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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 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 currently \$6 for 2009, from January 2010 it will be \$10.00 per year. 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 2009

Wednesday May 6th
Abingdon Village, Mandurah

Sunday June 14th
BBQ Lunch @ Kings Park



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VALE

It is with regret we advise the passing of Betty Rex on Monday March 30th 2009. Her funeral was held on Monday April 6th at the funeral directors. Our thoughts are with Bob and his family at this time.

News of Members

Bert Determes - I am back in Albany and getting back on my feet. I still have some pain in my chest but that comes and goes, a couple of panadol soon fixes that. Good to hear from you I hope all is well with you.
Best wishes Bert

No news is good news, hopefully all are well. I have checked my emails and appear to be light on for news. I do have a lovely article on *Elsie Crowe* and her antics below. You Go Girl! Good luck for your next championships, maybe we will be hidden in the crowds watching you on home turf.

New Members

Shaun & Roslyn BOYLAN
Barbara & Morris DANKS (Friends)

Welcome & hope to see you at some of our functions.

Hot Off The Press!

I write in regards to a request received from your association via the Regional Director WA for a visit onto Fremantle wharf to see some vessels. I'm pleased to say that it is highly likely that the visit will occur in May 2009. At this stage I'm unable to provide you with confirmed dates as arrangements are yet to be finalised. To assist me with the planning of the visit, could you advise how many people from your association would like to attend. I appreciate that your numbers may vary but an approximation would suffice at this stage. I thank you and await your reply.
(signed Customs)

This came to us yesterday following a request at AGM for the opportunity to visit a Customs vessel when possible so could you advise Hazel if you are interested by Friday April 24th and she will short-list you. Obviously it would be short notice and we would email you to advise time and date etc once known. These opportunities are rare and we hope we can have a good turnout. If you have no email please be in contact with someone who does, thanks



TENNIS CHAMP – Elsie Crowe is looking forward to getting back on the court.

TENNIS champ Elsie Crowe, 81, was upgraded to business class on her way home from the World Super Senior Tennis Championships because she needed room for her trophy.
Unfortunately, the trophy was her heavily bandaged right leg.
Elsie was hot favourite to defend her title in the Women's Singles World Championships 80+ division which she won last year in New Zealand.
As the number one seed at this year's competition in Turkey, she had a bye on the first day of competition but she was on court anyway, practising – having a hit up.
She went to retrieve a ball which had rolled behind a cement roller and as she put her hand over to pick up the ball, an iron bar fell. It ran all the way down Elsie's leg.
"I don't know exactly what happened but I looked down and all the skin was gone," she said.
So instead of starring on the tennis courts, Mrs Crowe got a trip in an ambulance and a visit to the local emergency ward where her badly lacerated leg disappeared behind some impressive bandages.
The Turkish doctor made himself understood with some plain speaking: "very bad" and "no sport". She spent the tournament on the sidelines, leg elevated, watching a number of Australians clean up in some of the other age brackets.
Fellow Western Australian Margaret Robinson won the women's singles championship in the 75 years category and paired with Nancy Reed of America to win the doubles – but despite this, Margaret travelled home in economy.
Elsie hopes to regain her tennis status in this year's world championships.
She won't have to travel as far – they will be held in Perth. Memo to organisers: remove all cement rollers from the area.

Abingdon Miniature Village

(Husband Road, Mandurah)

After 4 years of planning and development Abingdon Miniature Village in Mandurah opened to the public on 1st March 2003. Abingdon Miniature Village's display of scale model miniatures of historic buildings from the UK is set amongst 4 acres of magnificent award winning gardens. A 1000m² hedge maze, circular maze, model train town, mini golf, secret garden, lakes, water features, picnic, playground & BBQ areas are some of the many experiences that Abingdon Miniature Village will provide. We also have the beautiful heritage tearoom 'Ruby House' where you can enjoy morning & afternoon teas, Devonshire's & light lunches.

- Scale model miniatures of historical buildings from the UK
- Over 4 acres of magnificent gardens
- 1000 square metre hedge maze plus a circular racing maze
- New 12 hole mini golf
- Grassed picnic areas, playground, covered BBQ area with gas BBQ
- Heritage Tearoom, morning / afternoon teas, Devonshire & lunches

Abingdon Miniature Village is named after the town of Abingdon in Oxfordshire, 10 kms south of Oxford on the River Thames and is the oldest continually inhabited town in the UK. Buildings such as the Abingdon County Hall, Church of St Nic's and Old Anchor Inn pub have been meticulously reproduced in miniature. There are over 35 individual buildings from all over the UK depicting the different architectural styles from 12th century onwards. Well known buildings such as Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Red Lion Pub, and the traditional Village Green are all featured. The buildings and all of their components are hand crafted on site, some of the larger

and more intricate buildings taking over 600 hours to complete. Our miniature steam train winds its way around the ornamental lake and is activated by an electronic eye on the bridge. Amongst the model settings are dozens of miniature figures. Some are playing cricket on the Village Green, enjoying a pint at the Red Lion, attending the wedding ceremony at St Mary's Church and many others. The figures are all hand made and painted, requiring repainting every 6 - 12 months. New figures are continually added to make our settings more life like and add a touch of humour.

Our gardens extend over 2 acres and were designed to be the setting for displaying our miniature models. They contain over 4000 plants of 300 different species and varieties. Conifers have been extensively used due to their many varied sizes, form and colours. Continuous clipping, at least weekly during summer, of the plants is required to keep them in proportion to the models. The dwarf varieties that are used in the gardens of the models will eventually grow too large for the purpose and be moved to other areas in the gardens. Approximately 5000 annuals are rotated 3 times a year, in mid / late spring and summer, and again in late autumn / early winter. Over half of the annuals are grown in pots and planted out when they are in flower so that some colour is maintained throughout the gardens all the time.

[Open 09:30am to 4:30pm daily cost for Seniors \\$9.00.](#)

The HATS bus departs from Mandurah Station to Abingdon at 09:30am & 11:00 am & departs from Abingdon at 2:10pm & 3:40pm. It is a direct service of 10 mins duration. The timetable states to Centro (the forum) but Abingdon advise that if they have enough passengers they will go to the Mandurah Station.

[All day fare \\$8.00.](#)



BIRTHDAYS

May

Ruby BALES	1
Lavinia PIKE	2
Neil HOPKINS	3
Doreen RITCHIE	4
Trixie SULLIVAN	5
Connie HUGHES	7
Ros GATES	9
Mike FLYNN	11
Bob MARTIN	12
Gwen GREGG	15
Sue WEBB	15
John RITCHIE	16
Albert DAVEY	18
Emma DAVIES	20
Ellen LEWIS	21
Alan CAUDWELL	23
Pat WILLS	24
Len HARDMAN	27
Colleen SORENSEN	27
Fran FOSTER	28
Paul HUBBARD	28
Bridie O'NEILL	30

June

Frank MENNER	5
Richard COLEMAN	7
June MENNER	8
Roslyn BOYLAN	12
Pat BISSAKER	14
Terry EMERSON	14
Val HARDMAN	14
Brian CARTER	15
Phyllis SMITH	18
Paul MURPHY	21
Yvonne PAGE	23
Denis LEWIS	25
Greg BARTROP	28
Bob REX	28



WEDDING ANIVERSARY'S



May

Jim & Norma ANDERSON	2
Ross & Wendy BLACKALL	3
Paul & Pauline MURPHY	11
Bryan & Pat BISSAKER	24
Terry & Emma DAVIES	25
Susan ARMSTRONG & John DANIELS	31

June

Ron & Margaret JARVIS	4
Darrell & Patricia JOHNSON	4
Max & Sherren GERREYN	8
Jack & Stella EARNSHAW	10
Les & Moira HERON	18
Bill & Pat WALKER	22
Rod & Denise SPENCER	26

Puzzles A Code-breaker is a crossword puzzle with no clues! Instead, every letter of the alphabet has been replaced by a number, the same number representing the same letter throughout the puzzle. All you have to do is decide which letter is represented by which number! To start you off, we reveal the codes for two or three letters. When these letters have been entered throughout the puzzle, you should have enough information to start guessing words and discovering other letters.

16	13	13	21	13	6	24		4	11	3	10	15	16	
13		18		24		26		11		21		11		12
17	26	25	15	25		25	8	5		8	26	15	20	23
26		26		15				19		3		13		5
25	11	10	19	26	5	15		19	11	21	20	10	11	1
		7		10		26				5				22
14	13	5	17		8	17	5	7	26	25		25	23	26
11		17				26		26				3		10
18	11	6		22	13	15	3	15	13		3	9	5	25
5				3				20		26		13		
21	26	7	26	10	26	2		23	26	9	3	22	13	2
3		13		7		26				22		23		26
17	11	2	6	26		19	3	2		3	20	13	10	17
15		8		17		26		5		17		17		5
	14	3	6	11	3	10		1	5	2	15	26	10	1

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13													
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26													

Answer to February Code breaker

14	11	10	3	6	13	17		4	6	14	2	22	11	5											
S	E	Q	U	O	I	A		J	O	S	T	L	E	D											
9		3	U	3	U	8	B	17	A	3	U	17	A	11	E										
C																									
26	17	13	22	14	2	6	24	12		14	9	24	3	8	B										
H	A	I	L	S	T	O	R	M		S	C	R	U	B											
11		9	C	2	T	3	U	8	B	1	P	25	V	17	A										
E																									
24	17	23	11	E		13	20	2	T	6	O	21	X	13	I	9	C	17	A	20	2	T			
R	A	K																							
19		14	S	1	P	5	D		24	R	9	C													
Z																									
6	8	2	3	14	11	E	5	D	11	E	18	F	13	9	C	13	2	14	S						
O	B	T	U	S																					
		11	E		16	Y	24	R		11	E	6	O		20	N									
13	12	1	P	17	A	9	C	2	T	11	E	5	D	10	Q	3	U	17	18	F	18	F	14	S	
I	M																								
12					26	H	25	V	7	W	14	S	22	L	3	U									
M																									
1	26	13	22	6	O	14	S	6	O	1	P	26	H	16	Y		5	D	3	U	12	8	B		
P	H	I	L																						
11		15	G	1	P		22	L		11	E	19	Z		11	E								4	J
E																									
2	3	22	14	17	A		25	V	11	E	20	N	15	G	11	E	17	A	20	9	C	11	E		
T	U	L	S																						
3		6	O	2	T		11	E		9	C	14	S		19	Z								9	C
U																									
14	12	6	2	T	26	11	E	24	R		11	E	21	X	2	T	24	17	9	C	2	T			
S	M	O																							



Picnic & Visit to Abingdon Miniature Village, Husband Road, Mandurah

Wednesday May 6th
Meet at 11:30am

Take the train and link bus or drive direct to the Village

We will meet in the grounds near the picnic area, enjoy our lunch then stroll around the village at our leisure

Bring your own picnic or you can cook a barbecue in the grounds if preferred. If not you can purchase a meal at the Tea House (your choice)

Entry fee to the Village is \$9.00 for Seniors, pay on arrival

(see page 3 for outline of venue & bus transfer)



Abingdon Village



Burger-in-a-Bun

Sunday June 14th 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.

Home-made Burger, onions & buns will be provided

BYO everything else you need including chairs, tables, drinks etc

Numbers attending to be advised by Friday June 12th for catering purposes

Gold coin donation per person - pay on the day

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

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)

'Duty Freed' - email

As you can imagine producing the newsletter every 2 x months is a bit time consuming. First Hazel has to type most of it. Then we send it to ACS to be printed and returned to us. Each copy has to be folded, stuck with sticky tape, a label attached and finally a postage stamp attached. We currently have to do this just under 90 times for each action.

55 of you are receiving the Newsletter by email (for which we don't have to do anything! - Thanks) So, the point of this article is to ask you to consider receiving the newsletter via email (if you don't already) and reduce the number of printed copies that we have to produce and post.

Bernie Webb 

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:	<input type="text"/>	Family Name:	<input type="text"/>		
Partner's Name:	<input type="text"/>	☎ No.	<input type="text"/>	📱 No	<input type="text"/>
Postal Address:	<input type="text"/>				
e-mail address:	<input type="text"/>				

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:	<input type="text"/>	Partner B'date:	<input type="text"/>	Wedding date:	<input type="text"/>
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Membership - \$6	Joint or Single <input type="checkbox"/>	x No. Years	<input type="text"/>	= \$	<input type="text"/>	Signature & Date:	<input type="text"/>	/ /2009
Send Newsletter by post	<input type="checkbox"/>	and / or e-mail	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Tick here only if receipt required

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

Office Use Only:	Rec'd / / 2009	EFT <input type="checkbox"/>	Cash <input type="checkbox"/>	AMO <input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque <input type="checkbox"/>	No.	Trans' No(s).
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RCOA - Functions Booking Slip

Names Attending:

Function:	Venue:	Date:	No.	\$ p/p	Subtotal \$
Picnic/BBQ	Abingdon Village	May 6 th	<input type="text"/>	x PAYG	<input type="text"/>
Lunch BBQ	Kings Park	June 14 th	<input type="text"/>	x Gold Coin	<input type="text"/>
			<input type="text"/>	x	<input type="text"/>

Signature & Date:	<input type="text"/>	Total Amount Enclosed \$	<input type="text"/>
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Payment to: Secretary RCOA of WA Inc. 78 Arundel Drive, Wellard 6170

Office Use Only:	Rec'd / / 2009	EFT <input type="checkbox"/>	Cash <input type="checkbox"/>	AMO <input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque <input type="checkbox"/>	No.	Trans' No(s).
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Last but not Least

- We occasionally send out questions, information, and requests etc. via email to those of you who have supplied us with your email address.
- For those of you, who have an email address but have not supplied it to us, please consider passing it on to us as it is the quickest easiest way to keep as many as possible of you informed.
- A very small number of you are still unfinancial for this year. Please check your mailing label to ascertain your financial status. This will be the last newsletter sent out to the few who are unfinancial for 2009
- Australian Customs Service has recently undergone a change and is now known as Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (another win for the printers!)

Bernie Webb 

<p>Retired Customs Officers' Association of WA inc.</p> 	 <p>Seasons Funerals Belmont</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
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