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36.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS

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The *Newsletter* is online through the "Publications" link of the University of Queensland's
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through the ePrint Archives at the University of Queensland at <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/>

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: METROPOLITAN

36.2 DEATH OF KERRY PACKER

Kerry Francis Bullmore Packer died in his sleep on 26 December 2005, aged 68. Packer, who was Australia's wealthiest citizen, was a sometime newspaper owner (mainly regional newspapers, but also the *Canberra Times*, 1987-89), and the principal shareholder in Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd (PBL), which runs, amongst other enterprises, the biggest stable of magazines in Australia and the Nine television network. He was the third-generation member of the Packer media dynasty. His father, Sir Frank Packer, owned the *Daily Telegraph* from 1936-72 and started Channel 9 in both Sydney and Melbourne; and Kerry's grandfather, Robert Clyde Packer, was a newspaper manager and owner whose fortunes received a wonderful boost when he was given a one-third interest in *Smith's Weekly*.

On 28 December and on succeeding days, Australian newspapers gave extensive coverage to the death of Kerry Packer and its implications for the future of PBL, but especially the Nine Network. The death and related issues occupied the first five pages of the *Australian* on 28 December; and Pages 1 and 4-8 in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, which had long feared falling into the hands of Packer (the front page banner headline was "Death of a giant"). The *Herald* ran a full double-column broadsheet editorial on Packer (p.16) and devoted its Opinion Page (p.17) to comment pieces by Philip Derriman, Rod Tiffen, Malcolm Turnbull and Robert Pullan. The *Australian* also ran an editorial on Packer on 28 December and 10 letters from readers (p.11), and devoted two-thirds of its Opinion Page (p.10) to Packer.

The Packer-owned *Bulletin* magazine published a 100-page "special tribute issue" devoted entirely to Kerry Packer on 4 January 2006. It took 48 hours to produce the edition and it became a best-seller, with newsagents ringing up to double and treble their orders. Editor Garry Linnell said the original print run was three times as many as for an ordinary issue of the magazine. Linnell had special praise for the article he commissioned from Les Carlyon. "Twelve hours later he filed 4,000 untouchable words, not one spelling error, beautiful copy; that's what he's like." A reprint of the special issue was on sale at the state memorial service on 17 February and until sold out (*Mediaweek*, 23-30 January 2006, pp.1, 10).

The *Australian* published a report (6 January 2006, pp.1-2) on an interview with Francis Packer, son of Clyde Packer and the only nephew of Kerry Packer. It is clear that Kerry and Clyde remained close after Clyde's split with their father.

The monthly magazine, the *Australian Women's Weekly*, published a tribute to Kerry Packer in its February 2006 edition (pp.18-39), including a 2½-page tribute from the editorial director, Deborah Thomas and an 18-page "A Fond Farewell" section, which is predominantly pictorial.

The *Monthly* (February 2006, pp.20-24) ran a five-page article, "Some Velvet Mourning", by the academic who has studied the Packers most intensively, Bridget Griffen-Foley.

More than 2,000 people attended a 75-minute state memorial service for Kerry Packer in the concert hall at the Sydney Opera House on 17 February. It was telecast live by the Nine Network. The service was attended by five men who had captained Australia in cricket, two who had been Prime Minister, and five who had been premiers. There were also three Hollywood stars and at least three billionaires (*Weekend Australian*, 18-19 February 2006, pp.1, 4-5). The *Sydney Morning Herald* ran a four-page wraparound of the memorial service (18-19 February).

Phillip Adams wrote in the *Weekend Australian Magazine* (18-19 February 2006, pp.14-17) of a complex and troubled Kerry Packer, a wistful, vulnerable man who admitted he had inside him "a big black hole".

"I'm doing my best ... so don't compare me with Dad," was the message James Packer conveyed during an interview on Channel 9's *Sunday* program on 19 February (*Australian*, 20 February 2006, p.3).

Chris Anderson has been appointed deputy chairman of the board of PBL in place of the late Kerry Packer. Anderson is a former chief executive of telco Optus and a former editor-in-chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald* (*Australian*, 26 January 2006, p.19).

For background reading:

Barry, Paul (1993), *The rise and rise of Kerry Packer*, Bantam and ABC Books.

Griffen-Foley, Bridget (1999), *The House of Packer: The making of a media empire*, Sydney: Allen & Unwin.

36.3 COURIER-MAIL TO CHANGE TO HALF THE PRESENT BROADSHEET SIZE

"We are changing our size, not our news values," declared *Courier-Mail* editor David Fagan when announcing that the paper would convert to tabloid format some time in the first half of 2006. Well, he didn't quite say that; he didn't use the T-word, apparently for fear that some readers would associate "tabloid" with a change in values. The word Fagan used, throughout his announcement of the format change, was "compact", which he then felt the need to explain to readers was "half the present broadsheet size". (See David Fagan, "Paper to take on new look in 2006", *Courier-Mail*, 15 December 2005, pp.1-2; John Lehmann, "Courier-Mail turns tabloid", *Australian*, 15 December 2005, p.13.)

When the *Courier-Mail* has become a tabloid, the only remaining broadsheet metropolitan daily newspapers will be the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Age* (Melbourne), the *Canberra Times* and the *Australian*. The *Sunday Age* is the only remaining broadsheet Sunday paper and the *Sunraysia Daily*, Mildura, is the only broadsheet regional daily. At the *Courier-Mail*, David Fagan says the format change is in response to reader surveys. But some newspaper observers might suggest the declining Monday-to-Friday circulations have had some

influence on the decision. The *Courier-Mail* has lost 10 per cent of the Monday-to-Friday circulation that it had in 1990, dropping from 233,666 to 211,279 (in the first half of 2005).

The date for the *Courier-Mail's* conversion to tabloid has been set: Monday, 13 March. The Saturday paper has been the biggest challenge, says Fagan. "We have nussed out a few ways to present it so there aren't so many sections and to make it easier to get around than perhaps it is now." (*Mediaweek*, 13 February 2006, p.5)

The *Courier-Mail* will raise advertising rates by 9 per cent on 13 March when it changes to a tabloid format. The increase, four months earlier than expected, will offset a 7 to 8 per cent loss of revenue because of lower charges for smaller tabloid ads (*Australian*, 16 February 2006, p.17).

[See ANHG 36.43 for background to changes of format in Australian newspapers.]

36.4 PAMELA BONE SAYS ADIEU

Pamela Bone's farewell column in the *Age* prompted many readers to write to wish her well and to thank her for sharing her opinions over the years. Bone wrote the column after a year of treatment for multiple myeloma (cancer of the bone marrow). An associate editor of the *Age*, Bone retired on 16 December after 23 years with the paper. In her farewell, published on 19 December (p.13), Bone shared what she had learned over the 12 months of her illness and said that legislation for assisted suicide – for the right to die at a time of one's own choosing – "will and should come". Letters from seven readers, commenting on Bone's column, were published on 20 December under the heading, "A voice of humanity and compassion".

36.5 AGE APPOINTMENTS

Paul Ramadge, a former Newcastle *Herald* journalist and one-time editor of the Dubbo *Daily Liberal*, became the senior deputy editor of the *Age* on 1 January. Over nearly 10 years at the *Age*, Ramadge has edited most parts of the paper: the Saturday *Age*, the daily sections, and in 2000 the extensive coverage of the Sydney Olympic Games. He now has responsibility for the *Age's* news, business and sports coverage. Simon Mann, the former senior deputy editor, has become the paper's chief correspondent. He leads the newspaper's reporting on issues around Australia and, when necessary, overseas (*Age*, 20 December 2005, p.2).

36.6 AAP MOVES TO RHODES

Australian Associated Press (AAP) has shifted its headquarters from the heart of Sydney's CBD to suburban Rhodes, not far from the Sydney Olympics village of 2000. The CEO of AAP, Clive Marshall, was "Person of the Week" in *Mediaweek* on 13 February, pp.2, 7. The AAP shareholding is: News Ltd 45 per cent; John Fairfax Holdings 45 pc; West Australian Newspapers Holdings 8pc; Rural Press Ltd 2pc (RPL obtained its shareholding when it bought the Harris Group, publisher of the Burnie *Advocate*). About 130 journalists and sub-editors work in the Rhodes newsroom while AAP maintains an office for 18 reporters in York Street in the Sydney CBD. Reporters based at Rhodes also use this office as a "drop-in office" as required.

36.7 FAIRFAX JOURNALISTS WALK OUT AND ARE ORDERED BACK

Five hundred journalists from the John Fairfax Group in Sydney, who went on strike indefinitely on 14 December over failed wages negotiations, returned to work two days later on an order from the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (*Australian*, 15 December 2005, p.5; *Weekend Australian*, 17-18 2005, p.9).

36.8 NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

The *Herald Sun* made available in Federation Square, Melbourne, free copies of its early edition of 17 January 2006. The edition carried lists of the offers of tertiary places. The special edition was made available on the evening of 16 January and sold at selected newsagencies sub-agencies and 24-hour convenience stores throughout Melbourne.

36.9 AID FOR EAST TIMOR PAPER

East Timor newspaper *Diario Tempo* has received a New Year's gift from the partnership between Fairfax members and Union Aid Abroad (APHEDA). *Diario Tempo*, one of East Timor's newest independent newspapers, was given a Layout Computer on 28 December 2005, bought with the funds raised by Fairfax staff and other individual community members. The partnership between Fairfax members and Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA to support the development *Diario Tempo* could not have taken place at a more opportune time.

Diario Tempo's only Layout Computer was taken away by its owner just before Christmas, three weeks before the termination of the rental agreement. Thanks to the efficient and dedicated Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA staff in Dili, East Timor, *Diario Tempo* managed to secure a new computer almost immediately. APHEDA staff gave up their Christmas leave to assist *Diario Tempo* to save data from the rented computer, developed a new contract agreement, and facilitated the transfer of funds to purchase a new computer.

36.10 FAIRFAX TAKEOVER TALK

John Fairfax Holdings could face a \$3 billion-plus takeover bid from a consortium of bidders, potentially including Macquarie Bank. Advertising industry executive Harold Mitchell says there are plans in Europe to put together a consortium to bid for Fairfax, owner of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Melbourne Age*, the *Australian Financial Review*, the *Sun-Herald* (A NSW-based Sunday paper), three regional dailies in NSW and Victoria and various suburban newspapers in Sydney and Melbourne (*Australian*, 26 January 2006, pp.1, 4).

On 27 January, shares in John Fairfax Holdings rocketed to their biggest single-day gain in more than five years as rumour intensified that an overseas bidder would make a move on the media group before the Government's proposed media law overhaul (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 January 2006, online).

36.11 LATHAM'S LATEST CHAPTER

Former Federal Opposition Leader Mark Latham will appear in Campbelltown Local Court on 22 March charged with assault, theft and malicious damage after an altercation at Henry Jack's at Campbelltown on 19 January, 12 months after Latham had left politics. Latham allegedly smashed a \$12,000 digital camera owned by the *Daily Telegraph* after allegedly snatching it from Schultz (*Weekend Australian*, 21-21 January 2006, p.8; *Daily Telegraph*, 7 February 2006).

36.12 QWEEKEND LOSES AN ISSUE

The *Courier-Mail's* weekend glossy magazine, *Qweekend*, launched last October, planned to devote an issue on 7 January 2006 to "Memorable Summers", with a "great collection" of

summer stories, including a piece by best-selling novelist Di Morrissey. The issue was printer-ready when it was canned because of a lack of advertising revenue, reports *Mediaweek*, 23-30 January 2006, p.2.

36.13 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

3 November 2005	Death: Gordon Currie , aged 88 in California; former war correspondent, radio correspondent, journalist and caricaturist; born in Sydney; worked for Australian and American papers and broadcast organisations (<i>Age</i> , 24 November 2005, p.9).
4 December 2005	Death: Tom Prior , aged 77 at Apollo Bay, Victoria; worked for Melbourne <i>Truth</i> and Sydney <i>Daily Telegraph</i> before joining Melbourne <i>Sun</i> as chief crime reporter; was one of 12 journalists present at hanging of Ronald Ryan on 3 February 1967, the last execution in Australia; became chief football and cricket writer; was a ghost writer for Lou Richards' column in the <i>Sun</i> and invented terms that became part of football folklore (<i>Herald Sun</i> , 5 December 2005).
17 December 2005	Death: Keith Andrew Warrington Connolly , aged 77 in Melbourne; widely experienced journalist, but best known as film critic for the Melbourne <i>Herald</i> , 1975-1990; entered journalism with Perth <i>Sunday Times</i> at 14; political activism led to his being blacklisted from newspapers for several years in the 1950s but he returned as football writer for the <i>Argus</i> and was sports editor for that paper during the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne (<i>Age</i> , 20 December 2005, p.10).
25 December 2005	One hundredth birthday of Noel Keith Welsh ; retired from Hobart <i>Mercury</i> in December 1970 after 24 years as senior reporter and sportswriter; entered journalism at <i>Albury Daily News</i> in 1923; then worked for <i>Border Morning Mail</i> (Albury), <i>Star</i> (Melbourne), <i>Daily Advertiser</i> (Wagga Wagga); joined <i>Mercury</i> in 1946 after war service with RAAF; AJA Gold Honour Badge holder; Tasmania's leading journalism award is named in his honour (writes ANHG subscriber Robert Coleman, of Melbourne).
26 December 2005	Death: Kerry Francis Bullmore Packer , aged 68 in Sydney; media proprietor and business magnate (see 36.2).
3 January 2006	Death: Bruce Paul Wilson , aged 64 in London; widely travelled News Ltd foreign correspondent; entered journalism as a cadet with the <i>Courier-Mail</i> , Brisbane, in 1958; moved to short-lived Melbourne evening paper, <i>Newsday</i> , in 1969, and a year later to the Melbourne <i>Sun</i> and then the <i>Herald</i> ; first overseas posting was in Singapore, 1971-77, including a three-year tour of duty in the Vietnam war (<i>Australian</i> , 5 January 2006, p.2; <i>Courier-Mail</i> , 5 January 2006, p.24; <i>Age</i> , 7 January 2006, p.13).
2 February 2006	Media section of the <i>Australian</i> appears for first time since 15 December 2005.
17 February 2006	State memorial service held at Sydney Opera House for Kerry Packer (see 36.2).

36.14 PETER FRAY'S VIEWS

Peter Fray has no plans to change the *Sunday Age* from broadsheet to tabloid, says *Mediaweek* (23-30 January 2006, p.8) in reporting an interview with the new editor of the newspaper.

36.15 CHAIR APPOINTED FOR ACMA

Chris Chapman, 51, a former acting managing director of the Seven Network and chief executive of Stadium Australia in the lead-up to the Sydney Olympics, has been appointed the first chair of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). He will take up the appointment on 27 February. ACMA has been operating under an acting chair, Lyn Maddock, since it opened its doors in July 2005. As well as playing umpire to powerful media owners such as Rupert Murdoch and James Packer, Chapman will share with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission responsibility for Australia's \$30 billion a year telecommunications industry – including Telstra, which has taken a strong anti-regulation

stance in the past seven months (*Australian*, 31 January 2006, p.17, and Media section, 2 February 2006, p.13).

36.16 WAN JOB AND PROFIT LOSSES

West Australian Newspapers Holdings dropped 50 per cent in first-half profits largely because of a \$26.6 million provision for redundancy payments to 207 production staff. Their jobs will be cut over the next two years as a result of new printing and publishing equipment. WAN also allowed \$13.4 million for accelerated depreciation of old plant. The company has warned of a slowdown in advertising revenue growth (*Australian*, 3 February 2006, p.21).

36.17 MARKETING ARM FOR NEWSPAPERS

An industry-wide newspaper marketing body has been established by Australia's largest five newspaper publishers: News Limited, John Fairfax Holdings Ltd, APN News & Media Ltd, West Australian Newspapers Holdings Ltd and Rural Press Ltd. Chairing the so-far unnamed organisation is News Ltd executive chairman John Hartigan. News and Fairfax are believed to want the organisation to consider seeking an overhaul of the quarterly readership studies conducted by research firm Roy Morgan. The new organisation will be funded on a sliding scale according to the size of the publisher. A chief executive will be appointed by mid-year (*Australian*, Media section, 9 February 2006, p.15).

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: In 1969 the Australian Newspapers Council nearly persuaded the Regional Dailies of Australia Ltd to join the council, but a threatened mass walkout by Queensland RDA members scuttled what would have been an organisation much like the one now being established.

36.18 CARTOONS

There has been extensive debate about freedom-of-the-press issues following the protests and violence related to the publication of cartoons related to Mohammed. For example, see Mark Day, *Australian*, Media section, 9 February 2006, p.20; Matt Rubinstein, *Australian Financial Review*, 10 Feb 2006, Review 3; Alan Moir, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 Feb 2006, online; Gerard Henderson, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 Feb 2006, p.11. Two Australian newspapers, the *Courier-Mail* and the *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin*, published one of the "offending" cartoons. Des Houghton, a current columnist for and former editor of the *Courier-Mail*, defended the *Courier-Mail's* decision (*Courier-Mail*, 11-12 Feb 2006, p.26).

A Michael Leunig cartoon, which the *Age* refused to publish in 2002, has been falsely entered in an Iranian competition to find the world's most offensive Holocaust cartoon (*Australian*, 15 February 2006, pp.1-2, and editorial p.11).

36.19 NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION AUDIT

Clear winner in the Monday-to-Friday newspaper circulation field in the second half of 2005 was the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, with an increase of 1.7 per cent followed by the *Australian* with 1.3pc. Biggest loser was the *Canberra Times* (which lost across the board) with a drop of 3.2pc followed by the *Hobart Mercury* with a 1.9pc fall. The Audit Bureau of Circulations released the figures on 16 February. Big winner on Saturdays was the *Weekend Financial Review* (up 5pc) and on Sundays the *Sunday Age* (up 3.8 pc).

Commenting on the latest figures, chairman and CEO of News Limited, John Hartigan, said, "Newspapers are alive and well – more Australians are buying and reading newspapers than a year ago, and this is occurring at the same time as strong growth in traffic to online sites." He said there had been a strong recovery of newspapers on Monday to Friday, "dispelling the

myth that more and more Australians no longer have time to read a newspaper". Hartigan seems to ignore the fact that the Australian population is rising at a faster rate than any small increases that newspapers are recording overall in circulation. And, in any case, if he looks back even only five years he will find that quite a few metropolitan dailies are selling fewer copies now on weekdays than in the second half of 2000. Since then, the *Sydney Morning Herald* has lost about 9,000 copies a day, the *Courier-Mail* about 4,150 copies, and the *Advertiser* about 3,500, while the *Herald Sun* has gained 9,000 and the *Age* 5,000 (see *Australian*, 17 February 2006, pp.2 and 21, and 23 February 2006, Media section, p.17, including Mark Day's annual report card on editors).

Metropolitan and national papers

Newspaper	Six months to 31/12/2005	Six months to 31/12/2004	Change %
Monday to Friday	Daily sales	Daily sales	
<i>Australian</i>	133,434	131,753	+ 1.3
<i>Australian Financial Review</i>	85,843	85,293	+ 0.6
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (NSW)	397,054	390,410	+ 1.7
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (NSW)	214,299	214,005	+ 0.1
<i>Herald Sun</i> (Vic)	554,000	553,100	+ 0.2
<i>Age</i> (Vic)	195,100	196,250	- 0.6
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (Qld)	208,202	208,902	- 0.3
<i>Advertiser</i> (SA)	196,849	198,172	- 0.7
<i>West Australian</i>	202,774	204,403	- 0.8
<i>Mercury</i> (Tas)	47,539	48,451	- 1.9
<i>Canberra Times</i>	36,091	37,272	- 3.2
<i>Northern Territory News</i>	22,618	22,957	- 1.5
Total	2,293,803	2,290,968	
Saturday	Weekly sales	Weekly sales	
<i>Weekend Australian</i>	293,444	289,968	+ 1.2
<i>Australian Financial Review</i>	84,073	80,023	+ 5.0
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (NSW)	357,800	352,482	+ 1.5
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (NSW)	342,204	337,263	+ 1.5
<i>Herald Sun</i> (Vic)	514,000	512,000	+ 0.4
<i>Age</i> (Vic)	296,800	292,250	+ 1.6
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (Qld)	320,735	332,335	- 3.5
<i>Advertiser</i> (SA)	267,186	272,341	- 1.9
<i>West Australian</i>	370,948	373,153	- 0.6
<i>Mercury</i> (Tas)	62,108	63,414	- 2.1
<i>Canberra Times</i>	66,340	68,446	- 3.1
<i>Northern Territory News</i>	32,892	32,588	+ 0.9
Total	3,008,530	3,006,263	
Sunday	Weekly sales	Weekly sales	
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i> (NSW)	701,739	716,326	- 2.0
<i>Sun-Herald</i> (NSW)	519,068	513,888	+ 1.0
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i> (Vic)	618,000	605,000	+ 2.0
<i>Sunday Age</i> (Vic)	202,200	194,750	+ 3.8
<i>Sunday Mail</i> (Qld)	613,026	621,419	- 1.4
<i>Sunday Mail</i> (SA)	327,456	331,755	- 1.3
<i>Sunday Times</i> (WA)	348,000	353,000	- 1.4
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	60,086	59,939	+ 0.2
<i>Sunday Examiner</i>	43,407	43,884	- 1.09
<i>Canberra Sunday Times</i>	36,273	37,610	- 3.6
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	24,703	25,381	- 2.7
Total	3,493,958	3,502,952	

Regional dailies

Newspaper (Mon-Sat unless otherwise stated)	Six months to 31/12/2005	Six months to 31/12/2004	Change %*
Border Mail, Albury-Wodonga (NSW)	26,361	26,780	- 1.56
<i>Western Advocate</i> , Bathurst (M-F)	4,112	4,478	- 8.17
<i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> , Broken Hill	5,812	5,926	- 1.92
<i>Daily Liberal</i> , Dubbo (M-F)	5,651	5,641	+ 0.18
<i>Daily Examiner</i> , Grafton	5,944	6,094	- 2.46
<i>Northern Star</i> , Lismore	16,674	16,760	- 0.51
<i>Maitland Mercury</i> (M-F)	4,499	4,493	+ 0.13
<i>Newcastle Herald</i> (M-Fri)	53,028	52,598	+ 0.82
<i>Central Western Daily</i> , Orange	5,396	5,446	- 0.92
<i>Northern Daily Leader</i> , Tamworth	8,344	8,447	- 1.22
<i>Daily News</i> , Tweed Heads	4,904	5,018	- 2.27
<i>Daily Advertiser</i> , Wagga Wagga	13,587	14,149	+ 0.47
<i>Illawarra Mercury</i> , Wollongong	29,688	29,583	+ 0.35
Ballarat Courier (Victoria)	19,390	19,528	- 0.70
<i>Bendigo Advertiser</i>	14,462	14,699	- 1.61
<i>Geelong Advertiser</i> (Mon-Fri)	29,896	29,877	+ 0.06
<i>Sunraysia Daily</i> , Mildura	7,187	7,171	+ 0.22
<i>Shepparton News</i> (M-F)	10,534	10,475	- 1.96
<i>Warrnambool Standard</i>	12,772	12,849	- 0.60
Bundaberg News-Mail (Qld) (Mon-Fri)	11,904	11,878	+ 0.22
<i>Cairns Post</i> (M-Sat)	30,920	30,675	+ 0.80
<i>Gladstone Observer</i> (Tu-Fri)	7,694	7,654	+ 0.52
<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i>	48,437	47,069	+ 2.91
<i>Gympie Times</i> (Tu-Sat)	5,782	5,780	+ 0.03
<i>Queensland Times</i> , Ipswich	12,183	12,808	- 4.88
<i>Daily Mercury</i> , Mackay	15,922	15,942	- 0.13
<i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i> , Maroochydore	23,552	23,416	+ 0.58
<i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> , Hervey Bay	10,237	10,129	+ 1.07
<i>North-West Star</i> , Mount Isa (Mon-Fri)	3,601	3,611	- 0.28
<i>Morning Bulletin</i> , Rockhampton	18,442	18,426	+ 0.09
<i>Toowoomba Chronicle</i>	24,658	24,972	- 1.26
<i>Townsville Bulletin</i>	29,699	29,407	+ 0.99
<i>Daily News</i> , Warwick	3,699	3,619	+ 2.21
Kalgoorlie Miner (WA)	5,688	5,746	- 1.01
Advocate, Burnie (Tas.)	24,619	24,764	- 0.59
<i>Examiner</i> , Launceston	35,237	35,707	- 1.32
Total	590,515	591,615	

36.20 HABIB DEFAMED

Former Guantanamo Bay inmate Mamdouh Habib was defamed by a Piers Akerman column in the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* that suggested he had knowingly made false claims, a NSW Supreme Court jury has found. A NSW Supreme Court judge will hear defences and determine whether Habib should be awarded damages (*Australian*, 15 February 2006, p.2).

36.21 PROTECTING JOURNALISTS' SOURCES

The Australian Law Reform Commission has urged all states and territories to give the confidential sources of journalists more protection than that favoured by the Federal Government. The commission recommended that all governments introduce a discretionary privilege covering all professional confidences, including those between journalists and their sources. The commission's plan provides less protection than that favoured by media

proprietors but it would provide more protection than the scheme favoured by the Commonwealth (*Australian*, 9 February 2006, p.8).

36.22 ADELAIDE EDITORIAL MOVES

Adelaide's *Independent Weekly* has lost another editor and two of its senior staff. Publisher Paul Hamra said that editor Nick Carne and deputy editor Ian Williams had quit on 8 February "because the Adelaide newspaper was going in a direction they weren't comfortable with". Part-time writer Karen Phillips said she was leaving, but she did not resign. Carne had been editor since July last year (*Advertiser*, 10 February 2006, online; *Australian*, Media section, 23 February 2006, "The Diary", p.24).

36.23 CRIKEY, IT'S COME TO THIS

"This week," wrote Hugo Kelly, "Crikey.com.au celebrated its sixth anniversary by publishing a special edition commemorating the event – and by sacking one of the journalists who founded the internet gadfly on Valentine's Day 2000. That journalist was me. And I was axed because, in the words of Crikey's new management, I've been 'putting a few noses out of joint'." Kelly's article appeared in the Media section of the *Australian* on 16 February 2006 (pp.15-16). A response from Eric Beecher, crikey proprietor, appeared on p.16.

36.24 QUEENSLAND MEDIA MOGUL UNDER SIEGE

The media empire of high-profile Queensland businessman Mike Norris is in disarray with administrators appointed to a web of companies that control key assets, including Brisbane newspapers, the *Reporter* (Logan), *Ipswich's Own* and *Westside Weekly* (*Queensland Business Review*, 15 February 2006, online; *Australian*, Media section, 23 February 2006, p.14, advert.).

36.25 BALI NINE: AUSTRALIAN STORY RUSHED

Brisbane's *Courier-Mail* ("Mule had history of crime", 14 February 2006, pp.1, 4) presented the public with a chance to review seriously feelings they may have had after viewing ABC-TV's *Australian Story* of 13 February about Scott Rush and his family. Your editor felt *Australian Story* was rushing things by presenting this episode on the evening of the day on which drugs mule Rush had been sentenced to life imprisonment. The *Courier-Mail's* report confirmed that there would have been wisdom in waiting (later in the week, the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police referred to the episode as "*Australian Half-Story*"). Here's now *Courier-Mail* crime editor Paula Doneman began her front-page exposé the next day: "He claimed he was an innocent abroad, duped into running heroin from Bali to Australia, but Brisbane man Scott Anthony Rush has clocked up an extensive criminal history in his short adult life." Doneman reported that Rush, 20, had committed 16 crimes in Queensland over two years stemming from an addiction to illicit and prescription drugs.

Later in the week, Doneman and Jeff Somerfeld reported (*Courier-Mail*, 18-19 February, pp.1, 4) more intensively on Rush's criminal career and his ignoring of warnings from magistrates and his contemptuous treatment of appointments he was required to keep for drug rehabilitation and with Queensland Community Corrections. The *Courier-Mail* editorialised in that issue (p.32), "Federal police not bad guys in sad affair of Bali Nine".

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: PROVINCIAL

36.26 NEW OWNER FOR *TULLY TIMES*

John Hughes, former managing editor of the *Longreach Leader*, bought the *Tully Times* from Vivian Dickson on 27 November 2005. Dickson is the widow of Bruce Dickson, former the owner-editor and a brother of the founder of the Times.

36.27 WESTONS TAKE A PARTNER

The Weston family has been running the *Kiama Independent* on the New South Wales South Coast since Joseph Weston established it in July 1863. It is the oldest of the current newspaper ownership dynasties in Australia. Now, looking to the future, the Westons have formed a partnership with a Sydney-based printing family, the Hannans. WestonPrint and the Hannan-owned Independent Print Media Group have combined to form a new company called Southern Independent Publishers Pty Ltd. It publishes the *Kiama Independent*, *Lake Times*, *Northern Leader* and *Property Link* (*Lake Times*, 14 December 2005; also see *Mediaweek*, 23-30 January 2006, p.9).

36.28 MUDGEE GUARDIAN INCREASES PUBLICATION FREQUENCY

The *Mudgee Guardian* resumed tri-weekly publication on Monday, 9 January 2006, after appearing twice weekly for 31 years. The *Guardian* had last appeared three times a week (Monday/Wednesday/Friday) on 20 December 1974. It thereafter appeared each Tuesday and Friday. Rural Press Ltd owns the paper (*Mudgee Guardian*, 9 January 2006).

36.29 NEW EDITOR (1): *KALGOORLIE MINER*

Michael Gorey, a 39-year-old father of four from western Victoria, is the new editor of the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia's only regional daily (*Australian*, Media section, 2 February 2006, p.18).

36.30 NEW EDITOR (2): *NORTHERN RIVERS ECHO*

After nine years as the *Northern Rivers Echo*'s editor, Simon Thomsen, has put down his pen, finishing with the Christmas edition. Thomsen has moved to Sydney to become the chief restaurant critic for the *Sydney Morning Herald*. He continues as a major shareholder of the Lismore-based *Echo*. The former chief of staff, Terra Sword (pictured), was appointed editor in his place. Sword acted as editor for more than nine months in 2004-05.



36.31 NEW EDITOR (3): *MAITLAND MERCURY*

The *Maitland Mercury*, the oldest provincial newspaper in New South Wales, has appointed a new editor, Liz Tickner, a journalist with more than 20 years' experience. She has gone to Maitland after an 18-month stint as editor at the *Inverell Times*, where the paper recorded strong circulation growth under her leadership. Tickner has a strong practical background in newspaper, running the gamut of regional and metropolitan press. She has a

Masters of Journalism degree and has worked with the *West Australian*, the Perth daily. (*Maitland Mercury*, 30 January 2006, online).

36.32 NEW EDITOR (4): *DAILY LIBERAL*, DUBBO

Dubbo resident Jen Cowley has been appointed the editor of the *Daily Liberal*, Dubbo. General manager Ian George announced that Mrs Cowley would take up the reins of “the 131-year-old local institution”. Cowley had been a columnist for the *Daily Liberal* for 12 months before taking up a full-time position last year in the busy newsroom (*Daily Liberal*, 15 February 2006.) Less than a year ago, ANHG 33.32 announced the appointment of Jodie Sullivan as editor of the *Daily Liberal*.

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The *Daily Liberal* is not 131 years old. It began publication as the *Dubbo Liberal* on 8 October 1887, and so it is 118 years old. Some Dubbo historians have confused the origins of the *Liberal* by wrongly stating that it descended from the *Dubbo Advertiser*, launched on 5 August 1875. And the *Daily Liberal* announced on Page 1 of 21 October 1974 that it was “100 years old today”. It even timed the opening of its new building in Wingewarra Street, Dubbo, for that day. Yet no newspaper started in Dubbo in 1874. (See 36.44 for more on newspapers uncertain of their dates of birth.)

36.33 ALICE SPRINGS NEWS SPEAKS OUT ON SPIN MANAGEMENT

The *Alice Springs News* speaks out (21 December 2005): “The *Alice Springs News* reported on Country Liberal Party governments ruling with massive majorities during our first eight years in publication. We thought we’d seen it all so far as manipulative strategies of secretive administrations are concerned. So when Labor came to power in 2001, on a platform of open and transparent government, we thought this was the dawn of a long yearned-for new era: easy access to information in the public interest, and enlightened debates with ministers representing ‘the people’ rather than narrow sectional interests. The disappointment is crushing.

“What the Martin regime has put in place makes the CLP, even in its former incarnations, appear a shining beacon of democracy. These days an army of minders is presuming to tell journalists not only what to write, but also what to ask, and whom. Elected politicians – with their apparent consent – are reduced to parroting scripted spiels at stage-managed events. Or are kept out of sight altogether. This is fine for the “rip (or download) and read” and the “rip and print” sections of the media, whose “reporting” rarely goes beyond putting their bylines on handouts. To investigative reporters this Stalinist style of media “management” is presenting new challenges, as well as new opportunities. Whistle blowers are having a field day. Leaks are turning into torrents.”

36.34 RACISM EXPOSED ON THE COAST

A local newspaper experiment with two staff dressed in Middle Eastern burkhas has exposed racism in a Coffs Harbour shopping centre on the New South Wales mid-north coast. Two *Coffs Advocate* staff agreed to the experiment after hearing that a local family who had done the same thing were pushed, told to go home and threatened with violence. The family had lived in the Middle East and was motivated to dress up in the burkhas by the news of the race riots in Sydney. Newspaper journalist Belinda Scott says her colleagues received less overt treatment a day later, but she says she is still shocked by the results. “They got much more thinly veiled sort of comments and less obvious reaction, but I was quite shocked,” she said. “Like the mother of the girls, she said I did not expect this reaction and who would?” (ABC Online, 15 December 2005.)

36.35 ARMIDALE EXPRESS SEEKS BIRTHDAY BONUS

The *Armidale Express*, which will be 150 years old on 5 April, will publish a commemorative tribute to the babies born in the Armidale area between 5 April 2005 and 5 April 2006. The special supplement will be published on Friday, 7 April 2006. The paper has invited recent local parents to place their tribute advertisement and enter the draw to win a \$1,000 deposit for their child. Each individual tribute will measure 6cm high x 9cm wide and include a photo and personal message of up to 20 words, for just \$45. The competition opened on 3 January 2006 and closes on Wednesday April 5, 2006.

36.36 ALBANY ACTION

There's been action aplenty at the *Albany Advertiser* since the appointment of Andrew Mole as managing editor. Within a few months, he launched the *Great Southern Guide* and the *Great Southern Farmer* as weekly full-colour publications inserted into the *Albany Advertiser* on Tuesdays and into the *Narrogin Observer* and the *Great Southern Herald*, Katanning. The *Great Southern Guide* is also now inserted in the *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times*, lifting its weekly circulation to more than 15,000. All the titles are owned by West Australian Regional Newspapers Ltd, a subsidiary of WAN Holdings Ltd (*West Australian Regional Newspapers Bulletin*, November 29005, p.4).

36.37 RURAL PRESS LTD JOINS ONLINE BATTLE

Rural Press Ltd plans to become seriously involved in the battle for online advertising dollars. RPL has posted a \$58.56 million net profit for the first half of 2005-06, up just 0.4 per cent on the same period last year. Managing director Brian McCarthy has said the company now plans to step up efforts to boost earnings from the online advertising market, an area that has been neglected in the past (*Australian*, 10 February 2006, p.25; for fuller report, see *Australian Financial Review*, 13 February 2006, p.50).

36.38 NANNUP INCLUDED

The *Donnybrook-Bridgetown Mail* has expanded its coverage to include the Nannup district. The town has a population of about 550 and is about half an hour's drive west of Bridgetown (*Donnybrook-Bridgetown Mail*, 14 February 2006, online).

36.39 RURAL PRESS AND EVENTS MANAGEMENT

Barry Blair writes: Rural Press Events, based in Tamworth, NSW, is a little known subsidiary of Rural Press Ltd. Formerly known as BAL Marketing, the organisation was formerly part of radio station 2TM. Rural Press Events, in line with the "true to country areas" philosophy of RPL, facilitates and is a major player in events such as Tamworth's annual country music festival, AgQuip at Gunnedah, Elders Farmfest at Toowoomba, and the newly acquired Field Days at Palmerston, New Zealand. Associated with these events are a range of regular and annual publications, including *Country Music Capital News*, *Telstra Official Guide to Tamworth*, *Directory of Australian Country Music*, AgQuip and Farmfest guide books, *Elders Farmfest Rural Mail* and *AgQuip Rural Mail* (both these last two are "frees" distributed to mailboxes within the catchment areas of Gunnedah and Toowoomba respectively). General manager of Rural Press Events is Barry Harley, group circulation and marketing manager of RPL.

36.40 LEADER ONLINE

Barry Blair writes (on 17 February 2006): Tamworth's *Northern Daily Leader* is one of the most reliable online newspapers throughout Australia. The next day's headlines are usually

available at about 9pm. The metropolitan dailies usually post their news just after midnight, while weekly provincial papers usually post their news mid-morning on their publication day. Some recalcitrants, and Rural Press is no exception, get around to doing it eventually. The “Kiama Indifferent” is currently living up to its nickname, with its most recent posting dated 14 December 2005.

36.41 RENMARK NEWSPAPER FAMILY EXPANDS CHAIN

The Taylor family, owner of a small chain of newspapers based on the bi-weekly *Murray Pioneer*, Renmark, bought the *Pinnaroo-Border Times* and the *Burra Broadcaster* (which includes the Eudunda and Peterborough titles, too) in January – the first at the beginning of the month and the second at the end. Ron and Beth Marshall sold the Pinnaroo title and Terry Wilson sold the Burra title. The Taylors also own the *Bunyip*, Gawler, the *River News*, Waikerie, the *Loxton News* and a printery at Berri. All the papers are printed at Renmark (Rob Wilson, E-mail to Rod Kirkpatrick, 17 February 2006; Paul Taylor, telephone interview with Rod Kirkpatrick, 20 February 2006).

36.42 WAYZGOOSE SET FOR PINNAROO IN SEPTEMBER

A wayzgoose (printers’ picnic) will be held at the Pinnaroo Printing Museum (South Australia) on 30 September as part of the town’s centenary celebrations. Contact Rob Wilson at robgloria.paradise@bigpond.com or 2 South Tce, Pinnaroo, SA, 5304.

NEWSPAPER HISTORY

36.43 BROADSHEET TO TABLOID: AUSTRALIAN DAILIES

By Victor Isaacs

With the imminent (and undesirable) changeover of Brisbane’s *Courier-Mail* to tabloid page size from Monday, 13 March, it is timely to look at the history of change to page sizes in Australian daily and Sunday newspapers. There has been a general trend over the years for Australian newspapers to change from broadsheet to tabloid size. (There are also papers that have always been tabloid, or always were: eg, the Melbourne *Sun News-Pictorial* and the Sydney *Daily Mirror*). Australia’s first changeover to tabloid occurred as far back as 1870. The *South Australian Register* (Adelaide’s first newspaper) went to this size on 1 January 1870, citing the now-familiar argument of greater convenience. However, this did not last. It went to a mid-size between tabloid and broadsheet from 18 April 1875, and subsequently reverted to broadsheet.

The John Fairfax company of Sydney established a penny afternoon paper called the *Echo* from 1 May 1875. This was another very early tabloid. However, it too converted to a conventional broadsheet size from 1 October 1886. The *Echo* was also notable for being the first Australian daily newspaper not to devote its front page to advertisements, but to editorial matter (although the main news page remained inside). It was a somewhat downmarket newspaper for its time, quite different from its parent, the august *Sydney Morning Herald*. The *Echo* ceased publication on 22 July 1893, possibly as a result of Fairfax having reduced the price of the *SMH* to a penny, making s second penny paper superfluous. There were also two other evening penny papers in a competitive Sydney market. (The modern tabloid measures 40cm by 28cm. The early examples were a slightly different size).

Melbourne's *Sun News-Pictorial* was a tabloid from its establishment on 11 September 1922. The first major paper to change to tabloid in the twentieth century was the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* in 1927. This was part of its general move to a much more downmarket style. Subsequently in 1936, it moved back to the mid-market and returned to being a broadsheet. But this did not last, as we shall see. In 1929, the Adelaide *Register* followed the same path to popular status as a tabloid. This also did not last – in this case, the paper ceased in 1931. In 1930, the Brisbane Labour paper, the *Daily Standard*, went tabloid. In 1939 the Perth afternooner, the *Daily News* changed over, arguing the greater convenience of the tabloid size.

The stringent requirements of newsprint rationing in World War II convinced many papers that they would be better as tabloids. The *Sunday Telegraph* changed in 1941, followed by its daily counterpart in 1942. The *Daily Telegraph* said then that the change “will last only as long as the war”. That promise was forgotten. Soon after, the Hobart *Mercury* and the Melbourne *Argus* changed. Subsequently, both of these papers went to a peculiar size midway between broadsheet and tabloid. Then in 1944, the Ballarat *Courier* downsized

The *West Australian* changed in 1947. This was most peculiar. Before the change the poor old *West* still maintained the ancient practice of having classified advertisements on its front page, with the main news pages the middle pages. This was maintained even after it became a tabloid. After a month it did make pages 2 and 3 the main news and editorial pages. But classified ads still filled the entire tabloid front page, making for a most strange appearance. This continued until December 1949.

Further stringent restrictions on imports from dollar countries, including of newsprint, caused a number of newspapers to change their format in this period. Although restricted newsprint supply, as such, would not necessarily make tabloid design more desirable, it seems to have prompted a number of newspapers to examine their layouts. Just a few days after the *West Australian* changed, the Brisbane *Telegraph*, the Adelaide *News* and Launceston *Examiner* all changed on the same day – 1 January 1948. Shortly after, the Albury *Border Morning Mail*, Burnie *Advocate* and Warrnambool *Standard* also changed. In 1951 the *Kalgoorlie Miner* followed.

In 1956 the *Canberra Times* went tabloid. However, as part of its upgrading in 1964 to meet the competition of the new *Australian* it changed back to a broadsheet. This is the only example of an Australian paper permanently going the other way. In 1962 it was the turn of the Wagga Wagga *Daily Advertiser* and in 1966 the Maryborough (Queensland) *Chronicle*. A few years ago, there was a quite a fashion for the remaining major papers to change. In 1997 the Adelaide *Advertiser* and the Townsville *Bulletin*, in 1998 the Newcastle *Herald* and the Bendigo *Advertiser*, and in 2001 the Geelong *Advertiser*. How you respond to appearance is, of course, a matter of preference. I think the Newcastle *Herald* and Geelong *Advertiser* look attractive in this size, whereas the Adelaide *Advertiser* looks poor.

So, there are very few papers remaining in Australia that are broadsheet. Those that remain do so for two reasons. Some papers are so big with advertising that they would be unmanageable as other than broadsheets. This applies to the Sydney *Morning Herald* and the Melbourne *Age*. The *Sunday Age* is now the only broadsheet Sunday paper in Australia – presumably to clearly differentiate itself from its rival, the *Sunday Herald-Sun*. There is also one remaining broadsheet regional daily newspaper in Australia: the *Sunraysia Daily* of Mildura. This is a paper of tiny pagination, yet it has steadfastly remained as a broadsheet.

There is also a perception that a broadsheet paper looks more authoritative. This applies to the thinking of the *Australian*, the Sydney *Morning Herald*, the *Age*, *Sunday Age* and *Canberra Times*. The Sydney *Morning Herald* and *Age* thus have two reasons to remain broadsheets. Yet there is no real reason why broadsheet is more authoritative. In Britain, two upmarket papers, the *Independent* and the venerable *Times* have changed to tabloid. Here the *Australian*

Financial Review is, of course, a tabloid – and you can't get more upmarket than that. In Spain, there is no such thing as a downmarket daily newspaper, and no such thing as a broadsheet newspaper. On the other hand, in North America, almost all newspapers are broadsheet, and in New Zealand tabloid daily papers are virtually unknown. In my view, the idea that for a paper to be authoritative must necessarily be a broadsheet has as much basis in fact as the once prevalent idea that for a paper to be authoritative it must fill its front page with classified advertisements. In reality, there are just different perceptions in different societies. A further minor reason for broadsheet is that these papers can separate their sections more easily.

The tabloid preference in Australia is curious – just an unthinking fashion. I cannot see that tabloids offer any advantage. My objection is one of convenience. Although it is claimed the page size is easier for readers, I dispute this. The only circumstance in which this is so is when reading on crowded public transport. But there is a declining per capita use of public transport in Australia. Indeed this declining per capita use of public transport is one major reason for the declining per capita readership of daily newspapers. Thus it is hard to work out why Australian newspapers are keen on this change.

Tabloid also means there is double the number of pages to turn. This is a particular disadvantage on Saturdays (when there are even fewer public transport readers). The Saturday editions of the Perth *West Australian* and Adelaide *Advertiser* are massive door-stoppers, which are very difficult to handle, and very difficult to find things in. I expect that the Saturday *Courier-Mail* will be as bad (or worse).

[I wish to thank the staff of the Newspaper and Microform Room of the National Library of Australia for their valuable assistance in the research conducted for this article.]

Broadsheet to Tabloid: Australian Dailies and Sundays

This table excludes newspapers that were tabloid from their establishment.

TITLE	DATE	NOTES
<i>South Australian Register</i> , Adelaide	1 Jan 1870	To mid-size 18 April 1875, but reverted to broadsheet (but read on).
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> , Sydney	27 April 1927	Reverted to broadsheet 22 March 1936 (but read on).
<i>Register</i> , Adelaide	2 Feb 1929	Also changed title to <i>Register News-Pictorial</i> and style. Ceased 20 Feb 1932.
<i>Daily Standard</i> , Brisbane	8 Nov 1930	Ceased 8 July 1936.
<i>Daily News</i> , Perth	6 March 1939	Before change, broadsheet version had main news on back page and p.1 was second main news page. Ceased 11 Sept 1990.
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i> , Sydney	7 Dec 1941	
<i>Barrier Miner</i> , Broken Hill	1 June 1942	Ceased 25 Nov 1974.
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> , Sydney	1 Sept 1942	Page 1 said the change "...will last only as long as the war".
<i>Mercury</i> , Hobart	1 Oct 1942, then to mid-size 3 Feb 1958; to tabloid again from 15 Feb 1993	
<i>Argus</i> , Melbourne	5 Oct 1942, then to mid-size 19 July 1950.	Ceased 19 January 1957.
<i>Courier</i> , Ballarat	18 Dec 1944	
<i>Sun</i> , Sydney	17 Nov 1947	Ceased 14 March 1989.
<i>West Australian</i> , Perth	29 Dec 1947	Retained classified advertisements on its front page, even as a tabloid. For a

		month after 29 December 1947, it also retained editorial and main news pages as centre pages. From 24 Jan 1948 these were changed to pages 2 and 3.
<i>Telegraph</i> , Brisbane	1 Jan 1948	Ceased 5 Feb 1988.
<i>News</i> , Adelaide	1 Jan 1948	Ceased 27 March 1992.
<i>Examiner</i> , Launceston	1 Jan 1948	
<i>Border Morning Mail</i> , Albury	16 Feb 1948	
<i>Advocate</i> , Burnie	24 Aug 1948	
<i>Standard</i> , Warrnambool	1 Oct 1949	
Kalgoorlie Miner	13 Aug 1951	Front page still not main news page (only commercial news) until 17 June 1953.
Shepparton News	6 Jan 1952	Then a tri-weekly.
<i>Sun-Herald</i> , Sydney	11 Oct 1953	Upon amalgamation of former broadsheet <i>Sunday Herald</i> and tabloid <i>Sunday Sun</i> .
Canberra Times	11 June 1956	Reverted to broadsheet from 1 July 1964.
<i>Evening Post</i> , Goulburn	11 Feb 1957	To tri-weekly as <i>Goulburn Post</i> from 31 March 1992.
<i>NT News</i> , Darwin	13 Sept 1960	Then a bi-weekly.
<i>Daily Advertiser</i> , Wagga Wagga	23 July 1962	
<i>Chronicle</i> , Maryborough Queensland	12 Dec 1966	
<i>Daily Examiner</i> , Grafton	15 April 1969	Coincided with introduction of renumbering.
<i>Chronicle</i> , Toowoomba	20 Oct 1969	
<i>Queensland Times</i> , Ipswich	20 Oct 1969	
<i>News-Mail</i> , Bundaberg	27 July 1970	Before tabloid, was a mid-size.
Gympie Times	20 Oct 1970	Then a tri-weekly.
<i>Northern Daily Leader</i> , Tamworth	1 Dec 1975	
<i>Northern Star</i> , Lismore	2 May 1977	
<i>Morning Bulletin</i> , Rockhampton	1 Nov 1979	Prior to tabloid, was a mid-size.
<i>Weekend Herald</i> (ie, Saturday edition), Melbourne	21 Sept 1985	Saturday edition only lasted 15 months in this format as it ceased 20 December 1986. Mon-Fri edition remained broadsheet.
Cairns Post	1 July 1986	Coincided with introduction of colour.
<i>Sunday Mail</i> , Brisbane	29 March 1992	
<i>Mercury</i> , Hobart	15 Feb 1993	
Townsville Bulletin	27 Oct 1997	
<i>Advertiser</i> , Adelaide	3 Nov 1997	
Bendigo Advertiser	29 June 1998	
Newcastle Herald	27 July 1998	
Canberra Sunday Times	7 May 2000	Coincided with change of name from <i>Sunday Times</i>
Geelong Advertiser	21 Nov 2001	
<i>Courier-Mail</i> , Brisbane	13 March 2006	

Tabloid to Broadsheet or to Mid-size: Australian Dailies and Sundays

TITLE	DATE	REVERTED	COMMENTS
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		TO TABLOID	
<i>South Australian Register</i> , Adelaide	18 April 1875 to mid-size and subsequently to broadsheet	2 Feb 1929	To mid-size, then broadsheet
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> , Sydney	22 March 1936	1 Sept 1942	To broadsheet
<i>Argus</i> , Melbourne	19 July 1950		To mid-size. Ceased publication 19 Jan. 1957.
<i>Mercury</i> , Hobart	3 Feb 1958	15 Feb 1993	To mid-size, using former <i>Argus</i> press.
<i>Canberra Times</i>	1 July 1964		To broadsheet. Part of upgrading by new owners (Fairfax) to meet competition of the <i>Australian</i> . Only newspaper to revert to broadsheet long-term.

Broadsheet to Tabloid: British National Titles

TITLE	DATE	NOTES
<i>Sun</i>	17 Nov 1969	
<i>Daily Mail</i>	11 May 1971	
<i>Daily Express</i>	23 Jan 1977	
<i>News of the World</i> [Sunday]	May 1984	
<i>Sunday Express</i>	5 July 1992	
<i>Independent</i>	Mon-Fri: 30 Sept 2003 Saturdays: Jan 2004	In addition to the broadsheet edition on Mon-Fri until 17 May 2004. Since then only a tabloid edition has been published.
<i>Times</i>	26 Nov 2003 / 1 Nov 2004	1 November 2003: In addition to broadsheet on Mon-Fri only. 1 November 2004: Only tabloid.
<i>Scotsman</i>	14 Aug 2004	
<i>Guardian</i>	12 Sept 2005	To mid-size
<i>Independent on Sunday</i>	16 Oct 2005	
<i>Observer</i> [Sunday]	8 Jan 2006	To mid-size

Sources:

1969-1992 dates: Greenslade, Roy: *Press Gang: How Newspapers Make Profits from Propaganda*, Macmillan, 2003.

2003-2004 dates: www.guardian.co.uk/presspublishing

36.44 ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD BUT STILL UNSURE OF EXACT BIRTHDAY

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The *Gloucester Advocate* (which began as the *Gloucester Advocate*, *Stroud*, *Copeland*, *Barrington* and *Port Stephens Recorder*) celebrated its centenary last July by issuing a 24-page feature, "Turning the pages of history". Appearing on 20 July 2005, the feature says the *Advocate* began on 22 July 1905. Sadly, this is wrong.

The front of the feature carries a large extract from the issue of 22 July 1905 as well as an extract from the issue of 22 July 1955, headed "Advocate Reaches Half Century". The *Advocate* said on Page 3 of the centenary feature that the first issue was published on "Friday, July 22, 1905". Not only was that date not a Friday (as the front page extract in that issue indicates, and as a check of an "Easy Reference Calendar" confirms), but also the *Advocate* actually began on Saturday, 8 July 1905, two weeks earlier than stated in the centenary and 50th anniversary issues of the paper.

The confusion seems to have arisen partly because the first extant issue of the *Advocate* is 22 July 1905, and partly because there is no volume or folio number on this issue. A good journalistic principle is: Never assume; always check. There were even clues present in that 22 July 1905 issue (and reproduced in the centenary issue) that this was not number 1. There was a report with a bracketed sentence that says: "In a former issue we inadvertently stated that failure in horseracing prompted the unfortunate man to destroy himself." Clearly that 22 July 1905 issue was not the first issue of the journal!

The State Library of New South Wales says no mention of volume or folio numbers appeared in the *Advocate* until Saturday, 7 October 1905, which was Volume 1, No. 14. A countback indicates that 8 July 1905 was the first issue. (This is supported by the fact that Vol. 2, No. 1, was dated 7 July 1906.) This is consistent with various sources: Bonnie Townshend, the daughter of the founder of the *Advocate*, has recorded (*Gloucester District Historical Society Journal*, 1980) that the paper started on 8 July 1905. Her father, Frank Townshend, who had established the *Walcha Witness* in 1889, rode from Walcha to Gloucester to start the new paper when the Australian Agricultural Company's 500,000-acre estate was being subdivided (before the North Coast Railway ran through the district). The *Advocate* itself acknowledged 8 July 1905 as its starting date when it published its 75th anniversary issue. So, too, did *Gloucester's Book of Memories* and Reg. C. Pogonoski, a respected Newcastle and Hunter district newspaper and printing historian, in the *Gloucester District Historical Society Journal* in 1968.

36.45 POSTERS SOUGHT FOR PRESS GALLERY EXHIBITION

Edwina Jans, of Old Parliament House, Canberra, writes:

In May 2006 Old Parliament House will permanently open to the public the Press Gallery - the offices, corridors and gallery from where the major political events, scandals, leaks, and scoops were reported. The Press Gallery will be presented in all its squalor and glory: as a cramped and frantic place; a group of extraordinary people and a synonym for expert reporting of political issues.

We are on the look out for a good source of old newspapers and in particular newspaper posters advertising headlines/stories of the day (i.e. those that appeared in front of newsagents, on street corners, etc). We would be interested in anything that dates from 1927 to 1988. We would be keen to purchase originals of such items but if we have to facsimile precious originals then we would be willing to do this.

[Edwina Jans is at: Interpretation, Old Parliament House, King George Terrace, Parkes, ACT, 2600. Tel: (02) 6270 8234. Fax: (02) 6270 8207. Email: edwina.jans@dcita.gov.au]

36.46 SYDNEY GAZETTE WINDOW, MITCHELL LIBRARY

From **Jurgen Wegner**, in Sydney: The State Library of New South Wales is located in the centre of Sydney's cultural precinct and adjoins a strip of historic buildings and museums in Macquarie Street. It is a short walk from Sydney Harbour and the Opera House, the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. The older part of the building and especially the Mitchell Library (formerly the General Reference Library) wing are well worth a bibliographical excursion – and not for their books and exhibitions alone. There are never enough things to see and do on the history of books and printing and the five splendid stained glass windows on the subject in this library are one of the treasures of the Sydney, and of Australia.

Of course, the most significant is the so-called *Sydney Gazette* window, the sole window depicting an episode in early Australian printing history. The window is entitled *The*

publication of the first Australian newspaper 1803, and depicts Australia's first newspaper printer, George Howe, respectfully handing a copy of the first issue of the *Sydney Gazette* to Governor King. Depicted are Howe and the Governor, his wife, the Governor's son?, Howe's? dog, and what may well be the printer's devil. A prominent feature is the wooden common press in the centre of the window. This window was presented to the Library in 1940 by the proprietors of the *Sun* newspaper to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the invention of printing by Gutenberg in Mainz, Germany. Although a stylised, romanticised portrayal, it is a fine example of its craft by artist Arthur Benfield working for the company Frank O'Brien Pty. Ltd.

In addition there are four related windows. The three Chaucer windows were presented by Sir William Dixson, one of the library's early benefactors, and these also are the work of Benfield. They depict the poet and scenes from his *Canterbury tales*. The final window is called the Caxton window. It depicts Caxton presenting his translation of *Recuyell of the histories of Troye* to his patroness, Duchess Margaret of Burgundy. The window was designed and executed by John Radecki for J. Ashwin and Company and presented to the Library by John Fairfax Ltd., the proprietors of the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

The *Sydney Gazette* window is illustrated in colour on p. 159 of David J. Jones' *A source of inspiration and delight* (Sydney: Library Council of New South Wales, 1988) and on the cover of Gwenda Robb's *George Howe* (Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2003). Details on the above are from Jones' book (and with thanks to Colin Warner, Ephemera Librarian, SLNSW, for the reference).

36.47 H.E. GODFREY AND HISTORIC PRINTING MACHINERY

In response to 35.56, **Peter Gill**, of Melbourne, writes: I was interested to see the item about H.E. Godfrey and a rotary press in Melbourne. I visited H.E. Godfrey & Co Linotypers from time to time and recall seeing a rotary press in his premises, probably around 1980. From his conversation at that time, I doubt that the press was functioning... I do have a card with "Typefaces" available from H.E. Godfrey & Co Linotypers, dated August 1966. Harry Godfrey was, at that stage, a typesetter, not a printer as such.

36.48 COMING ANNIVERSARIES

Among the Australian newspaper anniversaries this year are:

- 175th: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 April.
- 150th: *Armidale Express*, NSW, 5 April.
- 130th: *Herald*, Newcastle, 3 April.
- 100th: *Circular Head Chronicle*, Smithton, Tasmania, 18 July.
- 10th: *Armidale Independent*, NSW, 11 October.

36.49 MUSEUM OFFERS LETTERPRESS PRINTING EQUIPMENT

Museum Victoria is offering some items of letterpress printing and typesetting equipment to appropriate non-profit organisations, such as historical societies, education institutions and libraries. The equipment is surplus and in some cases duplicates other equipment held by the museum. The list of "deaccessioned" equipment can be downloaded, together with an expression-of-interest form, from www.museum.vic.gov.au/deaccessioning/. Postal address for expressions of interest is: The Senior Curator, Information & Communication, Museum Victoria, PO Box 666, Melbourne, Vic, 3001. Phone (03) 8341 7777.

36.50 MAPPING A PATH TO BUSINESS SUCCESS

The *Tamworth Times* carried an article (8 February 2006, p.4) about Cecil Albert Gregory, the founder of the famed Sydney street directory, *Gregory's* (which began 70 years ago). The article was told through the recollections of the youngest daughter, Joy Bosler. Gregory began his working life as a cadet journalist on the daily *Bathurst Times* in 1909. He used to take shorthand at more than 200 words a minute. He later became a feature writer and sub-editor for the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*. He worked for the National Roads and Motorists' Association (NRMA) and is said to have founded that organisation's magazine, the *Open Road*. That fuelled his interest in mapping and the rest, as they say, is history.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

36.51 BOOK

BEHIND THE NEWS: A BIOGRAPHY OF PETER RUSSO by Prue Torney-Parlicki, University of Western Australia Press. 412pp, \$39.95. Peter Russo began life in 1908 as the child of Italian immigrants who settled in Ballarat. He ended it in Melbourne in 1985, still speaking out about the poor quality of foreign affairs commentary in Australia, a failing he had spent a lifetime exposing and trying to improve.

36.52 ARTICLES

36.52.1 ALL SET FOR MEDIA SHAKE-UP by James McCulloch, *Courier-Mail*, 4-5 February 2006, pp.35-36. The most sweeping changes to the media since the introduction of television nearly 50 years ago are about to be unveiled. More: CHANGE ON CARDS AS YEAR KICKS ON by Mark Day, *Australian*, Media section, 2 February 2006, pp.13, 16.

36.52.2 TIME FOR AUSTRALIA TO EXTRACT ITS DIGITAL by Harold Mitchell, *Age*, 15 February 2006. We need new rules for a new media world, Harold Mitchell told the Melbourne Press Club.

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