






Last but not Least

- ◆ Thanks to all of you who are using the internet for banking & for putting your names to the transactions. It sure makes our life easier when we know who has banked the money & saves embarrassment by us asking if you have paid or not.
- ◆ Please note that the next function is north of the River, so hopefully we will see more of those members who live on that side of the world attending.
- ◆ The recipes provided are not our own so we hope you enjoy them. Some of you may have 'tried & tested' seasonal recipes that you may wish to share for future 'Duty Freed'. (Of course, a sample for the editors would be appreciated!)
- ◆ Check your mailing label to see when your membership expires. Now we are into a new year there are currently 30 of you un-financial. For those of you without a mailing label (i.e. e-mailed news letters) I will/or have e-mailed your financial information.

Bernie Webb 

<p>Retired Customs Officers' Association of WA inc.</p> 	<p> Baskerville Metcalf FUNERAL DIRECTORS</p> <p>Michael Metcalf</p> <p>8 Hehir Street, Belmont WA 6104</p> <p> (08) 9479 4173 Fax (08) 9479 4171</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> (08) 9439 2268  0419 903 218</p>
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If undelivered return to
Secretary RCOA
78 Arundel Drive
WELLARD WA 6170

MCKENZIE GROVE CELLARS

Remember Miladin (Marko) Markovic ex Customs? He is the owner & Wine Maker of McKenzie Grove Cellars - 14 McKenzie Grove, Kelmscott 6111 Ph 93981076. He makes four types of red wine, nice drop too.

Shiraz (unwooded) \$7.50 *
 Cabernet (Unwooded) \$7.50 * or
 \$75.00 * a dozen (2 bottles free)
 Sheean Shiraz (wooded) \$10 *
 Creswell Cabernet Wooded) \$10 * or
 \$100.00 * a dozen (2 bottles free)

He is open Sat & Sun 1-00pm-5-00pm for tastings and sales. He would love to see any retired officers.

(* 2005 Prices)

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: / /2006

Tick here only if receipt required **Subscriptions to: Secretary RCOA of WA Inc. 78 Arundel Drive, Wellard 6170**

<small>Office Use Only:</small>	Rec'd / / 2006	EFT <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> AMO <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> No.	<small>Trans' No(s).</small>
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RCOA - Functions Booking Slip

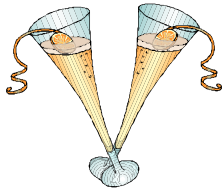
Names Attending:

Function:	Venue:	Date:	No.		\$ p/p	Subtotal \$
Lunch	Jetty Restaurant	March 14 th 2006	<input type="text"/>	x	\$23.00	<input type="text"/>
Sausage Sizzle	Kings Park	April 5 th 2006	<input type="text"/>	x	Donation	<input type="text"/>
Dinner	Fremantle TAFE	May 16 th 2006	<input type="text"/>	x	\$20.00	<input type="text"/>

Signature & Date: / /2006 Total Amount Enclosed \$

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

<small>Office Use Only:</small>	Rec'd / / 2006	EFT <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> AMO <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> No.	<small>Trans' No(s).</small>
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Lunch @ Jetty Restaurant

Hillarys Boat Harbour
Tuesday March 14th @ 12 noon

Cost: \$23.00 (seniors)

\$28.00 others

Full Buffet & Sweets

Tea & Coffee included

Booking made for 40 people (can be adjusted)
Fully Licensed (pay as you go)

We have to pre-pay a deposit & pay for all bookings so pre-payment is required on this occasion.

Bookings for the luncheon must be made by Friday March 3rd

Coming up -

Sausage Sizzle @ Kings Park

Tuesday April 4th

Dinner @ Fremantle TAFE

Tuesday May 16th

Don't miss out - Set these dates in your diary now



'Almost Free' Sausage Sizzle

Gold coin donation per person - pay on the day

Tuesday April 4th at 12 noon

Western Power Playground Area

KINGS PARK

Enter Saw Ave from Thomas Road, turn right at the May Drive junction & follow signs to the playground.

Sausages, onions & buns will be provided

BYO everything else you need including chairs

Numbers attending to be advised by

Friday March 31st

(We will use the Pavilion if weather not the best)



Those booked for lunch @ Jetty Restaurant to date are -

Les ALP

Jim & Norma ANDERSON

Darrel & Pat JOHNSON

Val KELLY

Judy & Ron KING

Bob REX

Kaye RICKARD & Guest Sandy

Betty & Brian SOLOSY

Bernie & Hazel WEBB

Dinner @ Fremantle TAFE

Tuesday May 16th \$20.00 pp

More information April 'Duty Freed'

Book this date in your diary

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)

Puzzles - Answers to January Puzzles

- ❖ Nine-letter word is **efficient**. Possible words include: cine, cite, efficient, entice, feint, fie, fief, fifteen, fife, fin, fine, finite, fit, ice, iff, incite, infect, nice, niece, niff, nit, tic, tie, tiff, Tiffin, tin, tine.
- ❖ Name of a country is **Portugal**.
- ❖ Hidden word is **Emerald**. The answers were cent, mine, sear, bore, neat, malt, edge.
- ❖ Safety Feature is **seatbelts**.

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 - 7 words, better luck next time, 8 - 15 words, good, 16 - 19 words, very good, 20 - 24 words, excellent, 25+ genius! Good Luck!

I	E	O
B	Y	F
N	D	R

Name of a Kid's Game

1. Yacht, schooner
2. Chose, opted
3. African adventure
4. Blue gemstone
5. What you put in a chicken or turkey
6. US county law enforcement officer
7. Where children receive an education
8. Long thin pasta strands

1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									

Hidden Words

Each of the words in the grid contains a hidden four-letter word. You do not need to rearrange any letter. Locate the hidden words & write them in the spaces provided. The coloured squares will reveal another word, what is it?

Fanfares				
Washing				
Leveret				
Slurry				
Fertilely				
Shearer				
Stints				

Match-Up

The first list contains 17 words. See if you can find eight pairs, taken from either column & write your answers in the spaces provided. The words are all kid's party entertainments. When you have found the eight pairs, there should be one word remaining. What is it?

Potato	Hot	
Rover	Bluff	
Simon	Treasure	
Blind man's	Says	
Hunt	Chairs	
Pokey	Red	
Fish	Musical	
Charades	Hokey	
Go		

BIRTHDAYS

March

Helen KEATING	1
David BAINBRIDGE	5
Pat PIKE	7
Bryan BISSAKER	8
Alex SHAW	9
Les MORRISON	11
Warrick GATES	13
John WAIGHT	21
Patricia JOHNSON	25
Peter KONTOOLAS	25
Moira HERON	27
Pauline MURPHY	27
Kathleen WARD	27
Betty KNIGHT	30
Owen MORRIS	31

April

Kate OLSEN	2
Maureen BECK	4
Jim HUNTER	5
Jean De GRUCHY	7
Alex SIMS	8
Esme THOMSON	12
Robyn STONE	14
Ian FORREST	18
Lorraine FORREST	19
Marie GLOVER	24
Ross JOHNS	24
Alan HALL	25
Wallace THOMSON	28
Sue MARKS	29



WEDDING ANIVERSARY'S

March

Jack & Min TOOHEY	2
Denis & Gary HUNTER	3
John & Doreen RITCHIE	11
Les & Wyn ALP	25
Les & Karen MORRISON	26
Jim HUNTER & Carol MOREY	27

April

Bob & Betty REX	10
Bob & Robyn STONE	20
Jack & Jess ELEY	27
Michael & Robyn METCALF	27



We received a suggestion to provide a couple of seasonal recipes so have obliged -

Hot Cross Buns

Serving size: Serves 10 or more

Cooking time: Less than 30 minutes

INGREDIENTS

1 sachet (30g) yeast	1 egg, lightly beaten
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup (60g) caster sugar	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup currants
$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups (375ml) warm milk	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup sultanas
4 cups (600g) plain flour	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup plain flour, extra
1 teaspoon salt	1 egg yolk, extra
50g butter, melted	1 tablespoon milk



METHOD

- ❖ Place yeast in a small bowl. Mix in sugar and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of the warm milk.
- ❖ Set aside in a warm place for 15 minutes, or until mixture is frothy.
- ❖ Sift flour and salt into a large bowl.
- ❖ Make a well in the centre and pour in yeast mixture; butter, egg, currants, sultanas and remaining milk.
- ❖ Mix to combine.
- ❖ Knead until mixture is smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes.
- ❖ Place in a greased bowl covered with a tea towel, for about one hour, or until mixture has doubled in size.
- ❖ Using a fist, punch the dough down.
- ❖ Divide the mixture into 14. Knead into smooth balls.
- ❖ Set aside for a further 30 minutes or until doubled in size.
- ❖ Preheat the oven to 220°C.
- ❖ Mix the extra flour with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water.
- ❖ Place in a piping bag.
- ❖ Pipe a cross onto each bun.
- ❖ Brush with combined egg yolk and milk.
- ❖ Bake for 15 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

Anzac Biscuits

Serving size: Serves 10 or more

Cooking time: Less than 60 minutes

Biscuits can be eaten as soon as they have cooled.

Biscuits can be stored in airtight containers a week or frozen for up to 2 months.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup (90g) rolled oats	125g butter
1 cup (150g) plain flour	2 tablespoons golden syrup
1 cup (200g) firmly packed brown sugar	1 tablespoon water
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup (45g) desiccated coconut	$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

METHOD

- ❖ Combine oats, sifted flour, sugar and coconut in large bowl.
- ❖ Combine butter, golden syrup and the water in small saucepan.
- ❖ Stir constantly over medium heat until butter is melted; stir in soda.
- ❖ Stir mixture into dry ingredients.
- ❖ Place rounded teaspoons of mixture 5cm apart on lightly greased oven trays; bake in moderately slow oven about 20 minutes or until biscuits feel slightly firm.
- ❖ Use spatula to loosen biscuits on trays; cool on trays.
- ❖ per biscuit 5.5g fat; 488kJ



Editors' note - The following article was sent to us by one of our members to distribute to you all. These contact numbers may not be current so if interested you may need to confirm the ones you may require. We pass jokes on the internet, we pass along just about everything, but if you are willing to pass this information along it could really help someone you care about.

Lawyers Advice on Credit Card Frauds - No Charge

A corporate attorney sent the following out in an email to the employees in his company

- ❖ The next time you order cheques have only your initials instead of first name & last name put on them. If someone takes your cheque book they will not know if you sign your cheques with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your cheques.
 - ❖ Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put 'PHOTO ID REQUIRED'.
 - ❖ When you are writing cheques to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the FOR line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of your number, & anyone who might be handling your cheque as it passes through all the cheque processing channels won't have access to it
 - ❖ Put your work phone number on your cheques instead of your home phone number. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. Never have your Centrelink number printed on cheques. You can add it if it is necessary but if you have it printed anyone can get it.
 - ❖ Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine & copy both sides of each license, credit card etc. You will know what you had in your wallet & all of the account numbers & phone numbers to call & cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Also I carry a photocopy of my passport when travelling here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards, etc.
- Unfortunately, I an attorney, have first-hand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves had ordered an expensive monthly mobile phone package, applied for a Visa credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer,

received a PIN number from my Department of Motor Vehicles to change my driving record information online, & more. But here is some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know.

- ❖ We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers & your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them
- ❖ File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards etc were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent & this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).
- ❖ But here is what perhaps is the most important of all (I never thought to do this). Call the three national credit reporting organisations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name & Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, & they have to contact you by phone to authorise new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done & the thieves threw my wallet away. This weekend someone handed it in. It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks.

Now here are the numbers you always need to contact when your wallet or purse etc has been stolen -

Visa Card Australia	1800 621 199
Visa Card International	1800 450 346
Lost Travellers Cheques	1800 127 477
MasterCard Australia	(02) 9466 3700
MasterCard International	1800 120 113
ANZ Freecall	1800 033 844
BankWest	131 718
Citibank	132 484
Commonwealth	132 221
Members Equity	1300 654 998
National	132 265
St George	1800 028 208
Westpac	1800 230 144
Bankcard Australia	(02) 9281 6633
Medicare	132 011
Centrelink Fraud	137 230
Seniors Card	1300 364 758
Passport	131 232

Venturer's - The following outings have been suggested and as the RCOA committee is always trying to provide the members with a mixed, interesting schedule of outings and social gatherings would you please complete the attached survey form and *return it to the Secretary by March 31st* if you are interested in attending any of the following outings.



1. Train trip to Bunbury, attend a local restaurant, overnight stay in Bunbury and return to Perth the following day.
2. Bus trip to Bunbury, visiting worthwhile sights enroute and in Bunbury, attend a local restaurant, overnight stay and return the following day.
3. Using your own means of transport a trip to Dongara staying at the Dongara Caravan Park in either your own caravan or a chalet. Possibly 3 nights. During the day visit the wildflowers in the general Mullewa, Coalseam National Park area.
4. A caravan & or camping trip to the south west for 1 or 2 nights. This one is only for those members who have caravans or would like to camp.
5. Bike ride. Eg Commence at Burswood Casino, over Polly Pipe Bridge, East Perth (including stop for coffee / cake), over Causeway Bridge, return to Burswood. Round trip approx 6km **OR** Ride from South Perth, over causeway, past Barrack Street, (Coffee/cake) over Narrows return to South Perth - round trip of 10km **OR** ride in Kings Park immediately prior to the next sausage sizzle

Costing is difficult to predict as it varies from individual to individual eg some member may be entitled to free/reduced transport with suggestion one but accommodation & meals are likely to cost about \$200 plus /couple depending on standard of accommodation & meals. Option 2 will cost significantly more as a private bus company would be involved and would include accom for the driver, the size of bus/cost would depend on number of people interested. Option 5 involves little cost (coffee/cake) or the requirement for advanced numbers.

The committee is prepared to provide a proposed detailed itinerary if enough members are interested and the return of your survey form will enable the committee to gauge if we are meeting your requirements. If you have any other suggested outings/ events we would welcome you providing details including suggested dates and approx costing(s) of the event.



If we don't hear from you then we will assume you are not interested.

Tick your preferred option(s) (all if relevant) and leave blank the ones you don't prefer.

-----x-----x-----x-----

Option 1 2 3 4 5 Other

Other (give details)

Time of Year (ie Month)

Do you prefer to just receive the Newsletter & attend meal functions Yes / No

Do you prefer to just receive the Newsletter & not attend functions / outings Yes / No

Your Name & Contact Number

Email address

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle on Tuesday February 7th, 2006

President Trevor Smart declared the meeting open at 11:35 am and welcomed those attending. Members present as per signed list circulated at the meeting.

Apologies - Thora Adderley, Mary Ford, Audrey & Eric Hovey, Brian & Elva Jost, Val Kelly, Ron & Judy King, Kaye Rickard, Kay & Roger Schmidt, Ken Stewart, Harry Tazewell, Mary Toy, John & Lyn Waight, Jean & John Wells, Dot & Vern Westley, Pat Wills

Minutes of previous AGM were circulated in the newsletter for all members to read, and with no business arising were accepted as read. No business arising from minutes. Accepted by all in attendance.

Treasurer's Report - was circulated in the newsletter for all members to read, and was accepted as read. No business arising from report. Accepted by all in attendance.

Harry Wills (from the floor) thanked Bernie & Hazel for their work, supported by all in attendance.

Entertainment Report - Hazel outlined the functions that were held & numbers attending -

Feb - AGM Luncheon @ Swan Yacht Club (39)

Aug - Breakfast @ Swan Yacht Club (27)

Mar - Breakfast @ Swan Yacht Club (31)

Sep - Luncheon @ Fremantle TAFE (30))

Apr - Sausage Sizzle @ Kings Park (37)

Nov - Sausage Sizzle @ Kings Park (33)

May - Lunch @ Jetty Restaurant (38)

Dec - Christmas Luncheon @ Runway Bar & Café (52)

Jul - Lunch @ Runway Bar & Café (35)

Overall another good year & we hope for another great social year in 2006. Thank you

President's Report - The year of 2005 was another significant year for this Association. I see this Association & the tasks allocated to the Committee arranged into three different areas.

1. The first & the most significant of these tasks to most of our members is the administration & the most up front task in this group is the newsletter called the 'Duty Freed' which the team of Bernie & Hazel Webb cooperate together to produce. The task of keeping the books & controlling of our monies is the next administration task I wish to mention & since moving to the Bendigo Bank as suggested by our Treasurer, Bernie Webb, we have got rid of many of those annoying extra taxes that are a hindrance to an organisation of our size & I feel in his hands our monies are definitely safe. On the suggestion of our Secretary, Hazel Webb, we now have an independent Auditor who controls the 'ins & outs' made by the Treasurer & reports to you, our members, each AGM.

They have once again excelled themselves in producing an entertaining publication that is of an excellent standard for the cost involved & completed their individual tasks admirably.

2. The second task is the entertainment & we once again had many events that were very successful & the variety always changes to avoid the monotony of sameness that can creep into any organisation. We had breakfasts, lunches & picnics on both sides of the river. There were held on week days & also weekends to try to decentralise our meeting places & activities, & I feel all credit to the Entertainment Committee once again for the effort that goes into making such successful venues & once again I applaud them one & all for their efforts. We have a new task in the entertainment group being the 'venture club' & although it has not really got off the ground as yet it will this year start & we are hoping this will fill a void for our younger more active members & even some of you less active, but willing to drive yourself to far & away places with your friends from this Association & join us for a few days together in harmony & friendship.

3. The third area is the well being & looking out for you our members. We do this mainly through the newsletter with the spreading of the stories of your activities as you write them & how you are going, to all & sundry all over the country to our members in WA & other states that receive our newsletter. So please give us more information to spread our cheer & wishes to all young or would like to be again. To all present here at this gathering may I say to you all, have a good lunch today followed by a great day & have a wonderful life for as long as you can.

Harry Wills - took the chair and proceeded with the election of office bearers for the next year. Only one nomination received per position and were elected unopposed as below.

President	Trevor Smart	Secretary	Hazel Webb
Vice President	Ron King	Treasurer	Bernie Webb
Editors	Bernie & Hazel Webb		
Committee	Warrick Gates, Neil Hopkins, Darrell Johnson, Brian Jost, Mike Metcalf, Kay Schmidt, Harry Wills		
Auditor	Debbie MacDonald		

Warrick (as emcee) generated a vote of thanks to Bernie & Hazel for their work on behalf of the Association. The next Annual General Meeting will be February 6th 2007, venue to be advised in the newsletter. With no further business arising the meeting closed at 12:00 pm

New Committee Member

I have been invited to write something on my escapades since early retirement in July 1990. There have been many, so here I will write an abridging version of just one - my time in the funeral/undertaking industry. A former Customs identity, one Michael G A Metcalf, took pity on this down-on-his-luck ex black button, 3rd division layabout & offered him a job in the industry, to be precise the Funeral company currently known as Baskerville Metcalf Funeral Directors.

It was June 1998 when my big break came & I commenced on a trial basis which lasted for 6½ years. I recall on the day that I started a boy was sent on a man's errand to the suburb of Morley in a somewhat 'past it's used by date' station wagon which refused to run without petrol, hence it came to a grinding halt at traffic lights in busy Walter Road. I won't go into words used to describe my frustrations when some young cowboy policemen with a heap of recruits came on to the scene & bluntly told me I couldn't leave the vehicle there while I went for some juice at the nearest service station. The word I used in my reply won't be found anywhere in the Bible. To cut a long story short, the young officer kindly condescended to assist me to move the wagon out of harms way around the corner. (This of course after we both calmed down & saw that the crisis was not going to resolve itself).

As time went on I became involved in most aspects of the profession, being classified as a Funeral Director's Assistant. Such a position required hands on tasks such as performing duties at church services, chapel services at cremations & at grave sites. The function of hearse driving was the one from which I derived most satisfaction. I felt I was not only a driver but was able to assist the grieving relatives & friends & sincerely offer some form of sympathy by empathising with them after the committal of their loved ones.

The most serious part, of course, is the removal or transfer of the deceased from such places as nursing homes, residences, hospitals & the city morgue. This most important aspect took one to all suburbs as well as to distant country towns, not only during business hours but throughout the night & during weekends & holidays. One thing I will say is that in such circumstances I was helping move the dear departed to a better place. The most exacting part of removals is that of attending at the home of the deceased, having at the same time to be tactful & caring, especially as the family & relatives etc are grieving & understandably reluctant to say their last farewell.

I could go on for much longer but I don't want such a serious subject to become boring for the reader. I was hoping to furnish statistics of all types of funerals in which I was involved during my time as Assistant but time has escaped me. Possibly it could be done at a later date if I'm put on notice.

A brief look at my work history since leaving school in December 1949 has me employed by the Federal Government for just on 40 years, including nearly 30 in

Customs. Since retirement in 1990 I have been gainfully employed in several jobs, but none has given me the reward & satisfaction of the occupation described herein. It opened my eyes to the fact that not one of us is exempt from that time when you may be summoned by your maker to join Him upstairs.

In closing, I sincerely thank Robyn & Michael Metcalf for involving me in such an occupation, one that I doubt I could ever have done without their guidance & patience over that period from June 1998 to December 2004.

Brian Jost (aka Sailor Jo)

Retirees:

*The Whole Truth, Nothing but...
(Sent in by one of our fellow members)*

- Q: When is a retiree's bedtime?
A: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.
- Q: How many retirees to change a light bulb?
A: Only one, but it might take all day.
- Q: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?
A: There is not enough time to get everything done.
- Q: Why don't retirees mind being called 'seniors'?
A: The term comes with a 10% discount.
- Q: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?
A: Tied shoes.
- Q: Why do retirees count pennies?
A: They are the only ones who have the time.
- Q: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?
A: NUTS!
- Q: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?
A: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.
- Q: What do retirees call a long lunch?
A: Normal.
- Q: What is the best way to describe retirement?
A: The never ending Coffee Break.
- Q: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?
A: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.
- Q: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?
A: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.

Share this one with all the retirees that you know. I'm sure they can relate to some of them!

News of Members

Owen Morris sent us a note with his subs. He has not been able to attend any functions as he is on oxygen 24 hours a day & unable to get about. He still likes to hear what is going on through the newsletter & wishes Good Luck to all.

Trevor & Eleanor Smart - We went to the Eastern States and back late 2005 on yet another long trip and after a shattering experience on the trip home I think that this will be the last long trip we do by Caravan. Our Caravan received a fatal blow whilst traversing a Heritage listed town in South Australia and we were lucky to get out without getting hurt ourselves. We now have a replacement Caravan and are determined that our experience will not kill our lust to go where we have never been before or return to places where we can just sit back and relax. Or be like that well known wine taster Ron King try every vineyard around the place you camp so you can help the economy. The Association now has a 'venturers' section where the plan is for all those among us who own caravans can go together on short or long trips. You may not need a caravan on some of our planned excursions as they will be planned to cater for those who travel in their own cars and stay at accommodation in caravan parks etc, and then join in the activities after a restful night away from home. So if you are interested in this type of activities then keep a lookout for these activities being advertised in this magazine and we plan on having at least one this year of 2006.

Brian & Kathleen Ward wrote the following - We really enjoy receiving the newsletter & reading about 'old friends' & what is happening in the West. We are both keeping well & very busy. Kathleen is still working as a Civil Marriage Celebrant & Brian is her chauffeur & calligrapher. We belong to the local croquet club & enjoy the games plus the social activities. We had a trip to Tasmania in November 2005 & in 2006 we travelled to Sydney to see the Edinburgh Tattoo, it was great. In October we had a trip to Kangaroo Island in South Australia, & this year we are visiting our son & family in Queensland & having a holiday on the NSW Coast in September. We have been in Victoria five years now, but one day we will fly over to WA & turn up unannounced at one of the functions. That would be wonderful. Please give our regards to anyone who remembers us & keep the Duty Freed as interesting as it is. Best Wishes. PS ... Go West Coast Eagles!

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.



Vale - We recently received word that Jack Bayly had passed away on November 17, 2005. His wife Connie has withdrawn membership of our Association. For those who knew Jack I am sure he will be missed.

Point of Interest

A couple of issues ago, somebody raised the issue on why the kangaroo on the coat of arms on the Perth Post Office building looked over its shoulder whereas all other Australian coats of arms have the kangaroo looking forward. After returning from Canberra recently & after spending time touring the old parliament house I have found the answer. On the front of the old parliament house there are two coats of arms, the British one is on the left & the Australian (with the kangaroo looking over its shoulder at the British Coat of arms) to the right. On a picture inside the building it explains that the kangaroo is looking over its shoulder to the British coat of arms, & it also states that there is one other coat of arms in Australia with the kangaroo facing back, this being the one on the Perth Post Office. Hope this helps. *Ted Elliott*

Quite a few members have written in with their subs their appreciation of the newsletter, how good it is to be in touch and for the committee's work - a big well done.

(Thanks to you all for the good words, makes our tasks worthwhile)

Dads Army Update

For those of us affectionately referred to as 'Dad's Army' (retired officers contracted back to Customs) things have been cruising along nicely.

The majority of our contracts expire at the end of February, but the Department has asked for expressions of interest to extend possibly to the end of March due to the expected extra workload caused by the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

Maurie (Mephram) and I are still assisting with the shortfall of officers in Pax Admin. As we rarely have a full compliment of officers in Admin we have plenty to occupy us during our day, answering phones and the front counter as well as keep the day to day tasks up to date. We have implemented a few new ideas and streamlined other procedures to keep the 'ship' heading in the right direction. Over the last two weeks things have got even more hectic as the offices within Pax Admin have been dismantled and rebuilt into a different configuration!

Alan Beckwith, Emma Fraser, Maurie, myself and three full-time officers Gary Byrne, Greg Calkin and Roseanne Feehon worked at the Customs stand at the recent 'Travel Expo' held at the Fremantle Passenger terminal. We were asked numerous questions about Duty Free Concessions, Prohibited Imports, wrapping/locking suitcases, Wildlife Protection, how to join Customs etc, etc. I haven't spoken to the others yet, but I enjoyed myself and could see us doing similar again.
TO BE CONTINUED... *Bernie Webb*



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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 all 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 137. 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.

Future Events 2006

Mar 14th - Lunch @ Jetty Restaurant,
Hillarys

April 4th - Sausage Sizzle @ Kings Park

May 16th - Dinner @ Fremantle TAFE



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