



Rob Wilson at Pinnaroo Printing Museum, 1 February 2003. See "Deaths" below (65.1.8.2).

– Photo by Rod Kirkpatrick

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## NEWSLETTER

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Ten issues appeared by Dec 2000 and the Newsletter has since appeared five times a year.

### 1 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: NATIONAL & METROPOLITAN

#### 65.1.1 FAIRFAX FAMILY EXITS FAIRFAX MEDIA

After four and a half years, the Fairfax family name is again missing from the share register of the Fairfax newspaper company. John B. Fairfax sold his family's remaining stake of 232 million shares on 10 November 2011. The Fairfax family interest, held through Marinya Media, represented 9.7 per cent of Fairfax Media Ltd. Marinya sold the shares at 85c each to institutional investors. The *Australian* (11 November 2011, p.1) reported that Marinya's stake in Fairfax was valued at more than \$1.1 billion when the 2007 merger with Fairfax's Rural Press Ltd "reunited the family and the company founded in 1841 when John Fairfax bought the *Sydney Herald*". At this point, some history to better obtain an accurate picture of the beginnings:

**History:** Gavin Souter says in *Company of Heralds* about the emergence of Fairfax dominance at the *Herald* (pp.27, 44, 52, 591, 592): It is not known how [John] Fairfax came to form his business relationship with Charles Kemp (or rather it may have been the other way round, for as long as the partnership lasted Kemp's name was to take precedence on their imprint). Kemp and Fairfax became the owners of the *Herald* on 8 February 1841. Fairfax bought Kemp's interest on 30 September 1853 and took his son, Charles, into partnership. On 31 December 1856, the day after his defeat at the polls, John Fairfax took his second son, James, then 22 years of age, into partnership with himself and Charles on a 50 per cent—25 per cent and 25 per cent—basis. Next day the *Herald's* imprint changed to "John Fairfax & Sons". Since 1 October 1853, it had mentioned only "John Fairfax".

The headline in the *Australian* (11 November 2011) referred to the Fairfaxes as the "founding family". The paper was launched in 1831 by three former employees of the *Sydney Gazette*: Ward Stephens, William McGarvie and Frederick Stokes. McGarvie left the partnership after five issues.

In a statement on 10 November 2011, John B. Fairfax said the decision to sell now, in a falling market, was about diversifying the company's investment portfolio. Fairfax said the decision to sell, given the long association, was "not easy". The Fairfax family was associated with the company controlling the *Sydney Morning Herald* from 1841 until 1990, when it lost control after young Warwick Fairfax attempted a leveraged buyout of the group and the company collapsed under a mountain of debt. The family re-entered the media group through the merger with Rural Press in May 2007. Fairfax was worth more than \$7bn at the time but the decline in traditional media companies' revenue base has eroded the value of it and other media outfits. Fairfax was worth \$2.2bn on 10 November.

29 November 2011: Nicholas Fairfax, son of John B. Fairfax, tendered his resignation from the Fairfax Media board (*Australian*, 30 November 2011, p.37).

#### **65.1.2 HARTIGAN DEPARTS**

John Hartigan announced on 9 November that he would step down as chairman and chief executive of News Limited. He finished on 2 December. He had been the chief executive for 11 years and the chairman for six. He had worked for News for 41 years. Kim Williams, chief executive of Foxtel, replaced Hartigan as chief executive and Rupert Murdoch himself became the new News Ltd chairman. Richard Freudenstein, formerly head of the company's digital arm, News Digital Media, moved into the senior position at Foxtel. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported (9 November 2011): "The removal of News Corp's most senior executive in Australia comes amid a time of turmoil for the company, which has seen its British division—News International—come under intense scrutiny over the phone hacking scandal that brought about the downfall of British tabloid the *News of the World*."

Hartigan joined News Limited in Sydney in 1970 as a reporter on the *Daily Mirror*, and, later, the *Daily Telegraph*. He went on to work for the *Sun* in London and the *New York Post*. After returning to Australia, he edited Queensland's *Sunday Sun*, and later was the founding editor of the Brisbane *Daily Sun* (launched 2 August 1982). In 1986 he was appointed editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, and three years later was promoted to editor-in-chief of the *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph*. In 1997 he was appointed group editorial director, the company's most senior editorial position responsible for all of the company's newspapers. He was appointed chief executive officer of News Limited in 2000 and chairman and chief executive officer in 2005.

#### **65.1.3 MURDOCH RE-ELECTED TO BOARD: PROFITS AND PRINCIPLES**

Rupert Murdoch, the News Corporation chairman and chief executive, was re-elected to the company's board on 22 October despite an expected protest vote. The other incumbent directors were re-elected, too. The Murdoch family and Saudi investor, Prince Alwaleed bin Talai, who has expressed support for Murdoch, control nearly half the voting shares. Murdoch said: "We cannot just be a profitable company. We must be a principled company." (*Australian*, Media section, 24 October 2011, p.32).

#### **65.1.4 JUDGMENT ON BOLT PUBLISHED**

The *Herald Sun* has twice published a prominent 500-word corrective notice about the Bolt case. The notice, which outlined the case brought against columnist Andrew Bolt by Pat Eatock on behalf of other "fair-skinned Aboriginals" and the Federal Court's reasoning on why two of Bolt's articles breached the Racial Discrimination Act, was published "adjacent" to Bolt's regular column. The Federal Court supplied the notice (*Australian*, 20 October 2011, p.6).

### 65.1.5 CIRCULATION: REDS DEFEAT GREENS 31–3

The *Australian* published its national and metropolitan newspaper circulation table for July–September (11 November 2011, p.26) with, for the first time, green arrows pointing up for the increases in circulation and red arrows pointing down for the decreases. There were three green arrows and 31 red arrows. Total Monday-to-Sunday sales fell by 3.7 per cent for the quarter compared with the sales for the same period in 2010 (when there was a 2.9 per cent fall). The three green arrows were for the weekday *Age* and the *Sunday Age* and the Saturday *West Australian*, which sold 318,352, nearly 3000 more than the *Sydney Morning Herald's* weekend edition (315,548). The *Daily Telegraph* (317,796) has at long last crept ahead of the *SMH* on Saturdays. The biggest percentage declines were recorded by the weekday *Sydney Morning Herald* (7.2) and the *Sunday Herald Sun* and the *Sunday Canberra Times* (6.4). [The ANHG publishes only two sets of circulation figures a year: for the June and December quarters.]

### 65.1.6 MASTHEAD READERSHIP: PRINT AND ONLINE COMBINED

Roy Morgan Research has released a new readership metric for newspapers, combining print and website audiences into one “masthead readership” number to meet demands from the publishers for data that quantifies their total reach (*Australian*, Media section, 14 November 2011, p.25). According to the latest Roy Morgan Single Source data (July 2010 – June 2011), Melbourne’s *Herald Sun* has the highest net masthead readership in Australia: nearly 2.7 million. This is 258,000 more readers than the *Sydney Morning Herald* (with a masthead readership of nearly 2.4 million), which is just ahead of Sydney’s *Daily Telegraph* (with a masthead readership greater than 2.3m). Brisbane’s *Courier Mail* ranks fourth with a masthead readership of over 1.84m, placing the Brisbane title just ahead of Melbourne’s *Age* with its masthead readership of nearly 1.78m. Seventy-one per cent of the *Australian's* masthead readership read the printed version; the website, *theaustralian.com.au*, has a readership of 619,000 readers, which is more than 4.6 times the readership of national rival, the *Australian Financial Review's* website, *afr.com*. The *Australian Financial Review's* masthead readership appears to owe more to its printed version of the newspaper than its website. Eighty-two per cent of the *Australian Financial Review's* masthead readership read the printed version of this newspaper, but only 30,000 readers (or 5pc of its total masthead readership) read both the printed version and the website. Perhaps there is a connection between the existence of a paywall on *afr.com*, and that this newspaper brand has the lowest duplication of readers between its printed version and website. With a readership of 1,115,000, *smh.com.au* has the highest readership of all the Australian metro daily newspaper websites.

### 65.1.7 PEOPLE

**Garry Bailey**, editor of the *Hobart Mercury* and *Sunday Tasmanian* for the past 10 years, will step down on 5 January 2012. He has resigned after 42 years in newspapers, all, bar two of them, with Hobart’s Davies Brothers Pty Ltd. He worked for the *Advertiser* in Adelaide from 1976–78. The new *Mercury* editor is expected to be announced within the coming few weeks. (See ANHG 15.24.)

**Paul Bailey** has been appointed editor of the *Australian Financial Review*. **Sean Aylmer** has been appointed national business editor of Fairfax Media’s metro division, with responsibility for its Business Day, Money and Investor products on print and digital platforms (*Australian*, Media section, 14 November 2011, p.26).

**Jill Baker**, deputy editor of the *Herald Sun*, has won three major awards: the Sir Keith Murdoch Award for Excellence in Journalism at the News Awards on 4 November (*Australian*, Media section, 7 November 2011, p.32); the Walkley Award for “Best newspaper feature writing”; and the Golden Quill award from the Melbourne Press Club. One article won those awards—her 7000-word feature, “The Big C and Me”. She wrote about her experiences after having been diagnosed with breast cancer 12 weeks after her husband had died. The article appeared in the *Herald Sun* on 23 October 2010. (Neil McMahon wrote sensitively about Baker in *Mediaweek*, 5 December 2011, p.8.) Read the article at [www.walkleys.com/files/media/BakerBigcandme.pdf](http://www.walkleys.com/files/media/BakerBigcandme.pdf)

**Mark Baker**, senior editor at the *Age* and a former editor of the *Canberra Times*, has been appointed national managing editor of Fairfax Media’s metro division. He will focus on

expanding the National Times masthead, building a national investigations unit and managing the Canberra pool of journalists (*Australian*, Media section, 14 November 2011, p.26).

**Natasha Bitá**, consumer affairs editor of the *Australian*, won the Walkley Award for “Sustained coverage of an issue or event” with “Virus in the system” (about the damage to children from the Fluvax vaccination program).

**Joseph Catanzaro** won the Walkley Award for the “best print, online and wire service news report” for 2011 with his “Secret toll of war”, published in the *Weekend West*. Other awards, see <http://www.walkleys.com/news/5131/> or *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 69, Dec 2011-Jan 2012.

**Bernadette Courtney**, editor of the *Dominion Post*, Wellington, NZ, was interviewed by James Manning in *Mediaweek*, 17 October 2011, p.10. She has repositioned the paper to have a greater local focus although it is published in the national capital.

**Darren Goodsir**, editor of **smh.com.au**, was “Person of the Week” in *Mediaweek*, 21 November 2011, p.4. His career can be traced back to the Sydney *Daily Mirror* in the 1980s.

**John Hamilton**, associate editor of the *Herald Sun*, retired on 28 October after an award-winning career spanning more than 50 years. Following a cadetship at the *West Australian* he moved to the *Age* where he won two Walkley Awards before joining the *Herald* to write the “On the Spot” column. Hamilton served as the Herald & Weekly Times correspondent in Washington and was also the HWT bureau chief in London. He has written two best-selling books on aspects of the Gallipoli campaign and is working on a third (John Tidey, email, 3 November 2011; *Herald Sun*, 28 October 2011). Hamilton was featured in “Ten Questions” in the *Australian*, Media section, 7 November 2011, p.33, and provided solid, sound, non-sexy advice for journalists no matter for which platform/s they are writing.

**Mike Sheahan**, who finishes as chief football writer of the *Herald Sun* in December 2011 after 18 years, was subjected to “Ten Questions”, *Australian*, Media section, 5 December 2011, p.27.

**Cameron Stewart**, of the *Australian*, was a tutor during a 12-week journalism training program for Sudanese Australians, run by the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Advanced Journalism. He wrote about the experience in the *Australian*, Media section, 28 November 2011, pp.28, 25. One of the students, **Emma Berberi**, wrote about journalism in the Media section, 5 December 2011, p.26.

## 65.1.8 RECENT CHRONOLOGY

### 65.1.8.1 EVENTS

**9 November 2011:** John Hartigan announces he will step down as CEO (after 11 years) and chairman of News Limited (six years). He finished on 2 December.

**10 November 2011:** John B. Fairfax sells his 9.7 per cent stake in Fairfax Media Ltd.

### 65.1.8.2 DEATHS

**Gribble, Diana Mary (née Balderstone):** D. 4 October 2011, aged 69; publisher and entrepreneur; co-founder of Text Media Group in 1990s with Eric Beecher; Text published books, custom magazines and local glossy newspapers, including *Melbourne Weekly*; when Text was sold to Fairfax, joined Beecher in establishing Private Media, build around internet journalism; it started by acquiring the “idiosyncratic” online news service Crikey from its founder Stephen Mayne in 2005 and since then has added a number of other websites (*Saturday Age*, 22 October 2011).

**McCosker, Malcolm:** D. 4 December 2011 in Brisbane, aged 73; reported rural affairs for 50 years, mainly for *Queensland Country Life (QCL)*; joined that paper on 11 November 1961; after regional postings at Townsville and Toowoomba, returned to Brisbane as assistant to editor Wallace Skelsey; appointed editor of *NSW Country Life* in May 1972, and in September 1975 became editor of *QCL*; after its acquisition by The Land Newspaper Co (later Rural Press Ltd) in 1978, McCosker served in several top editorial positions, including associate editor and livestock editor; in his final years he worked as a permanent contributor; in November 2010, he was the

first inductee into the Rural Journalism Hall of Fame, part of the Stockman's Hall of Fame at Longreach (*Queensland Country Life* online, 5 December 2011; ruralpressclub.com.au)

**Monks, Thomas Stanley:** D. 12 October 2011 in the UK, aged 95; born in Warrington, England; entered journalism aged 16 after working as office boy on the local paper; worked on various papers until the outbreak of World War II; joined the *Sydney Morning Herald* after demobilisation; posted to London in 1948 to become the paper's staff correspondent, then diplomatic correspondent, and then became the correspondent covering the UK and Europe until 1981; authored a memoir, *Brunei Days* (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 November 2011).

**Roebuck, Peter:** D. 13 November 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa, aged 55; had been a lawyer, teacher, writer, broadcaster and cricketer; cricket writer extraordinaire for Fairfax newspapers and cricket broadcaster for ABC; played 335 first class cricket games for Somerset (see Malcolm Knox's wonderful obituary, *Age*, 14 November 2011; and Christopher Pearson's reminiscence of how Roebuck came to be a contributor to the *Adelaide Review*, "A long road travelled with the very companionable Roebuck", *Weekend Australian*, 19-20 November 2011, p.22).

**Sibley, Sheila Eleanor:** D. 15 September 2011 in Alphington, aged 89; fled Kerang aged 15 to seek journalistic opportunities in Melbourne; gained cadetship on *Radio Times*; posted to First Australian Broadcast Control Unit during World War II; joined *Woman's Day* in Sydney; secured Fleet Street posting with *Sydney Morning Herald*; returned to Australia in 1957; reported for women's magazines; wrote columns for ultimately doomed newspapers such as *Newsday* and the *Sunday Observer*; became involved in TV script writing and some acting (*Age*, 17 October 2011, p.18).

**Wilson, Robert William:** D. 21 October 2011 in Pinnaroo, aged 91; born in Melbourne; stumbled into printing as a career; completed an apprenticeship with Mason, Firth & McCutcheon; shifted to Mildura for his health in December 1942 and to work as a Linotype operator on the *Sunraysia Daily*; worked there four years before joining the Sunnyland Press job-printing operation at Red Cliffs; helped out at *Pinnaroo Border Times* and ended up buying it in 1953, and taking his brothers Alan and Reg into partnership in 1985; sold the paper in 1985; became heavily involved in the Pinnaroo Printing Museum, part of the Mallee Tourist and Heritage Centre (*Border Times*, 26 October 2011, p.1; and Rod Kirkpatrick, "Preserving the letterpress devices of a bygone era", *PANPA Bulletin*, May 2003, pp.33-35).

#### 65.1.9 FAIRFAX DECENTRALISES SOME PRINTING

Fairfax Printers Pty Ltd is sending some of its country-newspaper printing back to the country. From 12 December 2011, the printing of the *Lithgow Mercury*, *Bathurst Western Advocate*, *Bathurst Western Times*, *Bathurst Domain*, *Oberon Review* and *Blayney Chronicle* will be transferred from Chullora to Dubbo. This will precede the decommissioning on 24 December of both the C2 and D presses at Fairfax's Chullora plant. Fairfax began printing the *Sydney Morning Herald* at the plant in early 1996. News Limited brought its Chullora printing centre online in April 1994.

#### 65.1.10 AFP AND THE AUSTRALIAN

Australian Federal Police commissioner Tony Negus told the Melbourne Magistrates Court on 2 November he was happy with the result of discussions with the *Australian* that led to a story about anti-terror raids being published on the morning they were conducted. Negus was giving evidence at the committal hearing for Simon Artz, a Victoria Police officer accused of leaking information about Operation Neath to the *Australian* in 2009. The paper published details of the operation after talks with the AFP, which worked with other agencies to arrest several men planning terror attacks on Sydney's Holsworthy army barracks. The court heard Negus had spoken to Paul Whittaker, then editor of the *Australian*, once he learned that journalist Cameron Stewart had information about Operation Neath. Negus said the editor had questioned him repeatedly about why the story should be held back. He said he told Whittaker lives could be put at risk if the story was published immediately, to which Whittaker responded by asking how many lives. "I expected it would be a difficult conversation to have, but it went further than I thought it needed to," Negus said. "I think at the end of the day we reached a decision point that was acceptable to both parties. I felt what had been asked of us was reasonable in the

circumstances and I was happy enough to agree to it. He saw he had a legitimate story to run and it was up to me to convince him why he shouldn't."

Outside court, the *Australian's* editor-in-chief, Chris Mitchell, said the paper had had no intention of publishing anything that would threaten lives, and had been happy with the offer proposed by Negus to hold the story and get a briefing on Operation Neath.

#### **65.1.11 NEW CHINA TITLE ON AUSSIE MARKET**

New newspaper on the Australian market: *China Daily Asia Weekly* \$4, printed by IPG Alexandria NSW, also printed/published in Dubai UAE, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Malaysia. The 11 November issue was 24 tabloid pages, including 2 pages of ads for Hong Kong real estate, but little other advertising.

#### **65.1.12 MERCURY ON THE MOVE—SO IS ITS SUBBING**

The Hobart *Mercury* will move from its landmark headquarters in Macquarie Street to the first floor of Salamanca Square next year. The newspaper has been in Macquarie Street since John Davies established the business in 1854. Chief executive Rex Gardner said the move would give staff an ultra-modern workplace at the heart of Hobart's liveliest precinct. The company expected to move into the new HQ, which overlooks the main entrance to Salamanca Square, in August next year (*Mercury*, 17 November 2011).

On the plans to shift sub-editing away from Hobart: The media union says News Limited has been moving sub-editing jobs in Hobart interstate by stealth. The union is planning to re-ignite a public campaign to keep the jobs in Tasmania, saying the *Mercury's* editor promised to abandon plans to shift sub-editing to a new editing hub in Melbourne in May. The Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance state president Mark Thomas says instead, shifts appear to have been moved to Adelaide. "Sixteen subbing shifts a week have been moved to Adelaide," he said. *Mercury* Editor Garry Bailey rejected claims that he had reneged on a promise not to send subbing jobs interstate. He said he had made it clear consistently over the past year that he could not make that promise and all members of staff would have heard him say that (ABC News online, 11 November 2011).

#### **65.1.13 HYWOOD ASKS WHY THE INQUIRY IS NEEDED**

When Fairfax Media boss Greg Hywood fronted the independent print media inquiry on 16 November, he asked why it needed to exist. While the News International phone-hacking scandal may have raised questions about the British press, there was no evidence of similar conduct that needed to be investigated here, he said. "For various reasons the (Gillard) government, backed by the Greens, decided it would be a good idea to have a media inquiry," Hywood said. "What we have not got are examples of serious atrocities of the like that have occurred in the UK. We're completely confident that, while inappropriate behaviour does occasionally occur ... there is nothing systemic here that needs fundamental institutional change." He strongly defended the quality of the media, saying "it does a good job for the people of Australia". He said Fairfax did not believe there were problems with issues such as bias that warranted further regulation. "The media is not obliged to be impartial," he said. "Resentment in government about what they perceive as bias in some quarters of the press is not a valid cause to seek further regulation. It is not the job of journalists to be liked or even respected ... The media is not perfect but ... it does a good job for the people of Australia." (*Australian*, 17 November 2011.)

Mark Day interviewed Greg Hywood a year after he took charge at Fairfax Media. Day's report (*Australian*, 5 December 2011, pp.28, 25), with extensive Q and A treatment, said that Hywood saw the future as digital.

#### **65.1.14 THE SPEAKER AND THE NEWSPAPER EDITOR**

*The Daily Telegraph* reported on a feud it was having with the new Speaker in the House of Representatives: "As soon as he stepped into the Speaker's role, Peter Slipper banned photographs of him, barring one photographer from the press gallery and ejecting one who was already there. Now his serjeant-at-arms has threatened to ban the *Daily Telegraph* from the press gallery after this newspaper depicted the repeat political defector as a rat. In a letter to editor Paul Whittaker, serjeant-at-arms Robyn McClelland said the *Daily Telegraph* was not



allowed to portray Slipper as a rat because pictures taken in parliament were not allowed to be used for “satire or ridicule”. Whittaker said the restrictions were absurd: “Instead of allowing parliamentary staff to threaten and manipulate the media over how he is portrayed, the Speaker should allow genuine access for the public and the media to parliament – and raise the standard of what we see when we get there.” (*Mediaweek* online, 29 November 2011).

#### **65.1.15 READER’S EDITOR GETS KICK OUT OF JOB**

The *Sydney Morning Herald’s* reader’s editor, Judy Prisk, is always worth reading (says *Mediaweek* online, 1 December 2011) and she did not disappoint on 1 December with a round-up of recent wrongs: “No doubt about it. It must have been an interesting sight at State Parliament last week when, as smh.com.au reported: “Police in the public gallery had to be repeatedly warned to stop injecting during today’s debate.” I believe there would have been some interjections, too. There certainly were in the readers’ editor’s inbox, and a dash of apoplexy. As readers remind me daily – mostly, and I thank you for that, with a gentle prod rather than scathing outrage – the *Herald* and the *Sun-Herald* get things wrong. There is no denying it. I pointed out in a previous column that a weekday *Herald* is the equivalent of an average-size book, which can take a year to write, publish and distribute, so to an extent it is understandable. Nevertheless it is cleansing as the year draws to a close to lay some of them out there and take on the chin (and the backside) a kick or two from readers.”

#### **65.1.16 AFR SLASHES SUBSCRIPTION PRICES**

The *Australian Financial Review* slashed its subscription prices from 5 December. A newspaper subscription now includes access to afr.com and costs \$780 a year, down from \$1140. The online-only price fell by 40 per cent to \$680 a year. The *Financial Review* has been charging for online content since 2006 (*Australian*, Media section, 5 December 2011, p.26).

### **2 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: ONLINE**

#### **65.2.1 AUSTRALIAN LAUNCHES PAYWALL**

The *Australian* launched its paywall on 24 October with a three-month free trial for all readers. News Limited said the national broadsheet’s strategy was built around a digital content pass which provided access to *The Australian* online and on mobile and tablet devices using a single log-in. The *Australian* also launched a redesigned website and a new mobile site. *The Australian*, the first general newspaper in Australia to launch a paywall, will charge readers \$2.95 per week for a basic digital subscription. Combination packages including print and digital subscriptions will cost up to \$7.95 a week.

Existing six-day-a-week print subscribers will receive a complimentary 12-month digital subscription. *The Australian’s* paywall uses a freemium model that provides some free stories but charges for premium content such as analysis, opinion and more specialist material. The newspaper had based its digital subscription model on the one implemented by *The Wall Street Journal*, editor Clive Mathieson said. News indicated it would allow some free access by non-subscribers to its premium content when it launches its paywall, but not through social media sites Twitter and LinkedIn. It would allow users to access up to five premium-content stories a day via Google and have one free click-through from social media site Facebook.

News Corporation publications the *Wall Street Journal* in the US and *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* in the UK have already successfully implemented digital subscription packages. The *Wall Street Journal’s* main US rival, the *New York Times*, has also introduced digital subscriptions and now boasts more than 1.1 million digital subscribers.

#### **65.2.2 GAME TO HELP ‘INFANT’ WAR CORRESPONDENTS**

Tony Maniaty, the journalist who broke the story of the murder of the Balibo Five in East Timor, knows the dangers of reporting from conflict zones. But the young, ambitious journalists he teaches at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) do not, and, increasingly, some of them want to go to places such as Afghanistan and Iraq in the hope of making their names. So he has created a computer game, called *Warco*, where players arm themselves, not with guns but with a camera and notebook. Maniaty says, “You see the game through the eyes of the character and you are in this African country which is not unlike Libya or Somalia and you arrive and you are

under fire, with the rebels trying to take the airport, which you may well be as a real-world correspondent.” (*Australian*, Media section, 31 October 2011, p.34; also see Tony Maniaty, “News and other games”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 69, December 2011-January 2012, p.25).

### **65.2.3 MEDIAWEEK’S iPad APP**

*Mediaweek* has launched an iPad edition. The app is a digital replica of the magazine because, says editor and publisher James Manning, “we didn’t see much wrong with the hard copy offered”.

### **65.2.4 NEWS 24**

On October 17 the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Sunday Telegraph* transformed their Sydney newsroom operation to deal much better with the demands of print and digital versions of news. They increased staff numbers in the morning and “improved work practices to better service the needs of readers of the papers plus its newer web, mobile and iPad editions”. James Manning, editor and publisher of *Mediaweek*, interviewed the two editors (31 October 2011, pp.14-16).

### **65.2.5 WEEK PLANS ONLINE LAUNCH**

Three years after starting an Australian print version of the weekly news digest, the *Week*, the British firm, Dennis Publishing, says its plans to launch an online edition in the new year (*Australian*, Media section. 31 October 2011, p.35).

### **65.2.6 ONLINE ADVERTISING SOARS**

The online advertising industry has defied the soft advertising market, reports **Simon Canning** (*Australian*, Media section, 7 November 2011, p.32), registering a record third quarter with revenue growing 20 per cent compared with the previous year. Marketers spent \$688 million online in the quarter ending 30 September, according to the Internet Advertising Bureau. In the third quarter of 2002, online advertising revenue totaled \$47 million.

## **3 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL**

### **65.3.1 TWEED AND COFFS: TWO APN DAILIES BITE THE DUST**

The number of regional dailies in Australia fell from 37 to 35 on Monday, 5 December 2011. The two dailies to bite the dust were the *Tweed Daily News* (estab. 1 January 1914 as a result of the merger of two bi-weeklies) and the *Coffs Coast Advocate* (12 February 1907). They are now digital dailies and printed non-dailies. The *Tweed* paper is printed once a week, in a “bumper” weekend edition that sells at 50c (previously \$1.30). It continues to issue a free weekly, the *Tweed Border Mail* in the Tweed, Coolangatta and Murwillumbah districts, but its two Queensland “frees”, the *Gold Coast Mail* and the *Robina Mail*, will cease after 22 December. The *Coffs* paper—previously unique because it was the only regional daily that had some paid and some free issues—is now printed twice a week (Wednesday and Saturday) and both issues are free. The paid issues, which appeared on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, have ceased. APN says about 30 to 35 of the 88 jobs at Tweed Heads and Coffs Harbour will be lost.

How did APN break the news to the public? “APN Australian Regional Media is redefining its business model in two markets to recognise the growing importance of digital news and information and shifting consumer needs.” And: “Your favourite source of local news is taking another big step into the digital future.”

The *Tweed Daily News* lost 11.11 per cent of its sales in the quarter to 30 September compared with the same quarter last year. The paper had slipped to an average circulation of 3689 a day, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations. [Nearby, the *Northern Star*, Lismore, fell by 9.3 per cent to 12,715, and the *Gold Coast Bulletin* fell by 6.53 per cent to 40,642.] The *Daily News* had a circulation of 7231 in 1900, 6182 in 2000, 5144 in the quarter to December 2008, 4396 in the same quarter in 2009, and 3770 in the quarter to June 2011. The paid issues of the *Coffs Coast Advocate* were not audited, but the two free issues had an average distribution of 31,210 in the three months to 30 September 2011. APN News & Media recorded a loss of \$98 million for the six months to 30 June.



**Marian Edmunds**, who began her career as a cadet journalist on the *Coffs Harbour Advocate* (as it then was) and four years later moved to the *Daily News*, wrote a lament for the loss of the two dailies (“Death of the local rag is not good news”, *Australian*, Media section, 5 December 2011, pp.28, 26). It’s an excellent article. See also: Neil McMahon, “APN redefines regional business model”, *Mediaweek*, 28 November 2011, p.13.

### **65.3.2 LEADER RESTRUCTURES**

Melbourne’s Leader Newspapers group is to become two divisions instead of three. No details have been announced of which newspapers will belong to which division. There will be an increase in shared content. The 26 editors for Leader’s 33 community titles will be reduced to 11, with each editor being responsible for three newspapers. They will be given a salary increase. Fifteen editors will lose their positions; they will be offered positions as senior reporters but will not lose any salary or entitlements. The senior reporters will work across three mastheads, too. A hub of three group reporters will be created to write trunk stories that can go across as many mastheads as possible each week. The new editorial structure, which will involve no redundancies, is to be in place by the end of January 2012, with analysis and implementation review in May (Leader newspapers, internal email, 9 November 2011).

### **65.3.3 CUMBERLAND COURIER GROUP CHANGES NAME**

Branding is important in the market-conscious world of newspapers where the jargon of editors now has changed so much. They talk of “products” rather than “newspapers” and “markets” rather than “audiences”. And now News Community Media’s Sydney division, formerly the Cumberland Courier newspaper group, has become NewsLocal (one word). The change was made on 17 October. “NewsLocal: has been added to the mastheads of all the titles, such as the *Manly Daily* and the *Wentworth Courier*. Cumberland Newspapers bought the Courier group, based in the eastern suburbs, in 2007. The name change to NewsLocal coincides with a complete design overhaul of the titles (*Mediaweek*, 24 October 2011, p.9).

### **65.3.4 MELBOURNE: MURRAY SMITH, A ‘LEGEND’ WHO WILL WINCE**

From **Paul Amy**, southern sports editor for Leader: It seems to me the word “legend” has been debased through over-use. It is among the most hackneyed in the English language. Murray Smith is a legend of Standard/Leader Newspapers. He will wince at the description, for he is a quiet and humble man who meets praise by dropping his head and making an unobtrusive inspection of his feet. He can discuss many subjects with knowledge, understanding and sensitivity (he speaks nonsense only when spruiking his beloved Blues). But you will rarely hear him talk about himself. Modesty is a mark of the man. “Hey, NO parting gifts of any kind for me, thanks, mate,” he said by email a couple of weeks ago when asked to name a book that could serve as a present for his retirement and a sliver of gratitude for many years of copy-cleaning and counsel. “Most desirous of a no-fuss ease-out.” But we could not let his towering contribution go unrecognised.

For 55 years he has served our newspapers with unmatched dedication and skill, as a reporter, editor and more recently sub-editor with an ability to produce headlines with zip and zing. He is being thorough to the end. A few weeks ago he was subbing an unremarkable story about Frankston Tennis Club. He was unsure of a name. The reporter was uncontactable, so Murray tracked down a number and rang the club secretary to check. He has always set himself rigorous standards. His own writing was quite superb. In early 2000 another great *Standard/Leader* journalist, George Coote, died after a battle with cancer. Murray Smith wrote the obituary. It ran on Page 6 of the *Moorabbin Leader*. No more eloquent story was published across the group that year. A spirit of generosity set him apart from many colleagues. He was the Cheltenham office’s librarian, putting his own books on the shelves for colleagues’ use. And he gave quiet guidance and encouragement to scores of young reporters. One, Matthew Ricketson, is now the professor of journalism at the University of Canberra. In his book on feature writing, Ricketson gave thanks to his old editor. And when the *Age* ran its “Personal Heroes” series in 2001, that fine journalist Peter Ellingsen devoted the best part of a page to Murray Smith. He started at the *Standard*, aged 15, in 1956. He finishes in January, a legend of the newspaper industry.

### 65.3.5 MACKAY: CALLING MIKE THE MINER

Mackay *Daily Mercury* editor Jennifer Pomfrett devoted her column, “Just Jen”, on 5 November to advertising for a miner to write a weekly column in the paper. “Mike the Miner”, she called him, declaring: “Mike must be dependable, honest, thought-provoking, entertaining, and forthright ... but perhaps the biggest test for Mike will be that he has to be able to put his thoughts in writing.” The first column from the successful applicant will appear on 12 December. “Mike” is said to be “a larrikin and the quintessential miner”. The column appears during a sorely needed redesign of the *Mercury*, which began on Wednesday, 7 December. The paper is prettier but not deeper.

### 65.3.6 GUNNEDAH: FAIRFAX BUYS LOCAL TITLE

Fairfax Media Ltd has bought the Gunnedah Publishing Company, publisher of the *Namoi Valley Independent*. The acquisition was announced in the newspaper on 3 November (p.3). The paper is descended from the *Namoi Independent and Gunnedah Advertiser*, launched on 17 August 1876.

## 4 – NEWSPAPER HISTORY

### 65.4.1 FIRST COUNTRY NEWSPAPER IN WA

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: I can now strongly question the assertion by newspaper historian A.C. Frost that the country press of Western Australia began in York in 1877. Frost, who has a 142-page typescript document on the history of Western Australia’s newspapers lodged with the State Library of Western Australia, wrote (p.84): “With the exception of the seaport towns of Albany, Bunbury and Geraldton and the Eastern Goldfields, very few country papers commenced publication before 1900. The notable exception was the *Eastern Districts Chronicle*, which was the first country newspaper to be established in the whole of the State. It was founded in York by George Inkpen as early as 1877.” [The first issue carried two dates: 31 October and 3 November 1877.]

At various times I have seen claims that the *Albany Banner* began in the 1870s, but items allegedly extracted from the *Albany Banner* before 1881 were quite obviously from the *Albury Banner* (NSW), which started in 1860. The *Launceston Examiner*, 21 May 1861, p.2, and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 March 1870, p.5, both referred to the *Albany Banner* when they clearly meant the *Albury Banner*. The *SMH* article referred to the “Tumbarumba correspondent of the *Albany Banner*”; Tumbarumba is in southern NSW, in a district that the Albury papers would have covered. In Albany (WA), the *Albany Banner and Advertiser for King George’s Sound and the South and South-Western Districts of Western Australia* began publication in April 1881 (*South Australian Advertiser*, 27 September 1881, p.6; *Geraldton Guardian & Express*, 30 April 1929, p.4).

In research I have conducted recently, I have established that there was an Albany paper published before the York paper, but it was not the *Albany Banner*. The *King George’s Sound Observer* began publication at Albany on 27 August 1868. I suggest this is almost certainly the first country newspaper to have been published in WA. Melbourne’s *Argus* reported (5 September 1868, p.5): “The little town of Albany, King George’s Sound—one of the oldest settlements in Australia—has at last got its local newspaper. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of August the first number of the *King George’s Sound Observer* made its appearance. It is to be published fortnightly and at the price of sixpence a copy. It is scarcely half a sheet of demy in size. It may be mentioned as showing the difficulties under which it has been produced, that small as the sheet is, it is made up by two still smaller sheets of paper being pasted together. The *Observer* goes to work most valiantly. It intimates that ‘wherever wrong or injustice rears its unseemly head, we shall boldly throw down the gauntlet and challenge the offender ‘impugn it who list’...Wherever monopoly exists, and we can be made to understand that such is the case, we will most assuredly decry it, as we consider it a most dangerous enemy to progress.”

The *West Australian* (3 December 1963, p.3) reported: “The only known [extant] copy of an old Albany newspaper has been recently donated to the Perth Archives. It is the *King George* [sic] *Sound Observer*, dated 10 October 1868. The donor: Mr Bernard Symers, of Albany, descendant of Captain T.L. Symers, a pioneer of Albany.” This is now held by the State Library of Western Australia, but it is too fragile to be viewed.

Steve Howell, senior subject specialist, Battye Library, said of the holding: "I went and checked it and we hold six pages of volume 1, issue number 4, dated 10 October 1868. The pages held are pages 19-22 & 25-26, which indicates this issue was of eight pages. This also means that previously there were three issues, totalling 18 pages, so either three issues of six pages each, or (and the part in your article describing the first issue would seem to put it at four pages) issues of four, six and eight pages. I do not know if the newspaper continued after issue 4 or folded then. There is nothing in the issue we hold to indicate it was folding."

#### **65.4.2 MACKAY: CHING FAMILY MASSACRE MISSED MAN WHO BECAME EDITOR**

Bruce McKean, a long-time reporter on the *Daily Mercury*, Mackay, wrote a four-part historical series on the Ching family massacre which took place 100 years ago. The articles appeared on 16, 17, 18 and 19 November 2011. The final article mentioned that three members of the family survived the massacre, and one was Harry Ching, a journalist on the *Daily Standard*, Mackay. Ching joined the *South China Morning Post* in Hong Kong in 1916 and later became the editor for 33 years. The *Australasian Post* reported in 1986 that Ching had been the greatest editor in the paper's history. "His influence over four decades gave the newspaper the reputation it holds to this day," the magazine reported. His report of the liberation of Hong Kong was regarded as "one of journalism's classic reports".

#### **65.4.3 PRINTING MUSEUM IN BRISBANE**

Following is an extract from the newsletter, *News from Brandywine*, No. 5, November 2011: "My friend Jan Setek is on the move again. And, as a result, he has to dispose of the remnants of what was a substantial collection of casters, presses and equipment—originally the private printery and type foundry known as the Utility Press. This is going to the Caboolture Historical Museum's Village Printery (aka Village Print Shop) just north of Brisbane. He tells me that they too have a lack of space and so want to pass some of the previously donated items to the 'Brisbane Museum of Printing'.

"Brisbane has one printing 'museum' or rather an historic letterpress collection which is part of Brisbane's Maritime Museum. This, however, has been dormant for quite some time. I am not even sure if you can ask to have a look at what has been collected. A second museum near Brisbane is the above-mentioned Village Printery. It looks as if there is now going to be a third."

#### **65.4.4 TROVE HITS SIX MILLION PAGES**

Trove has announced that it has now reached six million pages of digitised newspapers available through the National Library's free online search service. Recent additions include the *Oakleigh Leader* and the *Healesville Guardian and Yarra Glen Advocate*, both funded by the State Library of Victoria, and the *Leader*, funded by Liverpool City Library.

#### **65.4.5 ROCKHAMPTON'S 150 YEARS OF NEWS**

The Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin* has issued a 164-page tabloid-sized booklet to mark its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 9 July 2011. It is entitled, "150 Years of News: 1861-2011". It includes two pages on the actual history of the newspaper and a full-page reproduction of the first front page of the paper.

#### **65.4.6 'BARE LEGS AT SQUARE LEG'**

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: Yes, the heading above was what the sport sub at the *Canberra Times* put on a story I wrote in March 1973 when I was the cricket correspondent for the newspaper. My article (14 March 1973) was about the ACT Cricket Umpires Association deciding to allow members to wear shorts when officiating in games. The story had my byline at the foot of it. A clipping of this story was discovered by Harold McLaren, of Murray Bridge, SA, when he was clearing out one of the filing cabinets of his late father. Harold is an ANHG subscriber and has done wonderful work on the history of the newspapers of Murray Bridge.

#### **65.4.7 BRITISH LIBRARY'S NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE GOES ONLINE**

As the Leveson inquiry reveals fresh horrors about press behaviour every day, the British Library's archive of early newspapers, which has gone online, shows there is nothing new under the *Sun* – or, perhaps, in it. More than four million pages, drawn mainly from 19th-century

regional newspapers, previously kept in decent obscurity at the library's newspaper archive in Colindale, north London, will now be available for historians and family researchers to browse for a small fee, or free if they visit the central library in King's Cross. All human life, not to say all the news fit to print, is certainly there, albeit written up in florid Victorian prose – great events, horrible murders reported in exhaustive detail, celebrity gossip, as well as the occasional intrusion into private grief.

Thus, the *Herts Guardian, Agricultural Journal and General Advertiser*, reporting on the death of Lord Raglan, the hapless British commander in the Crimean War: "Our commander-in-chief ... pained in his last hours by the ribald attacks of an unprincipled press."

They could knock down celebrities in those days too. Following the death of Grace Darling, the lighthouse keeper's daughter who had become a heroine for rescuing shipwrecked passengers off the coast of Northumberland, the editor of the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* sneered in the sort of tone to be heard any day now on blogsites: "We wonder our contemporaries do not know better than to suppose the public are generally interested in the health of this peasant."

And, when John Bean, "a deformed boy aged 16, a wretched and diminutive looking being" who had tried to kill Queen Victoria – a few weeks after two previous assassination attempts – in the summer of 1840, there was the authentic voice of editorial outrage when the perpetrators had their sentences commuted. The *Hereford Times* could not believe it: "The country will participate in the feelings of indignation and horror with which we announce that another miscreant has been found mad enough, or wicked enough, to have entertained designs against the life of our beloved Queen ... On the very day on which it became publicly known that Her Majesty had spared the life of him who had raised his hand against her own, another vile attempt upon that precious life would seem to have been intended."

As for scandals, the *British Chronicle* in September 1790 had a ripe one about an unnamed peer who fancied his valet's wife and sent the servant off on an errand which would take him away overnight. The valet was suspicious, hid near his wife's apartment and locked the couple in when he heard his employer enter, before heading off to the peer's wife's chamber on a similar mission. "In the morning gentle readers you may picture to yourselves the confusion of the whole family: his lordship was found locked in the arms of Mrs Anne and her ladyship was discovered in the same situation with Mr Thomas."

The archive features more than 200 newspapers, which are being copied for the library by the online publisher Brightsolid. Ed Vaizey, the culture and communications minister, said: "The archive is a rich and hugely exciting resource packed with historical detail. I searched for my own constituency of Wantage and within seconds had 42,000 results – an indication of the breadth and variety of material featured."

#### **65.4.8 THE 'FIRST' NSW GOLDFIELDS NEWSPAPER**

"Old Philos" was the pen name used when someone wrote a letter published in the *Illustrated Sydney News* on 13 September 1890 (p.16), claiming the first NSW goldfields newspaper was published at Sofala. "Old Philos" wrote: "For your correspondent's—'G.A.D.'—information, I may tell him that I was working on the Turon in 1859, 1860, and 1861 and part of that time resided at Sofala; and during my residence there I remember a manuscript paper being brought out every week by a party of young men who worked in the Tunnel Company's claim, round Lucky Point. I knew them all very well, and the editor was a smart, intelligent young fellow, who seemed to the manner born. It was published every Saturday at the Globe Hotel, kept by Mr. Edward Hording, a very gentlemanly man from Leamington, England, and ran for several months. It was illustrated by rough crayon sketches, and there was scarcely a person in the town who was not caricatured in red and black, even to the Commissioner, the late Mr. Harold McLean. But there was a printed paper published at Tambaroora about that time, but for the life of me I cannot think of its title or the name of its editor. The latter was an Irishman, however, and he and the editor of the *Illustrated Sofala Times* were great friends.

"Later on the *Miner* appeared at Lambing Flat, its editor being a Mr. Morgan, identical, I think, with 'Will Honeycomb,' of the *Dubbo Dispatch*; while for contributors he had a whole host of talent, including such, men as James Spicer, James Torpy, and, I think, the late George Lang, who died at Gulgong while editor of the *Gulgong Argus*, which was published by Mr. J. B.

Stormer. The *Miner* was only a small demy sheet, but the pith and point of its articles made up for its deficiency in size. I remember one writer used to give us every issue, 'On the Wallaby', by a 'Bull Frog', which was particularly amusing. I am of opinion that there was also a paper published at the Snowy. (Kiandra), in 1860-61, by Charles Cowper, jun., the present Sheriff of New South Wales, but am not quite sure.

"However, a really good paper followed the *Miner*, the *Lachlan Observer*, published at Forbes by Dr. Farrand, who was coroner at Lambing Flat during the riots, and who, by-the-bye, was the only Government official (bar little Scarlett, the detective) who stuck to his post, for all, the police officers, commissioners and all, beat a most ignominious retreat. Gulgong had two, and at one time three, papers; they were the *Guardian*, of which Mr. T. F. de Courcy Browne was proprietor and editor; the *Argus*, before mentioned; and the *Miner*, which was edited by Mr. A. A. O'Connor, who was one of the best orators I have ever heard, and an all-round good man on a goldfield. Of course newspapers have been published on most of the goldfields since the Lachlan, but as their enumeration will not decide the question it is useless saying more, except it be to claim for Sofala the honour of having published the first goldfield newspaper in New South Wales."

No issue of the *Illustrated Sofala Times* is extant in any public library. The *Braidwood Dispatch* began on 10 April 1858 – on a goldfield. Also see 65.4.9 and 65.4.11.

#### **65.4.9 GOLD IN AUSTRALIA IN THE *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS***

A rich source of imagery relating to Australia during the gold rushes is to be found in the *Illustrated London News*, with the paper carrying 60 relevant images for the period 1851-54. By contrast, in the 11 illustrated Australian papers launched during the 1850s, there are only 26 images relating to gold. The reason for this discrepancy was that none of the Australian illustrated newspapers was in circulation at the time of the initial gold rushes to the Bathurst region of NSW and to Ballarat and Mount Alexander in Victoria. Most of the illustrated Australian papers were not launched until the second half of the 1850s, after the excitement of the initial gold rushes had died down and many diggers had returned to their former professions and trades, including those related to the press: journalism, illustration, compositing, printing and wood engraving. By contrast, the *Illustrated London News* was already a well established paper when the news of the discovery of gold in Australia reached London (*La Trobe Journal*, No 67, Autumn 2001).

#### **65.4.10 WA COUNTRY NEWSPAPERS IN 1913**

"Twelve Years a Subscriber" wrote to the *Western Mail*, Perth (published 3 January 1913, p.4): "I would be glad if you could give a list—with offices of issue—of all the country newspapers, in Western Australia, especially those of the North-West. Wigg and Sons (in their Year Book) used to give such a list, but for some unknown reason have ceased to do so."

The *Western Mail* said: "Following is the information asked for by our correspondent: *Albany Advertiser*, *Beverly Times*, *Black Range Courier* (Sandstone), *Blackwood Times* (Greenbushes), *Bunbury Herald*, *Church Chronicle* (Pinjarra), *Chamber of Mines Journal* (Kalgoorlie), *Collie Miner*, *Collie Mail*, *Eastern Districts Chronicle* (York), *Eastern Recorder* (Kellerberrin), *Evening Star* (Boulder), *Geraldton Express*, *Geraldton Guardian*, *Goomalling and Dowerin Mail* (Northam), *Great Southern Herald* (Katanning), *Great Southern Leader* (Narrogin), *Laverton and Morgans Mercury* (Laverton), *Leanora Miner*, *Merredin Mercury*, *Meekatharra Miner*, *Midland Advertiser* (Moora), *Mt Magnet Miner*, *Murchison Times* (Cue), *Narrogin Observer*, *Norseman Times*, *Northam Advertiser*, *Northam Courier*, *Northern Times* (Carnarvon), *North-West Echo* (Broome), *Pilbarra Goldfields News* (Marble Bar), *Pingelly Leader*, *Southern Argus* (Wagin), *Southern Cross Times*, *Southern Times* (Bunbury), *South-Western Advertiser* (Pinjarra), *South-Western News* (Busselton), *Swan Express* (Midland Junction), *Toodyay Herald*, *Wickepin Argus* (Perth)." [The *Kalgoorlie Miner*, a daily, is missing from that list, as is its weekly, the *Western Argus*. – R.K.]

#### **65.4.11 WA GOLDFIELDS PAPER PRINTED ON CLOTH: *MOUNT MORGANS MINER***

The *Albany Advertiser* reported on 5 September 1938, p.6: An interesting relic of early days on the goldfields was brought to Kalgoorlie recently by A. E. Wilson, a 68-year-old former goldfields resident, who now lives at Geraldton, and is visiting here for the Back to Goldfields celebrations.

It is the initial copy of the *Mt. Morgans Miner*, allegedly the “first and only newspaper ever printed at Mt. Morgans” (the State Library of WA says the *Miner* was absorbed by the *Mount Morgans Mercury*). Mount Morgans was then a thriving town approximately the same size as Norseman at present, but is now the home of a handful of prospectors.

Printed on cloth, the first issue was hand set, but well printed. Its pages were six columns wide, and of the four pages more than two are taken up with advertisements. Nominally priced at 3d, it was in such demand that they sold “like hot cakes at £1/1/- (\$2.10) a time”, said Wilson, who bought his copy from the office that morning. 1 September 1900. He added that within a year of publication of the paper the newspaper office was gutted by fire and the building had not been insured. Mr. Henry Carroll was the proprietor and a man named Hardwicke the editor.

#### 65.4.12 DAVID McNICOLL ON TAPE

The National Library of Australia holds an oral history interview with former Australian Consolidated Press newspaper editor David McNicoll (1914-2000). The interviewer was John Farquharson (an ANHG subscriber). Here are the details.

McNicoll, journalist & former editor-in-chief, Australian Consolidated Press 1953-1972, recalls his family background; his father's military (Brigadier Sir Walter McNicol) & political background (Federal Member for Werriwa 1931); gaining a cadetship with the *Sydney Morning Herald* after leaving Scotch College, Melbourne; joining the militia & then transferring to the Australian Infantry Forces (AIF); sailing the *Queen Mary* (ship) for overseas military service in WWII, to serve in the Middle East & Cyprus; transferring to the newly formed Military History Information section & commissioned as an officer; upon his return to Australia being appointed to General Edmund Herring's staff as Staff Captain; his first meeting with Frank Packer, newspaper proprietor, in Jan. 1944 & that he accepted Packer's offer of a job as war correspondent covering the Allied invasion of Europe. McNicoll recalls travelling to Britain via America on the same ship as Prime Minister John Curtin & Australian Army Commander-in-Chief General Sir Thomas Blamey; being attached to U.S. General George S. Patton's staff, commander of the U.S. 3rd Army; entering Paris with France's General Le Clerc; rejoining General Patton's staff at Metz, Germany; postwar joining Australian Consolidated Press office in New York; his assignment to interview President Peron in Argentina; returning to Australia after a year in New York to launch “Town Talk”, the first front page column in an Australian newspaper; after a year on the sub-editor's desk, being appointed Editor-in-Chief of Australian Consolidated Press; his personal & professional relationships with the Packers (newspaper proprietors); his interview with Nelson Mandela, while still being held as a political prisoner in South Africa.

### 5 – RECENTLY PUBLISHED

#### 65.5.1 BOOKS

**Edwards, Elisabeth**, *A Gentleman of the Inky Way: Orange through Joe Glasson's Looking Glass*. \$34.95. Self-published. Contact the author at [lized@netwit.net.au](mailto:lized@netwit.net.au)

Orange journalist Joe Glasson had an unrivalled knowledge of the people who lived and worked in Orange, the houses they lived in and the development of businesses and organisations in the town. He spent 50 years writing for Orange newspapers, and towards the end of his career his articles focused on his memories of the Orange he remembered as a boy and young man: the families he knew, the homes he visited and the way people lived, worked and entertained themselves in an Australian country centre in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Because Glasson knew so many people, his articles contain the names of many well known local families. He also wrote about the two rival newspapers in Orange and how they gathered and printed the news before the days of advanced technology.

**Gapps, Stephen**, *Front Pages that shaped Australia: 100 of the Nation's Most Influential Cover Stories and Newspaper Headlines from 1629 to 2009*. Publisher: Pier 9. Price: varies, \$29.99 (soft cover).

**Mitchell, Alex**, *Come the Revolution*, NewSouth Publishing, 536 pages, \$39.95. An autobiography by Alex Mitchell, including his period as a journalist with the *Townsville Bulletin* and *Sydney Daily Mirror*.

An insider's account of media and politics that is compelling, exciting and rich with insights. He worked in the Canberra Press Gallery in the 1960s before travelling to London to work on the London

Sunday Times and its legendary Insight team. He left mainstream media to join the British Trotskyists, becoming editor of *News Line*, the daily paper of the Workers Revolutionary Party. He returned home in 1986 and in recent years became best known as the *Sun-Herald's* state political editor and a regular columnist.

**Murray, Robert**, *Baysiders: Memories of Middle Australia*. Arcadia imprint of Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne, \$35.95. (ph. 03 9329 6963).

Journalist/author Robert Murray writes about 1950s newspaper life in Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra in this short memoir of growing up. It was very much “interesting times”, since the papers he worked for all eventually disappeared, colourful characters abounded and even then journalism was seeing rapid change through takeovers, though at the time it was mostly (except for *The Argus*) financially successful change. He entered the industry as a copy boy with the old Melbourne *Argus* at the end of 1949, shortly after the London *Daily Mirror* took over the financially ailing organisation and jazzed up the paper. After three years as a cadet, Murray moved to a D Grade on another now defunct paper, the evening Brisbane *Telegraph*. The following year he moved to yet another, the Sydney *Sun*, the year after Fairfax took over its owner, Associated Newspapers. This was the heyday of Sydney evening paper rivalry and domination of the industry by Frank Packer, R.A.G.”Rags” Henderson and Ezra Norton. In 1956 his working travels round Australia took him to Canberra and the old Australian United Press newagency, which serviced the country dailies

**Prest, E. J.** *Sir John Langdon Bonython: newspaper proprietor, politician and philanthropist*. Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2011. PO Box 299 Kew Vic 3101, 2011, 318 pages, paperback, \$34.95. A biography of the proprietor of the Adelaide *Advertiser* 1893-1929.

**Starck, Nigel**, *Proud Australian Boy: A Biography of Russell Braddon*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, \$34.95.

Braddon, a Burma Railway survivor and the author of the WW2 memoir *The Naked Island*, pioneered the art of the opinion column in the *Daily Express* (London) of the 1950s. In all, he wrote 29 books and was also a prolific broadcaster - noted in particular for his Bicentenary documentary series *Images of Australia*. The book was launched by Jack Waterford, editor-at-large of *The Canberra Times*. Waterford's father encountered Braddon when they were enduring slave labour on the Burma Railway.

## 65.5 2 ARTICLES

**The Bolt debate:** The Media section of the *Australian*, 3 October 2011, p.29, presented the views of a selection of journalists, lawyers and others on the Federal Court judgment in the Andrew Bolt case. They were: Julian Disney, chair, Australian Press Council; Parnell Palme McGuinness, principal, Thought Broke consultancy specialising in complex ideas; Jason Morrison, Radio 2UE breakfast host; Jenna Price, journalism academic, University of Technology Sydney; Miranda Devine, News Limited columnist; David Salter, editor-in-chief, *Week*; Mark Pearson, professor of journalism, Bond University; David Penberthy, editor-in-chief, news.com.au and The Punch (News Limited). On 17 October, the Media section included: Nick Leys, “No Bolt from a blue”, p.28.

**Anon.**, “Hard news or hard sell?” *Choice* (magazine of the Australian Consumers' Association), October 2011, pp.21-24. Examines the relationship between real estate advertisers and editorial content of real estate sections of newspapers.

**Anon.**, “Townsville's early newspaper war”, *North Queensland Register*, 6 October, p. 6.

**Attard, Monica**, “Brave new whirl”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 68, October/November 2011, p.17. It's a journalist's dream: to create reports that explain the facts, free from commercial pressures. The author writes about her new gig at the not-for-profit news site, The Global Mail, a philanthropically funded, public-interest journalism outlet.

**Carson, Vanda**, “Media unites as voice of discontent”, *Daily Telegraph*, 12 November 2011, p. 35. A review of evidence to the Media Inquiry.

**Cater, Nick**, “Conspiracy theories may be less laughable if Manne got out more”, *Australian*, Media section, 21 November 2011, p.34. An edited extract from the *Quarterly Essay* in which the editor of the *Weekend Australian* responds to Robert Manne's essay about the *Australian*.



- Day, Mark**, “Forget fine print, can Fairfax survive?” *Weekend Australian*, 19-20 November 2011, pp.1-2. A media writer and former media owner raises questions about Fairfax Media’s long-term viability.
- Devine, Miranda**, “Foolish tactic worthy of the Marx brothers”, *Daily Telegraph*, 10 November 2011, p.25. Argues that the Federal Finkelstein media inquiry is a witch-hunt against the Murdoch press.
- Dick, Tim**, “Who should watch the watchdog?”. *Sydney Morning Herald News Review* section page 8, 5 November 2011. Discusses the efficiency of complaints mechanisms for the media and the current Media Inquiry.
- Dorling, Philip**, “How Murdoch got his biggest scoop”, *Sydney Morning Herald News Review* section, 19 November 2011, p. 6. How Rupert Murdoch obtained details of the Iraqi Loans affair story in 1976.
- Flanagan, Martin**, “Moderates must reclaim the public stage”, *Age*, 22 October 2011. Discusses, amongst other things, the Andrew Bolt case. Flanagan says: “The public stage has to be reclaimed from extremists on all sides.”
- Fritsch, Ashley**, “And now, the good news”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 69, December 2011-January 2012, p.29. Focuses on what a young journalist can learn from country newspaper veterans such as Robin Letts, owner-editor of the *Buloke Times*, Donald, and Ella Ebery, editor of the *North Central News*, St Arnaud.
- Guthrie, Bruce**, “Change of tack: man overboard”, *Age*, 10 November 2011, p.15. Comments on resignation of John Hartigan as News Ltd CEO and appointment of Kim Williams as his successor, “without any ink in his veins”.
- Harris, Lachlan**, “In the court of the comment kings”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 69, December 2011-January 2012, pp.22-23. The author, Kevin Rudd’s senior press secretary, 2006-10, argues that the rise of the opinion cycle is bad news for journalists and politicians and even worse for the public.
- Hartigan, John**, “Journalism will always be our business”, *Australian*, Media section, 14 November 2011, p.24. The retiring chief executive of News Limited says the company’s newspapers stand by their results and their readers. An extract from his speech at the News Awards ceremony on 4 November.
- Herald Sun**, “Legendary Journalist’s final edition”, *Herald Sun*, 28 October 2011. A three page tribute to John Hamilton upon his retirement as associate editor of the *Herald Sun*.
- Hockins, Trevor**, “10 things you need to know about reporting in regional Australia”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 69, December 2011-January 2012, p.74. The news editor of the *Sunshine Coast Daily* argues that when you’re a journalist in the country, it’s a balancing act between reporting on the community and being part of it.
- Holden, Andrew**, “Shaken and stirred”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 68, October/November 2011, p.34. Staff members at the *Press* in Christchurch each have a brick from their now demolished office. Moving back to the CBD will be another challenge.
- Holmes, Jonathan**, “Some body to watch over me”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 69, December 2011-January 2012, p.15. If mainstream media want to be seen as heroes, not villains, they must take self-regulation far more seriously, argues the presenter of ABC-TV’s *Media Watch*.
- Hull, Crispin**, “Paying for the news; going behind the wall may not click”, *Canberra Times* Forum section page 11, 5 November 2011. A discussion of newspapers imposing pay walls for their internet content.
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- Hywood, Greg**, "Success of a free press lies in its own hands", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 November, p.13. Also as "Govt has no place in a free media", *Canberra Times* 17 November, p.21.
- Jopson, Debra**, "A media battle, fought on many fronts", *Sydney Morning Herald News Review* section, 19 November 2011, p. 13. A review of the week's evidence to the Media Inquiry.
- Lacy, Christine**, "In the end, what's in a name?", *Financial Review*, 11 November 2011, p.56, The history of the Fairfax family involvement in Fairfax Media.
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- O'Neill, Brendan**, "Show trial of tabloids a threat to press freedom", *Weekend Australian*, 3-4 December 2011, p.19. The Leveson inquiry is a celebration of snobbery, not a serious assessment of the state of the UK media, argues the author. See also **Mark Day's** discussion of the Leveson inquiry (*Australian*, Media section, 5 December 2011, p.24).
- Osborne, Paul**, "Out of the ashes...", *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 68, October/November 2011, p.15. The New Zealand Press Association is dead, but three new services will be taking NZ news to the world. Includes a chronology on the rise and fall of NZPA.
- Peters, Jeremy**, "Father knows best? Trouble in the house of Murdoch", *Weekend Age*, 22 October 2011.
- Prisk, Judy**, "Seeing ourselves as others see us", *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 68, October/November 2011, p.10. As readers' editor at the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the author knows what people really think of the newspaper. For an example of one of her columns, see Prisk's *SMH* column, 2 November 2011, "Whatever we do, it's important we do it in style".
- Robinson, Russell**, "How we brought you the world", *Herald Sun*, 25 November 2011, pp.40-41. Provides the background to and details to be presented in a documentary about the 21` years of Melbourne's *Herald Sun*, the biggest circulating daily in Australia. The documentary was screened on Sunday, 28 November 2011. It was very much a promotional documentary.
- Rosner, Josh**, "Pressman on the Trot". *Canberra Times* Panorama section page 31, 5 November 2011. A review of Alex Mitchell's recently published autobiography.
- Simper, Errol**, "Reminder we had to have", *Australian*, Media section, 21 November 2011, p.30. A discussion of where the Finkelstein federal print media inquiry is heading and what it may recommend.
- Souter, Gavin**, "The Herald's man in Fleet Street", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 November 2011, p. 20. A fascinating and exquisitely written obituary of the *SMH's* long-serving London Correspondent, Thomas Stanley Monks, 8 Oct 1916 – 12 Oct. 2011.

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**Tingle, Laura**, "Labor reads a lot into news about News", *Financial Review*, 11 November 2011, p.59.

**Van Tiggelen, John**, "I don't have friends and that means I don't fear insulting people", *Good Weekend* magazine within the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age*, 19 November 2011, pp. 18-23. A profile of News Limited columnist Andrew Bolt.

**Veitch, Harriet**, "...about writing obituaries", *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 68, October/November 2011, p.54. The author, who is the obituaries editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, makes 10 key points about writing obituaries. She notes that an obituary is about life, not death.

**Webby, Elizabeth**, "Reading in Colonial Australia", *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, December 2011, Vol. 97, Part 2, pages 119-135. Includes a brief discussion of reading of newspapers.

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