



MORSECODIANS MESSENGER

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

Editor: Larry Rice

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Morsecodians



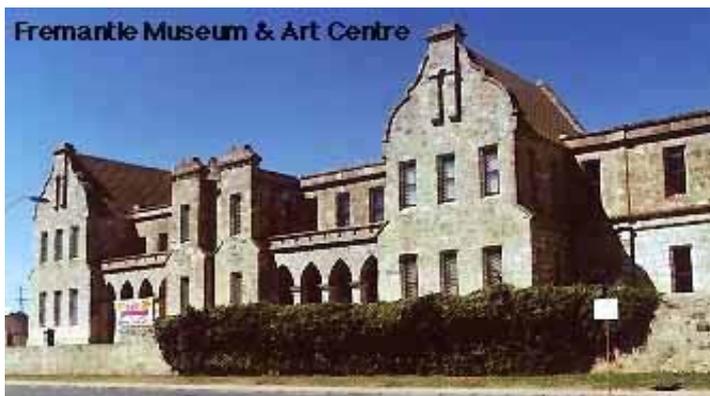
*Keeping Morsecode
Alive*

Sponsored Site – Fremantle Museum

Following an initial approach by Barrie Field and his comprehensive report to the last meeting the President and the Secretary met with Ms Lisa Williams at the Fremantle museum on Friday Jan. 16th 04 to consolidate on the ground which Barrie had covered. The outcome was somewhat disappointing in that we would not be allowed to set up a permanent display at the museum. However space is available for a temporary display and we could most likely have this space for at least a year with the possibility of a further extension of time. This would make the transfer of the Wireless Hill telegraph table to Fremantle worthwhile as at present the Wireless Hill Telecommunications Museum does not open at all..

Ms Williams said that popular calendar events in Fremantle were the Heritage Festival from 30th May until the 7th June and the Fremantle Festival during the last 2 weeks of November. There were also occasional visits by school groups. If we decided to set up in the room provided and attend on a weekly or monthly basis it would only be available to us on either Mondays or Tuesdays as the room was used by another group on the weekends. During the time the President and Secretary were at the museum there was a small but steady flow of visitors through.

Favourable conditions are that entry to the museum is free and there is a reasonable amount of free parking available either in the museum car park or on the street. There is also a restaurant and a souvenir shop located within the museum building. At the last meeting several members indicated their willingness to participate if the project goes ahead.

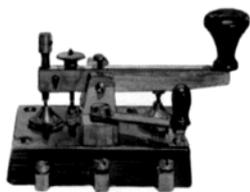


NEXT MEETING

**Hyde Park Hotel
10 am 16th Feb 2004**

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

Tamworth Country Music Festival 16-26th January 2004



Telegraph Message

This Telegram has been transmitted on original Morse Code or Telegraphic equipment to various Morsecodian Volunteers throughout Australia.



TELSTRA COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL TAMWORTH NSW VIA

NOTWITHSTANDING TORRENTIAL RAIN AT THE START OF THE EVENT AND A THUNDERSTORM AT THE END, OVER 2600 TELEGRAMS WERE TRANSMITTED BY MORSE OR TELEPRINTER BY 22 ROSTERED OPERATORS AT TAMWORTH TO 12 RECEIVING STATIONS COUNTRYWIDE. EACH STATE WAS REPRESENTED. THE BUSIEST DAY WAS ON SATURDAY 24TH WHEN 546 MESSAGES WERE LODGED.

FOR AN 8 DAY OPERATION THE ARMADALE OUTPOST TELEGRAPH CENTRE RECEIVED 549 MESSAGES.

THE EVENT TELEGRAPH STATION WAS THE CENTREPIECE IN A 200' X 100' MARQUEE SURROUNDED BY TELSTRA STANDS SHOWING MOBILE PHONES SO MANY VISITORS WERE ABLE TO WITNESS MORSE TELEGRAPHY IN ACTION.

"WE ALL ENJOYED IT IMMENSELY" SAYS BRIAN MULLINS THE EVENT CO-COORDINATOR. "IT IS HOPED WE CAN DO SIMILAR WITH TELSTRA COUNTRY WIDE NEXT YEAR", HE SAID. HE WISHES TO THANK THE OPERATORS WHO RECEIVED THE TRAFFIC AND TELSTRA COUNTRY WIDE IN ALLOWING THE MORSECODIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FESTIVAL 'COUNTRYWIDE'.



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY TELSTRA COUNTRY WIDE AND OPERATED BY VOLUNTEERS FROM THE TELSTRA MUSEUM BANKSTOWN AND THE MORSECODIAN FRATERNITY



Mick Clough taking his turn receiving traffic from Tamworth at Armadale..

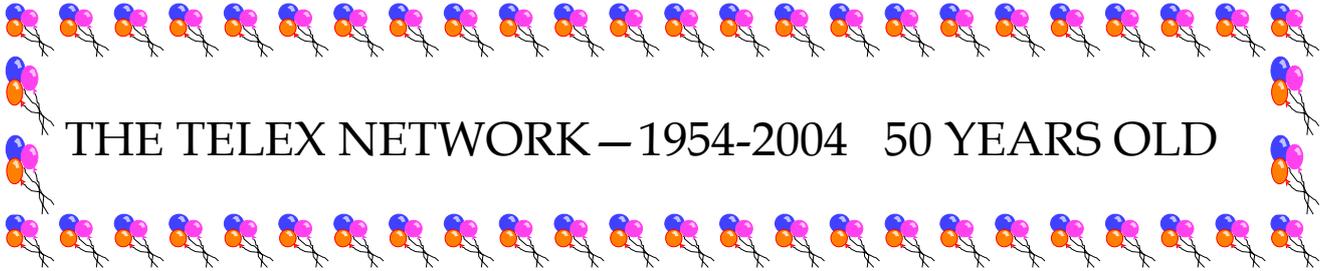
An article published in 'The West Australian' 5/1/2004 was headlined 'Mad Ted the Postie'. Ted Patterson worked as a postie at Trayning then at Norseman for many years where he specialised in 'air mail'. Ted recalled, "I used to ride that bloody bike over bloody hill and down bloody dale for miles and bloody miles so I didn't have time to stick the mail in the letter-box. I used to just hoik it over the fence". Air mail.

Ted came from my home-town, the residents there are renowned for conscientiously abiding by the regs. ..ed



The Morsecodians Messenger thanks our sponsor



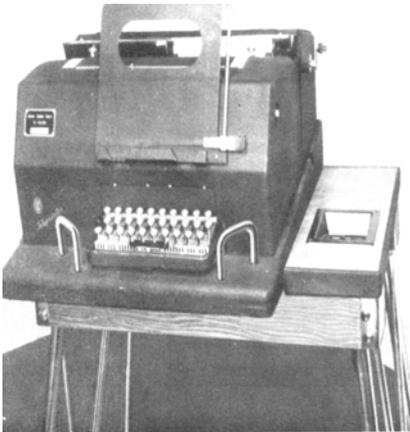


THE TELEX NETWORK – 1954-2004 50 YEARS OLD

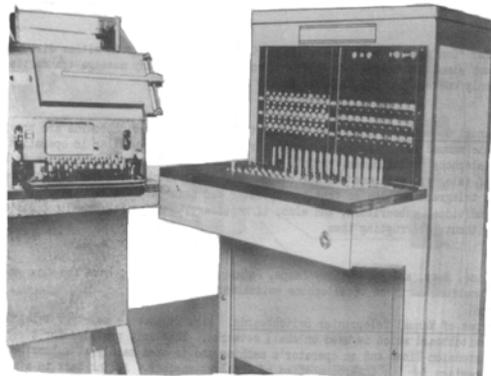
The telex network was born in Europe in the early 1930's and offered the means for any telex subscriber to make contact with any other subscriber. It was introduced into Australia in 1954*. It originally serviced 80 customers in Sydney and Melbourne. Today many are calling telex the original form of e-mail. Initially the network was switched by dedicated manual operator exchanges but due to the increased popularity of telex by the business community, these were upgraded to automatic exchanges in 1966. Prior to telex were private wire networks such as the Sydney Stock Exchange in June 1936 with 35 members. There were telex subscribers in all states, typically hotels, banks, weather bureau, police service, import/export and so on. In 1975, there were more than 2.5 million telex calls made from Australia to overseas countries, predominantly USA and UK. In the height of its popularity, there were 37,000 telex customers with millions world-wide. Telex subscribers sending printergrams into the CTO were a common sight. Many business users state a telex message will often receive the same attention as a telegram did, and would not usually remain unanswered for long. In its heyday, it was seen as a necessary communication medium for business just as the facsimile machine was in the 1990's and e-mail is today. The telex network is still a viable commodity today, for example it's still quite big in India with 70,000 lines. At time of writing [Jan 2004], there are around 300 Australian telex subscribers comprising of ~200 using telex computer software and ~100 using teleprinters. Of these 100 subscribers, six are using teleprinters fitted with 5-unit paper tape, the other electronic teleprinters come with a VDU screen and message memory.

*TRESS was introduced in 1959 based on the Western Union Telegraph Message Switching System. After TRESS, came PMS in 1987 retaining the store and forward concept of TRESS but using the telex network to carry message traffic.

Larry Rice



Creed teleprinter for telex



Manual telex switchboard



Teletype teleprinter for telex with 5 unit tape facilities



1980's Sagem TX20 teleprinter

Telegraph Artifacts

The Secretary has again approached Telstra Corporate Relations in Melbourne regarding the return of telegraph artifacts which were previously at the Post Office museum in Pier Street Perth. As many of you will remember the museum closed and these artifacts were crated and transported to Melbourne following a fire at the museum in which displays and artifacts were damaged by smoke from the fire and water from attempts to put the fire out. The artifacts have been stored in a Telstra warehouse ever since. The Secretary has now received a reply from Ross Baxter National General Manager Telstra Corporate Relations which is very encouraging considering the responses to previous correspondence over a period of several years.

The following are extracts from Ross's letter received 6th Dec. 2003:-

"I'm pleased to advise that we are in the process of making an L4 appointment within our Corporate Relations Business Unit of a new role to be called "GM – Community Programs" – and that role will have as a part of its reporting team an L5 person who will have specific responsibilities for the Telstra Museums and the various collections."

"My suggestion is that I hold your letter pending the appointment of the L4 manager (who will report to me) and I'll take the issue up with them in the new year – I'd expect that we'll have a person in place by Feb. 1st 2004 ready to pretty much start the new calendar year."

"We'll then have the time and the resources to get into the process properly and get a resolution on how as a company we are going to deploy, manage and display the heritage collection of telecommunication artifacts which we basically hold in trust for the Nation."

(The above items will be discussed at our next meeting Monday 16th Feb. commencing at 10 am)

Richie Bright

FORTHCOMING SPECIAL EVENT: Guildford Heritage Festival 7th March 2004 staffed by the Armadale boys.

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Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday in February, June and October each year in the Hyde Park Hotel North Perth.

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