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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

**37.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS**

**Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 15 July 2006. Subscription details appear at end of  
*Newsletter*. [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]**

The *Newsletter* is online through the "Publications" link of the University of Queensland's  
School of Journalism & Communication Website at [www.uq.edu.au/journ-comm/](http://www.uq.edu.au/journ-comm/) and  
through the ePrint Archives at the University of Queensland at <http://eprint.uq.edu.au/>

**CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: METROPOLITAN**

**37.2 MEDIA REFORM PROPOSALS**

Communications Minister Helen Coonan issued on 14 March an outline of proposals to reform Australia's media laws. She wanted feedback from stakeholders by 18 April. Under the proposals, newspaper groups and radio groups could be acquired by free-to-air TV networks and vice-versa – and so, Nine, for instance, could buy John Fairfax Holdings, and News Ltd could buy Channel 10. Free-to-air channels would face competition from emerging digital TV players. Senator Coonan said the cross-media and foreign ownership restrictions would be removed by 2007 or 2012, but the Government would require at least five "commercial media groups" to remain in metropolitan markets and four in regional markets.

Extensive coverage of the Coonan proposals was provided in, for example, the *Australian* of 15 March (pp.1, 6, 7, 13, 31, 34) and 16 March (pp.2, 14, 17, 19, 22 and 25) and the *Australian Financial Review* of 15 March (pp.1, 11, 14, 28, 47, 48, 49, 57, 59 and 60).

Sheena MacLean looked at why regional outlets will be attractive targets when the Government proposed new media laws come into play ("Booming bush sucks in the advertising", *Australian*, Media section, 23 March 2006, pp.37-38). James McCullough and Anthony Marx had a similar focus, "Changes for regional media", *Courier-Mail* online, 20 March 2006.

John Lehmann and Mark Day reported (*Australian*, Media section, 20 April 2006, pp.15, 19) that hopes for consensus among media heavyweights on critical aspects of the reform package appeared doomed.

**37.3 THE COMPACT BETWEEN A DAILY AND ITS READERS**

Brisbane's *Courier-Mail* became on 13 March the first Australian metropolitan daily since Adelaide's *Advertiser* to change from broadsheet to tabloid format. The *Advertiser* made the change on 3 November 1997 seven days after the *Townsville Bulletin* had similarly changed. The Australian dailies to change since have been the *Bendigo Advertiser* (29 June 1998), the *Newcastle Herald* (27 July 1998), the *Geelong Advertiser* (21 November 2001) and now, of

course, Brisbane's daily. From 5 March 2006, Adelaide's *Independent Weekly*, launched on 19 September 2004, changed from broadsheet to tabloid (reports the *Australian*, Media section, 9 March 2006, p.16) and from the weekend of 11-12 March began appearing on Saturday instead of Sunday (see ANHG 28.3 and 29.19).

In the week leading to 13 March, the day the *Courier-Mail* changed its format to what it calls "compact", the newspaper brought to a head what was reported (by ABC *Stateline*, 10 March) to be a \$5 million marketing and promotional campaign. It included presentations to advertisers, suppliers and newsagencies. Day by day, from 6 to 10 March, the paper announced on Page 1 various changes that would coincide with the new format. It did not refer to "tabloid" at any stage – but explained that "compact" was "half the size of the current broadsheet". The weekend edition (11-12 March) highlighted in the colour puff boxes at the top of Page 1: "Historical Final Broadsheet" and "New Compact Begins Monday: Eight-Page Guide Inside". The eight-page tabloid guide, which was inserted also in the *Sunday Mail* of 12 March, began with an article by *Courier-Mail* editor David Fagan, "Welcome to a brighter future" (pp.1-2).

A brief historical timeline of the *Courier-Mail*, from its birth as the *Moreton Bay Courier* on 20 June 1846, is published on Page 2 of the guide and is correct, except for failing to mention that from 1864 until the amalgamation with the *Daily Mail* in 1933 the newspaper was known as the *Brisbane Courier* and not simply the *Courier*, the name it took when it became a daily on 14 May 1861. [Less significantly, the *Moreton Bay Courier* added the sub-title *and Northern Districts' General Advertiser* from January 1853 until December 1857. It became a bi-weekly in January 1858.] The *Courier-Mail* also editorialised about the format change ("A time to accept the challenge to embrace change", 11-12 March 2006, p.18), concluding with a quote from Winston Churchill, part of which said: "A free press is the guardian of every other right that free men prize." And another editorial appeared in the first compact issue ("A newspaper lives to serve the public", 13 March, p.18)

On Friday, 10 March, Channel 9's *Brisbane Extra* was broadcast from the *Courier-Mail*'s printing hall at Murarrie and featured an item on the newspaper's change of format. The ABC-TV's Queensland *Stateline* edition on 10 March featured a segment on the change, and interviewed *Courier-Mail* editor David Fagan, long-time Queensland Newspapers journalist Mike O'Connor, various readers and the editor of this newsletter. O'Connor's written reflections on the change – and his journalistic career – appeared in the *Courier-Mail* on 13 March (p.20). He recalled: "On my first day on the *Telegraph*, I was overwhelmed by the chaotic order of the newsroom and the sub-editors' table as they worked to get the first edition on the streets."

Some of the changes to the *Courier-Mail* that coincided with the change of format are:

- A new typeface. The paper has discarded the Ionic body type formerly used and switched to Times Classic, which it says is a thinner, cleaner, more compact and easier-to-read typeface.
- The introduction of a "Today" section liftout, eight pages of the latest happenings in the worlds of entertainment and lifestyle, an expanded TV guide, an easy-to-use weather page and an extended puzzles section.
- "Money & You" and its accompanying "Business Owner" section has shifted from Wednesday to Monday.
- The Tuesday section, "Good Life" now appears inside the "Today" section on that day.
- The daily "Qconfidential" column has been expanded to a double-page spread.
- The sporting coverage has been enlarged and always starts on the back page.
- The newspaper's website has been completely redesigned. It is said to be easier to navigate and contain much deeper content. You can stay up to the minute with news,

or plan your recreation or talk to “our writers” and other readers about the issues that affect your life.

- A 9 per cent increase in advertising rates.
- The hyphen was dropped from the *Courier-Mail* in the masthead and replaced by a red map of Queensland.
- A new slogan: “Expect More” has been replaced by “Go Everywhere.”

The final broadsheet issue included two other noteworthy items:

- (1) Des Houghton, a former *Courier-Mail* editor and now a columnist, reflected on his journalistic career (p.28) that began on the *Sunday Truth* 36 years ago when he was told to “write tight, write bright”; he concluded his reflection: “The compact *Courier* will be so much easier for you to handle. It doesn’t matter a hoot the size of the sheets on which the news is printed. What matters are the words. Because for us (sic) who love papers, and for those of us who love to read them, they are little soldiers going into battle.”
- (2) “Preserving a piece of history”, p.3: this item suggested how to preserve the final broadsheet issue and first compact issue for posterity. But it also said: “The newspaper has been printed in this format [broadsheet] for 159 years.” Not so. The *Moreton Bay Courier* was certainly not a broadsheet (or anywhere near that size) when first published on 20 June 1846. In fact, it was as close as possible to the new compact size, being 27cm by 43cm in 1846 [your editor measured the pages in the bound volume of the first 54 issues of the *Courier*, held by Fryer Library, University of Queensland] compared with the current 29cm by 40cm.

The compact edition was launched after three weeks of a Home and Land Promotion offering as the prize a new house – the winner could choose one of three houses, one of which was in Brisbane, another on the Gold Coast or the third on the Sunshine Coast. To enter you had to buy the *Sunday Mail* (for the entry coupon) and the *Courier-Mail* for the next six days. Five people from each of the three weeks went into the “decider” – each was given a key to one of the houses and only one key would open the door. The holder of that key was able to choose the house s/he would have. In addition, the first compact edition appeared two days before the opening of the Commonwealth Games, when interest in buying a newspaper would normally increase. The weekend edition of the *Courier-Mail* contains one reminder of the old format: the Real Estate, Careerone and Weekend Shopper sections are found inside the broadsheet Cars Guide.

See also: “‘Small but perfectly formed’, says Fagan”, *Mediaweek*, 20 March 2006, p1. and also “The compact *Courier-Mail*: size doesn’t really matter at all?”, p.5.

Queensland Newspapers managing director Jerry Harris said there was a 25 per cent increase in sales for the *Courier-Mail* on the first day of compact issue. Ten days later the increase was still somewhere in the 10 to 15 per cent range (*Australian*, Media section, 23 March 2006, p.41). On 2 May, editor Fagan told the ANHG the increase was running at about 10 per cent.

The *Weekend Australian* (25-26 March 2006, p.12) carried an advertisement that was inherently competitive with compact newspapers. “Looking for the BROADEST coverage? You’ll find it all in the *Australian*. 6 Day Offer – only \$6.95 a week (save over 20%).”

### **37.4 FAIRFAX PUTS \$625m INTO NZ WEBSITE**

John Fairfax Holdings has acquired New Zealand’s leading internet operator, Trade Me, for \$625 million. Trade Me boasts the largest internet audience of NZ websites, commanding more than 60 per cent of internet traffic in the country. Thirty per cent of New Zealanders are

registered as members and the company says it is still growing at a rate of 50,000 members a month. The acquisition came only five months after former All Blacks captain David Kirk became the CEO of Fairfax (*Australian*, 7 March 2006, pp.19, 22; see also *Australian*, Media section, 9 March 2006, p.15).

## 37.5 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

<b>2 March 2006</b>	Death of <b>Patience Rosemary Thoms</b> , aged 90; entered journalism in 1945 with <i>Queensland Country Life</i> as social editor and assistant advertising manager; Theodor Bray recruited her to join the <i>Courier-Mail</i> in 1950 as deputy women's editor; served as women's editor, 1956-76; deputy Chancellor of Griffith University, 1988-1990 ( <i>Courier-Mail</i> , 13 March 2006, p.59).
<b>13 March 2006</b>	Brisbane's <i>Courier-Mail</i> changes from broadsheet to tabloid ("compact") format (see 37.3).
<b>14 March 2006</b>	Communications Minister Helen Coonan issues discussion paper on overhaul of Australian media industry. Feedback was sought by 18 April (see 37.2).
<b>30 March 2006</b>	Death of <b>Francis Birkett Fuller</b> , aged 92 in Toowoomba; part proprietor of the <i>Chinchilla News</i> , Queensland, 1937-1979; bought paper in partnership with brother Harvey and Syd Blanchard from the Fullers' grandfather Thomas Birkett; the Fullers sold to Frank's son, David, and his wife Dorothy, and they sold to Provincial Newspapers (Qld) Ltd in 1987 ( <i>Courier-Mail</i> , 3 April 2006, p.57).
<b>4 April 2006</b>	<i>Daily Mercury</i> , Mackay, is 140 years old. It began as the <i>Mackay Mercury</i> .
<b>5 April 2006</b>	<i>Armidale Express</i> (NSW) is 150 years old and publishes a 40-page historical feature with a glossy cover (see 37.37 and 37.61.14).
<b>18 April 2006</b>	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , Australia's oldest newspapers, is 175 years old (see 37.6).

## 37.6 SYDNEY MORNING HERALD TURNS 175

37.6.1 Australia's longest-surviving newspaper, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> birthday on 18 April 2006. Special articles and pictures have been published, along with a 22-page broadsheet feature on the actual day of the anniversary, a special issue of the *Good Weekend* magazine containing some of the best writing from the *SMH* over 175 years. Letters from readers commenting on the *SMH*'s achievement have also been published. There was also a DVD, *The Big Picture: The Sydney Morning Herald Celebrating 175 Years*, made available to NSW and ACT readers (the DVD includes a one-hour documentary, *Sydney in Time*, hosted by author and *SMH* columnist Peter Fitzsimons; *Herald Front Pages*; and *Channel 7 – My City of Sydney*). The highlights are summarised below.

**8-9 April, pp.34-35:** Gavin Souter, "Beyond the front page – History by deadline". The Fairfax company's historian and former senior *SMH* journalist reviews the history of the *SMH* from hot metal to the internet. His article includes interesting snippets related to his writing of his book *Company of Heralds*, the history of the Fairfax company.

**17 April, p.1:** An artist's impression of the first *Sydney Herald* going to bed, headed "175 years ago, magic in the works". The accompanying article told of links between two current people with that first issue: Stephanie Gray, a great-great-great granddaughter of Ward Stephens, one of the three founders of the *Herald*; and Peter Donohoe, a great-great grandson of Martin Donohoe, mentioned on the first page of that first issue of the *Herald* (Donohoe, a convict, had been granted a ticket of leave). Martin Donohoe was born in County Mayo, Ireland, in 1784, four years before Arthur Phillip landed at Sydney Cove. He was convicted of stealing a horse and arrived in Sydney on the ship *Mangles* in 1826.

**18 April, p.10:** On its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the *SMH* published a full double-column editorial, "In moderation placing all our glory: The Herald turns 175".

**Extract:** “The *Herald* has always guarded its independence jealously. It guards it yet. This is not a radical paper: its instincts are conservative, believing in general that the small changes over time which have built what we know as the present are preferable to sudden, tumultuous upheaval in the interest of some dreamer’s imagined utopia. But whatever its instincts, this newspaper has never been beholden to any side of politics, nor has it favoured any excessively in its opinions. The proof is the *Herald*’s continuing willingness to criticise either side, and the anger which our independence can stir on both. It is that independence, we believe, which gives this newspaper its strength, and confirms its leading position in the Australian media.” (See 37.11.5, “Extract”.)

**Also, 18 April:** There were three souvenir liftouts:

- The first issue of the *Sydney Herald* reprinted in full
- Great events of the past 175 years as portrayed by the *Herald*: 22 pages (including five full-page advertisements); presented in a supplement that looked exactly like a 2006 edition.
- *Good Living* Special celebrating two centuries of dining.

**19 April, p.10, and 22-23 April, p.30:** letters from readers. See espec., “The power of information in journalist’s hands” by Elizabeth Maher, of Bangor (the daughter of a former SMH political correspondent and former editor of the *Central Western Daily*, Orange), and “History on the page stirs fond memories” by Shirley Hargrave, of Erina (the granddaughter of an SMH compositor of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries), both on 22-23 April.

**22-23 April:** *Good Weekend* magazine, special issue containing some of the best writing from the SMH over the 175 years since 1831. Among the bylines were: Patrick White, Banjo Paterson, Miles Franklin, Kenneth Slessor, Ruth Park, Charmian Clift, Ludwig Leichhardt, Caroline Chisholm, Eliza Fraser, Daisy Bates, Russell Braddon, Geraldine Brooks, Jim McClelland, Peter Smark, Evan Whitton, Brian Penton, Yvonne Preston, Alan Ramsey, Robert Haupt, Lenore Nicklin, Peter Bowers, Margaret Jones, Donald Bradman and Craig McGregor, as well as various unnamed correspondents. Unusually [and disappointingly] this edition of the *Good Weekend* was not inserted in the *Age*. Instead, *Age* readers received an issue devoted to Art and Culture in Melbourne.

**Also, on 22-23 April, p.27:** Tony Stephens, “Enemies in the corridors of power”. A brief history of the SMH’s political views.

37.6.2 From Sydney, **Stuart Johnson** writes: Just to advise that [in the first week of April] I submitted my PhD (UNSW) on the editorial position of the *Sydney Morning Herald* under John Fairfax and John West (mainly 1850s and 1860s). The title is: “The Shaping of Colonial Liberalism: John Fairfax and the Sydney Morning Herald, 1841-1877”. The main editorial themes I explore are: education, sectarianism & attitude to Catholicism; free trade; land reform (three chapters); political representation (manhood suffrage, the ballot, electoral boundaries); and the treatment of Chinese workers.

The thesis also offers substantial comment about colonial historiography and, in particular the nature of colonial liberalism. It rejects the common and often unqualified grouping of colonists into “conservatives” and “liberals”. It calls for a greater contextualisation of colonial liberalism within wider British and international liberalism (for example, I have a section repudiating Stuart Macintyre’s argument that David Syme’s protectionism is best described as “liberal policy”). I argue that the *Herald* was relatively conservative on manhood suffrage and on that issue is perhaps best termed liberal-conservative. However, in many other policy areas it was transparently liberal (free trade, the ballot, education in the 1860s and 1870s, Chinese workers, sectarianism, even on land reform — despite opposing the Robertson land acts).

I was rather disappointed to see Gavin Souter in Saturday's Herald say something along the lines that by any measure Fairfax and West were 'Tories'. I am unsure exactly what he means by that term (presumably just "conservative") but it is a hopelessly inadequate description (as I believe my thesis makes clear).

### **37.7 EASTER, FAIRFAX AND FUTURE HISTORIANS**

**Victor Isaacs** writes (and wonders): In April the Fairfax Company adopted its usual policy at Easter of publishing a full weekend edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age* on Good Friday. Then on Saturday, the news, business and sports sections were fully updated, but the advertising sections, *Good Weekend* magazine, travel section, etc., remained the same. How will historians in the future find a particular news/business/sport article, when both the Friday and Saturday editions carried the same date, i.e. "April 14-16"?

### **37.8 HAVING MORE THAN A 'GOOD' WEEKEND**

The *Good Weekend* magazine, inserted in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and Melbourne's *Age*, earned \$54 million in advertising revenue in calendar year 2005. Four of the biggest 10 earners among magazines were newspaper-inserted titles, figures from Nielsen Media Research show. The other three high-earning inserted magazines were the *Sunday* magazine (\$37m for Sydney and Melbourne editions), the *Herald Sun's Home* magazine (\$26m) and the *Weekend Australian Magazine* (\$21.5m). [*Mediaweek*, 20 March 2006, p.1].

### **37.9 PAY TV VETERAN TO RUN FAIRFAX ONLINE**

A former pay TV executive has been appointed to run the growing online business of John Fairfax Holdings. Jack Matthews, who was born in the US but has New Zealand citizenship, hopes to expand Fairfax Digital, which includes dating and holiday accommodation business. Matthews most recently worked as chief operating officer of Japan's largest pay TV channel provider, The Jupiter Programming Company, partly owned by John Malone's Liberty Media (*Australian*, 11 April 2006, p.21).

### **37.10 NO LONGER ARE JOURNALISTS 'CONTENT PROVIDERS'**

In a wide-ranging interview with Mark Day, John Fairfax Holdings chairman Ron Walker has:

- Described as "a blunder" the decision of former CEO Fred Hilmer to move management control of Melbourne's *Age* to Sydney. That decision has been reversed and "we are clawing back sales".
- Declared journalists to be the company's best assets, to be "cherished, loved and respected". He said Hilmer's description of journalists as "content providers" was "a very bad comment".
- Agreed that Fairfax was "running the ruler" over a lot of different business in the expectation that media ownership rules would change.
- Admitted he was not enthusiastic about the future of mobile television or information services but said they remained markets that Fairfax wanted to enter (source: see ANHG 37.61.13).

### **37.11 CANBERRA TIMES AND EDITORS**

37.11.1 Jack Waterford, editor-in-chief of the *Canberra Times* for the past 10 years and editor before that, is now the paper's editor at large. In his new role, he contributes daily items on current affairs and the underlying issues of society (*Canberra Times*, 4 March 2006, p.2).

37.11.2 Michael Stevens resigned on 13 March as editor of the *Canberra Times* to take effect from March 24. General manager Lloyd Whish-Wilson, said that it was with regret that he announced that Stevens had decided to pursue other interests after more than six years of total commitment to the *Times* and the *Canberra Sunday Times*. “We wish him well because he has given his heart and soul,” Whish-Wilson said.” (*Canberra Times*, 16 March 2006, p.2). Stuart Howie, a former editor of Ballarat’s *Courier* became acting editor.

37.11.3 A fortnight before Stevens’ resignation, the editor of the *Canberra Sunday Times*, Gordon Weigold, resigned (*Australian*, Media section, 16 March 2006, p.22, “Diary”). He has been replaced by Des Ryan, formerly editor of the *Advocate*, Burnie (see 37.45.1).

37.11.4 The *Canberra Times* advertised (*Weekend Australian*, 25-26 March 2006, p.28) for an editor. The advertisement said: “The editor will take charge of an editorial department of nearly 100 fulltime staff. He or she will be responsible for the editorial content and presentation of the national capital’s newspaper, with a Saturday readership of more than 180,000 and a weekday readership of more than 128,000 in a complex and competitive market.”

37.11.5 Crispin Hull, editor of the *Canberra Times*, 1985-92 (under three owners: Fairfax, Kerry Packer and Kerry Stokes), reflected on the editor’s job in “An editor’s job is joyful, frustrating, exhausting, remorseless: never boring”, *Canberra Times*, 8 April 2006, Opinion B9. **Extract:** “... there is an unwritten understanding that the chief executive usually does not direct the content of the paper. This is what is meant by editorial independence. It is desirable commercially because readers trust a newspaper which they see as editorially independent. The theory is that the newspaper with editorial independence acts in the public interest, not the owner’s interest.”

### **37.12 CITY NEWS VERSUS CANBERRA TIMES**

**Victor Isaacs** writes: The *City News* is a small giveaway weekly in Canberra. It delights in pointing to declines in the circulation of the *Canberra Times* – which is pretty cheeky coming from such a small paper. At the end of February both circulation and readership surveys were published. The *City News* of 23 February called attention to both declines in the circulation and declines in the readership of the *Canberra Times*. Unfortunately, the latter was drawn from an article in the *Australian Financial Review*, which had some errors. The *Canberra Times*, for a change, did not ignore the *City News*, but responded furiously with a long article and a large advertisement in its edition of Saturday, 25 February, drawing attention to its increased readership. It also threatened legal action against the *City News*. Accordingly, in its edition of 2 March (p.2), the *City News* printed the apology demanded by the *Canberra Times* – but preceded it with another cheeky article setting out the history of the dispute (“Yes but, no but, we were wrong”).

### **37.13 THE AGE AND READERSHIP**

From Melbourne, **Peter T. Gill** writes: “This (and a similar item in the previous day’s *Age*) is interesting because the comparison is with the *Australian* and the *Weekend Australian*, rather than the *Herald Sun*.” He enclosed a cutting from the *Age* of Saturday, 18 February 2006, p.2, which reported that the readership of the Saturday *Age* had topped one million, according to the latest Roy Morgan readership figures. In the latest quarter, all editions of the *Age* had achieved the highest readership growth of any metropolitan newspaper in Australia. By contrast, readers were leaving the *Weekend Australian* in droves with Victorian readership declining by 8.7 per cent in the past year to 147,000. In Melbourne, the *Australian* lost 16.4 per cent of its readers. The *Age Online* also posted strong gains with a 26 per cent increase in the number of average unique monthly browsers, making **theage.com.au** the No. 1 site for news and information in Victoria.

### **37.14 A DECADE AS PRIME MINISTER**

John Howard celebrated 10 years as Prime Minister on 2 March and newspapers gave extensive coverage of the event. The *Weekend Australian* editorialised on 25-26 February, p.18, "Ten years on: the Howard factor", and referred to the book that various journalists from the Australian contributed (*The Howard Factor: A decade that changed a nation*, published by MUP). And the *Australian* editorialised on 2 March, p.11, "So what now, then?", arguing that more of the same was not enough. Malcolm Farr, chief political correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph*, wrote about the changing profile of John Howard (*Walkley Magazine*, April/May 2006, pp.22-24), and cartoonist Bill Leak thanked God that such an absolutely normal looking politician "at least has a bottom lip" (*Walkley Magazine*, April/May 2006, p.25).

### **37.15 FPC COURIER PUBLISHES 19 TITLES**

Nuggets of information often bob up in ads. Some snippets to put on the record from a recent FPC Courier advertisement that appeared in a supplement in the *Weekend Australian* (25-26 February 2006, "A Special Recruitment Report", p.12) when the company was "embarking on an exciting stage of development": FPC Courier is a division of Australia's leading, privately owned publishing company – Federal Publishing Company – and is "Australia's leading publisher of high-quality community and commuter publications". FPC Courier publishes 19 titles and employs more than 400 people throughout New South Wales and Queensland. The publications include: *Wentworth Courier*, *Southern Courier*, *Sydney Weekly Courier*, *Sydney Central Courier*, *Inner West Courier*, *Village Voice Balmain*, *Village Voice Drummoyne*, *9TO5*, *City Weekly*, *Weekender*, *Weekender Noosa*, *Weekender Coolumbour*, *Best of the Gold Coast*, *Kiama Independent*, *Lake Times* and *Northern Leader*.

### **37.16 THE AUSTRALIAN AND ITS LETTERS**

Will Hagon, of Beaconsfield, NSW, writes (*Weekend Australian*, 11-12 March 2006, p.18, letters): "If you can judge a paper by its letter writers, the *Australian* is sitting high. The standard of observant, incisive yet entertaining letters on Friday, mostly about Labor's troubles, as well as the tedious Germaine Greer, was marvellous."

### **37.17 THE AUSTRALIAN BACKS LENNON AND RANN**

The *Australian* advocated the return of the Lennon Labor Government in Tasmania and the Rann Labor Government in South Australia (*Australian*, 15 March 2006, p.13, and 16 March 2006, p.13). Both governments were subsequently re-elected.

### **37.18 SUNDAY TOO FAR AWAY**

A grand obsession with newspapers often means a 21-hour Saturday for new *Sunday Herald Sun* editor Simon Pristel, reports Jen Jewel Brown (*Mediaweek*, 13 March 2006, pp.7, 5). Pristel joined the *Herald* after he left school in 1988 and became part of the *Herald Sun* (upon the merger) in October 1990. He has since worked for News Ltd in various parts of the world.

### **37.19 LATHAM AND THE MEDIA**

Mark Latham skipped a court appearance on assault and malicious damage charges on 22 March to give a lecture to university students about the "perverts in the media", reported the *Australian* (23 March 2006, pp.1-2). After choosing not to appear in Campbelltown Local Court on the charges arising from an alleged run-in with a newspaper photographer, the



former Federal opposition Leader emerged just hours later at the Australian National University, Canberra, to lecture students (see ANHG 36.11).

### **37.20 JOURNALISM ACADEMIC JOINS AGE**

Journalism educator Matthew Ricketson has announced that he is leaving RMIT University after 13 years, 11 of them as head of the journalism program, to join the *Age*, Melbourne, as its media and communications editor (Matthew Ricketson, email to JEA net, 16 March 2006; see also *PANPA Bulletin*, April 2006, p.43).

### **37.21 WAN (1): STEINKE REPLACES LAW**

Ken Steinke, a former regional daily editor in Queensland, has been appointed chief executive officer of West Australian Newspaper Holdings Ltd to replace Ian Law. Law departs on 5 May to head the magazines division of Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd. Steinke's most recent position was CEO of APN News & Media Ltd's New Zealand national publishing division. WAN publishes the *West Australian*, Perth's sole daily, *Quokka* (a trading-post style newspaper), and most of the country newspapers in Western Australia (*Australian*, 17 March 2006, p.21; *PANPA Bulletin*, April 2006, p.47).

### **37.22 WAN (2): PROFIT TAKES HIT**

West Australian Newspapers Holdings Ltd has warned that earnings for 2005-06 will be more affected by the upgrading of its presses than previously estimated. WAN is installing a new production facility that will make redundant the equivalent of 214 full-time staff, costing a total of \$30 million. [That's an average payment of slightly more than \$140,000.] (*Weekend Australian*, 18-19 March 2006, p.33)

### **37.23 HERALD SUN'S AFTERNOON ISSUE DURING GAMES**

The *Herald Sun* published a special afternoon edition of the paper during the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in March (*Herald Sun*, 16 March 2006).

### **37.24 ADAPT TO NEW TECHNOLOGY OR DIE: MURDOCH**

The newspaper industry needs to embrace the technological revolution of the Internet, MP3 players, laptops and mobile phones or face extinction, Rupert Murdoch says. "Societies or companies that expect a glorious past to shield them from the forces of change driven by advancing technology will fail and fall," Murdoch said in a speech to the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers in London (ABC Online, 14 March 2006).

### **37.25 WHEN IN MELBOURNE, DO WHAT THE ROMANS DO**

A 73-year-old former Melbourne newspaper editor has claimed a seat in the Italian Senate. In an historic poll that for the first time allowed Italians living abroad to stand for election and vote, Nino Randazzo, a playwright, historian and former editor of Melbourne-based Italian daily *Il Globo*, claimed victory on 11 April in the Senate seat for the world's largest electorate. With 152,000 voters, it spans Oceania, Africa, Asia and Antarctica and includes Italian soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan (*Age*, April 12, 2006).

### **37.26 POISON-PILL VOTE**

News Corporation has bowed to shareholder pressure to allow a vote on its poison-pill takeover defence plan, potentially giving US rival John Malone a chance to increase his stake in the media giant. The agreement is part of a proposed legal settlement with a dozen

institutional investors, including six Australian superannuation funds and US, Dutch and British pension funds. The vote is expected to take place in October when shareholders will be asked to approve continuing the defence until 2008 (*Weekend Australian*, 8-9 April 2006, p.33).

### **37.27 POLICE COMMISSIONER AND THE PRESS**

Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty has attacked “sloppy” reporting, “passionate” editors, civil libertarians and the press watchdog for contributing to biased reporting sometimes endangering national security. Keelty was addressing the Australian Press Council on 23 March (*Australian*, 24 March 2006, p.2; *PANPA Bulletin*, April 2006, pp.16-17).

### **37.28 GORDON WOOD, THE POLICE AND THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD**

When Gordon Wood was arrested in London in early April, the *Sydney Morning Herald* had the story on its front page within 15 minute, declaring: “We find model’s accused killer”. But, writes Sheena Maclean (*Weekend Australian*, 8-9 April 2006, p.6), the *Herald*, while it did have a scoop on its hands, did not supplant the police. The NSW police, working with Scotland Yard, had been in place to arrest Wood for some time. They were not sitting around waiting for the *Herald* (see also *Mediaweek*, 10 April 2006, pp.1-2).

### **37.29 SOMETHING EXTRA WITH YOUR COFFEE**

Nearly 300 Australian coffee shops will sell News Ltd newspapers under a deal brokered to lift sales among impulse buyers and casual readers. News, publisher of a national daily, six capital-city dailies, seven capital-city Sundays and four regional dailies, has done the deal with Gloria Jean’s Coffees, whose cafes serve nearly one million customers a week. The newspapers will be sold at their normal price at Gloria Jean’s outlets, which will act as newsagency sub-agents like service stations, convenience stores and supermarkets (*Australian*, 11 April 2006, p.21).

### **37.30 CARTOONS IGNITE DEBATE**

A Bill Leak cartoon (*Weekend Australian*, 1-2 April 2006, p.18) on the Indonesia-West Papua issue responding to an Indonesian scandal sheet’s cartoon on the same issue, but portraying Australia as lusting after West Papua, created a storm in political circles (*Courier-Mail*, 31 March 2006, p.31). Bill Leak wrote about the issues (*Australian*, 3 April 2006, p.10) and the *Weekend Australian* editorialised on them on 8-9 April 2006, p.18.

### **37.31 OUR GREATEST HEROES**

As part of its remembrance of Anzac Day, Brisbane’s *Courier-Mail* published on 24 and 25 April two tabloid supplements (one of 16 pages and one of 12 pages), profiling 96 Australians who have won the Victoria Cross, Australia’s highest military honour for bravery.

### **37.32 GERALDINE BROOKS WINS PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION**

Former *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist, Geraldine Brooks, has won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. The award is reserved for US writers. Brooks, born in Sydney in 1955 to an American father, holds dual Australian and US citizenship. She won the Pulitzer for her second novel, *March*, inspired by the absent father in Louisa May Alcott’s 19<sup>th</sup> century classic tale, *Little Women* (Susan Wyndham, “Spoils from the battlefield”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 April 2006, p.13). See also, Geraldine Brooks, “The missing man who loved his little woman”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22-23 April 2006, *Spectrum*, pp.28-29, an edited extract of an essay published in the *New Yorker*; for full essay, see [geraldinebrooks.com.au](http://geraldinebrooks.com.au) [The ANHG editor

notes that nearly 30 years ago he used to clip Geraldine Brooks's news reports from the *SMH* when she was a cadet journalist – to show his journalism students how to write.]

## **CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: PROVINCIAL**

### **37.33 APN ACHIEVES THIRD YEAR OF DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH**

The release of APN News & Media's full-year results for 2005 marked the end of chief executive Brendan Hopkins' campaign to produce double-digit profit growth for three consecutive years, reports Neil Shoebridge (*Australian Financial Review*, 27 February 2006, p.48). The results were 14.8 per cent in 2003, 24 per cent in 2004 and 15.7 per cent in 2005. APN is predicting big things for its new online division, which is expected to generate revenue of \$10 million this year (up from \$6 million in 2005) and \$20 million in 2008.

APN has signed Hopkins for an extended contract. His old contract was due to expire at the end of 2007; his new contract extends "well into" 2009. Hopkins has been with Tony O'Reilly's Independent News and Media, the controlling shareholder in APN, for almost 20 years, including eight as head of the UK operations (*Sydney Morning Herald* online, 22 March 2006).

### **37.34 MUDGEE GUARDIAN AND TRI-WEEKLY ISSUE**

An ANHG member writes to say that the *Mudgee Guardian* (see 36.28) may be publishing three newspapers a week, but one of them appears as the *Weekly*, the paper which the *Guardian's* owner, Rural Press Ltd, bought early last year (see 32.61). The ANHG has since received a copy of the *Weekly*.

### **37.35 NEW KILMORE PAPER SACKS AN OLD KILMORE SMITH**

The *North Central Review*, Kilmore, has terminated the services of Bruce Smith who left the Smith family newspaper, the *Free Press*, two years ago as the manager and major shareholder in the company that launched the *Review* on 18 May 2004. The major shareholders in the *Review* now are Wally Mott, who has interests in property and the media, and Bob Yeates, the owner of the East Gippsland newspaper group that publishes the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* and also owns the *Huon Valley News* in Tasmania. The *Free Press* was established in October 1864 (*Free Press*, Kilmore, 8 March 2006, p.3; see ANHG 28.41).

### **37.36 BORDER WATCH AND THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ELECTION**

Mount Gambier's *Border Watch* (it appears four times a week and not daily, despite the report in the *Australian*, Media section, 16 March 2006, p.18) was in the headlines during the week leading up to the South Australian election on 18 March. Editor Frank Morello was stood down for that week. And chief of staff Lechelle Earl resigned on 13 March saying she was unhappy about management interference in election stories. The controversy arose over three stories and an editorial published in the 10 March issue of the *Border Watch*. The stories criticised the Liberals' forestry and roads policy and included a right of reply from the local public hospital to criticisms of its operations.

The paper is owned by trucking tycoon and staunch Liberal Party supporter, Alan Scott, and had been branded "the most biased paper in the State" by SA Premier Mike Rann. On 15 March the *Border Watch* published a letter from Scott. "The *Border Watch* editorial which centred on the Mount Gambier Hospital and criticism of the Liberal Party for questioning problems that exist at the hospital in its election campaign, was not the view of the

newspaper's board of directors," Scott wrote. "The editorial gave the impression that problems at the Mount Gambier Hospital have been fixed. But we believe that have not."

### **37.37 ORIGINAL PRESS RETURNS TO ARMIDALE FOR 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

The press used to print the first issue of the *Armidale Express* on 5 April 1856 returned to mark the 150th birthday of the newspaper. The press – once used by Henry Parkes – is presently held at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, but made the journey to Armidale just as it did 150 years ago. An Albion Press manufactured by A Wilson & Sons of London in 1850, it was imported to Australia by Henry Parkes to print his *Empire*. In 1856, William Hipgrave and Walter Craigie bought the press from their former boss, and brought it from Maitland to Armidale on a dray pulled by a team of bullocks. The journey took 27 days. In 1929 the Armidale Newspaper Company donated the press to the Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences, now incorporating the Powerhouse Museum. The press will be in Armidale at the New England Regional Arts Museum for 12 months (*Armidale Express*, 15 March and 5 April 2006).

### **37.38 PINNAROO AND BURRA**

Paul Taylor, of the Murray Pioneer Pty Ltd, has sent the ANHG copies of the new-look Pinnaroo and Burra papers, recently bought by his family newspaper enterprise (see 36.41). Both the *Border Times* and the former *Burra Broadcaster* (now the *Mid North Broadcaster*) are bright colour tabloids printed on newsprint whereas previously there were black and white and printed on a higher gsm stock than newsprint. The *Border Times* serves the border towns of Pinnaroo and Lameroo (SA) and Murrayville (Victoria). The *Broadcaster* services the scattered towns of Burra, Eudunda and Peterborough. Taylor says: "Like many newspapers around Australia, we have recently increased our capacity for colour, and this alone gives both of these papers a major lift."

### **37.39 MERREDIN MERCURY TARGETS TRAVELLER PICTURES**

The *Merredin Wheatbelt Mercury* announced on 8 March 2006 that it was introducing a new column called "Travelling Mercury" where it would feature photos of people reading that paper in famous or unusual places. "If you've got an exciting holiday planned, an idea for an unusual photo or know someone famous, you could be in the running to have your photo featured," the paper told its readers." All you had to do was send us a photo of you, or someone you know, reading the *Mercury* in an unusual or well-known place, whether it be a famous landmark or right in your own backyard. If you knew someone living overseas, readers were told, send them a copy of the paper and ask them to take a snap of themselves reading it ... All photos would be published, along with the entrant's details, so get snapping and send your photos, including caption details and your name, to editorial.mercury@ruralpress.com or to Travelling Mercury, PO Box 283, Merredin WA 6415.

### **37.40 PETER AUSTIN WINS BLACK AWARD**

Peter Austin, who has worked for the *Land* for 28 years and has twice been the editor, has won Rural Press Ltd's R.H. Black Award for Excellence. The award was inaugurated in 1991.

The winners have been: 1991, Peter Hazel (Gloucester); 1992, John Illsley (*Stock Journal*); 1993, Dave Mackenzie (NZ) and Sharon Pohlman (USA); 1994, Lesley Penfold (Wingham); 1995, Mike Harvey (*Land*); 1996, John Sommerlad (Tamworth); 1997, Sandra Chambers (Cowra); 1998, Brian Hurst (Redlands); 1999, Greg Berry (Dubbo); 2000, Barry Potter (*Queensland Country Life*); 2001, Bruce Wilson (Cessnock) and Ron Goldspink (Mandurah); 2002, Jacob Muscat (Printing) and Percy Henry (*Stock Journal*); 2003, Dave Older

(Launceston) and Mark Phelps (*Queensland Country Life*); and 2005, Peter Austin (*Land*). [*Rural Press News*, March 2006, p.3.]

### **37.41 MACLEAY ARGUS AT 120**

The *Macleay Argus* produced a 128-page feature in December 2005 to mark its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary (*Rural Press News*, March 2006, p.12). The *Argus*, Kempsey's fourth newspaper, began publication on 17 October 1885.

### **37.42 MURRAY VALLEY STANDARD MOVES**

The *Murray Valley Standard* and the Murray Bridge printery of Rural Press Printing (RPP) have shifted from Mannum Road to 110-118 Adelaide Road. The move took place on 24 March 2006 and climaxed a 12-month, \$8 million project. The new building holds a state-of-the-art printing press that produces 35,000 copies an hour for more than 60 different newspapers and publications across Australia. The new press allows RPP to print every page of a publication in colour and now the *Alice Springs News* has been added to the RPP list of clients at Murray Bridge (*Murray Valley Standard*, 28 March 2006, p.1, and 30 March 2006, p.36, forwarded by Harold McLaren).

### **37.43 LARRY AND THE PAPERS**

When Cyclone Larry destroyed wide sections of Innisfail and some surrounding towns on 20 March, the newspapers continued to appear, somehow. *Mediaweek* reports (3 April 2006, p.7) on the problems that faced the *Innisfail Advocate* and the *Tablelander*, Atherton, and the help they received from their News Ltd colleagues in Townsville. *Mediaweek* (27 March 2006, p.7) reported on how the *Cairns Post* played a vital role in the cyclone crisis. See also: "Dealing with disaster", *PANPA Bulletin*, April 2006, p.4.

### **37.44 GOLD COAST BULLETIN'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST**

One of the best and brightest tabloid newspapers in Australia, the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, began publishing in March brief profiles and pictures (often in casual gear) of their journalists. The words and pix appeared on Page 2 under the heading, "Our best and brightest". For example, see the issues of 17, 20 and 21 March.

### **37.45 EDITORS AT BURNIE, BALLARAT, TAMWORTH, WARWICK, BROOME**

37.45.1 The *Advocate*, the daily that serves north-western Tasmania from offices in Burnie and Devonport, advertised in early April for an editor because the incumbent had accepted "a new challenge" within the parent company, Rural Press Ltd (*Australian*, Media section, 6 April 2006, p.18). The "incumbent", Des Ryan, has become the editor of the *Canberra Sunday Times* (see 37.11.3).

37.45.2 Angela Carey became the editor of the Ballarat *Courier* in March, replacing Peter Dwyer, who had been the editor since May 2004. Dwyer had previously been the editor of the *Advocate*, Burnie, for four years. He has left Rural Press (see ANHG 28.34). Carey served a cadetship with the *Kyabram Free Press* and joined the *Courier* in 1991. She said (E-mail to ANHG editor) that she had three lots of maternity leave as she rose through the ranks to chief of staff and deputy editor.

37.45.3 Tony Curran, editor of Tamworth's *Northern Daily Leader* for the past two years, has resigned to travel and pursue other media interests. The *Leader's* managing editor, John Sommerlad, who has been with the newspaper for 10 years, will be the acting editor until a new editor is appointed.

37.45.4 Gavin Leslie has been appointed editor of Warwick's *Daily News*, replacing Natalie Gauld, who has become associate editor of the Toowoomba *Chronicle*. Leslie's first job after university was with Quest Community Newspapers, Brisbane, where he had done an internship while a student. He stayed with the company for eight years and became the news editor of the *Redcliffe and Bayside Herald*.

37.45.5 The *Broome Advertiser*, one of WAN Holdings Ltd's large chain of regional newspapers, has advertised for an editor for its free weekly newspaper, its fortnightly lifestyle publication and sundry specialist titles that serve the news, sporting and community information needs of the rapidly growing Broome and Kimberley region (*Australian*, Media section, 20 April 2006, p.19).

### **37.46 GETTING THE NEWS ON TAPE**

37.46.1 Vision Australia called in March for people with a clear voice to volunteer to read the *Milton Ulladulla Times* (15 March 2006) aloud for a weekly audio version of the paper. This version is produced for blind and vision impaired community members.

37.46.2 Bringing news to the visually impaired, aged and housebound is all in a day's work for the volunteers from Tamworth's News on Wheels service and they have been honoured in the NSW Seniors Week Awards. News On Wheels won the Organisational/Volunteering category of the awards. The service provides local news to clients across the New England and north-west via taped extracts from the *Northern Daily Leader*. There are 22 readers who volunteer their time to the service that has been running since 1989. The technician, George Nethery, has been recording and editing it every Saturday every week since it started (*Northern Daily Leader*, 4 April 2006).

### **37.47 BREAKING NEWS: FAIRFAX TO BUY BORDER MAIL**

John Fairfax Holdings Ltd is in the process of buying the Albury-Wodonga daily, the *Border Mail* (reports the *Australian*, Media section, 4 May 2006, p.17). The paper has been owned by the Mott family since brothers Hamilton Charnock and Decimus Mott launched it in Albury on 24 October 1903. It has been printed at Wodonga, Victoria, since June 1999 (see Rod Kirkpatrick's *Country Conscience*, espec. pp.249-252).

### **37.48 RESEARCH ON WA COUNTRY PAPERS**

Dr David Marsh, a sports writer on the *West Australian* and a part-time journalism lecturer at Edith Cowan University, has been busy lately, interviewing former country newspaper identities. He is working on a collaborative project to write a history of the disappearing country newspapers of Western Australia. At the end of April, Marsh visited towns such as Kellerberrin (210km east of Perth), Northam (105km east of Perth) and Gnowangerup (350km south-east of Perth) to conduct interviews and other research. At Kellerberrin, on 24 April he located two buildings where the *Eastern Recorder* had been housed, but was unable to determine the precise occupancy dates. On 25 April Marsh interviewed Harold Watts, 93, who worked in newspapers at Kellerberrin, Cunderdin, Wongan Hills, Wyalkatchem, York and Albany for 54 years until his retirement at age 68. He worked at various times as printer, compositor, proof-reader, journalist, editor and manager. While at Cunderdin, he had to cycle 481km to Kellerberrin (where the paper was printed) to deliver his copy. The next day he

would ride home again. While living at Wongan Hills, he would ride nearly 50km to Goomalling with his copy and ride home the next day.

## **NEWSPAPER HISTORY**

### **37.49 A REVELATION ABOUT SCOOPS**

Cheque-book journalism, 19<sup>th</sup> century style: The *Australasian Typographical Journal* reported in March 1899 (Vol. XXIX, No. 345) p.3: “Immense sums of money are often paid for sensational pieces of information which no other paper has got. The editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* paid £500 for the news that (the British Prime Minister) Mr. Gladstone was about to resign, and the secret was well worth its price. For weeks every paper in England and America was constantly referring to the news which the Pall Mall had been the first to give to the world, and the circulation of the paper received a tremendous impetus.”

And: “Even if the news itself is not very sensational, it is worth a great deal to have it exclusively. When the Prince of Wales went to Niagara to see Blondin cross the Falls on a tight rope, the *New York Herald* monopolised all the wires, so as to get the news exclusively. A heavy sum was paid in wiring unnecessary matter, so as to keep the line engaged; but at the end of two hours the Prince had not arrived. The *Herald* was wasting dollars by the hundred, and the reporters telegraphed to New York asking what they should do to keep the wires. “Telegraph the Book of Genesis!” came back the reply, and this was done at a cost of £150. Still the Prince did not come, and the reporters, afraid to spend so much money, again telegraphed to Mr. Gordon Bennett, and the word came back with lightning speed – “Go on to Revelation.” Fortunately it was not necessary to telegraph the whole Bible, as the Prince arrived, and the *Herald* gave the news to the public. But the exploit must have cost considerably over £1000.

### **37.50 CAMDEN ADVERTISER BACK COPIES**

Camden Public Library is trying to find a good home for originals of the *Camden Advertiser* in a broken run from the 1930s to the 1950s. **Ian Willis** writes: “I convinced the library to put them on microfilm when I was doing my PhD. It was one of my principal sources. Our historical society cannot house them.”

### **37.51 THE ARGUS AND FRONT-PAGE NEWS**

Melbourne’s *Argus* began devoting the front page to news on Monday, 13 September 1937. It ran an editorial, “We believe” (p.14) about the new format. “Today the *Argus* enters upon a new era. Since the formation of the *Argus* and Australasian company, plans have been made for the production of a newspaper which will be in harmony with modern thought and modern taste – a newspaper which will authoritatively record and at the same time wholesomely influence history. The *Argus* in its new form is to-day in the hands of many thousands of readers and they will judge for themselves the changes that have been made. Briefly, these have been designed to give increased space to news, to make the presentation of news more attractive, to supply more pictorial illustration, and to make it more possible for the reader, as he holds his paper, to find the more important news quickly and easily. These in a morning newspaper are important improvements, for the readers of to-day are busy men and women, and at breakfast (or before) and in train or tram, are impatient to learn what has happened in the world since their last reading of news.”

On Page 1 there was a box with guidance on “How to read the new *Argus*”: “A strict regard for the sequence of sections is a feature of the new *Argus*. This sequence, which will be adhered to each day, is as follows in this issue: General News, Pages 1-8; Women’s Section,

9, 10, 11; Finance and Shipping, 12-13; Leader Page, 14; Cable News, 15; Country Section, 16-18; Classified Ads, 19-24, Children's Section, Short Story, Strips, 25; Sporting, 26-30. The principal news of the day appears on Page 1, and the back page is devoted to highlights of sport. [Thanks to **Ken Sanz**, of Sydney, for providing photocopies of relevant pages from that issue of the *Argus* after reading ANHG 36.43 about changes in newspaper format. See also: Matthew Ricketson, "Staniforth Ricketson and the rejuvenation of the *Argus*", in Muriel Porter, ed., *The Argus: The life and death of a great Melbourne newspaper, 1846-1957*. Melbourne: RMIT University, 2003, pp.159-174, but espec. p.168]

### **37.52 ONLINE DICTIONARY OF BRITISH AND IRISH JOURNALISTS, 1800-1950**

If you are interested in viewing the sampler site of a new online biographical dictionary of British and Irish journalists who died between 1800 and 1950, go to [www.scoop-database.com](http://www.scoop-database.com) The site contains more than 21,500 entries, the result of more than 15 years' research and is said to be the most comprehensive biographical dictionary of journalists ever produced. SCOOP offers name, keyword and category search facilities. The full database is available on a subscription basis, and details are available on the sampler site.

### **37.53 COUNTRY JOURNALIST TO NEIGHBOURHOOD COORDINATOR**

From Melbourne, **Larry Noye** writes: Jill Millthorpe ended 52 years of working life when she retired recently after four years as coordinator of the West Footscray Neighbourhood House. Millthorpe began her working life as a journalist with the *Parkes Champion-Post*, NSW, and then joined the *Border Morning Mail* and later the *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*. She served as chief court reporter for the Melbourne *Herald* for 10 years. Her versatile career included running a cattle farm at Everton, near Wangaratta, helping form Single Mothers and Their Children in 1968. In Melbourne's western suburbs, she managed Western Older Workers at Footscray and became involved with the West Footscray Neighbourhood House and helped run its toy library (see also *Footscray Mail*, 1 February 2006).

### **37.54 CURIOSITY CORNER**

37.54.1 The National Library of Australia, Newspaper Room, has issued a useful listing of Newspaper Indexes that it holds. Victor Isaacs (at [abvi@webone.com.au](mailto:abvi@webone.com.au) or **43 Lowanna St Braddon ACT 2612**) can supply copies.

37.54.2 Victor Isaacs has available, in return for the cost of postage, copies of the book *Gale Force: John Gale and the siting of the National Capital* by Susan Mary Wilcock Withycombe published in 2001. This biography says a great deal about John Gale's long involvement with the *Queanbeyan Age* as editor and owner. Victor's address: see 37.54.1.

37.54.3 Victor Isaacs asks if anyone knows of any collection of the Canberra edition of the *Australian*. The Canberra edition ran from 15 July 1964 until 3 March 1967. No large library seems to have a collection, not even the National Library of Australia. Victor's address: see 37.54.1.

37.54.4 Victor Isaacs is offering three duplicate books from his collection in return for the cost of postage: (1) *Press Directory of Australia and New Zealand*, published by Country Press Ltd, 15th edition, 1961. (2) *Rupert Murdoch: A Paper Prince*, by George Munster, 1st edition (hardback) edition, 1985; (3) *The Man Who Couldn't Wait: Warwick Fairfax's folly and the bankers who backed him* by V.J. Carroll, William Heinemann, 1990. Victor's address: see 37.54.1.

### **37.55 MAGAZINES AND MODERNITY IN AUSTRALASIA**

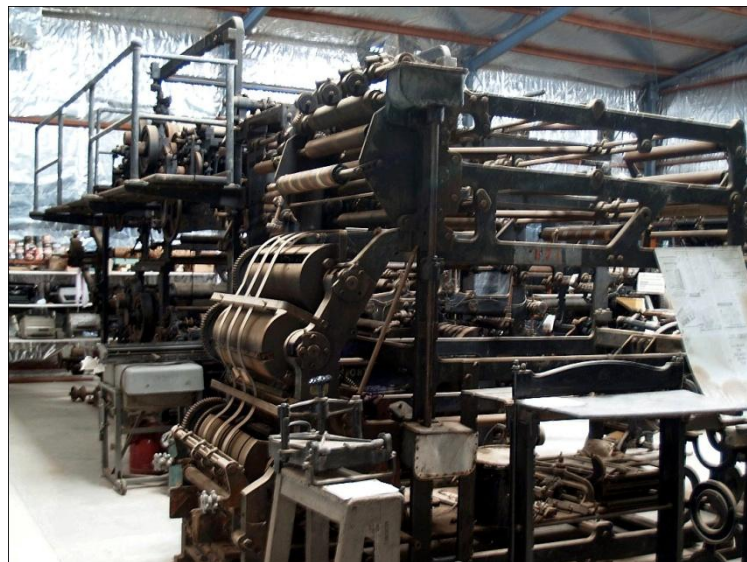


An international conference, entitled “Magazines and modernity in Australasia”, will be held by the Australian Studies Centre of the University of Queensland on 8-9 December 2006. This is a call for papers for that conference. This conference seeks to explore the ways in which print culture networks can help to answer questions about the dissemination of modernity and regional engagement with innovation and tradition throughout the world. During the last 150 years Australasia has been a significant market for local and international periodicals that cater to a variety of tastes, levels of education, incomes, ages and ethnicities. Participants are requested to address one or more of the processes of periodical production, distribution or consumption of magazines and “magazine culture” in relation to ideas of modernity. Papers can be contemporary or historical in focus.

Papers on other topics related to magazines and newspapers will also be warmly welcomed. A publication devoted to the conference themes is planned. Send a 200-300 word abstract along with a brief bio by 31 May 2006 to: Roger Osborne r.osborne@uq.edu.au or David Carter david.carter@uq.edu.au Updates and a draft program will be posted on the Australian Studies Centre web-site which is at [www.asc.uq.edu.au](http://www.asc.uq.edu.au)

### **37.56 HISTORIC BELL & VALENTINE PRESS ON OFFER**

**Peter Marsh** writes from Melbourne: Further to my comments last year on a Bell & Valentine newspaper press, circa 1930 [ANHG 35.56], I have been advised of the existence of a similar press in South Australia (see picture below). The press, owned by the Kadina branch of SA National Trust, is at The Farm Shed Museum in Kadina. The Museum’s main focus is on dry land farming and they wish to de-accession the press for space reasons. The press is a Bell & Valentine Rotary Press, dimensions approximately 6m x 3m x 3m high. Apart from the *Bell & Valentine* title, it has a nameplate styled *Manufactured by Norman Bell & Co., South Melbourne*. The history is a bit sketchy but it was used at the *Advertiser* until about 1980 and is believed to be complete but was not made operational [as apparently was the idea] after it came to Kadina in 1983. Anyone interested enough can contact Sandra Wood, Hon. Secretary, Kadina Branch, National Trust, P. O. Box 232, Kadina, SA, 5554.



### **37.57 I’M FONT OF SOME TYPES AND NOT OTHERS**

**Barry Blair** emailed the ANHG editor: “Now that the *Courier-Mail* in Brisbane has switched to the Times Classic font, I thought I’d read up on same and attached is some fireside reading from which should get a bit of a chuckle.” An extract from the article, written by Ian Peacock and published in the *Times*, London, on 5 February 2005, appears below:

This article is manipulating you. Sorry. I can't help it. It is, after all, printed in a typeface: the Times typeface no less. Whether you like it or not, you're taking it much more seriously than you would if it was in a silly cartoon font such as Comic Sans. The Times typeface is a tweedy academic — comforting, intelligent, incorrigibly British. Whereas Comic Sans is the David Brent of typography: a failed office jester, desperately trying to be your pal.

Every day we encounter hundreds of typefaces or fonts (I'm using these two terms interchangeably — apologies to typology anoraks), but most of us would be hard pushed to name any of them beyond perhaps the default computer ones like Arial. But they are subtly influencing us all the time, nudging our sensibilities behind the backs of the very words they represent.

“Typography is very manipulative,” Neville Brody, a leading graphic designer, admits. “The choice of a font will tell you how you'll react emotionally to the information before you've even read it. It's an invisible level of communication. It's to do with context, association and memory.”

### **37.58 A CENTURY OF NEWSPAPERS**

The British Library is mounting an exhibition of a selection of front pages to show changes in British newspapers over the past 100 years. The Library says: “You will discover how the stories which make the front page are reported on, and how and why they are selected by editors and journalists. The exhibition will run from 25 May to 8 October 2006.

## **RECENTLY PUBLISHED**

### **37.59 BOOK**

THE ARCHIBALD PARADOX: A STRANGE CASE OF AUTHORSHIP by Sylvia Lawson, Paperback edition with new Epilogue. The Meigunyah Press, 2006, 390 pages, \$24.95. A re-issue of the 1983 book.

### **37.60 THESIS**

SEVEN DECADES OF SPORTS WRITING AT THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, 1901-1971, by David Marsh (PhD thesis, 2005, Edith Cowan University, Perth). A Perth sports journalist, Marsh traces the evolution of sports journalism at the *West Australian* during the first seven decades of last century. The thesis also addresses the influences of reporting by the sporting editors, the “tyranny of distance”, the two world wars and technological change.

### **37.61 ARTICLES**

37.61.1 BEYOND THE SEARCHLIGHT by Julianne Schultz, *Walkley Magazine*, December 2005/January 2006, pp.18-19. Mainstream media's need for speed reduces coverage and commentary to the short, sharp and obvious, yet something surprising has happened: the art of essay and analysis has been reborn online and in small journals.

37.61.2 REVEALED: COSTIGAN'S PAIN ON GOANNA LEAK by Bob Bottom, *Weekend Australian*, 25-26 February 2006, pp.1, 6. Crime writer Bob Bottom, a former investigative journalist and author of several best-selling books on organised crime in Australia, provides significant insights into the *National Times's* 1984 Goanna story on Kerry Packer and the resultant defamation case brought by Packer.

37.61.3 HOME ON THE RANGE by Kate Coughlan, *Australian Women's Weekly*, March 2006, pp.36-43. Rupert Murdoch and his wife, Wendi Deng, retreat to their ranch in Carmel Valley, California, whenever they can (three months of the year) to relax with their daughters

and their extended family. Includes six pages of pictures and about four paragraphs at the top of p.42 that deal with media issues.

37.61.4 WAGIN ARGUS CELEBRATES CENTENARY by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, February 2006, pp.46-47. A potted history of the *Wagin Argus* in Western Australia.

37.61.5 READERS HALVED WHILE POPULATION DOUBLED by Stephen Quinn, *PANPA Bulletin*, February 2006, p.30. Why have the weekday circulations of capital-city dailies declined so much over the past 50 years?

37.61.6 THE STORY OF OZ by Drew Warne-Smith, *Weekend Australian Magazine*, 18-19 March 2006, pp.20-23. Free speech, free love, free drinks and free-for-all fun were what motivated the team behind *Oz* magazine four decades ago. Older and perhaps wiser now, they relive those heady days.

37.61.7 ONLINE JOBS SHIFT AWAY FROM GIANTS by Neil Shoebridge, *Australian Financial Review*, 20 March 2006, p.43. Seek and you will find other players grabbing a bigger slice of the advertising pie. Includes a table based on the reporting season of media company profits and revenue and the changes that occurred.

37.61.8 REPORTS FROM THE OTHER SIDE by Ross Fitzgerald, *Weekend Australian*, 18-19 March 2006, p.19. An academic finds that Wilfred Burchett is fondly remembered by Vietnamese colleagues.

37.61.9 PRINTING HERITAGE OF TWO COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS FROM THE CENTRAL VICTORIAN GOLDFIELDS: THE *ARARAT ADVERTISER* AND THE *AVOCA MAIL* by Sue Hughes, Dirk H.R. Spennemann and Ross Harvey, *Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand*, 28:3 (2004), pp.41-61.

37.61.10 MAGAZINES A SPECIALTY: THE SPECIALTY PRESS AND THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ASSOCIATION by Dennis Bryans, *Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand*, 28:3 (2004), pp.4-23.

37.61.11 THIS (OVERPAID) LIFE by Roy Theodore, *Weekend Australian*, 1-2 April 2006, Review 2. A former Queensland regional daily editor (now retired) tells of working on a Labor paper, the *Southern Cross*, in New Zealand in 1949.

37.61.12 READ ALL ABOUT IT: CITY'S HISTORY MADE IN HEADLINES by James Hobden, *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth, 3 April 2006, p.7. An edited extract from James Hobden's *History of Tamworth* documents the beginning of newspapers in Tamworth.

37.61.13 FIXING FAIRFAX 'BLUNDERS' by Mark Day, *Australian*, Media section, 13 April 2006, pp.13, 17. Day reports on an interview with John Fairfax Holdings chairman Ron Walker in the lead-up to the 175<sup>th</sup> birthday of the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

37.61.14 HEAD TO HEAD IN ARMIDALE by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, March 2006, pp.55-56. A potted history of newspapers in Armidale, NSW.

37.61.15 MORE BUY PAPERS - AND NET SEEMS LESS OF A THREAT by Alan Kohler, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22-23 April 2006, p. 39. Kohler discusses the latest circulation figures, and how newspapers are placing their content on the internet.

37.61.16 KATHERINE TIMES: SHORT LIFE, HUGE SUCCESS by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, April 2006, pp.45-46. A potted history of the *Katherine Times*, the Northern Territory's biggest paid-circulation weekly.

37.61.17 BLOGS: A PUBLISHING REVOLUTION? by Stephen Quinn, *PANPA Bulletin*, March 2006, p.50; and BLOGS, MOBLOGS AND THE LIKE by Stephen Quinn, *PANPA Bulletin*, April 2006, p.29. An examination of the growing phenomenon of blogs and how journalists and editors can use them to their advantage; and how to find out about blogs and other methods of sharing information electronically.

37.61.18 SHOE LEATHER TRUST by Jack Waterford, *Canberra Times*, 18 April 2006, online. The paper's editor-at-large discusses the relationship between the police and journalists and observes: "Journalists, spies, and other traffickers in information are much the same."

37.61.19 50<sup>TH</sup> WALKLEY AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM, *Walkley Magazine*, December 2005/January 29006, pp.34-69. Complete list of the 2005 Walkley winners along with pen pictures of the winners and the judges' comments on their entry.

37.61.20 GOING THE BIFF WITH KERRY by Gary Scully, *Walkley Magazine*, April/May 2006, p.37. There was a time when journalists punched Kerry Packer and he whacked them back. A former ABC reporter tells the story.

37.61.21 DEFAMATION LAW: IT'S ALL COMING TOGETHER AT LAST by Matthew Lamb, *PANPA Bulletin*, March 2006, p.54. All states and the ACT have passed legislation adopting a largely uniform model of defamation law. What are the pros and cons?

37.61.22 NEW DEFAMATION LAWS: A GUIDE by Inez Ryan, *Australian Press Council News*, February 2006, pp.1-2, 6. The Press Council's policy officer offers an answer to the question: What does the new defamation legislation mean for publishers, editors and journalists?

37.61.23 HOW THE SEDITION LAWS AFFECT YOU and NEW UNIFORM DEFAMATION LAWS (effective 1 January 2006), Media Fact Sheets 1 and 2, inserted in *Walkley Magazine*, April/May 2006. Peter Bartlett writes about the new defamation laws on Page 29 of that issue of the *Walkley Magazine*.

37.61.24 A MATESHIP THAT SPOKE VOLUMES and A LEGEND FIVE PARTS RHETORIC by Alan Ramsey, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22-23 April 2006, p.31. Two articles about Australian war historians Gavin Long, Dudley McCarthy, Bill Sweeting, Paul Hasluck and Charles Bean.

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