

# DUTY FREED

Official Newsletter of the



RETIRED CUSTOMS OFFICERS'  
ASSOCIATION

OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

[www.rcoa.org.au](http://www.rcoa.org.au)

July 2011

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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 124.

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

Mon July 18<sup>th</sup>

Fremantle Prison Tour

Fri July 29<sup>th</sup>

Christmas in July @ Customs House

Tues Dec 6<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Lunch & The Iris



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## The Hoppies and Blackies in Vietnam

Hi Bernie and Hazel..... Have just returned from the Asian region of Vietnam...Griswalds tours did us proud .....

Started our journey in Hanoi which amazed us with its hustle and bustle motorbikes and rickshaws by the thousand once we had learned that to cross the road you just walked slowly without looking left or right and did not hesitate everyone just went around you. Whilst there we visited Ho Chi Min museum the Army museum and Hoa Sua which is for underprivileged children, took in the famous water puppets show that evening. We then went up into the mountains to a Place called Lao Cai and the onto the mountain town of Sapa very cold and wet we travelled there by train (overnight) in a four berth cabin with Lance and Nita Black was a great experience had a delay for two hours due to landslides half way up the mountain. We made the best of it by having a social drink and singing 60's songs and eating snacks. (Lots of ZO which is cheers in Vietnam) On arrival at Sapa we did two treks with the Black H'mong tribe people (most wonderful people who still dress and live like they have for years gone by). We stayed there for two nights meeting and visiting the homes of the Black h'mong, Giay,XaPho people that evening went to the famous Cho Tinh (Love market) where the hill tribes all meet and hope to find romance if they were lucky. We left Sapa and on the way Back to Lao Cai where we would catch our train we stopped at the Sunday market ... everything is sold here Water Buffalo dogs pigs horses and all kinds of animals along with the usual tee-shirts etc etc. We then caught our train for another overnight trip back to Hanoi.

We spent the next day in Hanoi exploring the old quarter of the city where each street sells a particular type of product. The next day we went to Ha long Bay where we boarded our boat (Junk) and headed straight out into the bay, absolutely fantastic. We swam in the bay and more ZO we visited Ti Top Island remarkable viewing of the bay from this place. Slept well on the Junk even did a bit a squid fishing caught a few ... .took a boat to Monkey Island didn't see any relatives met some nice French girls...later that day returned to our junk and sailed back to Ha long Bay and drove back to Hanoi. The next morning back in Hanoi we did some touristy things and then caught a plane to Da Nang stayed overnight there and next morning drove back up to Hue (3 Hours). On arrival we did a cruise on the Perfume River with dinner on board (delicious). Whilst on the cruise we visited several Pagodas including Thien Mu Pagoda where the first Buddhist monk self immolated himself is held ... Hue is a beautiful city and a little more relaxing than previous places. We then left Hue and travelled down to Hoi An the most beautiful of places. Here we did the usual tour of the city and another boat trip along the Thu Bon River to Cua Dai Beach.This is the place to get a suit made or ladies clothes very cheap and very classy. lots to see in this place and once again the people very friendly. We then moved on with another drive along the coast very pretty stretch of road along the beaches to Nha Trang (staying three nights here ) this is where we had arranged to meet the Director of Customs. and within two hours of arrival Mr Song was greeting us .... Nha Trang is a beach resort town and our Hotel was right on the beachfront. The only thing wrong here was that every afternoon it rained. The first night Mr Song picked us up (lovely man) we were taken to a seafood restaurant and with his wife, driver and a Mr Phuc (Professor of Literature) and his young new wife we had a dinner (Mussels, clams, blue manner crabs, whole fish & lots of ZO) at the conclusion of the meal a few more ZO we were driven back to our hotel. The next day we did the tour of the city and then onto the Thap Ba Hot Springs where the four of us got into a tub of mud and had a mud bath we were like pigs in mud. We also had a mineral shower and then a swim in the pool and had some lunch, went to a market on the way back and bought fruit ...Mangoes etc the fruit is sensational.

The next day we did the cable car (longest in the world?) and travelled over to the island where we found it to be mainly for children but the beach there was very nice and we had a swim. That evening on our way out to dinner it started raining and I mean raining, we had to wade knee deep up the street to the restaurant. Next day stayed at the beach in the morning and then Director Song picked us up for a tour of the New Customs office and check point down on the wharf. Had some more Zo during this period. Also toured the Oceanarium, which is opposite the check point customs office at the wharf. Song's brother is the officer in charge of the post. Very interesting customs??? We then headed off to another restaurant for dinner at a resort hotel . This was a really Zo night with the manager of the resort.Mr Zee, Mr Song, MR Phuc and the driver along with the female officer from the customs check point. Lots of red wine, beers and great variety of Vietnam foods. At the conclusion of the meal there were many handshakes and goodbyes as we were leaving the next morning. Wonderful people. Bit different to the Directors I know.

[Continued Page 3](#)

## The Hoppies & Blackies in Vietnam (Continued)

We then flew down to Ho Chi Min City (Saigon). Did the usual tourist thing around the city and then onto the Reunification Palace which is where the war ended with the NVA tanks rolling in and the Vietnam flag being raised and Vietnam becoming one country. This is called The War Remnants Museum now and has a very vivid description by way of photos etc portraying events during this war. Very disturbing images, we came away feeling very emotional.

Did the Me Kong Delta including dugout boat trip around the canals. The next day did the CuChi tunnels amazing experience as I crawled along them some 5 meters underground. Didn't crawl very far had to come out at the first hole as it was so hot and cramped crawling along in the dark apart from my guide who had a pencil torch to see his way. Lance and Nita experienced shooting at the range with a Russian rifle. This area was heavily bombed and Agent Orange sprayed over almost the entire area....The next day we went down to Vung Tau which is where the Australian base was during the war met some very interesting people who knew a lot about the war in regard to Australians stationed there.. One chap came from Palmyra and knew a lot of people that Sue knew. Had lunch at his Bar the Ned Kelly Bar his wife (Vietnamese) is well known in Australia and has been on Sixty minutes for her help with veterans returning to their past. Vung Tau is a very nice place on the sea and many Aussie vets live there. Experienced a wonderful country and lovely people learnt a lot about their history (this country and its people have had a miserable time over the last century). They are now really developing and it is hard to believe they are a third world country when you see what they are doing and what we are doing.....

Our tour is complete 26 days of amazing time and fun. The thing that was great was the cost of things, food and drinks are so cheap \$1(20000 dong)) for a bottle of Heineken and an expensive meal would be \$4-5 dollars (100000 dong)....

Now off to KL for three days of R&R then back to rainy Freo.

Neil Hopkins June 21st

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**Customs National Golf Carnival** - we did email this to those whose email address we have. For any other Golf Nuts out there I hope your buddies may have informed you as nominations close July 10th which did not give us much time to advise people. Brief outline below, any queries please contact John Marks on 0431 256 885 or ([marksj01@optusnet.com.au](mailto:marksj01@optusnet.com.au))

### 39th Australasian Customs Golf Carnival

Queensland Customs Golf will be hosting the 39<sup>th</sup> Australasian Customs Golf Carnival on the Gold Coast, commencing Sunday 25 March 2012 and concluding Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. To allow sufficient time for a funding request to be submitted to Australian Customs, the organisers have now called for nominations from players and non-players planning to attend. The carnival levy will be between \$400 and \$450 (*depending on money from the Customs OHS fund*) and \$180 for non players attending the opening and closing functions. A \$150 deposit is required with each nomination with final payment required by 1 February 2012.

	P	J	H	G	M	
Q	B	E	W	N	V	S
Z	T	K	R	C	Y	X
F	L	A	O	U	D	I

← April Puzzle Answer

# Puzzle Page

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

## ← April Sudoku Answer

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

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square

## July Sudoku ↑

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.

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

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

A	M
B	N
C	O
D	P
E	Q
F	R
G	S
H	T
I	U
J	V
K	W
L	X

# BIRTHDAYS

## JULY

Margaret HEAVEY	4
Elva JOST	4
Hedda LAMERS	5
Eleanor SMART	5
Michael METCALF	8
Les HERON	9
Brian JOST	9
Sue SWEET	9
Trevor NEEDHAM	12
Christopher CORNISH	15
Gary BYRNE	17
Roly SWEET	18
Sue HOPKINS	26
Max GERRYIN	27
Shirley McDONALD	28
Robyn METCALF	29
Kay SCHMIDT	29
Kevin SHEPHERDSON	29

## AUGUST

Geoff WOLKSI	2
Mary O'NEILL	3
Tina GAUSDEN	8
Elsie CROWE	10
Graham HALL	11
Geoff SMITHER	11
Jack EARNSHAW	14
John MARKS	15
Angela DALTON	16
Wayne DALE	18
Jacky HUBBARD	18
Renee FLYNN	25
Graeme CORNISH	27
Margaret DANKS	29
Leanne MIFFLIN	29
Kerry McCUBBIN	31

## SEPTEMBER

Jennifer STOKES	3
Lana KOONTOOLAS	5
Brian LOWE	7
John KINSELLA	8
Beverley PERRIN	9
Mary-Anne CAUDWELL	10
Stella EARNSHAW	10
Pat WALKER	10
Roger SCHMIDT	18
Ian JAMIESON	19
Bernie WEBB	19

## OCTOBER

Ian McDONALD	2
Karen HAWLEY	6
Philip GAUSDEN	8
Sherren GERRYIN	9
Geraldine THOMAS	9
Vern WESTLEY	9
Ross BLACKALL	13
Dorothy SMITH	15
Hazel WEBB	22
Ken SMITH	27
Ron De Gruchy	28
Phil BELL	29
Arthur VENTHAM	29
Sue ABBEY	31



# WEDDING ANNIVERSARY'S

## JULY

Brian & Kathleen WARD	4
John & Colleen SORENSEN	6
Jim & Bridie O'NEILL	7
Bob & Sue MARTIN	8
Mike & Renee FLYNN	12
Ray TREEN	16

## AUGUST

Alex & Sylvia SHAW	18
Shaun & Roslyn BOYLAN	29
Tony & Kerry McCUBBIN	31



## SEPTEMBER

Ian & Lorraine FORREST	9
Alan & Mary-Anne CAUDWELL	10
Bernie & Hazel WEBB	13
Kay & Roger SCHMIDT	18
Charlie & Norma WILLIAMS	20
Graham & Jan HALL	29

## OCTOBER

Ron & Maureen BECK	3
Trevor & Eleanor SMART	5
Ke & Phyllis SMITH	11
Brian & Elva JOST	16
Arthur & Marian VENTHAM	19
Jim & Dianne BAIRD	20
Phil & Jeannette BURDGE	22
Neil & Sue HOPKINS	31



# Events Page

## Fremantle Prison Tours - The Great Escape Tour

Monday July 18th

Cost \$15.50 Concession, \$18.50 Adult & \$10.00 Child  
Pay on arrival

Meet at 11:30am for 11:45am tour

Lunch @ the Prison Cafe afterwards, pay as you order

Please advise us of your attendance before Friday July 15th  
so that we can organise to go as a group



## Coming Events



Christmas In July  
@ Customs House

Friday July 29th

16:00hours onwards

\$25 per ticket

includes food, drink & Customs Social Club  
Membership

RSVP before July 27th 2011  
to Tanya 94301577 or Karen 94301510



WW2 Tunnels Guided Tour at  
the Leighton Battery heritage  
Site followed by a picnic/  
barbecue possibly in September,  
more information later in the  
year

Christmas Lights on the Mandurah  
Canals has been considered for  
December, more on that much  
later in the year when dates &  
times are available.



Please note: this is not a definite outing at  
this stage. You will be expected to find  
your own transport to Mandurah for this  
evening trip if we go ahead.

Other possible events this year are Dinner @ TAFE Fremantle, Canal Cruise in Mandurah

Tuesday December 6th - Christmas Lunch @ The Iris Bar & Restaurant, Jandakot

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 - next page)

## News of Members

- ‡ We endeavour to keep up to date with our members where we can however it has been a bit quiet lately with no reports of holidays, success at sport or falls in the shower.
- ‡ If any of you have *News of Members* or have some yourself (that is printable) please let me know so that I can fill some pages with gossip, adventure, excitement etc.
- ‡ Our next issue of *Duty Freed* is Sept so news to me before 9th please preferably by email

Cheers, Hazel

**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
				X	
				X	
				X	
<b>Signature &amp; Date</b>				/ / 2011	Total amount enclosed \$

Office use only:	Rec'd	/	/2011	EFT	Cash	AMO	Cheque	No:	Trans #
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Last but not Least



Retired Customs Officers'  
Association of WA inc.



**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  
Secretary RCOA  
78 Arundel Drive  
WELLARD WA 6170