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22.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS

**Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 15 July 2003. Subscription details appear at end of
Newsletter.** [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]

The *Newsletter* is online through the "Publications" link from the University of Queensland's School of Journalism & Communication Website at www.uq.edu.au/journ-comm/ and through the ePrint Archives at the University of Queensland at <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/>,

Current Developments: Metro (22.3-27), and Provincial (22.28-41);
Newspaper History (22.42-53);
Recently Published Books and Articles (22.54-55).

**22.2 SYDNEY OF 1800s COMES TO LIFE AT
BICENTENARY SYMPOSIUM**

The Sydney that was served by the *Sydney Gazette* came to life at the one-day symposium held in Sydney to celebrate the bicentenary on March 5 of the establishment of Australia's first newspaper. Sixty people, including the chairman of Rural Press Ltd, John B. Fairfax, and some visitors from interstate, attended the event, held at the State Library of New South Wales on March 1. The State Library and Paper World, a Melbourne-based firm that supplies copies of newspapers of the past, mounted an exhibition of early and significant newspapers.

One of the speakers to bring the Sydney of the early 19th century to life was Dr Sandy Blair, of Canberra, the author of a PhD thesis on the *Sydney Gazette* and its readers. She spoke about the *Gazette* as an organ for official orders and pronouncements, but also as a vibrant reflection of a vibrant, educated section of society. She examined how it dealt (ultimately unsuccessfully) with intense competition from other papers. University of New South Wales lecturer, Dr Grace Karskens, spoke, from her close reading of 20 years of the *Gazette*, of early Sydney as a "vicious, rude, vital" town. From its pages she reconstructed the society of the early, small settlement – both convict and free elements. Professor Elizabeth Webby, of Sydney University, demonstrated how poetry was sometimes used as a space-filler in the *Gazette*. However, it often demonstrated contemporary issues and attitudes in a way that cartoons do now – and sometimes the poetry was a medium for advertising the virtues of the press. The quality of poetry printed was somewhat variable.

Two speakers examined the changing technology of newspapers over the 200 years. Major Ken Sanz spoke from personal experience, as a hand and machine compositor at the *Sydney Morning Herald*, of the challenges and secrets of the days of hot metal printing. He vividly recreated this now disappeared craft. Barry Potter, chief sub-editor and pre-press manager of Rural Press Ltd Queensland, explained the high-tech production techniques of newspapers today – but produced with the same personal dedication as in former days. Jerelynn Brown, manager, collection services of the State Library of NSW, spoke about the active seeking out of missing issues and files of newspapers and their preservation by major Australian libraries. Some dramatic examples of deteriorating newspapers demonstrated the need for

microfilming. Vic Carroll, a former editor-in-chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, dealt with the rise of national dailies and weeklies from very small importance a few decades ago to their present importance.

The symposium concluded with a stimulating panel discussion on the future of newspapers conducted by Associate Professor Catharine Lumby, of Sydney University, Mike Van Niekerk, managing editor of the online editions of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and Melbourne *Age*, and Brett Kenworthy, until recently the chief executive officer of PANPA. Prof Lumby noted that with so many sources now recording events, journalists had become guides; they were professional and highly educated; and many formerly “private” issues were now subject to public discussion. Van Niekerk said that despite the very high popularity of his newspaper Internet sites, the sales of hard copies of the same newspapers had not declined – so they had tapped a huge new audience. Kenworthy noted that new presses now made possible a range of circulation options. He referred to the rise of quality, popular dailies in newly democratic countries. He mentioned briefer editorial content and more colour by some papers. He also noted that free commuter newspapers had coincided with paid newspapers in the same market increasing their circulation.

The Museum of Sydney marked the bicentenary by gathering on 5 March 2003 on the site of the first Government House where the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* was first published. Those attending had a continental-style buffet breakfast, reflected on 200 years of journalism in Australia and saw the printing of a commemorative *Sydney Gazette* on an 1864 Albion printing press by Barry Tombs, of Orangeville, NSW, collector and restorer of antique printing presses.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: METRO

22.3 FAIRFAX BUYS INL’S NEW ZEALAND TITLES

John Fairfax Holdings Ltd made its biggest purchase in two decades when it agreed to a \$1.09 billion deal to buy New Zealand’s biggest publishing business – the NZ newspapers owned by INL (Independent Newspapers Ltd). The purchase is subject to regulatory approval. INL is 45 per cent owned by News Ltd. Fairfax said it liked the idea of buying more than 80 newspaper and magazine titles in a country with growth potential, little overlap between the two main publishers’ newspaper markets and a less cyclical advertising market than in Australia. The deal adds seven dailies, including the Wellington *Dominion Post* and the Christchurch *Press*, to the Fairfax stable of Australian newspapers. INL is not selling its two-thirds stake in SKY TV in NZ, nor its *Geelong Advertiser*, the biggest regional daily in Victoria. INL is reported to be considering “other offers” for the Geelong paper. News Ltd itself could well be at the head of a queue that could include Rural Press Ltd, owner of the Ballarat and Bendigo dailies (*Courier-Mail* and *Australian*, 15 April 2003, p.27, and p.19, respectively; see also *Australian*, Media liftout, 17 April 2003, p.3)

22.4 FAIRFAX RESTRUCTURES EXECUTIVE HIERARCHY

John Fairfax Holdings chief executive Fred Hilmer has sacked Greg Hywood and Nigel Dews as part of a major restructuring of the group’s executive hierarchy. Hywood was publisher and editor-in-chief of the *Age*, Melbourne, and Dews was the founder of Fairfax’s online division, f2. Editorial responsibility for the *Age*, *Sunday Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Sun-Herald* has been given to Mark Scott, previously the director of organisational development. Scott, the Olympics editor in 2000, is now the metropolitan editor-in-chief. Alan Revell, formerly publisher and editor-in-chief of the *Herald*, has become commercial director. Michael Gawenda, previously editor of the *Age*, is now editor-in-chief, but he reports to Mark Scott. Robert Whitehead continues as editor-in-chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald* (*SMH*, *Age*, *Australian* 5 April 2003; organisational chart, *Australian*, Media liftout, 10 April 2003, p.3).

22.5 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

22 January 2003	Death: Thomas Alexander Mairs , in Perth aged 63; businessman and journalist; played important role in rise, fall and rise of the Holmes a Court empire; business editor of <i>West Australian</i> in late 1960s (<i>Australian</i> , 12 February 2003, p.14).
30 January 2003	Death: Norm Barney , in Newcastle aged 70; born at Alton, Hampshire, Eng; migrated in 1949; began at <i>Newcastle Morning Herald</i> in January 1950, working in advertising department; fought in Korean war; managed various Newcastle theatres; worked 1968-84 as a journalist at the <i>Newcastle Herald</i> ; with Bert Lovett, discovered priceless Ralph Snowball collection of colonial photographs, which featured in nine books and 500 <i>Herald</i> columns (<i>Alliance</i> , Autumn 2003, p.3).
January-February 2003	Death: Kathleen Mary Commins , in Sydney aged 93; born at Parkes, NSW; graduated BA in 1931 and B.Ec. 1934 from University of Sydney; joined <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> in 1934 writing columns on sport for the sports and women's pages; assistant to the chief of staff, 1948-69; only woman of her time to be appointed to an executive or quasi-executive position at the <i>SMH</i> beyond the domain of the women's pages; cadet counsellor, 1970-1974 (<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 15-16 February 2003, p.40).
7 February 2003	Death: David Porter , in Melbourne aged 55; joined <i>Age</i> in 1988, reporting general news and current affairs before becoming day news editor and assistant night news editor, and then the linchpin of the foreign desk; formerly Melbourne correspondent for <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> ; had contributed to <i>Melbourne Times</i> and Melbourne University's <i>Farrago</i> (<i>Age</i> , 8 February 2003, p.5).
25 February 2003	Death: Ian Maclean , aged 83; appointed in 1944 as the Commonwealth Government's first Archives officer; over next quarter of century, led the development of what eventually became the National Archives of Australia; served as Principal Archivist of New South Wales, 1976-1980 (<i>Vital Signs</i> , State Records of NSW, Issue 4, March 2003, p.23).
1 March 2003	Australian Newspaper History Group holds one-day symposium at State Library of New South Wales to mark the 200 th anniversary, on 5 March, of the publication of the first issue of the first Australian newspaper.
5 March 2003	The 200 th anniversary of the publication of the first Australian newspaper.
12 March 2003	News Ltd launches monthly <i>Sydney Live Magazine</i> as pre-emptive strike against Fairfax's <i>Sydney Magazine</i> , to begin 19 March
19 March 2003	Fairfax launches monthly <i>Sydney Magazine</i> , inserted in <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> ; some copies available for sale separately through newsagents
20 March 2003	War begins: the United States, Britain and Australia attack Iraq.
22 March 2003	Death: Richard Victor Hall , in Sydney aged 65; journalist, author and political adviser; began journalism career in mid-1950s as a cadet on Radio 2UW, Sydney; his journalism spanned radio, TV and newspapers; his articles have appeared in <i>Australian</i> , <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , <i>Age</i> , <i>Australian Book Review</i> , <i>Bulletin</i> and many others. His books include <i>The Secret State</i> , and <i>The Real John Kerr</i> (<i>Australian</i> , 1 April 2003, p.14).
27 March 2003	Death: Lyle Turnbull , on Gold Coast aged 74; began as cadet with <i>Herald</i> and <i>Sun</i> , Melbourne, 1947; promoted from cadet to A grade after visit to Japan in 1950; foreign correspondent for <i>Herald & Weekly Times</i> in London, Europe, New York and Middle East, covering politics, disasters, trade and wars; became assistant editor of the <i>Sun</i> in 1958; deputy editor-in-chief of HWT in 1962; editor of <i>Sun</i> in 1965; deputy editor-in-chief, again, in 1967; and editor-in-chief in 1970 (<i>Herald Sun</i> , 1 April 2003, p.48; <i>Australian</i> , 22 April 2003, p.12).
31 March 2003	Barnet family sells <i>Bunyip</i> , Gawler, having owned it since William Barnet established it on 5 September 1863 (see 22.28).
March 2003	Death: Barbara James , in Darwin aged 59; historian and journalist; born in Nebraska; gained journalism degree before travelling to Australia; worked as journalist on <i>Northern Territory News</i> for four years from 1967; then freelanced at ABC, and covered Cyclone Tracy; publicity officer and political minder, most recently for NT Chief Minister Clare Martin (<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 5 April 2003, p.46; also see Eric Simper's column, <i>Australian</i> , Media liftout, 17 April 2003, p.6).

22.6 MURDOCH SEALS GLOBAL VISION

Under the above headline, the *Australian* (11 April 2003, p.25) reported that its ultimate boss, Rupert Murdoch, had realised his 15-year dream of owning a global pay-TV satellite network. He had sealed a \$A10.9 billion deal for News Corporation to buy a 34 per cent stake in Hughes Electronics, owner of DirecTV, a US pay-TV group. The move establishes News Corp as one of the world's biggest media companies and "ensures its content engines will have unfettered distribution outlets" (see also: Jane Schulze, "Last man standing", *Weekend Australian*, 12-13 April 2003, pp.39 and 42; Wendy Frew, "Buying in bulk", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12-13 April 2003, pp.73 and 76; and Ben Hills, "Rupert's killer of a deal", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1-2 February 2003, pp.43, 47.)

22.7 CROSS-MEDIA LEGISLATION

The Federal Government has won in-principle agreement from four senators to pass a diluted version of its cross-media ownership legislation, according to Jane Schulze in the *Australian*, 27 March 2003, p.9. Under the proposal, media companies would be allowed to own both newspaper and TV stations in the same city. (See also Mark Westfield's report, "Hard pressed", *Weekend Australian*, 5-6 April 2003, pp.39-40.) The deal seemed less firm by 30 April when the *Australian* (p.2) reported that the Government had opened talks with the Democrat senators.

22.8 FIVE PRINT-MEDIA PEOPLE HONOURED

Six people connected with the print media received awards in the Australia Day honours (*Australian*, 27 January 2003, pp.4, 5 and 31):

- **Padraic Pearse McGuinness**, of Balmain, NSW: Appointed an officer of the Order of Australia for encouraging debate, raising awareness of economics, social policy and rights issues. Columnist for *Sydney Morning Herald*. Former columnist for *Australian*, *National Times* and *Australian Financial Review*. Former editor and editor-in-chief of *Australian Financial Review*.
- **Ian Fraser Meikle**, of Mosman, NSW: Appointed a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia for his service to the print media and press organisations and to welfare and arts organisations. Group managing director of Pacific Publications; former managing editor of the *Canberra Times*; former editor, *Australian* and *Adelaide's Advertiser*.
- **John Thomas Cowley**, of Hawthorne, Qld: Appointed a Member (AM) in the General Division for service to the community, particularly people who are visually impaired and to the print media industry. Cowley was managing director of Queensland Newspapers from 1992-2001.
- **Robin Letts**, of Donald, Vic.: Received a Medal (OAM) in the General Division for his contribution to sporting and service groups and for publication of the local newspaper. Principal and editor of the *Buloke Times*. Third generation of Morgan-Letts newspaper dynasty at Donald.
- **Reginald Bruce McDonald**, of Mandurang, Vic.: Received a Medal (OAM) in the General Division for his service to the print media. He is a former managing editor, managing director and chairman of the board of the *Bendigo Advertiser*.
- **Alan William Clark**, of Nowra, NSW (an ANHG member): Appointed a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia, for services to the community in sports administration, and the publishing and research of local history.

22.9 THE WAR ON IRAQ

Victor Isaacs writes: Headlines in daily newspapers on Friday 21 March 2003, and the number of news pages devoted to the start of the war on Iraq (all taken from first editions available in Canberra):

Newspaper's title	Headline	Number of Pages devoted to war	Tabloid or Broadsheet
<i>Herald-Sun</i>	WAR FIRST STRIKE ON BAGHDAD	14	Tabloid
<i>Age</i>	First strike at Saddam	10	Broadsheet
<i>Australian</i>	FIRST STRIKE ON BAGHDAD	12	Broadsheet
<i>Australian Financial Review</i>	WAR	20	Tabloid
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	GET SADDAM	13	Tabloid
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	Target: Saddam	8	Broadsheet
<i>Canberra Times</i>	TARGET SADDAM	7	Broadsheet
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	THE FIRST STRIKE	12	Broadsheet

Many Australian newspaper reporters and photographers had been in the region for weeks. Melbourne's *Herald Sun* published special editions the day the war broke out and over the weekend that followed. Editor-in-chief Peter Blunden said, "We are producing four editions a day. It's like the old days [when the paper was a 24-hour publication]." As Bush's deadline for Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq passed, the *Australian* printed 30,000 extra copies of a 3am edition, and the 8am edition had about 10,000 extra copies in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, and 5,000 in Adelaide. It printed an extra 50,000 copies of its weekend edition. The *Australian* reported on 27 March (Media liftout, p.5): "The *Age* in Melbourne, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* have run special editions since last Friday [21 March], while the *Advertiser* put out a special edition on Thursday afternoon [20 March], which was on Adelaide streets from 4pm."

22.10 PROFITS UP AT FAIRFAX, NEWS LTD AND WAN

- With its six-month result to 31 December 2002, John Fairfax Holdings reported on 12 February its first net profit increase in two and a half years. It lifted its interim result by 31 per cent (*Australian*, 13 February 2003, p.23; see also, "Bean counters get their best results in four years", *Australian*, Media liftout, 13 March 2003, p.12.)
- The News Corporation Ltd reported a 49 per cent increase in first-half operating income (*Australian*, 14 February 2003, p.19).
- West Australian Newspapers declared a higher first-half dividend after a 20.4 per cent rise in net profit (*Australian*, 7 February 2003).

22.11 NEW LOOK (1): *COURIER-MAIL*

On 17 February Brisbane's *Courier-Mail* introduced a gossip column, "Q Confidential", written by Dianne Butler and James McCullough, and an Obituaries page. The editorial page has a new look, featuring a vox pop section with pictures of people whose views have been sought in person-in-the-street interviews on the issues of the day (*Courier-Mail*, 15 and 17 February 2003, pp.4 and 3, respectively).

22.12 NEW LOOK (2): *AGE*

At the *Age*, Melbourne, "A2" is a new section on culture, entertainment and trends. Features such as gardening, TV and Leunig are complemented by articles on food, wine, shopping, art and films. Plus there's a comprehensive what's on guide. "The *Age* Review", a separate section within "A2", showcases writing on issues, books and ideas. It features book reviews, profiles of writers, an innovative column on artists, and "Talking Point", a back-page column that analyses contemporary issues. There's also a separate sports section on Saturdays. And Travel gets its own section, too. On 7 April the *Age* introduced a daily colour magazine-style liftout, called "A3". It features news features, profiles, life issues, entertainment and the arts.

22.13 NEW LOOK (3): CANBERRA TIMES

The *Canberra Times* has progressively revamped its weekly inserts. A notable redesign was to “Panorama”, the 24-page weekly section of arts and books pages, which appeared in a new format from 15 February, including an eight-page stand-alone books section. From 8 March, the *Saturday Times* also included a new-look property section, stitched and printed on high quality paper stock. On Friday, 7 March, the paper introduced a monthly colour magazine called *ct Magazine*.

22.14 NEW LOOK (4): AUSTRALIAN

On 5 March the *Australian* introduced a “Wealth” liftout section (the first was 16-pages, tabloid), edited by Jacquie Hayes. On 6 March the *Australian* revamped its Media liftout section (12 pages, tabloid), with the TV programs now located in a separate liftout within it (16 pages, tabloid). On 29-30 March, the *Weekend Australian* introduced “Editor”, a weekly 16-page tabloid liftout, drawing on the world’s top publications from every continent to present different perspectives on the major national and international stories of the week together with analysis and opinion. No wonder Richard Walsh has described the Saturday paper as the “enemy” of the Monday-to-Friday paper! [On the same day that “Editor” appeared, the *Sydney Morning Herald* weekend edition countered by resurrecting “Stay in Touch”, which, according to Amanda Meade “simply rewrote the week’s international and national news” (*Australian*, Media liftout, 3 April 2003, p.2).]

22.15 ARMSTRONG LEAVES FOR HONG KONG

David Armstrong, former editor-in-chief of the *Australian*, has been appointed group editor-in-chief of the SCMP Group, publisher of Hong Kong’s English-language *South China Morning Post*. He took up his position on 1 April. He first joined the *South China Morning Post* as editor in 1993 and was promoted to editor-in-chief in 1994. In 1996 he returned to Sydney to take up the position of editor-in-chief of the *Australian*. He stepped down last year and was replaced by Chris Mitchell (see 22.55.12).

22.16 GOLD QUILL TO McCRANN; AND PERKIN AWARD TO SPOONER

Newspaper and television business commentator Terry McCrann has won the Melbourne Press Club’s premier award, the Gold Quill, for the second time. Cartoonist John Spooner, of the *Age*, won the Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award (*Weekend Australian*, 15-16 March 2003, p.2). Perkin was once Spooner’s boss.

22.17 MEDIA “RACISM”: A REPORT

Racial-vilification laws must be broadened to combat sections of the New South Wales media that had fuelled racial hostilities in the past 18 months, the state’s Anti-Discrimination Board recommends (*Australian*, 14 March 2003, p.2). The *Australian* attacked the board’s report, *Race for the Headlines*, in an editorial (14 March 2003, p.10).

22.18 FAIRFAX TAKES STAKE IN TEXT

John Fairfax Holdings has taken a 10.52 per cent interest in The Text Media Group, whose free *Melbourne Weekly* magazine has cornered a sizeable slice of Melbourne’s real estate advertising. The magazine is delivered to about 100,000 homes in the inner suburbs of Melbourne. Fairfax paid an average of \$1.29 a share for its Text interest, costing \$3.75 million (*Herald Sun*, *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 March 2003, p.34, Business 4 and p.24, respectively).

22.19 CIRCULATION FIGURES FOR SECOND HALF OF 2002

Jane Schulze's report (*Australian*, 7 February 2003, p.22) of the latest Audit Bureau of Circulations figures went a little deeper than most such reports do. She explained that magazines rather than newspapers had borne the brunt of changes that remove certain special-offer sales from the calculation of circulation figures. ABC results for the six months to 31 December 2002 were the first in which the number of "event" and multiple magazine sales were cut to less than 1 per cent of each title's permissible audited figures. Multiple sales can involve giving away copies of a magazine or newspaper with the entry price at events, such as a motor show. The changes, which have been introduced over the past 18 months (Schulze reports), are expected to make magazines and newspapers more accountable to advertisers. The *Australian's* weekday sales for the six months fell by 3.9 per cent to 128,686; cf with readership increase reported in next item in this newsletter.

Newspaper	Six months to 31/12/2002	Six months to 31/12/2001	Change %*
<i>Australian</i> (M-F)	128,686	133,875	- 3.88
<i>Australian</i> (Sat.)	296,058	303,919	- 2.59
<i>Australian Financial Review</i> (M-F)	89,779	90,974	- 1.31
<i>AFR Weekend Edition</i> (Sat.)	86,256	91,425	- 5.65
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (M-F)	409,493	418,909	- 2.25
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sat.)	341,224	338,706	+ 0.74
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (M-F)	222,000	224,000	- 0.89
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Weekend)	386,500	386,500	unchanged
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	550,000	559,125	- 1.63
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	731,366	722,220	+ 1.27
<i>Herald Sun</i> (M-F)	552,000	549,500	+ 0.45
<i>Herald Sun</i> (Sat.)	510,000	508,500	+ 0.29
<i>Age</i> (M-F)	193,343	191,500	+ 0.96
<i>Age</i> (Sat.)	304,846	313,500	- 2.76
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	574,500	554,500	+ 3.61
<i>Sunday Age</i>	193,399	196,500	- 1.58
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (M-F)	218,104	214,775	+ 1.55
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (Sat.)	340,143	337,720	+ 0.72
<i>Sunday Mail</i> (Qld)	613,626	600,392	+ 2.20
<i>Advertiser</i> (M-F)	204,320	205,846	- 0.74
<i>Advertiser</i> (Sat.)	277,235	279,043	- 0.65
<i>Sunday Mail</i> (SA)	342,130	346,120	- 1.15
<i>West Australian</i> (M-F)	202,565	206,810	- 2.05
<i>West Australian</i> (Sat.)	380,081	380,733	- 0.17
<i>Sunday Times</i> (WA)	348,000	345,472	- 0.73
<i>Mercury</i> (M-F)	49,778	49,071	+ 1.44
<i>Mercury</i> (Sat.)	64,708	64,199	+ 0.79
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	58,779	57,748	+ 1.79
<i>Sunday Examiner</i>	42,472	41,043	+ 3.48
<i>Canberra Times</i> (M-F)	39,029	39,388	- 0.91
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sat.)	70,064	70,684	- 0.88
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sun.)	38,604	39,329	- 1.84
<i>Northern Territory News</i> (M-F)	23,314	23,182	+ 0.57
<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Sat.)	32,843	32,261	+ 1.80
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	26,912	27,296	- 1.41
Total	8,942,157	8,944,765	

The circulation figures issued through the Audit Bureau in mid-April (see *Australian*, 17 April 2003, p.20) are publisher figures for the six months to 31 March, and do not have the same status as the fully audited figures for July-December, or January-June.

22.20 READERSHIP

National newspapers have emerged as winners in the latest Roy Morgan readership survey, with all titles increasing readership in the year to 31 December 2002. Who says? A national newspaper, the *Australian* (21 February 2003, p.22), which lifted its readership 1.9 per cent to 436,000 readers. Readership of the *Weekend Australian* grew 0.7 per cent to 908,000. Compare with the decline in circulation recorded by both papers in the six months to 31 December, as reported in the previous item in this newsletter.

The *Courier-Mail* boasts that its readership grew in 2002 by 4.3 per cent (or 25,000 readers) to 603,000. Yet the *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail* are running a \$600,000 contest, the Ultimate Sea Change Promotion, offering one reader a “stunning, fully-furnished, fully-landscaped custom-designed Cavalier home on prime land at Pacific Harbour, Bribie Island”. Of course, you’ve got to collect coupons each day from each issue of those papers over some weeks (*Courier-Mail*, 1 February 2003). And the *Australian* was proud to launch on the front page of its weekend edition, 8-9 February, “Australia’s biggest newspaper travel promotion, offering readers the chance to win one of 24 luxury holidays in 24 days”. Buy the paper each day, we were told, and fill out a simple board pass ... And, don’t forget, this has nothing to do with concerns about circulation or readership.

22.21 CANBERRA BUSHFIRE UPDATES

The day the national capital burned – 18 January 2003 – was the 26th anniversary of Sydney’s Granville train disaster, and 13 days before the Waterfall train disaster. The ACT Government launched on 14 February a weekly community newsletter, titled *Community Update*, to keep Canberra residents abreast of the bushfire recovery process. It was made available through Canberra Connect shopfronts, ACT Government Libraries, ACT Government schools and through the Canberra Connect website at www.canberraconnect.act.gov.au/ Issue No 2 appeared on 21 February, and the weekly issue continued: No. 9 appeared on Friday, 11 April, even though it was dated 12 April

22.22 NEWS MEDIATE

Belinda Weaver writes: If you are interested in info about all of News Corp’s Australian newspapers, try their new service, News MediaNet. It’s only been online since late February. It’s located at <http://newsmedianet.com.au/>, and you can find out about advertising, demographics, case studies, research and lots more about all of News Corp’s Australian newspapers.

For advertiser information on Fairfax papers, try <http://adcentre.fairfax.com.au/>

22.23 AGE JOURNALISTS STRIKE FOR 24 HOURS

More than 250 editorial staff at the *Age*, Melbourne, walked off the job for 24 hours on 13 March when management refused to remove a full-page advertisement from the front of the weekend “Domain” property liftout. Journalists said it blurred the line between advertising and editorial and compromised the Fairfax paper’s credibility (*Weekend Australian*, 15-16 March 2003, p.2, and *Australian*, 14 March 2003, p.4).

22.24 ADVERTISERS SPEND \$167 MILLION ON NET IN 2002

The Online Advertising Expenditure Report says advertisers spent \$167 million online in 2002, including \$62 million on general online ads (such as banner ads), \$60 million on classified advertising and \$45 million on advertising on search engine and directory-style

sites. There was an 18.5 per cent growth in the six months to 31 December (*Australian*, 1 April 2003, p.21).

22.25 SOME ETHNIC PAPERS CLOSE

Some of Australia's ethnic newspapers were closed and their staff dismissed after Media Press, owned by the publisher Theo Skalkos, was placed into receivership at the beginning of April. Papers including the *Greek Herald* and the Arab-language *Al Bairak* hit the streets for the final time on Friday, 4 April, and some of their competitors acted quickly to fill the gap. Skalkos was facing attempted sexual assault charges involving an employee. He is believed to owe millions of dollars to his creditors, including the advertising agency Ethnic Communications, owned by John Singleton's STW Communications. Ethnic Communications sued Skalkos for defamation and the court ordered the publisher to pay about \$1.1 million. A day after the *Greek Herald* closed, a new Greek-language publication, the *Daily Herald*, appeared. It is believed to be not associated with Skalkos. Another rival community newspaper, the St Peters-based *O'Kosmos*, is now appearing four days a week instead of two days (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 April 2003).

22.26 PUBLICATION ON GOOD FRIDAY

National and capital-city daily newspapers published on Good Friday 2003 were: *Daily Telegraph*, *Sydney Morning Herald* (weekend edition), *Herald Sun*, *Age* (weekend edition), *Advertiser*, *Mercury*.

22.27 NEW DIMENSIONS ON NEWSPAPERS

ABC-TV's *New Dimensions*, anchored by George Negus, presented a program on 24 April 2003 on the future of newspapers. Those interviewed included: Chris McLeod, editorial development manager of the Herald & Weekly Times Ltd, cartoonist John Spooner, publisher Richard Walsh, and country newspaper editor Ella Ebery, of St Arnaud, Victoria.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: PROVINCIAL

22.28 BARNETS SELL *BUNYIP* AFTER 139 YEARS

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: One of Australia's longest surviving newspaper ownership dynasties came to an end on March 31 with the sale of the *Bunyip*, a paid weekly published at Gawler, South Australia. The Barnet family sold the *Bunyip* for an undisclosed sum to another long-standing newspaper family, the Taylors, who have owned the *Murray Pioneer*, Renmark, since 1905. The Barnets had owned the *Bunyip* since it was launched on September 5, 1863, as a monthly satirical journal under the title of *The Bunyip; or Gawler Humbug Society's Chronicle, Flam! Bam!! Sham!!!* It appeared twice a month in 1865 and weekly from 1866. William Barnet, the founding printer and owner, died in 1895. The possible sale of the *Bunyip* had been discussed since soon after the death of third-generation owner Kenneth Lindley Barnet on 16 May 2000.

Fourth-generation executives and part-owners, John and Craig Barnet, and other family members last year made the difficult decision to sell, taking into account pressures arising from situations in the wider family. They put the paper up for sale by tender and then, before the tenders had closed, agreed to sell to the Taylors. The Barnets said one of the attractions of selling to the Taylors was the confidence that another family with deeply rooted traditions in the country press would continue the Barnet style of a vigorous community newspaper. The *Bunyip* will soon be printed at the *Murray Pioneer's* plant at Renmark. Managing director of the *Murray Pioneer*, Paul Taylor, has appointed Terry Williams as managing editor of the *Bunyip*. Williams had been the part-time chief executive of the South Australian Country

Press Association for the past six years while running a newsagency in the Myer Centre off the Rundle Mall.

The Taylors also own the *River News*, Waikerie, in partnership with John Pick, and the *Loxton News*. The Taylor dynasty began in 1905 when Harry Samuel Taylor bought the *Renmark Pioneer*, which he renamed the *Murray Pioneer* in 1913. The *Murray Pioneer* reported its purchase of the *Bunyip* on 25 February, on Page 2, and the *Bunyip* reported its sale on 5 March, Page 1. [Histories of the *Bunyip* and the *Pioneer* appeared in *PANPA Bulletin* in October 2001, pp.34-36, and May 2002, pp.37-39, respectively. The sale is covered in *PANPA Bulletin*, April 2003, p.19.]

22.29 COMPETITION AT CONDOBOLIN

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: Competition between paid-circulation newspapers in Australian provincial cities and towns has been rare over the past 20 years (tell us if you know of any). Even in the capitals, only Melbourne and Sydney have competition between paid dailies produced primarily for that audience. So, it is a shock to the system to discover that competition is taking place at Condobolin, on the Lachlan, 100km west of Parkes – out in the real central west of NSW. On 2 May 2001, a syndicate of 30 local shareholders began publishing the weekly *Condobolin Argus* in competition with the *Lachlander*, which began publication in 1895. The syndicate had tried to buy the *Lachlander*, one of a handful of Australian country papers still produced by hot-metal and letterpress methods, but had run out of patience. The syndicate, says Rodney Gwynn, now the managing editor of the *Argus*, wanted to give Condobolin a “modern newspaper”. The owner of the *Lachlander*, Doretta Mary Ryder-Wood, had edited it until the age of 87 in 1999. She became ill and was soon living in a nursing home. She died on 10 June 2002 (see *Lachlander*, 21 June 2002, p.1).

The *Condobolin Argus*, printed by a Rural Press Ltd subsidiary, Regional Publishers Pty Ltd, at Dubbo, takes its name from the second newspaper published in the town. The first was the *Condobolin Herald*, which began in 1886 and was probably incorporated in the *Nymagee and Cobar Star* in 1889. The *Condobolin Argus* began publication on 19 October 1889, with W. Feldwick as editor. Thomas Mitchell Shakespeare, destined to be one of the most prominent figures in the provincial press throughout Australia and the founder of the *Canberra Times*, launched the *Lachlander and Condobolin District Recorder* on 26 July 1895. The *Condobolin Argus* foundered and appeared finally on 2 October 1900. It was bought by the *Lachlander*, which had also bought the paper that had swallowed the first Condobolin title. From 10 October 1900, the *Lachlander's* sub-title read: *with which is incorporated Nymagee and Cobar Star, Condobolin Herald and Condobolin Argus*.

Canadians Frank and Doretta Ryder-Wood bought the *Lachlander* in 1952 and Frank died in 1977. Doretta took over and edited and managed the paper till 1999. It appeared twice weekly. Local business people, the Vane-Tempest brothers, bought the *Lachlander* in January 2003. Suddenly it became a weekly (Thursdays), and took on a modern, computerised format (it was “[p]ublished by LJP Investments at the registered office of The Lachlander, 46 Bathurst Street, Condobolin, and printed by Rural Press Dubbo”. In February it reverted to the old-style letterpress format, and reverted to Tuesday and Friday issue. The first February issue said: “Hope you have enjoyed our computerised version of the *Lachlander* for the past month, but we are back in the unique style – and we’re proud of it!” [Rod Kirkpatrick thanks Mary Hounslow, of the State Library of NSW, for additional research that helped with this item.]

22.30 COUNTRY MUSIC AND THE NORTHERN DAILY LEADER

Tamworth’s *Northern Daily Leader* [NDL] cashes in on the annual Australasian Country Music Festival held in the town at the end of January. The festival draws thousands of people to Tamworth for 10 days and injects about \$70 million into the city’s economy. Over the 10

days of publication during the festival, the *NDL* had 12 to 16 page wraparounds on the festival every day. Sales increased by 800 on the first day and by up to 1600 at the height of the festival. In addition, the *NDL* published a special Sunday photo edition of 32 pages, and I sold more than 6,000 copies. Over the festival period, sales increased by almost 13 per cent above normal and were up by 3 to 5 per cent on the previous year's festival.

None of it happened by accident, says *Rural Press News*, March 2003, p.5. Careful and regular contact with newsagents, use of paper boys in caravan parks and camping grounds, and content that provided all the daily information went into making it the *NDL*'s most successfully festival. Not mentioned was the fact that, during the festival, the *NDL* borrowed a number of journalists from sister Rural Press publications.

22.31 BLAIR FROM HERE AND THERE

Barry Blair, of Tamworth, has been on the road for about six weeks. He finds himself "somewhat amused" by some of the community newsletters he sees in his travels. Some carry attention-getting alliterative titles: *Dunedoo Diary*, *Mallacoota Mouth*, and the *Twin Rivers Tattler*, which circulates in and around Metung, Vic. This last title talked about "teeming hordes of flying foxes". The *Mouth* at Mallacoota wanted a \$1 donation. The newsletters give anything and everything a run, even a photocopy of a complete media release. [Barry contributed a number of the "provincial" items in this issue.]

22.32 THE TALKING NEWSPAPER

The future of the Talking Warrnambool *Standard* has been assured with the arrival of new recording equipment. Volunteers who read and record the newspapers, for the visually impaired and those who have difficulties holding a newspaper, were seeking funding to replace their ancient equipment. Costs of up to \$600 were quoted, but the Royal Institute for the Blind did not have the money for new gear.

Recognising the importance of the service, *The Standard* agreed to pay for the replacement. Nearly 80 local and interstate clients subscribe to the service. Ironically, when *The Standard* management announced the donation, the old recorder breathed its last breath and forced volunteers to borrow the library's karaoke machine until the replacement arrived.

22.33 PROFITS UP AT RPL AND APN

- Rural Press Ltd has reported a 23.7 per cent increase in interim net profit – of \$34.1 million – despite the worst drought in recent memory (*Australian*, 14 February 2003, p.23).
- APN News and Media Ltd reported an 87 per cent rise in net profit for calendar year 2002 to a record \$90.2 million. The increase was aided by the first full year's income from the \$809 million acquisition of New Zealand's Wilson & Horton group (*PANPA Bulletin*, April 2003, p.13).

22.34 NEW EDITOR FOR BENDIGO

Leanne Younes, a senior writer and sub-editor at the *Canberra Times*, has been appointed editor of the *Bendigo Advertiser*, bought last year by Rural Press Ltd. Younes has had extensive experience with Rural Press, Cumberland Newspapers and *Australian Geographic*. Wayne Gregson leaves the *Advertiser's* editorship to "pursue other opportunities". The *Advertiser* has an editorial staff of 26, reports *Rural Press News*, March 2003, p.5.

22.35 CELEBRATING THE CENTRE

Helen Womack, who spent 15 years as Moscow correspondent for London's *Independent*, has launched a magazine in Alice Springs, Northern Territory, after visiting the town a year ago on a "sabbatical holiday". *Bushmag* began in web form (www.bushmag.com.au) but moved into print in March. It is, according to Nicholas Rothwell, "an elegant, ambitious hybrid, part record of lives, events, experiences, part forum of ideas, part dossier of feature journalism (*Australian*, Media liftout, 30 January 2003, p.7).

22.36 FEMALE READERS DISAPPEARING

Bruce Morris has joined APN Newspapers to assist in developing content that will better meet the needs of readers – especially female ones. Morris is a former deputy editor and acting editor of the *New Zealand Herald* and more recently was editor of the *Bay of Plenty Times*. A recent Roy Morgan survey shows that female readership in the primary circulation areas of APN's daily newspapers (from Coffs Harbour to Mackay) dropped from 177,000 in March 2001 to 156,000 in June 2002 (*APN Password*, February 2003, p.2). APN owns 10 regional dailies in Queensland and four in northern New South Wales.

22.37 EASTERN RIVERINA NEWSPAPER MERGER

The *Holbrook Chronicle* has merged with the *Eastern Riverina Observer* at Henty. The first edition of the *Eastern Riverina Chronicle* was published on Wednesday, January 22. The *Eastern Riverina Chronicle* encompasses the same areas covered by its two predecessors, which includes the shires of Holbrook, Culcairn, Hume, Lockhart and Urana.

22.38 FULL PAGE DAILY NEWS ONLINE

Since mid-February both the *Toowoomba Chronicle* and the *Sunshine Coast Daily* have made available their first three pages online. Available via either web page, online surfers require Acrobat Reader to view the pages.

The *Toowoomba Chronicle* may be found at: <http://www.thechronicle.com.au/>

The *Sunshine Coast Daily* is at: <http://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/>

22.39 ANOTHER STAGE IN THE LIFE OF THE CARCOAR CHRONICLE

The *Lyndhurst Shire Chronicle* ceased publication on 19 December 2002, and was reborn on 9 January 2003 as the *Blayney Chronicle* (*Rural Press News*, March 2003, p.6). The *Chronicle* says it began in 1872 as the *Carcoar Chronicle* and changed its name to the *Lyndhurst Shire Chronicle* in 1944. Rod Kirkpatrick's *Country Conscience*, p.421, found uncertainty about the starting date of the *Carcoar Chronicle* and listed the year as 1871, with a question mark about actual date. The New South Wales State Library catalogue lists 1863 as the starting year.

22.40 NEW NORFOLK PAPER CELEBRATES FIFTIETH

The 50th anniversary of Tasmania's Derwent Valley weekly, *The Gazette*, was commemorated on 26 March with a 20-page full-colour tabloid insert to the standard 16-page edition. News editor Damian Bester said it was unusual that the region, settled in 1807, did not have its own paper until 1953 given that weekly papers were long-established in the Huon Valley (1910), Circular Head (1906) and at Scottsdale in the north-east (1909). A printery opened in 1939 at New Norfolk, the main town of the district, and the *Derwent Gazette* made its debut on 27

March 1953. The newspaper quickly found its feet and by Christmas of that first year, it had become the first Tasmanian newspaper to make use of colour printing. The original partnership broke down just after the paper's first anniversary, when editor Betty Godfrey left to establish the *Derwent Valley and Moonah News*, which traded from April to September 1954. The Derwent Printery renamed its paper the *Derwent Valley Gazette* and continued much as before. In 1981, the business was sold to Hobart daily, the *Mercury* (a News Ltd subsidiary since 1987). In 2000, the newspaper's name was shortened to *The Gazette*. The 50th anniversary continues to be marked each week this year with the re-printing of photographs from 1953.

22.41 STANTHORPE EDITOR AND THE MAC ATTACK

A reader has attacked the *Stanthorpe Border Post* for the publicity it has been giving the local McDonald's franchise, and the editor has defended the paper (11 March 2003, p.6). And a bush poetry competition at a local hotel led the *Post* (18 March 2003, p.6) to editorialise in verse when Queensland Premier Peter Beattie defended his use of the word "sheila". Here's a snatch:

Our Premier's chucked a wobbly 'cause the yanks have stuffed our lingo.
He hears Aussies yack in Yankee everywhere from bowls to bingo.
Says Pete I've had a gutful. Let's get fair dinkum, mate.
We're an independent nation, not a blinkin' US state..."

NEWSPAPER HISTORY

22.42 WA REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS RECORDED ON MICROFILM

Western Australia's Culture and the Arts Minister Sheila McHale announced on 10 March 2003 the completion of a project to ensure the history contained in regional newspapers is preserved for future generations. The project was known as 'Access to early WA regional newspapers: Pre-Federation to 1905'. The Friends of Battye Library (Inc.) received a grant of nearly \$170,000 from the Lotteries Commission to microfilm major WA regional newspapers from pre-Federation to 1905. The project has been completed jointly with the State Library. The newspapers came from the Battye Library's collection of more than 1,000 Western Australian newspaper titles, from the hand-written newspapers of the 1830s to the current day. The survival of the papers had been at risk because of the poor quality of newsprint and its extremely high acid content, which accelerated deterioration. The project has enabled 272 reels of microfilm to be produced. Some of the newspapers were short-lived and depended on the fortunes of the district, such as in mining towns. Some have become well-established regional newspapers, with more than 100 years of continuous publication, such as the *Kalgoorlie Miner* and the *Albany Advertiser*. Communities in regional areas will have access to significant local newspapers through the microfilm sets being distributed to regional libraries.

22.43 N-PLAN AND THE STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Jerelynn Brown, manager, collection services, State Library of NSW, and its N-Plan convener since 1994, writes: Of the 1,913 NSW newspapers in the State Library's collection, none has a significant unfiled period. During the 10 financial years from July 1992 to June 2002, the State Library microfilmed 20,024,095 pages from retrospective and current NSW newspapers at a cost of \$2,702,654.

The Library's current microfilming program ensures that new newspapers are systematically microfilmed as soon as a volume is accumulated. An electronic record for each newspaper

makes information about holdings available on the National Bibliographic Database and through the State Library's WEBCAT, accessible at <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/webcat/>

A new title published fortnightly at Bateman's Bay, NSW, from 27 February 2002, and received by the State Library on Legal Deposit is the *National Indigenous Times*. (For details of an article on N-Plan, see 22.55.18.)

22.44 ANHG NEWSLETTER IN ePRINT ARCHIVES

From its very first issue in 1999, when it was under the editorship of Victor Isaacs, the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* can now be found, issue by issue, in the ePrints@UQ repository (<http://eprint.uq.edu.au/>), a new archive whose primary purpose is to showcase the research output of academic staff and postgraduate students at the University of Queensland. The archive will manage the long-term storage of the newsletter and provide secure access to it. Since material in the archive is freely open to all, users will not have to surmount any access barriers such as passwords or firewalls.

Each issue of the newsletter is added to the archive as soon it is published. It is a feature of the archive that permanent URLs are assigned for all items deposited. Accordingly, each issue of the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* has a direct URL that will remain unchanged. These are as follows:

- No 1. <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000025/>
- No. 2 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000026/>
- No. 3 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000027/>
- No. 4 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000028/>
- No. 5 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000023/>
- No. 6 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000022/>
- No. 7 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000021/>
- No. 8 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000020/>
- No. 9 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000019/>
- No. 10 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000016/>
- No. 11 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000018/>
- No. 12 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000017/>
- No. 13 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000015/>
- No. 14 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000014/>
- No. 15 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000013/>
- No. 16 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000012/>
- No. 17 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000011/>
- No. 18 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000009/>
- No. 19 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000068/>
- No. 20 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000233/>
- No. 21 <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/archive/00000337/>

22.45 HILL END AND TAMBAROORA TIMES

As a direct result of the Australian Newspaper Press Bicentenary Symposium, an unfiled issue of the *Hill End and Tambaroora Times and Miners' Advocate* has been located. Following the Symposium, Janette Pelosi, of State Records NSW, spoke to Jerelynn Brown, of the State Library of New South Wales, regarding newspapers held in the archival collection of State Records. There are a number of references to newspapers in *The Concise Guide to the State Archives of New South Wales* (online at <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au>). Ms Pelosi discovered that the *Hill End and Tambaroora Times and Miners' Advocate* of 14 September 1872 was received in the series Companies Office; AGY 26, Dissolved mining partnerships,

1862-1967. [AGY 26 can be searched in Archives Investigator.] It circulated “throughout Hill End, Tambaroora, Bathurst, Sofala, Hargraves, Mudgee, Gulgong, Windeyer, and the western mining districts”. The State Records’ issue is in good condition and will now be microfilmed by the State Library of NSW. It is located at State Records’ Western Sydney Records Centre as [SR Document No. 119]. The State Library holds six other issues, the earliest dated 23 September 1871 and the latest, 30 October 1875.

More on the 14 September 1872 issue. It is Vol. III, No.114, price sixpence, and contains a notice: “The *Hill End and Tambaroora Times* is published on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Second Year of Publication. This Journal has an established local circulation, and is also extensively circulated in Sydney and throughout the Colony. Subscription: Per Quarter, in advance, delivered, 8s. By Post and Booked, 9s. Sole Agents, Gordon and Gotch, George-st, Sydney. There is also a notice, p.1, col.1: Advertisers’ Business Directory: ‘Printers, &c. Lee & Sheppard, Times Office, Hill End. On p.2, col.1, there is a Royal Crest above: *Hill End and Tambaroora Time* [sic] and *Miners’ Advocate*. Published on Wednesdays and Saturdays. NON OMNIS MORIAR. “If I have been extinguished, yet there rise / A thousand beacons from the spark I bore.” It has some lovely advertisements including the Temple of Fashion, Lewis Moses, Proprietor and an article ‘About barbers’ by Mark Twain.

It is broadsheet (four pages) plus a tabloid insert (one page single-sided). The insert is not identified as a supplement. It is headed *Hill End and Tambaroora Times and Miners’ Advocate*, Saturday, September 14, 1872, as are the other pages of the issue. It includes the Mark Twain article “About Barbers”, an advertisement for Concordia House, Sydney; an advertisement for Dr Ricoud’s Essence of Life, an advertisement for a book entitled “Constitutional Syphilis” by James George Beaney, FRCS with opinions of the press reproduced from the Melbourne *Australasian*, Melbourne’s *Daily Mirror*, Launceston’s *Examiner*, the *Melbourne Herald*, and the *Prahran Telegraph*; an advertisement for Hoangti Teas; and an advertisement for 2,000 bushels superior corn from Ryan Bros, Belmore and Denison streets. The last broadsheet page (col. 6) has: “Printed and published by the Sole Proprietors Richard Egan Lee and Michael Ambrose Sheppard, at their General Printing Office, Clarke-street, Hill End, Tambaroora, NSW. Saturday September 14, 1872.”

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The *Hill End and Tambaroora Times* began on 31 March 1871 (source: *Sydney Mail*, 8 April 1871, p. 175, and 15 April 1871, p.207). The paper ceased on 29 January 1876 (Hill End correspondent, writing on 1 February 1876, for *Sydney Mail*, 5 February 1876, p.184). The *Times* outlasted the *Hill End Observer*, which was launched in April 1872 and which ceased in October 1874 (secondary source, supported by my research of contemporary newspapers. No *Observer* files are extant.)

To find future issues, go to the ePrints@UQ site and, using simple search, do a title search for Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter. All issues of the journal will be returned in a list. Click on the number of the issue you need. The files are stored in the Portable Document Format (you will need to download and install the freely available Adobe Acrobat reader software to be able to read these files.

Get it at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>).

22.46 BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE: A MODEL WEBSITE

Brooklyn Daily Eagle Online, 1841-1902 (<http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/>)
Sometimes referred to as “the borough of homes and churches,” Brooklyn has long been an urban community that has captured the attention of the United States and the rest of the world. For over a century, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* chronicled the community’s history while under the reins of a host of well-regarded editors, including Walt Whitman. This Web site, which is a collaboration between the Brooklyn Public Library and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, brings over seventy years of this paper online for viewing by the Web-browsing

public. The Web site includes an introduction to the paper's history over its long tenure as Brooklyn's main daily paper, as well as a timeline of important changes to the paper's format, layout, and content organization. What is perhaps most remarkable about this online archive is that the entire run from 1841 to 1902 can be searched by keyword, date, and content type. It is important to note that this current archive is a beta release, and that, at certain times (until the main release in the American summer of 2003), certain features may not be always available. Regardless of this fact, this is an excellent resource for urban historians and researchers.

22.47 SEMI AND BI

Did you know that the National Bibliographic Database, Kinetica. Uses "semi" and "bi" in clear ways? Semi-weekly indicates that a publication appears twice a week, semi-monthly is twice a month and semi-annually is twice a year. Bi-weekly is fortnightly, bi-monthly is once every two months, and biennially is once every two years.

22.48 A BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN WEST

Patricia Ratcliff, of Launceston, has written a biography of John West, the editorial writer for the *Launceston Examiner* from its foundation in 1842 until 1854, and editor of the Sydney Morning Herald from 1854 until his death in 1873. It will be launched in Launceston on 16 June, Sydney on 18 June and Canberra on 20 June. The title is: *The Usefulness of John West: Dissent and Difference in the Australian Colonies*. The Albernian Press, Launceston, is publishing the book.

22.49 WHEN A PAPER GOES TO THE DOGS

From Melbourne, **Sue Hughes**, writes: While looking for information on nineteenth century printing equipment in Victoria, I came across, in the *Australasian Typographical Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 35, September 1873, an article headed, "Miscellaneous":

"An editor in Reading, Pennsylvania, advertised the other day that he 'would take a good dog in payment of one year's subscription for his paper'. The next day forty-three dogs were sent to the office. The day afterwards, when the news had spread into the country, four hundred farmers had sent two dogs each, by express, with eight baskets full of puppies, all marked C.O.D. In the meantime the offer found its way into the neighbouring States, and before the end of the week there were eight thousand dogs tied up with ropes in the editor's front and back yards. The assortment included all the kinds, from bloodhounds down to poodles. A few hundred broke loose and swarmed on the stairways and in the entries, and stood outside the sanctum and howled, and had fights, and sniffed under the crack of the door as if they were hungry for some editor. And the editor climbed out of the window, up the water-spout and out on the comb of the roof, and wept. There was no issue of the paper for six days, and the only way the friends of the eminent journalist could feed him was by sending lunch up to him in balloons. At last somebody bought a barrel of arsenic and three tons of beef, and poisoned the dogs; and the editor came down only to find on his desk a bill for eight thousand dollars, being the municipal tax on dogs at one dollar per head. He is not offering the same inducements to subscribers now, and he doesn't want a dog."

22.50 NEWSPAPERS THAT CAN BE SEARCHED ON THE INTERNET

Janette Pelosi, of State Records NSW, discovered the following entry in Illawarra Branches/Illawarra Family History Group (No. 73, December 2002) p. 26. It was reproduced from an issue of *Missing Links*. Vol. 7, No. 37, 15 September 2002. (Missing links is a genealogical e-newsletter produced by www.petuniapress.com/ and its archives are searchable.)

PAPER OF RECORD aims to be a collection of historical Canadian, American, Mexican, European, and Australian newspapers that can be searched on the Internet. The archive is

created from newspaper collections on microfilm, preserving the original format of the paper. More than 4,211,289 pages have been digitised so far. The search is free – you can see if there are any results – but to look at the pages there is a subscription fee. There is one year of the *Toronto Star* (1945) available for free searching *and* viewing, so that users can get an idea of how it works. <http://www.paperofrecord.com> It is currently predominantly Canadian and some US titles.”

22.51 NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

The National Library of Australia has a new service called Newspapers Online, at www.nla.gov.au/npapers/

22.52 LOST OR MISSING SIGNIFICANT NEWSPAPERS

From **Ross Harvey and Ann Lloyd**, of the School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga: We are seeking information about Australian newspapers that are now lost or missing and which could be considered of national significance. We are attempting to identify and list lost or missing documentary heritage of national significance, for the Australian *Memory of the World* project (see <http://www.amw.org.au>).

- 1) Can you tell us about any Australian newspapers that you think fit into the definition of lost or missing documentary heritage of **national** significance?
- 2) Can you suggest anyone else we should contact?

Definitions of *Documentary heritage* and *Significance* can be found at: http://members.ozemail.com.au/~aghowell/mow/amow_cri.htm - see Section 12, which deals with Lost and Missing Heritage. Our contact details are:

Professor Ross Harvey	Anne Lloyd
rossharvey@csu.edu.au	anlloyd@csu.edu.au
Telephone: 02 6262 1813 (to June 30)	Telephone: 02 6933 2468
02 6933 2369 (from July 1)	
Fax: 02 6933 2733	Fax: 02 6933 2733

22.53 WHEN JOURNALISM MEETS HISTORY

The third Australian Media Traditions conference will be held at the State Library of Victoria on 13 and 14 November. RMIT University’s journalism school will host this year’s event; its theme is “When journalism meets history”. The conference will begin with an evening forum on 13 November, followed by a day of seminars. The event will include a guided tour of the newly refurbished Domed Reading Room, where the State Library’s significant Australian collection, the La Trobe collection, has just been rehoused.

The conference organisers want to hear from people who are interested in giving a paper or in attending. Contact the convenor, Sybil Nolan, in the School of Applied Communication at RMIT (sybil.nolan@rmit.edu.au); phone 03 99253596. This is a refereed conference. Papers concerned with the cultures of journalism and history, their research methodologies, historiographies and/or narrativities are sought particularly, but papers on other relevant themes are also welcome. Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted by email as a Word attachment to Sybil by 30 June.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

22.54 BOOKS

22.54.1 PIG BITES BABY! STORIES FROM AUSTRALIA'S FIRST NEWSPAPER edited by Michael Connor, published by Duffy and Snellgrove, Sydney, 380 pages, paperback, 2003, ISBN 1-876631-62-7. A selection of extracts from the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* from its first issue in 1803 until early 1810.

22.54.2 TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF SYDNEY NEWSPAPERS: A SHORT HISTORY by Victor Isaacs and Rod Kirkpatrick, published by Rural Press Ltd, 2003, 36 pages. Produced for the Australian Newspaper History Group's symposium commemorating the bicentenary of Australia's first newspaper, this booklet provides a summary of the newspaper history of Sydney. Features include a chronology, checklist of Sydney newspapers and a comprehensive bibliography. Copies available from the Australian Newspaper History Group, 13 Sumac Street, Middle Park, Qld, 4074, for \$6. Make cheque payable to: R. Kirkpatrick (ANHG).

22.54.3 THE AUSTRALIAN ON AUSTRALIA. Words by Alan Stokes, cartoons by Bill Leak, published by John Wiley and Sons, 35 Park Road Milton Qld 4054, 2003, ISBN 1-74031-068-3, paperback, 220 pages. Contains a selection of editorials and cartoons from the *Australian* over the last three years on a large variety of subjects

22.55 ARTICLES

22.55.1 THE JOY OF A JOB YOU LOVE by Jack Waterford, *Canberra Times*, 8 February 2003. The editor-in-chief provides an entertaining insight into how he became a journalist and why he loves journalism.

22.55.2 MEDIA DRAW FIRE FOR LAYING BLAME AS CANBERRA BURNS by Sally Jackson, *Australian*, Media liftout, 30 January 2003, p.3. A summary of reaction in Canberra to media coverage of the bushfire destruction of Canberra homes and the deaths and subsequent funerals.

22.55.3 THE PFEIFFER REPORT: ON-LINE PUBLICATIONS: THE BEGINNING OF THE END at http://pfeifferreport.com/trends/ett_online.html A trend reversal is occurring in the content business: print-based publications are becoming interesting again while on-line magazines and newspapers have lost a lot of their lustre.

22.55.4 THE ORIGINS OF A FREE PRESS by Jack R. Herman, *Australian Press Council News*, 15 (1), February 2003, pp.1-4. In the inaugural Australian Press Council Address, the Chief Justice of New South Wales, Justice Spigelman, discussed the clash between authorities and the press in NSW in the 1820s.

22.55.5 PROFILE (of Chris McLeod) by Deborah Kirkman, *Australian Press Council News*, 15 (1), February 2003, pp.10-11. Interview with the journalist who has been editorial development manager of the Herald and Weekly Times group since 1996.

22.55.6 THE NEW PAPER CHASE by Mark Day, *Australian*, Media liftout, 20 February 2003, pp.4-5. Newspapers need desperately to find ways to woo back younger readers.

22.55.7 DIGGINGS NEWSPAPER THAT NEVER MADE IT INTO PRINT by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, February 2003, pp.26-28. The story behind what was intended to be the first newspaper on the Ballarat goldfields.

22.55.8 GOLD FEVER STRIKES AND PAPERS BECOME AGITATORS FOR REFORM by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, March 2003, pp.37-39. How newspapers emerged on the goldfields of Victoria in an era of agitation for reform.

22.55.9 AND NOW FOR A LOOK AT YESTERDAY'S NEWS by Steve Meacham, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1-2 March 2003, p.35. A brief recollection of George Howe, Australia's first newspaper published and a look at the news he reported in Sydney 200 years ago, somehow strangely familiar to today. [Paul Brunton, of the State Library of NSW, also managed to get items into the *SMH's* "Column 8" (8-9 March 2003, p.24) and the *Australian's* "Strewth" (6 March 2003, p.9) about items in the early *Gazettes*.]

22.55.10 ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO DRINK by Jonathan King, *Walkley Magazine*, Autumn 2003, p.9. King, a great great grandson of George Howe, reflects on the emergence of the paper Howe launched in 1803 – the *Sydney Gazette*, Australia's first newspaper.

22.55.11 THE ACCIDENTAL CARER by David Armstrong, *Australian*, 4 March 2003, p.9. How do you "manage" a death? The former editor-in-chief of the *Australian* tells of the battle that his late wife, journalist Deb Bailey, waged with motor neurone disease (see 22.15).

22.55.12 BIGGER ISSUE THAN ONE MAN by Michelle Griffin, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8-9 March 2003, Spectrum 3. A profile of Simon Castles, the editor of the *Big Issue*, the fortnightly magazine sold by the homeless.

22.55.13 PRINT: WRITING'S ON THE WALL by Errol Simper, *Australian*, Media liftout, 13 March 2003, pp.4-5. Can print media survive in an era when electronic information delivery may even be making literacy redundant? Much analysis of circulation trends and reporting of observations by such identities as current *Sydney Morning Herald* editor-in-chief Alan Revell and a former one, Vic Carroll.

22.55.14 THE DEATH NOTICERS by Elizabeth Feizkhah, *Time Australia*, 17 March 2003. Obituaries are waking up and taking up more space in Australian newspapers.

22.55.15 PERFECT TOUCH-UPS by Judy Friedlander-Kahn, *Sydney Morning Herald*, Spectrum liftout, 22-23 March 2003, pp.4-5. Who said the camera never lies? Magazines now have the power to make stars look flawless or ridiculous. A visual revolution is examined. [The author drew from her findings for a master's degree at the University of Technology, Sydney. She analysed Australian women's magazines, 1992-2002.]

22.55.16 DYNASTIES PLAY KEY ROLE IN CONTINUITY OF SA PROVINCIALS by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, April 2003, pp.28-30. The origins of the provincial press in South Australia are discussed. Special focus on newspapers in the Barossa, and the Robinson family's *Leader* at Angaston.

22.55.17 THE N-PLAN: TEN YEARS OF PRESERVING AUSTRALIA'S NEWSPAPER HERITAGE by Roslyn Russell, *National Library of Australia News*, March 2003, pp.15-17. An historian and habitual researcher reviews an important heritage initiative.

22.55.18 SETTING THE PRESS GANG RIGHT by Ralph Peters, *Australian*, 26 March 2003, p.7. The war on Iraq was being reported in a way that created confusion and an artificial sense of crisis, according to this writer

22.55.19 DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT by Lindsay Murdoch, *Age*, 5 April 2003, Insight 1. Embedded with the US Marines, an *Age* reporter considers the fine line between reporting and propaganda.

22.55.20 THE WAR OUTSIDE MY WINDOW by Paul McGeough, *Age*, 29 March 2003, Insight 2 and 6. A roving correspondent and former *Sydney Morning Herald* editor reflects on the vicissitudes of war reporting from the front in Iraq.

22.55.21 ONCE AGAIN, OUT WITH THE OLD! By Jack Waterford, *Canberra Times*, 12 April 2003. The editor-in-chief writes about the extensive refurbishment of the editorial offices at the newspaper and reminisces about the 1987 move from Civic to Fyshwick.

22.55.22 DEFIANT THRILL OF THE CHASE by Madeleine Murray, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12-13 April 2003, Spectrum 3. Profile of Chris Taylor, senior writer for the *Chaser*, claimed to be Australia's only satirical newspaper.

22.55.23 MODERN COVERAGE IS ANOTHER BATTLEFRONT by Vic Carroll, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29-30 March 2003, p.9. Once conflict's observers, reporters have become players to be managed, writes a former editor of the *Herald*.

22.55.24 WAR ON THE WESTERN FRONT by Colleen Egan, *Australian*, Media liftout, 17 April 2003, pp.4-5. Trouble is brewing at the *West Australian* where management has accused the paper of poor journalism.

22.55.25 FAIRFAX: INSIDE THE BUNKER by Deborah Light, *The Bulletin*, 22 April 2003, pp.56-61. After announcing a trans-Tasman takeover play and purging his executive ranks, Fairfax CEO Fred Hilmer suddenly finds himself under greater market pressure than ever before. The changes inside Australia's oldest newspaper publisher are explored and several areas of concern are found.

22.55.26 SHARPER FOCUS ON MEDIA EXPERTISE by Lee Bollinger, *Australian*, Higher Education section, 23 April 2003, p.31. The character of the press is shaping and defining society. Columbia University's president examines what the university's role should be in shaping journalism.

22.55.27 PUBLISHER GOES BUSH FOR AN OUTBACK SUCCESS STORY by Asa Wahlquist, *Australian*, Media liftout, 24 April 2003, p.9. Short article on Paul Myers, publisher and editor of the highly successful *Outback* magazine.

22.55.28 MEDIA by Bridget Griffen-Foley, *Australian Book Review*, March 2003, pp.45-47. A potted historical outline of the Australian press inspired by the 200th anniversary of the publication of the nation's first newspaper.

22.55.29 ALL IN THE ACT OF GIVING by Christine Jackman, *Australian*, 29 April 2003, p.11. After 70 years of philanthropy, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch (widow of Sir Keith and mother of Rupert) is honoured with the keys to Melbourne.

22.55.30 JAMES FAIRFAX ART COLLECTOR / PHILANTHROPIST: Lunch with Maxine McKew, *Bulletin*, 6 May 2003, pp. 57-58. The former chairman of the John Fairfax group offers some thoughts on Warwick Fairfax's failed takeover bid of 1987 and on art.

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