

AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP  
**NEWSLETTER**

ISSN 1443-4962

No. 15

November 2001

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

**15.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS**

Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 31 January 2002. 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/)

**Snapshot of Contents:** *Current Developments: Metro* (see 15.2-29);  
*Current Developments: Provincial* (see 15.30-39); *Items related to Newspaper History* (see 15.40-60).

**CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: METRO**

**15.2 GOODBYE: END OF LINE FOR EXPRESS**

The Fairfax-owned free commuter tabloid, the *Melbourne Express*, ceased publication on 7 September, seven months after it was first issued (see 11.2). Michael Gawenda, editor of Fairfax's *Melbourne Age*, said the *Express* (a morning publication) had been losing "a significant amount of money" and could no longer support itself in Australia's worst advertising market in a decade. A month earlier News Ltd's *MX* (an afternoon publication), *Express*'s opponent, increased its distribution from 75,000 daily to 90,000, taking in such key points as the Stock Exchange.

Page 1 of the final issue of the *Express* was headed "Goodbye" and said: "And thanks for all the fish. Well, we figure some of our papers must have ended up wrapped around your fish'n'chips. This is the end of the line *Melbourne Express*, the first ever free commuter daily to hit the streets of Melbourne, on February 5. It's been a thoroughly entertaining ride, and we hope you've enjoyed our mix of news, features and fun. Sadly, our parent company believes the business fundamentals of this paper are not sound enough to continue. We'd like to thank all of those who have helped us put out a paper on the streets every morning, especially the army of distributors who have braved the heat or cold to hand you the paper. And we'd like to thank you, our readers, for the compliments, the criticisms and the debate. Now, whose turn is it to order breakfast?" (*Melbourne Express*, 7 Sept. 01, p.1; *Geelong Advertiser*, 8 Sept. 01, p.11; *Courier-Mail*, 8 Sept. 01, p.73; Andrew Dodd, "Death of a newspaper", *Australian*, Media liftout, 13 Sept. 01, pp.12-13; *PANPA Bulletin*, October 01, pp.16-17, 27.) *Express* editor Andrew Holden has since left Fairfax (*PANPA Bulletin*, November 01, p.78).

**15.3 NEWS SEES GLIMMERS OF SUNSHINE**

The News Corporation Ltd has seen "strong rays of sunshine" on the advertising front in the wake of the US terrorist attacks, even though chairman Rupert Murdoch says the attacks had cost the company about \$A200 million. Mr Murdoch was in Australia in October to attend the company's annual meeting in Adelaide. At the State Library of Victoria, he delivered a news-making speech about education. He said Australia risked global irrelevance if it did not make an urgent investment and improvement in education (*Australian*, 12 October 01, pp.1, 21-22).

## 15.4 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

25 August 2001	Death: <b>Eileen Marie Louttit</b> , at Moruya, aged 86; started <i>Moruya Advertiser</i> with husband Roland in 1956 as offshoot to their printing business ( <i>Southern Star</i> , Moruya, 5 September 01)
6 September 2001	Death: <b>Doris Kemp</b> , third-generation journalist; grand-daughter of James Ryan, founder of <i>Crooked River Chronicle</i> , Grant, <i>Walhalla Chronicle</i> and <i>Maffra Spectator</i> ; wrote series of articles on history of <i>Maffra Spectator</i> ( <i>Age</i> , 14 September 01, "Today" section, p.7).
7 September 2001	Final issue of <i>Melbourne Express</i> , Fairfax's Melbourne commuter paper that was launched on 5 February 2001 (see 11.2).
11 September 2001	Terrorist attacks on New York's World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in Washington: biggest news story in decades. Australian metropolitan dailies produced special editions on 12 September and covered the aftermath extensively during the coming weeks (see also 15.58.1, 15.58.2 and 15.13)
11 September 2001	Death: <b>Jack Lee</b> , renowned West Australian sports writer; became journalist at 40; covered Sheffield Shield and Test cricket for the <i>West Australian</i> 1957-72 (David Marsh, email to ANHG)
19 September 2001	Senate privileges committee finds the <i>Australian</i> in contempt over publication of a leaked Senate committee draft report (see 15.20).
8 October 2001	Australian metropolitan daily newspapers produce special midday editions when the United States strikes back in its war against terror.
25 October 01	The <i>Australian</i> launches the second part of its national search for letters written by ordinary Australians, this time from 1950 to 2001, for a book to be mark the centenary of Federation (25 October 01, p.11).
31 October 2001	<i>Moruya Examiner</i> title resurrected on south coast of NSW (see 15.50).
31 October 2001	Crusading campaign in the <i>Australian</i> (with Amanda Meade playing a key role) leads to forced resignation of the managing director of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Jonathan Shier
10 November 2001	The Howard Government is returned for its third term with a swing of more than 2 per cent to it
12 November 01	<i>Woman's Day</i> , Australia's biggest-selling weekly magazine, gets a facelift (issue of 19 Nov., available 12 Nov.); printed on a 20 per cent larger sheet (as deep as an A4 and 1.5cm wider), glossy paper; "a more contemporary feel" (see Andrew Dodd, "Bigger, brighter Day on the newsstands", <i>Australian</i> , Media liftout, 8 November 01, p.13)

### 15.5 FRANK KELETT TO LEAVE PANPA

Frank Kelett, executive director of the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association for the past 16 years, has resigned to become executive director of the Publishers National Environment Bureau. He leaves at the end of the year (*PANPA Bulletin*, September 01, p.3).

### 15.6 NEW VILLAGE VOICE

A third *Village Voice* title has been launched in Sydney's inner west. It's the *Drummoyne, Five Dock & Concord Village Voice*, which joins the *Balmain & Rozelle Village Voice* and the *Leichhardt, Glebe & Annandale Village Voice*. They are A4 sized monthlies. Kylie Davis is publisher and owner of the group (*PANPA Bulletin*, September 01, p.30).

### 15.7 VANDA CARSON REPORTING FROM CHRISTMAS ISLAND

A "veil of secrecy" descended upon Christmas Island with the arrival of the Tampa, wrote *Australian* reporter Vanda Carson when she told how she and photographer Megan Lewis

kept ahead of the pack in reporting the *Tampa* “boat people” story from Christmas Island (*Australian*, 7 September 01, p.4).

### **15.8 FAIRFAX (1): CUTS COSTS**

John Fairfax Holdings has recorded a 31.1 per cent drop in annual net profit to \$128.1 million. Vigorous second-half cost cutting limited the fall. Earnings before interest and tax fell 20.5 per cent to \$284.5 million (*Sydney Morning Herald* and *Weekend Australian*, 8-9 September 01, p.47 and p.33, respectively).

### **15.9 FAIRFAX (2): BRACES FOR WORST ADVERTISING SLUMP IN DECADE**

John Fairfax Holdings chief executive Fred Hilmer’s bonus this year was \$100,000, \$740,000 less than last year. His base salary is \$1.02 million. He has warned shareholders that the company is bracing for the worst advertising slump in a decade (*Australian*, 3 October 01, p.37; see also “The media dollar squeeze” by Mark Day, *Australian*, Media section, 4 October 01, p.3).

### **15.10 FAIRFAX (3): NO ‘DRIVE’ IN QUEENSLAND EDITION**

From the end of September, the Weekend *Sydney Morning Herald*, when purchased in Queensland, has lacked Section 8, “Drive”. And it won’t be re-starting, the circulation people tell us. We were told also that “Drive” has “never gone to NSW country subscribers”. The Queensland editions of the Weekend *SMH* even acknowledge that Drive is contained in “NSW editions only” (see *SMH*, 17-18 November 01, p.2).

### **15.11 FAIRFAX (4): 170<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY REMEMBERED**

To celebrate its 170<sup>th</sup> birthday, on 18 April this year, the *Sydney Morning Herald* inserted for a week from 13-14 October a loose colour print of a photograph taken by one of its photographers. The first photo was of people on top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge; the second of a boy reaching out to clasp the hands of passing diggers at an Anzac Day march; and the third, a crowd scene at Bondi Beach.

### **15.12 FAIRFAX (5): PROSECUTORIAL EDITING**

Some senior *Sydney Morning Herald* journalists are reported to be furious over a form of editorial management known as prosecutorial editing. Under the system, contentious stories are subjected to intense scrutiny by senior editors to weed out errors (Andrew Dodd, “Reporters grilled by the prosecution”, *Australian*, Media liftout, 15 November 01, p.5).

### **15.13 WA (1): TOWERS FALL AND SUB-EDITOR WORKS 27 HOURS**

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes: The *West Australian* production editor, Andy Piggford, worked for 27 hours to lead the production of a special edition of the *West Australian* on 12 September. The 40,000 copies of the free 24-page afternoon newspaper, headed “ACT OF WAR”, were given away in the city centre, Joondalup, Midland, Armadale and Fremantle the day after the terrorists attack in the US. Piggford, who started work at 10am on Tuesday, 11 September, arrived home shortly after 9pm that day to find his wife watching the terrorism unfold on television. Within 20 minutes, Piggford was on his way back to the office and did not leave 4pm the next day – 30 hours after initially starting work. His marathon shift included a total of three hours off duty for meal breaks. Three of his colleagues – night editor Kent Acott, and sub-editors David Tiddy and Paul O’Riordan – each worked for about 24 hours. A large team of journalists, sub-editors, and production and technical staff worked through the night.

Interest in the terrorism caused a record jump in demand for the *West Australian*. The Wednesday morning (12 September) paper sold 34,000 more copies than a normal Wednesday issue this year. (This compared with an increase of 32,000 for a Monday issue after Princess Diana's death on 31 August 1997.) But the number of papers sold was 262,799 – fewer than the Wednesday record of 268,027 on 18 August 1993, when the paper carried Federal Budget news and a car promotion.

At the outbreak of the Gulf war 262,236 papers were sold on Thursday, 17 January 1991. On Friday, 18 January 1991, a special noon edition was published with breaking news of Iraqi missile attacks on Israel. The Thursday edition (13 September) sales of the *West* were also up about 30,000 and the Friday edition up by 15,000. Saturday's paper distribution struck problems when an estimated 6,000 copies, which would have been sold, could not reach WA's north because of the Ansett crisis.

#### **15.14 WA (2): KEN CASELLAS RETIRES**

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes: One of the most successful chapters of Western Australian sports journalism closed on 19 October, with the retirement of Ken Casellas. A gifted writer and one of the nation's most respected cricket journalists, Casellas entertained WA sports fans for nearly four decades with his fresh and precise writing. Always the seeker of the unique word, he demonstrated a great knowledge of sport and very acute powers of observation. He joined the *West Australian* as a cadet journalist in 1954. In 1999, Casellas retired as the *West Australian's* cricket writer, a position he had held for 27 years – the longest stint in the sport in the paper's history.

He was named the Western Australian Sports Writer of the Year four times, a record. He covered 120 Test matches throughout Australia, South Africa and England and covered about 220 Sheffield Shield matches. Casellas has also been one of the newspaper's main football writers throughout his career, covering more than 900 league matches. He has worked with ABC Radio on all AFL matches in Perth since 1987, with the exception of 1993 and 1997.

#### **15.15 WA (3): 60 YEARS WITH A NEWSPAPER**

Frank Platell, 75, celebrated his diamond anniversary at the *West Australian* on 20 October. Platell started as a copy boy at the paper in 1941 and gained a journalism cadetship the following year. Several years later he became the paper's motoring writer in the general section of the paper. He also wrote real estate. Platell retired from full-time journalism in 1991, but still works at the *West* two days a week.

#### **15.16 COVER PRICES OF SATURDAY EDITIONS RISE**

The cover price of the Weekend *Sydney Morning Herald* rose by 10c on 1-2 September to \$2. Readers could arrange in September for 12 months' home delivery of the Weekend *SMH* and the Sunday *Sun-Herald* for \$2 a week (*Weekend SMH*, 1-2 September 01, p.2). The cover price of the Saturday *Age* rose by 10c to \$1.90 on 1 September (*PANPA Bulletin*, November 01, p.11). The cover price of the Saturday edition of Brisbane's daily, the *Courier-Mail*, rose by 20c to \$1.50 on 29 September. A seven-day subscription for home delivery of the *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail* remained at \$7. (*Courier-Mail*, 29 September 2001, p.3.)

#### **15.17 THE SENATE AND THE AUSTRALIAN**

The Senate privileges committee has warned Nationwide News, publisher of the *Australian*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph*, that its access to the Federal

Parliamentary Press Gallery could be restricted because of a contempt finding by the committee. In a report issued on 19 September, the committee found that Nationwide News and the *Australian's* political correspondent Ian Henderson were in contempt of the Senate. The finding concerns an article based on a draft report of the Senate legal and constitutional legislation committee published in the *Australian* on 22 February. The privileges committee says the other committee did not authorize the release of the draft report and that the disclosure of the draft to Henderson was "probably deliberate" although the source was not identified (*Australian*, 20 September 01, p.7; also see editorial, *Australian*, 21 September 01, p.14, and Mark Day's column, *Australian*, Media liftout, 27 September 01, p.4).

#### **15.18 MEDIA GRIPE: 'MORE PERSPECTIVE AND BALANCE' SOUGHT**

**Over time I've had a fairly good go from journalists but I wish the world was different and they didn't always have to be looking for something new but could just do analysis and write up things with more perspective and balance rather than focusing on the new and perhaps sensational.** – Professor Allan Fels, chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (*Australian*, Media liftout, 15 November 01, p.2).

#### **15.19 CIRCULATION: PUBLISHERS' FIGURES**

The newspaper publishers' circulation figures – as opposed to the officially audited Audit Bureau figures – for the six months to 30 September have no surprises: weekday circulations continue to decline; weekend circulations generally are improving (although not against population figures). The *Weekend Sydney Morning Herald* climbed 2.27 per cent to 393,000 and the *Saturday Courier-Mail* 1.35 per cent to 340,421. The *Weekend Australian* rose marginally to 305,000 (*Australian Financial Review*, *Australian* and *SMH*, 19 October 01, and *Australian*, Media liftout, 25 October 01; *PANPA Bulletin*, November 01, pp.8-9, 11).

#### **15.20 SUBURBAN (1): READERSHIP TO ACNIELSEN**

The Australian Suburban Newspaper Association has awarded its readership-survey business to ACNielsen instead of the Roy Morgan group. Morgan had monopolised newspaper readership surveys in Australia (*Australian*, 4 September 01, p.24).

#### **15.21 SUBURBAN (2): TITLE BEATS ITS OWN WORLD RECORD**

The *Wentworth Courier*, a Sydney suburban title, says it has beaten its own world record for the largest single issue of a suburban/community newspaper. It set a record of 368 pages in 1997 and on 17 October 2001 surpassed that with a 440-page issue (Source: John Ainsley, *Courier Newspapers*, Sydney, email to ANHG editor, 19 October 01).

#### **15.22 SUBURBAN (3): THOMAS FAMILY'S NEW TITLE**

The Pakenham-based South East Newspapers (SEN), run by the fourth generation of the Thomas newspaper dynasty, has launched a new community weekly in Melbourne's western suburbs. SEN used its successful *North West Property News* to launch the new title, *Star*, on 16 October. *Star*, with a distribution of more than 57,000, covers the municipality of Brimbank and beyond (*PANPA Bulletin*, November 01, p.16).

#### **15.23 PEOPLE (1): NEW MEDIA EDITOR**

Matthew Doman has been appointed media editor of the *Australian*. His role involves editing the Thursday Media liftout in the paper, as well as directing the overall coverage of the media

for the paper. Doman was an economics correspondent for the *Australian Financial Review* in Sydney for several years in the early 1990s before he spent eight years covering the US and Latin America for publications such as the *Economist* and the *Financial Times*. He came to the *Australian* from the *Hollywood Reporter* where he was the New York based business editor (*Australian*, 18 October 01, p.2).

#### **15.24 PEOPLE (2): VARIOUS**

Bob Howarth has become the managing director of News Ltd's South Pacific Post operations with headquarters in Port Moresby. He was most recently the editorial technology manager for Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd (*Courier-Mail*, 27 October 01, p.2). Ian McCausland has retired after 13 years as editor of the *Mercury*, Hobart. Deputy editor Garry Bailey has replaced him (*PANPA Bulletin*, November 01, p.78). The *Australian* has appointed two former Fairfax journalists to senior positions: Sheena Maclean, as features editor (formerly night news editor, education editor and Sydney bureau chief of the *Age*); and Tom Switzer, as opinion editor (former deputy opinion editor of the *Australian Financial Review*). [Source: *Australian*, 1 October 01, p.2.]

#### **15.25 ANOTHER DAILY NEEDED IN BRISBANE, SAYS PREMIER**

The Queensland Premier, Peter Beattie, says Queensland needs another Brisbane-based daily newspaper to give the *Courier-Mail* some competition (*Courier-Mail*, 24 October 01, p.2). The *Courier-Mail* has been the only Brisbane-based daily since the *Daily Sun* closed on 10 December 1991. ABC Radio 612-4QR interviewed Alan Revell – and your editor – on 25 October about the Premier's desire for another daily. Revell said there was one thing stopping Fairfax from trying to compete seriously with the *Courier-Mail* and that was the multi-million-dollar cost of a printing plant. Revell was suggesting that, if it had the chance, Fairfax would use its established *Sydney Morning Herald* title in Brisbane, rather than starting a new title. Your editor said he thought it more likely that if a new daily began in Brisbane it would be targeted at a specific audience, such as the 20-35-year-olds. It could be a commuter paper. He felt it was unlikely in the present climate of reduced advertising revenue.

#### **15.26 FORMER SMH EDITOR SURVIVES TALIBAN AMBUSH**

From Afghanistan, where he is reporting the war against the Taliban, former *Sydney Morning Herald* Paul McGeough, tells how he hung on for grim life to an armoured personnel carrier in the midst of an ambush that killed three journalists (“The APC, with journalists and soldiers on top, was pelted with fire”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 November 01, pp.1, 10; also see *Australian*, 13 November 01, p.9).

#### **15.27 VOTERS' VOICE**

Extracted from “Voters have their ultimate say”, *Weekend Australian*, 10-11 November 01, p.24: “More than 2500 interviews involving 500-plus hours of conversations between 160 voters and 13 journalists to produce 40 newspaper feature articles over four months – the *Australian's* Voters' Voice project has been the most comprehensive exercise in Australian journalism to draw out the political views and priorities of voters. Determined to ensure that the issues that matter to ordinary voters were aired in the all too carefully controlled climate of a modern political campaign, the *Australian* has devoted an enormous effort to give voice to the voters' thoughts, fears and hopes. From the start of July our reporters spoke at length to eight people in each of 20 electorates, going back time and again to the same panel to hear their thoughts and record their views on what should have been the main campaign issues. Half the seats were in big cities, the rest in rural or provincial areas, and all states were

involved.” – Peter Wilson, project leader. The Voters’ Voice series took final stock on Pages 24-25 of 10-11 November. (See also 14.6.)

### **15.28 SOLD DOWN THE RIVER**

Amanda Hodge, environment writer for the *Australian*, has won the UN Media Peace Award for the promotion of understanding and resolution of environmental issues. Her feature, “Sold down the river”, kicked off the *Australian’s* campaign to save the Murray – Australia’s most important working river (*Weekend Australian*, 27-28 October 01, p.22; see also 12.26).

### **15.29 GEOFFREY BLAINIE PRESENTS BOYER LECTURES**

Historian Professor Geoffrey Blainie began presenting the Boyer Lectures for 2001 on ABC Radio National on 11 November. The *Sydney Morning Herald* began publishing weekly edited extracts of the six lectures on 9 November (see also Karen Kissane, “Making history again”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10-11 November 01, p.29).

## **CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: PROVINCIAL**

### **15.30 AN ANZAC DEAL, WITH A TOUCH OF THE IRISH**

APN News & Media Ltd has acquired the New Zealand newspaper publisher, Wilson & Horton. The two were already sister companies. APN agreed to pay \$809 million in cash and assumed \$429 million in Wilson & Horton debt in a transaction funded by both companies’ parent group, the UK-based Independent News and Media. Independent’s stake in APN thus increases to 45 per cent and APN’s value was expected to rise by a third to about \$1.3 billion, making it the fifth largest media group in Australia. The deal was seen as a move by Sir Anthony O’Reilly, the Irish media tycoon and controller of Independent, to try to win a long-held goal, control of Australia’s John Fairfax newspaper empire. APN’s major holdings are 14 regional daily newspapers, 10 of them in Queensland and four in NSW.

Brian Powers, chairman of John Fairfax, told the company’s annual general meeting on 7 November that any bid by Sir Anthony for Fairfax was unlikely to be successful. He said he did not like the debt-laden pyramid corporate structures of empires such as the O’Reilly’s Independent News & Media (See *Courier-Mail*, 26 October 01, p.31; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 October 01, p.25, and 8 November 01, p.25; *Australian*, 31 October 01, p.26, 1 November 01, p.20, 8 November 01, p.19 and *Media Liftout*, p.3, and *Australian*, *Media liftout*, 15 November 01, p.14; and, “Chanticleer”, *Australian Financial Review*, 31 October 01, p.56.)

### **15.31 GEELONG ADVERTISER TO BECOME A TABLOID**

The *Geelong Advertiser* announced on 1 September that it would convert from broadsheet to tabloid format on 21 November 2001, its 161<sup>st</sup> birthday. On 8 September, p.3, the *Addy* told its readers that thousands of them had responded to a survey to determine what they wanted in the tabloid *Advertiser*. Among the requests that would be met: more crosswords and puzzles; a doubling of the daily coverage of business and finance; more lifestyle stories every day; much more local news as well as national and international news; and more sport.

### **15.32 JOB LOSSES AT RIVERINA MEDIA GROUP**

The head of the Riverina Media Group says more job losses in September were the last in a restructuring which begun several months ago. Four proof reading workers were retrenched – one at Wagga, one at Leeton and two at Griffith. Group general manager Wayne Geale says

with new technology most newspapers in the world no longer have proof readers. In the June-September period about 20 jobs were cut (ABC, Wagga Wagga, 19 September 01).

### **15.33 RURAL PRESS LTD EXPECTS PROFIT INCREASE**

Rural Press Ltd, Australia's biggest publisher of regional newspapers, has shrugged off the downturn in the media sector to forecast an improvement in its trading profit this year and flag a possible move into television (*Canberra Times*, 20 October 01, p.C9).

### **15.34 SHIRE PRESIDENT BANS COUNCIL STAFF TALKING TO JOURNALISTS**

In Western Australia, Busselton shire president Beryle Morgan banned all council employees, including chief executive officer Michael Swift, from talking to the media. The ban was imposed after the *Busselton-Margaret Times* had published reports on a series of confidential council meetings held in August to consider an over-payment to Mr Swift and the salary arrangements of all senior officers. Cr Morgan told councillors in her letter that she was deeply hurt by the reports and would now be council's sole media spokesperson. She is entitled to act as sole spokesperson in accordance with Section 2.8 of the Local Government Act. (*Busselton-Margaret Times*, 6 September 2001.)

### **15.35 NORTHERN DAILY LEADER PUBLISHES DAMNING LETTER**

The *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth, published a damning letter from Bill Johnston, who had been buying the paper for 18 years and was not very happy with it (4 September 01, p.7).

### **15.36 WOLLONGONG ADVERTISER SHIFTS TO MERCURY BUILDING**

After 20 years of operating from a shopfront location, the *Wollongong Advertiser* has been relocated within the *Illawarra Mercury* building. The staff has officially left the "old house" next door to the *Mercury* building at 284 Keira St, Wollongong and set up shop in bright revamped surroundings. The *Advertiser* is a free weekly that is delivered to more than 100,000 homes across the Illawarra from Helensburgh to Gerroa. The *Mercury* is a paid daily. They are owned by John Fairfax Holdings. (*Wollongong Advertiser*, 19 September 2001.)

### **15.37 MUSICAL CHAIRS AT APN**

Rod Rehbein, editor of Bundaberg's *News-Mail*, has been appointed editor of the *Queensland Times*, Ipswich. Both are APN papers. The Ipswich position became vacant when Mitchell Murphy was appointed editor and circulation director of *The Chronicle*, Toowoomba (see 14.13), a position that he took up on 13 August (*The Chronicle*, 7 July 01). Murphy replaced Steve Keating, who finished on 7 June. Keating left to become one of Premier Peter Beattie's media minders. Robyn McDougall, formerly deputy editor of *The Chronicle*, has been appointed editor and circulation director of the *Daily News*, Warwick. Damien Bathersby has left the editorship of the *Daily Examiner*, Grafton, making out of date the complete list of editors of that paper published by the Clarence River Historical Society's September 2001 *Newsletter* (p.10). (See *APN Password*, September-October 2001, p.3; and *PANPA Bulletin*, October 01, p.79).

### **15.38 WARWICK PRESS CLOSES**

The *Warwick Daily News* web offset press has been shut down, reports John Irwin, a member of the family that owned or part-owned the paper from 1967 to 1988. Executives from APN



News & Media closed the press on 1 November. The head pressman will be kept on in the sheet-fed commercial area, and three compositors have been transferred to that area. Four press operators and two composing room personnel lost their jobs. Several others have been transferred to advertising and the production manager was told that he could stay on until Christmas and he might be transferred to the Sunshine Coast. (The *Daily News* has been printed on the *Queensland Times*' press at Ipswich for some time.)

Until the closure of the Warwick press, the weekly *Clifton Courier* had been printed there. Now it is printed on *The Chronicle*'s press at Toowoomba and faces an earlier copy deadline: 6.30am on Tuesdays (John Irwin, email message to ANHG editor, 6 November 01; *Clifton Courier*, 7 November 01, p.1).

### **15.39 KALGOORLIE MINER REVAMPS DESIGN**

Western Australia's only regional daily, the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, has undergone its first major redesign in more than a decade, including some adjustments to its traditional masthead. The revamped *Miner* was launched on Saturday, 6 October (*PANPA Bulletin*, November 01, p.13).

## **ITEMS RELATED TO NEWSPAPER HISTORY**

### **15.40 WEST AUSTRALIAN FRONT PAGES**

Victor Isaacs has free copies available on request of *The West Australian: Fifty Years of Headlines 1938-1988*. This is a tabloid publication reproducing 17 significant pages of the *West Australian* from 1938 to the national bicentenary in 1988. Victor can be contacted at 43 Lowanna St Braddon ACT 2612, 02-6257 1742 or ahdb@compuserve.com. This publication could be added to the WA newspaper bibliography (item 14.46).

Mr Isaacs also offers, for cost of postage, one copy of Nic van Oudtshoorn's *Newspaper History of Australia* (Rigby, 1982), 156pp, which includes 72 reproductions of significant pages from many Australian newspapers.

### **15.41 LETTERHEADS OF NEWSPAPERS AND PRINTERS ON DISPLAY**

On display at the Queensland State Archives until January are many business letterheads that are up to about 115 years old. One display cabinet is devoted to "Printers and Newspapers" and it is noted that printing offices "were 'multi-skilled' businesses usually offering services such as engraving, book binding, rubber stamp manufacturing, as well as selling books and stationery". The letterheads included the *Ipswich Advocate* (1886), with Henry Marcus, proprietor; Maryborough's *Wide Bay and Burnett News* (1886); the *Queensland Country Life* (1900); the *Cunnamulla Comet* (1900), with P.J. Nally as editor and manager; the *Warwick Argus* (1904); the *Bowen Observer* (1890); Sydney's *Chinese Australian Herald* (1898); Toowoomba's *Chronicle* and *Settler* titles (1904); the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Sydney Mail* (1898); Watson Ferguson and Co. (1886); the Queensland Government Printing Office (1937); Melbourne's *Age* (1899); Sydney's *Bulletin* (1898); and Sapsford & Co. (1896).

Both the *Bowen Observer* and the *Cunnamulla Comet* began publication in 1888 and the *Settler* in 1895. Henry Marcus founded the *Ipswich Advocate* on 1 November 1880 and it appeared daily from 3 October 1890 to 30 September 1891 as the *Daily Advocate*. The *Advocate* ceased publication on 2 October 1896 (Source: Rod Kirkpatrick's notes on Queensland provincial newspapers).

#### **15.42 NEWSPAPER PRINTING HISTORY IN 30 SECONDS**

Printing from hand-set types (individual letters) began about 1450 and was the only practical way for text composition until nearly 1900. Early newspapers were typeset, letter by letter. The advent of rotary letterpress printing for newspapers required each page, after composing, to be stereotyped. The typesetting was pressed into soft material; this was curved and hardened, molten metal was poured into it and a semi-cylindrical curved plate, an accurate replica of the type, was produced. The many plates were mounted on the press. Just before 1900, the Linotype machine enabled great savings to be made in the labour previously needed for composition. The output of the Linotype is a single piece or *slug* of type carrying all the letters and spaces needed for one line of printing. The *slug* is cast by injection moulding against a row of letters assembled by keyboard action. The letters are automatically sorted away after casting, a great saving. The slugs, lines or letters, are interchangeable with other kinds of type and for many decades newspapers used a mixture of hand-set type and slugs in their pages (Melbourne Museum of Printing, Australia's Teaching Museum of Printing and Typography: [www.vicnet.net.au/~typo](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~typo)).

#### **15.43 GALE OF QUEANBEYAN**

The Queanbeyan and District Centenary of Federation committee launched a biography of newspaper editor John Gale, on October 13. Gale is sometimes called the "Father of Canberra". The book, *Gale Force*, written by Susan-Mary Withycombe with funds from the History and Education branch of the NSW Centenary of Federation organisation, was launched by Errol Lea-Scarlett, author of *Queanbeyan District and People*. John Gale was the founder of *Golden Age*, Queanbeyan, which became the *Queanbeyan Age*.

#### **15.44 A HOT-METAL DATE**

The Adelaide *Advertiser* published its final hot-metal issue on 8 May 1981 and the galley rattle performed by the paper's printers was recorded by one of them, Ron Boath. It makes eerie listening.

#### **15.45 BORDER POST FICTION INDEX**

Associate Professor Dirk Spennemann [dspennemann@csu.edu.au], of Charles Sturt University, Albury campus, has compiled an index to the fiction content of the *Border Post*, Albury, 1856-1885. He writes: Founded in 1856, the *Border Post* was Albury's first newspaper. The range of verse, from doggerel to bush ballads to literary poetry, was a common art form in the mid 19th century. Some of the letters to the editor, as well as some election announcements and even advertisements were expressed in verse. Prose fiction was expensive and was thus limited. This is well reflected in the pages of the *Border Post*, which focussed on verse over prose in its offerings. During the period covered by the index the paper published more than 1000 contributions by more than 200 authors.

This index illustrates the wide range of poetry and short fiction offered to the readership, fiction drawn from British, American and Australian papers, magazines and books. Above all, the wide scope of the sources used by the *Border Post* demonstrates the scope of the editors. Tied in with British and American sources, and far from being a small parochial paper, the *Border Post* was a major influence shaping the cultural and political development of North-Eastern Victoria and Southern New South Wales. The introduction provides an historic overview over the paper for the period of 1856-1885. This index is the first in a series of fiction indices for the Albury and Wodonga newspapers.

The index can be downloaded as a pdf file free of charge at:  
<http://life.csu.edu.au/~dspennem/DSPENNEM/BookBlurps/BP-Index1.html>

#### 15.46 HISTORIC NSW PAPER (1): THE *HUME ELECTOR*

**Dirk Spennemann** (Charles Sturt University, Albury) writes: A systematic search of the uncatalogued holdings of the Albury Public Library uncovered two issues of the *Hume Elector*. The Library plans to have the items microfilmed to make them widely accessible. At present access is restricted because of the fragile state of preservation.

The *Hume Elector* was an election newspaper produced by the Hume Subdivision of the Australian Freetrade and Liberal Association, promoting the election chances of William Cornelius Goddard. As far as is known only two copies of the paper have survived. While the content of the paper is dominated by election issues and policy statements, including a series of black ink drawings of political content, the *Hume Elector* also carried advertisements for local businesses. A brief bibliographic record follows.

*The Hume Elector The Official Organ of the Australian Freetrade and Liberal Association. – Hume Subdivision.*

Albury [NSW]: Albury: Australian Freetrade and Liberal Association. – Hume Subdivision.

Published at: Printed by D. M’cDonald & Co Dean Street for the F. and L. Association

Frequency: Wednesdays;

Length: 4 pp;

Dimensions: 4 columns with wide outer margin; sheet size: 18 x 12.5 inches.

Running Title: The Hume Elector

Price: one penny.

Copies known: vol. 1, no. 1, Wednesday 20 March 1901 (Albury Library)  
vol. 1, no. 2, Wednesday 27 March 1901 (Albury Library)

#### 15.47 HISTORIC NSW PAPER (2): THE *ALBURY HERALD*

**Dirk Spennemann** (Charles Sturt University, Albury) writes: A systematic search of the uncatalogued holdings of the Albury Public Library uncovered four issues of *The Albury Herald*. The Library plans to have the items microfilmed to make them widely accessible. At present access is restricted because of the fragile state of preservation.

*The Albury Herald* was George Adams' attempt at a daily newspaper, to counteract the influence of the rival paper, the *Albury Daily*. This attempt was short lived as the Albury market was too small to warrant two daily papers, one paper appearing twice weekly and one family paper appearing weekly. A brief bibliographic record follows:

*The Albury Herald.*

Albury, NSW: George Adams.

Published at: Printed by George Adams & Co (*Albury Banner*)

Frequency: daily except Sundays;

Length: 4 pp;

Dimensions: 6 columns; sheet size: 59 x 45 1/2 inches;

Price: 1d per copy, 5s per quarter, £1 per year;

Running Title: The Albury Herald

Copies known: [no. 6], Saturday 7 May 1898 (Albury Library)  
no. 10, Thursday 12 May 1898 (Albury Library)  
no. 12, Saturday 14 May 1898 (Albury Library)  
no. 22, Tuesday 27 May 1898 (Albury Library)  
no. 32, Wednesday 8 June 1898 (Albury Library)

no. 64, Friday 15 July 1898 (on *Albury Banner* microfilm)  
no. 69, Thursday 21 July 1898 (Albury Library)  
no. 74, Thursday 28 July 1898 (Albury Library)  
no. 146, Friday 21 October 1898 (Albury Library)  
no. 151, Thursday 27 October 1898 (Albury Library)  
no. 168, Thursday 17 November 1898 (Albury Library)  
no. 205, 3 January 1899–28 April 1900 (Mitchell Library)

### 15.48 HISTORIC NSW PAPER (3): THE *REVOLT*

**Dirk Spennemann** (Charles Sturt University, Albury) writes: A systematic search of the uncatalogued holdings of the Albury Public Library uncovered the first issues of *The Revolt*. At present access is restricted because of the fragile state of preservation. It is planned to make the issue available as whole page scans on the World Wide Web.

*The Revolt* was a short-lived paper written and produced by the anarchist John Arthur Andrews (1865-1903). Andrews, author of '*Handbook of Anarchy*' (Sydney, JA Andrews, 1894), was a leading radical in Sydney at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. His attempt to publish an anarchist newspaper was short-lived. Shortly after the first issue was published in December 1894, Andrews was arrested and jailed for five months on 21 February 1895. No further issue of the paper appeared. A brief bibliographic record follows:

*The Revolt.*

Sydney, NSW: John] A[rthur] Andrews.

Published at: Printed by ... for J.A. Andrews, 491 Elizabeth Street

Frequency: unknown;

Length: 4 pp;

Dimensions: 3 columns; sheet size: XXX inches;

Price: 1d per copy;

Running Title: The Revolt (Albury Library)

Copies known: vol. 1 no. 1, 1 December 1894

### 15.49 HISTORIC VIC PAPER (1): THE *MURRAY & HUME TIMES*

**Dirk Spennemann** (Charles Sturt University, Albury) writes: A systematic search of the uncatalogued holdings of the Albury Public Library uncovered an entire year's run of the *Murray and Hume Times*. The Library plans to have the items microfilmed to make them widely accessible. At present access is restricted because of the fragile state of preservation.

The *Murray & Hume Times* was founded as a successor to the failed *Wodonga Herald*, which folded on 4 October 1873. "The *Murray and Hume Times* with which is incorporated the *Wodonga Herald*, published in Wodonga and Albury on Tuesdays and Fridays and circulated through the whole of the Murray and Hume Districts. Subscription rates £1 per annum, posted £1 5s. Advertisements charged for at the rate of 3s per inch; a liberal discount allowed on those interested on stated periods. All communications to be addressed to the offices of the *Murray and Hume Times*, Wodonga and Albury." (Impressum, no. 28, 6 January 1874, p.4 col. 1). The place where the paper was actually printed seems to have fluctuated between a printing office in Dean Street, Albury, and the main printing office in Sydney Street, Wodonga.

The financial state of the paper must have been precarious at times, leading to rumours in the press scene. "No truth to the rumour reported in the *Wangaratta Star* that Affleck & Gray had bought the *Murray and Hume Times* at the rate of 12s 6d to the pound in assets and that a Mr W.H.C. Hughes formerly staff of the *Wangaratta Star* has been appointed editor." (no. 43, 27 February 1874, p.3 col 1).

By June 1874 the paper had run into financial difficulties as evidenced by this notice: “All persons having accounts against this journal are requested to render the same not later than the 30th inst.” (no. 74 16 June 1874, p.2 col 6). In October 1874, only one year after it’s launch the paper changed hands to the owner of the *Albury Banner*, George Adams. Adams switched the frequency to once a week. Appearing on Wednesdays, the *Murray and Hume Times* was the mid-week offering to complement the *Albury Banner* as the weekend paper. Both papers could be subscribed to at a combined reduced rate. A brief bibliographic record follows.

*Murray and Hume Times [with which is incorporated the Wodonga Herald*  
Wodonga; Albury [NSW]: Murray and Hume Times.

no. 1, 10 October 1873–1880?

no. 28, 6 January 1874

Published by: George Ogle for the proprietors, Sydney Street, Wodonga

Editor: T.C. Stewart

Frequency: Tuesdays and Fridays;

Length: 4 pp;

Dimensions: 7 columns; sheet size: 18 x 25 inches

Price: one penny; £1 per year.

Notes: page 1-2 advertisements, p3 editorial and news, p. 4  
commercial and adverts

no. 29, 9 January 1874 – no. 34, 27 January 1874

Published by: Frederick Alexander Morgan for the proprietors, Sydney  
Street, Wodonga

Notes: no. 29, 9 January 1874 has additional insert sheet, printed  
single sided

no. 35, 30 January 1874 – no. 40, 17 February 1874

Published by: Frederick Alexander Morgan for the proprietors, Dean  
Street, Albury

no. 41, 6 January 1874 – no. 44, 3 March 1874

Dimensions: 7 columns; sheet size: 17 x 24 inches (better quality paper)

no. 45, 6 March 1874 – no. 81, 10 July 1874

Dimensions: 7 columns; sheet size: 18 x 25 inches

Published by: Frederick Alexander Morgan for the proprietors, Sydney  
Street, Wodonga

Notes: no. 45 is lacking

no. 82, 14 July 1874 – no. 83, 18 July 1874

Published by: Frederick Alexander Morgan for the proprietors, Dean  
Street, Albury

no. 83, 21 July 1874 – no. 105, 2 October 1874

Published by: Frederick Alexander Morgan for the proprietors, Sydney  
Street, Wodonga

no. 106, 7 October 1874

Proprietor: George Adams

Published by: George Adams at Printing Office, Sydney Street, Wodonga

Frequency: Wednesdays;

Dimensions: 7 columns (pages 1–2; 4); 6 columns (page 3); sheet size: 18 x 25 inches

no. 107, 14 October 1874 – no. 152, 4 August 1875 [1880]

Proprietor: George Adams & Co.

Published by: George Adams of Printing Office, Sydney Street, Wodonga and Dean Street, Albury

Frequency: Wednesdays;

Dimensions: 6 columns; sheet size: 18 x 25 inches

Notes: In 1880 the *Murray and Hume Times* was fully incorporated into the *Albury Banner*.

### 15.50 MORUYA EXAMINER RESUMES PUBLICATION

The Moruya correspondent of the *Canberra Sunday Times* claimed (21 October) that the *Moruya Examiner* masthead – which was about to be resurrected – was the 10<sup>th</sup> oldest in Australia. This is far from correct, as you will see (writes Rod Kirkpatrick). The *Moruya Examiner* title was first used when William Clements, Abraham Emmott and William Burns established the *Moruya Examiner, Miners Advocate and Eden District Advertiser* on September 9, 1864. There are no extant files of this paper, which ceased publication in the middle of 1868. Clements launched another paper on July 16, 1870, this time calling it the *Moruya Examiner and Nerrigundah, Araluen and South Coast Advocate*. By then Moruya had another paper, the *Telegraph*, launched probably in December 1868. The second *Examiner* continued until June 12, 1998 (according to files held at the State Library of NSW).

The first *Examiner* was not the first Moruya newspaper. That honour belonged to the *Moruya Messenger*, launched on October 10, 1862, by Edward Wainwright, who was the proprietor of the *Braidwood Observer*. Wainwright continued to run both publications, but ceased publishing the *Messenger* in May 1864 and the *Observer* about the same time. Even if you decided to regard the two separate *Examiners* as one and take its establishment back to 1864, it was not the 10<sup>th</sup> oldest masthead in Australia when it ceased publication in 1998. More than 20 titles still published in Australian capital cities and provincial centres can date their origins to earlier than 1864.

If you were to focus on NSW alone, however, you could possibly count the *Moruya Examiner* among the oldest 10 – in fact, ninth, behind the *Sydney Morning Herald* (1831), *Maitland Mercury* (1843), *Illawarra Mercury* (1855), *Armidale Express* (1856), *Pastoral Times*, Deniliquin, and *Daily Examiner* Grafton (both 1859), *Queanbeyan Age* (1860), and *Kiama Independent* (1863), **but only** by ignoring the significant break in publication (two years) for the *Examiner* and a less significant break in the publication of the *Queanbeyan Age*.

The *Age* began on 15 September 1860 as the *Golden Age*, reflecting the gold boom around Queanbeyan. It closed on 24 August 1867, with the founder and owner, John Gale, shifting the plant to Braidwood to start the bi-weekly *Braidwood Independent*. After seven weeks of publication in Braidwood, Gale had a change of heart and shifted back to Queanbeyan to re-establish the *Age*. At Tumut, there has been confusion over the years because the town has had two separate and related newspapers called the *Tumut and Adelong Times*, the first (1864) a continuation of the *Wynyard Times* (it shifted to Gundagai at the beginning of 1868 to become the *Gundagai Times*) and the second established in October 1873. You can hardly say the current *Tumut and Adelong Times* dates back to 1864, or to 1860 when the *Wynyard Times* began.

The oldest 10 newspapers in Australia are: the *Sydney Morning Herald* (1831), the *West Australian*, Perth (1833), the *Geelong Advertiser* (1840), *The Examiner*, Launceston (1842), the *Maitland Mercury* (1843), the *Courier-Mail* (1846), the *Bendigo Advertiser* (1853), and

the *Castlemaine Mail*, *The Mercury*, Hobart, and *The Age*, Melbourne (all 1854). If you exclude the *Courier-Mail* because it is an amalgamated title (I have already excluded the *Herald Sun*, Melbourne, for fairly similar reasons; its origins go back to the *Port Phillip Herald* of 1840), then the vacant spot in the oldest 10 would go to the *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, Beechworth, Vic. (1855). If you count 1870 as the year of establishment of the *Moruya Examiner* title that survived 128 years and accept that the *Queanbeyan Age* really began in 1867, then the *Grenfell Record* and the *Bombala Times* (both 1867), the *Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga (1868), the *Manning River Times*, Taree (1869) and the *Goulburn Post* (1870), are also older than the *Examiner* title. In other words, the *Examiner* (1870) would have been No. 14 in NSW before it ceased publication three years ago. How long will the *Examiner* (2001), which began on 31 October, survive in the weird NSW South Coast market?

Number 1 of the resurrected *Moruya Examiner* carried a letter from the ANHG editor to the effect of the above, but still bore as part of its banner on Page 1 the “Australia’s 10<sup>th</sup> oldest paper” claim. Editor Eric Wiseman sent your editor a copy with a note: “Thank you for your contribution. It has caused much comment, with some people saying they would write a letter arguing against your case, but they have no facts!”

### **15.51 REMEMBERING THE ARGUS**

More than 100 people attended a one-day conference on the history of the *Argus* newspaper, which was held at RMIT on 24 September. The conference had a real buzz about it, as scholars made the most of the chance to discuss this Melbourne newspaper, which closed in 1957, with the many former *Argus* journalists and printers who attended. The keynote speaker was Dr David Dunstan, from Monash University, and other speakers included Dr Prue Torney-Parlicki, John Arnold, Bob Murray, John Lahey and Matthew Ricketson. A tape-recording of reminiscences by former *Argus* staff will be uploaded on the RMIT Journalism website in early December at <http://fifth.estate.rmit.edu.au> The conference organisers also plan a refereed print publication. If you did not attend the conference, but have a research interest in the *Argus*, and wish to submit a paper to this publication, please contact Sybil Nolan at RMIT. Her number is 03) 9925 3596, or email [sybil.nolan@rmit.edu.au](mailto:sybil.nolan@rmit.edu.au) The deadline for papers is early February.

### **15.52 THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN OBITUARY**

From Adelaide, **Nigel Starck** writes: Can ANHG members help with information on obituaries? I’m collecting obits which either offer a slice of our history or which honour quirky, engaging lives. It’s all part of my PhD thesis, “The Australian obituary: a quest for style and form”. It offers an analysis of practice within the English language press worldwide, with the aim of constructing a model style for contemporary application. My email contact is: [nigel.starck@unisa.edu.au](mailto:nigel.starck@unisa.edu.au) (mobile: 0416-113178).

### **15.53 NEWSPAPER COLLECTION OF THE RHSQ**

The following is an edited extract from the November *Royal Historical Society of Queensland Bulletin*, pp.4-5, written by the society’s honorary librarian, John Kerr (the RHSQ is trying to decide whether to keep its remaining bound volumes of the *Brisbane Courier*): The Society originally had a substantial collection of bound issues of the *Brisbane Courier*. These were stored in the basement of Newstead House – it must have seemed a good location because the coolness would have enhanced storage life. Unfortunately termites played havoc with the files and by the time this was discovered, most of the volumes were so badly affected they were discarded. Those that remain amount to about two dozen volumes, each with three or more

months of newspapers bound together. They fall between 1886-1932. Many of the volumes have decaying binding and the outer issues have been damaged.

In addition, the surviving volumes are not a complete reference even for their limited and scattered date range because a number of key articles in them have been cut out of them. This might amount to only 100 items per volume but it is hard to know what is lost. The volumes are very large and difficult to use, so that we recommend anyone with a reference goes to State Library or elsewhere to consult the microfilm copies, which basically are a complete record. (Even *they* sometimes have problems with missing issues.)

The Society has limited options (says Kerr and asks for member feedback). If we do nothing, the newspapers will continue to deteriorate as many of the volumes are on poor quality acidic newsprint, which is already becoming brittle. At present we do have room to store them. Or we could offer them to a suitable institution willing to conserve and store them. Or we could actively go through the newspapers to cut out significant items and make these cuttings available through the vertical files. The remains of the bound volumes would then be discarded. [If any ANHG member wants to provide feedback, you can visit the RHSQ website to find contact details: <http://rhsq.dynamics.net>]

#### **15.54 PHOTOJOURNALISM (1): RESPONSE**

From **Tom Darragh** in Melbourne: Responding to Bob Peterson (14 .52). In compiling the Illustrations chapter for the first volume of the *History of the Book in Australia*, I did a quick survey to see if I could find when half-tones came in. I knew that some were produced in Melbourne in March 1889 (*Sun*) but needed to know if there were earlier introductions in NSW. July 1888 in the *Sydney Mail* and *Illustrated Sydney News* were the earliest I could find, but I did the research in Melbourne using microfilm, so there could well be earlier examples. The Sydney half-tones were produced by the Electric Photo Engraving Company and the Melbourne examples by the Melbourne Photoengraving Company. I would be interested to know if these are indeed the earliest examples, particularly because the Electric Photo Engraving Company was in business at least from 1885. W.H. Traill, of the *Bulletin*, is alleged to have introduced photo-engraving in 1884, but I am sure that it was already being used by the NSW Government Printing Office.

#### **15.55 PHOTOJOURNALISM (2): THESIS**

Those researching the history of photojournalism may be interested to know of an American thesis by Timothy R. Gleason, "The development of a photojournalism historiography: an analysis of journalism history approaches", Bowling Green State University, Kentucky, USA.

#### **15.56 PHOTOJOURNALISM (3): EARLIEST HALF-TONE – 6 JAN 1888**

**Philip Parés** writes, from northern Tasmania: I have just completed a spell at the National Library researching the introduction of half-tone photographic images to the pages of Australian newspapers and am keen to know if I missed any obscure or earlier images. So, if you are doing research during the 1880s, please be on the lookout for any photographic half-tone images in the pages of Australia's newspapers. The earliest photographic image, rendered by half-tone screen that I could find appeared in the 6 January 1888 edition of the Melbourne weekly *Table Talk* (p.7). This image features a portrait of the visiting American phrenologist, Miss Jessie Allen Fowler. The image and accompanying story could best be described as an info-mercial – a genre much in use today but with a long pedigree, it seems. According to Roger Butler, of the National Gallery, ink impressions of mounting nails and faint scratch marks on the printed page suggest that the etched printing block was probably produced overseas, was portable and had seen much service. In all probability, this block



accompanied the artiste and saw service promoting upcoming bookings in the cities of Europe and in her antipodean tour.

It seems as though printing a photographic image was deemed not worth the effort by those in charge of *Table Talk* because a second photo-image did not appear until 1896 (31 Jan., p. 7) – in an advertisement for “the Ozone” hotel, Warrnambool. It would not be until 1899 (29 Sept., p. 19) that *Table Talk* featured a photo-image in a news story. No clear pattern of usage can be identified except that the weekly papers, with their broader deadlines and slightly looser “magazine” editorial policy, incorporated photo-images a little over a decade before dailies such as the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Sydney Mail* began their photo-visual eras. Some publications, like *Table Talk* embraced the use of photographic images from the earliest availability of the technology in the late 1880s, while a paper such as the *Age* did not regularly feature images until the late 1920s.

Other weeklies to include half-tone photo-images in the early months of 1888 included the *Bulletin*, which began with a portrait of a society dame, “Mrs. Gordon – Baillie (17 Mar. 1888, p.12) and followed with a series of “Page 7 girls” for a number of issues and the *Illustrated Sydney News* which, according to Dr. Warwick Mules of CQU, featured a photo-image of the Sydney Hospital in the 13 March 1888 issue (p.6). The National Library microfilm and originals of the *Illustrated Sydney News* do not contain that issue so I would be obliged for notification if anyone finds its whereabouts.

Bill Tully (an ANHG member), of the National Library, directed me to one of the more obscure papers – the Sydney sporting, art and culture weekly *The Dead Bird* which regularly featured photo-images from 20 July 1889 throughout its short and interrupted life. That issue featured a nude full-length portrait shot (from rear) of boxing champion Peter Jackson (p.5).

I am keen to hear from anyone who has found any half-tone photo-images in a newspaper or magazine before that 6 January 1888 image in *Table Talk*. Half-tone screens were being used in limited ways pre-1888 – for example the 29 October 1887 issue of the *Australasian* included a tourist promotion supplement featuring various scenes of New Zealand. Although the scenes were most likely sketched by an artist working from or tracing a photograph, the definition of sky and cloud in some of the images seems to have been produced by half-tone screen. I don’t know whether this was screened from the same photograph or produced from a “stock” screening of sky.

– Philip Parés, Arts Faculty, Griffith University: p.pares@mailbox.gu.edu.au

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

15.57.1 WHO WAS THAT WOMAN? THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S WEEKLY IN THE POSTWAR YEARS by Susan Sheridan, Sydney: UNSW Press, \$39.95. The Professor of Women’s Studies at Flinders University, Adelaide, explores the impact of the AWW on Australian women during the years after World War II (see also 15.58.14).

15.57.2 MUNGO: THE MAN WHO LAUGHS by Mungo MacCallum, Duffy & Snellgrove, 292pp, pbk, ISBN 1876631147, rrp \$28. Humour helped make this old-money scion a star of the Canberra press gallery back when there was something to laugh about. This book is neither “history nor autobiography”, but a “memoir of my learning about and involvement in Australian politics”, writes the author.

15.57.3 INFORMED SOURCES: A HISTORY OF THE MELBOURNE PRESS CLUB 1971-2001 by Keith Dunstan. Written to mark the club’s 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dunstan’s history appears as the club enjoys one of its high points – membership of more than 400 and record sponsorship. Its mission, according to president Neil Mitchell, is to celebrate “the best of

Victorian journalism” as well as providing fraternity for all Melbourne journalists and a forum for debate.

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

15.58.1 HOT OFF THE PRESS by Andrew Dodd, *Australian*, Media liftout, 20 September 01, p.8. The terrorist attack on the US was the biggest story in recent memory. This is how Australia’s daily newspaper hit top gear to cover it. (see also “Eye on the inferno” by Sally Jackson, on how the US media covered the attack, same Media liftout, pp.6-7, and other articles, pp.12 and 13).

15.58.2 HOW WE HELD THE FRONT PAGE by Jack Waterford, *Canberra Times*, Panorama section, 15 September 01, p.20. How the *Canberra Times* produced a four-page wraparound on the terrorist attack on the US ready for the normal home delivery of its newspapers on 12 September.

15.58.3 BABIES WELCOME AT DAILY MIRACLE by Jack Waterford, *Canberra Times*, 8 September 01, “Panorama”, p.20. The editor provides a fascinating insight into the “miracle” of how the *Canberra Times* is produced daily.

15.58.4 NEWS DAYS by John Coleman, *Eureka Street*, March 2001, pp.32-33. A retired Australian journalist remembers his days with the Beaverbrook press and a time when editors believed that you couldn’t beat news in a newspaper.

15.58.5 PAPER MACHINATIONS by Bridget Griffen-Foley, *Australian*, Media liftout, 27 September 01, p.14. A report on the one-day *Argus* history conference held in Melbourne on 24 September.

15.58.6 IMAGE OF A PLACE OF LEARNING by Graham Cook, *Canberra Times*, Panorama section, 22 September 01, p.1. The National Library of Australia is 100 years old this year. Its director-general is interviewed.

15.58.7 WHOSE CHAMPION? by John Ball, *Walkley Magazine*, No. 14, Spring 2001. The former editor of the *Moree Champion* tells how pursuing a policy of making that paper the voice of blacks as well as whites led to his being shown the door after a year. (See also 11.46.6.) This is one of a series of articles in *Walkley Magazine*’s latest issue on “Indigenous reporting: defining the issues”. Other writers include: Stan Grant, John van Tiggelen, Julie Nimmo and Michael Meadows.

15.58.8 HOW THE BUNYIP BECAME MORE THAN THE MEDIUM FOR JOKES by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, October 2001, pp.34-36. William Barnet was a founder of *The Bunyip* at Gawler, South Australia, in 1863 and his descendants still run the paper.

15.58.9 THE AGE OF A NON-PARTISAN LIBERAL by Sybil Nolan, *Australian*, Media liftout, 4 October 01, p.9. New research warrants a reconsideration of the politics of Graham Perkin, editor of Melbourne’s *Age*, 1966-75.

15.58.10 MEDIA MAULING by Geoff Elliott, *Australian*, Media liftout, 11 October 01, pp.6-7. The contraction that followed the boom in 2000 has become a lethal crush for smaller companies and even the giants are fighting for breath. The major Australian media groups are examined.

15.58.11 WHEN TOO MUCH SPORT IS REALLY TOO MUCH by Pilita Clark, *Weekend Sydney Morning Herald*, 13-14 October 01, p.57. The public wants more foreign news but the media is giving it froth and bubble.

15.58.12 SWINGING EDITORS LOOK TO READERS by Mark Day, *Australian*, Media liftout, 25 October 01, p.4. Newspaper opinion was once the fiat of the proprietor, but reader profiles are likely to have a greater influence on editorials now than what the boss thinks.

15.58.13 WIDE CIRCLES OF ACQUAINTANCE by Jack Waterford, *Canberra Times*, Panorama section, 13 October 01, p.20. In his “Addendum” column, the newspaper’s editor discusses aspects of “proximity” as a news value.

15.58.14 THE WEEKLY’S WOMAN by Jill Rowbotham, *Australian*, Media liftout, 8 November 01, p.13. How Australian women changed after World War II, as seen through the pages of the *Australian Women’s Weekly* (see also 15.53).

15.58.15 CAVAN SUMMIT FLAGS ’87 RE-RUN FOR HOWARD by Alan Ramsey, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13-14 October 01, p.56. In Australia for two days for the News Corp annual meeting, Rupert Murdoch meets his editors at his country retreat, “Cavan”, near Yass, NSW, even as the federal election campaign is under way (see also, Tony Walker, “Yass sir, Rupert summons his editors to retreat”, *Australian Financial Review*, 9 October 01, p.11).

15.58.16 A TALE OF TWO COUNTRY DAILIES THAT STRUGGLED AGAINST THE ODDS by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, November 01, pp.33-35. Insights into the *Albury Daily News* and the *Ballarat Mail* – as well as papers such as the *Melbourne Star* and the tiny *Jeparit Leader* – are gained from interviews with former staff members, Keith Welsh, now 95, and Jock Haire, now 72.

15.58.17 COMMUNITY TURNS A PAGE by Paul Toohey, *Australian*, Media liftout, 15 November 01, p.3. *Ngukurr News*, a monthly Arnhem Land newsletter, now 20 issues old, has given Aborigines a rare print outlet.

### 15.59 SIGNING OFF FOR 2001

Five issues of the *ANHG Newsletter* have appeared this year and the aim is to produce five next year, with copy deadlines as follow: 31 January, 31 March, 15 June, 31 August, 15 November. I acknowledge with thanks the ongoing assistance and encouragement I receive from the founder of the *ANHG Newsletter*, Victor Isaacs. The average length of this year’s newsletters has been about 10,500 words for a total of more than 52,000 words.

The first issue of 2002 will carry a chronology of the major newspaper events of 2001. We have no South Australian members and would be grateful for suggestions from current members about whom we should invite to join by sending them a sample copy. One aim is selfish: we want to feature more South Australian news and a bibliography of publications on South Australian newspaper history. For the Christmas season, I wish you the peace that the world finds so hard to discover and the joy of being surrounded by those whom you love. – *Rod Kirkpatrick*

## 15.60 A select chronology of Australian newspaper events, 1940-1949

<b>13 January 1940</b>	Final issue of <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> evening edition.
<b>13 April 1940</b>	Final issue of <i>Evening Star</i> , a Townsville daily
<b>1 July 1940</b>	Wartime newsprint rationing comes into effect.
<b>27 February 1941</b>	National Security Act passed; controls newspaper production and importation of newsprint
<b>12 May 1941</b>	<i>Daily Mirror</i> established as Sydney afternoon newspaper after several

	changes of heart on the part of the Government (because of newsprint rationing)
<b>31 July 1941</b>	Final issue of <i>Evening News</i> , a Rockhampton daily
<b>20 October 1941</b>	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> adopts new page size
<b>October 1942</b>	Formation of Newsprint Pool
<b>15 April 1942</b>	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> puts news on its front page
<b>1942</b>	Keith Murdoch becomes chairman of the Herald & Weekly Times Ltd
<b>April 1944</b>	Climax of intense dispute between Chief Censor, Garnet Bonney (backed by Arthur Calwell, Information Minister) and all Sydney newspapers proprietors. Papers defy censor; police stop deliveries, resulting in famous picture of policeman pointing revolver at newspaper delivery truck driver; resulting political compromise leads to defeat for Calwell; sharpens his hatred of press owners.
<b>9-20 October 1944</b>	Sydney newspaper strike and composite newspaper publication
<b>April 1945</b>	Government grants publishers a 45 per cent increase in the base year consumption of newsprint
<b>7 August 1945</b>	<i>Sydney Daily Telegraph</i> publishes special edition about dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima
<b>1945</b>	Prime Minister Curtin dies (July); and World War II ends in Europe (May) and the Pacific (August)
<b>1 October 1945</b>	<i>Central Western Daily</i> , Orange, NSW, issued for first time; results from amalgamation of two tri-weeklies, the <i>Orange Leader</i> and the <i>Western Advocate</i> , Orange
<b>8 February 1946</b>	"Town Talk", the first regular front-page column to appear in an Australian newspaper, makes debut in <i>Sydney Daily Telegraph</i> ; David McNicoll was the columnist
<b>September 1946</b>	Sydney Sunday papers raise cover price from threepence to fourpence because of newsprint shortage
<b>1946</b>	Consolidated Press establishes a studio at its offices so its journalists could provide Radio 2UW with a 24-hour news service
<b>23 August 1948</b>	Fairfax launches fortnightly <i>Home</i>
<b>21 January 1949</b>	Fairfax launches <i>Sunday Herald</i>
<b>1949</b>	Sir Keith Murdoch personally controls Adelaide <i>News</i> having convinced the HWT boards to sell its stake to him in return for first option on his holding in Brisbane's <i>Courier-Mail</i> British Mirror Group buys Melbourne <i>Argus</i> after failed negotiations in which Prime Minister Chifley had an unofficial hand
<b>3 October 1949</b>	<i>Lithgow Mercury</i> , NSW, becomes a daily
<b>December 1949</b>	Chifley Labor Government voted out of office; Menzies begins what becomes a 17-year reign as Prime Minister-

## **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.**