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1 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: METROPOLITAN

45.1.1 WEST AUSTRALIAN (1): NO CONTEMPT, COURT RULES

The Supreme Court of Western Australia has ruled that no contempt was committed when the *West Australian* published a letter to the editor on 11 December 2005 during the final days of the manslaughter trial of Jake Dylan Becker. The letter led the judge to abort the trial. Becker was retried and found not guilty of a manslaughter charge. Justice Geoffrey Miller criticised the WA Director of Public Prosecutions, Robert Cock, for a lack of evidence to back the case and said the newspaper had been 'unwise' in publishing the letter on one of the final days of the trial (*Australian*, 5 October 2007, p.7).

45.1.2 WEST AUSTRALIAN (2): THE FLAG, AND BRIAN BURKE

The *West Australian* had egg on its face again, according to perthnow.com.au, 3 October 2007. Following up a story on New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark's call for the Union Jack to be stripped from the Kiwi flag, the paper set out to obtain comments from West Australian Returned Services League president Bill Gaynor, a long-time supporter of the British emblem and a staunch monarchist. Canberra-based journalist Rhianna King found a Bill Gaynor in Glenelg in South Australia, and quoted him. But it was the wrong Bill Gaynor, and his views upset RSL members in WA.

The *West Australian* has been accused of misrepresenting a damning report on the influence of the disgraced former West Australian Premier Brian Burke by claiming he had been cleared of wrongdoing when, in fact, he had been widely criticized by a corruption watchdog. Peter van Onselen, an associate professor at Perth's Edith Cowan University, said he was 'flabbergasted' by the *West Australian's* coverage of a Corruption and Crime Commission report on a \$330 million tourist development in the State's southwest. The *West Australian* headlined its Page 1 report on 10 October: 'Burke, Grill, Buswell cleared by CCC report' (*Australian*, Media section, 11 October 2007, p.35).

45.1.3 WEST AUSTRALIAN (3): EDITOR 'OUT OF CONTROL'

WAN Holdings board nominee Stephen Mayne has launched a stinging attack against the publisher for railing to rein in its 'out of control' editor Paul Armstrong. Addressing the WAN annual meeting in Perth on 9 November, Mayne said: 'The Premier Alan Carpenter said on May 15 that our editor was 'an immature, dishonest, unethical person who should not be in that position'.' Armstrong receives an annual pay package of \$467,000. WAN announced a

12.4 percent rise in earnings before interest and tax to \$52.6 million for the three months ending 30 September (*Weekend Australian*, 10-11 November 2007, p.35).

45.1.4 WEST AUSTRALIAN (4): SEVEN BUYS MORE OF WAN

Kerry Stokes' Seven Network has increased to 19.4 per cent its stake in West Australian Newspaper Holdings Ltd – just short of the 19.9 per cent threshold. Cross that threshold and a full bid must be made. WAN's flagship is the Perth daily, the *West Australian* (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 November 2007, p.20).

45.1.5 COME FLY WITH ME

Fairfax Media's journalists have accused the company of 'prostitution' as they vented their fury at an advertising-driven wraparound supplement that ran with the 26 October edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Staff met and accused the company of disguising as news a four-page supplement paid for by Singapore Airlines to mark the maiden commercial flight of the Airbus A380. The unrest came amid concern among senior staff that Fairfax's merger with Rural Press has led to a decline in editorial standards. The newspaper ran its main story about the Australian SAS soldier killed in Afghanistan on the front of the wraparound, then filled the remainder of the four pages with stories, graphics and large advertisements about the new Singapore Airlines jet. The paper failed to declare the wraparound was an advertising supplement, despite running a second 'front page' – also featuring the *Sydney Morning Herald* masthead – inside. One prominent journalist was so outraged she sent a message to Fairfax chairman Ron Walker. 'It is the prostitution of editorial integrity on a scale never seen before, an absolute disgrace,' she wrote. Gerard Noonan, co-convenor of the Fairfax house committee in Sydney, said: 'We're very concerned that the new culture that has come our way as a result of the merger with Rural Press ... [and] is bringing to the Fairfax culture a management-level mindset where the distinction between editorial and advertorial is more blurred.' (*Australian*, 27 October 2007).

The editor of the *Herald*, Alan Oakley, told a gathering of journalists and production workers at Fairfax Sydney headquarters on 29 October that he took responsibility for the controversial wraparound. 'The decision was mine and mine alone, and I take responsibility for that. Those who feel that it was a bad call should blame me, because it was a call made by me in isolation.' (*Australian*, 30 October 2007, p.3).

45.1.6 RECENT CHRONOLOGY

45.1.6.1 EVENTS

14 October 2007: Federal election is called for 24 November. Extensive newspaper coverage of the election followed in daily newspapers on 15 October.

21 October 2007: Prime Minister John Howard and Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd debate one another on prime-time television.

25 November 2007: All newspapers devoted many pages to reporting a change of government at a federal level: e.g. 'Rudd triumphs' (*Sunday Mail*, Queensland). Some papers carried supplements devoted to seat-by-seat results. Probably the most unusual was the tabloid *Sunday Canberra Times* which had an eight-page broadsheet wraparound.

30 November 2007: Newspapers list the ministry on the new Federal Government, led by Kevin Rudd, and report the election of Dr Brendan Nelson as the new Liberal leader.

45.1.6.2 DEATHS

Anderson, Dave: D. October/November 2007, aged 84; delivered about 325 copies of the *St George & Sutherland Shire Leader* in his area for 20 years after retiring from newspaper industry at 60 (*St George & Sutherland Shire Leader*, 6 November 2007, p.19).

Cannon, John George (Jack): D. 16 November 2007 at Ocean Grove, Vic., aged 82; the third doyen of Melbourne's golden age of journalism to die in five weeks (see Elliott and Fitzgerald below); colourful character and stylish dresser known in the industry as Dapper Jack; widely experienced general reporter, sportswriter and feature writer whose postings *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* No 45 **December 2007** Page 2

included: editor, the *Sunday Press*, sports editor, the *Herald*, HWT London Bureau (1963-66), RAAF public relations officer Middle East 1953-56; led HWT team to 1968 Olympic Games, Mexico City; started with *Argus* as copy boy 1942, cadet 1943; served three years RAAF, Europe, as rear gunner and was sole survivor of Lancaster bomber crash; won Weary Dunlop Foundation award, 2002; known off-duty as a popular and companionable raconteur (source: Robert Coleman; see also *Age*, 26 November 2007, p.18).

Elliott, John Denis (Jack), OAM: D. 4 November 2007 in Melbourne, aged 85; doyen of Australian racing writers; died in Melbourne Cup week, two days before the event itself – the scene of many of his scoops; chief racing writer for the *Herald* for 30 years in an era when big racing stories were front page news; reported almost 50 Melbourne Cups, starting in 1937 as a copy boy at *Truth*; after army service in WW2, returned to the *Argus* in 1946; chief racing writer for the *Sporting Globe* 1954-57; awarded Order of Australia for service to racing in which he had an enormous number of contacts at all levels; founder of Australian Racing Writers' Association, long-serving president of Victorian Racing Writers' Association (*Herald Sun*, 5 November 2007, p.43).

Fitzgerald, John: D. 11 October 2007 in Melbourne aged 76; started in journalism as cadet on Warrnambool *Standard* after failing to win job on *Bendigo Advertiser* and Melbourne *Herald*; became personal clerical assistant to *Herald* managing director Sir Keith Murdoch in 1951; courageous editor of the *Herald*, Melbourne, 1974-78, publishing the Khemlani loans affair reports that contributed to the downfall of the Whitlam Government, and, after the murder of Donald Mackay in Griffith, a series of articles outlining Italian links with Australian drug dealers; began hugely successful career in corporate public relations in 1978; recipient of Melbourne Press Club 'Lifetime Achievement Award' (*Age*, 12 Oct 2007, Business, p.12; *Herald Sun*, 12 October 2007, p.39). See also 45.1.15.

Johnson, Paul: D. 3 November 2007, in Melbourne, aged 60; widely experienced and skilled sub-editor at the *Herald* and *Weekly Times*, also the ABC; emigrated from London in 1974; in recent years, specialised in laying out and sub-editing the *Herald Sun* opinion and letters pages (*Herald Sun*, 5 November 2007).

Johnston, Tony: D. September 2007 in Townsville, aged 58; popular figure in Melbourne publishing and TV circles for 40 years; was editor of *TV Week*; also had been publicity director at Channel 7 and also contributor to *Sunday Herald Sun TV Guide*. TJ, as he was affectionately known, retired to live with relatives at Kuranda, near Cairns, while enduring a two-year battle with cancer (Bob Coleman, 2 Oct).

Lee, Robert: D. 30 September 2007, aged 77; began career as apprentice at *Wellington Times*, NSW, and then worked at *Dubbo Dispatch*; compositor at *Canberra Times*, 1953-1988 (*Canberra Times*, 20 October 2007).

McAuliffe, Mick: D. 19 August 2007 in Townsville, aged 60; began career as cadet at *Cairns Post*; worked on papers in Brisbane; finished career as a sub-editor at the *Townsville Bulletin* (*Walkley Magazine*, Issue 47, October-November 2007, p.40).

Martyn, Norman Leslie: D. 15 May 2007; former owner-editor of *Mirboo North Times*, Victoria (obit, *Age*, 13 October 2007, p.13; see ANHG 43.20.2).

Price, Matt: D. 25 November 2007, in Perth, aged 46; gained Arts degree at University of Western Australia; worked briefly in a politician's office; journalism cadetship at *Albany Advertiser*; joined *Daily News*, Perth, and then Channel 9 News; in late 1980s worked in London at various TV news bureaus; joined the *Australian* in 1997 and was transferred to the Canberra press gallery a few years later; made an art form of the political sketch; brilliant wordsmith and versatile reporter; wrote book on his beloved Fremantle Dockers football team; remembered as man with a big heart; told colleagues on 8 October that doctors had discovered tumours in his brain; underwent exploratory surgery on 10 October (*Australian*, 9 October 2007, online, and obituary 26 November 2007, p.2007; tributes in *Australian*, Media section, 29 November 2007, pp.33, 36, 38; see extracts from some of his columns in 'A few words from an astute observer', *Weekend Australian*, 1-2 December 2007, p.18, and eulogy from News Ltd CEO John Hartigan, same issue, p.23).

Thorpe, David: D. 10 September 2007; helped transform the *Age* of the 1960s; Graham Perkin was an unstoppable young editor, but Thorpe's skills as a production editor and as a *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* No 45 **December 2007** Page 3

beautiful writer daily made the changes happen that turned the newspaper from a 'frumpish old tart' into 'one of the ten great newspapers of the world'; assigned himself to cover the hanging of Ronald Ryan, the last man hanged in Australia so that no one else would have that terrible experience, and he wept terribly later (*Age*, 5 October 2007).

45.1.7 WHEN RUPERT GETS INVOLVED

Some insights into when Rupert Murdoch chips his editors: News Ltd CEO John Hartigan said in the Andrew Olle Lecture on 19 October, 'When [Murdoch] gets involved it's not as a proprietor, it's as a newspaperman. He will challenge our editors on why they put one story on Page 1 over another story. Or why they wasted a great pic by running it too small. Rupert doesn't vet the copy and nor do I. But I do answer to him and I appoint the editors. What we both look for in editors are many qualities. These include audacity, the willingness to take risks and to challenge the status quo. They also include enterprise and creativity that's not just about making money. Suspicion, often contempt, of authority, and that includes our own. We don't like yes-men, or yes-women. We like people with hunger to get after the establishment.' (*Australian*, 22 October 2007).

45.1.8 CATALYST FOR RESIGNATION OF EDITOR

A student magazine has come under fire for printing racist and sexist remarks. The editor of RMIT's Student Union publication, *Catalyst*, resigned after publishing a series of offensive articles. One repeatedly referred to 'niggers' and another talked of a woman who 'spreads like peanut butter'. John Alexander Ng stepped down from the role amid a backlash from students outraged by the offensive material in the publication (*Herald Sun*, 14 October 2007).

45.1.9 PEOPLE

Cynthia Banham, Fairfax foreign affairs reporter, survived the Yogyakarta plane crash in March this year. In the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 October (pp.1, 8), she wrote the first of a series of articles about her road to recovery. 'Seven months ago I lost both my legs as a result of a plane crash. My left leg was amputated above the knee, my right leg below the knee. After two agonisingly slow months lying in a bed in a hospital burns unit, forbidden from sitting up because of a broken back, I became the new owner of a wheelchair. At first I was overjoyed. It was like receiving a new bicycle at Christmas. When my partner Michael first saw me in it, he had tears of happiness in his eyes. It meant so many things – at last I could eat my meals sitting up, I was mobile again, I could venture outside the hospital walls and breathe fresh air. And how sweet that air tasted, that first time. My delight at reclaiming these lost parts of my life quickly turned into resentment towards my wheelchair, however, because of what it represented – those things I would never get back such as my legs, my ability to walk, to run, to dance' (*Mediaweek*, 9 October 2007, online).

Garry Barker, technology editor at the *Age*, talks about the digital revolution and his career (*Mediaweek*, 29 October 2007, p.9).

Paul Barry has won a court battle with Alan Bond. The Federal Court has rejected Bond's bid to sue Barry and News Limited over an article published in the News Ltd Sunday papers on 3 June 2007 (*Weekend Australian*, 22-23 September 2007).

David Dick has been appointed executive editor of sport for the *Age*. He joined the paper in 2005 as executive editor (development) after a career in the Scottish media, which included freelance sports reporting, editing and design roles on the *Evening Times* in Glasgow, helping launch the *Sunday Herald* in 1999, and going on to become the paper's sports editor and then deputy editor.

Colleen Egan, of the *Sunday Times*, Perth, has won News Limited's 2007 Sir Keith Murdoch Award for Journalism for an eight-year investigation that led to the freeing of a man who was wrongly jailed for murder.

David Fagan, editor of the *Courier-Mail*, talks about his paper's election coverage (*Mediaweek*, 29 October 2007, p.8).

Martin Flanagan, interviewed by *Mediaweek* (12 November 2007, p.9), says that, for him, 'the art of newspaper writing is to [write so simply that you] take as many people with you as you can, without compromising the integrity of what you're on about'.

Richard Freudenstein, CEO of News Digital, was 'Person of the Week' in *Mediaweek*, 27 August 2007, p.4.

Michael Gawenda, former editor of the *Age*, has been appointed director of the University of Melbourne's Centre for the Advanced Study of Journalism, which will open in 2009 (*Australian*, Media section, 15 November 2007, p.33).

Jonathan Holmes, a former executive producer of *The 7.30 Report* and *Foreign Correspondent*, will host ABC-TV's *Media Watch* in 2008 (*Australian*, 28 November 2007).

Garry Linnell, 43, until recently the director of news and current affairs for the Nine Network, has joined the *Daily Telegraph* as editor at large. Regarded as one of the nation's leading journalists and finest writers, Linnell is a Walkley Award winner who has written extensively across sport, news and business (*Daily Telegraph*, 19 September 2007).

Hedley Thomas, of the *Australian's* Brisbane bureau, won the Gold Walkley at the 2007 Walkley Awards on 29 November 2007. For details of award winners, visit www.walkleys.com

Lloyd Whish-Wilson, chief executive and publisher, NSW and ACT metros for Fairfax Media Ltd, was 'Person of the Week' in *Mediaweek*, 17 September 2007, pp.4-5.

45.1.10 GOOD WORKS AND FAIRFAX NEWSPAPERS

Victor Isaacs writes: On Monday 22 October the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age*, *Illawarra Mercury* and *Newcastle Herald*, all Fairfax newspapers, printed on pink paper to commemorate National Breast Cancer Awareness Day. A proportion of that day's sales revenue was donated to the cause. The *Canberra Times* printed its masthead in bright pink. On the same day an identical supplement, *50 Years of The Guide Dogs* was 'Published by John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd for inclusion in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Canberra Times*, *Newcastle Herald* and *Illawarra Mercury*.' This is the first such joint publication since the Fairfax/Rural Press merger. So, oddly, non-Sydney readers had advertisements for Sydney items.

45.1.11 WALL STREET JOURNAL (1): PAGE IN THE AUSTRALIAN

The first Australian consequence of the takeover by News Ltd of the Dow Jones company became apparent on 2 November. From that day, the page of articles provided by Britain's *Financial Times* was dropped from the *Australian's* business section and replaced by articles provided by Dow Jones' *Wall Street Journal*. These occupy a page and occasionally more. The Business section has been re-branded as 'Business with the Wall Street Journal'. The first WSJ page was on p.26 of 2 November. See article, p.1, of that date.

45.1.12 WALL STREET JOURNAL (2): TO GROW FATTER

News Corporation's acquisition of the *Wall Street Journal* will be the most important the company has made in the past decade, Rupert Murdoch said in unveiling plans to increase the newspaper's size and to create new joint-venture editions in markets such as India and China. Asked about any long-term plans to bring the *Asian Wall Street Journal* to Australia, Murdoch said: 'I'd hope we could continue to improve the financial section of the *Australian* to the point where that is not necessary.' (*Australian*, 13 November 2007, pp.21-22.)

45.1.13 FREE SPEECH AND A FREE PRESS

Matthew Ricketson reported (*Age*, 6 November 2007): Free speech and the media's ability to report are under threat from governments gripped by secrecy and spin, according to the first national audit of free speech in Australia. An independent report by former anti-corruption and anti-racism commissioner Irene Moss, released on 5 November, found the nation's freedom-of-information laws seriously flawed, whistleblower legislation inadequate or non-existent in some jurisdictions, and anti-terrorism laws endangering civil liberties. The 307-page report documented federal and state government legislation clogged with 335 secrecy provisions and the courts awash with suppression orders. There are 917 suppression orders

around the country, of which 697 are in Victoria, largely flowing from the gangland wars. (See also: Chris Merritt, 'Flow of information blocked by government secrecy', *Australian*, 6 November 2007, pp.1-2 plus editorial, p.11, and Cameron Stewart, 'All we want is the truth', p.12; and two reports, *Australian*, Legal Affairs section, 9 November 2007, pp.33 and 33-34; *Mediaweek*, 12 November 2007, pp.3, 8; David Salter article, ANHG 45.5.2.).

45.1.14 LOCKOUT ON FIRST DAY OF FIRST CRICKET TEST

The start of the first cricket Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Gabba in Brisbane was marred when journalists were locked out of the ground after Reuters, Agence France-Presse, Associated Press and News Limited refused to sign accreditation documents that would have limited their ability to report on the match. News Ltd reached an agreement with Cricket Australia that resulted in its journalists being admitted on the second and subsequent days, but the other organisations did not settle matters until after the end of the first Test (*Australian*, 9 November 2007, p.2).

45.1.15 JOHN FITZGERALD, EDITOR, HAD A 'GREAT RIDE'

From Melbourne, **Robert Coleman** writes: Former *Herald* editor John Alexander Fitzgerald, AM, who died aged 76 on 11 October, was one of Melbourne's most outstanding newspaper editors. Long-time associate and mate, Harry Gordon, wrote (*Age*, 12 October 2007): 'John Fitzgerald was the kind of newspaperman most newspapermen would like to be. He was bold, decisive, irreverent, funny, and relentless in his pursuit of truth. He loved a good one-liner, and created many of them.' Fitzie, as he liked to be known, came from a brief cadetship at the Warrnambool *Standard* to join the Melbourne *Herald* in 1951. Colleague John Dunn said (*Herald Sun*, 12 October): 'He was simply irreplaceable, a larger-than-life figure who lobbed like a grenade into the reporters' room.' He went on to a career covering the world's news-spots, mainly in sport, working variously for AAP and the *Herald*, of which he became chief of staff in 1966. In 1971, he was appointed managing editor of the *South Pacific Post*, Papua New Guinea, returning to Melbourne in 1974 to take the editor's chair at the *Herald*. In 1979, he turned to a new and spectacular career in the lush pastures of public relations as managing director and chairman of IPR (now Shandwick). But he never lost his love for newspapers. It was the blood of his veins, the music of his soul.

He was a smiley, blokey country boy who rose to command wide respect among the country's highest flyers, none of whom overshadowed him. More than 400 people crammed historic St John's Church in the street where he lived in suburban Malvern East on 19 October. Eulogists included Olympic power broker Kevan Gosper and TV presenter Tony Barber. A wonderful reunion of former *Herald* journalists followed. 'John Fitzgerald was one of the last of his breed – a hard-driving, fast-thinking, fast-talking afternoon newspaper editor,' said celebrated writer John Hamilton. 'He could sniff a story a continent away and mobilise and motivate his reporters and photographers to bring home the goods. Tough on the outside, heart of gold on the inside and – above all – a lovely bloke.'

And thus Colin Duck, onetime editor of the *Sun News-Pictorial* and *Geelong Advertiser*: 'He was a passionate, enthusiastic newspaperman who inspired all who worked with him. As chief-of-staff and later editor, he oversaw outstanding newspapers and nurtured journalistic talent. He had a great sense of humour and treated people with warmth and real affection. When he left the HWT group, he left a hole too big for anyone else to fill and the company was never the same again.' Harry Gordon has to be given the last word – again from his obituary in the *Age*: 'About 10 days before his death, after a particularly uncomfortable day, Fitzie looked up from his bed at this visitor. His face suddenly lit up, he gave a grin, and said: "Hasn't it been a great ride?" It was trade-mark Fitzie ... and he was so right.'

45.1.16 CIRCULATION: NATIONAL AND METROPOLITAN

Most metropolitan newspapers recorded smaller circulations during the July-September period than they did for the corresponding period last year. The outstanding performer was *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* No 45 **December 2007** Page 6

the *Sunday Age*, which lifted sales by 8.94 per cent. The Audit Bureau of Circulations figures and the Roy Morgan readership figures appear below.

	Circulation			Readership	
	July-Sept 2007	July-Sept 2006	% variation	12 mths to Sept 2007	% variation
National					
<i>Australian</i>	137,000	135,000	+ 1.48	477,000	+ 12.0
<i>Weekend Australian</i>	303,000	299,150	+ 1.29	840,000	+ 0.2
<i>Aust Financial Review</i>	88,162	86,310	+ 2.15	264,000	- 0.4
<i>Aust Financial Review (Sat)</i>	78,292	78,292	+ 8.47	155,000	- 11.4
NSW					
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	383,000+	393,874	- 2.76	1,161,000	- 0.4
<i>Daily Telegraph (Sat)</i>	327,000+	335,452	-2.52	973,000	+ 2.6
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	668,500+	694,528	- 3.75	1,755,000	- 2.3
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	211,700	211,990	- 0.14	919,000	+ 3.6
<i>Sydney Morning Herald (Sat)</i>	355,850+	355,750	+ 0.03	1,180,000	- 1.1
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	500,038	507,245	- 1.42	1,343,000	- 0.6
Victoria					
<i>Herald Sun</i>	530,500+	540,000+	- 1.76	1,452,000	- 2.0
<i>Herald Sun (Sat)</i>	510,000+	505,000+	+ 0.99	1,396,000	+ 0.8
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	622,500+	615,000+	+ 1.22	1,515,000	- 0.5
<i>Age</i>	203,500+	200,000+	+ 1.75	766,000	+ 4.1
<i>Age (Sat)</i>	296,500+	295,500_	+ 0.34	971,000	+ 2.1
<i>Sunday Age</i>	225,500+	207,000+	+ 8.94	737,000	+ 2.6
Queensland					
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	221,828	224,690	- 1.27	618,000	+ 2.5
<i>Courier-Mail (Sat)</i>	316,251	326,767	- 3.22	853,000	- 3.6
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	594,846	608,657	- 2.27	1,467,000	- 2.3
South Australia					
<i>Advertiser</i>	188,936	190,824	- 0.99	528,000	- 6.0
<i>Advertiser (Sat)</i>	259,893	262,730	- 1.08	680,000	- 7.5
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	314,745	321,529	- 2.11	750,000	- 2.2
Western Australia					
<i>West Australian</i>	200,317	201,047	- 0.36	589,000	+ 1.4
<i>West Australian (Sat)</i>	349,538	362,277	- 3.52	907,000	- 7.0
<i>Sunday Times</i>	340,000+	348,500+	- 2.44	839,000	- 1.1
Tasmania					
<i>Mercury</i>	45,791	46,140	- 0.76	125,000	- 4.6
<i>Mercury (Sat)</i>	60,868	61,023	- 0.25	147,000	- 5.8
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	59,811	59,858	- 0.08	139,000	- 6.1
<i>Sunday Examiner</i>	41,979	42,585	- 1.42	104,000	Static
Northern Territory					
<i>Northern Territory News</i>	21,017	21,255	- 1.12	44,000	- 15.4
<i>NT News (Sat)</i>	32,226	32,570	- 1.06	58,000	- 12.1
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	22,881	22,989	- 0.47	46,000	- 13.21
ACT					
<i>Canberra Times</i>	- 3.00	35,715	- 2.11	108,000	- 6.9
<i>Canberra Times (Sat)</i>	62,322	64,464	- 3.32	168,000	+ 0.60
<i>Canberra Times (Sun)</i>	35,536	36,398	- 2.37	97,000	- 3.00

45.1.17 NEWS CORP AND FAIRFAX HOLD ANNUAL MEETINGS

David Nason wrote (*Australian*, 22 October 2007, p.29) an entertaining description of the annual meeting of News Corporation in New York as ‘the best show in town’. Nick Tabakoff reports on the Fairfax Media’s first AGM with Rural Press on board (*Weekend Australian*, 1-2 December 2007, p.33).

45.1.18 AGE TO MOVE TO COLLINS AND SPENCER

After months of speculation, the *Age*, has confirmed that it will move journalists and commercial staff to a high-tech building on the corner of Collins and Spencer streets by 2010. The building should stretch about 150 metres along Collins Street and it is believed it will cost about \$110 million (*Age*, 23 November 2007).

45.1.19 JULIAN CLARKE FAREWELLED

Politicians, business leaders and sport stars farewelled Julian Clarke on 12 November as managing director of the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd (*Herald Sun*, 13 November 2007). The guest list included News Corporation chairman and chief executive Rupert Murdoch, his mother Dame Elisabeth, son Lachlan and wife Sarah, James Hird, Steve Bracks and Christine Nixon. They celebrated Clarke’s 16 years at the helm of Victoria’s leading newspaper publisher with a lavish dinner at the National Gallery of Victoria.

45.1.20 HOW TO VOTE: WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

In Sydney, both Fairfax’s *Sydney Morning Herald* and News’s *Daily Telegraph* advocated a vote for Kevin Rudd’s Labor for the 24 November federal poll. So, too, did, for example, the *Australian*, Brisbane’s *Courier-Mail*, the *Sunday Telegraph* and the *Sunday Mail*, Queensland. Melbourne’s *Herald Sun* split ranks with its News sister papers by supporting John Howard’s Coalition (*Daily Telegraph*, 23 November 2007, p.40).

45.1.21 QUEENSLAND FOI LAWS UNDER REVIEW

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh has asked journalist, barrister and author David Solomon to review the State’s freedom-of-information laws. He has been asked to produce an information paper by January and a final report by the middle of 2008 (*Australian*, 12 October 2007, Legal Affairs section, p.33).

45.1.22 OVERINGTON AND NEWHOUSE

The *Australian* has apologised (4 December 2007, p.2) to defeated Labor candidate George Newhouse for the behaviour of reporter Caroline Overington on election day, 24 November. Newhouse said Overington had given him a ‘closed whack’ to the head, but Overington, through *The Australian’s* editor-in-chief, Chris Mitchell, described it as an open-handed push. The ‘incident’ occurred as Overington queued to vote where Newhouse was campaigning. A witness said Overington was upset her children had read about an earlier email exchange between the two (*Age*, 4 December 2007).

45.1.23 PRESS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

The 31st annual report of the Australian Press Council can be accessed at www.presscouncil.org.au/pcsite/pubs/ar31.pdf

2 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: ONLINE

45.2.1 BUSINESS SPECTATOR LAUNCHED

AFR.com faces a fresh challenge from a new specialist online finance media product, *Business Spectator*, which was launched on 30 October. Owned by a combination of business people (John Wylie) and journalists (Stephen Bartholomeusz, Robert Gottliebsen, Alan

Kohler), *Business Spectator* is aimed at about 40,000 top business executives, lawyers, senior public servants, politicians and regulators with estimated average annual incomes of \$150,000, according to a pitch that has been shown to prospective clients. The online publication has hired journalists for a 24-hour newsroom to provide continuous breaking news (*Age*, Business Day, 3 October 2007).

45.2.2 D IS FOR 'DIGITAL', BUT NOT NECESSARILY 'DUMB'

The commonly held idea that Australian media was being dumbed down and corrupted by the digital age was a myth, News Limited chief executive John Hartigan said on 19 October in the Andrew Olle Media Lecture (*Herald Sun*, 20 October 2007). Australian journalism was in better shape now than during the so-called golden era, he said. 'The move into digital and online media should be celebrated rather than seen as the death of great journalism.'

45.2.3. PERTH ONLINE PAPER MOOTED

Fairfax Media is reported to be planning to launch a new online news outlet in Perth. It is expected to be called the *PerthLeader*. Fairfax Media was to take possession of Radio 6PR, Perth, in November, as part of its acquisition of Southern Cross's radio stations (*Australian*, 2 November 2007, p.25).

45.2.4 WHEN NEWS TEASERS ARE ONLY JUST AN OLD TEASE

Barry Blair writes about the time-consuming exercise of having to trawl through old news dressed up as current news on metropolitan and national newspaper websites. Old news, often up to a month (and, in one case, nearly five months) old, is being re-badged with new headlines and new pictorial thumbs. Unfortunately old news and current news are often mixed, with no chronological order.

45.2.5 FAIRFAX STANDS BY FINANCIAL REVIEW WEBSITE FEE

A report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 8 November says Fairfax will continue to charge users of *The Australian Financial Review's* website, afr.com, defying market expectations that it might offer more free content to increase readership and advertising sales. But Fairfax Business Media has simplified its pricing model, scrapping fees that range from \$25 to \$150 a month. Users will be charged \$109 a month for the entire range of services, including access to archives, stock quotes, company information, statistics, and tools such as customised news alerts. Subscribers of the printed publication will pay \$45 a month. A recent relaunch of the site, the second this year, followed criticisms that it was hard to navigate and downloading from the site was slow. Chief executive of Fairfax Business Media, Michael Gill, said that, in an attempt to increase its 'speed and functionality', the site would undergo technical and design changes.

45.2.6 MAJOR STAFF SHIFT TO ONLINE

'One Danish newspaper ... has accepted that news has less value on the day after it happens, so it has moved 30 staff from its print edition to its website to produce breaking news.' – Conor Pope, *Irish Times*, 'Innovation' magazine, October 2007, p.52.

45.2.7 WAN REGIONALS ONLINE AND ON THEIR OWN

Barry Blair writes: The task of finding just a few of the 24 or so West Australian Newspapers' provincial titles online is a reward in itself. While the *Kalgoorlie Miner* adopts the same online format as the *West Australian* (thewest.com.au) other provincial titles that are online have non-conforming websites. Such titles include the newly acquired *Kimberley Echo*, Kununurra, along with the *South West Times*, Bunbury, and the *Narrogin Observer*. All other WAN provincial titles have promotional websites. Is this related to how WAN sees its competition? The *Kalgoorlie Miner* competes with Fairfax Media's *Golden Mail*, whereas WAN's *Bunbury Herald* competes with Fairfax's *Bunbury Mail*. Fairfax is firmly ensconced

in the south-west of WA, having titles published for Albany, Bridgetown/Donnybrook, Bunbury, Busselton, Collie, Esperance, Mandurah, and Augusta-Margaret River.

45.2.8 REWARDING INTERNET MOVE FOR NEWS CORP

Speaking at News Corp's annual meeting of stockholders in New York late in October, Rupert Murdoch said the company's online revenues had grown an average of 14 percent a year over the past five years and operating income is up 14 percent a year on average over the past four years. 'We ... [are] starting to be rewarded for our efforts to transform ourselves into a company for the digital age.'

45.2.9 HERALD'S NEWSROOM OF THE FUTURE MELTS PRINT AND ONLINE

The first *Sydney Morning Herald* to be produced, in print and online, occurred on 12 November, from a state-of-the-art newsroom at Fairfax Media's new headquarters at One Darling Island, Pyrmont. The new five-storey building, with the latest multimedia technology, is a world apart from the former warehouse on George Street where the *The Sydney Herald* was first published on Monday, April 18, 1831. More than 450 *Herald* journalists and support staff are now seated on one floor, close to TV, audio and photographic studios and editing suites. The *Herald's* editor, Alan Oakley, said the newsroom, with its massive floor area and uninterrupted sight lines, enabled the best possible communication between the digital news-gathering operation and print/online production. At its core is an orbital nerve centre that brings the integrated newsroom to life, Oakley said. 'The key decision-makers for the newspaper and website are all within a few metres of each other and they don't need to leave their desks to view on large screens, multiple TV and online news services from around the world,' he said.

45.2.10 NEW NEWCASTLE HERALD WEBSITE

The *Herald*, Newcastle, new web page as of 3-4 December 2007 is:
http://theherald.yourguide.com.au/home.asp?ix=2&mast_id=192

3 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

45.3.1 SUNRAYZIA DAILY HAS A MAKEOVER

Victor Isaacs writes: When the *Sunraysia Daily* of Mildura Victoria, became the final regional daily newspaper in Australia to change from broadsheet to tabloid format on Saturday, 15 September 2007 (ANHG 44.3.1), the change was more than just of page size; it was a complete makeover of the newspaper. The *Sunraysia Daily* was completely redesigned and now stands proudly amongst 21st century tabloids. The change even went beyond appearance. The *Sunraysia Daily* formerly only covered local news. It now includes two complete pages every day of national news and two complete pages of international news. For the first time, it provides comprehensive news coverage. There is still no daily editorial, but there is a daily political cartoon – probably more important than editorials these days (but the comics have been cut from four to two). The masthead, which formerly carried the slogan 'Bringing people together' is now 'Serving Mildura and district since 1920'. The price remains at \$1.10 on weekdays and \$1.50 on Saturdays.

The final broadsheet *Sunraysia Daily* on Friday 14 September included a 32 broadsheet page souvenir supplement. This covered the history of the Mildura area and of the paper, which has been published since October 1920. It included 25 reproductions of notable front pages. The first tabloid paper next day included a four page wraparound which included messages from the Prime Minister and the Premiers of Victoria and NSW, reflecting its dual state circulation area. The *Sunraysia Daily* sponsored a community breakfast on Saturday 15 September to launch their new look.

The *Sunraysia Daily* is one of only three daily newspapers in Australia remaining independent of large groups (the others are the *Shepparton News* and Broken Hill's *Barrier*)

Daily Truth) It has been owned by the Lanyon family since 1950 when they took over the Elliott Newspaper Group after the death of Senator R D Elliott. The *Sunraysia Daily* remains one of the few [only?] daily newspapers in Australia not to have a web site.

The remaining daily/Sunday broadsheet newspapers in Australia are: *Australian*, *Weekend Australian*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age*, *Sunday Age* and *Canberra Times*.

For the record: final broadsheet issue, Friday 14 September: 16 broadsheet pages, plus 32 souvenir broadsheet supplement, plus three tabloid supplements (football 16 pages, property 12 pages, and autos 16 pages).

First tabloid issue, Saturday 15 September: 56 tabloid pages, plus autos 16 pages, property 12 pages and four page wraparound.

First weekday tabloid issue: Monday 17 September: 32 pages, plus football supplement of 16 pages.

In summary, the *Sunraysia Daily* used to give the impression of a tired and struggling newspaper. Now it gives the appearance of a comprehensive, modern, confident newspaper. (Also see *Mediaweek*, 1 October 2007, pp.8, 3).

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: On 14 September the final broadsheet issue of the *Sunraysia Daily* – No. 18,789 (Vol. 87, No. 217) – included a 32-page Souvenir Edition, loaded with historical articles and flashbacks on important, interesting and unusual events in the Mildura region's history. The special supplement was written and compiled by Allan Murphy, until recently the editor of the newspaper. Lyall Corless is the new editor for the new format. The first tabloid edition of the *Sunraysia Daily*, on 15 September, included a four-page souvenir wraparound, which included a message from Bill Lanyon, the chairman of directors of the Elliott Newspaper Group, the publisher. He wrote: 'The time has come for a change of format for Sunraysia Daily. Having such a long relationship with the paper, at first I was a little reluctant to agree. However, after considering all the issues, I feel the time is now right.' Lanyon reflected on the paper's history and thanked the people who had worked to make the change happen. Lanyon was the man the younger generation had to persuade before the format change could take place. He announced the Corless appointment.

45.3.2 HUON VALLEY NEWS INSTALLS NEW PRESS

The *Huon Valley News*, owned by Bob Yeates, has installed a single-width Goss Community press to print its weekly newspaper (*Huon Valley News*, 3 October 2007, p.14).

45.3.3 WENTWORTH COURIER (1): AT SIXTY

The *Wentworth Courier* celebrated its 60th birthday by publishing a special issue on 20 September 2007. [The paper changed hands earlier this year when it moved from the Hannan family to News Limited.] The special issue included a magnificent 12-page section tracing the paper's history. The paper started life in Rose Bay in 1947. Back then people used to be able to catch a flying boat bound for London from Rose Bay! It took five days and the plane only carried 15 passengers. The Hannan family bought the paper in 1958. Along the way the family fought off a challenge from a young Clyde Packer who launched *Wentworth News* in 1955. On 19 September News Limited Community Newspapers held a function and charity auction at Rose Bay's Royal Motor Yacht Club. The event was attended by senior management from community newspapers around Australia (*Mediaweek*, 20 September 2007, online).

45.3.4 WENTWORTH COURIER (2): CHANGES

News Limited has been changing the design and format of the former FPC title, the *Wentworth Courier*, in recent months. No longer, for instance, can an advertiser, such as David Jones, buy the front cover. The only way to get an ad on Page 1 now is to buy the panel at the base of the page. Cumberland has changed the fonts to bolder ones – Emona for the

main heads, Poynter Gothic for supporting heads, and Century Schoolbook for the text (*Mediaweek*, 27 August 2007, p.6).

45.3.5 KIAMA NEWSPAPERS

The Kiama-based Southern Independent Publishers – which publishes the *Kiama Independent* (established 1863), the *Lake Times* and the *Wollongong and Northern Leader* – remains in the hands of Michael Hannan's Federal Publishing Company – well, FPC and, of course, the Weston family, which has run the *Kiama Independent* since its establishment on 7 July 1863. Of all Australian current newspaper-ownership families, the Westons have the longest-unbroken continuing link with their newspaper (*Mediaweek*, 27 August 2007, p.6).

45.3.6 RIVERINA TAKEOVER GETS GREEN LIGHT

The competition watchdog will not stand in the way of Fairfax Media Ltd's absorption of the Riverina Media Group (RMG). Rural Press bought seven RMG mastheads in a \$64.5 million deal in early May, a short time before Fairfax swallowed Rural Press in a \$2.7 billion merger (see 43.22). The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) investigated the potential for aggregation of agricultural publications in the greater Riverina southern NSW area (SMH 18 Sept 2007, online).

45.3.7 SCONE ADVOCATE AT 120

The *Scone Advocate* has celebrated its 120th birthday with success in a quest to obtain a copy of a film taken at the newspaper office 45 years ago by NBN TV. Filming for the segment, 'Producing a country newspaper', was done by NBN stringer David Croaker, of Wingen. The film featured all the staff of the *Advocate* at the time, including editor Joe Court. The film was found in the Canberra office of the National Film and Sound Archive (*Scone Advocate*, 4 October 2007, online).

45.3.8 AROUND ALTONA CELEBRATES EIGHTH ISSUE

Larry Noye writes: *Around Altona*, a newsletter circulating in the Melbourne suburb of Altona, commemorated its eighth issue with a luncheon in a Girl Guides Hall on 9 September 2007. Issue 8 comprised 24 pages, with notes and illustrations related to local organisations and people. Business and community organisations place ads. Copies are free and distribution relies on volunteers. Editor Bill McPherson writes of the need for a group to assist community organisations to apply for government grants on offer.

45.3.9 NZ REGIONAL DAILY SHIFTS TO MORNING ISSUE

Warren Page writes (*PANPA Bulletin*, August-September 2007, p.14): After 128 years as a daily afternoon broadsheet in New Zealand, the *Ashburton Guardian* (circulation 5,670) switched to morning publication on 13 August 2007.

45.3.10 FAIRFAX CLOSES THREE REGIONAL PRINTERIES

About 50 jobs were expected to be lost when Fairfax Media closed three regional printing presses – at Warrnambool, Victoria, and Nowra and Wagga Wagga, NSW – in November. A Fairfax spokesman said the decision was driven by an increased customer demand for full-colour advertising, pagination growth and better capacity utilisation at the high quality, more modern presses. He said the work carried out by the three presses had been transferred to other printing sites within the group, including the Canberra, Albury and Ballarat sites. Fairfax inherited some of the presses when it merged with Rural Press in May this year. Fairfax said employees would be offered jobs at the Ballarat plant, while others unable to relocate would receive redundancy settlements (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 October 2007).

45.3.11 BRETT CHRISTIAN'S UNCONVENTIONAL 30 YEARS

Brett Christian's unconventional *Post* newspaper group in Perth has celebrated its 30th birthday. And Paige Taylor, who worked for the *Subiaco Post*, 2000-04, wrote about it in the Media section of the *Australian*, 25 October 2007, p.33. Taylor says Christian unconventional *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* No 45 **December 2007** Page 12

management style runs to ‘Christmas bonuses for all staff, giving cadets the right to argue about headlines, and allowing reporters a level of autonomy unheard of elsewhere’. He has always refused ‘advertorials’, even when other newspapers taught advertisers to expect them (*Australian*, 25 October 2007, p.33).

45.3.12 WAUCHOPE GAZETTE CELEBRATES CENTENARY

The *Wauchope Gazette* issued a 100-page centenary edition of the newspaper with its 24-page ordinary issue of 18 October 2007. The centenary issue is loaded with historical articles about town and district and about the newspaper itself.

45.3.13 KALGOORLIE CAN’T ATTRACT SENIOR JOURNALISTS

The editor of the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, Michael Gorey, is finding he cannot attract senior journalists, or even those who have completed a cadetship, to work on Western Australia’s only regional daily. The *Miner* has finally gone online in the past couple of months (*Mediaweek*, 5 November 2007, p.7. (See 45.2.10)

45.3.14 DUBBO’S GOOD-NEWS PAPER

Dubbo, home of Fairfax Media’s *Daily Liberal*, has been since June 2005 the home also of a free local paper that ‘offers no bad news – in fact, no hard news at all – just pages of colourful photos of smiling residents and cheerful tidbits about their doings’ (*Australian*, Media section, 25 October 2007, p.34). *Dubbo Photo News* started as a monthly, distributing 4,000 copies. After five months it went weekly and in October 2007 it increased its print run for the seventh time, this time to 11,000 copies. Bob Holland is the paper’s co-founder and also the business development manager at Panscott Media. Panscott owner Tim Pankhurst has been surprised at how well the paper is doing, surprised enough to start another title, the *Orange Photo News*, in September this year. It began with a print run of 6,000 copies and has already gone to 7,000. The Orange partner is John Miller, a former long-time journalist with Fairfax Media’s *Central Western Daily* and also a former mayor of Orange. Other country centres where a *Photo News* may be started include Bathurst, Lithgow, Mudgee, Parkes-Forbes, Tamworth and even Wollongong and Newcastle.

45.3.15 COOKTOWN LOCAL NEWS ENLARGES TO TABLOID

Most newspapers that convert to tabloid downsize from broadsheet, but the *Cooktown Local News* had been a quarterfold for about 21 years. In fact, it began life as a school newsletter. The *News*, owned since April 2001 by Anni Baird, enlarged to tabloid on 18 July 2007. There are three on the staff – owner, editor and cadet journalist, but no sales reps. The two on-site staff members do everything ‘from writing, laying out, taking ads, phone calls, reception and emptying the bins’. Baird is a former journalist and manager at the *Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette*. Editor is Narelle Hine, who began as a cadet with WAN at the *Broome Advertiser* in 2001, worked at the *Darwin Sun* 2004-05 and then at the *Cairns Post*’s Port Douglas Bureau from May 2005 to November 2006. Former owners of the *News* – after it ceased to be a school newsletter – have been Bev Boucher, Graham and Ellie Campbell, and Peter Stapley (Source: Narelle Hine, E-mail messages to Rod Kirkpatrick, 20 and 22 October 2007).

45.3.16 TOOWOOMBA’S NEW PRINTERY

A new \$10 million press will soon be servicing the Toowoomba *Chronicle* from a site outside the CBD (in Industrial Avenue). Work is expected to be finished by about late January (*Chronicle*, 27 October 2007; *APN Password*, November 2007, p.48).

45.3.17 SCHOOL NEWS

The *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader* has adopted a student from each of 18 high schools in its region in a program to assist students interested in obtaining a career in the news media. The paper ran a workshop for the students on 23 August and afterwards were asked to submit an article to gauge what they had learned. They were given feedback on their articles
Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter No 45 **December 2007** Page 13

and suggestions on how to improve their writing. The *Leader* published one of the articles in hard copy and made other articles available online at theleader.com.au (*St George & Sutherland Shire Leader*, 11 October 2007, p.26).

45.3.18 LIGHTNING RIDGE PAPER CLOSES

The *Black Opal Advocate*, Lightning Ridge, NSW, closed on 20 December 2006, seven years after the *Lightning Flash* ceased publication there.

45.3.19 BENDIGO EDITOR ON MOVE

The editor of the *Bendigo Advertiser*, Leanne Younes, is leaving to take charge of educating 'journalists of the future' for Fairfax Media (*Advertiser*, Bendigo, 1 December 2007, online).

45.3.20 PORT AUGUSTA

ANHG 44.4.8 should have made clear that the *Transcontinental* news item mentioned had appeared in the online issue. The hard-copy issue carried more historical detail.

45.3.21 ECHUCA SCHOOLBOY'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Harry McLaurin, 13, lives in Crofton Street in the Murray River town of Echuca, and wants to be a journalist. So, he produces a weekly newspaper, the *Crofton Street Times*. He does the interviews, takes the photos, writes the stories, lays out the pages, prints the paper, and delivers it to the 18 homes in the street. He also writes to State, national and world leaders and they respond (*A Current Affair*, Nine Network, 30 November 2007).

4 – NEWSPAPER HISTORY

45.4.1 CHANGES AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The Newspapers and Microforms Reading Room at the National Library has introduced e-call slips for requesting hardcopy and microform newspaper material. In the catalogue these are indicated with an X in the call number, for example:

mfm NX – Australian newspapers on microfilm

mfm X – overseas newspapers on microfilm

NX – hardcopy Australian newspapers

X – hardcopy overseas newspapers

The NLA will extend e-call slips to other formats held in the Newspapers and Microforms Reading Room later in the year. This development enables you to request newspaper material online through the National Library's catalogue in the same way as you can already order books and journals. Collection material can be requested from any location with Internet access, such as from home or work and from any of the Library's reading rooms using your reader's card. You will be able to plan ahead and request newspaper material before coming to the Library. Library staff members have prepared instructions on searching the catalogue for newspaper titles and on how to request newspapers. These are available on the Library's website at <http://www.nla.gov.au/find/news.html> and in the Reading Rooms. [Inquiries to Mary Gosling, manager – newspapers and microforms reading room, phone (02) 6262 1505 or email mgosling@nla.gov.au]

45.4.2 DIGITISATION OF NEWSPAPERS (1): AUSTRALIA

Rosemary Sorensen reports (*Weekend Australian*, 13-14 October 2007, Review p.9): The National Library of Australia is not far from achieving the extraordinary goal of digitising every copy of a newspaper from every state, from the first edition through to 1954 (when copyright issues kick in). NLA director-general Jan Fullerton says that when the process is complete it will be possible to word-search the entire archive from home and for free.

On 23 November, the manager of the NLA's newspaper-digitisation program, Rose Holley, gave the Australian Media Traditions conference in Bathurst a full account of the program so

far. Holley joined the NLA in April after a 20-year career in libraries, most recently at the University of Auckland. She is managing an \$8 million budget for a project to digitise three million pages over four years. The project initially covers the equivalent of one newspaper in each State, up to a late as 1954. The newspapers selected are: *Argus* (Victoria); *Canberra Times* (ACT); *Sydney Gazette* (NSW); *Courier-Mail* (Queensland); *Northern Territory Times* and *Northern Standard* (Northern Territory); *West Australian* (Western Australia); *Advertiser* (South Australia); *Hobart Town Gazette, Courier, Colonial Times, Mercury* (Tasmania). Ms Holley said a donation from the Vincent Fairfax Foundation would allow the *Sydney Morning Herald*, from 1831-1954, to be added to the program. A public launch of the digitisation service would be conducted in 2008. For full information, you are strongly advised to visit www.nla.gov.au/ndp/

45.4.3 DIGITISATION OF NEWSPAPERS (2): NEW ZEALAND

Fryer Library at the University of Queensland reports: The National Library of New Zealand has produced a superb database of online full text newspapers and periodicals from 1840 to 1915 entitled 'Papers Past': <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>

From the sample searches that have been done we can see there is substantial reporting of Australian news here. In addition, the fact that much news reporting was syndicated means that this resource acts as useful entrée into Australian sources of the times in the absence of an Australian equivalent resource. University of Queensland staff and students are now able to access the *Sydney Morning Herald* Archives providing a searchable full text version of the *Sydney Morning Herald* from 1955 to 1990 <http://library.uq.edu.au/record=b1633274>

45.4.4 DIGITISATION OF NEWSPAPERS (3): UNITED KINGDOM

The *Guardian*, a famous United Kingdom newspaper, and the *Observer*, which claims to be the world's first Sunday newspaper, are going digital. So far, issues of the *Guardian*, 1821-1975, and the *Observer*, 1900-1975, are available. In early 2008, both newspapers will be online in their entirety. Both newspapers are searchable. Searching is free, but you must buy a timed access pass to view entire articles. Visit the *Guardian* website for more information: <http://archive.guardian.co.uk/Default/Skins/DigitalArchive/Client.asp?Skin=DigitalArchive&enter=true&AW=1194298449025&AppName=2>

45.4.5 PERTH DAILY NEWS BACK PAGE AND FRONT PAGE NEWS

Victor Isaacs writes: For much of the 1930s the Perth *Daily News* adopted a conventional arrangement for an afternoon paper, with Page 1 as the main news page. On 6 September 1938 it made a radical change, making the back page the main news page. The front page became the second most important news page. The *Daily News* explained that it should be read back page, turn to front page, then pages 2, 3 and so on. This it said 'makes the paper easier to read, especially in trams and buses... and you can get all the main news of the day without having to turn a page'. Only six months later on 6 March 1939, the *Daily News* changed from broadsheet to tabloid. It also then reverted to a conventional news arrangement, ie, with page 1 the main news page. [This information expands and alters the description of the Perth *Daily News*' format in Isaacs' book, *Looking Good: The Changing Appearance of Australian Newspapers*, recently published by the Australian Newspaper History Group. The book is available for \$22, including p&p, by cheque made out to R. Kirkpatrick (ANHG).]

45.4.6 THURSDAY ISLAND NEWSPAPER PRINTED ON SATIN

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: On 20 April 1889, the Governor of Queensland, Sir Henry Norman, was given two copies of the *Torres Straits Pilot* printed on satin when he visited Thursday Island (*Queensland Figaro*, 27 April 1889, p.647, col.2). The *Pilot* began publication on 31 December 1887. Edwin Rhode was manager, and Pat Dempsey, editor (*Townsville Daily Bulletin*, 3 and 11 January 1888). There is one copy of the *Torres Straits Pilot and New Guinea Gazette* on microfilm at the State Library of Queensland: Vol. III, No. 127, dated Saturday, 21 June 1890. The paper is said to have been published daily from 1923 until 1949.

(See also: John Harrison, 'Does the *Torres Straits Pilot* enlighten our frontier history?', *Australian Studies in Journalism*, No. 12, 2003, pp.1-17.)

45.4.7 A LITERARY MAN IN A LITERARY PLACE

A bronze bust of Hamilton Mott, a co-founder and first editor of the *Border Morning Mail*, Albury, has been unveiled in the Albury Library-Museum. The unveiling by Robert Mott, grandson of Hamilton, marked the official opening of the *Border Mail* Info-zone, an interactive display that presents moments in Albury's history as a virtual newspaper and allows users to 'flip the page' by touching the screen (*Border Mail*, 26 November 2007).

45.4.8 AUSTRALIAN MEDIA HISTORY DATABASE EXPANDS

At the Australian Media Traditions conference in Bathurst on 22-23 November, Dr Bridget Griffen-Foley launched a significantly expanded version of the Australian Media History database: <http://www.amhd.org.au/>

45.4.9 THE DAVID SYME CENTENARY

Elizabeth Morrison writes: The centenary of the death of Australia's nineteenth-century press magnate, David Syme, will be on 14 February 2008. Syme was a reticent man, not a socialiser. But if the grandeur of his Egyptianate tomb in the Boroondara Cemetery, Melbourne, is anything to go by (it was designed and built to his specifications) he was not modest about his importance and his achievements. They were considerable. Syme was known as the 'kingmaker' for his and his newspaper's political influence during his 48-year 'reign'. Proprietor (albeit for some of the time in family partnerships), managing editor and publisher, he built up the liberal-reformist *Melbourne Age* from being a shaky and struggling paper with a tiny circulation to being by the late 19th century the daily with the biggest circulation figures of any in the British Empire outside London. This is the stuff of legend – and history (Pratt, Sayers, McIntyre and others).

That he oversaw the policy, production and distribution of at least seven other publications has not yet received the same attention. When he took control of the *Age* in March 1860 he also acquired two weeklies that had been started early in 1855: the *Melbourne Leader*, then a 'family' magazine, and the *Weekly Age*, a digest for country readers of six issues of the daily *Age*. Four months later he launched a third weekly, the *Victorian Farmers' Journal and Gardeners' Chronicle*, the first agricultural periodical for Victoria. In 1864 the *Farmers' Journal* (*Victorian* had been dropped from the title in 1862) was incorporated into the *Weekly Age* and in 1868 the latter *Weekly Age* was incorporated into the *Leader* (*Melbourne* had also been dropped), which only then became the distinctive weekly for country people that ran until 1957.

In 1861 Syme started the *Australian News for Home Readers*, published monthly to catch the P&O mailboat. Incrementally it became the *Illustrated Australian News*, and appeared until 1896, the longest-lasting of the nineteenth-century Australian illustrated newspapers. In December 1868 Syme bought out a morning daily competitor, the *Herald*, and its companion monthly *Illustrated Melbourne Post*. The former he turned into an evening paper and on-sold it about two years later. The latter he had incorporated into his illustrated monthly.

For 20 years, from 1875 to 1894 Syme's newspaper business published the *Age Annual*, a directory and reference book for home and business. And, finally, from 1902 there was the weekly magazine *Every Saturday*, which was basically a miscellany of light reading. Its topics were taken from a selection of overseas newspapers. It ceased in 1912, four years after his death. The Melbourne daily *Age* is still going strong, even if its circulation to population ratio is not as favourable as at the time of David Syme's death. In 1908 there were 130,000 issues circulating daily for a Victorian population of some 1,240,000 persons: an impressive paper to persons ratio of 1 to 9.5.

(Dr Elizabeth Morrison is working on a book about David Syme and his newspapers.)

45.4.10 AUDIT OF RESEARCH INTERESTS (cont. from ANHG 44.4.3)

Farquharson, John: I have begun to research William Kerr, founder and first editor of the *Argus* in Melbourne. He was my wife's great-great grandfather. There are various published references to him, but I have in mind to put together a biography, initially for the family and, if possible, with a view to publication. I know there are family connections in Tasmania, where a portrait of Kerr is held by a family member. I would like to make some contact with them. If anyone can help I'd be grateful. Email: mirrima@bigpond.com

Condon, Veronica: Graduate of the University of Melbourne (MA, PhD) is editing the original manuscripts of David Syme's autobiography with a view to their publication; difficult because Syme is so repetitive and crosses out and re-writes topic after topic; many of the loose pages are without numbers and some comments are libelous; has finished Volume I of a more lighthearted work on Geoffrey Syme, his fourth son, who, aged almost 35, followed his 81-year-old father as managing editor of the *Age* and the *Leader*; she comments on the reasons behind the curious problem of why a hard-working journalist, a member of the *Age* staff since 1892 and knighted for his services to journalism in Australia, has been cut out of the history of the *Age*; Volume 2 is almost, but not quite finished; she has also written an analysis of the formation of the ill-fated company 'Syme partners'; this study is based on relevant contemporary documents, including notes taken at the first two meetings.

45.4.11 DISCOVERIES AT STATE RECORDS NSW

Janette Pelosi writes: I have found at State Records NSW eight issues of New South Wales newspapers previously not known to be extant and a further three new titles not previously known to be extant. None of these issues is listed as being held by the State Library of NSW. None of the discoveries below would have been possible without researcher Joan Reese's *Indexes to Convicts and Others*. Joan has been trawling through the Colonial Secretary's correspondence starting at 1826 and her published microfiche indexes, so far, go to 1877. She has noted all sorts of unusual and interesting documents which have been enclosed with letters received by the Colonial Secretary. Fortunately she has been noting newspaper issues and continues to do so. Thank you, Joan!

Every one of the issues below was an enclosure to a letter sent to the Colonial Secretary and often an article which was the subject of the letter was indicated by crosses or other marks on the newspaper. Many relate to reporting of criminal cases.

New extant issues:

Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser [SRNSW: NRS 905, 4/3471 enclosure to Letter No.62/2442 with Letter No.62/2999]. No.311, Saturday, 10 May 1862. Printed and published by William Hipgrave

Central Australian and Bourke Telegraph [SRNSW: NRS 905, 1/2384 enclosure to Letter No.77/7811]. No. XXXVI, Vol. 6, Saturday, 15 September 1877.

Printed and published by Caspar Joseph August Becker, at the office, Mitchell-street, Bourke, in the Colony of New South Wales. Terms of Subscription per annum in Advance, In Town £1; by post, £1 4s. 1 s per qr. extra if Credit. Proprietor, Mr C.J.A. Becker. Broadsheet of 4pp each with six columns.

Forbes Times and Currajong News [SRNSW: NRS 905, 1/2161 enclosure to Letter No.72/156]. No.63, Saturday, 11 November 1871 (Price 6d.).

The paper is 4 broadsheet pages with 7 columns wide. Some advertisements are illustrated (eg. G. Bollinger, Watchmaker, Tobacconist). Bush Reading. Bundles containing Twelve Uncu[t] Newspapers for One Shilling. Suitable for killing time and helping to relieve the monotony of life in the remote bush To be had at the Times Office, Forbes. This Journal is published every Saturday morning at 6 o'clock, and forwarded to all parts of the Lachlan and Burrangong districts, and by Mail circulated through all parts of New South Wales and adjacent colonies. Subscriptions. Town Subscribers 6s. 6d per Quarter, payable in advance Country Subscribers, payable in advance, 7s. 6d. Single copies, 6d. Printed and published by Charles St. Baker (sole proprietor) at Court House Square, Forbes. The Masthead crest is a kangaroo on the left and an emu on the right with the motto ADVANCE

AUSTRALIA. Published at Forbes & Currajong every Saturday morning at eight o'clock and Distributed by Runners over the Whole of the Diggings.

Hay Standard and Advertiser for Balranald, Wentworth, Maude, Booligal, Wilcannia, Menindee, Bourke, &c. [SRNSW: NRS 905, 1/2264 enclosure to Letter No.74/4085 with Letter No.74/5455]. No.153 Hay, Murrumbidgee River, Wednesday, 8 July 1874. 5s. per quarter in advance. Motto: Impartial, Not Neutral.

Printed and published by Frederick Jellieffe Steane for the proprietors, D.G. Jones and Co., at Wharf, Hay, Murrumbidgee River, New South Wales. This issue was filed with correspondence relating to the possibly irregular filling of a vacancy as an alderman in the Municipal District of Hay.

Mining Record and Grenfell General Advertiser [SRNSW: NRS 905, 1/2252 enclosure to Letter No. 74/1903 with Letter No.74/1943]. Vol. VI No.356, Grenfell, Saturday, March 21, 1874 (Price 6d.)

The Mining Record is published at the Office, George-street, Grenfell, every Saturday morning. It is a broadsheet paper of 4 pages. Page one includes an advertisement for The 'Mining Record' Job Printing Office.

Newcastle Pilot and Shipping, Mining and Mercantile Record [SRNSW: NRS 905, 4/649 enclosure to Letter No.69/1143]. Vol. II No.106 14 April 1869 Newcastle, Wednesday, April 4, 1869 (Price 2d.)

Published every Wednesday and Saturday morning. At five o'clock. Printed and Published by the Proprietor, Maxted & Co., at their General Printing Establishment, Hunter-street, Newcastle aforesaid. The paper is printed on a sheet with dimensions 460mm by 615mm folded folio making four printed pages. Pages are unnumbered and have six columns per page. The issue includes advertisements on page 1, Shipping Intelligence, Garden and Field Calendar, Latest Intelligence and an editorial on page 2, Local Intelligence, Correspondence, Police Intelligence and advertisements on page 3. Page 4 includes a counter petition re Wallsend Municipality which was also published in the Newcastle Chronicle on 10 and/or 13 April 1869 according to an annotation. The letter enclosing the issue (SRNSW: NRS 905, 4/649 Letter No. 69/1143) relates to this counter petition.

Tamworth News and Liverpool Plains and Gwydir Districts' Advertiser [SRNSW: NRS 905, 1/2283 enclosure to Letter No.75/845]. Vol. III Tuesday Morning, Jan. 12, 1875 (earliest extant issue)

Western Independent [SRNSW: NRS 905, 1/2283 enclosure to Letter No.74/2563 with Letter No.75/807]. Vol. IV. No.180, Bathurst, Tuesday, 21 April 1874 (Price 4d.)

Motto: 'Sworn to No Master: of No Sect Am I'

Published in Bathurst and circulating largely there, as well as in the district, through the Macquarie Plains generally, and in adjacent towns, also in the Western Goldfields and Copper Mines. Issued from the office of the proprietor, A.B. Rae, William-street, Bathurst, each Tuesday and Friday morning.

New extant titles

The three titles which it appears were previously not known to be extant are:

New England Times [SRNSW: NRS 905, 1/2649 enclosure to Letter No.72/3604] No.40 Vol. 1, Glen Innes, Wednesday, 4 October 1871. Printed and published by Thomas Connor and Jesse Enhwood Wiblen, General Printing Office, Grey-street, Glen Innes. The title is in Gothic. It is four pages each of seven columns.

Newcastle Figaro, and Great Northern Licensed Victuallers' Gazette [SRNSW: NRS 905, 1/2649 enclosure to Letter No. 87/6720]. Vol. I. No.9. Newcastle, Saturday, 18 June 1887 (mentioned in Rod Kirkpatrick, *Country Conscience*, p.61, as *Newcastle Illustrated Figaro*, April 1887, two or three months). Illustrated. Editor is James Edward Craswell..

Sunday Newsman [SRNSW: NRS 905, 1/2270 enclosure to Dept. of Justice and Public Instruction Letter No.74/7635 with CSIL Letter No.74/7190]. Vol. I No.1, Sydney, Sunday, 15 November 1874. Printed for the Proprietor by F. Cunninghame & Co. at 186 Pitt-street, Sydney. (Continued by *Stockwhip* in 1875.)

5 - RECENTLY PUBLISHED

45.5.1 BOOKS

French, Jackie, *The Shaggy Gully Times*. Harper Collins, 2007. ISBN 9780732284107. Signed copies available at Studio Altenburg for \$29.95

Children's book that takes on the format of a local paper for Shaggy Gully, the scene of some of French's earlier books such as *Diary of a Wombat*, and *Josephine Loves to Dance*; large format hardback, 32pp of news, letters, advertising and even Horror Scopes. French prefaces the book with 'A Tribute to Country Weeklies' saying that 'a country town's newspaper is the heart of its community'.

O'Grady, Desmond, *Dinny Going Down*: Melbourne, Arcadia/Australian Scholarly Publishing (PO Box 299, Kew, Vic. 3101), 329 pp, (\$24.95). A novel about the gritty world of the Sydney evening papers about 40 years ago.

Spennemann, Dirk H.R., *Gedruckt in Samoa. A bibliographic Analysis of the Samoanisches Gouvernements-Blatt and other Printing in German Samoa (1901–1914)*. Albury, NSW (2006). 21cm, xii, 174 pp. ISBN 978 1 921220 05 0. (Available free via the web from www.heritagefutures.biz)

Germany was a relative late-comer on the colonial scene. While the impact and legacy of the German colonial experience in Africa, China and the South Pacific has been examined by historians, few studies exist which try to assess the nature of newspaper publishing in the German colonies. What exists are very general overviews or a well repeated discussion of a specific event, namely as the conflict between the press and the colonial administration in German East Africa. The Pacific has been ignored in this regard. The present study of the publication output of the *Samoanische Zeitung* breaks new ground in two aspects. It is the first of its kind dealing with the situation in the German Pacific, and it is the first of its kind that tries to look holistically at the entire publication output of a single publisher.

45.5.2 ARTICLES

Bantick, Stephen, 'The State Library of Victoria: Custodian of Victoria's cultural life', *National Library of Australia News*, November 2007, pp.18-21. A Melbourne journalist interviews Jock Murphy, the Collection Service Manager at the State Library of Victoria, about how the library's collections have changed over the years.

Chadwick, Paul, 'Journalism must adapt to change', *Age*, 17 September 2007. Technology has brought a new transparency to the publication of news in a wide range of formats.

Clarke, Patricia, 'Pioneer woman journalist: Stella Allan in Wellington and Melbourne', *Margin*, No 71, April 2007, pp.15-26.

Holt, Stephen, 'The ultimate insider', *National Library of Australia News*, July 2006. An article reflecting on the career of influential political journalist Alan Reid.

Holt, Stephen, 'The Bandar-Log: A literary hot potato', *National Library of Australia News*, April 2004. The Colin Roderick Papers, in the Manuscripts Collection of the National Library, include a caché of material from the early 1960s that illuminates an intriguing incident in Australian political and literary history.

Horsfield, Jennifer, 'Pro Patria: The conscription debates in the Great War', *National Library of Australia News*, November 2007, pp.7-10. The author draws upon written records in the Library to examine the effect on some of the women who lived in the Canberra region of the bitter conscription debates of 1916 and 1917 (A major arena for the debates was the newspapers, and the Horsfield article features two items extracted from the *Queanbeyan Age*).

Huxley, John, 'Ghost of the past finally laid to rest', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15-16 September 2007, p.10. An unusual story of an aircraft owned by the *Herald* that crashed on 14 September 1954 on a flight during which it was to deliver newspapers to Taree, Kempsey, Armidale, Glen Innes, Inverell and Bingara.

Kirkpatrick, Rod, 'Esperance lived in hope of news for 66 years', *PANPA Bulletin*, August-September 2007, pp.58-59. A potted history of newspapers in Esperance, Western Australia.

Pearson, Christopher, 'Fourth estate let us down', *Weekend Australian*, 24-25 November 2007, p.25. A review of the news media's coverage of the election issues and party leaders in the lead-up to the 24 November federal election.

Pollard, Ruth, 'An imbalance of experience', *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 47, October-November 2007, pp.33-34. Crackpots and nay-sayers are hijacking journalists'

commitment to balanced reporting. It's time to shrug off these false experts and concentrate on delivering the facts, argues the federal media president of the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance.

Pope, Conor, 'Stop the press', *Irish Times*, 'Innovation' magazine, October 2007, pp.51-52. The long-heralded death of traditional news media may be some time away, but the pace of change is increasing.

Putnis, Peter, 'Overseas News in the Australian Press in 1870 and the Colonial Experience of the Franco-Prussian War' in *History Australia*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2007. Examines content and forms of overseas news in Australian press in 1870; considers the way the production of such news was determined by the available channels of communication between Australia and rest of the world.

Rankin, Gwen, 'Power to Sell: Women and the aesthetics of the commodity culture', *National Library of Australia News*, December 2007. The author examines the female form in advertisements as revealed in the National Library's newspapers collection.

Ricketson, Matthew, 'The media's scrutineer still has value', *Age*, 22 September 2007. What form *Media Watch* on ABC-TV will take next year is anyone's guess. (See also: *Australian*, 'Media Watch producer quits', 19 September 2007, p.3; 'Media Watch talent search as Attard goes', 20 September, p.7; and 'Silence prolongs the suffering', editorial, *Australian*, 8 October 2007).

Ricketson, Matthew, 'Cyberspace democracy', *Age*, 15 October 2007, p.8. Politicians are struggling to get a grip on the new media.

Salter, David, 'Cloak of 'public interest' masks more selfish motives', *Australian*, 12 November 2007, p.16. Memo to the Right to Know campaign: freedom of speech and freedom of the press are not the same thing, argues a former *Media Watch* producer.

Samandar, Lema, 'All the Bundeena PS news that's fit to print', *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, 11 October 2007, p.27. Bundeena Public School students produce the school's new newspaper, *Our School*, in lead-up to 60th anniversary celebrations in 2008.

Saunders, Sarah, 'In Print', *50 Something*, October/November 2007, pp.16-18. An interview with Ita Buttrose, former editor of the *Australian Women's Weekly* (amongst other publications).

Warden, Ian, 'Nervous wreck restored to health': Australian press advertisements during the Great War', *National Library of Australia News*, October 2007, pp.12-40. An investigation of some imaginative wartime promotions seen in the Newspapers Collection of the National Library.

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