

# AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

## NEWSLETTER

ISSN 1443-4962

No. 8

August 2000

Compiled for the ANHG by Rod Kirkpatrick, 13 Sumac Street, Middle Park, Qld, 4074,  
07-3279 2279, r.kirkpatrick@mailbox.uq.edu.au

### 8.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS

**Deadline for copy for the next Newsletter is 22 September.**

The Newsletter is now online through links from the University of Queensland's Journalism Department website at [www.uq.edu.au/jrn/](http://www.uq.edu.au/jrn/)

### 8.2 ORAL HISTORY (1): A NATIONAL DIRECTORY

Australia's Oral History Collections: A National Directory provides electronic access to oral history endeavour in Australia. Based on the printed publication of the same name (published in 1997), the database allows you to search within tens of thousands of hours of oral recordings. These collections document Australian life, customs, politics and traditions and cover a wide range of subjects, including journalism. The earliest oral heritage recordings include a 1928 collection of Aboriginal material held by the South Australian Museum anthropology department, and 1939 recordings held by the National Library.

The Directory ([www.nla.gov.au/ohdir/](http://www.nla.gov.au/ohdir/)) lists some 460 collections around the country, including:

- the National Library of Australia collection, containing some 30,000 hours of original recordings;
- at least 11 collections holding more than 1,000 hours of material (including the National Film and Sound Archive and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation);
- more than 200 entries for collections held by local government bodies (mainly public libraries) or volunteer-based local history societies;
- smaller but significant holdings in the hands of organizations such as schools, religious bodies, professional and occupation associations, companies, government departments, ethnic communities, community theatres, sporting associations and recreational groups.

You can search for oral history collections all over Australia by: name of collection or holding institution; subject of the collection (including the geographic regions covered); as well as the date/decade of recording. The Directory also provides links to overseas oral history sites and collections and other useful resources.

### 8.3 ORAL HISTORY (2): A PERSONAL INSIGHT

John Farquharson, a subscriber, has shared some informal reflections on his involvement with the oral history program at the National Library of Australia. John was a journalist with the *Canberra Times* from 1966-88, serving as deputy editor, 1975-85, and editorial manager, 1985-88. Here's a mildly edited version of what he wrote to your editor on 23 June: "Some of the many interviewers involved [in the NLA's oral-history program], such as myself, have a fairly steady flow of work. Editors/journalists are represented in the collection, but not in great numbers. I have interviewed some – Les Hollings, Paddy McGuinness, Peter Bowers, Gavin Souter, John Valder (an *SMH* journalist before going to other things!), David Bowman, Graham Freudenberg (journalism/politics), and Heather Shakespeare (long-time

employee of the *Canberra Times* and second wife of A.T. Shakespeare, its managing editor from 1926-1964).

“For the *Canberra Times*’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1996), I was commissioned to do a range of oral-history interviews across the staff spectrum. On the editorial side, I interviewed Ian Mathews, John Allan, John Pringle, Frank Cranston, Jack Waterford, and Bill Hoffman (music critic). The interviews were also videotaped. The audio tapes are all in my possession but they are not the archival tape with which I am supplied for NLA non-studio interviews.

“I have also interviewed John B. Fairfax, principal shareholder of Marinya Media Ltd and chairman of Rural Press Ltd; and Geraldine Paton, a former News Ltd director. However, I work mainly in the field of politicians, senior public servants and the legal profession – judges and barristers. A range of other journalists is represented in the NLA collection through interviews done by Mel Pratt, Hazel de Berg and Stewart Harris. Access conditions to all the NLA’s holdings are determined by the interviewees and conditions vary greatly, though a good many are open to *bona fide* researchers.”

Another of the oral-history interviewers at the National Library has been Ray Aitchison, who was chief of staff in the ABC’s newsroom in the Federal Parliamentary press gallery, 1966-70, and the ABC’s first television journalist in the gallery. (Source: *Clarence River Historical Society Newsletter*, No. 56, 25 July 2000, p.6)

#### **8.4 GREAT DAYS: A NEW CADET AT THE GOULBURN EVENING POST**

Before we leave John Farquharson (see 8.3), here’s a reminiscence your editor received from him in 1998 when I asked him about his days as a cadet at the *Goulburn Evening Post*:

I did my cadetship on the *Post* [from about 1950] when it was owned by the Daniel brothers and Marmion Dart was editor. My first job was to go to the sale yards and compile the prices of the weekly sheep and cattle sales. This remained my responsibility throughout my first year, I think ... The office “transport” was a green and cream Speedwell bicycle which I used to ride to the yard in all weathers and then go over the sheep pens with the auctioneers or along the catwalks for the cattle sales. During the district show season our means of getting there more often than not was in the Goulburn ambulance, by arrangement with Marmion Dart who was chairman of the ambulance service board... They were great days during which I learnt to cover just about everything from sport to courts, city and shire councils, PP [Pastures Protection] boards, film and theatrical reviews, and even the occasional musical concert, not that I knew anything about music.

#### **8.5 PUBLICATION OF INTEREST**

THE ARGUS: LIFE & DEATH OF A NEWSPAPER by Jim Usher. Melbourne: Jim Usher, 1999, 146pp. ISBN: 0-646-37496-6. A collection of memories from Melbourne *Argus* journalists, photographers, press artists, printers and office staff who worked on the paper between 1923 and 1957. Available from Jim Usher, PO Box 52, St Andrews Vic 3761 (\$22 incl postage).

#### **8.6 RECENT ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

8.6.1 CRIME AND COURTS (seven articles and a photo-essay on this theme) in *Walkley Magazine*, Winter 2000. Contributors: Bernard Lane, Peter McEvoy and Joe Puccini, Ben Hills, Evan Whitton, David Hardaker, Peter Manning, and Rachel Morris; photo essay by Vrendan Esposito, Tony McDonough, Nick Moir and Mark Williams).

8.6.2 IT TOOK AN AGE by Pamela Bone, *Walkley Magazine*, Winter 2000, pp.17-18. After more than 200 years of newspaper publishing in Australia, for many the idea of an all-female team of editors remains a novelty.

8.6.3 KISS AND TELL by Garry Linnell, *Walkley Magazine*, Winter 2000, pp.37-39. Many publishers and editors believe that today's readers lack the attention span to cope with long, involved stories.

8.6.4 PRINT'S ELITE PUTS VIRTUE ABOVE VERACITY by Michael Warby, *Australian*, Media liftout, 22 June 00, pp.14-15. The so-called quality press in Australia is undermined by the moral vanity and herd mentality of its journalists.

8.6.5 THE LONG-TERM PRESERVATION OF DIGITAL DATA by Ross Harvey, *Canberra Times*, 15 June 00, p.12. Electronic information is easy to access and copy but the problem is keeping it for the requisite time.

8.6.6 JOHN NEAL – CARTOONIST AND JOURNALIST by Frank Morris, *Australian Book Collector*, June 2000, pp.25-27.

8.6.7 MEDIA GETS SHORT SHRIFT by David Marsh, *Scoop* (published by the Australian Journalist Association, WA branch), Winter 2000, Volume 14, No. 1, p. 17. Provides a personal experience of covering the world triathlon championships in Perth on 29 April 2000, where an organisational blunder resulted in the elite women running 2km short, and the organisations blamed the Australian and international media for its reporting.

8.6.8 PAPER KEPT THE MANNING RIVER TIMES ON ITS TOES by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, July 2000, pp.30-31. Deals with the unusual Cowan dynasty (David Cowan, his sister, and her niece's husband) and the *Northern Champion*, Taree, NSW.

8.6.9 IN COURT OVER JAIL INTERVIEWS by Liz Johnston, *Australian*, Media liftout, 6 July 2000, p.3. Another Queensland journalist falls foul of the law that aims to restrict media access to prisoners.

8.6.10 AUSTRALIA LEADS THE WORLD AS A NATION OF PAPER RECYCLERS by Jack Beverley, *PANPA Bulletin*, July 2000, p.9. With a record recovery rate of nearly 70 per cent of the 702,151 tonnes consumed in 1999, Australia has surpassed the recycling rate of the United States, the recognised world leader.

8.6.11 DATELINE DARWIN AND ALL POINTS NORTH by Paul Toohey, *Australian*, Media liftout, 13 July 2000, p.5. John Loizou launches a broadsheet newspaper, the *Southeast Asian Times*, in Darwin to serve northern Australia and South-East Asia.

8.6.12 COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN by David Cohen, *Australian*, Media liftout, 27 July 2000, p.9. A Court Government minder and a Fremantle newspaper declare hostilities.

## **8.7 PRINTING MACHINERY (1): CORRYONG AND YASS**

Marion McCarthy, you've opened a can of worms. In 7.37, she asked: "Are you interested in recording what and where (old) newspaper machinery has survived?" As a result of various responses and the editor's investigations, this is what we have discovered:

The *Corryong Courier* (Victoria) still has its last hot metal edition – issued on 22 December 1992 – sitting on the press, editor/publisher Mark Collins confirms. Since then the Corryong

paper has been printed offset by North East Newspapers at the *Wangaratta Chronicle*. **Gordon Woolf** says he and Greg Wane (publisher of *The Whistler*, Ocean Grove, Vic.) and Brian O'Connor (newspaper collector from Canberra) took a brief break from the newspaper history conference in Chiltern to investigate the former *Sun* office in Rutherglen (Vic.) only a short drive away (and where, for a year or so, Woolf published the *Rutherglen Star*). "The *Sun* office is still there, as it was left, and is indeed filled with old printing machinery as I remembered it but this is as a storehouse for a Melbourne printing machinery dealer and it would seem that very little of the original equipment remains."

**Marion McCarthy** provides a list of the printing machinery that was housed at the *Yass Tribune* when Rural Press Ltd took possession of the paper in January 1997. Item 2 – a hand Platen press, manufactured by Chandler & Price, of Cleveland, Ohio, wand consisting of a large fly wheel and two handles – is now at the Hamilton Hume Museum, together with the perforator and "heaps of very heavy lettering in wooden trays". Yass & District Historical Society, NSW, runs the museum. Marion says the society took photographs of the items of greatest interest. Most were sold for scrap.

## 8.8 PRINTING MACHINERY (2): PENRITH RESTORATION PROJECT

From the Blue Mountains, local-history librarian **John Low** sends an article from the *Penrith Press* of 27 June 2000 reporting on the restoration of machinery from the defunct *Nepean Times* [published 1882-1962]. Four retired hot-metal printers from the Penrith district – Alan Connell, Ross Olsson, Des Lane and Graham Elphick – have been working on a 1922 Mergenthaler linotype machine; an 1889 guillotine; a century old Wharfedale flatbed printing press; and various other items from the former *Nepean Times* office. Their work has been aided by a Federation grant of \$25,500 and a gift of land from the Penrith Paceway, enabling construction of a building to house the equipment. The aim is to create a working printing museum (there is one at Warwick, Qld) and the four men plan to open it to university and school students by appointment, on nights when trotting is held at the Paceway and during the Penrith Show.

Roger Colless, of Lapstone, final owner of the *Nepean Times*, said in 1997 that his grandfather, Alfred, established the paper on 3 March 1882 and in the early 1890s bought the *Penrith Argus* and the *St Mary's Times*. Alfred Colless died in 1920 and his son, Alfred Sydney Colless, continued to run the newspaper. A.S. Colless's own son, Roger, began working at the paper in 1946. The family closed the paper in November 1962 [after 4,113 issues] and continued as commercial printers. The printing operation closed in 1987.

## 8.9 PRINTING MACHINERY (3): STATUS OF HOT-METAL COUNTRY PAPERS

Item 8.7 led your editor to investigate which was the final hot-metal country paper in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. He knew the answer for Queensland, and he knew that NSW still had three hot-metal papers and Western Australia, one. Here are the results.

State	Final hot-metal country paper	Final hot-metal issue
Victoria	<i>Tarrangower Times</i> , Maldon	30 June 1994
Tasmania	<i>North-Eastern Advertiser</i> , Scottsdale	6 May 1993
South Australia	<i>The Leader</i> , Angaston, and <i>Southern Argus</i> , Strathalbyn*	13 September 1979
Queensland	<i>Clifton Courier</i>	11 August 1994
New South Wales	<i>Koondrook &amp; Barham Bridge</i> , <i>Don Dorrigo Gazette</i> and <i>Lachlander</i> , Condobolin, still produced hot metal	Not applicable
Western Australia	<i>Gnowangerup Star</i> still produced hot metal	Not applicable

**Victoria:** Chris Oakes, owner of the *Tarrangower Times*, established in 1858, said the circulation for his weekly was down to about 500 after having been fairly constant at 630. The paper generally carries six pages, although it hit 14 pages with the GST ads. He became the owner in July 1994 and began printing offset immediately. He has an old 78 Linotype machine, with four magazines, in the front window of his office. Mark Collins, of the *Corryong Courier*, the second-last Victorian hot-metal paper, said that when his father-in-law, the late Colin McClure, bought the *Courier* in 1951 Col's father, Bill, took over the *Tarrangower Times*. The final hot-metal issue of the *Courier* (22 December 1992) still sits on the press.

**Tasmania:** The *North-Eastern Advertiser*, Scottsdale, last used hot-metal production methods for its issue of 6 May 1993, 11 months after the *Huon News*: 4 June 1992.

**South Australia:** \*Research continues, but Angaston's *Leader* and Strathalbyn's *Southern Argus* both produced their final letterpress issues on 13 September 1979. *The Leader* had gradually eliminated hot-metal processes over the previous two months. The *Southern Argus* continued to do some hot-metal typesetting, possibly for a few months, after changing to offset printing, pulling a page proof to use as an impression for the offset plate. Angaston and Strathalbyn made the conversion only months after Bordertown's *Border Chronicle*, which, itself, was only a few months after Penola's *Pennant*.

## 8.10 ADVANCE AUSTRALIA WHERE

The *Australian* ran a week-long series on the theme of "Advance Australia where" from 17-24 June. It kicked off with a front-page story, "Death of the fair go", and other articles on pp.6, 21,22, 23, 25 and 52 in the *Weekend Australian* on 17-18 June and continued with double-page spreads and associated material, such as letters and editorials, from Monday to Friday, concluding with a five-page Focus special in the weekend issue of 24-25 June. The series drew on six months of "our own reporting" and extensive research commissioned for the *Australian*. It was undertaken by Paul Kelly, George Megalogenis, Mike Steketee, Michelle Gunn, Dennis Shanahan, Matt Price, Sian Powell, Roy Eccleston, Andrew White, Kevin Meade, Kerrie Murphy, Richard Yallop, Bruce Montgomery, Elisabeth Wynhausen, Adrian McGregor, Paul Toohey, Carolyn Collins, Geoff Elliott, Duncan Macfarlane and Gabrielle Chan, and was edited by Ean Higgins.

## 8.11 A DAILY VOICE IN THE HALLS OF POWER

Tamworth's *Northern Daily Leader* ran a centrespread on itself (10 June 00, pp.34-35) two days before re-styling its news focus and format. Here's an edited extract: The *Northern Daily Leader's* circulation is more geographically wide-ranging than any other regional daily newspaper in Australia. It is produced from Tamworth by a staff of 115 people: 72 permanent and part-time and 43 casuals. All permanent staff are shareholders of the parent company, Rural Press Ltd. The paper goes out daily to 74 locations in NSW. It enjoys an average readership of 33,000 people aged 18 years and over.\* It circulates from Muswellbrook in the south-east to well past the Queensland border and west to Walgett. In the east the boundary is the Great Dividing Range.

While many of the communities enjoy the coverage of their own local weekly, bi or tri-weekly newspaper, the *Northern Daily Leader* has a special role. It is the glue that links these communities into a wider and identifiable regional community that embraces one-eighth of NSW. It is the vehicle that gives the combined communities a daily voice in the halls of power in Canberra and Macquarie Street. [\*ANHG editor's note: Audit Bureau of Circulation figures for the *NDL* for the six months to 31 December 1999 were 9,039 compared with 10,827 in 1970.]

## 8.12 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

<b>20 April</b>	<i>The Eye</i> ceases publication (Vol 2, No. 7).
<b>6 June</b>	<i>Australian Financial Review</i> introduces 20-page daily Market Wrap liftout section. The front of the section replicates the typographical design (incl. masthead) of the paper.
<b>16 June</b>	Death of Colin Arthur <b>Roderick</b> , author, academic, publisher; co-editor with Lindsay Revill of <i>the Journalist's Craft</i> , the book that flowed from the 1968 Townsville conference on education of journalists ( <i>Australian</i> , 20 June 00, p.17, obit.).
<b>21 June</b>	Death of Peter <b>Smark</b> , a senior writer and correspondent at various times for the <i>Australian</i> , <i>Age</i> , <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> and <i>Herald Sun</i> ; worked for ABC Radio and AAP; won Australian Journalist of the Year Award in 1982; editor of <i>Sun-Herald</i> , Sydney, 1986-88; aged 63 ( <i>Australian</i> , 26 June 00, p.16, obit.; <i>Sun-Herald</i> , 25 June 00, p.32; <i>Australian</i> , Media liftout, 29 June 00, pp.12-13).
<b>24 June</b>	First of three Olympics issues of the <i>Good Weekend</i> appears in <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> and <i>Age</i> ; the second appeared on 29 July; and the third will appear in September.
<b>27 June</b>	First issue by the <i>Australian</i> of <i>exec</i> , a 40-page colour magazine with a focus on e-commerce.
<b>30 June</b>	Cameron O'Reilly quits as chief executive of APN News & Media Ltd to pursue private investment interests in Europe (see 8.14).
<b>c. 30 June</b>	First issue of the <i>Southeast Asian Times</i> , a broadsheet, in Darwin (see 8.6.11).
<b>1 July</b>	Goods and Services Tax implemented, lifting prices of newspapers (see 8.26).
<b>1 July</b>	Redesign of the Saturday edition of Brisbane's <i>Courier-Mail</i> . Now delivered in two parts, the second being labelled "BAM" (Books, Arts, Music).
<b>7 July</b>	Twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the <i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i> , Maroochydore, Qld. Special supplement issued.
<b>12 July</b>	Noted author and journalist Helen Garner begins new weekly column in <i>The Age</i> , Melbourne.
<b>19 July</b>	Death in Perth of Robert Duffield, foundation staff member of the <i>Australian</i> ; former chief sub-editor, joint production editor, foreign editor and chief leader writer for it; as chair of News Ltd's joint house AJA committee was a key figure in 1975 strike over the paper's "integrity" during the period after the Whitlam Government's sacking; aged 64 ( <i>Australian</i> , 24 July 00, p.10).
<b>21 July</b>	100 <sup>th</sup> birthday of Ken Hilton; joined <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> in 1915, worked there 50 years; became chief electrical engineer; late brother, Stan, a composer, also did 50 years at Fairfax. (Column 8, <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 21 July 00, p.1)
<b>22/23 July</b>	<i>Weekend Australian</i> issues first of weekly six-part series of Olympic magazines, "2000 Winners".
<b>31 July</b>	First issue of the redesigned <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> appears (see 8.37).

## 8.13 DOCTORS BURY THEIR MISTAKES ...

There's an old saying that doctors bury their mistakes, lawyers hang theirs, but editors put theirs on the front page. Crispin Hull wants editors to take that literally. Hull, a former editor of the *Canberra Times* and for some years the deputy editor, says all newspaper corrections and apologies should go on Page 1. Writing an opinion piece about a Senate committee report, *Monitoring Australia's Media*, Hull wrote: "In the past couple of months, we have had media commentators up and down the country urging the Government to say sorry for the stolen generations. It is appalling hypocrisy. When did you last year an apology on radio or

television for anything? You see them in print from time to time. But they are often couched in legalese and often extracted only on threat of a lawsuit.

“The newspapers in this country should for once and for all put an end to the justified accusation that errors are more prominent than apologies. We should put all corrections and apologies on Page 1. There would be nothing shameful about it, particularly after it became standard practice. If we did that, we would be on much more solid ground in calling for changes to the insidious defamation laws that give remedies only to those who can afford to risk the legal fees.” (*Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth, 24 June 2000, p.13.)

#### **8.14 MEDIA LAWS (1): CAMERON O'REILLY**

Cameron O'Reilly, upon leaving his post as chief executive officer of APN News & Media Ltd on 30 June, admitted frustration at Australia's limits on foreign investment in media companies. He says there is more risk of a local media proprietor interfering in domestic politics than a foreign company doing so. The foreign-investment limits only curbed competition and innovation. “When it comes to media, foreign investment changes to foreign control, which is a shame because there are a lot of media groups around the world which would like to invest more [here]. It would be good for the existing media owners in terms of increasing the value of their assets and also would create a more competitive framework.” O'Reilly believes Australia should look to the British model which does not restrict foreign investment but which does set a 20 per cent audience share rule for companies which want to own both newspapers and television stations. APN is 41 per cent owned by Ireland-based Independent Newspapers plc. (*Australian*, 29 June 2000, p.23)

[Editor's note: The O'Reillys and their Irish newspaper interests were able to take control of what is now APN News & Media because Dr Tony O'Reilly's first wife was an Australian and their six children had Australian passports. APN owns 10 regional dailies in Queensland and four in northern NSW. It has also been a big investor in radio. It bought the former Provincial Newspapers (Qld.) Ltd group in July 1988.]

#### **8.15 MEDIA LAWS (2): FRED HILMER**

Fred Hilmer, chief executive of John Fairfax, told the National Press Club in Canberra that media policy in Australia was driven by an obsession with personalities, platitudes and moguls that would ultimately cost Australia jobs and consumer benefits. In a speech critical of both the Government and opposition parties, Hilmer said media laws were in a “time warp” and needed “urgent reform”. (*Australian*, 29 June 2000, p.4.) For more on media laws, see Mark Day's column in the *Australian*, Media liftout, 6 July 2000, p.13.

#### **8.16 THE AUDIT BUREAU**

In a recent newsletter, the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) offered answers to common questions about it. It said:

The ABC is a non-profit tripartite organisation established to provide an independent verification of paid print-media circulation. The three industry groups that govern and drive the direction of the ABC are Advertisers, Advertising Agencies and Publishers. The ABC was formed in 1932 when advertisers, advertising agencies and publishers established ground rules for circulation auditing. The ABC was created to uphold those rules and to provide audited circulation information to both buyers and sellers of advertising space. The need for audited circulation stemmed from the need for credibility. Publishers needed independent verification to sell advertising space and to provide a basis for advertising rates. Advertisers and advertising agencies needed to know their print-media decisions were being based upon independently verified circulation data. The ABC is on the web at [www.auditbureau.org.au/](http://www.auditbureau.org.au/)

## 8.17 COUNTRY PRESS PERISH ONE BY ONE

When you devote countless hours to piecing together the story of newspapers in this country, you know it when you stumble on an article that should be preserved. Here is one. It appeared under the above heading in the *Central Queensland News*, Emerald, 3 February 1944, p.1. John McDonald Hardcastle was the writer.

Mr M. Tyrell has arrived from Hughenden and taken up duties as shunter at Emerald Railway Station. Our new arrival was the doyen of Hughenden football and a very keen sport in other games. Mr Tyrell informs us that the *Flinders Chronicle* is no more. About 20 years ago big pastoral and commercial interests decided to form a strong company to produce the *Flinders Chronicle* to challenge the Uncrowned King of Hughenden, J.V. Suter, who guided the destinies of the *Hughenden Observer*, established over 53 years and edited by a firebrand named Wyse. J.V. Suter was a stock and station agent of some standing, secretary of the Hughenden Jockey Club and held all the revenue-producing concerns in the palm of his hands and the Government of the day, headed by Sir Robert Philp, recognised in him a man of ability, so the new paper was not to have a walk over, even though their banking account was solid and one of the most modern printing plants was purchased from Wimble's, Sydney.

Under the editorship of Mr Wheeler (from the Government Printing Office, Brisbane), assisted by his son, later to become Father Wheeler, and the well-known songster, Miss Molly Wheeler, Mr Sid Vestman (now editor of the *Charleville Times*) turned out an 8pp. double news sheet, equal to displayed leading metropolitan papers. Seven years the war raged between the two interests, but an action for libel bought by Miss Molly Wheeler and Mr Frank Hamilton, a solicitor, in the Townsville Supreme Court, re a personal par in "Girlie Gossip" concerning them, ended in their favour with £1000 and costs. Suter conducted his own case. Suter, anticipating the *Observer* plant would be seized, rushed another printing plant to Hughenden. But the *Observer* never published after the plant was seized and sold. The Co. bought the goodwill and gave J.V. a seat on the board.

The writer of these notes came up from the Tweed River, where he had managed and edited the *Tweed Call and Guardian* at Murwillumbah for seven years, to take over the managing editorship of the *Flinders Chronicle* and on arrival found the beer strike in full swing: the Diggers v The Comos [sic]. Shooting and street brawls became so serious that police were rushed from Longreach to Winton by cars, as the railway was only being built. A special train from Winton to Hughenden with the police was pulled up umpteen miles from nowhere, and the train crew refused to move a wheel, which proved later a sane move on the part of "Smacker" Maclean, the driver. Had that train of police arrived on schedule, blood would have flowed freely as both Diggers and Comos were armed to the teeth. Women and children made an exit to Charters Towers and many never returned, making their homes in that historic town. Later on "Smacker" was elected mayor of Hughenden ...

Harry Maxwell merged his *Record* after I had turned down a tempting offer from the Co. but he soon displeased the Comos [sic] who later hurled a bomb under the press. Harry decided editing a paper in Hughenden was too hot and handed over to Daisy Hodel\*, a journalist from Townsville, who had been editing the *News* at Cloncurry. Mrs Hodel crossed swords with the big interests and as a result they wrote *finis* to the one-prosperous Nor-West newspaper. If I know the big-hearted Hughenden people, from the failure will arise Phoenix like another press to champion the cause of that rich pastoral centre, perhaps at no distant date.

[\*Editor's note: For more on the Hodel family of newspaper people, see James Manion's *Paper Power in North Queensland*, espec. pp.209-213, and Rod Kirkpatrick's *Sworn to No Master*, pp. 72 and 79.]



## 8.18 NEW ZEALAND NEWSPAPER REGISTRATIONS 1869-1908

From Melbourne, **Ian Morrison** writes: During the 1980s Ross Harvey and Nicola Frean, successive Newspaper Librarians at the National Library of New Zealand, embarked on a project to index nineteenth-century newspaper registration documents. These documents take the form of affidavits, lodged at regional offices of the New Zealand Supreme Court under the requirements of the Printers and Newspapers Registration Act 1868. The 1868 Act deserves an article in itself: it was the outcome of an unsuccessful attempt to prosecute Maori sympathiser C.O.B. Davis for disseminating a 'seditious libel' in 1865, and the minister who drafted it was himself a newspaper editor. The Act required two affidavits: owners of printing presses were to state the equipment they owned and the premises at which it would be operated; newspaper proprietors, printers and publishers were required to swear a separate affidavit for each title they were involved with. Many also lodged copies of their publications with the Court; some of these now constitute the only extant copies of short-lived New Zealand newspapers. Harvey and Frean indexed the records for all regions except Otago, Southland and West Coast.

In 1991 I worked with Ross Harvey on a project to index the *New Zealand Press News* (1876-79) and its successors the *Colonial Printer's Register* (1879-80) and *Griffin's Colonial Printer's Register* (1880-81). Like their Australian equivalent the *Australasian Typographical Journal*, the New Zealand trade journals are an extraordinarily rich source of trade gossip, and a window into the working lives of nineteenth-century newspaper men and women. (*Typo*, published by R. Coupland Harding during the later 1880s and 1890s, offers comparable riches and still awaits an indexer.)

Funding from the Society for the Humanities in New Zealand 'History of Print Culture in New Zealand' project enabled me to spend February-April 2000 at the University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ, editing these indexes for publication. I was able to index the Otago registrations (held at the Dunedin branch of New Zealand National Archives), and incorporate them in the database. Dr Noel Waite, English Department, University of Otago, has located the Southland registrations in the Supreme Court office in Invercargill; these will be added to the database in due course. The West Coast registrations are yet to be located.

Further editorial work resulted in the merger of the trade journals index with the registrations index. The database includes personal and company names, occupations, newspaper titles, places, and regions. It will be mounted on the web and maintained by the English Department, University of Otago. It is envisaged that it will ultimately form part of the proposed Australasian Book Trade Index.

For further information, contact: Ian Morrison, Curator – Australiana, Special Collections, University of Melbourne Library, or telephone him on (03) 8344 5366, or email him at [i.morrison@lib.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:i.morrison@lib.unimelb.edu.au); or Dr Shef Rogers, English Department, University of Otago, Dunedin, email [shef.rogers@stonebow.otago.ac.nz](mailto:shef.rogers@stonebow.otago.ac.nz)

## 8.19 FEMALE SPORTS JOURNALISTS AND AGE

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes: How old is "too old" for Australia's increasing numbers of women sports journalists? That can be a question many women may be asking following comments by the West Australian's first female sports writer Pat Higgins. Higgins, a State junior golf champion, joined the *West Australian* as a cadet journalist shortly after completing an English degree at the University of WA in 1954. After two years on the general desk she moved to the sports department and remained until resigning in January 1963. Her rounds were golf, hockey and tennis, though she covered a wide range of sports and had a weekly "women in sport" column. Her last major event was covering the swimming at the 1962 Empire Games (now the Commonwealth Games) in Perth. "I enjoyed my time reporting

sport,” Higgins said. “But I felt that I had to move before I became much older. I believe it is not an area of journalism where a woman could get old in. I believed then, and still do, that school teaching was a more suitable occupation for a woman to become old.” Higgins gained several school teaching posts until she retired in 1988. She now runs a small property with horses at South Yunderup, 90km south of Perth. In its 167-year history, the *West Australian* has had only three women sports journalists. After Higgins left, it was another 28 years before the next female sports writer joined the paper’s staff. South African Gene Stephan joined the *West* in 1990 and now is the paper’s writer in track and field, baseball, hockey, squash and gymnastics. The third woman sports writer at the paper was Rowena Newcomen, who joined as a sub-editor before joining sport as a reporter in 1994. She stayed until 1998, leaving to travel overseas.

## 8.20 LUNCH WITH DARRAGH: ENGRAVERS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

From Melbourne, **Tom Darragh** wrote that he was not doing much that would interest the ANHG, but the editor begs to differ. This is what Tom was doing: “I am just checking the *Melbourne Illustrated Post* for names of wood engravers to make sure I have the names in my directory of engravers and lithographers. I am going to go through all the illustrated papers as a check. This is a lunch-time effort, so it will take a week or so. We don’t know much about the staff of the illustrated papers because so many of the illustrations are unsigned. The ones that are signed are usually by independent wood engravers whose engravings appeared in several journals. The papers also swapped wood blocks or possibly electrotypes, and that makes it just that little bit harder to ensure that I only have Victorian engravers. [Next I am going on to the *Australian Sketcher*.]”

A few days later, this from Tom: The *Illustrated Australian News* of 21 February 1883, p.31, carried a full-page illustration divided into four views, entitled “Printing *The Age* newspaper”, and p.26 carried a description of the illustrations.

And then more from the *Illustrated Australian News*: (a) 10 June 1878 – Newspaper printing, *The Age* Victory Machines (illustr., p.104, and description, p.106) [*The Age* was averaging a daily circulation of 33,000]; and (b) 13 October 1888, p.183 – New Machine for the Melbourne *Age* newspaper with illustration of the R. Hoe & Co. machine [*The Age* had five machines and, with this one, six.]

## 8.21 WHAT DOES “DAILY” MEAN?

From Tamworth, NSW, **Barry Blair** writes: What does daily mean (see 7.20)? The word “daily” may stem from the six-day working week of old. Among my souvenirs (somewhere) is part of a British rail timetable from ca 1911 that clearly shows “daily” and “Sundays”. Current CityRail (SYD) timetables shows “Monday-Friday” and “Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays”. [Until the 1930s the practice in British and Australian railway timetables was that “Daily” meant Mondays to Saturdays!]

Interestingly enough, *The Macquarie Dictionary* (1989 reprint) suggests (in terms of newspapers) “daily” means “a newspaper appearing each day or each weekday”. In the 1975 ed. of *The World Book Dictionary* “daily” as it relates to newspapers means “a newspaper appearing every day, or every day but Sunday”.

In view of the ANHG article, it would seem the meaning is shifting from “every” or “each” to “any”. Even the word “weekly” doesn’t escape! Cite *The Australian Women’s Weekly*. It would appear a name change might be a costly exercise when publication frequency changes.

## 8.22 HOW LOCAL IS YOUR LOCAL RAG?

**Victor Isaacs** writes: The economics of the newspaper industry in Australia in recent years has led to increasing centralisation of physical functions. As well as the major metropolitan-based newspaper companies, News Ltd, Fairfax, and West Australian Newspapers, ownership of rural papers is increasingly concentrated into two big chains, Rural Press and Australian Provincial Newspapers (APN). Even papers outside these nets are increasingly concentrated. For example, McPherson, as well as its main publication, the daily *Shepparton News*, owns (and prints) a large number of non-dailies in northern Victoria and southern NSW. Even where ownership is not shared, it is now not unusual for a small newspaper to be printed on the presses of a larger paper in a nearby large town. The most extreme, or rather far-flung, example is that the *Canberra Times*, as well as printing nearby papers in their Rural Press empire, also prints the weekly giveaways *Newcastle Star* and Melbourne northern suburbs *Community News*.

Among daily newspapers, the following are not printed in their home town:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Home town</b>	<b>Printed by</b>	<b>Printed at</b>
<i>Illawarra Mercury</i> (Fairfax)	Wollongong	Fairfax	Sydney
<i>Western Advocate</i> (RPL)	Bathurst	<i>Daily Liberal</i>	Dubbo
<i>Central Western Daily</i> (RPL)	Orange	<i>Daily Liberal</i>	Dubbo
<i>Daily News</i> (APN)	Tweed Heads	<i>Northern Star</i>	Lismore
<i>Coffs Harbour Advocate</i> (APN)	Coffs Harbour	<i>Northern Star</i>	Lismore
<i>Daily Examiner</i> (APN)	Grafton	<i>Northern Star</i>	Lismore
<i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> (APN)	Maryborough	<i>News-Mail</i>	Bundaberg
<i>Gladstone Observer</i> (APN)	Gladstone	<i>Morning Bulletin</i>	Rockhampton
<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (WAN)	Kalgoorlie	<i>West Australian</i>	Perth
* Key: RPL = Rural Press Ltd; APN = APN News & Media Ltd			

There are some Australian newspapers, mainly the national Dailies, printed at more than one location. These are:

- *Australian* at News Ltd plants in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Townsville, Perth and Adelaide
- *Financial Review* at Fairfax plants in Sydney and Melbourne (Mon-Fri) and at independent printers in Brisbane, Perth and Murray Bridge; also at Ballarat on Saturday only.
- *Courier-Mail* at News Ltd plants in Brisbane and Townsville
- *Sunday Telegraph* at News Ltd plants in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane
- *Sunday Age* at Fairfax plants in Melbourne and Sydney
- *Brisbane Sunday Mail* at News Ltd plants in Brisbane and Townsville.

## 8.23 NON-ENGLISH DAILIES

The following non-English Dailies are currently published in Australia, all in Sydney:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Circulation</b>
<i>Australian Chinese Daily</i>	.90/1.10 weekends	25,000
<i>Daily Chinese Herald</i>	1.00NSW/1.10	24,000
<i>Independence Daily</i> (Chinese)	1.00NSW/1.10	15,000
<i>Sing Tao</i> (Chinese)	1.00NSW/1.10	30,000
<i>Greek Herald</i>	1.80	22,500
<i>Chieu duong</i> (Vietnamese)	1.50	

There is also, I believe, an Arabic Daily, but contradictory information quotes its title as *Australian Arabic News* or *Ad-Diyar [Arab World]*. – **Victor Isaacs**.

## 8.24 BRITISH WEEKLIES IN AUSTRALIA

**Victor Isaacs** writes: The following weekly editions of British newspapers are currently published in Australia (sample week ending 7 July 2000):

Title	Parent papers	Style	Politics	Price (inc gst)	Tabloid pages	Printed at
<i>Guardian Weekly</i>	<i>Guardian, Observer,</i> Also 3pp from <i>Washington Post</i> & 2pp transl.) from Paris <i>Le Monde</i>	Serious	Centre-Left	\$3.50	36	Kiama
<i>Weekly Telegraph</i>	<i>Daily Telegraph, Sunday Telegraph</i>	Serious	Conservative	\$3.50	56	North Richmond, Johannesburg, Toronto
<i>International Independent</i>	<i>Independent, Independent on Sunday</i>	Serious	Centre	\$3.25	32 no advertising	Kiama?
<b>UK Mail</b>	<i>Daily Mail, Mail on Sunday</i>	Popular	Conservative	\$3.50	56	North Richmond
<i>International Express</i>	<i>Daily Express, Sunday Express</i>	Popular	Conservative	\$3.25	56	North Richmond, Auckland, Singapore, Johannesburg, Toronto
<i>Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail International</i>	<i>Glasgow Daily Record, Glasgow Sunday Mail</i>	Popular	Scottish Nationalist	\$3.50	32 no advertising	Kiama

## 8.25 SAME-DAY EDITIONS OF NEWSPAPERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**Victor Isaacs** writes: Presspoint is a new US based service that provides same-day, printed editions of newspapers from around the world. By arrangement with publishers and using digital technology it prints and distributes A3 slightly edited editions of newspapers. For example, from the UK it currently offers the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Guardian* and from the US the *New York Daily News*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and *Washington Post Weekly Edition*. The company says the range of titles will be expanded.

No Australian titles are offered yet. Presspoint-distributed papers have now been sighted in the occasional city-centre Australian newsagent.



The effect of these GST price rises on circulations remains to be seen, but can only be detrimental. The decision of News Ltd and WAN to increase the price of their weekday metropolitan newspapers by exactly 10% to 88 or 99 cents is interesting, because this cannot be reflected in change if a paper is bought on its own for cash. In Hobart, the *Mercury* has therefore introduced a "MercCard". This costs \$8.80 and is good in exchange for ten weekday copies of the *Mercury*. APN has decided to reflect the 10% increase exactly in both weekday and Saturday prices, resulting in some odd amounts (see the Lismore *Northern Star* and Toowoomba *Chronicle*). The Broken Hill *Barrier Morning Truth* remains the cheapest daily newspaper. Some country newspapers have the same prices on Saturdays as on weekdays.

## **8.27 AUSTRALIAN MEDIA TRADITIONS CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Denis Cryle** writes: This is to inform you that the Call for Papers for the Australian Media Traditions can now be viewed on the Conference web site at <http://amt-2001.cqu.edu.au/> We will be progressively updating the site to include program, registration and so forth, as well as a link to Rydge's (<http://capricornresort.com>) which will be the Yeppoon venue. Please forward abstracts to the School Secretary as listed. I have been assured that the Australian Studies events to be held in Brisbane and the Central West in the same month will be scheduled around the AMT event. E-mail: [d.cryle@cqu.edu.au](mailto:d.cryle@cqu.edu.au)

The conference, with a theme of Mapping Continuity and Change, will focus on historical issues of continuity and change within Australian media traditions. Presenters will be encouraged to identify and explore significant periods of transition and adaptation, either through broad socio-economic analyses or through case studies of individuals and organisations. Presenters are also invited to analyse continuities and rates of change within and across established media industries (printing, newspapers, magazines, broadcasting) as well as evaluating the implications of change for journalists and media workers generally.

## **8.28 WEBSITES: DEMOCRACY, PRESS RELEASES, MAGS AND MUSEUMS**

Documenting A Democracy, Australia's Story: features key Australian legal and constitutional documents, such as Queen Victoria's Royal Assent to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900, and Letters Patent constituting the office of Governor General. <http://www.foundingdocs.gov.au/>

Belinda Weaver has added a section about press releases to her Australian journalism Website: direct address is <http://www.uq.edu.au/jrn/ozguide/prels.html> She has also added links to Web-based biographies as part of the reference section.

---

Australians Museums Online – which provides a guide to historical collections around the nation (many of which contain relics of newspaper and other printing offices) – is at [www.amol.orh.au/](http://www.amol.orh.au/)

FindArticles.com: A Website has been established for finding magazine articles on line – [www.findarticles.com/PI/index.jhtml](http://www.findarticles.com/PI/index.jhtml) Offers free access to full text of articles published in more than 350 magazines and journals dating from 1998. Search by keyword or category.

## **8.29 GOULBURN POST REUNION**

The *Goulburn Post*, a New South Wales tri-weekly, will hold a reunion on 2 December to mark its 130<sup>th</sup> birthday. The paper began publication in early 1870, but was not started by the Daniel family, as local myth has it. The Daniels, a family of printers, ran it from October

1870 until 1962. The paper appeared daily from 1927 until 1996. If you are interested in the reunion, contact Helen (there are many of them) at the *Post* on (02) 4827 3500.

## 8.30 THE GOOD OLD OFFICE SCISSORS

**Ken Sanz** is the first to respond to the invitation to contribute verse on the press (see 7.35). He writes: In 1904 a book of poetry, by W.T. Goodge, entitled *Hits! Skits! And Jingles*, appeared in Sydney's bookshops. William Thomas Goodge, who was born in Middlesex on 28 September 1862 and died in Sydney on 28 November 1909, contributed verse to the *Dubbo Express* and *The Bulletin*, Sydney. He later became a reporter on the *Lithgow Mercury* and, even later, when the poems below were written, he was editor of the *Orange Leader*. [Editor's note: The *Manning River Times*, Taree, reported on 3 October 1900: "Nearly every paper in the colony commented on the fact that Editor W.T. Goodge left the *Orange Leader* for the *Orange Sun*, and then returned to his old chair. And Goodge is by no means a self-advertiser. 'The Colonel' has wasted many valuable years of his life in Orange."]

Here are the two Goodge poems that Ken Sanz submitted.

### **When the comps. are callin!**

Oh, it's nice to be an editor, it's beautiful, indeed,  
When the comps. for the copy are a-callin'!  
When there isn't any matter and there isn't any screed,  
And the comps. for the copy are a-callin'!  
When you're collaring an article on "how to build a barn"  
There is someone sure to come along to have a little yarn,  
And he will not care a button for a "damme" or a "darn",  
When the comps. for the copy are a-callin'!

When the comps. are a-callin' for the copy, for the copy!  
When the comps. are a-yellin' and a-brawlin'  
And there isn't any ready  
You had better take it steady,  
When the comps. for the copy are a-callin'!

Oh, the soul is full of happiness, the heart is full of cheer,  
When the comps. for the copy are a-callin'!  
And there's six of them for primer, and there's seven for brevier  
When the comps. for the copy are a-callin'!  
Oh, the pen it may be mightier with men entirely great  
Than the sword, as all the copybooks unanimously state,  
But the good old office scissors is the weapon up-to-date  
When the comps. for the copy are a-callin'

When the comps. are a-callin' for the copy, for the copy!  
When the comps. are a-yellin' and a-brawlin'  
Take it gently, never flurry,  
It'll never do to worry,  
When the comps. for the copy are a-callin'!

Note: "primer" is a term for type size; long primer is 10pt and great primer 19pt; and "brevier" is 8pt type.

### **The Man and the Paper**

Now William Jinks he kept a shop at Bungville-on-the-Rise,  
And though he saw his business drop, he would not advertise  
He told the local paper-man, who dropped a gentle hint,  
He thought it was a useless plan to put his name in print.

“And if my name were in the *Skit*”, said William Jinks the wise,  
“D’ye think that folks would notice it? No I won’t advertise!”

But William Jinks went out one night to have a glass of ale,  
And got so very, very tight they waltzed him off to jail!  
Next morning to the *Skit* he ran and cried with tears of shame,  
“Don’t mention, my affair, old man! Please do not print my name,  
Or every one will know, methinks, my conduct most unwise!”  
These were the words of William Jinks who would not advertise!

### 8.31 NEW SUBSCRIBERS

We welcome the following new subscribers: Paul **McPherson**, of managing director of Newsprinters Pty Ltd (South Yarra, Vic.), part of the McPherson Media Group; Oseah **Philemon**, editor of the *Post-Courier*, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; Trevor **Lewis**, editor-in-chief of Fairfax Community Newspapers (Victoria); Charles **Bennett**, of Dungog, a former joint-proprietor of the *Dungog Chronicle*; Edward **Jackson**, journalism student of the University of Queensland; and Maudie **Whelan**, of Beachy Cove, Newfoundland, Canada, who is writing a history of the Newfoundland press.

### 8.32 NEWSPAPER FAMILIES: THE MCPHERSONS AND THE BOASES

In becoming an ANHG subscriber, Paul McPherson, managing director, Newsprinters Pty. Ltd, South Yarra, Vic., wrote: “[I am] one of three brothers (with Ross and Chris), the fourth generation of the McPherson family involved in the management of the McPherson Media Group, owners of the *Shepparton News*, the *Benalla Ensign*, the *Seymour Telegraph*, the *Campaspe Valley News*, Rochester, the *Riverine Herald*, Echuca, the *Pastoral Times*, Deniliquin, the *Southern Riverina News*, Finley, the *Cobram Courier*, the *Kyabram Free Press* and the *Tatura Guardian*.

“Since, 1888 and with the fifth generation of the McPherson family entering our group, we have an abiding interest in the preservation of country newspapers together with comprehensive histories of northern Victorian and Southern New South Wales papers from the late 1800s to the present (chronicled by my father, Don McPherson, the chairman of our group). My wife’s great grandfather Edwin Boase, with his brother Thomas (a printer from the mid 1850s), founded the *Dunmunkle Standard* at Murtoa, Vic., in 1878 and the *Mount Wycheproof Ensign* at Wycheproof, Vic., in the early 1880s. The Boase family later produced two Victorian Government Printers, with the last of the Boase family, Reg Boase, the technical director of the Show-Ads Omega Group in Melbourne, in the mid 1990s.”

### 8.33 STUDY OF THE BRISBANE TELEGRAPH – AND MORE

**Shelley Woods** writes: A Master of Journalism student in the Department of Journalism, University of Queensland, I am undertaking two journalism-history projects:

1. A study of the Brisbane *Telegraph* in the 1970s and 1980s -- probably from its centenary in 1972 to its demise in 1988. The research parameters are yet to be set, pending interviews with former *Telegraph* staff, contacts to whom would be greatly appreciated, and other preliminary research. She is particularly interested in ownership issues, such as the effect on the paper’s future of the acquisition of HWT by News Limited, and the relationship of the paper with state politics, i.e. the Joh Bjelke-Petersen era. Naturally, the study will include discussion of the other daily tabloid, the *Sun*, which was moved to the afternoon slot. Any assistance or suggestions from other journalism history researchers would be most welcome.

2. A literature review of Australian newspaper history publications since 1988, when John Henningham (now Professor and Head of Journalism at UQ) lamented the fact that there was



still not a definitive history of Australian newspapers. Please advise of any contributions you've made, or know to have been made, in case anything slips through the net. (I do have the index from Australian Studies in Journalism. The index, of course, covers a wide range of sources, not just ASJ.)

I am at shelley@caliph.net.au

### **8.34 THE LION AND THE UNICORN**

**Victor Isaacs** writes: Item 4.11 recorded the peculiar habit of some Australian newspapers of appropriating the British Coat of Arms as part of their mastheads. A further example has come to light: the *Register*, the former Adelaide morning newspaper. The *Register* used the British Coat of Arms until Friday 1 February 1929, the last day before it changed format from broadsheet to tabloid and style from serious to popular to become the *Register News-Pictorial*. (The *Register News-Pictorial* was incorporated into its competitor, the *Advertiser*, from Saturday 21 February 1931).

### **8.35 CLASSIC QUOTES**

**Journalists, whatever their medium, tend to swim close to the surface – concerned with the splashes and waves more than the underlying currents.**

– Mitchell Stephens, *A History of News* (New York, 1989).

### **8.36 THE PLAINS PRODUCER – ONLINE**

Some notes taken from the Website ([www.rbe.net.au/produce/](http://www.rbe.net.au/produce/)) of the *Plains Producer*, South Australia: Nestled on the banks of the River Wakefield and about 100km north of Adelaide is the small rural town of Balaklava, home of the *Plains Producer*. James Walker established the paper in 1903 as the *Central Advocate*, a four-page broadsheet. It was renamed the *Wooroora Producer incorporating the Central Advocate and the Hamley Bridge Express*. In 1926 Amy Henstridge became the first female owner after relinquishing the *Stanley Herald*, Snowtown. She changed the *Producer* from a broadsheet to a six-page tabloid. "Wooroora" was dropped from the title in 1940 and the paper suspended publication for a few years during World War II. It resumed in 1946. It's had its ups and downs since then but picked up professionally and commercially in 1983 when Roger Manuel bought it. He revived it to a 20page paper, full of news, photographs and local happenings. Manuel died in 1995 and his widow, Margaret, became managing editor and continued her late husband's traditions. The paper sells 3,000 copies a week over an area from Snowtown in the north to Virginia in the south, as well as in the Gilbert Valley.

### **8.37 CHANGES IN THE HERALD: WHO WILL MAKE ME SMILE BEFORE BREAKFAST?**

The *Sydney Morning Herald* announced in Page 2 letters to its readers on 27, 28 and 29 July, that from Monday [31 July] it would change. It had been more than 20 years since the *Herald* had undergone a major overhaul. The changes would produce a "cleaner and crisper" paper; typefaces would be different and fewer, headlines would be smaller and pages would more clearly indicate the nature of the news and features they contained. Biggest weekday change is the introduction of the Ten Minute Herald page, a full briefing of the day's news. Column 8 moves from the front page to the Ten Minute Herald. Key news and feature items would be linked to [www.smh.com.au](http://www.smh.com.au), the paper's Website, where video and audio interviews with newsmakers and with *Herald* reporters would be provided.

“After more than a year of research and consultation with readers,” said one letter from editor-in-chief Greg Hywood and editor Paul McGeough, “we are launching fresh, helpful new daily and weekend sections under the Metropolitan banner.” On weekdays, Metropolitan would have up to three pages devoted to arts, entertainment and culture, and on Saturdays Metropolitan would be “a 20-page celebration of life, style and entertainment in Sydney”. Another Saturday feature would be the new Spectrum liftout – “a beautifully presented tabloid devoted to ideas, books and arts”. On weekdays, news, features and reviews will be expanded by two elements: Spotlight, a daily digest of happenings in the arts; and Heckler, a column of opinion, commentary and observation and a forum for lively debate on critical issues and trends.

The changes have led to the death of the popular “Stay in Touch” (SIT) column on the back of the first section of the weekday *Herald*. Here’s a selection of reader reaction: “Vale Stay in Touch. We’ll miss your irreverent start to the day.” – Randi Svensen, Katoomba. “I am in a state of near panic after hearing of the impending drastic changes to the *Herald*...It has taken years of practice to be able to fumble through the pages while half asleep and get somewhere near where I want to be. So now I have to be alert and look for the comics, the crossword and the other important aids to a substance-free day. And with no SIT, who will make me smile before breakfast? This had better be good.” – Peter Finnegan, Burrill Lake. (Source: *SMH*, 29 July 2000, pp. 2, 42.)

On 29 July, Column 8 wrote: “So this is the last front-page Column 8 after 53 years. To find us from next week, you’ll just turn over the left-hand side of the front-page and there we are. The Granny you will see at the top of the column may have a masculine look. It is, in fact, a caricature of Sid Deamer, originator of the column and its author for 14 years.”

### **8.38 BULOKE TIMES: 125 YEARS IN THE ONE FAMILY**

The *Buloke Times* (formerly the *Donald-Birchip Times*), which covers the Birchip, Charlton, Donald and Wycheproof areas in Victoria’s southern Mallee, has marked 125 years of publication, by the one family. Godfrey Morgan established the paper, which has a circulation of 1,800, at Donald on 29 July 1875 [*The Bulletin* published an etching of Morgan on 23 July 1887 and ran an accompanying item]. Morgan’s great grandson Robin Letts (b. 1930) is now editor and is proud of his paper’s survival and the record established by his father, the late Godfrey William Letts. “Dad was editor of *The Times* for 66 years. This is recognised officially as an Australian record for one editor with the one newspaper. We believe that is a world record for the one editor occupying the editor’s chair of the one newspaper,” he said. G.W. Letts died on 3 August 1987, aged 89. (Source: Editor’s interview with Robin Letts, 31 July 2000.) [Buloke is the name of the district’s amalgamated local government body; the name of a local lake; and the name of a tree native to the area.]

<b><u>OPTIONS</u>NEWSUBSCRIPTIONS<u>NEWS</u>SUBSCRIPTIONS<u>NEWS</u>SUB</b>	
Requests for new subscriptions to the Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter:	
(1) E-mail to <b>r.kirkpatrick@mailbox.uq.edu.au</b> (no fee for electronic version); or	
(2) snail-mail to Rod Kirkpatrick, 13 Sumac Street, Middle Park, Qld, 4074 (hard copy, \$12, incl GST).	
Hard-copy version: please send to	
(Name) _____	(Address) _____
	Postcode _____
<b>I enclose \$12 (cheque payable to R. Kirkpatrick) for the next TEN hard-copy issues.</b>	

### **8.39 DID YOU KNOW?**

The *Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga, published 10,019 letters to the editor between 1 July 1991 and 31 December 1999 under Michael McCormack's editorship. That's an average of 98 a month. And if you omit the six months of 1991, the average is 110. (Source: Figures provided by *Daily Advertiser*.)

[The *Northern Daily Leader* is providing lists of "suggested letter topics" and references to articles: e.g. (26 June, p.10) How can council cut costs for the Country Music Festival? Reference: *Leader* Page 3, 21 June. What roads in your town need cleaning up? Reference: *Leader* Page 4, 21 June.]