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### 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 136. 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 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. Please check your address label for your current financial status.

## Future Events 2007

Mar 6<sup>th</sup> - Sausage Sizzle @ Kings Park

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## News of Members

*Nancy Davey* sent her apologies for the AGM as they don't get around too much these days, & sends her wishes for 2007. She advised us of her nephew who does a couple of exchanges to Vietnam each year in his medical work. He was obviously regarded as a 'person of interest' on his last return to Perth, & was thoroughly searched - at least his baggage was - with 'suspicious' CD's of his late mother & his elderly father. He was eventually released with a laugh! This also reminded Nancy of her return to Customs in 1974 when one of the 'boys' took her on board ship before its clearance, to welcome home her daughter & son-in-law.

Her teenage son was with her & was seized by a couple of enthusiastic searchers who obviously thought he was a 'drug carrier'. They were told by one of her friends "watch it, that's Nancy's son, she'll kill you"! This says a lot for the appearance of the younger generation in their family!

*Phil Bell* sent a note with his subs. He is still in Bangkok & reads the newsletter with much interest. He hopes to get down to Perth in the near future & catch up with some of his old colleagues.

*Gwen Gregg* also sent a memo with her apologies for the AGM & wishing us all the best for 2007. She hopes to join us at a function soon.

*Peg (Bridget) Perry* thanked us for the "Duty Freed", she enjoys it very much, the social outings sound very good. As the song goes - "I don't get around much anymore". *It's good to hear from you Peg*

*John & Tessa Chescoe* sent in the following about their holiday in New York Dec 2006 - Jan 2007. A good start to our holiday commenced with the friendly, familiar faces of Bernie & Maurie at Perth Airport. It was Bernie who suggested I contribute an article on our impending visit to New York, so here goes.

The flight to New York imposes quite a strain on ones constitution being about 30 hours all up via Dubai, Hamburg, across the Atlantic to JFK New York. The foot exercises recommended on long haul flights & copious amounts of water were strictly adhered to but basically caused increased trips to the loo - and we still got swollen feet & ankles. Ah, the joy of travel - travel comes from the French verb 'travaille' which means work!

I think 10 planes must have landed simultaneously to our Emirates flight at JFK, I guesstimate up to 1500 incoming pax traversing the ubiquitous cattle pens awaiting processing. 2½ hours later our index

fingers duly printed & photo scan of retina completed we were on our way to Manhattan, a comfortable hotel the 'Wellington' on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, adjoining Carnegie Hall - our first taste of fame. It didn't stop there, every corner echoed familiar names & reminiscences - Times Square, Flatiron building, Empire State, Choyster building, Rockefeller centre, The Bowery, Greenwich Village, Little Italy, Grand Central Station - of I think 'Untouchables' fame, the subway grating where Marilyn Monroe gets the wind up in 'The Seven Year Itch'. Madison Sq Garden where Marilyn once again hams it up singing 'Happy Birthday dear President' to JFK in a sequin dress that had to be stitched on to her. Best value trip in New York is the free Staten Island ferry to view Ellis Island where 30% of New York migrants first stepped foot (been there, done that, remember Point Walter Reception Centre) & of course the Statue of Liberty, a gift from France in 1880 something.

We considered a visit to the World Trade Centre rather ghoulish however, the sight of 4-500 people of all nationalities, heads bowed, many weeping in homage, a lone saxophonist & a plaintive melody, back to the throng, no, not begging, just added to the atmosphere and this over 5 years after the event, it really brought home the impact of that tragic day. Bernie, can't you please cancel Sheik Hilalis entry back into Australia?!

Central Park was a blessed relief from the frenetic activity of Manhattan, the gentle clip-clop of horse-drawn carriages echo another era - so much wild like in this giant lung slap bang in the middle of skyscraper land. A poignant memorial to John Lennon is a Strawberry Field sponsored by Yoko Ono. Coppers in London used to be 6 feet tall - in New York they are 6 feet wide & bristling with an array of weaponry that would faze Arnold. They must be doing a good job we didn't see any hoons doing bur-outs, almost nil graffiti & youth who were polite & friendly. A great holiday, yes, but we really do live in the best place on Earth!



*(John, glad I asked you to write a story on your travels, well done and thanks, Bernie)*

*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. 🙌*

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle on  
Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

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** - Les & Wyn Alp, Nancy & Albert Davey, Gwen Gregg, Audrey & Eric Hovey, Mike & Robyn Metcalf, Pat & Lavinia Pike, Bob Rex, Kaye Rickard, Harry Tazewell, Mary Toy, John & Lyn Waight, Sue Webb (Friend), Jean Wells, Dot & Vern Westley, Pat Wills

**Minutes of previous AGM** were circulated in the 'Duty Freed' 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 'Duty Freed' for all members to read, and was accepted as read. Change to Bendigo Bank very positive. No business arising from report.

*Accepted by all in attendance.*

**Entertainment Report** - Ron outlined the functions that were held & numbers attending. The AGM & Christmas Lunch continue to be the two most popular events, as per attendances. This indicates a healthy relationship between the members & their committee, especially to show such interest to the AGM, attendance 45. Including the AGM in February we had 8 functions in the year for a total attendance of 273

March One of the more popular functions was a lunch at the Jetty Restaurant, Hillary's to which 33 members attended. This venue was considered to be good value for money in pleasant surrounds.

April A BBQ in Kings Park was a repeat from the previous year because it is popular, relaxed, in pleasant surrounds and had superb Cooks. Thirty of us enjoyed the day.

May A Dinner at TAFE took us into a 'night out' at one of our popular venues. Thirty-five attending made it the most favoured event beside the AGM & Xmas Lunch.

June Breakfast at the Swan Yacht Club, not bad just a bit early for some people. Attendance 24,

Aug Lunch at the Runway Bar & Café, again not bad, great views, good company for the 26 in attendance.

Oct A tour of the Customs X-ray Container Terminal, Fremantle followed by a BBQ/Picnic at the John Tonkin Park. The tour was most enlightening. The tour guides (Customs Officers) not only made us most welcome they excelled in their particularly interesting and informative presentation. The 'lark in the park' was nice but a little bit breezy. Still nice though

(Dec) Xmas Lunch at the Runway Bar & Café, popular, probably because it was our Xmas function and also, possibly, because of its location. Food was plentiful but it lacked that real Xmas style (my personal thoughts). Fifty-four attended which indicates the popularity of a Xmas function.

For 2007 I would like to present another BBQ, in Kings Park, a lunch at the Jetty Restaurant, another evening at TAFE, afternoon or morning tea at the 'Diggers Camp' (Australian poetry and yarns) then Xmas at a different venue AND do any of the members have a place that would prove popular? Another good year and my thanks for your continued support. *Approved R L K*

**President's Report** - Ladies & Gentlemen, we have come to the end of another year which was the twenty ninth year of this Association of retired members of the Australian Customs and their friends. This Association is unique because under our Constitution we have retired members of Customs who retired because they had reached the age when they decided to retire or people who were Custom Officers for a time and left for other careers outside of the Customs. Eligible members who join find their spouses and partners automatically receiving full membership to the Association. Other people who wish to join may do so without any qualification other than we know them and like their company. They can join us and our activities, and these people we officially class as 'friends'. As 'friends' they can be members without voting rights at our Annual General Meetings but receive all other benefits that are available.

As an Association without assets and no rental fees for offices or wages we can run on a cheap membership fee of six dollars per member at the moment which includes the retired members spouses or partners within the pay structure and the other members known as friends have no fees to pay as stated in the Constitution although we ask for a donation from them, if they can possible pay it, of the equivalent to the members fee to pay the cost of mailing out the newsletter. The spouses or partners of the original members remain eligible to stay on as members when the original member passes on, but only if they wish to stay as a member, and they then take over the original members responsibilities.

The inceptions of this Association took place in 1977 which means that this year of 2007 is our thirtieth year and I will be asking the new Entertainment Committee to consider a special event to mark the occasion of 30 years as we did in 1998, to mark our 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, which was thoroughly enjoyed by a large turnout of our members.

In the year 2006 we unfortunately had the misfortune of the passing of a much loved Committee Member and this was Harry Wills. Harry joined the Committee in the year 1987 and held the position of Vice President from that year, and later in 1990, was then elected to the position of President for five consecutive years. After he had decided it was time for new blood as President he remained on as a stalwart back yard controller as the Immediate Past President, returned as Vice President for just the year of 1997 and acted as Election Officer to the end. He had been awarded Life Membership and had received a legends certificate from you, members of this Association, with your gratification and appreciation for all his efforts over the years. On the day we heard he had died he had been due to meet with us members of the Committee and had sent his apologies into us early for his absence as he wasn't well. Indeed he wasn't. May he Rest in Peace. (*Minute silence in remembrance of lost members*)

This year we therefore have a new face as the person responsible for the Election of Officers and this is Mr Alex Shaw. Alex is an Association Member who was a Customs Officer previously and was a Member of the Committee for seven years as the Honorary Secretary from 1995 until 2002 when he retired for a well earned rest, and an itch to see the rest of the world. He was one of three Members who made up the Sub - Committee who rewrote our new Constitution and Rules from our previous edition and he did the onerous and the one man task of getting the Association through Incorporation and now he returns to us today to take over from Harry as the Election Officer and we would like you to make him feel very welcome.

The reports you have heard today will show you that we are in a comfortable and solid managed Association and that we will gain strength and will prosper as long as we all support its many and varied activities. Thank you for attending today.  
*Trevor Smart*

**Alex Shaw** - 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	Editors	Hazel & Bernie Webb
Vice President	Warrick Gates	Committee	Neil Hopkins, Darrell Johnson, Brian Jost, Ron King, Mike Metcalf, Kay Schmidt
Secretary	Hazel Webb		
Treasurer	Bernie Webb	Auditor	Debbie MacDonald

**Ron** (as emcee) opened the forum for questions.

- ❖ Val Kelly asked if we were looking at a different venue for Christmas which was confirmed & suggestions were welcomed. Ron advised the forum that the cost of such was bound to increase, you get what you pay for. This was acknowledged by those in attendance
- ❖ Alex Shaw asked if we could look at the availability of an ACS Launch tour, we would look at seeing if this is possible & advise through the 'Duty Freed'
- ❖ Kaye Murray wanted a Christmas Lights Bus Tour, we advised this was on the cards for this year & will look at combining with another organisation so that we have enough numbers to book a bus.
- ❖ Connie Hughes reminded us that a lot of our older members did not drive at night. We advised that where possible, if a member wished to attend an evening function & did not drive, we would look at a 'car-pool'.
- ❖ Percy Perrin celebrated his birthday today & the forum congratulated him

The next Annual General Meeting will be Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2008, venue to be advised in the newsletter.

With no further business arising the meeting closed at 12:10 pm

## Recent Outings

### *CUSTOMS CONTAINER EXAMINATION FACILITY (CEF)*

On the morning of Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup> 2006 a number of our members were privileged & enlightened to have a tour of the X-ray facility at Rouse Head (Nth Fremantle). We were introduced by our 'Tour Guides' to the facility and its workings, per media of a slide show and expert commentary, which included; the history & Procedures, Customs requirements & Industries cooperation. The logistics of the whole operation of container selection, transportation, x ray &/or physical examination, results, re-pack & release made us aware that it is all conducted in a very professional manner. A demonstration of containers being x-rayed and the results were presented on computer screens. We marvelled at the world of modern science & gave thought to Leon Tate and his original machine that is in their museum. Touring the facility and its operation put it all in perspective, it is massive and awesome. We 'Retirees' express our thanks and gratitude to Jan Hill for affording us the privilege of this visit. AND give special thanks to our 'Tour Guides' for the sincerity of their welcome and for their very professional presentation.

Part 2 of this memorable day was a BBQ/Picnic at the John Tonkin Park, along side the Swan Yacht Club, in East Fremantle. It was very pleasant and fitting end to re-account our morning's venture midst pleasant surroundings, good faire and pleasant company.

*Approved, R L K*



### ***XMAS LUNCH 2007***

The Runway Bar & Café for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row proved to be a popular venue for our Festive Celebrations, popular enough for 55. Regrettably Paul O'Connor and a number of members were unable to attend. Had any of you made the day you would not have been disappointed with the faire or the Choir who put the Xmas Spirit into the event with renditions relative to Xmas.

Santa rewarded Jim O'Neill with a Xmas hamper and Robyn Stone & Trevor Smart with consolation prizes of bottles of port. In short it was another wonderful event celebrating a wonderful event.

*Approved, R L K*

This space  
could have  
been filled  
with the  
story you  
were going  
to write,  
but haven't  
got around  
to yet!



## 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

### *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

## Puzzles - Answers to January Puzzles

- ❖ Nine-letter word was **Intuitive**. Possible words include: intuitive, invite, net, nett, ten, tent, tie, tine, tune, unite, untie, vein, vent, vet, vie, vine.
- ❖ Word saver was **Piggy Bank**.
- ❖ A-mazing word was **Labyrinth**.
- ❖ Mystery word was **Stadium**. Answers were sample, tablet, assume, dancer, insect, ushers, maiden.

### Nine letter word

Using all the letters in the grid on the right, find our nine-letter word. See how many other words of FIVE 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 - 8 words, better luck next time, 9 - 15 words, good, 16 - 21 words, very good, 22 - 24 words, excellent, 25+ genius! Good Luck!

R	E	J
E	N	C
T	I	O

### Hidden Word

Each of the words on the left hand side of the grid contains a hidden four-letter word. You do not need to rearrange any letters. Locate the hidden words & write them in the spaces provided on the right. The letters in the shaded squares will spell our hidden word. Can you work it out?

Buccaneer				
Insolence				
Monitored				
Asparagus				
Alphabetise				
Bachelor				
Aftermath				

### Musical Word

Read the statements on the right & circle the appropriate letter under T (for true) or F (for false). When you have finished, the circled letters, reading downwards, will spell our hidden word. What is it?

	T	F
There are 17 colours of the rainbow	Q	P
Nenes, titmice & starlings are types of birds	I	U
Abraham Lincoln was the first US president	E	C
Elton John's real name is Regina	E	C
Kenta & Tunisia are both in Africa	O	R
Carly Simon sang a song entitled <i>You're So Vain</i>	L	E
Kylie Minogue has a sister called Dannii	O	R

### Mystery Word

Rearrange the letters of the words under the Anagrams heading to answer the following seven clues. Write your answers into the grid on the right in order. If all your answers are correct, the coloured column will spell our mystery word.

Anagrams	Clues	Answers
Lather	Noose	
Bistro	Revolves around	
Cellar	Order to return	
Untidy	Nakedness	
Itches	Principles	
Strain	Educates	

## Events Page



### 'Almost Free' Sausage Sizzle Gold coin donation per person - pay on the day

Tuesday March 6th at 12 noon  
Western Power Playground Area  
KINGS PARK

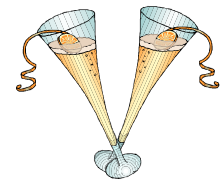
Enter Saw Ave from Thomas Road, turn right at  
the May Drive junction & follow signs to the  
playground.

Sausages, onions & buns will be provided  
BYO everything else you need including  
chairs, tables etc

Numbers attending to be advised by  
Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>

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

\*\*\*\*\*



## Please Note that the Sizzle is in Kings Park

Those sizzling so far are -

Les & Wyn ALP  
Roz & Warrick GATES  
Brian & Elva JOST  
Ron & Judy KING  
Bob REX  
Kay & Roger SCHMIDT  
Trevor & Eleanor SMART  
Trixie SULLIVAN  
Bernie & Hazel WEBB

Please ring to advise attending if you are  
not listed above, thanks

## Possible Events for 2007 - dates to be advised

\*\*\*\*\*

Diggers Camp Visit @ Oakford  
(Outback Poetry Recital)

Breakfast @ SYC

Lunch @ The Jetty Restaurant

Dinner @ TAFE Fremantle

30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Lunch in  
September

Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lights Bus Tour

\*\*\*\*\*

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)



# 2007 RCOA Committee

L to R

Bernie, Warrick,  
Neil, Darrell, Brian,  
Trevor, Ron, Kay &  
Hazel



**Sending Money** - be it for membership renewal or for an up coming function - you can send electronically to the **RCOA of WA Inc** 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  = \$  Signature & Date:  / /2007

Send Newsletter by post  and / or e-mail

Tick here only if receipt required

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

Office Use Only: Rec'd / / 2007 EFT  Cash  AMO  Cheque  No. Trans' No(s).

## RCOA - Functions Booking Slip

Names Attending:

Function:	Venue:	Date:	No.	\$ p/p	Subtotal \$
Sausage Sizzle	Kings Park	Mar 6 <sup>th</sup> 2007	<input type="text"/>	x donation	<input type="text"/>
			<input type="text"/>	x	<input type="text"/>
			<input type="text"/>	x	<input type="text"/>

Signature & Date:  / /2007 Total Amount Enclosed \$

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

Office Use Only: Rec'd / / 2007 EFT  Cash  AMO  Cheque  No. Trans' No(s).

## 'Last but not Least

- 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.
- A reminder for those wishing to transfer their payments by direct debit, the bank details are on the previous page.
- 'Dad's Army' is still running strong. We have all been asked to stay on for another month (April) which I believe most have agreed to. In total there are around 20 of us now including about 4 in Fremantle

Bernie Webb 📧

Retired Customs Officers'  
Association of WA inc.



Seasons Funerals  
Belmont

**Michael Metcalf**

8 Hehir Street,  
Belmont WA 6104

☎ (08) 9479 4173

Fax (08) 9479 4171

### **REDGUM RURAL SERVICES**

- trees pruned
- rural fencing
- gutters cleaned
- garden clean ups
- rotary hoeing
- slashing / mowing

**Bernie Webb**

☎ (08) 9439 2268

📞 0419 903 218



**RETIRED CUSTOMS OFFICERS'  
ASSOCIATION**

**OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.**

If undelivered return to  
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WELLARD WA 6170