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24.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS

Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 30 November 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/>,

By the end of October, the ANHG expects to be able to offer for sale copies of the proceedings of the Australian Newspaper Press Bicentenary Symposium, held on 1 March 2003. The 104-page book, *The Australian Press – A Bicentennial Retrospect*, will be available for \$12, including post and packing. Orders, with cheques made payable to R. Kirkpatrick (ANHG), should then be directed to the postal address at the head of this newsletter.

24.2 WANTED: THE HEAD OF FRED HILMER ON A PLATE

'Hilmer's time is up,' concluded Mark Westfield in his "Insider" column in the *Australian*, 23 July 2003, pp.19-20. In an article where he compares the profit performance of News Ltd, Rural Press Ltd, APN News & Media Ltd and West Australian Newspapers Ltd, Westfield argues that the chief executive of John Fairfax Holdings, Fred Hilmer, is simply not delivering the goods for "long-suffering Fairfax shareholders". See also, Mark Day, "Hilmer still at helm – for now", *Australian*, Media liftout, 17 July 2003, p.6.

Westfield was putting the knife into Fairfax again a week later, discussing various problems at the *Age*, Melbourne, but declaring that "the darkest cloud hangs over the plush Fairfax Sydney boardroom and in particular above the head of chief executive Fred Hilmer" ('Monster opportunity for a floundering Fairfax', *Australian*, 1 August 2003, pp.17-18).

And, guess what? Another week later and another Westfield knife, this time about James Packer beating Hilmer to the punch in acquiring a major interest in the online jobs site, *Seek.com.au*: "Seek and ye shall lose, Fred", *Australian*, 8 August 2003, pp.17-18. For a less opinionated piece [dealing with online jobs, car and real estate advertising], see Michael Sainsbury's "Better read than dead", *Weekend Australian*, 9-10 August 2003, pp.29 and 32. See also Geoff Elliott, "Losing Seek: Packer lashes Hilmer for 'blunder'", *Australian*, 20 August 2003, p.21.

On 5 August, John Fairfax Holdings announced an upgrade of its profit forecasts when chief executive Hilmer said he expected 2002-03 earnings per share to be up more than 25 per cent on last year thanks to stronger revenues and cost controls (*Australian*, 6 August 2003, p.29).

On 9 September, John Fairfax Holdings unveiled a well-telegraphed 39 per cent lift in annual profit, to \$125.5 million (*Australian* and *Courier-Mail*, 10 September 2003, p.31, both).

In 2002-03 Fred Hilmer earned a bonus of \$960,000 – nearly 10 times more than the previous year. His total remuneration was \$2.09 million (*Australian*, 30 September 2003, p.21).

24.3 THE ‘FALL OF FAIRFAX’

The *Bulletin*'s cover story for its 26 August issue dealt with the so-called “fall of Fairfax”. In “a special media issue”, a former *Sydney Morning Herald* editor, John Lyons, the *Sunday Bulletin* reporter who compiled the recent segment on John Howard's 64th birthday and some-time *Bulletin* reporter, wrote the piece (pp.20-28). It was introduced thus: “Fairfax CEO Fred Hilmer is under siege. Rupert Murdoch is stalking him, the famous ‘rivers of gold’ are drying up and his critics are growing more vocal. Hold the front page. Here is the inside story of a once-proud newspaper empire.” Max Walsh wrote about Rupert Murdoch's determination that his Australian interests would always remain a family affair (pp.29-30). Joshua Gliddon reported that, the dotcom meltdown notwithstanding, the Worldwide Web was bigger than ever (pp.31-33). And Tim Blair wrote about blogging (p.34). On 2 September the *Bulletin* carried two letters – one from former Fairfax editor, Gregory Hywood – responding to the Fairfax piece.

24.4 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

12 June 2003	Death: William Russell, aged 70 at Tuggerah, NSW; news photographer, scriptwriter and film-maker; worked mainly for News Ltd papers, including the <i>Daily Mirror</i> and <i>Sunday Australian</i> ; brother of newspaper cartoonists and illustrators, Dan and Jim Russell (<i>Australian</i> , 24 July 2003, p.15).
21 August 2003	Death: Cecil James McKenzie, aged 78 in Sydney; journalist on <i>Bankstown Observer</i> , <i>Armidale Express</i> , and <i>Sydney Daily Mirror</i> ; wrote paperbacks, including war stories under name of Michael Owen and crime books as Mike Boone; wrote Peter Carter Brown detective novels at a phenomenal rate; returned to newspapers, writing features; became editorial writer and chief of staff on <i>Sunday Telegraph</i> and ran history page on <i>Telegraph Mirror</i> , now the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 3 September 2003; <i>Australian</i> , 24 September 2003, p.12).
26 August 2003	Death: Cecil Wallace, aged 83 in Melbourne; began career as copy boy on <i>Telegraph</i> , Brisbane, at 15; worked for <i>Courier-Mail</i> after serving four years in AIF in WW2; joined <i>Argus</i> , Melbourne, and was night editor when it closed in 1957; joined <i>Herald</i> and became sports editor, features editor, news editor then editor; as executive editor of <i>Herald & Weekly Times</i> when he retired in 1984 (<i>Herald Sun</i> , 27 August 2003).
27 August 2003	Death: Peter Walters, aged 68 at Beenleigh, Qld; former editor and manager of <i>Northern Daily Leader</i> , Tamworth, NSW, in 1970s when a Murdoch newspaper (<i>Northern Daily Leader</i> , 13 September 2003, p.15).
17 September 2003	Death: Brian Doyle, aged 88 in Brisbane; editor, <i>Catholic Leader</i> , Brisbane, 1959-61 and managing editor, 1961-81; resigned amidst controversy about clerical interference in freedom to publish; became first layman president of Catholic Press Association, 1966 (<i>Courier-Mail</i> , 26 September 2003, p.20).

24.5 CAREERONE ONLINE JOB NETWORK LAUNCHED

News Limited launched on 2 August 2003 what it calls “Australia's first national jobs media network to provide more ways for job hunters and employers to find one another”. The CareerOne network includes the employment sections of more than 100 News Ltd newspapers in city, suburban and regional areas across the nation, as well as the jobs website, www.careerone.com.au. All the employment sections are now branded CareerOne to reflect the newspaper-website partnership (see *Weekend Australian*, 26-27 July 2003, p.2; *Courier-Mail*, 26 July 2003, p.11; and daily stories in News Ltd daily newspapers in the week from 26 July to 1 August). It is a massive assault on the dominance of employment advertising in Fairfax's *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age* (see “Rivers of gold drying up?”, *PANPA Bulletin*,

September/October 2003, p.23). The *Weekend Australian* reported (6-7 September 2003, p.4) that the CareerOne internet audience had increased by 33 per cent in the month since its launch

24.6 NEW EDITOR FOR SUNDAY AGE

Alan Oakley, editor-in-chief of the *Herald*, Newcastle, for the past three years, and of the *Herald*, Central Coast, for almost a year, has been appointed editor of the Fairfax Melbourne broadsheet, the *Sunday Age*. Oakley edited the tabloid *Herald Sun*, Melbourne, from 1991-95. The *Newcastle Herald* has been a tabloid since 27 July 1998 (*Australian*, 1 August 2003, p.4; *Newcastle Herald*, 27 July 1998). See also 24.57.8.

24.7 THE BIG ISSUE

The *Big Issue* turned seven at the end of July. The magazine, sold by homeless people, has increased sales by 30 per cent, says the *Australian*, Media Liftout, 31 July 2003, p.3, without specifying over what period. It has introduced new vendor support and selling programs in Adelaide and Perth and has plans to launch soon in Canberra and Hobart. The editor, Rachael Antony, was sacked in the final week of September (*Australian*, Media liftout, 2 October 2003m, p.12).

24.8 NORTHERN NEWS LAUNCHED

Fairfax Community Newspapers launched the *Northern News* at the beginning of July to serve the fast-growing suburbs north-west of Baulkham Hills, Sydney. Mark Dennis was the editor (*PANPA Bulletin*, July/August 2003, p.17).

24.9 RYAN STOKES STEPS UP

Ryan Stokes, the 27-year-old son of Seven Network Ltd's executive chairman Kerry Stokes, has been appointed executive director of the network's magazine business, Pacific Publications. He reports to network CEO David Leckie (*Courier-Mail*, 30 July 2003, p.29).

24.10 ADVERTISER TO MOVE TO NEW BUILDING

Adelaide's *Advertiser* and *Sunday Mail* are on the move after 44 years on the corner of King William and Waymouth Streets. Advertiser Newspapers Limited will build a \$35 million building a few doors from the existing site. The company's investment will form part of a multimillion-dollar redevelopment of the city block bounded by King William, Waymouth, Franklin and Bentham streets. Work on the new building is expected to begin after Christmas and will be ready for occupation in 2005.

24.11 INDUSTRY REVIEWS

Things were looking up for the newspaper industry in the Pacific region. Falling prices for newsprint and improved advertising revenues were among bright spots identified by Graham Gorrel, president of the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers' Association (PANPA), in his annual review on 4 August. He told PANPA'S annual conference in Brisbane that a drop in the price of newsprint to its lowest level in six years and the growth in newsprint consumption from just under 830,000 tonnes to 900,000 tonnes a year were among the positive signs. Readership in New Zealand was at a 10-year high with an AC Nielsen survey showing that on a typical day 1.7 million people – half of the country's population – read a daily newspaper. Research was also showing women had a stronger relationship with newspapers today than their mothers and grandmothers had had, Mr Gorrel said (*Daily Telegraph*, 4 August 2003).

Newspapers are performing well in an extremely buoyant media market in New Zealand and survey results indicate that newspapers remain a powerful medium for achieving high-level reach and frequency. Fairfax New Zealand chief executive officer, Brian Evans, said the just-released Nielsen Media survey readership figures for July 2002 to June 2003 show that Fairfax New Zealand's papers are retaining their market position, with steady overall performance. Nationally, both the *Sunday Star-Times* and *Sunday News* have held penetration levels. The longer-term trends in Sunday newspaper readership are also positive. From June 2001 to June 2003, the *Sunday Star-Times* readership has lifted from 571,000 to 617,000 (an 8pc rise). The *Sunday News* has also gained over that period, moving from 449,000 to 496,000 (up by 10.5pc). Source: <http://www.scoop.co.nz/mason/stories/BU0308/S00133.htm>

24.12 WEST AUSTRALIAN EDITOR APPOINTED

The *West Australian's* business editor Paul Armstrong has been appointed its new editor. Armstrong, who joined the paper in February this year as business editor, took up his new role on 10 September. West Australian Newspapers Holdings Ltd (WAN) managing director Ian Law said: "Paul Armstrong is an experienced newspaper executive who for the last four years has been in England working on a range of newspapers including the highly regarded broadsheet, *The Times*, and the mid-market tabloid the *Evening Standard*." Armstrong, a journalist for 15 years, replaces Brian Rogers who resigned from the paper in June after three years in the job (see *Australian*, Media liftout, 14 August 2003, p.3, and 18 September 2003, p.2, "The Diary").

WAN reported a 25 per cent increase in net profit for 2002/03 on the back of growth in advertising and circulation revenue at its flagship masthead. The group reported a \$64.01 million net profit for the 2002/03 year, up from \$51.2 million in the previous year. The company said the key to its profit growth was an improved contribution from the *West Australian*, which it attributed to growth in advertising and circulation revenue and control of operational costs (*Daily Telegraph* online, 8 August 2003; *Australian*, 8 August 2003, p.18).

24.13 NEWS CORP BACK IN BLACK

A good fourth quarter result has given the News Corporation Ltd a record full-year profit of \$1.81 billion, a dramatic turnaround from last year's record \$1.2 billion loss, after massive non-cash internet-related writedowns. News said its Australian newspaper group increased fourth-quarter earnings by 4 per cent, with advertising revenue rising by 6 per cent. News's 25 per cent-owned pay TV group Foxtel reported final subscriber numbers of 1.05 million but increased its annual loss to \$9 million (*Australian*, 14 August 2003, p.10). To examine the assertion that picking up a chunk of DirecTV in the US "is the big one that really rounds out News Corp's future direction", see Terry McCrann, "Murdoch empire poised to ride on tails of two dollars", *Weekend Australian*, 16-17 August 2003, p.37.

24.14 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, won the newspaper of the year award at the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association (PANPA) annual convention in Brisbane in August. *Courier-Mail* readers were told about it three days in a row with each article bigger than the previous one: "Your newspaper of the year", 7 August 2003, p.1; "Paper leads the nation's best", 8 August 2003, p.3; "Better to best: your paper's winning year", 9 August 2003, p.4. See also: *PANPA Bulletin*, September-October 2003, p.5.

24.15 CIRCULATION REVIEW

The *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, had the biggest Monday-Friday circulation gain (1.9 per cent) of any metropolitan daily newspaper during the six months to 30 June, the *Daily Telegraph*,

Sydney, had the biggest Saturday gain (1.7 per cent), and the *Sunday Herald Sun*, Melbourne, had the biggest Sunday gain (2.1 per cent). (See *Australian*, 8 August 2003, p.18, and 14 August 2003, Media liftout, p.12.) For the regional figures, see 24.33.

Newspaper	Six months to 30/6/2003	Six months to 30/6/2002	Change %*
<i>Australian</i> (M-F)	132,461	130,497	+ 1.5
<i>Weekend Australian</i> (Sat.)	295,629	297,540	- 0.6
<i>Australian Financial Review</i> (M-F)	85,864	89,274	- 3.8
<i>AFR Weekend Edition</i> (Sat.)	87,033	90,980	- 4.3
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> , Sydney (M-F)	407,518	406,220	+ 0.3
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> , Sydney (Sat.)	341,112	335,438	+ 1.7
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (M-F)	226,031	229,000	- 1.3
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Weekend)	392,143	400,000	- 2.0
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	542,735	559,725	- 3.0
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	734,152	727,036	+ 1.0
<i>Herald Sun</i> (M-F)	550,032	548,764	+ 0.2
<i>Herald Sun</i> (Sat.)	517,650	515,598	+ 0.4
<i>Age</i> (M-F)	197,700	197,700	Nil
<i>Age</i> (Sat.)	315,250	318,900	- 1.1
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	582,630	570,647	+ 2.1
<i>Sunday Age</i>	194,500	199,350	- 2.4
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (M-F)	219,451	215,371	+ 1.9
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (Sat.)	346,445	343,323	+ 0.9
<i>Sunday Mail</i> (Qld)	611,298	601,851	+ 1.6
<i>Advertiser</i> , Adelaide (M-F)	204,502	203,582	+ 0.5
<i>Advertiser</i> , Adelaide (Sat.)	281,117	280,490	+ 0.2
<i>Sunday Mail</i> (SA)	340,667	345,407	- 1.4
<i>West Australian</i> , Perth (M-F)	205,266	207,793	- 1.2
<i>West Australian</i> , Perth (Sat.)	384,976	385,871	- 0.2
<i>Sunday Times</i> (WA)	352,000	346,041	+ 1.7
<i>Mercury</i> , Hobart (M-F)	50,368	49,895	+ 0.9
<i>Mercury</i> , Hobart (Sat.)	65,194	65,308	- 0.2
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	59,227	58,425	+ 1.7
<i>Sunday Examiner</i> (Tas.)	43,425	42,012	+ 3.4
<i>Canberra Times</i> (M-F)	38,813	38,694	+ 0.3
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sat.)	72,835	72,080	+ 1.0
<i>Canberra Sunday Times</i>	39,161	39,075	+ 0.2
<i>Northern Territory News</i> (M-F)	22,410	22,152	+ 1.2
<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Sat.)	31,778	31,774	Nil
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	25,423	27,084	- 6.1

24.16 CIRCULATIONS AND GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

The Federal Government has banned dozens of ethnic, regional, suburban and indigenous newspapers from receiving government advertising because of doubts about circulation claims, reports Mark Day (*Australian*, Media liftout, 18 September 2003, p.3). The first assistant secretary of the Government Communications Unit, attached to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, has written to the newspapers advising them that they will no longer be considered for government advertising because they had failed to provide sworn evidence of their circulation or refused to cooperate with a government-funded audit.

24.17 READERSHIP SURVEY

Sally Jackson reported (*Australian*, Media liftout, 28 August 2003, p.12) that print media readership was lack lustre in the 2003-03 financial year with the main metropolitan

newspapers holding study and consumer magazines lifting only slightly. Accompanying her article were tables containing comparative readership figures and percentage increases/falls for 12 months to 30 June 2002 and 2003 for metropolitan and national dailies and Sunday papers and for magazines. (See also, "Canberra Times and the Australian excel", *PANPA Bulletin*, September/October 2003, p.48.)

24.18 OFFICES OF PNG *POST-COURIER* ATTACKED

A group of armed men claiming to be supporters of rebel leader Harold Keke attacked the Papua-New Guinea *Post-Courier* newspaper offices in Buka on 6 August, smashing office equipment and furniture and threatening the Bureau Chief with a knife. Buka is a community on the island of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea, located across the Coral Sea from the Solomon Islands. Harold Keke and his supporters are from the Solomons. The *Post-Courier* recently ran a number of front-page articles "alleging ties between Keke's Guadalcanal Liberation Front (GLF) and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA)," written by correspondent Eric Kone in Honiara in the capital of the Solomon Islands, reports the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The articles published before the attack said the warlord was planning to escape the Australian-led intervention force in the Solomons via Bougainville, which shares a common border. *Post-Courier* managing director Bob Howarth said the newspaper decided to close the bureau in Buka immediately after the attack. The newspaper flew bureau chief Miss Kenneth to a secret location for her personal safety (Commonwealth Press Union statement, 15 August 2003; *Australian*, Media liftout, 28 September 2003, p.3).

24.19 CAPTAIN BLOOD AND HIS COLUMN

Mark Day penned a tribute to Melbourne footballer and football columnist, Jack Dyer ("Captain Blood") in his "On Media" column in the *Australian*, Media liftout, 28 September 2003, p.6. Dyer's column, "Dyer'ere", appeared in *Truth* for 33 years. Dyer died at age 89 recently. *Truth* died as a weekly newspaper in 1995. Day, co-proprietor of *Truth* from 1980-1995, said of Dyer's football broadcasting: "Dyer mangled the language like no other." But the language-strangling was never part of his written columns because no self-respecting sub would allow his contortions through. Brian Hansen was Dyer's ghost writer. Dyer generally wrote, rather than typed, his copy. When Dyer did type it, it was all in capitals with a comma every five words and a full stop every 25, regardless of whether they were needed.

24.20 FAIRFAX IN NZ

John Fairfax Holdings has set up an advisory council of key New Zealand executives to advise it on its new newspaper business across the Tasman. Auckland International Airport chairman Wayne Boyd, Morrison & Co. executive chairman Lloyd Morrison and professional company director Joan Withers have been appointed to the council. Joining them will be Humphry Rolleston, a member of the board of Independent Newspapers, from which Fairfax recently bought a chain of newspapers and magazines in a \$1.09 billion deal (*Weekend Australian*, 6-7 September 2003, p.31).

24.21 SNOWTOWN VERDICT: BODIES IN THE BARRELS

The verdict in the Snowtown bodies-in-the-barrels serial killings trial was reported and discussed in Australian metropolitan newspapers on 9 September 2003. The *Australian* reported it on Pages 1, 9, 10 and 11. Andrew McGarry, the reporter who sat through the entire trial reflected on the experience in "Witness to the evil at society's frayed edge", *Australian*, Media liftout, 18 September 2003, p.8.

24.22 KOHLER JOINS SMH

Alan Kohler, current ABC-TV business-news commentator and former editor of the *Age*, began contributing a weekly business column to the weekend *Sydney Morning Herald* on 16-17 August 2003.

24.23 WEEKEND HERALD PRICE RISES

The price of the weekend *Sydney Morning Herald* rose by 50c to \$2.70 from 13-14 September 2003. The following weekend the *SMH* revamped its weekend "Metropolitan" section and renamed it "48 Hours"; revamped its "My Career" section (which includes the job advertisements), expanding its editorial coverage, introducing a new column, "The Ladder", which offers the latest industry gossip.

24.24 THE READER

Private Media Partners (Eric Beecher, Diana Gribble and Chong Weng Ho) launched the *Reader*, a weekly review of what's interesting in the media, began appearing weekly in May (had 40pp, measuring 250mm by 175mm). It costs \$4 to \$6 an issue, depending on the length of your subscription. For more information, visit www.thereader.com.au

24.25 SLIM'S FINAL SONG

The death of country and western singer Slim Dusty (born David Gordon Kirkpatrick at Kempsey, NSW) attracted wide coverage on 20 September in the online newspapers ranging from major coverage in the *Daily Telegraph*, with both the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age* including 12 thumbnail expandable pix. The *Townsville Bulletin* provided a major piece while the *Northern Daily Leader* in Tamworth, the so-called home of country music in Australia, ran a three-pager (pp 1-3) which included a full front-page pic. For interest's sake, Slim's very first song recorded on a custom 78 rpm in 1942 was called "My final song". He was given a State funeral, which was televised on 26 September 2003.

24.26 SPORTING PUBLICATIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes: On 12 September 2003, the final issue of *Sports Truth Western Australia* appeared in local newsagencies. After 17 issues, falling circulation forced the demise of the weekly sporting newspaper. Based on a similar format to the former Melbourne *Truth* – with some sport and a large part of the publication focusing on sex – a number of newsagencies reported they found it increasingly difficult to sell. It was the first sports newspaper in WA since the short-lived *Westside Sport* folded in 1997.

On 19 September 2003, a new Western Australian sports newspaper began publication. *Sports Forum*, with its 24 pages devoted to WA sport, was produced in Esperance, 700km south-east of Perth, by former State long distance running champion, David Eltringham. His intention is to produce it monthly and increase its regularity, subject to circulation figures.

24.27 AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY AT SEVENTY

The *Australian Women's Weekly*, launched on 10 June 1933 with a 44-page black-and-white issue, published a 70th birthday issue of 352 pages in October 2003. The birthday issue featured six and a half pages of covers from many of the years the *Weekly* has been published: in all, 68 covers. Editor Deborah Thomas wrote a two-page article, "History of an Icon magazine", mentioning that the founding editor was a visionary – and a man – George Warnecke. From January 1982 the *Weekly* became a monthly, but retained its title. Among the

other historical features in the birthday issue: “We salute our stars” (Australian personalities and stars down through the years); “Six famous Aussies talk about growing up with the *Weekly*” (Gretel Killeen, Dame Edna Everage, Kathy Letts, Mike Gibson, Les Carlyon, and Di Morrissey); “We’ve come a long way” (how women’s lives have changed since the 1930s).

24.28 MARK DAY’S TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Mark Day spent a morning recently with the staff of the *Sunday Telegraph*, Sydney, offering advice on how to break news. He covered his tips in his “On Media” column, *Australian*, Media liftout, 18 September 2003, p.6. On 2 October (Media liftout, p.6) Day’s column dealt with the 50th anniversary of Rupert Murdoch’s accession to control of News Ltd.

24.29 PMP BETTER THAN EXPECTED

PMP Limited has reported an annual result slightly above expectations. The ailing printing and distribution group produced an annual net profit of \$15.5 million, down 43 per cent on the previous year (*Weekend Australian*, 30-31 August 2003, p.28).

24.30 NEW AGE PRINTING FACILITY

The *Age*’s new \$220 million Tullamarine Print Centre, Melbourne, has been acknowledged as being more than just a world-class, state-of-the-art production plant. It was recently officially opened by the Premier of Victoria, Steve Bracks (*PANPA Bulletin*, September-October 2003, p.27). For the full story about the print centre, visit www.theage.com.au

24.31 HIGH TECH PRESS AT KINGSGROVE

Major international newspapers will be printed in Sydney as a result of a Digital Newspress 8000 press installed by SecurityMail at its Kingsgrove, Sydney, plant. The *Guardian* and the *International Herald Tribune* will be the first international papers printed there, SecurityMail managing director, Steve Sparkes, said *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, 16 September 2003, p.8).

24.32 NEW MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Communications Minister Richard Alston’s decision not to seek re-election to the Senate gave Prime Minister John Howard the opportunity to make a major ministerial reshuffle. Howard replaced Alston as Communications Minister with Daryl Williams, the former Attorney-General and promoted Tony Abbott, Philip Ruddock and Amanda Vanstone into key portfolios (*Australian*, 30 September 2003, pp.1, 4-6, and editorial, and Media liftout, 2 October 2003, pp.3, and 4-5).

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: PROVINCIAL

(co-edited by Barry Blair, of Tamworth)

24.33 RURAL PRESS BIDS FOR HARRIS AND CO.

Rural Press Ltd has made a takeover bid for Harris and Company Limited, publisher of the *Advocate*, the daily serving Burnie, Devonport and the north-west coast of Tasmania. Rural Press informed the Australian Stock Exchange in late August that it was offering \$31 a share for all the issued ordinary shares. The offer valued Harris & Co., an unlisted public company, at \$47.5 million. The company made \$23 million last financial year and \$27 million the previous year. The major shareholders are members of the Harris family, which established the *Advocate* in October 1890 as the *Wellington Times*. Rural Press (60pc) and Harris & Co.

(40pc) are partners in the *Examiner*, Launceston, which is Tasmania's only other regional daily (ABC Tasmania radio website, 22 August 2003).

24.34 NEWS LTD BUYS GEELONG ADVERTISER

News Ltd has bought the *Geelong Advertiser* from INL, which recently sold all its New Zealand newspapers to John Fairfax Holdings. In turn, the *Advertiser* continues to proceed with its planned purchase of the weekly *Geelong Independent* (*PANPA Bulletin*, September/October 2003, p.24).

24.35 FACELIFT FOR GEELONG NEWS

The *Geelong News* has been relaunched with a new day, a new design and a new masthead. It is a free paper published by the daily *Geelong Advertiser*. The paper began about 40 years ago as the *Belmont and Highton News*. It has now switched publication from Tuesday to Wednesday (*PANPA Bulletin*, June 2003, p.27).

24.36 BORDER MAIL 100 ON 24 OCTOBER

Albury-Wodonga's *Border Mail* will celebrate its centenary on 24 October 2003. The paper is still owned by the founding family, the Motts.

24.37 GOULD MOVES AGAIN

Dean Gould, who was the founding editor of the *Central Coast Herald*, Gosford-Wyong, at the end of September 2002, will join the *Gold Coast Bulletin* as associate editor in early October 2003. Gould was the editor of the *Northern Star*, Lismore, before he went to Gosford (*PANPA Bulletin*, September-October 2003, p.61).

24.38 APN ATTACKS DEBT

APN News & Media Ltd has taken advantage of a rosy interim profit result to tackle its above-average debt, revealing a \$99.4 million share placement as part of a broader debt-refinancing scheme. APN lifted its interim net profit to \$44.7 million for the six months to 30 June (*Australian*, 13 August 2003, p.23).

24.39 FORMER EDITOR ACCEPTS OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT

Michael McCormack, the former editor of the *Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga, NSW, has reached an out-of-court settlement with the Riverina Media Group in an unfair dismissal action. The matter had been due for hearing before the District Court, but an offer was made to McCormack, who had been the editor for 10 years. The terms of the settlement cannot be disclosed (ABC, 2 September 2003).

24.40 EDITOR FOR COFFS

APN advertised in early September for an editor for the *Coffs Harbour Advocate*, which has 14 journalists, sub-editors and photographers. Some of the criteria listed: outstanding management skills, demonstrated awareness of the commercial interests of the company balanced against a strong commitment to editorial integrity, excellent news sense, a commitment to community involvement, a willingness to implement a comprehensive performance development framework for the newsroom, and, most importantly, a track record of growing circulation (*Weekend Australian*, 6-7 September 2003, Recruitment, p.10).

24.41 FRASER COAST CIRCULATION GROWS

The *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, Qld, increased its Monday-Saturday circulation by 6.83% in the six months to 30 June 2003. Full Audit Bureau of Circulations regional-daily figures are:

Newspaper (Mon-Sat unless otherwise stated)	Six months to 30/6/2003	Six months to 30/6/2002	Change %*
Border Mail, Albury-Wodonga (NSW)	27,937	27,690	+ 0.89
<i>Western Advocate</i> , Bathurst (M-F)	4,610	4,397	+ 4.84
<i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> , Broken Hill	6,186	6,317	- 2.07
<i>Daily Liberal</i> , Dubbo (M-F)	5,613	5,730	- 2.04
<i>Daily Examiner</i> , Grafton (M-Sat)	5,822	5,645	+ 3.14
<i>Daily Examiner</i> , Grafton (Sat)	6,932	N/A	Nil
<i>Northern Star</i> , Lismore (M-Sat)	16,608	16,374	+ 1.43
<i>Northern Star</i> , Lismore (Sat)	25,296	N/A	Nil
<i>Maitland Mercury</i> (M-F)	4,722	4,708	+ 0.30
<i>Newcastle Herald</i> (M-Sat)	54,006	53,456	+ 1.03
<i>Newcastle Herald</i> (Sat)	83,943	N/A	Nil
<i>Central Western Daily</i> , Orange	5,442	5,371	+ 1.32
<i>Northern Daily Leader</i> , Tamworth	8,770	8,666	+ 1.20
<i>Daily News</i> , Tweed Heads	5,021	5,571	- 9.87
<i>Daily Advertiser</i> , Wagga Wagga (M-Sat)	14,052	13,801 (five days)	+ 1.82
<i>Daily Advertiser</i> , Wagga Wagga (M-F)	13,488	N/A	Nil
<i>Daily Advertiser</i> , Wagga Wagga (Sat)	16,842	N/A	Nil
<i>Illawarra Mercury</i> , Wollongong	31,010	30,531	+ 1.57
Ballarat Courier (Victoria)	20,414	20,381	+ 0.16
<i>Bendigo Advertiser</i>	14,626	14,304	+ 2.25
<i>Geelong Advertiser</i>	29,625	28,691	+ 3.26
<i>Sunraysia Daily</i> , Mildura	7,619	7,611	+ 0.11
<i>Shepparton News</i> (M-F)	11,143	10,725	+ 3.90
<i>Warrnambool Standard</i>	12,983	12,855	+ 1.00
Bundaberg News-Mail (Qld)	11,556	11,406	+ 1.32
<i>Cairns Post</i> (M-Sat)	29,512	29,176	+ 1.15
<i>Cairns Post</i> (M-F)	26,600	26,261	+ 1.29
<i>Cairns Post</i> (Sat)	43,493	42,974	+ 1.21
<i>Gladstone Observer</i> (Tu-Sat)	7,791	7,725	+ 0.85
<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> (M-Sat)	47,964	47,873	+ 0.19
<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> (M-F)	41,053	41,180	- 0.31
<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> (Sat)	80,661	79,537	+ 1.41
<i>Gympie Times</i> (Tu-Sat)	5,532	5,295	+ 4.48
<i>Queensland Times</i> , Ipswich	13,081	12,835	+ 1.92
<i>Daily Mercury</i> , Mackay	15,577	15,193	+ 2.53
<i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i> , Maroochydore	23,681	22,302	+ 6.18
<i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> , Maryborough-Hervey Bay	9,722	9,139	+ 6.38
<i>North-West Star</i> , Mount Isa	3,576	3,557	+ 0.53
<i>Morning Bulletin</i> , Rockhampton	18,863	18,757	+ 0.57
<i>Toowoomba Chronicle</i> (M-Sat)	25,773	26,858	- 4.04
<i>Toowoomba Chronicle</i> (Sat)	32,286	33,517	- 3.67
<i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (M-Sat)	29,123	28,469	+ 2.30
<i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (M-F)	26,904	26,383	+ 2.05
<i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Sat)	40,122	38,347	+ 4.63
Kalgoorlie Miner (WA)	5,804	6,055	- 4.15
Advocate, Burnie (Tas.)	24,811	24,831	- 0.08
<i>Examiner</i> , Launceston	35,883	35,850	+ 0.09

24.42 FAIRFAX BUYS PORT FAIRY PAPER

John Fairfax Holdings, owners of the *Standard*, Warrnambool, has bought the nearby weekly, the *Moyne Gazette*, Port Fairy, from John Humphries (*PANPA Bulletin*, July/August 2003, p.26). Port Fairy, or Belfast as it has been known as different times, was only the third country town in Victoria to have a newspaper when the *Belfast Gazette* opened in 1849.

24.43 RURAL PRESS PROFIT

Jane Schulze reports (*Australian*, 29 August 2003, p.18): Rural Press Ltd chairman John B. Fairfax has reiterated his commitment to the regional newspaper group as it lifted its annual net profit by 27.3 per cent to \$68.4 million. Fairfax has a 52.5 per cent stake in Rural Press. In the Rural Press annual report, Fairfax expressed his disappointment at the failure of moves to change Australia's cross-media ownership rules (*Courier-Mail*, 18 September 2003, p.28).

24.44 NEW BALLARAT PRINTING PRESS RUNNING

Rural Press printing Ballarat rolled its new \$25 million print plant at its Greenfield site on the Walsh Estate, Wendouree, for the first time at the end of July. In conjunction, the *Courier*, Ballarat, underwent a redesign to take advantage of the new press (*Rural Press News*, September 2003, p.6; *PANPA Bulletin*, September/October 2003, p.57; see ANHG 20.32).

24.45 ROXBY DOWNS SUN NOW WEEKLY

The *Northern Sun*, Roxby Downs, South Australia, changed its name in February to the *Roxby Downs Sun*, and its publication frequency from fortnightly to weekly in August (*Rural Press News*, September 2003, p.3).

24.46 IN IT ALL UP TO THE NECK

ABC Radio National's *Bush Telegraph* broadcast a 20-minute segment on 20 August 2003 on country newspapers. Kicking off the segment was a piece from Catherine Poll, a Charles Sturt University journalism student who has won a cadetship on the local *Western Advocate*, Bathurst. Ms Poll grew up in Sydney and went to Bathurst to study journalism. She has fallen in love with country newspapers. Aleisha Brown, from Sydney, then interviewed your editor, who happened to be in Perth on a research trip and the editor of the *Geelong Advertiser*, Peter Judd. Concluding the segment was Ella Ebery's monthly "Country Viewpoint", this time on the role of country papers. Ella Ebery, 87, became the editor of the *North Central News*, St Arnaud, Victoria, when she was 61. This is what she said about country newspapers on 20 August on Radio National:

It has been suggested that newspapers will not survive in this world of instant communication technology. City newspapers, with their boring sameness of syndicated news, may not, but I would hazard a guess that the country-town newspaper will linger long after the demise of its mighty sibling. The local paper exists at the grassroots of the community, its roots intermingled with the lives of the people it serves. They depend on it for information, advice, assurance that they will all survive in this troubled world – and the latest footy scores. City papers may be able to decide what issues people are to read, but country readers demand, and get, what they want, which is a total news coverage.

The true local paper fights the community's battles against unfeeling governments and others who seek to close money-eating services, like hospitals and other essential services. It expresses opinions on all sorts of issues so that the readers can heartily agree or alternatively come down in person and sort the editor out. There are no half measures, and prudent editors estimate the best time in this regard to take annual leave. They also

know how to leave room for a dignified retreat from an unpopular editorial position when ominous signs appear.

City papers have wars to report to fill the blank white spaces, but the local paper has no room for wars. There are enough on the home front to sustain the news indefinitely. Hapless local councils invariably raise public wrath with their decision-making, or lack of it. Decisions of where to site a swimming pool or sports stadium can divide a community for generations. A disagreement between neighbours can arrive at the editor's office, the warring parties demanding equal space to air their sides of the story. Demands to take over the letters-to-the-editor column are popular in these cases, leading to serious talks about the implications of defamation and who will get sued, which is everybody to deal with this one.

The city papers stay remote on distant pedestals, but the local papers that are grafted into their communities in the time-honoured role of in-it-all-up-to-the-neck will survive, believe me. The country needs them.

24.47 POSS MCGREGOR

Sadly, the ANHG records that Mrs Poss McGregor, former owner of the *Mudgee Guardian*, NSW, and an ANHG subscriber for three years, has cancelled her subscription because of her failing sight. Poss is mentioned in *Country Conscience*, p.306.

NEWSPAPER HISTORY

24.48 AUSTRALIAN MEDIA TRADITIONS CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER

Three significant figures from journalism and the academy will be special guest speakers at a public forum at the State Library of Victoria in November. They are Mitchell Stephens, professor of journalism and mass communications at New York University and author of *A History of News*; Ken Inglis, a professor of history at ANU and the author of many books on journalism and history, including *The Stuart Case* and *This is the ABC: The Australian Broadcasting Commission, 1932-83*; and award-winning ABC journalist Chris Masters. Stephens, Inglis and Masters will visit Melbourne for the 2003 Australian Media Traditions conference on 13 and 14 November. They will discuss the conference theme "When journalism meets history" at a public forum at the State Library Theatre on the first night of the forum. ANHG subscribers are welcome to attend the forum and/or the conference. Entry to the forum is covered in the registration fee for AMT: \$185 standard, \$100 for full-time scholars and other concessions. Tickets for the forum only will also be on sale to the public for \$25 (\$20 concession). The event is bound to attract a good crowd. If you wish to register for the whole conference or purchase forum tickets, please email the conference administrator, Anna Farago [at anna.farago@rmit.edu.au]. AMT is hosted this year by the School of Applied Communication at RMIT University. Find out more about AMT at the conference website <http://fifth.estate.rmit.edu.au/July03/amt/amt2003.htm>

24.49 SYDNEY MORNING HERALD PAGES

An inquiry about how many pages the *Sydney Morning Herald* published each year between 1840 and 1940 led to some interesting responses.

From Sydney **Ken Sanz** wrote: The problem with this inquiry is that the number of pages may be comparing apples with lemons. The size of the pages and the size of the columns need to be taken into consideration. Sometimes it was the changing to a new press allowed the paper to increase its size without changing the number of pages.

I remember when the *Herald* changed its classified advertising font from five and a half point Ionic to four and three-quarter point Adsans. This increased the number of lines in each column and the type was wider than Ionic so there were fewer characters per line. This increased income from classified advertising as you paid per line, and got more lines per page. Later they bought wider paper reels and increased the columns from 10 to 11 per page. This was because the presses could only print 64 broadsheet pages at a run on a Saturday. Therefore they increased their content without having to buy new presses (remember that Saturday also had the largest circulation of the week, and they believed that to buy enough larger presses for only one day per week was wasteful. This was before Ferag inserting machines. The *Sun-Herald* often had hand inserted sections and supplements during this time.) This only postponed the inevitable!

From Canberra **Bill Tully** wrote: The possible answers I suspect my librarian colleagues would give are: Come in and do the counting and comparing yourself; employ a retired librarian (like me!) to do the job at \$25 per hour; Change the dates to 1831 to 1931 – the first 100 years of the *SMH* – where there is an official history and a commemorative issue, both of which may have comparative statistics and shorten the hard slog; do a statistical sampling with professional assistance; and/or Measure sets of spines and multiply.

From Sydney **Jerelynn Brown** wrote: Pascoes filmed it – they would know how many rolls and that can simply be taken by the usual conversion factor to get the number of pages. Fairfax must have a set in store (as do we--but off site). They would be able to say how big the bound volumes are and that is an indicator to format changes.

From Adelaide **Nigel Starck** wrote: In tracing the obituary-publication practice of the *SMH*, I have made an occasional note about the size of the *SMH*. I can therefore provide some idea (though incomplete) of the number of pages encountered in the period indicated: 1852, 4; 1862, 8; 1882, 12; 1892, 10; 1902, 10; 1912, 16; 1922, 14; 1932, 18; 1942, 10 (It is possible that, as World War II continued, newsprint restrictions forced a reduction). [Editor's note: See Gavin Souter, *Company of Heralds*, pp.182 and 269.]

24.50 HOT METAL ENDS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes (just too late for inclusion in the previous newsletter): An 88-year era in Western Australian newspapers ended with the closure of the *Gnowangerup Star*, which published its last edition on Thursday, 26 June 2003. The paper, the last family-owned regional newspaper in WA and the only newspaper in the State that was still being produced by hot metal, served the small town of Gnowangerup, 356km south-east of Perth, and its district since 1915. The paper's owner, Margaret Walker, 81, attributed the *Star*'s closure to increasing overheads and dwindling local support for their business. Another reason was the decision several years ago not to adopt new technology to compete with the less expensive desktop printing of sheep stud programs, sporting fixtures and business stationery.

The paper was started by Augustine Walker. A printer by trade, he responded to interest shown by the communities of Gnowangerup and Ravensthorpe, who wanted someone to start a newspaper in their towns. He decided to move to Gnowangerup and transported a printing press, which was built in 1872. The *Gnowangerup Star and Tambellup-Ongerup Gazette* was launched with its first issue on 21 August 1915. The town already had a newspaper – the *Gnowangerup Times*, an off-shoot of Katanning's *Great Southern Herald*, which had begun in 1912. However, the *Times* folded in March 1918. The *Star* changed its name to the *Gnowangerup Star*, with its first edition of the new masthead published on 31 January 1942. The *Star* began with a circulation of 150 in 1915 and rose to a peak of 1,000 in the mid-1970s, but in recent years its circulation decreased to between 600 and 800.

Augustine Walker's son, Isaac, who was generally called Zic, was born in 1914 and started working at his father's newspaper in 1930, before taking over as editor in 1944, a position he held until his death in 1998. Isaac and Margaret married in 1941 and became joint proprietors of the *Star* three years later. They had two sons, Rod and Bill. Bill worked for the *Star* for 33 years, a few years longer than Rod, who completed his printing apprenticeship on the newspaper. Rod did most of the reporting and took all of the photographs. Bill and Isaac printed the paper. Margaret Walker was the *Star*'s finance controller until she had her second hip replacement in 1994. "Margaret is the brains of the operation," Bill Walker said in an interview in 1996. "She did the books and still provides the commonsense."

In contrast to most newspapers, country and city, from the newspaper's inception the Walkers have never covered local court cases. Mrs Walker said: "I got into trouble many years ago when we had a police officer here who wanted us to put all the court cases in the paper. I said 'no', because the community is too small. Every week they were having drunk and disorderly charges, and they were mainly Aborigines. I don't think it's anyone else's business if someone is in court for speeding, or something like that. They have to pay their penalty. In a small town it's only food for gossip. There is enough doobers that go around now with things. If it's anything worthwhile it goes before a Magistrate and that's reported in the [*Great Southern*] *Herald* [at Katanning] or the *Albany Advertiser*. But I don't believe in seeing a lot of mothers and fathers distressed over their children. A lot of people like something to happen to someone else, as long as it's not them. It gives them a topic of conversation."

Mrs Walker said that the *Star*'s circulation had begun to decline during the recession in the early 1980s. "During the recession people started leaving the district," she said. "In the Jerramungup land settlement, the average farm was about 3,000 acres. Over the years those farmers found they couldn't make a living and they had growing families with nowhere to go, so they sold out to their neighbour. Then he found he couldn't work on 6,000 acres, so he sold out to a bigger one. The population fell in half, though in Gnowangerup the population stabilised."

The Gnowangerup Star was published every Thursday. As soon as one issue was printed, it was time to start on the following week's paper. In the 1996 interview, Zic Walker said:

It takes us a week to print one issue. We start on the next paper as soon as we finish the last issue. The deadline for editorial is Tuesday afternoons, though advertisements will be accepted later. We close the paper on Wednesday morning, because our circulation goes down as far as Bremer Bay, which is 120 miles away. It arrives on road transport. If we miss the mail by five minutes on Wednesday, it doesn't get down to Bremer Bay until the next mail run - could be next Tuesday. We can post a paper on Wednesday at dinner time and a chap in Perth can read it on Thursday.

The Gnowangerup Star was housed in the same building that it occupied when it was established 88 years ago. But the building has grown considerably – not in width, because it's on a narrow block – but in depth. "We used to be in one room," Zic said. "But as the paper's grown, we've built one building onto a building and onto another building. It's only 14 links wide, but is the full length of the block. We are restricted by width. Once we put the wrong date on the paper. We went through every paper and hand-stamped them again . . . again with the wrong date."

In the last few years, Mrs Walker operated the front desk, telephone, and the fax machine (the most advanced piece of technology in the office). "I sit here all day, receive the faxes and take them to Bill," she said. "He does the printing and brings it back to me for proofing." Bill then set the copy on a 1930s linotype machine, writes headlines and printed up to 800 copies, each usually consisting of eight pages, on a flatbed press designed in 1876.

The *Star* won several awards over the years, including a Certificate of Appreciation from “Gnowangerup Sporting Clubs” (September 1995), commendation from the Country Press Association for “Outstanding contribution to community advancement” (August 1993) and the award as Western Australia’s most improved country newspaper (1970).

24.51 CONVEYING OUR THANKS

“We convey to our readers the tribute of our most grateful and affectionate respect. We look for the continuance of their favours only while the tendency of our labours shall merit their approbation. We shall ever strive to cultivate in our countrymen that manly spirit which is equally our characteristic and our defence; and while we look to our readers for their customary indulgence to involuntary errors, we trust general attention will secure us from trespassing on their kindness to (sic) often.” – *London Gazette*, Monday 26 August 1768, p. 2

24.52 NEWSPAPERS IN NEW YORK IN 1900

Recently on the jhistory net, Thorin R. Tritter (in response to an inquiry) said his research had found that 132 newspapers were published in New York State in 1900, including 64 dailies. Of those 64 dailies, 40 were published in English. Tritter’s PhD thesis in 2000 (Columbia University) was entitled: “Paper profits in public service: Money making in the New York newspaper industry, 1830-1930”.

24.53 RUPERT LOCKWOOD, COMMUNIST, JOURNALIST

Rowan Cahill writes: I draw your attention to an article of mine, “The making of a communist journalist: Rupert Lockwood, 1908-1940”, recently posted on the website Working Lives, edited by Dr Mark Hearn. It operates out of the Department of Work and Organisational Studies at Sydney University). The address for the article (a summary of which appears below) is: http://www.econ.usyd.edu.au/wos/working_lives/cahill.html

The journalist/publicist Rupert Lockwood (1908-1997) was one of Australia’s best-known Cold War communists, his name synonymous with the Royal Commission into Espionage in Australia, 1954-1955, as author of the notorious Document J. However the communist journalist did not spring fully formed into history. He joined the Australian Communist Party in 1939. This article traces Lockwood’s development as a journalist and his evolution as a communist between the wars. It is a story that ranges from small-town Western Victoria, and the *West Wimmera Mail*, to Melbourne and Sir Keith Murdoch’s *Herald*. In between, much of the world is traversed – significantly, South East Asia and Civil War Spain.

Lockwood was part of a generation of talented Australian journalists, and arguably the best of that generation (people like Brian Fitzpatrick, Douglas Wilkie, John Fisher, Clive Turnbull, Wilfred Burchett, later Alan Moorehead, and James Aldridge). This account of his pre-communist career is as much a glimpse of the world of these journalists as it is an individual’s biography.

24.54 USING DIGITAL CAMERAS IN ARCHIVES

This USA-related item is presented in the hope that it may lead to some information and/or discussion from Australian libraries and archival resources on the issues raised. On the ‘jhistory’ net recently, a member made the following inquiry and received quite a number of responses – one of which is published beneath the inquiry.

Q. Can anyone on the list attest to how effective (or ineffective) digital cameras are for research in newspaper history? I sat next to someone at a faculty luncheon today who was

quite keen on them for working with other kinds of (old and brittle) documents. Can you really enlarge an image enough to read a page easily? Do archives and rare book rooms look favourably on the method?

A. I do a fair amount of archival work, and I rely on my digital outfit tremendously – it's changed my life. I have developed over time a "library research outfit" that makes my work significantly more convenient and efficient than before digital and laptop technology. I normally go into an archive with a Macintosh laptop computer (I use a PowerBook 12" with wireless capability running MacOS 10.2 with Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Word, Apple iPhoto, OmniPage Pro X, and Apple Safari), a Nikon CoolPix 5000, a small tripod, and a pair of cotton gloves--all stuffed into a computer bag designed to carry the 12" lap with accessories. I also take with me a Canon LiDE30 scanner.

Some libraries do not permit digital cameras or scanners in their archives. For example, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Southern Historical Collection requires that any copying be done on the library equipment, and researchers must check their bags at the door. Other archives, however, are much more friendly to researchers. The Mississippi Valley Collection at the University of Memphis permits (even seems to encourage) the use of the portable equipment. The Georgia Historical Society in Savannah (when I was there a year or two ago) required special permission to make images, and so too did the administrator at the McClung Collection of the East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville, Tennessee. The archivists at the absolutely-wonderful-to-work-with Wilkes County Library in tiny Washington, Georgia, were so helpful, the head librarian actually helped me to set-up my little system in a backroom that the library devotes to archival and genealogical scholars.

Using the portable outfit, I can go into an archive, and either hand-holding the camera or using my small tripod, make images of even the most fragile documents. Depending on the quality setting of the camera, the images will meet most publication quality requirements (i.e. 300 to 600 dots-per-inch resolution). More importantly, the images of many old documents can be translated from image to text using an optical conversion program like OmniPage Pro. I've found that in a majority of cases (especially if I use a tripod to take the pictures) the images created by the camera will process in the OCR program as well as images created on the flatbed scanner (the Canon LiDE30).

I use the Canon LiDE scanner because it is small (legal page sized), very light, and it requires no external power source. The unit draws power through its connection to the laptop computer. Using the camera and the scanner, I can make my own copies of documents, photographs, diaries, newspapers, and so forth, and keep with me for my use the digital images. As I wrote above, my conversion to a digital technique of library and archival research has changed my life.

In a recent project involving a 140-year-old handwritten diary, I made (with the permission of the library archivists) digital images each page of the diary with the camera I had before I purchased the Nikon CoolPix 5000 (that first digital camera was a Nikon CoolPix 950). Working with those images I did not have to access the fragile original material more than two or three times, and I was able to have the diary with me wherever I had my laptop. I used the scanner to digitise several photographs in a photograph album associated with the old diary. Those photographs were of sufficient quality to meet publication requirements (i.e. 600+ dpi).

For the project in which I'm currently engaged, I've used the flatbed scanner to digitise an 1876 publication. I've converted those scanned images to text using the OCR program (OmniPage Pro X), and with that text I am developing a manuscript.

24.55 WHEN THE WINDSOR TELEGRAPH BEGAN

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: When researching *Country Conscience: A History of the New South Wales Provincial Press, 1841-1995* (Canberra, 2000), I found no reference to a starting date for the *Windsor Telegraph*. ANHG subscriber Wendy Gow, of Cundletown, NSW, has helped solve that problem through her close reading of the *Maitland Mercury* for the indexing that husband Rod and she are doing. She discovered the following in the *Mercury* of 10 July 1850:

“**The Windsor Telegraph** – Yesterday we received the first number of this new weekly journal, published in Windsor, by our old friend Mr. Benjamin Isaacs, formerly of the *Bathurst Advocate*, whom we are glad to welcome once more among the journalists of the colony. This first number is a very readable one, having plenty of humorous and original writing. The *Telegraph*, it is announced, will be conducted on liberal and independent principles, and local matters will be made prominent objects of attention. We heartily wish our new contemporary success.”

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

24.56 BOOKS

24.56.1 BLUESTOCKING IN PATAGONIA by Anne Whitehead, Allen & Unwin, 312pp, \$35 rrp. Deals with Dame Mary Gilmore (née Cameron) and her involvement with William Lane’s failed “New Australia” colony in Paraguay, which had split into rival colonies by the time she arrived.

24.57 ARTICLES

24.57.1 JOHN FAIRFAX: “BUSY FOR BOTH WORLDS” by Stuart Johnson, *Macquarie Christian Studies Institute Thinkpiece*, No. 4, March 2003. Provides a biographical introduction to a colonial Christian, John Fairfax. It is an expansion of a biographical article soon to be published by IVP in its *Biographical Dictionary of Evangelicals*. It stems from Stuart Johnson’s current PhD at the University of New South Wales on John Fairfax and the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

24.57.2 WEEKLIES SATISFY NEED FOR IDENTITY AND TOUCH HEART OF COMMUNITY by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, July/August 2003, pp.33-35. Tasmania’s five weekly paid-circulation newspapers battle the three dailies on the island state with varying degrees of success. Brief histories of newspaper publication in the Huon Valley, Scottsdale, Circular Head, the West Coast and New Norfolk are presented. [From July-August 2003, *PANPA Bulletin* has appeared every two months instead of every month.]

24.57.3 NEWS DELIVERED IN A DEFT JUGGLE by Nicolas Rothwell, *Australian*, Media liftout, 14 August 2003, p.9. Deals with *Land Rights News*, the quarterly indigenous affairs newspaper published by the Northern Land Council.

24.57.4 TODAY THE *GUARDIAN*, TOMORROW THE WORLD by Henry Mendelson, *ProPrint*, July 2003, p.38. A printing project that enables the *Guardian* and *Observer* to be on the streets of Sydney before they are read in London.

24.57.5 GRAFTON NEWSPAPERS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY by Geoffrey Burkhardt, *The Newsletter of the Clarence River Historical Society*, Issue 74, 22 July 2003, pp.10-12. Potted histories of early Grafton newspapers and details of where holdings of the newspapers are located.

24.57.6 EASING CROSS-MEDIA LAWS IS ABOUT COMMERCIAL, NOT POLITICAL CLOUT by Eric Beecher, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 June 2003, p.13. And: THE MEDIA MOGUL IS NOT WORTH THE PAPER IT'S WRITTEN ON by Mark Scott, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 June 2003, p.11. Two articles discussing the cross-media ownership laws. Beecher is founder of Text Media and Scott is editor-in-chief, metropolitan newspapers, for John Fairfax Holdings.

24.57.7 A DIFFICULT AGE by Alison Crossweller, *Australian*, Media liftout, 4 September 2003, pp.4-5. Critics are saying that the *Age* has lost touch with Melbourne, but editor-in-chief Michael Gawenda says the paper has the readers who matter. Also see letters from Bruce Guthrie and Alan Oakley, *Australian*, Media liftout, 11 September 2003, p.12.

24.57.8 THE AGE OF MURDOCH by James Fallows, *Weekend Australian*, 30-31 August 2003, p.24. This is an edited extract from an article that first appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly* when the Federal Communications Commission was considering proposed changes to United States media ownership laws. The FCC approved the changes, but the US Senate blocked the recommended changes – see *Australian*, 18 September 2003, p.21). Fallows argued that the changes would encourage a more partisan press and would blur the line between news and entertainment.

24.57.9 SEALED WITH A HUMAN TOUCH by Ephraem Chifley, *Australian*, 29 August 2003, p.15. Memorabilia acquired by the National Museum sheds new light on the happiness and heartbreak of two Labor Prime Ministers, John Curtin and Ben Chifley, and their families. Curtin had been a journalist and Chifley was a director of the *National Advocate*, Bathurst.

24.57.10 PORTLAND – AN AREA WITH A RICH NEWSPAPER HISTORY by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, September-October 2003, pp.33-34. Part 1 of a two-part series on the history of newspapers in Portland, only the second provincial centre in Victoria to publish its own newspaper.

24.57.11 SOMETHING FOR THE LADIES by Deborah Cameron, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20-21 September 2003, p.33. At 7-, the *Australian Women's Weekly* is determined it will not look its age. The magazine is about to re-invent itself, again. See also: A NIP AND A TUCK BUT ACP'S OLD LADY IS STILL GOING STRONG by Sally Jackson, *Australian*, Media liftout, 18 September 2003, p.7.

24.57.12 MEDIA GROUPS BOUNCE BACK AND INTO PROFIT by Jane Schulze, *Australian*, Media liftout, 18 September 2003, p.12. The annual-meeting season for media companies is summarised.

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