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**NEWSLETTER**

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**42.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS**

**Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 15 July 2007. 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/sjc/](http://www.uq.edu.au/sjc/) and through the  
ePrint Archives at the University of Queensland at <http://espace.uq.edu.au/>

**42.2 EDITOR'S NOTE**

I will be overseas for much of May and June. During my absence, Victor Isaacs will act as editor of the Newsletter. Victor, the founder of the Newsletter, is at [abvi@webone.com.au](mailto:abvi@webone.com.au) and his postal address is 43 Lowanna Street, Braddon, ACT, 2612. Thank you, Victor. See end of this Newsletter for details of the new ANHG book, *Looking Good*, written by Victor Isaacs.

**CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: METROPOLITAN**

**BREAKING NEWS: MURDOCH BIDS FOR DOW**

Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation has stunned the media world with a \$US5 billion bid for leading business news group Dow Jones & Company, which owns the *Wall Street Journal* (*Australian*, Media section, 3 May 2007, pp.13-14).

**42.3 MEDIA LAWS TAKE EFFECT: STOKES MOVES, FAIRFAX KEEPS MOVING**

The new media ownership laws in Australia took effect from Wednesday, 4 April 2007, relaxing the 20-year-old old cross-media and foreign ownership restrictions. Now a company can own a newspaper as well as a radio or television station in the one metropolitan market. Within hours of the laws taking effect, Kerry Stokes's Seven Network announced it had boosted its 14.9 per cent stake in West Australian Newspaper Holdings above 15 per cent. A holding of more than 15 per cent is regarded as a "controlling" stake and must be declared under the new laws. WAN CEO Ken Steinke said Stokes's role at WAN had not changed in any way. "The issue of control is a technical legal factor which has no operational significance at all. Seven Network have no board seats and they haven't requested one." (*Australian*, 30 March 2007, pp.1-2 and 19; and 5 April 2007, pp.1 and 13, and Mark Day's column, p.18; *Australian*, Media section, 12 April 2007, p.13).

The new laws took effect the day before a meeting of the Preferred Shareholders of Rural Press Ltd voted overwhelmingly in favour of the proposed merger with Fairfax Media. The

results were: 1139 voted for, 27 voted against, and five abstained (Rural Press Ltd media release, 5 April 2007).

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has raised concerns that the circulation areas of Fairfax Media's regional NSW titles, the *Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Post* and the *Hunter Post*, overlap with those of Rural Press's *Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Star*, *Lower Hunter Star* and *Lower Hunter Weekend Star*. If these Fairfax titles have to be sold as part of the merger arrangements, then News Limited would consider acquiring them (*Australian*, 4 April 2007, p.24). The ACCC will not oppose Fairfax Media Limited's proposed merger with Rural Press Ltd after accepting an undertaking to divest two free community newspapers in the Lake Macquarie and Hunter Valley region (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission news release, 18 April 2007).

On 19 April, the Ordinary Shareholders of Rural Press Ltd also voted overwhelmingly in favour of the merger, with 95,743,132 votes (from 2,868 shareholders) in favour and 367,731 votes (105) against (Rural Press Ltd media release, 19 April 2007). The merger is expected to be completed on 10 May. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported (20 April 2007, online): "The buzz of bush flies and thunder of RAAF aircraft that once marked shareholder meetings at Rural Press's North Richmond headquarters in NSW is about to fade into history. Those days of tea and scones with raisins ("on the Rural Press philosophy: you always get a bonus", chairman John B. Fairfax joked) ended yesterday when Rural Press's ordinary shareholders overwhelmingly voted in favour of Fairfax Media's friendly takeover."

On 23 April, the Federal Court ordered that the schemes of arrangement between Rural Press Limited and its Ordinary Shareholders and Preferred Shareholders in relation to the proposed merger with Fairfax Media Limited be approved (Rural Press announcement, 23 April 2007). Rural Press shares ceased trading on the Stock Exchange on 24 April. See also ANHG 42.27.

See Mike Dobbie, "The Fairfax redemption", *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 44, April/May 2007, pp.15-16, for a discussion of a possible merger of the newly enlarged Fairfax Media with Kerry Stokes's Seven Network.

#### **42.4 JOURNALISTS' JOBS GOING OFFSHORE**

The key to the future of editorial production for Australian newspapers may lie in an office overlooking a rubbish-strewn sheep paddock on the outskirts of Delhi, writes **Nick Tabakoff** (*Australian*, Media section, 29 March 2007, p.15). It is there that Mindworks Global media Services is located and where it has been pitching the concept of editorial outsourcing to Australian, British and Southeast Asian newspapers. The operation, with the motto "Trusted by Editors Worldwide", appears to have met success, despite its humble surroundings and rows of older-style computers. It has won a contract to handle editorial production in sport and business for one of Asia's top English-language newspapers, Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* (see editor C.K. Lau's comments below), among other Asian newspapers. It would dearly like to add an Australian title to its portfolio. But the outsourcing of editorial production is a delicate issue in Australian journalism, a fact that became apparent when APN News & Media unveiled plans to outsource most of the editorial of its New Zealand newspapers. Under the proposal, the *New Zealand Herald*, along with a host of other APN newspapers, will outsource up to 70 sub-editing jobs to the Melbourne-based Pagemasters, an AAP subsidiary. Pagemasters would set up its own NZ editorial production operation. Pagemasters already packages sports, national and world news pages for APN newspapers in NSW and Queensland (see also, "Editorial outsource heralds a new age", *Australian*, 27 March 2007, p.23; and "More journalists' jobs moving offshore", *Australian*, Media section, 8 March 2007, p.16; and Jack Beverley, "APN plan to outsource NZ subbing", *PANPA Bulletin*, March 2007, pp.8-9).

**C.K. Lau**, editor, *South China Morning Post*, writes (letters, *Australian*, Media section, 5 April 2007, p.14): “Your article ‘Newspaper production and offshore option’ (Media, March 29) stated that Mindworks Global Media Services, based in Delhi, has a contract to handle editorial production in sports and business for Hong Kong’s *South China Morning Post*. We would like to clarify the limited extent of the work currently carried out by Mindworks for the *Post*. Mindworks handles sub-editing on one sports page daily during the week, two at weekends and three on occasions when we are especially busy. It is responsible for sub-editing our results round-up. Mindworks also sub-edits between two to four pages of our business section daily, but only handles wire copy.”

## **42.5 BRISBANE COMMUTER PAPER LAUNCHED AS FAIRFAX GOES ONLINE**

News Limited has launched a Brisbane edition of *mX*, the free commuter daily that has become firmly established in Melbourne and Sydney. The Brisbane launch of the full-colour tabloid daily was on Monday, 5 March. The paper (the first issue was 32 pages) is available from 2.30pm on weekdays from about 90 distribution points across Brisbane’s CBD, including exclusive distribution at the Central, Roma Street, Brunswick Street and South Brisbane railway stations. The Brisbane circulation brings the total national circulation of *mX* to more than 250,000, making its Australia’s third largest circulating daily – behind News stablemates, the (paid) *Herald Sun* in Melbourne and the (paid) *Daily Telegraph* in Sydney.

The editor of Brisbane’s *mX* is Neil Melloy, who felt the paper had a “spectacularly good launch”, a judgment he made after walking around the city after publication time and hopping on a train and visiting various pickup points. He faces an 11am deadline and the first thing he does each day is to have a 5.50am telephone hookup with the Melbourne and Sydney editors. Mediaweek says: “The overall feel of *mX* is templated so that it looks the same in all cities and all production is done from headquarters in Melbourne. State-specific content also flows through all sections of the state editions.” Melloy, formerly chief of staff of the Courier-Mail, said he had looked at international commuter newspapers and he believed that “*mX* has one of the best mixes” (*Australian Printer*, March 2007, p.56; *PANPA Bulletin*, February 2007, p.7; *Mediaweek*, 12 March 2007, p.9).

Two days after News launch its Brisbane *mX*, Fairfax Media launched [brisbanetimes.com.au](http://brisbanetimes.com.au), an online news service for Brisbane. Queensland Premier Peter Beattie launched the online publication. It’s at [www.brisbanetimes.com.au](http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au) Here’s how Greg Roberts and Michael Sainsbury reported the development (*Australian*, Media section, 8 March 2007, p.15): “Fairfax Media has launched an online-only Brisbane newspaper as the first leg of a plan to increase local internet content and drive national reach for its web-based classifieds businesses. The company will spend \$2.8 million marketing [brisbanetimes.com.au](http://brisbanetimes.com.au) after spending “millions of dollars” on a 12-month development project but ruled out any prospect of establishing a newspaper in Queensland.” (*Australian*, 8 March 2007; see also Mark Day’s “On Media” column, *Australian*, Media section, 15 March 2007, p.18; and *Mediaweek*, 19 March 2007, pp.3, 10.)

In mid-March, Fairfax Media also launched specialist business and sporting websites, [businessday.com.au](http://businessday.com.au) and [leaguehq.com.au](http://leaguehq.com.au) (*Age*, 14 March 2007, Business p.3, and *Australian*, 12 March 2007, p.32).

## **42.6 RECENT CHRONOLOGY**

### **42.6.1 EVENTS**

**5 March 2007:** News Limited launches Brisbane edition of *mX*.

**7 March 2007:** Fairfax Media launches Brisbane online publication, [brisbanetimes.com.au](http://brisbanetimes.com.au)

**4 April 2007:** Australia's new media-ownership laws take effect.

**24 April 2007:** Rural Press Ltd shares cease trading on the Australian Stock Exchange before the merger with Fairfax Media Ltd.

#### **42.6.2 DEATHS (also see 42.7 and 42.8)**

**Roylance, Rollo:** D. 1 April 2007, aged 87, in Melbourne; known to his mates as the Cheerful Chestnut; one of last of big-name journalists who strode the Melbourne racing scene through several decades following World War II; died in hospital after a long battle with cancer; star of print, radio and TV who commanded a legion of followers in the days of instant print reporting before the coming of computers slowed that process down; it was a time when the *Herald* and the *Sporting Globe* would have pictures and several columns of description on the streets less than half an hour after the horses passed the post in a big event like the Melbourne Cup; first worked as a copy boy at *Sun News-Pictorial* in 1937; served more than four years in the RAAF in World War II before joining the *Sporting Globe* where he became chief racing writer; worked on radio stations 3DB and 3UZ as well as appearing on the popular *World of Sport* program on HSV7 (sources: Robert Coleman; and *Herald Sun*, 3 April 2007).

**Webster, June:** D. 13 March 2007, in Sydney aged 73; began journalism career on *Area News*, Griffith, and developed friendship with anti-drugs campaigner Donald Mackay, later murdered; moved to Shoalhaven area in 1986 and worked for *Shoalhaven and Nowra News*; edited that paper; for much of past 21 years covered Shoalhaven City Council with great depth (*South Coast Register*, 14 March 2007, pp.1-2, and 16 March 2007, pp.2-3).

#### **42.7 MORGAN MELLISH DIES, CYNTHIA BANHAM SERIOUSLY INJURED**

Morgan Mellish, 36, the Jakarta correspondent for the *Australian Financial Review*, was killed in the crash of the Garuda airlines at Yogyakarta on 7 March. Cynthia Banham, defence and foreign affairs correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, was seriously injured in the crash. Surgeons amputated one of her legs and part of the other (*Australian*, Media section, 22 March 2007, p.13).

A two-part *Australian Story* (ABC-TV, 23 and 30 April) on Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer featured Mellish and Banham (in the second part). See also Amanda Meade's "Diary" item, *Australian*, Media section, 19 April 2007, p.18.

An obituary for Mellish appeared in *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 44, April/May 2007, p.33

#### **42.8 JEANNIE FERRIS AND BOB FERRIS DIE**

Jeannie Ferris, former editor of the *Yass Tribune* and most recently known as a hard-working senator, died on 2 April, aged 66, from cancer and her former husband, Bob Ferris, a former *Canberra Times* journalist, died on 5 April when his car ploughed into a tree in Canberra, apparently after he had had a stroke or a heart attack (*Australian*, 9 April 2007, p.6; and *Age*, 6 April 2007).

#### **42.8 PAUL WHITTAKER AND THE AUSTRALIAN**

*Mediaweek* featured the *Australian's* new editor, Paul Whittaker, as "Person of the Week" in its 26 March issue (pp.4, 6). He mentioned that the deadlines for the paper are generally 9pm for the first edition, 10.45pm for the second, and 12.30am for the third, and "we can also drop in pages until 1am". The *Australian* is printed at six different locations: Townsville and

Murarrie, Queensland; Chullora, NSW; Westgate, Victoria; Mile End, South Australia; and Perth, Western Australia.

#### **42.9 TONY KOCH NAMED AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR**

Tony Koch, the *Australian's* chief Queensland reporter, has won the 2006 Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year. Koch, a three-times Walkley Award winner, won the Perkin award for his "exceptional coverage of the death of Mulruni Doomadgee on Palm Island" (*Weekend Australian*, 24-25 March 2007, p.2).

John Lamb and Bruce Postle, former *Age* photographers, received lifetime achievement awards at the Melbourne Press Club awards evening on 23 March (*Age*, 24 March 2007, p.9).

#### **42.10 NEW AGE BUILDING**

Fairfax Media has asked Daniel Grollo's Grocon to develop a \$110 million office for the Melbourne *Age*. The deal involves Fairfax as the anchor tenant at 643 Collins Street, to be built above the railway lines at the corner of Collins and Spencer Streets on the edge of Melbourne's Dockland. It follows the \$66.1 million sale of the *Age* headquarters building in Spencer Street – see ANHG 41.20 (*Australian*, 5 April 2007, p.25).

#### **42.11 WATERFORD (1): NAMED CANBERRA'S CITIZEN ON THE YEAR**

Jack Waterford, the editor-at-large of the *Canberra Times*, has been named the 2007 Canberra Citizen of the Year. The Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, presented the accolade on 12 March (Canberra Day) and hailed the 55-year-old journalist as a "champion" of many causes and a leading figure in his trade. Waterford was presented with the honour in recognition of his services to the community and local journalism, particularly his extensive and astute coverage of politics, public administration and the law. Waterford joined the *Canberra Times* as a copy boy in 1972 and became deputy editor in 1987, the editor in 1995, the editor-in-chief in 2001 and editor-at-large in March 2006 (*Canberra Times*, 13 March 2007, p.1; also see ANHG 41.18).

#### **42.12 WATERFORD (2): THE DEATH OF A POLICE CHIEF**

From Canberra, **Victor Isaacs** writes: The ACT was shaken in April by the suicide of the ACT Chief Police Officer, Audrey Fagan. The first news for most people was the front page of the *Canberra Times* on Saturday 21 April with a big story entitled "Police Chief Dead". Next day, the first seven pages of the *Canberra Sunday Times* were devoted to the story – mainly tributes to her.

As more details emerged, The *Canberra Times* itself became the centre of the story, as it was implied that recent criticisms of ACT policing in the *Canberra Times* may have contributed to the pressures on Fagan leading to her death. In particular, the *Canberra Times'* editor-in-chief, Jack Waterford was criticised and reportedly received phone calls that he had "blood on his hands". On 22 April in the *Canberra Sunday Times*, Waterford said "she was feeling the stress, not least of criticism by myself and the *Canberra Times*". An editorial commented "Sad though we feel for her and her family, we do not resile from criticisms we made".

The *Canberra Times* returned to this theme in a long editorial on 24 April, defending Waterford. It said in part "some...look for possible scapegoats, including the *Canberra Times*"; "The article to which [AFP Commissioner] Keelty alluded – a column by editor-in-chief Waterford – and an editorial published on April 12 were not part of any personal vendetta...", "The Waterford column...[did not] resort to personal attack", "But there was noting extraordinary about what this newspaper published".

In another aspect, parties to the story were initially very circumspect about details of Fagan's suicide. However, details were made explicit by two stories in the *Australian* on 24 April.

#### **42.13 FOURTH AUSTRALIA DAY GONG**

For the record, a fourth Australian journalist, Allan Lockwood, was awarded a gong on Australia Day (ANHG Newsletter 41.18), though it was not directly for journalism. Lockwood, a long-time editor of the *West Wimmera Mail* and its successor, the *Wimmera Mail-Times*, was awarded an OAM for his contributions to ex-service, church, health and sports groups and for recording and preserving local history in Victoria's Wimmera.

#### **42.14 POLICE RAID ON THE AUSTRALIAN**

A Federal police visit to the offices of the *Australian* on 6 March triggered protests with politicians and the Australian Press Council warning that another journalist looked set to be swept up in the Government's crackdown on leaks from the public service. The "raid", by two federal officers, was part of legal action against a public servant who has been accused of leaking information to the *Australian*. Police attempted to serve a subpoena on a reporter in the *Australian's* Sydney newsroom (*Australian*, 7 and 8 March 2007).

#### **42.15 ADVERTISING GROWTH SLOWS**

Growth in the Australian advertising market slowed last year to 3 per cent, held back by a revenue slump for printed directories such as Telstra Yellow Pages and lame free-to-air TV and newspaper sectors. Total spending was \$11,903 billion on main media, online and classified advertising in 2006, according to figures from the Commercial Economic Advisory Service of Australia. Total newspaper advertising revenue was \$3793 billion (*Weekend Australian*, 7-8 April 2007, p.29).

#### **42.16 HANNAN FAMILY EXITS PUBLISHING**

The Hannan family entered the publishing business in 1934 and departed it on 2 April 2007, reports *Mediaweek*, 9 April 2007, p.3. Over the years they had various joint ventures with the Packer and Fairfax families. Michael Hannan engineered a buy-out of the J.B. and T.V. Fairfax families in 2003, and now less than four years later has sold off all the FPC magazines and newspapers to News Limited.

#### **42.18 SMH NATIONAL EDITION**

Copies of the *Sydney Morning Herald* sold in Canberra now bear on the top right hand corner of Page 1 the notation, "NATIONAL EDITION", under a representation of the Federal Parliament House flagpole. However the content appears to be exactly the same as other country edition papers, even to the extent of including Newcastle variations in the television listings.

#### **42.19 SMH EXPANDS TURF GUIDE**

**Victor Isaacs** writes: During April, coinciding with the Sydney Autumn Racing Carnival, the *Sydney Morning Herald* greatly expanded its turf guide. It was usually 40 tabloid pages. At the end of April, the SMH no longer included their expanded turf guide with the paper. Instead, it is available to SMH subscribers on request and to casual buyers on demand at newsagents. This is possibly of far more interest than just to followers of horseracing.

Perhaps this is the start of a trend in Australia towards segmentation of newspapers and having sections directed specifically only to those who are interested in them.

#### **42.20 MEDIA EDITOR MOVES ON**

Martin Beesley ceased to be editor of the Media section of the *Australian* after the issue of 22 March. He had been the editor for four years. He has accepted an executive position with Cumberland Newspapers, the News Ltd suburban group in Sydney.

#### **42.21 SYDNEY MORNING HERALD AND AGE PAGES TO BECOME SLIMMER**

Fairfax Media CEO David Kirk has announced that the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age* will shift to slimmer formats next year – still broadsheet, but with a page about as slim as the *New York Times* uses. Kirk announced also that the company would reduce its Sydney production staff by 30 to 35 (Fairfax Corporate website announcement, 26 April 2007). The *Australian* reported (27 April 2007, pp.1-2) that Kirk's announcements prompted a vote of no confidence in Kirk and scathing criticism from staff. Gerard Noonan, co-convenor of the Fairfax house committee in Sydney, said: "It seems like every time the company's got a management problem, it pathetically reaches for the blunt instrument of redundancies. That's not management."

The *Herald* and the *Age* page size will shrink by about 16 per cent under the proposed format changes; the new width would be about 34cm. Kirk announced that a major training program for most editorial staff would begin in Sydney in June (and at other locations later) to "help prepare editorial staff with new skills as we move towards a multimedia future". The training will focus on how multi-media news gathering takes place; principles and techniques for video and audio news gathering; writing techniques for different platforms; basic use of different tools that may be used to support publishing to various platforms; and extended training in multi-media equipment and news gathering techniques.

*Sydney Morning Herald* editor Alan Oakley announced the new page-size plans in a letter to his readers (27 April 2007).

In the Media section of the *Australian*, 3 May 2007, see Nick Tabakoff's article (pp. 13, 16), reports by Peter Wilson (Europe correspondent) and Jane Schulze (p.16) and Mark Day's column (p.18).

#### **42.22 BRUCE GUTHRIE WORKS WITH WHAT HE'S GOT**

Bruce Guthrie, the new editor-in-chief of the *Herald Sun*, is interviewed by James Manning in *Mediaweek*, 30 April 2007, pp.3, 6. He explains why he took the job and how he has approached it. Guthrie says, basically, that he won't be chasing staff from the *Age* and that he is happy to harness the talent that is already at the *Herald Sun*.

#### **42.23 PRESS GALLERY CHECK**

Journalists operating from the press gallery at Canberra's Parliament House will have to undergo police records checks if a security management board proposal is adopted. The checks would scrutinise journalists' "honesty" and susceptibility to bribery and blackmail, and assess whether they posed a terrorist threat, said an internal memo by the Department of Parliamentary Services. Department secretary Hilary Penfold said journalists have access throughout Parliament, while government employees must undergo police checks. The proposed checks are based on the Federal Government's blueprint for vetting public servants. Ms Penfold said journalists with records for drink-driving, domestic violence or "minor drug offences" would not be denied access. Journalists would be able to appeal against a decision.

Politicians are exempt from police checks. The proposal would include journalists, lobbyists and staff of federal MPs and senators who are not ministers (*Age*, 27 April 2007).

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

### **42.24 TOOWOOMBA JOURNALISTS GO DIGITAL**

Six months after APN News & Media sacked six journalists from the Toowoomba *Chronicle*, some of them have established an online newspaper, Toowoomba Digital News. It was launched in February on, as editor Neil Brown puts it, “a wing and a prayer”. The site ([toowoombadigitalnews.com.au](http://toowoombadigitalnews.com.au)) recorded almost 7000 hits from around the world in the first week. Brown and three other former *Chronicle* journalists, Miles Noller, Lin Boyle and Kylie Douglas, are writing the no-frills news copy for the “no-frills site” (*Australian*, Media section, 8 March 2007, p.16).

### **42.25 EDITORS, ETC.**

David Bauche, an economics graduate, is the new journalist-in-charge at the *Scone Advocate*. He was born in the Blue Mountains and grew up there. He studied at La Trobe University, Melbourne. After completing his cadetship at the *South Gippsland Sentinel-Times*, Bauche returned to NSW, taking up a senior journalist position at the *Singleton Argus*.

Stan Gorton, with 12 years’ journalistic experience in Australia and the United States, has been named editor of the *Narooma News* on the NSW South Coast (*Narooma News*, 4 April 2007, online).

Len Ashworth, managing editor of the *Lithgow Mercury*, has completed 50 years with the newspaper. He joined the paper on 7 January 1957 as a cadet journalist. The *Mercury* was a daily from 3 October 1949 until 30 September 1986 (Rod Kirkpatrick’s research notes for *Country Conscience*).

### **42.26 BORDER MAIL’S COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE**

On Monday 5 March 2007 the *Border Mail* of Albury-Wodonga commemorated the opening of the new freeway bridge across the Murray River with a 20 page wraparound plus a 24 page colour magazine insert.

### **42.27 RURAL PRESS ACQUIRES THREE NSW TITLES**

Rural Press Ltd has bought three more NSW titles: the *Oberon Review* (circulation 1300; published since 1978) from John Warden; the *Coffs Harbour & District Independent Weekly* (free weekly; distribution of 27,845); and the *Blue Mountains Wonderland* (a free quarterly tourist publication). RPL bought the *Oberon Review* in December, completing what it called “a missing link from the NSW Central West neighbourhood of newspapers”. Oberon had for years been surrounded by RPL-owned newspapers at Lithgow, Bathurst, Blayney and Orange. Timber, beef cattle, sheep and small crops are the main industries in the Oberon area, on the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range, about 180km from Sydney [*Rural Press News*, March 2007, p.2.]

### **42.28 WEEKEND STAR CLOSES**

**Kay Hynes**, of the State Library of NSW, reports: The *Raymond Terrace Weekend Star* ceased publication on 9 March 2007.

#### **42.29 GEELONG ADVERTISER'S AMAZING STORIES**

The *Geelong Advertiser* is producing mini non-fiction "books" about local historical events and inserting them in the paper as a series. The paper published a series of six such 16-page booklets last July and another series in January 2007, presenting them under the general title of *Amazing Stories* (*Mediaweek*, 5 March 2007, p.8).

#### **42.30 LIFESTYLE MAGAZINES FOR CAIRNS AND TOWNSVILLE**

News Limited has announced that it will launch two weekly lifestyle magazines in north Queensland in early May: *cairns eye* and *townsville eye*. The titles will have full-gloss colour and have a print run of more than 32,000. Starting on 2 May, they will be inserted into the Wednesday editions of the *Cairns Post* and *Townsville Bulletin*, as well as having free-standing distribution (*Australian*, Media section, 29 March 2007).

This seems to be a response, although News Ltd denies it, to the announcement that the joint-venture *Style* magazine (involving APN) will expand from its four Brisbane editions – adding nine editions covering a broad swathe of the burgeoning coastal market from Coffs Harbour in NSW to Townsville and Cairns in Queensland. APN has daily newspapers in seven of the nine new *Style* regions – all except Cairns and Townsville (*Mediaweek*, 12 March 2007, pp.8-9, and 16 April 2007, p.3).

#### **42.31 WAN BUYS KIMBERLEY ECHO**

West Australian Newspapers Holdings Ltd has bought the Kununurra-based *Kimberley Echo*, which circulates from Katherine to the Kimberley and as far south as Karratha. The paper had been owned by the Mock family for 11 years. Andrew Mock, managing director until the sale to WAN, bought it in 2001 and had operated it since. He will continue as manager in the short term while assisting with the transition to a new management structure (*Kimberley Echo*, 5 April 2005).

The *Echo's* website says: "Kununurra, the home of the *Kimberley Echo*, is perched at the far north east corner of Western Australia and is the main regional centre for the area. Kununurra is one of the nation's newest settlements and in a short period of time has prospered to a population of 6,500. The *Kimberley Echo*, established since 1980 has seen and covered all the major changes in the region and enjoys a strong readership and loyal local following. Based on agriculture, mining and tourism, the East Kimberley is progressing at an amazing rate and the *Kimberley Echo* is fast following its lead."

#### **42.32 APN BID 'BOTTOM OF RANGE'**

Sir Anthony O'Reilly's Independent News & Media's \$1.9 billion offer for APN News & Media is at the bottom end of valuations, an expert says. Sir Anthony, backed by US buyout firms, Providence Equity Partners and Carlyle Group, bid \$6.20 a share for the 60 per cent of APN that Independent does not already own. The fair value of the company is between \$6.18 and \$6.53 a share, according to Deloitte Corporate Finance (*Weekend Australian*, 21-22 April 2007, p.41).

#### **42.33 NEWSPAPER AND RADIO STATION CUDDLE UP**

The *Glen Innes Examiner* and community radio station 2CBD FM have joined forces to improve their reach across the Glen Innes district. From 6 March, a radio program guide has been printed in the Connections community news section of Tuesday's *Examiner*. Meanwhile 2CBD FM listeners receive some insights into what is in their local paper each Tuesday and

Thursday morning, with a brief summary and teaser of the main stories and items of interest announced during the breakfast show (*Glen Innes Examiner*, 2 March 2007).

## **NEWSPAPER HISTORY**

### **42.34 NEWSPAPER HISTORY WEBSITE PROJECTS**

Tim Hogan, Newspaper Librarian at the State Library of Victoria, has been awarded a staff fellowship to develop content for a website on the history of Victorian newspapers. Hogan will be working full-time on this project from May until August this year and is interested in communicating with anyone with a research interest in Victorian newspapers.

The aim of the project is to produce an overview of newspaper history in Victoria, including short histories of individual newspapers, biographical portraits of newspaper identities, and to explore themes in Victorian newspaper history and development. Content for the website will be based on existing published material but the site will also aim to be a place for new material to be published, or for existing material to be republished.

The website will also feature a detailed research guide providing information about indexes, finding aids, library holdings of newspapers, electronic resources, and bibliographies. Anyone who is interested in learning more about this project or contributing to the project is invited to contact Tim at the State Library of Victoria.

**Contact details:** [thogan@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:thogan@slv.vic.gov.au) Telephone (03) 8664 7196

**By post:** Tim Hogan, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Vic, 3000.

In Adelaide, Anthony Laubé has been working on a similar project, related to South Australian newspaper history, for some years. The SA website will be part of a suite of websites, each on themes of South Australian history, highlighting State Library resources, under the title “SA Memory”. Laubé says: “The SA Memory site is to be launched by the Minister in late May, but some of the constituent websites – most notably the SA newspapers site – will still be incomplete, or a “work-in-progress” only.” Laubé has not been released from other work commitments, so although spending most of his time on it, he is not freed up to work full-time on it.

There have been approximately 450 SA newspaper titles, including about 50 current titles. The main part of the website will consist of an A-Z listing by title with a potted history of each title and an image of a front page. As with the proposed Victorian website, there will also be thematic pages on: the early history of the SA press, biographies of journalists, editors and printers; non-English language newspapers (SA had the first Australian non-English newspaper in 1848), newspaper illustration (again SA had the first illustrations included in a newspaper in Australia, in 1841), religious newspapers, sporting newspapers, comic newspapers, and country newspapers.

**Contact details:** [laube.anthony@slsa.sa.gov.au](mailto:laube.anthony@slsa.sa.gov.au)

### **42.35 A FATHER OF THE PRESS DIES**

From the *Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, 24 October 1882: “We copy the following notice from the *Telegraph* of the death of the Father of the Press in the colony [Queensland]. He was a brother of Mr Aylmer Campbell of the Commercial Hotel. ‘We have to record the death of one of the oldest printers in the colony, John Thomas Campbell. He was appointed to the Hon. James Swan as a compositor on the *Courier* thirty years ago, and has worked at the business in Brisbane ever since. He joined the contractor for the Government printing at the

time of Separation, and he was one of the first that joined the Government Printing Office on its establishment and continued there to the time of his death. Many a printer is indebted to him for lessons in the branch for which he was famous, viz., tablework, and his death will be greatly regretted by a large circle of friends.”

#### **42.36 RISELEY SERIES**

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: Victor George Counsel Riseley (1887?-1953) penned a series of articles, “Memories of the Press”, for Perth’s *Sunday Times* in 1934-35. The articles appeared on 23 December 1834 (p.12) and from 6 January to 24 February 1935 (all on p.7, except for 17 February which was on p.6).

#### **42.37 NEWSPAPER-DIGITISATION CONTRACT SIGNED**

The National Library of Australia announced that it has entered into a contract with Apex Publishing to support a major newspaper digitisation program which will commence later this year. The Library will use Apex’s services to build a database covering the period 1803 to 1954 using one major newspaper from each state and territory. From early 2008 the Library expects to offer a new online service to enable full text searching of these newspapers and viewing of the content free of charge.

#### **42.38 QUEANBEYAN PRINTING MUSEUM CATALOGUE**

Jim Woods, known around the Queanbeyan Printing Museum as “The Boss” (because he was the boss at the *Queanbeyan Age* in pre-Rural Press years there), has forwarded to the ANHG a copy of the *Catalogue of Museum Collection* that the museum has published in limited numbers. Woods writes (27 March 2007): “Still going strong with our Printing Museum, which is well attended and appreciated by visitors from Queanbeyan-Canberra area, plus many visitors from interstate and beyond. We get quite a few groups. We (my small but enthusiastic band of volunteers) have put together a Catalogue of the Museum collection, together with a brief history and photos, etc.”

#### **42.39 AUSTRALIAN MEDIA TRADITIONS: CALL FOR PAPERS**

The deadline for abstracts for the Australian Media Traditions Conference at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, on 22 and 23 November 2007 is 30 May 2007. Contact Margaret Van Heekeren in the School of Communication at CSU (mvanheekeren@csu.edu.au). The conference theme is “Distance and Diversity: Reaching New Audiences”, encouraging the examination of the historical role of media and communicators in seeking and reaching “new” audiences. However, papers on any aspect of media history are also welcome. Refereed and non-refereed streams will be held and refereed papers will form an online conference publication, in accordance with DEST requirements.

#### **42.40 THE SWEET-VOICED BIRD**

On 16 November 16, 1928, the *Narembeen Observer* (1928-33), initially printed at Kellerberrin, WA, published an article about the early days of Kellerberrin’s first newspaper, the *Eastern Recorder*, established on 27 October 1909. The article appears to have been written by C.J.S. Davis, the printer of the *Observer* (which appeared as the *Farmers’ Observer*, 1933-35). The article said: “Up to a few weeks ago all type set in the [Kellerberrin] office was by hand. Today we have one of the most modern Linotypes – a No. 14. This machine has what is known as three full magazines and an auxiliary magazine. In all, seven faces of type are available at the will of the operator.” Times have changed a little, haven’t they?

The final sentence in the article in the *Narembeen Observer* promised that the next issue would present “some interesting matter regarding the first issue of the *Eastern Recorder*”. Alas, the promise was not kept. In searching for the article, I stumbled on a piece of doggerel entitled, “The Sweet Voiced Bird and Your Weekly Paper: We’ll never miss the music/ Till the sweet voiced bird has flown”. Here’s an excerpt:

... though I crab, and fuss, and scold,  
and speak in accents big and bold,  
one glaring fact remains:  
that fact is this,  
when that old sheet does not arrive upon its beat,  
I have a flood of pains,  
I paw the earth in mad despair,  
I fling my arms and toss my hair,  
I say, “Why did it fail?”  
There’s nothing in it I would read,  
No information that I need,  
It has no head nor tail,  
And yet where is, O where’s the thing,  
Why did the mail-man fail to bring the paper to my door?

“I miss the news of Islington,  
The notes from Plink and Jefferson!  
Why did it fail?” I roar.  
“I’ll miss the local township ads,  
The visits of the dames and dads,  
The dope about the land;  
I’ll miss the story, by the way,  
The market stuff on prunes and hay,  
The sale and lease of land!  
I must drive in to town, I guess,  
and get a copy of the mess;  
I’ll drive to town tonight!  
Yes, our old paper is a joke,  
it’s like a worn and ragged cloak;  
it surely is a sight!”

#### 42.41 GREETING THE PRESS COUNCIL PROPOSAL

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: It is worth noting that when a press council for Australia was proposed in August 1975 by the (relatively new) federal Minister for the Media, Dr Moss Cass, newspapers around Australia greeted it with derision and worse. The editorial response included:

10 August 1975: *Sunday Telegraph*, “The right to publish”.

11 August 1975: *Daily Telegraph*, “A free Press”; *Sydney Morning Herald*, “Towards a controlled press”; *Australian*, “The freedom of the press is under threat”; *Sun* (Sydney), “In the councils of Cass and Co”; *Daily Mirror* (Sydney), “Nobody will accept gag on press”; *News* (Adelaide), “A threat to Australia’s free Press”.

12 August 1975: *Canberra Times*, “A press council”; *West Australian*, “Press controls”; *Age* (Melbourne), “Folly blights a fair proposal”; *Examiner* (Launceston), “People’s freedom”; *Advertiser* (Adelaide), “Curbs on the press”.

15 August 1975: *Courier-Mail* (Brisbane), “This would kill a free press”.

17 August 1975: *Sunday Independent* (Perth), “A devious move”.

Not one newspaper unequivocally supported the press council proposal. Why? Largely because of the context in which the proposal was delivered. Among the other proposals canvassed were a government newspaper, “circumventing constitutional impediments” by the

selective use of newsprint restrictions and taxation; and a Royal Commission into the press. (This item was inspired by a collection of editorials that Kenneth Sanz, now an ANHG member, gathered at the time.)

#### **42.42 CRUDEN FARM: A HISTORY**

Former *Age* gardening editor Anne Latreille has written a history of Cruden Farm, now owned by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, widow of newspaper owner and manager Sir Keith Murdoch. Sir Keith bought the farm as a wedding gift for his bride nearly 80 years ago. Latreille's book, *Garden of a Lifetime*, includes diaries written by gardeners who worked – and still work – for Dame Elisabeth (*Weekend Australian*, Review section, 21-22 April 2007, p.3).

#### **42.43 RESOURCES FOR AUSTRALIAN MEDIA HISTORY**

Dr Bridget Griffen-Foley convened a meeting on 24 April in Sydney to discuss preparing a guide to resources for Australian media history. Members of a steering group attended and resolved to: create a listserv to enable researchers and interested members of collecting institutions and industry to discuss issues and sources, and disseminate news about events, new publications, etc., concerning Australian media history; to seek to create a website with links to the Australian Media History database, the relevant holdings of collecting institutions, professional and amateur associations, conferences, etc., concerning Australian media history.

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: I was unable to attend the above meeting, but, at Dr Griffen-Foley's request, I began compiling a list of private archival resources that relate to newspaper history in Australia. An edited form of the list follows: [ANHG members and others are invited to provide feedback so that this list can be added to during the coming months.]

One thing to note is that most country newspapers now do not hold hard copy of their files (except perhaps the past few years) on their premises. They have generally given these to a local library or historical society, sometimes in exchange for microfilm of the papers and sometimes not even that. The premises of many country newspapers now are simply shopfronts because the newspapers are printed and produced (sub-edited, etc) in another town, perhaps 100km away and sometimes up to 300km away. This has contributed to the rush to find others willing to store the hard copy of the early papers.

#### **Historical Societies, etc.**

The following historical societies hold good to excellent archival material on the history of newspapers in their towns (this is not an exclusive list – it is one I am drawing up from my own experience): Bellingen, Castlemaine, Clarence River (Grafton), Glen Innes, Hay, Inverell, Macleay River (Kempsey), Quirindi, Tamworth, Warrnambool.

Printing museums generally have some archival repositories. The Hobart Mercury printing museum is one and the Melbourne Printing Museum is another. Among the excellent country printing museums are: Pinnaroo, SA; Queanbeyan, NSW; and Katanning, WA.

#### **Newspapers**

***Bairnsdale Advertiser, Victoria:*** Some good records related to the Yeates family's ownership of newspapers in the Gippsland area of Victoria and at Huon in Tasmania.

***Hamilton Spectator (Victoria):*** Holds reasonable records of the development of the Hamilton Spectator Group that includes a number of newspapers in the Western Districts of Victoria.

**Kiama Independent, NSW:** Wonderful and well preserved archival material on the newspaper and the ownership family (the Weston family) that has been involved with it since its establishment. [The Weston family newspaper and printing interests have in the past couple of years become amalgamated with the Hannan family interests in Sydney, and now News Limited is in the process of buying those interests.] The family has donated photographic archives to the University of Wollongong Library. See *ANHG Newsletter* item 40.41 (December 2006).

**McPherson Media at Shepparton, Victoria:** Holds reasonably good records of the McPherson family's involvement with newspapers in Shepparton and district since 1888.

**Murray Pioneer, Renmark, SA:** The Taylor family has owned this newspaper since 1905 and has taken a close interest in its history.

**Individuals** (this is a very brief list: please email us with your details if you would like to be included in this list)

**Cryle, Denis**, of Rockhampton, Qld, holds extensive files of research notes related to various aspects of Australia press history, and especially in recent times to the current national title, the *Australian*: d.cryle@cqu.edu.au

**Isaacs, Victor**, of Braddon, ACT, holds extensive research material on Australian newspaper history consisting of research notes, monographs and newspapers. abvi@webone.com.au

**Kirkpatrick, Rod**, of Middle Park, Qld: Holds 46 archival boxes plus 10 filing-cabinet drawers of research material related to newspapers in each State and Territory of Australia; also six large boxes of historic issues of newspapers; plus a collection of about 3000 issues of special or historic editions of newspapers held for him in a warehouse of the Ipswich campus library of the University of Queensland. rodthejourno@hotmail.com

**Russell, John**, of Hughes, ACT, has done extensive biographical and bibliographical research related to Australian colonial newspapers, printers, publishers, etc., with a special interest in women. karinrussell@optusnet.com.au

**Wane, Greg**, of Wallington, Vic, is a collector of special issues of newspapers and initiated the short-lived *Australian Bush Press Journal* some years ago. He has started and operated various newspapers (e.g. at Ocean Grove and Queenscliff, Vic.).

## **RECENTLY PUBLISHED**

### **42.44 BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS**

**Isaacs, Victor**, *Looking Good: The Changing Appearance of Australian Newspapers*. Brisbane: Australian Newspaper History Group, 2007. 44pp. See advertisement below.

**Tosco, Amedeo**, "Features of early ethnic Italo-Australian Newspapers: A case study of *L'italo Australiano* (1885)", *Australian Journalism Monographs*, No 7 (available through Dr Cathy Jenkins, of Griffith University: c.jenkins@griffith.edu.au).

**Young, Michael**, *Death, Sex and Money: Life Inside a Newspaper*. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 2007 (available May), 264pp, rrp \$34.95. ISBN 0-522-85344-7. The author worked for newspapers in the UK and Australia for 30 years; features interviews with Australian and British editors.

## 42.45 THESES

**Porges, Reingard**, “Theodor Wolff, the writer in exile, 1933-1942”, 2006. vii, 247pp. PhD thesis, University of Sydney, 2007, about renowned Berlin journalist and editor-in-chief of the *Berliner Tageblatt*. (Many of University of Sydney theses are available online, including this one: go to <http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/345>)

**Wang, Wei**, “Newspaper commentaries on terrorism in China and Australia: a contrastive genre study”, PhD thesis, University of Sydney, 2006.

## 42.46 ARTICLES

**Coleman, Peter**, “Putting Fairfax together again”, *gpress*, March 2007, pp.8-10, and “FRP ‘catches up’ in Newcastle”, pp.9 and 11. A review of the synergies for the proposed Fairfax Media merger with Rural Press.

**Day, Mark**, “Killing fields were a different matter nine decades ago”, *Australian*, Media section, 26 April 2007, p.20. Discusses how the Gallipoli landing would be reported today.

**Ester, Helen**, “Fear and loathing in Canberra”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 44, April/May 2007, pp.21-22. John Howard has torn up the rule book in the wrestle between the Press Gallery and the politicians and the Canberra hacks are not happy.

**Game, Peter**, “The road to Mahogany Alley”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 44, April/May 2007, pp.31-32. The former Herald & Weekly Times building in Flinders Street, Melbourne, is now an up-market office and apartment complex. Game recalls when it hummed as the headquarters of the *Herald* and the *Sun News-Pictorial*.

**James, Clive**, “Clear view from the antipodes”, *Australian Literary Review*, 4 April 2007, pp.18-19. Pioneering expatriate writer and peerless war correspondent Alan Moorhead helped to bring Australia closer to the centre of global affairs.

**Kirkpatrick, Rod**, “Bradley newspaper chain and dynasty begin in tiny Temora”, *PANPA Bulletin*, March 2007, pp.36-37. The first part of a two-part article on the Bradley newspaper dynasty in New South Wales.

**Kirkpatrick, Rod**, “The little paper that was destined to grow”, *PANPA Bulletin*, February 2007, pp.36-37. A potted history of the *Manly Daily*, the free suburban daily delivered to householders on Sydney’s northern beaches.

**Kirkpatrick, Rod**, “When the gloves are off: The Central Coast newspaper fight”, *Australian Journalism Review*, 28 (2), December 2006, pp.53-65. An examination of the daily-newspaper war between Fairfax and News on the Central Coast of New South Wales.

**Pollard, Ruth, and Noonan, Gerard**, “Into the web with Captain Kirk”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 44, April/May 2007, pp.13-14. Fairfax management sees a profitable future integrating its newsrooms for web and print, but will it be so positive for the journalists?

**Rothwell, Nicolas**, “Hard cases and hearts of darkness”, *Australian Literary Review*, 4 April 2007, pp.20-21. The narcissism of modern war reporting reflects wider failings.

**Simper, Errol**, “Defiant few who dare to doubt in a climate of fear”, *Australian*, Media section, 26 April 2007, p.20. Why journalists should be greenhouse skeptics.

**Thomas, Hedley**, "A date with Dr Death", *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 44, April/May 2007, p.27. Writing a book about Bundaberg's Dr Death scandal had not been an ambition for Thomas, but it was a job that could not be left to an opportunistic stranger, he felt.

**Vine, Josie**, "Does the lovable larrikin live? A comparative analysis of Australian journalism culture 1974 and 2003", *Australian Journalism Review*, 28 (2), December 2006, pp.67-78.

**Wane, Greg**, "30 years of publishing ... Gary Sherwell celebrates", *Wimmera Messengers*, 7 March 2007, pp.1, 3. How the *Nhill Free Press* survived, in one form or another, with the help of Gary Sherwell who took it over 30 years ago.

**Warden, Ian**, "'A sob seemed to shake the community'", *National Library of Australia News*, April 2007, pp.11-14. The author investigates newspaper reports of the first Anzac anniversary, on 25 April 1916.



## A new ANHG book is just out:

### *Looking Good:*

### *The Changing Appearance of Australian Newspapers*

**By Victor Isaacs**

In this book, Victor Isaacs examines the changing format of Australian newspapers since their beginnings in 1803. There are chapters on the changing front page, the changes from broadsheet to tabloid, the use of the British Coat of Arms in Australian mastheads, the use of illustrations in newspapers, and the coming of colour (this chapter by Kenneth Sanz). The book is A4-sized, is illustrated and comprises 44 pages. ISBN 978-0-9803128-1-2.

Copies can be obtained (at \$28 including postage and packing) by making out a cheque to R. Kirkpatrick (ANHG) and posting it to: R. Kirkpatrick, PO Box 675, Mount Ommaney, Qld, 4074.

**Please note that Rod Kirkpatrick will be overseas for seven weeks from 10 May and so any orders received after 9 May will not be met until the beginning of July.**

#### **ANHG subscriptions**

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

(1) Email Rod Kirkpatrick at [rodthejourno@hotmail.com](mailto:rodthejourno@hotmail.com) (no fee for electronic version, but contribution welcomed); or

(2) Post to: Rod Kirkpatrick, PO Box 675, Mount Ommaney, Qld, 4074 (hard copy, \$40 for individuals; \$50 for institutions).

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