



An image taken by the ANHG editor at the NERAM Museum of Printing, Armidale, NSW, on 19 January 2020. NERAM is the New England Regional Art Museum. The Museum of Printing houses a historically significant collection of printing machinery and equipment, known as the F.T. Wimble & Co. Collection. It includes printing presses, a Linotype machine, a monotype, guillotines, book binding equipment, wooden and metal type and a history of printing in Australia from 1850 to the early 1900s. Wimble's listed themselves as ink makers, type founders and printers' furnishers. The Museum of Printing was officially opened on 23 April 2001 (see ANHG 12.37). Also, see 106.4.5 below for another image.

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Ten issues had appeared by December 2000 and the *Newsletter* has since appeared five times a year.



106.1.1 Last link with an era of Canberra newspaper history

The last physical link to a fierce newspaper rivalry which played out in Canberra's city centre more than 50 years ago looks set to be demolished (*Canberra Times*, 8 February 2020). Plans to redevelop the original offices of the *Australian* newspaper on Mort Street in Braddon, one of the few remaining industrial sites in the suburb, have been lodged with the ACT Planning Authority by the building's new owners. The plans for a seven-storey building include 68 apartments and commercial spaces for non-retail and restaurant uses, and will result in one of the last built links with the street's rich newspaper history being pulled down. The \$17 million project for the 1500 square-metre site would also include 109 parking spaces across a three-level basement and a roof terrace with recreational spaces.

Documents submitted to the ACT planning authority on behalf of Core Developments said the proposed facade would be "visually interesting and highly articulated". The *Australian* was launched from the building in July 1964, with editorial staff based in Mort Street preparing the newspaper's pages to be flown to press sites for national distribution in an era before sophisticated electronic communication. A pyjama-clad Rupert Murdoch is said to have argued with pilots reluctant to fly the charter planes through thick Canberra fog with the printing matrices to the Sydney and Melbourne presses. If the planes did not take off, the fledgling newspaper would be late across the country. The national newspaper's launch sparked a tough circulation battle with the *Canberra Times*, which had offices down the road at 18 Mort Street.

Before the *Australian* was launched, Murdoch told a group of newspapermen at a party in King's Hall for the opening of parliament in February 1964 that his plan for recently purchased land in Mort Street was to run the *Canberra Times* out of business. This prompted Arthur Shakespeare, whose father Thomas had established the *Canberra Times* in 1926, to sell the newspaper to Fairfax. Fairfax then bought the land behind Murdoch to prevent him expanding.

Later that year the *Canberra Times*, with a new focus on quality and an expanded staff of senior editors and journalists, reverted to broadsheet, a fortnight before the *Australian's* launch. *The Canberra Times's* circulation jumped by more than 20,000 with the changes, a total more than the number of households in the city at the time.

Despite best efforts to beat the *Canberra Times*, the *Australian* moved its offices to Sydney in 1967. Not even a month's worth of the *Australian*, delivered free to houses in Canberra, could convert enough readers to the new newspaper, instead causing only a temporary hit to the *Canberra Times's* circulation. *The Australian's* Mort Street building became a liquor shop and has recently housed a printer's offices and yoga studio. The *Canberra Times* moved its presses to Fyshwick in 1964 and editorial staff followed in 1987. The newspaper's building was demolished in 1991.

* Related reading: K.S. Inglis, "Enter the *Australian*", *Nation*, 25 July 1964, pp.7-8; and K.S. Inglis, "Five months' baby", *Nation*, 12 December 1964, pp.6-9.

106.1.2 ACCC raises concerns about Bauer buying Pacific

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has raised preliminary concerns about the prospect of Pacific Magazines being sold to Bauer Media. ACCC chairman Rod Sims said, "Pacific Magazines and Bauer are the only magazine publishers in certain categories and their titles appear to compete head-to-head on content and cover price. The ACCC has published a

statement of issues outlining its preliminary concerns. Submissions were open until 14 February. The ACCC's final decision is scheduled for 2 April (*Telum Media Alert*, 20 December 2019).

Bauer Media remains "100 per cent" committed to its \$40 million purchase of Seven West Media's Pacific Magazines, despite private equity firm Mercury Capital abandoning plans to buy the German publisher's Australian arm (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 January 2020, p.29).

106.1.3 Readership in Sydney and Melbourne

The *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age* were the most-read publications across print and digital in Sydney and Melbourne in September 2019, data from Enhanced Media Metrics Australia show. The *Herald's* audience for the month totalled 7.57 million, making it the most-read news title in the nation. The *Age* had 4.34 million readers (the *Herald Sun* had 4.21m). The second most-read news title was Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* with 4.8 million readers (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 November 2019, p.12).

106.1.4 People

- **Charles Altmann** (1928-2019), press artist who won Walkley Awards in 1958, 1959, 1962, 1968 and 1969 and worked in the *Sydney Morning Herald* art department, 1954-1986, has died. He was born Rudolf Karel Altmann in West Java (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 December 2019, p.35).
- **Jenna Cairney**, editor of the *Townsville Bulletin* for two years, has shifted to Hobart to edit the *Mercury*, replacing Chris Jones (*Weekend Australian*, 21-22 December 2019). See below.
- **Anthony De Cegliue** is the new editor-in-chief of West Australian Newspapers, which includes the daily *West Australian*, the *Sunday Times*, *PerthNow*, 19 regional newspapers and 12 community titles (*Telum Media Alert*, 20 December 2019).
- **Jessica Halloran** is now the chief sports writer at the *Australian*. She had been a sports columnist with the *Sunday Telegraph* for 10 years and had covered the Olympic Games and Commonwealth Games and more (*Telum Media Alert*, 31 January 2020).
- **Chris Jones** has shifted from the editorship of the Hobart *Mercury* to become editor of Brisbane's *Courier-Mail*, where he began his career two decades ago (*Weekend Australian*, 21-22 December 2019).
- **Michael Koziol**, formerly a federal political reporter for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and Melbourne *Age*, has been appointed deputy editor of the *Sun-Herald*, Sydney. He will also contribute stories covering mainly state (NSW) and national issues (*Telum Media Alert*, 7 February 2020).
- **Angus Livingston**, formerly economics correspondent for AAP, is now the federal bureau chief for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age* *WAtoday* and *Brisbane Times*, based in the Canberra press gallery (*Telum Media Alert*, 8 January 2020).
- **Kate McClymont**, investigate reporter for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, was awarded an Order of Australia (AM) for service to the print media and investigative journalism in the Australia Day honours list. She has been with the *Herald* for 30 years this year (*Sun-Herald*, 26 January 2020, p.8). Also see ANHG 106.1.21 below.
- **Jacqueline Maley**, a senior *Sydney Morning Herald* writer, has signed a two-book deal with HarperCollins imprint, Fourth Estate. One of the books is her debut novel, *The Truth About Her*, which tells the story of a journalist and single mother who discovers the subject of one of her investigations has died by suicide (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 30 January 2020, p.2).
- **Michael Mucci**, an Italian-born illustrator in the art department at the *Sydney Morning Herald* for 31 years to 2015, has died, aged 57. He was the 2006 winner of the Archibald Packing Room prize for his portrait of building and television personality Scott Cam (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 November 2019, p.6; see also 5 December 2019, p.32).

- **Cathy Wilcox**, *Sydney Morning Herald* political cartoonist, is co-author and illustrator of a book, *So... You're Having a Teenager: An A-Z of Adolescence*. Murdoch Books is the publisher (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 February 2020, p.12).

106.1.5 Defamation award of \$325,000

Former federal MP Dennis Jensen has been awarded \$325,000 in a defamation case against the *Australian* over a 2016 report that revealed he had moved out of his Perth electorate (*Weekend Australian*, 21-22 December 2019). Jensen held the safe Liberal seat of Tangney until he lost preselection to Ben Morton on 7 April 2016. He won 57 votes to seven. Jensen claimed he was defamed in the lead-up to that preselection challenge in stories published by the *Australian*. The first, on 31 March 2016, revealed he had written a novel about a war between Australia and Indonesia that contained a sex scene. Jensen's lawyers said that story conveyed a defamatory imputation that Dr Jensen was a purveyor of smut. A jury rejected this. However, the jury found a subsequent story published on 1 April 2016, conveyed three defamatory imputations. The story revealed Jensen was no longer living in the family home and was living with his girlfriend — now his wife — outside his electorate.

The jury decided this conveyed defamatory imputations that Jensen was a person devoid of the family values and high moral standards expected of a member of parliament and that he failed to act in the best interests of his constituents. West Australian Chief Justice Peter Quinlan found the stories in the *Australian* did not contribute to Dr Jensen losing preselection or to his struggle to find employment after he left politics. Chief Justice Quinlan found the reporting was not motivated by malice. However, Jensen was deeply hurt by the story about his living arrangements and the imputations presented a false picture of the circumstances of Jensen's marriage breakdown.

106.1.6 Publication details of *Oz* and *SMH*

The *Australian*, 1 January 2020: Editor-in-chief: Christopher Dore. Editor, *Australian*, John Lehmann. Editor, *Weekend Australian*, Michelle Gunn. Weekday cover price \$3. Weekend cover price \$4.

Published by the proprietor Nationwide News Pty Limited A.C.N. 008438828 of 2 Holt St, Surry Hills, 2010. Printed in NSW at 26-52 Hume Highway, Chullora, 2190; printed in Victoria by Herald & Weekly Times Limited of 127-129 Todd Rd, Port Melbourne, Victoria; printed in Tasmania by Davies Brothers Pty Limited, 31 Innovation Dr, Techno Park, 7010; printed in South Australia by Advertiser Newspapers Limited, 200 Railway Terrace, Mile End, South Australia; printed in Queensland by Queensland Newspapers Pty Limited, cnr Creek and Lytton roads, Murarrie, Brisbane, and also by the North Queensland Newspaper Company Pty Limited, 198 Ogden St, Townsville; and in Western Australia at Herdsman Print Centre, 50 Hasler Road, Osborne Park. Recommended and maximum retail price only excluding any additional freight charges which may be payable. Responsibility for election comment in this issue is taken by Christopher Dore, 2 Holt St, Surry Hills, NSW, 2010.

Sydney Morning Herald, 28-29 December 2019. Published by Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd, at 38-42 Pirrama Road. Pyrmont, 2009. Weekday cover price \$3.40, weekend \$4.40. Editor: Lisa Davies.

ACN 003357720. Printed in Sydney by Rural Press Pty Ltd, North Richmond, 159 Bells Line of Road, North Richmond, 2754. ABN 35 009896 146. Printed in Newcastle by Fairfax Regional Printers, t/a Fairfax Media Printing and Distribution Newcastle, Lot 2, Enterprise Drive, Beresfield, 2322, ABN 25 066 327 106. Printed in Canberra by Capital Fine Print, t/a Fairfax Media Printing and Distribution Canberra, 9 Pirie Street, Fyshwick, 2609, ABN 35 009 896 146. Printed in Queensland by Fairfax Media Printing and Distribution Brisbane, 58-68 Delancey Street, Ormiston, 4160. ABN 35 009 896 146.

Note: A strange ACN; a search of the ACN website indicates that this is the ACN for the deregistered company ABSANA Pty Ltd.

106.1.7 Witness J and secrecy in Australia

Julian Burnside and Mikele Prestia write (*Saturday Paper*, 21 December 2019-24 January 2020, p.7):

Too few Australians know about the case of Witness J – not to be confused with the case against Witness K and Bernard Collaery, itself a disgraceful overreach of the law. But a veil of secrecy shrouds the case of Witness J that should be of

concern to all of us. Witness J was secretly tried in Canberra, and secretly sentenced to a term of imprisonment at the Alexander Maconochie Centre in the ACT. When all this first emerged last month, even the ACT justice minister was unaware of Witness J's case. It was only through a civil action brought by J against the general manager of the prison in which he served his secret sentence that we have been able to glean a few facts.

The case of Witness J was revealed by author Robert Macklin in Canberra's *CityNews* on 13 November. J is understood to be a former military intelligence officer. We don't know who he is; we don't know what crimes he has committed. The ABC reported that he had been held in custody since May 2018, was sentenced to 31 months' prison in February 2019 and was released in August 2019. Prison general manager Corinne Justason was aware that certain Commonwealth orders applied to Witness J, although she was not aware of the terms of the orders. She knew the disclosure of information relating to Witness J and the offences of which he had been convicted was prohibited. And when she learnt J was writing a memoir in prison, she informed the Australian Federal Police.

Witness J's privileges were revoked. His access to email was terminated. His brother's house was raided nine days after Justason told the AFP about the memoir. Two days later, the AFP executed a search warrant raid on Witness J's cell.

When the AFP raided the home of Witness J's brother, they were looking for the manuscript of the memoir. While AFP raids for sensitive documents have become common in recent months—the ABC, journalist Annika Smethurst's home—the raids on J and his brother mark a departure from the norm even tested against that worrying standard.

Upon his release from the Alexander Maconochie Centre in August, Witness J began civil action against Justason over the seizure of his manuscript. J lost his claim but through this court action he learnt about the secret suppression orders—lifetime orders—that had been made against him. Before this case, he had no idea about them.

[This is a short extract from the article.]

106.1.8 Recent events

106.1.8.1 Deaths

Ellis, John Brant: D. 15 June in Melbourne, aged 89; completed a six-year apprenticeship in typesetting; moved around early in printing career and spent a year in the US and UK; joined Herald & Weekly Times Ltd in 1955; soon became delegate for the Printing and Kindred Industries Union; became supervisor of the phototypesetting department at Herald Gravure Printers, Hawthorn; in 1961 he took up a three-month Herald travel scholarship to the US and Europe to investigate developments in phototypography; worked at Hawthorn until his retirement; became best known for the photographs he took at protest rallies in Melbourne over the years in relation to fairer work, social justice and peace; remarkable collection now held by University of Melbourne archives (*Age*, 13 December 2019, p.29).

Montgomery, Bruce John (Monty): D.27 January 2020 in Hobart, aged 71; entered journalism as a cadet at ABC News, Hobart, in 1968; moved to *Examiner*, Launceston, in 1970; moved to UK in 1971, working for two years as a reporter with *Bucks Free Press* in High Wycombe; returned to *Examiner* 1873 as a reporter and sub-editor before joining ABC TV and Radio as political reporter in 1976; later joined the *Australian* as Tasmania correspondent; became senior national writer; covered daily news and wrote features for all sections of the newspaper; remembered for his toughness in battle with politicians of all stripes and his incisive questions; made big environmental stories such as the Franklin Dam debate and the Wesley Vale pulp mill national news, arguably hardening support for the Hawke government's intervention on those issues; co-founded two Tasmanian magazines, *Leatherwood* and *40 Degrees South* and was generous in mentoring young journalists (*Australian*, 3 February 2020).

106.1.9 *The Far Side* is back

Nearly 25 years since its previous instalment, the offbeat comic strip *The Far Side*, by Gary Larson, has returned, in a manner of speaking. Already live, *The Far Side* website will provide visitors with The Daily Dose, a random selection of past cartoons along with a weekly set of strips arranged by theme. There will also be a look at doodles from the sketchbooks of Larson. *The Far Side* became a cultural phenomenon after it appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on 1 January 1980. The single-panel comic, which ran until Larson, now 69, retired in 1995, featured men, women, children, animals and insects in often offbeat and sometimes inscrutable situations (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 December 2019, p.32).

106.1.10 The 24-hour news cycle and its impact

Here's an extract from what **Waleed Aly**, a newspaper columnist and a presenter on Channel 10's *The Project*, wrote (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 December 2019, p.24) on the subject of "obsessive news consumption":

We're in a strange era now where news itself is breaking down; where it ceases to operate as the vehicle for vital information, the lifeblood of democracy. Now, news has become a sedative. Its ubiquity, its sheer ambience is such that it seems to get less and less meaningful the more we consume. Soon everything begins to sound like everything that came before it, no matter how deadly serious it is. And that creates a perverse problem: the more serious and newsworthy something is, the less it seems to matter. Turns out news might be a terrible way to understand anything big picture, complex and systemic. Not because excellent reporting doesn't exist and even occasionally makes a difference on selected issues, but because the rest of the news ecosystem overwhelms it. Even if that hasn't always been true, 24-hour news has made it so because it is not to be internalised, remembered and ruminated upon, so much as constantly and disposably consumed. In this way news—even "serious news"—can't help but become a form of entertainment. It becomes a product for "news junkies" rather than citizens, and its civic function grinds to a halt.

106.1.11 Roberts-Smith (1): Second investigation

Second investigation: Nick McKenzie and Chris Masters reported (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 December 2019, pp.1, 6): The Australian Federal Police has launched a second war crimes investigation into Australia's most decorated living soldier, former special forces corporal Ben Roberts-Smith. The new police investigation is looking into allegations that Roberts-Smith was implicated in the summary execution of a man at a compound in southern Afghanistan in April 2009. Two separate teams of federal detectives are now investigating Roberts-Smith over his alleged involvement in the murders of unarmed men.

106.1.12 Roberts-Smith (2): Journalists win battle

Victoria Cross recipient Ben Roberts-Smith has lost a court battle to force two investigative journalists to disclose 49 documents they argued could expose their sources (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 January 2020, p.15). Roberts-Smith, a former Special Air Services soldier, is suing the *Sydney Morning Herald* in the Federal Court, claiming he was defamed in a series of 2018 articles that painted him as someone who "broke the moral and legal rules of military engagement" and committed murder on overseas deployment. The *Herald's* defence argues that the articles do not defame Roberts-Smith, but if the court accepts he was defamed they argue they can prove the truth of the allegations. The case will go to trial in June. The two investigative journalists are Nick McKenzie and Chris Masters.

106.1.13 Macquarie Media rebranded

Nine Entertainment (which owns the former Fairfax newspapers) has decided to drop the Macquarie Media brand name from its radio division. All Macquarie news bulletins have been brought under the 9News banner as part of the changes, while the radio network will be known in each city by its call sign, 2GB, 3AW, 4BC and 6PR. The removal of the Macquarie brand name follows the removal of the Fairfax Media corporate brand (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 January 2020, pp.28-29).

106.1.14 Newspaper ads for newspaper ads

Following are the messages contained in some full-page Nine Entertainment Sydney and Melbourne daily newspaper ads in a series to promote newspaper advertising. The first two are from the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the third is from the *Melbourne Age*.

1. Think-bait: Newspaper ads are twice as trusted as online advertising [If your brand's not here, it's nowhere. advertiseordie.com.au]
2. This newspaper's readership includes 806,000 people and 0 bots. That's all the data you need. [If your brand's not here, it's nowhere. advertiseordie.com.au]
3. If your brand's not here, it's nowhere. [advertiseordie.com.au]

106.1.15 A story worth reading

Tony Wright tells a moving story in “A bond rekindled down the road”, *Sun-Herald*, Sydney, 15 December 2019, p.27. It’s about the part played by a 23-year-old junior doctor in a Victorian country hospital, Dr Harry Frydenberg (now the father of the federal treasurer, Josh Frydenberg) and a 16-year-old Chiltern telephone exchange part-timer Barrie Cassidy (recently retired as an ABC journalist and presenter of *Insiders* on TV) in a bus-truck smash on 20 June 1966. Four people died in the 4am smash. Wright mentioned the smash and Cassidy’s part when he reported on Cassidy’s retirement. Dr Harry Frydenberg saw the story and told son Josh about his involvement in the smash aftermath. Josh brought his father and Barrie Cassidy, and, of course, Tony Wright, together for a lunch in Melbourne and Wright reported on the 1966 Frydenberg-Cassidy intersection in the *Sun-Herald* story mentioned.

106.1.16 Chinese newspaper closes

The largest and longest running Chinese language newspaper in Australia, *Sing Tao Daily*, went into liquidation on 6 February after 38 years (*Australian*, 10 February 2020). The sudden closure of the local publication that formed part of the 16 overseas editions of Hong Kong’s second largest Chinese-language newspaper came as Australia’s largest non-English language community is overwhelmingly embracing digital media, including popular social media platform WeChat. With a circulation of more than 15,300 for weekdays and 25,000 for the Saturday paper nationally, according to Dentsu Aegis, Sing Tao had been facing criticism globally for being influenced by the Chinese Communist Party. An ASIC notice confirmed the liquidation of Sing Tao Newspapers Pty Ltd, while the global group described the move as part of its business adjustment to adapt to the operational environment, adding that it planned to boost other overseas investments.

106.1.17 Column on Australian poetry for *Weekend Australian*

Award-winning poet and writer Sarah Holland-Batt begins an Australian poetry column in the books pages of the Review section of the *Weekend Australian* in March 2020. Her appointment has been made through a joint funding agreement with the Judith Nielson Institute and the Copyright Agency. Holland-Batt, who has been a regular writer for Review, holds a first-class honours degree in literature, a master of philosophy in English and a PhD from the University of Queensland, as well as a master of fine arts in poetry from New York University where she was the W.G. Walker Memorial Fulbright scholar in 2010-11. She has published several books and has been the recipient of awards, including the Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Poetry (*Weekend Australian*, 15-16 February 2020, Review, p.3).

106.1.18 AFP raids rebuked

A leading international human rights group has rebuked the federal government for police raids on the media, saying the country’s national security laws were having a “chilling effect” on journalists and their sources. Human Rights Watch has said in its annual report that while Australia was a vibrant democracy with robust institutions, freedom of expression came under unprecedented pressure in 2019 and the nation’s “overly broad” national security laws were open to misuse (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 January 2020, p.2).

106.1.19 James Murdoch and climate change

James Murdoch has accused his family’s global media empire of promoting climate denialism. The comments represent a rare public dispute among members of the Murdoch family about News Corp’s editorial direction. They came as News Corp Australia boosted security at its Sydney headquarters and other offices after weeks of attention and criticism on its coverage of the national bushfire crisis. Also, in an email to senior staff in early January, News Corp Australia commercial finance manager Emily Townsend “blasted her employer” for promoting a “misinformation campaign” on the cause of the bushfires (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 January 2020, p.7).

News Corp decided to donate \$5 million to the bushfire relief effort after weeks of criticism over its coverage of the crisis (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 January 2020, p.6).

See also the Bruce Dover and Zoe Samios articles listed in ANHG 106.5.2 below.

106.1.20 The *Epoch Times*

ANHG has viewed a copy of the weekly *Epoch Times*, Australian edition, issue 629, dated 10-16 October 2019. The paper seeks to bring readers “independent news coverage”. When reporting on China coverage, “our unique network of insiders helps us tell behind-the-scenes stories that can’t be found anywhere else”, the paper says (<https://ReadEpoch.com.au>) [Thank you Barry Blair, of Uralla.]

106.1.21 Kate McClymont on Kate McClymont

The *Sydney Morning Herald* has emailed online subscribers a letter from investigative reporter Kate McClymont who tells about her time with the newspaper. She says:

In 1985 I began what was to become one of the great loves of my life – working at *The Sydney Morning Herald*. As a fresh-faced young cadet, I was dispatched to do a rotation at the now-defunct Eastern Herald, in Bondi Junction. My job was to pen a gossip column called “Chums”. It’s hard to imagine turning the safe occupation of a society chronicler into one which attracted death threats but I managed to do just that. I poked fun at underworld kingpin George Freeman, his wife, Georgina, and their formidable bodyguard, who had attended a wedding at Kincoppal-Rose Bay. I started receiving threats at my home, with anonymous callers informing me that I had gone too far and that “Mr. Freeman was not happy”.

In May 1987, I had just started working as a researcher at Four Corners when “The Moonlight State” went to air. This was one of the seminal moments of investigative journalism in Australia. The program, which was months in the making, highlighted in alarming detail the corrupt links between politicians, police and the criminals that police were being paid to protect. I arrived back at the *Herald* at the end of January 1990 with a fresh vision of what investigative journalism could achieve.

Sometimes you can tell you are doing your job by the condemnation you receive from the subjects of your story. Take former Prime Minister Paul Keating who did not take kindly to a story about the infamous sale of his share in a piggery to some Indonesians. He later wrote a letter to the *Herald* saying: ‘Is this woman a stalker, or is she just under-employed? Will we find her next sniffing bicycle seats in nearby Darling Harbour?’ The late author and speechwriter Bob Ellis once wrote: “Kate McClymont ruined my life and I do not like her. She is going after Craig Thomson [then a Federal MP] lately, and she had better watch it.” Jockey Jim Cassidy, who was banned from racing for several years as a result of one of my stories once spat on my back (actually given his size, the back of my knees) saying: “You f..king bitch, you’ve ruined my life.”

On another occasion a bankrupt debt collector I was writing about threatened that if I did a “job” on him or his family, “trust me, you will end up paying for it”. Following the publication of that story, every day, for 155 days, he sent me an abusive and threatening email. It only stopped when he was jailed over the harassment of a business rival. And then of course there was Eddie Obeid. “McClymont has been mixing with scum for so long that she no longer knows who is good and who is bad, what is real and what is made up. She has become the journalistic equivalent of a gun moll with glittering associations with the not so well-to-do,” he once told parliament. On one occasion I rang Obeid to put a question to him. This was his response: “I tell you what, you put one word out of place and I will take you on again. You are a lowlife. I will go for you, for the jugular.”

Readers often ask me whether I get frightened or if I get threats. The answer to both of those is yes. Investigative journalism is not for the faint-hearted. I know our job is not to be loved – our job is to tell the truth and do so without fear or favour. Luckily for me I have worked for an organisation which has backed me all the way. My editors have stood behind me throughout the long and tortuous journey to expose the corruption of the Obeids and many others of their ilk. To them I will always be grateful.



2—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: DIGITAL

106.2.1 Online readership and confusion

This is how the *Australian* reports a recent increase in online readers (on 12 December 2019) as revealed in the official Nielsen audience snapshot, issued on 11 December 2019. These are the assertions:

1. The *Australian* has registered a 23 per cent jump in audience over the past month.
2. It grew its audience by 451,800 in November.
3. The average daily audience for theaustralian.com.au was more than 207,000 (or a total of 2.39 million for the month, up 15.4 per cent on the same month in 2018).

Here are some obvious questions arising from such statements: Re. (1): Does the 23 per cent increase relate to November 2019 as against October 2019? Re. (2): Is this growth of 451,800 an increase for the month? Shouldn't a clear connection then be made between (2) and (3). Was the base readership total 1.9 million for October, growing to 2.39 million by the end of November? Why confuse readers with two percentage readership increases: 23 per cent and 15.4 per cent? If you do use two such figures, make it absolutely clear how the figures relate to the current situation. Re. (3) How does a figure of 207,000 readers a day give you a total of only 2.39 million for the month? Presumably, the readership was counted each of the 30 days of November.

106.2.2 Bushfires and readership

Comprehensive coverage of bushfires in the summer of 2019/20 led to more readers than ever turn to the *Australian's* digital platforms in January. The paper recorded the nation's fastest month-on-month growth of any masthead (*Australian*, 13 February 2020). The *Australian's* unique monthly audience hit 2.51 million — the biggest recorded in its history — according to the latest Nielsen audience snapshot of news websites. Online readership jumped by 19.1 per cent on the previous month and 24.5 per cent year-on-year. Nearly 1400 new online subscribers were added in January.

106.2.3 Call for news ban on digital giants

Digital platforms would be banned from using any news publisher's content or data unless all major news organisations signed on to a new code of conduct overseen by the competition regulator, under a plan from News Corp Australia (*Weekend Australian*, 14-15 December 2019). News Corp has endorsed a plan by the ACCC and the Morrison government for a new code of conduct to be drawn up between the likes of Facebook and Google and media companies, on the proviso that all major publishers sign up to the codes. The publication of the media company submissions came after the Morrison government responded to the ACCC report on the effect of digital platforms on traditional media, pledging that if a voluntary code were not agreed to by November 2020 a compulsory code would be introduced. In previously confidential submissions to Treasury responding to the ACCC's inquiry, News Corp also asked that digital platforms "appropriately compensate publishers" for use of their content.

However, News argues that if an agreement is not drawn up with all major media companies, digital platforms should be prevented from "using any news publisher's content and collecting any data generated by the use of the any news publisher's content". News says the prohibition of the use of content by digital publishers should extend to "using content which is a rewritten version of any news publisher's original content". This limitation would also override the "fair dealing" exemptions in the Copyright Act to prohibit "indexing of content for search and publishing of snippets". News argues that digital platforms would need to draw up agreements with all major

publishers because “otherwise, digital platforms will continue to be able to play news publishers off against each other and use negotiations with other news publishers as a negotiating tactic in order to force publishers into ‘take it or leave it’.”

Major publishers would include — but not be limited to — News Corp, Nine Entertainment, Seven West Media, the Guardian, the ABC and SBS. News also calls for digital platforms to be prevented from making changes or placing conditions on algorithms affecting publishers without “reasonable warning, proper explanation, and operating in a way that is fair, equitable and non-discriminatory”.

In its submission Nine Entertainment said “at a minimum” the code should cover the use of journalistic and drama content, penalties for breaches, a dispute resolution process, flexibility about how ads are placed around content and flexibility in monetisation solutions. Nine said the digital platforms engaged in “misguided arguments” that they already supported journalism, and would seek “narrow definitions that cause the code to be rendered binding on registration”. “The direction from the government to the digital platforms needs to be clear, exact, and provide strong parameters for them. It is only rational for the platforms to seek to minimise the impact on their business, ignoring the harm their business models cause.”

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security looking into press freedom said it would be delaying its final report until 2020.

106.2.4 Crikey’s new unit face setback

Private Media chairman Eric Beecher says the company’s new Fairfax-family funded investigative journalism outlet has failed to live up to expectations, forcing it to cut costs and shed jobs. Beecher told staff at a long meeting at the end of November 2019 that Inq, an investigative outlet launched by the Crikey publisher in mid-2019, had failed to hit its targets. In a subsequent interview with the *Sydney Morning Herald* he said he had a long history of trying new models for journalism and was not backing away from the project. Inq was launched to focus on in-depth reporting for paying subscribers and received funding from media scions John B. Fairfax and Cameron O’Reilly as an expansion of the company’s flagship online news publication Crikey (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 November 2019, p.14).

106.2.5 News Corp wants stronger measures against tech titans

News Corp Australasia executive chairman Michael Miller has criticised the Morrison Government’s decision to allow Facebook and Google to face voluntary rules as “out of kilter” and has pushed for a stronger response to regulating the tech titans (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 December 2019, p.10). Other Australian media organisations are not so critical. The Morrison Government confirmed on 12 December it would accept the majority of the competition regulator’s recommendations in its crackdown on the digital services, including a pilot program for an ombudsman, a review of media regulations, improved digital literacy, and sweeping privacy changes. Miller said he believed more should be done to protect traditional news providers. [See also: Stephen Bartholomeusz, “World watches as Morrison takes on digital giants”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 December 2019, pp.29, 33.]

106.2.6 Online fact-checkers and the bushfires

The Australian Associated Press says it was overwhelmed by an influx of dubious social media posts relating to the national bushfire crisis that it had to fact-check on behalf of partner Facebook (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 January 2020, pp.10-11). AAP chief executive Bruce Davidson said his fact-checking team had had to work through “dozens and dozens” of suspect posts relating to the bushfires in the week of 5-11 January, with areas of concern ranging from misleading images to false political claims. The surge in false and misleading posts on social media websites about the causes of the bushfires led to concerns among politicians and academics, who urged the public to be careful when reading online content. Davidson’s comments came as Communications Minister Paul Fletcher urged the public to maintain a “healthy scepticism” about information they read online.

106.2.7 Digital publication for Adelaide Hills

Messenger Community News has launched a digital publication, the *Adelaide Hills News* (*Telum Media Alert*, 12 February 2020). It is Messenger's third digital-only masthead. The editor is Lydia Kellner.

106.2.8 ABC top of content ratings

The ABC moved to the top spot in the Nielsen Digital Content Ratings for January 2020, dislodging news.com.au (*Telum Media Alert*, 12 February 2020). The ABC News Websites had a unique audience of 11.1 million, an increase of more than 11 per cent over December 2019. The top 10 sites for January and their audience sizes were:

- ABC News Websites: 11.191 million.
- news.com.au: 10.503 million.
- nine.com.au: 9.341 million.
- 7NEWS.com.au: 9.291 million.
- Daily Mail Australia: 8.810 million.
- Sydney Morning Herald: 8.029 million.
- Guardian Australia: 6.512 million.
- Australian Community Media Network: 5.021 million.
- The Age: 4.299 million.
- Yahoo News Australia: 4.288 million.

106.2.9 Nine execs join Domain board

Real estate portal, Domain Group, has appointed Nine chief executive Hugh Marks and managing director of commercial partnerships Lizzie Young as non-independent directors to its board. They replaced Patrick Allaway and Gaily Hambly on 1 February (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 25-26 January 2020, Business p.2).

106.2.10 Did somebody say KFC?

On 30 January, *The New Daily* sent an email at 4.33pm with the headline, "Barty into final", and three minutes later sent a second email, "CORRECTION: Ash Barty heartbreak". Sofia Kenin had beaten Australia's Ashleigh Barty 7-6, 7-2 in the semi-final of the Australian Open tennis. Kenin went on to win the title, her first grand slam.

106.2.11 A squiz at the news of the day

Claire Kimball and Kate Watson have carved out a business based on providing busy people with a shortcut to the news (*Australian*, 10 February 2020). Each night Kimball drafts an email tracking the news of the day, and Watson turns that into a podcast script. They are up before 5am to record, produce and edit the day's episode and release it by 6am. Their podcast, "The Squiz", is one of several daily news offerings available to podcast listeners in Australia. Podcasts increasingly are occupying the time of journalists and budgets of media companies searching for viable business models.

From the Newsroom, recently relaunched by news.com.au, presents top stories succinctly in several minutes. There are the hard news reports: The *Sydney Morning Herald/Age's* "Please Explain"; Schwartz Media's "7am"; and the *Guardian's* "Full Story", which can be considered loss-leaders for the mastheads. Careful to avoid making radio on the internet are the broadcasters, ABC's "The Signal", and weekly Network 10's "The Professor and The Hack". Domestic daily news podcasts also contend with international juggernauts such as the *New York Times's* "The Daily". Then there are a la carte podcasts many listeners pick and choose over daily news, true crime investigations and personality interview shows. The *Australian* has pioneered investigative and true crime podcasts. Consistently topping the Australian iTunes podcast charts are the Joe Rogan "Experience" and "The Tim Ferriss Show".

"Our competitors are global now," says Rob Loewenthal, CEO of Whooshkaa. The podcast hosting platform previously featured the *Australian's* podcasts — including global hit "The Teacher's Pet",

which had more than 60 million downloads. The business's current catalogue hosts 7500 users and Loewenthal thinks the market can support five times more news podcasts.

106.2.12 New Queensland news website

News website, InQueensland, started by Eric Beecher in February 2020, is running stories by the ABC as he looks to cash in on the new venture by its first anniversary. Beecher, chairman of Solstice Media and Private Media, has struck a commercial agreement with the ABC to run the public broadcaster's stories on his website, which has hired a handful of full-time journalists. InQueensland's primary rivals are News Corp Australia's *Courier-Mail* and *Gold Coast Bulletin* mastheads and Nine Entertainment's digital *Brisbane Times*. The InQueensland website seeks to mirror the success of websites such as InDaily, SALife and The Lead South Australia, with a similar funding model (*Australian*, 24 February 2020).



3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

106.3.1 Funding for regional newsrooms to be enlarged

The federal government will expand access to a fund supporting public-interest journalism in local communities in a bid to tackle so-called “news deserts” emerging in parts of Australia (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 December 2019, p.18). As part of its response to the landmark digital platforms inquiry, which put forward a series of proposals on the future of a sustainable media industry, the government promised to “enhance” a \$60 million package that supports regional and small publishers. Introduced in 2018, the program has provided two rounds of grants to local media outlets looking to adapt to the digital era and sustain their businesses. Grants have assisted organisations to train staff, adopt new technology and do market research. Communications Minister Paul Fletcher said regional journalism had been particularly affected by the internet, with 100 local newspapers closing over the past decade. He said the Government wanted to enhance the fund in line with a recommendation of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's digital platforms inquiry.

106.3.2 ‘Crisis’ in regional media

Australian media executives disagree about almost everything but there was one issue in 2019 where there was no contest: regional media companies are in serious trouble (writes Jennifer Duke, *Age*, 28 December 2019). Most news organisations have felt the corporate purse strings tighten this year after one of the worst periods in advertising spending many sales executives have seen in decades. A severe drought and raging bushfires across the country have exacerbated this even further in the bush. Yet regional and local media has been on its knees for years, cutting staff and reducing services, and now it is being kicked while it's down.

Since 2009 there has been about a 15 per cent decline in local and regional mastheads, or about 106 closures, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission found in its final report into the impact of tech giants Facebook and Google on news organisations. The hollowing out of the regional newsrooms should be a concern for everyone regardless of whether they live in the city or in the bush. The *Newcastle Herald*, one of the biggest of the regional city papers, has been the powerhouse behind multiple major investigations including a 2013 Gold Walkley-winning series on child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church by Joanne McCarthy. This reporting helped prompt a NSW inquiry and a royal commission on the issue and is one example of the type of journalism that benefits us all.

The competition watchdog has warned the trend of local and regional newspaper closures is “likely to continue”, adding it would represent a significant loss of public interest journalism that would “seriously undermine” the accountability of local government and public institutions. “Recent international research has demonstrated that declines in local media coverage directly contribute to less efficient administration of local government, less active civic engagement and reduced competition for local government office,” the ACCC found.

There is a widening gap between people living in the bush and in the cities. Twenty-one local government areas are now without a newspaper.

News Corp closed two regional Quest titles in Queensland this year and has looked at selling its regional newspaper arm. Nine Entertainment Co sold regional newspaper division Australian Community Media to Antony Catalano in mid-2019, who has since described the sector as being in a “crisis”. However, the biggest shock for many in the industry came when WIN TV, backed by Bermuda-based billionaire Bruce Gordon, slashed multiple NSW and Queensland newsrooms in June, citing financial pressures making it difficult to justify keeping reporters and production staff in these areas. “It must be really tough if he has allowed that to happen,” one media executive said.

106.3.3 New editors for three dailies

Three News Corp regional dailies have new editors (*Telum Media Alert*, 7 February 2020). They are:

- *Townsville Bulletin*: Craig Warhurst, former editor of the *Sunshine Coast Daily*.
- *Sunshine Coast Daily*: Nadja Fleet, formerly head of news at the *Adelaide Advertiser*.
- *Gladstone Observer*: Chris Gilmore.



4—NEWSPAPER HISTORY

106.4.1 Clive James and the *Sydney Morning Herald*

John Myrtle, of Canberra, writes: The recent death of Clive James at the age of 80 drew tributes from many circles in Australia, the UK and other parts of the world. The *Sydney Morning Herald*'s edition of 29 November 2019 included a double-page spread tribute featuring an obituary written by Harriet Veitch, former obituary editor of the *Herald*. As a researcher with a particular interest in the history of Fairfax newspapers, one aspect of this obituary that caught my eye was the claim that after graduating from the University of Sydney, Clive James had been employed as an “assistant editor” on the *Sydney Morning Herald*. This did not ring true, for while James had engaged in various writing projects at the university, including editing the student newspaper, *Honi Soit*, writing for student revues and contributing various book reviews, this did not amount to a level of work experience required for a senior professional journalist's position.

I checked Gavin Souter's *Company of Herald*s, the history of the *Herald*'s holding company, John Fairfax Limited, but this contained no reference to Clive James's employment at the *Herald*. The next checking point was *Unreliable Memoirs*, the first volume of James's autobiographical writing, covering his Sydney childhood and youth. Ignoring the possibility of “unreliability”, this proved to be much more helpful in providing information on James's employment with John Fairfax. The editor of the *Herald* at the time had been the former Conservative politician, Angus Maude, and while James was still at university, he had been encouraged by Maude to write book reviews for the newspaper. At the same time, he had also befriended Tom Fitzgerald, the distinguished

financial editor of the *Herald* and founder of the literary-political magazine, *Nation*. James wrote that at times he reviewed the same book for both *Nation* and the *Herald*. Significantly, he wrote in *Unreliable Memoirs* that on graduating, he had been offered a job by Angus Maude as “assistant to the editor of the magazine page of the Saturday edition”, somewhat less elevated than an “assistant editor’s” position. During this year with John Fairfax he continued to contribute to university revues, and also attend informal contributors’ meetings at *Nation* magazine.

By year’s end James was ready for a change and it was to be a very significant life-change. He resigned from the *Herald*, and used his severance pay to purchase a £97 one-way passage on a ship leaving for England on New Year’s Eve.

The career of Clive James as a journalist with the *Sydney Morning Herald* was now ended, but there was an amusing footnote to his employment with John Fairfax. Soon after arriving in England he investigated the possibility of continuing to work in journalism. The *Herald*’s editor, Angus Maude, had written a letter of introduction, addressed to John Douglas Pringle, Maude’s predecessor at the *Herald* and now editor of the *Observer* in London. The *Observer* was a major weekly newspaper, and *Falling Towards England (Unreliable Memoirs Continued)* records that the newly arrived journalist decided to investigate employment possibilities with the London newspaper:

Armed with the [Angus Maude] letter and with a tartan tie thoughtfully added to [my] Hawaiian shirt, I went to see Pringle at the *Observer*’s building in Blackfriars. ... He asked me what I wanted to do and I said write features ... he pointed out that he already had a building full of young feature writers who could read at least one foreign language, wrote perfectly acceptable English and had the additional virtue of knowing quite a lot about Britain.

Clive James was shown the door by Pringle. While he continued to write, his career followed a very different path than what might have been envisaged during his early employment with the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

106.4.2 Which is the best country newspaper (1940)?

Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser, 29 November 1940, p.8: Bombardier Frank Priddice, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Priddice, of Kyogle, one-time of Coraki, writes to the editor of the *R.R. Herald*, from headquarters at Darwin, an exceptionally interesting note: —

“Dear Mr Editor. Reading through the pages, of your paper dated 20/9/40 I noticed your article ‘How Good Is Your Local Paper,’ and this prompted me. to write. “Since leaving’ the Richmond I’ve visited most of the States of this country and practically everywhere I’ve been I have met at least ‘one who knows of the ‘Pink ‘Un’ at Coraki. Even at Cloncurry (Qld.) I met a chap who knew the Coraki paper, and as far north as the Islands north of here, I met a Patrolman who, when I remarked I came from the Richmond River, stated, “I’ve been there; that’s where they have the, pink newspaper”. So much for your circulation — and reputation.

“Being up here I’ve met men from every State, and I’ve heard every conceivable argument as to which, is the best State, and which produces the best horses, sportsmen, crops, etc. (anything for an argument) but only recently I hoard the funniest argument of all — . ‘Which State has the best newspapers?’ The leading newspapers of the capitals were compared over and over again, and at last the topic turned to ‘Which State has the best country newspapers?’ The argument was in full swing when a, chap from the far corners of W.A. produced a *R.R. Herald* and convinced the ‘politicians’ that it was the best country newspaper he had read (about the only one in the crowd that was not biased in favor of his home State). On asking him how he came by the ‘Pink ‘Un, he told me that a friend of his in W.A., had a friend at Woodburn, who posted it over to W.A. each week, and this friend passed it on to him. He could talk of Coraki and Delelvin news as well as I, and what he knew about Fitz o’ Wingham [Fitzpatrick, of the *Wingham Chronicle*] would shame you! I thought this would be handy to yon in proving your paper’s worth and showing you that your

paper is appreciated even in this humble burg. My regards to the staff and any of ‘the old hands of the town.’”

We have to thank B^{dr}. Priddice for the foregoing, which should be perused with interest by our readers — and especially by our old friend and wit-sharpener, Fitz o’ Wingham, whose manna is great in the land. And may it be so. for many years still to come.

106.4.3 Country newspapers and history

Crookwell Gazette, 15 February 1950, p.9: “The newspapers published in the various country towns are the most valuable records of the town’s history,” said Mr. W. A. Bayley, during an interview this week. “Unfortunately, however, some files of local newspapers are lost as time passes.” Files of the *Crookwell Gazette* were donated to the Mitchell Library in 1947. They have been sorted and collated ready for binding. Files for the years 1889, 1897, 1898, 1908, 1912, 1922, 1925, 1926 and 1930 are missing. Files for the years 1887, 1924 and 1927 have many issues wanting or imperfect.

The *Argyle Liberal* was published in Crookwell from 1903 to 1930. Files for years 1903 to 1907 are to be found in the Public Library at Sydney. Files for the other years do not exist. Mr. Bayley has examined and made notes from all papers printed in Crookwell and Goulburn which still exist. He appeals to residents who may have single copies of papers containing any important historical records of Crookwell to lend them to him. They will be returned immediately he has examined them. Already Mr. Bayley has received several old photographs for consideration for publication in the history. Cash donations to defray cost of reproducing them are also being received.

106.4.4 Alan Rowland Chisholm and the *Age* and *Argus*

Professor Wallace Kirsop, of Melbourne, has sent the ANHG a copy of Stan Scott’s *Chis: The Life and Work of Alan Rowland Chisholm (1888-1981)*, noting: “It may ... be of interest to readers of *ANHG Newsletter* not only because of Chisholm’s role in the literary pages of the *Age* in the 1960s and 1970s, but also because of his much earlier involvement with the *Argus* (see Chapter 7).” Chisholm was, during much of the 20th century, Australia’s leading teacher of and researcher in modern European literatures. He was head of French at the University of Melbourne for nearly 40 years. Here is an extract from Chapter 7 of *Chis*:

In January 1940 Chisholm wished “more than ever” that he were in England in order to contribute more directly to the war effort. However, early in April, along with Maurice Belz of the Mathematics department, the Belgian consul René Vanderkelen, and other francophiles, he approached the *Argus*, now defunct but then a leading morning newspaper, for a weekly column to be written in French “for the purpose of strengthening the morale of French people in Victoria and their pro-French friends”. In the event Chisholm’s function went a good deal beyond even this frame of reference.

His qualifications for the task—an intimate knowledge of both France and Germany and recent experience of French politics—were self-evident. Hence, with the consent of [E.G.] Bonney, the editor, and the blessing of Chisholm’s old Fort Street friend “Knocker” (Sir Errol Knox), the series was launched by Chisholm’s “L’Homme de lettres et la guerre” (27 April). Other contributors were two members of Chisholm’s staff—Lloyd Austin (recently back from Paris) and Alan Carey Taylor. They also had the support of Lancial, then consul for France, until he took rather querulous exception to Chisholm’s attacks on Petain. First in French, then in English, the articles became a weekly event in the months that followed.

The *Argus* articles were followed up by pieces in similar vein for the *Australasian*, while short fortnightly tracts in French for the Pacific Service of the Department of Information were reproduced in *Courrier australien*.

... Late on 14 June, when the news came through that Paris had fallen, Bonney rang Chisholm for a leading article. “Paris” appeared the news morning with the words: “And now more than ever France’s fight is ours.” A few nights later (17 June) came the “shattering news [...] that France was asking for an armistice”.

... Chisholm agreed to supply the *Argus* with four articles weekly from September onwards, and in them many of his convictions of the thirties find their natural prolongations. In expressing his praise of De Gaulle and his own “unbounded admiration for the spirit of Britain” (21 September)—he had just written to Hughes of the “pre-eminence of the British people in the scale of human values” (12 September)—he took up his earlier theme of heroic action.

... The style of these pieces is understandably passionate. From a [sic] normally temperate pen allusions to the “sinister Laval”, to the “Berlin-Bordeaux Borgias”, to the “sinister rogues” of both left and right that gathered around Petain, descriptions of Hitler as a “sadistic megalomaniac” and of Mussolini as a “grotesque parody of an ancient

Roman”, and like denunciations, are natural functions of their times. But these articles, which are the war effort of the busy head of an understaffed department, are also journalism of a high order and they survive the circumstances that inspired them.

... Chisholm’s attachment to the *Argus* proved more durable than he could have anticipated, and he contributed leading articles long after the war was over. His political articles were probably an important factor in the downfall of the Victorian Labor Government in 1947; and there were attacks on Menzies for “selling us out to America”. But he resisted inducements offered by Knox—increased salary, frequent trips to Europe—to join the paper as full-time political editor, that is, to change his profession when he was already well into his fifties.

106.4.5 Peterborough, SA: Printing and preservation

[Extracted from Greg Mayfield, “Heritage grants help preserve history”, *Sunday Canberra Times*, 22 December 2019, p.10.] The Peterborough Printing Works in South Australia was purpose-built in the 1890s to print newspapers. In 2001 the owner stopped the presses, and left everything in place as though business would resume the next day. Instead the historically significant contents of the building have been preserved by the local history group, which has received almost \$12,000 in Commonwealth funding distributed by the National Library of Australia to purchase archival material for the project.

At the spic-and-span building near Peterborough’s main street, modern “printer’s devils” Mary Zimmerman and Judy Evans toil amid polished black-and-chrome flatbed printers from the 1900s. The volunteers’ task is to preserve the paperwork produced by the Peterborough Printing Works through a mixture of hands-on, old-world curiosity and new-age social media networks. Zimmerman and Evans are leaders of the Peterborough History Group that has pledged to save the print-works’ heritage. They are in the midst of converting 25,000 job docket and production items since 1923 to a database by scanning and photographing them. So far they have done 14,000. Eventually the collection will be available online to history buffs and print enthusiasts. The smell of ink, kerosene and paper hits the onlooker when walking into the old workshop, once the home of the *Review-Times* newspaper that ended up with nine titles incorporated and ceased publication in 1989. It was absorbed into the *Flinders News*.



AN ALBION PRESS AMONGST OTHER PRESSES IN THE F.T. WIMBLE & CO COLLECTION AT NERAM’S MUSEUM OF PRINTING, ARMIDALE (SEE COVER PICTURE).

106.4.6 Celebrating a publishing stalwart

The book, *London Review of Books: An Incomplete History* celebrates the 40th anniversary of the influential publication, often referred to as the *LRB*. This book contains selections from the paper’s archives, personal collections, letters, notebooks, drawings and typescripts, many of them never previously published. In this large, profusely illustrated hardback can be found original letters, draft articles, editorial comments and scribbled notes by legendary contributors such as Alan Bennett, Angela Carter, Andrew O’Hagan, Mary Beard, Oliver Sacks, Frank Kermode, Hilary Mantel, Edward Said, Ted Hughes, Christopher Hitchens and Jenny Diski. Their extracts are contextualised with captions and backstories by the authors and editors, as well as introductory essays by O’Hagan and legendary *LRB* editor Mary-Kay Wilmers. As newspapers and magazines fight to retain circulation, the *LRB* has flourished within a financial framework of a subscription base totalling nearly 80,000 and financial support, estimated at \$30 million plus, from the Wilmers family trust (*Canberra Times*, 18 January 2020, Panorama, p.18). See ANHG 106.5.1 below.

106.4.7 Ownership of the regional dailies

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: An inquiry from a colleague led me to update a statement of ownership I had compiled of the regional (or provincial) dailies throughout Australia. There are now 33 dailies published outside the capital cities in Australia. Australian Community Media (Anthony Catalano is the major shareholder) owns 13 dailies (eight in NSW, three in Victoria, and two in Tasmania). News Corp Australia owns 16 dailies (13 in Queensland, two in NSW and one in Victoria). Seven West Media owns one: the *Kalgoorlie Miner*. McPherson Media owns one: the *News*, Shepparton. The Elliott Newspaper Group owns one: the *Sunraysia Daily*, Mildura. The unions own one: the *Barrier Daily Truth*, Broken Hill.

Queensland has 13 regional dailies; NSW, 11; Victoria, 6; Tasmania, 2; and WA, 1. I count the *Border Mail* as being a NSW publication—its main publication centre is Albury where it originated. I still count the Canberra and Darwin dailies as metropolitan dailies.



5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

106.5.1 Books

Finkelstein, David, *Movable Types*. Oxford University Press, 2018. \$78.

This is a study of international print networks developed across the English-speaking world over a significant part of the nineteenth century. The first study of its kind, it draws on unique sources from Australasia, North America, South Africa, the British Isles, and Ireland, to explore how printers interacted and shared trade and cultural identities across international boundaries during the period 1830-1914. Morality, mobility, mobilisation, and solidarity were central to how compositors and print trade workers defined themselves during this period. These themes are addressed in case studies on roving printers, striking printers, and creative printers. The case studies explore the cultural values and trade skills transmitted and embedded by such actors, the global networks that enabled print workers to travel across continents in search of work and experience, the trade actions reliant on mobilization and information-sharing across the printing world, and the creative ideas that printers shared through such means as memoirs, poetry, prose, and trade news contributions to print trade journals and other public outlets.

Kinchin-Smith, Sam (comp.), *London Review of Books: An Incomplete History*, Faber. \$69.99.

An intimate account of 40 years of intellectual life, which sheds new light on great careers, famous incidents and some of the history going on in the background: a testament to the power of print – and well-edited sentences – in the new information age. See ANHG 106.4.6 above.

106.5.2 Articles

Aly, Waleed, “Daily drumbeat is deafening”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 December 2019, p.24. Obsessive news consumption is no way to understand complexity. See extract in 106.1.10.

Berg, Chris, and Lane, Aaron, “Social media self-censorship will backfire on conservatives”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 November 2019, p.23. Christian Porter’s push to make platforms accountable for their users is flawed, the authors argue.

Dover, Bruce, “A Murdoch does a ‘Prince Harry’ over New Corp’s shifting climate”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 January 2020, p.23.

Duke, Jennifer, “Truth in the news vital component of functioning economy”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 November 2019, pp.29-30.

Kenny, Chris, “Reporters also on frontline of trauma”, *Australian*, 17 February 2020, pp.23, 25. Death, tragedy and grief are constant companions for many reporters. How do they cope with such issues?

Meacham, Steve, “The off-field gift modern sports stars give us all”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 November 2019, p.34. A former *Herald* sports editor discusses how the recent openness of

sports stars about such ailments as mental health issues has changed sports reporting. Extract: “Today’s sports pages, though, cover invisible illnesses that simply wouldn’t have been admitted to publicly two decades ago. Back then, coaches organised cover-ups, fearful the truth would be received unsympathetically.”

Mitchell, Chris, “Trump-hating journalists can’t see the wood for the trees on impeachment”, *Australian*, 17 February 2020, p.24.

Oriel, Jennifer, “Queer how Press Council would suppress the truth”, *Australian*, 16 December 2019, p.10. Facts should trump the pursuit of politics and the invalidation of unfashionable ideas. Extract: “The APC has fallen afoul of reason by promoting queer ideology as good journalistic practice.”

Rugendyke, Louise, “In the name of the father”, *Sun-Herald*, 17 November 2019, pp.34-35. Power, money, fame—the dramatic potential of the Packers is huge. How the play, *Packer and Sons*—“a deep dive into the men of the Packer family and the complex emotions that drove them as each battled for ascendancy”—came together.

Samios, Zoe, “Weathering the storm: inside the Murdoch climate schism”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 January 2020, p.6.

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