



MORSECODIANS MESSENGER

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

Volume 3 Issue 4

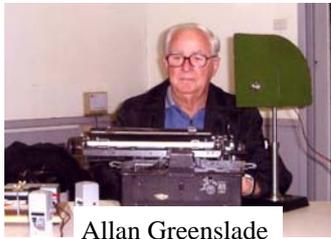
08 9276 6936

October 2006

Morsecodians



*Keeping Morse-code
Alive*



Allan Greenslade



Ken Knox

YORK 175 YEARS 1831-2006



Richie Bright

THE historic town of York, the State's oldest inland town, was first settled by Europeans in 1831. To mark the 175th anniversary of this occasion a celebratory event was held over the weekend 15th – 17th Sept 2006 during which the town's progression through history was re-enacted and commemorated. Attractions and entertainment were too numerous to list but the highlight was no doubt the one kilometre long street pageant in which a Cobb and Co coach and vintage motor cars featured. To assist with the celebrations, seven Morsecodians took the scenic trip to York to show-case the now obsolete art of Morse telegraphy.

The 16th and 17th saw us set up in a vacant shop in the main street. This proved very popular and often there was standing room only as visitors watched in awe and sought answers as to how we could make any sense from that strange clicking noise. During the 2 days, 265 messages lodged by members of the public were transmitted by Morse code. All Morsecodian members had a great time, including 3 who stayed over night and were a little the worse for wear the following day. However no noticeable effect in their operating ability was observed.

On the 15th September the District High School was attended where five groups of students totalling almost 150 were given talks on the history and development of the Electric Telegraph as well as practical demonstrations.

Thanks must go to Christine Springbett (Deputy School Principal), Alison Bateman and Gary Gegan (York Shire Council), Dee Robinson (York 175th Coordinator), Roy Weston York and Chase and Jaye Clarke (shop owners) for their assistance in making this a successful and enjoyable event.



Our Pres fraternising with the ladies
Marianne Nilsson & Joy Stanton

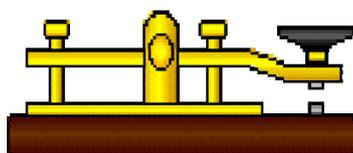
NEXT MEETING

**Hyde Park Hotel
16th Oct 2006 10 am**

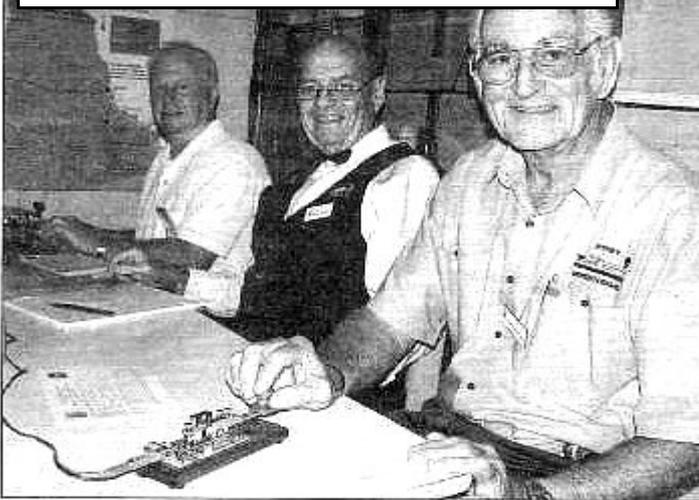
Please note the time and date for our next get-together. Members and non-members welcome.

API leisure lifestyle

Thanks to API, our sponsor.



Cardwell Qld Seafest weekend August 11-13th 2006



Telegraphists (from left), Ernie Bell of Bendigo, Ross Anderson of Innisfail and Rex Rutherford of Albury send messages from the Cardwell Bush Telegraph Centre during the Seafest.

Messages sent by morse code

MORE than 400 visitors to the Cardwell Bush Telegraph Museum last weekend put the convenience of email and text messages aside to experience the history behind sending a morse code telegram.

More than \$6000 was raised to contribute to the running of the popular museum, with visitors learning the art of morse code firsthand from Morsecodeian Fraternity ex-

perts Rex Rutherford from Albury, New South Wales, Ernie Bell from Bendigo, Victoria, and Ross Anderson from Innisfail.

Telegrams were sent to destinations all over the world, but as operational telegraph lines are a thing of the past, today's telegraphers rely on the combination of "old" telegraphic equipment such as keys, sounders and the "dits

and dahs" of morse code language, with "new" technology like modems and telephone lines, to get their messages across.

Museum co-ordinator Renee Wright said the support from all involved with the Cardwell Seafest weekend, be it volunteers, sponsors and visitors, was very much appreciated by all at the museum.

International Lighthouse weekend
Cape Otway 18-20 August 2006

Ted Rankins, Phyll and Peter Shaw travelled 300 kms via Apollo Bay where we were treated to lunch at the home of Brian and Lorna from the Apollo Bay Cable Station Museum. On arrival at Cape Otway priority one was to see if attenuation problems had been cleared..bingo.. set up two sets and connected them through the exchange then with Leo at Beechworth.

A good stream of visitors attended, at one stage we had a group of 20+ visitors listening to our tales. Lots of kids on both days and good opportunities to receive GTGS messages for them or show them how we sent their messages to school mates or grandparents. Closed the station about 4.55 pm.

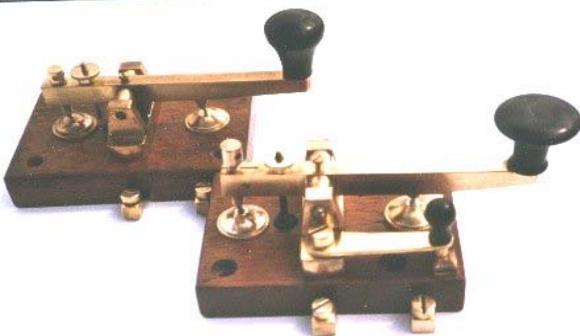
We sent 55 messages and received 13. 40% of what we sent went to overseas destinations, including Serbia and China (a first for both). John Riddett, Leo Nette, Ron McMullen and Dale Whatley were there when we wanted them. Thanks as usual guys.

Over the weekend about 400 people - young and old - history lessons. Parents are keen to have their offspring learn something about the past. We gave handouts with the code and underneath it, a fairly long message to be decoded.

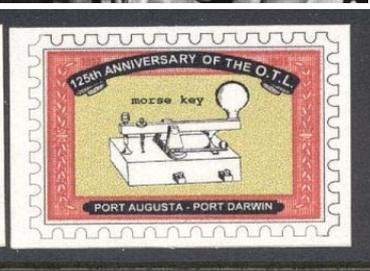
Peter Shaw

Don't phone.
Then you won't need to confirm in writing.

TELEX IT!



Telegram boys in training—Brisbane 1950



Jarrahdale Outpost reaches 200 morse telegrams sent and the museum wins a prestigious award.

Jarrahdale WA's old Post Office, built in 1896, host to a timber museum and telegraphic station is run by the Jarrahdale Heritage Society (JHS).

It has just won the 2006 WA museums' award for volunteer run museums.



The morse team of Peter Edmonds and Gus Allender, who demonstrate their skills every 4th Sunday 10-1p between March and October, have recently reached double-century figures in telegrams sent and their valuable contribution is a part of the reason for winning the award.

Visitors are encouraged to have a go on the 'play' key and sounder (all made for JHS by Barrie Field). JHS also runs guided historic walks through the jarrah forest to timber mill sites and along the 1870s railways. Dates and times available www.jarrahdale.com or phone Sheila on 9525 5352 or Tony on 9525 5161 or [astwine \(at\) tik \(dot\) com \(dot\) au](mailto:astwine@tik.com.au)



Tenth Anniversary of Formation— MFWA Inc.

To celebrate our ten years of achievement, attendees at the June 2006 meeting decided that:-

A celebratory luncheon will be held:

- on Monday 13th November 2006
- at the Hyde Park Hotel North Perth
- commencing at 12 noon
- spouses encouraged to accompany members
- costs: A La Carte—to be ordered and paid individually
- guests to be invited: Australia Post, Telstra and API.

Those members who are not regular attendees at meetings are particularly urged to take this opportunity of fraternising with fellow members and exchanging anecdotes of mutual interest. We do not anticipate anywhere near as big a roll-up for our twentieth anniversary.

IF ATTENDING: RSVP to the Secretary by November 6th. (We need to ensure that the hotel has adequate supplies.)

COSSACK:

Restoration of a Morse Code Telegraph presence. As reported at our June meeting, our efforts are now directed towards gaining assistance from the Shire of Roebourne rather than earlier approaches made to the Heritage Council and the Department of Housing and Works. Some staff separations and 'changing of hats' have caused some delays to negotiations which have now resumed. Suitable occasions for the proposed installation seem to be practically non-existent in the near future, but it is hoped to finalise this project mid-2007.

Snippets from the General Meeting held 19th June 2006.

- Don Tyler repeated his request for more volunteers to staff Armadale.
- Correspondence to member R.J. Rogers returned— if any member knows whereabouts, inform Hon Sec.
- Barrie Field gave a brief demonstration of the type of equipment he proposes for Cossack, see article above. He also took the opportunity to outline the improvements he has made recently to the "picnic set".

The skills shortage affecting many areas Australia-wide is showing up within our own ranks of late. This was evident when arranging rosters recently for the York celebrations and the Royal Show. Where have all our "baby boomer" members gone ??

VALE—Philip Robert Heydon 26.11.1920—29.7.2006

Phil was a charter member of our Fraternity when it was formed in November 1996 and remained a stalwart participant in our activities and endeavours until incapacitated by his recent illnesses.

Born in Cue Western Australia, Phil's working career of 42 years was spent entirely with the Post Office.

Commencing as a telegraph messenger in Cue in 1935, he served in all Murchison Goldfields post offices and at offices in the North West. He retired from the position of senior postmaster at the Perth GPO in 1977. Phil was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee medal in 1977 and the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 1979.

Phil was the author of 12 books on aspects of life in the Goldfields, various parish histories and other works of an historical nature. Phil was a classic example of both a gentleman and a scholar and will be sadly missed by his fellow Morsecodians. We extend our sympathy and condolences to Doris and the family. GB—Phil

VALE – Joseph Luke Katnich 11.12.1930 – 22.2.2006

Joe passed through the Postal Training School in 1950 and after a short stint in the metropolitan area was appointed to the Geraldton Relief Staff. During this time he saw service at many post offices in the North West of the State before transferring to the Kalgoorlie Relief Staff. In 1960 he was promoted to SPC2 Ingham Qld then as Postmaster Wittenoom where he served for 3 years. Joe was also PM at Pinjarra, Moora and North Perth from where he retired.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Barbara and family. RIP Joe

VALE - Reginald Arthur Norman Thomas deceased 19.2.2006—aged 83

Reg served the PMG Department and Australia Post extensively throughout the North West on relief duties and as an appointed Postmaster at Roebourne, Onslow, Carnarvon and finally Geraldton until retirement. Reg was involved in recording the Japanese NIGIS radio morse messages and on-forwarding these to Melbourne by morse when working at his Carnarvon relief headquarters during WW2. RIP Reg.

Vale—Brian Alan Fiebig

Brian qualified as PC Kardinya in 1949 then served as PC Onslow in 1950 where he experienced the initial impact of Monte Bello which resulted in hundreds of telegrams lodged. In 1953, Brian was 1 of 2 radio operators attached to the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition on Macquarie Island with circuits to VIS Sydney and NZ.

Upon his return, he served in many SW towns finishing his career as Postmaster Katanning July 1987. RIP Brian

VALE— Reg Moger

Morsecodians were saddened recently to hear of the death of Reg Moger. Known as Curly to most, he joined the PMG dept at Mossvale in 1938, passed through the T.I.T. school at an early age and was appointed Telegraphist Sydney CTO. At age 18 Curly joined the Army and attended the Signal Training Unit at Bonegilla NSW before serving at Darwin and Adelaide River NT. In 1944 Curly joined the 7th Division Signal Corps and was on active service in Borneo when war finished. Returning to the CTO Sydney, he married and then transferred to Canberra where he remained until retirement. In retirement Curly was a very active member of The Morsecodians Fraternity. Curly will be remembered as one of nature's gentlemen and a master of his craft. We extend sincere sympathy to his wife Sue and family. GB-Curly

Condolences: are extended to Jack Gregan and family regarding the sad loss of Jack's wife Thelma on 30.8.2006.

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Secretary	Richie Bright	(08) 9276 6936
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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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Office Bearers—MFWA Inc.

At the Fraternity's June 2006 meeting, it was decided that the status quo should remain regarding length of tenure for occupants of the four positions provided for in our rules—

i.e:- the persons elected shall occupy such positions for an indefinite period.

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