

TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE INC



Journal

VOL 3 | CHRISTMAS 2025 ISSUE



MERRY
Christmas
— & HAPPY NEW YEAR —

TAJPI CHRISTMAS 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

2026 TAJPI COMMITTEE

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Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC

The Governor of Tasmania

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One of our member families shared a memorable experience with their local Buddhist group.

President's Report



Welcome to spring!

I'm guessing that everyone has had more than enough of this wind, I know that I certainly have. I was rereading my NW Christmas letter to members from last year and it read about much wind then but I cannot remember it as bad as this year (or maybe my short term memory is going!!!!)

The AGM was held late September with the new Committee being elected. Only one change, that being a changeover of the Secretary role. Outgoing David Hudson and incoming David Skegg. Personally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to David H for his tireless efforts as Secretary and it has been wonderful to have him alongside. I wish him all the best for his continuing JP service and whatever other pathways he finds himself. And on behalf of the Committee, we wish him likewise. And I look forward to working with the incoming Committee to continue the great work of the Association in providing a very valuable service to the community.

A recent funding submission was presented to the DoJ and successfully accepted so it is great to have the continued support of the Department.

The PD sub-committee has been working hard in order to prepare a statewide seminar (originally hoped for late this year but now scheduled for March 2026 due to the availability of one of our guest speakers). If there is any particular topic that you would like covered at this great event, please let us know and we will endeavour to accommodate your requests. A recent webinar on VAD (Voluntary Assisted Dying) was held recently with an excellent response from members and very positive feedback. Full details are contained in the PD report.

Current membership for the Association has not been encouraging. There are 34 previous members from the north and 43 from the south who remain unfinancial. Please encourage fellow members who have previously been members of the Association to join again. The benefits of being a member of the Association are

President's Report Continued

enormous and includes free attendance at PD events. Current membership stands at 314 but it would be great to see that number climb into the 400s.

All the DSCs are continuing the valuable service to the relative regions. It is with great sadness that I announce the resignation of Leonie Lawson as a JP and as the sole JP at the new Sheffield centre. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours. A very big thank you to Deb who has stepped up to the plate to replace Leonie and plans will be made for the continuation of this service moving forward into 2026.

It's a bit early but the next journal release will be post "that season", so on behalf of the Committee, we wish all members a safe and happy Christmas, spent with family and friends doing what you like best. The last couple of years the weather has been very favourable so fingers crossed for this year.

Warm Regards

Lorraine Smith JP
President, TAJPI





JP Profile



Born in Devonport, a childhood in Deloraine, and educated in Hobart, David grew up in the rectory of his father's Anglican churches. With a career panning pharmaceutical manufacturing, hard rock mining in the Pilbara of Western Australia, and a variety of general management positions in industry, David's career has been comprehensive, wide in scope and technical requirements, national, and international.

David is now a recently retired Accident Forensics adjunct professor and lecturer, living in Hobart. He has a long and distinguished career leading the safety professions in Australia as President and/or Chairman of a significant number of safety-related, industrial, and not-for-profit institutions.

David's teaching experience ranges from in-house industrial short courses, to undergraduate and post-graduate courses, primarily at Central Queensland University, but also at Swinburn University, and Monash University, both of Melbourne, Australia, and the Chinese University of Mining and Technology, Beijing. He has been a Visiting Expert to the Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University of Thailand, and an Advisor to the Regional Director of the World Health Organisation, New Delhi, India.

In his consulting practice, David has been an independent expert investigator in a number of accidents, including appointment by the Director of Mines in Western Australia. David has been instrumental in the establishment and review of Australian Standards, and was previously appointed by the Prime Minister of Australia to the Board of the Joint Standards body of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ), the body that authorises institutions such as Standards Australia, and represented Australia and New Zealand to the International Labour Organisation standards committees.

Continued on the next page...



JP Profile

— Prof David Skegg

David's first brush with justice of the peace duties and what piqued his interest was in Newman, Western Australia in 1969, where the local town manager doubled as the Justice, administering justice for the remote community. David was appointed as Justice of the Peace for Tasmania on the 28th July, 1999, and completed his first Level III course on the 19th December 2004. In his role as a JP while living in Glenorchy, David had common interaction with the local Tasmanian Police, and was always available for whatever was needed. He now lives in Opossum Bay, attending to everyday JP duties for the local population. David is also a Bench Justice in Hobart.

Some Previous Appointments:

- Visiting Professor, Chinese University of Mining and Technology, Beijing.
- Professor of Safety Science, College of People, Technology, and Systems Qld.
- Visiting Professor, Sukhothai Thammathirat University, Bangkok, Thailand
- Inaugural President, Rheumatism and Arthritis Foundation of Tasmania
- Chairman, RACGP Sponsors Group
- Chairman, Community Based Transport Tasmania
- Chairman, Optia Incorporated
- Chairman, College of Fellows, Safety Institute of Australia
- National President, Safety Institute of Australia
- President, Rotary Club of Hobart
- Director, Controlling Board, Joint Australian & New Zealand Standards Authority (JAS-ANZ) (Prime Ministerial Appointment)
- Coordinator, International Safety & Health Professional Organisations (INSHPO)
- Advisor to the Regional Director, World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Visiting Tutor, Swinburn University of Technology
- Teaching Scholar, Central Queensland University



Attorney General's Update

I am pleased to share this update with Tasmania's Justices of the Peace as 2025 is drawing to a close.

Across 2025, the Tasmanian Government has worked hard to support, improve and enhance Tasmania's justice system despite a lengthy caretaker period this winter due to the 2025 State Election.

We are driving a strong legislative agenda, to ensure that Tasmanians have access to an independent, impartial and effective justice system. I wish to particularly reflect on various measures that we have taken to protect children and families from abuse or violence.

Over the past year, there has been a significant amount of ongoing work to continue implementing all 191 recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, with 57 recommendations now having been implemented across Government.

In my portfolio, this has included passing the Commissions of Inquiry (Private Sessions) Bill 2025. The Bill removes barriers to individuals accessing the information they provided to or for a private session with the Commission of Inquiry. This reform is critical for victim-survivors and whistleblowers. It reinforces that it is their choice what they do with their own information, and that they are free to retell their experiences as they wish.

We have also passed the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Bill 2025 to meet Tasmania's commitment as part of a national reform agenda. The protections that the Bill introduces will ensure that a person denied a Working with Children Check (WWCC), or whose registration has been revoked or suspended in another jurisdiction, cannot be granted or hold a WWCC in Tasmania.

On 17 November, the Department of Justice released a discussion paper on the *Family Violence Act 2004* and other related legislation, calling for community input to help shape the future of Tasmania's response to family violence. Continuous review and improvement of the Family Violence Act and other related legislation is incredibly important. This legislative review contributes to Tasmania's role in the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*, reinforcing our commitment to inclusive protections, a consistent risk assessment framework, and a justice system centred around victim-survivors. Submissions can be made in response to the discussion paper on the Department of Justice's consultation website until 1 March 2026.

In September 2025, we passed the Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments)



Attorney General's Update

continued

Bill 2025, which includes changes providing for a clear and direct right of access by senior next of kin to coronial records. The passage of this legislation will make closure for Tasmanians and their families easier and fairer.

As part of our investment in justice infrastructure, we are progressing the construction of a new Burnie Courts Complex. Site works are underway to prepare for construction to start in the first half of 2026. The new Complex - ideally located adjacent to the Burnie Police Station and in close proximity to other client-related services - will support improved court operations and security.

There are also further significant reforms that we are progressing through Parliament. The Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025 seeks to create a new Commission which will strengthen Tasmania's oversight system and be a strong advocate for children and young people. The Integrity Commission (Mandatory Notifications) Bill 2025 will introduce a requirement on principal officers of public authorities to notify the Integrity Commission of any reasonably suspected serious misconduct by public officers. Both Bills aim to ensure greater protections are in place to ensure accountability, especially in relation to the children of Tasmania.

On a final note, I'd like to congratulate Mr Robert Hay KC on his appointment as the Chief Commissioner of the Integrity Commission. The experience that Mr Hay brings to this position will be invaluable, especially at a time when the Government is progressing various reforms relating to the Integrity Commission.

I am eager to continue working with the justice system and Justices of the Peace to implement the Tasmanian Government's 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's future and to continue delivering for the people of Tasmania into the new year.



Guy Barnett

Deputy Premier

Attorney-General

Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation

Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs



02 OCT 2025

Mrs Lorraine Smith
President
Tasmanian Association of Justices of the Peace Inc
GPO Box 805
HOBART TAS 7001

By email: secretary@iptasmania.com.au

Dear Mrs Smith

Thank you for your letter of 27 August 2025 and for the update on the important work of the Tasmanian Association of Justices of the Peace Inc. I was pleased to read about the progress that has been made since the amalgamation of the three regional associations earlier this year, and I commend the Association for its achievements in such a short time.

I greatly value the contribution Justices of the Peace (JPs) make to the Tasmanian community and the justice system. Initiatives such as the document signing centres and the development of training and professional support play an important role in ensuring that the community continues to have confidence in the work of JPs.

I would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with members of the Association. If there is a forthcoming statewide seminar, annual meeting or another suitable gathering of JPs, I would be delighted to attend to personally thank them for their dedication and service. To help coordinate a suitable time, please contact Chrissy Weller, Diary Manager in my office on Chrissy.Weller@dpac.tas.gov.au. Chrissy will be pleased to liaise with you to confirm arrangements.

I also look forward to continuing the practice of contributing articles to the Association's Journal. Patricia Wang JP is welcome to liaise directly with Pete Kempa, an Adviser in my office on peter.kempa@dpac.tas.gov.au for this purpose.



Thank you again for your letter. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the Association in supporting JPs across Tasmania.

Yours sincerely



Hon Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

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From the Department of Justice

Commonwealth Statutory Declarations

As of 1 January 2024, changes to the Commonwealth Statutory Declarations Act 1959 came into effect, modernising how Commonwealth statutory declarations can be made. The amendments introduce a new digital option that does not require the involvement of a JP or other authorised witness.

This summary outlines what these changes mean for JPs and how you can help inform members of the public.

Key points for JPs

The changes apply only to Commonwealth statutory declarations. Each state and territory has its own legislation and requirements for statutory declarations. In Tasmania, in-person witnessing by a JP or authorised witness is still required.

There are now three valid ways to complete a Commonwealth statutory declaration:

1. In-person with an authorised witness (as before)
2. Remote witnessing via video link (e.g. Zoom, Teams, Skype, FaceTime)
3. Digitally via myGov, using an approved Digital Identity – no witness required

All three methods are equally valid and legally binding.

Remote witnessing, initially introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, is now a permanent option under the Commonwealth legislation.

What this means for the public

When assisting members of the public, clarify that:

- They can still complete a Commonwealth statutory declaration





From the Department of Justice

Commonwealth Statutory Declarations (continued)

in-person or via video link with an authorised witness (such as a JP).

- Alternatively, they can complete it entirely online through their myGov account, provided they have a Digital Identity to a standard identity strength connected to their myGov account. For more information, visit [How to set up myID | myID](#).
- The digital method does not require a JP or authorised witness.
- The digital option is voluntary, people can still use traditional methods if they prefer.

Witnessing Commonwealth Statutory Declarations – No changes to process

For JPs, the process for witnessing Commonwealth statutory declarations in-person or remotely remains unchanged.

You must witness the signing live, either face-to-face or via video.

Pre-recorded or delayed signing is not valid.

There is no legal requirement to verify ID, but you may ask for ID if you are unsure.

You can decline to witness if you are uncomfortable proceeding.

More information is available on the Commonwealth [Attorney-General's Department website](#).





From the Department of Justice

Integrity in Public Service Online Training

We've had a great response from JPs undertaking the new online integrity training. If you haven't had the chance yet, the module is still available and only takes about 45 minutes to complete.

You can access the self-enrolment form using the following link: <https://learn.integrity.tas.gov.au/login/signup.php>

To help us track participation among JPs, we kindly ask that you complete the 'About you' section as follows:

- **Sector:** State Government
- **State Government:** Department of Justice
- **Sub-organisation/Department:** Justice of the Peace

In you require assistance in completing the online self-enrolment, please email training@integrity.tas.gov.au or call 1300 720 289. We would also welcome feedback from JPs who have completed the training — please feel free to email jp@justice.tas.gov.au.





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (Nov 2025)

Looking ahead

We have a December PD event planned to end our first PD year as a statewide body and several plans afoot for the first quarter of 2026. So please **save the dates** in your diary.

Monday December 8, 2025 - 6pm to 7pm - online

Judge Marcus Turnbull of the Federal and Family Court will address us about the operation of the Federal and Family Court, some interesting cases and relations between the court and JPs in Tasmania.

Judge Turnbull graduated from the University of Tasmania and was admitted to practice Law in 1991. He initially practiced in criminal and Industrial Law but then specialised in Family Law. He was appointed a Judge of the Federal and Family Court in 2021. He has had a long involvement in professional legal and sporting associations.

Saturday 28 March 2026

We plan to have our statewide in person seminar this day with Justice Robert Beech-Jones, of the High Court of Australia, as our keynote speaker. This will be the first occasion for JPs from around the state to gather together, meet each other and learn from their colleagues. This first gathering will be in Hobart although we plan for future years to be held in other locations. Once arrangements are more certain we will advise details but in the meantime please save the date.

January 2026

We are planning for an online seminar in late January to cover changes made in the new manual and procedures particularly relating to electronic documents and affidavits. Once dates

are settled we will be in touch.

February 2026

We have received consistent feedback about the need for more training on search warrants so our late February online session will cover search warrants.

Looking back

Thank you for the 45 JPs who undertook the Voluntary Assisted Dying PD. Our presenter, Anna Mayo from the Health Department, was highly regarded by those present for her engaging presentation style and the clear way she addressed the many questions that arose from the three sessions. These sessions support the 100 odd JPs who responded to the Department of Justice's call for expression of interest in assisting with VAD procedures.

I was thankful for the 11 people who apologised in advance or on the day who for a variety of understandable circumstances ended up not able to attend. I was not so thankful to the twenty people who signed up and then did not show up or apologise.

With the end of the year rapidly approaching the PD Committee wishes you all the best for the holiday season. We look forward to seeing those of you who can attend our session with Judge Turnbull and others of you as our 2026 PD sessions get underway.

John Hayton JP
Vice President, TAJPI



A Memorable Encounter

Our backyard became a Buddhist retreat a few weeks ago. The man in the wheelchair is Master Wang – the spiritual leader of all Buddhists in Tasmania with a number of monks.

I have arranged for my extensive buddha collection to go to the Buddhist Academy when I go to that great temple in the sky.

Four of the female monks each did a traditional dance for us, which was really special. They gave Kaye and I an orange silk kata scarf each plus a small traditional buddha statue from mainland China. An interesting afternoon in Austins Ferry. Milly our dog loved the spiritual attention.

Alan and Kaye Leitch



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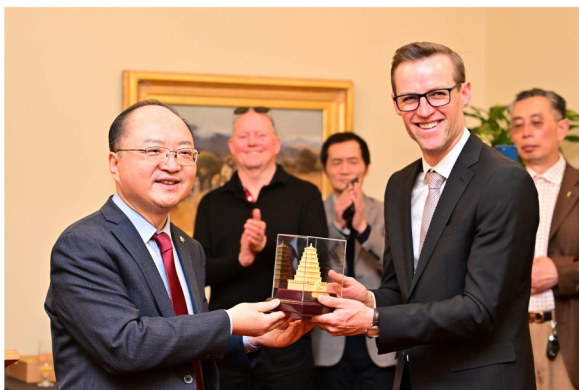


the ACADEMY NEWS

from Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia

OCT 2025

Hobart community celebrated the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China at Hobart's Town Hall.



The special occasion was attended by Consul-General FANG Xinwen, and Councillor Ryan Posselt representing the Lord Mayor. Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia members led by Master Wang attended with a Holy Lion Dance, marking the special day with thirty other representatives from civil services, business, education and religious faith.

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