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NEWSLETTER

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1 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: NATIONAL & METROPOLITAN

46.1.1 FINAL PAGE TURNED FOR BUSHMAN'S BIBLE

The *Bulletin*, launched by J.F. Archibald and John Haynes on 31 January 1880, closed just as it completed its 128th year of publication. The final issue, labelled "Australia Day 2008, Souvenir Issue" carries a "Why We Love Australia" theme, and is dated 29 January 2008. On 24 January, two days after the magazine appeared in newsagencies, the closure was announced. As John Lyons put it (*Australian*, 25 January 2008, pp1, 4): "An American chief executive working for a Scottish boss who represents a Hong Kong private equity fund yesterday closed an Australian institution with a 128-year-old publishing history. Welcome to the brave, but soulless, new world." Mike Carlton said (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 26-27 January 2008, p.36): "It was a grey day for journalism in this country. We have lost a family jewel; a diamond tarnished over the years, to be sure, but of priceless sentimental value."

Sir Frank Packer bought the magazine in 1960 and it became one of Kerry Packer's pet "projects". Yet the private-equity firm now in control did not pay Kerry Packer's widow, Ros, the courtesy of a telephone call to tell her the magazine would be closed. She found out from the TV news. Mike Steketee reported (*Australian*, 25 Jan., p.4): "The death of Kerry Packer left the *Bulletin* friendless. His son James showed little sign of attachment to his media assets or little interest in using the prestige of the *Bulletin* as a vehicle for political influence. Its new owners treated it little differently from any other product line: it was not moving off the shelves fast enough so it was time to stop producing it."

Peter Coleman, a *Bulletin* editor of the 1960s, provided a fascinating historical insight into the magazine through his article, "Changing focus robs old girl of her lifeblood" (*Australian*, 25 Jan., p.14). Coleman wrote: "The death blow to the old *Bulletin* was the decision to merge it with the US *Newsweek*. The lifeblood of the paper, the source of its readers' and writers' loyalty, was its Australian voice. To become half-American was to admit defeat and commit suicide." David Dale, *Bulletin* editor, 1988-90, wrote (*SMH*, 25 January 2008, p.12): "It's sad that a piece of Australian history is disappearing from our newsstands, but it's not surprising. If not for Packer's nostalgia, it would have gone 10 years ago." Garry Linnell, editor, 2002-

06, wrote (*Daily Telegraph*, 25 Jan., p.33) that when he asked Kerry Packer what he wanted from the magazine, Packer had answered: “Son, just make ’em talk about it.”

The *Australian* editorialised on the end of the *Bulletin* (25 Jan., p.15), as did the *Daily Telegraph* (25 Jan., p.32). *Oz* readers expressed their views in the letters column (*Weekend Australian*, 26-27 January 2008, p.18). Trea Wiltshire, of Darlington, WA, wrote: “How truly tragic that, on the eve of Australia Day 2008, as we celebrate our nation, a magazine that has featured some of our greatest writers should fold in the hands of a Hong Kong private equity fund.” Phillip Adams provided other fascinating insights into the *Bulletin* and Kerry Packer and “the Goanna” in his column (*Australian*, 29 January 2008, p.12). See also: Damien Murphy, Miriam Steffens and Alex Tibbitts, “A voice that bellowed, cajoled and caressed”, *SMH*, 25 Jan., p.12.

Sally Jackson wrote (*Australian*, Media section, 31 Jan., p.34) about the changing definition of “news” for weekly magazines and highlighted the views of *Time*’s Australian editor, Steve Waterson. Seeing the writing on the wall for weeklies as the bearers of news, in January 2007 Time Inc. invested heavily in relaunching the **Time.com** website as its newsbreaking organ, leaving the print magazine primarily as a repository of commentary and analysis.

Peter Olszewski indulged in some fascinating reminiscences of his time as a *Bulletin* reporter, touching on Malcolm Fraser, travel expenses in Mombassa, and criss-crossing outback western NSW and Queensland while covering the 1995 Waltzing Matilda centenary (*Mediaweek*, 4 February 2008, p.6).

Barry Blair writes: “My memories of the *Bulletin* are from 1941-42 when I was about 4-5 years old. I lived on a family farm at Kincumber on the NSW Central Coast. My mother would give me a billycan of hot soup to take across the road to Alex, a bachelor neighbour. Seated in front of the kitchen wood stove, he would sit me on his knee, feed me a stale Arnott’s wholemeal biscuit, and read aloud poem after poem from the *Bulletin*, laughing his head off all the while. It was just into the post Banjo Paterson era. Alex was a bushman, and in earlier years had worked cutting railway sleepers at Eungai, on the north coast of NSW.”

46.1.2 MURDOCH AND PACKER NEXT-G

Lachlan Murdoch has unveiled a \$3.3 billion proposal to take control of Australia’s third-largest media company, Consolidated Media Holdings. He said he would have his “work cut out” to make money from the deal. Under the terms of the scheme of arrangement to be put to shareholders, Murdoch’s private company, Illyria, and James Packer’s private vehicle Consolidated Press Holdings will each take a 50 per cent stake in a joint venture vehicle which will run the assets. Murdoch will be executive chairman of the new vehicle. If the deal is approved, the new vehicle will include stakes in Foxtel, Fox Sports, PBL Media (which owns the Nine Network and ACP Magazines), but not CMH’s stake in Seek, which would be sold to shareholders as part of the scheme of arrangement. The effective \$4.80 proposed price – which includes a component of 0.1116 shares for each CMH share owned – represents a 30 per cent premium to CMH’s closing price on 18 January. Murdoch told the *Australian* (22 January 2008, p.17) this price level was daunting. “If we’re successful, I’ve got my work cut out justifying those multiples. We’re effectively paying a 17 times EBITDA multiple for the pay TV businesses, which represents a huge premium.” Asked if he would be looking to make purchases involving the new joint venture vehicle, Murdoch replied: “I’m concentrating on this one. One transaction at a time.”

The *Australian* (23 January 2008, p.2) reported that Lachlan Murdoch will face scrutiny from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission over his role on the News Corporation Board, as part of an investigation into the deal with James Packer to privatise Consolidated Media Holdings.

46.1.3 FAIRFAX MEDIA ON THE MOVE

46.1.3.1. Melbourne

“Meet you outside *The Age*” – it’s a phrase that the designers of Fairfax Media’s new Melbourne headquarters hope will slip into common use. The design of the \$110 million building at the crossroads of Docklands and the CBD, launched on 13 December before staff and local luminaries, is designed to welcome public use and will integrate new and old technology, such as online, broadcast and print media. It will have a long, grassy forecourt, a public café, plaza and gallery of *Age* photography. A large video screen and a simulated ticker tape newsreel will transmit breaking news, and the lower editorial floors will be visible from the street. Premier John Brumby presided over the launch in the basement of the newspaper’s current home at 250 Spencer Street. The building is due to be completed in late 2009 and should achieve a five-star Green Star rating. It will house about 1400 Fairfax Media staff from the *Age*, 3AW, Fairfax Digital and the Melbourne bureaus of the *Australian Financial Review* and *Business Review Weekly*. Fairfax Media chairman Ron Walker said the building, located at the south-west corner of Collins and Spencer streets, opposite Southern Cross Station, would cement *The Age* at “the heart of the city”. Fairfax chief executive David Kirk said the project was about creating a digital media hub where print and online editors worked together to present news via print, computer, mobile phone, radio and “whatever technology comes next “. The building’s seven storeys will have about 16,000 square metres of space. The north face will extend about 150 metres along Collins Street, increasing natural light. Guests included members of the Syme family, who bought the *Age* in 1856 (*Age*, 14 December 2007; see also *Mediaweek*, 21-28 January 2008, p.11).

46.1.3.2 Sydney

The Fairfax Media Ltd move to new Sydney premises at Darling Island has been described as the biggest move in recent Australian newspaper history. The *Sydney Morning Herald* moved in mid-November and the *Australian Financial Review* moved at the beginning of December (*Mediaweek*, 3 December 2007, p.2).

46.1.4 WE’RE NEWS

The *Weekend Australian* carried a three-page advertisement (15-16 December 2007, pp.9-11) for its parent company, News Corporation. Some extracts: “Free people. Free markets. Free thinking. That’s what we believe in. Confronting the issues, pushing the debate, breaking the story, creating the new format, producing the next blockbuster.” (p.9) “Defying conventional wisdom for six decades: Time and again, they said it couldn’t be done. Time and again, we did it.” (Accompanies News Corp timeline from 1950s to present day, pp.10-11).

46.1.5 FOCUS ON THE AGE

Melbourne’s *Age* was the focus of an end-of-year article in *Mediaweek* (10-17 December 2007, pp.8-9) because it had achieved success in a number of areas in 2007, including winning the PANPA Newspaper of the Year Award.

46.1.6 JAMES MURDOCH JOINS NEWS CORP BOARD

James Murdoch, second son of Rupert Murdoch, has become a director on the board of News Corporation and he is now a member of the Office of the Chairman (*Australian*, 10 December 2007, pp.33-34).

46.1.7 RACEHORSE OWNER SUES HERALD SUN

Businessman and racehorse owner Peter Sean Buckley is seeking more than \$2 million damages in a defamation action over *Herald Sun* articles linking him with drug fugitive Tony Mokbel (*Age*, 22 December 2007).

46.1.8 CIRCULATION: NATIONAL AND METROPOLITAN

National newspapers recorded the best increases in circulation during the October-December 2007 period, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations figures issued on 14 February.

	Circulation			Readership	
	Oct-Dec 2007	Oct-Dec 2006	% variation	12 mths to Dec 2007	% variation
National					
<i>Australian</i>	135,000+	134,610	0.29	485,000	11.49
<i>Weekend Australian</i>	300,000+	298,107	0.64	840,000	1.45
<i>Aust Financial Review</i>	88,247	86,287	2.27	265,000	3.92
<i>Aust Financial Review (Sat)</i>	96,166	92,781	3.65	149,000	-13.87
NSW					
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	375,000+	3912,832	-4.30	1,177,000	2.79
<i>Daily Telegraph (Sat)</i>	319,000+	341,917	-6.70	975,000	5.29
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	670,000+	648,072	-2.06	1,749,000	-1.46
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	211,170	212,300	-0.53	942,000	7.66
<i>Sydney Morning Herald (Sat)</i>	360,000+	360,000+	0.00	1,204,000	2.64
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	500,000+	510,000+	-1.96	1,365,000	1.26
Victoria					
<i>Herald Sun</i>	530,000+	535,000+	-0.93	1,484,000	1.02
<i>Herald Sun (Sat)</i>	509,500+	509,000+	0.10	1,418,000	1.58
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	623,500+	615,000+	1.38	1,542,000	1.25
<i>Age</i>	204,100+	202,000+	1.04	767,000	5.21
<i>Age (Sat)</i>	298,500+	298,000+	0.17	949,000	0.96
<i>Sunday Age</i>	226,000+	214,000+	5.61	722,000	0.98
Queensland					
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	220,850+	218,648	1.01	622,000	1.30
<i>Courier-Mail (Sat)</i>	305,215	322,188	-5.27	871,000	-2.13
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	581,418	601,357	-3.31	1,440,000	-4.95
South Australia					
<i>Advertiser</i>	190,374	191,100+	-0.38	521,000	-6.96
<i>Advertiser (Sat)</i>	262,591	263,843+	-0.10	675,000	-6.64
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	320,684	321,590+	-0.28	753,000	-1.18
Western Australia					
<i>West Australian</i>	198,316	200,687	-1.18	588,000	0.17
<i>West Australian (Sat)</i>	344,432	357,030	-3.53	911,000	-4.61
<i>Sunday Times</i>	341,500+	341,000+	0.15	816,000	-3.89-
Tasmania					
<i>Mercury</i>	46,654	46,603	0.11	120,000	-6.98
<i>Mercury (Sat)</i>	61,664	61,451	0.35	148,000	-4.52
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	60,225	60,471	-0.41	138,000	-4.17
<i>Sunday Examiner</i>	41,854	42,388	-1.30	103,000	-1.00
Northern Territory					
<i>Northern Territory News</i>	20,508	20,431	0.38	44,000	-12.00
<i>NT News (Sat)</i>	30,697	30,605	0.30	44,000	-7.94
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	21,603	21,773	-0.78	47,000	0.00
ACT					
<i>Canberra Times</i>	35,701	35,193	1.4	106,000	-4.50
<i>Canberra Times (Sat)</i>	61,976	63,644	-2.60	166,000	0.60
<i>Canberra Times (Sun)</i>	35,564	34,720	2.45	98,000	1.00

46.1.9 RECENT CHRONOLOGY

46.1.9.1 EVENTS

5 January 2008: The 175th anniversary of the launch of the *Perth Gazette*, to which the *West Australian* likes to trace its origins.

21 January 2008: Lachlan Murdoch and James Packer announce \$3.3 billion deal to privatise Consolidated Media Holdings.

24 January 2008: ACP Magazines announces that the *Bulletin* magazine, first issued on 31 January 1880, has ceased publication.

29 January 2008: Date borne by final issue of the *Bulletin*.

31 January 2008: The *Australian's* media section returns after last appearing on 13 December and it carried an informative chronology of “the big news in media and marketing” during its absence (p.34).

13 February 2008: The Federal Parliament says sorry to the Stolen Generations of indigenous Australians; extensive reporting of the speech and the response of Australians appears in daily newspapers the next day.

46.1.9.2 DEATHS

Burns, Creighton Lee: D. 19 January 2008 in Melbourne, aged 82; made it to the top ranks in three careers: the academic world (Victorian Rhodes Scholar, 1948; first-class honours in philosophy, politics and economics, Balliol College, Oxford, 1951, MA, Oxford, 1956; senior lecturer and then reader in political science, University of Melbourne, 1953-64); foreign correspondent (he was the *Age's* man in South-East Asia, 1964-67, and Washington, 1975-81); and as a brave and feisty editor of the *Age*; as editor, he was both highly successful — winning the Graham Perkin Award as Australian Journalist of the Year in 1984 and being made an officer of the Order of Australia in 1991 — and unlucky. After 15 years of mounting reputation and readership (circulation was nudging 250,000 under Davie), the *Age*, and the newspaper industry in general, were heading into rougher weather just as Burns took over the helm (*Sunday Age*, 20 January 2008).

Burns, James Stanley Sutherland: D. 7 January 2008 in Hobart, aged 84; joined Hobart *Mercury* in 1955 as an assistant in the reading room; became a journalist several years later; was the motoring writer for eight years; appointed features manager in 1970; known for his entertaining, opinionated column (under the pen name, “Dave Macquarie”) on food and wine in the now defunct *Saturday Evening Mercury*, Hobart; served two years as editor of the daily *Mercury* from March, 1984; oversaw the planning and introduction of the *Sunday Tasmanian*; was a determined moderniser, working to change the design of the newspaper; appointed executive editor in March 1986 and retired in August 1987 (*Mercury*, 14 January 2008).

Carlton, Norman: D. 12 January 2008 in Melbourne, aged 84; son of Clarrie, founder of *Sunshine Advocate* in suburban Melbourne; reporter for *Advocate* for many years; wrote a local history; president of Sunshine Historical Society, 1996-2005 (source: Larry Noye).

Harvey, Sandra: D. 21 January 2008 in Sydney, aged 49; former ABC, Australian Associated Press and *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist, who wrote a number of highly acclaimed non-fiction books about Australian crimes; wrote *Brothers in Arms*, an account of the 1984 Milperra bikie massacre in western Sydney, with Lindsay Simpson; the book has been consistently reprinted for 19 years (*Australian*, 22 January 2008).

Ketels, Olive: D. 25 August 2007, at Warrnambool, aged 91; said to be Victoria's first female Linotype operator; learned the art of typesetting from her step-father, newspaperman George Hopkins who roamed country Victoria and southern NSW; extended her skills to become a journalist, sub-editor, layout artist and composing-room stonehand on the *Leongatha Echo* (*Age*, 1 December 2007, p.10).

McGuinness, Pdraic Pearse: D. 26 January 2008 in Sydney, aged 69; son of Frank Vincent McGuinness, editor at times of Melbourne *Truth* and Sydney *Daily Mirror*; began career as cadet on *Sydney Morning Herald*, but was sacked after short time; worked as *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* No 46

university lecturer, stagehand for the Australian Opera, psychiatric nurse and a labourer for the Sydney Water Board; worked overseas as economist from 1963; returned to Australia in 1971 and wrote economic pieces and film reviews for the *National Times*; after 18 months became economics adviser to Social Security Minister, Bill Hayden; left in 1974 to become economics editor for the *Australian Financial Review* and was editor-in-chief, 1982-85 and later its European editor; fiercely independent journalistic commentator; wrote a column for the *Australian*, 1989-94, and then for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age*; editor of *Quadrant*, 1997-2007 (*Australian*, 28 January 2008, p.6; *Age*, 29 Jan.; see also Bill Hayden's tribute, *Aust.*, 29 Jan., p.12, the *Australian's* editorial, 30 Jan., p.9, Frank Devine's tribute, *Aust.*, 1 Feb., p.11, Paul Keating's "vitriolic attack", *Australian Financial Review*, 31 Jan. and the *Australian's* report on the response to Keating article, 1 Feb., p.3, and its reprint, 1 Feb., p.13, of a McGuinness column, *Aust.*, 15 April 1989, about Keating's vitriol).

Mummery, Dale: D. December 2007, aged 71; began as cadet reporter on Sydney's *Daily Mirror* in 1952; foundation staff member of the *Australian* in 1964; press secretary to Sir William McMahon when Prime Minister; returned to News Ltd and worked in executive positions, including editorial systems manager (*Australian*, 20 December 2007).

46.1.10 MURDOCH AND DOW JONES

News Corporation chairman Rupert Murdoch achieved in mid-December his long-held ambition of owning the *Wall Street Journal*, one of the world's great newspapers. He ended more than 100 years of ownership by the Bancroft family (*Weekend Australian*, 15-16 December 2007, pp.33, 36).

46.1.11 AUSTRALIANS BUY CAMBODIA NEWSPAPER

Ross Dunkley and Bill Clough, two Australian businessmen with media interests in Burma, have bought a controlling interest in the fortnightly *Phnom Penh Post*, Cambodia's best known English-language newspaper, and its most independent paper (*Australian*, 9 January 2008, p.6). They have appointed *Mediaweek* contributor Peter Olszewski as bureau chief of Siem Reap, Cambodia's second largest city. Dunkley and Clough bought the *Post* from American expat publisher, Michael Hayes, who founded it in July 1992 (*Mediaweek*, 21-28 January 2008, p.2).

46.1.12 THE WEST AND THE REST

The *West Australian* says it is celebrating 175 years of publication, tracing its roots back to the *Perth Gazette*, launched on 5 January 1833. If its claims were true, this would make it Australia's second oldest newspaper. The title, the *West Australian*, dates back only to 1879. Various titles with various owners (*Mediaweek*, 21-28 January 2008, p.10).

46.1.13 PEOPLE

Deborah Cameron, a *Sydney Morning Herald* writer, has landed the plum morning shift on ABC702, Sydney (*Australian*, 6 December 2007, p.7).

Mark Latham, the Federal Opposition Leader from December 2003 to January 2005, began contributing a fortnightly column to the *Australian Financial Review* on 8 February (*Australian Financial Review*, 8 February 2008).

Hugh Massingberd, who developed the obituary into entertaining and irreverent brilliance at the *Daily Telegraph*, London, died, aged 60, on 25 December 2007 (*Australian*, 28 December 2007, p.7).

Laurie Oakes, political editor of the National Nine News Network, became a columnist for News Ltd's metro dailies, the *Daily Telegraph* (Sydney), *Herald Sun* (Melbourne), *Courier-Mail* (Brisbane) and *Advertiser* (Adelaide) on 16 February. He formerly wrote a column for the *Bulletin* (*Courier-Mail*, 1 February 2008).

Matt Price, who died on 25 November 2007, aged 46, was farewelled by journalists, politicians and members of the public at a memorial service in the Great Hall of Parliament House, Canberra, on 13 December (*Australian*, 14 December 2007, p.7; also see ANHG *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* No 46 February 2008 Page 6

45.1.6.2). Condolences were offered in Federal Parliament on 12 February (*Weekend Australian*, 16-17 February 2008, p.28).

Jo Puccini has been appointed executive producer of *Media Watch*, replacing Tim Palmer. She will join the new program host, Jonathan Holmes, her former *Four Corners* colleague, in April when she returns from maternity leave (see ANHG 45.1.9).

Caroline Roessler has been appointed as editor of News Magazines' *Notebook*. She was the managing editor of the monthly *Australian Women's Weekly* and is a former editor of the short-lived *Inside Melbourne* magazine (News Magazines, media release, 19 December 2007).

Tom Switzer, the *Australian's* longest-serving opinion-page editor, has taken up a position as a senior adviser to Opposition Leader Brendan Nelson on foreign policy issue. Switzer had been with the *Australian* 6½ years (*Australian*, Media section, 7 February 2008, p.37).

Hedley Thomas, winner of the most recent Gold Walkley, left the *Australian* on 8 February after 18 months on the national broadsheet and 23 years on News Limited papers, the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *Courier-Mail* and the *South China Morning Post*. Thomas told Amanda Meade he had been offered a senior executive position with a Queensland gas company and he wanted "to try his hand at something other than journalism". He was to have finished on 1 February, but he had a few unfinished stories at the newspaper. He scored the front page on 5 February with a story about a war hero wrongly accused by the Fairfax press of being a war criminal (*Australian*, Media section, 31 January 2008, p.38, and 7 February 2008, p.40).

Paul Toohey, award-winning journalist, has rejoined the *Australian* after working for the *Bulletin*. He is based in Darwin as the Northern Territory chief reporter (*Weekend Australian*, 19-20 January 2008). His first major report, "Standing on secret ground", appeared in the *Weekend Australian*, 2-3 February, p.24.

46.1.14 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Ross Roderick Gittins, of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Australia Day honours – for service to journalism as a commentator on economic theory, policy and behavioural economics, and to accountancy. **Raymond John Leeson**, editor of the *Goulburn Post*, 1952-1988, was given a similar award for service to the print media and to the community.

46.1.15 BURROWS DEPARTS FAIRFAX MEDIA BOARD

The Fairfax Media board has forced the resignation of deputy chairman Mark Burrows, a director for 12 years. The resignation is over conflicts arising from Burrows' role advising media rival Lachlan Murdoch. Burrows' firm, Lazard Carnegie Wylie, is named as the principal adviser in the \$3.3 billion privatization of Consolidated Media Holdings by Murdoch's company, Illyria (*Australian*, 1 February 2008, p.21).

46.1.16 AFTER 13,000 CARTOONS, ATCHISON LEAVES ADVERTISER

When cartoonist Michael Atchison retired after 40 years with the Adelaide *Advertiser*, the newspaper calculated he had penned 13,000 cartoons for 10 editors. He said the Hawke/Keating era was the best time to be a cartoonist. "They were two giant egos, absolute sitters for cartoonists." *Advertiser* editor Melvin Mansell has been running a competition to find a new daily cartoonist (*Mediaweek*, 4 February 2008, p.2).

46.1.17 SATURDAY COURIER-MAIL INCREASES PRICE

The cover price of Saturday *Courier-Mail* increased from \$1.80 to \$2 on 2 February. On 9 February, the colour magazine, *Qweekend*, was a record size, 150 pages, largely because of the opening that night of the new David Jones' store at Queensplaza, Brisbane.

46.1.18 DAME ELISABETH TURNS 99

On 7 February, the day before Dame Elisabeth Murdoch celebrated her 99th birthday, the Victorian Arts Ministry announced a tapestry had been commissioned in her honour. The work will hang in the foyer of the new \$75 million Melbourne Recital Centre, due to open

early next year. Dame Elisabeth, a patron of the Victorian Tapestry Workshop and the new recital centre, is the widow of Sir Keith Murdoch and mother of Rupert Murdoch (*Australian*, 8 February 2008, p.10).

46.1.19 FIFTH CARTOONIST FOR MEGGS

A young Perth cartoonist, Jason Chatfield, hopes to spend the rest of his life keeping Australia's longest-running comic strip, *Ginger Meggs*, in the daily papers. Chatfield is the fifth cartoonist to draw the redheaded, school-hating knockabout in the strip's 87 years. He took over the role in December after long-time Meggs artist James Kemsley had died. The strip runs in 120 newspapers in 30 countries. ("Strewth", *Australian*, 11 February 2008, p.10).

46.1.20 SMH PHOTOGRAPHER WINS WORLD SPORTS PRIZE

Sydney Morning Herald photographer Tim Clayton has won the world's most prestigious sports press photography prize at the World Press Photo awards, capping of a successful night for Australia at the prestigious event (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 February 2008). Clayton took out the gong for best sports action story with a series of spectacular photos of land diving in Vanuatu. The sport involves young men throwing themselves off a 20m-high platforms to be stopped from crashing into the ground by lengths of rope tied around their ankles.

46.1.21 ADELAIDE SUNDAY REVAMPED

Adelaide's *Sunday Mail* was "relaunched", in the jargon of the age, on 17 February. The redesign features a new sky-blue masthead, reconfigured Page 1 blurbs, rebadged sections and clearer and slightly larger typefaces throughout the paper (*Australian*, Media section, 14 February 2008, p.39).

46.1.22 EAU DE mX

The Valentine's Day (14 February) issue of Brisbane's *mX* claimed to be Australia's first newspaper with perfumed ink, according to the television news that night.

2 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: ONLINE

46.2.1 HERALD SUN ONLINE IN 2007

A huge year in local news had Victorians turning to *Herald Sun Online* for their latest updates, according to the list of most-clicked website stories in 2007. The shocking William Street shooting forced the city to a standstill on that horrific morning of June. Readers around the state flocked to their computers for breaking news of the tragedy. The report that Victoria Police had released the name of suspected gunman Christopher Wayne Hudson, who allegedly killed solicitor Brendan Keilar and injured three others, was the website's most-read story of the year. And the inferno crash in the Burnley Tunnel in March left three dead and thousands of Victorians desperate to understand how it happened. Traffic to the website soared as readers browsed photo galleries of the scene; and the 6pm news that police would seize footage of the crash was the year's second-biggest story (*Herald Sun*, 27 December 2007).

46.2.2 FAIRFAX ONLINE IN 2007

Fairfax Media CEO David Kirk said in an interview, reflecting on 2007 (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 December 2007): The most pressing issue for Fairfax is Labor's commitment to roll out a high-speed broadband network across Australia, which would give readers faster internet access and video downloading capability. Fairfax is expanding video content on websites like smh.com.au to attract more readers and advertising dollars, and offset declining demand for print classifieds. The company had increased monthly video downloads on its news sites to 4.2 million from 1.2 million over the past eight months. After an interesting and busy 2007, which saw Fairfax increase its market value by more than half through its \$3 billion merger with Rural Press and \$520 million takeover of Southern Cross Broadcasting's

talkback radio stations and TV production assets, the focus in 2008 will be on bedding down the deals.

46.2.3 IT'S A WIRED WORLD

The family home is increasingly media-saturated. A new study has found most Australian families with children older than eight now have three television sets, three mobile phones, a gaming console and internet access. According to research by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, the modern home has been transformed by the internet, with 98 per cent of families owning a computer. Nine in 10 family homes with children have the internet, compared with one in 14 in 1995 (*Australian*, 18 December 2007, p.3).

46.2.4 READERS GET INVOLVED

The *Herald Sun* and *Sunday Herald Sun* invited (14 January) readers aged 18 or more to join its new online panel at www.readerpanel.com.au/. They were offered the chance to help shape the future of our news, sport, business and entertainment coverage, both in the newspaper and on heraldsun.com.au/ This national research initiative from News Limited was set up to help the Herald Sun better connect with its readers. The new reader panel was to entail one monthly survey of around 10-minutes duration - or roughly 20 short questions a month for one year.

46.2.5 TOOWOOMBA: DIGITAL SERVICE ENDS

Toowoomba Digital News, established 12 months ago by four journalists sacked from the *Toowoomba Chronicle*, is no longer operating (see ANHG 42.24).

46.2.6 THE FREE AND THE NOT SO FREE

For the best local afternoon news wrap, from *The Advertiser*, Adelaide, it's all yours, absolutely FREE. Simply visit <http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/news/state/> for a link. Meanwhile, the *Australian Financial Review* allows online non-subscribers a 'read only' access to various teasers. The teaser may be clicked for the full news item on screen, but dare to copy the text, and readers suddenly find every second letter of every word missing. AFR readers are 'encouraged' to subscribe to online news.

46.2.7 ONLINE AD GROWTH SLOWS

Growth in online advertising continued to slow in 2007, despite the industry again setting new benchmarks for the fourth quarter. And display advertising experienced a new surge of interest (writes Simon Canning, *Australian*, Media section, 124 February 2008, p.35). Online ad spending increased by 34 per cent last year, compared with 61 per cent in 2006.

3 - CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

46.3.1 BUNDABERG: GARDINER FAMILY ENDS 141-YEAR ASSOCIATION

When pre-press employee Graham Gardiner retired from the Bundaberg *NewsMail* on 30 November 2007, it marked the end of 141 years of service that the Gardiner family had given to the paper or one of its predecessors, the *Bundaberg Mail*. These 141 years were compressed into 99 years. Graham's grandfather, John Alexander (Jack) Gardiner, worked for the *Mail*, 1908-25, and for the amalgamated title (which had various changes before it became the *News-Mail*), 1925-56. He started as an apprentice monoline operator in 1908 (the paper had become a daily the previous October, two months in advance of the launch of the *Daily News*) and was a compositor when the merger with the *Daily News* took place in 1925. He became the senior printing press operator and retained that position until his retirement through illness in 1956. On 22 April 1936, his son Noel joined him in operating the flatbed printing press and was appointed machinist-in-charge in 1956 when his father finished. Noel supervised early in 1960 the significant change to the rotary press operation, and in mid-1970 the dramatic change to the web offset printing press. The *News-Mail* of 27 July 1970 was the first Queensland regional paper produced by a computerised photo-setting system applied to

web-offset production. Noel retired on 30 November 1984. His son, Graham, worked in a local pharmacy immediately on leaving school, but the printer's ink in his blood soon surfaced and he joined the *News-Mail* on 8 April 1963. In the fourth year of his apprenticeship in 1966, he won the Queensland Top Apprentice Newspaper Award, and in 2001 he won the inaugural *NewsMail* Employee of the Year Award, decided by the votes of his workmates in all departments. Graham has been a member of the Australian Newspaper History Group for five years (notes supplied by Graham Gardiner; also see *NewsMail*, 30 November 2007, p.40, advertisement, and 1 December 2001, p.3).

46.3.2 DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY TITLES

Mediaweek (3 December 2007, p.8) lists the distribution figures of the Top 80 Community Newspapers and runs a story on the good year that Quest Community Newspaper had in south-east Queensland. Topping the top 80 are the *Gold Coast Sun* (161,967), *St George & Sutherland Shire Leader* (150,739), *Canberra Chronicle* (129,627), *Brisbane News* (118,985), and *Melbourne Weekly Magazine* (116,237).

46.3.3 MISSION BEACH: PUBLISHER GUILTY OF VILIFICATION

The publisher of the *Mission Beach Advertiser*, Michael Wilks, and Ross Woodley, have become the first people to be prosecuted by Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Tribunal on the basis of a complaint brought by an organisation rather than an individual. Wilks ran a headline, "Poofters beware" over a letter-to-the-editor written by Woodley. The tribunal found Wilks, 62, and Woodley, 73, guilty of vilification and ordered them to acknowledge homosexuals were important to north Queensland's tourism economy and should be welcomed to the area (*Australian*, 6 December 2007, p.7).

46.3.4 NORTHERN RIVERS, NSW: THE ECO-FRIENDLY ECHO

In a bid to reduce its environmental footprint, the *Northern Rivers Echo* is now being printed by an environmentally-friendly company – Horton Media, Queensland's first specialist printer of high-quality, short-run publications. The company was established at Narangba, Queensland, in April last year, building on 10 years of success in New Zealand, and is dedicated to minimising its environmental footprint. Its purpose-built plant includes two 5000-litre rainwater tanks connected to the press for its water needs. Water produced by the company's air compressors is filtered and fed back to the fresh water cycle, while grey water is diverted to the company's landscaped gardens. Those efforts, along with the recycling of paper and plastic waste, have earned the company's New Zealand plant that country's top environmental honour and helped its Brisbane plant win Queensland's commercial building awards this year. And Horton Media is independently owned and operated – just like the *Echo*. (Vol 13, Issue 49, 6 December 2007)

46.3.5 EDITORS

46.3.5.1 Gladstone, Qld

After almost six years in the newsroom of the *GladstoneNews*, Matt Burnett has stepped down as editor. Originally part of a two-member team, Burnett has watched *GladstoneNews* grow into a popular fortnightly regional publication circulating from Agnes Water/Town of 1770 right through to Ambrose, Many Peaks, Ubobo and even Biloela. "The 'good-news' policy of the newsroom is one we adopted right from the start and one which has been well received in the local community," he said. "I announced in August that I intend to nominate for a position as councillor on the soon-to-be-formed] Gladstone Regional Council and that is where I want to concentrate my time." "First elected to the Gladstone City Council in March 2000, Burnett was re-elected in March 2004 (*GladstoneNews*, 15 December 2007).

46.3.5.2 Gunnedah, NSW

Ron McLean has retired as editor of the *Namoi Valley Independent*, Gunnedah, after 29 years. He collected 20 NSW Country Press Awards during that time. His career began in 1962 as a *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* No 46

cadet journalist at the *Cootamundra Herald* under editor Rob Jeffs (*Northern Daily Leader*, 22 December 2007, p.6; see also ANHG 13.27 and 21.41.6).

46.3.5.3. Ipswich, Qld

Brad Weier, an Ipswich native, has been appointed the editor of the *Ipswich News*, a Quest paper. He replaces **Jim Hutchinson**. Weier was previously editor of the *South West News*, which serves the Centenary Suburbs (*Ipswich News*, 10 January 2008).

46.3.5.4 Murray Bridge, SA

Haley Cahalan, who began her career as a cadet journalist at the *Murray Valley Standard*, Murray Bridge, South Australia, in 2002, has returned as editor. The 24-year-old takes over from **Travis Simmons**, who has joined the *Adelaide Advertiser*. Cahalan moved to the agricultural weekly, the *Stock Journal*, in 2004 and early last year became a media adviser to the Federal Member for Barker, Patrick Secker. She is the second woman to become the editor of the *Standard*. The first was Jane Kempe (*Murray Valley Standard*, 17 January 2008).

46.3.5.5 Wollongong, NSW

Stuart Howie has shifted from the deputy editorship of the *Canberra Times* to become the editor of Wollongong's *Illawarra Mercury*. Before going to Canberra, Howie spent seven years at the Ballarat *Courier*, four of them as editor (*Mediaweek*, 11 February 2008, p.9).

46.3.6 BUSSELTON: THE MAIL AND THE COUNCIL

The *Busselton-Dunsborough Mail* says (2 January 2008) it does not have a problem with the shire council picking whichever newspaper it wants to publish its community page. It says it does have a problem when the shire's decision is made on "a spurious premise to tailor its argument to strip the community page from the *Mail*".

46.3.7 LAUNCESTON ET AL

From roving reporter **Victor Isaacs** in Tasmania: During 2007 the *Launceston Examiner* celebrated its 165th birthday. Special supplements appeared, drawing on articles from the paper, and including some information about the history of the *Examiner*. These were:

- March of Time: Celebrating the *Examiner's* 165th Anniversary, issued 14 March,
- Headline moments, 6 November,
- Our Achievements, 13 November, and
- The Lighter Side of Life, 20 November.

On 16 December 2007 the *Sunday Examiner* included an eight-page wraparound commemorating the first anniversary of the 2006 Tasmanian East Coast bushfires.

The *Examiner* publishes the following community newspapers on a monthly basis on successive Wednesdays of each month. They are in full colour and stapled.

- *East Coast News and Diary* incorporating Sun Coast News,
- *Tamar Community News* serving George Town and the Tamar Valley,
- *Meander Valley News*,
- *Northern Midlands News*.

The *Examiner* publishes a weekly giveaway, the *Launceston Advertiser*. In an innovative move, the *Examiner* also publishes various regional telephone directories for Launceston and adjacent areas.

[The *Examiner* reported (3 February 2008): Press problems have caused deliveries of the *Examiner* over the past week to be up to several hours late.]

The following local newspapers (printed) have been sighted for Tasmania:

- *Circular Head Chronicle*, Smithton
- *North-Eastern Advertiser*, Scottsdale.
- *Country Courier*, Longford,
- *Western Herald*, Rosebery, Zeehan and Queenstown (published by the *Advocate*, Fairfax Media, Burnie)
- *Huon Valley News*, Franklin,
- *Gazette*, New Norfolk (published by the *Mercury*, News Ltd, Hobart).

The following community newspapers (quarterfolds) from northern and central Tasmania have been sighted:

- *Lilydale Progressive*, Lilydale
- *Valley and East Coast Voice*, St Marys
- *Rossarden Mountain Re-Echo*, Rossarden and Avoca
- *Island News*, Whitemark, Flinders Island
- *Midlands Herald*, Campbell Town
- *Kentish Chronicle*, Sheffield
- *Highlands Digest*

46.3.8 FOOTSCRAY: VOICE OF THE MAIL

In Melbourne's western suburbs, visually impaired residents can take advantage of a "talking newspaper" service provided with the cooperation of the *Mail* and Vision Australia, which services Footscray, Altona, Laverton and such suburbs.

46.3.9 CLIFTON: COURIER SOLD AFTER 41 YEARS

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: After 41 years, the Graysons have sold the weekly *Clifton Courier* on the Darling Downs. Douglas Barry (Mick) Grayson and his wife, Gloria Florence, bought the paper on 16 May 1966 from Eadric Watson (Mick) Martin, who had been the managing editor since the middle of 1928. Martin made the paper a weekly in 1934 and installed the paper's first Linotype in the 1930s. The Graysons sold to another independent publisher, Edward Anton (Ted) Rogers and wife, Miriam Loyce (née Bell), trading as OurNews Pty Ltd, on 1 September 2007. The Rogers had lived in Toowoomba for eighteen years. Ted Rogers had worked as a journalist and manager, mainly in commercial radio, for about forty years and Miriam had been working in the advertising section at Toowoomba Newspapers Pty Ltd. Stephen Grayson, son of Doug and Gloria, is continuing to work at the *Clifton Courier* (Rod Kirkpatrick, "Death threats on the Darling Downs", *PANPA Bulletin*, November 2004, pp.58-59; Ted Rogers, interview with Rod Kirkpatrick, 5 January 2008; *Clifton Courier*, 29 August 2007, pp.1, 6).

46.3.10 NEWCASTLE: ACCC GETS ACTION FROM FAIRFAX MEDIA

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has stepped in to protect the viability of two community newspapers – the *Newcastle & Lake Macquarie Post* and the *Hunter Valley Post* – that Fairfax Media sold following its merger with Rural Press last year. The ACCC said the action was "inconsistent with the terms of Fairfax's undertaking" and may have affected the viability of the *Posts*. The two free newspapers overlapped with Rural Press's *Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Star* and *Lower Hunter Star*. As a result, Fairfax Media has had to reinstate lucrative real estate and entertainment supplements to the two *Posts*. In November, Fairfax sold the two newspapers for an undisclosed sum to Camillaro, a regional publisher owned by businessman Con Constantine. Constantine has owned Sydney's *Blacktown City Guardian* for 22 years and is a well known business figure in the region, owning A-League football club, the Newcastle Jets. He also has a range of commercial and retail property investments, most notably Sydney's Parklea Markets (*Weekend Australian*, 5-6 January 2008, and *Australian*, 17 January 2008, pp.17-18; *Age*, 5 January 2008, p.15).

46.3.11 RIVERS OF GOLD COAST ADS

The *Gold Coast Bulletin* published on 12 January what it believes was Australia's largest real-estate liftout: 264 pages (*Mediaweek*, 21-28 January 2008, p.11). But, of course, it wasn't. The *Wentworth Courier* in Sydney's eastern suburbs published a 336-page real estate section on 17 October 2001 as part of a 440-page newspaper (see ANHG 15.21) and has exceeded 264 pages of real estate many times since (*Mediaweek*, 11 February 2008, p.2).

46.3.12 MOREE: FORMER EDITOR WINS BUSH LAUREATE

Former *Moree Champion* editor Murray Hartin has won the single recorded performance of the year at the Australian Bush Laureate Awards. Hartin received the coveted award at the Tamworth Country Music Festival on 29 January. Hartin grew up in Moree and worked as a country journalist for many years. The award was for his poem, "Rain from Nowhere", which addresses the issue of rural suicide. Tamworth Country Music Festival creator Max Ellis, who also created the Bush Laureate awards, said Hartin was one of the few people who had been able to make a living out of bush poetry (*Moree Champion*, 29 January 2008).

46.3.13 BUNDABERG: NEWSMAIL CHANGE

Barry Blair noted on 2 February: The online masthead of Bundaberg's *NewsMail* appears to have expanded its coverage area. For years I've known it as (Bundaberg) *News Mail*. The words 'and Region', appear to have been added in the last week or so.



4 – NEWSPAPER HISTORY

46.4.1 AGE JOURNALIST WITH SENSITIVE EAR AND LIGHT TOUCH

In his award-winning book, *The Great War*, Les Carlyon writes (p.19): "Phillip Schuler lies south of [Ypres], just across the border in France, on a rich plain broken by red-brick farmhouses. He was a journalist at the *Age*. His father edited the paper and suffered throughout the [1914-18] war because of his German name and birthplace. Phillip Schuler was handsome and outgoing. He loved books and plays and everyone seemed to like him. He went to Gallipoli as a war correspondent, saw Lone Pine and the August offensive and wrote a book, *Australian in Arms*. Schuler had a sensitive ear and a light touch; it was an astonishingly good book from someone in his mid-twenties. One might have thought that, after Gallipoli, Schuler would have realised that it is always better to be a reporter than a soldier. But in 1916 he enlisted, not as an officer, as he could have been, but as a driver. And, not long after the battle of Messines in Belgium, he died of wounds to the left arm, the right leg, the face and the throat. He was just sort of twenty-eight years old and he had been literally shot to pieces.

"And here he is now, lying in the ground at Trois Arbres cemetery at Steenwerck with a crab apple tree next to his grave. Each spring the blossom comes out pink for the shining youth who is no more. Schuler lies with 469 Australians, 997 Britons, 214 New Zealanders, twenty-two Canadians, one South African and one Indian."

46.4.2 COLOUR AND SYME AND MURDOCH

Greg Taylor, as managing director of David Syme and Co Ltd, Melbourne, wrote the following letter to the *Sydney Morning Herald* (and it was published 17 August 1990):

"I must challenge the Fred Brenchley assertion in his column (*Herald*, August 16) that a Rupert Murdoch initiative is 'changing the look of Australian newspapers by installing four state-of-the-art colour production plants'. It would be more accurate to say that Rupert Murdoch followed the initiative of David Syme and Co Ltd, publisher of the *Age*, and a fully-
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owned subsidiary of the Fairfax Group, which has led all Sydney and Melbourne daily papers in converting to colour offset printing. Offset newspaper printing came to Australia many years ago and Syme installed its first offset press in the 1970s. The *Sunday Age* has been full four-colour offset printed since its launch a year ago and all Monday-Friday editions of the *Age* this year have been printed on our battery of offset presses. We have been offering full colour to advertisers since the early 1980s. This year advertising colour has been available most days of the week. We welcome Rupert Murdoch to the offset club. But he is not the pack leader. In Melbourne the introduction of offset colour in the *Sun* and the *Herald* will come 10 years after the introduction of offset printing at the *Age*. Our market share has continued to expand throughout that decade.” [Read this in the context of Kenneth Sanz’s chapter “Living colour: a printing revolution” in Victor Isaacs, *Looking Good: The Changing Appearance of Australian Newspapers*, published by the Australian Newspaper History Group in 2007; a handful of copies still available from the ANHG at \$28.]

46.4.3 TEST SPECIAL

The *Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga, issued a special Sunday edition during the first cricket Test of the 1934 Australia v England series in England. Interest in the series was intense because of the sensational “Bodyline” series in Australia, 1932-33, and Don Bradman’s dominance in England in 1930. In 1934 thousands of Australians stayed awake until 3.30 in the morning to listen to simulated radio broadcasts of the Tests (*Newspaper News*, 2 July 1934, p.15).

46.4.4 NEWSPAPER IN THE BLUES

The *Hodgkinson Mining News* in far north Queensland was literally “in the blues”, reported the *Toowoomba Chronicle*, 11 September 1877. Issue no. 33 of the *News* was printed on blue paper because the carriers or agents had failed to fulfil the newspaper’s order for white paper.

46.4.5 DAVID SYME’S TOMB

Dr Veronica Condon writes (E-mail message, 29 December 2007): “I would qualify Liz Morrison’s statement (ANHG 45.4.9) that David Syme’s tomb was designed and built to his specifications, though he certainly agreed to most of the final plan. I wrote the article, “An Egyptian tomb in an Australian cemetery”, which is part of the Sir Geoffrey Syme website. (wwwsirgeoffreysyme@bigpond.com) It is based on a document, a letter from the architect, Butler, who was explaining the symbolism of the tomb to Annabella Syme, David Syme’s widow. (It seems odd that he hadn’t bothered to discuss it with her, since she was destined to join him there). I also took the photographs for that article. Some of the tiles have faded since then. Judging by Butler’s letter it is hard to tell what images were suggested by Butler and what were David Syme’s specific requirements as to the decorative elements of his tomb. Probably it was a combined effort by both men, copying what was thought suitable and what would fit in to what is, after all, a pretty small temple. I doubt if David Syme was artistically inclined enough to do all the planning himself.” (See 46.5.3, Morrison and Condon.)

46.4.6 NO DUD: SIR KEITH, RUPERT AND MORNA

At the Australian Media Traditions conference in Bathurst on 22 November 2007, David McNight’s paper on the conservatism of Rupert Murdoch’s newspapers led Dr Morna Sturrock, of Melbourne, to add this little cameo on her entry, as Morna Condell, to the Melbourne *Herald* staff:

“A nervous young cub reporter entered the Melbourne *Herald* building in Flinders Street early on 20 January 1950, after several years as a cadet on the *Central Western Daily*, in her hometown, Orange NSW. Just before the lift door closed to take me upstairs with and another man, clearly a sub-editor with sunshade-fronted cap in place, an elegant gentleman arrived, murmured, ‘G-day,’ and immediately said, ‘Dudley, I hope you will look after my boy; he’s starting today.’”

“Dudley Giles, whom I soon knew as the chief sub-editor, nodded briskly and I soon found myself on the third floor, seated not far from Sir Keith’s boy, Rupert. He had just come down from Oxford University. Rupert was a first-year cadet reporter, on £3 12s 6d (\$7.25) a week. I, a third-year cadet, was on £9 (\$18) a week. By noon, the first edition was out and my story got in! (It was about the weather, a sure winner in Melbourne at any time.) Rupert’s story did not make it that first day.

“As I have often said, it’s quite clear that on matters of salary and output, Rupert surely outdid me in due course, on both counts!”

At AMT, Morna Sturrock was later discussing with some of the conference-goers details of her first interview in seeking a place on the Melbourne *Herald*. After she had flown from Orange to meet the “delightful editor Archer Thomas”, she found him somewhat hesitant, saying the *Herald* did not like employing university-educated types (Morna had done languages at Sydney), and in any case country cub reporters usually “turned out to be duds”. When Morna arrived home, she sent him a telegram saying “forget the languages, I’ll stay with English and I also plan to prove I am not a dud”. Apparently this worked, for she was employed by the *Herald* within a month, and within a year was in London on the paper’s Fleet Street staff where she served 3½ years.

46.4.7 ANHG: WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

For the librarians and organised researchers, here is a table listing all issues of the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, the dates of issue, and the number of pages in each issue:.

Issue No	Date	Paging	Issue No	Date	Paging
1	October 1999	4	24	October 2003	18
2	November 1999	4	25	December 2003	19
3	January 2000	8	26	February 2004	20
4	February 2000	10	27	May 2004	20
5	April 2000	6	28	July 2004	18
6	May 2000	9	29	September 2004	20
7	June 2000	12	30	December 2004	20
8	August 2000	18	31	February 2005	20
9	October 2000	14	32	May 2005	20
10	December 2000	15	33	July 2005	20
11	March 2001	22	34	September 2005	20
12	May 2001	19	35	December 2005	20
13	July 2001	20	36	February 2006	20
14	September 2001	20	37	May 2006	20
15	November 2001	20	38	July 2006	20
16	February 2002	20	39	October 2006	20
17	April 2002	20	40	December 2006	18
18	July 2002	20	41	February 2007	20
19	September 2002	18	42	May 2007	16
20	December 2002	20	43	July 2007	20
21	February 2003	15	44	September 2007	20
22	May 2003	20	45	December 2007	20
23	July 2003	20	46	February 2008	19

46.4.8 NATIONAL COUNTRY PRESS NUMBERS, 1938-1971

The president of the Australian Provincial Press Association (APPA), A.T. Shakespeare, told the 1959 conference that since 1938 the number of country newspapers published had fallen from 567 in 484 towns to 435 in 399. “This process of country newspapers disappearing has

been most acute,” Shakespeare said. The number of country weeklies had fallen from 383 in 1938 to 285 in 1959 while the number of tri-weeklies had risen from 24 to 28. (Source: *Proceedings of the 25th Conference of the APPA*, 1959, p.2.)

The secretary of the APPA, K.B. Laurie (Victoria), reported in 1971: “Since [1968], the process of amalgamations and closure of small country newspapers has continued, with the result that at the beginning of 1971 there were 370 paid newspapers published in 344 country centres, compared with 389 newspapers in 364 centres in 1968. In addition, there were 29 free distribution newspapers known to be in publication.” (Source: *Proceedings of the 29th Conference of the APPA*, 1971, p.7.) The table below summarises the above two paragraphs.

Year	No. of Country Newspapers in Australia	No. of Newspaper towns
1938	567	484
1959	435	399
1968	389	364
1971	370	344

46.4.9 PRINT-MEDIA FIGURES IN *ADB* VOL 17

Dr Bridget Grffen-Foley asked her research assistant to compile a list of media figures featured in the recently released Volume 17 of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, which covers people with A-K surnames who died between 1981 and 1990. These articles will not be added to the *ADB Online* until at least the end of this year. ANHG has culled this list to reveal a print focus:

Adams, Noel Darwin (1906-1989), journalist
Alexander, Joseph Aloysuis (1892-1983), journalist
Barcs, Emery (1905-1990), journalist
Bingham, Colin William Hughie (1898-1986), journalist
Browne, Francis Courtney (1915-1981), journalist
Burchett, Wilfred Graham (1911-1983), journalist
Burgess, Francis Patrick (1925-1989), journalist
Campbell, Ross McKay (1910-1982), journalist and humorist
Cilento, Phyllis Dorothy (1894-1987), medical practitioner and journalist
Clinch, Lindsay (1907-1984), newspaper editor
Commins, John Bede (1913-1987), political journalist
Cugley, Robert Cecil (1902-1987), printer and publisher
Daley, Michael Joseph (1940-1982), science journalist and television producer
Darwen, Douglas James (1906-1988), newspaper owner and editor
Davis, Neil Brian (1934-1985), cameraman and war correspondent
Dexter, Nancy Nugent (1923-1983), journalist
Diamond, Richard Frank (1906-1989), trade union official, dramatist and journalist
Dunstan, Douglas Avon (1906-1987), printer and book designer
Fairfax, Sir Warwick Oswald (1901-1987), newspaper proprietor
Finey, George Edmond (1895-1987), caricaturist and artist
Fitchett, Ian Glynn (1908-1988), political journalist
Gall, Ian Stuart (1904-1981), illustrator and cartoonist
Geeves, Philip Leslie (1917-1983), radio broadcaster and historian
Giordano, Antonio (1907-1984), journalist, author and community leader
Godfrey, George Fuller (1904-1989), journalist and union official
Groom, William Henry George (1900-1984), journalist and newspaper proprietor
Guertner, Beryl Annie Blanche (1917-1981), magazine editor and author
Hastings, Peter Dunstan (1920-1990), journalist and editor
Henderson, Rupert Albert Geary (1896-1986), newspaperman
Heymanson, Sir Sydney Henry (Randal) (1903-1984), journalist
Holt, Edgar George (1904-1988), poet, journalist and public relations officer
Howard, Frederick James (1904-1984), journalist and author

Howard, William Stewart McPhee (1903-1983), journalist, author and public relations consultant

Hughes, Richard Joseph (1906-1984), journalist

Hutton, Geoffrey William (1909-1985), journalist

Irving, Freda Mary Howy (1903-1984), journalist

Jarrett, Patricia Irene Herschell (1911-1990), journalist

Jenner, Dorothy Hetty Fosbury (“Andrea”) (1891-1985), actress, journalist and radio broadcaster

Joynt, William Donovan (1889-1986), soldier, printer and publisher

Kirwan Ward, Edward Bernard (1909-1983), newspaper columnist

Krygier, Henry Richard (1917-1986), publisher, journalist and businessman

46.4.10 MICHELLE GRATTAN MISCELLANEOUS

For the historical record, here are some references related to Michelle Grattan, political correspondent, mainly in relation to her period as editor of the *Canberra Times*, 1993-1995:

Appointment as editor: Creighton Burns, “One last thing, cobber”, *Age*, 2 April 1993, p.11. (Grattan had been chief political correspondent of the *Age* for 17 years.) Cameron Forbes, “Canberra’s First Lady”, *Weekend Australian*, 17-18 1993, p.17.

Dismissal as editor: “Grattan dismissed as editor of the *Canberra Times*”, *Australian*, 30 March 1995, p.3. Errol Simper, “Michelle Grattan: Behind the fall”, *Weekend Australian*, 1-2 April 1995, pp.1, 10. Margo Kingston, “Grattan’s abrupt exit ends idealist’s dream”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 April 1995, p.35.

Other: Errol Simper, “Gallery’s old masters given new orders”, *Australian*, Media section, 13 June 2002, pp.4-5.

46.4.11 THINK FINK, THINK UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

Jurgen Wegner reports: The papers of Theodore Fink, lawyer and Melbourne *Herald* newspaper proprietor, have been added to the University of Melbourne Archives.

46.4.12 NEW NEWSEUM TO OFFER 4D FILMS

The new \$A580 million home of the American journalism museum, the Newseum, will open on 11 April in Washington. It has 23,225sq m of exhibit space, 15 theatres, 14 galleries and two broadcast studios. One theatre features what the museum calls a 4D film – a 3D movie with environmental effects, including seats that move and air gusts (*NZ Herald*, 8 February 08, 2008).

46.4.13 ADDITIONS TO QUEANBEYAN PRINTING MUSEUM

The Queanbeyan Printing Museum (closer to the heart of Canberra than many Canberra suburbs) has been given a 78 Model Linotype (perhaps one of the last made), a Ludlow, and a strip caster (reasonably new). The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays 2pm-4pm but “after-hours” visits can generally be arranged by telephoning Jim Woods on (02) 6299 5666.

5 – RECENTLY PUBLISHED

46.5.1 BOOKS

Crawford, Robert, *But Wait, There’s More ...: A History of Australian Advertising, 1900-2000*, Melbourne University Press, 2008. The first detailed history of the Australian advertising industry, exploring its development in the 20th century from a disorganised group of individuals selling newspaper space to a multi-billion-dollar enterprise run by giant transnationals. The author is an Honorary Research Associate with the National Centre for Australian studies at Monash University and with Menzies Centre for Australian Studies at King’s College, London. His articles on advertising history have appeared in various academic journals, including *Australian Historical Studies*, *Contemporary American Studies* and *Media International Australia*.

46.5.2. THESIS

Middleweek, Belinda May, “Dingo media? R. v Chamberlain as a model for an Australian media event”, PhD thesis, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Sydney, 2007.

46.5.3 ARTICLES

Associated Press, “Newspapers gearing for growth”, *Australian Printer*, December 2007, pp.44-45. The latest World Association of Newspapers conference, held in Amsterdam, highlighted the growing development strategies for newspapers.

Bowd, Kathryn, “A voice for the community: local newspaper as local campaigner”, *Australian Journalism Review*, Vol. 29 (2), December 2007, pp.77-89. Many regional editors and journalists see campaigning on local issues as an essential part of their role, as a valuable means of maintaining and extending community spirit and as a service to their community of circulation. This paper examines views on community campaigning among journalists employed by several regional papers in South Australia and Victoria.

Cater, Nick, “Exposed as a spy, then a lucky break”, *Australian*, 27 December 2007, p.8. The editor of the *Weekend Australian* recalls the danger that confronted him in East Timor during a visit as a foreign correspondent.

Coleman, Peter, “The ‘colour upgrade’ that has transformed the West”, *gxpess*, November 2007, pp.12-16. An examination of the new hybrid printing plant installed by West Australian Newspapers during its \$210 million upgrade. See also, in same issue, “Hobart: The Choice is KBA”, p.19, and “Ormiston power plant”, pp.20-21; and “KBA confidence in newspapers”, *Australian Printer*, December 2007, p.50, and “Doing things differently”, *Australian Printer*, December 2007, p.48 (Independent News & Media is setting new benchmarks with the world’s first Goss FPS newspaper press).

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Kirkpatrick, Rod, “Early competitor dispatched as *Transcontinental* chugs on”, *PANPA Bulletin*, October-December 2007, pp.38-39. A potted history of newspapers in Port Augusta, SA.

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Marchant, Sylvia, “Tale of a theatre playbill”, *National Library of Australia News*, December 2007, pp.7-9. How Australia’s earliest printed document came into the National Library’s Collection recently. (See ANHG 44.4.1.)

Morrison, Elizabeth, and Condon, Veronica “The rise of a press baron”, *Age*, 9 February 2008, *Insight* section. The writers look at the remarkable career and extraordinary influence of David Syme, the Scot who took control of the *Age* in Melbourne in 1860. February 14 this year was the centenary of Syme’s death (see 46.4.5).

Rankin, Gwen, “Power to sell: Women and the Aesthetics of the Commodity Culture”, *National Library of Australia News*, December 2007, pp.10-13. An examination of the

female form in advertisements as revealed in the National Library's newspapers collection.

Sheehan, Paul, "Murdoch's China dream shattered: Insider's book fires shots at mogul", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 January 2008, p. 3. How Murdoch's China ventures have failed, according to Bruce Dover's new book.

Warden, Ian, "'Now the magical change has come!': A drought breaks in 1908", *National Library of Australia News*, February 2008, pp.10-13. The words of journalists who, when reporting the drought of 1908, fancied themselves as pastoral poets.

Wilding, Michael, "The decline of the book pages", *Weekend Australian*, 29-30 December 2007, Review section, p.2. An author discusses the "slow death of the literary pages" and the "decline of book reviewing".

EDITOR'S ENDNOTE

Please note that I have new contact details (see head of Newsletter). I am dispatching this newsletter two days before I move to Mackay, Qld. After the 640mm deluge in Mackay yesterday, I am thinking of trading in my car for a boat. – **Rod Kirkpatrick, 16 Feb. 2008.**

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