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Darrell Johnson Harry Wills

Contributions

If you'd like to contribute an article to this newsletter, please send it, preferably by e-mail, to the editor. Copy deadline is the 11th of each month of publication. **Please address general correspondence and subscriptions to the Secretary.** All cheques are to be made payable to the 'Retired Customs Officers' Association of WA Inc.

Membership

RCOA welcomes new members of former Customs officers. Current membership is 141. The membership fee for former officer & spouse or single is \$6. An application form is included on the inside back page of this Newsletter. Annual subscriptions are due on 1st January each year. Please check your address label for your current financial status.

PRESIDENTS NOTE

We recently had a function north of the river where most of the regular diners attended. There was a table of members, who live north of the River that we had not seen for some time, it was good to see them amongst us. A good time was had by all with no-one leaving hungry.

Nancy Davey was awarded a 'Legends' certificate in Recognition of Excellence for her dedication & work for the Organisation. Well done Nancy & a huge thank you!

To all our members who may be ailing in this year may your pains ease with the knowledge that we, your friends & second family, think of you often whenever we meet & discuss the past, & our prayers go with you all. 🙏 *God bless, Trevor Smart*

Diary of Events 2005

July 12th Birthday Lunch, Runway Cafe
Aug 14th Breakfast @ Swan Yacht Club
Sept Possible lunch @ TAFE Fremantle
Nov 8th Sausage Sizzle @ Kings Park
Dec 13th Christmas Luncheon @ Runway Bar & Café 📠

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Recent Outings

The recent *luncheon at The Jetty Restaurant @ Hillarys* was another hit. The weather & venue were superb - the day was a delight with 36 of us there to socialize. There was so much food to choose from that we seemed to be there forever nibbling away at delicious assortments from soup, mains & desserts. After we had filled our bellies Trevor presented Nancy Davey with a 'Legend' award & her time & commitment to the RCOA was acknowledged. Congratulations to you Nancy.

It was good to see some different faces at lunch, we were joined by Chris Cornish, Astrid, Ron DeGruchy, Jim Hunter, Frank & Maureen Moran & Carol Morey. We hope we see them again at some of our other functions.

Check our social page for future outings. We have a lunch in July to celebrate our birthday, a breakfast in August & have other outings planned during the year.

Our Christmas function this year will be on Tuesday December 13th so write this date in your diaries too.

RLK

News of Members

Nancy Davey sent the following for inclusion - I would like to thank the committee & all members for giving me the 'Recognition of Excellence' at the luncheon recently. I was very chuffed!

My association with Customs goes a long way to 1940-46 after a short stint at the Defence Department, & I loved every minute of this time. I resigned only because I had no choice on my marriage - we were not employed in the Public Service after marriage. After 27 years & 5 children, Albert & I decided it was time for me to go back to work to earn some money for US instead of the children (then adults of course) & I was lucky enough to return to Customs after a few months with Vet Affairs (which I hated), & CES Fremantle which was okay. I spent another very happy six years at Customs which was a real learning curve for me, working with young people opened my eyes to the real world. I remember one young fellow in Revenue Control telling me he would do anything for 'a little old white haired lady (I was 54!) when I asked him to reach down a file for me. I remember being sent to take minutes at a meeting in Govt offices in Perth when John Howard was Treasurer - sitting at the table with trousers rolled up & socks rolled down & being asked by him for directions to the men's toilet. I

remember being sent to ASIO offices & being scared by the intense scrutiny I was subjected to. I remember being loaned to Commonwealth Police for a short time & having to ask not only how to spell some four-letter words but also what they meant (my education being considerably broadened). My family say it was the best thing I ever did, to go back to work with REAL people.

When I was persuaded by Kaye Murray to join the Retired Officers' Association I was delighted to be welcomed, together with Albert my spouse, who has always been a shy person, but he has felt very comfortable with the retired officers' who have always been friendly. It was a great pleasure for me to type the newsletters for many years, Ernie McLeod was Editor & he was pernickety to say the least. We had many an argument over the phone about my spelling of grammar in the letters, I usually won but was told very firmly about mistakes I made, like spelling funeral rites as rights not only by Ernie, but other members as well!

I was very thankful when Hazel offered to take over the newsletters, & what a wonderful job she & Bernie do. The computerised format is something quite beyond me, I am computer illiterate. Albert & I, & our daughter Amanda who has joined as a 'Friend', look forward to receiving the mags, & to the great outings the committee arrange for us all. May the Association continue to grow & prosper.

Many Thanks, Nancy

Connie Hughes has recently had a trip to Canberra to see her daughter. Connie hopes to be a great grandma at the end of June so we hope all goes well. See you soon Connie & we can catch up on the gossip.

Ron & Judy King have been flitting around the countryside. They have finalised all of Judy's belongings over east & are settling in the one abode here in WA. They are still wondering what they are going to do with all of their gear, we are sure Ron will find somewhere to stash it. It is so hard to part with some things when you have had them for so long.

Good Luck to you both

Harry Wills had to miss out on a bit of socialising recently, he is confined to quarters with the flu. We are sure he will knock it on the head soon & get back out & about. Once again Pat is playing nursemaid.

Get better quick Harry

Once again, we do know of members who are/have been unwell but respect their request for privacy. We wish you all a speedy recovery & good health.



Kaye Murray's Adventures

For those people who spent their grandchildren's inheritance on seeing 'The Lion King' in Sydney last year I can tell you about an excellent tour to keep 'spending'. This year I went to Sydney again on tour, mainly to have Australia Day aboard the Captain Cook on Sydney Harbour, which was the most exciting day & which I intend to do again next year.

We flew out of Perth to Sydney & coaxed to the Harbour where, after formalities, we boarded the Captain Cook. There were three decks of accommodation, plus the dining & entertainment deck & the sun deck. Plus a sauna open from 7.30am - 6pm. The cabins were air-conditioned, with ensuite & the usual toiletries one enjoys these days. At bed time the sheets are turned back & a chocolate on the pillow. There was a reading room (library) where one can make tea, coffee or Milo & enjoy a variety of biscuits at any time.

Overnight we anchor in one of the bays & before breakfast (which is a delightful buffet) those energetic people are taken ashore in the boats tender or taken on a conducted walk. By the way there were 42 West Australians on the tour & 61 cabins. Some of us opted for single accommodation which meant we were in the majority. We had three meals a day on board, some buffet some table service. Evening entertainment was light & pleasant.

January 26th was a day to behold, we up-anchored & steamed into the midst of this madness. Launches, yachts, big boats, little boats, rowing boats & kayaks all tearing around like angry ants, churning up the water which became a mass of white foam. Not a craft was without decoration, flags, balloons, ribbons, tinsel, anything which would wave in the breeze, all in a hurry (why? I don't know!), heaven help anyone who fell overboard or their motor broke down! There was a ferry race - now you know the size of the Sydney ferries - there were four competing, blue, green & two red. But that was slow excitement so our boat moved on. Four tall ships moved up the harbour. Not in sail naturally, but preceded by the fire tender & that too was a spectacular sight. As I write I am living it all again & loving every thought.

In the evening there were the usual fireworks, but these were somewhat disappointing. It was said New Year's display was very spectacular because New Years Eve meant more to more people than Australia Day, therefore the evening of January 26th was more a token.

After three days & two nights on our most comfortable boat & the loveliest harbour in the world, (I am one-eyed have you noticed), we stayed at the Star City Casino, enjoyable, comfortable & handy. We had two tours. One to the Hunter Valley vineyards, where the scenery was prettier than anywhere. The other was to the Blue Mountains, which has its own charm & the legendary story of the three sisters who are sculptured with their father at the entrance to the lift across the valley.

We also had seats for the Lion King which I enjoyed for the second time in a year. We only had one half day free. I took a taxi to the aquarium which cost \$10 for the ride. The driver told me how to get back to the hotel which took me ten minutes to walk - oh well! My next task is to plan my next venture - where to now?

Dads Army / Customs Reserve

As you will recall from the February/March edition of 'Duty Freed' a number of us ex Customs Officers became part time Customs Officers over the summer 'High' season. It was a very enjoyable period in our lives catching up with old friends and making new ones.

On the other hand witnessing the changes to the 'Duty Free' concessions was probably one of the worst and certainly the most unpopular decision made by the Australian Customs Service. Not only to passengers but to Customs Staff who have had to put up with the passengers utter disbelief, frustration and a sense of being ripped off by the government (again). Not to mention the huge amount of additional paperwork, extra storage facilities, additional banking and last but not least the pressure that all those involved have been under since February the 1st.

The new concessions are 200 cigs per person, 2.25 litres per person and up to \$900.00 other duty free items per person. Sounds great so far, but the catch is, if you are over any of these concessions, even by a miniscule amount, you not only lose the excess (or pay duty on it), but also lose (or pay duty) on the initial concession as well. As an example if you declare 400 cigarettes you either pay duty on all 400 or forfeit all 400. There is no leeway or discretion allowed by the officer involved!

Well, now that's off my chest I can get on with the latest news. There is a very good chance that Customs are going to employ between 6 and 10 ex Customs Officers on a casual or part-time basis this coming 'Summer Season'. The jobs will include 'Marshal' as before and possibly 'Outwards Primary' and TRS (Tax Refund Scheme).

The 'Marshal' job involves standing in one place for a few hours at a time, so you need to be reasonably fit as this can be quite tiring especially to the back of the legs.

If you are interested in filling one of these potential positions please contact Wayne Mitchell, Manager Human Resources (ring Customs on 9430 1444 and ask for him or email him - wayne.mitchell@customs.gov.au) and he will record your details in readiness should the idea go ahead again.

Bernie Webb

PS I'm back with Customs at the moment, just for 2 months, assisting with the input of the vast amount of previously mentioned detainments and seizures into a computer database.

BIRTHDAYS

July

Eric HOVEY	2
Margaret HEAVEY	4
Elva JOST	4
Eleanor SMART	5
Hedda LAMERS	5
Michael METCALF	8
Sue SWEET	9
Les HERON	9
Brian JOST	9
Mimie MURRAY - SMITH	13
Christopher CORNISH	15
Roly SWEET	18
Jill BINNING	19
Wyn ALP	20
Ann McNAMARA	23
Sue HOPKINS	26
Max Gerreyn	27
Shirley McDONALD	28
Robyn METCALF	29
Kay SCHMIDT	29

August

Chris DOUGLAS	6
Haddon RUDKIN	10
Elsie CROWE	10
Graham HALL	11
Jack EARNSHAW	14
Angela DALTON	16
Wayne DALE	18
Jacky HUBBARD	18
Flo POLAK	23
Lew POLAK	24
Gladys JEFFERIES	25
Renee FLYNN	25



WEDDING ANIVERSARY'S

July

Brian & Kathleen WARD	4
John & Colleen SORENSEN	6
Jim & Bridie O'NEILL	7
Mike & Renee FLYNN	12
Frank & Ethel WARD	20
Denis & Ellen LEWIS	21
Sandra & Alex SIMS	26
David & Jessica BAINBRIDGE	26

August

Alex & Sylvia SHAW	18
Tony & Kerry McCUBBIN	31

INDEXATION OF COMSUPER PENSIONS

The following information is a summary of the case for altering the method of indexation of Comsuper pensions to **the greater** of the CPI and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE).

The CPI was introduced in 1960 - prior to that there were 5 series of retail price indices titled A, B, C and D and the Interim Retail Price Index.

The following information is, mainly, taken from the 14th Series of "A Guide to the Consumer Price Index" issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on 19 December 2000 - the ABS advise that this is the latest edition.

The CPI comprises a complex set of goods and services (often referred to as a "fixed basket") which is expressed as an index by assigning it a value of 100.0. Every 10 to 15 years this fixed basket is updated and the new base reverts back to 100.0.

The current reference base period for the CPI is 1989 - 1990. (Comment: well before the introduction of the GST plus many other recent changes!!).

The following quotation appears on page 3

"Although the CPI is also commonly referred to as a measure of changes in purchasing power or a cost-of-living index, in an economic context these terms are not strictly interchangeable with a measure of price inflation. Their measurement would require separate, purpose built indexes. A single index cannot be expected to adequately fulfil all these roles".

The following two quotations appear on page 5

"Income based taxes, however, are not included in the CPI because they cannot be clearly associated with the purchase or use of a specific good or service".

"The design of the 14th series CPI as a measure of inflation means that the cost of servicing debt used to finance the acquisition of goods and services is excluded from the basket".

There are many other quotations that could be mentioned eg.

"The CPI does not measure those changes in living costs which may be experienced by individual households as a direct consequence of their progression through the life cycle. For example, younger households may incur a higher proportion of their expenditure on housing and child care while those households entering the older age groups may incur increasing expenditure on medical services".

The point that I am attempting to make is that the CPI is not a measure of the increase in the cost of living - it is a measure of inflation and there are differences between the two.

Some years ago, other means of identifying increases in the cost of living were created. I refer to Average Weekly Earnings (AWE), Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (AWOTE) and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE). They are all different and I do not propose to go into a lengthy discourse as to just how they are different. (Note: There are probably a few more!!)

Back in 1997, the Federal Government finally recognized that, by indexing CentreLink Aged Pensions solely by the CPI, Aged pensioners were falling behind in their capacity to keep pace with rising prices. Accordingly, indexation of the Aged Pension was changed to **the greater** of the CPI and the MTAWE.

Prior to last years Federal election, the Prime Minister is quoted as being extremely pleased that Aged Pensioners are now \$43.20 per fortnight better off by having their pensions indexed by the greater of the CPI and MTAWE than they were under the old scheme.

The claim by AIR to have Comsuper pensions indexed in the same manner as Aged pensions is purely an attempt to achieve equality with pensioners receiving a CentreLink Aged pension.

It is worth mentioning that in February last year (2004), the War Veterans finally achieved equality with Aged pensioners and now have their pensions increased by the greater of the CPI and the MTAW.

Note: It took a "revolt" by a small number of Liberal backbenchers to get the Prime Minister to change his mind!!

Research statistics undertaken by the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association (SCOA) show that from 1990 to 2000 the CPI increased by 24%, the MTAW increased by 37%, the AWOTE increased by 47% whilst ex-Federal parliamentarians had their pensions increased by 50%.

There have been two Senate Select Committees (2001 and 2002) who have examined the method of indexation of Commonwealth and Defence Forces Superannuation schemes and both committees concluded that indexation by the CPI alone should be abolished in favour of the CPI or a wage based index (such as the MTAW or AWOTE) whichever was the greater.

The Federal Government refuses to acknowledge these outcomes.

The cost of introducing this change varies according as to whichever body/group/organisation is asked.

SCOA have estimated that the cost, in the first year, would be in the vicinity of \$20 million dollars which represents less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of last years Federal Budget surplus.

Note: In 2002 - 2003 the Federal Government spent over **\$16 billion** dollars on Aged pensions which is over five times more than it spent on Commonwealth and Defence Forces pensions.

An interesting feature of these calculations is that the Federal Government refuse to take into account the amount of additional Income Tax, plus reduced CentreLink part-pensions, that they will recoup each year (this is known as "clawback") which they will receive if/when this claim is successful. In some cases, the amount of "clawback" can be as much as 70 cents in each dollar of additional pension received!!

As time passes, the number of recipients of Commonwealth and Defence Forces pensions will decrease. The "old" CSS scheme was closed off in the early 1990s and all new appointees to the Commonwealth Public Service were enrolled in the PSS scheme which only offers a lump sum of money on retirement (in lieu of an indexed pension).

ie. as the years pass, the cost to the Federal Government will slowly diminish.

An example of the difference between the Aged pension and the Comsuper pension (last year's figures) is that the combined married rate of Age pension was increased by \$21 (2.8%) to \$756 per fortnight while a retired Comsuper recipient received an increase of \$4.38 (0.6%) to \$734.22 per fortnight.

SCOA advise that there are 176,000 ex-Government employees affected by this refusal to give a reasonable method of indexation, ie. the same as that enjoyed by CentreLink Aged pensioners.

It is evident that AIR should retain this matter as one of high priority when considering submissions to the Federal Government.

Ren de Gruchy

Perth Northern Suburbs Branch WA

12 April 2005

Conundrum for you to Mull Over

What is it you can see with the naked eye, seems to have no weight & yet the more of them you put into an empty container, the lighter the container becomes?

Puzzles - Answers to April Puzzles

- ✦ Nine-letter word - **Wonderful**. Possible words include - enfold, felon, fend, fern, feud, fled, flew, flounder, flour, floured, flow, flower, flowed, flown, floe, flue, fluor, fold, folder, fond, fondle, fondue, fonder, ford, fore, foul, fouled, found, founder, four, fowl, fowled, fowler, frond, frown, frowned, fund, furl, furred, fuel, refund, unfold, woeful, wolf, wolfed.
- ✦ Leftover word - **Seventeen**. Answers were - nectarine, mushrooms, gymnasium, dragonfly, flamingos.
- ✦ Food names - **Apple pie**, beef stew, ice cream, sandwich.
- ✦ Hidden word - **Bachelor**.

Nine letter word

Using all the letters in the grid on the right, find our nine-letter word. See how many other words of THREE or more letters you can find in the grid, each letter can be used only once and every word must contain the centre letter. Proper nouns are not allowed. 0 - 4 words, better luck next time, 5 - 19 words, good, 10 - 15 words, very good, 16 - 19 words, excellent, 20+ genius! Good Luck!

T	E	R
O	R	Y
T	I	R

Leftover word

The answer to each of the clues is a nine-letter word. Each answer can be made by using three of the three-letter groups in the grid. The three remaining groups of letters spell our winning word.

- Another name for a hearth
- A candy or beverage made from cacao seeds
- What café is short for
- Daily/weekly publication
- Single or independent
- A plant cultivated for an edible part

CHO	ETE	ORY
BLE	NEW	ACE
EPL	ACC	PER
SPA	COL	VEG
ESS	FIR	RIA
ATE	ETA	CAF

Sporting Activities

Hidden in the grid are the names of four Sporting Activities, each has eight letters. Each is made up of the same coloured squares. Can you work out what they are? Which name would appear first in an alphabetical listing?

AE	SW	LA	BA
BA	CR	RO	NG
IM	BI	LL	SE
OS	SE	MI	CS

Try to discover the nine missing letters in the coloured squares. Each one completes the word on its left & begins the word on its right. When the puzzle is complete, the letters in the coloured column will spell our hidden word.

A	N	T	H	E		A	R	B	L	E
T	O	M	A	T		R	A	N	G	E
S	P	R	A	I		E	E	D	L	E
C	A	R	E	S		H	I	E	L	D
B	R	E	A	S		I	C	K	L	E
G	A	R	A	G		A	S	T	E	R
P	A	M	P	E		I	B	B	O	N
T	R	A	I	N		E	A	T	E	D



It's our Birthday

***** **

Buffet Luncheon @ the Runway Bar & Café

41 Eagle Drive, Jandakot
(above the Royal Aero Club,
a lift is available for those who struggle with stairs)

Tuesday July 12th

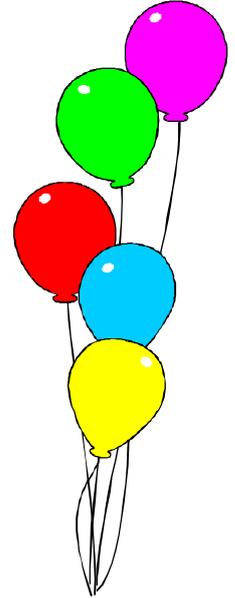
Assemble 11:30 & Dine at 12 noon

Cost \$15.00 pp

Plenty of parking for all

Invitation extended to current Custom
Officers too so we hope to see some of you
there to help us celebrate

Bookings & payment by July 4th please



Booked so far are -
Les ALP
Darrell & Pat JOHNSON
Judy & Ron KING
Kay & Roger SCHMIDT
Eleanor & Trevor SMART
Bernie & Hazel WEBB



Smorgasbord Breakfast Swan Yacht Club

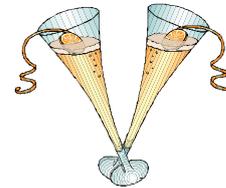
Riverside Rd, East Fremantle

Sunday August 14th at 08:30 hours

Cost: \$12.00 pp

Parking available at the club
Breakfast is held in the club room on the
ground floor level.

Bookings & payment by August 8th please



We hope to book a luncheon at TAFE Fremantle for September 20th or 27th. As their booking system has changed we do not know if we can get in. If you are interested in these dates & wish to attend please let us know & we will start a shortlist. Obviously notice from us will be short too, cost unavailable at present. We should know more details for August newsletter. If not available we will organise another event in-lieu, not necessarily those dates

Stay happy, hear from you soon 😊

For all bookings (unless stated otherwise) please contact
Hazel Webb, 78 Arundel Drive, WELLARD 6170 ☎ 9439 2268 or 📞 0409 105 101
(See RCOA - Functions Booking Slip - opposite page)

Portraits or Cartoons of yourselves, your friends or loved ones as gifts, souvenirs or birthday presents are my business.

Black & White (A3 size) - unframed \$20.00, framed \$45.00.
 Colour - unframed \$30.00, framed \$50.00

A recent -preferably colour - photo must be provided of the subject together with any captions or messages to be conveyed. Formal portraits on canvas and in oils will need to be considered on an individual basis, as will delivery and collection. Phone contact (08) 9249-4609 or email: maximail@optusnet.com.au

Thanks. 

Max 'The Platypus' Gerreyrn

Sending Money - be it for membership renewal or for an up coming function - remember that you can send electronically to the **RCOA of WA** Account at the Bendigo Bank - **BSB 633-000** - **A/c No. 121589386**

RCOA - Membership Application / **Renewal** / **Update**

First Name: Family Name:
 Partner's Name: **☎ No.** **☎ No.**
 Postal Address:
 e-mail address:

Please add your email address (if you have one) so we can keep you up to date between newsletters.

Our Newsletter includes a segment for publication of members and spouse's birth and wedding anniversary dates (day & month only printed)
 If you would like to share this detail with other members please complete the following

Member B'date: Partner B'date: Wedding date:

Membership - \$6 Joint or Single x No. Years = \$

Send Newsletter by post and / or e-mail Signature & Date: / /2005

Tick here only if receipt required

Subscriptions to: Secretary RCOA of WA Inc. 78 Arundel Drive, Wellard 6170

Office Use Only: Rec'd / / 2005 EFT Cash AMO Cheque No. Trans' No(s).

RCOA - Functions Booking Slip

Names Attending:

Function:	Venue:	Date:	No.	\$ p/p	Subtotal \$
Lunch	Runway Cafe	July 12 th 2005	<input type="text"/>	x \$15.00	<input type="text"/>
Breakfast	Swan Yacht Club	August 14 th 2005	<input type="text"/>	x \$12.00	<input type="text"/>
Lunch	TAFE (possibly)	Sept ?? 2005	<input type="text"/>	x TBA	<input type="text"/>

Signature & Date: / /2005 Total Amount Enclosed \$

Payment to: Secretary RCOA of WA Inc. 78 Arundel Drive, Wellard 6170

Office Use Only: Rec'd / / 2005 EFT Cash AMO Cheque No. Trans' No(s).

Last but not Least

- ◆ **Customs Needs You** - well, only if you want to - see Dad's Army / Customs Reserve - Page 3
- ◆ As mentioned previously we have been donated a computer by Janice Winsor (see article April/May 'Duty Freed' - www.seachild.com - 9335-1176) to help us set up a web page. We have permission from Customs to run the Web Server from Custom House (always on & connected to the Web via broad band). We have registered the name www.rcoa.org.au and it is all up and running. Well nearly, we still have to build and display the relevant web pages to view. Any ideas from you as to what sort of content we could have will be appreciated by the committee. We envisage something like; up coming events, old and new photos, access to old & new 'Duty Freed's', links to Customs web site etc.

Bernie Webb ☒

<p>Retired Customs Officers' Association of WA inc.</p> 	 <p>Michael Metcalf</p> <p>8 Hehir Street, Belmont WA 6104</p> <p>☎ (08) 9479 4173 Fax (08) 9479 4171</p>	 <p>Hazel Webb</p> <p>e-mail - bdwebb@v-app.com.au</p> <p>☎ 9439 2268 ☎ 0409 105 101</p> <p>78 Arundel Drive Wellard 6170</p>	<p>REDGUM RURAL SERVICES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- trees pruned- rural fencing- gutters cleaned- garden clean ups- rotary hoeing- slashing / mowing <p>Bernie Webb</p> <p>☎ 9439 2268 ☎ 0419 903 218</p>
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**RETIRED CUSTOMS OFFICERS'
ASSOCIATION**

OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

If undelivered return to
Secretary RCOA
78 Arundel Drive
WELLARD WA 6170