



JP Update

Keeping you informed of current issues - December 2009

From the President

Have you noticed how fast the years are going nowadays? It seems just a short while ago that I was welcoming in the new year, and now there's another almost upon us! I guess it's not that surprising when Easter starts just after Christmas (at least, that's when the shops start bringing out the chocolate eggs!) and shops start decorating for Christmas in November.

The Association has had a reasonably busy year. I suspect the coming year will be no less so, and is likely to prove a bit of a challenge for the Executive.

I was pleased to hear from the Canberra Institute of Technology recently; they have organised another training program for early February. This should see another 25 or so JPs ready to 'hit the streets'. I have already confirmed that one of the Executive Committee will be available to speak to the JPs-in-training, and hopefully snare a few new members in the process.

I was chuffed to hear from our members involved in the 'signing centre' in *The G* at Gungahlin (see the article in *Justice Matters*, October 2009). The arrangements are running extremely well and keeping our JPs busy. They are very clearly welcome in this rapidly growing part of Canberra.

I remain keen to see the social side of the Association develop; to enhance the *community* of JPs as well as the professionalism. I am disappointed, in this regard, that I was unable to organise the Members' Lunch planned for earlier this month. Unfortunately, both time and opportunity slipped away. But stay tuned for something early in the new year!

Executive Committee for 2010

The 2009 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Saturday 7 November 2009, at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre. We had around 25 members attend – quite a good turn up – with several more apologies from those who could not make it on the day.

A key feature of the meeting was the election of the Executive Committee for 2009-2010. The Executive works on behalf of all members to provide the services members seek and enjoy, and is ultimately responsible for the operation of the Association.

Your Executive Committee is:

- ✚ President – Rod Nicholas JP
- ✚ Vice President – VACANT
- ✚ Secretary – VACANT
- ✚ Treasurer/Registrar/Public Office – Paul Adams JP
- ✚ Executive Member – John Coghlan JP
- ✚ Executive Member – Angie Hoffman JP
- ✚ Executive Member – Pat Davies JP

Vacancies

You will note, I am sure, that there are two vacancies in the Committee, both of which are 'Office Holders'. Both are important roles, the Secretary in particular, and I can't help but think this will make the business of running the Association that much more difficult. The work is no less, it just means it must be shared by fewer people. You may expect your Executive to strive to deliver the best value-for-money services to members, but unless the vacant positions are filled, members will have to be patient and understanding.

You can help!

If you can help, if you always wanted to have a hand in managing your Association, please call Rod Nicholas (0419 436 296) or email him at president@actjpa.org.au.

Thanks, where thanks are due

In the meantime, I would like to extend my thanks to Mr Kanti Jinna JP, who stepped down as Vice President at the end of the year. Kanti has been on the Executive Committee for seven years, most of those as Vice President, and has been otherwise active in the Association pretty much since its inception. I am thankful for his great support, and I wish him well for the future. I am sure he will not remain idle in his 'retirement'.



Executive meetings

The Executive meets monthly in the Association's office in the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre. The meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month (except December), and commence at 6:30 pm sharp.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 27 January 2010 (Tuesday is a public holiday).

Members are most welcome to attend and participate.

What's going on next year?

One of the first items for the Executive Committee meeting in January is the calendar of events for 2010. We are working towards an edition of *Justice Matters* in March, and a members' Seminar in early April, but dates need to be confirmed. I'd like to get a members' Get Together of some type organised early in the year. We will see what we can do.

Our Twentieth Anniversary

As I mentioned at the AGM, 2010 sees the Twentieth Anniversary of the Association, and this seems like something we should celebrate. How and When (and, indeed, If) are still to be determined, but if you have any thoughts or ideas on the matter, please drop a line to the President (or any of your Executive Committee).

Finally ...

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I'd like to wish all our members, and their friends and families, a safe and happy Christmas period.

It is hard to know what to say in this politically correct climate; it seems so easy to offend people. So let me just say this:

- ✚ The joy and spirit of Christmas has little to do with shopping, presents, silly guys in Santa suits, snow covered trees, gaudy light shows, and parties.
- ✚ Christmas is a time to give thanks for what you have.
- ✚ Christmas is a time to give to those who have not.

- ✚ Christmas is a time for family and friends.
- ✚ Christmas is a time to give your mum and dad a hug.
- ✚ Christmas is a time to tell your kids (no matter how old they are) you love them.
- ✚ Christmas is a time to tell your brothers and sisters that it's great to be part of the family.
- ✚ Christmas is a time to remember those who, for whatever reason, are not with us. Rather than be sad because they are not here, we should rejoice in our memories of the good times we shared.

Rod Nicholas

**Whatever you do,
be safe.**

**Don't drink and
drive**

We look forward to working with you all throughout 2010.

See you then!

Your Executive Committee:

Rod Nicholas *Paul Adams*
John Coghlan *Pat Davies*
Angie Hoffman

*Christmas is not as much about opening
our presents as opening our hearts.*
~Janice Maeditere