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**NEWSLETTER**

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**41.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS**

**Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 30 April 2007. Subscription details appear at end of *Newsletter*.** [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]

The *Newsletter* is online through the "Publications" link of the University of Queensland's School of Journalism & Communication Website at [www.uq.edu.au/sjc/](http://www.uq.edu.au/sjc/) and through the ePrint Archives at the University of Queensland at <http://espace.uq.edu.au/>

**41.2 EDITOR'S NOTE**

Please note my new email address: [rodthejourno@hotmail.com](mailto:rodthejourno@hotmail.com) I am on long service leave until early July. New subscriptions rates now apply for ten hard-copy issues of the *Newsletter*: \$40 for individuals; and \$50 for institutions.

**CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: METROPOLITAN**

**41.3 COONAN MEDIA LAWS: WHEN WILL THEY TAKE EFFECT?**

The big question Australian media owners want answered as 2007 hits its straps is: when will the Coonan media laws take effect? Mark Day discusses many of the possible outcomes of an early or late introduction of the laws in the Media section of the *Australian*, 1 February 2007, pp.15-16.

**41.4 NEWS WINS APPROVAL FOR FPC, PART 2**

News Limited is set to increase its stable of local publications after the competition regulator said it would not oppose its acquisition of the remainder of Sydney-based Federal Publishing Company. News is negotiating with publisher Michael Hannan to acquire FPC's 18 community newspapers in Queensland and NSW. In December it outbid Publishing and Broadcasting Ltd's ACP division and Seven Network's Pacific magazines to acquire FPC magazines, including *Vogue*, *Delicious* and *Super Food Ideas*, for a reported \$180 million. Australian Competition and Consumer Commission chairman Graeme Samuel said he would not block the deal, which was unlikely to breach section 50 of the Trade Practices Act. The decision follows an investigation into whether the proposed purchase would lessen competition in northern and inner-western Sydney due to an overlap with several News titles.

The FPC community media group publishes nine free weekly Sydney newspapers, three papers in the NSW Illawarra region and four in Queensland. News owns 20 local papers in NSW as part of Cumberland Community Newspapers. It operates 16 titles in Queensland. A News Ltd spokesman said talks were still progressing on acquiring the FPC community newspapers. He would not say if a formal offer had been made (*Age*, 18 January 2007).

News Limited is likely to roll its acquisitions of the Hannan family's FPC magazines and Courier group of newspapers into one transaction, which is now expected to be completed by the end of March (*Australian*, Media section, 22 February 2007, pp.13, 15).

#### **41.5 THE WEST AND EDITOR FACE NEW CONTEMPT CHARGE**

The *West Australian* and its editor are being prosecuted for contempt for the second time in 18 months. The West Australian Director of Public Prosecutions on 12 January Friday commenced contempt of court proceedings against the newspaper and its editor, Paul Armstrong, over publication of a letter to the editor in December that led District Court judge Paul Healy to abort a manslaughter trial on its sixth and final day. Both Armstrong and the newspaper already have contempt convictions – they were fined \$5,000 and \$15,000 respectively in August 2005 for breaching the state Children's Court Act with a series of stories that identified a ward of the state. The state Court of Appeal found the newspaper had committed the contempt by naming the boy, whom it labelled a "suburban terrorist". In the latest case, Judge Healy cited a letter to the editor in the newspaper as his reason for aborting the trial of Jake Becker, 20, accused of unlawfully killing 17-year-old Skye Barkwith in a dispute outside a tavern last year. Judge Healy said publishing the letter was "unbelievable and destructive" and urged the DPP to take action (*Australian*, 18 January 2007).

#### **41.6 RECENT CHRONOLOGY**

##### **41.6.1 DEATHS**

**Gerrett, Virginia (née Ransome):** D. 27 January 2007, aged 94 in Sydney; born at Mildura; studied art and design at a Melbourne technical college and went to work in advertising; widowed during war; women's editor of the Sydney *Sun* after World War II; later worked for the Melbourne *Argus* and the Sydney *Daily Mirror* (women's editor); became features editor for *Canberra Times* 1964; sub-editor on Sydney Morning Herald and later part-time sub for the Manly and Mosman dailies (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 February 2007).

**McIlraith, Shaun Dudley:** D. 4 January 2007, aged 84 in Sydney; born in Adelaide to Frank and Madge McIlraith, New Zealanders who had gone to South Australia for Frank's work as a journalist; moved to London at age three when Frank became the bureau chief for *Smith's Weekly*; joined *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney; became known as a medical writer with the *Sydney Morning Herald* and reported on some of the most dramatic breakthroughs in modern medical history; covered Australia's first heart transplant at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, in 1968; his medical journalism for the *Herald* took him to Russia and Japan and brought several awards, including the medal in the Order of Australia in 1981; left Herald in 1981 and worked as a freelance journalist for the Cancer Council of NSW until 1996 (*Walkley Magazine*, Issue 43, February/March 2007, p.33).

**Mead, Vaila (née Pender):** D. January 2007, aged 86 in Sydney; widow of the founding editor of the *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, Tom Mead; born in Orange, NSW, she was a talented pianist; won scholarship to study at Sydney Conservatorium; met Tom Mead in Parkes in 1937 where he was employed on the *Central Western (St George & Sutherland Shire Leader*, 1 February 2007).

#### **41.7 REPORTERS GOT TOO CLOSE**

Four journalists embedded with a Canadian infantry unit were expelled from a combat operation last year after getting too close to Australian special forces in Afghanistan's Kandahar province (*Australian*, 4 January 2007, p.3).

## 41.8 REVIEW OF 2006

The *Sydney Morning Herald* published its review of the major news events of 2006 in a 40-page magazine format on 15 December. The publication, sponsored by the National Australia Bank (which likes to call itself “nab” now), contained a heavy pictorial emphasis.

## 41.9 LE COURRIER AUSTRALIEN

Launched in Sydney in 1892, *Le Courier Australien* (the *Australian Mail*) remains the longest-running foreign-language newspaper in the country, writes **Jurgen Wegner**. During World War II, the paper became the mouthpiece of the Free French Movement.

## 41.10 FAIRFAX MEDIA-RURAL PRESS MERGER

The Federal Court of Australia ordered on 26 February meetings of shareholders of Rural Press Ltd as follows: holders of Rural Press Ltd (RPL) preferred shares to meet in Sydney on 5 April and holders of RPL ordinary shares to meet on 19 April, both meetings to be held at the Sofitel Wentworth Hotel at 10am. A vote will be taken at both meetings on the proposed merger of RPL and Fairfax Media. The Independent Expert, Deloitte Corporate Finance Pty Ltd, has considered both the Schemes of Arrangement involved and has concluded that they are fair and reasonable and therefore in the best interest of the RPL shareholders in the absence of a superior proposal. The Board of RPL unanimously recommends that all RPL shareholders support the merger proposal in the absence of a superior proposal (Australian Stock Exchange announcement, 26 February 2007; *Australian*, 27 February 2007, p.22).

## 41.11 FALLOUT FROM WALKLEYS SCUFFLE

Stephen Mayne has been dumped from the political party he co-founded over “undergraduate” and “cavalier” behaviour that included his involvement in an onstage scuffle that scandalised last November’s televised Walkley Awards. Former friend and co-founder of People Power, Vern Hughes, said Mayne’s “sensationalist” knack of courting controversy had prompted him to dump the Crikey.com founder and columnist from the party (*Australian*, 9 January 2007, p.3).

## 41.12 PEOPLE

**41.12.1 Bruce Guthrie**, the editor of the *Weekend Australian Magazine* for three years, became the editor-in-chief of the biggest selling daily in Australia, the *Herald Sun*, on 19 February. He replaced **Peter Blunden**, who, after 11 years as editor and editor-in-chief of Australia’s biggest-selling newspaper, has been appointed deputy managing director of the Herald & Weekly Times Ltd. The appointments pave the way for the retirement of **Julian Clarke**, HWT’s managing director for the past 15 years. Blunden will succeed Clarke at the end of the year. Guthrie, a journalist and media executive with 35 years’ experience, is a former editor of the *Sunday Age* (appointed 1992) and *Age* (1995). He began his career with the *Herald* in 1971. He has also edited *People* and *Who Weekly* (*Herald Sun*, 18 January 2007, and *Age*, 18 January 2007; also see *Age*, 23 December 2007). Guthrie farewelled his *Weekend Australian Magazine* readers on 3-4 February, p.6. **Helen Trinca**, who has been editing *Boss* magazine for the *Australian Financial Review*, is the new editor of the *Weekend Australian Magazine*. She had left News Ltd for Fairfax and now returns to News (*Australian*, Media section, 15 February 2007, p.18; *Age*, 19 February 2007).

**41.12.2 Tim Palmer**, a leading ABC foreign correspondent, has been appointed executive producer of *Media Watch* (*Australian*, 2 January 2007, p.3). *Media Watch* resumed for 2007 on Monday night, 26 February.

**41.12.3 Alan Atwood**, a former *Age* and *Time* magazine journalist, is now editing the *Big Issue*, a fortnightly not-for-profit magazine aimed at giving people a hand up rather than a handout. He began the job in November (*Australian*, Media section, 14 December

**41.12.4 Steve Foley** acted as editor of the *Age* for two weeks during the Christmas-New Year period. He recounts his experiences in an interview in *Mediaweek*, 22-29 January 2007, p.10.

**41.12.5 Paul Whittaker** is the new editor of the *Australian* and **Nick Cater** is the new editor of the *Weekend Australian*. Whittaker, 37, is a former news editor, associate editor and chief of staff of Brisbane's *Courier-Mail*. He has twice won the Walkley Award for investigative journalism. Cater, a senior executive at the *Australian* since 2004, is a former deputy editor of the *Sunday Telegraph*, assistant editor of the *Daily Telegraph* and Canberra bureau chief for News Ltd (*Weekend Australian*, 24-25 February 2007, p.2). See ANHG 40.22.

### **41.13 JUDGE SPURNS NEWS 'BADGE OF HONOUR'**

Under the above heading, the *Age* reported (13 February 2007): Journalists who refused to reveal their sources saw convictions for contempt of court as "a badge of honour", County Court Chief Judge Michael Rozenes said on 12 February. He said also that two *Herald Sun* journalists, Gerard McManus and Michael Harvey, had put their ethics before the law by refusing to disclose the source of a leaked story about a Federal Government proposal to reduce the benefits of war veterans. The Chief Judge has reserved his decision in the case involving the journalists.

### **41.14 ADELAIDE MEDIA MOVES**

Margie Budich, a veteran of the Adelaide media market, has joined forces with an international media group. Budich has signed a deal with Spanish media entrepreneur Javier Moll, who has long held ambitions to produce daily newspapers in Australia. Budich's new dual role includes an executive position with the *Adelaide Review*. She is also the owner and executive director of the street publication, *Rip It Up*, the dance magazine, *Onion*, and the fashion magazine, *Attitude*. Moll took over the *Adelaide Review* in 2003, and a year later converted it from a monthly to a weekly (*Australian*, Media section, 14 December 2006, p.15).

### **41.15 EDITOR CHARTERIS TO RETIRE**

From Auckland, **Gavin Ellis** writes: Robin Charteris, the editor of New Zealand's oldest daily newspaper, the *Otago Daily Times*, will retire in April. He will have been on the *Times* staff for 41 years and editor for a decade. His retirement was announced in December. He joined the now-defunct *Dunedin Evening Star* in 1964 before moving to the *Otago Daily Times* in 1966. He served as chief reporter and features editor in Dunedin and was twice seconded to the New Zealand Associated Press (which represented four New Zealand metropolitan dailies) as London correspondent in the 1970s and 1980s. He became deputy editor of the *Otago Daily Times* in 1988 and editor in 1997. In 2005, the *Otago Daily Times* under his editorship was named Qantas New Zealand Newspaper of the Year.

### **41.16 SHARE-PRICE TABLES ELIMINATED**

From 23 January 2007 the *Daily Telegraph* dropped its share price tables, replacing the page with "Market Watch", a page of data that shows the top seven shares in 10 different sectors. There are also rankings of the most popular stocks, the biggest falls, biggest rises, most active and a chart of stocks reaching new yearly highs and new lows.

Readers wanting up-to-the-minute quotes on individual stocks are being directed to the paper's business page on its website (*Mediaweek*, 23 January 2007, online edition).

#### 41.17 HILMER ON ANIMOSITY

Former Fairfax Media chief Fred Hilmer badly underestimated the animosity of its largest newspaper rival Rupert Murdoch-owned News Ltd when he first came into the job, according to a book (released in February). Hilmer, a former director of international management consultancy McKinsey & Co was chief executive of Fairfax, owner of the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, from 1998 to 2005. Those hoping for a tell-all tale on the shenanigans that went on behind Fairfax's closed boardroom doors will be disappointed by *The Fairfax Experience: what the management texts didn't teach me*. But amid the dry academic text is an occasional glimpse of a media world dominated by large personalities and even larger egos. Hilmer says he refused to be bullied by media proprietors Mr Murdoch and Kerry Packer, who regularly complained about media coverage of their families. Murdoch wrote an incensed letter directly to Professor Hilmer after Fairfax broke the story of Murdoch's third wife Wendi Deng's pregnancy and how it might affect the family succession plans. But Hilmer says he refused to intervene in the coverage.

He also reveals that soon after becoming chief executive, he met Mr Packer, for an "illuminating" lunch date at his Publishing and Broadcasting Limited's Park Street headquarters in Sydney. "I stayed until 5pm because I soon realised he knew the Fairfax business better than anyone else I had spoken to, including the board," Hilmer writes. "I asked why he was interested in the business if the problems were as bad as he said they were, to which he replied, 'I'm a rich man; think of it as an indulgence'." (*Age*, 24 January 2007; see also *Australian*, 24 January 2007, p.3, re "left-leaning editorial culture" at Fairfax; *Weekend Australian*, 27-28 January 2007, p.3, re "Fairfax flagships sale 'rational'"; and *Australian*, 29 January 2007, p.27, re "Fairfax premium [for Rural Press merger] a problem for Hilmer").

The *Age* (3 February 2007, Business, p.5) published three commentaries on the Hilmer book: by Steve Harris, publisher and editor-in-chief of the paper, 1997-2001; Greg Hywood, a former publisher and editor-in-chief of the *Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Australian Financial Review*; and Matthew Ricketson, the *Age's* media editor.

#### 41.18 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Three Australia Day awards were made for journalism:

1. **John Edward (Jack) Waterford**, editor at large of the *Canberra Times*, was made a Member (AM) in the General Division, for services to journalism and the indigenous community; he declared himself "roundly unpopular with political parties of all persuasions" (*Australian*, 26 January 2007, and *Canberra Times*, 26 January 2007, p.6).
2. **Bernard Freedman** was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the general division, for services to journalism and the *Australian Jewish News* (*Australian*, 26 January 2007).
3. **Phil Nolan**, editor of the *Wangaratta Chronicle* since 1976, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the general division for his service to the community of Wangaratta through roles in economic development, school and sporting organisations, and to print media (*Border Mail*, 26 January 2007).

#### 41.19 QUARTERLY CIRCULATION AUDIT

No comparison data are available for the Audit Bureau of Circulations' second 13-week audit (to 31 December 2006) under the new rules introduced after the first comprehensive review of the ABC rules in 75 years. Here are the figures for daily and Sunday newspapers:

<b>Metropolitan (Oct-Dec '06)</b>			
<b>Monday to Friday</b>		<b>Saturday</b>	
<i>Australian</i>	134,610	<i>Weekend Australian</i>	298,107
<i>Australian Financial Review</i>	86,287	<i>AFR Weekend Edition</i>	92,781
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	212,300	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	360,000
<i>Daily Telegraph, Sydney</i>	391,832	<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	341,917
<i>Age, Melbourne</i>	202,000	<i>Age</i>	298,000
<i>Herald Sun, Melbourne</i>	535,000	<i>Herald Sun</i>	509,000
<i>Courier-Mail, Brisbane</i>	218,648	<i>Courier-Mail</i>	322,188
<i>Advertiser, Adelaide</i>	191,100	<i>Advertiser</i>	262,843
<i>West Australian, Perth</i>	200,687	<i>West Australian</i>	357,030
<i>Mercury, Hobart</i>	46,603	<i>Mercury</i>	61,451
<i>Canberra Times</i>	35,193	<i>Canberra Times</i>	63,644
<i>Northern Territory News, Darwin</i>	20,431	<i>Northern Territory News</i>	30,605
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,274,691</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,997,566</b>
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Sunday (cont.)</b>	
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	510,000	<i>Sunday Times (WA)</i>	341,000
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	684,072	<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	60,471
<i>Sunday Age</i>	214,000	<i>Sunday Examiner (Tas.)</i>	42,388
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	615,000	<i>Canberra Sunday Times</i>	34,720
<i>Sunday Mail (Qld)</i>	601,357	<i>Sunday Territorian (NT)</i>	21,773
<i>Sunday Mail (SA)</i>	321,590	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,446,371</b>
<b>Regional (Oct-Dec '06)</b>		<b>Regional (cont.)</b>	
<b><i>Border Mail, Albury-Wodonga</i></b>	26,579	<b><i>News-Mail, Bundaberg</i></b>	11,630
<i>Western Advocate, Bathurst</i>	4,067	<i>Cairns Post</i>	30,709
<i>Barrier Daily Truth, Broken Hill</i>	5,811	<i>Gladstone Observer</i>	7,352
<i>Daily Liberal, Dubbo</i>	5,330	<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i>	47,960
<i>Daily Examiner, Grafton</i>	5,692	<i>Gympie Times</i>	5,935
<i>Northern Star, Lismore</i>	15,743	<i>Queensland Times, Ipswich</i>	10,812
<i>Maitland Mercury</i>	4,348	<i>Daily Mercury, Mackay</i>	16,242
<i>Herald, Newcastle and Central Coast</i>	50,000	<i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i>	22,383
<i>Central Western Daily, Orange</i>	5,375	<i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i>	9,766
<i>Northern Daily Leader, Tamworth</i>	7,977	<i>North-West Star, Mount Isa</i>	3,624
<i>Daily News, Tweed Heads</i>	4,867	<i>Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton</i>	18,265
<i>Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga</i>	13,415	<i>Chronicle, Toowoomba</i>	23,885
<i>Illawarra Mercury, Wollongong</i>	28,553	<i>Townsville Bulletin</i>	29,312
<b><i>Courier, Ballarat</i></b>	19,275	<i>Daily News, Warwick</i>	3,347
<i>Advertiser, Bendigo</i>	14,485	<b><i>Advocate, Burnie</i></b>	24,528
<i>Geelong Advertiser</i>	29,684	<i>Examiner, Launceston</i>	34,476
<i>Sunraysia Daily, Mildura</i>	7,169	<b><i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i></b>	5,584
<i>News, Shepparton</i>	10,425		
<i>Standard, Warrnambool</i>	12,769		

#### **41.20 AGE SITE SALE BRINGS \$66m**

The *Age* site in Spencer Street, Melbourne, has been sold for \$66.1 million to Axiom Properties Ltd and Industry Superannuation Property Trust. The transaction is expected to be settled by May. A formal announcement on new headquarters for the *Age* is expected in the next two to three months. Last September, Fairfax, owner of the *Age*, revealed it would sell the 1.52-hectare site in Spencer Street. The company's holdings there include a five-level office building as well as the Fairfax Digital building, printing presses and several car parks. The site attracted strong interest as it is in a prime area for redevelopment. The sale of the *Age*'s site is part of an overhaul of Fairfax property interests. Later this year, Fairfax will move its Sydney headquarters at Darling Park — where the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Australian Financial Review* are based — and other parts of its operations, to Pyrmont (*Age*, 31 January 2007; Fairfax Corporate website announcement, 22 February 2007).

#### **41.21 MEDIA SECTION AND SILLY SEASON**

The weekly Media section of the *Australian* did not appear on Thursdays 21 and 28 December 2006 and 4, 11, 18 and 25 January 2007. It reappeared on 1 February 2007.

#### **41.22 ACP, O'REILLY TEAM ASSETS IN NZ WEB WAR**

James Packer's ACP Media and Irish billionaire Tony O'Reilly are teaming their online assets in New Zealand to form a joint venture to take on Fairfax's Trademe.com. The internet arm of O'Reilly's APN News & Media has taken a 50 per cent stake in the free classified trading site created by ACP Media (*Australian*, 17 January 2007, p.31).

#### **41.23 CHILDREN OF RUPERT RECEIVE GIFT FROM DAD**

Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corporation, has given each of his six children \$US100 million (AUD129 million) in News non-voting stock. The shares were divested at the beginning of February from the Murdoch Family Trust, the repository for most of Murdoch's estimated personal wealth of \$US8 billion (*Australian*, 5 February 2007, p.32).

#### **41.24 MORE THAN 10,000 DAILIES**

The number of daily newspapers published in the world has risen above 10,000 for the first time, says the World Association of Newspapers. The WAN World Press Trends survey also showed global newspaper circulation rose almost 2.4 per cent last year and almost 10 per cent in the past five years. WAN chief executive said the figures contradicted conventional wisdom that newspapers were in terminal decline (*Australian*, Media section, 8 February 2007, p.14).

#### **41.25 COMPANY REPORTS**

**41.25.1** Shareholders in West Australian Newspapers Holdings Ltd will share in a 36 per cent rise in the interim dividend after the group reported on 9 February a record half-year result for July-December 2006. WAN reported a 25 per cent increase in interim net profit to \$64.5 million (*Weekend Australian*, 10-11 February 2007, p.35).

**41.25.2** Fairfax Media has reported a 2.7 per cent decline in interim net profit for the December half. Group revenue rose 4.1 per cent to break through the \$1 billion mark for the first half-year period to \$1.01 billion, net profit fell to \$121.4 million (*Australian*, 13 February 2007, p.17).

**41.25.3** News Corporation posted a first-half net profit of \$US1.665 billion (AUD2.14 billion) and analysts have forecast accelerated growth for the media giant (*Australian*, 9 February 2007, p.22).

#### **41.26 HAS THE WORLD GONE MAD? COLUMN 8 AT 60**

The *Sydney Morning Herald's* "Column 8" turned 60 on 11 January 2007 and returned to its former place on Page 1 as well as appearing that day on the back page of the first section of the paper (ANHG member **Janette Pelosi** notes). The front-page column began: "Column 8 on the front page? Has the world gone mad, or simply returned to its senses? All of the above, because today is our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, and if you can't blow on a noisemaker and have some fun on your 60<sup>th</sup>, why live that long? [The old sketch of Granny that used to appear at the top of the column showed her blowing a red noisemaker.]

"Not only has Column 8 invaded Page 1, we haven't relinquished our usual bailiwick. If you turn to Stay in Touch, you'll find a re-run of the very first Column 8. Its editor, Sydney Deamer, had a sharp eye for the quirky side of this city, and kicked off what is, as far as we can work out, the longest-running newspaper column.

"The name stems from the fact the column originally appeared in the eighth column of the front page. Deamer decided to play on the *Herald's* conservative reputation and nickname "*Granny Herald*". The column was signed "Granny".

"Eventually we relinquished the front page and decamped to more salubrious lodgings where we could concentrate on the important things. Things like the naming of buoys in Sydney Harbour, running apostrophe criminals to ground and revelling in the generous, the preposterous and the hilarious diversions that make Sydney what it is."

The first Column 8, on 11 January 1947, began: "Values. Don Bradman, Test cricketer, can't remember the number of autographs he's signed – "must run into many thousands". Marcus Oliphant, atom expert, can. He's never been asked for one."

Another item in the first Column 8 contained an error, but the correction was slow in coming. On 13-14 January 2007, p.16, Column 8 reported: "We have been advised by the *Herald's* Readerlink that a fellow by the name of Gary wants us to make a correction. We are always happy to do this. It seems that we referred to "the barque *Pamie*" on Thursday, when, says Gary, the correct name of the vessel was "*Pamir*". We regret any confusion or upset this may have caused. We would dismiss the man responsible, but his name is Sydney Deamer, the first editor of Column 8, who sadly is no longer with us. This is hardly surprising, as the error was made in the first Column 8, in 1947."

But, wait – there's more! The same column [13-14 January 2007] ran an amazing item about an elephant's skull, Taronga Park Zoo and the Australian Museum, and a follow-up item on 2 February 2007, p.16, along with a picture published in the Stay in Touch column.

For more on Column 8, see ANHG 12.24 and 12.27, but especially 26.19 when George Richards retired as the compiler of the column.



## **CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL**

### **41.27 APN (1): TAKEOVER TARGET**

Takeover target APN News & Media Ltd has posted a 5 per cent increase in calendar-year profit, but surprised investors by withholding the dividend. The \$3.8 billion takeover offer from APN's parent company, Independent News & Media plc, of Ireland, and private equity groups, Providence Equity and Carlyle, is priced at \$6.10 a share, including a final dividend of about 15c per share. The bid has been recommended by APN's independent sub-committee (*Australian*, 21 February 2007, p.24; see also *Australian*, 13 February 2007, pp.18 and 19, and 12 February 2007, p.29; and *Weekend Australian*, 27-28 January 2008, p.33).

### **41.28 APN (2): THE PRESS ROLLS AT YANDINA**

The opening on 3 October 2006 of APN News & Media's new production centre at Yandina on Queensland's Sunshine Coast has reduced to six the number of production centres APN uses to produce its 14 Australian regional dailies. The six are located (from north to south) at Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Yandina, Toowoomba and Lismore. The most recent APN printery closure was that at Ipswich. See articles in *gpress*, November 2006, pp.16-18; and *Password* (the APN house magazine), November 2006, pp.10-13.

### **41.29 APN (3): INCREASING SUNSHINE COAST DOMINANCE**

The Sunshine Coast Newspaper Company, an APN News & Media subsidiary, has added a fourth newspaper to its recent acquisition of community publications. On 5 January, APN announced it had acquired the *Caloundra City News* to its stable of publications on the Sunshine Coast after recently acquiring the *Buderim Chronicle*, the *Range News* at Maleny and the *Island and Mainland News* at Bribie Island. APN already published the *Caloundra Weekly*. APN bought the *Caloundra City News* from Ken and Margaret Stevenson, who started the paper in 1990 (*Sunshine Coast Daily*, 6 January 2007).

### **41.30 GOONDIWINDI AND MOREE PRINTED AT TAMWORTH**

Rural Press Ltd began printing its relatively new acquisitions, the *Goondiwindi Argus* (Qld) and the *Moree Champion* (NSW) at Tamworth in January, writes **Barry Blair**.

### **41.31 NEWS FOR THE VISION-IMPAIRED**

The Talking *Leader* team of Sydney's bi-weekly *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader* has celebrated 15 years of service. For 15 years volunteers have formed a team to record on audio tape the stories from the *Leader* for vision-impaired residents of the circulation area. The team services 110 clients at present. They are posted 90-minute audio tapes, with one side containing stories from the Tuesday edition of the paper and the other containing stories from the Thursday edition (*St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, 3 November 2006, p.4).

### **41.32 COOBER PEDY PAPER REVIVED**

The fortnightly *Coober Pedy Times* has been resuscitated after facing the possibility of closure (see ANHG 38.53). Margaret McKay, the paper's former editor, has bought the paper and is issuing it twice a week. She said by telephone on 12 January that she had expanded the distribution to a statewide issue and is now circulating three times the 750 distribution that had been common. The *Times* began as a newsletter in 1984.

### **41.33 FOR THE HOLIDAYING AUDIENCE**

**Ian Willis** writes from Camden, NSW: Fairfax Community Newspapers issued a special edition of their Sydney suburban newspapers on 26-27 December 2006 and 2-3 January 2007 called the *Holidayer*. The issue covered 14 suburban newspapers across the south, south-west and western parts of Sydney. Titles included: *Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser*, *Camden Advertiser*, *Wollondilly Advertiser*, *South Western Rural Advertiser*, *Liverpool City Champion*, *Fairfield City Champion*, *Parramatta Sun*, *St George & Sutherland Shire Leader*, *Penrith City Star*, *Hawkesbury Independent*, *Blacktown Sun*, *St Mary's-Mt Druitt Star*, *Hills News*, *Northern News*. The Camden edition carried local stories and advertisements from local businesses. There were also stories on holiday activities across western, south-western and southern Sydney under the heading "Get out, go do it".

### **41.34 WARANGA NEWS**

The ANHG has received a copy of the *Waranga News*, a quarterfold published fortnightly since 1978 in Colbinabbin, Murchison, Rushworth, Stanhope and Tolleen. It is a community newspaper staffed by volunteers. The 28 September 2006 issue was 40 pages and was printed by the Rodney Printers, Tatura, and published by M.J. Fortuna, of Rushworth.

### **41.35 EDITOR**

The *Gympie Times* has a new editor, Nev McHarg, the former deputy editor and an employee of the paper for 40 years. The appointment follows the departure of Michael Roser, the editor for 18 years. He has left to become the news editor of the *Toowoomba Chronicle*. (*Gympie Times*, 25 January 2007).

### **41.36 BIOGRAPHY OF ALLAN SCOTT**

Graham Greenwood, one of the former managers of the *Border Watch*, Mount Gambier, has written *A Truckie's Dream*, a 148-page biography of Allan Scott, the newspaper's owner. Greenwood is on the board of directors of the company that owns the paper. The book also reveals that the Dunstan Labor Government brokered a loan from state insurance company SGIC to enable Scott to buy the *Border Watch*, in 1977 as he was unable to afford the \$500,000 price tag. "Allan Scott approached the negotiation with Dunstan as though they were talking in the local pub front bar. He went straight to the point," Greenwood writes. "Don, I am going to buy the *Border Watch* in Mt Gambier. I don't have the money and it is better for you, the government and everyone if it remains in local hands than those at the *Advertiser* or someone from Melbourne," Scott said. Ironically, Scott thought the media was "unfair", despite his regular use of the *Border Watch* to voice his own opinions publicly. "They (the media) have always been prepared to have a crack at me," he is quoted as saying (*Advertiser*, 27 January 2007).

### **41.37 PRINTER'S 40 YEARS WITH BATHURST DAILY**

In January, Wayne Wotton completed 40 years' service as a printer with Bathurst's daily, the *Western Advocate*. He plans to retire in July. Colleagues presented him with a gold watch on 28 January (*Western Advocate*, 29 January 2007).

### **41.38 THE MAIL FROM THE COUNCIL**

Kingaroy Shire Council, dissatisfied with the content and story emphasis in its lively paid-for local bi-weekly, the APN-owned *South Burnett Times*, is funding the employment of two part-time journalists to provide an alternative "parish pump" news service, writes Jack Beverley in the February issue of *PANPA Bulletin*. Under the deal – thought to be an

Australian first – the coverage provided by the two journalists appears in the *Kingaroy Mail*, a fortnightly freebie also owned by APN and run from the same office as the *South Burnett Times*. While the implications of the deal raise some ethical questions, Kingaroy’s mayor, Roger Nunn, argues that providing the resources to provide a range of community news will help balance what his council considers to be sensational reporting and also correct a negative image of the shire it believes it is being created by the *Times*.

When the ANHG editor telephoned the *South Burnett Times* on 7 February, editor Don Farmer refused to answer any questions about the *Kingaroy Mail*.

#### **41.39 NEW LOCAL CITIZENS**

**Kay Hynes**, of the State Library of NSW, notes: The *Local Citizen* began publication on the lower North Shore in Sydney, with an edition for Gordon, Pymble and St Ives, in November 2006, and at Wollongong on 1 February, with separate editions for Wollongong and the northern suburbs of that city. More at [www.localcitizen.com.au/](http://www.localcitizen.com.au/)

More from **Kay Hynes**: The *Northern Leader* has changed its title (from Vol. 10, No. 7, 22 February 2007) to *Wollongong & northern leader, circulating in Wollongong CBD and the Northern Suburbs from Fairymeadow to Helensburgh*.

#### **41.40 RURAL PRESS HALF-YEAR REPORT: ITS LAST?**

**Jane Schulze** reported (*Australian*, 9 February 2007, p.17 and 19) that at what may have been Rural Press’s last investor briefing, the groups’ managing director Brian McCarthy was looking to the future as he offered the first hint of his vision for newspaper group Fairfax Media. And already it seems McCarthy, who is set to lead the Australian operations of Fairfax Media if a \$9 billion merger with Rural Press is approved by May, is contemplating change. McCarthy believes a union with a TV or radio group could be “very beneficial”. Rural Press reported a 7.8 per cent increase in first-half net profit to \$63.1 million, despite the drought affecting many of its key markets. See ANHG 41.10.

#### **41.41 BENDIGO MINER BEGINS**

The *Bendigo Miner* began publication on 4 January 2007. It is a free weekly published by the daily *Bendigo Advertiser*, which is owned by Rural Press Ltd.

#### **41.42 DAILY MERCURY SETS LEGAL PRECEDENT**

Mackay’s *Daily Mercury* reported (17 February 2007, p.3) that it set a legal precedent by successfully applying to identify a teenager convicted of murdering his father. It is, reported the *Mercury*, the first time in Queensland legal history that a Supreme Court judge has made an order allowing a media organisation to identify a child. *Mercury* court reporter Bruce McKean wrote to the Supreme Court judge on 31 January, two weeks before the child was sentenced for the murder. McKean sought an order allowing publication on the child’s identity under section 234 of the Juvenile Justice Act.

### **NEWSPAPER HISTORY**

#### **41.43 MEDIA HISTORY SESSION AT AUCKLAND CONFERENCE**

Twelve media historians from Australia and New Zealand took part in a specialist session at the December joint conference of Journalism Educators of New Zealand (JEANZ) and Journalism Education Association (JEA) held in Auckland, New Zealand. Organised by the

convener of the conference Allison Oosterman, the media-history session was a first for both organisations and was extremely well received. Many delegates said they would like to see a media-history session at future conferences. Chaired by Lyn Gorman (Charles Sturt University) and Denis Cryle (Central Queensland University), the session attracted five presenters from Australia (Denis Cryle, Peter Putnis, Patricia Clarke, Margaret Van Heekeren and Stephen Stockwell) and five from New Zealand (Stephen Olsen, Allison Oosterman, Alison Wilson, Grant Hannis and Peter Hoar).

Topics presented included Daniel Defoe's 18th-century consumer journalism (Hannis), Pat Lawlor and *Aussie* magazine (Olsen), Stella Allan and women's page journalism (Clarke), British Government control of Reuters during World War I (Putnis), Malcolm Ross at the Somme (Oosterman), Anzac Day celebrations at Gallipoli (Wilson), The Press Union and the role of journalists 1909-1950 (Cryle), the first year of the *Bathurst Advocate* (Van Heekeren), alternative media in Brisbane 1965-1985 (Stockwell) and the gramophone and its discontents in 1930s New Zealand (Hoar). The theme of the conference was "Journalism down under: the future of the media in the digital age" and was only the second time the two organisations had combined their conferences. Feedback was so positive it was suggested this should happen more often than once a decade.

For further information go to [http://artsweb.aut.ac.nz/journalism\\_conference/index.htm](http://artsweb.aut.ac.nz/journalism_conference/index.htm)

#### **41.44 NATIONAL LIBRARY NEWSPAPER READING ROOM HOURS CHANGE**

The National Library's newspaper and microform room has been closing at 5pm each day since 15 January. A partial service is run from the main reading room, with bookings required on the previous day and with only four microform reading machines available. See Don Wilkey's letter to the editor, *Canberra Times*, 13 January 2007.

#### **41.45 FIFTY YEARS SINCE THE ARGUS CLOSED**

From Melbourne, **Robert Coleman** writes: The men – and a few women – who peopled the newsroom of Melbourne's *Argus* newspaper in the 1950s were such a tribal bunch that for half a century about a score of them have continued to meet once a year at their old watering hole, the pub across the street. This year's reunion was something special when 70 of them gathered along with 130 family members – plus some nostalgia-prone readers – to launch a book commemorating the 50th anniversary of the paper's controversial closure on 19 January 1957. *The Argus: Life and Death of a Newspaper* is a lively compilation of pieces penned by *Argus* veterans and edited by Jim Usher, a former sub-editor. It was launched by the paper's celebrated front-page columnist, Peter Golding, now in his eighties. In a preface to the book, doyen author and writer-about-town, Keith Dunstan (heaven knows why he was chosen because he never worked at the *Argus*), wrote: "Where else can you find such a clear idea of how reporters lived in the 1940s and 50s? The *Argus* was a newspaper with a soul. There was a special spirit about the place ... that feeling of soul comes only when all concerned are specially gifted ... It often happens with successful sporting teams. The *Argus* was Melbourne's finest newspaper. [\*The book, according to the editor, Jim Usher, is the second edition of a rather "folksy" book in A4 format in 1999. The second edition has about 50 new pages, with several new stories and coloured pictures of *Argus* front pages and has been heavily edited.]

Peter Golding recalled some of the racy characters who worked on the paper along with many of Australia's most distinguished writers. He highlighted the strong sense of comradeship among the staff. Jim Usher spoke of daily news-chasing escapades of "likeable larrikins who always retained the human touch and the taken-for-granted skill of fearlessly assessing and reporting newsworthy events on the run". The *Argus* was born in 1846, reborn in 1949 and died in somewhat mysterious circumstances in 1957. For over a century, it was one of

Australia's great institutions, a stuffy conservative newspaper with a degree of recognition around the world. Until 1936, like other broadsheets, it published classified ads on the front page with news buried inside.

In 1933 it ventured into the evening newspaper market by launching a stablemate, the *Star*, which proved a costly failure. This led to the company's purchase by the London-based Daily Mirror Newspapers Ltd in 1949. A complete metamorphosis resulted. Under its new owners, the *Argus* underwent a pronounced left turn, thumbing its nose at its conservative opposition by declaring itself "The Fairplay Newspaper". It engendered a spirit of excitement with robust reporting and campaigns and, in 1952, became the first newspaper in the world to produce news pictures in colour. Controversy still lingers about its sudden closure. Paradoxically, it had the highest circulation in its 111 years history and was still showing a profit. Its London owners closed a paper in Scotland and other overseas investments the same day.

**(Robert Coleman was the leader of the *Argus* law courts reporting staff.)**

Further extracts from Dunstan's foreword: "Oddly enough, I think we looked more respectable than today's reporters. We wore suits, ties and short haircuts, and proprietors like Keith Murdoch demanded that we wear hats. Undoubtedly we were different. Peter Golding and Jack Cannon have described the classic *Argus* reporters' room. There was a noise level akin to Flinders Street Station at its peak. There was shouting, laughing, thumping, the clacking of ancient Remingtons, Underwoods and Coronas, so old you wondered if they had seen the Boer War. The reporters' room in Flinders Street was like this, noise beyond belief. But if anything it only spurred the adrenalin. One didn't even hear it. The mind worked, pouring out a story for a 20-nminute deadline. You wrote one line, didn't like it, tore the sheet of paper out of the typewriter and threw it on the floor. The floor was wall-to-wall litter and everywhere overflowing ashtrays.

"There are newspaper offices in town now which are so clean they are like a 5-star hotel; no noise, no paper on the floor and all the vulgar business of actually making newspapers is down the river somewhere at Fishermans Bend. Newspapers need to be in the heart of the city and reporters need to be at the heart of production. My father used to say he always liked to wander downstairs at noon, just when the *Herald* was going to press. He thought the sound of those Goss presses thumping into action was the most thrilling sound on earth. Peter Golding liked the cacophony of wooden mallets as the compositors hammered slugs of metal, making up the pages."

The *Argus* book is available from Australian Scholarly Publishing, PO Box 299, Kew, Vic, 3101. The recommended retail price is \$39.95 but there was a special launch price of \$30.

See also, Robert Murray, "The strange death of the *Argus*", *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 43, February/March 2007, p.25.

#### **41.46 HAND-SETTING TYPE**

There's some wonderful newspaper-history material in the 36-page tabloid magazine marking 120 years of publication for Nowra's tri-weekly *South Coast Register* (formerly the *Berry Register* and originally the *Broughton Creek Register, Kangaroo Valley and South Coast Farmer*, launched on 3 April 1886). Much of it comes from the pen of Alan Clark, an ANHG member. For example, he wrote about hand-setting type (p.10):

I was indentured as a hand compositor to the *Warragul Guardian* (in Victoria) for a six-year apprenticeship, and release from this contract was only possible in exceptional circumstances. Even though the Linotype using hot metal was used in my office and most others, the apprenticeship course done by correspondence included exercises in hand-

setting just as the compositors in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This skill was used in all the headings for my newspaper, along with certain commercial printing jobs including all business cards and wedding invitations. The hand-set type was stored in a case about three-feet (90.5cm) wide, with the capitals on the right-hand side, and the lower-case on the left. The case was set out so that the most used letters were central to the hand that picked them up, and to the casual observer they would appear to be in random order. The height of type was fractionally under one inch (2.54cm) and I held the composing stick in my left hand, keeping the letters firm with my thumb. When hand-setting, I would eye off the letter I needed next, and in picking it up I would be careful to ensure it was neither upside down nor back to front. To assist me there was a nick on the bottom side of the letter, and I could feel the row of nicks with my thumb. When nearing the end of a line, I would have to decide whether to hyphenate a word, or to use a smaller or larger than normal space to justify to the edge. This was learned in my first assignment as an apprentice, that was headed "Proper Justification". Another skill acquired very early on is to read upside down and back-to-front, but you are still reading from left to right and very quickly you are as fast as the conventional way. Crossword puzzles over the years have used a clue "printer's measure" for a two-letter word that could be either en or em, one being half of the size of the other. The em is actually a square measure in whatever size of type you are working, but gradually over the years it became an accepted alternative to the pica which is the name for a 12-point size. Hence a printer would be more likely to say he had an 8-em column rather than an 8-pica column even though the latter was technically correct.

#### **41.47 BRADLEYS CELEBRATE TEMORA CENTENARY**

On 1 January the Bradley family celebrated 100 years of involvement as owners or part-owners of the *Temora Independent* in NSW. Arthur Stafford Bradley and wife Pamela Joy are the current owners of the paper which was the foundation stone for the Bradley newspaper empire and dynasty. The paper was 120 years old on 5 January (*Temora Independent*, 5 January 2007, pp.1, 3; see Rod Kirkpatrick's *Country Conscience*, Chapter 24).

**Arthur Bradley** writes (email to ANHG): We have microfilm for the *Independent* only from 1896 but in going through some things when moving house, I found some memorabilia belonging to my uncle and father. They included two copies of a 1908 historical feature put out by my grandfather (J.A. Bradley) and J.L. Treflé who owned the *Independent* at that time. There was also a first edition of the *Barellan Leader* and also the *Ardlethan Beckom Times*, both of which were later amalgamated into the *Independent*, and a copy of the second edition of the *Barmedman Banner*. All have been given to our Rural Museum for safekeeping as they have a purpose-built underground archive room. Also in my uncle's papers was a draft of an address he was to give to the Temora Historical Society (which runs the Rural Museum) in 1974. I was interested to see an accompanying letter from the Historical Society which referred to research in both Sydney and Melbourne for this address. My uncle gave some detail about the proposition that there was an *Independent* in 1882 in which Thomas Meehan was involved along with two other men. He indicated this early *Independent* had survived for three years before closing and then Meehan re-opened the *Independent* on 5 January 1887. In the memorabilia was a copy of an 1896 *Independent* with Meehan listed at the publisher. It is the only extant *Independent* issue published by Meehan.

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: In relation to the possibility of an earlier Temora Independent than the one that started in 1887, I can only state that in my research for *Country Conscience* I found no evidence of such a title – whether in press directories, registration papers or extracts appearing in the many other newspapers of the early 1880s. If such a paper survived three years, it would surely have been mentioned in one of the contemporary newspapers or in a press directory.

#### **41.48 CRICKETING COMPOSITORS**

Under the above heading the following item appeared in the *Illawarra Mercury* of 16 March 1857: “Quite a *furore* for cricket seems to have seized all classes in Sydney recently, scarcely a week passes over without one or more matches being played between different clubs, of which there are a great number. On Saturday week the compositors of the *Herald* and the Government Printing Office played a friendly game on the Domain Ground, which resulted in an easy victory for the Caxton, the name of the Government Printing Office club. Everything seems to have passed off pleasantly with one exception, that was one of the *Herald* men had his thumb broke.”

**Alan Clark**, of Nowra, supplied the item. He says the Caxton club visited the Shoalhaven district for a match at Easter 1875. The party travelled by the steamer *Illalong* to Greenwell Point where they were met by the local players and brought upstream to Terara where the match was played. At one stage there was a crowd of 600 spectators enjoying the action as the fixture was played to an outright conclusion. Every move was reported in the *Shoalhaven News* which filled almost two columns with its report.

Colin Clowes, librarian for Cricket NSW, who has been working on a book to cover the first 150 years of cricket in that State, told Alan Clark: “This [1857] game would have been played about six weeks after the first match between New South Wales and Victoria in New South Wales (14-16 January 1857). It was the first match played at The Domain.” The Pura Cup match between NSW and Victoria at the Sydney Cricket Ground from 16-19 January 2007 marked the 150th anniversary of first-class cricket in NSW. [Victoria 129 and 7-362 defeated NSW 189 and 299 by three wickets.]

Mike Coward wrote (*Weekend Australian*, 20-21 January 2007, p.53) of “Colin Clowes’ labour of love, his chronology of the 1,014 matches in NSW’s 150 years of first-class cricket which was celebrated this week”.

#### **41.49 RIVERINE GRAZIER ON CD**

Hay Historical Society has put the latest four years of the town’s newspaper, the *Riverine Grazier*, on CD and will sell it in year by year discs. The format is pdf and the papers are fully searchable, which will be useful for genealogists, historians, local government, community groups, etc., says **Caroline Merrylees**, of Carrathool.

#### **41.50 EDITING A NEWSPAPER (1): 1862**

The daily *Bendigo Independent* published the following item on 13 May 1862, p.3: “Newspaper literature is a link in the great chain of miracles, which proves the greatness of England, and every support should be given to newspapers. The editors of these papers must have a most onerous task. It is not writing the leading articles itself, but the obligation to write that article every day, whether inclined or not, in sickness or in health, in affliction, distress or mind, winter or summer, year after year, tied down to one task, remaining in one spot. It is something like walking a thousand miles in a thousand hours. I have a fellow feeling for them, for I know how a periodical will wear down one’s existence.

“In itself it appears nothing – the labor is not manifest; nor is it the labor – it is the continual attention which it requires. Your life becomes, as it were, the publication. One day is no sooner corrected and printed than on comes the other. It is the stone of Sisyphus, an endless repetition of toil, a constant weight on the mind – a continual wearing upon the intellect, and spirits, demanding all the exertion of your faculties at the same time you are compelled to do the severest drudgery. To write for a paper is very well, but to edit one is to condemn yourself to slavery. Thanks be to Heaven, I have passed my own emancipation bill.”

#### **41.51 EDITING A NEWSPAPER (2): 1874**

The way the *Burrangong Chronicle*, Young, NSW, saw it nearly 133 years ago, some of an editor's difficulties were (3 July 1874, p.7): "First and foremost, there is the libel difficulty. In country towns, all criticism of public acts is personal. The criticized have their partisans, who make it hot for the critic. The latter may have conscientiously done a sacred duty, but he will assuredly suffer for conscience sake for having done so. His motives will be misinterpreted, and what was written with a desire to benefit the public, is set down as an emanation from a biased and corrupt mind.

"Then there is the religious difficulty. Even when the journalist is most anxious to avoid imparting anything sectarian into his writings, sectarianism will do it for him, by misinterpreting his remarks, wresting isolated passages away from their natural context, and pouring into them the gall of bigotry. It will be found difficult to criticise the public actions of a public man without rousing the prejudices of the whole denomination to which, as a private individual, he is attached. If Duffy's land legislation is animadverted upon, the writer of the critique is put down at once for a red-hot Orangeman. If a Wesleyan celebrity's lecture upon some topic of general interest be praised, it is set down as a business puff, and as an effort to conciliate the advertising patronage of that religious body.

"Then, again, a difficulty arises out of the ordinary everyday reporting in the police courts. Efforts are made to have names of defendants and prisoners suppressed. It is thought unreasonable that a reporter should be conscientious. It is considered a monstrous rudeness to be told that the best way of avoiding figuring to disadvantage in the police court report, is to live with greater circumspection.

"These are a few of the difficulties that have to be contended with. There are many others. There is the man who wants himself and his business puffed cheaply; the correspondent who is anxious to "slate" a fee in a letter which he considers better than the best of the epistles of Junius, but the literary merit of which is below mediocrity, and which is grossly personal into the bargain; the old subscribers who patronizingly suggest hints, which it would be madness to act upon."

#### **41.52 NINETEENTH-CENTURY COLLECTION OF NEWSPAPERS (1)**

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: One of the helpful discoveries I made early in the research that led to *Country Conscience* (my history of the NSW provincial press) was that in August 1875 a collection of just about every newspaper in print in that colony had been put together for an Exhibition in Melbourne and another in Philadelphia. This collection had been microfilmed and was available at NX MFM 1 at the National Library of Australia and at RAV/FM4/988 at the State Library of NSW. The collection included 38 provincial weeklies, 20 appearing twice a week, and five appearing three times a week (the *Gulgong Evening Argus* was listed in the accompanying notes as a daily, but it appeared only three times a week, my research shows).

For some of these newspapers, the single copy that formed part of the Exhibition Collection was the only extant issue or the earliest extant issue. The volume number and folio number helped me determine fairly closely the starting dates of some newspapers, such as the *Central Australian and Bourke Telegraph*. In this case, the evidence from the 1875 Exhibition copy was the first extant issue and a significant piece in a jigsaw that I had been completing.

Although a published history of Bourke asserted that the town had a newspaper in 1868, my own research shows that no newspaper was established there until the *Central Australian and Bourke Telegraph* began publication on 3 January 1872. This was the full title of Bourke's first newspaper from the very beginning, despite the suggestion that the *Central Australian* began in 1868 and the *Bourke Telegraph* in 1872 and that these two titles merged later in



1872. What is the evidence for my conclusion? There is much. The *Australian Almanac* included each year a list of the newspapers being published at the end of the preceding year in New South Wales. This list did not include a Bourke reference until 1873, the *Central Australian and Bourke Telegraph*.

One of the major sources of news for newspapers of the nineteenth century was the exchange newspapers they received from other town and from the capitals. It was soon evident that a new journal had appeared, just by studying the extracts scissored from these exchanges and acknowledged. It was also common for country papers to include a small item about the appearance of a new newspaper title, especially in a neighbouring town. Intensive research of a wide range of NSW country newspapers and of the weekly *Sydney Mail* during the period 1868 to 1872 shows that there was no newspaper being published in Bourke before January 1872. (I have also studied the *Town & Country Journal* from when it began publication in January 1870 to the end of 1871.) The Bourke correspondent of the *Dubbo Dispatch* was the main source of Bourke news from 1866 to the end of 1871.

The first extracts that I located from any Bourke newspaper appeared on 13 January 1872 in the *Armidale Express* and also in the *Town & Country Journal*. In acknowledging the source of extracts from the new paper, some papers, in their abbreviated versions of the title, referred to it as the *Central Australian* and some as the *Bourke Telegraph*. This was not an unusual experience for a journal whose primary title did not carry the name of the town. For example, the *Western Post* at Mudgee was often labelled by the second part of its title, the *Mudgee Newspaper*, which was actually the paper the *Post* incorporated from 1861. The problem that confronted the scissors-and-paste editors was exemplified by an extract which appeared in the *Maitland Mercury* on 13 April 1872 and was headed: "From the Wilcannia correspondent of the Bourke *Central Australian*."

There was optimism when the first Bourke paper appeared. Writing on 3 January 1872, the Bourke correspondent of the *Town & Country Journal* noted: "Our new paper appeared today, and it is only fair to say that the printing and getting up of the journal are beyond what anyone could have deemed possible in a place like this, and there can be little doubt that, with skilful piloting, it will reach the haven of perfect success." The *Central Australian* appeared each Saturday until it switched to Monday publication from 26 July 1875. The first issue on file, Vol. 4, No. 31, 2 August 1875, is included in the 1875 Exhibition Collection.

The Collection includes the *Carcoar Chronicle and Agricultural and Mining Journal*, the *Dubbo Advertiser*, the *Gulgong Evening Argus and Home Rule Mining Record*, two papers at Bombala, one at Hill End, and so on. I obtained prints of all or the top half of the front page of each of the provincial titles, and in some cases sections of other pages. Aware of the opportunity to boost their towns in this Exhibition issue, some of the newspaper published histories of their town's development, including mention of the development of the local newspapers.

#### **41.53 NINETEENTH-CENTURY COLLECTION OF NEWSPAPERS (2)**

**Rod Kirkpatrick** continues: In 1892 a collection of NSW newspapers was gathered for the World's Columbian Exposition in May 1893. This collection has been microfilmed and is found at RAV/FM4/1271 at the State Library of NSW. It begins with a one-page "foreword", headed "The Newspaper Press of New South Wales" by Charles Potter, the Government Printer, and dated October 1892. He said the copies had been "taken at random". No attempt had been made to select special issues. As far as single specimens possibly can, they represented the local newspaper press of "the present day under average, normal; conditions". There is a one-page list of the newspapers represented.

Another useful collection of newspapers is the collection of 44 titles with miscellaneous issues, published at various dates between 1847 and 1977. It is found on microfilm at RAV/FM4/1508 at the State Library of NSW. For example, it contains the *Dalgety Shire News and Snowy River Record* (28 October 1938), the *Lachlan Reporter* (23 October 1869), the *Morpeth Leader* (2 November 1864) and the *Deepwater, Vegetable Creek and Castlecrag Miner* (30 June 1894).

#### **41.54 WHEN YOU DIE YOU WON'T BE BURIED AT THE BACK OF THE PAPER**

When the Toowoomba *Chronicle* changed its technology from hot metal and letterpress to computerized typesetting and web offset printing and shifted from Margaret Street to a former car-sales site in Ruthven Street in May 1979, it changed the format of news presentation, too. It shifted the death and funeral notices from Page 2 to the classifieds section up the back of the paper. A couple of weeks later, the *Chronicle* reported (14 June 1979, p.1): "We are pleased that readers generally have accepted the new improved format of the *Chronicle* ... with one exception. Many of you have expressed disappointment at the location of the funeral and death notices. So we have decided to bow to your wishes. We are putting them BACK ON PAGE TWO. Other personal notices – marriages, thanks notices, in memoriums (sic), engagements, births and so on – will run at the end of the classified columns."

#### **41.55 WAR CORRESPONDENTS HONOURED.**

An exhibition at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance salutes Australia's World War II press correspondents. Their eyewitness accounts in newspapers and on radio and newsreels were the only daily links many Australians had with what was happening to their men fighting from North Africa to the Pacific. Correspondents' badges, identification tags, reports, rare photos, notebooks, audio and film containing history as it happened are in the exhibition (which runs until 16 April). Supported by the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd, the exhibition concentrates mainly on broadcaster Chester Wilmot, cameraman Damien Parer, reporter Osmar White and writer-poet Kenneth Slessor. Wilmot's graphic ABC radio reports from Tobruk in 1941 echo through the Shrine (*Herald Sun*, 10 February 2007, p.18; *Age*, 13 February 2007).

#### **41.56 BARROW TAKES AWARD**

**Larry Noye** writes: Retired journalist Graeme Barrow has won the non-fiction award in the ACT Writers and Publishers Awards for his book, *Unlocking History's Secrets*. Barrow, a New Zealander, was on the subs' desk at the Hobart *Mercury* in the 1960s and later worked as a journalist in Canberra – and played cricket for the Northern Suburbs club (recalls Rod Kirkpatrick). He edits the quarterly *Canberra Historical Journal*.

### **RECENTLY PUBLISHED**

#### **40.57 BOOKS**

**Hilmer, Fred, with Barbara Drury**, *The Fairfax Experience: what the management texts didn't teach me*. John Wiley & Sons Australia, \$32.95. See 41.18.

**Uhlmann, Mark**, *Stink of a Journalist*. Canberra: Maniform Press, 2006. 299pp. \$15. This latest novel by former *Canberra Times* journalist is said to be a revealing expose of life behind the scenes at a Canberra daily newspaper. It also happens to be a fine and comically presented tale.

**Usher, Jim (ed.)**, *The Argus: Life and Death of a Newspaper*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2007. Second edition. See 41.45 above.

## 40.58 ARTICLES

**Anon.**, “Newspapers abound: Goldfields were host to colourful history”, *Bendigo Miner*, 4 January 2007, p.9. Deals with early Bendigo newspapers, relying on research by Sue Hughes and Rod Kirkpatrick.

**Barlow, Genevieve**, “It’s news to them”, *Age*, 12 February 2007, p.14. They might be referred to as the “local rag” or “gossip sheet”, but community newspapers can be much more. Among the papers featured in the article are: the *Warrandyte Diary*, *Waranga News* (see ANHG 41.34), *Traf News* (Trafalgar), *Lorne Independent*, *Talk of the Town* (Rutherglen, Wahgunyah, etc.), and the *Migrant*, which services Melbourne’s Sudanese community.

**Byrom, John, and Lehman, Kim**, “It’s all about the image”, *PANPA Bulletin*, October 2006, pp.14-15. Two lecturers from the University of Tasmania find that a newspaper museum – in this case, that of the Hobart *Mercury* – can be used to communicate brand values beyond the masthead.

**Carlyon, Les**, “The Forum: On re-reading for pleasure”, *Weekend Australian*, 20-21 January 2007, Review, p.2. The author (e.g. *Gallipoli* and *The Great War*) and former journalist delights with a column about why most people read and what we seek when we read. Extract: “We read books, not texts. And we are snobs: we think some writers are better than others. We want to be seduced by the music of their words, to nod to their rhythms. We want to read people who can do things with words that we can’t.”

**Day, Mark**, “Paddling up the creek in a glass-bottomed canoe”, *Australian*, Media section, 15 February 2007, p.18. Day uses his column to discuss the values of tabloid newspapers such as the *Truth*, which he once owned.

**Ellery David**, “They came to report a city’s history”, “Seekamp a mysterious and tragic figure”, “Jailed for seditious libel after uprising” and “Clark establishes the Courier”, *Sovereign Hill Times*, wraparound of *Courier*, Ballarat, 9 October 2006. Articles about early Ballarat newspapers, but mainly the *Ballarat Times* when owned and edited by Henry Seekamp during the Eureka era.

**Kirkpatrick, Rod**, “A cavalcade of colourful characters”, *PANPA Bulletin*, November-December 2006, pp.44-45. A potted history of newspapers at Geraldton, Western Australia.

**McManamey, Rosa**, “Positive press, hard times and regional development”, Paper for the Australian New Zealand Regional Science Association international conference, 2006. This paper, by a University of Tasmania academic, provides an overview of a regional community development and education initiative implemented at a time of perceived social and economic “gloom and doom” in Northern Tasmania. The initiative was launched in 1998 by the Launceston *Examiner*.

**Manning, Paddy**, “Media mogul ‘lab rat’”, *Weekend Australian*, 27-27 January 2007, p.21. An interview with former Fairfax CEO Fred Hilmer. One Hilmer view is that Kerry Packer sold out of Fairfax because he “buys bargains, [not] ego-driven businesses”.

**Marsh, David**, “Disappearing regional newspapers”, *Scoop*, Spring 2006, p.19. An article about some of the Western Australian towns that have lost newspapers in the past half century. The author died in December shortly before the article was published.

**Richardson, Nick**, “The politician and the media mogul: Joseph Lyons, Keith Murdoch and the ‘leaked cables’ affair”, *Memento: National Archives of Australia*, Summer 06/07, pp.20-

21. In 1931, Canberra was rocked by a news story involving leaked cables, a political rift and allegations of treachery. The author researched the relationship between Prime Minister Joseph Lyons and newspaper proprietor Keith Murdoch. He uncovered tantalizing evidence that provides insights into the political scandal involving the politician and the media mogul.

**Salter, David**, “Media circus: Disconnect in the Fourth Estate”, *The Monthly*, December 2006/January 2007, pp.44-50. The author argues that the media in Australia have become seriously unhinged. Television, especially commercial current-affairs television, is losing whatever small sense of proportion it once possessed. Newspapers and talkback radio pursue shallow forms of populism where the assumed political centre has been nudged so far to the right of the soup spoon that any deviation from the mainstream is reflexively branded “un-Australian”. The internet descends into an un-navigable swamp of blogdom and crass home videos. Vast acreages of our Fourth Estate are now an unweeded garden where things rank and gross grow.

**Schulze, Jane**, “When the bucks start”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 42, December 2006/January 2007, pp.13-14. Australia’s media barons are finding the smell of foreign money more exciting than changes to cross-media ownership rules.

**Schulze, Jane**, “An expanded Fairfax on the media horizon”, *Weekend Australian*, 20-21 January 2007, p.20. Discussion of possible takeover bids for Fairfax if the Coonan media laws take effect before April when Fairfax Media and Rural Press Ltd are expected to merge.

**Stephens, Tony**, “Speaking of the dead”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 43, February/March 2007, pp.12-13. Review of Nigel Starck’s book, *Life After Death: The Art of the Obituary*.

**Waterford, Jack**, “Gentleman media mogul”, *Canberra Times*, 9 December 2006, Forum section, p.B3. Exultant to retrieve his family’s destiny and public trust, John B. Fairfax is poised to take back control of the newspaper business he left two decades ago.

**Waterford, Jack**, “Ten million words and a digital revolution in newspapers”, *Canberra Times*, 13 January 2007. Many new tools have been introduced into journalism over the author’s 35 years with the *Canberra Times*, and there is very much more to digest. One extract: “A better educated and more demanding public ... wants more intelligent background, analysis, placement of events in context, and ready cross-reference to other events going on. Wants it, but perhaps does not always get it, since we are all human. The point I make is that the journalist of today is far better equipped than the typical journalist of my youth – few of whom had degrees – to provide it. “

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