



JP Update

Keeping you informed of current issues – February 2021

I'm sure we all agree that 2020 was definitely not the year that anyone had planned. It does appear though that we, in the ACT, have fortunately been on the lighter side of the effects and restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Let's hope that 2021 is one in which we can continue to live our lives with good health and at least be able to do activities as freely as we can do now – albeit some travel plans still need careful consideration and/or are limited.

What's planned for 2021?

The Executive is working on plans to hold at least three seminars; three editions of the journal *Justice Matters*; the AGM and annual luncheon.

A calendar of events planned for 2021 is attached to this JP Update. **Mark the dates in your diary now!** Details of each seminar will be sent to all Members giving reasonable notice. We look forward to seeing many Members at the ACT JPA activities this year.

It is important that we all keep up to date with the practice of providing a comprehensive JP service. Members' seminars are a perfect opportunity to update and refresh your JP knowledge as well as getting to know your fellow Members. **The first seminar will be held on Saturday 27 February at 10.30am. This seminar will be a "Discussion fest".** We will look at the ACT's self-represented land titles procedures for JPs; a refresh on witnessing Affidavits; and various JP scenarios. We also seek Members' contributions of topics / scenarios to be included in the discussions. The seminar notice is attached.

Signing Centres

Due to the pandemic circumstances all signing centres were suspended back in March 2020. We were pleased that signing desks in the five shopping centres and three Libraries (Belconnen, Civic & Erindale) were able to restart providing services in October. By mid-January, the two sessions per week day at the JP desk in the Law Courts were back in operation. And now in February we will see Kippax and Dickson libraries restarting their JP services as well. We still await Libraries ACT giving clearance for Woden Library to also restart. The JP desks at the three hospitals are still suspended as ACT Health continues to consider the conditions and procedures needed to be in place

before any volunteer services including JP desks will be able to restart in the hospital environment.

Do you have available time – perhaps once a month or so - to join a Signing Centre team? Several teams are needing additional members, especially the Law Courts, Gungahlin Village and Jamison Markets. Attached is the current list of signing centres detailing the days and times of service. To volunteer and further information please contact Beverly on 0438 948 497.

NSW Digital Driver Licence

The March 2020 edition of *Justices Matters* included an alert in respect of New South Wales law not permitting the use of a NSW digital Driver Licence for client identification purposes etc. when dealing with NSW documents in particular. **In late 2020 the NSW law was changed to permit NSW JPs to accept digital driver licence as an approved form of identification.**

Executive for 2021

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 14 November 2020. A key feature of the meeting was the election of the Executive for the following twelve months. The Executive works on behalf of all Members, and is ultimately responsible for the operation of the Association.

The 2020-21 Executive is:

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|-----------------------|---------------|
| President - | Beverly Alley |
| Vice President - | Cissy Parker |
| Secretary - | Geoff Wood |
| Treasurer/Registrar - | Jan Lawless |
| Executive Member - | Paul Adams |
| Executive Member - | Ben Fuller |
| Executive Member - | Ruth Megirian |

*All good wishes for 2021 to be
an enjoyable and healthy year for all.*

Beverly Alley, President 0438 948 497

Cissy, Geoff, Jan, Paul, Ben, and Ruth

BE ON THE ALERT FOR SCAMS