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Compiled for the ANHG by Rod Kirkpatrick, 13 Sumac Street, Middle Park, Qld, 4074,  
07-3279 2279, r.kirkpatrick@mailbox.uq.edu.au

**13.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS**

**Deadline for next Newsletter: 31 August 2001. Subscription details at end of Newsletter.**

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**CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS**

**13.2 MURDOCH (1): DYNASTIC SUCCESSION**

Does Rupert Murdoch have a well-stated succession plan for News Corporation, the \$25 billion international media enterprise? This was the question on the lips – again – of corporate analysts when it was announced (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 May 01, p.1) that Murdoch's third wife, Wendi Deng, is expecting their first child. Murdoch had one child (Prudence) by his first wife, Patricia; and three children (Elisabeth, Lachlan and James) by his second wife, Anna. Lachlan is seen as the most likely family member to succeed, eventually, Rupert Murdoch at the controls of News Corp, but if Rupert stepped under a bus tomorrow, News Corp's chief operating officer, Peter Chernin, would be expected to take charge.

The news of Wendi's pregnancy came as a big surprise. Not even Murdoch seems to have expected it. An extract from Pilita Clark's second-day report in the *SMH* (12-13 May 01, p.3): "In an interview with the *British Journalism Review* magazine in late 1999, nearly five months after he wed Ms Deng, he was asked if he and his new wife planned to start a family. 'No,' he said. Five months later he was diagnosed with prostate cancer and underwent radiation therapy, a procedure commonly thought to induce infertility. But according to St Vincent's Clinic consultant urologist Dr Phillip Stricker, such treatment does not necessarily make patients infertile, unlike more radical procedures."

Meanwhile, Elisabeth Murdoch, daughter of Rupert and his second wife, Anna, is to marry Matthew Freud, a British public-relations executive and great-grandson of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud (*Courier-Mail*, 25 May 01, p.9).

**13.3 MURDOCH (2): NEWS A 'MINNOW'**

The News Corporation Ltd was a "minnow" compared with rivals such as AOL Time Warner and would remain so even if it acquired US satellite broadcaster DirecTV, according to Rupert Murdoch (*Australian*, 16 May 01, p.21).

**13.4 HISTORIC PAGES FROM THE DAILY TELEGRAPH**

The *Sydney Daily Telegraph* published reproductions of a total of 39 historic pages from its files over the five days from 21 to 25 May 2001. The cover plus seven pages on the first day and eight pages on each of the other four days combined to form a 40-page publication. The featured news ranged from the sinking of the Titanic (17 April 1912) and the Gallipoli

landing (30 April 1915) to the death of Phar Lap (7 April 1932) and the death of Princess Diana (1 September 1997). The change in the *Daily Telegraph* from a serious publication in the 1900s to a popular newspaper later was very apparent.

### 13.5 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

<b>24 January 2001</b>	Death: <b>Darnley Harry Gilmore Taylor</b> , at Adelaide, aged 64; chairman and managing director of the <i>Murray Pioneer</i> , Renmark, South Aust., 1979-2001; editor, 1965-79; third-generation newspaperman; his grandfather Harry bought the <i>Pioneer</i> in 1905 and father Gilmore followed as proprietor ( <i>PANPA Bulletin</i> , June 01, p.14; <i>Murray Pioneer</i> , 30 January and 2 February 01).
<b>29 April 2001</b>	First issue of <i>Ipswich on Sunday</i> , a free newspaper published by the <i>Queensland Times</i> (see 13.27).
<b>8 May 2001</b>	Few letters to the editor make news. This was one: the <i>Australian</i> publishes a letter to the editor from <b>Michael Chamberlain</b> , “Dingo tragedy worst vindication for me”, p.10.
<b>11 May 2001</b>	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> announces that Rupert Murdoch’s third wife, <b>Wendi Deng</b> , is three months pregnant. In April 2000 Murdoch was diagnosed with prostate cancer (see 13.2 and 6.5).
<b>11 May 2001</b>	<b>John Cowley</b> , 58, announces he will retire on 1 August as managing director of Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd. He has been a News Corporation employee for 41 years ( <i>Courier-Mail</i> , 12 May 01, p.4; <i>PANPA Bulletin</i> , June 01, pp.12-13).
<b>20 May 2001</b>	The <i>Sunday Advertiser</i> , Geelong, established in September 2000, ceases publication with no warning (see 10.15 and 13.24).
<b>21 May 2001</b>	The <i>Australian</i> announces (p.3) it has revamped its website, <b>theaustralian.com.au</b> , offering summaries of each day’s news along with insights into what editor Michael Stutchbury and the reporters are working on for the next day’s edition.
<b>30 May 2001</b>	The media empires of <b>Kerry Packer</b> and <b>Rupert Murdoch</b> are rocked by the collapse of cut-price mobile phone company One.Tel, exposing them to losses of up to \$1 billion ( <i>Australian</i> , 31 May 01, p.1).
<b>13 June 2001</b>	The <i>Australian Review of Books</i> (supplement to the <i>Australian</i> ) published for final time.
<b>14 June 2001</b>	The <i>Age</i> , Melbourne, (pp.1, 8-9) and <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (pp.1, 10-11) publish a major investigative report by Andrew Rule alleging that <b>Geoff Clark</b> , current chairman of the Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander Commission, committed four rapes in the 1970s and 1980s [see also 13.46.16-18].
<b>14 June 2001</b>	<i>ANHG Newsletter</i> mentioned in the <i>Australian’s</i> Media liftout: will we henceforth be known as the newsletter with the “ <b>clunky title</b> ”?
<b>20 June 2001</b>	Death: <b>Keith Noud</b> , aged 88 in Brisbane; turf editor for <i>Telegraph</i> , Brisbane, for 17 years; famed race caller for ABC and later 4BK for 45 years ( <i>Courier-Mail</i> , 22 June 01, p.50).
<b>28 June 2001</b>	Newspaper coverage of the <b>John Marsden</b> NSW Supreme Court defamation judgment (\$525,000 plus interest). Longest running defamation case in Australian legal history (229 sittings days). Channel 7 says it will appeal (e.g. see <i>SMH</i> , 28 June 01, pp.1-2 and 13).

### 13.6 READERSHIP (1): LAVINE’S EIGHT STEPS

John Lavine, professor of journalism at Northwestern University, Illinois, believes the next three years are crucial for the future of newspapers. They present a golden opportunity for the

print media to shore up and build up their readership before the new media get any stronger and begin to grab a significant share of advertising. Lavine is the author of the Impact report prepared in April for the Newspaper Association of America and the American Society of Newspaper Editors. The report lists eight steps that it says newspapers can – indeed, must – implement right now in order to increase readership and circulation. The report is available at [www.readership.org](http://www.readership.org) and was outlined in Sally Jackson's "Writing on newsprint wall", *Australian*, Media liftout, 10 May 01, p.15.

### **13.7 READERSHIP (2): ROY MORGAN'S LATEST**

The *Australian* (4.4 per cent), the *Herald Sun* (1.3pc) and the *Courier-Mail* (1.2pc) were the only capital-city dailies to record Monday-to-Friday readership growth in the year to 31 March, according to Roy Morgan Research. For weekend publication, the increases recorded came from the *Australian Financial Review* (4.7 pc), the *Sydney Morning Herald* (1.1pc), the *Sunday Telegraph* (2.4pc), the *Herald Sun* (2.2.0pc), the *Sunday Herald Sun* (2.9pc), the *Courier-Mail* (4.0pc) and the *Sunday Tasmanian* (2.2pc). [*Courier-Mail*, 18 May 01, p.34; see also "New free Melbourne papers surge ahead in readership poll", *PANPA Bulletin*, June 01, p.9.]

### **13.8 JOHN HARTIGAN INTERVIEWED**

John Hartigan is Rupert Murdoch's man in Australia, running the local part of News Corporation, a global company valued at more than \$US70 billion. Mick O'Regan interviewed him for ABC Radio National's *Media Report* for 19 April. Extracts from the interview follow.

**Q:** How important is it as Chief Executive of News Limited to have been a journalist?

**Hartigan:** I think it's important, I don't think it's overriding ...

**Q:** ... when you were appointed Chief Executive, people in your newsroom, said, 'Hooray, he's one of us ...' Do you think there is a sense that there is ... a former editor and journalist running the organisation and that that changes how people will prioritise news values?

**Hartigan:** I think it does. I consider myself a journalist; if someone asks me today what my job is, I say I'm a journalist, and I'll continue to believe that. But I guess ultimately the hoorays will be for the job that I do, not the appointment, so I'd like to think that in 10 years people will say hooray, not essentially when my appointment was announced.

**Q:** As the Chief Executive Officer of such a major news organisation, do you think it's incumbent upon you to somehow leave your mark on the culture, the type of journalism that your employees perform?

**Hartigan:** I think that's ultimately the most important thing of all. Our business is journalism; my job is to raise the quality of the people that work for our organisation, to raise the opportunity for the people that work for our organisation to achieve their goals, and to ultimately provide our readers and people who assimilate our products in different ways, with a better quality of journalism.

**Q:** What do you think the quality of Australian journalism is?

**Hartigan:** Well I think it depends. I think if you look at what our company stands for, I think it's relevance, it's relevance to the audience; I think there are various degrees of quality. I have an old-fashioned belief that sometimes media in this country is very pretentious, is very snobbish; I think that probably the most important thing that I stand for is relevant, that we provide relevant journalism to the communities that we service.

**Q:** So in that sense, the media has a representative role, as a conduit between what's important to the community and the information that you put in your papers. There has to be

that correspondence between the values of the community and the values that are endorsed by your papers?

**Hartigan:** I think that's right. I think that so often the news agenda is driven by cliques. I think an example of that is the current debate about the NRMA. I think while the board level discussions are important, I don't think they're of an overriding importance that we need to read about it on the front pages of newspapers day after day. I think I would approach it from a viewpoint of does it affect the NRMA membership at large? Well I'm sure that they want to be aware of it, but I don't think it should jump up the news ladder of importance to be on the front page of the newspaper day after day.

**Q:** ... in previous interviews you've talked about your disdain for pretentiousness, how in favour of egalitarianism you are, but it comes up as this notion of other people's agendas, that as you've just said, there are cliques and there are agendas. What do you mean in journalistic terms of agendas? Because it would seem to me in some ways that all journalism involves agendas, it's part of the editorial process whereby priorities are assessed. What do you mean by agendas?

**Hartigan:** I guess I mean that people who look at news values are representative of the broader readership rather than specific elements of it, and I think that too often, that journalists aren't representative of the geography that they serve. For instance, that the journalism that they service is largely bounded by areas in this city of Sydney. That's what I call snobbish, pretentious journalism. Now it needs to be driven one step further. There are issues right across the spectrum that I think don't affect everyday values and the readership requirements of the public we service...

### 13.9 NEW ZEALAND CIRCULATION FIGURES ON THE NET

New Zealand newspaper circulation figures can be accessed via the web site of the *Wairarapa Times-Age* of Masterton (one of the few remaining independent newspapers in NZ). Follow the links or go direct to <http://times-age.co.nz/industry/npa.html>

### 13.10 WE WERE WRONG (1): *THE AGE*

**Michael Provis** told the JEA (Journalism Education Association) net: On May 7, *The Age* published (page 4 Col.6) the following: "We Were Wrong":

On April 25 "Today" published incorrectly the number of years since the Gallipoli landing; the correct number was 86. On April 26 "Today" published the wrong date for the Tiananmen Square massacre. The correct date is June 4, 1989. The mistakes were made by a reporter.

Queen Victoria died in 1901, not 1900, as reported in an information panel on Federation published on May 1. The mistake was made by an editor.

An article in today's Federation liftout reports that Melbourne's trams were horse-drawn in 1901. This is incorrect: they were cable trams. The mistake was made by a reporter."

On May 10, page 4, Col 6, "We Were Wrong" – A story published in *The Age* on Tuesday, May 8, referred to Melbourne Girls College as Richmond Secondary Girls College. The mistake was made by a reporter.

### 13.11 WE WERE WRONG (2): SPOTLIGHT

**Your editor** noticed the following at the foot of the "In the spotlight:" feature in "The Diary" column in the Media section of the *Australian*, 24 May 01, p.2 (the feature highlights how someone in the news has reacted to his/her media coverage): "In last week's Spotlight the

photograph accompanying the story about Sean Healy was of another Sean Healy – the organiser of the Electrofringe 99 festival. Diary apologises for this error.”

### **13.12 BLUNDEN’S ROLE EXPANDS**

*Herald Sun* editor Peter Blunden has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the Herald and Weekly Times publications. He’ll retain his existing position and take over editorial responsibility for the *Weekly Times*, *The Sunday Herald Sun* and *Melbourne Extra*. News Limited chief executive officer, John Hartigan, says Blunden’s new role will better utilise his extensive newspaper experience (*Australian*, 10 May 01, p.2).

### **13.13 TABLOID FORMAT AND THE CANBERRA SUNDAY TIMES**

*Canberra Sunday Times*, 6 May 2001, p.2: “Today the *Canberra Sunday Times* celebrates its first birthday since its relaunch as a tabloid newspaper on May 7, 2000. We would like to take the opportunity of thanking the people of Canberra and the region for their support and interest in the new-look *Sunday Times*. The latest figure for the six months to March 2001 shows circulation increased by 4.75 per cent to 37,970. This is the biggest circulation increase achieved by any Sunday newspaper in Australia. To celebrate its first birthday, the *Sunday Times* is giving readers the opportunity to win a Gateway computer ...”

### **13.14 NEWSPAPERS SET MEDIA AGENDA, SAYS ABA**

Journalists see newspapers, in particular the *Australian* and the *Daily Telegraph*, as the most important news and current affairs services, according to a study commissioned by the Australian Broadcasting Authority. The study created a great deal of media interest and an attack on the ABA chair, Professor David Flint, by Stuart Littlemore on *Littlemore* on ABC-TV (see *Aust.*, 3 May 01, p.4, and 4 May 01, p.5; and *PANPA Bulletin*, May 01, pp.26-27).

### **13.15 OLYMPICS HONOUR FOR HARRY GORDON**

Australian journalist and author, Harry Gordon, was awarded the Olympic Order in Silver in Moscow in May for outstanding service to the Olympic cause. Gordon is a former editor-in-chief of the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd and of Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd (*Courier-Mail*, 26 May 01, p.11).

### **13.16 LAST OF THE COPYKIDS**

Under the above heading, Jim Buckell wrote in “The Diary” in the Media liftout in the *Australian* on 24 May 01, p.2:

‘Next week marks the passing of an era in journalism training at the Sydney branch of News Limited, MATP (Mirror Australian Telegraph Publications). It will be the last occasion when cadet journalists are chosen from the ranks of copykids - a system which had clung on at MATP after it had been abandoned by the other major employers in the country. Group editorial manager Warren Beeby, himself a copyboy on the now defunct Sydney *Daily Mirror* in 1960 (along with Blanche D’Alpuget and Anna Torv, a former wife of News Corporation chairman Rupert Murdoch), says its a sad passing of an era. “The system has served us well but times have changed,” says Beeby, Now, when most applicants for cadetships are university graduates, it seems inappropriate to have them running errands. Not to mention inefficient. More than one graduate has passed up a copy position at MATP in favour of a cadetship at another paper, sometimes in the same group. The *Daily Telegraph* will appoint four cadets next week and the *Sunday Telegraph* one. Together with five cadets on the *Australian*, they take up their positions in July. Copyperson duties will in future be undertaken by clerical staff.’

### 13.17 ALTONA STAR ON CD ROM

In Victoria, Hobsons Bay mayor Brad Matheson has launched the *Altona Star* on CD ROM. The *Star*, published by the Neyland family in the 1960s and bought by the John Fairfax group in the early 1970s, ceased publication about 1978. Guests at the launch on 17 May of three CD ROMs, containing digitised pages of the *Star*, included Bruce and Peter Neyland, sons of former *Star* proprietors Keith and Margaret Neyland. Bruce Neyland says his father told him the *Star* began publication in 1958. Hobsons Bay library manager Peter Hunt says staff members Amanda Peckham and Trevor Trotter initiated the plan to digitise the frail copies of the *Star* (*Hobsons Bay Times*, 23 May 01, p.20 – copy forwarded to ANHG by Tom Darragh).

### 13.18 THE COMMUTER PAPERS: AN UPDATE

**Peter T. Gill** writes from Melbourne: “I have seen more copies of *MX* (the Murdoch publication) as the *Melbourne Express* (Fairfax) is distributed in the morning. After initially having *MX* distributed by young people outside railway stations, News Ltd now leaves copies in serve-yourself containers. *MX* is certainly popular with train travellers! Certainly a higher proportion of train travellers are reading *MX* compared with the Melbourne *Herald* in the glory days of the 1960s.” (See 11.2)

Roy Morgan Research has found (*PANPA Bulletin*, June 01, p.9) that the *Melbourne Express*, distributed to 60,000 morning commuters, had an average February/March daily readership of 70,000 while its afternoon rival, *MX*, had an average readership of 108,000. By March the average daily readership of the *Express* has risen to 88,000 and *MX* to 125,000. Distribution of *MX* had been stepped up to 75,000 from its start-up figure of 60,000. Morgan also found that 56 per cent of *Express* readers and 59 per cent of *MX* readers were under 30. By contrast only 27 per cent of the weekday readers of Fairfax’s Melbourne flagship, the *Age*, and 26 per cent of News Ltd’s tabloid *Herald Sun* are under 30.

### 13.19 A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

To mark the Centenary of Federation, the Quest Newspapers group published – under the above heading – a 32-page special weekend issue of each of their suburban newspapers in Brisbane. For example, the issue of the *South-West News* was dated Sunday, 20 May 2001.

### 13.20 MELBOURNE’S LEADER RE-BRANDS

Leader Community Newspapers is gradually re-badging or re-branding its 32 free weeklies with a small in-paper campaign managed by Wilson Everard, reports the Media Flash site. Here’s a progress report.

**Box Hill:** Simon Kinch, now 79, was one of the journalists who worked on the *Nunawading Gazette* and *Box Hill Gazette* newspapers, after a career that included stints at the *Argus* and the *Age*. The *Whitehorse Gazette* becomes the *Whitehorse Leader*. The paper was established by George Baker on 29 January 1965. An early district newspaper was the *Box Hill Reporter*.

**Essendon:** The *Essendon Gazette* started in 1888, and changed its masthead with local government amalgamation to become the *Moonee Valley Gazette*. It too has adopted the Leader title.

**Heidelberg:** The *Heidelberger* becomes the *Heidelberg Leader*. The paper began on 26 March 1897 as the *Heidelberg News*; it became the *Heidelberger* on 12 November 1958.

**Keilor/Brimbank:** Founding publisher Ray Foletta was used for the name change to *Brimbank Leader* from a publication known for many years as the *Keilor Messenger*. He was joined by journalists Bob Grant and Ralph Wilson in starting the paper: “In those days the Broadmeadows Shire Council was unhappy with the coverage it was getting from the *Essendon Gazette* so it approached Leader, but they were not interested.” The men stepped in and started the *Broadmeadows Observer*, then the *Messenger* in 1969. (“Not even Leader or the State Library of Victoria have copies of the *Observer* before 1964,” notes the article.)

**Knox:** Pat Hegarty, Neville Hoare and Judith Norton’s proprietorship of the *Knox News* in 1970 was remembered as journalist Ben Hopkinson traced the history of Leader’s newspaper – which started on 19 April 1967. The paper, which is now the *Knox Leader*, traces its origins to a local Knox Severance Association newsletter. Leader bought the paper in 1972.

**Lillydale to Lilydale:** William Axford established the *Lillydale & Yarra Valley Express* on 30 June 1886. That paper has become the *Lilydal-Yarra Valley Leader*. It has been within the local newspaper group since the 1970s. The first proprietor, Axford, set out to “do all in our power to promote the prosperity of the district, develop its resources, maintain its rights and stimulate its progress” (*Lilydale & Yarra Valley Leader*, 28 May 01, pp.1, 3).

**Maroondah:** Jack Bates, veteran journalist, 92, was used to ease the changeover from the *Maroondah Mail* to the *Maroondah Leader*. The paper started life in 1924 as the *Croydon - Mount Dandenong Advertiser*, but soon was better known under its *Ringwood - Croydon Mail* masthead. Bates worked as a racing writer on the *Age* for 45 years before he was made redundant: ‘A few of the oldies copped it. I was 61 and it came as a bit of a blow to me.’ Bates said he walked into the *Mail* office at Mitcham on the Monday after leaving the *Age*: “We used to have great fun on the paper, no one cared about anything. It was a good paper really. It had the support of Ringwood.”

**Moorabbin:** The *Moorabbin News* started life in 1889, adopting the *Moorabbin Standard News Pictorial* name 60 years later after being absorbed within the Standard Newspapers Ltd group. The *Moorabbin-Glen Eira Leader* is the new title.

**Mordialloc:** *The Mordialloc Chelsea News* also takes on the Leader nomenclature. It started life in 1902 as the *Seaside News*, then as the *Carrum Borough Gazette*, and also with separate editions for each district. The two *News* entities were brought together in 1966: “It will have an immediate paid circulation of 10,000 and a readership several times in excess of this figure.”

**Mornington:** Phillip Pitt Nind set up the *Mornington County Herald* on March 22, 1889. The *Lang Lang Guardian* – from 22 February 1902 – was owned variously by J.C. Ryan, H. Furze, T. Henderson and G.F. Hopkins, with the last-named setting up the *Koo-Wee-Rup Sun*, incorporating the other titles. Later owners included A.E. Millard, W.J. Bath, Bill Giles and Chris Fisher, who started the *Cranbourne Sun*. The paper now becomes the *Cranbourne Leader*.

**Mountain district:** In 1946 John and Nell Bennett founded the *Mountain District Free Press*, which has just become the *Ranges Leader*. The paper was variously under subsequent ownership of Rupert Murdoch’s Cumberland Newspapers, and the Mott family’s Leader group, before Murdoch interests purchased Leader.

**Oakleigh-Springvale:** Sally Bird reported on the long history of the *Oakleigh and Ferntree Gully Times* which started life in 1887. Its successors, the *Oakleigh-Monash Times* and the *Springvale-Dandenong Times*, change to Leader badging.

**Preston:** The Whalley brothers, who came from Creswick in country Victoria, were remembered in the history piece for the *Preston Post-Times*, upon its name change to the *Preston Leader*. The flagship *Northcote Leader* began publication in 1888, soon branched out in Preston with its own *Preston Post* edition, and the *Northern Times* in Reservoir. The Whalley Bros. sold to Decimus Mott and his sons in 1924.

**Whittlesea:** Walter Mott jun. was chosen as the face to announce that the 66-year-old *Whittlesea Post* will henceforth be the *Whittlesea Leader*. Mott is part of the family that published the paper from its beginnings in 1935, until their sell-out to The Herald & Weekly Times Ltd. in the mid-1980s. Mott said the recipe of the family firm's local newspapers was: "Photos and names of people and what they were doing was the most important part of a suburban newspaper." Editor Rick Edwards and manager Peter Zawacki included several pages about the paper's history, noting that Mott remains in the media business as a director of East Gippsland Newspapers including the *Bairnsdale Advertiser*.

### 13.21 TEN YEARS OF NEWSPAPER CIRCULATIONS

*PANPA Bulletin* summarises 10 years of metropolitan newspaper circulations in its May issue (p.10). Some snapshots: the two 24-hour papers, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Herald Sun*, have lost 20.19 per cent and 15.7 per cent respectively on weekdays; other Monday-to-Friday falls: *West Australian* 13.85 per cent; *Canberra Times* 9.89 per cent; and *Courier-Mail*, 8.93 per cent. Best weekday gains: *Northern Territory News* 23.91 per cent and *Australian Financial Review* 19.95 per cent.

### 13.22 NEWSTEXT

Various News Ltd newspapers published articles on 9 June about Newstext, the online means of gaining access to current and archival copies of the company's Australian newspapers. For example, the *Adelaide Advertiser* said: The archives of *The Advertiser* and *Sunday Mail* are now available online to the public through Newstext. Newstext, found at [www.newstext.com.au](http://www.newstext.com.au), is one of the biggest and most comprehensive newspaper databases in the world. It contains more than 15 million articles drawn from News Ltd's 130 Australian newspapers, and is updated daily. The archives of *The Advertiser* date back to January 1986 and the *Sunday Mail* to August 1988.

Newstext contains also the digital archives of the *Australian* and *Weekend Australian*, the *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph* (Sydney), *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail* (Brisbane), the *Herald Sun*, *Sunday Herald Sun*, *MX* and *Weekly Times* (Melbourne), *The Mercury* and *Sunday Tasmanian* (Hobart), *Northern Territory News* and *Sunday Territorian* (Darwin), the *Sunday Times* (Perth), and regional papers such as the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *Cairns Post*, *Townsville Bulletin* and the *Alice Springs Centralian*, plus scores of community newspapers from the Quest group of newspapers in Brisbane, *Leader* in Melbourne, *Cumberland* in Sydney and *Messenger* in Adelaide.

Recently Newstext added data from four leading British papers – *The Times*, the *Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and the *News of the World* – and 11 papers from New Zealand including *The Dominion* in Wellington and the *Press* in Christchurch. Newstext is available from any Internet-enabled PC in the world. It has an online credit card transaction facility, and is backed by a rapid search engine and sophisticated database. Searching the database is free – downloaded articles for casual users cost \$1 each (includes GST) with a minimum purchase of 10 download credits. Discount rates are available for schools and large users on application.

### **13.23 NON-ENGLISH DAILIES**

Further to items 8.23 and 11.10 – which recorded non-English daily newspapers available in Australia – we can now report a new title: *Vesti*, a Serbian daily, albeit in Latin script. Proclaiming itself as “the First Daily Serbian Language Newspaper in Australia”, it appears to be based on an expatriate Serbian publication published in Germany, but also includes local content. Cost is \$2.

### **13.24 SUNDAY PAPERS (1): GEELONG DEATH**

Geelong’s *Sunday Advertiser* ceased publication on 20 May 2001 (see 13.5) after only eight months. Chief executive Colin Duck said the state of the economy and the effects of the GST had produced a difficult environment in which to launch the paper. “We had good support from local advertisers and readers but found it very difficult to attract national advertising into the new product,” Duck said. In better circumstances, the Sunday title may be relaunched (*Geelong Advertiser*, 23 May 01, p.3).

### **13.25 SUNDAY PAPERS (2): IPSWICH BIRTH**

The *Queensland Times*, Ipswich, began publishing a free Sunday paper on 29 April. It delivers 32,000 copies of the paper, *Ipswich on Sunday*, to homes in the Ipswich area.

### **13.26 SUBSCRIPTION DEALS**

The *Sydney Morning Herald* offered (26-27 May, p.2) 40 per cent off cover prices if you had the Saturday *SMH* and the *Sun-Herald* home-delivered (i.e. \$2 a week) and 35 per cent off if you had the *SMH* six days a week and the *Sun-Herald* home-delivered (\$5.60 a week). [Also see 12.7, 12.8 and 12.9.] The *Australian* plugged heavily its \$4.40 offer for six-day delivery of the *Australian* and *Weekend Australian*. The offer closed on 30 June.

### **13.27 RON McLEAN WINS SECOND BUDD AWARD**

Ron McLean, editor of the *Namoi Valley Independent*, Gunnedah, NSW, since 1979 (apart from six months in 1998-99 when he started a paper at Ulverstone, Tasmania), has won his second Sir Harry Budd Memorial Award for country journalism in NSW (*North West Magazine*, 11 June 01, p.3). He won the award with a series of articles entitled, “Snapshots of Gunnedah”. He first won the award in 1998.

### **13.28 TERRY O’SHANE (1): NEWSPAPER GAGGED**

Lawyers acting for Terry O’Shane, a north Queensland ATSI leader, successfully obtained a Queensland Supreme Court interim injunction preventing the *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, from publishing a story about him (*Courier-Mail*, 23 June 01, p.1). The lawyers also contacted the *Australian*, threatening the same legal action if allegations about Mr O’Shane were to be published (*Australian*, 25 June 01, p.5). On 27 June in the Supreme Court in Cairns, Justice Stanley Jones confirmed the injunction. In reporting the court’s decision, the *Courier-Mail* said: “But it is worth emphasising the *Courier-Mail* never told Mr O’Shane that it had explosive material, that the allegations against him emanated from Dr Scott, or that it had lined up a string of victims who were prepared to launch into print against him. Far from stifling discussion, the injunction was destined to shake out more information... The *Courier-Mail* at no stage sought to have the allegation raised in Parliament [see 13.29] (*Courier-Mail*, 28 June 01, pp.1-2).

### **13.29 TERRY O'SHANE (2): NAMED IN SENATE**

In the Senate on 25 June, Senator Bill Heffernan named Terry O'Shane as the alleged abuser of the daughters of prominent Aboriginal activist, Dr Evelyn Scott. Senator Heffernan said the allegations against Mr O'Shane were widespread. Mr O'Shane vehemently denies them. Senator Heffernan also accused the deputy chair of ATSIC, Ray Robinson, of hypocrisy in calling for chair Geoff Clark to stand aside while allegations against him of rape were investigated. Senator Heffernan said Mr Robinson had been convicted of rape and jailed in the 1960s (*Courier-Mail*, 26 June 01, p.1). See also 13.46.16-18.

### **13.30 WORKING WITH SIN**

Your editor has received, from Ben Hawke, executive producer of *Australian Story*, a copy of the *Straddie Island News* (the *SIN*, for short). It's a monthly quarterfold that serves North Stradbroke Island, Moreton Bay, Queensland. Editors are Ben's wife, Trish Lake, and Liz Johnston.

## **ITEMS RELATED TO NEWSPAPER HISTORY**

### **13.31 THE ARGUS, THE CONFERENCE**

"*The Argus*: The life and death of a great Melbourne newspaper": A one-day conference exploring aspects of *The Argus* newspaper (1846-1957) will be held on Monday, 24 September 2001, 10am-4pm, at RMIT University, City campus, Melbourne. It's expected to interest journalists, historians, academics and others interested in what became a Melbourne institution. Register your interest now, and you will be sent full details closer to the date. Phone inquiries: Dr Muriel Porter (03) 99252914. Email inquiries: sybil.nolan@rmit.edu.au or visit the conference homepage at <http://fifth.estate.rmit.edu.au/argus>

### **13.32 AUSTRALIAN MEDIA TRADITIONS CONFERENCE**

From Rockhampton, **Denis Cryle** reports: The Australian Media Traditions conference, held at Rydge's Resort, Yeppoon (13-15 June), featured a range of prominent speakers and media historians. The first day was dedicated to a seminar on public culture and consensus-making, including a keynote address by Paul Kelly, international editor of the *Australian*, and a range of papers on federation and national issues. Two important themes of ANHG interest, developed over the following two days, were, firstly, cartooning and visual traditions in association with a panel of prominent newspaper cartoonists (such as Bill Leak and Rod Emmerson) and a number of academic papers (Andrew Wallace, Marian Sawyer) and secondly, the role and evolution of regional media through the testimony of practitioners as well as academic analyses (Meadows, Hand Kirkpatrick).

On the latter theme, it was pointed out by both Rod Manning (formerly editor of the *Daily Mercury*, Mackay) and Rod Kirkpatrick that, under recent corporate control, there has been a tendency to downgrade the preservation of local in-house newspaper collections. The overseas experience, outlined by Philip Cass, is that different newspaper groups are opting for different preservation methods and technologies, thereby creating further unevenness in quality and access.

The issue of preserving newspaper archives was also raised in the Author Panel by Bridget Griffen-Foley in relation to her work on Consolidated Press and further developed in her feature published on the conference in the Media liftout in the *Australian* (see 13.46.14). Her concerns extended to company records where a lack of indexing, of systematic indexing and, more recently, moves to computerisation, pose significant new challenges for researchers.

Similar concerns were voiced in other sessions in relation to researching the historical role of women in the media or the place and significance of alternative publications and broadcasters.

The other important issue, aired but not discussed in any detail was Elizabeth Morrison's reminder that (5 March) 2003 marks the bicentenary of Australia's first newspaper, the *Sydney Gazette*. [Dr Morrison and some conference-goers proposed a one-day seminar at the State Library of New South Wales and investigations are proceeding. – Editor] What should be done in conjunction with this event and whether a Historical Dictionary of Newspapers should engage media historians collectively are still significant questions waiting to be addressed. Clem Lloyd rightly pointed to the interstate hurdles confronting individual researchers so a collective approach seems the most likely to succeed down the track.

AMT Conference papers will become available online c/o CQU or in book form c/o UQP. For further information, contact conference convenor Denis Cryle on email at [d.cryle@cqu.edu.au](mailto:d.cryle@cqu.edu.au)

### 13.33 FRONT-PAGE NEWS

Item 3.6 recorded the dates on which some Australian newspapers first placed news instead of advertisements on their front pages. Some more dates are listed below, as contributed by Victor Isaacs and Rod Kirkpatrick. (If you can add to this list, contact the editor and he will add to the list and eventually publish a much more comprehensive list.)

<i>Maryborough Chronicle</i>	Qld	1 September 1938
<i>Telegraph</i>	Brisbane, Qld	10 January 1931
<i>Tweed Daily</i>	Murwillumbah, NSW	20 February 1941
<i>Bendigo Advertiser</i>	Bendigo, Victoria	4 June 1941
<i>Newcastle Morning Herald</i>	New South Wales	30 June 1941
<i>Toowoomba Chronicle</i>	Qld	25 May 1942
<i>Morning Bulletin</i>	Rockhampton, Qld	19 October 1942

**Victor Isaacs** continues: Now for some information about the process in New Zealand. NZ dailies started to change to front-page news only well after the process was finished in Australia (the *West Australian* aside). The first NZ newspaper to place news instead of advertisements on its front page was the *Christchurch Star-Times*, an evening paper, as late as February 1946. Soon after, another evening paper under the same ownership, the *Auckland Star*, also did so. About the same time an evening Labour paper, the *Southern Cross*, began publication in Wellington and had front-page news. Also in 1946, the *Wellington Evening Post*, adopted back-page news. Sometime between 1946 and 1953, the *Otago Daily Times* of Dunedin adopted front-page news. In 1953 this was still the only morning paper in NZ to have front page news! [Reference: *Newspaper News* 25th Anniversary Issue, Sydney, May 1953, p.70]

### 13.34 A SORRY TALE OF PRESS, PULPIT AND BISHOP

From Sydney, **Ken Sanz** writes: In 1896 under the chairmanship of Alexander Forrest, in Perth *The Morning Herald* newspaper was born. It had been a successful financial venture making \$22,000 in its first year. In March 1905 the Catholic Bishop of Western Australia purchased the newspaper on behalf of the church as an investment and as a means of influence for the church. The vicar general of the diocese became the chairman, but its circulation began to fall off. Some said that this was because of the bishop's decision to give no information on horse racing! He considered the public obsession with gambling was excessive and not in the best interests of the State.

In December 1908 the vicar general died and the losses on the newspaper were revealed to the bishop for the first time. It was also revealed that the diocese was liable for these debts. *The Morning Herald* ceased publication on 20 January 1909 and was placed in the hands of liquidators. The indebtedness, thought to be around \$47,400 was later discovered to be close to \$90,690. The church instituted an inquiry and it found that there had been no underhand illegality. The cost of running newspaper at a debt plus the money owing on the properties the church had purchased had run the diocese into debt.

In May 1910 the 72-year-old bishop handed in his resignation, because of the economic conditions of his diocese. I am not sure what the moral of this is, but here are some possibilities: Never let a church near a daily newspaper. Invest in a newspaper or a business you know nothing about and you will go broke. Don't take on the issue of gambling single-handedly or your own gamble might come to light. Piety has no place in journalism.

[Source: *The History of the Catholic Church in Western Australia 1829-1979*, Archdiocese of Perth 1979]

### **13.35 A PRINTER FROM THE *MANLY DAILY* IN 1924**

Following is the edited version of a letter to Rod Kirkpatrick from Charles W. Goodman, of Harbord, NSW, postmarked 16 March 2001.

I started my apprenticeship with *The Manly Daily* in 1924 as "letterpress machinist" on Platens and Wharfedales, Demy Folios, Royal and D. Royals hand-fed machines, in the Commercial Dept., and *The Daily* itself, four pages, was printed on an 18-inch Bell and Valentine Rotary.

Like most printers of those days we served a six-year term, and most carry the scars of no guards on machines – in my case and top of left middle finger and various twists and scars on other fingers. I finished my indentures at Xmas 1929 in the big depression. No work anywhere. A mate and I rolled our blues and set off and cycled over most of South NSW and Victoria. To no avail. Everywhere the same story. Most towns, 85% or so out of work. I would not like to see those times again.

The 18-inch Rotary printed from four half-circle stereotypes and fed from a reel and the printed paper was cut off by a rotating knife which ran cross-wise and had serrated knife and as it rotated it cut with a helluva whack which could be heard about a mile away on still, clear nights. By the time the machinists fitted the plates set up machines, paper roll, etc., it would be midnight, so you can imagine the neighbours' anger, etc. Quite often the paper crew were not game to go out as there would be a mob outside threatening to tear them limb from limb. Sorry for my lousy writing but you can blame the Platens for crook fingers.

*The Manly Daily* was started by a Mr Trennery. He bought out a cove by name of Lincoln who printed the first papers in Manly. Trennery's was officially started in 1906. Lincoln used to print his on a Double-Royal Flatbed. I was apprenticed to Trennery who went to school with my mother in a gold-mining town, Newtown, out from Ballarat in the gold-rush days.

Eventually the *Daily* built new premises rear of Sydney Road, Manly, with a basement and put in a 36-page Rotary, still using half-circle stereotypes. This machine ran for years but by now I had no connection with the *Daily*, what with Depression followed by World War II. I was working in Sydney at my trade of letterpress machinists and finished up in 1974. Retirement after 20 years as factory manager with the Dee Why Printing Works.

The *Daily*, like others, has gone the modern way, is still delivered five days a week but printed at Parramatta, about 20 miles away and, of course, modern as tomorrow.

P.S. I am now 92 and fit as a Mallee bull. I spent my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday cycling around the South Island of New Zealand.

### 13.36 NEWSPAPER INDEXES

From the National Library of Australia, **Paul Livingston** (plivings@nla.gov.au) writes: "Newspaper Indexes - [State]" is a new category added to the National Library of Australia (NLA) web pages under the "Indexes and Databases" listings. To get to it from the NLA home page (<http://www.nla.gov.au>) choose "Research and Information Services" then "Indexes & Databases".

The newspaper indexes are those items held in the NLA in print, microfilm, and microfiche formats. Some electronic sources will be identified. I am working on the Australian newspaper indexes first and once we have them up will start with the overseas indexes. The object is to provide a single point identifying newspaper indexes held in the NLA or online for the benefit of researchers. The listing will contain all indexes including those that refer only to births, deaths and marriages, Internet and CD-ROM indexes. [Readers should not forget the listing of Indexes in the *ANHG Newsletter* No 4, February 2000, item 4.4]

### 13.37 PRINTING MUSEUMS (1): MELBOURNE

Here is the URL for Michael Isaachson's Melbourne Museum of Printing:  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~typo/welcome.htm>

It's located at Footscray but you need to telephone to arrange an inspection. The Website includes a Collection Index (machines, founts, artefacts, etc.); a Program Index (classes and workshops for students and professional development, etc.); and Glossary of Type and Printing (clear definitions of hundreds of terms – alphabetic and thematic browsing). [The glossary is fabulous. – Editor.]

### 13.38 PRINTING MUSEUMS (2): PINNAROO

From Sydney, **Jürgen Wegner** writes: Located just inside the South Australian border, near Murray Bridge, the Pinnaroo Printing Museum is worth a stop if you are ever driving across to Adelaide. It's on the Mallee Highway, the shortest route between Sydney and Adelaide. The museum is part of the Mallee Heritage Centre complex containing the Gum Family Collection of more than 1500 exhibits (90 engines, tractors, farm machinery, a bush kitchen, etc.), a Mallee Panorama, the Wurfel Grain Collection, and a Heritage Museum. The Printing Museum is intended as a working museum and has been put together to show what the average regional letterpress printery 1920-1950 would have been like. Apart from the usual paraphernalia, it contains six presses (including an Albion, Chandler & Price, Payne newspaper press, Swift and Kelly presses), four Linotypes (including a Model 8 and an English '48'), an Intertype and a Monotype.

The printer, Robert W. Wilson, can be contacted at 2 South Terrace, Pinnaroo SA 5304. Open Monday to Saturday, 10 am-1 pm. Or by arrangement. Ph.: 08 8577 8644; Fax: 08 8577 8655.

### 13.39 ENGRAVERS (1): RESEARCH INTERESTS

Add to 12.42:

BURGOYNE, Sandy (Warrandyte, Vic.): Is researching the 30-year history of the *Warrandyte Diary*, a community newspaper, for his Masters thesis; has worked with the *Diary* on and off for more than 20 years as a journalist and photographer; has come to appreciate the importance of local news in an increasingly globalised world.

Email: leanburn@telstra.com

DARRAGH, Tom (Melbourne): Is compiling a directory and biographical dictionary of Victorian 19th Century engravers and lithographers. This includes both individuals and firms. Although it is now in its final stages of completion, any information that could be of use would be gratefully received. Because of the nature of the trade, a lot of information on letterpress printing firms will be incorporated and even a bit on newspapers when they impinge on the main theme, this particularly applies to principals of some of the letterpress firms that also dabbled in lithography. Email: tdarragh@museum.vic.gov.au

FARRELL, Frank (Sydney): Teaching and research interests in the media and Australian Identity, with special interests in media imagery and society. Presently working on a second edition of *Themes in Australian History*. (School of History, University of NSW, Sydney 2052.)

### 13.40 ENGRAVERS (2): MUSIC PUBLISHERS

When the ANHG list received an email of Tom Darragh's research interests (see above), **Gordon Woolf** (gordon@worsleypress.com) responded: In England, many of the larger music publishers employed lithographic engravers, and I believe at least a few of the bigger ones in Australia did, too. I can recall asking a question about this when speaking to one of the executives of Nicholson's in Sydney about 1971 while I was in negotiations to buy *Music Maker* magazine from them (it cost me less than \$400 including the subscription addressing machine and before long I found out why).

I recall being told that they had employed engravers but I'm not sure how recently they'd gone. Nicholson's group, then owned by EMI, included Allen's and other retailer/publisher businesses in the UK tradition of Chappells, Francis Day & Hunter, etc., and I was asking because I'd done a story on the FD&H engravers in London in the late 1960s at a time when they were threatened by the first electric music typewriters.

In London, a very substantial proportion of sheet music was printed by Lowe & Brydone (not sure about that final "e") in North London, who, being used to high volume lithographic work for popular sheet music were well placed to produce what they claimed had been the first photo-illustrated London newspaper, though I can no longer remember whether that was in the early 20th or late 19th century. Songsheets were a very early way of distributing news on the streets, and it seems the music/newspaper link occurred in many ways before the present "entertainment" conglomerates.

### 13.41 SOME REFERENCES TO NOTE

13.41.1 *Table Talk*, the business and social weekly magazine published in Melbourne, carried from 6 October 1893 until 16 February 1894 a series entitled "The Newspaper Press of New South Wales". After reviewing the history of the Sydney press, it gave a description of all current daily and weekly newspapers and of magazines (reports Victor Isaacs).

13.41.2 Kelly Burke, "Fulfilment comes first for Fred", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 July 1996, p.18. Saying goodbye is always hard, but after more than 6,700 stories and 33 years, music critic Fred Blanks is retiring. **And:** Fred Blanks, "Reflections on the role of a music critic", also *SMH*, 29 July 1996, p.18.

13.41.3 "Digest of 25 Years ...", *Newspaper News*, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Magazine, May 1953, p.44. This article covers, very briefly, some of the main newspaper events of the period covered by the first 25 years of the trade publication, *Newspaper News*.

### **13.42 NORTHERN DISTRICT TIMES CELEBRATES 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Albert Jagger began publishing the *Epping and District Times* (soon to be the *Northern District Times*) in 1921 in his family home in Norfolk Street, Epping, on Sydney's Hornsby (via Strathfield) railway line. Albert's seven children played their part in the paper which soon moved into Notsons' Garage before settling into 10 Bridge Street. Arthur was the reporter, Fred was a Linotype operator, Wally and Leonard were machinists, Cyril was a compositor and Esmé and Ethel worked behind the front counter. The Jagers sold to Harry Campbell about 1943. Earl White bought it in the early fifties and it became part of the Cumberland Newspapers group, which Rupert Murdoch bought in February 1961. On 9 May 2001 the *Northern District Times* it published its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue complete with historical articles – the basis for the notes in this paragraph. It counts the Prime Minister, John Howard, as one of its regular readers. Distribution is 55,000 and readership is put at 132,000. Di Bartok has been the editor for the past 10 years. (Your editor was featured in the main story on Page 1 of the *Northern District Times* of 28 August 1963 as the spokesman for a group asking Ryde Council to rescind a decision it had made.)

From Lismore, **Roy Dunstan**, who sent the special issue of the *ND Times* to the ANHG, writes: "My father, A.A. 'Gus' Dunstan, took a job with the *Times* in May 1940 when the paper was still being produced at Epping, and he continued at Epping until his retirement about 1965 – except for a couple of months at the *Molong Express* in the second half of 1949 [when owned by the Orange-based Rural Newspapers Ltd group, not to be confused with Rural Press Ltd, which emerged in 1981]. The dates mentioned in the article on Page 3 are not accurate as far as I can remember ... As for me, I worked at the printery [at Epping] on Saturdays and holidays while at school and early University – 1942 to 1944, as well as I can remember, and I became expert at the foot platen! I graduated to occasional jobs on the power platen and on the folio machine, as well as the usual tasks of melting the scrap lead and cleaning up. Regular productions during the 1940s included church papers, *Fook's Famous Fowls* catalogue each year, and the State chess magazine edited by Mr Purdy."

### **13.43 FIRST EDITOR OF SMH A PIONEER VOICE OF FEDERALISM**

Having languished, substantially forgotten, for nearly 150 years, the first editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* is enjoying something of a revival with two collections of his work being published. Best known for his history of Tasmania, John West is now being acknowledged for his persistent efforts promoting federalism, through both the Anti-Transportation League and a series of essays. Under the rallying cry of "The Australias are one", West argued in 1854 for a Great Council of the Australias with the power to raise an army, among other things. "Laws affecting life and liberty, the regulation of courts, the removal of judges, the court of last appeals would all be naturally confided to the great council of the Australias." West was the *Herald's* first official editor, a post he held from 1854 until his death in 1873. He also designed one of the first Australian flags, a standard which bears a striking resemblance to the present national flag. This first flag, made for the Australasian League in 1851, was hand-sewn by West's wife and members of the Launceston Congregationalist Church. (See *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 May 01).

### 13.44 NEW YORK POST BEING DIGITISED

The *New York Post* has teamed up with Cold North Wind to digitise and publish the archives of the newspaper on the Internet. The *Post* was founded in 1801 and is the oldest continuously-published daily paper in the United States. It is anticipated that the archives will be available for the *Post's* 200th anniversary in November 2001.

### 13.45 STARTING A NEWSPAPER AT MUNGINDI

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: If you study a map of eastern Australia and trace your finger along the New South Wales-Queensland border west from Tweed Heads/Coolangatta almost until the border becomes a straight line (instead of following a mountain range or a river), you'll be close to Mungindi (pron. Mung-in-dye), NSW. It's about 120km north-west of Moree, NSW, and about the same distance south of St George, Qld. It was in this town on 2 April 1898 that Charles Herbert Walker, who had "never had any connection with a newspaper, or experience in anything in the way of journalism", established the town's first paper, the *Mungindi News and NSW-Queensland Border Record*. For three years he had been trying to gather enough support and equipment to start a paper, but try how he could, "nothing could be brought to a head". Repeatedly, just when his hopes would be rising, something unforeseen would turn up and they would be dashed again. But things had changed since the beginning of 1898 and the amount of advertising support received for the first issue – considering nobody knew what the paper would be like and Walker lacked newspaper experience – had been surprising.

Walker intended to make the *Mungindi News* – it appeared each Saturday and cost sixpence – a "bright, readable, and useful little paper" and he noted that he had been thrown almost entirely on his own resources to produce the first issue. "Some of my friends, whom I was depending on for assistance, deserted me to battle through as best I could." Walker said the paper's policy would be "to deal with all political and social subjects on the broad principles of Liberality and Justice to all classes". The *News* would give "brief but accurate reports of all general topics such as law and police news, public meetings, committee and general meetings of all district institutions and societies, matter relating to pasture, flock, and wool sales, agriculture, religious notices, commerce, trade and finance, sporting, mining and other doings, within the scope of a well-conducted, independent journal". The policy outline continued:

To publish all public matters without reservation, compatible with the desire to foster the goods elements of the district, in a fair and impartial manner, not recognizing nor catering to party or faction, and in all ways to give a succinct and accurate exposition of functions tending to trending towards good and improved conditions and the public weal – indeed, strenuously to avoid the hurtful, and promoting the harmony of matters affecting the community and district.

To claim independence in politics, so that political matters of local importance shall occupy a zone of local tendency, while at the same time matters of national importance may be dealt with broadly according to national principles and ethics.

And so, Walker's policy unfolded, belying his lack of newspaper experience. Telegrams and cablegrams would be used because of the need for brief, quick and early news from the chief centres of commerce. James Henry Madgwick deserved the credit for how well the journal had been printed, Walker said. "The *News* is with the people and for the people, and will be always at their service; therefore, I hope they will make use of it whenever an opportunity occurs." He was well aware that "there are a few who are dubious as to the result of our venture". Walker knew how to deal with topics briefly. The first item in his "Local Notes" column" read: "Cricket match to-day, Watercourse v. Mungindi. Play to commence at 10 o'clock." The second: "P. and A. Society meeting also to-day. Business important. All members requested to attend."

Walker sent out a free copy of the first issue to everyone in the district who had not already subscribed and asked them to post it back if they did not wish to subscribe. They were to attach their names so that they could be struck off the mailing list. Walker cannot have been overwhelmed with support, for he sold the newspaper some time late in 1899 and he himself left Mungindi at the end of November 1898. He was farewelled by 25 people at the Commercial Hotel on Saturday evening, 26 November, and left at 5am the next day, by bicycle, for Moree, arriving there at 6pm. He then caught a train to Toowoomba, Qld. (Now I want to know what he did with his life after Mungindi.)

Following is a brief chronology of the *Mungindi News*, drawn up from available files. The paper continued publication until the 1920s.

### ***The Mungindi News and NSW-Queensland Border Record***

- 1898:** 2 April – Began publication. Weekly.  
Proprietor: Charles Herbert WALKER.  
Printed at office, St George Street, Mungindi.
- 1898:** 26 Nov. – Printed and Published by James Henry Madgwick jun.  
for Charles Herbert Walker. (James H. Madgwick [sen.?] ran a newsagency in Mungindi). Same imprint until 29 July 1899. Missing from files: August-Dec. 1899.
- 1900:** January – Proprietors: Charles Herbert McGee and Wallace F. Thompson.  
(McGee was running a business as a Practical Watchmaker and a Manufacturing Jeweller in Mungindi)
- 1900:** 19 Nov. – Printed and published by James Henry Madgwick for the proprietress,  
Martha Elizabeth Madgwick. J.H. Madgwick was listed as Editor and Manager –  
in editorial masthead. To end 1901. Missing from files: Jan. - April 1902.
- 1902:** May – Herbert John Davison now appears as proprietor (Jan.-April files missing).  
To 8 August 1903.
- 1903:** 15 August – Printed and published by Ernest A. Pratt-Bingham, for the proprietors,  
C.J. Davison and E. Pratt-Bingham. To c.1 Jan. 1904.  
(8 and 15 Jan. imprints obliterated).
- 1904:** ca 8 Jan. – Ernest Pratt-Bingham, sole proprietor. To 25 July 1907.
- 1907:** 1 August – Proprietors E.A. Bingham (sic) and H.G. McKay.  
(They were listed also as Stock and Station agents.)

### **13.46 RECENTLY PUBLISHED (1): ARTICLES**

13.46.1 MARKED MAGS by Natasha Bitá, *Australian*, Media liftout, 17 May 01, pp.6-7.  
The key players in the cut-throat game of magazine publishing are examined as PMP's stable of 33 Australian magazines and a clutch of British titles is on offer.

13.46.2 BLUNDEN TO BE SUNDAY DRIVER by Andrew Dodd and MAKING NEWS by Martin Chulov, *Australian*, Media liftout, 17 May 01, pp.12-13. Recent editorial changes at News Ltd, especially at the *Australian*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Herald Sun* and *Sunday Herald Sun*, are discussed.

13.46.3 VOICE OF THE PEOPLE by Andrew Fraser, *Australian*, Media liftout, 17 May 01, p.9. Reflections on the first 10 years of the *Koori Mail*.

13.46.4 FAIRFAX FIGHTS BACK IN MELBOURNE COMMUTER WAR by Jack Beverley, *PANPA Bulletin*, May 01, p.37. Fairfax has responded well to the nasty wake-up call it received in the early stages of Melbourne's free daily commuter war.

13.46.5 DRAWING BLOOD by Elizabeth Farrelly, *Sydney Morning Herald*, Spectrum section, 19-20 May 01, pp.8-9. Australia's tradition of brilliant cartooning has made rocking the establishment boat a seriously funny business.

13.46.6 THE HIDDEN PERSUADERS by Jane Cadzow, *Sydney Morning Herald*, Good Weekend Magazine, 26 May 01, pp.20-24. It's the invisible hand behind much of the news, the sophisticated spin machine that can rescue reputations or crucify a competitor. And some of its practitioners will stop at nothing.

13.46.7 CONSUMER COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE PRESS by Professor Ken McKinnon, *Australian Press Council News*, May 2001, p.6. In an opinion piece originally written for the *Newcastle Herald*, the Press Council's chairman gives his interpretation of the council's role.

13.46.8 PRINT'S PRINCELINGS by Andrew Dodd, *Australian*, Media liftout, 31 May 01, pp.6-8. Targeting hobbies, lifestyles and small business, independent spirits are finding there are profits to be made in publishing's nooks and byways. Publishers featured are Larry O'Toole, of Castlemaine, Vic., Rob Sloane, of Tasmania, Andrew Smith, of Perth, Joanna Love, of Sydney, and Andrew Stewart, of Brisbane.

13.46.9 BIG IDEA'S PROSAIC END by David Brearley, *Australian*, Media liftout, 7 June 01, p.3. A potted history of the *Australian Review of Books*, upon its demise two issues short of what would have been its fifth anniversary. [The first issue appeared in September 1996 and the final issue appeared in the *Australian* on 13 June 2001. The "Weekend Review", in the *Weekend Australian*, now carries "an expanded books section, with something of an ARB flavour, once a month.] See also: IDEAL GLOWS IN JOURNAL'S ASHES by Luke Slattery, *Australian*, 13 June 01, p.11, and PLAN FOR THE ARB, letter to the editor, by Jill Kitson, *Australian*, 14 June 01, p.10.

13.46.10 THE JUMPING STOPS IN JOONDALUP by Tony Rees, *Scoop*, Vol. 15, No. 1, Summer 2001 (published by MEAA, Western Australia), pp.8-9. The *Joondalup City Times* was a brave attempt to establish a new suburban paper. It began on 15 May 2000 and ceased in October.

13.46.11 WHERE NEWSPAPERS ARE FEW AND REPORTERS AND PRINTERS ARE SCANTY, by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, June 01, pp.37-39. A history of newspapers in Blackall, Queensland, since the *Western Champion* began publication there in 1879. The town lost its newspaper, the *Blackall Leader*, on 29 March this year.

13.46.12 PRINTING'S HISTORY FINDS A NEW HOME IN ARMIDALE, *North West Magazine* (NSW), 28 May 01, pp.1-2. The story of the rehusing in Armidale's New England Regional Art Museum of the F.T. Wimble and Co. printing collection from Rydalmere, Sydney.

13.46.13 Two pamphlets by John Gale, the founder and long-time editor of the *Queanbeyan Age*, have been reprinted. They are "The Federal Capital. Dalgety or Canberra: Which?", originally published in 1907, and "Trout Fishing on the Goodradigbee", originally published in 1904. They are available from Claire Lewis, 1 Dakin Place Hackett ACT 2602; tel. 02-6248 0302.

13.46.14 JOURNALISM TRAPPED IN THE PRESENT SENSE by Bridget Griffen-Foley, *Australian*, Media liftout, 14 June 01, pp.12-13. Australia's news media, focused on the present, has neglected to preserve its past.

13.46.15 APPROACHING THE END OF THE PRINT RUN by Richard Walsh, *Australian Financial Review*, 4 May 2001, pp.6-7. How online technology is remaking the publishing industry.

13.46.16 WHEN THE PRESS IS JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER by Geoff Clark, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 June 01, p.18. The ATSIIC chair declares his innocence of the rape allegations contained in the *SMH* and *Age* reports of 14 June (see 13.5, and 13.30).

13.46.17 VIOLATION, BUT OF WHOM? By Stuart Rintoul, *Australian*, Media liftout, 21 June 01, p.3. Was the Fairfax press right to print allegations that Geoff Clark raped four women?

13.46.18 MEDIA ISN'T OUT TO CONVICT CLARK by Frank Devine, *Australian*, 21 June 01, p.11. Defence of the publication by the Fairfax newspapers of the rape allegations against Geoff Clark. Devine says failure to tackle the real problem of Aboriginal family violence is an outrage.

13.46.19 THE PRESS PROPRIETOR AND THE POLITICIAN: SIR FRANK PACKER AND SIR ROBERT MENZIES by Bridget Griffen-Foley, *Media International Australia*, No. 99, May 2001, pp.23-34. Insights into Sir Frank's sometimes turbulent relationship with Sir Robert – from Packer's most recent biographer (in this special "Australian Media history" issue of *MIA* which includes a 2½-page introduction in which Griffen-Foley and David McKnight discuss recent significant contributions to Australian media history).

13.46.20 FACTS VERSUS STORIES: FROM OBJECTIVE TO INTERPRETIVE REPORTING by David McKnight, *Media International Australia*, No. 99, May 2001, pp.49-58. An examination of both objective and interpretive modes of reporting by the *Sydney Morning Herald* since World War II.

13.46.21 HIDE AND SEEK by Martin Chulov, *Australian*, Media section, 21 June 01, pp.6-7. Freedom of Information laws have not loosened the political gatekeepers' hold on sensitive information.

13.46.22 CONVERGENT VIEWS by Sally Jackson, *Australian*, Media section, 28 June 01, pp.12-13. The layout of tomorrow's newsroom will facilitate cross-disciplinary teamwork.

13.46.23 PERIODICAL PERILS OF PRINT by Kerrie Murphy, *Australian*, Media section, 28 June 01, p.14. Some commuters are ditching their usual reading matter and upstaging fellow commuters with some strange magazines.

### **13.47 A select chronology of Australian newspaper events, 1960-1969**

<b>February 1960</b>	Rupert Murdoch makes first move into Sydney, acquiring Cumberland Newspapers Pty Ltd, a chain of 24 suburban titles.
<b>1960</b>	In response to Murdoch's purchase of Cumberland, John Fairfax and Consolidated Press establish Suburban Publications Pty Ltd.
<b>20 May 1960</b>	Rupert Murdoch buys <i>Daily Mirror</i> , Sydney, from O'Connell Pty Ltd (Fairfax).
<b>1960</b>	Sir Frank Packer's Consolidated Press acquires the <i>Maitland Mercury</i> .
<b>14 January 1961</b>	W.O. Fairfax resigns from the chairmanship of John Fairfax Ltd.
<b>11 March 1961</b>	W.O. Fairfax re-appointed chairman of John Fairfax Ltd.
<b>30 September 1961</b>	John Fairfax acquires 45 per cent interest in Newcastle Newspapers Pty Ltd, publisher of <i>Newcastle Morning Herald</i> and <i>Newcastle Sun</i> .
<b>24 October 1961</b>	The weekly <i>Australian Financial Review</i> becomes a bi-weekly.

<b>1 April 1963</b>	<i>Western Advocate</i> , Bathurst, results from amalgamation of the <i>Western Times</i> and the <i>National Advocate</i> , both dailies (Western Advocate, 1/4/1963, p.1).
<b>21 October 1963</b>	The <i>Australian Financial Review</i> becomes a daily.
<b>30 April 1964</b>	John Fairfax acquires Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Ltd, publisher of <i>Canberra Times</i> .
<b>15 July 1964</b>	News Ltd launches <i>The Australian</i> .
<b>13 December 1966</b>	John Fairfax acquires interest in David Syme & Co Ltd, publisher of the <i>Age</i> .
<b>1967</b>	First production computer installed at Broadway (Sydney) plant of the John Fairfax group.
<b>1968/69</b>	The Maxwell Newton South Coast newspaper purchases begin, especially two at Nowra.
<b>1 September 1969</b>	<i>Area News</i> , Griffith, bi-weekly, and <i>Riverina Advocate</i> , Griffith, weekly, merge to become the <i>Riverina Daily News</i> (morning daily), the first NSW regional daily printed on a web offset press.
<b>September 1969</b>	John Fairfax acquires South Coast Times Pty Ltd, publisher of <i>Illawarra Mercury</i> , Wollongong.
<b>30 September 1969</b>	David Syme launches evening daily, <i>Newsday</i> , in Melbourne to compete directly with the <i>Herald</i> .
<b>12 November 1969</b>	Fairfax launches a daily afternoon paper in the national capital, the <i>Canberra News</i> .
<b>23 December 1969</b>	Sir Warwick Fairfax is appointed a committee of one at John Fairfax, with all the administrative and management powers exercisable by the directors under the Articles of Association, subject to the overriding authority of the board.

If you have entries that should be added to the above chronology, send details to the editor.

### 13.48 140 YEARS ON: A MISCELLANEOUS MUSING

Toowoomba's daily, *The Chronicle*, will celebrate its 140<sup>th</sup> birthday on 4 July 2001 and Rockhampton's daily, the *Morning Bulletin*, will do so five days later. *The Chronicle* competed with the *Darling Downs Gazette*, established on 10 June 1858, until absorbing it in October 1922. The *Chronicle* celebrated its centenary at a dinner on 15 July 1961, thinking the anniversary was the next day. Your editor discovered the mistake, and the continuing incorrect observance, when he began his provincial newspaper-history research in 1977. A native of Rockhampton, Rod Laver, won the Wimbledon men's singles tennis crown hours before the centenary issue of the *Morning Bulletin* went to press and the paper can claim one of the biggest local news stories of its first century appeared as the front-page main in its centenary edition.

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