MORSECODIANS MESSENGER

The official newsletter of the Morsecodians Fraternity of Western Australia (Inc.) ***Editor:*** **Larry Rice**

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Morsecodians *Keeping Morsecode Alive*

Perth Royal Show
24 Sept - 1 Oct 2005 Claremont Showgrounds

The AFL grand final on the first day and changeable weather made this year's Royal Show traffic figures down on last year. Even so, lodgments continued to be popular with many visitors returning to our stand year after year for their regular 'telegram fix'.

Statistics -

2002,	1471 messages
2003,	1372 messages
2004,	1856 messages
This year:	1622 messages

Good to see Tom Sargent back doing a stint

Hoppy and John

Pics by John Stephens and editor

L-R: Hoppy, Larry, Huck

NEXT MEETING

Hyde Park Hotel 17th Oct 2005 10 am

members and visitors welcome

An important item of business at this meeting will be the adoption of the audited financial statements for the year ended 30/6/2005 showing a credit balance of $1300.35

Thanks to API, our sponsor.

api leisure lifestyle

TADAUST CONNECT—a dial-up internet connection for people with disabilities, the aged and veterans.
If you've been thinking about getting connected to the Internet or transferring from a more expensive plan and you're eligible, this looks like good value. ed

TADAust Connect offers a $5.50 per month plan that includes:

- Unlimited Download: Unlimited Time on (4 hour session limit without penalty)
- No Annual Fee
- $12 Once Off Connection Fee
- Local Call connect from anywhere in Australia
- One email address, eg *xxxxxxx@tadaust.org.au*

For more information, please call 1300 735 439

To be eligible, you must be able to quote one of the following eligibility references.

1) Disability Support Pension CRN:
2) Disability Support Pension Expiry Date:
3) Age Pension number:
4) Age Pension Expiry Date:
5) DVA Entitlement Card #:
6) DVA Entitlement Card Expiry Date:

Centrelink Income Test is applied. If you're interested, ring the above phone number to see if you are eligible.

News from the East

Aug. 19-21 2005. Cardwell Bush telegraph heritage centre / Cape Otway light signal station.

Stats. Sent 81 messages from **CO** to **TV**, **YA**, **BC(BX)**, **CW** and **SO**.
59% of messages from **CO** were overseas.
9% of messages from Cardwell were overseas.
Cardwell sent total of 143 messages, Cape Otway received 77—TV 7—YA 30—BC/BX 29.

Thanks to TELSTRA for providing two lines at **CO** and sponsorship of the line at Cardwell. We have made sure that our visitors are aware of the sponsorship we have received at recent demonstrations, and many people have commented that the company is playing a great part in keeping telecommunications history 'alive' if history can be alive! Peter Shaw Conveyor CO

A reminder to all Internet Morsecodians that you can elect to receive an electronic copy of the Messenger direct by email instead of waiting for an Australia Post paper copy to arrive in your mail-box. Contact our Secretary.

SAVE OUR FORESTS AND MINIMIZE POSTAGE COSTS!

For machine telegraphists with a computer.

Open a new Word document and type:

= rand (200,99)

then hit the "enter" key
Wait for three seconds and look again...

For machine telegraphists with an internet connection.

Download MMTTY from
http://mmhamsoft.ham-radio.ch/mmtty/index.html
Install and minimize.
Open WinAmp player, menu 'File' item 'Play URL' type:
207.207.72.32:8000 enter.
On MMTTY, this is press news on a virtual teleprinter at machine speed - well 60 wpm, our speed was 66 wpm.

"Biggles"

I recently re-discovered my 'Biggles' book collection that I read as a child and I have been absorbed in the derring-do ever since!
For the uninitiated, author W.E. Johns wrote dozens of books about the exploits of his main character Capt. Bigglesworth known as "Biggles". Although Biggles did not actually exist, the author devised his character to re-enact many actual missions by the pilots of WW1 and later WW2. Am I off-topic? I'm getting there...

In his book "Biggles learns to fly" Biggles is seconded to the Royal Flying Corps in WW1 in France and is required to 'range the guns of the artillery on those of the enemy'. This entails advising the gun aiming squad vital distance information to the target which may have been a bridge or similar strategic point that must be destroyed. Biggles was required to circle continuously over the same spot so that he could watch his own guns for the flash and then the target for the impact.

How did he communicate with the guns in a one-seater open cockpit plane? ***by Morse Code of course.***
This is 1914'ish, so signalling was of a primitive nature. Once the pilot was airborne the aerial wire was lowered down by reel out of the plane and communication was one-way from the pilot. How did the gunners communicate with the pilot? By laying out strips of white cloth in the form of a chosen letter.
The target was considered to be the centre of an imaginary clock - 12 (o'clock) being due North, 6 (o'clock) due South etc. Imaginary rings were drawn round the target and were lettered.
I.E. A,B,C,D,E,F - so where the shells dropped these were 50,100,200,300,400,500 yards away respectively.
When a shell was fired, if it dropped say 100 yards due North away from the target, 'Biggles' would tap out on his morse set **- . . . . - - - - . . - - -** which would be 100 yards away due North. Simple.
Thus the gunners were able to mark on their map exactly where the impact was, so accurate adjustments could be made to the gun sights.

Tapping out **- . . .** X 3 by the pilot meant: **"*Are you receiving my signals*?"**

This was acknowledged by the gunners by putting 3 strips of white cloth in the form of the letter **K** being the recognition signal.

If the signal from the pilot was **- . - - - . -** X 3 meaning **"*Are you ready to fire?*",** the gunners would place strips of cloth on the ground in the form of an **L** meaning **"*ready*".**

If the pilot tapped out **- - . - . . - - -** it meant **"*Commence firing in your own time*".**

If the signal from the pilot was **- - .** X 3 it meant **"*FIRE*!"**

and if the gunners heard **- . - . . . . . .** it meant **"*I'm going home*".**
One could interpret some of the signals, for instance the last one (CHI) may have been "Cheerio!". ed

A SNIPPET FROM 1948 – *As overheard by our undercover reporter*

The scene – The North Perth Post Office with customers queued out the door. The day – A typically very busy pension day. On telegraph duty – Postmaster Roy (Boxer) Phillips and Postal Clerk Col. Hopkins.

To add to the chaos of the day, the CTO Teleg. had signalled '**I have about 70 for you**' and then commenced to send at a speed which, to Roy, was less than acceptable. Deciding that they needed to clear the traffic as quickly as possible, Roy rang the CTO Supervisor, explained the situation and said '**can you put a faster man on**'.

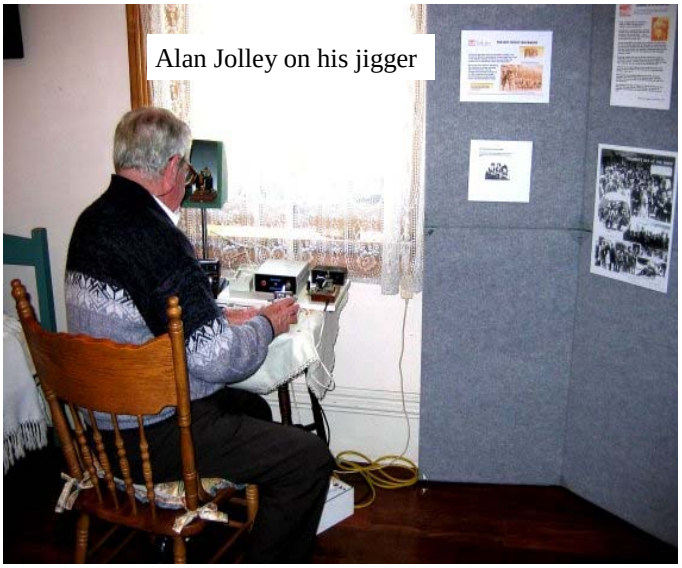
In hindsight, this proved to be a big mistake. The Supervisor must have scoured 'the room' to find his 'top gun' and then the blitz started. After receiving a few, Roy called for relief and as he slid off the chair, Col. took his place with Roy, determined to save face, saying '**whatever you do don't break**'.
The blistering pace continued, with Roy and Col. exchanging places several times during brief intervals between messages. Eventually it was over, and leaving Col. to make a few "repairs", Roy staggered off to his desk and was heard to mutter '**that's the last time I will ever do that**'.

WWII Victory in the Pacific—Salute to Veterans Exhibition

At Halliday House [1892] King William St Bayswater during the weekend of 24th-25th Sept 2005, the Morsecodians Fraternity of W.A. were invited by Bayswater Historical Society to demonstrate morse-code communication at a V.P. commemoration on the 60th anniversary of the victory of the Pacific battlefield of World War II.

Even though staffing roster commitments had commenced for the Royal Show, Terry, Alan and Richie were the first to stick their hands up for 'extra duty' before their Royal Show stints.
This commemoration poses the question:
"Where were you 60 years ago when the Japanese surrendered on 14th Aug 1945, or VJ day on 15th Aug 1945?
This website details some national recollections.
http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/victory-unleashes-a-day-of-uncapped-joy/2005/08/14/1123957950338.html
Send your recollections to the editor for next issue.

Richie Bright receiving


Alan Jolley on his jigger

As connection to the Internet becomes more popular as prices come down, see page 2 this issue, this is a great opportunity for members to polish their skills and be able to contact others with live morse chat using a great little programme called "CWCOM".

Go to http://www.mrx.com.au , half way down the main page, click on 'download' then click on 'Download Here'.
Follow the instructions to install, make a connection with your morse key to a Com Port, run the programme then click

New Member: Eric Gregory. Welcome!

The Morsecodians Fraternity of Western Australia (Inc.)

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Vice-President	John Meadowcroft	(08) 9386 6636
Secretary	Richie Bright	(08) 9276 6936
Asst. Secretary	Max Bowen	(08) 9271 4807

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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We regret to inform the passing of :-

Syd Chick—a dial-up regular, he will be missed by all.
His life story, 'A Light Shandy', was chronicled in the June and Oct 2004 Messenger newsletters. He was 93. VALE

Les Annear	VALE
R. Harding	VALE
Bill White	VALE
Bernie Hall—trained 1948 as telegraphist and finished as PM Applecross.	VALE