



MORSECODIANS MESSENGER

The official newsletter of the Morsecodians Fraternity of Western Australia (Inc.)

Editor: Larry Rice

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Morsecodians



*Keeping Morsecode
Alive*

MORSECODIANS AT GUILDFORD HERITAGE FESTIVAL

A torrential rain storm whilst putting up the operating tent didn't deter the Morsecodians on duty at the Heritage Festival in Stirling Square Guildford on Sunday 16th April 2002. The event was organised by Armadale Museum guru Bert Tyler who brought along his morse inker to demonstrate to visitors.

Many passers-by stopped to have a look at our demonstrations and took up our offers of a locally transmitted message either handed to the sender or posted to the addressee. The festival hosted many trades including pottery, weaving looms, lead-lighting, musket demonstrations plus a fine display of old steam engines working throughout the day. The organisers hope this will be an annual event.



ALBANY UPDATE – As indicated at the last meeting, members are interested in commemorating the 125th anniversary of the joining of Albany to Adelaide by telegraph and some preliminary preparations have been made to bring this to fruition.

However, the inter-colonial communications museum has been leased to the U.W.A. as a campus and the City of Albany is now trying to find suitable accommodation in which to re-establish the museum and from which we can operate.

The matter will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting when hopefully more information will be available.

NEXT MEETING

**Hyde Park Hotel
10 am 17th June 2002**

Please note the time and date for our next get-together. Members and non-members welcome.

Dialup circuits have been running hot as usual amongst the faithful, true to our motto "Keeping Morsecode Alive".

A/PM Pymble is consistently active, with circuits to Armadale and Jarrahdale museums and Alex is a volunteer acceptance operator from Beechworth museum.

Syd Chick, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, lost his wife Joy on 7th March 2002. The Messenger sends Syd its deepest commiseration on his sad loss.

Armadale Telegraph Centre now has 5-unit tape facilities fitted to both of its Siemens teleprinters.

Jarrahdale Museum now has its own dialup set courtesy of Barrie Field.

Three new entries for dial-up list:

Stan Barry Mandurah MD

08 9535-2394 C

Bill White Doubleview BW

08 9446-1254 C

Ken Crosswell Mt. Maunganui-NZ MM

+64 7572 5071 C

Ken, recently supplied with dialup gear from our shores, is looking for morse and teleprinter circuits with Australia.

An auction was held on the internet (1st March 2002) for an N.P. Thomas - Hitchcox Bros. Automorse key and fetched \$1,850.50. The key went overseas. Anyone who is lucky to have an 'Automorse' had better think about insuring it!

Members who have recently obtained or changed E-mail addresses:

Tom Sargent tomandteresa@bigpond.com

Bert Tyler bertsbackyard2@bigpond.com

Ric Crameri crameri@iinet.net.au

Barrie Field morseman@iinet.net.au

Bill Rawlings, call BN of Braddon North ACT sadly passed away April 2002.

Ashfield Telecom Artifact Repository is no more, all gear now at Bankstown.

THE telegraph station at Beechworth Victoria, first opened in 1858, is once again operational in morse. Main operator is Leo Hatte on (03) 5728 2517. No fixed times, visitors leave telegrams on the desk for transmission to await an operator.

It's proposed that a list of Morsecodians nation-wide on E-mail be printed in the next issue to encourage an easy exchange of ideas and information.

Editor.

..THAT LARGE BLACK BOX..

FOLLOWING the Merredin article in the last issue, MZ eventually lost their Morse circuits in May 1960, its' replacement was a large black box otherwise known as a Teletype Model 15. This was a heavy duty printer which commenced volume production in 1930 until 1954 by the Teletype Corporation of Chicago U.S.A.

By the 1950's, the teleprinter was the main telegraph terminal device in use in the telegram service.

Alongside morse equipment prior to World War 2, Creed teleprinters were installed when the volume of traffic warranted it, e. g., in the 1930's, the No. 17 line was teleprinter-equipped to Fremantle.

The Creed factory had difficulty in maintaining exports early in W.W.II due to the British war effort, so when the U.S. Army arrived in the early 1940's, they considered Australia's communications backward and promptly brought in their own equipment. The P.M.G. acquired its' own Teletype teleprinters as war surplus from the departing U.S. Army, later the machines were purchased direct from the United States.

Frank Bailey from the Sydney Telegraph Subscriber Maintenance Department recalled the early days of the Teletype. "They were treated like babies in those days. They were stripped down every six months and examined for wear", he said. "They were built to last just like a fine watch", he added. A example of mechanical simplicity versus mechanical complexity:

1) There are 2 moving parts needed for a basic morse circuit. One for the pivot of the Morse key and one for the sounder armature.

2) There are about 486 parts in a Teletype model 15 teleprinter. Some reckon as long as they were properly serviced and maintained, they could still be chugging out telegrams today if technology had not overtaken them.

When TRESS was introduced in 1959, some may recall the Number Bulletin printer was a Teletype 15.



SYDNEY – ALICE SPRINGS 20-28th APRIL 2002.

Messages sent ex Powerhouse = 804

Messages sent ex Alice Springs = 568

The sent traffic from the new location at the Powerhouse Sydney was double that of last year and sent messages from Alice Springs half as much again. The majority of traffic lodged at Alice Springs was on gala night including quite a number of overseas telegrams in both directions.

For the nine days of operation in Sydney, Jack Gibson says the telegraphist team explained and demonstrated to 2,430 visitors.

The Morsecodians Messenger thanks our sponsor

DIAL-UP GEAR AND ACCESSORIES

Please enquire direct to supplier for more information.

Modem and Interface:

Eastern States; Richard Youl 07 3209 5290 for morse network: converted modem \$50, morse interface \$50.

SPECIAL INCENTIVE Heavily reduced price if gear intended for the teleprinter network.

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Western Australia; Barrie Field 08 9304 5135 modem and morse interface, WA member benefits.

Sounder:

Bill Morrow 03 9802 2758 20 ohm sounder \$100

Morse Oscillator for demos

Larry Rice 08 9255 2280 with tone/volume/speaker inc. battery \$40 – at meeting.

Also latest version '00' MILL morse programme on floppy 3-1/2" \$1.

Leads can be supplied, e.g. Mill leads, CW Communicator leads, etc.

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It is intended to offer a personal FOR SALE / WANTED telegraph gear column pertinent to morsecodians to encourage telegraph equipment now gathering dust to be put to use on working circuits once again. Subject to space, enquiries to the editor please.

LONG-DISTANCE phone charges for morse circuits could well be a thing of the past with PC software by MRX "**CW Communicator**" and the internet.

For the cost of a local call to your internet provider, you can join other morse users of this programme world-wide. Just plug your jigger / straight morse key into your computer and with an internet connection both ends, have real-time live circuits with your colleagues. Reception is oscillator (we are working on a sounder conversion) and each channel is capable of being multi-user. Using the Morse Mail option, you can leave messages in morse just like an answering machine to be picked up by the addressee next time they log on. I've used it a number of times and it works! The software links to a server in Canberra delivering thousands (!) of morse channels, get it from here: <http://www.mrx.com.au/> **TIP:** do **NOT** click on the L/H menu, but click the download link on main page near end of the 3rd paragraph under CW Communicator.

See you there!

editor

THIS porcelain insulator set-up comes from near Israelite Bay. It is a "Slaters Acme" with screwed peg and cast bracket. It was one of the very few found on an old disused telegraph line that was in operation from the 1880's to 1927.



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Meetings are held three times a year in the Hyde Park Hotel

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<http://home.iprimus.com.au/oseagram/mfwahome.html>

BOB Bennett of Quindalup (near Dunsborough) is constructing an original Post Office circa 1920's.

The actual building is finished and has in situ an old telephone switch board plus pigeon holes & period cupboards.

He has been supplied with various telegram forms/envelopes, and he would be much appreciative of any other P.M.G. paperwork to complete the displayed material of an early small country post-office.

email bbmedia1@bigpond.com or
1002 Caves Rd Quindalup 6281