



Beechworth Historic & Cultural Precinct
1858 - 2008

Fact Sheet

Telegraph Station

Beechworth's home of Morse Code

Built in 1858, the Telegraph Station, one of a suite of beautifully preserved Gold Era buildings which make up the Beechworth Historic & Cultural Precinct, once linked the town to the outside world through the medium of Morse Code.

This revolutionary new communications tool was the internet of its day, enabling fast delivery of messages and news, including famously, the Kelly Gang siege at Glenrowan transmitted from this building.

Today, the building remains one of the busiest telegraph offices in the world, supported by the international Morse Code Fraternity. With the help of our Morse Code experts, visitors to the building can still send telegraphic messages anywhere in Australia or overseas using this early system of electronic communication.

The building is also home to the pioneering work of the early surveyors who planned the well laid out streetscape of Beechworth and other surrounding towns. Exhibits of the tools of the profession are available for viewing and visitors can see theodolites and surveying chains.

School groups are given a short introduction to the Telegraph Station and Morse Code after which they can visit the excellent audio-visual experience, the Time-Table, which explains Beechworth's development following the arrival of the first settlers as well as the Oral History Room where they can hear the recorded voices of local residents giving first hand accounts of life in the town.



Open 10am to 4pm, 7 days a week – closed Christmas Day.
Bookings via the Beechworth Visitor Information Centre
Phone: 1300 366 321; email visit_beechworth@indigoshire.vic.gov.au
www.beechworthonline.com.au

Short-term bus parking is available in Ford Street in front of the Telegraph Station; longer term parking available in William St, next to Town Hall Gardens. Close access to public toilets. Free access to building for coach crew, teachers and accompanying volunteers – one adult per 10 students. The Telegraph Station provides limited wheelchair access. Allow a maximum of 45 minutes for your visit.

NB. Cost of sending telegrams not included in Historic & Cultural Precinct ticket price