

Media Release:

17.4.08

Transporting Alice Back to the Future

The Alice Springs Telegraph Station will be transformed into a bygone era for their annual Heritage Night on Thursday 24 April 2008.

Heritage Night is part of the National Trust of Australia's Alice Springs Heritage Festival and this year's theme is "Transporting Alice" a celebration of travel and transport in Alice throughout History and into the future.

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts Heritage Night Co-ordinator Dawn Morgan said Heritage Night has been celebrated in Alice Springs since 1989 and provides visitors with a glimpse of Central Australia's heritage.

"Heritage Night is a great opportunity for locals and visitors to experience the atmosphere of yesteryear through a wide range of activities," Ms Morgan said.

"Our special guests are the Morse Codian Fraternity, a group of volunteers aged between 70-80 years old who pay their own way every year to Alice Springs from as far away as Sydney and Perth.

"The Morse Codians will be operating in the Telegraph Station's office all week and will assist visitors to send a Morse telegram to anywhere in the world.

"Other activities include bush music, story telling, slide shows and traditional kids' games."

A black smith forging souvenirs, a farrier shoeing a horse and traditional home style craft displays such as Marmalade making, spinning and lace making will also be a highlight of the evening.

"The local scouts will be selling food and drinks, with tea and coffee available by donation to the Morse Codians," Ms Morgan said.

"Staff and volunteers will be in period costume and people are encouraged to dress up for the evening.

"Last year's event attracted 500 people and proved to be a great fun-filled evening for the whole family."

Heritage Night is on Thursday 24 April 2008 from 5 – 9pm and entry is free.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Dawn Morgan on 8952 1013

Interview and Photo Opportunities:

- **Pioneer's Morning Tea (Monday 21 April 10am)**
- **Morse Codians operating Telegraph Equipment (20 – 25 April)**
- **Blacksmith and Farrier Working on site (Thursday 24 April 5-9pm)**

Issued: 12.45pm Thursday, 17 April 2008