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### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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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 131.

The membership fee for former officer & spouse or single is \$10. An application form is included on the inside back page of this Newsletter.

Annual subscriptions are due on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Please check your address label for your current financial status.

## Future Events 2011

- Tues Feb 1st - AGM & Lunch  
@ Swan Yacht Club

Remember to get your bookings in for lunch & specify if you want chicken or fish. Looking forward to seeing you there

- Tues Feb 22nd - Sausage  
Sizzle in Kings Park



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# Annual General Meeting - Tuesday February 1st 2011

We do hope you can be there as a good turn up to this function especially, is one sure way the committee can know that their efforts each year are appreciated. It is also the opportunity to have your say in how your association is run and to take part in the election of committee appointments, as well as catching up with old friends.

Of course, if any of you can spare some time to be a member of the committee then the AGM is the time and place to put your hand up.

We do have some committee members standing down this year so we are looking for new faces to join us, so please get your nominations in to fill the vacancies. See you there!

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## RCOA COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM Year 2011/2012

I nominate ..... for the following office(s) (please tick)

- |               |                          |                     |                          |               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| PRESIDENT     | <input type="checkbox"/> | VICE PRESIDENT      | <input type="checkbox"/> | HON SECRETARY | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HON TREASURER | <input type="checkbox"/> | COMMITTEE           | <input type="checkbox"/> | HON AUDITOR   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|               |                          | 'DUTY FREED' EDITOR | <input type="checkbox"/> |               |                          |

Nominator ..... Date / / 2011

accept nomination (Nominee) ..... Date / / 2011

***Please return completed nomination forms to Hon Secretary as soon as possible, prior to the AGM***

(Hazel Webb, 78 Arundel Dr, Wellard WA 6170)

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### October Puzzle Answer

5	8	2	9	7	4	1	3	6
3	6	7	5	1	2	8	4	9
9	1	4	8	6	3	5	7	2
7	2	8	4	3	1	6	9	5
6	9	3	2	8	5	4	1	7
1	4	5	6	9	7	3	2	8
2	3	1	7	5	8	9	6	4
4	5	9	3	2	6	7	8	1
8	7	6	1	4	9	2	5	3

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle on Tuesday February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010

President Warrick Gates declared the meeting open at 11:30 am and welcomed those attending. Members present as per signed list circulated at the meeting.

**Apologies** – Shaun Boylan, Graham Hall, Jan Hall, Jacky Hubbard, Judy King, John Marks, George Parker, Eleanor Smart, Bob Stone, Robyn Stone, Harry Tazewell, Mary Toy

**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. 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. Including the AGM in February we had 7 functions in the year for a total attendance of 151. Numbers were a bit disappointing at some of the events

**AGM 2009** - 43 attended the meeting & lunch at Swan Yacht Club.

**March** - was lunch at The Iris Bar & Restaurant with 17 enjoying the tasty meal and the great view

**May** – saw 11 at Abingdon Miniature Village for a picnic/barbecue, those that went thoroughly enjoyed the venue and the company

**May** – also had the tour of the 'Oceanic Viking' on its visit to Fremantle, fantastic tour and very generous feast enjoyed by 19 of us

**June** – had 17 attend the barbecue lunch at Kings Park

**Oct** – a canal cruise at Mandurah was enjoyed by 18 of us, a beautiful day for the tour and a very enjoyable lunch at Nino's after

**Dec** - 37 in total celebrated a Christmas lunch at the Iris Bar & Restaurant at Jandakot the sit down lunch was very enjoyable and will look to book this venue for Christmas 2010

**President's Report** – Ladies & Gentlemen, I would like to start with a thank you to you all for your attendance here today as it is an indication to the committee that you are interested in the activities of the RCOA.

I would also like to thank my committee members for the work, suggestions and support they have provided throughout the year. All the committee members have agreed to stay on for another year with the exception of Kay. Thank you Kay for the work you have done to date. I know I speak on behalf of all committee members when I say your suggestions and sense of humour will certainly missed at our future committee meetings.

During the last 12 months we tried activities that were suggested by some members that were different to our usual outings. These included a visit to the miniature village - Arlington Green and a visit to the Zoo, neither of which was very well attended and we also did a cruise on the Mandurah canals which did receive a better response.

The activities that have the best attendance are those that we have done each year – such as the sausage sizzles, lunches etc so we will include those again this year but as I have stated previously, the aim of your committee is to provide activities for the members. As a result, we are keen to hear any suggestions you may have for outings or other social activities for this year.

*Warrick Gates*

**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	Warrick Gates
Vice President	Ron King
Secretary	Hazel Webb
Treasurer	Bernie Webb
Editors	Bernie & Hazel Webb
Auditor	TBC
Committee	Richard Coleman, Neil Hopkins, Trevor Smart, Bob Stone

Warrick introduced Amanda Leigh, Regional Director of Customs, who was to be our guest speaker and thanked her for making the time available in her busy schedule to address us today.

The next Annual General Meeting will be Tuesday February 1st 2011 at the Swan Yacht Club. With no further business arising the meeting closed at 12:00 pm

**Statement of Receipts & Expenditure Year ended December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010**

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**INCOME**

Functions	2,996.00
Subscriptions	964.00
Donations	66.00
Credit - Functions 2011	140.00
<u>Interest</u>	<u>15.82</u>
Total Income	\$4,181.82

**EXPENDITURE**

Functions	3,463.05
Postage	170.00
<u>Administration (General)</u>	<u>190.00</u>
Total Expenditure	\$3,823.05

Excess Income over Expenditure \$358.77

**BANK RECONCILIATION**

Balance 01/01/2010	\$3,122.36	Balance 31/12/2010	\$3,481.13
Deposits	<u>4,181.82</u>		
	\$7,304.18		
Withdrawals	<u>-3,823.05</u>		
	\$3,481.13		

Notional Bank Balance 31/12/2010	
Credit Balance	\$3,481.13
Assets	0.00
Liabilities (Subs 2011→)	-984.00
<u>Liabilities (Functions 2011)</u>	<u>-140.00</u>
Net Credit	\$2,357.13

January  
Sudoku

	9	3	4				7	
6	7		1	4		3		
			9			2		8
	8		2			9		7
1			3		5			2
7		5			9		4	
5		4			1			
		2		8	6		3	4
	6				3	5	1	

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA SELF FUNDED RETIREES Inc.



57 Ashmore Way  
Sorrento WA 6020  
5 November 2010

Some of you may recall that I have been involved with an organisation called, "Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) Ltd." for many years. One of the Objectives ( one of 7 ), of this organisation is *"To seek a fair and just economic, taxation and social environment that recognises and compensates for the special problems of fully or partly self-funded retirees"*.

Note: We qualify as partly self-funded retirees due to the Comsuper pensions we receive ( and that most of us, I guess, also receive a small part pension from Centrelink ? ).

Although I have been a member of A.I.R. since 1999, I have now ceased to be so, and am now a founding member of WA Self Funded Retirees, which is incorporated in WA. I left A.I.R. for a number of reasons. One such reason is that A.I.R. is tending to become more centralised in that an attempt was made, last year, to do away with State representation on the National Board. That attempt did not succeed, however, there is a small group in the Eastern States that has not given up on the idea. Of course, there are other reasons why I, ( and many others ), left A.I.R., but I doubt that you would be interested in such details at this point in time.

WA Self Funded Retirees ( WASFR ), grew out of the ashes of the old Perth Branch of A.I.R. ( Perth is one of 12 Branches of A.I.R. in WA ). We have a strong Committee and made representations to members of the Federal Government prior to the recent Federal election. We have finalised a 2011/12 Federal Pre-Budget submission and are currently engaged in distributing copies to Federal politicians around the country ( a copy was posted to the Prime Minister earlier this week ).

Note: I have sent an email copy of this submission to Bernie and Hazel just in case anyone would like to see what we regard as being important to retirees ( or, you can email me on [rdegruchy@bigpond.com](mailto:rdegruchy@bigpond.com) and ask to be sent a copy ).

One issue that is important to us all is the matter of indexation of our Comsuper pensions. As you know, we only receive indexation by the CPI alone, whilst the Age pension, since 1998, has been indexed by whichever is the greater of the CPI and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings ( MTAWWE ). Last year a new index, called the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index ( PBLCI ) was added to the formula for indexing the Age pension ( but is not applicable to us ).

A quick example of the difference in the 2 methods of indexation is that, since 2001, the single rate of Age pension has increased by 78%, whilst the Comsuper pension has only increased by 31% in the same period of time. This difference is not insignificant. Although the actual amount of money ( if looked at on a fortnightly basis ), is not a lot, over a period time it does begin to add up. What is important is that we are being discriminated against. Why should one group of pensioners be treated any differently than another ?

WASFR is also concerned about the eligibility levels for obtaining the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card ( CSHC ) which have not been adjusted for 9 ½ years. We also have issues with the level of funding for Aged Care facilities and are concerned about any attempts to abolish the Private Health Care Rebate.

All in all, WASFR is continuing to follow the objectives of A.I.R., but in a more effective, and direct, manner.

Ron de Gruchy

## *News of Members*

I have just been talking to Jean McLellan who worked with us in Customs many years ago. Jean started in Customs WA around 1959/60, and transferred to Darwin in 1975. After 3 years in Darwin, Jean moved to Canberra and resigned from the Public Service in 1989. She now lives in Geraldton with her husband, Graham Godsmark, and had her 70th Birthday last week. Jean asked to be remembered to all those 'old' Customs Officers that remember her during her time in WA. Perhaps you may be able to include this in the next edition of Duty Freed ??

*Ron de Gruchy*

Just a quick note to offer 'catch up' messages about Chris Cornish, Bob Rex and Jim and Norma Anderson.

Chris and Astrid are thrilled with news of the arrival of their first grandchild William James born 17<sup>th</sup> October 2010. They refer to him as Bill and he is now a very healthy 3 month old and occupies much of their thoughts. Chris spoke highly of a grand parenting course recently attended, and was very impressed with the many tips offered. I suggested he bring Bill to an RCOA function in the new year but he thinks Bill's Mum and Dad might not be enthusiastic about that thought.

I also spoke with Bob Rex and said how much we missed him and our annual opportunity to buy our customary Lion's Christmas Cakes. Bob is well and sends his apologies for not being with us at the luncheon but his brother is seriously ill and Bob's thoughts have therefore been otherwise occupied. Bob sends his Christmas and New Year greetings to all at RCOA. He confided that a big disappointment a few months back was to drive past his old address of 30+ years, only to see that the house which he had built himself as their family home, is now replaced with some modern looking units! (Time heals, but not always quickly.) Both Bob and Chris are hoping to be at future RCOA functions in 2011.

Norma and Jim Anderson were sorry not to have been with us at our luncheon but Norma had a hospital appointment on the same day. Jim was pleased to report that he recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and had a happy gathering with lots of family and friends. Then he and Norma's grand daughter presented them with their first great grandchild on 27/12/10 which was a very special thrill for them – it is a boy and is named Jim Clayton Smith.

With his loveable style of dry humour Jim said he was beginning to feel like a "dog with too many fleas and that the dog was not scratching so easily these days." He has given up driving so he and Norma are using more taxis and getting used to public transport.

Norma is recovering well from a leg injury, but has other health issues that are not so readily responding to treatment. They both sounded in good spirits, send their greetings, and are looking forward to seeing us at future RCOA functions.

*Regards Alex Shaw*

George's dementia has really kicked in and he has been classified as needing high care. I am trying to keep him at home as long as possible with support at home. Not sure how much we can participate this year. However enjoy your bulletins and appreciate the work you do for the association.

*Judith Parker*

# BIRTHDAYS

## February

Mary TOY	2
Margaret JARVIS	4
Harry TAZEWELL	4
Percy PERRIN	6
Bob DALTON	10
Shaun BOYLAN	12
Sheila SHEPHERDSON	16
Chris MULCONRAY	17
Terry DAVIES	18
Joan HOROCKS	20
Jim BAIRD	23
Marion VENTHAM	23
Ron BECK	27
Tony McCUBBIN	28



## March

Bob DANKS	4
Pat PIKE	7
Bryan BISSAKER	8
Alex SHAW	9
Warrick GATES	13
Robyn WOLSKI	13
John WAIGHT	21
Patricia JOHNSON	25
Peter KONTOOLAS	25
Moina HERON	27
Darrol HOROCKS	27
Pauline MURPHY	27
Rod SPENCER	27
Kathleen WARD	27
Elizabeth (Betty) KNIGHT	30

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# WEDDING ANNIVERSARY'S

## February

Frank & June MENNER	6
Len & Val HARDMAN	7
Gordon & Rosemary MARSHALL	8
Bob & Angela DALTON	12
Wayne & Lyn DALE	25
Jacky & Paul HUBBARD	25



## March

Darrol & Joan HOROCKS	8
Geoff & Robyn WOLSKI	18
Lance & Nita BLACK	27
Jim HUNTER & Carol MOREY	27

# Annual General Meeting

Tuesday February 1st 2011

Where Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Rd  
East Fremantle  
Time Socialise at 11:00am (tea & coffee provided)  
Cost \$20.00 per RCOA member  
\$25.00 per non member  
for a two course luncheon  
(Chicken Parmigana or Fish and dessert)

Meeting to commence @ 11:30am  
Lunch approx 12:30pm

Bookings due by Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup>

(Members, friends & guests attending the lunch are to advise their **choice** of **chicken or fish** when booking. If not stated then chicken will be ordered)



Please note that tea & coffee is available for the meeting **only**

You will need to purchase your own drinks for lunch from the bar or coffee machine



We have 21 booked for the AGM Lunch so far -

## Fish

Warrick & Ros Gates  
Pat Johnson  
Amanda Leigh  
Kaye Murrayn  
Yvonne Page  
Robyn Stone

## Chicken

Mike & Renee Flynn  
Darrell Johnson  
Ron & Judy King  
Jim & Bridie O'Neill  
Bev & Percy Perrin  
Trevor & Eleanor Smart  
Bob Stone  
Bernie & Hazel Webb

Wishing  
you all a  
safe &  
healthy  
2011

Please get on the phone & make your booking, we would love to see you all at the AGM. Don't forget, if you want to have input, please come on to the committee, new members are always welcome

For all bookings (unless stated otherwise) please contact  
Hazel Webb, 78 Arundel Drive, WELLARD 6170

9439 2268 0409 105 101 or email

(See RCOA - Functions Booking Slip - page 9)

BBQ Lunch at Kings Park  
 Tuesday February 22nd  
 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, bun & sauces provided  
 BYO everything else you need including chairs, tables, drinks etc

Numbers attending to be advised by Friday February 18th for catering purposes  
 Gold coin donation per person - pay on the day  
 (We will use the Pavilion if weather not the best)

**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**

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**RCOA Membership Application**       **Renewal**       **Update**

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

First Name:		Family Name:		Partner's Name:					
Postal Address:									
Email Address:									
Phone Number:		Mobile:							
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 (include year if you wish for our records only)									
Member B'date:		Partner B'date:		Wedding Date:					
Membership \$10 Joint/Single		X No of years:		Amount paying \$					
Send Duty Freed by post <input type="checkbox"/>		or email <input type="checkbox"/>		Signature & Date					
Office use only:	Rec'd	/	/2011	EFT	Cash	AMO	Cheque	No:	Trans #

✂ -----

**RCOA Functions Booking Slip**

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

Names attending									
Function	Venue	Date	No	\$pp	Subtotal				
AGM & Lunch	Swan Yacht Club	Tues Feb 1st		X 20.00 X 25.00					
				X					
				X					
<b>Signature &amp; Date</b>	/ / 2011			Total amount enclosed	\$				
Office use only:	Rec'd	/	/2011	EFT	Cash	AMO	Cheque	No:	Trans #

## Last but not Least

- As you would have seen we have included the minutes of 2010 AGM in this newsletter for all to read (again). This will save time at the 2011 AGM and the Secretary from reading it out for all to hear. If there are no amendments they will be accepted as is and we can then move on.
- We have also included the financial report for 2010 which will be presented at AGM
- Having survived the 'Silly Season' we are now in to a 'New Year' which also means annual subscriptions are due again. Please check the mailing label at the bottom of this page to see your current financial status. Don't forget, that if you choose, you can pay electronically via the internet or any branch of Bendigo Bank. Please ensure your name is on the transaction for us to identify payment. Paying for more than one year at a time will delay the hassle of paying next time.

Bernie Webb 



### 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'**

**OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.**

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