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26.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS

Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 30 April 2004. 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/>

Barry Blair, of Tamworth, NSW, and Victor Isaacs, of Canberra, are major contributors to this *Newsletter*.

26.2 TOOHEY (1): TRESPASS CASE OVERTURNED

Paul Toohey has successfully appealed his conviction on a charge of trespassing on Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory during a funeral. The former Darwin correspondent of the *Australian* was convicted in May of entering Aboriginal land without a permit. Toohey had been arrested in November 2002 at the Port Keats Aboriginal Community, southwest of Darwin, after going to the remote community to report on the death of an 18-year-old man allegedly shot by police. The NT Court of Appeal overturned the Supreme Court's conviction of Toohey (*Australian*, 12 December 2003, p.5; see ANHG 23.8).

26.3 TOOHEY (2): SWITCHES TO *BULLETIN*

Paul Toohey, who won a Walkley Award while based in Darwin for the *Australian*, has joined the *Bulletin*. In his first article for the Packer-owned magazine (27 January 2004), Toohey wrote the cover piece, "Gone to pot: How drugs and organised crime infiltrated the Australian Army", a seven-page special investigation. It made the headlines on radio and television news that day.

26.4 MURDOCH CHILDREN

Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive of News Corporation Ltd, has vowed to put the interests of shareholders ahead of his own ambitions for his children (*Australian*, 30 December 2003, p.19).

26.5 JOURNALISTS, ASIO AND JAIL

Journalists face up to five years' jail if they report detailed circumstances surrounding the detention and questioning of terrorism suspects, under new ASIO laws passed in Parliament. Attorney-General Philip Ruddock believes the secrecy provisions "enhance" Australia's national security and counter terrorism capabilities and "protect" the effectiveness of intelligence gathering. But media organisations and Greens senator Bob Brown have warned that the limitations on the reporting of ASIO activities threaten democracy. Labor supported the amendments, which also double the duration of detention for questioning if an interpreter

is needed (from 24 to 48 hours) and allow ASIO officers to confiscate passports (*Australian*, 11 December 2003).

26.6 WEEKEND EDITIONS

Barry Blair notes: The *Sydney Morning Herald* Christmas Weekend, published on Boxing Day 2003, covered three days, 26-28 December. Priced at \$2.20, the main body of the paper ran to 60 pp, while pre-printed supplements included an un-numbered 28 pp tabloid Special Advertising Supplement, Summer Spectrum a 28 pp tabloid, Drive a 16 pp broadsheet and 72 Hours a 26 pp broadsheet. Taking the lead before Christmas, the *Australian Financial Review* ran its Weekend Edition styled as Christmas 23-28 December 2003. Promoted as a “Bumper Issue”, the edition ran to 72 pp. Among Sydney suburban papers to publish between Christmas and New Year, were the *North Shore Times* and the *Manly Daily*. The former contained a 16 pp SALE A THON wraparound.

26.7 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

26 November 2003	Death: David Alexander Rath Aldridge , in Melbourne aged 71; noted journalist with HWT for more than 50 years. For final 10 years of his life, edited letters pages of <i>Herald Sun</i> ; suffering inoperable cancer, he insisted on coming to work until two weeks before his death; political correspondent in Canberra in 1960s and then chief of staff of the <i>Sun News-Pictorial</i> . In mid-1970s, was sent to New York as part of the team given the task of introducing the company’s first computer system; worked in computer area until News Ltd takeover in late ‘80s; retired, but returned in late ‘90s to edit the letters pages (<i>Herald Sun</i> , 17 December 2003).
19 December 2003	Death: Les Hollings , in Sydney aged 80; editor, <i>Australian</i> , June 1975 to April 1980, and January 1983 to December 1984 and editor-in-chief, December 1984 until 1988; former News Ltd CEO Ken Cowley said Hollings’s editorship was the turning point for the <i>Australian</i> ; born at Hull, 1923; worked on provincial newspapers, then Fleet Street; migrated to Perth in 1965 and joined <i>West Australian</i> ; then joined <i>Australian</i> as a sub-editor, working in Canberra then Sydney (<i>Weekend Australian</i> , 20-21 December 2003, p.6; <i>Australian</i> , 24 December 2003, p.11; <i>Courier-Mail</i> , 24 December 2003, p.22; see also Errol Simper, <i>Australian</i> , 12 February 2004, Media and Marketing liftout, p.24).
1 January 2004	Death: Cedric James , at Maclean, NSW, aged 68; joined <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> as cadet journalist; moved to <i>Daily Telegraph</i> and then <i>Australian Financial Review</i> , which sent him to London for two years when European Union was in formative days; was one of the AFR journalists that Rupert Murdoch purloined to start the <i>Australian</i> in 1964; James was first business editor of the <i>Australian</i> ; left <i>Australian</i> in 1970 for stockbroking but returned to journalism as finance editor of the <i>Bulletin</i> (<i>Australian</i> , 20 January 2004, p.12).
22 January 2004	Death: Tom Mead , in Sydney aged 85; founder of <i>St George and Sutherland Shire Leader</i> , Hurstville, Sydney, in 1960; served 11 years as Liberal MP for Hurstville; author of the semi-autobiographical <i>Breaking the News</i> and seven other books, including one about killer whales at Twofold Bay (<i>St George and Sutherland Shire Leader</i> , 29 January 2004, p.2).
28 January 2004	Death: Lorraine Juliet Palmer , née Streeter and formerly Stumm, on the Gold Coast aged 89; born at Charters Towers, raised in Brisbane; war correspondent based in Singapore for <i>Daily Mirror</i> ; later worked for <i>Daily Telegraph</i> ; started the first free newspaper on the Gold Coast, the <i>South Coast Express</i> , and closed it in 1951; final full-time journalism job was as women’s editor of the <i>Sun</i> , Sydney (<i>Courier-Mail</i> , 5 February 2004, p.26; also see Peter Sekules, <i>A Handful of Hacks</i> , pp.29-47).
5 February 2004	Broadsheet “Media and Marketing” liftout begins in the <i>Australian</i> (see 26.9).

26.8 AUSTRALIAN (1): NEW APPOINTMENTS

The *Australian* announced a series of senior appointments on 31 January 2004, as it was about to expand some existing sections and launch some new ones. Bruce Guthrie was appointed editor of the *Weekend Australian Magazine*. He is a former editor of Melbourne's *Age* and *Sunday Age* and of *Who Weekly*. Paul Whittaker begins as national chief of staff on 1 March. He has most recently been news editor and chief of staff at Brisbane's *Courier-Mail*. Karen Brown, former deputy editor of the *West Australian*, has joined the *Australian* as its West Australian editor. Lara Sinclair has joined the *Australian's* Media team as marketing writer. She was the editor of *B&T Weekly* for three years (*Weekend Australian*, 31 January-1 February 2004, p.2). The revamped business section first appeared on Tuesday, 3 February.

26.9 AUSTRALIAN (2): MEDIA SECTION GOES BROADSHEET

The tabloid pre-printed "Media" liftout that had been appearing in Thursday's *Australian* since 25 March 1999 finished on 1 January 2004. On 15, 22 and 29 January a page of media news appeared in the broadsheet business section. On 5 February a new weekly liftout section, "Media & Marketing", began appearing in broadsheet format. The first two issues contained 10 pages. It is printed at the same time as the Thursday edition. This means the section can carry more up-to-date news. The pre-printed tabloid version had a Monday evening deadline. The week's television programs, previously part of the Media liftout, are now included in the Review section of the *Weekend Australian*. Jane Schulze, Sally Jackson, former *Adbrief* editor Simon Canning and former *B&T Weekly* editor Lara Sinclair are the main writers (*Australian*, Media liftout, 1 January 2004, and *Australian*, 29 January 2004, p.23).

26.10 A PICTORIAL REMEMBRANCE OF 2003

The *Sydney Morning Herald* (3-4 January 2004) published a 20-page tabloid liftout of the best news photographs of 2003 under the title, "Click: The Best Images of 2003". The *Weekend Australian* did a similar thing on 27-28 December 2003 in a 16-page tabloid liftout under the title "2003: The Year in Pictures".

26.11 NEW NET WILL BYPASS RECREATIONAL USERS

American scientists and researchers, frustrated that the internet's popularity has crowded them out and slowed serious research, are building their own new information superhighway. The National LambdaRail system, described by some as the internet of the future, is an \$US80 million (\$A108 million) fibre-optic network designed to do for science in cyberspace what motorways did for two-lane roads. On this thoroughfare, speed will be measured in billions of bits a second and information will zip across the US on beams of light.

This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/12/05/1070351787656.html>

For most Americans under the age of 30, the Internet rivals newspapers as a source of Presidential campaign news, a recent consumer survey shows. Among the most popular sites consulted are those operated by CNN, the *New York Times*, AOL and Yahoo (see *Star Tribune*, 22 January 2004).

26.12 HEADLINES

Harsher water restrictions may be in the pipeline (ABC, Tamworth, posted 10 Dec 2003).
Minute weevil discovered as lesser evil (*News-Mail*, Bundaberg, 10 Dec 2003)

Lobster prices at rock bottom (ABC, Mt Gambier, posted 10 Dec 2003 13:20 ACST).

Stationeers Right on Track [A current Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria program to tidy up railway stations]

Mayor out to muzzle media mongrels (*Courier-Mail*, 21 January 2004: Redcliffe mayor Alan Boulton was attacked for calling a meeting to discuss a thorny development issue without “the mongrels from the newspapers watching”.)

26.13 ADELAIDE TO DARWIN AND WAUGH AT RETIREMENT

The *Australian* published on 15 January 2004 an eight-page broadsheet colour commemorative special on the opening of the rail link from Adelaide to Darwin and on 2 January 2004 five-pages of a six-page sport special on Steve Waugh’s final cricket Test.

26.14 AWARD-WINNING TEAM

On the final day of 2003 the *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, winner of the PANPA Newspaper of the Year Award in 2003, ran a half-page promotion on Page 4 about the awards it and its journalists had won during the year, complete with pictures of 19 of the journalists and photographers.

26.15 AGE AT 150

On 29 December 2003 in its annual report to its readers the *Age*, Melbourne, foreshadowed events to commemorate its 150th anniversary. On 26 January, as part of its Australia Day observance, the *Age* published a 32-page magazine, *1854-2004*, with articles on “the State Library, the Museum, the MCG, Melbourne City Mission, State Rail, the *Age* [because]150 years ago many of the institutions that make Melbourne marvellous were founded”. The magazine set out to “tell the story of how a village on the Yarra became the city we know today”. The article about *Age* is entitled “Newsfront” and occupies pages 12-14. It includes black and white photographs of old production and distribution methods. An advertisement on page 15 announces: “To celebrate 150 years of excellence in journalism, the *Age* is producing a commemorative, hard cover coffee table book. To be published in August this year, the book promises to be an invaluable publication, documenting some of the most memorable events of the past 150 years from the perspective of Melbourne’s most respected newspaper.

26.16 ONE YEAR AFTER THE NATIONAL CAPITAL WAS AFLAME

The *Canberra Sunday Times* published on 18 January 2004 a 24-page tabloid liftout supplement, “One Year On”, remembering and reflecting on the bushfire devastation of Canberra precisely one year earlier. Megan Doherty wrote nearly every article.

26.17 HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

The Australian’s investigations editor Natalie O’Brien and senior writer Elisabeth Wynhausen won the 2003 Human Rights print media award for their articles exposing the sex-trafficking trade. The two wrote more than 35 articles on the issue in 2003. The Federal Government has since set up an anti-trafficking task force. The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission made the award (*Australian*, 11 December 2003, p.2).

26.18 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

The political journalist Michelle Grattan, who has worked in Canberra since 1971 and who was the editor of the *Canberra Times*, 1993-1995, has been awarded an Order of Australia for “services to journalism through commentary on politics and government and analysis of Australian civic life”. Grattan works for the *Age* (*Canberra Times*, 26 January 2004).

Professor Elizabeth Anne Webby, of the University of Sydney, was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to the study, teaching and promotion of Australian literature, and for fostering links between the academic and general communities. Prof Webby was a speaker at the Australian Newspaper Press Bicentenary Symposium on 1 March 2003.

26.19 GRANNY GEORGE CALLS IT A DAY

Column 8 began in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 11 January 1947 and has since been written by a string of anonymous writers. The only byline used was “Granny” – for the first 20 years. On 31 January 2004 George Richards, who had written the column for a record fifteen and a half years, retired after 45 years with Fairfax and passed the pen to James Cockington. But nothing else changed. “To paraphrase Jim Macdougall, who wrote columns for *Other Papers* almost to his death on his 92nd birthday, Column 8 for 57 years has drawn on the brains, wit and wisdom of its readers. It is staying that way.” George Richards first attempted retirement in 1989. That attempt lasted only five and a half months; he didn’t like carrying the shopping, he said. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 January-1 February, Column 8, p.24).

On 4 February, political commentator Alan Ramsey devoted his Wednesday column to Richards’s departure *SMH*, p.11). Richards thought he could just walk away after 45 years, Ramsey wrote. “Not so. When the lift doors opened on the ground floor at the Sydney office that afternoon, his colleagues were waiting. ‘We all stood in the foyer, rattling steel trays and shaking jars filled with paper clips,’ Julia Baird, the Opinion page editor, said later. ‘There must have been 200 of us.’

Of Column 8, Gavin Souter’s *Company of Herald*s, p.280, notes: “During the late 1940s the *Herald* could still think of itself naturally and without embarrassment as ‘Granny’. The paper was by then better attuned to its time than during the 1930s; but it was also secure enough to acknowledge and even make rueful use of the old-fashioned sobriquet. When a column of short paragraphs first appeared on the far right-hand side of the front page on 11 January 1947, it was called simply ‘Column 8’ and signed in an elderly hand, ‘Granny’.

At the top of the column was a figurehead with Granny’s bonnet, mitten and knitting needle, and the hawk-nosed, waspish features of 55-year-old Sydney Harold Deamer. In allotting this role to Deamer, his old editor at the Melbourne *Herald* and later founding editor of Packer’s *Telegraph*, [Angus] McLachlan, had made an excellent choice. Syd Deamer occasionally went on alcoholic benders; but apart from the few nights when an aghast news editor had to complete the column, or even put an entire column together himself, Deamer took endless pains, writing and rewriting his paragraphs, paring them down until they contained not a single superfluous word.

“Column 8 was no rival to David McNicoll’s Earl Wilson-Walter Winchell type of column which had been on the front page of the *Telegraph* for the last eleven months; nor was it meant to be. It contained oddities of news, acid items of comment, and revelations about public figures, always with some touch of humour. For its first few years at least, Column 8 was the most talked about feature of the *Herald*, and one of the best-known features of Sydney journalism.

26.20 EXTRA! FEWER READ ALL ABOUT IT

The above heading appeared in the *Australian* over the report and table of the latest six-monthly Australian national and metropolitan newspaper circulation figures. It could just as easily have referred to the opportunity of some Australians to read about those figures. For example, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported the figures only in its online edition, and the

Age carried only puff pieces because it did well this time. Brisbane's *Courier-Mail*, the "Newspaper of the Year", reported nothing about the figures on 13 or 14 February but presented a report on Monday, 16 February (p.3): "The *Courier-Mail* is Queensland's newspaper powerhouse, with new figures showing its daily sales are close to the combined sales of every other daily newspaper in the State." It ran a table in the business section (on p.19) to compare the July-December figures for 2003 and 2002 for the *Courier-Mail* and all the Queensland regional dailies. The *Courier-Mail*'s Monday-Friday circulation fell by 1.8 per cent and its Saturday circulation by 1.4 per cent. The *Sunday Mail*, Brisbane, reported that it had retained its place as Australia's second biggest-selling newspaper, but did not mention that its circulation had actually fallen. During the six months, there was a steady decline in circulation for most of the metropolitan newspapers, with Sydney's *Sun-Herald* being the outstanding loser, dropping 4.3 per cent (from 550,000 to 526,188). In a departure, the *Australian's* circulations table grouped all the News Ltd results together and "Others" under separate sections of "Monday-Friday", "Saturday" and "Sunday", complete with totals for News and Others.

Newspaper	Six months to 31/12/2003	Six months to 31/12/2002	Change %
<i>Australian</i> (M-F)	126,210	128,686	- 1.9
<i>Australian</i> (Sat.)	291,823	296,058	- 1.4
<i>Australian Financial Review</i> (M-F)	88,457	89,779	- 1.5
<i>AFR Weekend Edition</i> (Sat.)	85,067	86,256	- 1.4
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (M-F)	400,885	409,493	- 2.1
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sat.)	336,126	341,224	- 1.5
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (M-F)	221,815	222,000	- 0.1
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Weekend)	372,798	386,500	- 3.5
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	526,188	550,000	- 4.3
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	729,663	731,366	- 0.2
<i>Herald Sun</i> (M-F)	553,000	552,000	+ 0.2
<i>Herald Sun</i> (Sat.)	511,500	510,000	+ 0.3
<i>Age</i> (M-F)	197,040	193,343	+ 1.9
<i>Age</i> (Sat.)	305,000	304,846	+ 0.1
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	590,000	574,500	+ 2.7
<i>Sunday Age</i>	196,130	193,399	+ 1.4
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (M-F)	214,155	218,104	- 1.8
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (Sat.)	335,550	340,143	- 1.4
<i>Sunday Mail</i> (Qld)	613,212	613,626	- 0.1
<i>Advertiser</i> (M-F)	199,340	204,320	- 2.4
<i>Advertiser</i> (Sat.)	274,858	277,235	- 0.9
<i>Sunday Mail</i> (SA)	332,127	342,130	- 2.9
<i>West Australian</i> (M-F)	201,826	202,565	- 0.4
<i>West Australian</i> (Sat.)	376,115	380,081	- 1.0
<i>Sunday Times</i> (WA)	351,000	348,000	+ 0.9
<i>Mercury</i> (M-F)	48,630	49,778	- 2.3
<i>Mercury</i> (Sat.)	63,550	64,708	- 1.8
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	58,649	58,779	- 0.2
<i>Sunday Examiner</i>	43,186	42,472	+ 1.7
<i>Canberra Times</i> (M-F)	38,340	39,029	- 1.8
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sat.)	70,732	70,064	+ 1.0
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sun.)	38,293	38,604	- 0.8
<i>Northern Territory News</i> (M-F)	22,997	23,314	- 1.4
<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Sat.)	32,548	32,843	- 0.9
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	26,014	26,912	- 3.3
Total	8,872,824	8,942,157	

On the regional scene, the *Herald*, Newcastle and Central Coast, rose by 4.4 per cent for Monday-Saturday sales (from 53,183 to 55,499). This sounds good, but considering the high hopes Fairfax had for the Central Coast edition, it is moderate at best. Why? The *Newcastle Herald* had a circulation of 52,974 for the six months to 31 December 2001. This was in the days before the launch of the Central Coast edition. The latest figures show an increase of only 2,525 sales an issue – or 4.8 per cent – over two years, despite the extension of the so-called *Herald* “footprint” into the Central Coast region.

26.21 MAGAZINE TRENDS

David Dale explored (*Age*, 16 February 2004, p.3) what the magazine circulation trends, revealed in the latest audit, meant. *New Idea*, *NW* and *Who Weekly* enjoyed small recoveries in circulation; the ABC’s lifestyle magazine *Delicious* rose while *Super Food Ideas* dropped; and there was a sudden boom in magazines for girls under 15.

26.22 MURDOCH-WATCHERS WATCH MALONE

Those who watch closely the fortunes of Rupert Murdoch’s News Corporation Limited are now watching John Malone’s increasing financial interest in the global media empire. Malone, a cable TV giant, had 9.15 per cent of News’s voting stock at 23 January (*Weekend Australian*, 24-25 January 2004, p.29; *Canberra Times*, 24 January 2004, p.B4).

26.23 ADVERTISER CHAIRMAN RETIRES

Advertiser Newspapers Limited chairman Brian Sallis will retire in March after a 56-year association with the Adelaide company. He joined the *Advertiser* in 1948 as a 17-year-old junior clerk in the commercial department. Eleven years later he became the company secretary of the paper’s TV station, ADS7, which was just beginning transmission. Later he rose through the managerial ranks to managing director of the newspaper. He retired as group managing director on 1 January 1990, taking over as chairman (*Advertiser*, 31 January 2004, online edition).

26.24 ARGUS SITE TO BE LA TROBE’S NEW CAMPUS

La Trobe University is expected to establish a new Melbourne city campus after buying the historic *Argus* building on the corner of Elizabeth and La Trobe streets for \$8 million. The university will spend \$50 to redevelop the six-storey building to accommodate postgraduate legal and business courses in time for the 2006 academic year. The *Argus* building, classified by the National Trust and Heritage Victoria, was constructed in 1926 and for 31 years housed the *Argus*, Melbourne’s oldest newspaper until its demise in 1957 (*Age*, 5 February 2004, online edition).

26.25 PNG NEWSPAPER TORCHED

A gang of 15 set fire to the offices of Papua New Guinea’s only pidgin-language newspaper, the *Wantok*, in Port Moresby on Saturday, 31 January, during an almost city-wide blackout. General manager Jeremy Burgess said firefighters could save only some files from the newspaper’s library (*Australian*, 3 February 2004, p.8).

26.26 FOI LAWS BAD NEWS

Australia’s freedom-of-information laws are so complex, and so costly to take advantage of, that the number of articles critical of the process exceeds the number taking advantage of the process. This is the finding of a study by Sunshine Coast University coordinator Stephen Lambie. In the 12 months to March 2002, 185 stories were generated by journalists’ FOI

requests and 267 articles critical of the system were published (*Australian*, 12 February 2004, Media & Marketing liftout, p.17).

26.27 NEW PANPA CEO

Alan Armsden has been appointed chief executive officer of the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association (*Australian*, 12 February 2004, Media & Marketing liftout, p.23).

26.28 MEDIA WATCH AND THE AUSTRALIAN

The *Australian* editorially attacked the ABC's *Media Watch* after its first program of the year (9 February) – or, more particularly, its presenter, David Marr, the journalist entering his third year of leave from Fairfax's *Sydney Morning Herald*. "There was a time when *Media Watch* broke stories, but the taxpayer-funded Marr has now spent about 21 of his past 30 minutes on air turning it into his personal soap-box." (*Australian*, 11 February 2004, p.12).

Letters to the editor from Russell Balding, ABC managing director, and Sandra Levy, ABC director of television, were published in response to the editorial (*Australian*, 16 February 2004, p.6).

26.29 CATHARINE LUMBY WRITES FOR THE AGE

Catharine Lumby, an associate professor of media studies at the University of Sydney, has ceased writing for the *Bulletin* and begun writing for the *Age*, Melbourne. She is to write regularly for the Opinion page in the *Age*. Her first article appeared on 4 February, p.15, and discussed political correctness in university courses. She concludes by saying: "The next time a politician decides to dispense free advice about what ought to be taught in our universities, they ought to do what all first-year students are expected to do in their essays. Get their facts straight. And put the polemics to one side."

26.30 NEWS CORP'S 58PC PROFIT JUMP

News Corp has upgraded its profit forecast for 2004 after a 58 per cent jump in half-year net profit to \$1.14 billion (*Australian*, 13 February 2004, p.22).

26.31 EDITORS WANT PARLIAMENT HOUSE RULES CHANGED

Editors of Australia's biggest daily newspapers are demanding changes to rules governing the photographic coverage of Federal Parliament. Speaker Neil Andrew banned their photographers from working in the House of Representatives for seven sitting days because their newspapers published pictures of an intruder in the House. Under guidelines prohibit the publication of disturbances caused by visitors to the House (*Australian*, 17 February 2004, news report and comment, p.2, and editorial, p.12).

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: PROVINCIAL

26.32 HIGH COURT AND RURAL PRESS

In December the High Court had some good news and some bad news for Rural Press Ltd. The court rejected by a 5-1 majority a Federal Court finding that Rural Press Ltd had misused its market power and breached Section 46 of the Trade Practices Act when it threatened to set up a rival newspaper in the South Australian riverland. The court, however, rejected an appeal by Rural Press and upheld an earlier Federal Court finding that Rural Press had breached the Trade Practices Act, but not Section 46, when it struck a deal to force a market competitor to keep out of its market. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission alleged Rural

Press struck a deal to abandon plans to start a newspaper in Mannum to oppose the Waikerie-based *River News*, which had begun circulating in Mannum after local-government boundary changes. In exchange for the *River News*'s withdrawal from Mannum, Rural Press dropped its Mannum plan, the ACCC alleged. The Federal Court fined Rural Press \$670,000 in 2001 for anti-competitive behaviour – fines that still stand under the High Court decision (*Australian, Media liftout*, 18 December 2003, p.3; see also ANHG 12.11).

26.33 DAILY AT DANDENONG

From Sydney, **Ken Sanz** writes: When we were on holidays at Daylesford some months ago I purchased a copy of the *Daily Journal* from Dandenong with the date Tuesday May 15, 1973. I do not know for how long the *Dandenong Journal* was a daily – for instance was it only during the Centenary of Dandenong? It has 60 pages. It is a tabloid but it has a hybrid copy of the front page of the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*. It consists of this masthead plus five columns of news from various issues and says “Centenary 1973 from our own files 1878-81”. There is an ad on page 49 stating: “During the week of the *Daily Journal* from Monday May 14 to Friday May 18 employment and classified advertisers are asked to note the following deadlines:” It was printed by Cumberland Newspapers (Victoria) at 602 LaTrobe Street Melbourne. This means that this paper was then owned by News Ltd before this group of newspapers was sold to the Age and became a part of Fairfax Community Newspapers.

My son-in-law sent me a copy of the “125 Years of News” issue of the *Albert and Logan News*. It is dated September but no specific date and has a letter in it from Ray Goodey the editor. It has a gloss cover and page three has a short article on the history of newspapers in the area starting with the *Logan and Albert Witness*. The article proves that the *Logan and Albert News* really began on 8 October 1966 as the *Albert Advisor*. Page 4 has messages from the two mayors and Peter Beattie. The rest of the paper consists of single page advertorials.

26.34 A NEW WORKER

Australian Consolidated Press and the Australian Workers Union announced plans to issue the *Australian Worker* from February in a magazine format – described as a cross between the *Bulletin* and the *Australian Women's Weekly*. Selling price was expected to be \$4.50 (*Australian, Media liftout*, 4 December 2003, p.9).

26.35 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PRODUCE NEWSPAPER SECTION

A team of 13 Year 10 Macintyre High School students at Inverell produced the annual supplement for the *Inverell Times* that profiles the academic, sporting and cultural achievements of the school. The team wrote, interviewed, researched and laid out the pages during November (*Inverell Times*, 28 November 2003, online).

26.36 AGGIE'S COASTAL RAG

Your editor bought a copy of the *Coastal Rag* at Agnes Water (known locally as Aggie), Queensland. Dated 20 December 2003, the *Rag* is No. 310 and provides community news for Miriam Vale Shire and the so-called “Discovery Coast” (which includes the Town of 1770). It is a weekly quarterfold.

26.37 HEADING DEFIES BELIEF

Front-page main headline in Bundaberg's *News-Mail* on 20 December 2003: “Defies belief”. The story accompanied a picture of a dog behind a metal grid. In case you are wondering what “defies belief”, it is the way Bundaberg people treat their animals (apparently). The

Bundaberg region had more prosecutions for animal-cruelty cases than any other region in Queensland in 2003.

26.38 EDITORS ON THE MOVE

New editors have been appointed at:

Canberra Chronicle: Leanne Abernethy, formerly managing editor of the *Magnet*, Eden.

Bay Post, Bateman's Bay: Sean Mooney, formerly editor of *Southern Courier*, Sydney.

Central Western Daily, Orange: Tony Rhead, formerly deputy chief of staff at *Western Advocate*, Bathurst.

Catholic Weekly, Sydney: Kerry Myers, formerly editor of *Central Western Daily*.

Macleay Argus, Kempsey: David Coren, formerly editor of *Port Macquarie News*.

Southern Highland News, Bowral: Tim Byrne, formerly operator of a transport business at Pittwater and a journalist before that.

Maitland Mercury: Tony Linane, formerly editor of *Southern Highland News*.

(*Rural Press News*, December 2003).

The *Queensland Times* has just lost editor Rod Rehbein and the *Bundaberg News-Mail* has lost editor Damien Cocks. Both have left journalism. Cocks is the South Australian Opposition Leader's media person.

The *Monitor*, a community-owned and operated newspaper at Roxby Downs, is seeking a managing editor. Roxby Downs is 550km north of Adelaide. The advertisement says: "The small but vibrant paper offers its editor the opportunity to make a significant contribution through reporting hard news and community activities and initiatives." (*Australian*, 12 February 2004, Media & Marketing liftout, p.23).

26.39 WHEN THEY GOT SADDAM

On 15 December 2003, a number of regional daily online print media took the unusual step of headlining an international event of significance, the capture of Saddam Hussein. Two examples follow.

Townsville Bulletin

"WE GOT HIM"

By PHILLIP COOREY

SADDAM Hussein was in US custody last night after US forces caught him cowering in a hole under a mud hut near his hometown of Tikrit. "Ladies and gentlemen, we got him," US civilian administrator Paul Bremer announced to the world at 10.15pm (AEST) yesterday. "This is a great day in Iraq's history. The tyrant is a prisoner."

Daily Mercury, Mackay.

(no headline)

WASHINGTON, AP. - US raiders were not certain at first they had their man when they pulled a bearded man from a hole in an Iraq cellar, but soon were able to determine it was Saddam Hussein. The Associated Press was shown documentary evidence that the person captured was Saddam Hussein. The evidence depicted Saddam as dishevelled and wearing a long beard. Further evidence depicted Saddam with his trademark moustache but otherwise clean shaven. At a news conference in Baghdad, US military officials played a video showing Saddam Hussein wearing beard and being examined by medics.

26.40 BENDIGO ADVERTISER AT 150

Bendigo's *Advertiser* – which ceased being the *Bendigo Advertiser* and became the *Advertiser* on 10 November 2003 – celebrated its 150th birthday on 9 December 2003. It published a 68-page supplement to mark the occasion.

26.41 APN SEEKS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

APN News & Media advertised on 15 and 17 January 2004 for an Editor-in-Chief for its 23 regional daily newspapers: 14 in Australia and nine in New Zealand. The advertisement said: "Based in Brisbane and reporting to the Chief Executive, the Editor-in-Chief will take up the challenge of building on the excellent circulation growth achieved during 2003 through targeting content to reader expectations. Mentoring of editors and training of senior editorial staff will also be key responsibilities of the role." The APN CEO is Martin Simons, a former Queensland regional daily editor (*Australian*, 15 January 2004, p.20; *Weekend Australian*, 17-18 January 2004, Recruiting p.11).

26.42 GOLD COAST BULLETIN RECORD ISSUE

On 17-18 January 2004 the *Gold Coast Bulletin* published its biggest issue yet, a 416-page *Weekend Bulletin*. It comprised a 192-page news section, a 32-page Weekender, and a 192-page real estate section.

26.43 NSW COUNTRY PRESS ASSOCIATION HAS NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Rachel Creek has become the executive officer of the Country Press Association of New South Wales. She replaces David Sommerlad, the long-serving former executive director. The association has shifted its office from Castle Hill to the Sydney CBD: at Level 14, Lumley House, 309 Kent Street, Sydney.

26.44 AVID AVON VALLEY NEWSPAPER READER

Doreen Casey, of Northam, Western Australia, is 84 and reads the *West Australian* each day and the *Avon Valley Advocate* each Wednesday. The *Advocate* is descended from the *Northam Advertiser*, which Doreen's father, Ernest Philpot, edited for 28 years when Sir Hal Colebatch owned it. Philpot was previously editor of the *Toodyay Herald* for six years (*Avon Valley Advocate*, online edition, 21 January 2004).

26.45 ADVERTISING BOOM

Rural Press Ltd recorded a net profit of \$42 million for the six months to 31 December 2003 and expects to increase its second-half net profit by at least 15 per cent. Strong economic conditions boosted nationwide advertising volumes by 9.4 per cent in the July-December period (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 February 2004, online edition; *Australian*, 13 February 2004, p.22).

26.46 AUDIT FOR ELECTRONIC READERSHIP

The *Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, has become the first newspaper in Australia to release audited subscription figures of its online edition. Editor John Schalch says the online editions of the *Bulletin* have been a boon for remote rural readers whose hard copy might take three days to arrive (*Australian*, 12 February 2004, Media & Marketing liftout, p.16).

26.48 FAMILY-OWNED PAPER SOLD AFTER 113 YEARS

The Harris family owned the *Advocate*, the daily that serves the north-west coast of Tasmania, for 113 years until its recent protracted takeover by Rural Press Ltd (*Australian*, 15 October 2003, p.39, 17 October 2003, p.18, 28 October 2003, p.19, 15 December 2003, p.25, 16 December 2003, p.21; and *Advocate*, Burnie, 16 December 2003, pp.1-2.)

NEWSPAPER HISTORY

26.48 COPY OF AN 1851 ADELAIDE GERMAN PAPER FOUND

From Melbourne, **Tom Darragh** writes: To keep myself occupied in my retirement, I work two days a week at the National Herbarium on the Ferdinand von Mueller Correspondence Project transcribing and translating letters in the old German handwriting. A few weeks ago at tea one of the staff, who mounts plants on herbarium sheets for preservation in the collection, asked me if I was interested in a sheet of paper with German printing that had been used to dry one of Ferdinand von Mueller's plants collected in the 1850s. To my amazement I quickly saw I was holding an issue of the *Adelaide Deutsche Zeitung*, no. 76, 24 December 1851, which I knew was unique. Unfortunately it comprised only Pages 1 and 2 of what was a four-page newspaper (one sheet folded to make two pages). Page 1 included an article by Mueller, about which we knew but of which we had never seen a copy. Apparently the plant mounters often came across old newspapers used to press the plants when originally collected and never thrown away until the plant was mounted. Given that the Herbarium holds more one million sheets and that many of the older specimens have not yet been mounted, there exists a possibility that other issues could turn up. I've asked to see anything else that is found, but so far only old Government *Gazettes* from the 1870s and the odd issue of the *Age* or *Argus*. After the excitement one staff member produced the bottom half of pages 1 and 2 of another newspaper, which proved to be another issue of the *Adelaide Deutsche Zeitung* of October 1851. The originals are now held in the library of the Royal Botanic Gardens and copies have been lodged with the State Library of Victoria and the State Library of South Australia. The holdings of the first German newspapers published in South Australia are very patchy, so I hope that more turn up. If any reader of the Newsletter knows of issues that have not been recorded and so microfilmed by the State Library of South Australia, I'd be interested to know about them. Mueller published at least two other articles in the early South Australian German newspapers that we know of, but no copies of the papers or the articles survive.

26.49 ENGINE DRIVER DIES IN PRESS AT SMH

From Sydney, **Janette Pelosi** writes: This is the story that begins with a photograph I took of a gravestone at Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney. It is located in the Independent Old Ground, Row 1, Grave 99. It reads: "In memory of Gerritt Hendrick Middenway who was accidentally killed at the *Sydney Morning Herald* Office 15th May 1875. Aged 65 years. He was a good man; to him sudden death was sudden glory. Also Anna Maria, wife of the above who died 16th May 1879. Aged 67 years. She always made [?] home happy."

On the gravestone, the words *Sydney Morning Herald* appear in the gothic type of the paper's masthead. Middenway worked at the *SMH* office as an engine-driver or fireman. He used to oil the printing machine. On Saturday 15 May 1875 at about 4.15am he became caught in the machine. Among his fatal injuries were three broken ribs and fractured and dislocated vertebrae. His fellow workers stopped the printing machine and removed his body before calling Dr Wright who pronounced life extinct. It was stated at the inquest that "the deceased was a sober temperate man" and was never seen otherwise. The Coroner's verdict was that "the said Gerritt Hendric [sic] Middenway died from the effects of injuries accidentally received on Saturday morning at the *Herald* office".

The *SMH* noted: "The above fatal accident is a matter of deep regret to the proprietors of this journal. They deceased had been in their employ for nearly twenty-eight years, and was a sober, industrious and faithful servant. He leaves a widow and three grown-up children; the former, as long as she lives, will be cared for by the proprietors of the *Herald*."

The coronial inquest was reported in the *Herald*, Monday, 17 May 1875, and the death notice appeared on Tuesday, 18 May 1875. One of Middenway's sons, John Saunders Middenway,

married Sarah Elizabeth Venteman and they had a son in 1879 whom they named Gerritt Hendrick Middenway.

26.50 MEDIA COLUMNISTS

Your editor writes: This item is an attempt to begin piecing together a useful amount of detail on those who have written columns on the news media in Australian newspapers and magazines. Much of the research I have done for this arises from consulting my own files.

Ken Inglis wrote regularly on newspapers for the fortnightly political review, *Nation*, ca the 1960s/70s. (Can anyone provide details?).

Colin Bednall contributed a column on the media to the *Age* from (Monday) 10 March 1975 until 16 February 1976. It generally appeared fortnightly. Bednall's column began shortly after the editor-in-chief Graham Perkin had attended a Canberra summer school on the mass media. One of the issues raised at the three-day school was the openness of newspapers about everything but themselves and other mass media. When the column began, the *Age* described Bednall as "veteran newspaperman, television pioneer, lately a media adviser to the Prime Minister". It said that Bednall's column would provide "analytical commentary on the Press (sic), radio, television – and the media apparatus of government". The first column was headed: "Labor cultivates the Press". Bednall had left Prime Minister Gough Whitlam's employ after one year six weeks. He said: "Canberra today is a stygian cave where people huddle miserably waiting for the next public relations disaster." Bednall's final column was headed: "Say what you like, but say for whom". See below.

Rod Kirkpatrick contributed a weekly column, "You & Media" to the *Chronicle*, Toowoomba, from 2 February 1976 until 6 September that year. For mention of it, see *Media Information Australia*, No. 1, p.189, Item No. 1.265 and 1.266, and No. 2, p.86, Item 2.456. *MIA* editor Henry Mayer said: "To our knowledge it is the first weekly column on this topic in any Australian newspaper." [On 14 June 1976, Kirkpatrick wrote about Bednall's media column in the *Age*, and the demise of that column. He quoted from Bednall's letter of 3 March to him, saying: "I have been informed that my column will shortly come to an end – I am surprised it survived so long after [Graham] Perkin's lamentable death." Perkin died on 16 October 1975, aged 45. Bednall himself died at the age of 63 on 26 April 1976, 10 weeks after his column ceased.]

Myles Wright contributed a column to the *Age* some time – possibly six months or a year – after Bednall's column ceased. Wright was a former chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Control Board. [Does anyone have details?]

David Bowman contributed a monthly column, "Fourth Estate", to *Australian Society* from May 1983 [or earlier] to January-February 1992. The column then appeared in *Modern Times* in April, May, June and July 1992.

Max Suich contributed a fortnightly column called "Media Notebook" to the *Sydney Morning Herald* from 4 October 1988 until at least 13 March 1990.

Sam Lipski wrote a weekly column on "The press" in the *Australian* from 15 June 1992 [or earlier] until at least 20 June 1994. Before that he had a similar column in the *Bulletin*. Any dates any one? He apparently also wrote about the media in *Quadrant* at one stage.

Julianne Schultz contributed a column on news-media issues to the *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, from 5 October 1995 until 17 December 1997. She concluded her final column with this statement: "I have enjoyed the opportunity to apply some of the insights I have gained from two decades of analysing journalism and the media in a topical column directed at both a

general audience and those in the industry. It ends now – but not, as I predicted, in tears. An interstate move takes me away. I will miss the task of crafting a column, the letters and calls from readers and participating in an attempt to encourage bolder, more innovative and responsible journalism in the Sunshine State.”

Jack Waterford has written a column, “Addendum”, in the Panorama magazine/review section of Saturday’s *Canberra Times* since November 1997 (according to the *Canberra Times* editorial library). He often uses the column to explain editorial decisions at the newspaper. Some of his columns have been mentioned in the “Recently Published: Articles” section of this newsletter (see, for example, 20.51.7 about which letters to the editor are accepted and which rejected, and 26.58.15 below). Waterford was the paper’s editor and is now the editor-in-chief.

26.51 IN THE CENSORSHIP REALM

State Records NSW is staging an exhibition at its Sydney Records Centre (2 Globe Street, The Rocks) from February 2004 to January 2005 entitled “In the Realm of the Censors”. It focuses on censorship in the State between 1955 and 1982. Featured is an array of Australian and international publications that are now a part of the State archives collection. The publications range from the low to high brow. Once they had a life of their own, out and about in the world, circulating via bookstores and sex shops, on the street and through the mail. Then they were bought, seized or submitted to censorship authorities for research, review, classification or possible prosecution. For the past 20 years these novels, pictorials, magazines, newspapers, manuals and catalogues have been closed to the public within the State archives. “In the Realm of the Censors” opens the contents of the cultural time capsule for historical reappraisal (*Vital Signs*, Issue 5, December 2003, pp.3-10).

26.52 HOT METAL: LAST MAN STANDING

Rod Kirkpatrick writes [see also ANHG 8.7, 8.8, 8.9 and 9.26]: It’s almost as though we are watching a rerun of the passing of the last Anzacs. The few country newspapers still produced by hot-metal technology that dates back to the nineteenth century have been abandoning Linotypes and letterpresses in an age of printing technology where printers no longer get their hands dirty but push buttons, program computers and wear collar and tie. Any printer or journalist who worked with hot metal experiences great waves of sadness when hot metal is forsaken at another paper.

Five years ago there were five hot-metal country papers remaining in Australia: four in New South Wales and one in Western Australia. Now there are two and after the middle of March there will be one. Country newspapers have been virtually the alpha and omega of the newspaper technology revolution of the past four decades. They were there at the beginning of the new and they are there at the end of the old. Their smallness of economic scale allowed them to change more swiftly than their metropolitan cousins and their isolation allowed some to cling to the old ways while all around were grasping the nettle of undreamed of technological wizardry and trying to stay up to date with a lexicon of terms that changed faster than the seasons.

Twenty years before the *Sydney Morning Herald* produced its final hot-metal issue on 25 March 1984, the first web offset press was sold in Australia to a commercial printing firm in Sydney. Among newspapers, suburban and country titles led the shift from letterpress to offset printing. In March 1968 the *Moree Champion* was the first country title to change – and in August the same year the *Advocate*, Burnie, on Tasmania’s north-west coast, was the first daily to change. Generally, the papers also ditched hot-metal typesetting in favour of computerised phototypesetting.

By the middle of March this year, 20 years after *Granny Herald's* revolution, the only hot-metal country newspaper left in Australia will be the *Don Dorrigio Gazette and Guy Fawkes Advocate*, independently owned and published in the misty highlands between Coffs Harbour and Armidale, NSW. On 12 March, the *Koondrook and Barham Bridge*, a NSW-Victoria bordertown newspaper that serves the Murray district about an hour's drive upstream from Swan Hill, will produce its final hot-metal issue. It has been published at Barham, NSW, since 1917 after starting at Koondrook, Victoria, in 1909. Lindsay and Sue Harrington have owned the paper since 1 July 1976. Sue Harrington says they have decided to end their hot metal days by choice rather than have it forced on them by the lack of availability of Linotype parts or other material. They will have the *Bridge* printed on the offset press at the *Yarrowonga Chronicle*, which has long been owned by the Loughnan family. They would like their old hot-metal equipment to be the heart of a printing museum, but financing it is the main concern.

The *Manilla Express*, NSW, changed its technology on 1 June 1999. And last year the roll call of four surviving hot-metal newspapers was halved. On 26 June a combination of economic factors forced Margaret Walker and son Bill to close the *Gnowangerup Star*, published since 1915 by the Walker family in rich agricultural country 350km south-east of Perth. Breakdowns in mechanical typesetters hastened the change in technology for Condobolin's *Lachlander* in the central west of NSW.

The *Lachlander*, established in 1895, produced its final hot metal issue on 14 November 2003. Manager Graham Scott said the paper, which appears twice a week, was printed locally until the end of the year, but had been printed by Rural Press Ltd at its Dubbo regional printery this year – on the same press that prints the opposition *Condobolin Argus*. The weekly *Argus* began publication on 2 May 2001, making Condobolin possibly the only town in Australia where there are competing paid-circulation newspapers. A syndicate of 30 local shareholders had tried to buy the *Lachlander*, but had run out of patience. The managing editor of the *Argus*, Rodney Gwynn, said the syndicate wanted to give Condobolin a “modern newspaper”. The owner of the *Lachlander*, Doretta Mary Ryder-Wood, had edited it for 22 years until the age of 87 in 1999. She died on 10 June 2002.

The Vane-Tempest brothers bought the *Lachlander* in January last year. For a few weeks, it appeared as a weekly and was printed offset at Dubbo, but in February it reverted to hot-metal typesetting and letterpress printing and bi-weekly publication. The first February issue said: “Hope you have enjoyed our computerised version of the *Lachlander* for the past month, but we are back in the unique style – and we're proud of it!” The pride in the old ways at Condobolin was eventually killed by necessity and competition, but at Dorrigio it survives at the paper and in the community. The proprietor of the *Don Dorrigio Gazette*, John English, says the only way he can stay independent is by continuing to use hot metal and his letterpress. He produces his newspaper in the back rooms of a newsagency that he used to own in Dorrigio's main street.

What he has seen locally makes English wary of changing to computerised typesetting and having the paper printed by Rural Press Ltd. Through its subsidiary, Rural Press bought the *Bellinger Courier-Sun* and the *Seaboard Valley Star*, Urunga, on 1 December 2000. The Urunga paper, which had not been able to pay its printing debts to Rural Press, was closed and incorporated in the Bellingen paper. Rural Press also began making forays into the nearby Dorrigio district. Advertisers were approached and offered cheaper advertising than the *Gazette* was providing. Soon the Dorrigio Chamber of Commerce was expressing concern and a letter to the editor on the issue appeared in the *Gazette*, urging advertisers to remain loyal to the local paper. And so Dorrigio, NSW, still clings to independence and hot metal, but outside of NSW the state-by-state demise of hot metal in country newspapers is shown in the accompanying table.

State	Final hot-metal country title	Date of final hot-metal issue
WA	<i>Gnowangerup Star</i> (no longer published)	26 June 2003
Queensland	<i>Clifton Courier</i>	11 August 1994
Victoria	<i>Tarrangower Times</i> , Maldon	30 June 1994
Tasmania	<i>North-Eastern Advertiser</i> , Scottsdale	6 May 1993
SA	<i>Leader</i> , Angaston, and <i>Southern Argus</i> , Strathalbyn	13 September 1979

26.53 FEMALE COLUMNIST UNA IDENTIFIED

In 25.59, we asked: Does anyone know the identity of a columnist who used the byline “Una” in the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* in 1903? She (or he) wrote about various social welfare institutions and activities, often concerning the experiences of women and children, and about social issues of the day. A researcher has discovered “Una” while researching the introduction of female federal suffrage in 1903 and is intrigued by her identity.

John Low, of the Blue Mountains City Library, responds: This was the writer and women’s activist Laretta Caroline Maria Luffman (1846-1929). You will find an entry on her in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 10, p.167.

26.54 REVIEW OF REVIEWS ARTICLES

The *Review of Reviews* (Australasian edition) carried a series of articles in 1892-1893 on the press in Australia and New Zealand. They appeared in a series loosely called “Great Australasian Dailies”, even though some of the articles dealt more generally with journalism.

The articles began in August 1892 and continued until November 1893. Following is a list of the articles and the month in which they appeared in the *Review of Reviews*:

Title	1892	Pages	Title	1893	Pages
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	August	32-35	The Labour Press of Australasia	January	12-17
<i>Argus</i> , Melbourne	September	49-55	<i>Brisbane Courier</i>	February	39-41
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> , Sydney	October	73-76	New Zealand Journalism	April	84-87
<i>Age</i> , Melbourne	November	98-101	<i>New Zealand Herald</i>	May	115-117
<i>South Australian Advertiser</i>	122-125		Christchurch Journalism	July	158-161
			<i>New Zealand Times</i>	August	180-182
			Tasmanian Journalism	September	205-211
			<i>South Australian Register</i>	October	229-232
			The Humorous Press of Australasia	November	259-262

26.55 STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA APPOINTS NEWSPAPER LIBRARIAN

The State Library of Victoria has appointed a Newspaper Librarian to manage its newspaper collection. Tim Hogan (an ANHG member) took up the position in December 2003, and will be assisted by another Librarian. Management of the collection had been shared amongst a number of library staff for several years. In recognition of the importance of the collection and its high use by researchers and the general public, the Library decided to restore the position of Newspaper Librarian, which had been discontinued after a 1997 staff restructure.

The newspaper collection is one of the largest and most significant in Australia. It consists of a very comprehensive set of Victorian newspapers and a diverse range of Australian and international newspapers. The appointment of a Newspaper Librarian enables a more coordinated and vigorous approach to the care and management of the collection, the provision of services, and the fostering of links between librarians responsible for the management of newspaper collections.

General inquiries about the State Library of Victoria's newspaper collection and services can be made to the Newspaper Information Desk: (03) 8664 7011, or by using the Library's inquiry service at http://www.statelibrary.vic.gov.au/slv/inquiry_service/index.html.

26.56 MANNING RIVER NEWS INDEX

From Cundletown, near Taree, NSW, those tireless indexers **Rod and Wendy Gow** (rgow@ceinternet.com.au) write: We have published the *Manning River News* 1865-1873 newspaper index to Court Cases, Births, Deaths, Marriages, Funerals, Inquests, Licences, etc. This newspaper, although based in the Manning Valley (Tinonee), included reports from Sydney to the Far North Coast and out to New England. It is available on CD-ROM only (readable via Acrobat Reader) and retails for \$30, postage free within Australia. If you would like us to check to see whether there are any entries for one or two surnames you are researching, email us, and we will be pleased to assist. Further details showing examples of entries are on our web site (address at the end of this e-mail), along with a full listing of the newspaper indexes and books we have completed. <http://www3.ceinternet.com.au/~rgow>

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

26.57 BOOKS

26.57.1 KEITH MURDOCH: FOUNDER OF A MEDIA EMPIRE by R.M. Younger, HarperCollins Publishers 2003, 421 pages, 47 illustrations, rrp \$49.95.

Reviewed by Victor Isaacs: Considering his huge impact on newspaper publishing in Australia, it is surprising that a full-length biography of Sir Keith Murdoch has appeared only now – over 50 years after his death. This is in marked contrast to biographies of his son, of which a new one seems to be produced every couple of years, a minor industry.

Younger's biography, when combined with Don Garden's 1998 biography of Theodore Fink, Keith Murdoch's sometime sponsor and later antagonist, means that the Melbourne *Herald* joins the very few Australian newspapers for which there are comprehensive histories available. Younger acknowledges the assistance he received from Sir Keith's widow and children and from News Limited. The book is published by a company within the News Limited group. The result therefore, not surprisingly, is a comprehensive history, but one that is not critical of its subject.

This reviewer was particularly interested by revelations in the biography of Murdoch's efforts to inveigle Richard Casey into Chairmanship of Herald and Weekly Times, and by the story of Murdoch's idea, late in his life, to break away from HWT and establish a new national newspaper chain based on taking over the ailing Melbourne *Argus* plus his personal holdings in the Adelaide *News* and Brisbane *Courier-Mail*.

The biography is thorough in its treatment of Keith Murdoch's life and his involvement with Melbourne newspapers, particularly the *Herald*. It is, however, disappointing that very little is said about Murdoch's interstate newspaper interests. Ronald Younger's biography is a most welcome addition to the history of newspapers in Australia.

26.57.2 WHERE WERE YOU WHEN: THE NEWS THAT STOPPED A NATION, published by News Limited and Nine Network, 2003, 211 pages plus a DVD, \$49.95. The latest in a series of News Limited publications from Melbourne drawing on their extensive archives is a popular history of Australia from 1960 to 2003. A number of stories are presented, each introduced by an appropriate reproduction of the front page of a News Limited newspaper. There is a significant Melbourne bias in the newspapers selected.

26.57.3 FICTION PUBLISHED IN NINETEENTH CENTURY SAMOA NEWSPAPERS (1877–1900) by Dirk H.R. Spennemann. Canberra: Mulini Press. iv, 94 pp. ISBN 0-949910-99-6. Softcover RRP 15.00.

Perched at ‘The Beach’ (now Apia) on Upolu, a small community of expatriate traders and planters gained a foothold during the second part of the nineteenth century. German, American and British interests competed for supremacy by interfering with local Samoan politics. Despite the small readership base, three newspapers were started up: the *Samoa Times* in its two incarnations (1877–1881 and 1888–1896) and the *Samoa Weekly Herald* (1892–1900).

Typical country newspapers by nature and outlook, these papers provided their readers with local and regional news, political debate through letters to the editor—and a regular dose of poetry and short fiction. While little is known about the reading habits of the expatriate community on Samoa, these papers provide a glimpse of what the traders and planters read. The book provides an overview of the history papers and an analysis of the origin of the fiction content as well as an index to poetry and short fiction published in the three newspapers.

26.58 ARTICLES

26.58.1 FREE SPEECH ENDANGERED BY TANGLE OF LAWS by John Hartigan, *Australian*, Media liftout, 4 December 2003, p.10. The chief executive officer of News Ltd, in presenting the annual address to the Australian Press Council, argues that the existence of eight different defamation jurisdictions across Australia is a ridiculous situation that hinders open debate and requires urgent federal redress.

26.58.2 FREE SPEECH PROVES COSTLY by Michael Stutchbury, *Weekend Australian*, 6-7 December 2003, p.18. The editor of the *Australian* explores the issues behind a defamation judgment against the columnist Andrew Bolt. The case was brought by a Victorian magistrate.

26.58.3 PNG NEWSPAPERS: THE NEED FOR CHANGE by Dick Rooney, *Australian Journalism Review*, 25 (2), December 2003, pp.121-132. A preliminary report on a pilot survey that examines Papua New Guinean journalists and their sources of information. It suggests that journalism in PNG concerns itself with a small section of society to the exclusion of the vast majority of people.

26.58.4 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND THE ‘NEW’ SERVICES ECONOMY: IMPLICATIONS FOR NEWSPAPERS BY Christine Spurgeon, *Australian Journalism Review*, 25 (2), December 2003, pp.51-62. An examination of the factors that have contributed to the apparent erosion of classified advertising revenues for metropolitan daily newspapers.

26.58.5 LESSONS FOR BLACK IN SKASE’S DEMISE by Robert Gottliebsen, *Weekend Australian*, 20-21 December 2003, p.29. A leading business writer reflects on the similarities between the situation of Conrad Black, the Canadian media proprietor who is a former

principal shareholder of John Fairfax Holdings, and the disgraced (and late) former Australian media proprietor, Christopher Skase. See also 26.58.6

26.58.6 SINKING OF THE TYCOON by Peter Osborne, *Australian*, 12 February 2004, Media & Marketing liftout, p.18. Conrad Black was a great newspaper proprietor, but he and his wife overreached themselves in America. The same page carries: Peter Wilson's BLACK DAYS FOR BROKE MAGNATE.

26.58.7 RUPERT RULES, BUT WHO COMES NEXT? *Sydney Morning Herald*, 30 December 2003, pp.25-26.

26.58.8 MEDIA'S END OF AN ERA by Laurie Barber, *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth, 10 January 2004, p.27. A former colleague writes of the retirement of David Sommerlad as executive director of the NSW Country Press Association. Sommerlad's father amalgamated the competing papers of Glen Innes, then those of Inverell and then Armidale in the 1920s before helping save the NSW Country Press Association from financial ruin. There have been few years since 1929 when either E.C. Sommerlad or one of his two sons has not been at the helm of the NSWCPA.

26.58.9 SHAPING UP by Jane Schulze, *Weekend Australian*, 31 January-1 February 2004, pp.31, 34. Both the public and private arms of the Packer empire have kept a low profile since the collapse of One.Tel in 2001. But they've been far from idle.

26.58.10 THE INVESTIGATORS by Paul Chadwick, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 24, Summer 2004, pp.14-15. The Victorian Privacy Commissioner explores the tension between the public's need to know and an individual's right to privacy, a tension that's played out every day in journalism.

26.58.11 ROW HEATS UP OVER FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE by Lynden Barber, *Australian*, 11 February 2004, p.10. The question of who should control the record of Australia's cinematic history is debated strongly as ScreenSound (formerly the National Film and Sound Archive) has been taken under the wing of the Sydney-based federal agency, the Australian Film Commission.

26.58.12 WEEKEND WARRIORS by Sheena MacLean, *Australian*, 12 February 2004, Media & Marketing liftout, pp.15, 20. News and Fairfax are pumping millions into their Sunday newspapers' colour magazine inserts in a new turf war. The article charts a shift in culture as newspapers upgrade the importance of their magazines and employ magazine specialists to produce them. Page 20 also includes MacLean's WRITING A RECIPE FOR DISTINCTION on a similar theme.

26.58.13 VIEW FROM THE GLASS HOUSE by Sophie Tedmanson, *Australian*, 12 February 2004, p.19. Review of the film, *Shattered Glass*, about the journalist Stephen Glass, disgraced because 27 of 41 articles he had written for *New Republic* were fabricated.

26.58.14 THE BUNGENDORE MIRROR AND LAKE GEORGE ADVERTISER, 1887-1888: A VALUABLE SOURCE FOR LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORIANS by Geoffrey Burkhardt, *The Ancestral Searcher*, Vol 26, No 4, December 2003, pp.173-177. [This quarterly journal is published by the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. ISSN 0313-251X]

26.58.15 A CHOICE OF NEWSPAPER SIZE AND SHAPE by Jack Waterford, *Canberra Times*, 8 November 2003, Panorama, p.2. A discussion of broadsheet versus tabloid, prompted by the appearance in both formats of the *Independent*, London.

28.59 STOP PRESS: TELSTRA AND FAIRFAX

Telstra's board has rejected a plan by its chairman and chief executive for a takeover of newspaper publisher John Fairfax. The Federal Government – the majority shareholder of Telstra – confirmed on 17 February that it had been approached by the company about the proposal to buy the media group. But a spokeswoman for the Communications Minister, Daryl Williams, said the Government had declined to intervene. The *Bulletin* of 24 February (issued on 18 February) reported ("Telstra's failed paper chase", pp.10-11) that Telstra chairman Bob Mansfield and chief executive Ziggy Switkowski took a \$3.5 billion proposal to the board on 11 February to buy Fairfax, publisher of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and *The Australian Financial Review*. However, it is understood they were rolled by fellow directors, led by Sam Chisholm, the Foxtel chairman and a former chief executive of the Nine Network. The Prime Minister, John Howard, said the rejected deal highlighted the "absurdity" of the Federal Government owning slightly more than 50.1 per cent of Telstra. "Inevitably there are limits beyond which that company can't go, and as a result the shareholders, the ordinary shareholders, suffer," Howard said.

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