



MEDIA RELEASE

Territorians to take part in living history

A constant tapping sound will signal the return of a popular annual event at Darwin's Historic Lyons Cottage at the Esplanade this weekend.

Back to Morse Week is an opportunity for Territorians and tourists to go to the cottage and watch the Morse code operators at work or even send their own telegram.

The South Australian and Northern Territory Chapter of the Morsecodians Fraternity volunteers will be based at the cottage practising their skills.

Chief among them will be Northern Territory telegraphist John Ahnfeldt who rates *Back to Morse Week* as one of his favourite parts of the year.

"Not only is it a great chance for some of us older blokes to get together but it also allows people, whether they be locals or tourist, to get involved and learn a bit about Morse code," Mr Ahnfeldt said.

"This is a rare opportunity to observe some of the telegraphic skills of yesteryear and have a chat with living history.

"Anyone who comes to the cottage during the week can send a telegram to any part of Australia for free.

"The telegram is sent along the same route as the Overland Telegraph, from Darwin to Adelaide via Alice Springs, which is then posted to its destination."

Back to Morse Week celebrates a bygone era when Morse code was the Internet of the day and Port Darwin the first landfall for international telegraphic communications between Australia and the rest of the world.

The Morsecodians will operate from Lyons Cottage from:

- *Sunday 18 June from 11am – 4pm*
- *Monday 19 June to Thursday 22 June from 9am – 4.30pm*
- *Friday 23 June from 9am – 8.30pm*
- *Saturday 24 June 9am – 3.45pm*

Ends

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