

AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP
NEWSLETTER

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6.1 COPY DEADLINE

Deadline for copy for the next newsletter is 30 June.

6.2 EXTRA! EXTRA!

**Commuter newspaper war
goes undeclared – for now**

It is only a matter of time, it seems, until Sydney and Melbourne have free commuter newspapers inspired by the success of *Metro*, a similar paper in London. The John Fairfax group was as close as a touch to launching one this month: the *Express*, on 15 May. Deborah Light, a former Fairfax journalist, broke the story in *The Bulletin* on 3 May (in its issue dated 9 May). When News Ltd learned of the Fairfax plans, it geared up to launch a competitor. Next thing Fairfax suggested a joint venture. And then Fairfax abandoned its plans for the *Express* because “**competitive reaction**” **made such a product unviable**. News Ltd responded by “shelving its product, killing of what loomed as a revolution in newspaper publishing”. A day later businessman Dick Smith pledged \$2 million of his own money to help launch an afternoon newspaper for Sydney commuters. He hoped to raise between \$10 million and \$20 million to launch the paper.

Before Fairfax and News shelved their plans, Mark Day wrote about the prospects of such products on the Australian scene and explored a range of reasons and other options; and Phillip Knightley explored what has been happening in London (see 6.9.14). The undeclared war is summarised chronologically as follows:

3 May	John Fairfax is planning its first assault on the afternoon newspaper market in a decade with the launch of a free tabloid or the Sydney and Melbourne commuter markets (<i>Bulletin</i> , 9 May 00, p.20; <i>Australian</i> , 4 May 00, p.4).
4 May	News Limited is gearing up to launch a free tabloid daily in the Sydney and Melbourne commuter markets should rival John Fairfax proceed with plans for a similar newspaper (<i>Aust.</i> , 5 May 00, p.4).
9 May	A compromise may be near in the undeclared “commuter newspaper” war between John Fairfax and News Ltd, with Fairfax suggesting a joint venture between the two companies may be possible (<i>Aust.</i> , 10 May 00, p.17).
11 May	A launch of free commuter newspapers is abandoned. John Fairfax concedes “competitive reaction” makes its product unviable (<i>Aust.</i> , 12 May 00, p.5).
12 May	Dick Smith pledges \$2 million to help launch a Sydney afternoon commuter newspaper (<i>Weekend Aust.</i> , 13-14 May 00, p.5).

6.3 NEWS ARCHIVE ON WEB

Belinda Weaver tells us: You can now search the news archive of the *Financial Times* (UK) on the Web. The Global Archive contains more than six million articles from 3,000 newspapers and journals worldwide. Most can be retrieved for free. Go to: <http://www.globalarchive.ft.com/>

6.4 DIGITISED NEWSPAPERS

Alan Ventress, Mitchell Librarian, writes: There are a number of digitised newspapers in PDF format at the National Library's web site for the Australian Cooperative Digitisation Project 1840-45 at <http://www.nla.gov.au/acdp/>

6.5 Chronology Of Recent Events

13 March 2000	First issue of the <i>Boss</i> magazine, published on the second Monday of each month by the <i>Australian Financial Review</i> and issued as an insert (<i>PANPA Bulletin</i> , May 00, p.41).
4 April 2000	Wilkie Watson family celebrates 100 years as owners of the <i>Tumut & Adelong Times</i> , New South Wales.
7 April 2000	Brian Rogers, news director of Channel Nine, Perth, is appointed editor of the <i>West Australian</i> , replacing Paul Murray who joined Radio 6PR in March (source: press statement from managing director of West Australian Newspapers, 7 Apr 00; <i>Weekend Australian</i> , 8-9 Apr 00, p.5).
17 April 2000	Brian Rogers spends first day in office as editor of <i>West Australian</i> (source: David Marsh, e-mail message to this newsletter, 17 Apr 00)
20 March 2000	Death of Ian Edwin Anderson, editor, science communicator; former editor, Australasian edition of <i>New Scientist</i> ; age 53 (<i>Australian</i> , 10 Apr 00, p.14).
16 April 2000	Death of Frederick Weston Perry, a printer on four different Melbourne dailies and numerous other publications; apprenticed to <i>Bega Times</i> , NSW; age 75 (<i>Herald Sun</i> , 21 Apr 00).
17 April 2000	<i>Australian</i> announces Rupert Murdoch has prostate cancer. He is expected to make a full recovery after two weeks of radiotherapy.
17 April 2000	Death of Ian Francis McLaren, bibliophile, businessman, parliamentarian, historian, writer and former employee of the <i>Argus</i> , Melbourne (<i>Aust.</i> , 3 May 00, p.14).
19 April 2000	Editor-in-chief Eric Beecher announces closure of <i>The Eye</i> magazine which had appeared fortnightly since October 1999 (<i>Australian</i> , <i>SMH</i> and <i>Age</i> , 20 Apr 00). See 6.9.7 and 6.9.8 for references to articles about the closure. Also see 6.14.
26 April 2000	Death of Ronald Raymond Boland, editor and managing director, <i>Sunday Times</i> , Perth, 1956-60; managing editor, <i>The News</i> , Adelaide, 1960-77; age 88 (<i>Aust.</i> , 27 Apr 00, p.2, and 28 Apr 00, p.12, obit.).
7 May 2000	The <i>Canberra Times</i> 's Sunday edition becomes the <i>Sunday Times</i> and converts from broadsheet to tabloid (<i>Aust.</i> , Media liftout, 4 May 00, p.3; <i>Canberra Times</i> , 3 May 00, p.4).
11 May 2000	Jeff Kennett, former Premier of Victoria, walks out of John Fairfax company dinner in Melbourne, upset by the sketching of cartoonist Ron Tandberg who was providing the entertainment (<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 13 May 00, p.3).
13 May 2000	Richard McGregor writes his final dispatch as the political correspondent for the <i>Australian</i> , reflecting on the "lack of political renewal" (<i>Weekend Aust.</i> , 13-14 May 00, p.26; Ian Henderson replaces McGregor, who is to become China correspondent for London's <i>Financial Times</i> , <i>Aust.</i> , 8 May 00, p.6).

6.6 INDEXES TO THE ARGUS

From Bill Tully at the National Library comes this: INDEXES TO THE [Melbourne] ARGUS, indexed by Geraldine Suter, Melbourne, Argus Index Project, 1999; 4 volumes from 1860/61 to 1868/69. The call number at the National Library of Australia: Nq 079.45 ARG Follows the compiler's 1860 index (1990), the 1846/54 index by John Feely, the *Argus* self-published 1910-1949 index and numerous shipping, birth, death and marriage genealogical indexes covering a variety of dates in either print or microprint. Suter's index is much more extensive in coverage and sophisticated in subject, name and title entries than her predecessors. A continuing enterprise – and a great source for all researchers!

6.7 RESEARCH BY E-MAIL

Brisbane's *Courier-Mail* introduced on 10 April a service where readers can e-mail inquiries about dates of particular articles published since 1984 (free) or seek copies of articles (nominal charge). The articles are stored on a special library database. The service is available Monday to Friday during office hours. An e-mail reply with the full text of up to two articles costs \$10. Three to five articles costs \$20 and \$1 an article for any additional articles. It's also provided free to blind students via the Queensland Education Department's Vision Impairment Services. The address is: research@qnp.newsltd.com.au (source: *Courier-Mail*, 8 Apr 00, p.3)

6.8 PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

6.8.1 THEODORE FINK: A TALENT FOR UBIQUITY by Donald Garden, Melbourne University Press, PO Box 278, Carlton South, Vic, 3053, 320pp, 18 illustrations, 1998, ISBN 0-522-84828-1. Chronicles Theodore Fink's long involvement in Victoria's business, politics and education reform from the 1880s to 1930s, including considerable detail of his involvement with the Melbourne *Herald* and the Herald & Weekly Times Ltd.

6.8.2 SHAMELESS SCRIBBLERS: AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S JOURNALISM 1880-1995 by Sharyn Pearce, Central Queensland University Press, PO Box 1615, Rockhampton, Qld, 4700, 286pp, 11 illustrations, 1998, ISBN 1 875998 50 0. Features chapters on Louisa Lawson, Dame Mary Gilmore, Dulcie Deamer, Elizabeth Webb, Charmian Clift, Anne Summers, Adele Horin, Sue Neales and various eras.

6.9 RECENT ARTICLES OF INTEREST

6.9.1 PLAYING WITH PRINCES AND PRESIDENTS: SIR FRANK PACKER AND THE 1962 CHALLENGE FOR THE AMERICA'S CUP by Bridget Griffen-Foley, in *Australian Journal of Politics & History*, 46 (1), March 2000, pp. 51-66. Uses previously overlooked archival records in Sydney and New York; explores the geo-political dimensions of the challenge; considers the diplomatic fracas that arose when Britain learned of Australia's plans; the Menzies government's attitude to the challenge; Labor and newspaper criticisms of the bid; and American and Australian responses to the vigorous but unsuccessful challenge.

6.9.2 WHEN A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND LIES by Sharon Haling, *Northern Daily Leader*, 8 April 2000, pp.28-29. Deals with digital photograph manipulation and the blurring of the distinction between reality and lies.

6.9.3 LIVE AND DANGEROUS RADIO by Paul Murray, *Australian*, Media liftout, 20 April 2000, p.3. The former editor of the *West Australian* describes his first days as a nervous novice on talkback radio – and reflects on his newspaper career.

6.9.4 NEWS MEDIA CHRONICLE by Rod Kirkpatrick in *Australian Studies in Journalism*, 8, 1999, pp.197-238. Includes coverage of Australian news-media news by the news media from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. Special sections on newspapers (including circulation comparisons between 30 June 1998 and 30 June 1999), the Fairfax, Murdoch and Packer media enterprises and news-media people (including Walkley Award winners and obituaries).

6.9.5 THE PROVINCIAL PRESS AND POLITICS: NEW SOUTH WALES, 1841-1930 by Rod Kirkpatrick in *Australian Studies in Journalism*, 8, 1999, pp.96-117.

6.9.6 TO HELL IN A TIN HAT by Tony Stephens, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 Apr 00, p.7S. Deals with the World War I diaries of Sydney journalist George Warnecke and how they “tell of a young idealist made old before his time”.

6.9.7 FAILURE TO SEE EYE TO EYE by Margaret Simons and ANOTHER INDEPENDENT BLINKS OUT BLEEDING CIRCULATION AND RED INK by Andrew Dodd, *Australian*, Media liftout, 27 Apr 00, pp.3-4. Both deal with the closure of *The Eye* magazine.

6.9.8 OUT-OF-TOUCH JOURNALISTS RUIN THEIR OWN PUBLICATIONS by Padraic P. McGuinness, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 May 2000, p.42. Inspired by the closure of *The Eye*. “The greatest problem of newspapers in Australia today is that they are being written by and for a group in society which is out of touch with the general community. When such journalists talk about diversity, they really mean a louder voice for their version of the consensus. Thus a short-lived journal called *the Republican* failed miserably since rather than being a locus of dissent, it sounded simply like an anthology of the worst bits from Melbourne’s *The Age*. Much the same applies to *The Eye*.”

6.9.9 THE SUN’S BRILLIANCE SHINES by Juliet Herd, *Australian*, Media liftout, 27 Apr 00, p.8. The UK’s biggest-selling tabloid has shone its light on 2000 years of history and won serious praise for its effort.

6.9.10 CURRENT ACCOUNT by Jack Waterford, *Walkley Magazine* (published by the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance), Autumn 2000, pp.17-19. The editor of the *Canberra Times* says that journalists, particularly in newspapers, have never been less influential in the corridors of government.

6.9.11 OLD HACKS DIE HARD by Stephen Scourfield, *Walkley Magazine*, Autumn 2000, pp.26-28. The assistant editor of the *West Australian* says that although the hard-bitten reporter of yesteryear has passed into myth, the journalist-as-rogue lives on in the public imagination.

6.9.12 PHOTO-SHY MPs SNAP BACK by Mike Steketee, *Australian*, Media liftout, 4 May 2000, pp.6-7. A fight is brewing between Federal Parliament and the media over “absurd” limits on news photographs taken when either House is sitting.

6.9.13 FACTIONS AND CLIQUES DIVIDED LOCKHART by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, May 2000, pp.27-28. Life and death of papers in the Lockhart area of the Riverina, NSW.

6.9.14 DEATH IN THE AFTERNOON by Mark Day and BRITAIN’S TUBE TRIBES TAKE TO THEIR METRO BY Phillip Knightley, *Australian*, Media liftout, 11 May 2000, pp.6-7, AND 7,13, RESPECTIVELY. Essential background for Item 6.2 on the undeclared newspaper war.

6.9.15 RINGSIDE SEAT AT THE 20TH CENTURY CIRCUS BY David Barnett, *Australian*, Media liftout, 11 May 2000, pp.14-15. Reflects on a 50-year journalism career that took him to Africa, the Middle East, China and the job of managing a Prime Minister.

6.10 CHILTERN PAPERS

The edition of the *Bibliographic Society of Australian & New Zealand Bulletin* featuring papers presented at the “Local Newspapers, Local Identities” conference at Chiltern last October is expected very soon, says editor Brian Hubber.

6.11 GOSSIP: THE BILLIONAIRE, THE NANNY AND THE JOURNO

Shari-Lea Hitchcock has won a headline or two lately because her affair with Australia’s third richest man, Richard Pratt, and the love child they had. Ms Hitchcock, who now has a Master of Laws, began her working life as a cadet journalist on the *South Coast Register*, Nowra, NSW (*Weekend Australian*, 29-30 Apr 00, p.24).

6.12 SEVEN DECADES OF SPORTS WRITING

David Marsh (dmarsh@iinet.net.au), a journalist with the *West Australian*, is writing a PhD on “Seven decades of sports writing at the *West Australian*, 1901-71”. It also covers the history of the newspaper, which began, under a different title, in 1833.

6.13 USEFUL REFERENCE

Tom Darragh mentions a reference that “may be known to the experts”, but not to others: *The Advertisers’ and Publishers’ Guide of Australia and New Zealand*, Sydney, 1935. Includes a section called “Who’s Who of the Press and Publicity”, pp.143-193. [The editor notes: I first saw a copy of this title amongst the mildewed books of W.H.G. (George) Groom at his home in Innisfail, north Queensland, 20 years ago. For more about George and his Innisfail daily, viz. *Sworn to No Master*, p.301. Groom was a grandson of W.G. Groom, owner of the *Toowoomba Chronicle*, 1876-1901.]

6.14 MAGAZINE THAT CAN’T BE BOUGHT

Two days after the announced closure of *The Eye* magazine, your editor received from the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, with his copy of the *Walkley Magazine*, a small pamphlet offering readers of the *Walkley* four free copies of *The Eye*. The pamphlet was prophetically headed: “Finally, a magazine that can’t be bought”.

6.15 FISH AND CHIPS, WORLD WAR I AND THE MANNING VALLEY

In No. 5 of this Newsletter, new subscriber Rod Gow, of Cundletown, NSW, particularly enjoyed Gordon Woolf’s article, “Today’s Newspaper is Tomorrow’s Fish-and-Chips Wrapper” (5.9). Gow comments: “It really is a shame just how many editions of newspapers have disappeared from the face of the earth, forever – the *Manning River Times*, is a prime example. Here is a newspaper still in production after 131 years, and, sadly, copies of the first 39 years no longer exist. That’s a lot of information lost forever.”

Rod and Wendy Gow have recently released a book, *World War 1 – North Coast Anzacs - Manning Valley Newspaper Extracts - Volunteers and Letters from the Front* (Volume 1). It is a collection of extracts from the *Northern Champion* (Taree) and the *Wingham Chronicle*. It is “a background on the soldiers who wrote moving letters to those back home, describing their victories, losses, their fight just to stay alive, accounts of their enlistments, send offs and

welcome homes...”. There are also articles about the memorial services held for those who died on active service. To obtain a copy, send a cheque for \$31 (including \$6 postage) to Rod Gow, PO Box 73, Cundletown, NSW, 2430.

6.16 CLIMBING MOUNTAINS OF SOUTH QUEENSLAND MICROFILM

Robert Thompson, of Griffith University, Brisbane, is working on a project being conducted by Associate Professor Michael Meadows, of the School of Film, Media & Cultural Studies at Griffith University, which is looking at cultural and historical aspects of rock-climbing in south-east Queensland. Part of the research has led to an extensive trawl through the 19th and earlier 20th century south Qld newspapers, seeking articles on climbing and related activities. The aim has been to find material which can be used to establish a detailed chronology of early action on the SE Qld peaks, and also to gain some idea of how climbing has been portrayed in the local media over the years

Thompson writes: “We’ve managed to uncover a wealth of material on early local climbing, particularly in the period from the mid 1880s to the later 1930s. From Thomas Welsby’s 1886 series on his scrambles at the Glasshouses, to Borchgrevink’s ‘ripping yarns’ style account of the 1890 Mt Lindesay ascent, to George Rowley’s report on the Clark sisters’ 1912 Crookneck ascent, or Nora Dimes’s 1932 articles on the ‘unconquered’ then ‘conquered’ North-Eastern cliffs at Tibrogargan, so many of the items we’ve found really are quite remarkable.

“... it seems the coverage given to local climbing in the earlier south Qld press was unmatched elsewhere in Australia. Even at Katoomba, New South Wales, where there had been a number of notable early ascents, and where climbing was well established by the 1930s, relatively few climbing articles appeared in the local newspapers. This raises a number of issues: how did climbing come to feature so prominently in the south Qld press, whether the newspaper coverage might have influenced local climbing, and so on. “We’ve started compiling an annotated index of the various newspaper articles which have been uncovered, and at some stage will make this available to anyone interested. All contributions and comments are welcome, and should anyone have any records of south-east Qld climbing which have been inherited from climbing forebears, etc., we would like to hear from you (c/- Dr M. Meadows, School of Film, Media & Cultural Studies Griffith University, Nathan 4111).”

6.17 THE LETTERS THAT APPEAL TO GRANNY HERALD

The *Sydney Morning Herald* has been publishing brief letters from readers telling why they write letters to the editor. Lewis Winders, of Williamstown, wrote: “Writing letters to the editor is merely a childish indulgence. I shall never do it.” Morris Graham, of Georgetown, uses it as his way of letting the world know “one is tripping through time with at least a few marbles left”. The responses fascinated letters editor Jeni Harvie who was put on the spot by one reader who wanted to know what criteria she used to choose the letters to be published. Harvie wrote (“Postscript, *SMH*, 6 May 2000, p. 48): “There are no criteria as such but I can offer some insights. The letters desk receives about 200 letters each day (we counted them), and out of this we choose an average 19 letters. It’s survival of the fittest. But what makes one letter ‘fitter’ than another? Here length does matter. Few letters over 200 words see the light of day. Those that do usually carry a powerful message or argument that is difficult to curtail. The issues of the day get a good hearing but the quirky letter is a real gem. Some letters can be held over; others are quickly sidelined as the news moves on. Whether you send by post, email (no attachments) or fax, all letters receive equal consideration. At the end of the day it is a balancing act: accommodating as many opinions as possible but reflecting the majority, allowing a range of people to have their say and striving to make the total entertaining, informative, even provocative.”

6.18 DID YOU KNOW?

Henry Mayer, in *The Press in Australia* (1964), notes in his one-page summary of the sources he explored: "... the great bulk of the material on the Australian press is to be found in articles and pamphlets. Only a small part of the historical material looked at for research for this book could be used in the final version. Hence the author is issuing, in a limited roneoed edition, *Bibliographical Notes on the Australian Press and Related Subjects*. This deals with the press, advertising, biographies of journalists, PR, etc." It was available for 10s 6d (\$1.05). Mayer lodged a copy with most university and public libraries. It contained 66 foolscap pages of single-spaced typing (your editor has a copy, provided by the late HM himself). Has anyone committed this to disk?

[The editor would welcome your contribution to "DID YOU KNOW?"]

6.19 SATURDAY PAGING

Circulation is not the only measure of the success of a newspaper. Paging (the number of pages published) is another. For the record: On 8 April 2000, the *Sydney Morning Herald* contained 232 broadsheet pages (including a 72-page employment section), 112 tabloid pages (including 96-pages of real estate) and an 80-page *Good Weekend* magazine; the *Weekend Australian* contained 82 broadsheet pages, 36 tabloid pages and an *Australian Magazine* of 56 pages; and the *Courier-Mail* (Brisbane) carried 104 broadsheet pages and 176 tabloid pages (including an 88-page employment section). Summary below:

Title of paper (8/4/2000)	Broadsheet pages	Tabloid pages	Magazine pages
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	232	112	80
<i>Weekend Australian</i>	82	36	56
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (Brisbane)	104	176	n.a.

[The editor would like to run a comprehensive comparison of capital-city Saturday papers for one date – let's select 3 June – and so, would ANHG subscribers from Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Adelaide, Hobart, Canberra and Darwin like to contribute the Saturday paging figures for their metro daily for a selected date? The editor has ease of access to the *SMH*, *Age*, *Weekend Australian* and *Courier-Mail*.]

6.20 ROBERT HUGHES, THE MEDIA AND THE DPP

Art critic and author Robert Hughes defends himself in a letter to the editor, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 May 2000, p.48: "Media circuses are sometimes fun, but this one over my trial and acquittal on dangerous driving charges in Broome has gone out of control." He referred, amongst other things, to "pure invention by journalists", "this absurdly over-reported and wildly distorted saga" and the "vindictive conduct of the WA press".

On 11 May, the *Australian* reported (p.3) that Western Australia's Director of Public Prosecutions, Robert Cock, QC, would consider appealing a decision to dismiss dangerous driving charges against Hughes who "may also face charges of contempt of court and defamation following inflammatory comments he made to journalists at the conclusion of his trial in Broome on Tuesday and reiterated on ABC Radio yesterday".

6.21 FAIRFAX GHOSTS

Column 8, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 May 2000, p.1: "Fairfax ghosts will be haunting the once hallowed halls after the Raddison Plaza opens in July. It occupies the triangular site on the corner of O'Connell, Pitt and Hunter streets that housed *This Paper* from 1856 to 1955, and is in the building completed on the site in 1929. The first floor's grand corner office, once

occupied by the chairman, Sir Warwick Fairfax, has been restored – panelled walls, ceilings, the lift vestibule, the lot. It will be a guests’ conference room.”

6.22 PERKIN AND PENTON FEATURED IN LATEST *ADB* VOLUME

The great *Age* editor, Graham Perkin, whose name is perpetuated in the Australian Journalist of the Year Award, is one of the journalists and newspaper editors for whom entries appear in the recently published Volume 15 of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (covering names from Kem-Pie, for 1940-1980). Brian Penton, the celebrated editor of the *Daily Telegraph* during World War II, is another. The journalists and editors are: Eric Thomson **Kennedy** (1897-1974), Egon Erwin **Kisch** (1885-1948), Albert Hubert Carl **Kornweibel** (1892-1980), Ivan **Kosovich** (1913-75), Clem Llewellyn **Lack** (1900-72), Frank Hooper **Legg** (1906-66), Hugh Alan **Leslie** (1900-74), Mary Wherry **Liddell** (1877-1967), Douglas Wright **Lockwood** (1918-80), Gavin Merrick **Long** (1901-68), James Edward **Macartney** (1911-1977), Alexander John Hilton **Macdonald** (1916-1973), Kathleen Agnes Rose **McEwan** (1894-1969), Colin William Buchanan **Macfarlan** (1887-1947), Alton Richmond **Macleod** (1887-1951), Hugh Alexander McClure **Smith** (1902-1961), Clarence Sydney **McNulty** (1904-1964), Henry John **Manning** (1889-1978), May **Maxwell** (1876-1977), Ronald Austin **Monson** (1905-1973), Alban George [“Johnny”] **Moyes** (1893-1963), James George Hill **Murtagh** (1908-1971), Josephine **O’Neill** (1905-1968), Brian Con **Penton** (1904-1951), and Edwin Graham **Perkin** (1929-1975).

[Thanks to Dr Di Langmore, of the *ADB*, for assistance in preparing this list.]

6.23 CLASSIC QUOTES

This is the first in a proposed series of classic or unusual quotes about newspapers, from fact and fiction. You are invited to contribute to this section.

The first quote comes from E. Annie Proulx’s *The Shipping News* (Fourth Estate, London, 1993), p.285:

“Drop the restaurant stuff and the foreign news,” Quoyle told Benny Fudge on becoming managing editor of the *Gammy Bird*. **“Everybody knows all the restaurants and nobody cares about what happens somewhere else. Get that off the telly.”**

6.24 GOSPER TORCHED

The Sydney *Daily Telegraph*’s front-page headline response to IOC vice-president Kevan Gosper’s decision to allow his daughter, Sophie, to be the first Australian to carry the Olympic torch on its journey from Greece to Sydney, 12 May 2000:

Greedy
Obstinate
Selfish
Pompous
Egotistic
Reptile

6.25 RESEARCH IN PROGRESS: BRIDGET GRIFFEN-FOLEY

Dr Bridget Griffen-Foley has been awarded an ARC fellowship to the Department of History at the University of Sydney, and a Harold White 2000 Fellowship at the National Library of Australia, to study the relationship between the media and politics in postwar Australia. Bridget will be examining how Australia's four major media companies – News Ltd, the Herald & Weekly Times, Australian Consolidated Press and John Fairfax & Sons – intersected with politicians and political parties between 1945 and 1975. Any suggestions or research tips for this project would be gratefully received. Bridget's latest book, *The Young Master: A Biography of Sir Frank Packer*, will be published by HarperCollins late this year. E-mail: bgfoley@history.usyd.edu.au

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