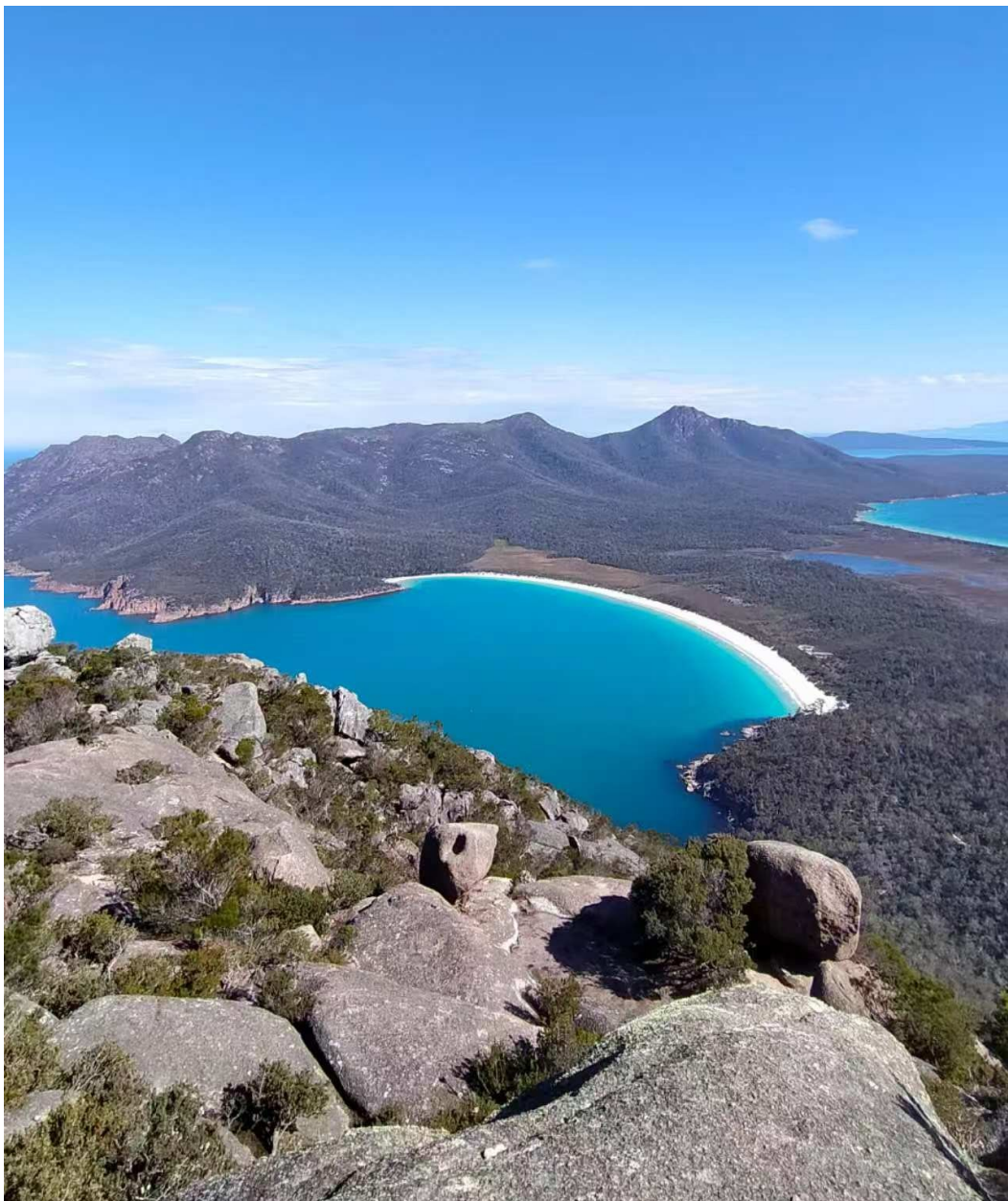


TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE INC



Journal

VOL 1 | JULY 2025 ISSUE



TAJPI INAUGURAL 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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The Governor of Tasmania

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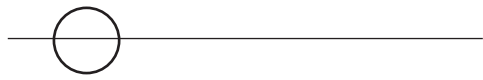
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Once powerful figures with broad judicial and administrative authority, Justices of the Peace in Australia evolved from colonial-era magistrates overseeing convict affairs to modern-day volunteers performing largely administrative legal tasks under state-specific laws.



President's Report

This is my first report as the incoming president of the newly amalgamated JP Association of Tasmania. It will be very short, devoted mostly to the formation of the new statewide association.

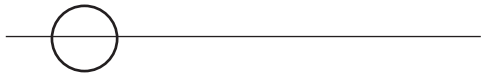
Winter has arrived by the feel of the weather over the last few days. What a wonderful autumn we have had; beautiful colours, fresh mornings and evenings and magnificent calm sunny days.

It was reported in journals late last year that at a Special General Meeting (SGM), a greater than 75% majority of members had voted for the amalgamation of the 3 regional Associations. This has now been completed and the new statewide association is functional.

The Executive Committee of the new association has now been elected. There are still a few issues to be sorted but things are moving forward and the association should be fully functioning in the very near future. I would personally like to send my sincere thanks to the Working Group members who for the past 18 months have been doing all the groundwork to get the statewide association up and running (David H, David P, Michael, Lyn, Wendy, Bill, James and Keith. A general letter has now been circulated detailing what progress has been made thus far.

Membership has been set at \$25 for all JPs and nil cost for Life Members and membership is for the financial year.

(Continued on next page)



President's Report Continued

The quarterly meetings with the Department of Justice will continue and now we have a united voice with which to present any ideas and concerns.

There have been some updates added to the JP Resources section of the JP website. These include:

- Search warrants checklist
- Witnessing documents checklist
- JP logbook template

I look forward to working closely with the incoming committee in order to provide strong support to all JPs across Tasmania. I would encourage all JPs to contact the Association if there is any topic of interest that you would like covered.

John Hayton is the statewide coordinator for professional development. His contact details are in this journal or your usual contact in each of the regions.

Regards,

Lorraine Smith
President, TAJPI



Lorraine Smith
Founding President of
TAJPI

A little bit about me!!

Married for nearly 48 years to Chris, and we have 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 1 retired greyhound. Apart from the odd year we have lived on the northwest coast for most of that time and areas.

I was appointed a JP in July 1997 and did the Bench Justice course (commonly called L3) in 1999. However due to F/T work was not able to commit to bench duties. I then redid the course in 2015 and commenced Bench duty in July 2016.

I am also the Drug Destruction JP for Tas

Police having taken over from long term JP Glenn Emmett. I have been doing this for approximately 5 years.

I have been an active member of the Honorary Justices' Association of Tasmania-Northwest Committee for many years; having held the position of VP for 2 years, Treasurer for 4 years and President for 5 years.

In a previous life I was a pharmacist for over 45 years having spent approximately half that time in Hospital Pharmacy, the remaining half in Community Pharmacy & consulting services. During that time I represented

the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) as the NW CPD coordinator organising regular education sessions for pharmacists and organising health professionals as guest speakers. I have also been involved with Utas Rural Health School as a regional support person for pharmacy students on placement which also involved some student marking.

I was a Counsellor with NMAA (now ABA, Australian Breastfeeding Association) for almost 20 years but still maintain a special interest in infant feeding and early parenting. I have also represented the Pharmaceutical Society with the Breastfeeding Coalition Tasmania.

I am a very outdoor person and have played a variety of sports over the years including hockey (including coaching and I have

coached both my daughters to state level), softball, swimming, squash, badminton, tennis, bushwalking and now that the body has slowed a little, I am enjoying pickleball. I also enjoy pottering in the garden.

Hockey was my major sport having played since the age of 14 so that now means that I have been playing for over 50 years. I was a regular player in Masters Championships annually around Australia and am the proud owner of 2 golds, 3 silvers & 4 bronze medals.

My husband & I own a small caravan and enjoy “gray-nomadding” on the big island but do enjoy finding little spots out of the way in Tasmania to camp.

Lorraine Smith JP

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Mr James Ayliffe, Mr David Plumridge
& Ms Lorraine Smith
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james.ayliffe89@gmail.com; ldplumridge@bigpond.com;
clsmith.24@outlook.com

27 March 2025

Dear Mr Ayliffe, Mr Plumridge & Ms Smith

Thank you for your letter received on 8 March 2025 informing me about the formation of the Tasmanian Association of Justices of the Peace Inc (TAJPI) following the amalgamation of the three regional Justices of the Peace (JP) associations. I am pleased to hear that this new entity was officially approved on 31 January 2025 and has now assumed responsibility for all activities previously managed by the regional associations.

I commend the efforts of all involved in this significant transition. Addressing key operational matters such as administration, finance, professional development, and communications is essential to ensuring a seamless and effective transition. I also appreciate the commitment of the current office holders who will continue to work collaboratively until the first General Meeting on 7 April 2025.

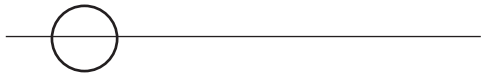
Your dedication to enhancing service delivery for JPs across Tasmania, improving financial efficiency, strengthening communication and collaboration with the Government, and expanding professional development opportunities is truly commendable. I am confident that the unified structure of TAJPI will bring substantial benefits to both JPs and the community they serve.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and for keeping me informed about the progress of TAJPI. I look forward to seeing the positive impact of this new chapter for Tasmania's JPs.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in white ink, which appears to be "Guy Barnett".

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice



Attorney General's Update

It is my privilege to update the Justice's of the Peace of Tasmania.

Tasmania is the best place to live, work and raise a family. Under the Tasmanian Liberal Government, we are continuing to take action on the things that matter to Tasmanian's like cost of living, health, and housing as well as to improve the Justice system, to deliver a better and safer community.

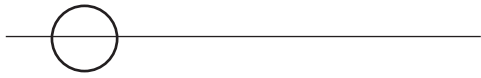
In April 2025, the Electoral Amendment (Alternative Voting Procedures) Bill 2025 passed the Tasmanian Parliament, which will bring greater accessibility for Tasmanian voters at Parliamentary elections. The Bill has responded to the voice of the people, the challenges experienced by voters, and importantly gives disability advocacy groups an ongoing opportunity for feedback and continuous improvement. On a personal note, I'd like to thank advocates from Disability Voices Tasmania and Blind Citizens Australia for approaching me to make this important reform.

I am pleased to announce that the TASCAT (Additional Jurisdictions) Bill 2025 has passed the Tasmanian Parliament. The TASCAT Bill will enhance the administration of Justice by providing dispute resolution in a timely manner. Furthermore, the Bill includes a legislative response to recommendation 18.13 of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings,

enabling TASCAT to review decisions under the *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013*.

The Tasmanian Government continues to deliver on its commitment to crack down on knife crime, with the Police Offences Amendment (Knives and Other Weapons) Bill 2025, known as Reid's Law, one step closer by passing the House of Assembly. Under this law, an officer will be able to use a handheld scanner on a person in a public place, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect a person is carrying a weapon or knife. These powers will help Tasmania police get knives and weapons off our streets and make our communities safer.

In late March 2025, the Tasmanian Government opened the Expressions of Interest process for non-judicial members of the Judicial Council and Judicial Commission Tasmania. The establishment of a Judicial Council is an important and historic occasion, and will allow a robust system to provide all participants in the legal system with the opportunity to raise concerns, strengthening confidence in the integrity of the justice system. Where necessary, the Judicial Council will be able to refer a complaint, and appoint a Judicial Commission for further investigation. The expression of interest application process, available on the Department of Justice website, closes Thursday 18 April 2025.



Attorney General's Update

continued

The Tasmanian Government has launched a new, user-friendly Registration to Work with Vulnerable People scheme website, to streamline processes and improve the overall experience of users seeking to Register. The Government is also expanding the RWVP Scheme to close gaps in child-related activities, and include protections for broader categories of vulnerable adults. Changes to the RWVP Scheme will occur in three phases, the first of which came into effect on 1 April 2025, removing two exemptions for the requirement to hold registration; the 7 day exemption and the emergency management worker exemption. Further changes to the RWVP Scheme will occur throughout 2025 and early 2026.

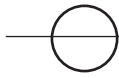
Enabling works to deliver the Tasmanian Government's \$86.5 million Burnie Court Complex is set to commence late April 2025. The Project is moving in a great direction, with site preparations underway including the demolition and removal of current buildings, which is about to begin. We are also working through final planning and development requirements for the new Courts. I look forward to briefing the Justices of the Peace

as the project progresses.

On a final note, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Tasmanian Society of Justices of the Peace for your judicious service in representing and supporting the interests of Justices of the Peace, across Tasmania. The work undertaken by Justices of the Peace is vital to our community and is greatly appreciated by the Tasmanian Government.

Guy Barnett

Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice



Department of Justice

Improving Access to JP Services

As a valued member of Tasmania's Justice of the Peace (JP) community, the Department of Justice sincerely thanks you for your continued dedication to this important role and for the valuable service you provide to your local community.

The Department is committed to ensuring equitable access to JP services across Tasmania. While the number of appointed JPs may appear sufficient in some areas, recent feedback from the public indicates that community members in some regions are experiencing difficulties accessing services. In response, we are reaching out to encourage awareness and reflection across the JP community regarding your current capacity and availability to serve.

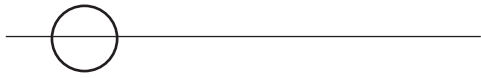
Under section 19 of the *Justices of the Peace Act 2018*, JPs are expected to remain **reasonably available and active**. To support you in understanding what this entails, the Department worked collaboratively with the JP Associations and published guidelines outlining expectations around community availability and regular participation in the role. You can view the guidelines here: [Reasonably Available and Active Justices of the Peace | Department of Justice](#).

We also recognise that personal circumstances can change. If you feel you are no longer able to deliver regular JP services, please consider whether it is appropriate to step aside to allow other community members to be appointed. Should you decide to resign, the process is simple and can be completed online: [Justice of the Peace Resignation Form | Department of Justice](#).

If you are currently active and available, we thank you for your ongoing contribution. Should you wish to update your availability or contact information, this can be done by accessing the following form: [Justice of the Peace Change of Details Form | Department of Justice](#).

Additionally, if you are interested in keeping up with the latest news and community information from the Department of Justice, you can follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) where we share regular updates.

Once again, thank you for your service and your continued support of the Tasmanian community.



Southern

Report

The southern region of the TAJPI has approximately 225 members. It has represented southern JPs for over 100 years, it being established in 1922.

Signing centres – there are five Document Signing Centres in operating in the southern region – Service Tasmania in the city operates two days each week with the four others open one day each week at Service Tas Rosny Park, the Supreme Court, and local council offices at Glenorchy and Kingston.

Last financial year, a total of 3,592 members of the public attended signing centres. Attendees frequently expressed their gratitude for the convenience of the services provided. Appreciation is expressed for the efforts of the 43 or more volunteers who contribute their time and knowledge at the Centres.

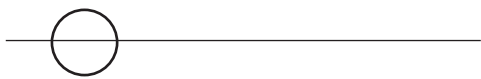
Professional development – In addition to providing sessions for new JPs, there have been annual seminars arranged to which all Tasmanian JPs are invited. Among others, speakers over the years include Attorneys General, Police Commissioners, prominent lawyers, Department of Justice executives, members of the judiciary, police forensic specialists and a notary public, all expressing topics relevant to JPs. It is anticipated that arrangement for another seminar will commence shortly.

Social – The southern association has over a long period of time provided social activities for members usually consisting of visits

to a location of general interest including some with relevance to the State's judicial and criminal systems. Sites visited include the construction site of the new Bridgewater Bridge, a legal marijuana farm, Strathgordon underground power station and an inspection of the police launch Vigilant.

Annual dinners for members, their family and friends are a regular feature as are appreciation afternoon teas for our Signing Centre volunteers including their family and friends.

We look forward to sharing various activities in the three regions, for the benefit of all our members.



Northwest Report

NORTHWEST LIFE MEMBERS:

Glenn Emmett, Allan Waddle OAM,
Ian Day, Karen Linegar and John
Bloomfield

Both signing centres are continuing well. My sincere thanks go out to Ian Day & Garth Johnston for the management of these centres. Also, to other volunteers for their assistance with the centres. This is a very important service offered to the community and it would be great for other people to put up their hands to help out occasionally. Please let Lyn Jackson know if you would like to help.

The 1st function for the year was the presentation of service certificates to those JPs who have attained many years of volunteering. There was an excellent turnout for the event with 10 certificates to be issued. It was fabulous that we had 2x 35-years and 1x 30-years included in that. What a wonderful commitment to the community.

Another session on search warrants was conducted by PO Allira Bartush. An excellent session with many questions again.

Inspector Steve Jones from Western District FVU (Family Violence Unit) conducted an information session on family violence,

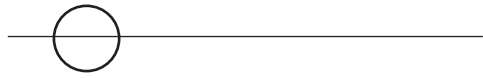
what is involved, how police respond and training involved for the police response. Electronic monitoring was also covered. The information was very well received and generated many questions.

The rescheduled information session on VAD has now been held. The Hon Mike Gaffney MLC conducted the discussion and gave JPs an in-depth insight into this program and how the JP might be involved.

Recently one of our JPs (Libby Perkins OAM) was invited by Central Coast Mayor (Cheryl Fuller, also a JP) to a civic function held in Devonport to meet the Governor General, the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC. Libby attended this function as a representative of the RSL. The evening presented a great opportunity to gain a better understanding of her role as our Governor General of Australia and to have a casual chat with her. A wonderful event reported Libby.

NORTHWEST — CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 11	Inspector Elmer	<i>Being a female PO in Tasmania</i>	Postponed
June 17	L1 Introductory Course		
July 16	Federal Court Judge Marcus Turnbull	Chelsea Room, Furners Hotel	6.00pm



Northwest Service Certificate Presentation



Recipients with certificates: Milton de Jong, Jeff Matthews, Dudley Corbett, Jake Weeda, Debbie Baldock, Theresa McCullough and Greg Douglas.



JPs Cheryl Fuller and Libby Perkins with the GG The Honourable Sam Mostyn AC



Northern Report

The Launceston office running as HJAT was opened in 2003 & was for 19 years in Henty House in Civic Square. We moved to this location C H Smith Building in 2019.

We have 10 JPs on the roster who mainly volunteer monthly but there are a few of us work weekly from 10.00am - 3.00pm

It is very comfortable office & gives privacy to clients.

We did over 30,000 documents in 2024 & this has been the average over the past years apart from the Covid year which was less as the office was closed for several weeks.

The JP's that Volunteer are as follows:

- Sonia Wood 23rd year
- David Plumridge 22 years
- Nigel Forteath 22 years
- Bill Morgan
- John Stevenson
- John Campion
- Amanda Burbury
- Robin Ikin
- Craig Seen
- Linda-Ann Smith

Tasmanian Association of Justices'
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Northern Office

C H Smith Building
23 Charles Street
LAUNCESTON

- Jayanthi Maniam (who will do her first day on Monday)

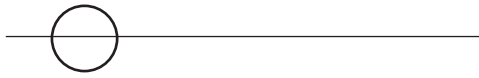
We have a very happy smooth-running office .

If there are any problems or change of days it always turns over very easily as there are always someone willing to step in to assist.

Our committee up until we Amalgamated met on a bi-monthly basis.

If you require any further information. Feel free to contact me.
Kind regards

Sonia Wood JP
CMC



CONFLICT OF INTEREST

What is a conflict of interest?

We all are aware that, as JPs, we must be very aware of and take appropriate action if there is any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest in undertaking one of our important duties.

From the Regulations associated with the JP Legislation:

10. Conflict of interest

(1) For the purposes of this regulation, an appointed justice has a conflict of interest when providing the services of a Justice of the Peace if his or her personal, pecuniary or business interests interfere with, or may be perceived as interfering with, his or her independent and impartial provision of those services to, or in relation to, a person.

The JP Handbook further clarifies the meaning of a conflict of interest:

Do I have a conflict of interest?

When determining whether you have a conflict of interest, you should consider the following:

- *Have you regularly assisted the person in the past and does knowing them affect your impartiality?*
- *Does your private interest conflict with your public duties?*
- *Could you benefit from delivering your services?*
- *Would others view your involvement*

as inappropriate?

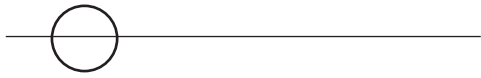
- *If questioned by the public, would there be consequences as a result?*
- *Do you have a personal bias on the issue that affects your impartiality?*

If you answered yes to any of the above, you could be perceived to have a conflict of interest.

I recently undertook online training developed by the Integrity Commission in relation to conflict of interest. Helpful information on this issue is provided on the Commission's website. In particular, there is a checklist which can be used to assess whether there is an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest if you do undertake a particular JP duty.

Some of the most relevant aspects of the checklist are as follows:

- ♦ *Would I, or anyone associated with me, benefit from or be detrimentally affected by my proposed decision or action?*
- ♦ *Could there be benefits for me in the future?*
- ♦ *Do I have a current or previous personal, professional or financial relationship or association of any significance with an interested party?*
- ♦ *Would my reputation or that of a rela-*



CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Continue

tive, friend or associate stand to be enhanced or damaged because of my proposed decision or action?

- ◆ *Do I or a relative, friend or associate stand to gain or lose financially in some covert or unexpected way?*
- ◆ *Do I hold any personal or professional views or biases that may lead others to reasonably conclude that I am not the appropriate person to deal with this matter?*
- ◆ *Have I contributed in a private capacity in any way to the matter I am dealing with?*
- ◆ *Have I made any promises or commitments in relation to the matter?*
- ◆ *Have I received a gift or benefit from someone who stands to gain or lose from my proposed decision or action?*
- ◆ *Am I a member of an association, club or professional organisation or do I have particular ties and affiliations*

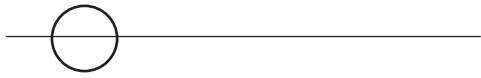
with organisations or individuals who stand to gain or lose by my proposed decision or action?

- ◆ *Could this situation have an influence on future employment opportunities for me?*
- ◆ *Are there any other benefits or factors that could cast doubts on my objectivity?*

Given the possibility that our JP activities may be related to our family, friends, communities, businesses and other activities, it is essential that we are totally satisfied that there is no conflict of interest in doing a JP activity. The impact of breaching that expectation on the public, the community and the reputation of JPs could be significant.

Relevant information can be found on both the Department of Justice and the Integrity Commission websites.

David Hudson JP



The History of JPs in Australia

The history of Justices of the Peace can be traced as far back as 1195, when Richard I (Richard the Lionheart) commissioned certain knights to preserve the peace in unruly areas. Responsible to the King for ensuring the law was upheld, they were known as Keepers of the Peace.

Over many years, such was the power of Justices of the Peace that 'they were often able to control the entire administration of a county'.

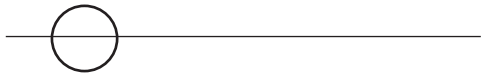
Although undoubtedly many Justices of the Peace discharged their varied duties well, the lack of legal knowledge led to many inconsistent and legally erroneous decisions. This, and the rising corruption among the ranks, sparked a move to replace honorary Justices of the Peace with legally trained and qualified "professional magistrates". Legislation was enacted accordingly in 1792. By the middle of the 19th century, Justices of the Peace were stripped of much of their power and replaced (at least judicially) by stipendiary magistrates.

Justices of the Peace in Australia today play a more limited role and have little in common with their earlier British counterparts, although it wasn't always like that. The existing legal institutions of England were

brought the new Colony of New South Wales, including the system of Justices of the Peace. In 1788, Governor Phillip was appointed as the first Justice of the Peace on this continent, with the power to appoint other Justices by commission. He appointed a small number of civil and military officers as magistrates, whose primary function was to manage the convict labour force. As well as the emerging judicial powers, the Justices were involved in the administration of the convict system, convict discipline, granting tickets of leave and administration of local ordinances. The office was honorary, but much prized. It offered symbolic, practical and strategic advantage to those who secured it. Almost naturally, appointees were often prestigious, wealthy, private individuals, who became heavily involved in administering districts over which they had control.

But just as in England, the combination of judicial and administrative powers was seen to compromise the judicial independence of the magistracy. Laws were introduced to restructure the judiciary and codify the roles, once again stripping most powers from the Justice of the Peace and leaving a predominantly administrative role.

Just what that role involves differs across Australia's jurisdictions. Having been found-



The History of JPs in Australia

Continue

ed as an independent nation through the federation of the six founding colonies, each state (and territory) has its own legislation to regulate the appointment and powers of Justices of the Peace. There are no national Justices of the Peace in Australia. In some jurisdictions, such as Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania, JPs deal with certain types of court matters and bench duties—bail and surety, warrants, summonses and minor offences. There are how-

ever common roles across Australia, such as:

- administering oaths or affidavits, witnessing statutory declarations and taking affirmations;
- witnessing signatures; and
- attesting and certifying documents.

With acknowledgement and thanks to the ACT Justices of the Peace Association for the content of this article.



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EVENT RECAP

Celebrating the 2569th Birthday of the Holy Sakyamuni Buddha

On Sunday 4 May 2025, community leaders, religious representatives, and friends gathered to commemorate and celebrate the most sacred day on the Buddhist calendar - Buddha's Birthday (known as the Bathing Buddha Holy Ceremony), in a celebration of compassion and unity.



Guests participated in the solemn and traditional rituals, reenacting the sacred moment of Prince Siddhartha's arrival into the world.



The holy ceremony was an opportunity for attendees to practise realising Buddhahood in the current lifetime.

No matter the faith or ethnicity, we walk the path of unity, solidarity and harmony together.

more about us

Light of Tasmania
on WeChat



The World of Jin
Gang Dhyana



Academy
Website



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