

DUTY FREED

Official Newsletter of the



RETIRED CUSTOMS OFFICERS'
ASSOCIATION

OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

www.rcoa.org.au

November 2018

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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 116

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 1st each year. Please check your address label for your current financial status.

Planned Events 2018

- * Tues Dec 4th Christmas Lunch @ The Iris

Planned Events 2019

- * Tues Feb 5th AGM & Lunch @ The Iris

READING

is to the

MIND

what

exercise

is to the **BODY.**

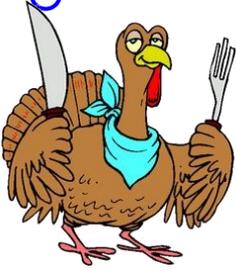
Sir Richard Steele



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Events



Christmas Lunch @ The Iris Bar & Restaurant

Glen Iris Golf Course, Dean Road, Jandakot

Tuesday December 4th 2018 @ 12 noon

Christmas Menu



Roast Pumpkin Soup with Herb Cream & Fresh Bread Roll and Butter

Slow Roasted Chestnut & Date Stuffed Turkey Breast with Cranberry and Turkey Jus

Roast Potato, Roast Pumpkin, Honey Glazed Carrots, Peas, Cauliflower Cheese

Traditional Christmas pudding with Brandy Analgise or Mini Fruit Pavlova

Cost: \$42.00 per person

RCOA Members \$37.00pp (subsidised)

Fully Licensed (pay as you order)

Tea & Coffee available from the bar, pay as you order as it is not included in above prices

Bookings & payment for the luncheon to be made **by Friday November 24th** please.

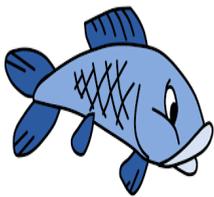
We will only confirm numbers on those who have paid in advance

Those booked to date are:

Elsie CROWE, Roly DIXON, Fran FOSTER, Ron & Judy KING, Bev PERRIN, Ray TREEN,
Bernie & Hazel WEBB

Annual General Meeting—Tuesday February 5th 2019

@ The Iris Bar & Restaurant, Glen Iris Golf Course, 10 Dean Rd, Jandakot



Time: Socialise at 11:00am

Meeting to commence @ 11:30am

Lunch approx 12:00pm

Cost: \$20.00 per RCOA member (subsidised)

\$25.00 per non member

Two course luncheon :

Grilled or beer battered fresh fish served with chips and salad

Or

Chicken Breast with vegetables

& Dessert



due by
January
2019.

Bookings
Tuesday
23rd

Members,

guests attending the lunch are to advise their **choice** of **chicken or fish** when booking please. We will only confirm numbers on those who have paid in advance

friends &

Remember to forward your payment for lunch & any subs you want to pay to our bank account, details on page 7

Update from Bob Douglas

After too many years working for Corrective Services, Chris and I made the decision to change lifestyles and applied for a position as crew on a tourist boat operating in western Queensland. You might ask "where is there enough water in Longreach to float a boat?".

We asked ourselves the same question, but after some research found that the Thomson River had a long (5.6nm) waterhole and there were two companies operating passenger boats on the Longreach waterhole.

After two phone/Skype interviews, the company - Outback Aussie Tours (OAT) - invited us to fly to Longreach for final appraisal and to let us see the operations before either party made the final decision.

The "wet" was still in full swing, 12mm fell on a very hot day of 48 degrees making our last day steamy. On the way back to the airport the owner of the business, Alan Smith (Smithy) told us we had the job if we wanted it.

I've not felt such relief since we safely departed Greenhead on the "Rabbit" in a July gale! I was not looking forward to having to return to work at Pardelup Prison.

Both Chris and I had applied for redundancies on offer from the WA government; to our considerable delight, both of us were offered them. We smartly paid off our mortgage and the car and were debt free!

We set out from Kendenup for Longreach on our 44th wedding anniversary, and enjoyed celebratory drinks in Norsemen.

Sixty five km east of Nullarbor Roadhouse, where no mobile coverage extended, we broke down and were forced to wait in Ceduna for four days while parts were shipped in. Insurance picked up the towing and repairs, and we set off again, eventually making it to Longreach on the 12th March, only two days late.

The Thomson was in full flood, 4.6m high and access to the river was difficult, necessitating a day camped at Smithy's home until the level dropped enough for us to get to the camp site 200 metres from the river.

The boat we were to crew was a 13m steel hulled catamaran with 10m cabin and upper deck seating. OAT had an exemption from AMSA that she could be skippered with a coxswain certificate, but as I had renewed my Master V and MED 2, I didn't need to utilise the exemption. She hadn't had much TLC in the previous months and we established a 3 hour weekly cleaning and maintenance regime with Smithy.

Chris got stuck in with cleaning products, removing much grime, dirt, spider webs and accumulated rubbish from the saloon and upper deck. I made a (long) list of defects and we received approval to spend up to \$100 a day without approval to get these things fixed.

By the middle of April, Smithy said he was happy with my commentary and boat handling skills (the boat had only 25mm diameter prop shafts, so gear changes had to be extremely slow otherwise a broken shaft might result) and the condition of the boat for us to go solo on the waterhole.

Chris is an able deckhand, running lines and operating the forward gangway which allows passengers to alight onto the river banks across the bows. The results of her cleaning regime received warm thanks from Smithy's wife Sue. Her duties as hostess involved serving platters of nibbles and running the on-board bar, so both of us had arranged Responsible Service of Alcohol qualifications before leaving WA.

We settled into a happy routine and began to enjoy the relaxed and positive energy of the job and of Longreach.

The town is clean and tidy, with many amenities, good shopping and services. Three pubs with good restaurants, several cafes and a good Chinese restaurant, RSL, excellent bakery and butcher shop, IGA and library provided all that we needed.

However, any serious shopping had to be done in Emerald, 450km east. Our single shopping trip was an overnight run, but allowed us to pen in more of the roads in Queensland.

Cont page 4

Update from Bob Douglas Continued

We worked five out of six days a week, and occasionally more, up to eleven in school holidays. The town is packed during "the dry" with all van parks and the overflow - Apex Park near the river - also full and overflowing when events in "nearby" towns are happening. Horse racing meetings are gala events, the girls get dolled up and the blokes put on clean wrangler jeans, but keep their wide brimmed hats firmly on their heads. The flood of vans passing through to Birdsville, Boulia and Camoweel for horse races, camel races and The Big Red Bash kept our bookings high, and we were quite often full - 49 passengers and Chris and I crew.

We managed a few consecutive days off in August, and headed south via Windorah and Eromanga to Innaminka to tick the Dig Tree off our bucket list.

For those interested in "The dinosaur trail" in Queensland, Eromanga Museum of Natural History is well worth seeing, as is Isisford's Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre. Add these to Ilfracombe, Winton, Richmond, Hughenden and Boulia if palaeontology is your thing.

The cruises were extended mid-season, with a full boat Ultimate Explorers Cruise to the top of the waterhole where we would meet a bus load of passengers for the return trip called the Drovers Sunset Cruise.

The camp consists of an old "Queenslander" with accommodation up top for the chefs and entertainers, facilities down below for the coach crews and we two. Free parking, water and electricity and good wages make the contract well worth the 4400km journey to work worthwhile. As the year's end approaches, we're both getting a bit homesick and longing for home and the Great Southern's attractions. It'll be great to see our three kids and our two grandsons soon.

Smithy and Sue are very pleased with our contributions to the business; the boat is cleaner than it has been for many years and operating better than it has for quite a while. We've been invited back for the 2019 season, so we'll be on the road again in March 2019.

Bob Douglas

Be what you are and think what you will, for those that matter don't mind - and those that mind don't matter!



BIRTHDAYS

January

John SORENSEN	7
Ron J ARVIS	7
Gus WATSON	13
Tim Pilkington	14
Carol MOREY	16
Astrid Norgard	19
Jan HALL	20
Pook BELL	24
Trevar SMART	26
Mike Soding	27

February

John Patroni	1
Mary TOY	2
Margaret JARVIS	4
Lisa KITNEY	4
Rose THUNDER	9
Sue Franetovich	12
Shaun BOYLAN	12
Sheila SHEPHERDSON	16
Terry DAVIES	18
Treasur D'CRUZ	18
Joan Horocks	20
Dennis Aldridge	22
Jim BAIRD	23
Pam EDWARDS	26
Ron BECK	27
Tony McCUBBIN	28

March

Bob DANKS	4
Geoff THUNDER	5
Ted Elliott	6
Paula SINCLAIR	10
Ron Saker	13
Robyn WOLSKI	13
Warrick GATES	13
John WAIGHT	21
Sue Green	21
Malcolm Plant	22
Patricia JOHNSON	25
Kerry COLEMAN	26
Moina HERON	27
Kathleen WARD	27
Dannol Horocks	27
Rod Spencer	27

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

January

Ron & Judy KING	2
Kevin & Sheila SHEPHERDSON	13
Shirley & McDONALD	14
Greg & Helen BARTROP	16
Steve & Jenny Smallwood	20
Wayne & Melody Mitchell	23
Linda & Ken GIBSON	28
Phil & Pook BELL	28

February

Greg & Lisa KITNEY	4
Geoff & Rose THUNDER	6
Gordon & Rosemary MARSHALL	8
Bob & Margaret DANKS	19
Wayne & Lyn DALE	25
Jacky & Paul HUBBARD	25

March

Bob & Chris DOUGLAS	2
Peter COSTANTINO & Narelle	5
Dannol & Joan Horocks	8
Sue & Brian Green	15
Geoff & Robyn WOLSKI	18
Lance & Nita Black	27
Jim HUNTER & Carol MOREY	27

Happy
birthDay
to you!



BIRTHDAYS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

April

Marjorie DECAUX	1
Amanda BOTT	2
Geoff Calkin	3
Maureen BECK	4
Jim HUNTER	5
Jean DE GRUCHY	7
Colin Hardman	8
Denise Spencer	9
Ray Treen	13
Rabyn STONE	14
Juliet KINSELLA	16
Ian FORREST	18
Derek KOCH	18
Lorraine FORREST	19
Linda GIBSON	22
Marie GLOVER	24
Alan HALL	25

May

Narelle WALSH	2
Neil HOPKINS	3
Ros GATES	9
Julia Storey	10
Bob Martin	12
Graham CRUTTENDEN	13
Vicki Elliott	13
Peter COSTANTINO	19
Emma DAVIES	20
Les Freedy	21
Jennie Lewis	22
Con Greenwood	25
Melody Mitchell	26
Dennis Whiteside	27
Colleen SORENSEN	27
Paul HUBBARD	28
Frances FOSTER	28
Greg KITNEY	31

June

Alan Hagg	1
Richard Coleman	7
Nita Black	11
Roslyn BOYLAN	12
Sarah Plant	13
Terry EMERSON	14
Phyllis Smith	18
Yvonne PAGE	23
Greg BARTROP	28

April

Dennis & Lin Whiteside	1
Geoff & Helen Smither	4
Marie & Peter Alexander	6
John & Juliet KINSELLA	19
Bob & Rabyn STONE	20
Rob Wales & Jennifer STOKES	21
Tim & Sheryl Pilkington	22
Jack & Jess ELEY	27

May

Ross & Wendy BLACKALL	3
Terry & Emma DAVIES	25

June

Ted & Vicki Elliott	3
Malcolm & Sarah Plant	4
Darrell & Patricia JOHNSON	4
Ron & Margaret JARVIS	4
John & Colleen SORENSEN	5
Jack & Stella EARNSHAW	11
Les & Moira HERON	18
Rod & Denise Spencer	26



BIRTHDAYS

July

Eleanor SMART	5
Hedda LAMERS	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
McDONALD	28
Kevin SHEPHERDSON	29

August

Geoff WOLSKI	2
Mary O'NEILL	3
Chris DOUGLAS	6
Tina Gausden	8
Mike HRABAR	8
Ken GIBSON	9
Elsie CROWE	10
Geoff Smither	11
Jack EARNSHAW	14
Wayne DALE	18
Jacky HUBBARD	18
Wayne Mitchell	19
Brian D'CRUZ	25
FLYNN	25
Margaret DANKS	29
Leanne Miffilin	29
Kerry McCUBBIN	31

September

Jennifer STOKES	3
Brian LOWE	7
John KINSELLA	8
Paul Fitzgerald	9
Beverley PERRIN	9
Stella EARNSHAW	10
Ian JAMIESON	19
Bernie WEBB	19
Val Snedden	19
Marie Alexander	21
Jack ELEY	24
Jon EDWARDS	24
Susan ARMSTRONG	28
Gordon MARSHALL	29

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

July

Brian & Kathleen WARD	4
Bob & Sue Martin	8
Renee & FLYNN	12
Ray & Noelene Treen	16

August

Shaun & Roslyn BOYLAN	29
Tony & Kerry McCUBBIN	31

September

Treasur & Brian D'CRUZ	6
Ian & Lorraine FORREST	9
Bernie & Hazel WEBB	13
Charlie & WILLIAMS	20
Geoff & Jennie Lewis	28

Anniversary
celebration



BIRTHDAYS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

October

Karen SAYERS	6
Philip Gausden	8
Peter Alexander	10
Roly Dixon	11
Ross BLACKALL	13
Lee Miles	14
Hazel WEBB	22
Ken Smith	27
Ron DE GRUCHY	28
Declan Heeney	28
Phil BELL	29
Sue ABBEY	31

November

Helen Smither	3
Darrell JOHNSON	3
Bob STONE	4
Jenny Smallwood	6
Norma EMERSON	11
Bob DOUGLAS	13
Ken STEWART	13
Geoff Lewis	15
Deb Hall	15
Brian Green	19
Lyn DALE	19
Sue Martin	21
Mark Skeels	23
Bert DETERMES	23
Lance Black	23
Ron KING	26
Dianne BAIRD	26
Lin Whiteside	27
Dennis Cleverly	28
Judy KING	29
Steve Smallwood	30

December

Sylvia SHAW	1
Lynne WAIGHT	2
Valmai KELLY	9
Brian WARD	13
Helen BARTROP	13
Charlie WILLIAMS	14
Vic REGALI	16
Jo BARNETT	18
Rosemary MARSHALL	20
Pamela Soding	20
Ian Storey	22

October

Ron & Wendie Dyer	3
Ron & Maureen BECK	3
Trevor & Eleanor SMART	5
Jon & Pam EDWARDS	7
Ken & Phyllis Smith	11
Jim & Dianne BAIRD	20
Neil & Sue HOPKINS	31

November

Philip & Tina Gausden	3
Gus & Carol WATSON	4
Ian & Julia Storey	24
Beverley & PERRIN	24

December

Terry & Norma EMERSON	12
Warrick & Ros GATES	14
John & Lynne WAIGHT	27
John & Karen Patrori	29



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. 160404489

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

Send Newsletter by post and / or e-mail Signature & Date / / 2018

Tick here only if receipt required Subscriptions to: Secretary RCOA of WA Inc. 78 Arundel Drive, Wellard 6170

Office Use Only: Rec'd / / 2018 EFT Cash AMO Cheque No. Trans' No(s).

RCOA - Functions Booking Slip

Names Attending:

Function:	Venue:	Date:	No.	\$ p/p	Subtotal \$
			<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
			<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
			<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Signature & Date: / / 2018 Total Amount Enclosed \$

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

Office Use Only: Rec'd / / 2018 EFT Cash AMO Cheque No. Trans' No(s).

Facebook

If you have Facebook and would like to be in touch with ex Customs staff there is a group named **CUSTOMS Duty Freed** which exists to encourage current and former Officers to keep in touch and get together socially. They are also the 'Facebook presence' of the RCOA of WA.

NOTE: you don't need to be 'retired' to join RCOA - just no longer in active service

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/147566682615678/>



Retired Customs Officers'
Association of WA inc.



REDGUM RURAL SERVICES

- trees pruned
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- slashing / mowing

Bernie Webb

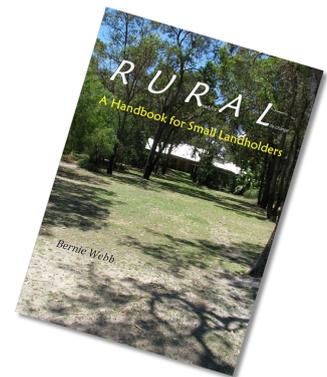
 (08) 9439 2268

 0419 903 218

Special Price to RCOA Members

\$20

For more
information and
readers feedback
about this book
please visit...



www.redgumrural.com.au



**RETIRED CUSTOMS OFFICERS'
ASSOCIATION**

OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

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