

# DUTY FREED

Official Newsletter of the



RETIRED CUSTOMS OFFICERS'  
ASSOCIATION

OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

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

February 2012

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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 128.

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 2012

- Sun Mar 4th - Breakfast BBQ @ Point Walter
- Sun May 6th - visit The Maze



## Contents

<i>Committee Contact Details</i>	1
<i>Minutes AGM 2012</i>	2
<i>List of Current Members</i>	3
<i>Trivia Page</i>	4
<i>Birthdays / Anniversaries</i>	5
<i>The Maze</i>	6
<i>Puzzle</i>	7
<i>Social / Events Page</i>	8
<i>Membership/Renewal Form</i>	9
<i>Function Booking Slip</i>	9
<i>Last but not Least</i>	10

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle on Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> 2012

President Ron King declared the meeting open at 11:40 am and welcomed those attending. Members present as per signed list circulated at the meeting.

**Apologies** – Jim & Norma Anderson, Philip & Tina Gausden, Ian Jamieson, George & Judith Parker, Alex & Sylvia Shaw, Harry Tazewell, Sue Webb

**Minutes of previous AGM** were circulated in the 'Duty Freed' for all members to read, and with no business arising were accepted as read. *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. The accounts have been audited. *Accepted by all in attendance.*

**Entertainment Report** – Hazel outlined the functions that were held & numbers attending. The AGM & Christmas Lunch continue to be the two most popular events, as per attendances.

‡ **AGM 2011** - 31 attended the meeting & lunch at Swan Yacht Club.

‡ **Feb** - was a lunch barbecue @ Kings Park and attended by 17

‡ **Mar** – we had breakfast at Swan Yacht Club for 15

‡ **May** – 15 strolled around Woodman's Point Quarantine Station on a guided tour followed by lunch in their canteen

‡ **Sept** – 20 enjoyed dinner at TAFE Fremantle

‡ **Sept** – WW2 Tunnels @ Leighton was visited by 7 who enjoyed the outing

‡ **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 again for Christmas 2012

**President's Report** – Ladies & Gentlemen, thank you for your attendance here today, it is always good to see so many of you attend these events especially our AGM. As I have often stated, it is an indication to the committee that you are interested in the activities of the RCOA. Thanks to Amanda Bott, Regional Director for Customs WA for taking time to attend this event. Also welcome to Alan Hogg & Vic Regali, great to see you at an event along with some of our new members. We remember a couple of long term members who have passed on since our last AGM, Graham Hall & Bob Rex. I would also like to thank my committee members for the work, suggestions and support they have provided throughout the year. Without two special people we would not be as active and well informed as we are and I would like you all to give a special thanks to Hazel & Bernie Webb who work tirelessly to keep us going and hold the club together. As you have heard the entertainment report & Bernie's Financial reports there is nothing further for me to add but I'm happy to answer any questions you may have. *Ron King*

**Darrell Johnson** – 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	Ron King
Vice President	Richard Coleman
Secretary	Hazel Webb
Treasurer	Bernie Webb
Duty Freed Editor	Hazel Webb
Committee	Warrick Gates, Neil Hopkins, Karen Jardine, Kay Schmidt, Trevor Smart, Bob Stone

Ron King 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 7<sup>th</sup> 2012 at the Swan Yacht Club. With no further business arising the meeting closed at 12:20 pm

## *RCOA Current Members 2012*

This page has been deliberately left blank (for the RCOA website edition), to alleviate any potential privacy issues that may otherwise arise.

**DRIVING IN RAIN...This May Save Your Life. This is well worth a read!**  
**SAFE-DRIVING TIPS WHEN IT IS RAINING! GOOD VISION IN A DOWNPOUR**

How to achieve good vision while driving during a heavy downpour. We are not sure why it is so effective; just try this method when it rains heavily. This method was told by a Police friend who had experienced and confirmed it. It is useful...even driving at night.

Most of the motorists would turn on HIGH or FASTEST SPEED of the wipers during heavy downpour, yet the visibility in front of the windshield is still bad.....In the event you face such a situation, just put on your SUNGLASSES (any model will do) and miracles! All of a sudden, your visibility in front of your windshield is perfectly clear, as if there is no rain.

Make sure you always have a pair of SUNGLASSES in your car. You are not only helping yourself to drive safely with good vision, but also might save your friend's life by giving him this idea.. Try it yourself and share it with your friends!!!! Amazingly, you still see the drops on the windshield, but not the sheet of rain falling. You can see where the rain bounces off the road. It works to eliminate the "blindness" from passing cars. Or the "kick up" if you are following a car in the rain. They ought to teach this little tip in driver's training.. It really does work. This is a good warning. I wonder how many people knew about this.

Another good tip:

A 36 year old female had an accident several weeks ago. It was raining, though not excessively when her car suddenly began to hydro-plane and literally flew through the air. She was not seriously injured but very stunned at the sudden occurrence! When she explained to the Police Officer what had happened, he told her something that every driver should know -NEVER DRIVE IN THE RAIN WITH YOUR CRUISE CONTROL ON. She thought she was being cautious by setting the cruise control and maintaining a safe consistent speed in the rain...But the Police Officer told her that if the cruise control is on, your car will begin to hydro-plane when the tyres lose contact with the road, and your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed making you take off like an aeroplane. She told the Officer that was exactly what had occurred. The Officer said this warning should be listed, on the driver's seat sun-visor - NEVER USE THE CRUISE CONTROL WHEN THE ROAD IS WET OR ICY, along with the airbag warning. We tell our teenagers to set the cruise control and drive a safe speed - but we don't tell them to use the cruise control only when the road is dry. The only person the accident victim found who knew this, (besides the Officer), was a man who'd had a similar accident, totalled his car and sustained severe injuries.

NOTE: Some vehicles (like the Toyota Sienna Limited XLE) will not allow you to set the cruise control when the windshield wipers are on.

Even if you show this to 15 people and only one of them doesn't know about it, it's still worth it. You may have saved a life.

*You lovers of the English language might enjoy this ...*

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is 'UP.' It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends.

And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver; we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car.

*At other times the little word has real special meaning.*

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP look the word UP in the dictionary.

In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used.

It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP.

When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP.

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP.

When it doesn't rain for a while, things dry UP.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so.....it is time to shut UP!

Now it's UP to you what you do with this information.

# BIRTHDAYS

## MARCH

Bob DANKS	4
Geoff THUNDER	5
Pat PIKE	7
Bryan BISSAKER	8
Alex SHAW	9
Warrick GATES	13
Robyn WOLSKI	13
John WAIGHT	21
Patricia JOHNSON	25
Peter KONTOOLAS	25
Moira HERON	27
Darrol HORROCKS	27
Pauline MURPHY	27
Rod SPENCER	27
Kathleen WARD	27
Betty KNIGHT	30

## APRIL

Marjorie DECAUX	1
Kate OLSEN	2
Maureen BECK	4
Jim HUNTER	5
Jean De GRUCHY	7
Alex SIMS	8
Denise SPENCER	9
Ray TREEN	13
Robyn STONE	14
Juliet KINSELLA	16
Ian FORREST	18
Lorraine FORREST	19
Marie GLOVER	24
Alan HALL	25
Sue MARKS	29

## MAY

Ruby BALES	1
Lavinia PIKE	2
Neil HOPKINS	3
Trixie SULLIVAN	5
Ros GATES	9
Julia STOREY	10
Mike FLYNN	11
Bob MARTIN	12
Graham CRUTTENDEN	13
Susan WEBB	15
Viviane ALLUM	20
Emma DAVIES	20
Carol NEEDHAM	22



# WEDDING ANNIVERSARY'S

## MARCH

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



## APRIL

Dennis & Lin WHITE	1
Geoff & Helen SMITHER	4
John & Juliet KINSELLA	19
Bob & Robyn STONE	20
Rob WALES & Jennifer STOKES	21
Jack & Jess ELEY	27
Michael & Robyn METCALF	27

## MAY

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

## *The Maze Family Fun Park, Neaves Road, Bullsbrook*

### *We are visiting Sunday May 6th 2012*

#### ***Lots of Mazes***

**The Maze** – NEW CHALLENGE - This Maze was reconfigured in June 2011 to offer a new challenge to return visitors. Originally built in the early 80's the main maze is constructed from timber and spread over 2500m<sup>2</sup> making it Perth's largest maze! Your challenge is to locate the four poles in sequence and Supa-Slide before locating the exit in the fastest time possible. On entry locate the red pole before proceeding to the blue pole, find the white pole at the centre then advance to the green pole. From the green pole continue onto the Supa-Slide and lookout tower to check where your friends are before sprinting to the exit - Good Luck!

**The Pine Mazes** – Race your friends and family through the Pine Mazes, two deceptively simple looking Mazes set amongst a pine tree grove. Can you find your way out?!

**Tayla's Tangle** – Constructed from 75 metres of colourful rope, intertwined between posts to form a tangled web. Participants must navigate through the twists and turns, to reach the end of their rope in the fastest time possible.

**Danae's Dilemma** – Made from recycled timber, Danae's Dilemma is a devious no-left-hand-turn-maze. Participants that wish to take up the challenge must navigate their way through the maze without making any left hand turns or U-turns.

**Phil's Frustration** – The latest edition to the park, Phil's Frustration is a super tricky no-right-hand-turn maze, constructed from limestone blocks and miniature peppermint hedges.

#### ***Other Fun Stuff***

**Mini Golf** - Play a round of traditional Mini Golf set amongst the palms. Each track is individually designed with unique curves and slopes. Par for the course is 25, can you score under this?

**Disc Golf** - Be one of the first in WA to try Disc Golf! Similar to traditional golf however players use a disc instead of a ball and club. A disc is thrown from a tee area to a target which is the 'hole' (an elevated basket). The object of the game is to complete each hole in the least number of throws. Great fun for all ages but be warned, it is VERY addictive!

**Garden Chess** - Find yourself a worthy opponent & challenge them to a game of cheeky chess! Played outdoors on a massive 3.6m x 3.6m chess board, the ultimate game of strategy is brought to life with each chess piece standing 2 feet high

**Picnic Grounds** - Bring along a picnic or use one of our many gas BBQ's and picnic tables available in the grounds. There's no charge to use the BBQ's and our huge trees provide plenty of shade for the perfect picnic setting.

**Café Iguana** - Enjoy fresh sandwiches, rolls and focaccia's in an alfresco setting. Indulge with the perfect cup of coffee and your favourite cake or muffin!



## The Maze Family Fun Park continued

### Cuddly Animals

**Koalas, Kangaroos & Emus** - Meet our resident koalas Clancy, Olivia, Willow, Newton, Mazie and Cisco. Say hello to our friendly kangaroos, emus and birds. For the health of the animals patting and feeding of the animals is not allowed. The Koalas are open to the public at 11am, 1pm and 3pm (or by prior arrangement).

**Clancy** is an adventurous 6.5 year old male koala who loves to get out and about! His friend **Olivia** is much quieter and at just 5 and half years old. **Olivia** is a lot shyer than her playmates and likes to take in the world from afar, her favourite activities include sleeping and munching on Coastal Moort Eucalyptus leaves.

**Newton** along with Mazie were born at the Maze in March 2008, Newtons mum is Olivia and Mazie's mum is Willow. Our youngest Koala is Cisco (his mum is Mazie) is the definition of cute, looking just like a teddy bear and loves lots of cuddles from his carers! **Willow** on the other hand is 14 year old female with a laid back approach to life.

**Walk In Aviary** - Get up and close to some of Australia's quirkiest cockatoos! See Major Mitchell's, Sulphur Crested Cockatoos and Pink and Grey Galahs.

**Kangaroo Exhibit** -Come and check out the Australiana Kangaroo Enclosure. This walk through exhibit allows you to get right up close to the friendly kangaroos and has some quirky old Australian features too, like the old lean to shed and the farmer's truck; can you spot the letterbox? The kangaroos love their home and we're sure you'll love it too.

If you want to find out more about the place before you go look up <http://www.themaze.com.au>



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

January Puzzle Answer

February Sudoku →

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

## Events Page



### Breakfast Sizzle @ Point Walter Reserve

Perth side of the kiosk

Sunday March 4th at 08:30 am

Sausage, bacon, egg, tomato, bread & sauce will be provided

BYO everything else you need  
including tea, coffee, chairs, tables, plates, cutlery, etc

**\$5.00** per person (can pay on the day)

Numbers attending to be advised by Thursday March 1st



## Coming Events



### The Maze Family Fun Park

Neaves Road, Bullsbrook

Sunday May 6th

Meet at the entrance 10:00am

Lunch at their cafe pay as you order

Information on the venue refer pages 6 & 7

Please advise if attending so we know who  
to look out for

Other events we are looking to  
organise for 2012 include the  
following possibilities:

Fremantle TAFE Dinner  
Visits to Fremantle Museums  
RAAFA Bull Creek Visit & Lunch  
Grain Terminal @ Kwinana Beach  
Jacobe Park, Mundaring Weir

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)

## 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, trivia etc.
- ‡ Our next issue of Duty Freed is April so news to me before 11th 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**

✂

**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	/	/2012	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>				/ / 2012	Total amount enclosed \$

Office use only:	Rec'd	/	/2012	EFT	Cash	AMO	Cheque	No:	Trans #
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## Last but not Least

- 16 of you are currently un-financial. Please check your mailing label to make sure it is not YOU. For those of you who receive 'Duty Freed' by email I have completed a program to semi-auto email you when you are un-financial. To stop receiving the semi-auto email you can either pay the annual subscription (or multiple of if paying for more than one year) or send me an email stating that you no longer wish to remain an RCOA member.
- If you haven't already, please check out the RCOA website ([www.rcoa.org.au](http://www.rcoa.org.au)). I have slowly been updating it as I learn more about website programming. So far I have added buttons to take you to the upcoming Functions, each of which includes a Google map showing location of the function and a link to email Hazel with your intension to participate. Also a counter to see how many 'visits' the site receives. If anyone has any ideas about what else I could add please let me know.

Bernie Webb 

Retired Customs Officers'  
Association of WA inc.



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Bernie Webb

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**RETIRED CUSTOMS OFFICERS'  
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If undelivered return to  
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78 Arundel Drive  
WELLARD WA 6170