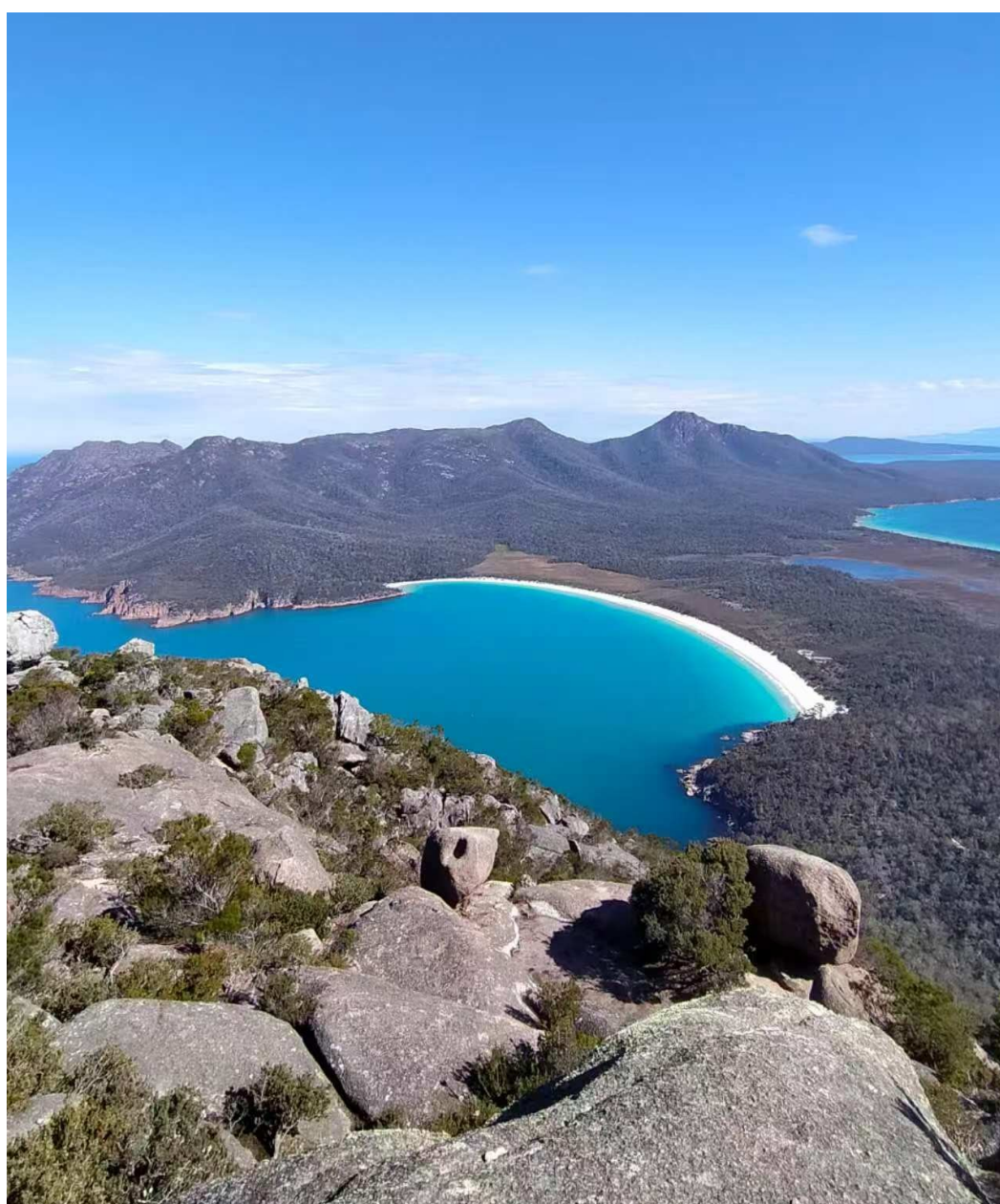


TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE INC



Journal

VOL 2 | SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE



TAJPI SEPTEMBER 2025 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

2025 TAJPI COMMITTEE

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The Governor of Tasmania

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President's Report

There's not a great deal to report over the past couple of months, but progress continues steadily.

The statewide Association is advancing well and is now close to being fully operational. The PD group met recently and has begun preparations for the statewide seminar proposed for later in the year.

Lyn Jackson, our Membership Coordinator, has been doing a tremendous amount of work updating and consolidating membership details into a workable spreadsheet. Sincere thanks to Lyn for this mammoth effort.

I was very impressed with our first Journal edition – thank you to Patricia and all contributors for your valuable input.

The National Conference will be held in October, and Keith Lello JP has kindly offered to attend on behalf of TAJPI. We look forward to hearing his report upon his return. I will also be attending the ACJA Council meeting at the end of August.

On the finance front, things have been a little slow recently due to our Treasurer undergoing surgery. We're pleased to hear he is now on the road to recovery.

It's great to see our signing centres being well utilised – particularly Launceston, which processes over 30,000 documents annually. It's also wonderful to see the "Claytons" signing centre now up and running in Sheffield on a fortnightly basis. Thank you to Leonie, Deborah, and Keith for your contributions to this facility.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Integrity Commission have developed a training module "Integrity in Public Service" which I would encourage all JPs to complete. It is not compulsory but a very valuable exercise with many interesting concepts integral to your role as a JP. Sign up [Link](#):

(Continued on next page)



President's Report Continued

The DoJ also recently updated the Level 1 presentation, which should be available soon. I'm sure John will keep everyone informed as it becomes accessible.

Matters involving the DoJ and the Minister's office, which had been on hold due to the Government's caretaker status, have now been resolved. Engagement with both parties will recommence.

The Association's AGM is scheduled for September 25, and I encourage all Members to attend. Voting forms and related materials will be circulated shortly. The meeting will be held via Teams, connecting the three state regions and any additional members who request access.

With Christmas just around the corner (yes, already!), I imagine plans may be underway for regional dinners, as has occurred in previous years. Planning has already commenced in the North West.

Looking forward to the continued success of TAJPI.

Warm Regards

Lorraine Smith JP
President, TAJPI



Tasmanian Association of Justices of the Peace Inc

Hon. Guy Barnett MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Parliament House
Hobart, 7000

Dear Minister

Congratulations on your reappointment to the roles of Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

As you are aware, the Tasmanian Association of Justices of the Peace Inc. was formed in April this year when the three regional Tasmanian Justices of the Peace Associations agreed to amalgamate. Since its formation, there has been a lot of work to put the structure and operations of the new organisation in place. This is now largely complete.

The Association's role is to provide the training, support and information to ensure that the judicial system and the public have the highest level of confidence in Tasmania's JPs. In collaboration with the Department of Justice, the Association will promote the highest standards of professional and ethical behaviour by JPs.

The Association is also very thankful for the support provided by the Department, in terms of both sharing the above roles and the provision of funds to enable the Association to operate eight Document Signing Centres around Tasmania, offering the public easy access to a JP. Volunteers are rostered on at these locations at specific days and times which are promoted on the Department's and Association's website. It is estimated that over 30,000 services are provided in the Centres annually.

In addition to providing the introductory training to new JPs, the Association is developing a professional development program for its members. This will include a statewide seminar, most likely before the end of the year, and other on-line and face-to-face sessions which ensure JPs are up-to-date with their duties and responsibilities in an ever-changing world. Currently the Association's membership covers about half of the registered JPs in the State, and it is hoped that by improving the services provided, the membership numbers will grow.

The Association also provides its members a Journal on a bi-monthly basis which is used to update JPs on relevant matters and on the activities of the Association. In the past, you as Attorney-General (and the Department) has provided a regular article for the Journal. It would be appreciated if you could continue to provide us with these articles. If we can have the contact details of the person in your Office who our Editor, Patricia Wang JP, can liaise with.

You will note the new website and email address for the Association. I will also provide the details of our committee members after the upcoming AGM.



Tasmanian Association of Justices of the Peace Inc

The Association and its members look forward to working with you to optimise the effectiveness of all JPs in Tasmania.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Smith
President

27 August 2025



Department of Justice

New guidance for JPs: certifying electronic documents

We're updating our guidance material to help clarify best practice when it comes to certifying printed copies of electronic documents.

What JPs need to know about electronic documents

When clients bring printed copies of documents received via email, downloaded from websites or sourced electronically in other ways, it's important for JPs to take extra care. Electronic documents can be easily altered – sometimes without any obvious signs – which increases the risk of fraud.

When to certify printed copies of electronic documents

Only certify a printed copy of an electronic document if you're satisfied it is a true and correct copy using one of the following methods:

- you view the copy being printed directly from the official website or a computer controlled by the issuing authority
(This means you personally see the document come from a trusted source - not from someone's USB stick, email or saved file. The website should belong to the organisation named on the document. Official websites often end in things like .gov.au, .edu.au, or .org.au, and should clearly show the organisation's name and logo.)
- you view the electronic original live on an official website under the control of the document's

issuing authority and you inspected the printed copy against the electronic original to ensure it is identical.

(This means you look at the online version on a website that clearly belongs to the issuing organisation and check that the printed version is exactly the same - nothing missing or changed. Again, official websites usually end in .gov.au, .edu.au, or .org.au. Don't accept documents shown through email links or personal files unless you can verify they came from the real website.)

If satisfied, certify the document using your standard certification wording, and add the phrase: 'Original sighted on an electronic device.'

Be cautious of these formats:

- email
- fax
- PDF or image files saved on a USB or device
- other electronic communications not verified through a trusted source.

These documents can be altered, and you can't be sure they are genuine without verifying them properly.

An alternative: use a statutory declaration

If you're not satisfied that a printed electronic document is a true copy, or the client is unable to show you the original in a verifiable way, the client can:

(Continued on next page)



Department of Justice

New guidance for JPs: certifying electronic documents

- attach the printed document to a statutory declaration
- declare that the document is a true copy of an original that exists only in electronic form.

As a JP, you can witness the statutory declaration, but you must not certify the attached document in this case.

What about emails?

If a document is an email or an attachment to an email, the client may be able to forward the original message directly to the organisation requesting it. That organisation will

then decide whether to accept the email or request further evidence.

Encourage clients to check first

To avoid inconvenience, clients should always check with the receiving organisation whether:

a certified copy is required

other alternatives are acceptable.



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Southern Report

It all began on 14 June 2023

On Wednesday 14 June 2023, a message from Susie Winter from the University of Tasmania started a series of interesting events culminating in the establishment of a new Document Signing Centre (DSC). Part of that message was:

I am the Deputy Director of the Centre for Legal Studies (CFLS), which runs a post graduate practical legal training course for law graduates who must complete the Course prior to applying for admission as a legal practitioner in Tasmania.

I want to enquire about the possibility of your Society providing the services of a JP for an extended period on Thursday 20 July to assist our graduates to finalise paperwork associated with their applications for admissions including witnessing several affidavits associated with the application.

It transpired that two staff at the Supreme Court who were JPs and who had previously provided the service, had recently retired. The lack of this resource meant a degree of chaos

was likely if graduates had to run around town trying to find a JP.

The admission documents include an Originating Application, an Affidavit in support of the Application, two Affidavits of character and an Affidavit of Service, with multiple attachments. The documents the graduates have to file form part of an originating application made under the Supreme Court Rules 2000 seeking orders from the Court that they are a fit and proper person to be admitted as legal practitioners.

In addition to being filed in the Supreme Court, they are also served on the Legal Profession Board and the Law Society of Tasmania so that these regulatory bodies have the opportunity to object or raise an issue with the Court regarding any graduate's application for admission to practice.

(Continued on next page)



Southern

Report continued

(Continued from page 10)

Keith Lello JP was asked to find volunteers from the ranks of DSC volunteers happy to provide their time for the process. After Keith had dimensioned the task and arranged a suitable room, it was decided two JP's for the day would be sufficient.

It would be an understatement to describe the day as hectic with one JP having to remain till after 5:30 to complete the final graduates' requirements. The experience allowed us to refine the process for later years, using 4 JPs scheduled over the day to meet demands. It has now become a regular annual engagement.

Following the success of this arrangement, the Association was approached by the Supreme Court to establish a DSC at the Court. Negotiations were undertaken by Vicki Cowles (coordinator of the Hobart city DSC) and Keith Lello (DSC "boss") and the DSC is up and running.

The strong demand for our services at the five Centres in the southern region continues. There are an estimated 50 members providing their services at the Centres to the Tasmanian public.

David Hudson JP



Northern Report

Tasmanian Association of Justices’
of the Peace Inc
Northern Office
C H Smith Building
23 Charles Street
LAUNCESTON

Statistics figures for SEPTEMBER 2025

The Northern office is regularly attended by 10 JPs, each on varying schedules — some weekly, others fortnightly or monthly. For the July month, the office handled over 2,800 matters, as detailed below:

CERTIFIED COPIES	1440
STAT DEC	556
WITNESS DOCS	226
AFFADAVITS	267
PHOTOCOPIES	134
SEARCH WARRANTS	31
ENQUIRES	9
OTHER	40
TOTAL	2843

Retired Member — John Campion

John Campion has served as a Justice of the Peace since 2012 and has been part of the Document Signing Centre (DSC) for the past 10 years.

Originally from Lake Macquarie, NSW, John has now retired from office and resigned as a JP.

John and his wife Stephanie have decided to return to Lake Macquarie to be closer to their

daughter.

Over the years, John has volunteered with several organisations and was originally a farmer in NSW. He also served as a volunteer guide at Franklin House, a historic home, and once learned to fly, though he chose not to pursue aviation as a career.

We wish John and Stephanie all the very best for their move, and hope they enjoy good health and comfort in this next chapter.

Sonia Wood JP
CMC



Northwest Report

The Justices of the Peace North West have recently held several successful dinner meetings. One well-attended function took place at Furner's Hotel, Ulverstone, on Wednesday 16 July, where guest speaker Judge Marcus Turnbull was warmly welcomed by President Lorraine Smith JP.

Judge Turnbull earned his law degree from the University of Tasmania and was admitted to the bar in 1991. He practiced law for many years, specialising in Family Law, and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2020. In 2021, he was admitted to the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, which comprises 109 judges nationwide.

This marked Judge Turnbull's second engagement with the North West Justices, during which he delivered a thought-provoking presentation on a case that had undergone an appeal process. He referenced several high-profile cases, including those involving Cardinal George Pell and Susan Neil-Fraser, where circumstantial evidence led to convictions. Both cases were appealed and heard by the High Court, which consists of seven judges. For an appeal to succeed, there must be evidence of a legal error and a miscarriage of justice.

The presentation prompted a wide range of questions and lively discussion from attendees.



NORTHWEST LIFE MEMBERS:

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



Judge Marcus Turnbull and
Lorraine Smith, TAJPI President

On 13 August, Detective Inspector Michelle Elmer, head of the Drug Squad, Firearms, and CIB, was the invited guest speaker. Michelle shared her experience as a woman in the Tasmanian Police Force, having joined at age 19 in 1998. Aside from a few out-

postings, she has spent most of her career on the North West coast. When she took maternity leave for her two children, her position was not guaranteed upon return, and part-time work was discouraged—though this has thankfully changed.

Upon returning to full-time work, Michelle transitioned into criminal investigation, where her career flourished. She progressed through the ranks from Sergeant to Detective Inspector, and her 16 years in criminal investigation have been deeply rewarding, involving major cases including three murders and the Hillcrest tragedy.

Progression through the ranks has significantly improved for women, with Tasmania now boasting three female Commanders and a female Police Chief. Recent promotions in the North West have seen six new female sergeants.

Michelle's department primarily focuses on drug importation (via ports) and firearm-related issues. She noted that recruitment and retention have long been challenges for Tasmanian Police, though recent trends show improvement.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Professional Development Committee has been meeting to explore the most suitable development opportunities for our members – and we have a few questions for you!

Support for New JPs

One of the many benefits of merging our associations is the opportunity to share and adopt best practices from each. When new Justices of the Peace (JPs) are appointed, we'd like to assign them a mentor or two – someone they can contact for guidance when they encounter unfamiliar situations or feel unsure in their JP duties.

If you're willing to be a mentor, please let the PD Committee know. Appointments are currently infrequent, so the commitment is unlikely to be onerous – but it's a valuable and appreciated role

On the Horizon

A heartfelt thank you to everyone participating in the online sessions on Voluntary Assisted Dying.

These three sessions (29 September, 6 and 8 October) are being facilitated by Anna Mayo from the Voluntary Assisted Dying Commission. Within 12 hours of the notice going out, we had 40 sign-ups. With the addition of a third session, we now have 62 participants – and all sessions are fully booked!

We're also in discussions with Federal and Family Court Judge Marcus Turnbull about hosting an online session in November or early December.

The Future

We're planning a statewide seminar in the first quarter of 2026. It's proposed to be held on a Saturday in Launceston, starting around 10:30 AM to allow for travel, and concluding by 3:30 PM so attendees can return home comfortably.

Our President, Lorraine Smith, is currently in conversation with a High Court Judge to be our guest speaker, and their availability will determine the exact date.

To help us plan, we'd love to know:

- Would you be willing to attend a seminar in Launceston?
- Some members have suggested a formal dinner that evening – would you stay on if that were offered?

Our first online training session in 2026 is likely to focus on affidavits.

To better serve our community, we welcome your suggestions for other topics that would help you grow and thrive as a JP.

Feedback

Please send any feedback to john_tw_hayton@hayton.info.

Alternatively, if you see any of our PD Committee members during your travels, they'd be happy to pass your suggestions along.

AGENDA

TAJPI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.00pm Wednesday, 24 September 2025

1. Open
2. Present (quorum confirmation)
3. Apologies
4. Acknowledgement of Country
'We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we deliver our services. We pay our respect to their elders and leaders, past present and emerging.'
5. Approval of minutes of previous GM meeting (7 April 2025)
6. Reports
 - President
 - Secretary/Membership
 - Committees
 - i. Professional Development
 - ii. Social
 - iii. Document Signing Centres
7. Financial Statements
 - Motion – That the financial statements for 2024/25 be received and noted.
8. Election of Officers
 - *President; Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; and up to 5 Committee members.*
As per the Constitution, there shall be a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 Committee members from each region
9. Appointment of:
 - Public Officer Les Batchelor JP
 - Legal Officer Daniel Zeeman LLB, BA
 - Auditor Craig Preece CA, FITA
10. Determination of Annual Subscription and Honoraria for 2025/26
 - *The annual subscription for 2025/26 has been determined by the Committee to be **\$25** for members and \$0 for Life Members of the TAJPI.*
 - *The honoraria payable for 2025/26 have been determined by the Committee to be Secretary \$1,000, Treasurer \$800, Editor \$800 and Membership Support \$1,000.*
11. Any Other Business
12. Close

Voting at the AGM is only possible if the annual subscription for 2025-26 has been paid before the AGM commences.

*Given venue capacity constraints, could you please RSVP your attendance (incl. the location) or apology to the Secretary prior to **23 September 2024** via email on secretary@jptasmania.com.au*

The AGM is to be held at:

- *Hobart – Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania, Lindisfarne*
- *Launceston – Launceston Conference Centre, 50 Glen Dhu Street, South Launceston*
- *Devonport – Magistrates Court*

Or you can join the meeting through an online TEAMS meeting.

If you advise us that you will be attending through the TEAMS meeting, an invitation will be sent to you – you then just need to “click” to join the meeting.



TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Member Details

First Name:

Last Name:

Mobile Phone: Work Phone:

Email:

Home Address:

Mailing Address:

JP Number: Date of appointment:

Occupation:

Membership Fee: \$25 (Twenty-five dollars) Date Paid:

Please deposit payment into Bank Account:

Account name: TSJPI BSB: 067002 Account number: 10298535

Ensure your bank reference is your surname and JP number

- Please complete this form and return to:
hjatnorthwest@gmail.com
- If you are unable to attach it to a return email, you can just email your details back to me (without the form) or post to GPO Box 805 Hobart 7001.
- This is to ensure we have up-to-date details within our membership master list.



DIPLOMACY AND JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

There's no doubt that experienced Justices of the Peace (JPs) develop a unique skill set for handling difficult clients and unusual requests. James Ayliffe JP recently shared a case that highlights the importance of tact and clarity when navigating identity-related anomalies.

NB: The client's name has been changed to preserve anonymity.

The matter began with a phone call. The client asked James whether he could witness an affidavit related to a probate application and what he needed to bring to the appointment. "Just bring photographic identification — something like your driver's licence that includes your signature will be fine," James advised.

During the appointment, while reviewing the affidavit, James noticed a discrepancy. "Let me see... your ID says you're Billy Barker, but you're about to sign as Billy Bailey. Is that correct?" "Yes," replied the client. "Billy Bailey was my father's name."

James responded calmly but firmly: "I'm afraid I have a problem with that. I cannot witness a signature under a name that doesn't match the identification you've provided."

Billy Barker, clearly not expecting this complication, began to show signs of agitation. To defuse the situation, James offered a practical suggestion: "Look, Billy, we could simply cross out 'Bailey' and replace it with 'Barker.' Other-

wise, your solicitor would need to be informed that you — Billy Barker — signed using the name Billy Bailey. That may mean she'll require the documents to be re-signed."

Still confused, Billy hesitated. James continued with a gentle warning: "If these alterations are questioned by the Probate Office, it could delay the process you're trying to expedite by six months or more."

At that, Billy made his decision: "If that's the case, I'd rather get my solicitor to sort it out. I don't want any further delays."

Issue defused — professionally and respectfully.

Keith Lello JP



NOT ALL FORMS ARE EQUAL: A JP'S ENCOUNTER WITH A COSTLY SCAM

James Ayliffe JP recently encountered an unusual situation during his Document Signing Centre (DSC) duty — one he felt was worth sharing with fellow Justices of the Peace.

As many of us on the DSC roster know, there's rarely such a thing as "just another day" on duty. The diversity of clients and the wide range of documents we're asked to witness ensure that each shift brings something new. This particular incident, however, stood out.

It's not uncommon for clients to present pre-signed documents. But James noticed that the divorce papers he was asked to witness looked noticeably different from the standard Family Court forms. When he queried the client about the origin of the form, she revealed that she had downloaded it from a website—for a staggering \$700. She even provided the name of the site.

The form closely resembled the official version and may well have met the Family Court's requirements. However, given that it had already been signed, James advised the client — out of an abundance of caution — to download the official documents directly from the appropriate government website (gov.au) and consider seeking legal advice.

Upon reflection, the woman realised she had likely been scammed. While JPs are not in a position to shield clients from such fraudulent schemes, we can, as James did, help prevent their applications from being rejected due to discrepancies in documentation.

If you encounter a similar situation, it's entirely appropriate to inform the client that the Family Court of Australia website (www.fcfcoa.gov.au) provides comprehensive instructions and all necessary forms for filing for divorce. Sharing this factual information does not constitute legal advice and therefore does not breach our obligation to refrain from advising clients.

Let James's experience serve as a reminder: vigilance and informed guidance can make a meaningful difference—even within the boundaries of our role.

Keith Lello JP



Lost and Found

A number of months ago I lost my JP name badge. Was not able to find it here at home in my JP bag or at the three DSC I volunteer at so ordered and received another one.

A few weeks ago I received a call from a detective at Glenorchy CIB to say that they had found it, missing the backing magnetic strip, while conducting a search for stolen property at a known person's house. He claimed it was found not stolen.

Maybe he was going to set up his own pay for service JP operation for his mates

Was very grateful that the police took the time to contact me and return my badge.

Alan Leitch JP

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the ACADEMY NEWS

from Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia

SEP 2025

EVENT RECAP

The annual Oatlands Heritage & Bullock Festival in Tasmania, is held over two days and blends old-world charm with heritage experiences, local crafts, and good old country hospitality.



As part of the Southern Midlands community, the Academy participated in the parade and followed up with performances near the famous Callington Mill - showcasing the holy dragon and lion dances to the crowd.

more about us

Light of Tasmania
on WeChat



The World of Jin
Gang Dhyana



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