

AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP  
**NEWSLETTER**

ISSN 1443-4962

No. 39

October 2006

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 The publication is independent.

**39.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS**

**Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 8 December 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/>

**39.2 EDITOR'S NOTE**

From this issue, this Newsletter will, when sourcing items, regularly use abbreviations for newspaper titles. Standard abbreviations will be: *Aust.* for *Australian*; *SMH* for *Sydney Morning Herald*; *AFR* for *Australian Financial Review*.

**CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: METROPOLITAN**

**39.3 INTERNET (1): ADVERTISING JUMPS NEARLY 60 PER CENT**

Internet advertising in Australia grew by 59.4 per cent to \$778 million in the year to 30 June as advertisers reported "disillusionment" with traditional media. At current growth rates, internet advertising will overtake the \$978 million magazine sector by December, according to internet research firm Frost & Sullivan. General display advertising on the internet, including banner and video advertising, was the fastest growing sector online in the June quarter, with ad sales rising 32.2 per cent to \$76 million. That still trails the search and directories sector dominated by Sensis and Google, which was up 9.9 per cent to \$83 million (*Aust.*, 8 August 2006, p.19; see also Neil Shoebridge, "It's new versus old in ad dollar war", *AFR*, 21 August 2006, p.47; Lara Sinclair, "Advertising spins a torpid economy", *Aust.*, 7 Sept. 2006, p.2, and Neil Shoebridge, "Ad revenue still challenging", *AFR*, 18 Sept. 2006, p.57).

**39.4 INTERNET (2): NEWS CORP AND FAIRFAX**

News Corporation has posted a record full-year net profit of \$A5.1 billion amid predictions of continued internet-fuelled growth of up to 16 per cent in the year ahead. The buoyant profit statement came a day after News announced a four-year \$1.2 billion deal with internet search engine leader Google to provide advertising for its Fox Interactive Media suite of websites, including the world's biggest community site, MySpace (*Aust.*, 9 August 2006, p.21, and Media section, 10 August 2006, p.13

Michael Prain, editor of Brisbane's *Sunday Mail* for nine years, has been appointed managing editor, digital media, for Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd. He will be responsible for online

and other digital opportunities for the *Courier-Mail*, *Sunday Mail*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *Townsville Bulletin* and *Cairns Post*. The new editor of the *Sunday Mail* will be Liz Deegan, former deputy editor of the *Sunday Telegraph* (*Sunday Mail*, Brisbane, 24 Sept. 2006, p.2). Helen McCabe, night editor of the *Australian*, will replace Deegan as deputy editor of the *Sunday Telegraph* (*Weekend Aust.*, 30 Sept.-1 Oct. 2006, p.2).

Mitchell Murphy, formerly group editor-in-chief of Fairfax Community Newspapers in NSW, has become managing editor of Fairfax Digital. Peter Christopher replaces Murphy in the community newspapers role (*Camden Advertiser*, 20 September 2006).

*Mediaweek* reported on the online news operations at Fairfax's *Sydney Morning Herald* and Age and News Ltd's *Herald Sun* in successive weeks (31 July 2006, p.6, and 7 August 2006, p. 6). A quote from Alan Howe of the *Herald Sun*: "Our websites are really hungry monsters now and we have to feed them a lot of content." And from Mike Van Niekerk of Fairfax Digital: "We have changed the way news is reported and we are now a 24-hour news company, not just newspapers. The editors of the Sydney and Melbourne newspapers are championing the change."

### **39.5 FAIRFAX MEDIA (1): COMPLETES BORDER MAIL PURCHASE, AND SOME**

John Fairfax Holdings (now called Fairfax Media) has completed a strategic coup, buying the Albury-Wodonga daily, the *Border Mail*, and taking a 75.5 per cent stake in the associated modern printing operation. The original announcement of the acquisition involved only the Mott family's 103-year-old enterprise, the newspaper, plus 51 per cent of the joint-venture printing operation, the Border Mail Printing Pty Ltd. Two Melbourne publishers, Star News Group (Pakenham), and Independent News Group (Frankston), owned half each of the other 49 per cent of the printing business (see 38.4). By the time Fairfax had completed the Albury-Wodonga deal on 25 July, it had also put in place the acquisition of the Independent News Group, publisher of five free weekly community publications with a combined weekly distribution of about 190,000. This leaves the Thomas family's Star News Group holding 24.5 per cent of the Wodonga printing operation against Fairfax's 75.5 per cent.

On 21 July, the Supreme Court of Victoria approved the Scheme of Arrangement for the acquisition by the Age Company Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Fairfax) of 100 per cent of the shares of Border Morning Mail Limited. Mott family shareholders had voted overwhelmingly on 14 July to sell the business to the Fairfax group for \$162 million. Fairfax's purchase includes the local company's 51 per cent stake in Border Mail Printing Pty Ltd, a joint venture with two Melbourne publishers. Court approval came 11 weeks after the Fairfax offer was made public. Fairfax has assured *Border Mail* readers the people will not lose its editorial independence or its local emphasis. Fairfax's other regional titles include the regional dailies based in Newcastle, Wollongong and Warrnambool and 47 community titles in Victoria and New South Wales (*Border Mail*, 22 July 2006, p.4; Fairfax Corporate Website, 21 July 2006; Bruce Wolpe, email to Rod Kirkpatrick, 28 July 2006).

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: The sale of the *Border Mail* brings to a close the Albury newspaper interests of the Mott family, interests that began in October 1856 when George Henry Mott launched the weekly *Border Post*, ended in 1868 and resumed when the family established the *Border Morning Mail* on 24 October 1903.

### **39.6 FAIRFAX MEDIA (2): UNINTERESTED IN FREE-TO-AIR TV**

David Kirk, chief executive officer of Fairfax Media Ltd, says free-to-air television is "of no interest" to the company. Why? Because free-to-air TV is in long-term decline with a "challenged" business model, he says. Kirk also suggested that the Federal Government's

blueprint for the media industry, unveiled in July, would not unleash the spate of mergers and acquisitions once regarded as inevitable (*Aust.*, 24 July 2006, p.19).

### **39.7 FAIRFAX (3): BUYS ASIAN AND NZ MAGAZINES**

Fairfax Media Ltd has bought seven magazines from the International Data Group in Singapore, Malaysia and New Zealand for an undisclosed price, and has sold two British titles to that group (*Aust.*, 9 August 2006, p.24).

### **39.8 FAIRFAX (4): PROFIT FALLS 7pc**

Fairfax Media Ltd says trading conditions have remained constrained in its core publishing markets. Fairfax reported a 7 per cent fall in net profit to \$227.45 million for 2005/06. The group's underlying net profit before one-off items fell 4 per cent to \$228.48 million. "Fairfax Digital is performing strongly and Trade Me is meeting all expectations. It is too early to provide meaningful guidance," said chief executive David Kirk ("Soft ads, downturn hit Fairfax profit", *Aust.*, 1 Sept. 2006, p.21).

## **39.9 RECENT CHRONOLOGY**

### **39.9.1 NEWSPAPER EVENTS**

**18 July 2006:** Centenary of *Circular Head Chronicle*, Smithton, Tasmania. Centenary issue appears as a glossy magazine.

**21 July 2006:** Revamped website of the *Daily Telegraph* is launched.

**24 July 2006:** Revamped website of the *Herald Sun* is launched.

**27 July 2006:** The *Kalgoorlie Miner* honours the memory of five former staff members who died within a space of one week 90 years earlier at Pozieres on the Western Front (see 39.37).

**28 July 2006:** Centenary of the *Manly Daily*, Sydney's free Tuesday to Saturday suburban daily. Today it publishes a 72-page historical supplement, containing excellent historical articles and pictures, and a 42-page ordinary issue, including a 16-page entertainment guide. See 39.24 and 39.46.

**30 August 2006:** First new evening paper in London for 26 years (see 39.23).

**2 September 2006:** The tabloid *West Australian* carries so many pages that it cannot be produced in one package. Buyers have to pick up separate sections for "Weekend Extra", "New Homes" and the magazine; and subscribers have these delivered separately.

**4 September 2006:** UK Associated Newspapers announce the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday* will be printed and distributed in Australia (from *Guardian* UK website).

**5 September 2006:** Australian newspapers carry extensive coverage of the death of television's "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin; he died when a stingray's barb pierced his heart during filming of a documentary on the Great Barrier Reef. The *Australian* carries four pages today, plus an editorial and a batch of letters from readers. The coverage lifted newspaper sales for days. The *Bulletin* ran an eight-page tribute on 12 September.

**6 September 2006:** First issue of the *Australian Literary Review* is published as a monthly tabloid insert in the *Australian*. This issue is 32 pages (see 39.13).

**8 September 2006:** Fairfax Media announces by the middle of 2007 it will move its Sydney editorial offices from the city to One Darling Island, Pyrmont, a new high-tech building “for the new diversified Fairfax of the 21<sup>st</sup> century”. Fairfax Digital will move to the new premises this December. Fairfax will also sell its Melbourne editorial office in Spencer Street and move to a new site, as yet not chosen (Fairfax corporate website).

### 39.9.2 DEATHS

**Allan, Bill:** D. 18 August 2006, aged 64 in Sydney; former long-serving sports editor of Australian Associated Press; born in England; began news career at *Daily Telegraph* in 1967; worked briefly at *Australian* before joining *Newsday* in 1969; when that paper folded in May 1970, he returned to Sydney and joined AAP; was sporting editor for nearly 30 years before his appointment as features editor in 1999 (*Courier-Mail*, 19-20 August 2006, p.23; *Aust.*, Media section, 24 August 2006, p.18).

**Brown, Robin Wallace:** D. 22 August 2006, aged 76 in Canberra; reported politics from Canberra for the *Courier-Mail* for 38 years from 1961; had worked for that paper for 10 years in Brisbane after graduating with a B.A. from the University of Queensland; awarded Medal of the Order of Australia in 1995 for services to journalism; highly esteemed in Canberra gallery, by journalists and politicians alike (*Courier-Mail*, 23 August 2006, pp.3 and 26, and 25 August 2006, p.102; *Aust.*, 30 August 2006, p.12; Bill Hayden, “Passing of a gallery ‘ornament’”, *Canberra Times*, 24 August 2006, p. 2006).

**Hall, James:** D. 15 August 2006, aged 71 in Sydney; born at Lincoln, eastern England; began in journalism at 16 on *Lincoln Echo*; served two years’ national service; married Australian girl; joined Radio 2GB and then the *Sun-Herald*; worked in *Sydney Morning Herald*’s London bureau; founding staff member of the *Australian* in 1964; became features editor, books editor, assistant editor and editor, 1973-75; director, Australian Book Publishers Association; joined *Bulletin* 1987 as literary editor and later became editor; editor, *Australian Magazine*, 1991-97; retired at 69 (*Aust.*, 16 August 2006, p.8; *SMH*, 21 August 2006, p.16; and Errol Simper, “A Certain Scribe”, *Aust.*, Media section, 24 August 2006, p.18).

**Harcourt, Colin:** D. 24 August 2006, aged 67 in Sydney; chief executive of the Australian Publishers Bureau, which represents all the leading newspaper and magazine publishers, giving advice on trade practices and fair trading regulations; held position for seven years (*Aust.*, 29 August 2006, p.4).

**Hinde, John:** D. 4 July 2006, aged 94 in Sydney; won recognition as a film critic on ABC radio and television, but started career as a journalist on newspapers such as the *Labor Daily* and the *Daily Telegraph*; Syd Deamer hired him to write on films for the *ABC Weekly* (*Aust.*, 25 July 2006, p.15).

**Jones, Margaret:** D. August 2006, aged 83 in Sydney; born Rockhampton, spent period at teachers’ college in Brisbane; began journalism career with *Daily Mercury*, Mackay; moved to Sydney to work on *Daily Mirror*; joined *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1954; various foreign postings from 1965, including New York and Washington; literary editor on return; established *Herald* office in Peking (Beijing); European correspondent based in London; author of three books (*SMH*, 3 August 2006, p.18).

**Jones, Philip:** D. 24 August 2006, aged 74 in Melbourne; probably Australia’s only professional obituarist; born at Kerang, northern Victoria; worked in a bank in his home town; worked in the theatre, in acting and backstage; drifted into obituary writing by chance, but came to enjoy it; contributed obits to the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* and to London’s *Times* and *Guardian*; Jones wrote his own obituary in his 2004 autobiography, *Art & Life* (*Age*, 29 August 2006; *SMH*, 31 August 2006, p.18; *Aust.*, 1 Sept. 2006, p.12).

**Kerr, Ian Byers:** D. 4 August 2006, aged 78 in Brisbane; joined Herald & Weekly Times Ltd in 1949 as a printer; moved to Brisbane in 1958 to harmonise the dimensions of the *Courier-Mail* and *Telegraph* which had come under one ownership with the formation of Queensland Press Limited in 1957; mainstay of the engineering, planning and development of Queensland Newspapers' plants at Bowen Hills and Murarrie; group director, planning and development, as well as a member of boards of Queensland Press Ltd and Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd (*Courier-Mail*, 5-6 August 2006, p.2, and 10 August 2006, p.77).

**Marks, Patricia (nee O'Connor and later Armati):** D. August 2006, aged 92 in Sydney; born in Sydney; married Leo Armati in 1937 when he was editor of *Sun*; in 1949, he bought the *Dubbo Liberal*, a tri-weekly, and he made it a daily in 1957; he died in 1962; Patricia and son John ran the paper and he built the paper into a chain of newspapers, Macquarie Publications (*SMH*, 7 Sept. 2006, online).

**Mead, Barbara:** D. 4 July 2006, aged 67; long-serving journalist for Brisbane's *Catholic Leader*; helped the paper win the United Nations Media Peace Prize in 1989; fine turn of lyrical prose; had started career at *Courier-Mail* (*Courier-Mail*, 25 July 2006, p.72).

**Pinder, Cliff:** D. 3 August 2006, aged 84 in Bendigo; began 50-year career as a photographer at the *Bendigo Advertiser* in 1939; close working relationship with local police enabled him to get the scoop on stories weeks before going to print; covering the Beatles' arrival in Australia, visits from the Royal Family and informing the world on BBC of the freeing of the kidnapped Faraday school group, were among his career highlights; great ability to fix broken equipment on the printing press; helped rebuild the *Advertiser* after the Pall Mall building was damaged by fire in 1962; his father, Percy, joined the *Advertiser* about 1920 and provided photographs for more than a decade; three of Cliff's sons are photographers and two of his grandsons are TV cameramen (*Bendigo Advertiser*, 9 August 2006, online).

**Ritchie, John:** D. 10 May 2006, aged 65 in Canberra; former editor of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*; from the 1970s he was a member of an outstanding group of history teachers that had developed around Manning Clark at the Australian National University *Aust.*, 11 August 2006, p.10).

**Smith, Ray:** D. June 2006, aged 85 in New Zealand; appointed in 1946 as advertising manager at the *Rotorua Morning Post*, now the *Daily Post*; went on to lead the *Daily Post* for almost 50 years; during that time, the company, United Printing and Publishing, extended its interests to include newspapers in Levin, Wanganui, Napier, Hastings and Wellington; was elected president of Newspaper Publishers' Association in 1982, and held that position for 11 years; served on board of the New Zealand Press Association, in later years becoming its chairman; when Wilson & Horton, then publishers of the *Herald*, bought Smith's Rotorua company, he accepted a seat on the board and served for nine years (Gavin Ellis, 1 July 2006).

**Warneke, Ross:** D. 25 August 2006, aged 54 in Melbourne; joined the *Age* as a cadet in January 1970; worked in the paper's Sydney bureau; specialised in writing, at different times, about education and transport and worked on the Insight investigative team; edited "Green Guide"; editor of the *Age's* daily magazines; most remembered for his 16 years as a television critic; for 10 years he was also a broadcaster on 3AW, mainly providing television criticism for Neil Mitchell's morning program, but sometimes filling in for Mitchell (*Age*, 26 August 2006, Business p.9, and 31 August 2006, Green Guide, p.7).

### **39.10 WYLIE RETIRES FROM NEWS**

Peter Wylie retired in August as managing director of Nationwide News, publisher of the *Australian*. He was replaced by Alasdair MacLeod, who had been managing director of News Limited Community Newspapers. MacLeod is married to Prudence, eldest daughter of Rupert Murdoch (*Weekend Aust.*, 29-30 July 2006, p.35).

### **39.11 KEY COURIER-MAIL PEOPLE JOIN AUSTRALIAN**

The *Courier-Mail* has lost national political editor Matthew Franklin, features editor Graham Lloyd and assistant editor and investigative reporter Hedley Thomas to its News Ltd stablemate, the *Australian*. Franklin has joined the paper's Canberra bureau as a political reporter; Lloyd has become the chief editorial writer, based in Sydney; and Thomas has joined the staff as a Brisbane-based senior writer for the *Weekend Australian Magazine* and the newspaper (*Weekend Aust.*, 15-16 July 2006, p.2, and 5-6 August 2006, p.3).

### **39.12 WAN UPGRADE BENEFITS TO COME SLOWLY**

West Australian Newspapers says its \$200 million upgrade will show benefits from May 2007 after the group reported a 298 per cent drop in net profit to \$63.9 million for the 12 months to June. WAN's normalised net profit for 2005-06 rose 10.3 per cent to \$107.5 million (*Aust.*, 4 August 2006, p.23).

### **39.13 LITERARY REVIEW FOR THE AUSTRALIAN**

The first issue of the *Australian Literary Review* was published in the *Australian* on Wednesday, 6 September, "reviving the role in the nation's literary life played by the *Australian Review of Books* in the late 1990s". The *Australian Literary Review* is a collaborative effort between the *Australian*, the Australia Council, the University of Melbourne and Melbourne University Press (*Weekend Aust.*, 26-27 August 2006, p.7).

### **39.14 READERSHIP FIGURES**

The weekend edition of the *Australian Financial Review* continues to build readers, recording an 11.7 per cent increase in readership in the year to June, from 162,000 to 181,000 readers, according to the Roy Morgan readership survey. The readership growth is the strongest of all metropolitan daily and weekend newspapers in Australia. The *Review* has been published on the weekends since 1997. The Saturday edition of *The Illawarra Mercury* recorded the second-strongest rise in readership between June last year and June, of 11.6 per cent, from 112,000 to 125,000 readers. Readership of the national newspaper, the *Australian*, dropped on the weekends by 3.1 per cent, from 870,000 to 843,000. Its Monday-to-Friday edition readership held firm at 416,000 readers. The *Sunday Age* recorded 7.2 per cent growth, from 652,000 to 699,000 readers (*Age*, 11 August 2006, online).

The *Courier-Mail* reported (11 August 2006, p.3) that its weekday readership had risen since it converted from broadsheet to compact in March. "The 1.23 per cent rise was the highest recorded by any metropolitan daily newspaper in the country, and takes weekday readership to 596,000. Weekend readership fell marginally in the same period, down 0.2 per cent to 872,000." The Roy Morgan readership figures cover, in fact, a year (1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006) and not just the period from 13 March 2006 and they show that the *Courier-Mail* lost: 20,000 weekdays readers (616,000 to 596,000), a 3.25 per cent fall; and 21,000 Saturdays readers (891,000 to 870,000), a fall of 2.36 per cent (see *Aust.*, Media section, 17 August 2006, p.14). It seems, from juxtaposing the two sets of figures in this paragraph, the *Courier-Mail's* weekday readership had fallen to about 590,000 before it converted to compact.

### 39.15 CIRCULATION FIGURES: NATIONAL AND METRO

Main interest in the figures issued by the Audit Bureau of Circulations for the six months to 30 June was the performance of the *Courier-Mail* since it converted to tabloid format on 13 March 2006. For the six months, the weekday circulation of the Brisbane daily climbed 2.3 per cent, but managing director Jerry Harris says that for the three and a half months from March the paper showed a 7.4 per cent increase, with sales running at 226,896 on weekdays. The Melbourne *Age* was the only other solid weekday improver, with a jump of 3.9 per cent. The *Northern Territory News* slipped 4.2 per cent. On Saturdays, the best performer was the *Australian Financial Review*, with a jump of 1.8 per cent. The *West Australian*, despite a fall of 2.1 per cent, is still solidly entrenched as No. 2 on Saturdays.

Newspaper	Six months to 30/6/2006	Six months to 30/6/2005	Change %
<b>Monday to Friday</b>			
<i>Australian</i>	131,598	133,926	- 1.7
<i>Australian Financial Review</i>	86,493	85,673	+ 1.0
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	212,600	210,475	+ 1.0
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> , Sydney	396,506	397,924	- 0.4
<i>Age</i> , Melbourne	201,000	193,500	+ 3.9
<i>Herald Sun</i> , Melbourne	544,700	551,500	- 1.2
<i>Courier-Mail</i> , Brisbane	216,075	211,279	+ 2.3
<i>Advertiser</i> , Adelaide	195,903	201,232	- 2.6
<i>West Australian</i> , Perth	205,610	207,914	- 1.1
<i>Mercury</i> , Hobart	48,886	49,601	- 1.4
<i>Canberra Times</i>	36,027	36,695	- 1.8
<i>Northern Territory News</i> , Darwin	21,173	22,091	- 4.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,296,571</b>	<b>2,301,810</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>			
<i>Weekend Australian</i>	294,068	291,896	+ 0.7
<i>AFR Weekend Edition</i>	91,305	89,650	+ 1.8
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	363,950	360,785	+ 0.9
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	342,739	342,676	Steady
<i>Age</i>	301,000	297,500	+ 1.2
<i>Herald Sun</i>	522,400	523,500	- 0.2
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	326,825	333,910	- 2.1
<i>Advertiser</i>	269,695	274,364	- 1.7
<i>West Australian</i>	372,608	380,417	- 2.1
<i>Mercury</i>	63,554	64,297	- 1.2
<i>Canberra Times</i>	67,371	68,743	- 2.0
<i>Northern Territory News</i>	31,512	32,443	- 2.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,047,027</b>	<b>3,060,181</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>			
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	516,400	514,548	+ 0.4
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	702,133	720,068	- 2.5
<i>Sunday Age</i>	210,000	200,000	+ 5.0
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	623,000	620,000	+ 0.5
<i>Sunday Mail</i> (Qld)	607,975	615,920	- 1.3
<i>Sunday Mail</i> (SA)	324,973	330,998	- 1.8
<i>Sunday Times</i> (WA)	347,500	354,000	- 1.8
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	61,391	61,110	+ 0.5
<i>Sunday Examiner</i> (Tas.)	44,308	44,453	- 0.3
<i>Canberra Sunday Times</i>	36,892	37,844	- 2.5
<i>Sunday Territorian</i> (NT)	23,387	24,812	- 5.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,497,959</b>	<b>3,523,753</b>	

### **39.16 STUDENT NEWSPAPERS SQUEEZED**

Voluntary student unionism and the internet threaten the tradition of student newspapers at campuses across Australia. A student campaign, culminating in a protest in early August, saved the La Trobe University paper *Rabelais* from closure after the university agreed to new funding for the paper, which has been published since 1968. But other student titles have been less fortunate. *Harambee* at Edith Cowan University has gone, while Southern Cross University's *Pulp*, dumped because of VSU, has been replaced with *Properganda*, produced in partnership with the School of Arts and Social Sciences. Sydney University has cut the print run of its weekly *Honi Soit*, while *Vertigo* at the University of Technology, Sydney, is expected to reduce circulation or editorial wages. In Queensland, Griffith University's *Gravity* is expected to be published only on an ad hoc basis, depending on sponsorship, while the University of Queensland's *Semper Floreat* has aggressively pursued advertising to stay afloat (*Aust.*, Higher Education section, 9 August 2006, p.33).

### **39.17 JOURNALISTS ORDERED TO GIVE EVIDENCE**

A Victorian Supreme Court judge has ruled that journalists have no legal right to protect sources. Justice Elizabeth Hollingworth, in presenting her judgment in an appeal submitted by *Herald Sun* journalists Michael Harvey and Gerard McManus, said the law failed to recognise any notion of "journalists' privilege". Harvey and McManus are charged over their refusal to reveal the source of information they obtained for a story on a Federal Government proposal to cut benefits to war veterans. The two have also refused to give evidence in a pre-trial hearing at the Victorian County Court for public servant Desmond Patrick Kelly. Kelly is accused of leaking information on the decision to cut benefits to war veterans. The way is now open for contempt-of-court proceedings against Harvey and McManus to resume (*Courier-Mail*, 24 August 2006, p.2).

### **39.18 TONY HALE TALKS**

Tony Hale, the chief executive officer of The Newspaper Works, answers questions about a wide range of newspaper-industry issues in *PANPA Bulletin*, August 2006, p.31. The Newspaper Works is the new organisation established by News Ltd, John Fairfax Holdings Ltd, APN News & Media Ltd, Rural Press Ltd and West Australian Newspapers Holdings Ltd to market Australian newspapers (see ANHG 38.32)..

### **39.19 JOURNALISTS DEPART BULLETIN**

Since the departure of Garry Linnell as editor-in-chief of the *Bulletin* and the arrival of John Lehmann, there have been several resignations from the editorial staff. Editor Kathy Bail, assistant editor Tim Blair, online editor Lynda Dugdale, senior writer Diana Bagnall and photographer Kylie Melinda Smith have all departed. Columnist Jana Wendt has also ceased to be a columnist. Her final column appeared in the issue available on 6 September, three days after her final appearance as the presenter of Channel 9's *Sunday* program (*Sunday Age*, 27 August 2006; and *Aust.*, 4 Sept. 2006, p.3, and 7 Sept. 2006, p.3).

The *Bulletin* will launch a new website on 4 October, hoping that this will help secure its future in a printed format (*Aust.*, Media section, 28 Sept. 2006, p.15).

### **39.20 FAMILY CIRCLE TO CEASE IN NOVEMBER**

After 33 years of publication, homemaker magazine *Family Circle* is about to go out of print. Its final issue will appear in November. It was relaunched in 2004 as "a manual for modern living", ditching its daggy "nanna" image. The recent Audit Bureau of Circulations figures



show that *Family Circle*'s sales dropped 17.7 per cent in the first half of this year (to 71,853) compared with the first half last year. By contrast, Pacific Magazines' newest title, *Famous*, sold 91,283 copies (*Aust.*, 6 Sept. 2006, p.3, and *Age*, 6 Sept. 2006).

### **39.21 WATCH THIS SPACE**

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes: On 23 August, for the first time in 57 years the front page of the *West Australian* did not carry any news. Instead, readers were confronted with a slab of white space, taking up three quarters of the page. This bizarre situation continued the paper's strong opposition to the State Labor Government, and in particular, Premier Alan Carpenter. Apart from the masthead, followed underneath by a strip of pointers, the following was printed in the middle of the page: "This is the whitewash that is the Carpenter Government's inquiry into the death of 11-year-old Wade Scale and other children who died while being monitored by the Department for Community Development. The report will never be made public and we will not be told who gave evidence or what they said. Investigation or cover-up? You decide. Page 3." The State Government had held an investigation into the deaths of 11-month-old Wade Scale and other children left with potentially dangerous and neglectful parents. However, the Government decided to withhold the findings from the public, claiming confidentiality.

### **39.22 CANBERRA TIMES IS 80 YEARS OLD**

The *Canberra Times* published on 25 September a 24-page tabloid supplement to mark its 80th Anniversary 1926-2006. It includes a good history of the *Canberra Times* by Jack Waterford, Editor-at-large. Victor Isaacs is making available to ANHG readers copies of the supplement and he also has available surplus copies of "The Times of our lives 1926-1996", published for the *Canberra Times*' 70th anniversary in 1996 (60 broadsheet pages, including 59 reproductions of major front pages). Both issues are available in return for the cost of postage. Victor is at abvi@webone.com.au or at 43 Lowanna St Braddon ACT 2612.

The editor of the *Canberra Times*, Mark Baker, was featured as "Person of the Week" in *Mediaweek*, 25 Sept. 2006, p.4.

### **39.23 EVENING PAPER WAR IN LONDON**

London is the scene of an evening newspaper war. News Corporation announced in early August that it would launch a free title, *thelondonpaper*, on 18 September aimed at breaking the monopoly on the London evening market held by the *Evening Standard*, published by Associated Newspapers (*Courier-Mail*, 9 August 2006, p.11). Associated responded by launching a free evening title of its own, *London Lite*. It published trial copies on 25 August (20,000 copies) and 29 August (100,000 copies), before launching on 30 August (400,000 copies). The first issue of *thelondonpaper* was brought forward two weeks and appeared on 4 September (sources: www.pressgAzette.co.uk and www.brandrepublic.com; see also Caitlin Fitzsimmons, "Standard slipping in paper free-for-all", *Aust.*, Media section, 7 Sept. 2006, p.18).

## **CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL**

### **39.24 MANLY DAILY CELEBRATES AN 'AMAZING' CENTURY**

Celebrities, staff, contributors and clients brought a touch of glamour to the *Manly Daily*'s centenary celebrations at the International College of Management, Manly, on 4 August. Reminiscent of the Kidman/Urban wedding, a crowd of almost 300 people gathered in a large marquee in the college grounds to toast 100 years of success for the *Daily*. Guests were

welcomed by a “paperboy” from a bygone era and ushered into a dark cocktail bar for welcome drinks and canapés before moving into the main marquee, decorated with images and headlines that have graced the pages over the years. Collaroy comedian and former radio broadcaster Wendy Harmer hosted the event, later helping Cumberland Newspapers editor-in-chief Bob Osburn launch the *Manly Daily* Community Medal – the search for the 100 most influential people from the peninsula community over the past 100 years. The 100 medals will be awarded across 10 categories – sport, industry and commerce, health and welfare, education, the community, arts, conservation and the environment, service to government, science and technology and “character” (*Manly Daily*, 8 August 2006 online).

The *Manly Daily*'s centenary issue, “Our Amazing Century”, contains excellent historical insights into the development of the paper. Following is an edited extract:

Edward Lincoln launched the *Manly Daily* on Saturday, 28 July 1906, but he could not print it at his own printery, which had only a small platen machine. The first edition, of 1,000 copies, was printed by Batson and Co. of 91 Clarence Street, Sydney. Most of the double-sided 22cm by 29cm single sheets were distributed at Circular Quay to passengers boarding the Manly ferry, while some were taken to Manly and distributed there. Lincoln later had newspapers brought from Sydney, folded them by hand in Manly and delivered around the district by several boys. Soon, the newspaper's success led Lincoln to establish its own printing plant in Manly. By 1908, when Lincoln needed some financial backing from George Robinson, the *Daily* had bought the weekly *North Shore and Manly Times*. By early 1909, Lincoln was again sole proprietor. In World War I, the cost of newsprint became so prohibitive that Lincoln seriously considered closing the *Daily*. Lincoln retired in 1919, selling the business.

\* Kathy Lipari, formerly the news editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, has been appointed editor of the *Manly Daily*. During her 13 years at the *Telegraph* she filled such roles as chief of staff and chief of the State political bureau. She replaces Richard Bryce who was the editor of the *Daily* from May 2002 (*Manly Daily*, 7 May 2002 and 2 Sept. 2006).

### **39.25 ROUSE HILL TIMES LAUNCHED**

Cumberland Newspapers launched the weekly *Rouse Hill Times* in outer Sydney on Wednesday, 5 July 2006 (reports Kay Hynes, State Library of NSW).

### **39.26 MACARTHUR CHRONICLE PRODUCES THREE EDITIONS**

From the 25 July the *Macarthur Chronicle* separated into three editions for Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly. The Cumberland Newspapers (News Ltd) title increased its distribution by 6,000. It is the 21st year of the *Macarthur Chronicle*, which has launched a new website [www.macarthurchronicle.com.au/](http://www.macarthurchronicle.com.au/). Editor Mandy Perrin said the decision to create three new editions was a direct result of input from the community (*Macarthur Chronicle*, 25 July 2006, Camden Edition, p.3).

### **39.27 CAMDEN ADVERTISER 30 AND 20 YEARS AGO**

From **Ian Willis**, of Camden, NSW: The *Camden Advertiser* (23 August 2006) had a 16-page wrap-around on the theme “Living in the 70s”. It included a series of three articles that recalled the front pages of the *Campbelltown-Ingleburn News*, the *Camden News*, and the *Picton Post* in 1976. The stories related to local issues surrounding planning and the new Macarthur Growth Centre, parking, a new bridge over the Nepean River, and Camden retaining its “rural charm”. The *Camden Advertiser* (20 Sept. 2006) carried a 12 page advertising feature liftout on “Living in the 80s”. The feature carries an overview of the newspaper stories of the period, with a concentration on 1986. It features the front-page

stories of that year including a “heated war of words” between the mayor of Campbelltown, Guy Thomas and Campbelltown’s Labor MP Michael Knight.

### **39.28 NEW IMAGE FOR QUEST IN IPSWICH**

Quest Community Newspapers (Brisbane) has closed the two publications it bought from the troubled Mike Norris chain and has replaced them with new titles. Quest reportedly paid about \$4.5 million for two Norris papers, *Ipswich’s Own* and *Westside Weekly*, in March. On 6 July, Quest replaced *Ipswich’s Own* with the *Ipswich News*, with Quest editor-in-chief Shane Rodgers taking on the role of managing editor of the new title. The “Ipswich’s Own” name has been preserved as a showcase section in the newspaper, highlighting local businesses and the people who make them tick. The *Ipswich News* is published in a stapled and trimmed format with full-colour capacity on high-grade news stock. It has a distribution of 40,000 and is delivered free every Thursday to homes and businesses in the Ipswich area. The *Westside Weekly* magazine ceased publication on 30 June and was incorporated in Quest’s *South-West News* and spun off into a monthly gloss lifestyle magazine called *Image*, with the first issue appearing in August. The *South-West News* has three editions, including the *Springfield News*, launched last year to cover the fast-growing Springfield Lakes area (*Mediaweek*, 10 July 2006, pp. 1, 3; *Image*, August 2006).

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: It will be interesting to watch the battle in Ipswich between News Ltd (Quest) and APN News & Media (publisher of the Ipswich daily, the *Queensland Times*). [Quest publishes 17 weekly titles, three monthly glossy magazines and several strategic and special interest publications, according to one of its advertisements (*Courier-Mail*, 12-13 August 2006, Careerone, p.64).]

### **39.29 APN (1): READY TO BUY**

APN News and Media Ltd reported a 6 per cent increase in net profit to \$72.1 million for the six months to 30 June. Chief executive Brendan Hopkins says the group expects to be a key player in the ownership shakeup he expects after the Federal Government changes the media ownership rules. “We are interested in all aspects of cross and foreign (media) and look forward to seeing what opportunities are available for our shareholders,” Hopkins told the *Australian* (16 August 2006, p.31). Neil Shoebridge reported (*AFR*, 21 August 2006, p.50) that APN was holding talks with a range of companies ahead of “the deregulation of the \$12 billion Australian media sector next year”.

### **39.30 APN (2): NINETEEN JOBS GO**

APN News & Media Ltd has retrenched 19 journalists on eight of its regional dailies. The Toowoomba *Chronicle* was hardest hit, losing six journalists or 15 per cent of its editorial staff (*Aust.*, Media section, 31 August 2006, p.15). The Media section followed up with a report on 14 September, p.15, but got it wrong when it said that APN wholly owned 17 Australian regional dailies. It doesn’t; it wholly owns 13 of them and half-owns the Toowoomba *Chronicle*. That’s 14 dailies, 10 of them in Queensland and four in NSW.

### **39.31 APN (3): IPSWICH LOSES PRINTERY**

The *Queensland Times*, which traces its roots back to the *Ipswich Herald* of July 1859, will no longer be printed in Ipswich by the end of this year. The printing will be shifted to APN News & Media Ltd’s new regional printery at Yandina on the Sunshine Coast. The German MAN Roland combination press, capable of printing newspapers and glossy magazines, will be able to print 75,000 newspapers an hour in full colour. The current press can print 40,000 an hour at 30 per cent colour. Some members of the *Queensland Times*’ current staff will be

offered jobs at Yandina and other APN press sites in Australia. A program of redundancies has begun (*Queensland Times*, 17 August 2006, online).

### **39.32 APN (4): JOINT VENTURE WITH STYLE**

APN News & Media Ltd has entered a joint venture with an independent husband-and-wife publishing team, Tracy and Paul Johnston, to expand *Style*, a free monthly glossy lifestyle magazine that is distributed in Brisbane's upmarket suburbs. The Johnstons launched *Style* five years ago in selected suburbs around Brisbane (*Mediaweek*, 11 Sept. 2006, p.9).

### **39.33 APN (5): SIR ANTHONY O'REILLY**

The man with the ultimate say in APN News & Media Ltd is Sir Anthony O'Reilly, Ireland's richest man. He is featured in "ceo speaks", in Q&A format, in *Time*, 25 Sept. 2006, p.55 (October "Time Bonus" section).

### **39.34 GENERAL MANAGERS ON THE MOVE**

IPSWICH: Steve Hutton, the first APN News & Media "young executive of the year", has become the general manager of the *QT* (*Queensland Times*), Ipswich. He was formerly the general manager of the *Daily Examiner*, Grafton. Hutton, 31, said he was excited to have the opportunity to "further grow one of Australia's oldest and best-performing daily newspapers" (*QT*, 23 August 2006, online). His statement ignores the fact that the *QT* has been losing circulation dramatically of late.

GRAFTON: Graham McKenzie has become the new general manager of the *Daily Examiner*. McKenzie, 40, was born and bred in Coffs Harbour. Most recently he was the manager of Prime Television in Canberra.

LAUNCESTON: Tom O'Meara resigned in July as general manager of the *Examiner*, Launceston, after four years in office. He was previously general manager of the *Canberra Times* and earlier of the *Courier*, Ballarat (*PANPA Bulletin*, August 2006, p.59). He has been replaced by Phil Leersen, formerly general manager of the *Advocate*, Burnie (*Rural Press News*, Sept. 2006, p.6).

BURNIE: Rod Tremayne, Rural Press's accounting and special projects manager for Tasmanian, has been appointed general manager of the *Advocate*, Burnie, to replace Phil Leersen, who has been shifted to Launceston (*Rural Press News*, Sept. 2006, p.6).

### **39.35 RURAL PRESS PROFIT JUMPS 12pc**

Rural Press Ltd has reported a 12.2 per cent increase in net profit in 2005-06 to \$113.42 million and will target growth in the coming year. Revue rose 3 per cent to \$588.4 million (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 30 August 2006, online).

### **39.36 NEW LOOK AND HARDER NEWS FOR SYDNEY SUBURBANS**

Michael Hannan's Federal Publishing Company has radically revamped its *Courier* group of five free Sydney weeklies in a bid to lift readership and advertising. From 5 September, the *Wentworth Courier*, *Southern Courier* and *Inner West Courier* appeared in a dramatically different look, and on the same day the *Sydney Weekly Courier* was replaced by the new *Northside Courier*, and the *Central Courier*, which serves Sydney's CBD fringe, gave way to a more magazine-like product, *Central* (*Aust.*, Media section, 31 August 2006, p.14).

### **39.37 KALGOORLIE MINER GOES MONO**

The *Kalgoorlie Miner* took the unusual step of publishing its front page fully in mono on 27 July, as a mark of respect and mourning for five former staff who were killed between 22 and

29 July 1916 in the French village of Pozieres on the Western front. The fallen were experienced journalist William Coxon, originally from Ballarat; Linotype operator Bob Shaw; and clerks Theo Feutrill, Frederick Cox and George Walters (*PANPA Bulletin*, August 2006, p.15).

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes: The five staff members were among more than 23,000 Australians who lost their lives in six weeks. The other story on page one, "Miner's fallen remembered" profiled the Miner employees who died: journalist William Charles Coxon (40), clerks George Robert Stewart Walters (23), William Feutrill Theophilus (18) and Frederick Cox (19), and linotype operator Robert Garland Coryn Shaw (18). The coverage of the flashback to the Western Front continued with another piece taking up two thirds of Page 7 in WA's only daily regional newspaper, "The Australians at Pozieres".

### **39.38 RIVERINA GOES ONLINE**

**Barry Blair** reports: After a long wait, and as of 1 September 2006, the Riverina Media Group (its flagship is the Wagga Wagga *Daily Advertiser*) has websites for most of its titles. Go to [www.riverinamedia.com.au](http://www.riverinamedia.com.au) and explore the links.

### **39.39 PERTH SUBURBAN GROUP CELEBRATES 21 YEARS**

Perth's Community Newspaper Group has celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, reflecting on the combining of four independent publishing groups into a company that now publishes 16 titles boasting a readership of 820,000 from Yanchep and Two Rocks in the north, to York in the East and Pinjarra in the south. The publishers who became partners were Simon Hadfield's northern suburbs newspapers, Harry Kleyn's Comment Publishing Group from south of the river, and two independents. The titles are: *Canning Times*, *Cockburn Gazette*, *Comment News*, *Eastern Reporter*, *Fremantle Gazette*, *Guardian Express*, *Kalamunda Reporter*, *Hills Gazette*, *Joondalup Times Community*, *Mandurah Coastal Times*, *Melville Times*, *Southern Gazette*, *Stirling Times*, *Wanneroo Times*, *Weekend Courier* and *Western Suburbs Weekly* (*Canning Times*, 29 August 2006; and [www.communitynews.com.au](http://www.communitynews.com.au)).

### **39.40 EDITORS ON THE MOVE**

Jason Purdie, the editor of the Toowoomba *Chronicle* for three years and a former editor of the Mackay *Daily Mercury* and the *Gladstone Observer*, has left the APN News & Media Group to join Rural Press Ltd. He is now the editor of the Burnie *Advocate*. Steve Etwell, after only a short time as editor of the Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin*, has been appointed editor-in-chief of the Toowoomba *Chronicle*. Lindsay Saunders has left the editorship of the Mackay *Daily Mercury* after three and a half years to become the production editor at the Lismore *Northern Star*. Saunders returned to the NSW north coast because of illness in his extended family. David Fisher, formerly of the *Daily Telegraph*, has been appointed editor of the *Daily Mercury* in Saunders' place. No appointment has yet been made in Rockhampton (Peter Owen, telephone interview with ANHG editor, 13 Sept. 2006, and email to ANHG editor, 14 Sept. 2006).

### **39.41 KINGAROY NEWSPAPER CENTENARY**

The bi-weekly *South Burnett Times*, which takes major local issues by the scruff of the neck and hits readers in the eye with bold front-page headlines, trod softly in dealing with the centenary of newspaper publication in its publication centre, Kingaroy. In the issue of 14 July 2006 (p.10), the paper ran an editorial, "Reporting reaches a magical milestone", reflecting on the fact that on 5 July 1906 its "parent", the *Kingaroy Herald and South Burnett Advocate*, began publication. **Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: The *Herald* incorporated the *Nanango News* from 19 February 1942 and ceased publication on 29 September 1971. It was incorporated in the *South*

*Burnett Times* (established 1910) from 6 October 1971. The *Herald* continued its job printing business and the *South Burnett Times* discontinued its on 30 September 1971. The Adams family sold the South Burnett Times to Australian Provincial Newspapers Holdings Ltd. (now APN News & media Ltd) on 2 March 1994.

### 39.42 REGIONAL PRINTING

**Barry Blair** writes: I have gleaned the following information from Ron McLean, editor of the *Namoi Valley Independent*, Gunnedah, NSW.

The *North West Magazine* based at Gunnedah is managed by the 14 contributing newspapers it appears in each week. The newspapers (with print runs) are the *Barraba Gazette* 1100, *Bingara Advocate* 900, *Coonabarabran Times* 2700, *Coonamble Times* 1250, *Goondiwindi Argus* 3200, *Namoi Valley Independent* 4100, *Black Opal Advocate* 1100, *Manilla Express* 1000, *Moree Champion* 3600, *Mudgee Guardian* 5000, *Narrabri Courier* 3400, *Quirindi Advocate* 2100, *Tamworth Times* 16,300 and the *Warialda Standard* 1050 – a total of 46,800. The *North West Magazine* is understood to be printed at three locations: Gunnedah, Tamworth and Moree. For the sake of economy, it has been suggested that *North West Magazine* may one day be printed at the one central location. Further, both the *Coonabarabran Times* and the *Barraba Gazette* are printed at Gunnedah, while both the *Quirindi Advocate* and the *Manilla Express* are printed at Tamworth.

### 39.43 COOMA COMPETITION

An independent paper, the *Monaro Post*, has been launched at Cooma, NSW, in competition with the *Cooma-Monaro Express*. Most of the staff members of the new title are from the chain-owned older title (*Australia All Over*, ABC Radio, 17 Sept. 2006).

### 39.44 REGIONAL MEDIA AND OWNERSHIP

Monica Attard put the media focus on how regional radio and television are servicing Australia's country cities and towns when she dealt with the issue on *Media Watch* on ABC-TV on Monday, 25 September. Reports followed in the *Australian* on 27 September, p. 6 (Jane Schulze, "Let regional newspapers own radio") and p.15, editorial; and on 29 September, p.6 (Richard Kerbaj and Andrew McGarry, "City news leaves town in dark" – about Mildura).

## NEWSPAPER HISTORY

### 39.45 COVER PRICES OF METRO NEWSPAPERS SINCE 1966

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: I received an inquiry from a Brisbane superannuation accountant about newspaper cover prices in 1986 because he was examining inflationary trends. My response led to the following item and tables:

Cover prices of weekday issues of national and metropolitan dailies in Australia have jumped from an average of 5c in 1966 to an average of \$1.10 in 2006. The *Australian* was 5c in mid-1966, 12c in 1976, 40c in 1986, 80c in 1996 and \$1.20 in 2006. Brisbane's *Courier-Mail* was 5c in mid-1966, 10c in 1976, 30c in 1986, 70c in 1996 and \$1 today. For the same years, the *Sydney Morning Herald's* weekday editions were 5c, 12c, 40c, 80c and \$1.20; the Melbourne *Sun News-Pictorial* was 4c in 1966, 10c in 1976, 40c in 1986, (its successor, the *Herald Sun*) 70c in 1996 and \$1.10 in 2006.

Cover prices of Saturday editions of newspapers have, on average, quadrupled in the past 20 years. The *Weekend Australian*, introduced in July 1977, was 50c in 1986, \$1.20 in 1996 and

\$2.20 this year. The *Sydney Morning Herald's* Saturday edition was 60c, \$1.30 and \$2.20 in those years, and the *Adelaide Advertiser*, 45c, \$1 and \$1.70. Sunday editions generally have jumped from 50c or 60c in 1986 to \$1.60 to \$1.80 in 2006.

### Cover prices of national and metropolitan dailies – weekdays

Newspaper	1966	1976	1986	1996	2006
<i>Australian</i>	5c	12c	40c	80c	\$1.20
<i>Australian Financial Review</i>	5c	15c	80c	\$1.50	\$2.50
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	5c	12c	40c	70c	\$1.00
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	5c	12c	40c	80c	\$1.20
<i>Age</i>	4c	10c	40c	80c	\$1.20 *
<i>Herald Sun</i>	4c	10c	40c	70c	\$1.10
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	5c	10c	30c	70c	\$1.00
<i>Advertiser</i>	5c	12c	30c	70c	\$1.00
<i>West Australian</i>	5c	10c	30c	70c	\$1.10
<i>Mercury</i>	4c	12c	30c	70c	\$1.00
<i>Canberra Times</i>	4c	12c	40c	80c	\$1.20
<i>Northern Territory News</i>	8c	15c	40c	70c	\$1.10

\* The cover price of the *Age* rose in July to \$1.40 on weekdays, \$2.20 on Saturdays and \$1.70 on Sundays.

Additional notes on newspaper cover prices, drawn from Murray Goot, *Newspaper Circulation in Australia 1932-1877* (La Trobe University, 1977): The *Daily Telegraph* to threepence in November 1949 and the *Sydney Morning Herald* followed suit in April 1950. In 1950 both suffered setbacks. Between October 1950 and October 1951, when the prices of these and other papers went up, circulation again went down. These price rises were better weathered by the *SMH* than the *Daily Telegraph*. After 1957, when both papers went to fivepence, circulation of the *SMH* moved ahead of its rival. In 1960 the tables were turned. The *Daily Telegraph* has maintained its lead ever since. After moving its price 2c ahead of the *SMH* in 1977, the *Daily Telegraph* saw its circulation lead cut from a high of 24 per cent to 16 per cent.

#### 39.46 MANLY DAILY INDEX

In Sydney, Manly Library's Wellings Local Studies Collection holds a set of the *Manly Daily* on microfiche from 1959 to the present day. Library staff have built up a selective *Manly Daily* Index to the articles which have appeared in the *Manly Daily* from 1983 to the present day. Now you can search the online index and find the details of more than 20,000 articles. You can search by subject or by author: <[www.manly.nsw.gov.au/The Manly-Daily-Index.html](http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au/The_Manly-Daily-Index.html)> The library plans to extend the index coverage until all articles from 1959 have been indexed. The Local Studies collection is available for study weekdays 2.30pm to 5pm or at other times by appointment. Contact is John MacRitchie on (02) 9976 1741 or email him at [john.macritchie@manly.nsw.gov.au](mailto:john.macritchie@manly.nsw.gov.au)

#### 39.47 HISTORICAL RECORDS OF AUSTRALIA

A team of Tasmanian academics is progressively making life easier for those doing historical research on early Van Diemen's Land. The team scanned kilometres of microfilm for the ninth volume of *Historical Records of Australia*, which was unveiled on 11 August. It contains transcripts of messages sent between Governor George Arthur and the British Colonial Office in London for the year 1830, as well as other important documents relating to

the new colony. Co-editors Peter Chapman and Tim Jetson say 1830 was an important year in Tasmania's history, being the year of the ill-fated Black Line operation, designed to push the Aboriginal population into a reserve on the Tasman Peninsula. [The first volume of *Historical Records* was published about 1914, but the project collapsed in the mid-1920s. The work resumed in 1997 under the leadership of Peter Chapman] (*Mercury*, 12 August 2006).

### 39.48 LAST OF THE LOCKWOODS – ALMOST

From **Kim Lockwood** (born 20 June 1944 in Melbourne):

After 126 years the Lockwood line of newspapermen is drawing to a close. It started in 1880, when Alfred Wright Lockwood left school at 13 for an apprenticeship with the Lancefield *Mercury* in Victoria. It is drawing to a close now with the retirement on 8 September of one of his grandsons, Kim Lockwood, of the *Herald* and *Weekly Times*. Only another grandson, Keith Lockwood, the chief sub-editor of the *Wimmera Mail-Times*, Horsham, is left. Between Alfred and Keith, the family has given Australian newspaper readers the work of Rupert, Douglas, Frank, Allan and Kim. Poor wages forced Alfred out of the *Mercury*. He became a "tramp printer", walking from town to town in north-eastern Victoria until he had saved enough to buy a half share in the *Mercury*. He sold his interest in 1899 and bought the *West Wimmera Mail* at Natimuk, 25km west of Horsham. With help from four of his six sons from two marriages, Alfred published the weekly until he retired in 1950. He died six years later at the age of 88. In 1930 his second son, Rupert, joined the *Herald*, Melbourne, as a cadet. By 1933 he was reporting Federal Parliament from Canberra. Two years later he was in Singapore, still filing for the *Herald*, and continued to do so from Spain during the Civil War. *Herald* readers read war news under three bylines: Hemingway, Koestler and Lockwood.

Sir Keith Murdoch recalled him in 1938, and he returned to Canberra. But his increasingly Leftist leanings caused tensions with management, which turned into a permanent rift after a press gallery dinner. Lockwood proposed a toast to the guest of honour, Deputy Prime Minister Robert Menzies. He criticised Menzies' role in encouraging BHP to ship pig-iron to Japan, saying Menzies had "long realised the Chinese suffered a shortage of iron in their diet". He was recalled to Melbourne and assigned the mundane jobs usually given to cadets. He joined the Communist Party of Australia and two days later quit to go to Sydney, the day Australia declared war on Germany. He worked for Sid Deamer's *ABC Weekly*, the *ABC* itself and the labour paper *Daily News*. He earned his income from labour movement journalism, including the *Maritime Worker* and the *Tribune*, for the next 45 years. He died in 1997, two days shy of his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In early 1941 Murdoch hired Rupert's younger brother, Douglas. Like Rupert, he had grown up with the *West Wimmera Mail* in Natimuk, leaving school at the age of 12 in the height of the Depression to help out. After five years on papers at Camperdown, Tatura and Mildura, he was offered a job on the *Herald* by Murdoch. He had been in the Flinders St newsroom only seven months when he was called in by the chief of staff, Archer Thomas, and offered a posting to Darwin. Japanese troops were spilling down South-East Asia, and the *Herald* wanted a man in the north. Lockwood said yes, but Thomas soon recalled him, saying it was a job for a married man. "Give me 10min," said the youngster. Douglas and Ruth Lockwood left for Darwin on Cup Day, 1941. Ruth was evacuated two months later, after Singapore fell, but Douglas stayed and was there for the bombing on February 19, 1942. After war service and a stint as a war correspondent, he returned to Darwin, where he stayed until the end of 1968, apart from one year back in Flinders St (1948) and two years in the HWT London office (1954-56). During his time in Darwin he won the Walkley (in its second year) for best news story and several other national and international awards. He wrote 13 books on the north and its people. In 1968 he became managing editor of the HWT operation in PNG. Management roles with HWT followed in Melbourne, Brisbane, Port Moresby again, and



finally Bendigo, where he was chairman and managing editor of the *Advertiser* at the time of his death in 1980 at the age of 62.

Douglas's younger brothers, Frank and Allan, had assumed the management and editorship, respectively, of the *West Wimmera Mail*, which in 1959 they merged with the *Horsham Times* to create the *Wimmera Mail-Times*. Frank retired in 1984, and died in 1997 at the age of 78. Allan, also retired, is now 84. When Douglas left Darwin for Port Moresby his son, Kim, arrived from the *West Australian* in Perth to join Rupert Murdoch's *NT News*. In 1971 he moved into HWT's Darwin office, taking up the north Australia correspondent's role his father had filled for more than 25 years. After reporting on cyclone Tracy and its aftermath, Kim moved to Melbourne in 1975, and has been with HWT/News Ltd since, apart from one year out of the industry in 1981. After a variety of roles with the *Herald* and the *Herald Sun*, including TV writer, sub-editor, stylebook editor, copytaster, deputy news editor, op-ed editor, editorial trainer and, for the past six years, national editorial online training manager for News Ltd, he has called it quits. Which leaves Allan's youngest son, Keith, the chief sub of the *Wimmera Mail-Times*, the last of the seven Lockwoods who have served newspapers in Australia for 126 years.

### **39.49 TOWNSVILLE BULLETIN SEEKS MISSING COPIES**

The *Townsville Bulletin* turned 125 on 5 September 2006. To mark the occasion it has been reproducing pages from the paper covering significant events over the years. Because of a combination of fire and flood it was having difficulty finding any early papers in good enough condition to reproduce. So it was looking for copies of papers from 1881-1900.

### **39.50 WAS ARGUS FIRST IN WORLD TO USE COLOUR?**

From Melbourne, **Bob Murray** writes: The *Argus* (Melbourne) on 5 November 1952 was the first daily newspaper in Australia to use colour printed with the run of the news pages. It was the day after the Melbourne Cup and the *Argus* splashed Dalry's great win across page one in colour. Was it the first use of colour in news pages in the world? Jim Usher, who is editing a new book of *Argus* memories (ph 03 9710 1397; email: jimbo@maconline.com.au) would like to know. The *Argus* was never slack in blowing its own trumpet and claimed only that it was the first paper in newspaper history "to bring thundering colour of a world-famous race to the breakfast table the following morning". The *Argus* used colour often after that, but it was too soon for its own good into the then costly and difficult new technology and it contributed to the paper's demise. The new book, *The Argus: Life & Death of a Newspaper*, will be launched on 19 January 2007 at the Duke of Kent Hotel in Melbourne, the watering hole for *Argus* staff, to mark the 50th anniversary of final issue of the *Argus*.

### **39.51 MAITLAND MERCURY NO. 1 ONLINE**

From 31 August, the digitised version of the first issue of the *Maitland Mercury* (7 January 1843) has been accessible through website connected with the State Library of NSW. The *Mercury* (a daily newspaper since 1894) is the oldest surviving provincial newspaper in NSW. The website address is: [www.atmitchell.com](http://www.atmitchell.com) (*Maitland Mercury*, 29 August 2006, online).

### **39.52 STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND**

The main collections of the State Library of Queensland closed at the temporary Cannon Hill premises on 24 September and will not be available until the greatly enlarged and refurbished main library buildings at South Bank open on 25 November 2006. For information, visit [www.slq.qld.gov.au/slqnews](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/slqnews)

### 39.53 TYPESETTING MACHINES IN 1926

There's a document in the manuscript collection of the Mitchell Library, Sydney (ML MSS6012/2) that lists all the typesetting machines operating in NSW country newspaper offices (and in Parramatta and Canberra) at 27 April 1926. There were 296 such machines. And the city of Sydney and suburbs had 341 Linotypes and 45 Intertypes. The *Newcastle Morning Herald* had 15 machines and its jobbing office had 12. The Government Printing Office in Canberra had nine. Among the offices that had six machines were the *Maitland Mercury*, the *Northern Star*, Lismore, the *Parramatta Argus*, and the *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*.

### RECENTLY PUBLISHED

#### 39.54 BOOKS

**Burke, David (ed.)**, *Roaring through the 20s: The writings of Richard Hughes from the Victorian Railways Magazine 1927-1930*. This volume includes biographies by David Burke and Richard Hughes junior of Richard Hughes, particularly his long newspaper career. PBPS, PO Box 451, Belgrave Vic 3160.

**Starck, Nigel**, *Life After Death: The Art of the Obituary*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 2006. This book, by an Adelaide journalism lecturer, investigates and celebrates the development of the obituary form in the British, American and Australian press. [See Graeme Leech's review, *Weekend Australian*, "Weekend Review" liftout, 26-27 August 2006, pp.10-11.]

#### 39.55 THESIS

**Johnson, Stuart**, "The Shaping of Colonial Liberalism: John Fairfax and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1841-1877", School of History, University of New South Wales, 2006. One examiner commented: "This thesis convincingly establishes the broadly liberal character of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and rescues its reputation from those historians, myself included, who have too readily labelled it conservative. It also makes a valuable contribution to colonial historiography in calling for re-examination of the labels placed on political actors and for a more nuanced characterisation of the colonial polity." Another said the thesis "will be the starting point for any future analysis of liberalism and conservatism in colonial Australia".

#### 39.56 ARTICLES

**Berthon, Hilary**, "Long Live the News!", *National Library of Australia News*, Sept. 2006. How NPLAN is working to save Australia's newspaper heritage.

**Clarke, Patricia**, "On a Roller Coaster with Maxwell Newton Publications", *ISAA Review: The Journal of the Independent Scholars Association of Australia Inc.*, Vol. 5, No. 1, June 2006, pp.17-25, also *Canberra Historical Journal*, July 2006, pp.2-9.

**Chulov, Martin, and Wilson, Peter**, "Distrustful, unco-operative Canberra goes quiet in a crisis", *Aust.* Media section, 27 July 2006, pp.13-14. The *Australian's* senior reporters covering the war in Lebanon write of the difficulties in reporting from a federal-government-induced information vacuum.

**Day, Mark**, "Journalism's shaky future", *Aust.*, Media section, 31 August 2006, pp.13-14. Newspapers may not be dying but the environment in which they operate is indeed in tumult. Day was commenting on the *Economist* article, "Who killed the newspaper?" (see below). John Hallows' extensive and intelligent response to Day appeared in the Media section, 7

Sept. 2006, p.16, along with other shorter responses. The *Australian* published an extensive editorial, "Newspaper survival: Good newspapers know their business and will prosper", on 9 Sept. 2006, p.13. Fairfax CEO David Kirk says newspapers are adapting, not dying – see Lisa Murray, "Fairfax chief is branching out, not severing roots/", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 Sept. 2006, pp.19, 21.

**Dionne, E.J.**, "New media and old can work together", *Age*, 24 August 2006, p.15. Democracy can benefit from both traditional and advocacy journalism, says a *Washington Post* writer and professor of foundations of democracy and culture at Georgetown University. This article is extracted from his A.N. Smith Memorial Journalism Lecture at the University of Melbourne.

*Economist*, "Who killed the newspaper?", 26 August 2006, pp.9-10, and "Special report: The newspaper industry", pp.53-55. The most useful bit of the media is disappearing. A cause for concern, but not for panic. (The first article was reprinted in the *Aust.*, Media section, 21 August 2006, p.14.) See also: Michael Kinsley, "Do newspapers have a future?", *Time*, 2 October 2006, p.49.

**Ellem, Peter**, "How changing your thinking can reap rewards", *PANPA Bulletin*, August 2006, pp.18-19. The editor of the *Daily Examiner*, Grafton, tells how he turned around "a lethargic newspaper on the [north coast of New South Wales] to become one of the fastest growing regionals". [N.B. The ANHG has received two emails from the Grafton area suggesting that Ellem's strategies do not win unanimous approval. Ellem is reported to have recently sacked the highly regarded chief photographer Simon Hughes and the senior sports writer, Tony White, after they had refused to sign Australian Workplace Agreements. It should also be noted that the circulation of the *Daily Examiner* fell 3.35 per cent in the six months to 30 June 2006 and is only 36 sales above its circulation for the first six months of 2001.]

**Fels, Allan**, "In the public's eyes, the media are their own worst enemies", *Age*, 21 August 2006. The Dean of the Australia New Zealand School of Government argues that political debate is being degraded by the way in which it is reported.

**Hinde, Simon**, "Pushing papers into the modern age", *PANPA Bulletin*, August 2006, p.56. The websites of many newspapers are still behaving like Iron Curtain commissars in 1989, according to AOL's UK director.

**Isaacson, Peter**, "Re-writing the business end of making news", *PANPA Bulletin*, August 2006, p.17. The author reflects on his experiences of newspaper ownership in Melbourne and Darwin in competition with News Ltd. Particular mention of Sunday newspapers and also the implications of the proposed new media ownership laws.

**Kirkpatrick, Rod**, "A provincial tale of newspapermen", *PANPA Bulletin*, July 2006, pp.46-47. Part 1 of a three-part article on the rise and fall of Provincial Newspapers (Qld.) Ltd.

**Kirkpatrick, Rod**, "Six of the best Dunn and dusted", *PANPA Bulletin*, August 2006, pp.54-55. Part 2 of a three-part article on the rise and fall of Provincial Newspapers (Qld.) Ltd.

**Kirkpatrick, Rod**, "Unafraid to stand alone", *Sunraysia Daily*, 19 August 2006, "Hot off the press" broadsheet feature, pp.5 and 8. A potted history of the *Sunraysia Daily*, Mildura.

**Lloyd, John**, "The media are more entertaining than ever, and more powerful", *Age*, 22 August 2006, p.13. A contributing editor of London's *Financial Times* argues that institutions in society are weaker while the media are stronger. An edited extract from Lloyd's speech at

the Media and Government function on 21 August for the Australian and New Zealand School of Government.

**Maslin, John**, “Chronicling New Zealand’s news for 150 years”, *PANPA Bulletin*, August 2006, pp. 12 and 14. A potted history of the *Wanganui Chronicle* which celebrated 150 years of publication in September.

**Murphy, Jim**, “Happy birthday”, *Age*, Green Guide, 14 Sept. 2006, pp.8-9. The relationship between “Green Guide” and television dates back 50 years. The author reflects on how the industry and the publication have grown up together.

**Noone, Val**, “Proofreaders at the *Age*”, *Recorder*, Newsletter of the Melbourne Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History. An interesting article about a usually overlooked area of newspaper production. A longer version of the article is to appear in *Labour History* journal.

**Ricketson, Matthew**, “Coonan’s plans inspire little confidence on media diversity”, *Age*, 16 August 2006, p.15. Can legislation ensure a variety of voices and ideas is heard through the Australian media?

**Ricketson, Matthew**, “Old or new media – size matters”, *Age*, 21 August 2006. The paper’s media and communications editor discusses the problem of newspapers and online news sites measuring the audiences accurately and presenting convincing data. See Shoebridge below.

**Shoebridge, Neil**, “Players reach behind the headlines”, *AFR*, 11 Sept. 2006, p.49. Further discussion of the issues covered in Ricketson’s article, “Old or new media” above.

**Willis, Ian**, presented a paper at the Australian Historical Association 2006 Biennial Conference at the Australian National University on Genres of History. The paper title was “Looking at Regional Identities on the Homefront” and concerned the role of country newspapers as an important historical source. He used the case study of the *Camden News* and *Camden Advertiser*, during World War II. The paper examined the regional identity of conservatism and its representation in the wartime reporting in Camden press as patriotism.

**ANHG membership stands at 230 electronic subscribers and 28 hard-copy subscribers.**

### ANHG subscriptions

Requests for a new or renewed subscription to the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*:

- (1) Email Rod Kirkpatrick at r.kirkpatrick@uq.edu.au (no fee for electronic version, but contribution welcomed); or
- (2) Post to: Rod Kirkpatrick, 13 Sumac Street, Middle Park, Qld, 4074 (hard copy, \$35 for individuals; \$45 for institutions).

New or renewed subscription for hard-copy version (ten issues): please send to

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Address) \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose \$ – cheque made payable to R. Kirkpatrick (ANHG) – for TEN issues.