

**AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP**  
**NEWSLETTER**

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**7.1 COPY DEADLINE**

Deadline for copy for the next *Newsletter* is 1 August.

**7.2 BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON JOURNALISTS**

*The Australian* will make available on its website later this year biographical information about all its senior writers, reports *PANPA Bulletin* (June, p.32). This is part of an emerging trend for editors to be more accountable to their readers, even to the extent of detailing the pedigree of journalists taking up influential appointments

**7.3 HOW READERS GREETED CANBERRA'S SUNDAY TIMES**

The re-launched Sunday edition of the *Canberra Times* – the *Canberra Sunday Times* – was welcomed by readers thus: “Congratulations on a fabulous new format ... just the right balance of easy reading and solids news.” – George Stern. “New layout for much the same material ... if it ain't broke ...” – Peter Davidson. “Because of its smaller typeface, [it] is not as comfortable to read as the older version.” – Julia Richards. A number of readers echoed this complaint. Editor Michael Stevens announced in the second issue that, in response, the type size had been increased. (*Sunday Times*, 14 May 2000)

**7.4 HEADLINES ACROSS THE WATER**

On Sunday, 28 May, a crowd estimated at between 150,000 and 250,000 walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge as an act of reconciliation with indigenous Australians. This is how some newspapers headlined their reports the next day:

<i>Australian</i>	Page 1	Sorry: the people's apology
<i>Australian Financial Review</i>	Page 3	Marchers bridge reconciliation gap
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	Page 1	Hands across the water
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	Page 1	United nation (full-page colour pic.)
<i>Age</i>	Page 1	Bridging the racial divide
<i>Herald Sun</i>	Pp. 7, 12	200,000 march for unity
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	Page 1	Everyday Aussies cross a bridge to tomorrow
<i>Canberra Times</i>	Page 1	Bridge walk mandate for treaty
<i>West Australian</i>	Page 1	People power puts Howard on notice
<i>Border Mail</i> (Albury Wodonga)	Page 6	Rally adds pressure for treaty
<i>Daily Advertiser</i> (Wagga Wagga)	Page 6	Rally turnout adds pressure for treaty

Jeni Harvie, letters editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, said there was a strong protest against the media coverage, with writers questioning the assumption that 250,000 people indicated overwhelming support for reconciliation. David Burke, of Elizabeth Bay, objected to the “hijacking” of his participation “by media acolytes promoting the sorry/treaty

gimmick". Both the apology and the treaty remained major points of contention, Ms Harvie wrote (*SMH*, 3 June 00, p.42).

[Thanks to all who contributed to this item.]

## 7.5 PUBLICATION OF INTEREST

THE *TOCSIN*: CONTESTING THE CONSTITUTION by Hugh Anderson, Red Rooster Press, P O Box 2129 Hotham Hill VIC 3051, 2000, 308 pages paperback, ISBN 0-908247-47-8, \$26.80.

The *Tocsin* was a radical labour weekly paper published in Melbourne from 1897 until 1906 when it became the *Labor Call*. *Tocsin* was opposed to Federation. Most of this book consists of reprints of *Tocsin's* reporting and opinions about Federation. The book also contains a useful introduction providing a history of *Tocsin*, including references to the mainstream Melbourne dailies of the time.

## 7.6 RECENT ARTICLES OF INTEREST

7.6.1 WHO IS ULRICH ELLIS? by Frank Morris, *Australian Book Collector*, No. 117, May 2000, pp.16-18. Deals with Ulrich Ruegg Ellis, journalist, pamphleteer and historian. Political secretary to Country Party leader Sir Earle Page, 1928-36. Most notable work, *A History of the Country Party* (1963).

7.6.2 A MAN FOR ALL REASONS by Mark Day, *Australian*, "Media" liftout, 25 May 2000, p.13. Using the death of Sir Larry Lamb as a hook, Day discusses whether "popular" journalism can be good.

7.6.3 GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEAR NEIGHBOURS by Warren Osmond, *Australian*, Media liftout, 1 June 2000, pp.14-15. Journalists – war correspondents in particular – gave Australians their first insights into Asia, says a former foreign editor and diplomatic editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

7.6.4 THE CHANGING ROLE OF A NEWSPAPER EDITOR by Jack Waterford, in *Australian Studies in Journalism*, 8, 1999, pp.3-17. The editor of the *Canberra Times* tells of the challenges facing editors as alternative sources of information become readily available to readers.

7.6.5 CORPORATIONS AND COLLECTIVES: AN OVERVIEW OF AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER COMPANIES 1860-1920 by Denis Cryle, in *Australian Studies in Journalism*, 8, 1999, pp.83-95. Provides an Australia-wide overview of the processes of capitalisation and company formation that overtook the newspaper press from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

7.6.6 AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISM RESEARCH INDEX 1992-1999 by Anna Day, in *Australian Studies in Journalism*, 8, 1999, pp.239-332.

7.6.7 OUT OF AFRICA AND HOT OFF THE PRESS by Victoria Laurie, *Australian*, "Media" liftout, 8 June 2000, pp.12-13. A Perth-based South African couple's newspaper venture (*SA Independent – South Africans Down Under*) for fellow expatriates in Australia has celebrated its first birthday.

7.6.8 GOSSIPS REVEAL NAKED TRUTH by Iain Shedden, *Australian*, "Media" liftout, 15 June 2000, pp.809. Scuttlebut is serious stuff. A look at gossip columnists and their below-the-belt exposes.

## 7.7 Chronology of Recent Events

<b>24 April 2000</b>	Death of Brian McKibbin at age 69; began career on <i>Geelong Advertiser</i> ; distinguished himself as a foreign correspondent and senior journalist for Adelaide's <i>Advertiser</i> and Melbourne's <i>Sun News-Pictorial</i> ; joined News and Information Bureau in 1969 ( <i>Herald Sun</i> , 10 May 00).
<b>6 May</b>	The Packers: CPH Group offers the public the chance to invest in CP Investment Corp, which "has a co-invest right with the CPH Group, as well as a 15pc interest in John Fairfax Holdings Limited". The CPH Group "intends to invest around \$100 million in this issue". This is "your chance to get in on the deals the dealmakers make" ( <i>Courier-Mail</i> , advertisement, 6 May 00, p.19).
<b>7 May</b>	Death of John Philip Ryan, editor of the radical Melbourne <i>Catholic Worker</i> , 1959-71; mathematician; human rights activist; age 79 ( <i>Australian</i> , 2 June 00, p.12, obit.).
<b>8 May</b>	Merger of AIM Newspaper Group Pty Ltd and <i>Shoalhaven Independent</i> , a paid-circulation weekly at Nowra, NSW ( <i>Shoalhaven Independent</i> , 10 May 00, p.1).
<b>12 May</b>	Obituary of Len Ward (1905-2000), former editor of the <i>Daily Advertiser</i> , Wagga Wagga, former acting editor and literary editor, <i>Canberra Times</i> , motoring writer ( <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 12 May 00, p.32).
<b>18 May</b>	Death of Albert (Sir Larry) Lamb, a great tabloid editor; former editor of the <i>Australian</i> , editor-in-chief of <i>Western Mail</i> , Perth; editor of London's <i>Sun</i> and <i>Daily Express</i> ; great tabloid journalist; age 70 ( <i>Australian</i> , 22 May 00, report p.8 and obit., p.12; <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 23 May 00, p.43; viz. also Errol Simper's column, <i>Australian</i> , Media liftout, 1 June 00, p.4 ).
<b>19 May</b>	Death of Ron Richards, managing editor, Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd, 1987-91; former editor-in-chief of <i>Daily Sun</i> and <i>Sunday Sun</i> , Brisbane; served cadetship at <i>Warwick Daily News</i> ; age 71 ( <i>Courier-Mail</i> , 22 May 00, p.2).
<b>21 May</b>	Death of Kenneth Spencer May, chief executive, News Ltd., 1969-80; general manager, <i>The News</i> , Adelaide, 1964-69; knighted upon retirement in 1980; former political reporter; spent three significant years at <i>Barrier Miner</i> , Broken Hill, as chief reporter and leader writer ( <i>Australian</i> , 24 May 00, p.16).
<b>30 May</b>	Death of Mike Kable, motoring editor of <i>Australian</i> from its beginning in 1964 until 1992, and concurrently of <i>Daily Mirror</i> , 1964-1989; continued to write on motoring until last month; served cadetship on <i>National Advocate</i> , Bathurst; worked on <i>Lithgow Mercury</i> ; joined <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> in 1958; age 65 ( <i>Australian</i> , 31 May 00, tributes, p.2; obit, p.14).
<b>30 May</b>	Death of Jack Hughes, the editor who made the <i>Australasian Post</i> a national icon; lifted circulation from 100,00 to 325,000 in about seven years by making it appeal "to a truck driver in Wagga Wagga" and putting a girl on the cover; age 87 ( <i>Herald Sun</i> 1 June 00, p.87).
<b>1 June</b>	The <i>Australian's</i> Media liftout carried four full (tabloid) pages of media job advertisements for the first time.
<b>2 June</b>	<i>Australian</i> reports (p.23) that News Corp has appointed James Murdoch, youngest son of Rupert, as chairman of its Hong Kong-based satellite television and multimedia unit, Star TV. [Elisabeth Murdoch has quit her executive post at BSkyB, News Corp's British-bases satellite broadcaster; she is pregnant with her third child. – <i>SMH</i> , 5 May 00, p.5]
<b>5 June</b>	<i>Financial Review</i> introduces layout changes, placing the various tables in a liftout section. (Possibly related to rumours of the <i>Wall Street Journal</i> and UK <i>Financial Times</i> targeting the Australian market).
<b>12 June</b>	<i>Northern Daily Leader</i> , Tamworth, undergoes major changes in content and format, placing a heavy emphasis on news about people; local and regional coverage; and being "more interactive" ( <i>NDL</i> , 7 June 00, p.4).

## 7.8 JOHN LYONS LEAVES *BULLETIN*

John Lyons, winner of the Graham Perkin Award for the Australian Journalist of the Year in 1999, is to leave his position as national affairs editor of *The Bulletin* to join the Nine Network (*Weekend Australian*, 27-28 May 00, p.3; see also *SMH*, 1 April 00, p.7). Lyons is a former editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

## 7.9 SELF-REGULATION OF ONLINE NEWS

The Australian Press Council now accepts complaints about member publications' news reporting activities, whether they are in print or on the Internet (*Press Council News*, 12, 2, May 2000, p.1). The members include all the publishers of metropolitan and national newspapers and the overwhelming majority of regional daily, country and suburban newspapers and national magazines. These organisations are also the main publishers of online Australian news reporting.

## 7.10 IT'S TRUE: VULGAR COMPETITIONS INCREASE SUBSCRIPTIONS

From Sydney, **Liz Macnamara** writes: "After three years of reading old papers, I have come to accept the humiliating truth that vulgar competitions increase subscriptions. What about a competition seeking stories from the general news pages on any paper that most vividly give a keen and unexpected insight into the world that paper inhabited? Plenty of room for humour and human interest and those odd political footnotes which make the researcher's job less tedious... A cash prize from either donation or a modest entry fee would be the best inducement." [Over to you, readers. – Editor.]

## 7.11 AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER REPRODUCTIONS

Further to item 3.5 two more publications of Australian newspaper reproductions have come to light, writes **Victor Isaacs**:

THE WEEKLY: A LIVELY AND NOSTALGIC CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA THROUGH 50 YEARS OF ITS MOST POPULAR MAGAZINE. A history of the *Australian Women's Weekly*, including many reproductions, by Denis O'Brien, Penguin Australia, 1982, ISBN 0-14-006566-0.

FAMOUS FRONT PAGES IN MODERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY, Heritage Publications, Melbourne, 1973. This covers 1923-1970 and the majority of front pages selected are from Melbourne papers.

## 7.12 Circulation, Readership and Readers Per Paper

Do you ever get confused about what is happening in newspaper circulation and readership? Do you wonder why you are seeing less and less newspaper reporting of circulation figures, and more and more of readership figures? One reason that suggests itself is that newspapers love reporting bad news, except when it's about themselves. When it comes to their own popularity, they would prefer to adopt the focus of the broadcast media: total market size. Ratings for TV and radio, readership for newspapers and magazines. To help you compare current circulation and readership figures, your editor has compiled the following table (see next page). The circulation figures are publishers' figures for the old audit period of 1 October to 31 March (and not the official Audit Bureau of Circulation figures that cover the January to June and July to December periods). So, the circulation figures are for six months. The readership figures are for 12 months and come from the Roy Morgan Research Centre.

## CIRCULATION, READERSHIP AND READERS PER PAPER (cont.)

Name of newspaper	Days	Circulation: 6 months to 31/3/2000	Circulation: % change	Readership: 12 months to 31/3/2000	Readership: % change	Readers per paper
<b>National</b>						
<i>Australian</i>	M-F	130,000	- 1.1%	429,000	+ 0.9%	3.3
<i>Australian</i>	Sat.	310,000	- 0.3%	945,000	+ 2.5%	3.0
<i>Financial Review</i>	M-F	94,000	+ 3.3%	333,000	+ 15.2%	3.5
<i>Financial Review</i>	Sat.	93,500	+ 17.6%	191,000	+ 6.7%	2.0
<b>NSW</b>						
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	M-F	422,000	- 2.3%	1,191,000	- 4.2%	2.8
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	Sat.	353,000	- 0.6%	974,000	- 6.1%	2.8
<i>Sydney M. Herald</i>	M-F	231,000	- 0.9%	857,000	- 2.2%	3.7
<i>Sydney M. Herald</i>	Sat.	393,000	- 2.2%	1,286,000	- 6.1%	3.3
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	Sun.	718,000	+ 0.4%	1,874,000	- 6.0%	2.6
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	Sun.	584,000	- 2.7%	1,522,000	- 5.7%	2.6
<b>ACT</b>						
<i>Canberra Times</i>	M-F	39,633	- 0.8%	n.a.		
<i>Canberra Times</i>	Sat	70,881	+ 0.8%	n.a.		
<i>Canberra Times</i>	Sun.	37,970	- 2.3%	n.a.		
<b>Vic.</b>						
<i>Age</i>	M-F	195,100	+ 1.2%	681,000	+ 1.5%	3.5
<i>Age</i>	Sat.	327,575	- 2.9%	1,113,000	- 0.5%	3.4
<i>Herald Sun</i>	M-F	547,965	- 0.1%	1,503,000	+ 0.4%	2.7
<i>Herald Sun</i>	Sat.	510,345	- 0.1%	1,379,000	- 2.1%	2.7
<i>Sunday Age</i>	Sun	192,876	- 2.0%	683,000	- 0.7%	3.5
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	Sun.	533,000	+ 0.6%	1,428,000	- 1.4%	2.7
<b>Queensland</b>						
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	M-F	215,100	- 0.5%	605,000	+ 2.0%	2.8
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	Sat.	336,100	+ 0.3%	899,000	- 1.7%	2.7
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	Sun.	585,700	- 0.1%	1,427,000	+ 0.2%	2.4
<b>South Australia</b>						
<i>Advertiser</i>	M-F	205,566	- 0.2%	601,000	+ 4.5%	2.9
<i>Advertiser</i>	Sat.	273,935	- 0.2%	760,000	+ 2.6%	2.8
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	Sun.	346,522	- 0.1%	824,000	- 1.0%	2.4
<b>Western Australia</b>						
<i>West Australian</i>	M-F	216,433	- 1.8%	668,000	+ 0.8%	3.1
<i>West Australian</i>	Sat.	385,676	+ 0.1%	1,061,000	+ 4.9%	2.8
<i>Sunday Times</i>	Sun.	344,805	- 0.4%	918,000	+ 7.9%	2.7
<b>Tasmania</b>						
<i>Mercury</i>	M-F	49,759	+ 0.2%	132,000	Nil	2.7
<i>Mercury</i>	Sat.	64,732	+ 0.9%	157,000	+ 1.9%	2.4
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	Sun.	56,686	+ 0.6	137,000	+ 7.0%	2.4
<i>Sunday Examiner</i>	Sun.	n.a.		121,000	+ 9.0%	
<b>Northern Territory</b>						
<i>N.T. News</i>	M-F	23,173	- 0.7%	56,000	+12.0%	2.4
<i>N.T. News</i>	Sat.	35,511	+ 0.1%	66,000	+ 10.0%	1.9
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	Sun.	25,608	Nil	57,000	+23.9%	2.2

### 7.13 CONRAD BLACK AND CANADA'S DAILIES

John Miller, director of newspaper journalism, of Ryerson Polytechnic University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, describes Canada's concentration of newspaper ownership as "among the highest in the western world". Conrad Black's Hollinger Inc. owns 59 of Canada's 109 dailies and controls more than 40 per cent of the national circulation. There are six small, independent dailies. "In Canada," wrote Miller in a May email, "the Income Tax Act acts as a fatal disincentive to foreigners owning more than 25 per cent of newspapers. Any more than that and advertisers lose their right to claim the cost of advertising as a business expense."

### 7.14 INDEXING 2,496 COLUMNS OF NEWS IN 1846

Rod and Wendy Gow, newspaper archivists and indexers of Cundletown, NSW, keep bobbing up in this newsletter – for one reason. They keep doing interesting things. Here's what they are doing now: "We are now working on the index of the *Maitland Mercury* for 1846 – the year when the *Mercury* began publishing twice weekly and went from a five-column to a six-column page format. For 1843, 1844 and 1845 we indexed 1,040 columns a year, but now that blows out to 2,496 columns (not counting supplements). We estimate that this will entail about 50,000 entries (up from 19,000) and print out on about 1,800 pages (up from 673 pages). So we have decided to publish the 1846 index in two halves, one set of microfiche from January to June and the other from July to December. Even this will increase the sets from six to eight fiche."

### 7.15 AUSTRALASIAN TYPOGRAPHICAL JOURNAL FILMED

**Tom Darragh** writes: The State Library of Victoria has filmed its holdings of the *Australasian Typographical Journal*, covering the period from Vol. 12, No. 139 (May 1882) through to the final issue, No. 530 (Dec 1916). Unfortunately there are some odd issues missing through the series and I think one whole year about 1900. The *ATJ* is a major source for newspaper history but doesn't seem to be held by many libraries. The film can be bought from State Library of Victoria Publications section.

### 7.16 FICTION AND VERSE IN THE *BORDER POST*, ALBURY

From Albury, **Dirk Spenneman**, of Charles Sturt University, writes: In a parallel universe to my normal teaching and administrative duties I am co-editing with Jane Downing an anthology of Albury fiction/verse 1839-2000. To that end I am compiling a bibliography of Albury fiction (as not all can be included), which eventually will be published as a (free) PDF book in the web. To cover the early period of writing, I have gone through the *Border Post* from 1856 to 1885 in order to pull out all locally authored fiction/verse. Without really knowing why, I also compiled a title/author list index of all poetry in the *Border Post* for that period.

Now I have this in hand (over 1000 entries, mainly anonymous), as well as a list of all masthead titles, prices, publication days and publication places of the *Border Post* to 1885. Size I can't ascertain from the microfilm. If I get round to it I'll write a 2-3 page intro on the paper and then publish the index as a (free) PDF book on the web.

### 7.17 DID YOU KNOW?

*Newspaper Newsletter* was published and edited by Antony Whitlock from a Melbourne base for 40 issues, the first appearing on 4 February 1972. It was mailed to newspaper managements throughout Australia for a few issues until a subscription base had been formed. It appeared fortnightly for 24 issues, until 8 December 1972, and then monthly for 16 issues, from January 1973 until it closed in May 1974 when Whitlock was appointed the foundation

executive director of the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association (PANPA). Your editor has a complete file of *Newspaper Newsletter*.

### 7.18 AUSTRALIAN BUSH PRESS JOURNAL

If you were receiving the *Australian Bush Press Journal* and you have been wondering when the next issue will appear, then please note that 400 issues were being distributed but only 40 people/organisations had bothered to subscribe. Publication has been suspended. Three issues have appeared: December 1998, March 1999 and June 1999. Greg Wane edited the *ABPJ*. He edits *The Whistler*, Ocean Grove, Vic., and the new title, the *Queenscliffe Herald*.

### 7.19 SATURDAY PAGING, 3 JUNE

The *Sydney Morning Herald's* Saturday edition is consistently the biggest newspaper in Australia, as a study of the paging numbers in major daily newspapers throughout Australia on Saturday, 3 June 2000, confirms. The *SMH* finished 120 equivalent tabloid pages ahead of *The Age*. The *West Australian* finished third with 400 pages, and the *Courier-Mail* fourth with 388. [The table below provides a column for equivalent tabloid pages to provide some sort of easy comparison between those newspapers for which figures were obtained for that date; a broadsheet page is regarded as two tabloid pages and a magazine page as a tabloid page – see 6.19 in No. 6. Thanks to Victor Isaacs and David Marsh who helped the editor compile this item.]

Title of paper	Broadsheet pages	Tabloid pages	Magazine pages	Equivalent tabloid pages
<i>Weekend Australian</i>	86	32	56	260
<i>Financial Review</i>		80		80
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Some Redesign Introduced)	232	108	80	652
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>		176		176
<i>Age</i>	226		80	532
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	106	176		388
<i>West Australian</i> (WA Long Weekend)	12	376		400
<i>Advertiser</i> (Adelaide)		292		292
<i>Canberra Times</i>	62	80		204
<i>Mercury</i> (Hobart)		112		112
<i>Newcastle Herald</i>		182		182
<i>Illawarra Mercury</i>		128		128
<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i>		256		256

### 7.20 WHAT DOES “DAILY” MEAN?

**Victor Isaacs** writes: When we say “daily” paper it is usually understood to mean a newspaper published six days a week (ie Mondays to Saturdays). But there are a few daily newspapers in Australia published only **five** days a week:

*Manly Daily* – Tuesdays to Saturdays. This is a purely local suburban newspaper, albeit published more frequently than others. *Maitland Mercury* – Mondays to Fridays. A traditional country town paper, which has recently had a comprehensive redesign to produce an attractive looking product. *Shepparton News* – Mondays to Fridays. A prosperous country daily. *Gladstone Observer* – Tuesdays to Saturdays. *Gympie Times* – Tuesdays to Saturdays.

#### **Are there any others?**

The *Mosman Daily*, another Sydney suburban, despite its title, is weekly. The *Daily Commercial News* (the shipping and transport subscription-only paper), formerly Mondays to

Fridays, is now only published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. And, of course, *Woman's Day* is a weekly and the *Australian Women's Weekly* a monthly.

[Editor's note: A significant number of country dailies were, until this past 10 to 15 years, afternoon papers, generally appearing only five days a week. The *Cootamundra Herald* has been a daily for three periods during its history – 1921-30, 1936-40 and 1946-64 – but appeared only five times a week in each instance. The *Coffs Harbour Advocate* is a free country daily that appears only five times a week, Tuesday to Saturday.]

### **7.21 NEWS PAGES ONLINE**

From **Belinda Weaver**: NewsPages Online – <http://www.newspages.com/>

Subtitled Alternatives in Print and Electronic Media, this site focuses on the alternatives – the work of small, independent publishers. It provides links for Independent Publishers, Alternative and Literary Periodicals (some with online content), Reviews, Alternative Newsweeklies and Independent Bookstores. The weekly News Pages Weblog highlights new writings and films, quoting paragraphs taken from full articles to which links are given. The Resource Library is a categorised and annotated list of links to other alternative media sites.

### **7.22 PRESS FREEDOM ONLINE**

The Press Freedom Survey for 2000 is online at <http://www.freedomhouse.org/pfs2000/>

### **7.23 A SHEAR MARVEL**

The editor of the *Hughenden Observer* in 1911 was unabashed when the *North Queensland Telegraph*, Townsville, poked indirect fun at his reliance on clipping news from exchanges “The editor of the Hughenden paper distinguished himself in the shearing line at the recent show. Nothing to marvel at in that – an editor is used to the shears, you bet!” The Hughenden editor responded: “We regarded it as a transition from pen to pen, and from bored to board.”

### **7.24 CANBERRA TIMES JOURNALISTS DON'T WANT TO BE SNOWED**

Belinda Weaver, the University of Queensland's journalism liaison librarian and part-time journalism lecturer, braved Canberra's snow on 27-28 May (it was the weekend of the Super 12 Rugby final in Canberra and the first NRL match played with snow on the ground – at Canberra's Bruce Stadium) to teach the how-to of Internet investigation to information-hungry *Canberra Times* journalists. Here's her report: “Commonest feeling among the journos was of not having a handle on the Net. Most people knew there was useful information, but could not figure out how to get to it. Most had used the Web, and email, but felt like novices. Being journalists, they were able to grasp the concept of looking for reputable sources quicker than students (or non-journalism academics!) There was considerable bewilderment about search tools – the notion of specific tools for specific purposes was alien, but quickly embraced when explained. For example, search tools for online discussions or newspaper archive searchers; they liked the idea of those.

“I was asked specifically for the mailing address for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences – easy; for advice on finding earlier and follow-up reports to a specific report from the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission – easy; help on finding quotes and country data - easy. In fact, I could answer everything they wanted to know. Their only gripe was I had no gossip or entertainment info on my Australian journos web site. I've remedied that and have since heard they love the Entertainment page. I drew the line at horoscopes.

“The subs who came said they felt that they now had tools to check on things that were clearly wrong in copy. Their gripe was that the librarian was well gone before they got into



their work and they needed tools to check facts, etc. They felt they now had some idea of how to do that.” Belinda is at: [b.weaver@library.uq.edu.au](mailto:b.weaver@library.uq.edu.au)

*Canberra Times* editor Jack Waterford wrote in glowing terms about Ms Weaver’s session in his personal column in the paper the following weekend (3 June 00, Panorama 2).

### 7.25 LACHLAN’S WEDDING PICTURE

Advertisement, *Australian*, 26 May 2000, p.4: Ross Chilvers, freelance news editor (Channel 9, SBS, Channel 10): “There I was on the morning of Lachlan’s wedding, chasing around for shots of it for Nine News. Then a mate said Newspix had them and my job was done. I downloaded them and they went to air the next day. If there’s an easier, faster, simpler way, it hasn’t hit the planet yet.” How the whole human drama is in pictures, online. Updated daily from News Limited’s vast newspaper resources, Newspix is a huge archive of exclusive, high quality images that will revolutionise the way you source pictures. Fast breaking news. Action. Sports. Lifestyle. Travel. Food. The world. And it’s real life. Search or browse for the images you want. Get high res originals and low res positionals immediately at competitive prices, 24 hours a day. Call ...

### 7.26 COLLABORATIVE REPORTING OF THE SYDNEY OLYMPICS

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes: The Fairfax Newspapers Olympic team will have about 90 journalists covering the Sydney Olympics in September. Reporters will be assigned at each of the 28 sports. Several of the more popular sports, such as track and field, and swimming, will have up to five reporters. However, there will be only one reporter covering the less popular sports for Australians, such as handball, fencing, weightlifting, wrestling, archery and badminton.

I will be one of four journalists covering the cycling. This will be a new experience for each of the journalists. At previous Olympic and Commonwealth Games, we were assigned to cover between five and ten sports each. The Fairfax team will be represented by reporters from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Sun-Herald*, the *Age*, the *West Australian*, the *Canberra Times* and the *Australian Financial Review*, and New South Wales regional dailies, the *Illawarra Mercury*, Wollongong, and the *Newcastle Herald*.

The *West Australian*, for example, is not a part of the Fairfax Group, but through an arrangement, became involved with that company at the 1998 Commonwealth Games and this year’s Olympics. The previous biggest journalistic contingent the *West Australian* has had at an Olympic Games was three in 1956 and 1996. There will be 13 journalists in Sydney. The *West* will have a team of 32 (including an artist and a graphics designer) at the Sydney Games, its biggest undertaking in the paper’s 167-year history. Its representatives will include sub-editors and eight photographers. (Also, see NEWSPAPERS PREPARE TO COVER OZ’S BIG EVENT, *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2000, pp.5-6.)

### 7.27 TORCH IGNITES THE HEADLINE WRITERS

Some of the front-page headlines when the Olympic torch arrived on Australian soil at Uluru:

<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	8 June	Flame in our heart
<i>Australian</i>	8 June	Time to shine
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	9 June	Igniting the spirit
<i>Age</i>	9 June	Fire in our heart: Torch ignites the spirit of the Games

## 7.28 THE NORTHERN DAILY LEADER AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In the previous issue, this *Newsletter* published some insights into how the letters editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* decides which letters to publish (see 6.17). Barry Blair draws attention to a similar statement – an editorial – published by the *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth, on 17 June 1998, p.6. An extract: “We make an endeavour to publish all letters, but we reserve the right, as is our privilege, to reject any or all of them on a number of grounds. Letters which are defamatory, racist or sexist are the first to go before consideration of other criteria, including the relevance of the topic, the length of the letter, the motivation of the writer and the quality and structure of the words and sentences which have been submitted.”

On 30 May 2000, the *Northern Daily Leader* showed how ready it was to allow readers to criticise it when it ran a letter that was highly critical of reporter Gary Ruddick. Dr Bronwyn Stokes said Ruddick’s article, “Road closed: public bridge barricaded as dispute erupts over access” (*NDL*, 23 May 00, p.1) was “severely lacking in facts” and was “a sad combination of decayed journalistic skills and personal spite, and as such is a disgrace”.

## 7.29 CLASSIC QUOTES

**Modern readers and journalists can hardly appreciate the vogue of the Australia weeklies in the Eighties and Nineties of the [19<sup>th</sup>] century. Before the weekly, bi-weekly or tri-weekly mail coach gave way to the daily railway train, country residents relied more upon the weekly than the daily papers. The *Town and Country Journal*, the *Sydney Mail* and the *Maitland Weekly Mercury* and the *Albury Banner* were stars in the journalistic firmament forty of fifty years ago. None then realised how completely the dailies would outshine them. – E.H. Collis, *Newspaper News*, 1 July 1935, p. 6.**

## 7.30 ADELAIDE PAPER ABORTED

Spanish newspaper publisher Xavier Moll planned to launch a quality daily in Adelaide until the Australian Government insisted that, after a “honeymoon” of several years, he sell down to 25 per cent his interest – to meet the Government’s foreign ownership rules (*PANPA Bulletin*, June 2000, p.13).

## 7.31 FATHER OF CANBERRA, FOUNDER OF QUEANBEYAN AGE

John Gale (1831-1929), the founder of the *Queanbeyan Age*, is regarded by some as the “father of Canberra” because of his advocacy of Canberra as the site of the national capital. The Queanbeyan Centenary of Federation Committee is seeking expressions of interest for a \$30,000 sculpture of Gale. The *Canberra Times* published on 1 June 2000 an edited version of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entry about Gale. [The *Queanbeyan Age* began on 15 September 1860 as the *Golden Age* and retained that title until May 1864.]

## 7.32 SMH MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE

The *Australian* reports (8 June 00, p.4): The *Sydney Morning Herald* is on the verge of announcing a restructure of its senior management ahead of a redesign of the broadsheet in August. In a nutshell, the reported changes would: give publisher and editor-in-chief Greg Hywood more time for his publishing role; take some editorial duties from Hywood and give them to editor Paul McGeogh; place three managing editors under McGeogh – Marian Wilkinson (to edit the paper Monday to Friday); Mark Scott (to edit the Saturday paper); and Phil Scott (to edit sections).

Shelley Gare (*Weekend Aust.*, 10-11 June 00, p.22) commented: "... it only seems like yesterday that [Wilkinson] and *SMH* editor-in-chief Greg Hywood were at such loggerheads the well-respected Wilkinson handed in her deputy editorship and went back to writing." Also, see 7.33.

### 7.33 THE PRINTER'S STAIN

The cover of the *Australian's* Media liftout on 15 June promised an article by Mark Day on the Fairfax flagship reshuffle, on Page 13.

Only trouble was the production people inserted the wrong Page 13: from the Review section of the *Weekend Australian* of 17-18 June (Stella Clarke reviewing Philip Roth's *The Human Stain*). And, of course, the page paired with 13 – in this instance, Page 20 – was also from the Review section of the weekend paper. An apology appeared on Page 2, 16 June, and pointed readers to the website, [www.theaustralian.com.au](http://www.theaustralian.com.au) (click on Special Sections and then on Media). And there is Day's article, "Who edits the SMH?"

### 7.34 SMH SATURDAY FORMAT RESTRUCTURE

"Dear Readers, Changes to the *Herald's* printing schedules mean changes to the Saturday edition. Sport now has a new-look liftout, Section 4; the Domain and Icon liftouts are now next to the Travel liftout, and *Good Weekend* magazine is inserted behind the Motoring liftout. Please use the EDITORIAL INDEX (above) and the CLASSIFIEDS INDEX (on Page 28 of this section of the paper) if a regular item you seek is not in its usual place. We apologise for any inconvenience." – *Sydney Morning Herald*, "Inside", 3 June 2000, p.2.

## 7.35 IN EVERY PAR IS AN OLD MATE'S NAME

It was only a matter of time before verse crept into this *Newsletter*.  
(Other contributions welcomed.)

### The Western Rag

You're only a commonplace Western print –  
A dreary sheet – yet I call you friend;  
A feeble effort, with scarce a hint  
Of decent copy from end to end  
Your leader is dull as it well can be,  
Your news is gleaned from the mailman's  
bag;  
Yet your dullest page has a charm for me,  
For you take me a journey, old Western Rag!

You bear me away to a far-out town  
Where the hot sun glares on the hot iron  
roofs –  
Where the drovers rattle their money down  
To the merry tune of the flying hoofs;  
For they run a race in the main street there,  
With a bar-towel used for a starter's flag;  
And – win or lose it – they run it fair;  
Or they did when I knew you, old Western  
Rag!

In every par is an old mate's name –  
They've a flow, I see, at the bore of  
Brown's;  
And I learn that Cameron's dog is lame,  
And that Howe was "the ringer" at Bowen  
Downs.  
"The Rager's" been out on a mighty burst –  
I'll wager the bobbies found him a snag;  
He was none too slow when we knew him  
first,  
But, like us, he's a has-been, old Western Rag.

And *her* name is there – a discerning pen  
Has written her "Belle of the last race ball",  
Does she queen it now as she queened it then –  
The beautiful tyrant who ruled us all?  
Does she ever think 'mid the voices' hum  
Of a waltz "sat out" neath a drooping flag?  
Why should she think? Yet the thought *will*  
come;  
And I blame you for it, old Western Rag.  
NSW SPINIFEX

(*The Bulletin*, 17 September 1903, p. 32)

### 7.36 WELCOME TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Since our previous issue, the following have joined the subscription list and we welcome them and look forward to contributions from them as the opportunity arises and the spirit moves Wendy **Bilboe**, of the University of Canberra; Lynn **Bonomini**, of Southern Tablelands Regional Library, Goulburn, NSW; Pat **Buckridge**, of Griffith University, Nathan, Qld; Andrew **Clark**, of the University of Florida; Barbara **Cloud**, of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Roy **Dunstan**, of Lismore, NSW; Helen **Ester**, of Central Queensland University, Rockhampton; John **Farquharson**, of Urila, near Queanbeyan, NSW; Andrew **Gill**, of Bassendean, WA; E.L. (Blue) **Hogan**, of Walcha; Sue **Hughes**, of Melbourne; Helen **Jeuken**, of Bathurst District Historical Society, NSW; Poss **McGregor**, of Mudgee, NSW; Marion **McCarthy**, of Yass & District Historical Society, NSW; Norm **Martyn**, of Sale, Vic.; Mark **Pearson**, of Bond University, Qld; Joyce **Royall**, of Moruya, NSW; Steve **Stockwell**, of Griffith University, Gold Coast Campus; Hazel **Suters**, of Wauchope, NSW; Melva **Thomas**, of Menangle Park, NSW; and (Mrs) Pat **Varley**, of Warrnambool, Vic. The number of subscribers is now 100, with 74 receiving the newsletter electronically.

### 7.37 PRINTING MACHINERY

**Marion McCarthy** asks: "Are you interested in recording what and where (old) newspaper machinery has survived?" The short answer is: Yes. Can subscribers help with information on this issue? What survives – in towns from Walcha to Warrnambool, Dimboola to Dubbo, Bathurst to Bendigo, Gilgandra to Gundagai?

### 7.38 THE BLUE EAR FORUM

Hugh Martin, a lecturer in media studies at La Trobe University, Melbourne, recommends you check out Blue Ear: Global Writing Worth Reading <<http://www.blueear.com>> as an example of a quality independent online publication producing interesting, provocative and original journalism in a commercial model. Blue Ear draws on three discussion lists to select content for the site, as well as offering exclusive commissioned essays and feature articles. Information about all the lists is available at <http://www.blueear.com/subscribe.html> – subscription is free. The Blue Ear Forum – of which Martin is co-moderator – features columns from members around the world, serials such as Lynne Segal's "Memory Prints" on growing up white in South Africa, and occasional guided discussions with special guests. It is less a discussion list than an interactive, global daily magazine, delivered free of charge via email. To join, simply send a blank email to [blueear-forum-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:blueear-forum-subscribe@egroups.com)

### **OPTIONSNEWSUBSCRIPTIONSNEWSUBSCRIPTIONSNEWSUB**

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- (1) E-mail to [r.kirkpatrick@mailbox.uq.edu.au](mailto:r.kirkpatrick@mailbox.uq.edu.au) (no fee for electronic version); or
- (2) snail-mail to Rod Kirkpatrick, 13 Sumac Street, Middle Park, Qld, 4074 (\$11 for hard copy).

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I enclose \$11 (cheque payable to R Kirkpatrick, or 25 x 45c stamps) for the next TEN hard-copy issues.