

# AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER

No. 2

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**2.1** Thanks to those who provided comments on the first issue of the Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter.

The remark in the inaugural Newsletter that publication would be irregular was inserted as a safeguard against any complaints about a long gap between issues. Instead, the second issue has followed closely. The material is here, so why not?

The request for contributions is repeated.

If you wish to continue to receive copies of the Newsletter please

- for hard copies, send \$10 to Victor Isaacs at the address above by cheque, money order, postage stamps (22x45c stamps) or cash. This will cover the next ten issues (but publication frequency will be irregular and dependant on availability of information to impart),
- **or**, advise me your email address (if I don't already have it).

## **2.2 MEDIA TRADITIONS CONFERENCE IN 2001**

Following the successful events in Sydney and Chiltern this year, Central Queensland University (CQU) is preparing to organise another 'Media Traditions' event for mid 2001. Associate Professor Denis Cryle, who participated in this year's events, is keen to establish a reference group and include a range of interests from printing and print journalism to broadcasting and television.

Denis, who is Head of the School of Contemporary Communication at CQU in Rockhampton, can be contacted by e-mail (d.cryle@cqu.edu.au) or fax (07-4930 9729). Further details of the conference, which will be located at Rydge's International at Yeppoon, will be published in future newsletters.

**2.3 NEWSPAPER MICROFILMING IN THE STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES & THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS** by Alan Ventress, Mitchell Librarian and Robynne Hayward, Newspaper Group, State Library of NSW.

Since the mid 1960s the State Library of NSW has been heavily involved in the microfilming of old and new newspapers, as part of its objective to collect and preserve NSW newspapers. However it was not until the Provincial Newspaper Scheme of 1969 that a concerted effort to film country papers began. The National Library, the State Library of New South Wales and the microfilm company W & F Pascoe were the main participants in the scheme, although it was open to any interested libraries.

The formation of the National Plan for Australian Newspapers (NPLAN) in 1992 gave impetus to the Library's microfilming activities. One of the NPLAN's aims was

for each State Library to be responsible for the collection and preservation microfilming of its own newspapers, and to complete their microfilming before 2001.

The NPLAN also encourages the recording of bibliographic details onto Kinetica. All NSW newspaper titles held by the Library now have Kinetica records and holdings, and as part of its commitment to the NPLAN, the State Library is well on the way to having all NSW newspapers filmed by the end of 2001.

So far we have completely filmed our holdings of 1424 NSW newspaper titles (out of 1804). 379 titles have not yet been completely filmed. This figure includes 50 titles which began publication after 1994 and have small holdings, and 65 titles where only one or two issues are held.

Apart from the on-going filming of 276 current NSW titles (out of 297), we are now mainly filling gaps in our microfilm holdings. There are over 400 titles where we have gaps in the microfilm, but hold no hard copy for these periods. This makes us dependent to a large extent on the co-operation of other libraries, historical societies, publishers and also individuals, who lend or donate back-runs of hard copy. Libraries and historical societies are generally cooperative, but publishers sometimes need more persuasion and protracted entreaties and negotiations are the norm. The newspapers we receive are sometimes in poor condition, mouldy, fragile and tattered, or bound together with bolts.

Recent successes include the loan of some 1950s and 60s eastern suburbs newspapers such as the *Courier (Double Bay)* and *Eastern Suburbs News*, and Lightning Ridge newspapers from 1969 including the *Black Opal Advocate*, all new to the Library's collection. The 1930s and 40s period of the *Greek National Vema* was borrowed, 1949-1977 of the *Vilna Dumka* was donated, and we are now filming 1956-1968 of the *North-West Champion* from the publisher's hard copy.

The Library also collects interstate and overseas newspapers. We hold 21 current and 349 dead interstate newspapers, and 26 current and 281 dead overseas titles. Microfilm is purchased for the major newspapers.

A database using Access has been created on which information is entered on all aspects of newspapers such as holdings, formats, newspapers in other languages, missing hard copy, and information on material located from other sources.

The catalogue of the State Library of NSW is at [www.slnsw.gov.au](http://www.slnsw.gov.au). Microfilms of the State Library of NSW's newspapers are available for sale. The contact is Diana Richards and her email is [drichard@slnsw.gov.au](mailto:drichard@slnsw.gov.au)

## **2.4 HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL CARTOONISTS**

Anna Day at the Department of Journalism at the University of Queensland is researching current political cartoonists. However, she is keen to hear from anyone who has taken an interest in political cartoonists of the past. You can contact her at [anna.day@mailbox.uq.edu.au](mailto:anna.day@mailbox.uq.edu.au).

You can also join a new international discussion list on political cartoons by going to [www.onelist.com/subscribe/cartoonists](http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/cartoonists).

## 2.5 QUERIES

Submission of items for this section is invited. Responses will be printed in the Newsletter, but communication direct with the originator is also welcome.

### 2.5.1 "A MODERN BUCCANEER" BY ROLF BOLDREWOOD

Carol Mills (cmills@csu.edu.au) asks if any reader is aware of the appearance of "A Modern Buccaneer" by Rolf Boldrewood in a newspaper. This would have been before 1896. In actual fact, a significant proportion of the text was by Louis Becke, who sold it to Browne ("Boldrewood") as research material for him to work on.

## 2.6 PUBLICATION OF INTEREST

THE LAST SYME: RANALD MACDONALD'S IMPACT ON THE AGE 1964-1983 by John Tidey, Australian Journalism Monograph (No. 2), 29 pages, 1998, Department of Journalism, University of Queensland, St Lucia QLD 4072.

## 2.7 INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST

[www.auditbureau.org.au](http://www.auditbureau.org.au)

Audit Bureau of Circulation list of current publications and circulation figures

[www2.symet.net/whitehouse/nzbound/newspapers.htm](http://www2.symet.net/whitehouse/nzbound/newspapers.htm)

List of early New Zealand and some early Australian newspapers

[idun.itsc.adfa.edu.au/ASEC](http://idun.itsc.adfa.edu.au/ASEC)

Australian Scholarly Editions Centre – plays a facilitating role in history of the book.

## 2.8 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS by Victor Isaacs and Rod Kirkpatrick

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|-------------------|--|
| 29 June 1997      | Sunday <i>Canberra Times</i> renamed <i>Sunday Times</i> .   |
| 6 September 1997  | <i>Financial Review</i> inaugural Saturday edition.  |
| 14 September 1997 | Introduction of <i>Sunday</i> magazine into <i>Sunday Telegraph</i> and <i>Sunday Herald-Sun</i> and <i>Sunday Life!</i> Magazine into <i>Sun-Herald</i> and <i>Sunday Age</i> .   |
| 27 October 1997   | <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> new printing plant inaugurated and changes from broadsheet to tabloid.  |
| 3 November 1997   | Adelaide <i>Advertiser</i> changes from broadsheet to tabloid.   |
| 9 March 1998      | Redesign of Melbourne <i>Age</i> .   |
| 27 April 1998     | Redesign of <i>Australian</i> ; price reduction in Victoria to 40c and price increase elsewhere by 10c to \$1; introduction of page of local news in Melbourne edition.  |
| 29 June 1998      | <i>Bendigo Advertiser</i> changes from broadsheet to tabloid.  |
| 27 July 1998      | <i>Newcastle Herald</i> changes from broadsheet to tabloid. (The only remaining Australian broadsheet Dailies/Sundays now are the <i>Australian</i> , <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , <i>Age/Sunday Age</i> , <i>Courier-Mail</i> , <i>Canberra Times/Canberra Sunday Times</i> , <i>Geelong Advertiser</i> and <i>Mildura Sunraysia Daily</i> .) |
| 23 September 1998 | Rural Press acquires <i>Canberra Times</i> from Kerry Stokes for \$160 million.  |

- 1 November 1998 *Newcastle Herald's* new printing plant at Beresfield inaugurated.
- 25 March 1999 Inaugural weekly Media supplement in *Australian*.
- 21 June 1999 *Border Mail*, formerly based at Albury, NSW, opens for business at Wodonga, Victoria, operating from new printing, editorial and business premises (officially opened on 30 July).
- 28 June 1999 Fairfax announces \$220 million new printing plant for *Age* and *Financial Review* to be built at Tullamarine, northwest Melbourne to come on line in 2001.
- 30 June 1999 The 111 year Johnston dynasty ends at the *Riverine Grazier*, Hay, NSW, with the sale by the widowed Isabel Johnston before her second marriage.
- July 1999 *News Ltd's* new Perth printing plant inaugurated, completing replacement of News' printing plants in all State capitals; inauguration of full colour of Perth *Sunday Times* (25 July); inauguration of full colour of Perth edition of the *Australian* (completing colour printing in all editions) and page of local news in Perth edition.
- 5 August 1999 Printing of Wollongong *Illawarra Mercury* transferred to Fairfax plant at Chullora, Sydney.
- 6 August 1999 APN News & Media Ltd acquires *Gympie Times* from Rural Press Ltd.
- 11 September 1999 Redesign of *Sunday Age* and national edition inaugurated, printed at Fairfax plant at Chullora, Sydney.
- 1 November 1999 Commencement of separate rural and national editions of the *Age*, with marketing of the national edition in Adelaide (sale at Victorian price of \$1, and home delivery).

## 2.9 LIVERPOOL PAPERS IN THE 1820s

At the Chiltern conference, Carol Mills mentioned that *Newspapers in Australian Libraries* had two listings of Liverpool, NSW, newspapers for the 1820s. Rod Kirkpatrick has investigated and found that both are holdings of Liverpool, England, advertising sheets.

## 2.10 THE BRIDGE AT 90 by Rod Kirkpatrick

The *Koondrook & Barham Bridge* celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 30 September 1999. It published a chronology of its history on the front page of the 24 September issue. James Wren O'Neill established the *Bridge* at Koondrook, Victoria, on 30 September 1909. In July 1917, under new ownership, the *Bridge* was shifted to Barham, NSW. The angry citizens of Koondrook called a public meeting to consider establishing another paper, but did not proceed. The *Bridge* is one of only four provincial newspapers in Australia still produced by hot-metal technology. The others are the *Gnowangerup Star* (WA), and the *Don Dorrigo Gazette* and *The Lachlander*, Condobolin (NSW).