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

33.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS

Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 30 September 2005. 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/>

Two new ANHG books out in August – see Page 20

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: METROPOLITAN

33.2 FAIRFAX (1): RESTRUCTURING HIERARCHY AND FINANCES

John Fairfax Holdings has restructured its executive hierarchy, appointing managing directors for its New South Wales and Victorian operations. The plan was announced less than two weeks after Brian Evans, Fairfax's former New Zealand boss, took up duties as the company's chief operating officer and second in command to retiring CEO Fred Hilmer. In the restructure, the position of national commercial director (held by Alan Revell) was abolished. The managing directors are responsible for advertising sales in their state.

Don Churchill, one of Fairfax's New Zealand general managers, has become the managing director for Victoria. James Hooke, a former management consultant who joined Fairfax in 2001 and has since "grown" the regional papers, has become the NSW managing director. Joan Withers has retired from the Fairfax board to become the new NZ managing director. She is a former chief executive of NZ's largest radio network (*Australian*, Media section, 12 May 2005, p.15; *Australian*, 25 May 2005, p.23; and *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2005, p.6).

Brian Evans was "Person of the Week" in *Mediaweek*, 13 June 2005, pp.2, 7.

Brian Evans was not person of the week at the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age* in the week of 19-25 June. His newly restructured executive was given 10 days on 20 June to identify \$50 million in cuts and \$50 million to be raised from new revenue, freported the *Australian* (Media section, 23 June 2005, p.17).

At a media-and-the-law conference in Melbourne on 23 June, Andrew Jaspan, editor-in-chief of the *Age*, admitted Evans was asking "tough questions" about the publishing company's future. No job losses were envisaged, according to Fairfax spokesmen in both Sydney and Melbourne (*Australian*, 24 June 2005, p.2).

For a report card on Jaspan's "new Age", see Peter Isaacson's column, "Publishing Matters", *PANPA Bulletin*, July 2005, p.50. He regards the makeover as a success. See also his June column (p.58), "Musings of an Age gone by", about how his mother won a journalist's job at the *Age* in 1928 and other family connections with the paper.

33.3 FAIRFAX (2): THE FOCUS UNDER HILMER

The business focus at John Fairfax Holdings Ltd during Fred Hilmer's reign as CEO has been on what he has called two quadrants: "The first, regional and community papers and classified papers, and financial publishing globally. The second was on creating opportunities in broadcasting locally by lobbying for an end to cross-media ownership restrictions and by participating in the internet boom. By pulling all our regional and community papers into one group with a capable management team, we have been able to generate consistent organic earnings growth in the order of 20 per cent per annum. At the same time the competitive threats from technology in this business have been far less severe. Local news, local search and advertising are not done well or economically on the web. In these areas new pure-play start-ups have beaten both ourselves and News Limited to the leading positions." (*Mediaweek*, 6 June 2005, pp.1, 3.)

33.4 FAIRFAX (3): AGE DUMPS GERARD HENDERSON'S COLUMN

The *Age* has dumped Gerard Henderson's column, leading him to attack *Age* editor-in-chief Andrew Jaspan for lacking the courage even to ring and tell him. Henderson, executive director of the Sydney Institute, also accused the *Age* of a left-wing bias. The *Age*'s communications director, Nigel Henham, said the column was dropped as part of the modernising of the opinion page. Henderson had been on the page for 13 years (*Australian*, 10 June 2005, pp.5 and 13, and Media section, 16 June 2005, p.16; and *Weekend Australian*, 11-12 June 2005, p.4 and letters page).

33.5 FAIRFAX (4): BUYS RSVP

John Fairfax Holdings has paid \$38.92 million for the leading online dating website *RSVP.com.au*. CEO Fred Hilmer said the acquisition was "consistent with our strategy to reduce our dependence on the major metropolitan (print) classifieds" (*Australian*, 12 July 2005, pp.19 and 24).

33.6 MELBOURNE BRAND FOR A SYDNEY MARKET: mX

News Ltd launched a free commuter daily in Sydney on Monday, 4 July. It is aimed at 18 to 34 year olds. By giving it the same title as its Melbourne forebear, *mX*, which had initially to fight off Fairfax's *Melbourne Express*, News has enhanced the likelihood of the brand eventually attracting sufficient national advertising to make it profitable. The Melbourne title (which had a readership of 144,000 in May) is regarded as "tremendously successful" by News CEO John Hartigan, but it is still not making money. About 50,000 copies of the first issue of Sydney's *mX* were distributed at seven railway stations around the CBD and via newsagencies. A Brisbane edition of *mX* is expected by the end of the year (see *Australian*, Media section, 30 June 2005, p.15, and 7 July 2005, p.17 and p.20 [Mark Day's column]; *Australian*, 1 July 2005, p.5, 5 July 2005, pp.6 and 20; *Courier-Mail*, 5 July 2005, p.27; *Mediaweek*, 11 July 2005, pp.6 and 4). For a general article on free dailies worldwide, see "Growth in a shrinking market: The rise of the free daily newspaper" by Piet Bakker, *Ideas Magazine*, published for members of the International Newspaper Marketing Association (INMA) or visit users.fmg.uva.nl/pbakker/freedailies. Bakker says that by May 2005 there were 81 free dailies in 29 countries.

The *Australian* will launch a monthly glossy colour magazine, *Wish*, on Friday, 7 October. It will be aimed at readers with the spare time to enjoy themselves and the money to do it (*Mediaweek*, online edition, 14 July 2005).

33.7 NEWS CORPORATION: PROFIT AND LIBERTY

News Corporation will rely on a bumper fourth quarter to reach annual earnings targets after it reported a disappointing third-quarter result on 5 May (*Australian*, 6 May 2005, p.17).

News Corporation has unveiled a \$A3.9 billion share buyback in a sign there will be no quick resolution to the ownership tension between the group's biggest two shareholders – executive chairman Rupert Murdoch and John Malone's Liberty Media (*Australian*, 14 June 2005, p.17).

33.8 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

11 May 2005	Death: Terry Rowe , aged 66, in Melbourne: former photographer with Australian Information Service and Hong Kong Standard who joined HWT imaging department in 1999 (<i>HWT inHouse</i> magazine, June 2005).
14 May 2005	Death: Alastair Douglass Scott , aged 75, former chairman <i>Geelong Advertiser</i> ; his death ends a 144-years association of the Douglass family with the paper; great-grandfather, Alfred Douglass, bought the <i>Advertiser</i> in 1861; Scott was a director of the company for 32 years, becoming chairman in 1988 (<i>Herald Sun</i> , June 2, 2005).
23 May 2005	Death: Donald Roy McPherson , aged 79 in Shepparton; member of family that has owned the <i>Shepparton News</i> since 1888 (apart from leasing it to others for nine years at the beginning of the 20 th century); managing director, 1960-85; chairman of directors, 1960-2005; he made the <i>News</i> a daily in 1972 and he "grew" the family company, buying papers in surrounding country towns, such as Seymour, Nathalia, Kyabram, Tatura, Echuca, Rochester and Elmore (<i>News</i> , Shepparton, 24 May 2005, p.1; <i>Age</i> , 14 June 2005, p.10; <i>PANPA Bulletin</i> , June 2005, p.60).
21 June 2005	Death: Mervyn Rich , aged 89 in Sydney; former vice-chairman of News Corporation Ltd; worked at Rupert Murdoch's right hand for more than 20 years; helped guide company during overseas expansion via acquisition of British papers, <i>News of the World</i> and <i>Sun</i> ; also active in its move to the US through purchase of <i>San Antonio Express</i> and <i>News</i> in 1973 (<i>Australian</i> , 22 June 2005, p.22).
1 July 2005	Death: Russell Gleeson , aged 71, in Melbourne; former news editor of the <i>Herald</i> , and founding editor of the HWT magazine <i>Prime Time</i> in the 1980s. One-time cadet on the <i>Sunraysia Daily</i> , Mildura. "Russ was an excellent newsman and had a taste for the big stories," said former <i>Herald</i> editor Bruce Baskett (<i>Herald Sun</i> , 2 July 2005).
4 July 2005	First issue of Sydney's <i>mX</i> free daily commuter newspaper (see 33.6).
8 July 2005	Australian newspapers report the terrorist bombings that hit the London public transport system on 7 July. (See <i>Australian</i> , Media section, 14 July 2005, pp.15-16 and 20, for "Citizen journals come of age" and the columns by Mark Day and Errol Simper.)
14 July 2005	First issue of <i>Alpha</i> , News Magazines' sport/lifestyle title, with a million print run and 156 pages; home-delivered to more than 500,000 News Ltd newspaper subscribers; and sold in newsagencies for \$2 with a News Ltd paper (see <i>Australian</i> , Media section, 14 July 2005, p.16).

33.9 UPDATE ON INDEPENDENT WEEKLY

Latest figures from the Circulations Audit Board show that Adelaide's *Independent Weekly* (see ANBHG 30.2) is selling 13,800 copies a week. Managing director Paul Hamra says the Sunday paper will always be a niche publication. He is aiming for a circulation of 25,000 (see "Modest target met for local newspaper", *Australian Financial Review*, 11 July 2005, p.48).

33.10 WAN (1): PROFITS AND (JOB) LOSSES

West Australian Newspapers has recorded a 20.3 per cent jump in net profit to \$69.4 million for the nine months to the end of March. Major production changes at the company's Herdsman plant in Perth are well advanced. Agreement has been secured with staff and unions to 53 full-time redundancies resulting from changes relating to the operation of printing presses. WAN also plans to expand the upgrade with the purchase of a new automated publishing system, an automated reel handling system and associated equipment costing about \$50 million. Eighty full-time jobs would be lost by the end of 2006-07. Another 86 jobs could be lost in 2007-08 in the replacement of the existing press units that print the balance of the *West Australian* (*Australian*, 6 May 2005, p.20).

33.11 WAN (2): THE AWA AND THE MEAA

Some journalists at the *West Australian*, published by West Australian Newspapers (WAN), are being coerced into selling two weeks of their annual leave under the terms of individual contracts, reported the *Australian* (11 July 2005, p.4). The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance's West Australian secretary Michael Sinclair-Jones said new recruits at the paper were being told they must sign the Australian Workplace Agreement if they wanted the job. The AWA says, "WAN may, at its absolute discretion, pay out up to 10 days of your annual leave entitlement each year." (Also: WAN buys *Geraldton Guardian*. – See 33.41.)

33.12 JANET ALBRECHTSEN

A \$220,000 defamation payout to Aboriginal magistrate Pat O'Shane is in jeopardy after the NSW Court of Appeal ruled on 17 May that the damages be reassessed. The court ruled that an opinion piece by former *Sydney Morning Herald* columnist Janet Albrechtsen was defamatory in part of O'Shane, but that publisher John Fairfax had a defence of "comment" for a number of the imputations. Albrechtsen is now a columnist for the *Australian*; see 33.59.1 and 2 (*Australian*, 18 May 2005, p.5).

The *Weekend Australian* editorialised on 14-15 May 2005, p.18, on "Why *Media Watch* needs watching", and focused on the Janet Albrechtsen issue. This helped prompt an article by former *Media Watch* executive producer David Salter, in the *Australian*, Media section, 19 May 2005, p.16, calling for an end to the squabbling between the *Australian* and *Media Watch*. The next day the *Australian's* main editorial (20 May, p.14) attacked the ABC for attempting to stay in the business of producing TV drama.

33.13 READERSHIP: NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

The Roy Morgan Research readership figures for metropolitan and national newspapers for the year to 31 March have little good news for any newspapers. But Brisbane's *Courier-Mail* managed to put a positive spin on its figures, even though they showed a decline across the board. This is what the paper said (*Courier-Mail*, 20 May 2005, p.2): "Readership of the *Courier-Mail* Monday to Friday is up by 10,000 on figures for last December. Statistics released yesterday by the Roy Morgan Research company show Monday to Friday readership grew by 1.7 per cent in the three months to March. Readership is down 8000 on figures for March 2004 but up 14,000 on figures for March 2003."

The *Courier-Mail* managed the positive spin by comparing apples with oranges. It compared its readership for different periods of the year instead of comparing the latest figures with the figures for the corresponding period of the previous year. And it did not run a table of figures, as the *Australian* did. Here's what the *Australian* (20 May 2005, p.21) said of the Brisbane figures: "News' Queensland title, the *Courier Mail*, experienced a 1.3 per cent decline on

weekdays to 614,000; a 6.7 per cent fall on Saturdays to 888,000; and 1.6 per cent on Sundays to 1.48 million.” See fuller report, *Mediaweek*, 23 May 2005, pp.3, 8.

Readership figures for Australia’s magazines are listed and commented on in *Mediaweek*, 23 May 2005, pp.12-13. See also: *Australian*, Media section, 26 May 2005, p.17; and *Australian Financial Review*, 23 May 2005, p.48.

33.14 THE NEW BINGO: SUDOKU

In the early 1980s, Bingo was the game newspapers used to try to boost circulation figures. Now it’s Sudoku, the highly addictive numbers game that began in News Ltd and Fairfax newspapers on 21-22 May (*Mediaweek*, 30 May 2005, p.6). How do you play? Sudoku is played on a grid of 81 squares. Within the main 9x9 grid are nine 3x3 mini-grids. The object of the game is to fill in the mini-grids with the numbers 1 to 9. Each column and row of the main grid must also contain the numbers 1 to 9 without repetition or omission. Some of the squares will already have numbers in them. You cannot change the digits already provided in the grid. You have to work around them. The game requires no mathematics and can be solved by logic and reason alone. Every puzzle has just one correct solution (*Australian*, 9 June 2005, p.2; *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2005, p.10). From 4 July, Brisbane’s *Courier-Mail* shifted its Sudoku puzzle to Page 2.

33.15 BEHIND THE LINES

The *Australian* ran its “Behind The Lines” series – a “writing resource” for senior high school students – on most days from 30 May until 20 June. Topics covered: letters to the editor (30 May, p.2), editorials (31 May, p.4), news reporting (1 June, p.2), illustrations (2 June, p.2), cartoons (3 June, p.8), the *Weekend Australian* (4-5 June, p.6), photojournalism (6 June, p.2), colour stories (7 June, p.6), opinion (8 June), p.4), news judgment (9 June, p.4), news features (10 June, p.6), reviews (14 and 15 June, p.4 and p.5, respectively), coverage of a major news event (16 June, p.4), columnists (17 June, p.4), the *Weekend Australian Magazine* (18-19 June, p.2), and sport (20 June, p.4). Vicki Greer, of St Andrew’s Cathedral School, Sydney, wrote the series.

33.16 HOOK’S PORTRAIT OF KEITH DUNSTAN

Robert Coleman writes from Melbourne: Geoff Hook, one of Australia’s most popular and highly decorated newspaper cartoonists is making a new name for himself in retirement. Hook, who worked as “Jeff” for almost 40 years at the *Sun News-Pictorial* and *Sunday Herald Sun*, picking up many national and international awards, retired in 2003. He has since taken to more serious painting and recently held an exhibition of 50 landscapes. Stepping even further into the limelight, he entered a portrait of long-time colleague and chum, Keith Dunstan, in the Archibald Prize. It depicts a beaming Dunstan wearing green shirt, red bow tie, red cufflinks and holding a matching glass of red wine. It’s an excellent likeness -- which doesn’t seem the type of work, which appeals to Archibald judges.

33.17 DEEP-THROAT MYSTERY ENDS

Watergate was not part of Australian newspaper history, but Australian journalists and journalism students in the newly emerging courses in the Australian colleges of advanced education (and your editor was one of them) watched with amazement as the Watergate saga unfolded, a presidency crumbled and yet Deep Throat remained a mystery. Now Deep Throat has identified himself as W. Mark Felt, the deputy chief of the FBI, and a multiplicity of news reports, comment pieces, editorials and cartoons appeared in Australian newspapers on 2 June 2005 and the days immediately afterwards. Three examples: two by Geoff Elliott, “Out of the shadows”, *Australian*, 2 June 2005, p.14, “The gate shuts on a watershed moment”,

Australian, Media section, 9 June 2005, pp.15-16; and Giles Hewitt, "How Deep Throat denied the Post its ultimate scoop", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4-5 June 2005, p.23.

33.18 ALERTNESS IN THE MORNING

Under the above heading, the *Australian* (30 May 2005, p.11) ran a story about a courageous Filipino journalist who has been shot at and stabbed, but who says he will keep writing until he is killed. He has not allowed his wife and three children to see him since the attack on him. He shifts safe houses every few days. He was told he would be lucky to be alive by July. "Every journalist has had a threat against their life. It keeps you alert in the morning," he said.

33.19 MURDEROUS CRIMINALITY

On 30 May the *Gold Coast Bulletin's* front page was devoted to Schapelle Corby. "Fury grows" was the banner headline over a picture of Corby. On Page 6 that day, the *GC Bulletin* invited readers to send messages of no more than 25 words commenting on the verdict in the Corby case (in which a beauty consultant from the Gold Coast was jailed by an Indonesian court for 20 years for being in possession of 4.1kg marijuana when she arrived in Bali) and suggesting what Australia should do about the verdict. On 2 June, after somebody in Australia had apparently decided to do something about it, the *Gold Coast Bulletin* reported the finding of what appeared to be a biological substance in hate mail sent to the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra and ran a banner headline: "Murderous criminality".

See the *Australian*, 1 June 2005, p.15: Justice Ronald Sackville, "Don't hold the Bali court in contempt"; Paul Kelly, "A fair trial, but not in our media"; Janet Albrechtsen, "Legal reason taken prisoner by compassionate spin"; "News Ltd's U-turn on Schapelle", *crikey.com.au*, 31 May 2005; Sian Powell, "Pack mentality", *Weekend Australian Magazine*, 2-3 July 2005, pp.20-23; Mark Pearson, "Corby case a sad legacy for media let loose abroad", *PANPA Bulletin*, July 2005, p.20.

33.20 ARCHBISHOP AND RUGBY LEAGUE COACH: FORMER JOURNALISTS

A former newspaper journalist and the current Bishop of Gippsland, Jeffrey Driver, has been elected Archbishop of Adelaide. Driver, 54, is regarded as occupying the church's centre ground between the evangelic and high-church positions. Driver was a reporter and sub-editor on newspapers in Auckland and New South Wales from 1970-74 (*Sunday Age*, 22 May 2005).

Michael Hagan, the coach of the Newcastle Knights NRL team and of the Queensland State of Origin team, began his working career as a reporter on the Bankstown-Canterbury *Torch*, on the police and courts rounds, 1982-87 (*Torch*, souvenir edition, 12 June 2005, p.29)

33.21 SUNDAY HERALD SUN AIMS FOR 650,000

Alan Howe, editor of Melbourne's *Sunday Herald Sun*, has set his paper a circulation target of 650,000 and the goal of stripping the Brisbane *Sunday Mail* of its second position on the national circulation ladder. In the six months to 31 December 2005, the *Sunday Herald Sun* boosted circulation by 2.5 per cent to rise to 605,000. The *Sunday Mail* rose by 1.3 per cent to 621,419 (*Mediaweek*, 13 June 2005, p.8; and ANHG 31.23).

33.22 THE TIMES IT IS A'CHANGING AND A'PUZZLING

From Monday, 20 June, the *Canberra Times* had "two exciting changes": a new column, "CC" ("Capital Circle") by John Martin, appearing on the back page of the front section of the paper. The Monday-to-Friday column is said to include the "weird and wacky, the cute and quirky, the did you know? and the just plain 'what about that'". On the same day, the

Times succumbed to Sudoku (see 33.14). The back page of the tabloid “Times2” liftout on 20 June featured six puzzles: English Cryptic Crossword, Australian Cryptic Crossword, The Smallest Hardest Crossword, Sudoku Classic, Quick Crossword, and Focus (see 33.59.11).

Victor Isaacs writes: A \$17 million extension to the *Canberra Times* printing press will be officially opened on 17 August. To commemorate the event, the *Canberra Times* is running a historical series, “Momentous Times”, from 12 July to 17 August.

33.23 BEECHER’S WORLD

Media entrepreneur Eric Beecher, a former editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and also the Melbourne *Herald*, is helping to set up a new British national daily tabloid, the *World*, and believes it has the potential to spawn an Australian version (*Australian*, Media section, 16 June 2005, p.15).

Beecher and Diana Gribble, who own Private Media Partners, converted their weekly print publication, the *Reader*, to a weekly online publication from 6 July. The final hard-copy *Reader* appeared on 24 June (letter from Publisher of the *Reader*).

33.24 INL APPROVES PLAN

INL’s shareholders have approved Telecom NZ’s plan to sell its 12 per cent INL stake to News Corp. News Corp. will pay \$272 million -- \$6.19 a share. INL’s independent directors recommended shareholders approve the deal. News holds 43.7 per cent of INL. If the INL-Sky TV merger proceeds, News’ holding in the new company will be 43.6 per cent (*Australian*, 10 June 2005, p.18).

33.25 AVA GOOD WEEKEND – TWICE

The *Good Weekend* magazine appeared on successive days for the first time – on 17 and 18 June. The highest-earning advertising-revenue magazine in Australia, which is published every Saturday as an insert in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*, launched its first Design and Technology issue on 18 June and published a special 24-page preview issue on 17 June. It included some of the usual features, such as “Two of Us” and Dr Karl S. Kruszelnicki’s “mythconceptions”. Last year *Good Weekend* sold advertising space worth more than \$53 million (*Mediaweek*, 20 June 2005, p.7).

33.26 PANPA CEO VACANCY

The position of chief executive officer of the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers’ Association (PANPA) has been advertised. Applications closed 30 June. Alan Armsden has resigned as CEO after taking up the appointment at the beginning of 2004, revitalising the organisation after it had performed below expectations under Brett Kenworthy’s brief administration (*Australian*, Media section, 23 June 2005, p.18).

33.27 LYN MADDOCK TO ACT AS CHAIR OF MEDIA REGULATOR

Lyn Maddock, an economist who has acted as chair of the Australian Broadcasting Authority for a year, became the acting chair of Australia’s new overarching media and telco regulator, the Australian Communications and Media Authority, on 1 July. A decision on a permanent chair was expected soon. Chris Cheah, head of the telco division within the Department of Communications, IT and the Arts, will be the deputy chair. The four part-time board members are: Malcolm Long, former managing director of SBS; Rod Shogren, a former commissioner with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission; Professor Gerard Anderson, head of academic programs at the Melbourne campus of the University of Central

Queensland; and Johanna Plante, recently retired CEO of the Australian Communications Industry Forum (*Weekend Australian*, 25-26 June 2005, p.35).

33.28 LEGAL AFFAIRS SECTION INTRODUCED

On 24 June the *Australian* published, as part of its Business section, the first of its weekly "Legal Affairs" sections. The first section contained seven broadsheet pages. There were 14 separate ads on the pages with several ads from legal firms also in the news pages. The recently appointed Chris Merritt is legal affairs editor (*Mediaweek*, 25 June 2005, online edition).

33.29 THE MONTHLY MAKES ITS DEBUT

A new monthly magazine of news, opinion, arts and letters made its appearance in May. It's called the *Monthly* and is published by Schwartz Publishing Pty Ltd. Contributors to the second issue included: Richard Bourke, Katie Cohen, Helen Garner, Kerryn Goldsworthy, John Harms, Chloe Hooper, Nicholas Shakespeare, Charles Firth, Janette Turner Hospital, Robert Manne, Inga Clendinnen, Justin Clemens, and Robert Forster.

33.30 JUST LISTED MISSING ITS MARK

Telstra's assault on the \$650 million property advertising market is floundering, with its *Just Listed* newspaper failing to dent the dominance of the leading newspaper publishers, writes Neil Shoebridge (*Australian Financial Review*, 27 June 2005, p.49). The Sensis division of Telstra gained the Just Listed website with its \$636 million purchase of the Trading Post group in March last year and launched a newspaper version of the product in October. The print run for *Just Listed* has been slashed from 150,000 to 80,000. Shoebridge's article occupies two-thirds of a page.

33.31 NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FOR LEADER

Mark Gardy, who began his career as a cadet journalist at the tri-weekly *Wimmera Mail-Times*, Horsham, has been appointed editor-in-chief of Leader Newspapers, News Ltd's Melbourne suburban chain. Gardy replaces Wayne Buttner (see ANHG 32.11), who was appointed earlier this year to manage the Community Newspaper Group in Perth. Gardy was recently the head of the insert magazine division of the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd, Melbourne (*PANPA Bulletin*, June 2005, p.61).

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: PROVINCIAL

33.32 DUBBO LIBERAL HAS A RETHINK

Jodie Sullivan, a University of Canberra journalism graduate, is the latest in a long line of editors of the *Daily Liberal*, Dubbo. She joined the *Liberal* as a cadet journalist about 12 years ago, and travelled and worked overseas a few years later. She returned to Dubbo and rose through the ranks to become the editor. The *Liberal* has recorded a 2.57 per cent lift in circulation after seeing off a local weekly, *Dubbo City News*, which was a local business initiative. O'Sullivan says the weekly prompted the *Liberal* to "look at what we were doing and do it better". She says she did not significantly change anything the paper was doing, but "it gave us a reminder that local content is king" (*Mediaweek*, 9 May 2005, pp.4, 7).

33.33 ROSS McPHERSON BECOMES INMA PRESIDENT

Ross McPherson, joint managing director of McPherson Media, which publishes the Shepparton *News*, has become the president of the International Newspaper Marketing

Association (INMA) for two years. He has served on INMA's board of directors for five years (*PANPA Bulletin*, June 2005, p.61).

33.34 WAGGA WAGGA AND HOW THINGS ARE PRESENTED

Wagga Wagga *Daily Advertiser* editor Paul McLoughlin says that when he took up the position two and a half years ago the paper had lost contact with its readers and the editions had a sameness about them. He set out on what he called the long road of going back to basics, including conducting reader surveys, to find out what was on the readers' minds and what issues were of greatest interest to them. "We had been trying to do a lot of things not very well," he said, "and now we are focused on what the readers want, rather than trying to be all things to everyone." The *Daily Advertiser's* circulation has increased steadily through his editorship and rose by 1.4 per cent to 14,149 in the six months to December 2004 (*Mediaweek*, 2 May 2005, p.6; see also *Mediaweek*, 16 May 2005, p.6, for article on the Riverina Media Group, of which the *Daily Advertiser* is the flagship).

33.35 THE ROLE OF A NEWSPAPER

The chairman of Rural Press Ltd, John B. Fairfax, has criticised what he sees as a journalistic trend to interpret and comment. He sees this as journalists asserting their independence. Fairfax sees a need for journalists to respond to readers' wishes. There is no point providing a newspaper that people will not read, he says. The paper must cater to the community's requirements. "The copy taster of today has a duty to empathise with their readers, to bring out a paper which is challenging, stimulating and, yes, even occasionally sycophantic." Fairfax was addressing Canberra business leaders at the National Museum. Rural Press, Australia's biggest regional newspaper publisher, publishes the *Canberra Times* (*Canberra Times*, 6 May 2005.)

33.36 EDITORS

33.36.1 ROCKHAMPTON

Steve Etwell is the new editor of the *Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton. A "Mackay boy", he worked for the city's *Daily Mercury* for 20 years and, as chief of staff, farewelled his Mackay readers on 2 July (p.8) in the "Opinion" piece for that day.

33.36.2 IPSWICH

Daniel Sankey, editor of the *Queensland Times*, Ipswich's daily, won the 2004 PANPA Hegarty Prize; he is profiled in *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2005, p.59. The new-look *Queensland Times*, with *QT* given prominence in the masthead, was launched on 16 July, complete with wraparound eight-page booklet to explain why the paper has changed.

33.36.3 MORWELL

Lynne Smith has left the editorship of the *Latrobe Valley Express*, Morwell, Victoria, after 11 years. The paper advertised in May for an editor who would be responsible for editing the bi-weekly of that name and two weeklies. The papers are owned 40 per cent by the Elliott Newspaper Group, 40 per cent by Rural Press Ltd and 20 per cent by the Hopkins family of the *Warragul & Drouin Gazette*.

33.36.4 KINGAROY

The bi-weekly *South Burnett Times* has advertised for an editor for what is the "flagship" of a small group including the *Central and North Burnett Times*, the *Western Times*, Charleville, and the *Balonne Beacon*, St George. The group is part of APN News & Media Ltd., which owns 25 daily and 90 non-daily titles in Australia and New Zealand (*Courier-Mail*, 16-17 July 2005, Careerone, p.83).

33.37 NEWSPAPERS DO BATTLE ON THE BEACH

In territory made familiar to Australians as the home of the fictitious *Pearl Bay Oyster* on ABC-TV's *Seachange*, two newspapers were launched within three weeks in March-April this year. There had been none for the previous two years.

Greg Wane writes: The *Ocean Grove Voice* was launched on 16 March as a 16-page, full colour tabloid weekly. It is being published by a partnership between Alan Barber and David Withington, both of Ocean Grove, Victoria. Withington, who also runs a public relations business, is a former Melbourne *Herald* journalist and later was the media liaison officer for the council of the City of Greater Geelong. He had been planning the paper since October 2004 when he approached me (I am the former editor of the town's monthly, the *Whistler*) for advice. The *Whistler* closed in February 2003 after a lack of interest from local advertisers. Withington was keen to give the town of 9,000 residents its own weekly. He recruited Alan Barber to edit the *Voice*. Barber worked on UK weeklies before moving to Australia where he wrote for the *Geelong Advertiser* and *Bellarine Echo*.

Meanwhile newspaper publisher John Stoward who has been producing the *Surf Coast Times* at Torquay (about half an hour along the coast from Ocean Grove), had also been planning a weekly newspaper for Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads since November last year. Stoward ran a quick-print business in Tasmania after working on newspapers in Essendon (Melbourne). He launched the *Torquay Times* in September 2002 and when the circulation extended to other towns along the Great Ocean Road he re-badged the paper as the *Surf Coast Times*. On Monday 4 April, almost three weeks after the *Ocean Grove Voice* appeared, Stoward launched his weekly *Barwon Heads Ocean Grove Times*. It carries a confused looking masthead, compared to the clean, simple, red mast of the *Voice*. Until a couple of months ago, Ocean Grove had no dedicated local newspaper, and suddenly there are two fiercely competing for readers and advertisers. It is reminiscent of the pre-1900 era when small towns had rival newspapers and many were bought out by rivals and/or merged. Will we see this happen in Ocean Grove?

33.38 NEW OWNERS AT QUEENSCLIFFE HERALD

The *Queenscliffe Herald*, which Greg Wane launched in November 1999 as editor/publisher, changed ownership in February this year. Carmel and Alan Murphy took the reins of the monthly newspaper. Carmel has worked as an editor in book publishing companies, while Alan, who currently runs Motion Press in Coburg (Vic.), spent several years at Melbourne's Leader Publications in production and later in advertising sales. Wane, since selling his newspaper where he was publisher/editor/photographer, has had little success attracting interest from other newspapers and publishing houses in his media skills, so he is planning to launch a niche-publishing venture later in the year.

33.39 NEW PAPER AT GRIFFITH, NSW

Caroline Merrylees, of Carrathool, an expert on the history of the Riverina's newspapers, has sent the ANHG a copy of the first issue of the *Riverina Times*, launched at Griffith, NSW, in mid-May. It is a family-owned paper published by a regional printery, Dobija Printing and Publishing. The first issue contained 60 tabloid pages and made good use of colour. The managing director is Joshua Dobija and the editor is Carisa Josephs.

Some extracts from the Josephs' introductory editorial: "Why did a family-owned, regional printing and publishing company decide to produce a newspaper? Our decision to produce the *Riverina Times* came as a direct result of feedback received from Riverina and MIA residents. During the past few years, Dobija team members (who also publish the *GO Magazine* and

Riverina Real Estate News) had received persistent requests to launch a newspaper – a paper which was reliable, unbiased and locally owned. It was a decision preceded by extensive evaluation. Intensive strategic planning is needed to start a newspaper from scratch, particularly when that newspaper is to be locally owned and financed. In the shadow of larger, more widely owned media companies, the financial risks are high for a small locally owned company... The first purpose and priority of the *Riverina Ties* is to maintain high standards of excellence in news content, editorial and advertising quality, and public service.”

33.40 ON THE ROAD WITH BARRY BLAIR

Barry Blair, of Tamworth, normally supplies your editor with scores of stories from trawling the internet. Some of these stories are later used in the newsletter in much-condensed form. But, at the end of April, Blair deserted his computer and joined the grey nomads on the road, travelling all over Australia. Here are some jottings from his travels (received in hard copy):

Roxby Downs, SA, 7 May: Noticed in Warren, NSW, as we were passing through, the *Warren Weekly* occupies part of the old Post Office building. Same thing at Peterborough, SA, where the local newspaper, printed on high quality paper, occupied part of the old Post Office. Here at Roxby Downs, the *Roxby Downs Sun* (owned by Rural Press Ltd) competes with as fortnightly free, the *Monitor*. Neatly arranged at the local newsagency in pigeon-hole like shelving are copies of other Rural Press titles such as the *Transcontinental*, *Port Lincoln Times*, *Eyre Peninsula Tribune*, *Whyalla News*, and a couple more. In Broken Hill, the *Adelaide Advertiser* competes favourably on the news stands.

Larrimah, NT, 26 May: At Tennant Creek on 24 May I met the editor of the *Tennant and District Times* who told me he was flying to Melbourne the next day to talk with a company about the possibility of installing state of the art technology that would enable the paper to be printed with extremely clear resolution. The paper is currently printed in Mount Isa by Carpentaria Newspapers.

33.41 WAN BUYS GERALDTON NEWSPAPERS

West Australian Newspapers (WAN) is increasing its stranglehold on regional newspapers in Western Australia with the acquisition this month of Geraldton Newspapers, publisher of the *Geraldton Guardian* and the *Mid-West Mail* and the owner of two radio stations and Guardian Print. WAN made an off-market bid for the company in May. The offer has closed, unchallenged, and WAN will buy the assets for \$11.8 million (ABC online news, 7 July 2005).

NEWSPAPER HISTORY

33.42 MELBOURNE MISSES ITS NEWSBOYS

An exhibition focusing on “Melbourne’s Newsboys” is being held at the City Gallery (Melbourne Town Hall) until 24 July. It began on 4 May. There’s a wonderful 12-page A5 newsheet that gives you a potted account of various aspects of how newsboys contributed to the life of Melbourne. It includes cartoons and photographs and acknowledges the sources used. Here’s a little of the flavour:

“In its collective historical subconscious, Melbourne misses its newsboys! The newsboy – that pocket-sized urban anti-hero – was once a familiar figure on Melbourne’s streets, from the mid 19th to the mid 20th centuries, and has been etched into popular memories of the city and indeed the city of living memory. Over the last century – apart from the thousands of boys across the metropolis who did the morning paper round in all weathers on foot or bike – some 15,000 boys cried “Erald” in central Melbourne, plying their trade at trams stops and

street corners, Under the Clocks at Flinders Street Station, or outside theatres, pubs and emporiums.

This exhibition captures the experiences and representations of Melbourne's youngest public servants, the societies and clubs formed to foster their well-being and promote their interests, and the regulatory framework of juvenile labour in the city."

33.43 FRONTLINE STORIES

This, in the "Community RSVP" section of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14-15 May 2005, p.45, from Jeannine Baker (jeannineb@optusnet.com.au):

"War correspondents: seeking friends and relatives of *Australian Women's Weekly* journalists, Alice Jackson, Dorothy Drain, Anne Matheson and Adele (Tilly) Shelton Smith. Alice had two children, Murray Jackson and Hazel Forsyth. Hazel's children are Jenny, Adam and Caroline. Tilly's partner was Cliff Cheong. Anne Matheson married London *Daily Mail* journalist Paul Bewsher. I'm researching their experiences as correspondents in WWII, Korea and Vietnam." [Editor's note: Cliff Cheong edited the *AIF News* in Cairo and later *Table Tops* in Atherton and New Guinea, Australian Army daily newspapers.]

33.44 CIRCULATION IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

The *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* claimed in 1879 that its six issues each week produced a total weekly circulation of 25,000 and a weekly readership of 50,000 (8 April 1897, editorial). Melbourne's *Age* in 1886 claimed a certified circulation of 58,000 copies daily (*Australasian Newspaper Directory*, 1886, p.42, advertisement).

33.45 VE DAY 60 YEARS ON

Victor Isaacs writes: To commemorate the 60th anniversary of VE Day, on 8, 9 and 10 May 2005 the *Canberra Times* reprinted its editions of the same dates in 1945. The *Canberra Times* of 8 May 1945 was only four broadsheet pages, and the issues of 9 and 10 May 1945 were six pages each. This is the third time the *Canberra Times* has reprinted its edition of 9 May 1945; it was also done for the 50th anniversary of VE Day in 1995, and its front page was one of 59 significant front pages in the notable *Canberra Times'* own 70th anniversary publication, "The Times of our Lives 1926-1996".

From mid-March to mid-May the *Canberra Times* printed every day (except Sunday) a remarkable series of high-quality aerial photographs of Canberra and Queanbeyan. Each day a page has been devoted to a photograph of a suburb.

33.46 NEWSPAPER WEBSITES AND PANDORA

The ANHG received an inquiry from a former newspaper executive, Jack Beverley, who was wondering what, if anything, was being done, to record an important part of newspaper history – the emergence and growing importance of newspaper web sites. "Have all those first pages disappeared into the ether, too?"

We forwarded the inquiry to the National Library of Australia and it found its way to Paul Koerbin in the digital archiving section, which is responsible for the PANDORA Archive. The PANDORA website says: "The purpose of the PANDORA Archive is to collect and provide long-term access to selected online publications and websites that are about Australia, are by an Australian author on a subject of social, political, cultural, religious, scientific or economic significance and relevance to Australia, or are by an Australian author of

recognised authority and make a contribution to international knowledge.” For more information, go to <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/overview.html>

Paul Koerbin writes: Newspapers are a difficult case for us in terms of archiving in PANDORA. The short answer is that we currently do not archive daily newspapers. The longer answer is that we have looked at doing this, although most recently that was about two or three years ago. At that time we could not harvest a daily within a day, which does really start to cause a problem. There are many others. Most of these papers are daily and if we were to try and do these daily in the context of PANDORA, a quality assessed archive, well basically we could do nothing else; and even then, given our resources we probably would struggle to do even the major newspapers. That said, we could do a snapshot occasionally, but then how useful is that? We could do occasional snapshots of just the front pages, but these often change during the day; and again, how useful would this be?

On the flip side of that the main front page content is often much the same as the print version of papers (at least it was when we looked closely into this, but it may have changed a little since then). Then, of course, there are the legal issues. Most of these papers provide current content free but then you have to pay for archival access. This is a disincentive to us to invest our limited resources into a very resource intensive process when it is also a resource that we probably cannot make readily available for public access for a very long time. Having said all of that, we do have some web only content such as Margo Kingston’s web diary from the *Sydney Morning Herald*. And, we may pick up snippets when we do collections for special events. Also, it is worth noting that the Internet Archive does pick up some content, so some of those front pages have been saved.

For example, here is the IA’s list of captures of the *Canberra Times* http://web.archive.org/web/*hh_/canberra.yourguide.com.au/

I think it is fair to say we are aware of the shortcomings in our web archiving in this area, but I don’t see an easy or imminent solution to it given our current priorities and resources.

33.47 HISTORY IN THE LETTERS: JOHN ALEXANDER AND C.E.W. BEAN

Two letters, one following the other, in the Media section of the *Australian* on 12 May 2005, p.16, are worth mentioning:

LETTER 1: Warner Russell, of Thornleigh, Sydney, wrote about a “softer side” to John Alexander, the chief executive officer of PBL and a former editor-in-chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Russell recalled: a young copy boy scurrying around the offices of the now-defunct Fairfax tabloid, the *Sun*, in the late 1960s. “Rather than being an enigma, John was a mild mannered young man, a bit of a loner, whose steely persona was probably honed in the high-pressure atmosphere of a daily newspaper office ... It was difficult for copy boys, all of whom aspired to becoming journalists, not to mimic their reporter role models in the toughening up process of the newsroom ... The lessons he learned about aggressive news gathering and the toughness needed for the job appear to have helped him in later life, much to the regret of many journalists who fell foul of him. The then news editor, Len Cossey, had reservation about Alexander becoming a tabloid reporter. As Cossey’s deputy, he suggested I find him a quieter place, so I spoke to the Sun’s finance editor Ralph Wragg, who took him under his wing. And the rest, as they say, is history.”

LETTER 2: Harry Gordon (retired newspaper editor and prolific author), of Main Beach, Queensland, notes that it was a mistake for Jonathan Este to group C.E.W. Bean with John Pilger, Germaine Greer and Richard Neville as Australians who became part of the British media. Gordon says Bean began work as a journalist on the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1908. “In 1914 in a ballot among Australian Journalists Association members for the right to become Australia’s official war correspondent, he narrowly beat Keith Murdoch. He went

ashore at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915, and was the only correspondent to stay there until December; he went on to cover the AIF's engagements in France. He later founded the Australian War Memorial, wrote six volumes of the war history and edited eight more. Bean's only London stint as a journalist was from 1910 to 1912, when he represented the *SMH*. That surely doesn't count as penetration of the British media."

33.48 MOMENTS THAT SHAPED AUSTRALIA

The *Bulletin*, as part of its reflections on 125 years of publishing, produced a special issue on 10 May that focused on "125 moments that changed Australia ... the political, economic, social and environmental highs and lows that shaped this great nation". The historians and writers who helped the *Bulletin* compile the list were: Humphrey McQueen, Shirley Fitzgerald, Anna Clark, Michael Cathcart, Henry Reynolds, John Doyle, Clare Wright, Marian Quartly, Tim Rowse and Bob Beale (see pages 52-121).

33.49 PRINTING BY X-RAY

John Russell, of Canberra, submitted the following from his research: "A new method of printing on sheets of paper or other fabric which, if practicable, would cause quite a revolution in the printing trade, is the invention of Mr. George Izambard, of Paris, who has patented a method utilising the X-rays for typographic printing, as well as the reproducing of diagrams, pictures, etc. It is a new process for the simultaneous and instantaneous printing on both sides, by means of the X-rays, of numerous sheets (of sensitised paper) superposed on quires or blocks (newspapers, trade papers, etc., whatever their size may be). It purposes to obtain new results analogous to those obtained as yet through the typographic printing and other processes derived therefrom. It is claimed by the inventor that it tends to suppress composition and striking off by the printing machine (*Australasian Typographical Journal*, Vol. XXIX, No. 340, October 1898, p.2.).

33.50 TED ROBL INQUIRY (1): RICHARD HOLT ON THE WALLABY

Ted Robl (roblt@bigpond.com) writes to the ANHG: I am trying to locate information on Richard Holt. He wrote articles for the *North Queensland Register* in the late 1890s and early 1900s. The column he wrote under was called "On The Wallaby" and the name that he used for these columns was "6 X 8". It is clear from his writing that he was well versed in the English language, even if he swaggered around Australia as he did – particularly in Queensland and western New South Wales. He was friends with Victor Daley and Scotty "The Winkler" – Phillip Mowbray so in a sense well heeled in literacy circles. I have been led to believe that he died in Melbourne – date unknown. Ted's telephone number is 03 57851208.

33.51 TED ROBL INQUIRY (2): 'THE BREAKER'

Ted Robl again, this time from "Community RSVP", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4-5 June 2005, p.45: Harry Morant: Seeking items such as letters, stories or poems that Harry contributed to newspapers. Some material may be lying in archives, libraries and historical societies, and even homes. You may have stories to tell that relate to your grandfathers. Information relating to the stations that Harry worked on would also be welcome – Bundaleer, Moreton, Kallara, Esmeralda, Fanning Downs, Belalie, Budda to name but a few. Information sought for book. Contact Ted at roblt@bigpond.com (PO Box 388, Pylong, Vic, 3521).

33.52 REMOVAL OF SELECTED ITEMS FROM LIBRARY'S COLLECTION

The State Library of Victoria, as it prepares to relocate collection material stored off-site to a new purpose-built store, has been carefully reviewing its holdings to see if there are any items that should be considered for "de-accessioning" (removal from the collection). Three areas

have been identified: the remnant of the Language Other than English Lending Collection; selected items from the Library of Congress and Government of California Deposit Collections; and selected interstate newspaper titles and international newspaper titles. This material will be offered to public libraries, other state libraries, the National Library of Australia and selected university libraries that may wish to acquire the material for their collections. Any material not acquired by these libraries will then be disposed of. For more information about the materials selected for removal, go to the SLV website (see below) and click on "Collection Materials Selected for Removal" and the "List of Australian & International Newspapers for Removal". Contact details for comment and inquiries can be found on the Public Comment & Inquiries page.

Web Link: <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/news/latest>

Then click on "Removal of Selected Items from the Library's Collection" Comment about the removal of any items needs to be made in writing, to the Minister responsible for the State Library of Victoria, Mary Delahunty. See details for correspondence from the Public Comment & Inquiries page of the Library website. Comment to the Minister must be made by Monday, 8 August 2005.

33.53 SUBURB'S STREETS HAVE A JOURNALISTIC THEME

The Canberra suburb of McKellar, in Belconnen, features streets named after journalists from around Australia, such as Austin de M. Absolon, of the *Wagin Argus*, WA; Alexander Britton, of two Castlemaine newspapers, Victoria; Charles Hardie Buzacott, of various Queensland newspapers; Sir (Frederick) Lloyd Dumas, of Advertiser Newspapers, Adelaide; Robert Ross Haverfield, of Bendigo and Echuca newspapers, Victoria. All the street names are listed in *Canberra's Suburbs and Street Names: Belconnen* (ACT Government, 1992).

33.54 PRINTING NEWSPAPERS ON SILK, SATIN AND CALICO

This is an addendum to the "Bibliographical note: Printing Newspapers on Silk" that appeared in the *Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand Bulletin*, Vol.21, No.3, 1997, p.183. It made particular reference to the front page of the *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, no. 7157, Saturday, 10 May 1890, being printed on silk. The copy seen – in the Burke Museum at Beechworth – is printed in blue on silk. The occasion for the special printing was the laying of the foundation-stone of the Ovens District Hospital isolating ward.

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The first issue of the *Spirit of the Age*, Geelong, of 16 October 1854, a copy of which is held at the Mitchell Library, Sydney, was printed on satin. Pages 1 and 4 consist of gold print on black satin and pages 2 and 3 are black print on white satin. George Youngson was editor, publisher and proprietor of the paper. The newspaper survived possibly only four to six weeks.

James Manion wrote in *Paper Power in North Queensland* (1982), p.121: "A rather frayed copy of the first issue of the *Daily Northern Standard*, reproduced in silk, obviously as a souvenir, remains in the possession of the family of P.F. Hanran. Presented to the James Cook University for photocopying in 1965, it is headed: *Daily Northern Standard*, published every evening at the Standard gas printing Works, Flinders Street West, nearly opposite the Q.N. Bank Townsville, at two-pence per copy, 1 October 1883, volume 1 number 1 (Monday Evening)." The imprint acknowledged that it was printed and published by the proprietors, Francis and Frederick Charles Hodel, at the *Daily Northern Standard office, Flinders Street West*.

A.C. Frost wrote in “Early West Australian Newspapers and Their Editors”, undated manuscript, pp.4-5: “... the very word newspaper signifies that the news was printed on paper, but in the early days of printing it became fashionable with some printers to print on silk or satin. This is not to be confused with silk screen-printing, which is a much more recent process and which can be printed on any surface. ... [When the fashion of printing on silk or satin] spread to newspapers it is believed to have been confined to the printing of some souvenir copies of first editions.

“Strangely enough it was country newspapers that first employed this medium. Editors obviously found this a novel method of publicising what to them was an historic occasion. Unfortunately very few editions have been preserved, nor is there any catalogue of such. The one copy that is available in the [WA State] Archives is that of the *Hedland Advocate* published on 6 March 1906. A further example printed on satin is to be found in Geraldton and we are indebted to a paragraph in the *West Australian* of 1 December 1886 for the information. The paragraph reads: ‘Following upon an “Auspicious and happy occasion” the much esteemed wife of Francis Hart, part proprietor and editor of the *Victorian Express*, was presented with a pink satin bag on which was printed: “*Victorian Express*, Saturday, November 6, 1886. Presentation copy to Mrs. Hart with the manager’s and the foreman’s best wishes.” Within the bag was a copy of the *Express* of the above date printed on ivory satin, bound with pink. As a specimen of topography (sic) this handsome edition de-luxe is deserving of the highest praise.”

The *Manning River Times*, Taree, NSW, 10 September 1927, carried an extract from the *Braidwood Dispatch*, which reminisced about its early days (it began in 1858): “In those days printing and other supplies had to be brought direct from Sydney by bullock wagons – the trip occupying about a fortnight. Sometimes, when the roads were heavy, and the teamsters not particular, the supplies were delayed. [The *Dispatch*] frequently ran short of newspaper. As a substitute, the proprietor bought up the stocks of brown wrapping paper from stores in town, and printed his paper on it... On other occasions, when brown paper was not available, it is recorded that the paper was printed on calico. This was again collected, washed, and used again for the next issue. Those indeed were the days of strenuous journalism.”

33.55 DOW AND THE AGE

“John Lamont Dow and his son David McKenzie Dow in the Agricultural Editor’s Room, *The Age* and *The Leader* office, Melbourne.” This was the caption on a photograph that your editor bought via e-Bay recently, thanks to the eagle eye of Michael McCormack, the former editor of the *Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga, NSW. The brief caption has since taken me on a small journey of discovery.

There is no indication of what year the photograph was taken (my guess is about 1900), but two sources have provided a wealth of detail on, especially, John Lamont Dow. (There were pewter inkpots, nibbed pens, blotting paper, fingerless gloves on J.L. Dow’s hands, and low-hanging light bulbs.) John Lamont Dow (1837-1923) was born at Kilmarnock, Scotland, and migrated to the Geelong district in 1848 with his parents. He grew up to farming and stock raising. In 1862 he joined a group sponsored by a pastoral company to explore Gulf of Carpentaria country, was among the founders of Burketown and became an early pastoralist on the Herbert River tableland. Ill from gulf fever, he returned to Victoria in 1868 and worked on the land and as a miner until he joined the *Age* in 1873. The following year, Syme made him agricultural editor of his weekly *Leader*, aimed at the country reader.

He served in this role until 1886 and again from 1892-1915. He represented Kara Kara, a Wimmera seat, in the Legislative Assembly from 1877-1891 and was Minister for Lands and Agriculture in the Gillies-Deakin ministry of 1886-90. David McKenzie Dow (1870-1953), also featured in the picture, became the official secretary for Australia in America in 1924-31

and acting commissioner-general, 1931-38. J.L. Dow's brother, Thomas Kirkland Dow (1848-1918), was also an agricultural writer and worked at various times for the *Leader* and the *Age*, but for five years at the beginning of the 1880s he was writing on agricultural affairs for the *Australasian*, the weekly produced by the *Argus*, in direct opposition to his brother on the *Leader* (C.E. Sayers' *David Syme: A Life*, pp.155, 192, 291-292; *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 4, pp.93-95).

33.56 BANKSTOWN NEWSPAPER CELEBRATES 85th BIRTHDAY

The *Bankstown-Canterbury Torch*, a Sydney suburban "free", issued a 32-page souvenir edition in June to mark its 85th anniversary. Les Engisch launched the paper on 12 June 1920. Current managing director John Engisch sums up the founding and growth of the newspaper as being the "Three F Principle": "Grandfather founded it; father fixed it; and I hope I can further it." The Engisch family still lives in the territory the *Torch* has made its own – south-western Sydney. In 1970 John Engisch was nominated as a director when his uncle Dudley Engisch retired. John became the managing director when his father, Phil, died in 1985. The Engisch family is featured in articles on Pages 3, 10 and 11 of the souvenir edition (*Torch*, 12 June 2005; also see *PANPA Bulletin*, July 2005, p.23)

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

33.57 BOOKS

33.57.1 EDWARD SMITH HALL AND THE SYDNEY MONITOR by Erin Ihde, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 339pp, rrp \$39.95. ISBN 1740970519. (See brief review in *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14-15 May 2005, Spectrum section, p.27.)

33.57.2 GALLIPOLI by Jonathan King, Bantam, \$49.95. A 90th anniversary tribute that tells the untold stories of the Anzacs and war correspondent Charles Bean.

33.57.3 CONSENT AND CONSENSUS. POLITICS, MEDIA AND GOVERNANCE IN TWENTIETH CENTURY AUSTRALIA edited by Denis Cryle and Jean Hillier. This contains a chapter by Denis Cryle and Rodney Manning, "Consensus or Complacency?: Education, Training and Regional Journalism". They note the expansion of journalism education within the academy and ask whether the consensus over tertiary journalism education, which emerged slowly in Australia during the twentieth century, is still as secure as it was in the mid 1990s.

33.57.4 BATMAN IN THE BULLETIN: THE MELBOURNE I REMEMBER by Keith Dunstan, Australian Scholarly Publishing, \$34.95, paper back, 344pp. ISBN 1 74097 026 8. John Rickard reviews this in *Australian Book Review*, June-July 2005, p.19.

33.57.5 MEDIA MAYHEM: PLAYING WITH THE BIG BOYS by John D'Arcy, Melbourne: Brolga Publishing, 2005. 268pp. Paperback. ABN 46 063 962 443. The former CEO of the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd writes about the turbulent great media shakeup in Australia in the late 1980s.

33.58 MONOGRAPHS

33.58.1 TURNING UP THE HEAT: THE DECLINE OF PRESS FREEDOM IN AUSTRALIA 2001-2005 by the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (22 pages). This is the inaugural MEAA report on the state of press freedom in Australia from 11 September 2001 to 2005. Researched and written by Christopher Warren, Emma Walters, Rosina Di Marzo and Alex Johnson.

33.58.2 BARONS TO BLOGGERS: CONFRONTING MEDIA POWER with Lance Knobel, Jay Rosen, Eric Beecher, Guy Rundle, Margo Kingston, Andrew Clark. Series editor: Jonathan Mills. MUP, \$12.95. Seeks to answer the question: Is the mainstream media failing to confront power, and why are we now turning to the Internet for alternative news and opinion?

33.59 ARTICLES

33.59.1 ALL THE RAGE by Jane Cadzow, *Good Weekend*, 14 May 2005, pp.34-39. Fan mail, friends in high places, and now a seat on the ABC board – it's been a meteoric rise for fiercely conservative newspaper columnist Janet Albrechtsen. But things have not always gone her way, and the memory rankles.

33.59.2 LEFTIST MEDIA MISSED A TURN TO THE RIGHT by Janet Albrechtsen, *Australian*, 18 May 2005, p.13. There is a widening gap between public opinion and the mainstream press, according to this columnist.

33.59.3 NEWSPAPERS IN FOR TOUGH BATTLE OVER RATES by Neil Shoebridge, *Australian Financial Review*, 16 May 2005, p.50. Discusses views about likely newspaper advertising rate increases and provides table comparing rate increases in metro TV, regional TV, metro radio, newspapers, consumer magazine and outdoor advertising since 1999.

33.59.4 BULLETIN STRUGGLED EARLY BUT HAS BOOMED WITH GOLD COAST by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, May 2005, pp.56-57. A potted history of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, the nation's second-biggest selling regional daily. See also: VERY GOLD COAST by Alice Gorman, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 32, April-May 2005, pp.5-6. From visiting Z-list stars to schoolies and shady business deals beneath seaside scrapers, the Gold Coast has it all. Just don't bug the council.

33.59.5 GOOD GRIEF! IT'S THE DISAPPEARING COMIC by Lindsay Foyle, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 32, April-May 2005, p.24. Comics are a dying breed in Australia's newspapers. So who has lost the plot?

33.59.6 THE STARR REPORT by Rosina Di Marzo, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 32, April-May 2005, p.20. She may be a cartoon, but redheaded reporter Brenda Starr is on top of the latest real-life scandals in American media. [The "Brenda Starr, Reporter" comic was created by Dale Messick and launched as a weekly strip on 30 June 1940. The cartoon, written by a woman about a "career woman", became a lucrative asset to The Chicago Tribune Syndicate and has run as a daily since 1945. Since Messick retired in 1980, only women have drawn and written "Brenda Starr".]

33.59.7 ANZWONA BIRTHED TO 'KEEP BASTARDS HONEST' by Peter Isaacson, *PANPA Bulletin*, May 2005, p.58. How an organisation of web-offset printers sowed the seeds for the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association (PANPA).

33.59.8 MEDIA MOGULS AT CROSSROADS by Robert Gottliebsen, *Weekend Australian*, 21-22 May 21005, p.36. Australia's top media groups are undergoing critical changes ahead of reform and an industry shake-up.

33.59.9 MICROFILM, PAPER, AND OCR: ISSUES IN NEWSPAPER DIGITISATION by Kenning Arlitsch and John Hebert, *Microform & Imaging Review*, 33, Spring 2004, pp.59-67.

33.59.10 HOW A COMMUNIST RAG IN DARWIN BECAME A PAPER FOR MOUNT ISA by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, June 2005, pp.56-57. A history of newspapers in Mount Isa and how the papers there have been influenced by Cloncurry and Darwin.

33.59.11 RURAL PRESS' THE CANBERRA TIMES NOT STANDING STILL by Murray White, *Mediaweek*, 6 June 2005, p.8. An examination of a few months of intensive change at the daily that serves the national capital (see 33.25).

33.59.12 THE FACE by Peter Craven, *Weekend Australian*, 18-19 June 2005, Review 3. Profile of Jill Singer, *Herald Sun* columnist, author and broadcaster.

33.59.13 GOODBYE GOTTY by Robert Gottlieb, *Weekend Australian*, 18-19 June 2005, pp.31, 38. A long memory lends perspective, writes a business journalist who farewells newspapers after four decades.

33.59.14 AND THE WORD WAS GOD by Les Carlyon, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 33, June/July 2005, pp.15-17. If journalism has lost its credibility, is it because newspaper editors now work as cost accountants rather than wordsmiths? Carlyon suggests loving words more than the bottom line would improve Australia's newspapers no end.

33.59.15 OUT OF PRINT? by Mark Scott, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 33, June/July 2005, pp.18-19. Is the internet sounding the death knell for newspapers? Fairfax's editor-in-chief warns that unless print journalists embrace multi-media and take control in cutting costs, quality journalism may soon be kissed goodbye.

33.59.16 BOY CRIKEY! By Stephen Mayne, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 33, June/July 2005, p.27. It was email that hit readers in the eye, not blogging, and this sustained the Crikey website. Mayne explains how Crikey worked.

33.59.17 TALL TIMBERS TOPPLE: END OF INDEPENDENCE FOR TASMANIA'S DAILY PRESS by Rod Kirkpatrick and Stephen Tanner, *Australian Studies in Journalism*, No. 14, 2005, pp.124-145. From journalistic and political perspectives, this article examines the end of independence among Tasmania's daily newspapers resulting from Rural Press's aggressive takeover of the *Advocate*, the Burnie-Devonport daily.

33.59.18 BLACKOUT by Richard Reynolds, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2-3 July 2005, pp.43, 46. He built a media empire, then watched it crumble. No wonder Conrad Black is obsessed with Napoleon. A report on how the Canadian met his Waterloo.

33.59.19 PROVINCIAL PUBLISHING PROLIFERATED IN AUSTRALIA'S COLONIAL ERA by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, July 2005, pp.48-49. A summary of daily newspaper publication outside Australia's capital cities.

33.59.20 THE JUDICIARY AND THE PRESS by Jack R. Herman, *Australian Press Council News*, Vol. 17, No. 2, May 2005, pp.1-2. This is a report of Richard Ackland's 2005 Australian Press Council address. Justice Ronald Sackville's response will be reported in the next issue of the publication.

33.59.21 BLOGGING FOR FUN AND PROFIT by Angus Kidman, *Australian*, IT Alive section, 12 July 2005, pp.4-5. Web logs are booming, a *potpourri* of opinions, hobbies and cultural activity, and a lucky few even make money out of them.

33.59.22 QUENCHING A NATURAL THIRST by Sheena MacLean, *Australian*, Media section, 7 July 2005, p.17. A profile of the new editorial director of *Australian Geographic* magazine, Dee Nolan, an Australian who has returned from a glittering magazine career overseas. *Australian Geographic*, a quarterly, is moving from a subscription-only base to be sold at newsstands.

33.59.23 MURDOCH'S WAR by Robert Manne, *The Monthly*, July 2005, pp.20-25. How a lovestruck teenager, an angry man and an ambitious press baron made sure bad news was no news on the path to Iraq. An edited extract from this article appeared in the *Weekend Australian*, 16-17 July 2005, p.31, along with responses from Tom Switzer, the *Australian's* opinion page editor, and Greg Sheridan, its foreign editor.

33.59.24 INKY WAYFARERS: NEW ZEALAND JOURNALISM AND THE AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY by Allison Oosterman, *Australian Journalism Review*, 27 (1), 2005, pp.77-91. During the early part of the 20th century, New Zealand journalists were highly mobile, moving about the country and across the Tasman in a ceaseless quest for work. They became known as "inky wayfarers".

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