



MEDIA RELEASE

Heritage Week in Alice Springs

Alice Springs is set to be full of exciting activity next week as the historic town once again celebrates Heritage Week.

Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) Heritage Night co-ordinator Rick Hope said Heritage Night attracted about 700 people to the Alice Springs Telegraph Station last year, with another huge crowd expected this year on 27 April.

“Activities on the night will include bush music, dancing, story telling, slide shows, traditional children’s games, black smith operating, farrier/horse shoeing display and home style craft,” Mr Hope said.

“Heritage Night is from 5pm to 9pm, entry is free, and the scouts will be selling food and drinks.

“PWS staff and volunteers will be in period costume and people attending the night are encouraged to dress up to further experience the atmosphere of yesteryear.”

Mr Hope said Heritage Night will cap off a huge Heritage Week from 21 to 27 April.

“One of this year’s Heritage Week highlights will be the Morse Codian Fraternity, which is travelling from Sydney to Alice Springs to attend this special annual event, as they have done for the past 18 years,” Mr Hope said.

“The Morse Codians will again be operating the Telegraph Office all week with the public invited to send a Morse telegram to anywhere in the world.

“This year’s Heritage Week theme is *communications* so it is only appropriate the Morse Codians be our special guest.

“People might recall that the Morse Codian Fraternity last year set a world record for sending a message on a 100-year-old typewriter in one minute and eight seconds so I’m sure their presence will be thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.”

Mr Hope said a thankyou supper would be held in honour of the Morse Codian Fraternity at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station from 7.30pm to 9pm on 24 April.

People should contact Anne Scherer on 8951 8278 to make a booking, which is essential to attend this dinner.

Strehlow Research Centre (SRC) director Dr Scott Mitchell said another feature of Heritage Week would be a photographic exhibition and film night at the Alice Springs Library, celebrating 100 years of cars in Alice Springs.

“This year marks the 100 year anniversary since Harry Dutton and Murray Auger drove the first motor vehicle through Alice Springs as the pair made their first attempt at driving a car from Adelaide to Darwin,” Dr Mitchell said.

“The 20 horsepower English Clement-Talbot, known as the ‘Angelina’ struggled for much of the journey, before breaking down just short of Tennant Creek.

“But the pair was determined to make the first continental crossing by motor vehicle, and successfully completed the challenge a year later.”

Dr Mitchell said an exhibition of photographs covering motoring in Central Australia over the last 100 years will be on display at the Alice Springs Library from 21-27 April. The film night will be held on 26 April from 6pm.

“The film night will include four films which depict road trips in Central Australia in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s,” Dr Mitchell said.

“While it might be a trip down memory lane for many visitors, others will gain a unique perspective on what road travel was like in the Red Centre before they were even born.”

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Rick Hope on 8952 1013 or Dr Scott Mitchell on 8951 1101

Issued: 8.30am Friday, 20 April 2007