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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 113

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.

## Planned Events 2016

\* Wednesday May 11th  
Lunch @ Challenger TAFE

\* Saturday June 11th  
Picnic/BBQ @ Churchman Brook  
Reservoir



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## Our Tassie Holiday—Chris Roberts

We had a great time driving around Tassie for three weeks. Following are some hopefully helpful hints:

**Weather** - We went in December. I almost did not pack a jumper being December in Australia – why would you need to? But in the end I took one – thankfully - first day at Cradle Mountain it was cold and windy and we had to buy a jacket from the Park Ranger shop! Luckily we had good days at Cradle Mountain after that but when we went to the one sided Test Match against the West Indies in Hobart, it was the coldest I have ever been at a cricket match! Bottom line – take warm clothing, even in summer.

**Food** - Obviously not in Tassie, but if you are driving across the Nullarbor, stop for a curry at the Standpipe Motel in Port Augusta – great curries and a refreshing change from the junk food on the way across. Plenty of good food in Tassie, especially cheese and berries. Highlights were Kate's Berry Farm just outside of Swansea (mixed berry pie, berries and pancakes, scones and berry jam, etc – all with lots of cream and ice-cream – one of the few places that lived up to the rave Lonely Planet/ internet reviews); \$10 fish & chips and \$10 crayfish rolls from the fish van at Triabunna, oysters from Freycinet Marine Farm, curries again - this time from Magic Curries in Hobart just around the corner from the API unit in Battery Point and fabulous cakes from the Jackman & McRoss Bakery, also near the Hobart unit. Just a final point on food – Valhalla ice-cream was everywhere and at only \$3 a cone it was great!

**Highlights** - Lots of them including Battery Point/ Hobart, Port Arthur, Kate's Berry Farm – all sorts of berry tarts, pies, pancakes etc all served with cream and ice-cream, The Nut at Stanley, and Highfield at Stanley – an extremely well preserved house built by the Van Dieman's Land Company.

The surprise for me was Zeehan. I like old theatres and there is one here, the Gaiety Theatre that was built in 1898 and has room for 1000 and includes a hotel. Zeehan is in the middle of nowhere – it was a mining town which is now virtually deserted except the theatre and a complex called the West Coast Heritage Centre – a mineral and mining museum in the old School of Mines Building, the Gaiety Theatre (in very good condition), old police and court buildings, machinery, underground mine simulations, blacksmith shops, etc. It takes at least two hours to have a good look around.

Most evenings at Strahan Visitor Centre Amphitheatre there is a performance of The Ship that Never Was (about \$10 a ticket) about a convict escape from Sarah Island – a fun show and very entertaining.

Devils @Cradle – Tasmanian Devil sanctuary at Cradle Mountain was very good.

Tamar River Triple Pass – outside of Launceston - combined ticket for Seahorse World, Platypus House (which included echidnas walking over your feet) and Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre – a most interesting day out!

Bruny Island, Mt Wellington and lots of other places (see note below about how long to go for).

**Transport/ Travel** - The impetus for this trip really stemmed from a visit to our son in Melbourne over Xmas – so we tacked on Tassie and drove across. Went on the TransTasman Ferry which was a bit rough on the way across (not too bad – just rolling making it hard to sleep) but fine on the way back.

When we first booked this we made it for three weeks in Tassie to justify the cost of the ferry. After booking it and seeing fly/ drive holidays advertised for 7 to 10 days I thought we might have gotten carried away and had made it too long. It did include a week in Hobart, but in the end we were pushing to see the west coast and north coast properly – we rushed through and a few more days would have been good.

Also, driving was a bit like NZ – some of the roads were narrow, full of blind corners, steep and with the occasional logging truck coming from the opposite direction keeping things interesting. This meant that it tended to take longer to get places than might be anticipated by people like me used to long straight roads. However there were usually interesting small old towns at regular intervals to break things up.

**Disappointments** - Disappointments is a harsh word and totally subjective of course. Probably more accurate to say 'did not live up to some very high expectations'.

MONA was an amazing building and it was an enjoyable visit but they seem to go for shocking displays which came across to me as a bit try hard (and not necessarily that new and shocking anyway) but they do

## Our Tassie Holiday Continued

change them regularly apparently. It is still a must do thing but one word of advice – there are ferries that go there (deals including food and wine are available) and most people seem to go that way. We drove and got there at about 9:30 on Monday morning and the car park was packed – so go early or catch the ferry – but definitely go – it is well worth the visit as it is different and the building itself is amazing and worth seeing! (If you want to go to the restaurant, book ahead)

Another controversial view may be that I thought the Gordon River cruise out of Strahan was a bit overrated – again I had very high expectations. Greatly enjoyed the trip to Hell's Gate then down the river past the fish farms to Sarah Island, another old penal colony which was well worth a look. But then it was a very long stretch down the river to a drop off point for a walk in the forest but there was little to see but trees in between – the same type of tree and no wildlife lives there apparently. There were two companies offering similar trips with a pretty good buffet lunch included but they are not cheap so it pays to compare. Again, it is a must do if in the area, the forest just was not what I expected in terms of spectacular (I'm a real Greenie aren't I – most other people on board seemed to love it!).

**Accommodation** - Houses are still cheap to buy in Tassie although Hobart prices are being forced up by northern speculators but I don't think I could cope with the weather!

The main reason I included this was to say how good the API Holiday home at Battery Point is. I have used API houses in WA for many years. We stayed at one in Swansea which was good – clean, cheap, well located etc but nothing special. However the Hobart one in Battery Point (I think they have others in Hobart) was great. For a bit over \$100 a night we got a nice two bedroom unit in an ideal location – walking distance to Salamanca Place and just down the road from a variety of restaurants, pubs and a cake shop in a character neighbourhood.

In other places we stayed in hotels, units etc all of which were quite reasonable.

Tassie was great – lots of scenery, heaps of history and plenty of good food. I recommend a visit and suggest you take your time.

*Chris Roberts*

## RCOA Website

I have freshened up the look and feel of the RCOA Website ([rcoa.org.au](http://rcoa.org.au)), including a new menu bar across the top.

The <Duty Freed> tab shows all available 'Duty Freed's (all 13 years of them) to view, with the newest one highlighted.

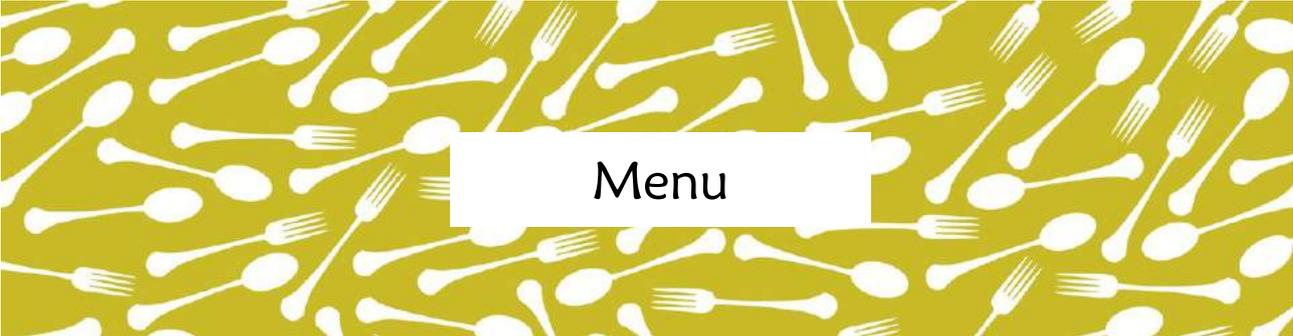
From now on I will be advising you that a new 'Duty Freed' is available, for you to go and have a look at, rather than email the file to you. If anyone has any problem doing it this way please advise and I will look into the problem.

The <Information> tab includes some relevant information and links to other relevant websites. A new 'Membership' form (accessed from the <Information> tab) is now functional and can be used for NEW membership as well as Membership RENEWAL and Membership UPDATES.

All upcoming events/functions are now available from the <Events> tab. The format is now standard for each event and includes all available information including, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE (interactive Google Map of the venue/location), RSVP (including - 'Attend Function' Form), \$\$\$ & NOTE: (which includes any additional info from the relevant website).

As most of you will have seen the biggest change is the <Gallery> tab. I have quite enjoyed doing it as it has forced me to go through a lot of old photos and other historical stuff, bringing back lots of memories along the way. If you have any suitable and relevant photos or newspaper clippings to add please email them to me I will add as many as possible without overdoing it. It has been a bit of a learning curve (I am still finding new bits) and it is slowly evolving. I have recently added another sub-folder called 'Clippings' (which includes relevant newspaper articles re Customs Officers – have a look you will see what I mean). I still have more stuff to add, so you need to have a new look every so often. I will probably notify you of any large additions. If you can add any of the missing names (in the 'Description' part) please email them to me. I apologise for the number of times my name pops up but so far most of the items are from my own collection/records.

*Bernie Webb*



## Menu

### Entrée

Roasted Pumpkin Bruschetta, Ricotta, Balsamic Glaze. (V, VGO)  
Bacon and Sweetcorn Chowder, Gremolata Crumb.  
Moroccan Lamb Cigar, Filo Pastry, Salted Lemon Yoghurt.

### Main Course

Sage Crusted Pork Fillet, Italian Coleslaw, Duck Fat Potatoes.  
Potato, Pea and Cauliflower Curry, Roti, Riata. (V, GFO)  
Grilled Snapper, Soba Noodles, Marinated Mushrooms, Miso Broth. (P)  
Beef Stroganoff with Fettuccini and Herbs.

### Sides

House Chopped Salad (V, VG)  
Steamed Greens (V, VGO)

### Dessert

Pavlova, Passion Fruit, Berries, Chantilly Cream. (V)  
Hazelnut and Chocolate Mousse, Pecan Wafer, Honeycomb. (V)  
Crème Caramel, Brandy Snap. (V)

Tea & drip filter coffee included  
Speciality coffee, hot chocolate

V= Vegetarian

VG= Vegan

VGO= Vegan Option Available

P= Pescaterain

GFO= Gluten Free Option Available

GF= Gluten Free

Vegetarian and other dietary options, available when requested at time of booking.

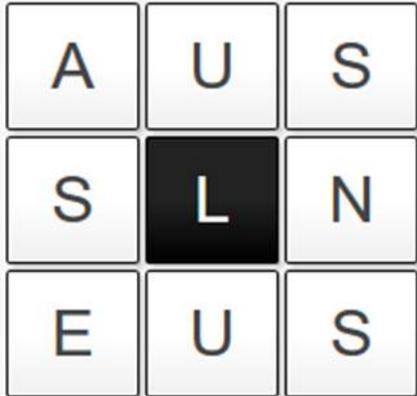


**Challenger**  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

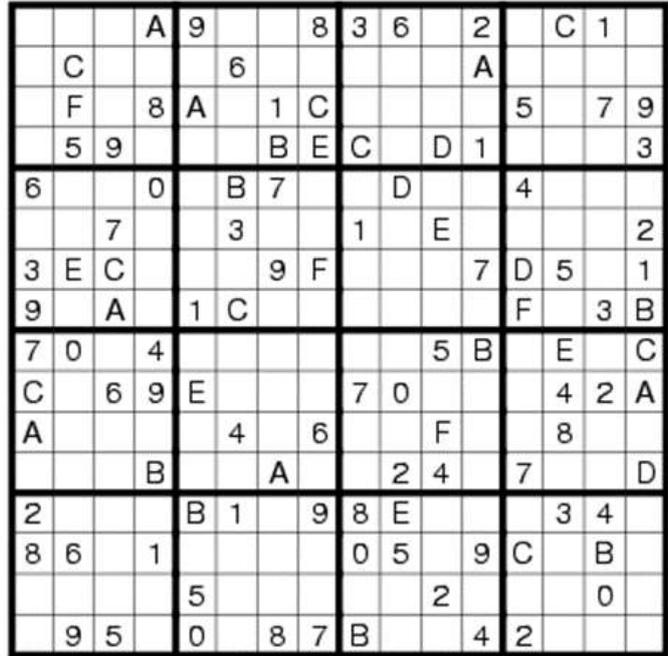
# Puzzle Page

## 9-Letter Word

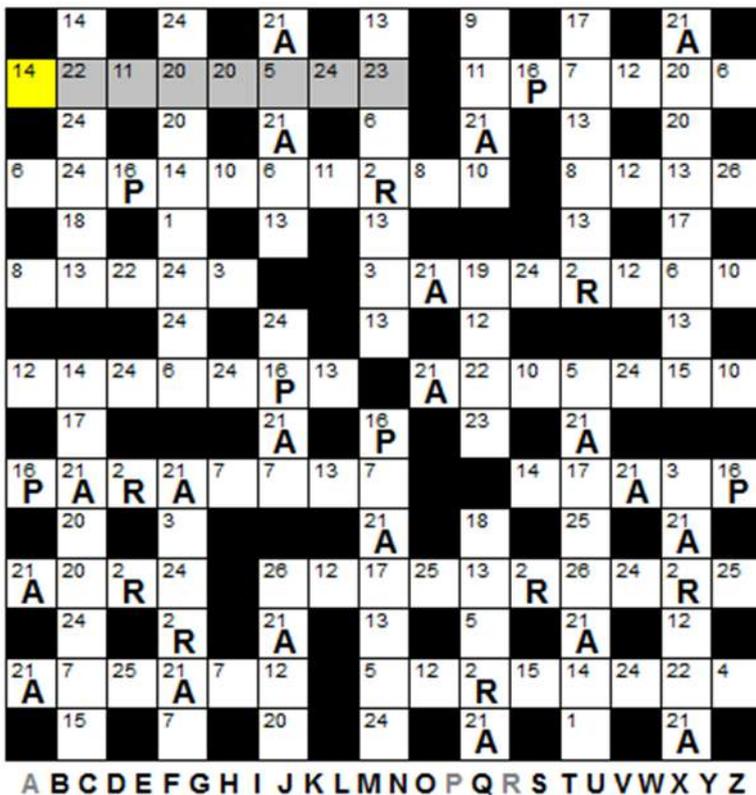
How many words can you make from the letters in the wheel? Each word must contain the hub letter C. Can you find a 9-letter word and at least 20 other words of four letters or more avoiding proper nouns?



Each **Sudoku** has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 and letters A to F into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 4 x 4 square



**Codewords** are like crossword puzzles but have 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. With these letters filled in throughout the puzzle, you'll have enough clues to start guessing words and discovering other letters.

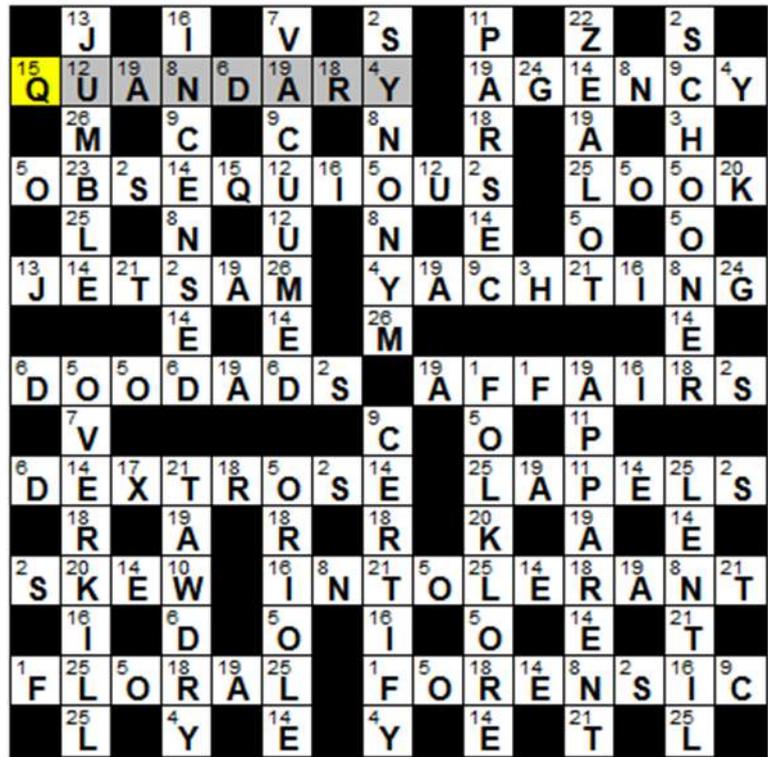


1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

## February Puzzle Answers

February 9-letter word -  
biconcave

acne, bacon, beacon, cabin,  
cane, canoe, cave, ceca, cocaine,  
coin, concave, cone, conic,  
cove, coven, icon, nice, novice,  
ocean, oceanic, once, vaccine,  
vice, vinca, voice



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

## RCOA 4WD Club

February Duty Freed made mention of starting a RCOA 4WD Club. Due to legalities, constitutions etc we will not be proceeding with this. However this will not deter the 'boys' from pursuing their 4WD ventures.

# BIRTHDAYS

## MAY

Narelle WALSH	2
Neil HOPKINS	3
Ros GATES	9
Julia STOREY	10
Mike FLYNN	11
Bob MARTIN	12
Graham CRUTTENDEN	13
Vicki ELLIOTT	13
Peter COSTANTINO	19
Emma DAVIES	20
Les PREEDY	21
Pat WILLS	24
Con GREENWOOD	25
Melody MITCHELL	26
Colleen SORENSEN	27
Dennis WHITESIDE	27
Frances FOSTER	28
Paul HUBBARD	28

## June

Alan HOGG	1
Phil BURDGE	4
Frank MENNER	5
Richard COLEMAN	7
June MENNER	8
Nita BLACK	11
Roslyn BOYLAN	12
Pat BISSAKER	14
Terry EMERSON	14
Jeannette BURDGE	17
Phyllis SMITH	18
Yvonne PAGE	23
Greg BARTROP	28
Karen PATRONI	28

## July

Hedda LAMERS	5
Eleanor SMART	5
Jo-Ann MALKOVIC	6
Les HERON	9
Sue SWEET	9
Ron DYER	13
Christopher CORNISH	15
Gary BYRNE	17
Roly SWEET	18
Sue HOPKINS	26
Shirley McDONALD	28
Kevin SHEPHERDSON	29



# WEDDING ANNIVERSARY'S

## May

Ros & Wendy BLACKALL	3
Bryan & Pat BISSAKER	24
Terry & Emma DAVIES	25
Susan ARMSTRONG & John DANIELS	31



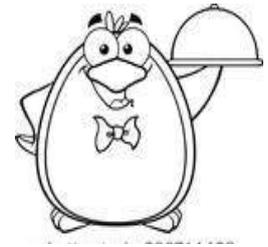
## June

Ted & Vicki ELLIOTT	3
Ron & Margaret JARVIS	4
Darrell & Patricia JOHNSON	4
John & Colleen SORENSEN	5
Jack & Stella EARNSHAW	11
Les & Moira HERON	18
Bill & Pat WALKER	22
Rod & Denise SPENCER	26

## July

Brian & Kathleen WARD	4
Gaile & Ian BITMEAD	6
Bob & Sue MARTIN	8
Mike & Renee FLYNN	12
Ray & Noelene TREEN	16

## Events Page



### Lunch @ Challenger TAFE

15 Grosvenor Road, BEACONSFIELD

Wednesday May 11th

Congregate at 11:30am (for pre-lunch drinks)

Lunch at 12 noon

Cost: \$25.00pp includes Tea/Coffee

Licensed - pay for own drinks as you order

Booked for 20 people only please get in early to reserve your seat

Bookings & payment for lunch to be made before Wed May 4th please

For more information refer to our website [www.rcoa.org.au](http://www.rcoa.org.au)



### Picnic /BBQ

Churchman Brook Reservoir

40 Churchman Brook Road, Bedfordale



Saturday June 11th

Meet 11:00 am

BYO everything, BBQ facilities are available

Please advise the Secretary if you are attending by Sat June 4th

For more information refer to our website [www.rcoa.org.au](http://www.rcoa.org.au)

How to get there:

From Perth City centre, take Albany Highway towards Armadale. Just beyond the suburb of Kelmescott, turn left at traffic lights onto Brookton Highway. Follow the highway for 5km then turn right onto Soldiers Road. The dam entrance is approximately 2km further on the left. The dam is open to visitors until 6pm during Summer, Autumn and Spring. Closed 5pm in Winter.

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)

**Sending Money** - be it for membership renewal or for an upcoming 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:  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.  
 ICE:  Please insert 'Who' & 'How' to contact **In Case of Emergency**.

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 DOB:  Partner DOB:  Wedding date:

Membership **\$10 per year** Joint or Single  x No. Years  = \$

Send Newsletter by post  and / or e-mail  Signature & Date  / / 2016

Tick here only if receipt required

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

Office Use Only: Rec'd / / 2016 EFT  Cash  AMO  Cheque  No. Trans' No(s).

**RCOA - Functions Booking Slip**

Names Attending:

Function:	Venue:	Date:	No.		\$ p/p	Subtotal \$
Lunch	Challenger TAFE	Wed May 11th	<input type="text"/>	x	25.00	<input type="text"/>
Picnic / BBQ	Churchman Brook Res	Sat June 11th	<input type="text"/>	x	0.00	<input type="text"/>
			<input type="text"/>	x		<input type="text"/>

Signature & Date:  / / 2016 Total Amount Enclosed \$

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

Office Use Only: Rec'd / / 2016 EFT  Cash  AMO  Cheque  No. Trans' No(s).

All copies of 'Duty Freed' from the past 13 years are available to download as PDF files from our website. An electronic Membership Form (for New/Renewal/Change) also available on our website [www.rcoa.org.au](http://www.rcoa.org.au)

### Last but not Least

- Bernie has done a lot of work updating our website. For those of you with computer access please take the time to have a look. Any items you would like to see there please contact Bernie and he will have a look at it.
- Mark Skeels has also been working on our Facebook page. Already we have seen people catch up from yester-years and have received new members too.
- If any of you have items for the Duty Freed it would be great for you to forward them to the Secretary to include in future issues (preferably email them to save duplication of work).

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