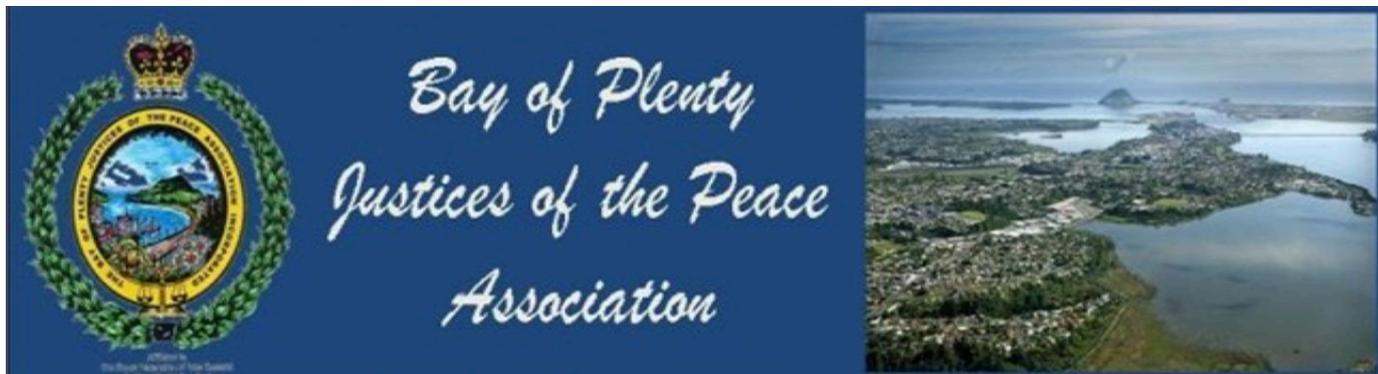


Bi-Monthly Newsletter

February 2026 



Welcome to the New Year!

You will notice a completely new look and format for our bi-monthly newsletter. I do hope you enjoy the new layout. All and any feedback is most welcome - and any articles or mentions you would like to see published, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Board through our Registrar, Brian Hamilton.

Sincere thanks and gratitude to **Eric Newman** for a smooth handover - and for all the many issues he has produced to date - thank you Eric!



The Board met recently and would also like to extend their appreciation to **Brent Warner JP** - one of the first responders on the scene of the recent devastating Mauao tragedy in his role in search and rescue. Brent has also had the added stress of being President of the Mount Maunganui Surf Club, which we all know has been adversely affected through the slips and is currently uninhabitable.

As a token of our support and care for a fellow JP, we have arranged a dinner for two for Brent and his wife, Kyra at Dixie Browns. Dieter Erasmus, the owner, was only too happy to support this initiative - and we ask that if you are dining at Dixie Browns that a small 'thank you' from the JP community would be most welcome.

Tracy Gudsell, Editor

In this newsletter you can expect:

President's
Report

Upcoming
Training Dates

Welfare Updates

Service Desk
news

From the
Registrar's Desk

Relevant
legislation news



From the Desk of President Glenn Williams KSM, JP

Tēnā Koutou Fellow Justices,

I'm pleased to share our first newsletter of the year highlighting our recent achievements and upcoming initiatives.

Recent Appointments and Ceremonies

At our last AGM we welcomed Clare Wilson JP and Tracey Gudsell JP to the Board. These two replace Eric Newman JP and Daryl Hone JP who have retired from the Board and I thank both of them for their years of dedicated service.

Since my last newsletter we have had two new JPs' sworn in. They were Russell Smart JP and Kevin Atkinson JP both sworn in during October. Prior to year's end we have been advised of several nominees who have been approved for interview I expect that these will be arranged for interview over the next several weeks.

Obituaries

It was with sadness that we recorded the passing of two retired JPs that we are aware of. Firstly Richard (Dick) Williams JP Retired who passed away in September and Alan Bickers MNZM JP Retired who passed away in November. Both had retired after decades of service as JPs.

Professional Development Update

The latest national accreditation statistics were released as at the 1 January and they once again show that our Association is having the highest number of accredited members currently at 82.9% which is the second highest of any Association. A great effort by Pat Taylor QSM, JP and his training team.

- Since my last newsletter there have been well attended training sessions held in Te Puke Katikati and Mount Maunganui
- The number of training sessions offered and those announced provide great opportunities for all JPs to maintain their accreditation and to stay up to date

Upcoming Events and Service Updates

- A number of training events have been planned for the coming weeks
- I will represent our association at the Annual Royal Federation Conference in Dunedin at the end of February which will also be attended by fellow Board member Phyllis Huitema JP

- A service desk was re-established in Te Puna in September and discussions are underway for establishment of a new desk in Mount Maunganui and details will be publicised when confirmed.

Looking Forward

As we continue through 2026, we remain committed to our mission of serving the Bay of Plenty community with distinction. Our training team are determined to ensure the highest level of training opportunities for our members

Ngā mihi nui,

Glenn Williams KSM, JP
President
Bay of Plenty Justices of the Peace Association

Glenn

SERVICE DESK UPDATE

All of our service desks are now open for 2026 commencing last Monday. A well-earned break was had by many of our JPs who continue to regularly make themselves available every month for rosters. Notably as communicated previously, many of these JPs continue to 'prop up' service desks in urgent need of further assistance. We are hopeful with our newly trained JPs this situation will be eased once orientation has been completed.

Should any one JP reading this update and not be on a service desk and willing to assist, we would love to hear from you.

Prospectively there is likely to be changes to some service desks in the near future for better utilization of all JPs and involving those in full-time employment. These changes have yet to be further discussed at our first Council meeting in February.

The following data may be of interest based on the following statistics collected from all desks over 2025:

2025 Number of JP Hours = 2271

2025 Number of Clients = 13967

2025 Number of documents signed = 38917

Great effort everyone! Thank you!

The busiest month last year was July with 1349 clients seen and 3733 docs signed.

Comparatively 2024 figures were:

26 more JP hours in 2024

291 more clients in 2024

And of most interest 1727 more papers signed for 2025

The busiest month for 2024 was August with 3724 documents signed

As can be seen by numbers collated above, service desks serve our community well from Katikati to Te Puke.

One would wonder what the overall statistics might be if home visits were included, however, somewhat of a logistical nightmare to try and collate presently!

Our Greerton Service Desk JPs met again at Sandy Stewart's home in December. The agenda was particular to Greerton, eg, the team working with the Greerton library management and security, receiving home visits, doing exhibit notes, pastoral care within the team, setting up the first half roster to 2026, and the experiences with how to deal with difficult clients.

Thanks to Marjorie Iliffe for setting up the roster, and to the very experienced Russell Williams for doubling up on our busy days.

Left to right:

Sandy Stewart, Marjorie Iliffe, Heather Waldron, Russell Williams, Helen Stewart

Absent from this photo are Rajinder Kaur and Mike Savage.



Welfare

We wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to Mike Savage and Heather Waldron, who both lost beloved spouses recently.

If you know of anyone you feel would welcome a welfare check in sometime, please do let your Board members know. Sometimes a call or visit goes a long way in assisting our fellow Justices in recovery or grief.



From the Registrar's Desk

New Board Members

Next training session date

Affidavits

I receive emails regularly from the Registrar at the court with the names of JPs who have not completed an affidavit properly, usually but not always the affidavit of a Marriage Dissolution.

There are three common mistakes made:

1. The pages are not initialled by JP plus client, and not numbered 1 of 4 etc.
2. The beginning "swear/affirm" does not match the Jurat, and the alternative is not crossed out.
3. Any attachments (such as a copy of the Marriage licence) are not stamped or handwritten with the appropriate wording for an attachment/annexure.

There are other mistakes (printed on both sides of the page for example) but the above are the three main errors.

Pat goes more deeply into these points at his training sessions, but may I give you my own:

Rule of thumb for every Affidavit which is to count the ONE-TWO-THREE picking up the 3 points above.

Brian Hamilton
Registrar



Tracey Gudsell

Welcome to our two newest Board Members!

Thanks and gratitude extended to retiring Board members Eric Newman and Darryl Hone.



Clare Wilson

NEW SERVICE DESK - JP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have the opportunity to open a new desk at Bayfair Shopping Centre - a glassed-in office at the top of the travellator from the carpark. This could be a very popular on a Saturday morning from 10.00am to 12 noon.

We require at least five (5) new JP's, better still 10, to commence this additional service desk. Please consider this request carefully and respond to Brian Hamilton at your earliest convenience:
jp.registrar.bop@gmail.com

Saturday, 9 May 2026
10.00am til 12 noon
Club Mount
45 Kawakawa Street
Mount Maunganui

Recently Sworn

Congratulations to **Kultaran Singh** sworn in on 5 February 2026.





JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (REGULATING JUSTICES) AMENDMENT BILL from the desk of the Training Team

This is a Private Members Bill initiated by Jenny Salesa MP and is based on a White Paper produced in June 2025 by the Auckland Justices of the Peace Association.

OBJECTIVE

To ensure that Justices of the Peace are competent, active and make themselves reasonably available to offer consistent, professional and accessible JP services to their communities.

In summary: To modernise and enhance the regulatory framework governing Justices under the Justices of the Peace Act 1957.

PROPOSED CHANGES

- Lifetime tenure to be replaced by a 5-year renewable term.
- Mandatory membership of a Justices of the Peace Association.
- A minimum of two hours authorised training annually
- A minimum number of clients to be seen in each year.

Justices will be required to submit an annual declaration confirming compliance with their membership, training and duty performance obligations. Failure to do so will trigger an evaluation by the Minister who can treat the Justice as having resigned if compliance is not confirmed.

STATUS

The Private Member's Bill is in the "Biscuit Tin" and there is no guarantee it will be drawn out in the current Parliamentary session. There is also no guarantee that it will get cross party support if it is drawn out.

However, the message is clear that there is a concerted push to professionalise Justices and ensure that they receive the necessary support and training to serve their communities effectively while maintaining reasonable and fair expectations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That all members maintain their accredited status and commit to regular attendance at authorised training events.

Thank you for reading!