HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

The Clem Lack Memorial Oration delivered on 24 March 1983

by James Manion

I feel honoured to be asked to present the Clem Lack Memorial Oration this year as quite early in my research into Queensland press history I was introduced to his work on this topic in the form of the articles in the Society's Journal! It is a matter for regret that his promised article on North Queensland newspapers did not eventuate due to his death. As a practical newspaperman he was able to combine a working knowledge of newspapers with his research and thus provide better insight in his interpretation of past events.

The history of the press in Australia, both metropolitan and provincial, has received scant coverage although the past five years has seen a greater interest emerge. Dr. R. B. Walker in his second book on the press in New South Wales drew attention to the lack of published works dealing with the Australian press, a sentiment which had been expressed earlier by Dr. W. M. Corden when he published his article “Towards a History of the Australian Press” in “Meanjin”! This paper can only hope to add to what Dr. Corden termed “the bare bones of the full-blooded history which needs to be written one day”.

No doubt the lack of knowledge of holdings of early newspapers has played a major part. The recent progressive microfilming of newspapers in Australian libraries has gone a long way to conquer the “tyranny of distance” which has hampered the research of many workers, especially those operating in more remote areas such as Townsville. The presence of a library at the James Cook University has enabled an accumulation of microfilm files of many Queensland newspapers. Without that wonderful facility my own research would have been severely restricted.

Newspapers themselves provide the basic material for compiling press histories. I must modify that statement by stressing that I refer to the contemporary newspapers themselves and not newspaper history published in today’s press. Journalism has sometimes been referred to as “history in a hurry” and I am afraid that some literary personnel do not bring an historian’s view to their work.

Mr. Manion is manager of the North Queensland Newspaper Company, which is centred on Townsville and controls papers in other vital areas of the North.
The early papers showed a lively interest in the activities of their fellow pressmen and it is only by reading the small paragraphs in a multitude of country papers that one can ascertain the movements of those wandering souls, the emergence or failure of another country rag or the misfortunes of their brethren in the courts for defamation or as the victims of assault by readers or outraged competing editors. The mandatory imprint is another source of information, as too are the introductions published upon change of ownership, usually under the title “Ourselves”. Death of an editor or proprietor too can produce useful information in the obituary.

In my own special field of interest, North Queensland Newspapers, I have been delighted to find many holdings that are not listed in the last published “Union List”. Had I been able to maintain my original time-table to publish the book Paper Power in time to coincide with the date for the centenary of the Townsville Daily Bulletin I would not have been able to draw on the facts contained in an uncatalogued run of the Cleveland Bay Express which covered the period September 1866 - December 1870, admittedly with some breaks. My topic should more accurately be entitled “The History of Newspapers in Tropical Queensland”, as this enables me to include Rockhampton legally. The early emergence of movements for Separation in Rockhampton, as well as the transfer of pressmen between those areas and the far north, introduces a number of common elements into such a grouping. The ports serviced the western inland, either by road or rail, and the expansionary influence of the goldfins on top of the pastoral developments, provided common interests and links. I admit that such treatment is not consistent with Paper Power, which defined North Queensland as the area which included Mackay and extended north.

The study of a much broader sample of newspapers has confirmed the mobility of journalists and printers which I identified in Paper Power. Recruitment of experienced journalists was always a problem. It was summed up by the Cairns Argus in 1895 after an editor, Charles Cox, brought an action against William Graham Henderson for non-payment of wages. The sentiments were expressed in a leader and read in part: “The old tale of a Southern man being imported to teach us poor benighted people in North Queensland how to walk erect, and to impart mental pabulum to our darkened intellects; and then the oft repeated result of dismal failure, inability in fact to carry out the contract. The fact that an individual may carry about with him a carpet bag full of Southern testimonials, is a matter of little or no importance in the North . . .”. The fact that a number of individuals followed almost identical paths, or at least progressed to a number of common destinations, seems to confirm that personal recommendations
were passed on by friends, and the fact that contact was maintained between many of the pioneer pressmen.

In *Paper Power* mention was made, albeit in a rather sketchy form, of the variations in the ratios between the number of publications current at any one time in a town and the population. This further study has high-lighted the fact that some areas produced, and indeed for lengthy periods sustained, many publications while others produced relatively few. Stability was thus a varying quality and the reasons are now open to conjecture. The fact that a centre was located a long distance away from the capital did not necessarily mean that one would find more newspapers. Ipswich, on the outskirts of Brisbane had 14 publications, ranking third in my list of papers after Townsville with 42 and Charters Towers with 19. Cairns produced 13 while seven was the score for Cooktown, Bowen and Croydon.

The breadth of the canvas and the constraints of time and space have limited the minute details that may be fitted in this paper. In any case the pending work by Mr. Rod Kirkpatrick will doubtless traverse much of the same ground.

The simple study of the growth of the Queensland press showed that provincial newspapers in North Queensland occupied the most prominent position in relation to the overall Queensland press in the last decade of the nineteenth century. The table covered periods of ten years and in 1891 North Queensland, encompassing the area north of Sarina, accounted for 32.3 per cent of the State's newspapers. The statistics were based on listings in *Pugh's Almanac* and did not introduce any weightings for frequency of publication or life of the individual publications.

Revision of the comparison to consider the relativity of North Queensland papers to the total provincial press and thus eliminate the Brisbane papers gives the following result:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Queensland</th>
<th>Other Provincial Papers</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>per cent</td>
<td>per cent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.05</td>
<td>78.95</td>
<td>1871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td>1881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.67</td>
<td>58.33</td>
<td>1891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.36</td>
<td>62.64</td>
<td>1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.26</td>
<td>65.74</td>
<td>1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.27</td>
<td>74.73</td>
<td>1927</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now I will trace some histories of the press in individual towns. They are not claimed to be exhaustive and mainly concentrate on the period prior to World War II.
THE ROCKHAMPTON STORY

William Hitchcock Buzacott, the 29-year-old printer who had come to Sydney with his brother Charles after completing his seven year apprenticeship in England, arrived in Rockhampton with complete printing plant on the schooner Jenny Lind, on 30 June 1861. Nine days later the first issue of the Rockhampton Bulletin was published and the population, which then numbered around seven hundred, received their first paper and "simultaneously the arrival of the first minister of religion, the first bank (New South Wales), the municipal council and a national school".

The venture survived many early vicissitudes including a fire within the first year, and two years later a flood. However the paper grew from strength to strength and on 2 January 1873 became a full-fledged daily paper, the Morning Bulletin.

On arrival in Sydney it had not taken long for the enterprising young printer to open his own business with a job printing shop in George Street. He soon expanded by adding the production of a weekly religious paper, the Christian Pleader. His brother Charles was the first to travel north and in November 1860, encouraged by the local community, he brought out the first issue of the Maryborough Chronicle, reputedly printing it in the kitchen of his slab humpy. In 1863 Charles Buzacott sold this interest to William Swain Roberts and Joseph Robinson and went on to Clermont where he launched the Peak Downs Telegram. There is no evidence to support an often published claim that Charles Buzacott founded the Gladstone Observer. The Rockhampton Bulletin on 9 January 1868 referred to the first issue of the paper "published by Mr. John Druery". That same issue carried an advertisement which described C.H. Buzacott as proprietor of the Peak Downs Telegram and the same advertisement was continued for another seven months. Four years later Druery signed a notice to the effect that "he had transferred the copyright and subscribers' lists to Buzacott. Early biographical entries in the "Men of the Times" section of Pugh's Almanac fail to mention a link with Gladstone.

The venture in Rockhampton survived many early vicissitudes including a fire within the first year and, two years later, a flood. However the paper grew from strength to strength and on 2 January 1873 became a fullfledged daily paper, the Morning Bulletin.

The business had experienced financial troubles which, in William's words, were due to "inflation and difficulties", and he sold the business to a company after operating for "five or six years". The problems apparently continued after this move and "Charles Hardie
Buzacott came to the rescue”. On 31 May 1870 he purchased “the whole of the plant, debtors and copyright from the Rockhampton Bulletin.

The first competitor to enter the Rockhampton arena was the Northern Argus under the control of Arthur Leslie Bourcicault. It was first published in January 1863 and before long enjoyed the services of the stormy Irishman, Thadeus O’Kane. O’Kane claimed to have been co-editor with Bourcicault. In April 1880 the Queenslander reported the sale of the paper to a syndicate consisting of P.F. McDonald, the Hon. C.S.D. Melbourne and W.J. Taylor. A week later these names were repudiated but no alternatives were provided. It is confirmed that McDonald was a proprietor. When journalist Frank H. Nixon suicided in November 1883 he was described as editor and one of the proprietors. Other early editors included W.H. Robison and W.H. Dick, J.C. Browne, a retired manager of the Bank of Australasia, became owner in 1887 and he was subsequently managing director of the Rockhampton Newspaper Company Limited which in 1893 had a paid up capital of £6000. When S.W. Hartley and C.H. Buzacott purchased the business in 1896 the name of the paper was changed to the Daily Record and the corporate name became the Record Printing Company Limited. The printer Ernest Freid later became associated with the business after an extensive career which included part ownership of the Peak Downs Telegram as well as stints in Charters Towers and Townsville.

Another early publication which had a brief life was The News which commenced in March 1865. It was noteworthy for the involvement of W.O. Hodgkinson as a partner. His next move was to Mackay where he established the Mackay Mercury. Hodgkinson was a reporter on the Rockhampton Bulletin and at least one of his partners, J. Dmery, came from the same paper. The history of the third member, O’Meagher, is not known.

The Capricornian was a long running weekly paper in the custom of the times and was started by C.H. Buzacott in 1875. It ran until 26 December 1929 when it merged with The Artesian to form The Central Queensland Herald which was first published on 2 January 1930, exactly 55 years after the first Capricornian. The Evening Mercury was a short lived evening paper which was launched in February 1886 and was wound up in the next May as a result of a shortage of funds which gave the compositors grounds for judgement. Other papers included a Labor organ, the Peoples’ Newspaper which was published for at least ten years from 1892. Two editors are known. Theodore Wright was a horticulturist who later became agricultural editor of The Queenslander while Wallace Nelson, who edited the paper in 1899, was described as “Rockhampton’s breeziest
editor and most attractive speaker”. The *Laughing Jackass* was published in 1881, while *The Critic* ran from 1903 to 1917.

One of the earliest free papers in the region was the *Central Queensland Times* which did not have a cover price and thus depended on advertising revenue alone. The first copy was issued by Edgar Gostelow, as printer and publisher, on 3 November 1888. The last copy, number 64, is also preserved on the microfilm file and was dated 25 January 1890. The leader, headed “Valedictory”, confirmed that the publishers found it was impossible to continue the venture without incurring a loss. They foresaw continuing the job printing business.17

In the early years of the century North Rockhampton saw its first papers, the *North Rockhampton Times* and the *Argus*.

William moved to Brisbane when Charles took over the *Bulletin*, joining the editorial staff of the *Courier*. In 1880 on the 27 June, property in the *Morning Bulletin* and *Capricornian* reverted to William but he died within 30 days of this transfer. The move was not a sudden one, as notice of the change revealed that William had been exercising “his entire control for the past two years”. Charles virtually changed places with his brother and took the position of leader writer with the *Courier*. Upon purchasing the shares of Gresley Lukin in the Brisbane Newspaper Company Charles had become Managing Director, a position he held until reconstruction in 1894 when he retired. He had returned to Rockhampton and with his son-in-law Stewart Hartley, took over the *Northern Argus* newspaper, changing the name to *Daily Record*. Even this venture did not spell the end of his entrepreneurial efforts as in 1906, aged 71, he floated the *Daily Mail* in Brisbane, acting as Editor and Managing Director. Earlier he represented Rockhampton in the Legislative Assembly.

After Buzacott’s death the imprint carried the name of veteran Rockhampton printer John T.S. Bird until 24 November 1881. A half share in the business was sold to William McIlwraith, who moved to Rockhampton and assumed editorship of the paper. The appropriate partnership notice was dated 23 November 1881 and their joint names appeared on the imprint for the first time on 25 November. Hartley’s partnership with McIlwraith lasted until almost the end of 1896. The next man to trade in partnership was John Blair who replaced Hartley when he withdrew. Blair was a Scottish watchmaker by trade, recruited by McIlwraith to manage the editorial aspect of the *Bulletin* when McIlwraith visited the United Kingdom and Canada in May 1889. He had gained some newspaper experience in Brisbane on the staff of the *Telegraph* which he joined in 1888.

The McIlwraith-Blair partnership lasted until Blair’s death in December 1910. A detailed biography of Blair was published in
Volume 7, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. As Blair had progressively assumed responsibility for the editorial and commercial aspects of the paper, the ageing McIlwraith was loth to shoulder the entire burden. He retired on 11 March 1911 and sold his interest to Andrew Dunn of the *Maryborough Chronicle*. Blair's interest was acquired by Dunn on behalf of his family and E.B. Coar and G.H. Coar, who assumed control of the business matters. Andrew Dunn, Jnr., at that time as senior reporter on the *Bulletin* was appointed Editor. This was the first of a series of expansionary moves by the Dunn family which was to lead them to a dominant position in the Queensland provincial press scene. W.H.A. Dunn (Herbert), brother of Andrew Jnr., was made chief of staff. Later he was to become managing editor of the *Toowoomba Chronicle* and *Darling Downs Gazette*. Still in Rockhampton the Dunn family acquired the *Evening News* from the Purcell Trust in 1929, and later in conjunction with the Manning family of Mackay, combined to form the Provincial Newspaper Group.

The name of Buzacott re-emerged in Rockhampton when Walter Sewell Buzacott was shown as publisher of a new weekly, *The Artesian* which was launched by the Rockhampton Newspaper Company Limited on 1 April 1919.

**LIVELY TIMES AT BOWEN**

From the time the *Port Denison Times* was launched in March 1864 Bowen was served by a lively line of newspapers. Frederick T. Rayner, the father of the North Queensland press, carried on his labours until his death in 1900. There had been a competitor at that time, the * Bowen Advocate*, one of the rare instances of a woman proprietor, and Annie Christie Eyre Massy, the trained school teacher who had purchased the short lived *Mirror* from R.A. Field to revive it as the *Advocate*, had merged it with the * Port Denison Times* which she acquired after Rayner's death in June 1900. On 1 September 1900, the date on which her name first appeared on the imprint, the name of the paper was changed from the *Port Denison Times and Kennedy District Advertiser* to the *Port Denison Times and Bowen Advocate*. Unfortunately her own health declined and she died on 14 February 1901. Her husband John Eyre Massy assumed control and ran the paper until 1910 when it ceased publication. Raymond Atkinson Field and E.S. Emerson, later editor of the *West Australian Worker* were editors of the paper.

Returning to a more orderly consideration of other Bowen papers the *Bowen Observer* was established in July 1887. It temporarily ceased publication for six months in March 1889 when the joint proprietors
were Eugene William Kiely and Joseph Smith. Kiely reemerged in Mount Morgan publishing *Truth* in 1897-1898 and North Rockhampton. The Thuman brothers purchased the business in October 1889 and John Albert Thuman acted as editor. A microfilm run of papers under this management extends until 29 December 1891. The paper suspended publication on 29 March 1892 and the venture was finally buried when the plant was sold to a resident of Charters Towers in 1893.

The *Bowen Record* was started by Michael Keane, only nine months before his death in 1902, and was subsequently sold by his widow to W.H. Darwen on 9 June, 1903. The name was changed to the *Bowen Independent* and this began the long association that the Darwens were to enjoy, and still do enjoy, with the district. Keane, formerly a compositor with the *Townsville Daily Bulletin*, first branched out in Ayr in 1897 when he started the *Ayr Chronicle*.19

**INNISFAIL’S VIGOUR**

Geraldton, or Innisfail as it was to be called later, proved to be one of the more vigorous centres in North Queensland in the establishing of newspapers. Perhaps the fact that it provided a stepping off point for prospectors bound for the Etheridge was a reason.

The *Geraldton Courier* has been identified by Northern historian Dorothy Jones as the first paper to appear in the town, with a date of issue 17 June 1885 and under the editorship of J.S. Gibb. The *Geraldton Independent* appears to have been the next paper and the editor, Patrick Shannon, was reputed to have worked as a ganger on the construction of the Barron Gorge Railway. It was published in 1889, and in August 1890 changed its name to the *Geraldton Free Press*, allegedly after a libel case. There is evidence that Shannon lived up to the reputation of the Irish, as soon after the second issue of the renamed *Geraldton Free Press* the *Cairns Argus* carried a report that “Geraldton was in a state of great excitement last night owing to Patrick Shannon, editor of *The Free Press*, racing through the main street firing a revolver and threatening the lives of the principal residents. He fired five shots”. He was fined three pounds and a summons were taken out by T. Dempsey, J.P., and E.C.M. Draper, editor of the *Advocate*. A week later he was bound over to keep the peace towards Draper, indicating the feeling existing between the two pressmen.
Edwin Charles Mollett Draper had gained newspaper experience in the North on the *Cairns Chronicle*, editing it in 1886 before Dr. Myers took over. When that paper was closed he acted as editor for its successor the *Cairns Argus*, being appointed in November 1889, but he did not retain the appointment for long as he moved to Geraldton, acting as an auctioneer and commission agent as well as being proprietor and editor of the new paper, the *Geraldton Advocate* which appeared in August 1890. Reportedly it was "published in the interests of the Liberal Party and the cause of Labour is also one of its principal planks". Apparently he was not a good financial manager, as court proceedings in March 1893 saw him identified as the owner of the *Geraldton Advocate* and "an uncertificated insolvent." Advertisements in the *Cairns Argus* show that he was sole representative of C.A. Pollard for a wide range of musical instruments in the Cairns district and just a month later was appointed as the Mareeba correspondent of the *Cairns Argus*. Little is known of his movements until he started *The Cairns Morning Post* in 1895 at the early age of 40 years. He remained editor of that paper until his death in 1901.

The *Advocate* was listed in *Pugh's Almanac* in 1894 under the name J.F. Macken, who has been identified as a compositor on the paper, and the first surviving copy on microfilm, dated 4 January 1895, Volume II number 1, acknowledges the proprietors on the imprint as being Joseph Donnel Nelson and Raymond Atkinson Field. A year later, only Field's name appeared on the imprint, acting as printer and publisher for the proprietors, and an advertisement referred to a change of proprietorship and temporary closure.

On 19 February 1886 the first issue of the *Mirror* was published with the tantalising information that "it is undoubtedly known throughout the district the conditions under which the *Advocate* was closed." Copies of issues up to 18 November 1896 have been microfilmed and they disclose that George William Stormont Wilkins was editor and that he was jointly proprietor with Raymond Atkinson Field.

**COOKTOWN'S PAST GLORIES**

Cooktown, now a sleepy tourist town slumbering in the memories of its past glories with historical relics and associations strong, was the scene of a vigorous press in the booming gold rush days. Following the opening of the rich Palmer fields in 1873 the ports of Cooktown and
Port Douglas flourished as the flood of overseas and southern prospectors reacted to the optimistic reports. The *Cooktown Courier* and the *Cooktown Herald* started publication within two weeks of each other in March 1874. James Smith Reid, fresh from his fledgling newspaper ventures in Ravenswood and Charters Towers, published the *Cooktown Courier* in partnership with Joseph Edward Larkin until October 1874. Larkin then left the partnership and Reid carried on with his brother William Douglas Reid. In the custom of the times, and more importantly the region, changes in ownership were frequent and the rival *Herald* was moved to comment on August 1876: "The *Cooktown Courier* has changed hands for the tenth time in 24 months". This bears comparison with the *Townsville Herald* which was reported in 1880 as having had 13 editors in two years.

The *Cooktown Herald* appeared on 20 March 1874 under the ownership of William Henry Leighton Bailey, the sailor turned journalist who had cut his literary teeth on the staff of the *Northern Argus in Rockhampton*. In 1878 he applied to John Douglas, Premier of Queensland, for a government position in anticipation of the annexure of New Guinea, and leased the paper for a period of two years. Reginald Spencer Browne and Charles John James operated the paper for a short time as Browne, seeking adventure, had moved from his post as editor of the *Townsville Herald* to Cooktown to work for Bailey Browne's memoirs rather wryly recorded the financial failure of the venture.

The continually changing proprietorship of both papers is illustrated in successive issues of *Pugh's Almanac*. Francis Charles Hodel, Channel Islander and father of Joseph Hodel of the *Townsville Bulletin*, had contact, although not continuous, with the paper from 1876 until his death in 1896. In the early years his partners included William Pritchard Morgan, barrister, and John Flood. Other owners or lessees of the paper included Till and Allen, J.G. Allen & Co., W. Trotter and R. Maitland.

In the case of the *Cooktown Herald*, Sinclair F. Balser succeeded Browne, Andrew Love being editor in 1880, then James Fowler, Till & Martin, Till and M.C. Green. The paper was last recorded in Pugh's directory in 1885 and it seems likely that the new paper, the *Cooktown Independent*, established on 6 June 1884, took its place. James Fowler was editor and manager, and the two-year lease renewed in 1890 had a weekly rate of thirty shillings. J.B. Martin was manager from 1892, and in 1908 A. Grant was named editor in the Pugh listing.

*The Endeavour Times* appeared in 1889 and was attributed to G.H. Brewster. It was listed in only two editions of *Pugh's Almanac*. James Fowler, late of the *Cooktown Independent*, assumed manage-
ment of the venture on 5 May 1891 and 15 days later provided some personal information under the heading “Our New Departure”. He claimed a connection with the press in Cooktown extending over 11 years and bitterly recalled his severance from the Independent in these terms: “Those who appreciated the work of founding it and the management of the Independent must feel indignant at the cowardly and cruel plot by which a servile clique managed to oust the late editor...”. However the effects of the depression forced suspension of publication on 2 September 1891 and an article headed “Valedictory” detailed the fact. Fowler remained in Cooktown and his name re-emerged in connection with a number of other papers until his death in 1903.

The Cook District Pastoral and Agricultural Journal appeared briefly in 1892, leaving few traces. The Endeavour Beacon and Cook District Advertiser had a decade’s existence from the time it was announced by the proprietors, H. Trotter and Company, in October 1894. The North Queensland Herald in July 1897 referred to the retirement of G. Fowler from the editorship as it was understood that he was about to start another journal. In 1905 it was replaced by the New Endeavour Beacon, operated under control of a company of the same name. D. Quillinan was shown as editor for 1908-1909 and H. Trotter the proprietor in that last year. The Mining Advocate, formed in 1911, showed M. Quilliam before its listing disappeared completely in the declining activity of Cooktown.

CROYDON’S TURN

Croydon was the last of the major gold mining fields to attract the attention of the prospectors, as the discoveries in 1885 came almost 20 years after the Cape River finds and 10 years after the Hodgkinson. The output from the field, however, ranked fourth in North Queensland, dwarfed by the massive output of Charters Towers but only marginally behind Ravenswood and ahead of the Etheridge and Hodgkinson. The growth of newspapers in that area had thus progressed from Georgetown which saw its first paper the Etheridge Courier established by Richard Joseph Morressy in 1875. Morressy at that time, and in the best tradition of the early pressmen, claimed to have had 17 years’ previous newspaper experience. He had been a partner in the formation of the Tenterfield Times and the Warwick Mail as early as 1862, served as editor of The Townsville Times, as well as secretary of the Townsville hospital, and after the early demise of the Etheridge Courier had moved the plant to Edwardstown for the issue of The Golden Age. The Mundic Miner and Etheridge Gazette was established in 1889 and over the years attracted a succession of
editors who came from Charters Towers. The paper did temporarily suspend publication in 1892 and was revived by the M.L.A. John (Plumper) Hoolan. Hoolan had earlier edited the *Croydon Mining News*. *The Mundic Miner* extended past 1913, and had, after Hoolan, a range of proprietors including partnerships of John Phair and Cramb, Phair and Everett, and T. Everett and A. Gard individually. W. Cramb entered the Georgetown scene when he was involved with the *Etheridge Mining Journal*, which appeared on 28 January 1891. Another Towers identity with the surname “Simpson” has been linked with this paper.

August 1887 proved to be a month of intense activity in Croydon, as three veteran newspapermen raced to issue their respective sheets. Horace Wellington Harris, lately arrived from the Townsville press arena, had his movements well documented by his friends in the columns of the *Townsville Herald*. One report might be selected to explain the rationale of those early press pioneers, as it read: “This will supply a long-felt want and will undoubtedly give an impetus to the field. It is to be hoped that it will also waken people up a little, and show them how calmly they allow their interests to be neglected”. Harris issued an extraordinary issue 11 days before the projected launch date which contained only telegrams. The official first issue was 24 August 1887, three days before its rival *The Golden Age*. H.F. Morgan, proprietor of *The Golden Age*, later issued a monthly journal devoted exclusively to mining under the title, *The Croydon Mining Register*. It ran to ten pages and was issued on 15 August 1888 with a guaranteed circulation of 2500.

David Green was employed by Morgan at that time, and when he moved to Charters Towers to manage and edit the *Northern Miner*, soon issued a weekly counterpart which he named the *Northern Mining Register*. Another employee on *The Golden Age* who was to make an important contribution to Queensland provincial journalism was A.E. Joseph, son of Henry Joseph of the *Mackay Mercury*. He left *The Golden Age* in November 1897 after six years’ service. Later he worked for the *Gympie Miner* before resigning to become the first secretary of the Queensland Country Press Association.
REFERENCES

Note

4. Newspapers in Australian libraries. A union list (Canberra: 1975)
6. Cairns Argus (7 December 1895).
7. From analysis of entries in newspaper directory, Pugh's Almanac.
11. Northern Miner (27 September 1887 and 1 March 1883).
12. Northern Miner (20 November 1883).
15. Capricornian (26 December 1929), Central Queensland Herald (2 January 1930).
19. North Queensland Herald (27 October 1897(.
21. Cairns Argus (15 August 1890)
22. Obituary, The Morning Post, Cairns (23 July 1901)
23. North Queensland Register (23 March 1893)
25. R.S. Browne, A Journalists Memories (Brisbane: 1927)
26. J.H. Reid, Charters Towers Goldfield (Brisbane: 1917, p.32)
27. Cleveland Bay Express (21 August 1875)
28. Ibid (17 June 1876)
29. Townsville Herald (6 August 1887)
30. Ibid (17 June 1876)
31. The Golden Age, Croydon (2 November 1897)