straying beyond what the role requires.

Spotting Fraudulent or Altered Identity Documents

Identity fraud doesn't stop at the bank counter - JPs are sometimes the last line of everyday scrutiny before a document is submitted somewhere official. While you're not expected to be a forensic document examiner, a few basic checks can help.

Look for inconsistent fonts or spacing on printed

identification (ID), laminate that looks re-sealed or bubbled, photos that don't quite match the person in front of you, or details such as date of birth, expiry, which don't logically add up. Genuine government-issued ID has consistent, high-quality print and security features that are difficult to replicate.

It's important to be clear about the limits of your role: a JP verifies identity to a reasonable, practical standard and not to a forensic one. If something feels wrong, you're entitled to ask further questions, request additional ID, or politely decline to act if you're not satisfied.

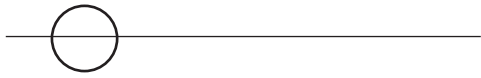
If you do suspect a document is fraudulent, you're not obliged to explain your suspicions to the person. As a JP, it is enough to say you're not able to assist on this occasion and where appropriate, note the incident for your own records.

Recognising Capacity Issues Before You Witness a Document

One of the most important - and sometimes hardest parts of a JP's role is being satisfied that the person in front of you actually understands what they're signing.

A useful practical test is to ask the person to explain, in their own words, roughly what the document does and why they're signing it? If they can only repeat back exactly what someone else

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Southern Report

- continued

(Continued from page 8)

told them, or seem confused about basic details, it's worth pausing.

On the other hand, language barriers are common and shouldn't be mistaken for a capacity issue. Use a professional interpreter where possible and be cautious about relying on a family member to interpret, particularly if that family member has an interest in the document being signed.

If you have genuine doubts about capacity, you are entitled, and indeed expected, to decline to witness the document. It's not your job to diagnose a medical condition, but it is your job to be satisfied the person understands what they're doing.

Elder Abuse and Powers of Attorney: What to Watch For

Powers of attorney are among the most sensitive documents JPs are asked to witness, because they can hand significant control over someone's finances or welfare to another person.

Warning signs worth being alerted to include, a relative answering questions on the older person's behalf, visible urgency or pressure to get the document executed sooner than later, the older person seeming isolated from other family or support, or signs of distress when speaking about the document.

It's not the JP's role to judge whether granting the power of attorney is a wise decision, but it is appropriate to insist on speaking with the person

alone, ask them directly in their own words what they understand, and decline to witness if you're not satisfied their consent is free and informed.

Long Queues at DSCs

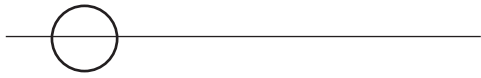
Anyone who has sat at a DSC on a busy day knows the tension between a growing queue and the need to properly check each document and each person's understanding.

It's worth resisting the temptation to rush. A thorough, unhurried process protects both the client and the JP, even if it means a longer wait for others. Managing public frustration diplomatically, while still doing the job properly, is a skill worth discussing and sharing tips on among JPs.

For example, an idea that could prevent long queues at your DSC is to display simple signage that reminds clients to bring photo ID, and (for that isolated situation where a client brings a thick wad of documents to be witnessed), to make an appointment, so that appropriate care and attention can be given to what is likely to be a time consuming task.

With most of what JPs do, discretion and good communication is what makes mole hills out of otherwise potential mountains.

James Ayliffe JP



Northwest

Report

Happy EOFY to everyone.

Probate webinar will be conducted late July as a face to face session for NW members:

Date & time: July 15 | 6.00pm

Venue: Chelsea Room | Furners Hotel.

There will also be help available to use the DoJ apps for your mobile.

Any other topics that members would like to have in a F2F session, please contact Lyn or Lorraine.

Membership badges

All second round membership badges have been distributed (sent out by express post).

If you have not received it please contact Lyn or Lorraine.

Lorraine Smith JP
President

Northern

Report

“Hats off” to Sonia, 24 years clocked up as a JP and dedicated service organising our office roster.

Thanks also to David and Nigel for 20 years of dedicated service. All three have also served as Committee members in the North with Sonia currently a statewide committee member .

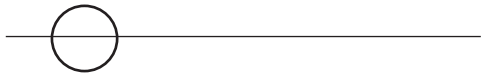
Later additions to the roster, Amanda,Linda and Robin.

Recognising also the other JP’s in the North who have regularly served the public in our busy office which provides 5 days per week service from 10 am to 3 pm.

An activity we recently facilitated was a Level 1 course for 2 new JP’s who are welcome additions to the North.

Our location in the Service Tasmania building ensures an effective public profile and we are kept busy on a regular basis.

Robin Ikin JP
Northern Committee Member



Keeping the Chain Interlocked:

How a 50-Year-Old Square Dance Tradition is Saving the Art of Real Connection in Hobart

Think square dancing is just a relic of the past? Think again. From April 30 to May 4, Hobart City Hall was transforming into the ultimate dance floor, hosting the 66th Australian National Square Dance Convention. This five-day festival isn't just your average meetup — it marks a massive 50-year milestone since Tasmania first hosted the national event back in 1976.

In a world where we spend more time staring at screens than interacting with real people, this convention offers a fascinating look at how an old-school hobby is building a bulletproof community.

The 50-Year Loyalty Club

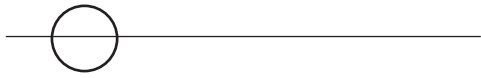
What makes this event so special isn't just the fact that it's survived for half a century — it's the people who have stuck around with it. Convention convener Barry Chandler points out that this milestone is a huge achievement, especially because they still have dancers showing up who were there at the original 1976 Tasmanian event.

With more than 450 people already signed up to attend, the event shows a level of loyalty you rarely see anymore. It proves that when people find a community centred around shared joy and movement, they stay hooked for life.

The Magic of the "Group of Eight"

At its heart, square dancing is the ultimate team sport, but without the cutthroat competition. Rosalind Todd, President of the National Square Dance Society, explains that the magic all comes down to the way the dance is built. You can't dance alone; you start in groups of exactly eight people.

This structure forces people to cooperate, chat, and connect instantly. For a community scattered all across the country, this annual convention is like a massive family reunion. It gives people a chance to catch up with friends they haven't seen in over a year, instantly picking up right where they left off.



Keeping the Chain Interlocked:

How a 50-Year-Old Square Dance Tradition is Saving the Art of Real Connection in Hobart

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No Experience? No Problem.

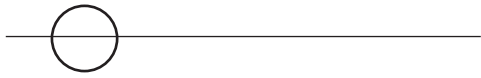
While 450 hardcore enthusiasts are descending on Hobart, the event is anything but an exclusive, snobby club. The organizers are keeping the doors wide open for curious locals. Anyone can walk up to Hobart City Hall, buy a ticket at the door, and check out the action. By making it so easy for the public to peek inside, the convention keeps the tradition fresh, welcoming a new generation of dancers into the fold.

Why This Matters Today

The 66th Australian National Square Dance Convention is proof that traditional hobbies are more important now than ever. By mixing a rich 50-year history, mandatory teamwork, and a welcoming attitude toward outsiders, square dancing shows us exactly how to build a vibrant, happy community. As hundreds of dancers prepare to fill the hall in Hobart, they aren't just celebrating the past—they're proving that real-life connection never goes out of style.

Patricia Wang JP

Editor, TAJPI



Member Profile

Treasurer — Barry Chandler



Barry began square dancing in the mid-1970s and has been a dedicated and hardworking dancer ever since, having held a number of executive positions in various square dance organisations.

He has held executive positions in the local club, state convention committees, the Tas Callers Assoc., and the State Society. Furthermore, he has contributed to the National Square Dance Society, serving two terms as President and a number of years as a State delegate.

Barry has extensive experience with National Conventions, having attended over 42 of them alongside being a member of over 10 National Committees (serving on five as Convenor or Co-Convenor — now six), and he served as the Chairman of the Australian National Square Dance Convention Board for 16 years.

Barry's involvement also includes being the first Tasmanian to be appointed as a Leader/Teacher with ARDA and having represented Tasmania in a number of Showcase rounds, including the first one won by Tasmania in Perth in 1978.

He was honoured by the Tasmanian Square Dance Society Inc. with Life Membership in 1993, was further privileged to be one of the first two from Tasmania added to the National Roll of Honour by the National Square Dance Society in 2002, and was subsequently made a Life Patron for National Square Dance Conventions in 2005.

Barry goes about things in a quiet and unassuming manner and, when looking at his impressive list of accomplishments, he could well be described as a "quiet achiever". With a background in management and being a qualified accountant, you can be sure that he will ensure all aspects of the convention are attended to in a professional manner.



Member Profile

Northern Committee Member—Robin Ikin

Robin was Tasmanian born and educated at UTAS, BA (Psychology) and M Ed, Myers Briggs Personality Type Indicator practitioner and Emotional Intelligence practitioner.



Recent career role pre retirement was Medical Education Advisor at the Launceston General Hospital and the UTAS School of Medicine for 18 years.

Formerly a teacher and counsellor at Launceston College and community service as a founding member and President of Road Trauma Tasmania (9 years) and counselling victims of domestic violence. Served as a consumer member of the Nursing Board of Tasmania for 3 years.

Widely travelled with one of her 4 daughters and family residing in Japan. Avid reader. Busy family life with nine grandchildren, 2 honorary granddaughters and 2 cats.

Robin

End of the 2025-26 Financial Year

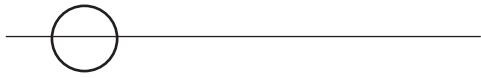
— Reminder to Lodge Your Tax Return

With the end of the financial year now behind us, it's time to start preparing and lodging your tax return. Lodging on time helps ensure you receive any refund you may be entitled to and avoids unnecessary stress as deadlines approach.

Before submitting your return, make sure you have all your relevant information available, including income statements, bank interest details, dividend statements, and records of any deductible expenses. If you use a registered tax agent, remember that different lodgement deadlines may apply.

Even if your tax affairs are straightforward, it's worth checking that all information pre-filled by the ATO is complete and accurate before lodging. For information on tax return deadlines, deductions, and lodgement options, visit the Australian Taxation Office website at www.ato.gov.au.

Don't leave it until the last minute — a little preparation now can make tax time much easier.



Staying Connected Matters

One of the greatest benefits of belonging to an organisation is the opportunity to stay connected with others who share common interests. Regular participation in club activities, meetings and events helps build friendships, strengthens our sense of community and contributes to our overall wellbeing. Even a simple conversation or shared activity can brighten someone's day and create lasting memories.

As we move through the year, we encourage all members to stay involved and support one another. Whether you volunteer your time at the DSC, attend an event, or simply reach out to a fellow member, every contribution helps maintain the friendly and welcoming spirit that makes our community so special. Together, we can continue to create an environment where everyone feels valued, connected and included.



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the ACADEMY NEWS

from Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia

JUNE 2026



Bathing Buddha Holy Ceremony Buddhist Era 2570

SUNDAY 24 MAY 2026

Holy Sakyamuni Buddha was born in ancient India as Prince Siddhartha Gautama. 2570 years later, more than 100 guests from around the world gathered at Ci Bei Temple in Hobart, Tasmania to celebrate Bathing Buddha Festival, commemorating the Buddha and Buddha's mother's achievements.

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