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**23.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS**

**Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 30 September 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/](http://www.uq.edu.au/journ-comm/) and  
through the ePrint Archives at the University of Queensland at <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/>,

**23.2 THE FORMER GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND THE PRESS**

Some dates and newspaper reports to note for reportage of the final days of Dr Peter Hollingworth's 23-month term as Governor-General:

*Australian*, 9 May 2003, page 1 banner headline: I'M NOT A RAPIST: G-G

*Sydney Morning Herald*, 10-11 May 2003, p.35: Alan Ramsey, "Report tells the story, Mr PM".

*Australian*, 12 May 2003, page 1 banner headline: G-G STANDS ASIDE

*Weekend Australian*, 24-25 May 2003, page 1 banner headline: G-G considers resignation  
("Now that the [rape] accusation has been disposed of, I am able to give proper consideration  
to my longer-term tenure in the office of Governor-General" – Peter Hollingworth)

*Weekend Australian*, 24-25 May 2003, p.16, editorial headline: Hollingworth must not delay  
his departure. [Extract: "It is time for Peter Hollingworth to put Australia first and resign as  
Governor-General in the coming days."]

*Sydney Morning Herald*, 24-25 May 2003, p.36, editorial headline: End farce now, Dr  
Hollingworth. [Extract: "Whatever justification there was – and there is precious little now –  
for Dr Hollingworth to stay on as Governor-General, it was washed away by the removal of  
public trust."]

*Australian*, 26 May 2003, page 1 two-line banner headline:

HOLLINGWORTH  
RESIGNS AS G-G

*Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 May 2003, page 1 banner headline:

'It is with deep regret that I have today advised the Prime Minister that I wish to resign'

GOVERNOR-GENERAL QUILTS

Also see *Weekend Australian*, "Editor" liftout, 10-11, 17-18 and 24-25 May and 31 May-1  
June 2003 for summaries of coverage in other newspapers

**23.3 CHARTER FOR A FREE PRESS**

The Australian Press Council has adopted a Charter of a Free Press to give weight to the notions of freedom of communication. The Charter recognises Australia's endorsement of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, endorsing the right to the free flow of information to enable news and opinion of public interest to be freely available to the citizens of Australia (*Australian Press Council News*, Vol. 15, No. 2, May 2003, p.1).

## 23.4 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

<b>April 2003</b>	<b>Death:</b> Walter Stevenson Brooks, in Canberra aged 78; journalist in Canberra press gallery for 12 years for <i>Sydney Sun</i> and <i>Melbourne Herald</i> before heading public relations section of Department of Interior; became distinguished head of Australian Information Service, Australia's international public affairs agency, formerly the News and Information Bureau ( <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 14 April 2003).
<b>May 2003</b>	<b>Death:</b> George Sprod, in Sydney aged 83; newspaper and magazine cartoonist; joined Australian Consolidated Press after World War II, his work appearing in the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> and <i>Australian Women's Weekly</i> ; moved to England at 29, contributing to <i>Sketch</i> , <i>Spectator</i> , <i>Sunday Express</i> , <i>Truth</i> , <i>Sunday Dispatch</i> and <i>Lilliput</i> , but his major and most regular contributions were to <i>Punch</i> , including the entire period of Malcolm Muggeridge's editorship; his illustrations appeared in numerous books and journals ( <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 10 May 2003).
<b>12 May 2003</b>	<b>Death:</b> James Keep, in Melbourne aged 74; journalist with <i>Australasian Post</i> for 25 years after working on <i>Sunday Sun</i> , Sydney, and <i>Courier-Mail</i> , Brisbane; after retiring from <i>Post</i> , worked in suburban papers, including the <i>Town Crier</i> near his Mornington home ( <i>Herald Sun</i> , 21 May 2003).
<b>27 May 2003</b>	<b>Death:</b> Sydney Thomas Powne, in Melbourne aged 90; worked for Standard Newspapers, Cheltenham, Vic. as accountant and company secretary after World War II; appointed managing director a few years later; visionary publisher who launched new titles as Melbourne grew; in late sixties Standard was one of first publishers to invest heavily in the new web offset technology; forged commercial alliance with Herald & Weekly Times Ltd, and HWT eventually bought Standard ( <i>Herald Sun</i> , 2 July 2003, p.68).
<b>27 May 2003</b>	<b>Death:</b> Eileen Dwyer, in Inverell, NSW, aged 96; reported for <i>Inverell Times</i> from 1923-1992; heavily involved in community ( <i>Inverell Times</i> , 30 May 2003, p.3; Laurie Barber, 'An exceptional lady farewellled', <i>Northern Daily Leader</i> , 14 June 2003, p.29).
<b>2 June 2003</b>	<b>Death:</b> Lindsey Browne, in Sydney aged 87; compiled about 40,000 crosswords for the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> after starting to prepare them in 1935 to top up his wage as a cadet journalist on the paper; claimed he filled more editorial space than any journalist; reported from state and federal parliaments and served as New York correspondent at one stage; wrote music, theatre and film criticisms; retired from Herald 30 years ago but continued crosswords as a freelance for a number of papers ( <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 3 June 2003; and Jane Fraser, 'King of the cryptics lays down his pen', <i>Australian</i> , Media liftout, 12 June 2003, p.3).
<b>28 June 2003</b>	<b>Death:</b> Clem Christesen, in Melbourne aged 91; born in Townsville; worked on <i>Courier-Mail</i> ; launched <i>Meanjin Papers</i> on 12 December 1940; formed important literary partnership with wife, Nina Maximov ( <i>Australian</i> , 11 July 2003, p.13).
<b>26 June 2003</b>	<b>Death:</b> Don Ludbey, in Melbourne aged 62; began newspaper production career at <i>Cairns Post</i> ; best remembered as project manager of News Ltd's Westgate Park printing site, regarded as the jewel in the company's Australian production crown ( <i>Herald Sun</i> , 30 June 2003).
<b>1 July 2003</b>	South East Newspapers (SEN) launches three new weekly free <i>Star</i> editions in the suburbs of Melbourne to serve: Footscray, Yarraville; Williamstown, Altona, Laverton; and Werribee, Hoppers Crossing. These join the three Brimbank editions: Sunshine, Ardeer, Braybrook; St Albans, Deer Park, Caroline Springs; and Keilor, Taylors Lakes, Sydenham. Each <i>Star</i> now carries the <i>North West Property Guide</i> that SEN launched in March 2000.
<b>8 July 2003</b>	<i>City Chronicle</i> , Canberra, begins – a city-centric edition of the <i>Chronicle</i> launched in 1981 by Federal Capital Press, publisher of the daily <i>Canberra Times</i> . The various Canberra <i>Chronicles</i> now have a distribution of 126,500. About 350 people now deliver the <i>Chronicle</i> to more than 90 per cent of homes in the ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounding region.
<b>9 July 2003</b>	<b>Death:</b> Robert Jarrett Scarff, in Dubbo aged 71, joined <i>Daily Liberal</i> , Dubbo, late in life as a journalist; worked for 24 years on paper; best known for his "Day by Day" column; elected to City Council ( <i>Daily Liberal</i> , 10 July 2003).

### 23.5 NEW EDITOR OF MEDIA SECTION

Martin Beesley assumed responsibility for the Media section of the *Australian* on 5 May 2003. He is a former editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, former news director of Ten Network Sydney and was the founding chief of staff of *Willesee*, now *A Current Affair*. He continues as managing editor of the *Australian* (*Weekend Australian*, 3-4 May 2003, p.2). The previous Media editor was Matthew Doman.

### 23.6 READERSHIP: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Roy Morgan Readership Survey for the 12 months to 31 March showed large increases in the number of people reading food magazines (31 per cent) and gains in weekday readership for newspapers across the country, with the notable exception of the *West Australian*, Perth (down 6.1 per cent) and the *Northern Territory News* (down 11.1 per cent). Launceston's *Examiner* dropped 6.7 per cent of its weekday readership (now 83,000) and 5 per cent of its Saturday readership (now 96,000), but gained 5.0 per cent on Sundays (106,000). The *Australian* increased weekdays by 9.2 per cent to 453,000; the *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, by 6.0 per cent to 600,000; the *Age*, Melbourne, by 4.2 per cent to 689,000; and the *Australian Financial Review* by 3.6 per cent to 290,000. Titles benefiting from the trend to food magazines are *Australian Good Taste*, up 19 per cent, and *Super Food Ideas*, up 12 per cent (*Australian*, 23 May 2003, p.18). See also 23.63.6.

### 23.7 CROSS-MEDIA LAWS

The result can be said in so few words: Communications Minister, Richard Alston, has again failed to seduce the four independent senators to end the 16-year-old Keating-Hawke cross-media ownership rules. And yet so many words were expended in the lead-up to the legislation going before Parliament and the deals that were possibly being done.

**See:** Jane Schulze, "Sceptics unmoved by media reform", *Australian* 4 June 2003, p.25; Luke McIlveen, "Democrats plan to relax media law". *Australian*, 19 June 2003, p.2; Luke McIlveen and Jane Schulze, "Deal gives Alston power to push new media laws", *Weekend Australian*, 21-22 June 2003, p.4, Cosima Marriner, "Crunch time for media big guns", and "Harradine the thorn in media reform bill", Jennifer Hewett, "Kerry and Rupert come out to play", and Geoff Kitney, "Issue of control hangs on the power of one", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21-22 June 2003, pages 1 and 6; Wendy Frew, *SMH*, 21-22 June 2003, pp.49 and 52; Geoff Elliott, "Reform boosts media midgets", *Australian*, 24 June 2003, p.17; Luke McIlveen and Jane Schulze, "Senate's rebels stonewall media bill", *Australian*, 25 June 2003, p.2; Malcolm Cole and AAP, "Senate rewrites cross-media Bill", *Courier-Mail*, 26 June 2003, p.4; Jane Schulze and Luke McIlveen, "11<sup>th</sup>-hour media bill rescue bid", *Australian*, 27 June 2003, p.2; and Alan Ramsey, "Walking all over a flight of fancy on our media laws", *SMH*, 28-29 June 2003, p.39; and 23.63.11.

For one of the few reports on what really went wrong for the Government in trying to have its Bill passed, read Jane Schulze, "How the Senate crossed media deregulation out", *Australian*, Media liftout, 3 July 2003, p.3, and on p.6, see Mark Day's comments in his "On Media" column. The final vote in the Senate: the Bill was defeated 29-36.

### 23.8 TOOHEY AND THE COURTS

Paul Toohey, formerly the *Australian's* Darwin correspondent, has been convicted on appeal of entering Aboriginal land without a permit. He was found guilty last November of entering the community of Wadeye south-west of Darwin without permission, but no conviction was recorded and no penalty imposed. The Director of Public Prosecutions appealed against the decision, calling it manifestly inadequate, and the Supreme Court upheld the appeal. Toohey said he went to Wadeye to report on the funeral of a young man allegedly shot dead by a policeman during a brawl. He said it would have been a dereliction of his duty as a journalist

not to cover the funeral. On 30 May Justice David Angel said the community had a right to privacy during the funeral, and Toohey's duty as an investigative journalist included an obligation to act within the law. Toohey will not face any penalty. The *Australian* described the Supreme Court decision as a massive blow to journalism. Editor Michael Stutchbury said the newspaper was considering an appeal (*Weekend Australian*, 31 May-1 June 2003, p.3).

### **23.9 JAMES FAIRFAX'S ART COLLECTION**

Peter Hill reviewed in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17-18 May 2003, Spectrum 12, the launch of the James Fairfax Collection at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. James Fairfax was chairman of the newspaper and media group, John Fairfax Ltd., when it was "privatised" by Warwick Fairfax jun. in 1987.

### **23.10 FINAL GOLDEN MUSE**

Via Bill Tully, the ANHG has received a copy of No. 228 of *Muse*, Canberra's arts monthly (May 2003), the final one edited by Irma Gold, editor for three and a half years. Julie Ogden is the new editor. *Muse* began publication 23 years ago. This issue is 24 pages tabloid.

### **23.11 TWO PAPERS IN ONE: VALLEY VOICE AND SOUTHSIDE REAL ESTATE**

Adams Mobbs received 11 bylines in the first eight pages of the *Valley Voice*, a Canberra fortnightly free, in the 20-page issue of 13-26 May. Flip the paper over and you have *Southside Real Estate*, occupying three pages at the front of the "back" section of the *Valley Voice*.

### **23.12 PACIFIC BUYS FAMILY CIRCLE**

Ian Brooks' Paragon Media has sold *Family Circle* magazine to Pacific Publications for an undisclosed sum. Two years ago Brooks resigned as financial controller of Murdoch Magazines to set up Paragon Media and buy *Family Circle* (*Australian*, Media liftout, 29 May 2003, p.7).

### **23.13 ETHNIC PRESS REPORTS INQUIRY SOUGHT**

Former ethnic publisher Theo Skalkos has called for a Royal Commission into "shameful practices" in Australia's ethnic press, related to false circulation claims (see Mark Day's column and article, *Australian*, Media liftout, 29 May 2003, pp.6 and 7 respectively).

### **23.14 UPI NEWS PICTURES WEBSITE**

From **Belinda Weaver**: United Press International: UPI News Pictures. This site offers access to an online archive of over 100,000 images "of the most compelling people, places and events that shape our day", with more being added at a rate of about 1,200 each month. Searchable by keyword and date: <http://www.upi.com/photos/>

### **23.15 FOUR IN FIVE PAPERS HAVE WEBSITES**

Newspapers worldwide suffered declines last year in sales and advertising revenue, although those in fledgling democracies and emerging economies tended to keep growing, the World Association of Newspapers has reported. "The major developed markets are all showing decline, with falls in circulation in the United States, Japan and particularly Europe," said Timothy Balding, director-general of the association, which represents 18,000 publications worldwide. At the association's annual meeting, Balding said 79 per cent of newspapers now had websites, compared with 52 per cent in 1998. Activity on those sites has trebled since

1999, he said. "While we may see our paper-based circulations under pressure, online readership is booming," he said.

Balding said publishers increasingly viewed the internet as a way to boost their own newspapers' prominence and profitability, with plenty of room for exploiting specialised subscriber-based services as well as charging for access to archives. Bill Gates and others had forecast that newspapers would be out of business by 2000. This now looked laughable. Circulation rose during the year in China, India, Russia and Turkey, but globally it fell by 0.35 per cent. Excluding the United States, Japan and Western Europe, which experienced decline, global newspaper circulation rose by 0.75 per cent, he said. A five-year view showed that the industry worldwide had made gains since 1998, with advertising revenue up 7.9 per cent and circulation up 5.1 per cent. Surveys of the association's newspapers found that greatest circulation growth tended to be in countries with growing youth readership and few subscription-based sales, such as Portugal, Spain, Italy, Malaysia and Brazil.

In most markets heavily dependent on subscription copies, sales losses were heavy in 2002, he said. In the United States, newspaper circulation fell last year by 0.7 per cent and, over the past five years, by 1.8 per cent. However, Mr Balding suggested this showed levels were "stabilising", because circulation had fallen more severely throughout the 1990s. Enthusiasm for newspaper reading – or at least buying – varies widely, his report found. In Norway, a perennial industry leader, 705 newspapers are sold for every 1,000 people, followed by Japan at 653. The United States was in ninth place at 269.

Balding offered an updated list of the 100 biggest-circulating newspapers on earth. It found that Japan had 20, the United States 19, India 16, China 15, South Korea 10, the United Kingdom seven, Thailand three, Germany and Italy two each, and several other European nations one each. The biggest paper, *Yomiuri Shimbun*, of Japan, had a circulation of more than 14.2 million, while the No. 100 slot went to the *Arizona Republic* with 597,000.

### **23.16 THE BUSINESS OF SELLING NEWSPAPERS**

The *Sydney Morning Herald* advertised on 21-22 June 2003 (p.35): "A \$2 offer that makes good business sense. This week [Monday, June 23 to Wednesday, June 25 only] purchase the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *BRW* for just \$2."

### **23.17 THE STATE OF DEFAMATION**

The typical winner of an Australian defamation case is a businessman who a newspaper says has misused his position. He will win less than \$50,000 in damages. Wherever in Australia he comes from, he will, overwhelmingly, sue in NSW because it is regarded as having some of the most restrictive defamation laws in the world. So finds Patrick George, a partner in the law firm Minter Ellison, who studied the 290 defamation verdicts delivered in Australian courts between 1977 and 2002. He says that "for every verdict in any other state or territory, there were approximately four verdicts in NSW". NSW accounted for 46 per cent of all verdicts (further details, see Malcolm Knox, "Reputation rescue: smart money is on NSW", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21-22 June 2003, p.13).

### **23.18 SNOWTOWN SUPPRESSION ORDER LIFTED**

The South Australian Supreme Court lifted on 24 June its suppression order on the images and descriptions of John Justin Bunting and Robert Joe Wagner, the two men charged with the Snowtown "bodies in the barrels" killings. The orders – among more than 200 issued since 1999 – were originally filed after the arrest of the men, to allow a fair trial (see Andrew McGarry, "Suppression lifted on Snowtown accused", *Australian*, 25 June, p.4, including pictures of the two accused).

### **23.19 TUFFIN IT OUT IN TASSIE**

Lindsay Tuffin, a sports sub-editor for the *Mercury*, Hobart, has created an alternative voice in Tasmania – dominated by three dailies, the *Mercury*, the *Examiner* and the *Advocate* – that is winning a lot of interest and attention: check it out at [www.discover-tasmania.com](http://www.discover-tasmania.com)

### **23.20 THE MOMENT: 40 YEARS OF HISTORY IN THE FARMYARD**

The *Good Weekend*, the *Sydney Morning Herald's* and *Age's* weekend magazine, has a page called "The Moment", devoted to a photograph and the story behind it – often as "compelling as the image itself". On 5 July 2003, "The Moment" was a photograph taken by David G. Morgan of his father and his sheepdog Nan in a yard at a farm called "Bryn Eryr" at Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr, North Wales, in September 1993. They were standing in the midst of a selection of 40 years of colour supplements from the *Sunday Times*, London, that David's father had kept for him since he left the farm at the age of 18 and became a professional photographer. David's story *is* as compelling as the compelling photograph.

### **23.21 THE CORPORATISED LANG PARK**

Suncorp Stadium, the Brisbane Rugby League arena that used to be officially called Lang Park (and still is by the ordinary Queenslander), was reopened for business – after the expenditure of \$280 million – on 1 June and had its first State of Origin match on 11 June. The *Courier-Mail* cashed in with all manner of freebies, and a four-broadsheet page "Field of Dreams:" feature on 2 June and a 24-page magazine insert on 10 June. In both matches, Queensland's team lost by clear margins: Brisbane to Newcastle in the National Rugby League match; and Queensland to New South Wales in the State of Origin match.

### **23.22 EDITOR OF WEST AUSTRALIAN RESIGNS**

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes: Brian Rogers finished his controversial term as editor of the *West Australian* when he resigned on 20 June. The news was delivered to the staff at 1.41pm that day. Two minutes earlier, the paper's Saturday editor, David Hummerston, had sent a message to the editorial staff to gather in the general section of the newsroom. Hummerston read the following statement, which had been written by the paper's managing director, Ian Law, to the assembled 84 reporters and sub-editors:

"Mr Brian Rogers has today resigned as editor of *The West Australian* with immediate effect. Mr Ian Law, managing director of West Australian Newspapers, acknowledged the efforts of Mr Rogers over the past three years and wished him well. Mr Law and Mr Rogers have reached an agreement on the terms of his resignation, and these remain confidential. Ms Karen Brown, deputy editor of *The West Australian*, will act as editor until a permanent appointment is made."

The announcement was received with a mixture of expectation and surprise by the paper's editorial staff. Some believed the constant criticism Rogers had received in other media outlets and the falling circulation of the *West Australian* would lead to his departure. Others were surprised at the announcement because earlier this year Rogers had successfully sought an extension to his three-year contract. Rogers, who had returned to work five days before his resignation, after holidaying in Europe, was appointed editor by the previous managing director, Denis Thompson, in April 2000. Rogers took up his duties the following month. He had been the director of news at Channel 9, Perth, for the previous five years. A major criticism of Rogers' appointment was that he had no newspaper experience since the 1970s.

### **The West Australian has had seven editors since World War II:**

1946-1956	Ernest de Burgh
1956-1972	W.T.G. (Griff) Richards
1972-1983	Malcolm (Bon) Uren
1983-1987	Don Smith
1987-1990	Don Baker
1990-2000	Paul Murray
2000-2003	Brian Rogers

(See also: Colleen Egan, “Rogers exits the West and leaves a riddle”, *Australian*, Media liftout, 26 June 2003, p.3; and 11.46.3)

### **23.23 SPORTING NEWSPAPER FOR WA**

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes: The *Western Australian Truth Sport* was launched on 22 May 2003. Based on the former *Melbourne Truth*, the W.A. publication, a weekly, consists of a couple of pages of Australian Rules football, several pages of horse racing form guides, and a sprinkling of boxing, motoring, racing and rugby league articles, a few columns written by local sporting personalities, and a number of pages on sex-related issues.

### **Specialist sporting newspapers published in Western Australia**

<i>Bell's Life in Western Australia</i>	1896—1896	Perth
<i>The Sportsman</i> *	1896—1896	Perth
<i>The Umpire</i>	1897—1903	Fremantle
<i>West Australian Sporting Judge and Wheel Man</i>	1898—1898	Perth
<i>West Australian Sportsman</i>	1901—1902	Kalgoorlie
<i>The Sportsman</i>	1903—1904	Perth
<i>Sporting Life</i>	1905—1906	Perth (Kalgoorlie edition also published)
<i>W.A. Sportsman</i>	1914—1918	Perth
<i>The Call &amp; W.A. Sportsman</i> **	1920—1920	Perth
<i>The Call</i> **	1920—1927	Perth
<i>The Call News-Pictorial</i> **	1927—1931	Perth
<i>The New Call</i> **	1931—1934	Perth
<i>W.A. Sporting Record</i>	1932—1932	Perth
<i>West Australian Sporting Weekly</i>	1933—1951	Perth
<i>The New Call and Bailey's Weekly</i> **	1934—1940	Perth
<i>The Call and Bailey's Weekly</i> **	1940—1945	Perth
<i>The Call</i> **	1945—1953	Perth
<i>The Sporting Guide</i>	1946—1947	Perth
<i>Sports News</i>	1953—1953	Perth
<i>Punter</i>	1963—1964	Perth
<i>Sports Review</i> ***	1964—1977	Perth
<i>Sports Action</i>	1970—1971	Perth
<i>Westside Football</i>	1979—1996	Perth
<i>Westside Sport</i>	1996—1997	Perth
<i>Western Australian Truth Sport</i>	2003—	Perth

### **23.24 WYLIE RETURNS TO HEAD NATIONWIDE NEWS**

Peter Wylie, the head of News Ltd's New Zealand newspaper arm (INL) until its \$1 billion sale to Fairfax, has been appointed managing director of Nationwide News, publisher of the *Australian*, *Weekend Australian*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Sunday Telegraph* and *Sportsman*. He replaces Malcolm Noad, who has been appointed to oversee all News Ltd's magazines. Max Tomlinson, general manager of the North Queensland Newspaper Co for five years, has been shifted to Adelaide to replace Rick Neville as managing director of Advertiser Newspapers.

Neville returns to New Zealand. Jason Scott, managing editor of the *Centralian Advocate*, Alice Springs, replaces Tomlinson at Townsville (*Weekend Australian*, 5-6 July 2003, p.28).

### **23.25 FAIRFAX (1): CONFIDENT OF ASSETS**

John Fairfax Holdings believes there are “good growth prospects” for its recently acquired Independent Newspapers Ltd. New Zealand publishing assets, despite a ratings downgrade for Fairfax from Standard and Poors (*Courier-Mail*, 7 July 2003, p.16).

### **23.26 FAIRFAX (2): ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER**

John Brehmer Fairfax has sold his half share of the IPMG printing business for about \$175 million to the Hannan family, who held the other 50 per cent. Mark Westfield’s article (*Australian*, 2 July 2003, pp.19-20), commenting on this sale, ranged across the cross-media laws issue and concluded by dissecting John Fairfax Holdings in a highly critical manner and saying that “the scale of the rebuilding task is gradually dawning, and can only begin with a new chief executive”. This led to a letter from John Fairfax Holdings Ltd chairman, Dean R. Wills, being published in the *Australian* (11 July 2003, p.10). Wills said Westfield had misstated a number of important facts. “First, chief executive Fred Hilmer’s contract was renewed last year and is not up for renewal this year. Second, the *Age* circulation has grown on weekdays. Third, all our senior executives have substantial industry experience. Fourth, our New Zealand investment is in the hands of the manager with the best track record in business in terms of revenue and profit growth over the past three years. Finally, the f2 investment was contained with significantly less losses than internet investments by other media companies and is expected to be profitable this financial year.”

## **CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: PROVINCIAL**

### **23.27 ON THE ROAD AGAIN**

The itinerant but normally-Tamworth based **Barry Blair** [who has been co-editor of the “provincial developments” section of this newsletter this year] writes: When you’re on the road and in the need of tourist information in Australia, you’ll find plenty to choose from sitting neatly between the glossy motivational brochures and the weary photocopied leaflets. Numerous newspapers contribute to tourism by publishing tourist guides ranging from glossy magazines to tabloid-sized productions. Always on the lookout for current tourist information, I found that regular visits to tourist information centres on a recent 6,000km caravan trip to Victoria revealed some useful and interesting information.

My trip from Tamworth took in Canberra, NSW South Coast, East Gippsland, the Great Alpine Road, the Murray River and the Riverina. Apart from detailed district maps our meanderings were ably assisted by information contained in tourist guides published by various newspapers. These publications, mostly in the form of advertorials, provided a wealth of information about what’s on, places to go, things to see, maps and places to dine. One of the longest established tourist guides is the full colour *Sapphire Sun*, published by Rural Press Regional Media at Merimbula, NSW. During our Gippsland sojourn we found the *East Gippsland Visitor Guide* to be of great assistance. This and the publication, *Discover the Great Alpine Road Official Visitors Guide*, are both published by East Gippsland Newspapers at Bairnsdale (their flagship is the *Bairnsdale Advertiser*). We found the *Guide* to be of great assistance when traversing the fully-sealed, all-weather road from Bairnsdale to Wangaratta via Omeo and Mount Hotham.

One of the longest running, with the claim that it is “original”, is the Murray Region *Tourist News* distributed along the Murray Valley from Kyabram to Wentworth and embracing the principal cities of Mildura, Swan Hill and Echuca. The *Tourist News* has been published bi-



monthly since 1972 by Sunraysia Newspaper Services Pty Ltd at Mildura in conjunction with the *Guardian* at Swan Hill and the *Sunraysia Daily* at Mildura. The April-May 2003 edition ran to 36 tabloid pages.

### **23.28 ANNIVERSARY ISSUES**

**Kiama, NSW (140):** The *Kiama Independent* celebrated its 140th anniversary on 7 July. It is the oldest, single family-owned newspaper in Australia. The 9 July edition featured a commemorative supplement, together with a free poster that outlines the history of Kiama Municipality from 1797 to 2003.

**Bowen, Qld (100):** The general manager of the Bowen Independent at the time of its centenary on 13 June 2003 was Stephen Darwen, a grandson of the founder, William Henry Darwen. The Darwens owned the paper for 82 years. It is now owned by a News Ltd subsidiary, the North Queensland Newspaper Co. Ltd. The newspaper published an excellent 20-page colour tabloid centenary feature. The ANHG editor spoke at the centenary function.

**Griffith, NSW (80):** *The Area News* at Griffith published its excellent 20-page "Celebrating 80 Years" supplement on 26 March 2003. The liftout is a small history of the area of Griffith as well as a history of the *Area News*. The hardcopy special liftout is available from the *Area News* on (02) 6962 1733 or via email: office@areanews.com.au. An online copy is available by following links at: [www.rivmediagroup.com.au/areanews/index.html](http://www.rivmediagroup.com.au/areanews/index.html)

**Milton-Ulladulla, NSW (25):** The *Milton-Ulladulla Times* on the NSW South Coast issued in June a 24-page tabloid colour feature to mark its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The *Times* was established on 15 February 1978. Paul Poulos, the founding managing editor is still in that role, but the paper is now published by a joint venture between his company, the Milton Ulladulla Publishing Company (40pc), and Rural Press Ltd (60pc), who were the owners of the opposition title, the *Express* (see Rod Kirkpatrick, *Country Conscience*, p.327). Since 1878 various newspapers in the district have appeared, generally with the title of the *Times* or *Express*. The 2003 feature includes an article (p.6) by Joanne Ewin, of Milton-Ulladulla Historical Society.

### **23.29 GEELONG ADVERTISER SWALLOWS ITS RIVAL**

The *Geelong Advertiser* has been given the go-ahead to buy the *Geelong Independent*. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission told the *Advertiser* group the commission "did not propose to intervene in the matter". The *Independent* board has already considered the *Advertiser* offer and recommended its acceptance subject to certain conditions. As of early May, the recommendation had yet to be put to shareholders. *Advertiser* chief. The *Independent* was established in 1986 by local business people, mainly real estate agents and some car dealers, and had grown to 80 pages each Friday. About 40 shareholders owned it (*Geelong Business News*, May 2003, p.9; *Australian*, 9 May 2003, p.19; *Australian*, Media liftout, 10 April 2003, p.2, and 15 May 2003, p.10; and *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2003, p.10).

### **23.30 ONLINE (1): ALBANY**

Research by the Western Australian Education Department suggests an online newspaper run by Albany Primary School students is a world first. The *Albany Primary Telegraph* is on the region's online portal, Albany Gateway, and has local stories and pictures, as well as material from associated schools and people in other countries. Publication overseer Rob Daniel says investigation done by students and staff during the past year was reinforced by the department's research. "They've been researching newspapers run by students all around the world for several years and they've seen nothing like it anywhere," he said. "They said it was

very comparable with the high school online newspapers in America.” (ABC News, Albany, 22 May 2003). The *Albany Primary Telegraph* may be found at:  
[http://www.albanygateway.com.au/Member/Albany\\_Primary\\_school/New\\_1/default.asp?sw=621&](http://www.albanygateway.com.au/Member/Albany_Primary_school/New_1/default.asp?sw=621&)

### **23.31 ONLINE (2): ARMIDALE**

Since early June, the *Armidale Independent* has revamped its web page. Pages of the free weekly paper may now be viewed in pdf format. The only other known online newspaper where full-page format may be viewed is *The Chronicle*, Toowoomba.  
Visit: <http://www.armidaleindependent.com.au/> and <http://www.thechronicle.com.au/>

### **23.32 ONLINE (3): RIVERINA**

The Riverina Media Group, based at Wagga Wagga is in the process of placing its publications online. Included in the group’s publications are *The Daily Advertiser/Weekend Advertiser*, *The Riverina Leader* and *The Rural*, Wagga Wagga; *The Irrigator*, Leeton; *Southern Cross*, Junee; *The Observer*, Coleambally; and *The Area News*, Griffith. Visit: <http://www.rivmediagroup.com.au/rmg/home.html>

### **23.33 ONLINE (4): GERALDTON**

The *Geraldton Guardian* web page exhorts you to “Catch all the *Guardian* news”, but on 8 May 2003 it was announced that “General, rural and sports news from our newspaper will no longer be published to the web”.

### **23.34 MAKING A COMEBACK**

Encouraging tourists to visit the Snowy Mountains after the summer bushfires was the major theme of news and advertising in the Autumn 2003 edition of the Jindabyne-based *Snowy Times*. In an effort to widen the scope of the bushfire recovery, a higher than normal print run enabled the free magazine to be distributed in Western Australia and the Northern Territory with the help of both the WA and NT Tourism Commissions.

### **23.35 HOT OFF THE PRESS**

From late June the *Ararat Advertiser* has been publishing *Ararat: The Guide*. The 44-page, full-colour magazine provides a directory of Ararat businesses, clubs and associations and a full Ararat and district telephone directory. It was printed using the *Ararat Advertiser*’s new two-colour press and is believed to be the largest magazine entirely produced in the rural city. The *Guide* was included in a late June edition of the *Ararat Advertiser*.

### **23.36 PRESS BOSS TAKES THE BATON**

Former Geelong Grammar School student John Fairfax set the beat at the opening of a \$1.5-million music centre at the school’s Timbertop campus in May. The Rural Press chairman borrowed the baton from the Timbertop band’s conductor and led the budding musicians for a few bars before a crowd of about 900 people on 17 May (*Geelong Advertiser*, 19 May 2003).

### **23.37 STUDENT WRITERS IN HUNT FOR NEWS**

Career opportunities for budding Sunshine Coast journalists have received a significant boost after the region’s largest private employer brokered a training deal with the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC). APN News and Media Ltd, the *Daily*’s parent company, and USC have joined forces to offer the university’s journalism students genuine “hands on” industry

experience through an intensive internship program. The joint venture, whereby students would work “side by side” with the *Daily’s* experienced journalists, will receive its first intake of final year undergraduate students next year. *Daily* editor-in-chief Peter Owen and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Paul Clark signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 20 May (*Sunshine Coast Daily*, 21 May 2003).

### **23.38 CANBERRA TO BE SOUTHERN CROSS TV NEWS HUB**

Canberra is to become this month the broadcasting hub for several regional television services run by Southern Cross Broadcasting. The company announced on 8 May that joint services to Queensland, parts of New South Wales and Victoria will be presented from a new digital facility in Canberra. The \$20 million centre will also host its Darwin and central satellite services. Job losses are expected at Southern Cross’s Townsville, Coffs Harbour and Bendigo stations, which will close as a result of the move (ABC Online, May 2003).

### **23.39 HOT-METAL PAPER CLOSES**

The *Gnowangerup Star*, Western Australia, closed on 26 June 2003, a hot-metal newspaper and a Walker family publication from beginning to end. Its closure leaves three hot-metal newspapers in Australia – all in country NSW (Barham, Condobolin and Dorrigo). Augustine Walker published the first issue of the *Gnowangerup Star* on 21 August 1915 and the final issue, 87 years and 10 months later, carried Vol. 89, No. 5, indicating that the folio numbering became muddled somewhere. And the muddle occurred before 1990 for the *Star’s* so-called 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue, 21 June 1990, carried Vol. 76, No. 1.

### **23.40 NEW EDITORS**

**Toowoomba:** The *Chronicle* advertised again recently for an editor. Its latest appointment, Alan Stokes, former chief leader writer of the *Australian*, stayed in the job only a few months, and was “lured back to the city by an attractive and unprompted offer”. The *Chronicle* has 37 full-time equivalent editorial staff (advertisement, *Australian*, Media liftout, 1 May 2003, p.8). Stokes started as editor on 4 December 2002 and finished on 2 May 2003. He returned to Sydney to become night editor of the *Australian Financial Review*. He is also a former night editor of the *Australian* and was once its Tokyo correspondent (Jamie Walker, ‘Editors find penny-pinching paper a Chronicle of discontent’, *Australian*, Media liftout, 8 May 2003, p.3). Stokes’ replacement, Jason Purdie, arrived at the paper on 7 July, right in the middle of a research project evaluating reader needs and satisfaction with the paper. Purdie has worked at APN sister papers at Mackay (*Daily Mercury*) and Gladstone (*Observer*).

**Murray Bridge and Port Augusta:** Graham Rich, the editor of the *Murray Valley Standard*, Murray Bridge, SA, has been transferred within the Rural Press Ltd group to the editorship of the *Transcontinental*, Port Augusta (*Murray Valley Standard*, 8 April 2003). He replaced Michelle Heritage, the editor for 10 years. At Murray Bridge, Jane Kemp replaced Rich.

**Mudgee:** Edward K. DeLong has been appointed editor of the *Mudgee Guardian and Gulgong Advertiser*. DeLong has had more than 40 years experience in journalism, graphic design and corporate management. He joined United Press International where he supervised coverage of the space program, military activities, energy and the environment before being named a corporate vice president. He left UPI to found a marketing and graphic design company that he managed until moving to Mudgee with his Australian-born wife in 2001.

### **23.41 FARM WEEKLY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF RETIRES**

Graham Greenwood retired on 13 June after serving as editor-in-chief of *Farm Weekly*, Western Australia, for almost 14 years. His retirement ends a 16-year association with parent

company Rural Press Ltd and more than 40 years in the newspaper industry. He worked for the *Border Watch*, Mount Gambier, South Australia, for 24 years, including six as editor. He joined Rural Press in 1987 and was assistant editor at *Stock Journal*, SA, before being transferred to WA in 1989 to help rejuvenate the *Western Farmer and Grazier*. In 1992 he played a key role in the merger of that title and *Elders Weekly*, with the result being the *Farm Weekly*. During his period in WA, Greenwood trained cadet journalists from throughout Australia and New Zealand. Greenwood has returned to Mount Gambier with wife Bozenna to rejoin his extended family on son and grandchildren. The new *Farm Weekly* editor is Rick Lee, formerly the senior reporter (*Farm Weekly*, 12 June 2003; and *Rural Press News*, June 2003, p.4).

### **23. 42 APN BUYS COMPETING PAPER IN MARYBOROUGH, QLD**

APN News & Media Ltd has bought the Maryborough, Qld, newspaper that was competing against its *Fraser Coast Chronicle* (formerly the *Maryborough Chronicle*). Here's how the former owner of the *Heritage Herald*, Frank Burkett, explained the sale to his readers (*Heritage Herald*, 28 May 2003): When this week's *Herald* lands at the gate of city homes, many people will be expecting a new format following Pat's and my decision to sell to APN last week. These same people may be surprised to discover that the paper's layout, its editorial policy, its pricing and service will be no different from last month or last year. In fact, the only difference to anything will be the weight taken off the shoulders of Pat and myself. The reason the *Herald* will remain unchanged is that we have given two undertakings: the first to APN that we will stay with the paper to run it as it always was; the second to our staff and readers that business is as usual.

Over the years I have likened the *Herald* to a small cargo ship plying its trade along a coastal route. My job as owner and skipper has always been on the bridge ensuring that the ship finds its way ... through the reefs that separate the ports. Sometimes the cargo holds were full and the sun shone, and I knew that we would be paying our printing bills, our staff and our hundred other creditors. At other times, during the quietest watch of a stormy night, I sat alone at the wheel trying to avoid the reefs ... aware that the cargo holds were half empty. Down below my loyal crew slept comfortably ... but sometimes [they were] called from their beds to help staunch a hole... In the morning as we docked we were greeted with the same calm townspeople who considered it unthinkable the ship might never have got through.

Shipping parallels aside, one of the greatest problems facing the *Herald* was that it could no longer grow with the city. Pat and I, as majority shareholders in a small company, simply did not have the resources to keep up with the changes that were always threatening to overtake us. New technology is a hungry animal that can devour small publishers. Even back in the early nineties when expenses were lower, I went seriously into debt on three occasions, and it was only through quiet prayer, the help of friends and a sympathetic bank manager that I was able to continue publishing. Even my staff were unaware that everything I owned, save an ageing kelpie, was listed in the bank's vault as security against the latest overdraft which in those days attracted an interest rate exceeding 20 per cent.

In more recent times the spikes and troughs have levelled out, but it was becoming more difficult to produce the newspaper that readers had come to expect. Printing costs, computer hardware and software, wages, government taxes and the rising superannuation bill were just some of the expenses that were overloading the ship. In spite of this cost issue, unreasonable price increases for customers were never the answer, and never will be. Small businesses that rely on advertising as an investment cannot afford a market that is unstable, too high or impossibly low. They need to be able to plan a budget for the next three-five years, and they expect advertising to increase at a rate similar to the cost rises around them. Fortunately, the pricing structure for the *Herald* is fixed in concrete. That is the undertaking I

have always given the *Herald's* advertisers, and it lies at the heart of the contract which Pat and I signed with APN.

So when people ask will there be any change to the *Herald* now we have sold the masthead, I say "yes, there is – within myself". At night during the loneliest watch I too can go down below and sleep, knowing there is somebody else who can take the helm. It's a great feeling for me, but it should be even better for Maryborough readers who can rest assured their *Herald* will always arrive without fuss on a Wednesday morning.

### **23.43 THE HERALD AND THE CENTRAL COAST**

To satisfy Audit Bureau of Circulation rules, the *Newcastle Herald* and the *Central Coast Herald* now both appear as *The Herald*, with some Newcastle or Central Coast identification. Fairfax launched the *Central Coast Herald* for Gosford-Wyong, NSW, at the end of last September and News Ltd immediately converted its free bi-weekly *Express Advocate* into a free daily and halved the price on the Central Coast of the *Daily Telegraph*, to which it added a designated Central Coast section. News Ltd says it is winning the war and that the *Daily Telegraph* is selling 2,000 more copies a day on the Central Coast now than before the *Herald* started. The Media liftout of 19 June published, very selectively, only a small part of *Herald* publisher Alan Oakley's response to the article (see Sally Jackson, "Hardly coasting, Herald opts for name change", *Australian Media* liftout, 12 June 2003, p.3; and ANHG 20.2).

### **23.44 DUBBO REGIONAL PRINT FACILITY**

Rural Press Ltd's Dubbo print facility employs 32 people (full-time, part-time or casual) and prints 46 mastheads, including the Dubbo, Orange and Bathurst dailies, seven tri-weeklies, five bi-weeklies, 26 weeklies and five monthlies. Average weekly output of newspapers printed is 540,000, using 40 tonnes of newsprint. Biggest single print run is the *Western Magazine*, with 56,000 copies. It now has two 4 High towers and a tri colour press, which has two folders – an SSC and an SC. The press line can be split so as to print two different publications simultaneously, depending on colour requirements. The colour capacity allows for 20 pages of colour in a 24-page publication. Computer-to-plate technology is now on site (*Rural Press News*, June 2003, p.4).

### **23.45 WARRNAMBOOL (1): CIRCULATION**

South-west Victoria's daily newspaper, the *Standard* at Warrnambool continues to show good circulation growth with the sale of an average of 12,949 papers a day for the quarter ending 31 March. This was an increase of 235 a day from the previous year (*Standard*, Warrnambool 3 May 2003 ).

### **23.46 WARRNAMBOOL (2): FIRST SUNDAY SPECIAL**

The first Sunday issue of the *Standard* was published in Warrnambool on 29 June. Editor Rick Bayne said the one-off publication was timed to coincide with the launch of the nine-day international Fun4Kids festival and to give readers a new style of local newspaper. Bayne said the publication featured daily news but also a selection of lifestyle-oriented material from the district. Saturday sports results were included in the paper. Features in the paper included a look at Warrnambool's nightlife, what brings people to Warrnambool and comparisons between costs of living in Warrnambool and Melbourne. The Sunday issue was made available at local newsagencies, supermarkets, stores, and at the *Standard's* Fun4Kids site.

### **23.47 WARRNAMBOOL (3): CORANGAMITE EXTRA**

The *Standard*, owned by Fairfax, launched on Tuesday, 1 July, a section to focus on news in the Corangamite region. "Corangamite Extra" highlights news in the Camperdown, Terang, Cobden, Timboon and Lismore regions. Editor Rick Bayne said the liftout focuses on community news and happenings in the district. Mary Alexander, who is based at Camperdown, was appointed editor of "Corangamite Extra". The liftout is included only in copies of the *Standard* delivered to the Corangamite region. It competes most directly with the bi-weekly *Camperdown Chronicle*, but also with other newspapers published by the independent Western District Newspapers Pty Ltd group.

### **23.48 WARRNAMBOOL (4): AT THE WINNING POST**

A newspaper, instead of a journalist, won the Warrnambool Racing Club's Don Burnett Award for excellence in journalism this year. The *Standard* received the award for its overall coverage of this year's Warrnambool May Racing Carnival. Former *Herald Sun* racing writer Brian Meldrum, who judged the award, praised the *Standard's* in-depth coverage.

This story was found at: <http://the.standard.net.au/articles/2003/07/01/1056825382530.html>

## **NEWSPAPER HISTORY**

### **23.49 MANLY DAILY REVAMPS AND RECORDS ITS ORIGINS**

The *Manly Daily*, a free newspaper issued Tuesday to Saturday on the northern beaches of Sydney, has changed its masthead and format and has published a 32-page liftout ("About You. For You", 6 May 2003), with a series of historical articles on the paper, to mark the occasion. Editor Richard Bryce explained why changes have been made in the paper's format. Simon Mellick, a 27-year veteran of metropolitan and regional journalism, designed the new look. Last year he designed the *Dominion Post* in Wellington, New Zealand. We are told that "saving Mona Vale Hospital, establishing Bear Cottage in Manly and the creation of Pittwater Council are just three achievements peninsula mayors say would not have been possible without the support of the *Manly Daily*". The major article for newspaper historians is John Morcombe's "Press keeps rolling", pp.10-15. A Manly printer, Edward Lincoln, launched the *Manly Daily* on 28 July 1906 with a two-page issue. It is now a giant of suburban publishing and claims a readership of 160,000. In 1899 Lincoln had founded a short-lived newspaper in Wollongong. At Manly he became convinced that a free daily newspaper supported entirely by advertising was economically feasible. Only once in its history has the *Manly Daily* failed to appear: on 24 February 1966, when excessive humidity in the switchboard caused a breakdown in the electrical system. A double edition was published the following day. The newspaper was last printed at Manly on 4 August 1989 (the edition of 5 August). The paper has since been printed at the Parramatta plant of its parent company, Cumberland Newspapers, a News Ltd subsidiary. (See also *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2003, pp.28-29.)

### **23.50 COLLECTING THE PORT PHILLIP GOVERNMENT GAZETTE**

ANHG subscriber Karl Korju, of Melbourne, recently obtained "very cheaply" a six-month run of the *Port Phillip Government Gazette*, from the beginning of January 1851 to 9 July of that year. The next issue (16 July) appeared as the *Victorian Government Gazette*, with a revamped coat of arms. [The colony of Victoria was separated from New South Wales on 1 July 1851.] Karl comments: "Not exactly a newspaper but a nice example of reasonably early Melbourne printing", by Edward Wilson and James Stewart Johnston, at the *Argus* office, Collins Street.

### 23.51 SYMPOSIUM REVIEWED

*Phanfare*, No. 198, p.4, carries a one-page review of the Australian Newspaper Press Bicentenary Symposium, which the Australian Newspaper History group staged at the State Library of NSW on 1 March 2003. Dr Grace Karskens, one of the speakers at the symposium, wrote the review.

### 23.52 THE PUDDING'S PROOF

It is reported (in *Reader's Digest Book of World Travel*, Melbourne: Wilke & Co, n.d., p.165) that the following grace is said in the palatial offices of the *New York Times*:

O Lord, the Giver of All Good,  
In whose just Hands are all our Times,  
We thank Thee for our daily Food  
Gathered (as News) from many Climes.  
Bless All of Us around this Board  
And all beneath this ample Roof;  
What we find fit to print, O Lord,  
Is, after all the Pudding's Proof.  
May Those we welcome come again  
May Those who stay be glad. Amen.

### 23.53 JAMES NEAGLE AND THE *ENGLISHMAN*

**Gordon Reid**, of 9 Patridge Street, Gowrie, ACT, 2904, writes: "I am chasing details of James Neagle, who worked on the *Englishman* in Australia in the 1850s and ended up as a tutor at Hornet Bank station on the Dawson River, where he was killed, along with most of the Fraser family, in October 1857. I want to know what he was doing between working in Sydney and working for the Frasers."

### 23.54 *CARCOAR CHRONICLE*, 1863

After 26 years, the State Library of New South Wales has removed from its catalogue mention of a "22 July 1863" issue of the *Carcoar Chronicle and Blayney Gazette*. The issue, carrying Vol. 9, No. 5, was, in fact, a tourism promotional gimmick sold at places such as Hill End, near Bathurst. The *Carcoar Chronicle*, from which the *Lyndhurst Shire Chronicle* descended, began publication in 1871. The earliest *bona fide* extant issue is Vol. 3, No. 191 (7 August 1875), part of a collection of NSW newspapers issued in early August 1875 and gathered for the Melbourne and Philadelphia Exhibitions.

### 23.55 HILL END NEWSPAPER NOW ON FILM

**Janette Pelosi**, of State Records, NSW, writes: The issue of the *Hill End and Tambaroora Times and Miners' Advocate* dated 14 September 1872 and held by State Records NSW has now been microfilmed by the State Library of New South Wales. (It was mentioned in *ANHG Newsletter* 22.45.) It has been added to State Reference Library Reel RAV/FM4/277 and reference copies of this reel are now available in State Records NSW reading rooms in Sydney and at Kingswood as SR Reel 3736.

From the beginning of June, State Records NSW has introduced a new telephone system and a new series of telephone and fax numbers at both of its locations. The main telephone number (02) 9673 1788 and fax number (02) 9833 4518 at the Western Sydney Records Centre have not changed and these are the main contact points for both locations. Any correspondence should be addressed to PO Box 516 Kingswood NSW 2747.

## 23.56 NATIONAL LIBRARY UPDATE

From Canberra **Prue Neidorf** has forwarded some snippets from the National Library of Australia's *Petherick Newsletter*:

### **Newspapers/Microform**

The Newspaper/Microform Reading Room has recently received backsets of some Australian country town newspapers. These are on microfilm.

The following is not an exhaustive list but it includes some of the longer runs:

*Bega Budget*, 1905-1920 (NSW)

*Dubbo Dispatch*, 1889-1971 (NSW)

*Junee Southern Cross*, 1942-1943, 1948-1968 (NSW)

*Narromine News and Trangie Advocate*, 1898-1968 (NSW)

*National Advocate*, 1918-1958 (Bathurst, NSW)

*Tumbarumba Times*, 1907-1968 (NSW)

*Border Chronicle*, 1908-1950 (Bordertown, SA)

*Burra Record*, 1878-1977 (SA)

*Laura Standard*, 1889-1948 (SA)

*Naracoorte Herald*, 1875-1970 (SA)

*West Coast Sentinel*, 1912-1950 (Streaky Bay, SA)

The complete list of new resources can be found in the Genealogy Area in the Newspaper/Microform Reading Room and on the Newspaper/Microform web page, New Acquisitions in the Newspaper Microform Reading Room,

<http://www.nla.gov.au/collect/genealogy/mfmnew/index.html>

### **Best of History Web Sites**

Best of History Web Sites contains links to over 800 history-related web sites that have been reviewed for quality, accuracy, and usefulness. Sites with engaging educational content and stimulating and useful multimedia technologies are most likely to be included in these pages. However, useful general resources and research-oriented sites have been included as well.

It is available at <http://www.nla.gov.au/pathways/jnls/newsite/view/1194.html>

### **ParInfo web : Australian Parliamentary Information**

ParInfo, which is the Parliamentary Document Repository, contains more than one million documents relating to the work of the Australian Parliament. It includes Bills, Hansard, votes and proceedings, committee transcripts, biographies from the Parliamentary handbook, newspaper clippings, media index and records from the Constitutional Convention and Federal Conventions.

It is available at <http://www.nla.gov.au/pathways/jnls/newsite/view/1185.html>

## 23.57 KIWIS START CONVERSATION

With the passage in New Zealand in April of the National Library Act, the Kiwis have displaced the Scandinavians in the vanguard of digital archiving, with laws that allow not only the harvesting of PC memory banks but also the storage of this information in databanks accessible to the public. This has been done by extending the legal deposit laws to digital material – something Australia has yet to do (see Jim Buckell, “Kiwis start conversation”, *Australian*, 4 June 2003, p.40).

## 23.58 WORLD'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER

A member of the American-based jhistory net recently asked which was the oldest newspaper in the world. Dr Huub Wijfjes ([wijfjes@let.rug.nl](mailto:wijfjes@let.rug.nl)), of the Department of History and



Journalism, Groningen University, The Netherlands, replied: “The question where the world’s oldest newspaper was published that still exists today is easy to answer. In 1658 Abraham Casteleyn published the *Haerlemsche Courant* in Haarlem, a provincial town in Holland about 20 miles from Amsterdam. Since 1665 this paper was called: *Opregte Haerlemsche Courant* (“Opregt” means “sincere” or “trustworthy”). Today it is still published although the title now is: *Haarlems Dagblad, Opregte Haerlemsche Courant*. So in the city archive in Haarlem one can see 338 volumes of the *Opregte Haerlemsche Courant*.

Several other Dutch newspapers dating from the first half of the eighteenth century are still published today. Amsterdam also was the place where the world’s first daily newspaper was published, in 1618, by Caspar van Hilten: *Courante uyt Italien, Duytsland*, etc. The oldest remaining copy (dated 14 July 1618) is held in the Royal Library of Stockholm, Sweden. This title vanished in the latter half of the seventeenth century.

### **23.59 EARLY DAILIES IN MELBOURNE**

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: The *Argus* was not delighted when the *Port Phillip Herald* became a daily (and became the *Melbourne Morning Herald*) on 1 January 1849. It commented the next day thus: “The commencement of 1849 seems likely to prove an era of some moment, in the annals of the Port Phillip Press. On the one hand we are summoned to attend the funeral of a noxious little publication, with which we have been bored for a few months of a Thursday evening, and are daily expecting a summons for a similar purpose, from a contemporary even more troublesome, from being just as stupid and a little more frequent.

“On the other hand we have the still more melancholy duty of waiting upon the birth of a new daily, and it is with but a blank heart, we look forward to the trebled evils attendant upon a trebled issue of so mischievous a publication as the *Port Phillip Herald*. We are entire disbelievers in the daily publication of such a paper, till yesterday when the first dose reached us, and most sincerely do we condole with the public, upon the deluge of papers with which this province is to be inundated, till that happy day when a *Daily Argus* will rush in to the rescue, and effectually settle the quarrel as to which of the present Dailies goes to the wall, by quietly finding them a wall a piece. Thank Heaven that day is not far distant.”

The *Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser* became the first Melbourne daily on 15 May 1845 and absorbed the *Standard and Port Phillip Gazetteer* on 1 October 1845 when it changed its sub-title slightly to *Morning Advertiser*. It changed its name more significantly to the *Melbourne Daily News and Port Phillip Patriot* on 9 October 1848. The *Argus* became a daily on 18 June 1849. And, of course, the *Melbourne Daily News* was the daily that went to the wall. It was incorporated in the *Argus* from 1 January 1852.

### **23.60 DIGITISED ARCHIVE OF 62 YEARS OF *BROOKLYN EAGLE***

The Brooklyn Public Library (USA) has set up a digitised archive of the first 62 years of the *Brooklyn Eagle*, a leading newspaper of the borough of Brooklyn in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The site is at <http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org>.

Belinda Weaver wrote an item with lots of advice on how to use this excellent site. Much of this item had to be omitted at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour from the newsletter. If you want a copy emailed to you, just ask the editor.

### **23.61 THE RATIONALE FOR OBITUARY WRITING**

“[The obituary] gives us the opportunity to breathe in the morés of time past – the spirit of the age sits ready for release as a microfilm unwinds.” – Nigel Starck, of the University of South Australia (source: see 23.63.13).

## RECENTLY PUBLISHED

### 23.62 BOOKS

23.62.1 PARTY GAMES: AUSTRALIAN POLITICIANS AND THE MEDIA FROM WAR TO DISMISSAL by Bridget Griffen-Foley, published by Text Publishing, 292pp, \$32. The influence of media proprietors on Australian politics from World II to the dismissal of Gough Whitlam is examined in Griffen-Foley's latest contribution to media history. Her earlier works focused in great depth on the Packer empire, the subject of her PhD thesis. [Mike Steketee reviewed the latest book, *Australian*, Media liftout, 3 July 2003, p.8]

23.62.2 THE USEFULNESS OF JOHN WEST: DISSENT AND DIFFERENCE IN THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES by Patricia Fitzgerald Ratcliff, published by The Albernian Press, Launceston, 2003. 592pp. A biography of John West, editorial writer of the *Launceston Examiner* from its foundation in 1842 until he became the first designated editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1854. He served in that position for nineteen years.

23.62.3 AUSTRALIAN ALMANACS 1806-1930: A BIBLIOGRAPHY, by Ian Morrison, Maureen Perkins and Tracey Caulfield, published by Quiddlers Press, PO Box 3034, Auburn VIC 3123, info@quiddlers.com.au, www.quiddlers.com.au, 166 pages, \$108.90 hardback, or \$60.50 paperback, plus postage. Almanacs were once found in almost every home and business and are an important feature of Australia's social and publishing history. The authors have documented the history and characteristics of all almanacs that could be found by a search through major libraries throughout Australia. The publisher of Australia's first newspaper and first book, George Howe, was also the publisher of Australia's first almanac, the *New South Wales Pocket Almanac and Colonial Remembrancer* in 1806. Subsequently, many almanacs were published by newspapers or by publishers associated with newspapers.

23.62.4 NEWS NEWS NEWS. Subtitled Momentous Events and Daily Life as Reported in the Australian Press. Introduction and Text by James Young, published by Cameron House, an imprint of Bookwise International, 174 Cormack Road, Wingfield SA 5013, 2002. ISBN 1-875999-56-6. 224 pages in large paperback format. Approx. \$19.95.

23.62.5 INDEX TO SERIALS IN AUSTRALIAN PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS: NINETEENTH CENTURY by Toni Johnson-Woods. Canberra : Mulini Press, 2001. 153 pp. ill; 25 cm. ISBN 0-949910-68-6 (Bibliographica historica Australiae; no. 10). Price \$29 incl. postage, from The Mulini Press, PO Box 82, Jamison Centre ACT 2614. Lists all the longer serials in publications of Australian colonies. General description of important newspapers and periodicals that published the serials. Much of the fiction available to readers in the colonies was accessible only in newspapers and magazines. Many of these publications were published in the colonies and they regularly contained a considerable amount of fiction. As well as short stories it was usual for them to contain a serial that continued for some weeks. Nearly 1,000 of these serials (174 were Australian) are listed in this Index. A valuable index because it unlocks many Australian nineteenth century novels and reveals that a considerable quantity of long fiction was written and published in the colonies.

23.62.6 LOOKING BACK IN TIME - EXTRACTS FROM OLD NEWSPAPERS compiled by Rod and Wendy Gow. A compilation of family history orientated newspaper articles extracted from various newspapers from 1800s and early 1900s. Check the Gow home page: <http://www3.ceinternet.com.au/~rgow>

23.62.7 THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THADEUS O'KANE by Rod Kirkpatrick, Townsville, Queensland: North Queensland Newspaper Co., 2003. ISBN 0-9595907-6-5. 63pp in large paperback format, including bibliography and index. A biography of the straight-talking

editor of the *Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, 1873-1889. [Copies available for \$12.50 each, including postage and packing, from author at 13 Sumac St, Middle Park, Qld, 4074.]

23.62.8 SUCCESS THROUGH WORTHY SERVICE: ANDERSONS CITY PRINTING WORKS 1903-2003 by Lorna McDonald, Rockhampton Queensland: City Printing Works, 2003. ISBN 0-9750507-0-2. A history of the Rockhampton printing works that has been in the Anderson family since its establishment in 1903. Includes a history of the Labor-oriented *Critic*, the political and sporting newspaper the family published from 1903-1931, and an excellent chapter on the changing printing technology of 100 years.

23.62.9 THE FUNCTION OF NEWSPAPERS IN SOCIETY: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, edited by Shannon E. Martin and David A. Copeland, Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2003. 179pp, ISBN 0-275-97398-0. This book, covering the function of newspapers in all societies across all times, includes a chapter by Rod Kirkpatrick, "Pacific Rim Cultures and Newspapers" that deals with Australia and the Pacific.

### 23.63 ARTICLES

23.63.1 FOSSICKING FOR GOLD: THOMAS McHUGH AND THE AVOCA FREE PRESS by Sue Hughes, *Margin: Life and Letters*, No. 59 (April 2003), pp.30-36. It tells the story of Thomas McHugh, proprietor of the Avoca Free Press from 1873-1904 and his dispute with John Ferrara Pinto Paten (1833-1898) proprietor of the *Avoca Mail*.

23.63.2 SHADOW ON THE SUN by Richard Guilliat, *Good Weekend*, 3 May 2003, pp.20-27. Being James Packer was never going to be easy, but since the collapse of One.Tel, it's become a whole lot harder. With his father back in power and his own giddy rise to power a distant memory, a question mark lies over the future of the heir to the Packer dynasty.

23.63.3 PRESERVING THE LETTERPRESS DEVICES OF A BYGONE ERA by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, May 2003, pp.33-35. A short history of the *Pinnaroo Border Times* and the development of a letterpress printing museum in the Mallee town.

23.63.4 WE'RE DIFFERENT IN AUSTRALIA by Jack Waterford, *Canberra Times*, "Addendum" column, 10 May 2003. The editor-in-chief outlines how Australian editors view editorials and observes: "We want our newspaper to be leading the debates about the future of the community, not a part of the problem, or a place where you can get published only if you say hopeful or positive things."

23.63.5 A THREAT TO STREET CRED by Jack Waterford, *Canberra Times*, 17 May 2003. The editor-in-chief discusses the Jayson Blair issue at the *New York Times* and the trustworthiness or otherwise of journalists. (See also: *Australian*, Media liftout, 15 May 2003, p.10; Caroline Overington, "Reporter who put the *Times* on the spot", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24-25 May 2003, p.27; and Nicholas Wapshott, "NY Times editors quit over plagiarist", and James Bone, "Lurching to left, Old Grey Lady left in lurch", *Weekend Australian*, 7-8 June 2003, p.12.)

23.63.6 EQUAL WORK, BUT WOMEN JOURNALISTS GET LESS PAY THAN THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS by Sally Jackson, *Australian*, Media liftout, 22 May 2003, p.3. A survey of salary levels for female journalists employed on capital-city dailies.

23.63.7 WHO'S COUNTED by Mark Day, *Australian*, Media liftout, 29 May 2003, pp.4-5. Industry figures claim Roy Morgan readership figures are wrong – because they ignore the complexities of today's publishing.

23.63.8 MASTER OF THE RIPPING YARN by Peter Craven, *Australian*, 23 May 2003, p.13. Disparaged by some as just a populist story-spinner, Charles Dickens was a far, far greater writer.

23.63.9 NEWSPAPER AND THE PUSH FOR A NEW STATE IN NEW SOUTH WALES by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2003, pp.24-26. How Earle Page and Victor Charles Thompson, newspaper proprietor and editor respectively, played a major part in the fight for a northern new state in NSW.

23.63.10 NOVELS BY INSTALMENTS by Dirk H.R. Spennemann, *Margin: Life and Letters*, No. 59 (April 2003), pp.37-38. This is a review of Toni Johnson-Woods, Index to Serials in Australian Periodicals and Newspapers (see 23.62.5).

23.63.11 THE CROSS MEDIA CRASH by Luke McIlveen, *Australian*, Media liftout, 26 June 2003, pp.4-5. The media ownership Bill that was rejected in the Senate was always unlikely to survive the independents.

23.63.12 THE RISE AND RISE OF NEWSPAPER SALES, *Rural Press News*, June 2003, pp.9-10. Paid circulation growth in Rural Press's Australian regional and agricultural newspapers has been the source of joy and confidence, and the result of hard work and sound management. The habits of "highly successful editors" are examined.

23.63.13 DIARY OF AN OBITUARIST by Philip Jones, *Weekend Australian*, 5-6 July 2003, Review 4 and 5. The author – who has published 115 obituaries in the *Australian* and 100 more for other newspapers – reports on a conference of the International Association of Obituarists in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

23.63.14 PRYING PRESS BANNED by Mark Day, *Australian*, Media liftout, 10 July 2003, pp.4-5. A civil court judgment in a harassment case on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland has created a new privacy law that may curb the media.

23.63.15 READER RAGE by Sally Jackson, *Australian*, Media liftout, 10 July 2003, pp.6-7. The Press Council under the microscope.

23.63.16 THE WOMAN WHO RAN WITH THE WOLVES by Ita Buttrose, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 22, [July] 2003, pp.30-31. An edited version of Ita's address to the 6<sup>th</sup> annual freelance journalism convention in Sydney.

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