

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

ISSN 1443-4962

No. 14

September 2001

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

**14.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS**

**Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 31 October 2001. Subscription details at end of *Newsletter*.**

The *Newsletter* is online through the "Publications" link from the University of Queensland's  
School of Journalism & Communication Website at [www.sjc.uq.edu.au/](http://www.sjc.uq.edu.au/)

**CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS**

**14.2 SEPARATION (1): PACKER AND FAIRFAX**

- Australia's richest man, Kerry Packer, has hinted at a return to a more active role in the management of [Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd]. – *Courier-Mail*, 12 July 01, p.29.
- Kerry Packer has given up on his dream of owning John Fairfax Holdings, calling in brokers yesterday to sell for a minimum \$436 million the 14.9 per cent stake he controls in the media group. – *Australian*, 20 July 01, p.1.
- Mr Kerry Packer has abandoned his ambitions to own the John Fairfax media empire ... – *Australian Financial Review*, 20 July 01, p.1.
- Mr Kerry Packer ended his affair with the John Fairfax newspaper group yesterday for yet another time ... – *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 July 01, p.1.
- Despite selling his 15 per cent stake in John Fairfax Holdings, Mr Kerry Packer has left the door open for a full-scale takeover of the newspaper publisher if there is a change in the cross-media ownership laws. – *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21-22 July 01, p.42 (see also 14.41).

[See also, Valerie Lawson, "He died, came back, then outlived a publishing dynasty", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21-22 July 01, p.4; Errol Simper, "Flight from Fairfax", *Australian*, Media liftout, 26 July 01, pp.6-7; and Jack Beverley, "Packer withdrawal paves the way for regulation changes", *PANPA Bulletin*, August 01, pp.8-9.]

**14.3 SEPARATION (2): ANNA AND RUPERT, ANNA AND THE BOARD**

Anna Mann, former wife of Rupert Murdoch, has spoken publicly for the first time about the end of her marriage to the chairman and chief executive of The New Corporation Limited and her departure from the company's board. She has told the *Australian Women's Weekly* (August 01, pp.12-22) that she does not wish any of their children to inherit the media empire. Twenty minutes into an interview by journalist David Leser, she "fixed him with her cool, pale blue eyes" and declared that as far as she was concerned it was Rupert's infidelity that had led to the separation. "I think that Rupert's affair with Wendi Deng – it's not an original plot – was the end of the marriage. His determination to continue with that. I thought we had a wonderfully happy marriage. Obviously we didn't." Rupert Murdoch met Wendi Deng while she was employed at Star TV, Hong Kong. She had joined it as an intern in 1996. Rupert Murdoch has maintained that their relationship – which led to marriage – began after his separation in April 1998 from Anna. Murdoch also failed to say that he had forced Anna

off the News Corporation board. "I wasn't given a choice," Anna says. "I was told." How did he put it? "You get off the board ... I thought it was better to be dignified and resign. And I spoke at the board that day that I resigned. I explained how I had worked for the company since I was about 18 years old ... and that this was not just the end of my marriage. It was the end of a whole life." Ms Mann says she waited three years before telling what really happened because she wanted to give Rupert the opportunity to "make it right again, but he never took the opportunity". (See also 14.61.12)

#### **14.4 STOKES BUYS PMP**

Kerry Stokes' Seven Network has bought half of PMP Ltd's Australasian magazine business for \$65 million and taken a 12.7 per cent interest in the troubled publishing group. The deal is valued at \$140 million (*Courier-Mail* and *Australian*, 10 July 01, both p.23; *Australian*, Media liftout, 12 and 19 July 01, p.4, and pp.6-7, respectively; and *Weekend Australian*, 14-15 July 01, pp.29-30).

#### **14.5 TONY O'REILLY, APN AND FAIRFAX**

Sir Anthony O'Reilly, chairman of the Irish-based Independent News and Media Plc and the key shareholder in Australia's APN News & Media Ltd, remains keen to acquire a key Australian newspaper. He is optimistic foreign-investment media laws will soon change to permit him to do so. Sir Anthony met the Prime Minister, John Howard, on 13 July. (*Courier-Mail*, 13 July 01, p.37). During his visit, Sir Anthony had dinner with the chief executive of John Fairfax Holdings, Mr Fred Hilmer, but no concrete plans were placed on the table for an O'Reilly interest in Fairfax (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 4-5 August 01, pp.45, 47).

#### **14.6 VOTERS' VOICE (1): THE AUSTRALIAN**

In its weekend edition of 7-8 July, the *Australian* launched "the most comprehensive effort yet by the nation's media to tap into the pre-election mood of voters". The paper's journalists have begun "a conversation" with 160 voters from 20 marginal electorates across the nation. The results appear under the general heading of "Voters' Voice: An Inquirer Special". The first articles appeared on 7-8 July on Pages 1, 21, and 24-26. Other articles appeared on 28-29 July, pp.1, 24-25 (a survey of the sample of voters about Australia's federal political leaders); 11-12 August, p.27 (voters are worried about whether the "good Australia" will survive); 18-19 August, p.21 (middle Australia supports the Government's stance on illegal immigrants).

#### **14.7 VOTERS' VOICE (2): THE CANBERRA TIMES**

The *Canberra Times* and Rural Press's regional papers are asking their readers to respond to a survey of what the deciding issue will be for them at the next general election. Readers can participate by logging on to [www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au), clicking on the "election survey" link in the left-hand menu column, and stating their priorities. They can choose up to 10 from the list, or use the space provided to say what has been missed. Readers are asked to supply only their age group, gender and postcode (*Canberra Times*, 28 August 01).

#### **14.8 BLEAK VIEW**

"I believe to be a good journo you need an inquisitive mind, skepticism, cynicism, enthusiasm, a thick skin, a modicum of intelligence, a command of the English language, a nose for news, an ability to work under pressure and a great deal of commonsense. I'm yet to be convinced that a university degree helps too much." – Barry Hyland, Managing Director, PR Plus, Crows Nest, NSW, in letter to the *Australian*, Media liftout, 12 July 01, p.5.

## 14.9 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

11 May 2001	First issue of <i>Ipswich's Own</i> , an independent Ipswich-owned free tabloid paper presented in a magazine style. The <i>Queensland Times</i> introduced a free Sunday paper on 29 April (see 13.5).
18 May 2001	Death: <b>Tom Barrass</b> , in Newcastle aged 70; cadetship with <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> ; joined AAP; established <i>Port Stephens Gazette</i> but it survived only a year; joined <i>Newcastle Morning Herald</i> and became chief of staff; served two long terms as president of NSW provincial district of Australian Journalists Association ( <i>Walkley Magazine</i> , August 01, p.27).
25 June 2001	Total production of the <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> , Western Australia's only regional daily, returned to the Eastern Goldfields centre (see 14.45).
3 July 2001	Death: <b>Bill Boyan</b> , in Brisbane aged 91; journalist for Brisbane's <i>Telegraph</i> for 46 years; author of books on the <i>Telegraph</i> and H.J. Manning, provincial press veteran ( <i>Courier-Mail</i> , 6 July 01, p.9).
12 July 2001	First issue of <i>The Post</i> , the revamped <i>Twin Cities Post</i> that serves Albury-Wodonga. <i>Daily Border Mail</i> publishes <i>The Post</i> each Thursday.
17 July 2001	Death: <b>Katharine Graham</b> , former proprietor, <i>Washington Post</i> ; an inspiration for American and Australian journalists who believe in the independence of the press from government influence; obituaries ran on 19 July in major Australian newspapers (e.g. <i>Age</i> , Today section, p.7; <i>Australian</i> , p.13; <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , p.9).
19 July 2001	<b>Kerry Packer</b> sells his 14.9 per cent interest in the Fairfax newspaper group (see 14.2).
23 July 2001	Death: <b>Deborah Bailey</b> , in Sydney, aged 48; former assistant editor, <i>Australian Women's Weekly</i> ; managing editor, <i>She</i> ; deputy editor, <i>Family Circle</i> ; wife of David Armstrong, editor-in-chief, <i>Australian</i> ( <i>Australian</i> , 25 July 01, p.14).
23 July 2001	<i>Daily Telegraph</i> , Sydney, launches project to deliver more than 90,000 free books to schoolchildren through NSW and the ACT.
23 July 2001	Death: <b>Les Tanner</b> , in Melbourne aged 74; great cartoonist; won Walkley Awards for cartooning at <i>The Bulletin</i> , 1962 and 1965; worked for <i>Age</i> , Melbourne, for 30 years from 1967; started in art department at <i>Daily Telegraph</i> , Sydney, in 1944 (obits., <i>Australian</i> , 27 July 01, p.12; <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 26 July 01, p.30; also see Alan Ramsey, "Memories of a fine penman with a point", <i>SMH</i> , 1 August 01, p.13).
28-29 July 2001	First issue of "Books Extra", a 12-page supplement to the "Review" section of the <i>Weekend Australian</i> (replaces monthly <i>Australian Review of Books</i> , which ceased 13 June; see 13.5). See introduction by editor-in-chief and editor on Page 2. "Books Extra" will reach a wider audience, they say.
28 July 2001	Production of the <i>Age</i> , Melbourne, was seriously disrupted by printer's industrial trouble the previous night. Some home-delivery customers received a full edition, but many newsagents had only the pre-printed sections, which they gave away (reports John Tidey).
3 August 2001	Launch of "Preview", the <i>Australian's</i> Friday liftout section devoted to arts, fashion and good living. Replaces the normal extended Friday arts section. First feature was six broadsheet pages.
6 August 2001	Death: <b>Christopher Skase</b> , in Majorca aged 52; Australia's most notorious former journalist; reported for Melbourne Sun and <i>Australian Financial Review</i> ; failed businessman; fugitive from Australian justice (e.g. <i>Australian</i> , 7 August 01, pp. 1, 5, 6, 7, 14).
15 August 2001	Death: <b>Jim Russell</b> , in Sydney aged 92; newspaper cartoonist for <i>Smith's Weekly</i> ; creator of "The Potts" and drew that strip for world-record 62 years until day before he died ( <i>Advertiser</i> , Adelaide, 16 August 01).

#### 14.10 NEWS LTD APPOINTMENTS

Jerry Harris has been appointed managing director of Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd to replace John Cowley who has retired (see 13.5 and 14.20). The company publishes the *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail*. Peter Macourt has been appointed chief operating officer of News Ltd and Malcolm Noad managing director of Nationwide News, publisher of the *Australian*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Sunday Telegraph*, and *Sportsman* (*Courier-Mail*, 4 July 01, p.2; and “Tributes all round as newspaper chief ends an era”, *Courier-Mail*, 9 August 01, p.7).

#### 14.11 FINANCIAL JOURNALISTS AND THEIR FREEDOM

John Fairfax group has urged the Federal Government to legislate to protect explicitly the freedom of journalists who write on financial matters (*PANPA Bulletin*, July 01, pp.14-15).

#### 14.12 MEGAWATI TAKES THE PRIZE

When Indonesia’s President Wahid was deposed, and Megawati Sukarnoputri replaced him, the major Australian dailies agreed on what the main news of the day (24 July 01) was:

<i>Courier-Mail</i>	Megawati gains control (p.1)
<i>Australian</i>	Megawati takes power (p.1)
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	Megawati takes control (p.1)
<i>Age</i>	Megawati takes charge (p.1)
<i>Australian Financial Review</i>	Megawati takes the reins (p.1)

The *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, had a local story on Page 1 (MP banned the poor) and the Indonesian story on Page 5: Megawati takes control as MPs sack president.

#### 14.13 MEDIA JOBS (1): WHAT APN SEEKS IN AN EDITOR

APN News and Media Ltd has advertised recently for editors for two of its 14 regional daily newspapers: *The Chronicle*, Toowoomba, and the *Queensland Times*, Ipswich. Extracts from the advertisements reveal what the company expects of its editors (spelling and punctuation are as per the advertisements, *Courier-Mail*, 9 June 01, Careers p.25; and *Australian*, Media liftout, 12 July 01, p.11).

**THE CHRONICLE:** We require an editor who can address the issues associated with a more competitive media market, whilst leading and exciting a team of committed professionals to be innovative and to improve an already great newspaper.

The specific outcomes the editor will be required to deliver are:

- The continued development of the editorial team;
- Maintaining our strong reputation in the community for unbiased timely news delivery and for making great things happen;
- Publishing an interesting, provocative daily newspaper that will excite more people to become regular readers;
- Improving without detriment to the newspaper’s quality, internal work flow and news gathering systems to enable us to devote more resource for news;
- Follow through to completion agreed initiatives and policy decisions.

**QUEENSLAND TIMES:** We are seeking an innovative and energetic reader focused journalist with a proven record in successfully running the newsroom of a large newspaper and who is committed to playing a leading role in taking the *Queensland Times* to a new level. The successful applicant will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the 25 strong editorial department and will be the driving force in circulation growth. You will be expected to have a

hands on role in the creation of each days edition and play an active role in the community. We want a journalist who knows how to seize on story ideas and take them to their maximum potential. We want an editor who is fiercely competitive and able to win the battle for attention in a media rich environment while shaping the *Queensland Times* in a way that connects with the local community and makes the *Queensland Times* an essential part of their daily lives. We want someone special.

**Editor's note:** The editorship of the *Queensland Times* became vacant when the incumbent, Mitchell Murphy, was appointed editor of *The Chronicle*, Toowoomba.

#### **14.14 MEDIA JOBS (2): A BRAND COORDINATOR**

Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd has advertised for a Brand Coordinator for the *Sunday Mail*, located within the company's marketing and promotions department. The successful applicant will report to the Brand Manager of the *Sunday Mail*. Key areas of responsibility include the development, management and administration of promotions; and marketing support and coordination of major events associated with the brand. The role also involves working closely with the editorial, advertising and circulation departments within Queensland Newspapers.

#### **14.15 NEWCASTLE HERALD BUYS SUN WEEKLY: FAIRFAX v NEWS LTD**

Newcastle Newspapers (NN) has bought the *Sun Weekly*, an independent newspaper published on the New South Wales Central Coast since 1987. Its weekly distribution is 100,000 copies. NN, publishers of the *Newcastle Herald*, is a wholly owned subsidiary of John Fairfax Holdings Ltd. It bought the Sun Weekly in July, intending to make it number one against the longer established amalgamated title, *Express Advocate*, published by News Ltd's Cumberland group (*PANPA Bulletin*, August 2001, p.14).

#### **14.16 CIRCULATION FIGURES (1): METROS ALL ORDINARY**

The so-called "end of Australians' love affair with the share market" was blamed for the decreases of more than 5 per cent in the six-month (January-June 2001) circulation figures for both the weekday and weekend editions of the *Australian Financial Review*. They were the biggest decreases among metropolitan and national dailies. (The Fairfax-owned *Shares* magazine fell 16.77pc and *BRW*, 5.86pc.) Few papers showed increases in weekday or weekend circulations. Five titles recorded increases of more than 1 per cent: the *Canberra Sunday Times* (4.95 pc), the *Sunday Herald Sun* (2.37pc), the *Saturday Canberra Times* (2.32pc), the *Sunday Tasmanian* (1.87pc) and the *Sunday Age* (1.41pc).

The *Australian* reported the figures on Friday, 3 August (p.24), but excluded the Northern Territory papers and Tasmania's Sunday papers. It included *BRW*, *Shares* and *The Bulletin*. Brisbane's *Courier-Mail* carried no report on Friday, but the Saturday issue (4 August, p.69) included a six-State report (no ACT and Northern Territory) and the only Sunday title mentioned was its own *Sunday Mail*.

The *Courier-Mail* dropped 2.16 per cent (4722 sales) on weekdays and the Saturday and Sunday performances improved slightly. The *Canberra Times* and Hobart's *Mercury* carried no reports on 3 August. (How times have changed; such reports used to be almost mandatory.) Warrnambool's *Standard* bragged that it had "achieved the biggest circulation increase among regional daily newspapers in Victoria"; its increase was 34 and Ballarat's *Courier* gained 13 (see 14.15).

Newspaper	Six months to 30/6/2001	Six months to 30/6/2000	Change %*
<i>Australian</i> (M-F)	132,145	132,595	- 0.34
<i>Australian</i> (Sat.)	304,923	304,038	+ 0.29
<i>Australian Financial Review</i> (M-F)	92,500	97,556	- 5.18
<i>AFR Weekend Edition</i> (Sat.)	92,000	98,338	- 6.45
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (M-F)	410,896	414,365	- 0.84
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sat.)	338,620	346,887	- 2.38
<i>SMH</i> (M-F)	221,973	231,518	- 4.12
<i>SMH</i> (Sat.)	396,112	393,699	+ 0.61
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	560,776	584,000	- 3.98
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	719,493	718,536	+ 0.13
<i>Herald-Sun</i> (M-F)	544,938	551,350	- 1.16
<i>Herald-Sun</i> (Sat.)	511,199	512,318	- 0.22
<i>Age</i> (M-F)	195,727	199,199	- 1.74
<i>Age</i> (Sat.)	326,010	330,247	- 1.28
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	550,144	537,4000	+ 2.37
<i>Sunday Age</i>	199,008	196,234	+ 1.41
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (M-F)	214,241	218,963	- 2.16
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (Sat.)	343,226	341,472	+ 0.51
<i>Sunday Mail</i> (Qld)	590,423	589,765	+ 0.11
<i>Advertiser</i> (M-F)	201,813	206,758	- 2.39
<i>Advertiser</i> (Sat.)	276,720	275,861	+ 0.31
<i>Sunday Mail</i> (SA)	345,686	347,157	- 0.42
<i>West Australian</i> (M-F)	211,370	217,008	- 2.60
<i>West Australian</i> (Sat.)	385,000	388,290	- 0.85
<i>Sunday Times</i> (WA)	340,170	344,169	- 1.16
<i>Mercury</i> (M-F)	50,223	50,504	- 0.56
<i>Mercury</i> (Sat.)	65,097	64,919	+ 0.27
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	58,325	57,257	+ 1.87
<i>Sunday Examiner</i>	40,988	42,032	- 2.48
<i>Canberra Times</i> (M-F)	38,938	38,987	- 0.13
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sat.)	72,198	70,558	+ 2.32
<i>Canberra Sunday Times</i>	38,931	37,095	+ 4.95
<i>Northern Territory News</i> (M-F)	22,425	23,103	- 2.93
<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Sat.)	31,354	31,882	- 1.66
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	25,197	25,459	- 1.03

#### 14.17 CIRCULATION FIGURES (2): REGIONALS LESS THAN ORDINARY

The January-June 2001 Audit Bureau figures revealed some significant falls among the regional dailies by comparison with the same six months last year: Ipswich's *Queensland Times*, 8.36 per cent, or 1,146 sales, to 12,565; Mount Isa's *North West Star*, 8.16pc, or 328 sales, to 4,019; Mackay's *Daily Mercury*, 8.01 pc, or 1,320 sales to 15,155; Bundaberg's *News-Mail*, 6.66pc, or 791 sales, to 11,094; Tamworth's *Northern Daily Leader*, 5.93 pc, or 546 sales, to 8,654; the *Geelong Advertiser*, 3.60pc, or 1,035 sales, to 27,716; *Toowoomba's Chronicle*, Monday to Friday, 4.60 pc, or 1,307 sales, to 27,085; Lismore's *Northern Star*, 4.51 pc, or 790 sales, to 16,725;

*The Gold Coast Bulletin* was the outstanding performer, lifting its Monday to Friday circulation by 2.27pc, or 1,008 sales, to 45,321 and its Saturday circulation by 4.95 pc, or 3,539 sales, to 75,045. Wagga Wagga's *Daily Advertiser* rose 3.92pc, or 490 sales, to 15,535. The *Newcastle Herald's* significant circulation increases since it became a tabloid have slowed: it rose 0.57 pc, or 300 sales, to 53,000.

Three regional dailies have circulations smaller than 5,000: Mount Isa's *North West Star*, 3,691; Bathurst's *Western Advocate*, 4,403; and the *Maitland Mercury*, 4,585. The following non-dailies have circulations exceeding 5,000: the *Area News*, Griffith (5,306); the *Great Lakes Advocate*, Forster (5,197); the *Hawkesbury Gazette*, Windsor-Richmond (8,406); the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* (6,264); the *Riverine Herald*, Echuca (5,482); the *Hamilton Spectator* (5,588); the *Wimmera Mail-Times*, Horsham (9,157); the *Pakenham-Berwick Gazette* (9,204); the *Gippsland Times-Maffra Spectator*, Sale (5,395), the *Warragul Gazette* (9,165), the *South Burnett Times*, Kingaroy (6,130); the *South Western Times*, Bunbury (14,028); the *Albany Advertiser* (6,803); the *Busselton Margaret Times* (6,985); the *Geraldton Guardian* (6,832); and the *Centralian Advocate*, Alice Springs (7,170).

#### **14.18 PEOPLE (1): CLEM LLOYD**

A leading Australian newspaper historian, Professor Clem Lloyd, joined the School of Professional Communication, University of Canberra, as Professor of Journalism (Research) in early August. The Head of School, Professor R. Warwick Blood, announced the appointment. Prof. Lloyd, formerly the foundation Professor in the Graduate School of Journalism, University of Wollongong, is the author of *Profession: Journalist*, (1985); and *Parliament and Press: The Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery 1901-1988* (1988). He contributed 'British press traditions, colonial governors, and the struggle for a "free" press', to the Ann Curthoys-Julianne Schultz (eds.), *Journalism: Print, Politics and Popular Culture* (1999). This forms a short version of a larger project on which he is working: a history of the first half-century or so of journalism in Australia.

#### **14.19 PEOPLE (2): STUART McLAGAN**

Stuart McLagan has been transferred from the editorship of the *Collie Mail* and the *Donnybrook Mail* in Western Australia to the editorship of the *Singleton Argus* in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales. All papers are owned by Rural Press Ltd (Argus, 7 August 01).

#### **14.20 PEOPLE (3): JOHN COWLEY**

*QN News*, the house magazine of Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd, carried a two-page article (pp.2-3) in July-August on the retirement of John Cowley, the company's managing director for the past 10 years. He retired on 1 August at the age of 58 (see 13.5).

#### **14.21 OBITUARIES (1): OOPS!**

"The *Sydney Morning Herald* yesterday published an obituary for Barbara James. The 94-year-old entertainer is alive, and we deeply regret the mistake." – *SMH*, 3 August 01. [The obituary appeared on 2 August on Page 28 and did not actually state that she had died.]

#### **14.22 OBITUARIES (2): THIS LIFE**

On Monday, 6 August 01, the *Sydney Morning Herald* revamped its obituaries page, naming it "This Life. It is edited by Suzy Baldwin. The page was formerly headed "Obituaries". A new part of the page is called "Untold Stories" in which readers are invited to "celebrate the life of a friend or relative in 400 words of affectionate anecdote and informal stories, of the kind you might include in a personal eulogy or tell at a wake". Such contributions are to include dates of birth and death and a copy of the death notice.

#### **14.23 OBITUARIES (3): THIS CRAB**

The obituary of Brian Brindley, described as "a flamboyant Anglo-Catholic canon", appeared in London's *Daily Telegraph*. It concluded: "He died surrounded by a dozen of his closest friends, celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday at a seven-course dinner at the Athenaeum; he suffered a

heart attack between the dressed crab and the *boeuf en croute*.” (Column 8, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 11-12 August 01, p.24)

#### **14.24 RURAL PRESS (1): COMPANY FINED \$670,000**

Rural Press Ltd, Australia’s biggest regional publishing group, was fined \$670,000 on 7 August for anti-competitive behaviour. In the Federal Court, Justice John Mansfield ordered Rural Press to pay \$400,000, its subsidiary, Bridge Printing Office, \$200,000, and two Rural Press managers, Ian Law and Trevor McAuliffe, \$40,000 and \$30,000, respectively. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission had told the Federal Court it wanted penalties of up to \$8.5 million. As well, Riverland-based publisher Waikerie Printing House was fined \$60,000 and director Paul Taylor \$15,000. The fines follow an investigation by the ACCC, which showed the rival companies were in breach of the Trade Practices Act.

The ACCC brought the case when it found a deal it deemed illegal had been struck to stop Waikerie Printing’s *River News* from expanding into Mannum in 1997. The move, which resulted in a circulation of up to 500 weekly newspapers, meant the *River News* was in competition with Rural Press’s *Murray Valley Standard*. Justice Mansfield found Rural Press and Bridge Printing had threatened to introduce a competitor into Waikerie Printing’s Riverland base unless the *River News* was withdrawn.

Waikerie Printing succumbed to that threat. In his written judgment, Justice Mansfield said the deliberate nature of the contraventions by Rural Press and Bridge Printing weighed in favour of significant financial penalties. ACCC chairman Professor Allan Fels said the message from the court was that “firms that are bullied by bigger businesses should not succumb to the pressure or temptation to break the law”. – *Advertiser*, Adelaide, 8 August 01. (See also *Australian*, 8 August 01, p.22, and Newsletter item, 12.11).

When ABC-TV’s *7.30 Report* ran an item on the issue on 16 August, it became clear that Duncan Emmins, who had been employed as the Mannum correspondent for the *River News*, was the person who blew the whistle to the ACCC. He now runs the photographic store in Mannum’s main street. It was also reported that the ACCC has appealed against the smallness of the fine imposed by the Federal Court.

#### **14.25 RURAL PRESS (2): GOOD OL’ FRIENDS**

Rural Press Ltd has issued a 20-page supplement, “Good Ol’ Friends: Celebrating 90 Years of Rural Press Ltd”, to mark the 90th anniversary of the establishment of *The Land*, the publication from which the company grew. *The Land*, a weekly for primary producers, first appeared on 27 January 1911 (see Rod Kirkpatrick, *Country Conscience*, Ch 27).

#### **14.26 A WEEK AT THE AUSTRALIAN (1): ENTIRE PAPER AVAILABLE ON NET**

In what the *Australian* claims as a world first, its entire edition is available on the Internet (*Australian*, 9 August 01, p.1). Ground-breaking technology allows readers to download the paper as it rolls off the press each day. Mark Day writes (*Australian*, Media liftout, 9 August 01, p.9): “Suddenly, the Holy Grail. This is what we’ve dreamed of for decades – an electronic form of distribution of newspapers. Not reworked, rejigged website information centres under a familiar masthead, but the real thing, page by page, stories and pictures laid out on screen in exactly the same form as the printed version.” (See also 14.61.18)

#### **14.27 A WEEK AT THE AUSTRALIAN (2): NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**



The *Australian* won the Newspapers of the Year Award for papers with a circulation of more than 50,000 at the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association's annual convention, held in Melbourne from 7-10 August. Judge Steve Harris said: "It is a very solid national newspaper and continues to grow with the country in its richness, diversity and flexibility." (*Australian*, 10 August 01, p.1)

#### **14.28 A WEEK AT THE AUSTRALIAN (3): CD WITH MAGAZINE**

With its revamped weekend magazine, now called the *Weekend Australian Magazine*, the *Weekend Australian* supplied on 11-12 August a free copy of a Paul Kelly CD containing four tracks from his new album, "Nothing but a dream", and a video CD-ROM. Magazine editor Helen Anderson talked about "boldness" in introducing the new-look magazine, which has ditched some of its former columnists, such as Brian Matthews (*Australian Magazine*, 11-12 August 01, p.10).

#### **14.29 A WEEK AT THE AUSTRALIAN (4): FOUR-PAGE WRAPAROUND TO KEEP**

Wrapped around the *Weekend Australian* of 11-12 August 2001 were four pages for any newspaper historian to keep. The pages included: an article by international editor Paul Kelly (a former editor-in-chief of the *Australian*) about why that edition of the paper marked a watershed in its life; an article comprising contributions of a few paragraphs each from its senior writers, including Paul Toohey, Australian Journalist of the Year, recalling their best moments in journalism during the past year and micro-versions of some of the major front pages of the past year.

#### **14.30 A WEEK LATER AT THE AUSTRALIAN**

On 18-19 the *Weekend Australian* published the first of its planned five full-colour liftouts, entitled "Snapshot" and reliving 100 years of the Australian lifestyle in photographs. The first had an arts theme and was entitled "Australians at the show". The second (25-26 August) was "Australians at work", and the others will be (1-2 September) "Australians at the game", (8-9 September) "Australians at the beach" and (15-16 September) "Australians celebrate".

#### **14.31 PRICKLY TIMES FOR NEWSPAPERS**

Just as Australia has learned to control prickly pear and rabbit plagues, newspapers will overcome the Internet threat, according to John B. Fairfax, chairman of Rural Press Ltd. Mr Fairfax presented an upbeat picture of the future for newspapers despite the downturn in newspaper advertising revenues (Andrew Dodd, "Papers will beat net plague: press boss", *Australian*, 8 August 01, p.5).

#### **14.32 PROFITS FALL: WAN AND RPL**

West Australian Newspapers Ltd, publisher of the Perth daily, the *West Australian*, and various WA regional titles, has reported a net profit of \$61 million for 2000-01, 10.6 per cent down on the previous year (*Australian*, 10 August 01, p.25).

Rural Press Ltd, Australia's largest regional publisher, had a 3.8 per cent decline in net profit – before writing off its outdoor and internet investments worth \$25.2 million. This lowered actual net profit by 52.1 per cent to \$24.9 million (*Australian*, 31 August 01, p.25).

#### **14.33 FORMER JOURNALIST LEADS LABOR TO POWER IN NT**

Clare Martin, a former journalist with the ABC, led Labor to power in the Northern Territory election on 18 August 01. In the 27 years since the NT gained self-government, it was the first Labor victory (Alan Ramsey, “No tragedy, just a comedy of arrogance”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 25-26 August 01, p.36). Errol Simper (Australian, Media liftout 30 August 01, p.4) says the *Northern Territory News*, perceived in the past as friendly towards the Liberal Country Party coalition, did not advocate a vote for one side or another at the recent election. “The people of the Territory must decide for themselves who they believe is fit and proper to lead us.”

#### **14.34 THE GULF CHRONICLE (NORMANTON)**

ANHG has received a copy of the fortnightly *Gulf Chronicle*, a stapled A4 newsletter published at Normanton, in Queensland’s Gulf country. Among the news items are newsletters from Normanton State School, Karumba State School and Carpentaria Shire Council. The editor is Thomas Langham at [golfchronicle@bigpond.com](mailto:golfchronicle@bigpond.com)

#### **14.35 THE FEDS GIVE AND THE STATE TAKETH AWAY**

Yes, the above was the headline in the *Southern Star*, Moruya, NSW, on 1 August 01, p.1, when a general practitioner, drawn to Bateman’s Bay by a Federal Government scheme, left town after the State Government refused him a Visiting Medical Officer appointment.

#### **14.36 READERSHIP (1): LATEST MORGAN FIGURES**

Readership of Melbourne’s *Sunday Herald Sun* rose to 1,478,000 for the April-June period – an increase of 42,000 – according to official Roy Morgan Research figures released in late August. The paper claims to have 818,000 more readers than the *Sunday Age* – “our ailing Sunday rival, a margin unprecedented in Australian publishing history”. At Brisbane’s *Sunday Mail*, readership has reached 1,465,000, 39,000 more than last year (sources: *Sunday Herald Sun* and *Sunday Mail*, 26 August 01).

#### **14.37 READERSHIP (2): ROY MORGAN UNDER MICROSCOPE**

Mark Balnaves, of the School of Journalism & Communication, University of Queensland, has won a \$10,000 grant to study, “Readership research in the digital age: A history of Roy Morgan’s readership surveys and case studies in contemporary readership methodology”. (Mark is at: [m.balnaves@staff.uqi.uq.edu.au](mailto:m.balnaves@staff.uqi.uq.edu.au))

#### **14.38 NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY STATS**

If you’re interested in US and Canadian newspapers, try the following site: “Facts about Newspapers: A Statistical Summary of the Newspaper Industry” can be found at: <http://www.naa.org/info/facts00/> The site contains statistics on many aspects of United States and Canadian newspaper publishing, including readership demographics, advertising, circulation, newsprint use, and employment in the industry. It is maintained by the Newspaper Association of America (NAA), a non-profit organisation representing the newspaper industry in the US and Canada.

#### **14.39 McDONALD’S OF NEWSAGENCIES**

A national newsagency group – the Brisbane-based Nexcorp Aust Ltd – is developing a chain of franchised newsagencies that adopt McDonald’s-style techniques. It has 70 member-owned stories in Queensland, NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT. It plans to have 200 members

Australia-wide within three years. A Megabooks agency is being linked to the stores (*Canberra Times*, 22 August 01).

#### **14.40 CYBERSPACE PUBLISHERS PUT ON NOTICE**

The Victorian Supreme Court has ruled that Melbourne businessman Joe Gutnick can sue for defamation the world's largest publisher, Dow Jones, in his home town over an article published in the business journal, *Barrons Online*, in October 2000. The landmark court ruling puts cyberspace publishers around the world on notice that they can be sued under Australia's defamation laws – and effectively in any of the 190 nations where defamation proceedings can be brought (*Australian*, 29 August 01, p.3).

#### **14.41 CROSS-MEDIA OWNERSHIP LAWS**

The Howard Government has indicated it would relax Australia's cross-media ownership laws, but the Opposition and the Democrats have pledged to block the move in the Senate (*Australian*, 30 August 01, p.5, and see also p.22 for Bryan Frith's "Labor falls for Alston's bait on cross-media rule changes").

#### **14.42 NEW MANAGING EDITOR FOR ILLAWARRA MERCURY**

John Fairfax Holdings has announced that Peter Christopher will become the managing editor of the *Illawarra Mercury*, Wollongong, from 10 September. Christopher, currently the deputy sporting editor at the *Sydney Morning Herald*, will replace Nigel Hartgerink, who has announced his retirement after 27 years of service with the newspaper (ABC Wollongong 31 August 01).

#### **14.43 WARRNAMBOOL WEEKLY CLOSES**

Lack of advertising revenue has killed the district weekly paper that the Warrnambool *Standard* launched in mid-1999. The *Western Weekly* began as a free home-delivered community newspaper and became a paid paper in 2000 when the format was changed to allow for a heavier focus on retailing, coming events and local attractions. Managing editor of *The Standard* and associated publications, Ian Pech, said no jobs would be lost as a result of the *Weekly's* closure. The final issue went on sale on 30 August. The *Standard* will continue to publish niche titles such as *Business News*, *On the Land* and *The Great South-West Tourist News* (*Standard*, 30 August 01).

#### **14.44 WESTERN AUSTRALIA (1): 100 GREATEST SPORTSTARS**

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes: Late in 2000, Perth's daily newspaper, the *West Australian*, published its "Western Australia's 100 greatest sportstars". A six-person committee, consisting of the sports editor and deputy sports editor, three former sports editors and a senior sports journalist held a series of meetings. An initial list of nearly 300 WA sportsmen and women was reduced to the 100. Athletes were judged on the achievements reached in their particular sports, along with longevity in the sport and the influence they wielded. To qualify for inclusion, the person either had to be born in WA, or to have begun his or her sporting career there. This disqualified several high-profile sportsmen and women, including tennis player Margaret Court, basketballers Ricky Grace and James Crawford, footballers Haydn Bunton sen. and Haydn Bunton jun., cricketer Tony Lock, cricketer and baseballer Charlie Puckett, cyclist Lucy Tyler-Sharman and trotting reinsman Chris Lewis.

The list was produced in two liftout magazines in November last year. The top 10 were: (1) **Herb Elliott**, the world's dominant middle-distance runner in the late 1950s and early sixties; (2) **Shirley de la Hunty**, née Strickland, sprinter and hurdler who won seven Olympic medals between 1948 and 1956; (3) **Dennis Lillee**, one of the world's most fearsome fast bowlers who retired as the then world record wicket-taker with 355 Test victims; (4) **Ric Charlesworth**, represented Australia in hockey 227 times between 1972 and 1988; (5) **Graham Farmer**, Australian football legend; (6) **Walter Lindrum**, former professional world billiards champion; (7) **John Winter**, 1948 Olympic high jump champion; (8) **Rodney Marsh**, history-making wicket-keeper from 1970 to 1984; (9) **Graham McKenzie**, one of the world's most respected fast bowlers from 1961 to 1971; (10) **Luc Longley**, the first Australian to win a championship in the National Basketball Association in the US.

#### 14.45 WESTERN AUSTRALIA (2): *KALGOORLIE MINER*

**David Marsh** writes: The total production of the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia's only regional daily, returned to the Eastern Goldfields centre on 25 June 2001. Though the editorial content was still being produced in Kalgoorlie, the paper had located between four and seven sub-editors at the paper's Perth office at the *West Australian* since becoming paginated in 1996. Because of mounting problems associated with the production of the *Miner*, the printing of the paper was transferred to Perth in May 1976. From then to the mid-1990s, the *Miner* had between one and three sub-editors based in Perth. The paper is still printed at the *West Australian*.

### ITEMS RELATED TO NEWSPAPER HISTORY

#### 14.46 WESTERN AUSTRALIA (3): A BIBLIOGRAPHY

Following is a work in progress: a bibliography of newspaper history in Western Australia compiled by the editor with major assistance from David Marsh, a journalist on the *West Australian*, and Dr Beate Josephi, of Edith Cowan University, Perth.

- Anderson, Margaret, and Gill, Andrew (1981), 'The history of the *Swan River Guardian*, or, the death of the free press in Western Australia in 1838', in *Push from the Bush A Bulletin of Social History*, devoted to the Year of Grace, 1838, Australian National University.
- Battye, J.S., ed. (1912), price of protest: Press and judiciary in 1870' in B. Shoesmith (ed.), *Media, Politics and Identity*, Nedlands: University of Western Australia, pp.14-22.
- Bonwick, James (1890), *Early Struggles of the Australian Press*, London: Gordon & Gotch, (viz. WA section, pp.47-51).
- Brady, Veronica (1994), 'Representations and ideology: A West Australian story' in Shoesmith, *op cit.*, pp.7-13.
- Bunbury, W. (1978), 'Newspapers and literature in Western Australia', *Westerley*, No.1, March, pp.65-83.
- Byers, Karen (1993), 'A paper for the people? The Sunday Times 1897-1905', unpublished B.A. (Hons) History dissertation, Edith Cowan University, Perth.
- Byers, Karen (1994), 'The Goldfields come to Perth: The Sunday Times 1897-1905' in Shoesmith, *op cit.*, pp.45-55.
- Dunn, Frank (1997), *A century of Sundays*. Perth: Sunday Times.
- 'Former West editor looks back' (1972), *Newspaper House News*, 4, April-June.
- Frost, A.C. (1983), 'Early West Australian newspapers: Early Days', *Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*, 9 (1), pp.77-87.
- Frost, Alan Charles (19--), *Early West Australian Newspapers and Their Editors*, manuscript, original and photocopy, 142pp, held at Battye Library, Perth.
- Gaylard, Geoff & Savvas, Adrian (1993), *One hundred & sixty years of news from the West Australian*. Frewville (South Australia): Adrian Savvas.

- Haig, Ross, ed. (1984), *The Years of News from The West Australian and the Perth Daily News*, Perth: St. George Books.
- Irwin, E.W. (1969), 'The Macartney era: years of innovation and growth', *Quarterly Bulletin*, 4-5, August, pp.??
- King, Norma (1995), *The Voice of the Goldfields: 100 Years of the Kalgoorlie Miner*, Kalgoorlie: Hocking & Co.
- Lague, Steve, (1988), 'Proud West moves on', *West Australian: Big Weekend*, p. 10.
- Maslog, Crispin C. (1985), *The Country Papers of Western Australia*, 37pp booklet, held by National Library of Australia.
- Massam, Katharine. (1994), 'With one eye on the world: Catholics and the media in Western Australia', in Shoesmith, *op cit.*, pp.56-66.
- Mickler, Steve (1999), *The Myth of Privilege*, Fremantle: Fremantle Arts Centre Press.
- Ryan, Jan (1994), 'Humour and exclusion: Chinese minorities and the conservative Press in late nineteenth century Western Australia' in Shoesmith, *op cit.*, pp.23-34.
- Secker, Louise (1994), 'The politics of the press: A study of the Conservative Press in Western Australia 1930—1934', in Shoesmith, *op cit.*, pp.35-44.
- Shields, Mike (1985), 'Farewell to the linotype', *Newspaper News*, July, p.4.
- Stannage, C.T., ed. (1983), *A new history of Western Australia*, Perth: University of Western Australia Press (see John Hay, 'Literature and society 1829—1979', pp.599-635).
- Sunday Times*, Perth (1997), "Century of Sundays" feature, 19 October (see espec pp.4,5, 6 and 7).
- 'The big shift is over' (1959), *Newspaper House News*, June, p.3.
- 'The romantic story of our daily paper circulations' (1972) *Newspaper House News*, pp.3-15.
- Wilson, J. Graham, ed. (1929), *Western Australia's centenary 1829-1929: First century's progress*, Perth: The Historic Press, (see 'The State's Press', pp.431-435).
- 'The West Australian' (1956), *Newspaper House News*, April, pp.3-5.
- West Australian*: centenary issue (1933), 5 January; (1983), 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary supplement, 5 January; and (1998) Daily Miracle supplement, 8 May.

N.B. Perth's Batty Library (08 9427 3291) has almost-complete runs of all the West Australian papers. There are about 850 titles in the collection. Some, such as the *West Australian*, are on microfilm.

#### **14.47 WESTERN AUSTRALIA (4): ONLINE**

**Barry Blair** says: Some online promotional sites for approximately 20 West Australian newspapers may be found via: <http://www.countrypress.com.au/index.htm>  
You may also access another group of WA papers at: <http://www.swpp.com.au/>

#### **14.48 BICENTENARY OF SYDNEY GAZETTE (5 MARCH 2003)**

Your editor has initiated with the State Library of New South Wales a proposal that a one-day seminar be held there on a Saturday in early March 2003 – possibly 1 March – to mark the bicentenary of the establishment of Australia's first newspaper, *the Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*. It is likely to run from 10.30am to 4pm and feature speakers who can (amongst other things) reflect not only on the *Gazette* itself but the emergence of the press throughout the Australian colonies and the significance of newspapers in colonial society. Your ideas, or expressions of interest and support, are invited in relation to this.

#### **14.49 LEADER: RE-BADGING CONCLUDES**

More on Melbourne's Leader group re-badgings (see 13.20): The *Progress Leader*, in its first edition on 2 July 2001, presented some of the history of the publication it replaced, the *Progress Press*. The *Press* began on 23 January 1946 and was more of a guide for do-it-yourself devotees than a newspaper. It featured "Housewives' Corner", "For the Handyman"

and a gardening column called “Sub-Soil”. It took its name from the newly formed Progress Association, and served only Ashburton, Glen Iris and Burwood. Gas-meter reader Chas Pearson started the paper. He and other members of the Progress Association wanted to voice the concerns of the community through the paper. In 1952, six years after the first issue, Pearson was able to stop reading gas meters and become the paper’s first full-time employee. Leader Newspapers bought the title in 1976.

The final batch of re-badgings occurred as follows: *Macedon Ranges Regional* became the *Macedon Ranges Leader* on 31 July and the *Sunbury Regional* became the *Sunbury Leader* on 31 July (both papers trace their origins to the *Sunbury News*, established in 1892); and the *Frankston Standard* became the *Frankston Standard Leader* on 20 August (it began as the *Mornington Standard* on 5 October 1889 – the paper became the flagship for a group of bayside newspapers in 1925).

#### **14.50 WHEN THE SMH WAS A RAG**

From **Tom Darragh** in Melbourne: In studying the *Sydney Morning Herald* for a death notice, I came across an item – in the issue of 5 July 1934, p.10, col b – that appeared in every issue just above the editorial. There was a notice that a limited edition of the SMH printed on rag-made paper for permanent filing purposes was available to libraries, public institutions and members of the public was available. The cost was to be ascertained by application. I believe some overseas newspapers printed on rag paper for filing purposes, specifically the *New York Times* and *London Times*, if my memory is correct, but I had not come across it before in Australia. I have never noticed such an announcement for any Melbourne newspaper. I don’t know how long the *SMH* provided this service. Other readers may know more about this.

#### **14.51 PICTORIAL (1): PHOTOGRAPHY IN 1865**

The *Bega Gazette*, NSW, of 8 April 1865 noted: “Mr Rosevear Smith, photographic artist, is now in Bega. The pictures he turns out of hand prove him to be a master of his profession. We have not only seen his productions but have employed him ourselves, and can honestly say that his pictures cannot be surpassed, even in Sydney. Mr Smith’s ‘carte de visites’ are exquisite and his charges extremely moderate.”

#### **14.52 PICTORIAL (2): HALF-TONE IN 1889**

**R.C. (Bob) Petersen** writes from Sydney: I have found a page of the *Dead Bird*, a Sydney weekly, dated 20 July 1889, on which appears a half-tone illustration. Am I correct in thinking that this must be one of the earliest uses of half-tone in the Australian press? The *Referee* was using drawings into the twentieth century, and during my recent six weeks looking at newspapers in US libraries I don’t believe I ever found half-tone illustrations so early. Was it too expensive? Could that be why the *Dead Bird* didn’t use it more often?”

#### **14.53 FIFTY YEARS IN BUSINESS**

The *Australian Financial Review* marked its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on 16 August by issuing a 24-page historical wraparound supplement. The newspaper began as a weekly on 16 August 1951, with a circulation of 13,000, and became a daily on 21 October 1963. It passed 100,000 briefly earlier this year, but its latest Monday-to-Friday six-monthly figures are 92,500 (see 14.14). ANHG member Ken Sanz notes: “At long last the *Australian Financial Review* has produced an anniversary issue that is worth filing. The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue was so poor.” The 50<sup>th</sup> includes articles by former editors Vic Carroll (1964-71), Peter Robinson (1971-74), Max Walsh (1974-78), Fred Brenchley (1978-80), Padraic Pearse McGuinness (1980-82),

Tony Maiden (1982-85), Alan Kohler (1985-88), Gerard Noonan (1988-92), John Alexander (1992-93), Greg Hywood (1993-95), Deborah Light (1995-98), Colleen Ryan (1998-).

#### **14.54 PICTORIAL (3): LITHOGRAPH IN 1879**

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: When the Captain Cook Statue was unveiled in Hyde Park, Sydney, on 25 February 1879, the *Sydney Mail* ran a full-page lithograph in a supplement on 1 March “as a fitting memento of the event”. The *Mail* remarked: “It did seem strange that for so long a period the man whose nautical skill discovered the finest harbour in the world should have received no public recognition of his wonderful genius by the people who have benefited most by his discovery... Our artist has furnished a striking picture of the statue itself, and its is very appropriately surrounded with a nautical border.” Further description follows.

#### **14.55 PRINTERS AND READERS**

**Ian Morrison** writes from Melbourne: The current issue of the *Bibliographical Society of Australia & New Zealand Bulletin* – titled *Printers and Readers* – is a tribute to the great New Zealand print historian D.F. McKenzie, who died in March 1999. Published to coincide with a conference in McKenzie’s memory, *Printers and Readers* is a collection of essays developing themes and questions that emerge from McKenzie’s writings – subjects ranging from seventeenth-century music publishing to twentieth-century book illustration, from ‘The Sociology of Travel Texts’ to printing trade organisations in nineteenth-century New Zealand. Whilst there is no ‘newspaper history’ as such in the volume, McKenzie’s research encompassed the visual aspects of print and the political and economic contexts of its production; to the extent that it reflects this, *Printers and Readers* has something for everyone with an interest in the history of media and communications.

The next issue of the *BSANZ Bulletin* will contain the proceedings of the History of the Book in Australia seminar on Music Printing and Publishing, held at Monash University in November 2000. Issues for 2002 are currently being planned, and will include articles on aspects of Australian and New Zealand newspaper history. For further information about the Bibliographical Society of Australia & New Zealand, visit their web page at <http://life.csu.edu.au/BSANZ/>, or contact the Editor, Ian Morrison, Archives & Special Collections, University of Melbourne, Vic. 3010, email [morrison@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:morrison@unimelb.edu.au)

The conference “Remembering Don McKenzie”, held at the National Library of New Zealand 12-14 July 2001, featured notable international speakers such as Roger Chartier and Ian Willison, as well as prominent New Zealanders, including Maori historian Danny Keenan. Michael Turner, Bodleian Library, Oxford, demonstrated his database of English printers and apprentices, which now contains some 25,000 entries and allows some very sophisticated searching. Ian Morrison’s paper on trans-Tasman literary culture included a brief examination of image-sharing between the *Illustrated Australian News* (Melbourne) and the *Illustrated New Zealand Herald* (Dunedin). Papers from the conference are being edited by John Thomson, Victoria University of Wellington, with publication scheduled for 2002.

Of more lasting significance, perhaps, was the launch of the D.F. McKenzie Fund, which will support an annual lecture on a topic related to McKenzie’s interests as well as an annual award to support postgraduate research. For further information, or to make a contribution to the fund, contact Tricia Walbridge, Director VUW Foundation, PO Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand.

#### **14.57 NEW AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY**

New in the newspaper/microform collection at the National Library are:

Call No.	Title	Qty	Description
mfm NX 188	<i>Ballarat Courier</i>	2 films	May-June 1982 (fills gap in NLA holdings)
mfm NX 537	<i>Wangaratta Chronicle</i>	34 films	1903-1937
mfm NX 894	<i>Williamstown Advertiser</i>	36 films	7 Jan 1939–18 Dec 1991
RX 328.94092	<i>Biographical Dictionary of the Senate</i>	1 book	Vol. 1: 1901-1929

#### **14.58 GOULBURN POST TO HAVE COMPUTERISED INDEXING SYSTEM**

Goulburn's past will become more accessible when the Southern Tablelands Regional Library sets up a computerised indexing system of the *Goulburn Post*. The library has been awarded a \$26,000 grant from the State Library of NSW for the project, which should be operating by August 2002. The index will span the history of the *Goulburn Post* (back to its beginnings in 1870), and its preceding publications (back to 1848), with indexing beginning with recent editions of the newspaper. The library's regional history coordinator Lynn Bonomini says "We'll start from now and go back. It's a deliberate decision to work that way because we've found there is a need for more current information than for very old material. People are asking about information on current events, and they need the information quickly and for their immediate needs."

Once completed, the system will be used as a framework for other local papers across the region to be indexed by their regional library. "A lot of newspapers are indexed by a written or a card index. Campbelltown has been indexing their newspaper for many years, but I don't know of any other libraries with a computerised index of their newspaper," Mrs Bonomini said. The index will be accessible from every public access terminal in the library (*Goulburn Post*, 22 August 01).

#### **14.59 CAN YOU HELP? WOMEN'S PAGES AND PSEUDONYMS**

From Sydney, **Liz Macnamara** writes: I am looking at women's pages in the left press up to 1940 for a PhD. In the early years there is evidence that some women's columns and letters were written by men. Lucinda Sharpe's weekly letter in the *Boomerang*, for instance, was written by the editor William Lane. I understand Bernard O'Dowd and R.S. Ross also used female pseudonyms and am wondering if there were others. If any readers know of other cases of men using women's names in labour or radical journals and newspapers I would be very interested to hear from them. Women, of course, routinely used male pseudonyms to get published, and I would also be interested to have any leads on women journalists in this area, particularly the lesser-known ones who are so hard to trace. You can contact me at [lizmacnamara@hotmail.com](mailto:lizmacnamara@hotmail.com)

#### **14.60 RECENTLY PUBLISHED (1): BOOKS**

14.60.1 WORKING FOR RUPERT by Hugh Lunn, Hodder, 2001, 244pp. with 16pp of plates. \$29.95. ISBN 0733614167. Former award-winning News Ltd journalist Hugh Lunn – best known now for his best-selling *Over The Top with Jim* – reflects humorously on his days of working for Rupert Murdoch. (See Scott, Jones, 'A journalist's files revealed, *Courier-Mail*, 16 July 2001, p.9.)



14.60.2 VIRTUAL MURDOCH: REALITY WARS ON THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY by Neil Chenoweth, London: Secker and Warburg, 2001, \$49.95. ISBN 0436233894. 399pp.

14.60.3 GRIFFITH, THE LAW AND THE AUSTRALIAN CONSITUTION, 1998, Royal Historical Society of Queensland, P O Box 12057, Brisbane Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, Qld, 4002, 80 pages ISBN 0-9595790-5-2, \$10 plus postage. Contains two articles of interest to newspaper historians: "Man is by nature a political animal: Sir Samuel Griffith as seen by Queensland Figaro" by Colin Sheehan, and "Graphic Impressions of Sir Samuel Griffith as depicted in the political cartoons of the early 1890s" by Katie McConnel.

#### **14.61 RECENTLY PUBLISHED (2): ARTICLES**

14.61.1 WHEN TO HONOUR HONORIFICS by Jack Waterford, *Canberra Times*, 30 June 2001, p.20. A newspaper editor reflects on the titles that people should expect when their name is mentioned in a newspaper.

14.61.2 NORM RAN *MO LONG EXPRESS* AS A ONE-MAN SHOW, *PANPA Bulletin*, July 2001, pp.29-30. Norm Bloomfield has owned a NSW country weekly since 1956, running it single-handedly at times. He started at the paper in 1947.

14.61.3 REPORTERS – THE FRONTLINE TROOPS WHO FIRED THE FIRST SHOTS by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, July 2001, pp.33-35. A nostalgic look at the reporters who made their name on country newspapers long before online journalists became a reality.

14.61.4 RAMPANT MONITORS by Andy Parks, *Australian*, Media liftout, 5 July 01, p.3. Media monitoring is a burgeoning industry, but aggressive selling is giving it a bad name.

14.61.5 SUN STILL SHINES ON KAVANAGH QC by Mark Day, *Australian*, Media liftout, 5 July 01, p.4. A reflection on the career of Britain's "most trusted reporter", who formerly worked with Sydney's *Daily Mirror*.

14.61.6 ATONEMENT IN THE CONFESSION BOX by Selwyn Parker, *Australian*, Media liftout, 5 July 01, p.13. An examination of how newspapers correct errors.

14.61.7 JOURNO-CULTURALISM DEAD AS A DADAIST by Tony Rees, *Australian*, Media liftout, 5 July 01, p.12. A journalism educator suggests journalism courses are having an uncomfortable ride in the academic world.

14.61.8 NO MORE KIDDING AROUND by Daniel Hoare, *Australian*, Media liftout, 5 July 01, p.14. The era of the copy boy/girl is ending at News Ltd papers.

14.61.9 EDITORS MOVE TO MORE AGGRESSIVE STYLE OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING by Jack Beverley, *PANPA Bulletin*, July 01, pp.8-9. The unprecedented exposure of claims that an Aboriginal leader raped four women 20 years ago suggests Australian papers are moving closer to the American style of detailed reporting of allegations of crimes.

14.61.10 UNFRIENDLY FIRE by Les Carlyon, *The Bulletin*, 31 July 01, pp.32-38. The Keith Murdoch-Sir Ian Hamilton episode at Gallipoli – an extract from Carlyon's new book, *Gallipoli*.

14.61.11 SMALL PAPER, BIG STORY by Martin Chulov, *Australian*, Media liftout, 26 July 01, p.3. How an Alice Springs journalist obtained an exclusive interview with the woman who escaped when an outback gunman abducted her boyfriend, a British tourist, in the Northern Territory.

14.61.12 ANNA & HER KINGDOM by David Leser, *Australian Women's Weekly*, August 01, pp.12-22. Exclusive interview with Anna (Murdoch) Mann who, until now, had maintained “a dignified silence” about the end of her 31-year marriage to media magnate Rupert Murdoch (see also 14.3).

14.61.13 THE EARS, EYES AND CONSCIENCE OF BOOROWA FOR 30 YEARS by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, August 01, pp.33-35. Derrick Mason's contribution to Boorowa newspaper history is studied.

14.61.14 WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING TO REGIONAL NEWSPAPER CIRCULATIONS? by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, August 01, p.17. A response to claims that some regional dailies are making circulation advances.

14.61.15 THE INTERVIEW: ART OR A CONFIDENCE TRICK? by David Leser, *Walkley Magazine*, No. 13, August 01, pp.8-9. A Walkley Award winner explains his philosophies when it comes to one-on-one interviewing.

14.61.16 UNDER PRESSURE by Dennis Shanahan, *Walkley Magazine*, No. 13, August 01, pp.13-14. Times have changed in the Canberra press gallery, and so has the role of journalists in the media in general.

14.61.17 READING THE BIG GUNS by Chris Hedges, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4-5 August 01, Spectrum section, pp.2-3. Surrounded by atrocity, a war correspondent searches for meaning among the writers who understood the dark forces of nature.

14.61.18 DIGITAL DELIVERY by Mark Day, *Australian*, Media liftout, 9 August 01, p.9. The *Australian* is at the forefront of online newspaper distribution. The ramifications of the new technology are canvassed (see also 14.22).

14.61.19 DANGEROUS LOSS OF BLOOD by Andrew Dodd, *Australian*, Media liftout, 9 August 01, p.11. With the odd exception, new circulation figures paint a bleak picture for magazines. The article includes an extensive and clearly set-out table of magazine cover prices, frequency of issue, and circulation figures for the first six months of 2001 compared with the same six months in 2000.

14.61.20 POWERS OF THE PRESS by Mark Day, *Australian*, Media liftout, 16 August 01, pp.6-7. The chairman of John Fairfax discusses the options now that Kerry Packer has sold a 15 per cent interest in the company.

14.61.21 OUR FINANCIAL TIMES by Martin Chulov, *Australian*, Media liftout, 16 August 01, p.9. The *Australian Financial Review's* first 50 years are discussed.

14.61.22 THE GROTESQUES OF GLOSS by Anon., *Australian*, Media liftout, 16 August 01, p.13. In the bitchy world of women's magazines there are unwritten rules for editors, and they're not pretty, says an industry insider.

14.61.23 ADVOCATE OR SUPPLICANT? SURVIVAL IN THE NEW SOUTH WALES PROVINCIAL PRESS TO 1900 by Rod Kirkpatrick, *Journal of Australian Colonial History*, 3 (1), April 2001, pp.77-99. An exploration of how independent the early NSW provincial newspapers were.

14.61.24 WARS OF THE WORDSMITHS by Matt Price, *Australian*, Media liftout, 23 August 01, p.8. A new foundation – the C.E.W. Bean Foundation – plans to ensure the memories of Australia's war correspondents are honoured and their stories told.

14.61.25 REPRESENTING THE NATION: THE AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY by Di Langmore, *National Library of Australia News*, August 01, pp.18-20. On any given day, research assistants and editors of the *ADB* can be found combing the various departments of the National Library.

14.61.26 COMMUTER PAPERS SUGGEST WE'RE AMUSING OURSELVES TO DEATH by Tim Stoney, *Australian Journalism Review*, 23 (1), July 2001, pp.239-243. Does the adoption in Melbourne's two commuter newspapers of a television-style formula of quick-fix news, trivia, and Hollywood glitz signal the end of newspapers as we have known them?

14.61.27 ONLINE JOURNALISTS NEED MORE THAN THE ABC'S OF JOURNALISM: THE SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES FOR ONLINE NEWS by Jacqui Ewart and Shirley Gregor, *Australian Journalism Review*, 23 (1), July 2001, pp.43-56. A case study of *Age Online* staff, examining the skills and attributes needed to survive and succeed in the online environment.

14.61.28 SOME SLANTS IN TILTS BY THE PRESS by Alan Kohler, *Australian Financial Review*, 28 August 01, p.55. In a close election, newspaper coverage can make all the difference.

## **14.62 DIARY**

**9. Sept.:** *The Canberra Times* – 75 years old on 3 September – will hold an open day on Sunday, 9 September, at its offices, 9 Pirie Street, Fyshwick. You are invited to see how the paper is put together.

**24 Sept.:** A conference entitled, "*The Argus: The life and death of a great Melbourne newspaper*" will be held on 24 September 2001, from 9.30am-4.30pm, at Storey Hall, RMIT University, Melbourne. Registration is \$30 (\$25 concession). Details available from Renae Maxwell at: [renae.maxwell@rmit.edu.au](mailto:renae.maxwell@rmit.edu.au)

## 14.63 A select chronology of Australian newspaper events, 1950-1959

<b>9 January 1950</b>	Wollongong's <i>Illawarra Mercury</i> becomes a daily.
<b>29 September 1950</b>	Merger of <i>Home</i> and <i>Woman's Day</i> magazines to form <i>Woman's Day and Home</i> .
<b>16 August 1951</b>	<i>Australian Financial Review</i> launched as a weekly newspaper.
<b>18 August 1952</b>	John Fairfax sells its interest in <i>Woman's Day and Home</i> to The Herald and Weekly Times Ltd.
<b>4-5 October 1952</b>	Death of Sir Keith Murdoch, managing director of the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd and father of Rupert Murdoch.
<b>1 January 1953</b>	John Pringle appointed editor of the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> .
<b>August 1953</b>	John Fairfax & Sons Pty Ltd acquires interest in Associated Newspapers Ltd (publishers of <i>The Sun</i> ).
<b>September 1953</b>	Rupert Murdoch flies home to take up his small newspaper inheritance.
<b>11 October 1953</b>	Sydney <i>Sun-Herald</i> results from merger of the <i>Sunday Herald</i> and <i>Sunday Sun</i> .
<b>11 July 1955</b>	First issue of <i>Darling Downs Star</i> , Toowoomba, a daily competing against the long-established <i>Toowoomba Chronicle</i> .
<b>21-22 December 1955</b>	John Fairfax and Sons moves (from Hunter Street) into new buildings at Broadway, Sydney.
<b>9 April 1956</b>	John Fairfax Ltd incorporated as a public company.
<b>6 September 1956</b>	TCN Channel 9 (owned ultimately by Sir Frank Packer, proprietor of the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> , <i>Sunday Telegraph</i> and the <i>Australian Women's Weekly</i> ) begins television transmission in Sydney.
<b>2 December 1956</b>	ATN Channel 7 (owned by John Fairfax) begins television transmission in Sydney.
<b>9 September 1957</b>	<i>Dubbo Liberal</i> , New South Wales, becomes a daily.
<b>1957</b>	First use of tape to operate line-casting machines at Fairfax's Broadway plant.
<b>23 May 1958</b>	Angus Maude appointed editor of <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> .
<b>20 November 1958</b>	Sydney's Mirror group bought from Ezra Norton by O'Connell Pty Ltd, financed by John Fairfax.
<b>July 1959</b>	Toowoomba furniture retailer, J. Rowe Pty Ltd, takes over the <i>Darling Downs Star</i> .
<b>10 October 1959</b>	First 80-page ordinary issue of the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> .
<b>8 November 1959</b>	Newcastle's <i>Sunday Mirror</i> begins; lasts four issues.

### NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS      NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

Requests for new subscriptions to the Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter:

- (1) E-mail to [r.kirkpatrick@mailbox.uq.edu.au](mailto:r.kirkpatrick@mailbox.uq.edu.au) (no fee for electronic version); or
- (2) snail-mail to Rod Kirkpatrick, 13 Sumac Street, Middle Park, Qld, 4074 (hard copy, \$20, incl GST).

Hard-copy version: please send to

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Address) \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**I enclose \$20 (cheque payable to R. Kirkpatrick) for the next TEN hard-copy issues.**