



The *North-Eastern Advertiser*, Scottsdale, Tasmania, celebrated its centenary on 17 December 2009 and published this photograph of Joyce Saunders, 92, beside a 100-year-old guillotine which was part of the equipment when she worked at the paper. Saunders, who was the oldest surviving former employee of the paper, died on 30 December 2009. – *North-Eastern Advertiser* photo.

(See 56.4.1.2 below.)

AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

ISSN 1443-4962

No. 56

February 2010

Publication details

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Deadline for the next Newsletter: 30 April 2010.

Subscription details appear at end of Newsletter. [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]

The *Newsletter* is online through the ePrint Archives at the University of Queensland at <http://espace.uq.edu.au/>)

Editor's Note: Ten years ago this month I took on the editing of this Newsletter. This is the 52nd newsletter issued since then. Victor Isaacs, the foundation editor, has edited a few newsletters when I have been away on long holidays. And he has been a constant contributor, as this issue of the Newsletter suggests. Many others have contributed to the interest and widening readership of the Newsletter over the years. The ANHG has also published twelve books. Thank you for sharing the journey with me. —**Rod Kirkpatrick**

1 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: NATIONAL & METROPOLITAN

55.1.1 THE AGE MOVES TO COLLINS STREET

When the *Age* editorial staff moved from Spencer Street, Melbourne, to the newspaper's new home, Media House, in Collins Street, over the weekend of 12 and 13 December 2009, some journalists wrote their reflections on the occasion. Andrew Rule remarked of the Spencer Street building (*Age*, 12 December 2009, p.9): "From the day it was built, the brown box hogging half a block on the Spencer and Lonsdale corner had a face only a contract bricklayer could love: the bricks in vogue in 1969 looked ugly by 1970, let alone half a lifetime later. As ugly, maybe, as the infamous Gas & Fuel towers demolished to make way for Federation Square." He said that some people would miss the ghosts that roamed the vast purpose-built newspaper building, with its cavernous paper store underneath, vast press hall, conveyor belts and a loading dock that made every night a scene from *All the President's Men*. "The ghosts in the newspaper machine are the people who produce the words. Those who have done that at Spencer Street included giants of the craft who once shouted over the din of typewriters, telex machines and insomniac sub-editors in the green-carpeted newsroom. Of these the most revered is the late Graham Perkin, who led his reporters to the new Spencer Street office in 1969. Perkins' contemporary Ben Hills describes him in a new biography as the greatest Australian editor of his generation, who transformed 'a venerable but moribund Tory broadsheet' published in a 'Dickensian rat's nest' into one of the world's best 10 newspapers."

Geoff Strong wrote about the move to Collins Street in the *Age* of 14 December, p.13, and John Elder and Stephen Cauchi had an article in the *Sunday Age*, 13 December, p.10.

The *Age Extra* (Issue 7, December 2009, p.3) published pictures of four of the *Age*'s former homes and reported: "When the *Age* was founded in 1854, it operated out of 21 Elizabeth Street in the city. The following year the newspaper moved to 67 Elizabeth Street. By 1879, the need for more room led the newspaper up the road to 233 Collins Street. There, on the corner of Manchester Lane, the *Age* stayed for almost a century. Growth led to the purchase of nearby buildings, and a series of expensive renovations. The first decision of the then new managing director, Ranald Macdonald, was to move from Collins Street to Spencer Street. In 1966, the company spent \$8 million to buy five sites bounded by Spencer, Lonsdale and Little Lonsdale Streets, and Merriman Lane—making it the largest commercial site in the city.'

56.1.2 HARTIGAN ATTACKS MORGAN RESEARCH

News Limited chairman and chief executive John Hartigan has accused Roy Morgan Research of setting out to destroy an attempt by newspaper publishers to find an alternative readership measurement system after deciding not to compete in the tender process. Sally Jacksons reported (*Australian*, Media section, 14 December 2009, p.32, 29) that Hartigan's anger was sparked by the surprising decision the previous week by Fairfax Media to withdraw from the tender process and instead to throw its support behind Roy Morgan (*Australian*, 10 December 2009, p.23). The industry body, Magazine Publishers of Australia, led by Seven Media Group's Pacific Magazines, also withdrew. News, Fairfax, West Australian Newspapers and APN News & Media called the tender in June through industry body, TheNewspaperWorks.

56.1.3 RUPERT MURDOCH ON THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

"We are at a time when many news enterprises are shutting down or scaling back," Rupert Murdoch, chairman and CEO of News Corporation, told the Federal Trade Mission's workshop on journalism and the internet on 1 December. "No doubt you will hear some tell you that journalism is in dire shape, and the triumph of digital is to blame. My message is just the opposite. The future of journalism is more promising than ever—limited only by editors and producers unwilling to fight for their readers and viewers, or government using its heavy hand either to over-regulate or subsidise us." The *Australian* published a summary of what Murdoch told the workshop. He said, "The future of *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, No 56 **February 2010** Page 2

journalism belongs to the bold, and the companies that prosper will be those that find better ways to meet the needs of their viewers, listeners and readers.” Media companies need to give people the news they want. “I can’t tell you how many papers I have visited where they have a wall of journalism prizes—and a rapidly declining circulation. This tells me the editors are producing news for themselves—instead of news relevant to their customers.” Murdoch says quality content is not free. “In the future, good journalism will depend on the ability of a news organisation to attract customers by providing news and information they are willing to pay for. The old business model based mainly on advertising is dead.”

56.1.4 NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICS

On Sunday 6 December the *Sunday Telegraph* included a coupon for readers to fill in calling for an early State election as part of its campaign against the State government. On Friday 11 December the *Sydney Morning Herald* included a coupon for readers to fill in calling for an early State election as part of its campaign against the State government (also in the edition of Saturday 12 December).

56.1.5 PEOPLE

Luke McIlveen has been appointed the editor of the *Manly Daily* and replaces Trevor Seymour, who becomes assistant editor of the *Sunday Telegraph*.

Clive Marshall, outgoing CEO of Australian Associated Press, is featured in a full-page article by *Mediaweek* editor James Manning (14 December 2009, p.10). Marshall says the big area of growth for AAP has been the Pagemasters business, acquired in 2002 when its staff was 30; the staff is now 140.

Bruce Montgomery, formerly of the *Australian*, is mentioned in Jane Fraser’s column (“Plainly Jane”), *Weekend Australian Review* of 2-3 January 2010, p.2. In a column about aging and what older people are doing, she mentions that Montgomery helps Vietnamese people who have been forgotten since the war. “He has been involved for eight years raising money for wheelchairs and herds of cows in a place called Friendship Village. ... Otherwise he has completed a Master’s degree on the future of Australian newspapers, has a PR business in Tasmania, is a government lobbyist and babysits the grandchildren.”

Des Partridge, a journalist for 52 years and a *Courier-Mail* employee for 45 years (apart from a short stint with the *London Sun*), retired on 27 January. He started his career at the *Townsville Daily Bulletin* on Anzac Day 1957. He grew up on the Sunshine Coast. He became best known for his film reviews, which he began in 1973 (*Courier-Mail*, 28 January 2010, p.9).

Marian Wilkinson, multi-award-winning print and television journalist, is rejoining ABC-TV’s *Four Corners*. She is leaving the *Sydney Morning Herald* where she has been the environment editor (*Mediaweek*, 25 January-1 February 2010, p.7).

56.1.6 RECENT CHRONOLOGY

56.1.6.1 EVENTS

11 February: 150th anniversary of the first issue of the *Hamilton Spectator*.

14 February: **Crikey.com.au** celebrates 10th anniversary (*Australian*, Media section, 15 February 2010, p.32).

16 February: Centenary of first issue of *Huon Times*, Tasmania,

56.1.6.2 DEATHS

Goldie, Jan: D. 25 November 2009 in Sydney; daughter of two journalist and step-daughter of another; born in Glasgow; arrived in Sydney in 1963 with parents Thomas and Anne; Thomas died and Anne blazed a career in magazines, in turn editing *Woman’s Day* and launching *Dolly*; Jan Goldie served a cadetship at the *Sydney Morning Herald*; she found that bad grammar “drove her nuts”; after five years of daily journalism, she took off for Europe; joined *Marketing Week* magazine in London, and later became news editor; returned to Sydney, and joined Australian Consolidated press; made her name as

a magazine editor; became associated editor of the *Australian Women's Weekly*; was heavily involved in the launch of *Take 5* magazine 12 years ago and edited it for five years; later, in barely a year as the editor-in-chief of the rival *That's Life*, she arrested a seven-year circulation decline (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 December 2009).

Proust, Francis Evans George (Frank): D. December 2009, aged 92; at age 13 he flew as a passenger in the famous "Southern Cross", piloted by Charles Kingsford Smith; this experience sparked an interest in aviation that was to last a lifetime; started a journalism cadetship at Grafton's *Daily Examiner* in 1935; after service in World War II, joined *Sydney Morning Herald* initially as a shipping reporter, then as a political correspondent before working in the *Herald's* Tamworth and Wagga Wagga offices, where he flew between towns in pursuit of stories; became the aviation correspondent in 1950; followed the development of commercial aviation in Australia, North America and Britain; reported on the discovery of the wreckage of the "Southern Cloud", which crashed in 1931 and lay unfound for 27 years; when *Herald* ceased specialist aviation coverage in 1969, he moved to general reporting and editing the travel section and the letters page; retired in 1982 (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 December 2009).

Tipping, Marjorie Jean (née McCredie): D. 28 September 2009 in Melbourne, aged 92; historian; while still a student, she worked part-time as a journalist for the *Sun News-Pictorial*; in 1942, married noted journalist Bill Tipping; in 1965 she convened the first conference of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria; in 1968 she became the society's first female fellow and in 1972 its first female president; was a contributor to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and had several books published (*Age*, 3 November 2009, p.17).

56.1.7 AUSTRALIAN DAILIES' PRICES AT DECEMBER 2009 *by Victor Isaacs*

Title	Mon-Fri	Sat	Publisher
<i>Australian</i>	1.50	2.60	News
<i>Financial Review</i>	3.00	3.00	Fairfax
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	1.00	1.60	News
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	1.40	2.40	Fairfax
<i>mX, Sydney</i>	Free	NA	News
<i>Manly Daily</i> (not Mondays)	Free	Free	News
<i>Herald Sun</i>	1.10	1.50	News
<i>Age</i>	1.50	2.50	Fairfax
<i>mX, Melbourne</i>	Free	NA	News
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	1.10	2.00	News
<i>mX, Brisbane</i>	Free	NA	News
<i>West Australian</i>	1.30	2.30	WAN
<i>Advertiser</i>	1.10	1.80	News
<i>Mercury, Hobart</i>	1.30	1.50	News
<i>Canberra Times</i>	1.40	2.40	Fairfax
<i>NT News</i>	1.20	1.60	News
<i>Herald, Newcastle</i>	1.30	2.00	Fairfax
<i>Illawarra Mercury</i>	1.10	2.00	Fairfax
<i>Daily Advertiser, Wagga2</i>	1.30	1.70	Fairfax
<i>Western Advocate, Bathurst</i>	1.40	1.50	Fairfax
<i>Central Western Daily, Orange</i>	1.40	1.50	Fairfax
<i>Dubbo Liberal</i>	1.40	1.50	Fairfax
<i>Barrier Daily Truth</i>	1.00	1.00	Barrier Industrial Council
<i>Maitland Mercury</i>	1.20	NA	Fairfax
<i>Northern Daily Leader, Tamworth</i>	1.30	1.60	Fairfax
<i>Coffs Coast Advocate</i>	1.00*	Free	APN
<i>Daily Examiner, Grafton</i>	1.00	1.10	APN

<i>Northern Star</i> , Lismore	1.10	1.70	APN
<i>Tweed Daily News</i>	1.00	1.30	APN
<i>Geelong Advertiser</i>	1.10	1.70	News
<i>Courier</i> , Ballarat	1.30	1.60	Fairfax
<i>Advertiser</i> , Bendigo	1.20	1.60	Fairfax
<i>Border Mail</i> , Albury—Wodonga	1.20	1.70	Fairfax
<i>News</i> , Shepparton	1.60	NA	McPherson
<i>Sunraysia Daily</i> , Mildura	1.10	1.50	Elliott (but on Fairfax website)
<i>Examiner</i> , Launceston	1.20	1.60	Fairfax
<i>Advocate</i> , Burnie	1.30	1.50	Fairfax
<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i>	1.00	1.80	News
<i>Queensland Times</i> , Ipswich	1.00	1.50	APN
<i>Chronicle</i> , Toowoomba	1.10	1.80	APN
<i>Warwick Daily News</i>	1.10	1.30	APN
<i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i>	1.00	2.00	APN
<i>Gympie Times</i> (not Mondays)	1.10	1.20	APN
<i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i>	1.10	1.20	APN
<i>NewsMail</i> , Bundaberg	1.20	1.60	APN
<i>Gladstone Observer</i>	1.00	1.40	APN
<i>Morning Bulletin</i> , Rockhampton	1.10	1.60	APN
<i>Daily Mercury</i> , Mackay	1.10	1.60	APN
<i>Townsville Bulletin</i>	1.20	1.80	News
<i>Cairns Post</i>	1.10	1.70	News
<i>North West Star</i> , Mount Isa	1.30	NA	Fairfax
<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i>	1.00	1.40	WAN

NA: Not applicable – Not published on Saturdays

* *Coffs Coast Advocate* is free on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

SUNDAYS

<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	1.80	News
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	2.00	Fairfax
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	1.80	News
<i>Sunday Age</i>	2.00	Fairfax
<i>Sunday Mail</i> , Brisbane	2.00	News
<i>Sunday Mail</i> , Adelaide	1.80	News
<i>Sunday Times</i> , Perth	2.20	News
<i>Sunday Canberra Times</i>	1.80	Fairfax
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	1.80	News
<i>Sunday Examiner</i>	1.80	Fairfax
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	1.30	News
<i>Sunshine Coast Sunday</i>	1.40	APN

There seems to be no consistency in regard to pricing, even within the same publisher. For example, News Ltd's very similar Sunday titles vary from \$1.80 (most of them) to \$2.20 (the Perth *Sunday Times*). News Ltd's *Herald Sun* and *Courier-Mail* are both \$1.10 on weekdays, but whereas the Melbourne paper goes up to \$1.50 on Saturdays, the Brisbane title goes to \$2.00. The *Advocate* is more expensive than the *Examiner* on Mon-Fri, but cheaper on Saturdays. In three successive towns in northern NSW, APN Saturdays titles are \$1.10, \$1.70 and \$1.30.

Leaving aside the exceptional case of the *Financial Review*, prices on weekdays range from \$1 to \$1.60, on Saturdays from \$1 to \$2.60, and on Sundays from \$1.30 to \$2.20.

It is interesting to note that weekday/Saturday price differentials vary from nothing (*Financial Review* – but that is a very expensive paper to begin with, or the *Barrier Daily Truth* – but almost no increase in size or features of the paper on Saturday) to 100% (*Sunshine Coast Daily*).

Sometimes the prices of Sunday titles are more than their Saturday siblings, and sometimes they are less.

56.1.8 AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST AND MOSCOW PLOT

Three armed men were arrested outside the home of an Australian journalist in Moscow a week after the Federal Government warned him it had confidential information that he was in danger. The journalist, John Helmer, said he might have been targeted because of his aggressive reporting on powerful Russian businessmen (*Weekend Australian*, 9-10 January 2010, pp.1, 8).

56.1.9 HOME DELIVERY IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

Rod Kirkpatrick writes from Mackay (16 January): With the delivery of the *Weekend Australian* today, I received a circular from my newsagent, North Mackay Newsagency, that from 1 February 2010 it would no longer deliver the *Australian*, *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail* to its customers. “Our decision to stop this QN [Queensland Newspapers] service has not been taken lightly. However, increasing costs, particularly wages and vehicle running expenses, has [sic] made this inevitable. Queensland Newspapers’ inability to improve arrival times for their product over many years means that despite our efforts to increase circulation numbers, we have not been able to achieve scale to make the service viable. Queensland Newspapers’ reluctance to recognise the true cost of providing this service under these circumstances means we have been subsidising this service for an extended period, something we are no longer prepared to do.” I wonder how many other newsagents have reached the same conclusion in north Queensland. [N.B. I now receive deliveries from Northern Beaches News, about 7km away at Rural View.]

56.1.10 SALES BY COMPANY by Victor Isaacs

This article examines the market share of each Australian and New Zealand newspaper company. It also details the market share of the major Australian newspaper company, News Ltd, in other countries.

AUSTRALIAN DAILIES

An average of 2,915,345 newspapers was sold in Australia each Monday to Saturday according to the June 2009 audit. Which newspaper company sold the most? Does one company dominate?

News Ltd (*Australian*, *Herald Sun*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Courier-Mail*, *Adelaide Advertiser*, *Hobart Mercury*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Cairns Post*, *NT News*):

Total: 1,698, 124

58%

Fairfax Media (*Financial Review*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age*, *Canberra Times*, *Newcastle Herald*, *Illawarra Mercury*, *Launceston Examiner*, *Burnie Advocate*, *Ballarat Courier*, *Bendigo Advertiser*, *Border Mail*, *Wagga Daily Advertiser*, *Bathurst Western Advocate*, *Orange Central Western Daily*, *Dubbo Liberal*, *Maitland Mercury*, *Tamworth Northern Daily Leader*, *Mt Isa NW Star*):

Total: 811,407

28%

West Australian Newspapers (WAN): (*West Australian*, *Kalgoorlie Miner*):

Total: 227, 605

8%

APN News & Media (APN): (*Sunshine Coast Daily*, *Grafton Examiner*, *Lismore Northern Star*, *Tweed Daily News*, *Warwick Daily News*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Ipswich*

Queensland Times, Gympie Times, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Bundaberg News-Mail, Gladstone Observer, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Mackay Daily Mercury)(the *Coffs Coast Advocate*, being free on some days and sold on others, is not counted):

Total: 154,033 **5%**

Others (McPherson: *Shepparton News*, Elliot: *Sunraysia Daily*, Barrier Industrial Council: *Barrier Daily Truth*):

Total: 24,177 **1%**

AUSTRALIAN SUNDAYS

The total sold was 3,311,281. By newspaper company this was:

News Ltd (*Sunday Telegraph, Sunday Herald Sun, Qld Sunday Mail, SA Sunday Mail, Perth Sunday Times, Sunday Tasmanian, Sunday Territorian*):

Total: 2,535,490 **77%**

Fairfax Media (*Sun-Herald, Sunday Age, Sunday Canberra Times, Sunday Examiner*):

Total: 762,094 **23%**

APN: (*Sunshine Coast Sunday*):

Total: 13,697 **0.4%**

NEW ZEALAND DAILES

Is the NZ market even more concentrated? Do Australian newspaper companies dominate the NZ market? The total number of NZ newspapers sold on Mondays to Saturdays was 640,958.

Fairfax Media (Wellington *Dominion-Post*, Christchurch *Press*, Waikato *Times*, Taranaki *Daily News*, Manawatu *Standard*, Nelson *Mail*, Marlborough *Express*, Timaru *Herald*, Southland *Times*):

Total: 322, 684 **50%**

APN: (Auckland *NZ Herald*, Whangarei *Northern Advocate*, Rotorua *Daily Post*, Bay of Plenty *Times*, Hawkes Bay *Today*, Wanganui *Chronicle*, Wairarapa *Times-Age*, Oamaru *Mail*):

Total: 260, 938 **41%**

Allied Press Ltd (*Otago Daily Times, Greymouth Star*)(figures for the Hokitika *West Coast Times* are unavailable, but its circulation is extremely small).

Total: 44,098 **7%**

Others (*Gisborne Herald, Ashburton Guardian*):

Total: 13,238 **2%**

NEW ZEALAND SUNDAYS

Total copies sold was 332,895.

Fairfax Media (*Sunday Star-Times, Sunday News*)(both national titles)

Total: 242,390 **73%**

APN (Auckland *Herald on Sunday*):

Total: 90,505 **27%**

PAPUA NEW GUINEA DAILIES

Does an Australian newspaper company lead in PNG, or a Malaysian company? (December 2005 figures).

News Ltd (*Post-Courier*):

Total: 26,000 **55%**

Other (*The National*, published by a Malaysian co.):

Total: 21,000 **45%**

FIJI DAILIES

Does an Australian newspaper company lead in Fiji?. Probably, but I cannot say for sure. In 2008, the *Fiji Times*, owned by News Ltd, sold an average of 26,000 copies on Mondays to Saturdays. Figures for the opposition *Fiji Sun* are not available, but it is believed to sell fewer.

UNITED KINGDOM DAILIES

There has been a great deal of comment in the UK about the extent of the influence the ex-Australian, Rupert Murdoch, and his company, News Ltd, exercises through his newspapers. How much of the UK market does he have? (November 2009 figures).

News Ltd (*Sun, Times*):

Total: 3,521,764 **34%**

Others (National titles: *Daily Mirror/Daily Record, Daily Star, Daily Mail, Daily Express, Daily Telegraph, Financial Times. Guardian, Independent*):

Total: 6,877,332 **64%**

UNITED KINGDOM SUNDAYS

News Ltd (*News of the World, Sunday Times*):

Total: 4,094,812 **40%**

Others (National titles: *Sunday Mirror/Sunday Mail, People, Daily Star Sunday, Mail on Sunday, Sunday Express, Sunday Telegraph, Observer, Independent on Sunday*):

TOTAL: 6,201,016 **60%**

UNITED STATES

Recently there has also been comment about the influence that Rupert Murdoch and his News Corp (the US name for News Ltd) wields in the US, especially since his takeover of the *Wall Street Journal*. How much of the market does he have? (September 2009 figures).

US NATIONAL DAILIES

News Corp (*Wall Street Journal*. The figure includes paid subscription to its website)

Total: 2,024,269 **52%**

Other (Gannett Co.: *USA Today*):

Total: 1,900,116 **48%**

NEW YORK DAILIES

News Corp (*New York Post*):

Total: 508,042 **26%**

Others (*New York Times, Daily News*):

Total: 1,472,695 **74%**

56.1.11 ABC PLANS 24-HOUR NEWS CHANNEL (see 56.2.3)

Malcolm Colless writes (*Weekend Australia*, 16-17 January 2010, p.14): The ABC's plan to launch in the next few months a 24-hour national television news service amounts to a taxpayer-funded declaration of war on commercial media outlets in Australia. It also

raises serious questions about the ability of the national broadcaster to support its image as the provider of high quality news and current affairs programming. With no additional funding from the government for this service, ABC management will have to rely on savings in other areas to underwrite this digital channel. (See also “ABC friends fear quality drop in 24-hour TV”, *Australian*, 22 January 2010, p.3.)

ABC managing director Mark Scott says that resources for the planned 24-hour news channel will come at the expense of more money for existing flagship programs such as *Four Corners* and *The 7.30 Report* (*Australian*, 12 February 2010, p.2).

56.1.12 NEWS CORP PAPERS MAKE SOLID CONTRIBUTION

The second-quarter results for News Corporation have shown that its newspaper and information services segment posted 30 per cent growth (to \$A291million) in earnings before interest and tax. News’s Australian newspapers reported a lower second-quarter operating profit because of a 5 per cent fall in advertising revenue (*Australian*, 4 February 2010, p.22).

51.1.13 QUARTERLY CIRCULATION FIGURES

Only nine of the seventy sets of circulation figures listed below show increases for the three months to 31 December 2009. Or, as the *Australian* reported, aggregate sales of Australia’s national, metropolitan and regional dailies for the October-December 2009 quarter were down. The *Australian*’s editor-in-chief, Chris Mitchell, said the decline was largely the result of the Newspapers in Education school sales being discontinued. “It will take four quarters for lost NIE sales to wash their way out of the audit,” he said.

Most newspapers said nothing about the latest Audit Bureau of Circulation figures. There was nothing, for instance, in the *Herald Sun*, which usually has a prominent piece (often on p. 2, with a graph, gloating about what a huge circulation lead it has over the *Age*). The smaller figures for the *Australian* must have been particularly disappointing for News Limited, given the great efforts over the past year to improve it—increased content and redesign and addition of Hobart to the printing sites.

	Oct-Dec 2009	Oct-Dec 2008	% variation
National			
<i>Australian</i>	131,246	137,000+	–4.2
<i>Weekend Australian</i>	300,941	309,000+	– 2.6
<i>Aust Financial Review</i>	77,470	86,158	– 10.1
<i>Aust Financial Review</i> (Sat)	84,528	93,800	–9.9
NSW			
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	359,171	369,000+	–2.7
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sat)	322,456	325,000+	–0.8
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	632,009	653,000+	–3.2
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	211,006	211,370	–0.2
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sat)	353,878	360,200+	–1.8
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	442,357	473,469	–6.6
Regionals			
<i>Border Mail</i> (Albury)	24,734	25,078	–1.31
<i>Western Advocate</i> (Bathurst)	3,802	3,949	–3.72
<i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill)	5,928	5,936	–0.13
<i>Daily Liberal</i> (Dubbo)	5,299	5,276	+0.44
<i>Daily Examiner</i> (Grafton)	5,554	5,571	–0.31
<i>Northern Star</i> (Lismore)	14,466	14,737	–1.84
<i>Maitland Mercury</i>	4,353	4,331	+0.51
<i>Herald</i> (Newcastle)	48,500	49,500+	–2.02
<i>Central Western Daily</i> (Orange)	4,919	5,135	–4.21

<i>Northern Daily Leader</i> (Tamworth)	7,454	7,652	-2.59
<i>Daily News</i> (Tweed)	4,396	5,144	-3.85
<i>Daily Advertiser</i> (Wagga Wagga)	11,655	12,851	-3.92
<i>Illawarra Mercury</i> (Wollongong)	26,997	27,635	-2.31
Victoria			
<i>Herald Sun</i>	514,000+	515,000+	-0.3
<i>Herald Sun</i> (Sat)	503,000+	502,000+	+0.2
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	601,000+	606,500+	-0.9
<i>Age</i>	202,100	204,200+	-1.0
<i>Age</i> (Sat)	291,000	296,750+	-1.9
<i>Sunday Age</i>	228,600	227,100+	+0.7
Regional			
<i>Courier</i> (Ballarat)	18,631	18,750	-0.63
<i>Advertiser</i> (Bendigo)	13,860	13,821	+0.28
<i>Geelong Advertiser</i>	29,276	29,192	+0.29
<i>Sunraysia Daily</i> (Mildura)	7,268	7,207	+0.85
<i>News</i> (Shepparton)	10,414	10,562	-1.40
<i>Standard</i> (Warrnambool)	12,801	12,586	+1.71
Queensland			
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	211,230	215,383	-1.9
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (Sat)	288,924	296,054	-2.4
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	300,483	551,271	-4.7
Regionals			
<i>NewsMail</i> (Bundaberg)	10,926	11,201	-2.46
<i>Cairns Post</i>	25,626	28,850	-1.91
<i>Gladstone Observer</i>	6,949	7,171	-3.10
<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i>	44,232	46,225	-4.31
<i>Gympie Times</i>	5,630	5,644	-0.25
<i>Queensland Times</i> (Ipswich)	10,512	10,804	-2.70
<i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay)	15,421	16,045	-3.89
<i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i>	20,603	21,170	-2.68
<i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i>	9,406	9,550	-1.51
<i>Morning Bulletin</i> (Rockhampton)	18,036	18,207	-0.94
<i>Chronicle</i> (Toowoomba)	22,644	22,808	-0.72
<i>Townsville Bulletin</i>	29,147	28,881	+0.92
<i>Daily News</i> (Warwick)	3,344	3,218	-2.76
South Australia			
<i>Advertiser</i>	180,853	182,055	-0.7
<i>Advertiser</i> (Sat)	250,757	254,499	-1.5
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	300,483	304,096	-1.2
Western Australia			
<i>West Australian</i>	188,211	192,964	-2.5
<i>West Australian</i> (Sat)	327,251	336,387	-2.7
<i>Sunday Times</i>	315,024	321,500+	-2.0
Regional			
<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i>	5,612	5,721	-1.91
Tasmania			
<i>Mercury</i>	45,210	46,092	-1.9
<i>Mercury</i> (Sat)	61,123	61,254	-0.2
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	58,968	59,526	-0.9
Regionals			
<i>Advocate</i> (Burnie)	23,545	23,859	-1.32

<i>Examiner</i> (Launceston)	32,245	33,103	-2.59
<i>Sunday Examiner</i>	39,307	40,482	-2.90
Northern Territory			
<i>Northern Territory News</i>	20,553	22,947	-3.3
<i>NT News</i> (Sat)	31,084	31,481	-1.3
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	21,640	22,287	-2.9
ACT			
<i>Canberra Times</i>	33,000	34,629	-4.70
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sat)	55,000	58,735	-6.36
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sun)	33,000	34,855	-5.32

56.1.14 CHANGE IN CORPORATE STRUCTURE

News Limited has opened the way for expansion of the *Australian* by creating a separate corporate division for the national broadsheet. The move will position the *Australian* for further growth in print and online, as well as through emerging digital platforms such as smartphones and electronic readers. In addition, the company announced a reshuffle of executives in various States (*Australian*, 13 January 2010, pp.1-2).

56.1.15 THE AGE LOSES A LETTER WRITER *EXTRAORDINAIRE*

Michael Freeman, a retired school teacher and a Croydon (Vic.) councillor from 1973-85, became in recent years one of the most consistent and persistent of the *Age*'s letters pages contributors. Freeman died on 6 February, aged 71 (*Age*, 9 February 2010, online). He managed to have published 150 contributions to the letters page over the past two years. Last year the *Age Extra* newsletter (Issue 4, March 2009, pp.6-7) published a piece on the art of the successful letters contributor, quoting Freeman and the similarly prolific Alan Inchley, of Frankston.

56.1.16 WAN AND THE NORTH-WEST

West Australian Newspapers has signed a contract with Skywest Airlines commencing March 2010 to deliver the *West Australian* to north-west WA by the morning of printing. WAN state that early morning delivery should result in increased sales and also give rise to the possibility of home deliveries in the area. It would not cost more than the former delivery by truck, WAN said. (WAN has an interesting home delivery offer: a package of the *West Australian* six days a week, plus *Newsweek* magazine weekly.)

56.1.17 FAIRFAX/APN DEAL

Fairfax Media and APN have arrived at an in-principle agreement that will combine the Fairfax Media classified brands, **Drive.com.au**, **Domain.com.au** and **MyCareer.com.au**, with the APN print classified sections in more than 90 publications through regional Queensland. The alliance will extend the reach of APN's classifieds customers to a national online audience, while increasing exposure to the client base and sales force in Queensland and northern NSW for the Fairfax online classified sites (Fairfax corporate website, 22 February 2010).

56.1.18 FAIRFAX REPORTED MODEST RECOVERY

Fairfax Media Limited has announced that for the six months ended 27 December 2009 its net profit after tax and SPS financing costs was \$143.5 million, compared to a loss of \$375.6 million for the corresponding period last year. There were no significant items during the half compared to impairment and significant items of \$522.9 million last year (Fairfax corporate website, 22 February 2010).

56.1.19 NEWSPAPER DENIES HACKING INTO WEBSITE

On 20 February, the *Sydney Morning Herald* splashed its front page with an exclusive story on the NSW government's unreleased transport blueprint, saying it had obtained key announcements when they were accidentally uploaded onto the Shape Your State website. But in the NSW Parliament on Tuesday, Transport Minister David Campbell said the private contractor developing the site, Bang The Table, has disputed the claims,

saying its unlaunched site had been hacked into on 18 and 19 February. Without naming the newspaper, Campbell said there were 3727 unauthorised hits on the site and they were sourced to four different internet protocol addresses. *Herald* editor Peter Fray defended the two journalists behind the story (Matthew Moore and Andrew West), saying they accessed the site by simply typing in the web address (*Mediaweek*, online, 24 February 2010).

56.1.20 PBL PLANS \$150m CENTRAL PRINT SITE

PBL Media is proceeding with plans to develop a \$150 million facility with up at seven presses at Smithfield in Sydney's west. The 54,000sq m facility would be capable of running 24 hours a day, seven days a week (*Australian*, 11 February 2010, p.23).

54.1.21 READERSHIP FIGURES

The *Australian* (19 February 2010, p.2) published a brief report providing readership figures from Roy Morgan Research for national and metropolitan dailies. *Mediaweek* (22 February 2010, p.10) published a detailed list.

2 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: ONLINE

56.2.1 CURRENT NEWSPAPER INFORMATION

Almost all Australian newspaper websites now have sections about advertising. These often provide significant information about current newspaper publishing practices, including such things as publishing schedules, distribution areas, circulation and readership figures, readers' demographics, printing specifications, deadlines and advertising rates. In addition to the websites of individual newspapers, there are some useful consolidated sites. These are:

- News Ltd metropolitan and regional: www.newsspace.com.au
- Fairfax metropolitan: www.adcentre.com.au
- Fairfax regional: www.ruralpresssales.com.au
- APN: www.apnap.com.au

(Curiously, the APN consolidated website also includes details of the *North West Star* of Mt Isa, although this is a Fairfax newspaper. Presumably, this is to offer potential advertisers a more appealing package of daily newspapers in rural Queensland.)

56.2.2 ONLINE CHARGE WELL ADVANCED

News Corporation is well advanced in setting up online charging for its newspapers around the world, including Australia, Rupert Murdoch says. While many internet users are accustomed to downloading news and information for free, the News Corp chairman and CEO says he is confident the plan will work because of News's ability to produce quality content. "Content is not just king, it is the emperor of all things electronic. We are on the cusp of a digital dynasty in which our company and our shareholders will profit greatly. Devices and platforms are proliferating but this clever technology is merely an empty vessel without any great content." (*Australian*, 4 February 2010, p.21.)

56.2.3 FAIRFAX ATTACKS ABC OVER ONLINE PLAN (see 56.1.12)

Fairfax Media CEO Brian McCarthy accused the ABC of "building empires with public funds" and threatening its rural publishing arm after the ABC said it would create a network of websites for rural Australia. McCarthy said the ABC's Open Project, which would allow regional people to "share their ideas and tell their own stories" online, could undermine Fairfax's rural publishing businesses by stealing its audience (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6-7 February 2010, p.5). APN News & Media CEO Brendan Hopkins also attacked the ABC plan for similar reasons (*Australian*, 24 February 2010, p.2).

56.2.4 THE HUB IS LAUNCHED

The *Australian* has launched an IT website, The Hub, developed with Microsoft, to provide “a fresh perspective on all that’s happening in the IT industry”. It’s at australianit.com.au/thehub/ (*Australian*, 2 February 2010, pp.36-37, advertisement).

3 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

56.3.1 APN SAYS GOODBYE TO JAMIESON

APN News & Media Ltd has rid itself of Mark Jamieson as chief executive of Australian publishing by abolishing his position. The company has restructured its senior management roles in Australia and New Zealand, according to APN chief executive Martin Simons. Jamieson had been with the company (or its predecessors) for 30 years. He had been responsible for developing *Rural Weekly*, Queensland on Show exhibitions and the Recruitment Super-Highway, which has become Search4Jobs. Current senior APN executives Stephen Tait and Peter Montgomery have been promoted to wider roles within Australian Publishing (*Mediaweek* online, 11 December 2009).

56.3.2 LONGREACH: BIRDSVILLE’S BIG RED FOR A WEDDING

Outback journos marry in style. Amy Wilson, a journalist at the *Longreach Leader*, married Simeon Williams on Big Red, the large sand dune near Birdsville, in far south-western Queensland, on 8 August. She wrote to *Outback* magazine (included a picture) and told about the wedding, inspired by a visit that Simeon and she had made to the Outback Tourism Awards at Birdsville in 2008 (see *Outback*, December 2009/January 2010, pp.13-14).

56.3.3 CAMPBELLTOWN AND CAMDEN: DIGITAL EDITION

Ian Willis reports: The *Macarthur Chronicle* announced a complete digital edition of the newspaper in its issue of 23 February. The online edition also provides access to archives of the newspaper containing issues for the last two years, an online index and a host of live hyperlinks.

4 – NEWSPAPER HISTORY

56.4.1 ANNIVERSARIES

56.4. 1.1 HORSHAM, VIC.: 50 YEARS

Kim Lockwood writes: At Horsham on 17 October 2009 a gathering of more than 200 past and present employees of the *Wimmera Mail-Times* to mark the 50th anniversary of the amalgamation of the *Horsham Times* and Natimuk’s *Wimmera Mail*. The grand old man of the paper, founding editor Allan Lockwood, now 87, was there, as were present editor Rod Case and former editors Maurie Lawson and Danny Lannen. Journalists, photographers, compositors, pressroom men, advertising salesmen and women, front office staff and pay clerks celebrated at a dinner that lasted four hours. A highlight was an interview about the old days with Lockwood by the paper’s chief sub -- his son, Keith. The paper was a merger of Natimuk’s *West Wimmera Mail*, bought by Lockwood’s father, Alfred, in 1899, and the *Horsham Times*, founded in 1873. Allan Lockwood and his older brother, Frank, were introduced to Rupert Murdoch through their older brother, Douglas, in 1956, when times were tough. Murdoch bought 51 per cent of the paper, which enabled the *Mail* to import a new press from England, move to Horsham, and take on the *Times*. For more than two years the Lockwoods tried to talk the Ward family, owners of the *Times*, into a merger. The answer was always no. Midway through 1959 the Wards got an offer from Mildura’s *Sunraysia Daily* -- the Lanyon family. It was too good to refuse, so they sold. The Lanyons immediately sold their interest in the *Times* to the Lockwoods. It has never been publicly acknowledged, but this was perhaps among the first wheelings and dealings of the young Rupert. The *Wimmera Mail-Times* still publishes three times a week and, as editor Rod Case acknowledged at the anniversary dinner, is “owned” by the people of the Wimmera (see ANHG 54.1.9.1).

56.4.1.2 SCOTTSDALE, TAS.: 100 YEARS

The *North Eastern Advertiser*, Scottsdale, celebrated its centenary on 17 December 2009. It published an excellent centenary souvenir that told much about the history of the newspaper and its people, as opposed to simply featuring the news reportage of the years (as some newspapers do on their significant anniversaries). Robert McColl, who had owned newspapers in South Gippsland, Victoria, launched the Scottsdale paper with the help of printer, T.W. Tindal. McColl stayed only 16 months, selling to Alfred Edward Osborne in May 1911. Osborne edited the paper for 37 years and was acknowledged at the centenary as the longest-serving editor. Before buying the Scottsdale paper, he had worked in Victoria on papers at Castlemaine, St Kilda, Warragul and Morwell. He owned the *Morwell Gazette* for three years. He visited Tasmania after hearing that Queenstown, with a population of 5,000, had no newspaper. When he arrived, he found it was well served by the *Zeehan and Dundas Herald*. Instead, he visited his old friend, Robert McColl, at Scottsdale and ended up buying his paper. Over the next 50 years every member of the Osborne family was involved in producing the newspaper (says the centenary issue, p.8). See also: Mike Vanderkelen, "A century of free press", *Tasmania: 40° South*, Issue 55, pp.76-78.

The long-serving editor once rode a bike (93km) to St Helens, returning the next day, after gathering news and some printing orders on the way. In 1919 a special banquet was held at Branhholm to celebrate the railway being extended to Herrick, and Osborne rode on horseback to Branhholm and returned the next morning. Lilydale council meetings were covered, and the editor travelled by the morning train and returned on the evening one. On 28 June 1949, the *NE Advertiser* announced that this would be the final occasion on which the Osborne imprint would appear in the paper after nearly 40 years. Bob Osborne had sold to W.J. Christie, of Melbourne. Kevin Haas, who began at the paper as an apprentice printer in 1945, leased the business until it was sold to Rad Kisick from Hobart. Kisick sold to Lionel Miller in 1960 and Miller sold to Haas in 1964. Haas sold to Peter Fish, who had been the principal of the local high school for four years, and his wife on the paper's 83rd birthday in 1992. There have been changes in the ownership since, but Peter Fish, the editor, is still involved. In June 2003 the paper missed two issues while new ownership arrangements were negotiated. On 6 May 1993, the *Advertiser* was last produced using hot-metal technology. It was the final hot-metal country paper in Tasmania.

The centenary issue included a facsimile of the first issue of the *Advertiser*. The introductory editorial declared that two words—Public Utility—summed up the reason for the paper's establishment. It said: A great area of country, extending from Scottsdale to St Mary's, has up to the present time had no direct press representation, and there can be no doubt that the district has suffered in consequence. A local press must naturally be the watchdog of local interests..."

56.4.1.3 CAMPBELLTOWN, NSW: 25 YEARS

From Camden, Ian Willis writes: The *Macarthur Chronicle* (Cumberland Courier Newspapers, with Campbelltown and Camden editions) recently had a 16-page wrap-around to celebrate its 25th anniversary. The feature reproduced a number of the front pages from over the last 25 years. These illustrated the changes to the masthead (nine all up), the introduction of colour photographs on the front page in 1991 and the changing format of the presentation with the greater emphasis on images and less on text. The foundation editor Chris Wharton (now chief Western Australian Newspapers) recalled how Greg Evans and Debbie Newsome of the top rating TV show *Perfect Match* launched the first edition. The cover story of the 36 page first edition was the arrival of baby Andrew James Packer, a healthy baby delivered at Camden Hospital. The current editor Mandy Perrin, who assumed control in 1993, recalled how she started as a cadet journalist nine months after the *Chronicle* was launched. Under her leadership the *Chronicle* has grown and in 2006 split into three editions for Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly and had its first online edition. The 25th commemorative edition had 128

pages and according to Bob Osburn (editor-in-chief of Cumberland Courier Newspapers) 123,000 readers. There were many tributes on the anniversary from civic leaders. Michael Knight, former Campbelltown State Labor MP, stated that “local newspapers succeed best when they become part of the fabric of their community... And that’s precisely what the *Chronicle* has done”.

56.4.1.4 CAMDEN, NSW: 130 YEARS

Ian Willis again: The *Camden Advertiser* issued on 10 February a 16 page wrap-around celebrating 130 years of newspaper publishing from 1880 to 2010. The supplement had the genealogy of the newspaper and its antecedents. In all, the newspaper family tree identified 20 different mast-heads that were related to the *Camden Advertiser*. These included local newspapers published in Camden, Campbelltown, Picton and Ingleburn. The birth of the newspaper group took place with the *Campbelltown Herald* first published on 14 February 1880 by William Webb.

The history of the newspaper group in the feature was divided into a number of sections: 1. The Great Pioneers 1880-1900, 2. The Builders 1900-1920, 3. The Sidman Supremacy 1920-1938, 4. The War Years 1938-1949, 5. Goodbye to the Sidmans, 6. The Heyday of S. Richardson Newspapers, 1952-1982, 7. The Hard Years 1982-1987, 8. From Strength to Strength, 8. Modern, But Traditional. Since 2006.

The publishers of these newspapers were colourful local identities and they all made an indelible mark on their communities. The feature provides an interesting glimpse, if brief, into the role of the local newspaper in a small community, with their parochialism, localism and parish pump politics.

The feature has 17 photographs with a number of reproductions of front pages. There are also interviews with a number of surviving staff who worked for some of the newspapers in the group.

The front cover of the feature is an interesting juxtaposition between then and now, with a reproduction of the 1880 *Camden Times*, with a local reporter, Michelle Taverniti reflecting on an 1880 version of herself.

56.4.1.5 DORRIGO, NSW: 100 YEARS

The *Don Dorriggo Gazette* and Guy Fawkes Advocate celebrated its 100th anniversary on 8 January 2010 and issued a centenary edition on 20 January, the first edition for the year. The paper, the only hot-metal country paper in Australia, is owned by John English and son Michael. Alan Smith, who joined the paper in 1958 and later became the managing editor, still comes in one day a week to set type on the Linotype. John English bought the paper in 1975 and his son Michael became the editor three years ago. The *Gazette* can be emailed at: dgogazette@westnet.com.au/ The centenary issue says: “The original Columbian printing press was replaced by a Wharfedale hand-fed machine, now at the rear of the Dorriggo Museum. This was replaced by a modern Heidelberg Cylinder press still in use today. This machine is still valued around \$40,000. A new typesetting machine, the Intertype, was installed at a cost of £3288 (\$6576) in 1953.” The centenary issue includes three pages of colour photographs.

56.4.1.6 MURRAY BRIDGE, SA: 75 YEARS

The *Murray Valley Standard* celebrated its 75th anniversary on 23 November 2009. In the issue of 17 December it inserted a 96-page feature that deals little with its own history.

56.4.1.7 DENILQUIN, NSW: 150 YEARS

The *Deniliquin Pastoral Times* celebrated its 150th anniversary on 26 May 2009 by issuing a 36-page commemorative feature with a glossy cover. It’s an excellent historical feature, including a fair concentration of articles about the newspaper’s own history.

56.4.2 WEEKLY TIMES CHRISTMAS ANNUAL

The Victorian *Weekly Times* was noted for its lavish Christmas Annuals from 1911 until 1934, when they ceased because of the Depression. In December 2009, they were revived in a small way. The *Weekly Times* of 24 December 2009 included an Annual. However, it was only a 16 page tabloid newsprint wraparound. It included a front cover cartoon, pictures and articles all summarising rural events in Victoria in 2009. It also included pictures of small *Weekly Times* Annuals from the 1920s and all 52 *Weekly Times* front covers of 2009.

56.4.3 COMPOSITORS WANTED (1875)

The *Evening News* and *Town and Country Journal* office in Sydney advertised in the *Grafton Argus* on 20 September 1875 for compositors. Samuel Bennett's papers were prepared to offer: "STAB WAGES, from £3 upwards; ON PIECE, 1S. PER Thousand for Day Work, and 13d for Night Work. Constant and Permanent Employment guaranteed to steady men, with agreements for one, two, or three years, if desired, at the above rates. Average workmen can earn on piece £3 10s. To £4 5s., and swift compositors from £4 10s. To £5 5s. Also room for TWO or THREE TURNOVER APPRENTICES to Complete Their Time, at rates by which they can earn £1 15s. To £3 per week, according to ability. Application to be made either personally or by letter to S. BENNETT, 190 Pitt-street, Sydney, 11th September 1875."

56.4.4 BACK COPIES OF 1855 KILMORE PAPER 'CONVEYED AWAY'

From the *Kilmore Advertiser*, 20 February 1904: "Your librarian regrets that he has to state that the back numbers of the *Kilmore Standard of Freedom* have been surreptitiously conveyed away during his absence. This is the more annoying as it is evident that during his absence he has to trust the honesty of those frequenting the reading room."

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The State Library of Victoria (SLV) has only five extant copies of the *Kilmore Standard of Freedom*, the town's first newspaper. They are part of a collection labelled, "The Diggings Papers". The *Standard of Freedom* published a trial issue on 19 May 1855 but No. 1 appeared on 26 May. The paper ceased publication on 17 November 1855. The copies held at the SLV are: 19 May (the trial issue, which included the "Prospectus"), and Nos. 2, 3, 5 and 9, dated 2, 9 and 23 June and 21 July respectively. The founders were Walter Taylor and George Charles Pratt. Pratt left the partnership with Taylor on 18 June and Taylor was soon chasing up subscribers. Two months into the first quarter, one third of the subscribers had not paid. They were urged to "oblige us by doing so as soon as possible" and agents were being pushed to 'extend the circulation'. [This newspaper should not be confused with the *Kilmore Standard* published for 13 months, from December 1873 to January 1875.]

56.4.5 TOOWOOMBA CHRONICLE: THE GROOMS AND THE BOYS

From the *Australasian Typographical; Journal*, February 1885, p.539: "The staff of boys employed on the *Toowoomba Chronicle* to bring out the paper went out on strike during the week ending 10 January in consequence of one of the boys, who was brought up at the police court for disobedience of orders, receiving 48 hours' solitary confinement. At the instance of W.H. Groom, warrants were issued for their arrest, and they appeared at the police court on Saturday, 10 January. They all pleaded guilty and were ordered to return to their service, to pay 12s. (\$1.20) each for loss and injury, and to serve 24 hours' extra time for their absence. On Friday, 16 January, G. Cumming, the father of one of the boys, was fined £30 (\$60), with £3 2s. costs, for assaulting H.L. Groom on the previous Saturday night in the public street. The last case was brought on in the Petty Debts Court. The magistrate stated that if it had come before the police court it would have been a case for imprisonment and not for a fine."

William Henry Groom (1833-1901) was the proprietor of the *Chronicle*, a long-serving Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly (1862-1901) and the first Federal

Member to die in office. Henry Littleton Groom (1860-1926) was one of his sons; he became a Member of the Legislative Council for 16 years.

56.4.6 ARGUS REUNION IN MELBOURNE

Your editor attended the annual reunion of former employees of the *Argus*, the Melbourne daily which closed on 19 January 1957. The reunion was held on 22 January at the Duke of Kent Hotel, Latrobe Street, opposite the former *Argus* building. Those attending were:

- Wilma Dunbar (née McDonald); she was the secretary to the managing director, Sir Errol Knox; she was an *Argus* employee 1940-50; age now 82; lives in Sydney.
- Bob Condon, *Argus* employee, 1955-57; age 74.
- Ken Salter, *Argus* employee, 1855-57; age 80.
- Michael Frazer, worked 1966-69 at the *Herald* with ex-*Argus* people.
- Jeanette Conway, *Argus* employee 1953-57; age 72.
- Ian Hamilton, *Argus* employee, 1951-57; age 74.
- John Kiely, *Argus* employee 1949-57; age 75.
- Patricia Holdenson (née Tulloch), *Argus* employee, 1945-50; age 82.
- Peter Gill, *Argus* employee, 1957; age 69.
- Robert Murray, *Argus* employee, 1949-53.
- Bill Paterson (the third of three generations of his family to work at the paper), *Argus* employee, 1951-57; age 73.
- Jim Usher, *Argus* employee, 1949-57; age 76.
- Pam Usher, wife of Jim; age 75.

Wilma Dunbar was the first person I met at the gathering. She joined the *Argus* in early 1943. She says she had matriculated at school and wanted to go to University. Her “rather repressing ex-Anzac father” thwarted this as he felt all university opportunities should be for men returning from war zones. He thought she should go into a bank. To please him she spent one day in a bank and said no thank you. She rang the *Argus* and said she would like to work there. One interview with the personnel officer, Charlie Coleman, was followed by an interview with Brigadier Errol G Knox (who had become the managing editor in 1937). “They liked my initiative I think. I worked for him as his personal, confidential secretary, until he died in October, 1949.” (*The Argus: The Life & Death of a Newspaper*, page 30, tells about Knox and mentions Wilma Dunbar.)

Wilma shared these reminiscences with me via email: “My responsibilities included all secretarial duties. I have copies of his personal papers given and his debate with The Hon. A. A. Calwell, entitled ‘A Million Migrants Every Year?’ The ramifications of a newspaper office were stimulating. The days of hot metal, etc. The leading article writing team used to assemble in the office around 3 o’clock each afternoon. I was privileged to chat with them. It was in the days of scoops.

“There is one story in the *Argus* book I would like to correct. On page 44 there is a mention of George Johnston. George was a very flamboyant writer. His wife Betty was a really nice person. It was well known that he was having an affair with Charmian Clift. They were seen leaving the Duke of Kent together on some mornings. He carried his resignation in his top pocket. On this occasion I was in Sir Errol’s office taking shorthand. George came storming in, demanding as ever. Resignation on the desk if he did not get I cannot remember what. Sir Errol simply picked up the phone to the accountant, George Daly, and said that Mr Johnston would be picking up his final pay on his way out of the office. George’s jaw dropped. One threat too many. George and Charmian went to Hydra together and wrote books.

“One of the highlights of my out-of-office hours duties was attending first nights at the operas produced by the National Theatre under the direction of Gertrude Johnson. Sir Errol was on the board and attended all the first nights with an official party. My job

was to greet the VIPs and seat them, chocolates at interval, look after their cloaks, and sit with them to enjoy the operas. I loved it.

“There is one memory set in stone. It is the motto of the *Argus* which was above the classified ads, at the entrance to the building, also above the leading article each day: ‘I am in the place where I am demanded of conscience to speak the truth, and therefore the truth I speak, impugn it whoso list.’

“After Sir Errol died [in 1949] I stayed on during the takeover by the [London] *Daily Mirror*, which was difficult. I married [journalist] Norman Dunbar in June 1950 having been secretly engaged since January that year, I announced our marriage and resigned in one go. In 1970 Norman was appointed London manager of the Australian Tourist Commission. He held this position for about eight years... We decided to stay in England and both went back to work in various roles. Norman’s last achievement was as a tutor at the London School of Journalism which he enjoyed very much. We were there when Bruce Matthews orchestrated the move from Fleet Street to Wapping. Murdoch days.

“Norman and I had four children. Our daughter died five years ago from cancer. Norman died in 1999 from cancer. We came home to Australia in 1996. I now live in Sydney and have children, grand children and great grand children.”

Wilma had a copy of an article that some of the reunion people had not seen: Ray Maloney, “Story behind the new *Argus*”, *Australasian Post*, 29 June 1950, p.17. It begins: “The second phase in one of the boldest newspaper publishing experiments ever to be attempted in Australia began on June 19 when the first papers came from the new Super Speed Hoe presses of Melbourne’s new *Argus*. Built at a cost of over £500,000, the new presses are the most modern of their kind in the world, and mark the beginning of a new era in Australian journalism.”

56.4.7 NATIONAL PROVINCIAL PRESS ASSOCIATION: NINTH CONFERENCE

The conference reports of the Australian Provincial Press Association (now Country Press Australia) generally list the years in which the association has met and in what city. Most of the reports (even the one in 2009) get it wrong when mentioning the ninth conference, which was held in Adelaide. They say the meeting was in 1919 when, in fact, it was in 1918. The *Advertiser*, Adelaide, of 14 October 1918, p.10, reports: “Adelaide is to be the scene of the ninth conference of the Australasian Provincial Press Association to be opened by the Premier (Hon. A.H. Peake) on October 29.” It was the first conference attended by delegates from the new Western Australian association. The Australasian association became the Australian association in 1925 when it was clear that New Zealand would not resume its membership.

56.4.8 SEMINAR ON TABLOID PRESS

The Centre for Media History at Macquarie University will host a one-day workshop at the State Library of NSW on 24 September on the history of the tabloid press. The workshop will be an occasion to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Sydney *Sun*, launched on 1 July 1910, and the 20th anniversary, in October, of the merging of the Sydney *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Telegraph*, and the Melbourne *Sun News-Pictorial* and the *Herald*, effectively ending Sydney and Melbourne’s paid afternoon press.

Papers may cover any of the following:

- The concept or historiography of the tabloid
- The history of particular tabloids in Australia or elsewhere
- Comparisons between tabloids – or contrasts between the tabloid and non-tabloid press – in their treatment of particular news or infotainment genres; in their letters, features or op-ed pages; in their status as ‘viewpapers’; in ways they understand their audience; in their dependence on advertisers; in their layout

and design; in their use of the written language, cartoons and photographs; in the attempts they make to represent or mobilise opinion; etc.

- The 'tabloidisation', in form or content, of the non-tabloid press
- The concept of 'tabloid' television, radio, etc.
- New challenges for the tabloid press, especially in an on-line environment

If you wish to present a paper, send a title, 300-word abstract and biographical note to Associate Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley (CMH director) or Professor Murray Goot (CMH deputy director) by Friday, 2 April 2010: b.foley@mq.edu.au / murray.goot@humn.mq.edu.au

5 – RECENTLY PUBLISHED

56.5.1 BOOKS

Noye, Larry, *O'Malley MHR: American Wanderer, Australian Trailblazer*, Sid Harta Publishers, \$34.95 rrp. ISBN-13: 9781921362224. A revised biography of King O'Malley, who became Minister for Home Affairs. O'Malley fights off bitter, entrenched opposition to lead the Labor Party in founding a "people's bank", the Commonwealth Bank. He launched the bold bid to push a railway across the wastes to Western Australia and led the building of Canberra.

Richardson, Peter, *Aged in the Ink*, Buderim, 2009. 194pp. Soft cover. ISBN: 978-0-646-52343-9. RRP \$24.95 from bookshops (or author is at (07) 5445 2983 or rich.29@bigpond.net.au/ In more than 60 years of journalism, the author has reported and commented on change, not just in the newspaper industry, but in the social fabric of Queensland. Using Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Man Monologue as a framework, he has mixed experience with observation and opinion in a memoir that will prompt both the nodding and the shaking of readers' heads. Richardson was the editor of the *Nambour Chronicle* before it was used as the springboard for the *Sunshine Coast Daily*.

56.5.2 ARTICLES

Alford, Peter, "Omens from the shrinking Japanese newspaper business", *Australian*, Media section, 14 December 2009, p.27. Cracks are starting to open in the world's most successful newspaper industry.

Barrass, Tony, "Nothing less than a bloody scoop", *Australian*, 6 January 2010, p.10. With the day's deadline fast approaching, there's news of a father gone berserk.

'Barton, Edmund', "Newspapers tackle the digital age", *Canberra Times*, 16 January 2010, Forum section, p.15.

Chessell, James, "Online revolution changed the game", *Australian*, 21 December 2009, pp.23-24. The media sector for 2000-2009 is reviewed.

Elder, John, and Cauchi, Stephen, "Down the road into the brave news world", *Sunday Age*, 13 December 2009, p.10. The *Age* staff move; see also "Rule" and "Strong" below.

Evans, Michael, "News stoush stirs family ire", *Age*, 23 January 2010, BusinessDay, pp.1-2. An attack on Fox News reveals the inner workings of the Murdoch dynasty.

Hamilton, John, "Bullets and dispatches", *Sunday Tasmanian*, 20 September 2009. Retired journalist Denis Warner, a Tasmanian, made a career out of living dangerously. Hamilton describes him as "Australian journalism's greatest living national treasure". Warner is a famous war and foreign correspondent and the author of 15 books.

Higgins, Ean, "Speak the lingo and parlez it into scoop after scoop", *Australian*, 7 January 2010, p.9. Many a story has been broken by a reporter having the right voice at the right time.

- Hyland, Tom**, “Calling the tune”, *Sunday Age*, 13 December 2009, pp.19-20. These days governments and their PR machines are so intertwined it’s hard for journalists to tell where the spin starts and ends. [Deeper than your average newspaper feature on such a topic.]
- Kirkpatrick, Rod**, “Ladies first”, *gxpess*, November 2009, p.35. An article that does a little to shatter the myth of the “one-man newspaper” in country Australia.
- Leak, Bill**, “Apologies to all, my mind is damaged”, *Australian*, 31 December 2009, p.9. A colossal knock on the head has done little harm to cartoonist Leak’s sense of humour.
- MacIntyre, Ben**, “ ‘To the public’, a journal for the times”, *Weekend Australian*, 2-3 January 2010, p.11. John Walter’s little newspaper, which became the *London Times*, developed into a national institution. It is now 225 years old, The paper’s founder was a former bankrupt who would serve a long prison sentence for libel. The paper was founded to advertise a new method of printing that never caught on.
- Pryor, Sally**, “Weekly Wonders”, *Canberra Times* Panorama section, Saturday 13 February 2010, pages 8-9. The National Library is digitising its collection of the *Australian Women’s Weekly* and is asking for help to fill in the gaps. The article also gives a brief history of the style of the magazine. More details of the National library’s project is at www.nla.gov.au/digicoll/australianwomensweekly.html
- Rule, Andrew**, “It’s the end of Spencer and Lonsdale as we enter a new Age”, *Age*, Saturday 12 December, page 9. A brief history of the former *Age* building at the corner of Spencer and Lonsdale Streets, Melbourne, as it moves into its new building on Collins Street. See also “Elder” and “Strong”.
- Strong, Geoff**, “Life in the bunker cedes to comfort. Let’s hope that’s good news”, *Age*, 14 December 2009, p.9. Reflections on working in the just-vacated former *Age* building in Spencer Street. See also “Elder” and “Rule”.
- Wood, Rebecca**, ‘Frontier violence and the bush legend: The *Sydney Morning Herald*’s response to the Myall Creek massacre trials and the creation of colonial identity”, *History Australia*, Vol 6, No. 3, December 2009 (first published online December 2009). This article argues that the *SMH*’s coverage of the trials—through its portrayal of desperate settler isolation, victimisation and abandonment and its depictions of morally superior settlers and of their oft-demonised, alternately degenerate, uncaring or effeminate ‘others’—contributed to the formation of a distinct colonial identity, no longer fully British nor yet clearly Australian. Go to: <http://publications.epress.monash.edu/doi/abs/10.2104/ha090067>
- Wright, Tony**, “Why Fleet Street hacks have no fear of getting egg of their faces in the hunt for a royal scoop”, *Age*, 23 January 2010, *Insight*, p.2. Royal tours aren’t what they used to be, laments the author. Ah for the days of the Great Royal Easter Egg Hunt and Prince Willy’s First Steps...

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