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12.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS

Deadline for the next *Newsletter* is 15 July 2001. Subscription details at end of *Newsletter*.

The Newsletter is online through the "Publications" link from the
University of Queensland's Journalism Website at www.uq.edu.au/jrn/

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

12.2 MURDOCH (1): RUPERT AT 70 – TAKING ON THE WORLD

When the Australian-born American citizen and multi-national media magnate, Rupert Murdoch, celebrated his 70th birthday in New York City on 11 March with his four children by his first two wives and with his third wife, Mark Riley wrote in the *Sydney Morning Herald*: "In the past few years, he has been knighted by the Pope, been named humanitarian of the year by an organisation of Jews, bought himself a baseball team, lost himself a rugby league competition, been divorced, been married, been diagnosed with cancer and, apparently, beaten cancer. He has endorsed Tony Blair, he has endorsed George W. Bush, he has abused Ted Turner, he has belittled the Dalai Lama. He has been lashed by investors for getting into the Internet, and now he is entangled in the biggest deal of his career as he tries to take a stranglehold on Americas satellite TV market. Mere mortals retire between 60 and 70. Rupert Murdoch takes on the world."

12.3 MURDOCH (2): FAMILY'S \$5M LIBRARY DONATION

The life of pioneering Australian newspaperman Sir Keith Murdoch will be commemorated with a public gallery named for him at the State Library of Victoria. The Murdoch family has marked next year's 50th anniversary of Sir Keith's death with a \$5 million donation to the library – the largest private gift in the institution's 147-year history. Sir Keith served as chairman of trustees for Melbourne's three major cultural institutions – the Melbourne Public Library, the Melbourne Museum and the National Gallery of Victoria – between 1939 and 1945. He was managing director of The Herald & Weekly Times Ltd from 1929 to 1952 and his son, Rupert, went on to found the global media empire, News Corporation. A daughter, Janet Calvert-Jones is the current chair of the HWT board (*Australian*, 18 April 01, p.5).

12.4 MURDOCH (3): RUPERT WRITES TO BEN CHIFLEY

Alan Ramsey's column in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 28-29 April 01, p.34, carries quotes from Rupert Murdoch's letters, as an undergraduate student at Oxford University, to Ben Chifley, recently defeated as Prime Minister of Australia. The letters are a feature of a chapter written by Clem Lloyd for *True Believers*, a centenary history of the Australian Labor Party. Ramsey's secondary piece on 28-29 April was about Alan Reid, famed *Daily Telegraph* political correspondent and author. More letters, more Lloyd, more light on Labor.

12.5 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

9 February 2001	First issue of <i>Mackay Real Estate Plus</i> , a weekly newspaper published by the real estate agents of Mackay after one price increase too many by the APN-owned local paper, the <i>Daily Mercury</i> . Distribution: 30,000. Produced in conjunction with the <i>Pioneer News</i> and printed at the North Queensland Newspapers Ltd printery at Townsville.
22 February 2001	Death: Clifton Athol Mott , in Albury aged 92; joined the Mott-family owned <i>Border Morning Mail</i> on the NSW-Victorian border in 1923 as a messenger boy and sweeper-up; became editor after World War II but left because of health problems; returned in 1962 as editor; retired 1969 (<i>Border Mail</i> , 24 February 01; <i>Age</i> , 14 March 01, "Today", p.11).
22 February 2001	First issue of <i>Sydney Organ</i> , a free weekly aimed at Sydney's gay and lesbian community (see 12.33).
11 March 2001	Rupert Murdoch celebrates 70 th birthday with all of the children by his first two marriages and with his third wife, Wendy Deng (see 12.2).
21 March 2001	Death: Joanna Johnson (née Czurlowski), aged 51; editor of <i>Australasian Journal on Ageing</i> for 10 years; bombarded newspaper editors with well-reasoned letters opposing the Albert Park site for the Australian Grand Prix (<i>Age</i> , 11 April 01, Today section, p.11).
23 March 2001	Paul Toohey , of the <i>Australian</i> , wins the Graham Perkin Award for the Australian Journalist of the Year (<i>Australian</i> , 24-25 March 01, p.3).
26 March 2001	The Victorian cover price of the weekday <i>Australian</i> is restored to the national price of \$1.10 (see 12.8).
28 March 2001	Death: Terry Gwynn-Jones , aged 68 in Brisbane; aviator, writer and journalist; began career on <i>Malvern Gazette</i> , UK; wrote 17 books, mostly aviation histories (<i>Australian</i> , 17 April 01, p.12).
29 March 2001	Final issue of <i>Blackall Leader</i> , Queensland (see 12.31).
9 April 2001	Death: Robert Clyde Packer , aged 65 at Santa Barbara, California; served brief cadetship at <i>Canberra Times</i> and in his 20s became news editor at <i>Daily Telegraph</i> owned by his father, Sir Frank Packer; as joint managing director of TCN-9, Sydney, he was heir apparent of the Packer media empire but fell out with his father over free-press principles; established modest but successful publishing company in California. Elder brother of Kerry Packer. (obit., <i>Australian</i> , 10 April 01, p.12, and <i>Age</i> , 10 April 01, "Today", p.7; and 12.49.10 and 12.49.11).
18 April 2001	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> is 170 years old today (see 12.49.13).
20 April 2001	<i>Singleton Argus</i> , <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , <i>Newcastle Herald</i> , <i>Canberra Times</i> , <i>Age</i> and <i>Australian</i> publish photo of a woman wrongly identified as the accused murderer of four of her babies over a 10-year period. The accused was Kathleen Megan Folbigg, of Singleton; the woman in the photo was Mrs Kerry Ruddell, a Singleton beautician. The papers published apologies the next day, but Mrs Ruddell's counsel said she would still be entitled to significant financial compensation (see Mark Day, "What price a horrible mistake?", <i>Australian</i> , Media liftout, 26 April 01, p.4).

12.6 BOWRAL PAPER DOES THE DON PROUD

The *Southern Highland News*, published in Bowral, New South Wales, the home town of the late Sir Donald Bradman, produced a 16-page colour special edition that ran on Tuesday, 27 February, one day after news of the death of the former Test cricketer was disclosed. The front page said: "Bowral's favourite son, Don Bradman, is dead." (*Australian*, Media liftout, 8 March 01, p.2.) Also see 12.49.1.

12.7 SUBSCRIPTION DEALS (1): THE AGE FOR 57c A DAY

The *Age* offered a 10-week subscription deal that closed on 18 March that gave people the chance to have the paper delivered seven days a week for \$4 (57c a day), or seven normal days for less than the price of four. This campaign came in advance of the return to “normal” price for the *Australian* in Victoria. See 12.8.

12.8 SUBSCRIPTION DEALS (2): THE AUSTRALIAN IN VICTORIA

The weekday cover price of the *Australian* in Victoria returned to the full national price of \$1.10 on 26 March after two years of being sold throughout that state at heavily discounted prices – originally as low as 40 cents. Sales of the *Australian* doubled from 25,000 to 50,000 in Victoria, but have since steadied at 30,000. The Victorian price of the *Weekend Australian* rose to \$1.50 on 31 March (against the national price of \$1.90).

12.9 SUBSCRIPTION DEALS (3): COURIER-MAIL AND IPSWICH

Ipswich has long had an identity crisis. Is it a provincial city or is it merely a conglomeration of suburbs on the outskirts of Brisbane? It has had its own newspaper (or newspapers) since 1855. The picture is more confused because its daily paper calls itself the *Queensland Times*. Now the Brisbane daily, the *Courier-Mail*, appears to be making a concerted effort to win away readers from the *Q.T.* The *Sunday Mail* published a liftout on 15 April 2001 for Ipswich readers offering Ipswich readers a special deal: the *Courier-Mail* six days a week plus the *Sunday Mail* for \$6 a week, or the Saturday *Courier-Mail* plus the *Sunday Mail* for \$3 a week. Additional Ipswich stories are appearing in the *Mails*. Stay tuned.

12.10 TRANSLATING THE SUBTEXT

“There aren’t many life skills we learn in journalism,” writes Shelley Gare, “but being able to translate a newspaper is one of them. Journalists read papers for subtext as if we are tracing Sanskrit in an Indian desert while a dust storm billows blindingly overhead.” – *Weekend Australian*, 17-18 March 01, p.20.

12.11 RURAL PRESS (1): FOUND TO HAVE MISUSED MARKET POWER

Rural Press Ltd, Australia’s biggest regional publisher, has been found guilty in the Federal Court of anti-competitive behaviour in using its power to threaten a small publisher. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission accused it of threatening a family paper (the *River News*) in regional South Australia with a competitor unless it withdrew from Mannum, traditionally served by the Rural Press-owned *Murray Valley Standard* (circulation 4,500-5,000). The tradition had broken down when local-government boundary changes led to Mannum’s becoming part of the council that had been served by the *River News*. Managing editor John Pick decided he wanted to cover his whole council area, so he employed a correspondent, Duncan Emmins, in Mannum, and began marketing the *River News* there. He added an estimated 350-500 copies to his circulation of about 2,000-2,500. [No South Australian provincial papers belong to the Audit Bureau of Circulations.] *Standard* managing editor Beryl Price told Rural Press to retaliate or risk being seen as “wimps”. Price proposed competitive action, but Rural Press executives decided to talk to the owners, the Taylor family (also owners of the *Murray Pioneer*, Renmark). The ACCC located witnesses, minutes of meetings and even draft letters mapping out progress of those talks. So, when the *River News* withdrew to 30km north of Mannum, the ACCC moved in, Anne Davies reported. Justice Mansfield found that *River News* had not withdrawn because of financial reasons – its public stance – but because of threats of retaliation by Rural Press. (*Courier-Mail*, 6 March 01, p.2;

Sydney Morning Herald, 8 March 01, p.20; and *PANPA Bulletin*, April 2001, p.12, and August 1999, p.15)

12.12 RURAL PRESS (2): BELLINGEN, URUNGA AND DORRIGO, NSW

Rural Press Ltd – through its regional publishing subsidiary, Regional Publishers Pty Ltd – bought the *Bellinger Courier-Sun* and the *Seaboard Valley Star*, Urunga, on the mid north coast of NSW on 1 December 2000. It incorporated the Urunga paper in the *Courier-Sun*, altering the title slightly to the *Bellingen Shire Courier-Sun*. Initially it carried no incorporation line, but by 28 February 2001 it carried: “Incorp. the *Seaboard Valley Star* and covering Bellingen, Urunga, Dorrigo, Mylestrom, Raleigh, Repton”.

Mr and Mrs John Rose and Mr and Mrs Greg McLagan sold the *Courier-Sun* to Regional Publishers. The Roses had been part owners since 1975 and the McLagans bought a 50 per cent interest in 1987, with Greg McLagan becoming editor. He has continued as editor under Rural Press. The paper was sold because of rising costs, the GST and the pressure of running it on his own. The Urunga paper could not pay its printing debts – to Rural Press. The commercial printing business formerly operated by the *Courier-Sun* was acquired by former staff members Graham and Maree Martindale and Graeme and Melinda Swinfield. The printing business, Bellingen Printing Services, has continued to provide the pre-press production for the new title.

Rural Press also began making forays into the nearby Dorrigo district, home of the *Don Dorrigo Gazette*. Advertisers were approached and offered cheaper advertising than the *Gazette* was providing. Soon messages of concern were being expressed by the Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce (*Gazette*, 21 February 01, p.1) and a letter to the editor appeared in the *Gazette*. Proprietor John English said by telephone on 26 March that the paper appeared to be safe from predators at present. (Note, however, that the incorporation line in the *Bellingen Shire Courier-Sun*, mentioned above, now includes a reference to covering Dorrigo.) The *Don Dorrigo Gazette* is one of only three remaining hot-metal newspapers in provincial NSW.

In the letter to the editor mentioned above (*Gazette*, 14 February 01, p.1), Gayle Mildren, of Billys Creek, said: “Let’s not support Rural Press and resist the temptation of the cheap advertising ploy. The prices would probably sky-rocket once the competition is destroyed. The *Gazette* is becoming more interesting and controversial, reflecting the spirit of its community. Let’s keep it as our voice. We can read what the multinationals want us to read in just about every other rag in the country.”

12.13 RURAL PRESS (3): GUNNEDAH, NSW

Rural Press made “a very attractive offer” for the bi-weekly *Namoi Valley Independent*, Gunnedah, NSW, last year, according to Keith Millerd. The Longmuir family, which had owned the paper for three generations spanning 95 years, had put the paper out to prospective buyers. Successful, eventually, was a partnership of four of the paper’s long-serving employees and a former employee now living in Hong Kong. One of the new owners, Keith Millerd, editor of the *North-West Magazine*, said: “I am not being critical of Rural Press but so many papers which had been taken over [by Rural Press] appeared to have lost their local focus. The old proprietors and journalists, and some of the production staff, usually disappeared with the takeover and there was a vast pool of local knowledge that went, too.”

The takeover of a local paper by a large publisher often meant communities suffered culturally and economically, Millerd said. “Most of these papers had been under the same banner for a couple of generations at last, so there was a sense of history and a sense of commitment to a local community that was missing – something that isn’t easily replaced. We were also looking to secure our future. If the *Independent* had fallen to a regional

publisher, it's quite possible that the make-up and printing of the paper would have gone to a regional centre – and that would have meant staff cuts, quite possible our jobs.” The five part-owners are: Ken McKenzie, of Hong Kong, Millerd, Terry Maroney (pre-press and press and computer operator), Rod Coe (computer division head) and Peter Koch (advertising manager). *Independent* editor Ron McLean tells the story in *The Walkley Magazine*, Issue 12, April 01, p.38.

12.14 ELLA EBERY (1): SENIOR ACHIEVER

Ella Ebery, 85, editor of the *North Central News*, St Arnaud, Victoria (see 11.30 and 12.15), was one of nine Victorians who received, on 16 March, Senior Achievers Awards as part of Senior Citizens Weeks in Victoria. Governor John Landy presented the awards at Government House, Melbourne.

12.15 ELLA EBERY (2): STILL HURDLES TO JUMP AND WARS TO BE WON

Ella Ebery, editor of the *North Central News*, St Arnaud, was featured on *Australian Story* on ABC-TV on 5 April 2001. Introducing the segment, the editor of the *Canberra Times*, Jack Waterford, said that when he was judging Country Press Australia's 2000 Shakespeare Family Award for Excellence and Appropriateness in Editorial Writing, one set of editorials stood out. “They were gutsy, willing to provoke a debate and stood up strongly for their local community.” Those editorials were Ella Ebery's and she won the award.

Ella told the ABC: “If you have a goal and persist with fairness – I don't believe in harassing people – you gain respect and you gain your goals.” She will be 86 on 23 December but did not become a journalist until she was 63, although she had freelanced on and off since she was about 20 (she told the ANHG editor in a telephone interview on 23 April 2001). She has been editor for all but two years since 1979. “I haven't stopped since [I became editor] and I don't intend to. I get things done. There's not a great deal of time in life to mess around for years and years. I see something that needs to be done and I do it. I'm a fixer, I'm a facilitator, and I'm a doer.” She says the past 22 years have been the most fulfilling of her life. She can look back now and see what progress she has made, but at the time she felt as though she was “blundering through the jungle trying to find my way out”.

Matt Batters, part-proprietor of the *North Central News*, says of Ebery: “She's more than a trail-blazer, I reckon. She's a bulldozer.” Batters says Ebery has complete editorial freedom. Ebery says: “If the community doesn't survive, we don't survive.” One of the secrets of old age, she says, is that Prime Ministers and Premiers are the age of your sons and grandsons and you unconsciously treat them like that. She found Jeff Kennett a “stimulating challenge” when he was Premier of Victoria. “I've been recorded as saying if he had been my grandson I would have given him a good clip under the ear.”

For Ella Ebery, the great watershed in her life was the deaths of her mother and grandmother within two weeks when she was 14. It was, she admits, “character-building”. In addition, after her marriage, Ella lost her first child, a daughter, when the girl was only 15 months old.

In middle age, Ebery obtained her driver's licence, became heavily involved in the St Arnaud Drama Group and Camera Club and then became the first woman elected to the local council. She was mayor for two years, 1988-90. Batters again: “She has given her heart and soul to St Arnaud and its community. She's country-town to the backbone. She still has that pioneering spirit. There's still hurdles to jump and wars to be won. I actually think Ella Ebery could be the editor of the *North Central News* when she's 90.”

Ebery says: "People thankfully still cling to a sense of community. I think the sense of community is the only thing that will save country towns any way. I think if the paper dies, the town will die. It's the heart of the community, and – love it or hate it – it does keep a community together." Ebery remarked that a number of honours had been heaped on her in the past few years. "God gives almonds to those who have no teeth, and I haven't got many teeth left."

12.16 GORREL'S NEW WAGGA WAGGA ROLE

The managing director of the Riverina Media Group, Graham Gorrel, relinquished his position on April 2. The board of the group appointed Gorrel as the group's new executive director. Wayne Geale is the new general manager. Geale started his career as a printer at the *Goulburn Evening Post* and has spent time at the *Canberra Times* as production supervisor (*Border Mail*, Albury, 21 March 01; and *PANPA Bulletin*, April 01, p.78). Gorrel is a former editor of the *Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga.

12.17 WEATHER (1): FORECASTS

On 12 March 2001 the *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth, NSW, published a weather map of the State, presenting forecast maximum temperatures for that day. Sydney's forecast was for 27 degrees Celsius, and it was as supplied by the Bureau of Meteorology. All the other forecast maxima were incorrect. Examples: Armidale 12 (*Sydney Morning Herald* map 26); Inverell 15 (29); Moree 20 (31); Tamworth 18 (30). The most likely explanation is that the *Leader* ran the forecast minimum temperatures. Whatever, the map no longer runs in the *Leader*. The *Australian's* map for the same date contains some anomalies, too: Albury's forecast temperature range was given as minus 2 to plus 14, as was Wagga Wagga's; but the *SMH* presents 16-28 for Albury and 18-28 for Wagga Wagga. Others, with the *Australian's* figures given first and the *SMH's* second: Newcastle 10-17 (21-27), Wollongong 8-17 (19-25), and Coffs Harbour 12-18 (21-27). The *Daily Telegraph* agreed with the *SMH*.

12.18 WEATHER (2): "FIRST MAP"

"Since Australia's first weather map was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 4 February 1877 (9am: cloudy, 67 F, fresh north-westerly winds, rain), daily newspaper coverage has expanded to occupy up to a full broadsheet page. Four-day forecasts. Rainfall figures. UV ratings. Pollution indicators. Surf conditions. High tides at Fort Denison. Setting times for the planet Jupiter. Weather details from Caracas to Calgary, Mawson to Mecca, Rio to Raratonga." – John Huxley, "Rain, hail or shine", *SMH*, Spectrum section, 13-15 April 01, pp.1, 10-11. [The map was composed from telegrams by H.C. Russell, Government Astronomer.]

12.19 TWO SA NEWSPAPER BUSINESSES MERGE, BUT TITLES CONTINUE

The businesses of the *Kingston Leader* and *Naracoorte Herald* in South Australia have merged but the two titles will continue, the ABC reported on 2 April. Richard Peake, from Naracoorte, is the managing director and editor of both papers, while Geoff McRostie from Kingston is managing associated printing and stationery businesses in the two towns. Peake, who had previously been in partnership with McRostie as a 50-percent shareholder in the *Kingston Leader*, said printing plant would be retained at Kingston and each town would keep its own newspaper. "The main benefit will be for the people of Kingston and Robe and broader communities that will have access to professional journalists from Naracoorte," he said. "We do aim to have a resident journalist in the Kingston-Robe area." "So we'll be improving the quality of the content, and also achieving economies of scale at our own small scale, not on the sort of scale that Rural Press would."

12.20 GRENFELL RECORD WELCOMES NEW EDITOR

Peter Soley, a printer for 23 years, is the new editor of the *Grenfell Record*. He replaced Peita Willmott who has been promoted to managing editor of the Cootamundra group of newspapers (*Grenfell Record*, 29 March 01). Rural Press Ltd owns the papers.

12.21 BORDER MAIL'S EDITOR DEPARTS

Graham Storer has concluded his editorship of the *Border Mail*, Albury-Wodonga, after a meeting of union members of the editorial section of the paper resolved on 28 February that management address members' "grave concerns" about staff morale. The meeting, reported Jim Buckell, in "The Diary" column in the media liftout in the *Australian* (29 March 01, p.2) was critical of Storer's "management style and conduct". Within two days, Storer was on leave and he resigned 10 days later.

12.22 FILING ADS ONLINE

New Zealand Herald publisher Wilson and Horton is working on software to allow ads to be filed over the Internet for its print edition and then automatically copied onto its website. Advertising projects manager Steven Holmes says the company has been working since last May with Australian software company Lizard Research to add new features to its AdLizard software. The system allows advertisers to create and proof their own print display advertisements online. The advertisements go from the software into the newspapers publishing system as portable document format files. "We want to be able to strip out the body copy and use it to build the website," Holmes says. The initial focus is on job ads, but real estate and car advertisers are potentially big users of the service. With the new Cybergraphics software, which is being introduced for ad production to replace the current Atex system, advertisers will be able to go online to book space in the newspaper (*NZ Herald*, 2 April 01).

12.23 AMANDA MEADE'S FINAL 'DIARY'

Amanda Meade, the media writer for the *Australian*, was producing "The Diary", the Page 2 column in that paper's Thursday Media liftout, until she wrote the following item (15 March 01, p.2), which began innocuously enough but ended with ... well, you choose *your* expression.

Melbourne's *Herald Sun* reported as a front-page lead last week that foreign investors were soon to own \$1000 billion of assets formerly owned by Australians. Under the headline "Australia sells out", Matthew Pinkney wrote, "Some of Australia's best-known brands, including Vegemite, Four'N Twenty Pies, Arnott's Biscuits and Sherrin footballs are among those lost." To that list Pinkney and his editor, Peter Blunden, could have added their own newspaper, the *Herald Sun* – owned by that well-known foreigner Rupert Murdoch.

From 22 March, "The Diary", in different format, was edited by Jim Buckell, the Media section's deputy editor. Jonathan Este appeared as "The Diary" editor on 19 April.

12.24 THE FIVE MINUTE HERALD

The format of the back page of the front section of the *Sydney Morning Herald* changed from Tuesday, 3 April. This page, in broadsheet format since the redesign of the *Herald* on 31 July 2000, was dominated by the "Ten Minute Herald", and also included columns, "Column 8", "The Last Word" and "Signposts". Now the page has returned to the tabloid format of the old

“Stay in Touch” days, but “Spike” (a sort of quasi “Stay in Touch”) and “The Last Word” are on the first half and the “Ten Minute Herald” and “Column 8” are on the second. Both have been virtually chopped in half. The “Five Minute Herald” seems more appropriate now. [“Signposts” has shifted to the “Spotlight” section in Metropolitan.]

12.25 THE WEEKEND HERALD

The *Sydney Morning Herald*, weekend edition, of 7-8 April 2001 contained 7.92 per cent fewer pages than the corresponding edition a year earlier. On 8 April 2000 the *SMH* was the tabloid equivalent of 656 pages and on 7-8 April 2001, it was the tabloid equivalent of 604 pages. The 2001 edition comprised 210 broadsheet pages in eight sections, as well as 184 tabloid pages in Spectrum, Domain, Icon and the Good Weekend. The biggest drop was in the classified ads for jobs: the Employment section last year was 72 broadsheet pages; the “My Career” section this year was 50 broadsheet pages. That explains 44 of the 52 “missing” equivalent tabloid pages. [The ANZ Bank’s survey of job advertisements in metropolitan newspapers showed a fall of 8 per cent in March, 10 per cent in February and 33 per cent for the past year.] The other eight “missing” pages result from a smaller Good Weekend: 80 pages last year, 72 this year. All that said, the *SMH* weekend edition remains the biggest single edition of any Australian newspaper.

12.26 THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

The *Weekend Australian* on 7-8 April 2001 included a 16-page colour supplement, “Rescue for a River in Ruin”, resulting from a 23-day “voyage of discovery” along the 1956km of the Murray River by environment reporter Amanda Hodge and photographers Shaney Balcombe, Graham Crouch and Chris Crerar. The supplement carried no date. On 28-29 April the *Weekend Australian* carried a 40-page colour magazine “Letters from our heart: The story of our nation through the words of everyday Australians” – another Centenary of Federation special publication.

12.27 A “COLUMN 8” IN ITSELF

A Column 8 item should be written about Column 8 and here it is: The “Column 8” items that appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, weekend edition, of 31 March-1 April were so good that they appeared again on 7-8 April, with no additional items. (The editor writes this as a Queenslander. He doesn’t know whether it happened in the “southern” editions, too.)

12.28 ACC ACTS AGAINST APN

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) began action in April against APN News & Media, publishers of the *Northern Star*, *Daily Examiner*, Grafton, *Tweed Daily News* and *Coffs Harbour Advocate*. The ACCC is also taking action against APN’s Group Product Development Manager over advertisements which appeared in the company’s publications. According to the ACCC, inadequate steps were taken to stop misleading advertisements appearing in APN publications (ABC Coffs Harbour 12 April 01).

12.29 BYRON BAY ECHO AND ABNORMAL POLITICS

Radio National’s *Media Report* on 5 April carried a segment on the *Byron Bay Shire Echo*. It included interviews with Michael McDonald, the editor; Byron Bay resident and former national political correspondent, Mungo McCallum, once a stalwart of *Nation Review* and *The Age*, now a must-read columnist in the *Echo*; and Stella Kinsella, the arts reporter. Following is an edited transcript of the segment.

Mick O'Regan: Byron Bay in northern New South Wales is famous for beachside relaxation. It's where thousands of people, like flocks of migratory birds, return each summer. But it's also home to a thriving journalistic culture, where investigation, community debate and media eccentricity have moulded the local paper, *The Byron Shire Echo*. Started in 1986 by the late Nicholas Shand, the *Echo* is the scourge of the local council, and unrelenting in its campaign over development of the area. Nicolette Jackson's report on the *Echo* begins with the paper's present editor, Michael McDonald.

McDonald: I think we've been particularly strong on threats to the natural environment through development or any other environmental transgressions, and particularly strong on Council-watching. In my opinion, until the *Echo* came along, there was no real analysis of what goes on in the local Council, and in most areas, most people don't even know that they have a local Council. But we've brought a real focus on the area of government, which essentially carries out the legislation.

Jackson: Unlike most regional papers, *The Byron Shire Echo* can boast a political commentator with a genuine national pedigree.

McCallum: When I arrived here I swore a mighty oath that I wasn't going to get involved in local politics, that I'd had enough of politics and had come here to escape politics, I didn't want to do that any more. But then of course I went on writing about national politics and eventually I was dragged in to local politics, albeit in a fringe sort of way, because there was so much skulduggery going on in the Council, and I thought that my experience of sort of undermining skulduggery could be useful; so I got involved that way. ... I'm [a] sort of national father figure to the *Echo* in that I've come from outside; I write about national politics. The *Echo's* probably the only paper of its kind in the country that does have a national political writer in that way. And as I say, a lot of the time the community says, 'Oh well, you know, Mungo's very interesting and all that, but that's not really what we're on about; what we're on about is the sewerage freeze'.

Jackson: Writing for the *Echo* has presented Mungo McCallum with a delicate dilemma: for so long a denizen of the left, now he has to convince his readers that the mainstream is important.

McCallum: Mainstream politics is just out, so in that sense I'm trying to draw those people into realising that mainstream politics still is important. You mightn't like it very much but it's still going to make the laws under which you'll live, so if you're going to be involved in politics at all, you might as well get involved in the real thing, and get out of the fairies in the bottom of the garden stuff. I mean if you can relate what's going on now to some of the fights that have been there in the past, and some of the things that have been fought and won in the past, it makes people a lot more interested. And I think that shows to some extent. I don't take credit for it personally, but I think the *Echo* as a paper deserves a lot of credit for it, in the way that we have a very [politically active] community, and it's not just at the [immediately] local level. There's a very low informal vote at Federal and State elections, and [it] tends to be a great deal more Left than one would think of for rural and regional Australia.

Jackson: Despite's Byron's abnormal politics, the shire was the only regional local government area to vote Yes to the referendum. It's not always a place where people see eye to eye. Under the stewardship of the founding editor, Nicholas Shand, the paper's anti-corruption crusades made the *Echo* the target for sustained hostilities.

Kinsella: There had been an ongoing campaign from the *Echo's* part to try and prove accurately that things were definitely going wrong within Council, that there was a rat in Council, and that there was an awful lot of corruption going on. It was a very difficult thing to

prove, and there was an awful lot of lawyers, probably rubbing their hands together, waiting for the day that they could sue the pants of the *Echo*. And Nicholas maintained his stand the whole way through that, and throughout a very insidious boycott against the newspaper in which locals refused to advertise in the paper, and that is the only way of course the paper can survive. There was nastiness in the streets, there were people bickering and fighting, and when the boycott happened, an alternate boycott happened whereby the left started boycotting the people that were boycotting; it was getting really nasty, and it was on the streets.

In an area that is significant for its collapse of businesses within their first three years, the fact that the *Echo* has such a large number of staff operating day to day, and manages to keep going and manages to continue to incorporate new technology – look the *Echo*'s got to be a radical organisation in terms of its size, i.e. small, and its ability to take on new digital technology and create better pages constantly, and employ more and more creative people constantly. If I were an economics student, I would say the *Echo* probably isn't a financial success at all; but if I were a philosophy student I would say it is laudable, commendable and hugely successful.

12.30 PATRON SAINT OF JOURNALISTS PROPOSED

Saint Maximilian Kolbe has been proposed as a patron saint of social communications, reports the *Catholic Weekly* (1 April 01, p.7). St Maximilian, a Franciscan priest and newspaper editor, founded and edited two highly successful periodicals in his native Poland and another successful monthly magazine in Japan.

12.31 BLACKALL LEADER CLOSES

A western Queensland weekly, the *Blackall Leader*, published its final issue on 29 March. The *Leader*, owned by APN News & Media, was established on 15 June 1983 by the Longreach Printing Company, publishers of the *Longreach Leader*, three months after a fire had destroyed the offices of the *Barcoo Independent*, then owned by Lloyd Marshall. [The *Independent* was established at Blackall on 16 April 1889.] In March 1988 the Longreach Printing Company sold the *Blackall Leader* to Warren and Beth Grover. The South Burnett Times Pty Ltd (Alice Adams and Doug and Helen Collyer) bought the paper in October 1992. That company, based at Kingaroy, was taken over by APN on 1 March 1994. APN closed the paper a few months short of its 18th birthday. The first Blackall newspaper was the *Western Champion*, established on 23 June 1879 but shifted to Barcaldine in December 1886. It remained in print until 20 February 1937. (Sources: Sally Cripps [née Gall], the journalist and advertising person who was there at the beginning of the *Leader*, and at the end of the *Independent*; and Rod Kirkpatrick's research notes.)

12.32 FEDERAL STANDARD APPEARS AGAIN – FOR ONE ISSUE

On 1 April 2001 a special issue of the *Federal Standard*, defunct for 31 years, appeared to mark heritage events in the Victorian town. The four-page issue – with a print run of 500 – included an article by ABC journalist Barrie Cassidy, who began his career on the *Standard* when Ben Hicks was the owner-editor; a reminiscence by a former *Standard* printer, Alan Lea; and lots of advertisements. The *Standard* began publication on 24 August 1859 as the *Chiltern Standard*, became the *Federal Standard* on 23 June 1860, and appeared daily for 10 weeks at the beginning of 1863. It ceased publication on 5 March 1970. A special issue appeared on 15 May 1974, to mark the Chiltern Shire's centenary and another on 2 October 1999 for the "Local Newspapers, Local Identities" conference – which effectively gave birth to the Australian Newspaper History group with Victor Isaacs as midwife.

12.33 SYDNEY ORGAN MAKES DEBUT

Sydney Organ, aimed at “sexual fringer dwellers”, began publication on 22 February, becoming the fourth free weekly fighting for a slice of an advertising market for the gay and lesbian world – a market worth barely more than \$3 million a year. Publisher is Lawrence Gibbons. (Andrew Hornery, “Paper chases ‘trysexuals’ in bitchy media war”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 February 01, p.5)

12.34 EASTER PUBLICATIONS

At Easter, the *Sydney Morning Herald* published its weekend edition on Good Friday (it carried the dates 13-15 April) and most home-delivery subscribers received it on the Friday; and the weekend edition of the *Australian Financial Review* was published on Maundy Thursday (12-15 April).

12.35 GEELONG ADVERTISER REPRINTS EARLY ISSUES

Australia’s youngest Sunday newspaper, the *Sunday Advertiser*, Geelong, established in September 2000 as an Olympic Games experiment (see item 10.15), is regularly republishing some of the earliest copies of its parent title, the *Geelong Advertiser*. The *Sunday Advertiser* of 26 November 2000 reprinted the first edition of the *Geelong Advertiser*, of 21 November 1840. Reaction to this reprint was so good that the *Sunday Advertiser* has continued to reproduce copies of the *Geelong Advertiser* of the 1840s. The issue of 22 April 2001 carried a reproduction of Vol. 1, No. 21, motto “Fortis est veritas”, Corio: Saturday, April 10, 1841. Victor Isaacs notes: “Strictly speaking these are not reproductions as they appear to be produced by scanning. This is probably the first time that newspaper facsimiles have appeared in an Australian newspaper on a regular basis rather than as one-offs.” The *Sunday Advertiser* is happy to accept postal subscriptions from distant customers. Phone 03 5227 4300 or write: 191 Ryrie Street, Geelong, Vic., 3220.

ITEMS RELATED TO NEWSPAPER HISTORY

12.36 A LIVING, CHANGING INDUSTRY THAT INVOLVES SWEAT AND TOIL

From Sydney, **Jürgen Wegner** writes: “Newspaper history” seems to be seen largely in terms of the study of journalism, editing, publishing, advertising and distribution... all that serious stuff. A bit like our “book history” being identified with publishing, writing, bookselling, editorial practices, collecting, libraries... the history of the intelligentsia’s involvement with print. Printing history isn’t just an academic pursuit. Print involves sweat and toil. It’s about not only academic research, but also a living, changing, evolving industry. About machinery and equipment, about labour relations, chemical technology, economics and business history, ink and paper, and about dozens of other aspects.

Libraries have largely concentrated on collecting the “published” materials on aspects of “our” printing history. The serious and respectable stuff. Few have pursued to any degree the primary research material about our printing and allied trades as opposed to that gentleman’s pursuit: book history. The study of which requires that we first collect and preserve, then research. Not the other way ‘round as is often the case.

Shifting some boxes around I chanced upon the following gem of newspaper history:

The Sunday mail hot metal final. Brisbane: Queensland Newspapers, 1982.
[8] pp.: all ill.; 43 cm.

This special issue was the last newspaper produced by hot metal at Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd. I'm assuming it was produced in-house for limited circulation to staff of the paper, and as a souvenir of the demise of the traditional methods of newspaper production. The 26 photographs reproduced in the issue show various production methods, staff, layout, the celebrations, and the single-candled "Farewell Cake". From page one:

VALE HOT METAL

On Saturday, the Twenty Ninth Day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty Two, we said goodbye, in a rousing yet solemn ceremony, to our days of working with Hot Metal.

To the strains of The Last Post, page one was pushed away for the last time, followed by a suitably inscribed coffin, complete with bearers.

It was indeed a sad occasion, as something we had worked with and known over the years had come to an end.

As the Farewell Cake was cut, staff gathered around to talk of "The Old days" and the new "Devil" cold type, which has taken over from our beloved hot metal.

No more will we hear the terms, Slugs, Linos, Ludlows... Gone are the days of "Who pinched my slug cutter" ... "That type is off its feet" ... "Bump it out" and other such sayings.

Long will we remember the days of hot metal.

I've been unable to trace any official holdings for this item in Australia (via the Kinetica database). Like so much of our printing history documentation, while originally issued in quantity it disappears rapidly, and often without trace.

How many people bother to think of preserving such "ephemeral" material? Printed documentation which constitutes the building blocks for any future and serious research into the history of our printing and allied trades. Material such as:

- Machinery and equipment catalogues;
- Linotype manuals, instruction books, and parts books;
- Trade union rule books;
- Chapel constitutions and newsletters;
- Machinery and equipment specifications and handbooks;
- Newsprint paper sample swatches and related paper manufacturing source material;
- Wages, conditions and award documentation;
- Type specimen books, booklets, and posters.

This for newspapers alone. And who knows what other material – videos, training manuals, OHS handbooks and guides, technical reports, works' newsletters, circulars and newspapers, etc., etc. – has been produced and still survives out there. Remember... history is what you did yesterday! Saving our book and printing history requires more than just keeping that old Lino or clamshell going.

If anyone shares my passion for the "trade and technical" documentation of the printing and allied trades please get in touch (j.wegner@library.usyd.edu.au). I'd be especially interested to hear from anyone interested in such things as type specimen books, pamphlets, etc.

[**Editor's note:** About five years ago a retired printer from Nanango, Qld, gave me a copy of: *The Australian Type Book*, published by F.T. Wimble & Co Ltd, Type Founders, Sydney, February 1930, 194pp. I placed it with Fryer Library, University of Queensland.]

12.37 PRINT MUSEUM (1): ARMIDALE, NSW

Armidale's NERAM Museum of Printing was officially opened by the New South Wales Premier and Arts Minister, Bob Carr, on 23 April 2001. The museum showcases the collection of F.T Wimble & Co, Australia's first printing ink factory. The museum is a living, working collection, not a static display. "The Wimble collection includes 16 major working machines and 50 other items such as guillotines, binders and sets of wood and metal type," Mr Carr said (*Armidale Express*, 25 April 2001).

12.38 PRINT MUSEUM (2): HOBART, TASMANIA

Hobart's *Mercury* has a print museum. It is located next door to the *Mercury* office at 91 Macquarie Street, Hobart, and is open from 10am to 1pm and 1.30pm to 3.45pm Mondays to Fridays.

12.39 INTERVIEWS WITH FEMALE JOURNALISTS

The National Library of Australia has a long-term interest in building up its holdings of interviews with women journalists. If you can suggest women who worked as journalists, especially between the 1930s and 1950s, who could be interviewed, please contact Dr Bridget Griffen-Foley, at the Department of History A17, University of Sydney, NSW, 2006 (bgfoley@history.usyd.edu.au). Bridget was recently a Harold White Fellow at the National Library.

12.40 AN OBSCURE REFERENCE

An obscure reference for those interested: J.A. Packer, "Baptist newspapers", *First Australasian Baptist Congress – Sydney, September 22-28, 1908: Official Volume of Proceedings*, pp.46-40.

12.41 STANDING ON ONE ANOTHER'S SHOULDERS

When James D. Startt received in November 2000 the American Journalism Historians Association's highest award – the Kobre Award for lifetime achievement – he expressed during an interview his philosophy about service to his fellow historians: "Do what you can, what time and experience allows... The profession deserves to be served because it is the framework and organisation for the basis of what we do. We all stand on one another's shoulders. We have to be willing to do that because it deserves, needs to be done." (Source: *AJHA Intelligencer*, 18:2, February 2001, p.3.)

12.42 Audit of Research Interests

Following is the result of the editor's invitation to members to submit details of their current research and interests. In the phrase used by James D. Startt in the above item, researchers have the opportunity to stand on each other's shoulders through the cooperation they give one another.

BIRD, Katie (Sydney): Writing Honours thesis on Australian women war correspondents working overseas during World War II. Journalists that have so far emerged in my research

are Lorraine Stumm, Elizabeth Riddell, Adele Shelton-Smith, Alice Jackson and Dorothy Gordon Jenner. Any other information would be of much assistance to me.

E-mail: kbird@ozemail.com.au or snailmail 46 Tarrants Ave Eastwood NSW 2122.

EDMONDS, Leigh (Ballarat, Vic.): Historian with a major interest in technology, particularly the technologies of transport and communication including newspapers.

E-mail: hhandc@bigpond.com

EGGERT, Paul (Canberra), and WEBBY, Elizabeth (Sydney): Preparing a critical edition of *Robbery Under Arms*; involves specialised research into the editing practices of the *Sydney Mail* and *Echo* (Fairfax) in the early 1880s, as well as a Montreal newspaper which serialised the novel in 1902. E-mail: p-eggert@adfa.edu.au

GOW, Rod & Wendy, and BIRCH, Val (Cundletown, Manning River, NSW): Transcribing extracts from *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 1914 to 1919, relating to World War 1 enlistments, letters from the front, welcome homes, community support, honour rolls, etc., to be published in a two-volume set. Also, the Gows are continuing their indexing project on the *Maitland Mercury*, 1846, covering July-December. E-mail: rgow@turboweb.net.au

GRIFFEN-FOLEY, Bridget (Sydney): Is an ARC research fellow in the History Department, University of Sydney, and the author of two recent books on the Packer dynasty. Now writing book on relationship between media and politics in Australia from 1945 to 1975. Other research interests include Australian journalists on Fleet Street, the early years of the *Catholic Weekly*, and the *Melbourne Star* (1933-36). E-mail: bgfoley@history.usyd.edu.au

HOGAN, Tim (Melbourne): Research interests are: (1) History of *Bacchus Marsh Express*, Victoria 1866-1986. (2) Life of Christopher Crisp, editor of *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 1866-1915. (3) Reporting of sport in Victorian newspapers 1840-1920.

E-mail: THogan@slv.vic.gov.au

KIRKPATRICK, Rod (Brisbane): Researching the history of daily-newspaper publication in provincial centres throughout Australia for book; currently writing a biography of Thadeus O’Kane, owner/editor, *Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, 1873-1890; planning to write a book on the Victorian branch of the Mott newspaper dynasty.

E-mail: r.kirkpatrick@mailbox.uq.edu.au

McKNIGHT, David (Sydney): Is working on (finishing) an article entitled “Facts versus stories: how the *Sydney Morning Herald* travelled from objective to interpretive journalism”. It’s a study of the reporting style of the *SMH* from the 50s to the big changes that occurred in the early and mid 80s and incorporates a discussion of journalism as “vernacular literature” and the ideas of James Carey and Michael Schudson. Has an ongoing interest in literary journalism and its link to non-fiction (book) writing. E-mail: david.mcknight@uts.edu.au

MACNAMARA, Liz (Sydney): Researching women’s pages in the labour press for a PhD. Interested in labour papers and journals and women journalists.

E-mail: lizmacnamara@hotmail.com

MEADOWS, Michael (Brisbane): Researching journalism in the early Queensland press; the role of the Queensland press in imagining climbing; a history of climbing in Queensland.

E-mail: m.meadows@mailbox.gu.edu.au

NEIDORF, Prue (Canberra): Researching printed music in newspapers and journals, particularly 1840-1900, but also 1900-2000. Complete printed music works only required, with both music and text if relevant. Fragments of Aboriginal melodies accepted. Lurline

Stewarts Bibliography of 19th century sources has been most useful, so I'm looking for additional citations. E-mail: pnei@cyberone.com.au

ORCHARD, Ken (Adelaide): Researching visual history (aboriginal, geographic, settlement, colonists) of Murray-Darling River system in mid-19th century; paintings, drawings, newspaper illustrations and especially photographs from 1850s-1880s. Focus is on 1850-65 period on Murray. Postal address: 49 Mary Street, Ethelton, SA, 5015.

PARES, Philip (Brisbane): Researching the emergence of the idea of the photographic image as evidence; particularly the change from illustration to photographic image use in Australian newspapers and periodicals 1870 - 1915. E-mail: p.pares@mailbox.gu.edu.au

RUSSELL, John (Canberra): Compiling a bibliographical and biographical database on printing and publishing within colonial Australia (people and products) and related activities (e.g. booksellers, photographers, print artists, etc.). E-mail: karinrussell@optusnet.com.au

SPENNEMANN, Dirk H.R. (Albury): Following on from co-editing an anthology of Albury writing (see <http://life.csu.edu.au/4WAA/ReCollecting/ReCollecting.html>), I am working on a bibliography of fiction by writers from the Albury-Wodonga area. I have indexed all fiction (verse and prose) in the *Albury Banner* from 1860 to 1900, and in the *Border Post* from 1856 to 1885. Hope to extend that index to the end of the *Border Posts* life (1902). Also plan to index all fiction in the other Albury and Wodonga papers (*Albury Daily News*, *the Albury Telegraph & Federation Journal*, *the Albury Advertiser*, *Wodonga Herald*, *Wodonga and Tawonga Sentinel*) to 1900 (inclusive). For some papers this will encompass all issues published. These indices will be formally published in due course, to appear as free-to-web pdf files on the Web. Notice of the publication will be given through the *ANHG Newsletter*. E-mail: dspennemann@csu.edu.au

THOMSON, Robert (Brisbane): Researching a history of the idea of bushwalking in SE Queensland through a range of sources, primarily the early Queensland press. E-mail: rajt@hotmail.com

TULLY, Bill (Canberra): The 1983 Asbestos removal dispute at the National Library in Canberra, especially the reactions in the media; John Ignatius Hunt (1846-1912), journalist, musician and composer, with the Catholic *Freeman's Journal* and other Sydney papers from the mid 1880s to 1912; specifically looking at his attitude in the "Flaneur" column towards Federation; Daphne Gollan, Marxist, history lecturer (at ANU from 1965 to 1986), public speaker, feminist and writer (Communist newspapers, Women's Liberation journals). Interests: Federation and minority groups; radical (left) journalism in Australia (19th and 20th centuries); librarianship and book trade history. E-mail: btully@nla.gov.au

WILKINSON, Jane (Wagga Wagga, NSW): I am a third year PhD student examining contemporary media representations of Australian women leaders. My research interests are gender issues, feminism, the intersection of gender and ethnicity particularly in the area of education. E-mail: janewilkinson@bigpond.com

WILLIS, Ian (Camden, NSW): Work in progress – PhD, "The Women's Voluntary Services: a case study of war and voluntarism in Camden, 1939-1945"; principal source documents, *Camden News* (owner George Sidman) and *Camden Advertiser* (owner Arthur Gibson). Address: PO Box 304, Camden, 2570.

12.43 JOHN GALE GRACES QUEANBEYAN

A statue of John Gale (1831-1929), founder in 1860 of the *Golden Age*, Queanbeyan, and long-time editor of it (and its successor, the *Queanbeyan Age*) and later of the *Queanbeyan*

Observer, now graces a prominent position in Queanbeyan's main street. It was unveiled on 10 March 2001 outside the Courthouse to remember Gale as the "Father of Canberra". He was one of the great fighters for Canberra to become the national capital. Queanbeyan is in new South Wales, just outside the Australian Capital Territory border, but the *Age* is now printed in Canberra and many of the town's people work in Canberra.

12.44 INDEXING THE *NORTHERN STAR*, LISMORE

Following on from 11.36 about the grant to Janet McNaught for Volume 3 of her index of the *Northern Star*, Lismore. **Roy Dunstan**, of Lismore, provides the following: Volume 1, covering 1876 to 1884 was published in 1999 and Volume 2, 1885-1889, was published in 2000. Direct inquiries to the Richmond-Tweed Library at Lismore, New South Wales

12.45 ODD BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES (VICTORIA)

Tom Darragh forwards these notes gleaned from a culling of his old E-mail messages:

MIDDLETON, Alexander Gordon, printer, poet, journalist, owned *Shepparton News* for seven years until April 1888, died 15 October 1888 at Lilydale. Very detailed obituary in *Observer City & Suburban Advertiser* (covers Fitzroy, Collingwood area), Thursday 8 November 1888.

BADNALL, Charles Henry, journalist, Portland. Bankrupt. Liabilities £251; assets £140; cause: inability to meet liabilities and stoppage of annual income from England.

12.46 MAITLAND MERCURY INDEX, JANUARY TO JUNE 1846

Manning Valley newspaper archivists and researchers Rod and Wendy Gow, have released their latest index to the *Maitland Mercury*, for the first half of 1846. This index (840pp) includes more than 19,000 entries, and is now available on a set of seven microfiche for \$35 (incl p&p within Australia). In 1846 the weekly *Mercury* became a bi-weekly. It featured passenger lists to shipping arrivals and departures in Sydney and other ports. The *Mercury* began publication on 7 January 1843. It carried reports from all over Australia.

This index, the fifth in the series, follows the release of the indexes to the *Hunter River Gazette*, 1841-42, and to the *Maitland Mercury* of 1843, 1844 and 1845. Many libraries and societies have these two newspapers available on microfilm. The *Maitland Mercury* is also available on the internet in digitised form at www.nla.gov.au/ferg/issn/14403676 while the *Hunter River Gazette* is available at www.nla.gov.au/ferg/issn/13299611 Inquiries to: Rod and Wendy Gow, 50 Ferry Lane, Cundletown, NSW, 2430; or e-mail rgow@turboweb.net.au

12.47 NEWSPRINT

Two news items of note for those interested in newsprint for Australian newspapers in the 19th century: "Manufacture of paper", *Maitland Mercury*, 12 August 1846 (extracted from *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 August) and 19 August 1846 (extracted from *Australian*, 15 August). [Source: Rod and Wendy Gow's 1846 *Maitland Mercury* index, see 12.46.]

12.48 RECENTLY PUBLISHED (1): BOOKS

12.48.1 VOICES IN THE WILDERNESS: IMAGES OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE AUSTRALIAN MEDIA, by Michael Meadows. Greenwood Press, Westport, 2001 (ISBN 0-313-31566-3; 250pp). Chapters include: Journalism, images and Indigenous affairs; images of Indigenous people from first contact; television coverage of the bicentenary; reporting the

Cape York spaceport; the Native Title debate; reporting everyday Indigenous affairs; ethics and professionalism; and reconciliation. A reference book rather than a text. Australian agent is Bridget Thompson, DA Information Services, 648 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham Vic 3132, Ph. 03 9210 7723, Fax 03 9210 7788. Email: bthompson@dadirect.com.au.

12.48.2 THREE CHEERS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA: GEORGE HENRY WISE, FEDERATIONIST by Peter Synan, 144pp, illustr., published by Kapana Press, PO Box 86, Bairnsdale, Vic., 3875, ISSN 0-947071-22-9, \$30.

Victor Isaacs writes: George Wise was a Sale lawyer who led the campaign in Gippsland for Federation. Subsequently he was elected to Federal Parliament and was a Federal minister for a few years. This readable book combines biography, Federation history, early Federal politics and local history. One chapter, entitled "Gippsland's Longest Running Feud", traces the history of Sale's competing newspapers, the *Gippsland Times* and the *Gippsland Mercury*. The Luke family, owners of the *Mercury*, expressed their great dislike for Wise through their paper. Wise received strong support from the *Times* and its owners, the Overend family. The *Times* acquired the *Mercury* shortly after Wise's retirement from public life.

12.49 RECENTLY PUBLISHED (2): ARTICLES

12.49.1 THE MEDIA, MAN AND THE MYTH by Brett Hutchins, *Australian*, Media liftout, 1 March 01, p.3. Sir Donald Bradman has become the metaphor for an idealised cricketing past.

12.49.2 EVER ON A SUNDAY by Martin Chulov, *Australian*, Media liftout, 1 March pp.6-7. Sunday newspapers fight for dominance in a lucrative but difficult market.

12.49.3 CANBERRA IN CONTROL by Mike Steketee, *Australian*, Media liftout, 8 March 01, pp.6-7. Politicians and their minders are having an increasing influence on what the media reports and writes.

12.49.4 BURNT BY A BOLT FOR A BLUE by Andrew Dodd, *Australian*, Media liftout, 15 March 01, p.3. Reporter Andrew Bolt caused heated debate with claims that Aboriginal leader Lowitja O'Donoghue denied being stolen.

12.49.5 SAVE THAT TOON by Keith Dunstan, *Bulletin*, 20 March 01, pp.52-53. Jim Bridges' obsession with cartoons has seen him collect and catalogue millions of them. Now he wants a purpose-built archive to preserve the art.

12.49.6 LUNCH WITH PAUL KELLY by Maxine McKew, *Bulletin*, 20 March 01, pp.54-56. On befriending young politicians, retiring late and rising early, deciding the Deakinite legacy was history and discovering the real genius of Australia.

12.49.7 IS CYBERSPACE BAD NEWS? by Natasha Bitá, *Australian*, Media liftout, 22 March 01, pp.6-7. Are readers using technology to wrest control of the news from its traditional gatekeepers? Or are journalists needed even more in the 21st century? [See also in same edition, US NEWSPAPERS FEEL THE FALLOUT AFTER DOTCOMS CRASH by Chris Ayres, p.5.]

12.49.8 THE DIY MEDIA MACHINE by Stephen Quinn, *The Walkley Magazine*, Issue 12, April 2001, p.18. The reporter of the not-too-distant future could be expected to write and produce stories for print, TV and the Web.

12.49.9 HISTORY BUFF REVIVES OLD-STYLE NEWSPAPER IN VICTORIA by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, April 01, pp.32-34. Greg Wane is a newspaper proprietor

whose mission is to produce local news. He's also a newspaper historian and a man with a wonderful collection of Australian newspapers. [Greg is an ANHG subscriber.]

12.49.10 A WORLD AWAY FROM ACP by Bridget Griffen-Foley, *Australian*, Media liftout, 12 April 01, p.3. An independent streak characterised Clyde Packer, who died recently in the United States (see also 12.5).

12.49.11 THE NIGHT CLYDE DECLARED HIS LOVE by Mike Willesee, *Daily Telegraph*, 11 April 01, p.34. When Clyde Packer turned his back on his father's media empire for a fresh start in America, Australia lost a man of principle, charm, wit and whimsy.

12.49.12 THE PACKERS' \$2-BILLION BAD YEAR by John Kavanagh, *BRW*, 20 April 01, pp. 48-55. Just a year ago, Kerry and James Packer were investment invincibles; now their losses are less than impressive.

12.49.13 THEORY OF EVOLUTION APPLIES TO MEDIA COMPANIES TOO by Frederick G. Hilmer, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 April 01, p.14. The chief executive officer of John Fairfax says the *Herald* and Fairfax must always strive to raise their standards.

12. 50 A select chronology of Australian newspaper events, 1970-1979

14 February 1970	First 128-page issue of the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> .
3 March 1970	<i>Southern Riverina News</i> , Finley, New South Wales, begins publication; resulted from merger of <i>Finley Mail</i> , <i>Berrigan Advocate</i> and <i>Tocumwal Guardian</i> .
3 May 1970	David Syme's Melbourne evening newspaper <i>Newsday</i> ceases publication. Launched on 30 September 1969, it cost Syme \$3 million and 67 journalists their jobs.
1 July 1970	G.E.W. Harriott is appointed editor of <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> .
11 September 1970	The John Fairfax group acquires 25 per cent of Land Newspaper Ltd. (forerunner of Rural Press Ltd).
18 January 1971	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> leader page moves from Page 2 to 6.
6 February 1971	Final issue of <i>Riverina Daily News</i> , Griffith, NSW, as a morning daily; it began publication on 1 September 1969.
7 February 1971	Fairfax launches weekly <i>National Times</i> .
8 February 1971	First issue of <i>Riverina Daily News</i> , Griffith, as an evening daily.
2 July 1971	Final issue of <i>Riverina Daily News</i> (evening); reverts to tri-weekly issue as <i>Area News</i> . Mon/Wed/Fri.
4 June 1972	Sir Frank Packer sells the mastheads of the <i>Daily</i> and <i>Sunday Telegraphs</i> to Rupert Murdoch for \$15 million.
June 1972	Fairfax increases holding in Syme to more than 50 per cent, making Syme a subsidiary but the Fairfax/Syme partnership agreement remains.
3 July 1972	John Fairfax increases its interest in David Syme (principally <i>The Age</i> , Melbourne) to more than 50 per cent.
3 July 1972	<i>The News</i> , Shepparton, Vic., becomes an afternoon daily, stepping up from tri-weekly issue.
29 July 1972	First issue of <i>Nation Review</i> ; formed by amalgamation of <i>Nation</i> and <i>The Review</i> . Published in Melbourne; later Sydney.
1973	Rupert Murdoch enters United States markets, buying San Antonio <i>Express</i> and <i>News</i> , Texas

1 May 1974	Death of Sir Frank Packer, former owner of the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> and <i>Sunday Telegraph</i> , Sydney.
3 May 1974	<i>Nation Review</i> incorporates <i>The Living Daylights</i> .
19 July 1974	John Fairfax group closes the evening <i>Canberra News</i> (began 12 November 1969).
10 September 1974	<i>Central Coast Express</i> , Gosford, becomes a daily, issued Tuesday to Saturday.
27 November 1974	<i>Barrier Miner</i> , published daily since 1888, ceases publication.
8 December 1975	Journalists employed by Rupert Murdoch's News Ltd in Sydney strike for 24 hours in protest at a very deliberate and blatant bias in the presentation of news.
1 July 1976	The Australian Press Council is established. Retired High Court judge Sir Frank Kitto is the first chair.
1 March 1977	James Fairfax succeeds his father, Sir Warwick Fairfax, as chairman of the John Fairfax group.
3 August 1977	Mr Justice Cahill's judgment is handed down on demarcation of visual display terminals.
17 December 1977	Final issue of <i>Central Coast Express</i> , Gosford, NSW, as a daily.
7 April 1978	John Fairfax acquires full ownership of Newcastle Newspapers Pty Ltd.
28 May 1978	First Sunday issue of the <i>Canberra Times</i> .
22 June 1978	Final issue of <i>Nation Review</i> under Gordon Barton's ownership.
10 October 1979	<i>Newcastle Star</i> begins as free weekly; established by Michael Wansey, former part-proprietor of the <i>Newcastle Morning Herald</i> and <i>Sun</i> .
11 October 1979	<i>Nation Review</i> ceases publication, its circulation having dipped to 15,000 compared with 54,000 in 1973. Resumed publication in 1980 in magazine format, eventually ceasing September 1981.
19 November 1979	Final commitment by Australian Newsprint Mills to build a newsprint mill at Albury.
November 1979	Rupert Murdoch makes a \$125 million takeover bid for the Herald & Weekly Times Ltd, but withdraws with a profit after John Fairfax takes a 14.9 per cent stake in HWT for \$50 million.

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