TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE INC.

Journal

OCTOBER 2026 / ISSUE 7



CRADLE MOUNTAIN & DOVE LAKE
Tasmania

Table of contents

OCTOBER 2026 | ISSUE 7

2026 TAJPI Committee 3

Updated office holders, subcommittees, and contacts.

President's Report 4

Lorraine Smith's update, with photographs of the Governor's visit.

From the Department of Justice 6

Code of Conduct, confidentiality, impartiality, and social media.

From the Department of Justice 8

Independent observer requirements and statutory declaration forms.

How important is your name 9

Keith Lello on including your name when providing JP services.

Member Profile 10

David Plumridge JP and his service to the community.

Introducing Keith Lello JP 11

Telecommunications, financial planning, and community service.

Launceston signing centre 12

January–July 2026 activity statistics.

North West signing centres 13

January–July 2026 activity statistics

Southern signing centres 14

January–July 2026 activity statistics

Vale Leslie Gareth Wilby 15

Remembering Gareth's service as a JP and Bench Justice.

2026 TAJPI Committee

Tasmanian Association of Justices of Peace Inc.

Patron: Her Excellency Caroline Wells

President: Ms Lorraine Smith JP

Vice President: Mr John Hayton JP

Secretary/Registrar: Mr David Skegg JP

Treasurer: Mr Graeme Roberts JP

Committee Members:

- Mr Jonathan Cahill JP
- Ms Robin Ikin JP
- Ms Karen Linegar JP
- Ms Linda-Ann Smith JP
- Ms Sonia Wood JP
- Mr Garth Johnston JP

Membership Support: Mrs Wendy Dick JP

Public Officer: Mr Les Batchelor OAM

Auditor: Craig Preece and Associates

Editor: Mrs Wendy Dick JP

Legal Advisor: Mr Daniel Zeeman

Subcommittees

Professional Development:

- Mr John Hayton JP
- Mr David Plumridge JP
- Ms Wendy Richards JP
- Mr Jonathan Cahill JP
- Ms Jill Taylor JP
- Mr Graeme Roberts JP.

DSCs & Social: Mr Keith Lello JP, Mrs Wendy Dick JP and Ms Sonia Wood JP.

Contacts

Postal: GPO Box 805 Hobart TAS 7001 **|** ***Website***: www.jptasmania.com.au **|** ***Email***: secretary@jptasmania.com.au

President's Report

Lorraine Smith JP

Hi all.

Not sure about the south of the state but the north & northwest have been gifted some rain which has greened things up immensely. In fact, our lawn is quite soggy underfoot and as the weather is slowly warming means the lawns will need to be mowed more regularly!!!

Preparations are well underway for the AGM to be held in regional centres as well as Zoom. All nominations for Committee positions need to be forwarded to the Public Officer (Les Batchelor) preferably before the meeting. The date & time: Wednesday September 16 at 7.00pm. It would be really terrific to have some new faces on the committee.

John Hayton, Keith Lello and I recently met with the new Governor, Caroline Wells and her husband, Dr Walters. She was very interested in the Association and what JPs do so we had some very constructive discussions. She is also very keen to get around the state to meet JPs particularly at the DSCs.



Left: John Hayton, Governor Wells, Lorraine Smith and Keith Lello.



Right: John Hayton, Dr Walters, Governor Wells, Lorraine Smith and Keith Lello.

President's Report continued

There has been a substantial amount of work done on the Association website and members should be now able to access easily. The software program Member Wizard had been engaged which has made keeping member names and numbers up to date. This program has also been used to send out membership invoices and receipts. Committee meeting minutes and journals will also be uploaded to the website. A very big thank you to David Skegg and Lyn Jackson for their wonderful efforts with this.

I will attending the National Conference in Perth in October. This will be a good opportunity to meet with other state representatives and be in touch with issues affecting JPs and the community service that is provided.

The DSCs are continuing to be well attended. A DSC has now been established at the Hobart Supreme Court. A request for a DSC at the Hobart Magistrates Court has been put on the backburner as the volunteer base in the south is now in a phase of rebuilding. Launceston continues to set the benchmark, and the NW centres are all performing well. A very big thank you to all centre volunteers as this is an essential service to the community. Unfortunately, most of the population are still unaware of this service and it would be terrific to increase the awareness of these services.

There have been a number of retirments this year. On behalf of the TAJPI committee I would like to thank those JPs for their continued service to the community and wish them well in the next chapter of their lives. It has also been good to see some new JPs attending the L1 courses and from all regions.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all committee members for their untiring work for this year. This year has been a success with an excellent statewide seminar in March, a number of PD webinars, a couple of F2F events and the upgrading of the website. Another big thank you to Patricia Wang for her great efforts with our journal. I am looking forward to another positive year in 26/27.

Regards Lorraine

From the Department of Justice

Code of Conduct for JPs

Being appointed as a Justice of the Peace (JP) is an important responsibility. JPs provide an essential service to the Tasmanian community and are entrusted to exercise their powers independently, impartially and with integrity.

The Justices of the Peace (Code of Conduct) Regulations 2019 set out the standards of conduct expected of all appointed JPs. The Code supports JPs in carrying out their role and helps maintain the community's confidence in the office.

The Code covers a range of matters, including:

providing JP services in a timely manner and not unreasonably refusing a request

acting respectfully and courteously towards people seeking JP services

acting impartially and ensuring personal, family, business, social, religious or political interests do not influence the exercise of JP powers

maintaining confidentiality

recognising and managing conflicts of interest

not providing legal advice or notarial services as part of a JP service

keeping up to date with the laws, regulations and guidelines that apply to the role.

Keeping information confidential

Confidentiality is an important part of providing JP services. The Code requires JPs to respect the confidentiality of people to whom they provide JP services and not intentionally disclose or publish private, confidential or commercially sensitive information obtained while providing those services, unless disclosure is required or authorised by law.

This includes being mindful of conversations and information that may arise when witnessing or certifying documents. JPs should take care when discussing JP matters with others and when storing or disposing of documents or information obtained while providing a JP service.

Code of Conduct continued

Keeping impartiality in mind

If a personal, financial or business interest could interfere with, or be perceived as interfering with, a JP's independence and impartiality, the Code requires the JP to disclose the actual or possible conflict and disqualify themselves from providing the service.

Sometimes the simplest way to manage a potential conflict is to step aside and allow another JP to assist. This protects both the person seeking the service and the JP.

JPs and social media

Social media is a regular part of how we communicate and share our views. It is worth remembering that the Code requires JPs to conduct themselves in a way that promotes public confidence in the integrity and independence of the office.

This can be particularly relevant when commenting publicly on matters relating to the administration of justice, the courts or other issues that may raise questions about a JP's impartiality.

Before posting, JPs may wish to consider whether someone who knows they are a JP could reasonably question their ability to act independently and impartially when providing a JP service.

JPs should also remember to communicate respectfully and courteously online, as they would when providing services. In a small community such as Tasmania, comments made publicly may be more widely associated with a person's role as a JP than intended.

This is not about staying away from social media or public discussion. It is simply a reminder to pause and consider how something shared publicly might be perceived.

When in doubt, check

If you are unsure about a particular JP service or what is expected of you, the JP Handbook and Witnessing Checklist provide practical guidance and are useful resources to keep handy.

From the Department of Justice

Tasmanian Government

Reminder – Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP) for the Independent Observer Role

In July 2026, the Department of Justice advised all Justices of the Peace (JPs) of the need to hold a Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP) when undertaking the role of independent observer during Tasmania Police interviews with children and young people.

This requirement applies only to the independent observer role and does not affect the general functions of a JP, such as witnessing documents, certifying copies of documents or taking statutory declarations.

If you currently undertake, or would like to undertake, the independent observer role, and you do not already hold a current RWVP registration, please arrange to apply as soon as possible.

Tasmania Police will confirm that a JP holds the appropriate RWVP registration before engaging them to perform the independent observer role.

If you have any questions about the requirement, please contact the Department of Justice by email at jp@justice.tas.gov.au or telephone (03) 6166 1429. For assistance with the RWVP application process, please contact the RWVP team by email at rwvp@justice.tas.gov.au or telephone 1300 654 499.

Updated Tasmanian Statutory Declaration Form

The Department of Justice has updated the statutory declaration forms available on its website to reflect the approved form prescribed under the Oaths Act 2001.

A key change is that it is a requirement for the person making the statutory declaration (the declarant) to include their telephone number on the form.

The updated forms are available from the Department's Statutory declarations webpage, including:

the online statutory declaration form

the Word form for physical documents

the Word form for electronic documents.

Please ensure you are using the current version of the form when witnessing Tasmanian statutory declarations.

How important is your Name.

Keith Lello | DSC Chair

You are probably thinking right now, ***"What a silly question!"***

And you are quite correct. Your name is a vital part of your identity. It connects you to your family, your heritage and is the form of address to which you most readily respond. It is a vital part of your own persona.

In the context of you being a justice of the peace, your name takes on a higher degree of importance as Alan Leitch discovered recently on his duty day at the Hobart DSC when a man presented a 40 page document which had been returned from Queensland simply because the JP who had recently processed the document had used the DSC's generic stamp and failed to include his name in the process.

A simple omission but one which could have cost the person a significant amount had the transaction to which the document referred been (say) a time critical situation for which there were significant penalties for not meeting the deadline. Although the JP had provided his number along with his signature, this was not acceptable to the recipient of the document.

Quoting from Section 3.6 of the Handbook for Justices of the Peace, "As long as you perform your JP duties justly and fairly, and without malice, you are protected against criminal or civil proceedings for any mistakes you may make or any erroneous decision you may give." In this case, the JP was protected by legislation against any action taken had any financial loss resulted from not providing his or her name.

. Member Profile

David Plumridge JP



David was appointed a JP In February 2003 after being approached by the Launceston Magistrates Court (along with Professor Nigel Forteath) to become a Bench Justice in Launceston, through the Chief Magistrate, at the time an acquaintance. He was very interested in the role so undertook Level 1 training plus additional training with the Court, then 30 hours of observing in the Magistrate's Court. The next step was buddying up with experienced Bench JP's until he felt competent and ready to play the role himself.

David's background in law enforcement and business through the Australian Customs Service was highly aligned with his new role. In the early days, Traffic Courts were a big part of a Bench JPs duties, as well as the after-hours courts.

Involved with HJAT from the beginning of his time as a JP, David quickly became Treasurer where his accounting skills and experience proved extremely valuable.

In 2019 he became President of the Association, seeing its worth. For his services to the Association, David was made a Life Member of the HJAT in 2023.

He has always seen the importance of regular Professional Development for JP's and it's noteworthy that David has facilitated Level 1 training sessions for 7 new JPs this year to date. His current role on the statewide PD Committee is a continuation of his expertise and interest.

Reflections and Observations:

An ageing JP cohort is concerning. Those who have the time to participate on the DSC rosters are mostly retired of necessity. There are too few JP's available (or willing) to share the workload. There are too few "younger" JP's as we look to the future.

Increasing numbers of immigrants, international students and others from various countries and cultures with different English as a Second Language skill levels are requiring greater levels of assistance from JPs.

In a "nutshell", David enjoys his Fridays in the office and finds it satisfying that many people are being helped by our service and the convenience of the rostered hours and central location. His role keeps him engaged and he enjoys interacting with people from many walks of life.

In his spare time David is a keen gardener, enjoys spending time with his family, travels to interesting destinations, is active with the Anglican Church and in particular assisting with archival history of the church.

Thank you, David, for many years of service.

Introducing Keith Lello JP



Background

Born in Devonport on Tasmania's Northwest Coast, Keith was raised on a small farm at Forth till the age of 16 when he successfully qualified by examination to enter the Postmaster General's Department (PMG) as a Technician-In-Training. He was appointed as a technician in January 1966.

PMG/Telecom period

During his first year as a technician, Keith married Margaret and also sat for and passed the senior Technicians examination on the same day their first of three children was born in 1967. This was the beginning of Keith's successful and very fulfilling 28-year career within the PMG which later became Telecom Australia. During this time, he enjoyed a number of roles including project management of the single biggest customer statewide network project. Keith was also often seconded to Telecom's Melbourne Headquarters where he was involved in a number of projects one of which resulted in Telecom winning an Australian Design Award for a software package he designed.

Financial Planning

When Telecom began downsizing preparatory to privatisation, Keith accepted a voluntary redundancy. Taking the opportunity for a career change he entered the financial services industry culminating in him qualifying as a certified financial planner (CFP) running his own combined financial planning practice and general insurance agency providing employment for six people. In 2017, Keith accepted an offer to buy his business which led to his retirement.

Justice of the Peace

Appointed as a JP in 2007, Keith was immediately allocated to chairing the Social Committee. In this role he organised for groups of Justices to visit places of interest including, the Supreme Court, the Hobart Penitentiary, the radio telescope, Davey Telephone Exchange, Gordon River underground power station, the Marine Board control tower, the Bridgewater bridge construction site, the Mornington Mail Exchange, Rotalift rescue helicopter site, the Risdon Vale prison, the Hobart Police Headquarters control room to name but a few.

Elected as president of the Southern group prior to the COVID19 period, it was decided a common information person be appointed so that document signing centre coordinators all received the same information relative to initial closures of DSC's and the protocols and practices for when the centres reopened. Because of the urgency involved, as the president, Keith assumed this role which was ratified at the next committee meeting. Given the title of DSC Coordinator Chair, Keith continues in this role encompassing the new range of DSC's with the respective coordinators administering their day-to-day activities in the former autonomous manner.

Launceston signing centre

Office statistics | January–July 2026

The Launceston document signing centre recorded 16,582 activities from January to July 2026. June had the highest monthly total, with 3,294. Photocopies are recorded separately in the supplied workbook.

Month	Activities	Photocopies
January	1,773	155
February	2,440	243
March	2,604	182
April	2,259	171
May	2,086	155
June	3,294	254
July	2,126	134
Total	16,582	1,294

Activities by category

Category	January–July total
Affidavits	970
Annexures	2,201
Statutory declarations	3,027
Certifying documents	8,304
Search and arrest warrants	213
Witnessing documents	1,479
Other	367
Enquiries	21

North West signing centres

Office statistics | January–July 2026

Devonport, Penguin and Sheffield.

Month	Activities	Clients
January	58	48
February	70	44
March	32	20
April	68	48
May	124	68
June	102	48
July	112	42
Total	566	318

Activities by category

Category	January–July total
Affidavits	66
Annexures	98
Statutory declarations	96
Certifying documents	214
Search and arrest warrants	2
Witnessing documents	86
Other	2
Enquiries	4

Southern signing centres

Office statistics | January–July 2026

Glenorchy, Rosny, Kingston, Hobart and Supreme Court.

Month	Activities	Clients
January	1,501	500
February	1,948	547
March	2,120	567
April	1,760	484
May	1,792	585
June	2,521	702
July	1,904	651
Total	13,546	4,036

Activities by category

Category	January–July total
Affidavits	1,030
Annexures	1,455
Statutory declarations	1,886
Certifying documents	7,775
Search and arrest warrants	21
Witnessing documents	1,178
Other	54
Enquiries	147

Vale Leslie Gareth Wilby

Remembering our member Gareth Wilby

It is with much sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our member Gareth Wilby.

Gareth was appointed as a Justice of the Peace in March 1998, serving for 28 years, and acted as a Bench Justice for more than 10 years.

