



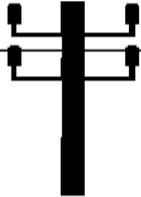
MORSECODIANS MESSENGER

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

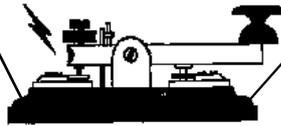
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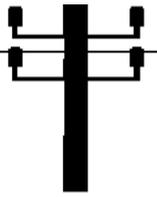
June 2006



Morsecodians



*Keeping Morsecode
Alive*



John Houlder's visit to Perth.

20+ WA morsecodians held a lunch recently in our usual meeting watering-hole to welcome John Houlder from Canberra who was visiting Perth with his wife and 2 friends.

John gave an entertaining talk detailing the background behind his role in the highly successful annual telegraph link between the National Science and Technology Centre 'Questacon' in Canberra and the old Alice Springs telegraph station in 1989 and his involvement in the establishment of the morse modem dial-up system in Australia. He concluded by mentioning the 20th anniversary of the Alice Springs circuit will be 2008.



Alice Springs—NOW



Alice Springs THEN

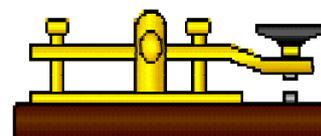
NEXT MEETING

**Hyde Park Hotel
19th June 2006 10 am**

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

dp leisure lifestyle

Thanks to API, our sponsor.



Office-Bearers MFWA Inc.

At our February meeting:-

- Allan Greenslade was elected to the position of Assistant Secretary. Thanks and congratulations, Allan.
- The matter of our rules not specifying a fixed term of office for officials was raised by the President. It was resolved that the matter be outlined and dealt with at our June meeting—the options seen as being :-
 - an annual election, commencing October 2006.
 - a biennial election, commencing October 2006.
 - a one-off election, to be held in October 2006.
 - the status quo.

Please consider the above and if at all possible attend the up-coming meeting.

York—175th Anniversary Celebrations.

2006 marks the 175th anniversary of settlement in the Shire of York, with the key focal point being Saturday 16th September.

Given that 10 members indicated willingness to participate, our February meeting decided to approach the York committee with an offer to provide the same facility we operate at the Royal Show.

It was agreed that York's "big weekend", the 15th 16th and 17th of September would be the best time for us to be involved.

Participation of additional members is encouraged. More details at June meeting.



Royal Show—23rd to 30th September 2006.

Indications of availability for roster to Ken Knox, please.

Tenth anniversary of formation — The Morsecodians Fraternity of Western Australia Inc.

The Charter meeting at which the "Morsecoders of Western Australia" came into being was held on 8th November 1996 in the Community Centre at Saint Michael's, 59 Wasley Street North Perth.

Evolving from this, our current organisation has grown and flourished due to the foresight and effort put in by the Fraternity's early and growing membership.

At our February meeting, it was decided that ideas for celebrating our 10th anniversary in November be canvassed via the June *Messenger* and decided at the June meeting.

Thinking caps on, please!

The Photographic Story of the Perth Telegraph Branch

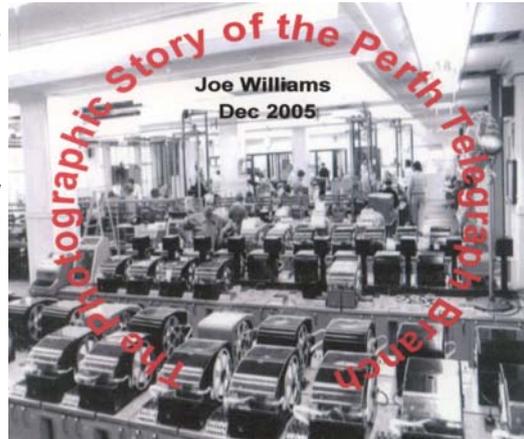
by Joe Williams

You name it, Joe's got it on the CD—470 photos collected from here, there and everywhere. Telegraph Branch sporting events, TIT class photos, reunions, social events, morse, tress and picturegram work areas, inter-state exchanges.

Mostly W.A. includes some QLD shots as Joe is originally from Brisbane. Can be viewed on a DVD player (must have ability to display jpeg files) or as a Powerpoint presentation on a PC computer.

A great memory restorer! \$15 to cover costs.

Contact Joe on (08) 9377-1155
or email: Joebass @ iinet.net.au



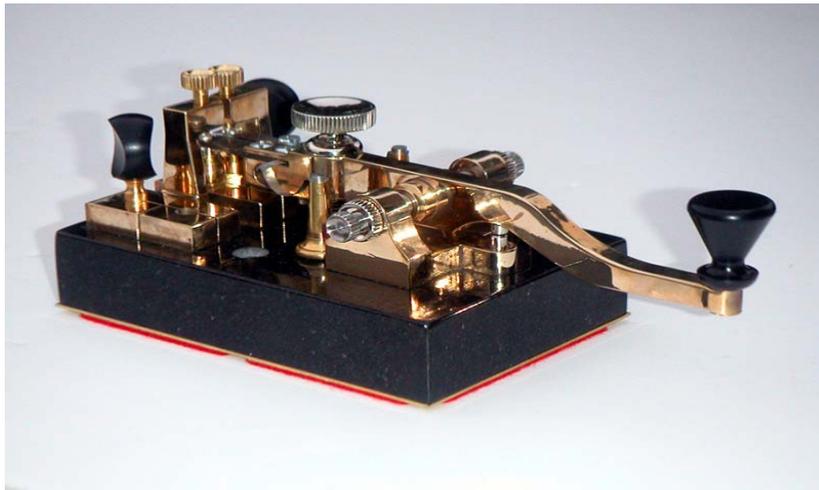
"Hand-made brand new high quality Morse key"

Looking for something to ask for as a birthday or Christmas present?

Made from brass, stainless steel with contacts in fine silver.

Price: US\$1395.00 <http://www.straightbrass.com>

(my words, no connection with maker...Ed)



News from Peter Shaw.

JERILDERIE Letter Event of 10th-11th February 2006.

Ned Kelly - Post Office manned by N. Campigli and P. Shaw on both days.

Constant stream of visitors—more on the Saturday than the Friday. We sent 66 messages, received 34 (from Beechworth and Moama) and copied some Valentine's Day messages for local destinations.

Rex Rutherford and Joan opened MOAMA Telegraph Station on the Saturday and had very good response.

Two groups of local school children were hurried past the telegraph station on the Friday. It seemed their teachers were afraid the kids may come in and learn something about their and Australia's history. We did have many kids in on both days, and some came back with their parents and/or siblings to see us at work.

2008 is the be THE BIG ONE, as it is the Shire's 150th birthday. Norm and I have been invited back and have made a pact to keep taking our tablets so that we can honour our commitment.

The local committee members were very appreciative of our presence and we were wined and dined at dinners on both Friday and Thursday nights, with the Shire picking up the bill each time.

A very good outdoor concert and spit roast on Saturday night ended our adventure and we came home "tired but happy" on Sunday. Thanks to all who participated—there's no show without Punch (or Judy).

EAGLEHAWK Telegraph Station no. 2 will be open for two days on 18th and 19th March for the grand BACK TO being held here. Operating in the foyer of the building which was the original Post and Telegraph Office. Talks starting about opening at Echuca/Moama in June during the Steam Rally. 22,000 visitors go there. Understand the Rotary Club are keen to have a telegraph station on site. Thanks to all.

Alice Springs Heritage Festival 23rd -29th April 2006.

During my stay at Alice Springs for 11 days, I had the pleasure of working with the world champion telegraphists Ray Carter and Les Edwards [during the annual telegraph circuit to the Powerhouse museum, Sydney ..ed]

Ray and Les were declared world champions after a rigidly controlled contest under official Guinness world record supervisors in August last year. The programme, The Guinness Book of Records, was put to air by Channel 7 on Sunday 16th April this year. Following is the official Guinness world record text which was required to be sent and received without the aid of modern electronic equipment:-

“the razor-toothed piranhas of the genera serrasimus and pygocentrus are the most ferocious freshwater fish in the world. In reality they seldom attack a human.”

As there is no full stop on the old Imperial typewriter Ray had to substitute an oblique stroke for the full stops. The ancient typewriter jumped 2 spaces unexpectedly and the team were penalised 3 seconds for this non man-made error.

Les and Ray were competing against a young man using a mobile phone and texting the same text. The young man was twice former world champion texting winner and was brought from Fiji by Vodaphone to compete against our two champions.

The young man concerned had the text to be transmitted for two years and was able to practice it for all that time but Les was only given the text one hour before the test took place and half an hour of that was taken in the make-up chair.

Les used a Cohen semi automatic key (jigger) and the text was sent and received without human errors in 65 seconds. The sending and receiving was done with only one telegraph sounder between them and it was distant from Les the sender by 4 metres. Both men received gold medals and a printed certificate.

The medals are olympic sized, and being modest men, they only wore them when they were requested to by customers who wished to take their photographs, and this happened frequently.

Barrie Field

As well as at the Tamworth Country Music Festival earlier this year, a novel way of combining old technology with the new was introduced this year at the Powerhouse end of the Alice Springs circuit .

As well as offering a copy of their lodged message relayed by morse from desk to desk, this year through a Telstra sponsored technological innovation, the message could also simultaneously be sent either:-

- 1) to a mobile phone number and received as a text SMS message or
- 2) to a landline phone number and delivered via a robotic voice.

It's hoped this techno-savvy arrangement will also be available for use at the Gunnedah event.



SMS Telegraph Message



This message originated in morse code and transmitted by SMS to: 0403504180 on 28/04/2006 at 11:38 AM

HELLO LARRY THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT IN MORSE CODE FROM THE POWERHOUSE SYDNEY MUSEUM TO YOUR MOBILE PHONE AS A SMS MESSAGE REGARDS FROM KEN KNOX



Proudly Sponsored By Telstra Country Wide and Operated By Volunteers From The Telstra Museum Bankstown and The Morsecodian Fraternity



Don Tyler seen at John Houlder's lunch wearing a sports shirt with an embroidered morsecodians logo. Contact Don to know more about getting one. 9414-6654.

Alice Springs Heritage week — Powerhouse museum Sydney event 2006. Total traffic passed = 1071 messages.

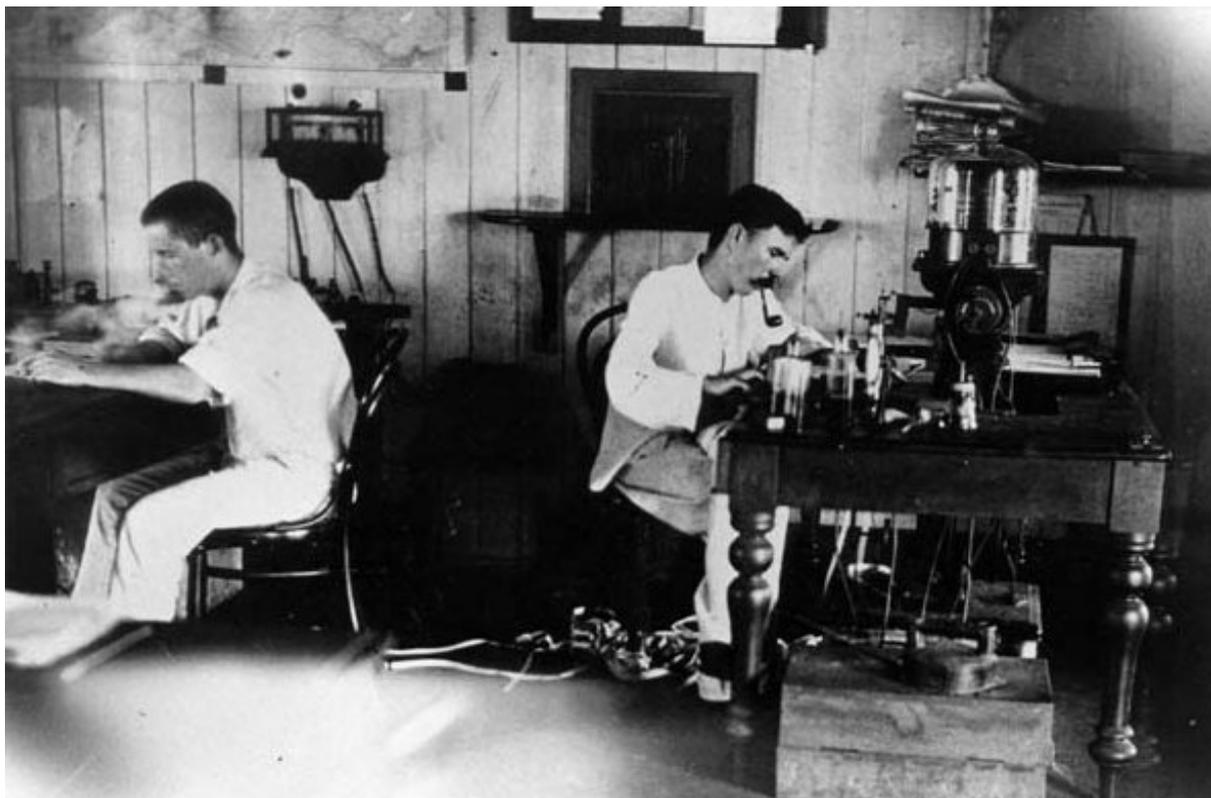
Morsecodians Fraternity of WA Inc now have an internet listing on the 'Amateur Radio in Western Australia' page. See <http://www.vk6.net/clubs-wa.html>

Send a telegram free via the internet to anyone with an email address. It 's delivered in seconds (not like the good 'ol days..eh) on an 1870's Alice Springs termination form. Link below:

<http://www.connectingthecontinent.com/ctcwebsite/alicesprings/alicespringstelegram.htm>

Ross Anderson bought a waistcoat on ebay which turned out a bit small for him. It has black velvety front with lovely interwoven pattern and has blackish/grey satin back. He says it was size Mens as opposed to the newer term of Medium. It is in good nick and for the cost of a \$4.90 post office courier express packet it can belong to the first lucky reader to contact him on 07 4061 7236 or vk4aq @ bigpond.net.au

This newsletter is available in colour on the internet. Ask our secretary for details.



Plying our trade.

Above: Roebourne Post Office WA 1899

=====

Below: Melbourne Morsecodians at the Telstra Exchange and (to be) Telephone and Telegraph museum Glenferrie, a Melbourne suburb.

Left to Right: Bill Morrow - Brian O'Shaughnessy—Noel Robinson—Brian Jeffrey (seated).
Not a tobacco pipe in sight!



Historic Cardwell Bush Telegraph Station and Museum

Cardwell's Old Telegraph Station and Post Office, built in 1870 and is probably the oldest building in North Queensland, is shortly going to be re-activated by Ross Anderson attending from Innisfail.



Ross discussing the intricacies of a sounder with a German tourist, Heinz DK9TW.

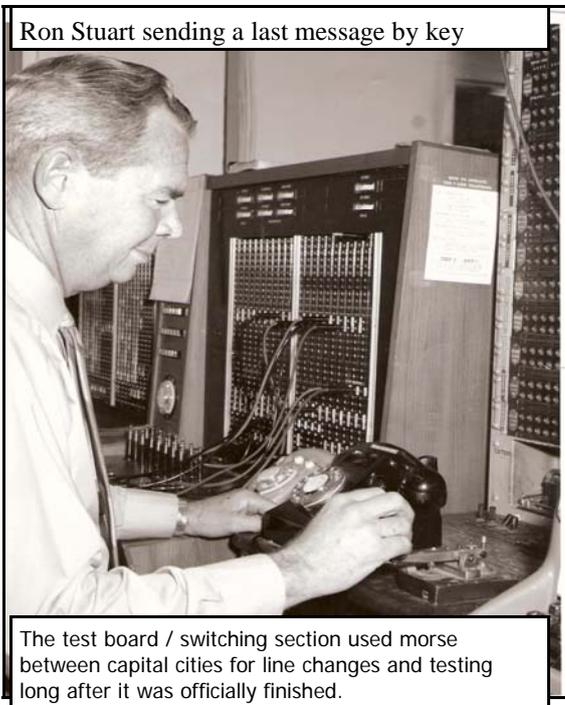
As part of National Volunteers Week celebrations, Cardwell (FNQ) Bush Telegraph Station and Museum was invited to set up a display of its activities at the Stockland Earlville Shopping Complex in Cairns (17 May 06).

A group of five volunteers manned the display and a great deal of interest was shown by the general public throughout the day.

Ross, VK4AQ, was on hand to discuss the business of the old telegraph days and had a working key and sounder on hand to demonstrate "how it used to be."

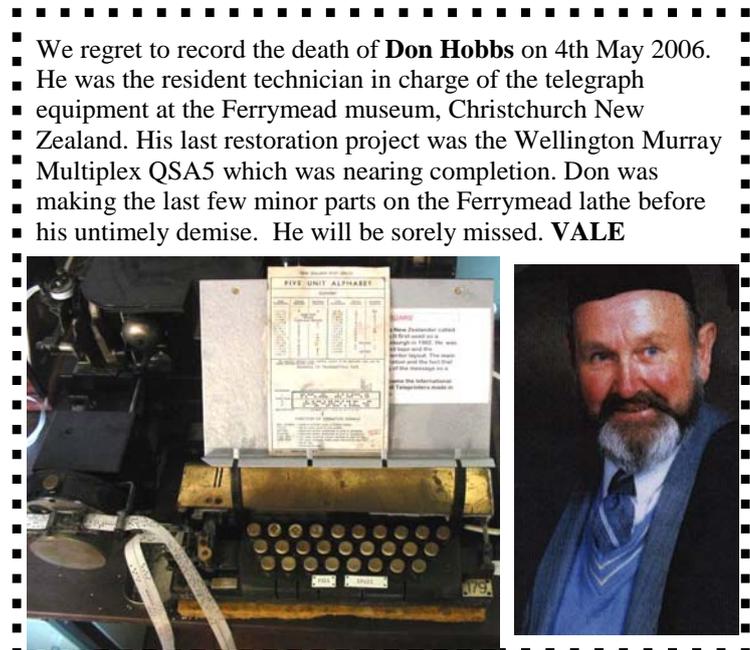
He is keen to add a relay to the working station he is setting up in his home, he's happy to meet all reasonable costs.

(07) 4061 7236 or vk4aq  bigpond.net.au.



Ron Stuart sending a last message by key

The test board / switching section used morse between capital cities for line changes and testing long after it was officially finished.



We regret to record the death of **Don Hobbs** on 4th May 2006. He was the resident technician in charge of the telegraph equipment at the Ferrymead museum, Christchurch New Zealand. His last restoration project was the Wellington Murray Multiplex QSA5 which was nearing completion. Don was making the last few minor parts on the Ferrymead lathe before his untimely demise. He will be sorely missed. **VALE**

The Morsecodians Fraternity of Western Australia (Inc.)

President	Terry Keays	(08) 9279 4696
Vice-President	John Meadowcroft	(08) 9386 6636
Secretary	Richie Bright	(08) 9276 6936
Asst. Secretary	Allan Greenslade	(08) 9390 5410

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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 475 Crawford Rd Dianella WA 6059
 Newsletter Editor: Larry Rice (08) 9255 2280

Club Email jarbrite  iinet.net.au

Newsletter email oseagram  iinet.net.au

Vale—Frank Mike

(member Sydney and Perth Morsecodians).
 The Morsecodians have lost a very valuable member with the passing of Frank. He was a very enthusiastic and expert morse exponent both sounder and radio (CW). He was a former PMG telegraphist in Sydney and Perth. He had many trips participating in morse demonstrations to Alice Springs, Sydney and Tamworth. He spent many hours weekly giving slow morse practice to budding 'ham' radio operators. Frank was affectionally known as "Hammer" by his fellow telegs. Ken Knox was staying with him when he passed on. Ken had known Frank for 58 years.
VALE

Vale—Henry Leahy trained as PC in 1948.

Pre-retirement worked for Commonwealth Electoral Office.