



"News united Britain's Colonies in America before revolution did," the above exhibit in the Newseum, Washington, D.C., tell us. "Postmaster Benjamin Franklin helped create a powerful news system by greatly expanding mail service... Samuel Adams and others spread news of rebellion through letters. Newspaper criticism of British policy also was circulated by the mail service."

The ANHG editor visited the Newseum on 1 July. Later in July, he visited the *Skagway News*, Alaska (left), which appears twice monthly, "usually on the second and fourth Fridays". It says it was "christened in 1897, buried alive in 1904, resurrected in 1978". Visit [www.skagwaynews.com](http://www.skagwaynews.com)

## AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

## NEWSLETTER

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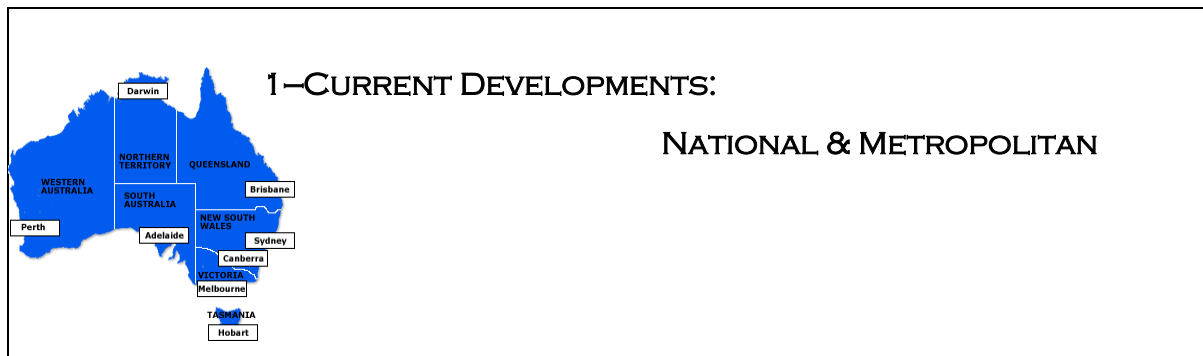
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Ten issues had appeared by December 2000 and the *Newsletter* has since appeared five times a year.



### 78.1.1 Fairfax in the news, repeatedly

**Gina Rinehart:** Fairfax Media's largest shareholder and Australia's richest person, Gina Rinehart, was reported to be considering buying Fairfax if she can find the right person to run it (*Australian*, 21 July 2014). The paper claimed that Rinehart had approached business associates for suggestions on who could better manage or sit on the board. Rinehart's Hancock Prospecting presently has a 14.99 per cent shareholding in Fairfax. Former Premier of Victoria, Jeff Kennett, said he had been approached by Rinehart two years ago to be an alternate director, but declined as he "had a full book". Second largest shareholder, Simon Marais, subsequently said the reports were "rampant speculation".

**End of printing at Chullora:** After 19 years, the presses at Fairfax's Chullora plant produced their final edition on Friday night, 6 June (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 June 2014). The 50,000-square-metre printing plant, completed in 1995 at a cost of \$340 million, was part of a push by Fairfax to centralise its printing operations after the closure of its Broadway and Condell Park sites. The Chullora plant was world class, a perfectly streamlined end-to-end system, automated and integrated, with five colossal Colorman presses and laser guided forklifts, cutters and folders and strappers and stackers, all of it crisscrossed from above by kilometres of conveyor belts and snaggletoothed feeder lines. At peak capacity, in 2006, Chullora was printing 92 separate production runs a week, producing millions of copies of Fairfax papers big and small, from the *SMH* to the *St George & Sutherland Shire Leader*. "We never lost a single edition," IT and pre-press manager Ian Wood said. "Accidents, breakdowns, industrial action - nothing ever stopped us getting the paper out."

Staff gathered on the night of 6 June, on site, for a farewell barbecue. From the weekend of 7-8 June, the bulk of Fairfax's NSW newspapers have been printed at the company's North Richmond plant. For the record, moves from Chullora took place as follows:

- ❖ The *Australian Financial Review* printed at North Richmond since January 2013.
- ❖ The *Illawarra Mercury* to Canberra around early 2013.
- ❖ Partial production of the *Sun-Herald* since 3 February 2013 at North Richmond.
- ❖ The remaining copies of the *Sun-Herald* to North Richmond on Sunday 25 May, 2014. There was no change to copies already being printed at Beresfield (Newcastle) and Canberra.
- ❖ The weekday *Sydney Morning Herald* to North Richmond from 2 June. There was no change to copies already being printed at Ormiston near Brisbane.
- ❖ Saturday *SMH* from to North Richmond, Beresfield and Canberra after the edition of 7 June 2014.

These moves have meant that deadlines are now significantly earlier than formerly. There is now only one edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald*; deadline is about 8.30 pm. An example of the effect of this was that on 19 June, the *Daily Telegraph* reported the results of the rugby league State of Origin game of the previous evening, but the *SMH* did not.

**End of printing at Tullamarine:** Printing at Fairfax's Tullamarine print centre ceased from 25 April. Most copies of the *Age* are now printed at Ballarat, although some are printed at  
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Wodonga. (There was already printing of the *Age* at Launceston for the Tasmanian market). According to contributors to [www.newsagencyblog.com.au](http://www.newsagencyblog.com.au), some newsagents in Victoria are now experiencing delays of 90 minutes to two hours in delivery of the *Age*. From the week beginning 14 July, bulk supplies of the *Age* have been trucked from Ballarat to Derrimut then redistributed for Melbourne deliveries. The same early deadlines as apply to the *SMH* apply to the *Age*. The Fairfax customer service centre has been outsourced overseas. There are reports that personnel in the customer service centre do not understand the Australian newspaper home delivery system.

**Staffing issues, 6 May:** Fairfax CEO Greg Hywood says staff must get used to uncertainty (*Australian*, 16 May 2014). The Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) said it terminated a meeting on 16 May with Fairfax Media management after CEO Greg Hywood was unwilling to change the way the company makes decisions about future restructures. MEAA had requested meetings with Fairfax management after the company announced it would retrench as many as 80 photographers, reporters and sub-editors. This led to a snap 24-hour strike by employees. MEAA posted a notice on its website saying union representatives met Hywood and other Fairfax executives and editors but the “tone of the meeting was not constructive”. The union said it was denied access to a copy of the Bain Report on Fairfax, which has been reported on in the *Australian*.

**Staffing issues, 18 June:** Fairfax journalists will lose some penalty rates and have automatic pay rises scrapped under plans to continue its drastic cost-cutting measures in the wake of widespread redundancies. In a statement to staff on 18 June, publishing head Allen Williams and Fairfax’s director of business media, Sean Aylmer, said “ordinary hours” should be adjusted to 7am to 8.30pm and a “meritocracy” system of pay rises put in place. As part of its opening salvo on what is expected to be a tight negotiating process on a new enterprise bargaining agreement, Fairfax management proposed redundancy payouts be reduced to three weeks — instead of four — for every year worked, capped at 52 weeks. “We propose to review the hours, shifts and overtime clauses to better reflect the realities of the digital newsrooms and the need for flexibility,” Aylmer said. “Specifically, we propose to adjust the span of ordinary hours from 7am to 8.30pm.” Currently, penalty rates kick in after 6pm. Aylmer said the proposals were made as “advertising revenue in print is expected to fall”.

**Hywood speech:** In a speech to the Melbourne Press Club on 18 July, Fairfax Media CEO Greg Hywood reaffirmed Fairfax Media’s digital first strategy (Fairfax Media press release, 18 July 2014). He returned serve to critics saying a book about Fairfax should be written with the title: “Fairfax Media – Alive! How 180 year old newspaper company weathered the storm and confounded them all”. He described recent criticisms of the company as “conga-line of hysteria” and said that the company’s health was rooted in its audiences and its increasingly diverse revenue streams. “While media companies have made a self-serving art form of interpreting the various industry measurement diagnostics, there are a couple of numbers that can’t be challenged – Fairfax Media reaches 10.6 million Australians aged 14+ a month across our publishing mastheads. Our publishing earnings are solid; our share price is up 80 per cent over the last year; and key parts of our business, notably Domain, are growing rapidly.” Hywood was unapologetic about job losses at Fairfax in recent years as the company redefined its model, but said even as people left the business, new roles were being created and were over-subscribed with candidates.

**Young Warwick and the challenges of leadership:** The attempt by Warwick Fairfax, fifth generation in the Fairfax family, to privatise the company in 1987 is widely considered to be the start of the troubled times for the Fairfax company. Warwick Fairfax now heads Fairfax Consulting based in Annapolis, Maryland. This extract from his biography on the website is a masterpiece of ambiguity:

“Warwick Fairfax is the Principal of Fairfax Consulting. Warwick has been around leaders all his life. Growing up in a prominent family media business in Australia, he has been able to observe leaders in all walks of life including business and politics. He has seen examples of both good and bad leadership. When Warwick was head of the family media business he personally experienced the challenges of leadership.”

**Changes at the top:** Fairfax Media director of business media, Sean Aylmer, will take on greater responsibility in the wake of news media boss Garry Linnell's departure. Linnell will focus on radio commitments at Fairfax Radio Network's 2UE. Aylmer will take charge of news as well as business, reporting to Fairfax Australia Publishing Media managing director, Allen Williams. The change comes with a slight restructure as magazine editors who previously reported to Linnell will report to *SMH* editor-in-chief Darren Goodsir and *Age* editor-in-chief Andrew Holden. Fairfax executive editor Glenn Burge left the company in July. His career at Fairfax spanned 28 years and included roles as editor-in-chief of the *Financial Review* and deputy business editor of the *SMH* (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 July 2014).

**Cover price increases:** From 7 April Fairfax Media increased the price of the *Financial Review* from \$3.30 to \$3.50. The other national daily, the *Australian* sells for \$2.20 on weekdays and \$3.30 on Saturdays. From 6 July the price of Fairfax's Sunday titles, the *Sydney Sun-Herald*, and the *Melbourne Sunday Age* increased by 30c to \$2.80. This is 40 per cent more expensive than two years ago. The *Sunday Telegraph* and *Sunday Herald Sun* sell for \$2.50. The increases reflect a strategy by Fairfax in recent years of focusing on cover price revenue rather than high circulation numbers.

**Print consolidation in NZ:** On 27 June Fairfax Media and APN News & Media announced a printing agreement in the upper North Island of New Zealand. Under the arrangement, APN will print Fairfax newspapers at its Ellerslie facility in Auckland's south. This will include the Hamilton *Waikato Times*, the national *Sunday Star-Times*, the national *Sunday News* and community newspapers. Printing currently performed at Fairfax's Auckland and Hamilton print sites will transition to the Ellerslie facility in the three months from August 2014 (Fairfax and APN corporate websites).

APN CEO Michael Miller, said: "APN recently consolidated the printing of a number of its NZ titles to its Ellerslie print site following a significant investment in upgrading equipment at the plant as part of the company's FY2013 \$40 million publishing cost savings program. The arrangement with Fairfax allows APN to utilise spare capacity at our state-of-the-art Ellerslie facility and deliver further cost savings. We are on track to achieve our target of a further \$20 million in cost savings across APN's publishing businesses in 2014."

APN in NZ publishes the Auckland *New Zealand Herald*, the *Herald on Sunday*, seven regional daily newspapers and more than 40 community newspapers. Fairfax Media in NZ publishes three metro newspapers including Wellington's *Dominion Post*, the *Press* in Christchurch, the Hamilton *Waikato Times*, five other regional daily newspapers and more than 60 community newspapers. Fairfax Media and APN both control about 45 per cent of the NZ newspaper market. All NZ cities/towns are one-newspaper places.

### 78.1.2 News and print

**Robert Thomson:** News Corp has committed to publishing its global newspapers in print for many "decades" to come as part of an evolving multiplatform proposition spanning the web, smartphones and tablets, according to the company's chief executive (*Australian*, 26 May 2014). Visiting from his New York headquarters, Robert Thomson lambasted media executives who rejected the enduring appeal of print for readers and advertisers in a vain desire to be seen as cutting edge. Thomson said News Corp's famous mastheads would be available in print for "decades and decades and decades ... print will continue to evolve in the same way that digital is evolving". He said print newspapers were "even more premium" for advertisers trying to reach highly engaged readers, and were no longer newspapers in the traditional sense, but platforms from which to launch new products and services.

**Chris Mitchell:** Chris Mitchell says the *Australian* has hit upon a business model that can offset declining print circulation and advertising revenue. For the first time in the newspaper's history, it is returning a profit digitally and, in a number of weeks this year, it has been profitable. Speaking on a panel at the Mumbrella 360 conference, to mark the newspaper's 50th anniversary, Mitchell, the editor-in-chief of the *Australian*, said there was no reason to walk away from print when the paper was bringing in \$50 million a year in cover-price revenue.

“We’ve been quite aggressive on cover price. We’ve taken it from \$1.10 to \$2.20 now and we’ve been very aggressive with the price on Saturday. The circulation has been quite robust,” Mitchell said. Circulation has dropped by only about 10 per cent in the past decade while other mastheads have fallen by up to half. The *Australian’s* chief executive, Nicholas Gray, said the newspaper had never reached more people and was now engaging with three million readers a month. “We are very optimistic about print for a long time to come,” he said. “Three of our four revenue streams are now in growth. In print, we are putting through print cover-price rises that are offsetting print-volume declines; digital advertising and digital subscriptions are growing; and the hope is that all of that is enough to offset the declining print advertising, which media buyers are starting to say has been oversold a bit.” The *Australian* now has 62,000 paying digital subscribers — a number that was steadily growing, Gray said. Customers were spending 15-20 minutes on the iPad edition, compared with minutes on its website, and there was no “price-driven cliff” when the free four-week trial was over.

See also: Matt Handbury, “Cannibalisation of newspapers”, *Australian*, 16 June 2014.

### 78.1.3 Lachlan Murdoch explains why he rejoined News Corp

Lachlan Murdoch says the opportunity to return to News Corp after a nine-year absence “felt right emotionally” (*Australian*, 28 May 2014). Murdoch, the non-executive co-chairman of News and Fox told an audience of business leaders and advertising executives at a News presentation in Melbourne: “In my experience there are precious few times in life when decisions, actions, feel strongly right in both the gut and in the head,” he said. “Now coming back to News felt right emotionally for many reasons.” He resigned his New York-based position in 2005, relocating to Australia with his family to start a private investment firm. Now at News in his new role, he said he was excited by a “myriad of opportunities ahead”. The ascension of the 42-year-old married father of three as the likely successor to Rupert Murdoch came after News undertook a historic split in June last year, creating two companies, with the publishing assets spun off from a Hollywood movie studio and other entertainment assets into a separately listed entity.

### 78.1.4 New daily proposed for Perth

Perth freelance journalist Sean Mooney plans to start a weekday afternoon newspaper in Perth, to be called *Platform News*. It would be distributed at train stations and be similar to News’ free commuter paper *mX* in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Mr Mooney says that initially 20,000 copies would be printed and handed out between 4pm and 6pm as commuters head home. He hopes to increase circulation to 40,000 within a year. An online crowd funding campaign is expected to be launched in the near future to raise \$100,000. He is confident advertising revenue will sustain the newspaper after the initial few months. He has received quotes on printing the paper and plans to work on the project for the next six months before launching the newspaper around the end of the year (<http://nationalnewsagent.wordpress.com/2014/07/02/new-print-launches-ahead-amidst-reports-of-decline/>)

### 78.1.5 Anniversaries (1): *Australian* at 50

The *Australian*, which began publication on 15 July 1964, commemorated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a big way. The *Australian* has added a special section to its website to commemorate its history at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/50th-birthday>.

On 17-18 May the *Weekend Australian* included an eight-page broadsheet insert. This comprised:

*Page 1:* “Our story, our times”, an introduction to how the anniversary would be covered, and “A dynamic force for change” by Paul Kelly (former editor), a general history of why the *Australian* was established by Rupert Murdoch and subsequent events.

*Pages 2 and 3:* “The pioneers”, profiles of the first editor (Walter Kommer), a newsagent (Arch Bishop), a cartoonist (Bruce Petty), a journalist (Sandra Hall), a photographer (Yvette Grady), an adman (Peter McKay), a reader (Roger Bradbury) and a compositor (Barry Johnson) plus “Engaged participant: how a mission has been fulfilled” by Nicolas Rothwell about the *Australian’s* editorial philosophy.

*Page 4:* A reproduction of the first front page and of three other front pages from the first year of 1964.

Page 5: “The journey begins” by Mark Day” about the events of 1964 and the founding of the *Australian*.  
 Page 6: “A success born of true grit” by Mark Day about Rupert Murdoch’s role in the founding and continuation of the *Australian*.  
 Page 7: “Arts: access all areas” by Deborah Jones about the *Australian*’s coverage of the arts, and “A feat of memories by Lyndall Crisp about what newspaper offices used to be like.  
 Page 8: A full page advertisement.

On every publishing day from 17 May until 14 July the *Australian* continued with major coverage of its own history. Two pages were devoted to documenting each year in the *Australian*’s life. On the left hand page were four or five reproductions of front pages from that year. On the facing right hand page was an article interweaving the events of that year with the publishing history of the *Australian* (and sometimes of News Limited in general). The first 25 years (1964 to 1989) were covered by Mark Day, a former editor-in-chief and publisher of the *Australian*; the second 25 years (1990-2014), by Alan Howe. In addition on most days, there was usually another story in the main news pages about events of the year being covered. The *Australian* also carried appeals for readers to provide the paper with their memories of the paper.

On 12-13 July the *Weekend Australian* included a glossy 92-page magazine-style insert entitled *The Australian 50*. This important souvenir for Australian newspaper historians included stories and photos from the past 50 years, a listing of the 50 most influential people of that period, and a important interview by Paul Kelly with Rupert Murdoch on media and the future. In it, Murdoch said he regarded the *Australian* as “one of my main lifetime achievements. I hope I have more yet, but this was very important, a very important landmark in my life”. Asked whether the *Australian* would last another 50 years, he replied, “I thought it would make it forever. I still do.”

On 14 July the *Australian*’s Media section included Mark Day’s talk to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary symposium (page 26), and a full-page profile of Chris Mitchell, the editor of the *Australian* (p.27). On the actual 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 15 July 2014, the *Australian* included:

- An article by Mark Day about the “Past and Future of the *Australian*” (p.17);
- An article by Cameron Stewart about the establishment of the *Australian*, especially the technological and logistical challenges (p.13); and
- A special survey by Newspann about attitudes of the Australian people (p.6).

Also on 15 July, a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner was held in Sydney. Speakers were the founder and proprietor, Rupert Murdoch, Prime Minister Tony Abbott (once a journalist at the *Australian*) and Cape York Group chairman Noel Pearson. The *Australian* has placed all its front pages online at <http://storyline.theaustralian.com.au/#/welcome>

On 7 and 8 July the Centre for Media History at Macquarie University held a conference in Sydney entitled “The Heart of the Nation? 50 years of the *Australian*”. The conference comprehensively covered the history of the newspaper. Speakers and their subjects were:

- Paul Kelly, editor-at-large of the *Australian*, “The Paper and the Nation: 50 Years of the *Australian*”: Rupert Murdoch told him that founding a national newspaper had been an ambition of his father, Sir Keith. Kelly’s paper is accessible at [www.theaustralian.com.au/50th-birthday/the-australian-not-a-paper-of-any-party-kelly/story-fnlk0fie-1226980747838](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/50th-birthday/the-australian-not-a-paper-of-any-party-kelly/story-fnlk0fie-1226980747838)
- Warren Beeby, David Armstrong and Mark Day (former editors) and Michelle Gunn, present editor of the *Weekend Australian*, “The Editors”: Beeby described the day-to-day crisis management during his tenure. Beeby recalled that the newspaper came within minutes of being closed down during one strike in the early 1980s. Mark Day, in discussion, said that Rupert Murdoch’s editorial influence was not direct, but by osmosis.
- Pat Clarke, “*The Australian* in Canberra”: Described the first days of the *Australian* in Canberra, when it failed in its initial aim of becoming a Canberra paper, against a revitalised *Canberra Times* which was the recipient of money and resources from its new owners, Fairfax.



- Andrew Dodd and Matthew Ricketson, “*The Australian’s* Media Supplement: A Lapdog, a Watchdog, an Attack dog, or All of the Above?”: Reviewed the history of the supplement from its establishment in 1999 as a 32-tabloid production (including nine pages of TV listings) based upon the successful media section of the UK *Guardian*, to the three broadsheet pages of today.
- Sally Young, “Pressure, Power and Advocacy on the Page: *The Australian* and Media Policy”: Compared how the *Australian* covered two proposals to control media: mooted licensing in 1975 and Finkelstein Review controls in 2013.
- Mark Day, “The Proprietorial Model”: Emphasised that without Rupert Murdoch the *Australian* would not exist – it would not have been started and it would not have been continued in the face of losses. This paper was published in the Media section of the *Australian* on 14 July, p.26.
- Liz Giuffre, “The Arts Heart of the Nation? Daily Arts Commentary and Journalism with *The Australian*”: Examined the influence of the *Australian’s* arts coverage.
- Sylvia Lawson, “Breakthrough in ’64”, looked back on arts reporting in the very early days of the paper.
- Katharine Brisbane, “The Larrikin Days: 1967–74”: Described the vicissitudes of drama reviewing.
- Julie Rigg, “A Grand Adventure and Some Consequences (or the Personal is Also Political)”: Recalled early reporting on social issues, much of it of issues never before raised in the media in Australia.
- Ashleigh Wilson, the present arts editor of the *Australian*, explained how the arts are currently reported.
- Graham Willett, “From Gay Rights to Gay Wrongs”: Examined how the *Australian* had covered gender and sexual issues from a very sympathetic angle, enabling progressive groups to become established. In contrast, recently, it had opposed same-sex marriage.
- Robert Phiddian, “The Revolution in Political Cartoons and the Early *Australian*”: Examined early political cartoons in the *Australian*, particularly by Bruce Petty, and how this style had contrasted with the very conservative style of cartoons in other newspapers then.
- Kerry McCallum and Lisa Waller, “Media Stars and Neoliberal News Agenda in Indigenous Policymaking”: Examined the *Australian’s* reporting of indigenous issues. Analysis showed that it had vastly more coverage of these issues than other newspapers. Recently, it had given a very prominent voice to the views of Noel Pearson as an Aboriginal spokesman.

It is expected selected conference papers will be published in a book or special edition of a journal.

### 78.1.6 Anniversaries (2): Hobart *Mercury* at 160

The Hobart *Mercury* celebrated its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an editorial series tracking its role in Tasmanian and Australian history. The series, entitled *160 Years of the Mercury*, featured online and in print a 10-part magazine series, as well as a resource kit for schools. The series focused on Tasmanian history rather than the *Mercury’s* history. The magazines which ran each weekday from 23 June until the anniversary on 5 July, featured photographic double page spreads in which some of the oldest available images of Tasmanian life, sourced from more than a century ago, blended across the fold with shots of the present day. The experience was replicated online where users could roll over images to see them transform.

Education services manager Damian Bester, who edited the editorial series, said he had made an effort to create a point of difference from the paper’s last historical celebration. “We have a lot of readers who would have collected what we did 10 years ago,” Bester said of the *Mercury’s* 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary feature, “and it became quite a good history resource, as we hope this one will.” On the day of the anniversary, 5 July, the *Mercury* included a full reprint of the first issue, a four-page broadsheet, from 1854, plus a wall poster of a detailed “balloon’s-eye” sketch of Hobart from 1887 on one side and a 21<sup>st</sup> century helicopter view of present-day Hobart on the reverse.

The *Hobart Mercury* was founded by John Davies on 5 July 1854 as a bi-weekly paper. It incorporated the *Guardian* (founded 1845). It prospered, becoming tri-weekly from 1 January 1855

and a daily from 1 January 1858. Along the way, it incorporated the *Colonial Times* and *Tasmanian* (est. 1857), the *Tasmanian Daily News* (1855-1858), the *Daily Courier*, *Tasmanian News* and *Advertiser* (1859). From 2 July 1860 its name was shortened to the *Mercury*. The *Mercury* was printed with a steam press from 1862, used linotype machines from 1900, and a mechanical press from 1902. Under pressure from wartime newsprint rationing, the *Mercury* changed from broadsheet to tabloid on 1 October 1942. However, it moved to a mid-size format from 3 February 1958 (using the former printing press of the Melbourne *Argus*). Introduction of the new press in February 1993 saw a reversion to tabloid. A new printing plant at Moonah was commissioned in May 2009. The *Mercury* editorial offices recently moved from its original art deco offices to a modern building in Salamanca Place, Hobart (Damian Bester, email to ANHG, 26 June 2014; the magazine series can be accessed at: <http://www.themercury.com.au/news/tasmania/years-of-the-mercury-1854-2014/story-fnj4f7k1-1226967328791>)

### 78.1.7 News Corp: Personnel changes

Greg Thomson has been appointed general manager, Northern Territory, at News Corp Australia. He returns to News Corp after six months as director of communications and marketing for the Department of the Chief Minister of the Territory. Thomson replaces Scott James, who has returned to Sydney for family reasons (News Corp corporate website).

### 78.1.8 Future of newsagencies

A report dated December 2013 (but released in early May) by consulting group IBIS indicates that declining newspaper sales are causing suffering for newsagencies. However, IBIS also expects newsagents to re-invent themselves in a bid to address the structural changes shaping the industry. It notes that, “As part of the transformation process, a growing number of newsagents are likely to offer Connect digital kiosks, offering consumers a range of expanded products and services that would normally be purchased from retailers outside of the newsagency channel. The uptake of Connect kiosks by newsagencies is expected to provide a much-needed boost to revenue and profitability and weaken the rate of decline across the industry,”

The report provides a breakdown of the proportion of franchising chains in the business: Newspower, 24.2 per cent of newsagencies; Nextra, 11.2 per cent; NewsExpress, 4.7 per cent; The Lucky Charm, 1.3 per cent; and Supanews, 0.8 per cent. The report can be accessed at [www.anf.net.au/images/stories/OD5495\\_Newsagencies\\_in\\_Australia\\_industry\\_report.pdf](http://www.anf.net.au/images/stories/OD5495_Newsagencies_in_Australia_industry_report.pdf)

### 78.1.9 Recent chronology

#### 78.1.9.1 Events

- 25 April 2014:** Fairfax Media ceases printing at its Tullamarine print centre, Melbourne. Most of the work is transferred to Ballarat, but some to Wodonga.
- 6 June 2014:** Fairfax Media ceases printing at its Chullora print centre, Sydney. Most of the work is transferred to North Richmond, NSW, but some to Newcastle and Canberra.
- 11 June 2014:** Fairfax Media’s *Timaru Herald* (South Island, New Zealand) publishes a 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative edition.
- 16 July 2014:** The Brisbane *Courier-Mail* devotes a 16 page wraparound plus most of 11 other pages to the result of the Baden-Clay murder trial.
- 17 July 2014:** A \$US 80 billion bid by Rupert Murdoch’s US Twentieth Century Fox company for Time Warner is revealed. If successful, the resulting company would have combined assets of \$US 180 billion, the biggest media company in the world.
- 22 July 2014:** As part of its coverage of the shooting down of a Malaysian Airlines plane over rebel-held eastern Ukraine, the *Australian*’s front page includes a headline in Russian. It translated as “Mr President, help us bring our people home’.



### 78.1.9.2 Deaths

**Beesley, Martin:** D. 25 June 2014 in Sydney, aged 66; rose from an unpaid contributor to a small community paper outside of Melbourne to hold a number of the most senior positions in print and television journalism in Australia; was news editor of *Daily Mirror* at height of Sydney afternoon newspaper war with the *Sun*; became editor of *Daily Telegraph* and later managing editor of the *Australian*; in television, he held two of free-to-air news' hot seats – chief-of-staff of Mike Willesee's *A Current Affair* on Nine and news director of Channel Ten; born near London, he came to Australia with his parents in 1952; began contributing articles to the *Knox and Mountain District Free Press*; gained cadetship at *Canberra Times*; left a year later to join the Sydney bureau of the short-lived Melbourne afternoon daily *Newsday*; then joined *Mirror*; finished career as senior editor at the Cumberland-Courier community newspaper group owned by News at Parramatta (*Australian*, 27 June 2014; The Newspaper Works, 2 July 2014).

**Noye, Laurence Richard (Larry):** d. 11 March 2014, aged 85, at Altona Meadows, Melbourne; at 16, became a copy boy for *Truth*; a year later, he joined the *Footscray Mail*, and also worked at the *Bendigo Advertiser*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *Hobart Mercury* and *Launceston Examiner*; worked at *Footscray Advertiser* for 16 years, before spending 14 years (1981-95) in Canberra as a political reporter; wrote *O'Malley MHR*, about King O'Malley, an early federal Labor politician who was instrumental in establishing the Commonwealth Bank. [Rod Kirkpatrick writes: ANHG 69.1.12 mentioned that Larry Noye had been regularly sending envelopes of clippings about newspapers and the media to me for a number of years. Larry had been a subscriber who soon became part of the small network of ANHG contributors. He did not clip his cuttings; he tore them out of the newspaper and wrote the date in pencil. He would scribble a note to accompany the latest batch of cuttings. Larry was admitted to a nursing home in the middle of last year and I wrote to him in August. I kept sending him copies of the newsletter until the May 2014 issue was returned "no longer at this address". That was when I googled "Larry Noye, death" and discovered his obituary.]

### 78.1.10 Carlyon and Gawenda honoured

Author and former journalist, **Leslie Allen Carlyon**, was made a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC), in the Queen's Birthday honours list (*Australian*, 9 June 2014). He received the award for "eminent service to literature as an author, editor and journalist, to the understanding and appreciation of war history, and to horse-racing". **Michael Gawenda** was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to print media as a journalist and editor, and for advancing professional education and development.

In recent years, the *Daily Telegraph* has published Honours recipients only from NSW and the ACT despite the honours being national. However, this year the *Telegraph* did not publish the Honours list at all.

### 78.1.11 Commuter newspapers

Tamara Oppen, publisher of the Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane *mX* titles, says the key audience of the commuter newspaper is still 18 to 34-year-old professionals who are high income earners. "They're highly educated and highly engaged with the product. They like to travel, they like to go to shows, theatre productions and gigs." She says the effect of audiences migrating online has not been as heavy as expected. About 211,000 copies are picked up each day. The *mX* smartphone app, which has now been downloaded nearly 100,000 times since its launch in May 2013, provides a 24-hour *mX* news cycle (*Mediaweek*, 9 June 2014, p.7). The latest figures from **emma** (Enhanced Media Metrics Australia) estimate a total of 657,000 readers for the three *mX* titles: 302,000 for Sydney; 268,000 for Melbourne; and 87,000 for Brisbane (*Mediaweek*, 19 May 2014, p.9).

### 78.1.12 Newspapers, revenue and democracy

Print and digital combined are increasing audiences for newspapers globally, but digital revenues are not keeping pace, posing a risk for newspaper businesses and the societies they serve, the annual World Press Trends survey released by the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) reveals (*Mediaweek* online, 12 June 2014). "Unless we crack the revenue

issue, and provide sufficient funds so that newspapers can fulfill their societal role, democracy will inevitably be weakened,” WAN-IFRA secretary general Larry Kilman told the 66th World Newspaper Congress in Torino. “The role that newspapers play in society cannot be underestimated, and has never been more crucial,” he says. “If newspaper companies cannot produce sufficient revenues from digital, if they cannot produce exciting, engaging offerings for both readers and advertisers, they are destined to offer mediocre products with nothing to differentiate them from the mass of faux news. Finding the sustainable business models for digital news media is not only important for your businesses, but for the future health of debate in democratic society.”

The survey revealed (amongst other things):

- Print circulation increased 2 per cent globally in 2013 from a year earlier but declined by 2 per cent over five years. Around 2.5 billion people around the world read newspapers in print and 800 million on digital platforms.
- Print circulation continues to rise in countries with a growing middle class and relatively low broadband penetration, but long-term structural declines in print circulation continue in mature markets as audiences shift their focus from print to digital.

### **78.1.13 Errors out of the ordinary**

We don’t generally draw attention to typos and such, but occasionally there are mistakes so glaring that they become the subject of general community comment. Such as: On 9 June the Queen’s Birthday honours list was published in the *Canberra Times*—well, most of it was. The list was to have comprised seven pages of the tabloid Times2 section. Unfortunately, one page was entirely missing. To compensate for this, readers were treated twice over to a page entitled “Memo: Your weekly wrap-up of news from Canberra business”; on 17 June in some early copies of the *Brisbane Courier Mail* Pages 2, 10 and some others were repeats of pages from the previous day; on 30 June ABC TV’s *Media Watch* program reported on the large number of errors occurring in death notice advertisements in the *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* since copy-taking for these was transferred to the Philippines.

### **78.1.14 Melbourne in the fifties and sixties**

The *Herald Sun* has placed on its website a number of evocative images of Melbourne in the 1950s and 1960s. The images include a couple of front pages of the era. See <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/s-melbourne-photos-give-a-revealing-insight-into-everyday-life-in-melbourne-in-the-1950s/story-fnkd6ppg-1226955225651>

### **78.1.15 Emma and you, wherever you are**

The Readership Works and Ipsos MediaCT have announced a series of innovations to the emma (Enhanced Media Metrics Australia) newspaper audience survey, including geo-targeting capabilities that allow for hyper-local marketing and media planning. The enhancements, which are part of emma’s product roadmap for the remainder of 2014 and will be rolled out over the coming months, follow the recent launch of the emma engagement metric, which provides data on how print publications in Australia engage specific audiences. Implementing geo-targeting in the broader emma product will offer media planners, advertisers and publishers the necessary audience profiles to assist them in planning newspaper media ad buys at a local level. The geo-targeting tool will allow for side-by-side comparison of local area markets, including the ability to rank markets and local market segments by spending potential and likely return-on-investment. Emma has also fused data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ Household Expenditure Survey, which records expenditure, income and other features of Australian household residents, onto the audience survey (The Newspaper Works, 30 July 2014).

### 78.1.16 Strawberry sundae scent for $mX$

Commuter newspaper *mX* used NewsScent technology in its printed edition as part of a promotion for the annual Queensland agricultural show, Ekka. A full-page advertisement that read “Experience Queensland’s Best Sundays on Show” was printed in the Brisbane *mX* on 29 July, with the aroma of strawberry sundae ice-cream, the Show’s characteristic dessert. NewsScent works by spraying the necessary pages with a particular fragrance during the printing process, and does not affect the speed or efficiency of newsprint production.

### 78.1.17 Fairfax and that cartoon

The *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age* has been urging readers not to cancel subscriptions as advertisers pull out of the company following publication of what critics claim was an anti-Semitic cartoon. After taking nine days to apologise for the cartoon, published in *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* online, showing a Jew with a hooked nose casually destroying Gaza while reclining on a chair marked with a Star of David, *Herald* editor-in-chief Darren Goodsir called offended readers on 4 August (*Australian*, 5 August 2014 and the issue is covered in other issue of the national daily around that date—e.g. Media section, 4 August).



### 78.2.1 Mail online and ‘magpie journalism’

Roy Greenslade, a columnist for the *Guardian* (UK) has said that young journalists are being paid as little as \$35,000 a year at the Mail Online to “lift” articles produced by reputable journalists (*Australian*, 11 June 2014). In an interview with the *Australian*, Greenslade, a former editor of London’s *Daily Mirror*, said the Mail Online globally was engaged in what he called “magpie journalism” where content produced by news organisations was lifted and stolen for the Mail - Online’s websites. In Britain, he said, they were being paid as little as £20,000, the equivalent of \$A35, 900, a year to “steal stories”. In a subsequent comment piece published on the *Guardian*’s website, Greenslade wrote that the Mail Online’s publisher and editor-in-chief, Martin Clarke, “knows he is engaged in a parasitical exercise without a shred of journalistic merit”. Greenslade said, “He is blatantly living off the work of other journalists...” His comments were in response to revelations in the *Australian* on 9 June that News Corp Australia was considering suing the Daily Mail Online for breach of copyright and intellectual property after dozens of stories were blatantly copied. The *Australian* produced examples of several stories where the Mail Online Australia, a partnership between The Daily Mail Trust and the Nine Network’s digital arm, Mi9, had copied quotes, paragraphs and even graphics from News Corp papers.

See also: “Seven joins Mail online fight” and “Journo quits over story re-hashes, rip-offs”, *Australian*, 16 June 2014 [the journalist is Taylor Auerbach].

### 78.2.2 Digital newspapers and the visually impaired

Visually impaired people have often been forgotten in the race for digital supremacy but a locally developed system could reverse that trend by putting a virtual newsreader in the palm of their hands (*Australian*, 17 June 2014). About 40 blind people and those with poor vision have been trialling a locked down, repurposed Samsung smartphone that can read aloud news feeds from the ABC, The New Daily and The Conversation. In addition members of Vision Australia's library service can freely access all Fairfax newspapers, including the *Age*, *Australian Financial Review* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. All News Corp Australia newspapers were to be added to the list by

the end of June. Around 300 regional papers from Fairfax and News Corp will be available upon request.

The Google Android device is dubbed RealSAM (simple accessible media) and was developed by Melbourne outfit Real Thing. It is slightly larger than a business card and equipped with voice recognition technology that powers the news-reading capability. The phone has a large button that users click once to speak into. Say “read ABC” and they will be presented with the total number of news articles and the first five headlines and when they were published. People can then select a headline or move to the next page. Real Thing has built in several commands to help people navigate within stories, such as “start again” or “repeat” to replay the current article from the beginning, Real Thing chief executive Nick Howden said. “Jump forward five” or “jump back two” will move back or forth by that many sentences (or minutes if listening to a podcast).

### **78.2.3 News Corp launches new app**

News Corp Australia launched on 21 June a new mobile version of its flagship online site **news.com.au**, featuring a new design, implementation of continuous scroll and enhanced advertising opportunities. The re-design came after six months of user testing and the application of user experience principles. News.com.au general manager Julian Delany said the updated site offered a superior experience for mobile readers. She said news.com.au had the largest mobile audience of all news sites in Australia and its growth outpaced the mobile market over the last year (News Corp corporate website).

### **78.2.4 APN partners with realestate.com.au**

APN News and Media has signed a deal with real estate group REA, majority owned by News Corp that will mean that realestate.com.au will become the new property partner for APN’s regional arm, Australian Regional Media. The property advertising agreement will increase the exposure of REA in regional areas on the eastern seaboard. The deal allows REA and its agency partners to brand APN’s regional print and property sections in mastheads across Queensland and northern NSW – a total unique audience of 1.4 million every week across print, desktop and mobile. Realestate.com.au currently has a national unique audience of 2.98 million each month. The new partnership will launch on 1 October (The Newspaper Works, 2 July 2014).

### **78.2.5 Fairfax Regional digital strategy**

Fairfax Regional Media has adopted a digital first model. Fairfax’s *Bendigo Advertiser* trialled NewsNow, a reverse-publishing platform for the switch commencing in September 2013. Its online audience has grown by 275 per cent in the past nine months. There has been an increase from around seven million views a month to 48 million in the past three years across Fairfax Regional Media’s 15 daily newspapers and more than 150 non-daily titles. In August, the *Advertiser* saw 1.2 million page impressions, which has jumped to 4.5 million in June 2014. Importantly, hard copy sales saw no negative effects from the launch.

An “ambitious” rollout is now underway, with a business case approved by Fairfax with a commitment to rolling out the system to 140 other sites. Twenty will be completed by the end of 2014, including the *Courier* in Ballarat and 16 titles on the NSW South Coast and Southern Highlands. There are plans for another 100 titles in 2015. This will involve “significant investment” in training, equipment and system development, as well as “recasting and optimising” existing practices and resources (The Newspaper Works, 9 July 2014).

### **78.2.6 Fairfax acquires allhomes.com.au**

Fairfax Media announced on 10 July that it had acquired **www.allhomes.com.au**, a Canberra-based real estate internet listing company, for \$50 million. The acquisition will be run in conjunction with Fairfax’s existing real estate listing company, **domain.com.au**. Domain.com.au is second in the Australian real estate internet market to **realestate.com.au**, a company majority owned by News Corp. However, both realestate.com.au and domain.com.au have hitherto been beaten in the Canberra real estate market by allhomes.com.au. Fairfax says that it will now

actively promote both [allhomes.com.au](http://allhomes.com.au) and [domain.com.au](http://domain.com.au) in the ACT and surrounding areas (Fairfax corporate website).

### 78.2.7 Digital newspaper readership increases by 20 per cent

Newspapers gained 1.3 million digital readers in the 12 months to June 2014 according to emma (Enhanced Media Metrics Australia). The cumulated readership has increased 41 per cent to 2.4 million readers, with consumers now reading an average of 2.4 titles online compared to 2.1 last year. The results reflect a growing hunger for news as digital readership has pushed net readership up by two per cent across the major national, metropolitan and regional newspapers since the release of the June 2013 emma database (The Newspaper Works, 15 July 2014).



### 78.3.1 Harden-Murrumburrah: A new paper on the block

Harden and Murrumburrah, two small towns that sit cheek by jowl about 130km north-west of Canberra, have had two newspapers since January. Until the end of last year, there was only the *Harden-Murrumburrah Express*, which arose out of the *Harden Express* (established 1916). The *Express* has been owned by Fairfax Media since 2007 when it merged with Rural Press Ltd. Rural Press had owned it since 1990 when it bought that paper (amongst others) from the Bradley family, which had owned it since 1965.

**Twin Town Times**  
*In for the Long Haul*



MATTHEW  
STADTMILLER

Matthew Stadtmiller, who had been an ad rep on the *Express*, worked for a short time in the *Cootamundra Herald* office, after Fairfax had shifted its Harden operations to Cootamundra. He left Fairfax at the end of June 2013, believing he could produce a better paper than the *Express*. “We wanted more local content in our stories, to get really involved in the community and report on the things that matter..” he told Simon King, of the *Australian* (16 June 2014). So, with the help of his mother Trish and father Adrian and a silent partner—“a proud local who wanted to help out”—and with the advice of Luke Watson, an independent newspaper owner in Tumut, Stadtmiller, 30, began publishing the *Twin Town Times* for Harden-Murrumburrah on 15 January 2014. It is targeted also at the surrounding towns of Binalong, Jugiong, Wallendbeen, Galong and Wombat. The 12 to 16 page weekly, available at 14

different outlets, sells around 800 copies a week.

### 78.3.2 *Stock & Land* celebrates centenary

*Stock & Land*, Fairfax’s weekly Victorian agricultural newspaper, commemorated its centenary with a dinner at Melbourne Showgrounds on 4 July. On 10 July 2014 *Stock and Land* issued a 76-page commemorative centenary issue. *Stock & Land* was first published on 1 July 1914 by Norman Ferguson as the “official organ of the Associated Stock and Station Agents of Melbourne”. It was published tri-weekly to coincide with the old Newmarket market livestock selling days. It replaced the weekly *Melbourne Stock & Station Journal*. The idea to print thrice weekly was to ensure farmers had the most up-to-date information. *Stock & Land* targeted livestock and landholders in Victoria and the Riverina. It cost one half-penny until 1918 when the price changed to one penny.

You can read more of *Stock & Land's* history by going to <http://centenary.stockandland.com.au/news/agriculture/general/news/our-first-issue/2687406.aspx?storypage=0>

*Stock & Land* competes with News' *Weekly Times* in the Victorian/Riverina weekly agricultural newspaper market. In the June-Dec 2012 period – the most recent figures available – *Stock & Land* sold 8,400 copies. The *Weekly Times* is the biggest selling weekly agricultural newspaper in Australia. In the most recent audit (March 2014) it sold 59,084 copies weekly. Other Fairfax weekly agricultural newspapers are the *Land* (NSW), *Queensland Country Life*, *North Queensland Register*, *Stock Journal* (SA) and *Farm Weekly* (in WA in competition with Seven West's *Countryman*).

### 78.3.3 Sunshine Coast: Closures and openings

*Noosa Journal*, published by Quest Newspapers, the South East Queensland local arm of News Corp, has ceased publication, as has *Weekender*, published by Federal Publishing (recently sold to News). This is balanced by new titles commencing: *Noosa Today*, published by the Victorian local newspaper group, Star News, and *Your Local News* (or YLN) by a local consortium led by Isobel Coleman. Last year, Star bought the *Armidale Independent*, *Tweed Coast Weekly* and *Port Macquarie Independent* in NSW and marched on Queensland, picking up the *Southern Free Times* in Warwick, and of course, *Noosa Today* (gxpresse.net).

### 78.3.4 APN NZ rationalises rural supplements

APN NZ has launched the *Land*, a dedicated weekly rural publication within its stable of six regional titles. (It has no relation to the NSW title of the same name, owned by Fairfax Media.) The new NZ title will “streamline” APN's rural publications in NZ including the *Bay of Plenty Times' Agri Business*, the *Northern Advocate's Rural Advocate*, the *Wanganui Chronicle's On The Land* and *Hawkes Bay Today* section *Heartland*. Those four regionals, as well as the *Rotorua Daily Post* and *Wairarapa Times-Age*, which make up APN's regional stable, “have been producing rural or farming based publications for some time,” APN Regionals group general manager Chris Jagusch said. “We have now elected to take the content that has been available in all of those publications into a single and common title, all published to a weekly Thursday morning schedule. The *Land* is APN's single voice to our rural communities.” The *Land* offers advertisers the chance to reach an audience of 242,000 rural and regional readers every week, with weekly circulation of 110,000 copies, in one booking (The Newspaper Works, 2 July 2014).

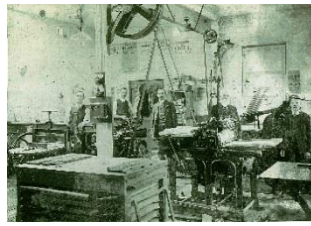
### 78.3.5 Adelaide City launched

On 26 March News Corp launched a free weekly newspaper in Adelaide CBD titled *the City* to replace the *City Messenger*. It is edited by Kara Jung and has a circulation of 25,000. The paper is available from pick-up boxes and distributed to city residents, retail businesses and key office locations (News Corp corporate website).

### 78.3.6 End of the Lockwoods in Wimmera journalism

The last of the Lockwood family members to work on newspapers in the Wimmera district of Victoria pulled up stumps in July. Keith Lockwood finished work at the *Wimmera Mail-Times*, Horsham, on 18 July. Fairfax Media did away with all sub-editors at Horsham two years ago. “The editor refused to let me go,” Lockwood said in an email to ANHG, “but now it's time to smell the roses.” The Lockwood family had been active participants in journalism in the Horsham district since 1899 when Alfred Wright Lockwood bought the *West Wimmera Mail*, Natimuk (see Allan Lockwood, *Ink in His Veins*; also Rod Kirkpatrick, *The Bold Type*).





## 4—NEWSPAPER HISTORY

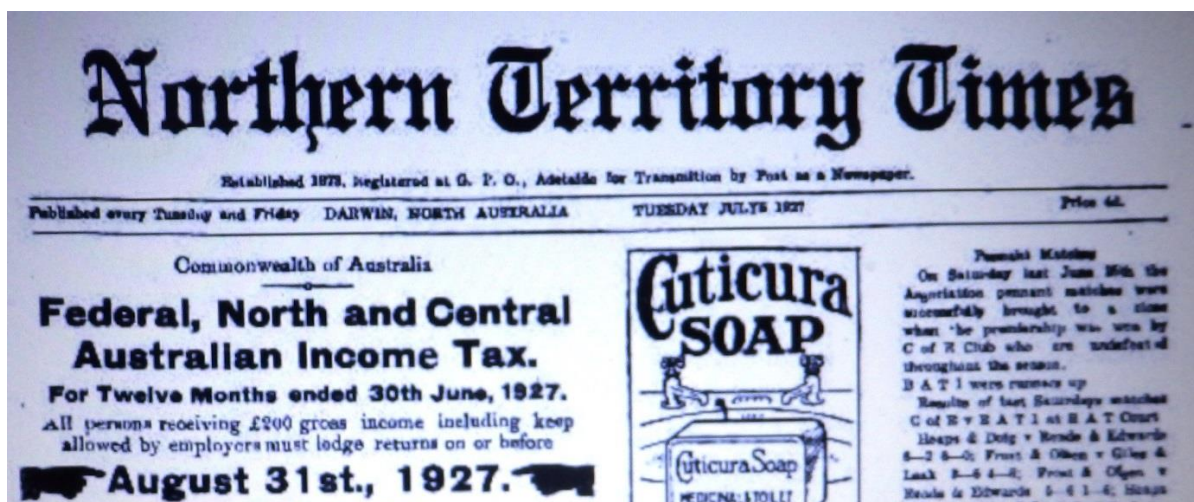
### 78.4.1 *Northern Territory Times* says goodbye

On 28 June 1932, the *Northern Territory Times* ceased publication after 59 years. This was the farewell that **Fred Thompson** wrote for Page 2 of that issue:

The passing of the *Northern Territory Times* speaks to me strangely, and, laying aside, now and for ever, everything I do not desire to remember, to quote Milton, "A thousand fantasies begin to throng into my memory," and my tribute at its passing is now both heartfelt and sincere. The *Northern Territory Times* was established [on 7 November 1873] and the first premises occupied by the printing plant was situate(d) opposite the Commercial Bank of Australia. The proprietor was Mr Skelton, and Mr Charles J. Kirkland, afterwards editor and proprietor, then 17 years of age, was employed as a compositor. Afterwards the printing plant was removed to premises next to the Port Darwin Mercantile and Agency Company (V. V. Brown, H. H. Adcock, J. A. V. Brown) auctioneers, importers, shipping and commission agents. An opposition newspaper, the *North Australian*, subsequently appeared, published by George Washington Mayhew and Charles James Kirkland in Smith Street, and it for a time secured and carried out the contract for printing and publishing the *Government Gazette*.

The *Northern Territory Times* was published then by Mr Skelton, afterwards by Mr Solomon, and later by Messrs Solomon and Griffiths. Its premises were situated next to the building now occupied by Mr E. V. V. Brown, so that the offices of the two rival newspapers, adjoined each other, were under one roof and separated only by a thin galvanised iron partition. The rival editors, though apparently the most bitter enemies, judging by the manner in which, they slang-wanged each other in cold print were yet bosom pals between times joining each other in jocular inter-course and warm social conviviality.

The copy of the *Northern Territory Times* before me as I write bears the date January 12, 1889, and the imprint: Printed and published for the Proprietor, Vaiben Louis Solomon at the office, Smith Street, Palmerston, by William Chantrey Wedd. The Mr Wedd referred to was a brother of Mr George Fountain Wedd, now resident in Darwin.



MASTHEAD OF *NORTHERN TERRITORY TIMES*, DARWIN, "NORTH AUSTRALIA", 5 JULY 1927.

In 1890 the Northern Territory, then a province of the [Colony] of South Australia, was granted the franchise, and Mr V. L. Solomon, editor-proprietor of the *North Australian*, was elected together with the Hon. J. L. Parsons to represent the Northern Territory in the South Australian Legislative Assembly. About this time the proprietary of the *North Australian* bought out the *Northern Territory Times*, but carried on business under the changed name of the *Northern Territory Times*. Somewhere about 1893-94, the *Northern Territory Times* proprietary removed their plant to the front portion of what had formerly been James Pickford's Family Hotel, opposite the Anglican Church, afterwards occupying the stone bedroom at the back, of the allotment. Pickford's Hotel had at one time 19 detached bedrooms.

About 1895 Messrs. Mayhew and Kirkland dissolved partnership, and the business was carried on until 1899, when, owing to ill-health, he was compelled to retire, and Mr Kirkland again acquired the business, and continued till about 1914 when the late Mr Walter Bell, E. J. Foster, and Fred Thompson took it over, it finally [30 September 1929] being purchased by Mr E. J. Foster who continued the business to date, when he has had to retire on account of his ill-health.

Perusal from time to time of a number of old issues of the *Northern Territory Times* in my possession, printed in the early years of its existence, reveal a courageous, broadminded virile style of journalism embodying a bold effort to advance the best interest of the Northern Territory and the pioneer spirit of those who had set themselves the task of assisting in its development. That the outcome of their combined efforts has not been more successfully apparent is, assuredly, no fault of those who strove so strenuously and unselfishly to achieve a purpose not even yet accomplished.

The test of a man is the fight he makes,  
The grit that he daily shows,  
The way he stands on his feet and takes  
Fate's numerous bumps and blows.  
A coward can smile when there's naught to fear.  
When nothing his progress bars.  
But it takes a man to stand up and cheer  
When some other fellow stars.

If such an action were applicable, I would fashion a wreath of the most beautiful flowers I could find growing in the Northern Territory, and, extinguishing for all time all past personal prejudices and unkind memories lay that wreath reverently where the *Northern Territory Times* sent its last forme to press. [See also: 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary article in *Northern Territory Times & Gazette*, 6 November 1923, p.2; and Stephen Hamilton and David Carment, "The Northern Territory press", *Media International Australia*, No. 150, February 2014, pp.56-60.]

#### **78.4.2 Australian Worker on Trove**

The *Australian Worker* (Sydney), 1913-1950, is now available on NLA's Trove ([trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au)). If you want to know a little about Trove and its volunteers, visit <http://www.nla.gov.au/blogs/trove/2014/05/15/troves-volunteers>

#### **78.4.3 NLA newspaper room**

Rebuilding will start soon at the National Library. The current six reading rooms will be consolidated into three large rooms. Newspapers and microforms will be moved from the lower ground floor to the ground floor.

#### **78.4.4 Whitlam and News Ltd: Was there a conspiracy?**

Major Fairfax newspapers reported on 28 June that they had obtained from the United States National Archives a hitherto secret cable from the US



Consul in Melbourne dated 20 January 1975. Titled “Australian publisher turns on Australian Prime Minister”, the cable stated that “Rupert Murdoch has issued [a] confidential instruction to editors of newspapers he controls to ‘kill Whitlam’”. This was ten months before the tumultuous political events of November 1975, culminating in the Governor-General’s dismissal of Whitlam. At this time, Murdoch controlled daily newspapers in Sydney and Adelaide, the *Australian* and weekly newspapers in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

#### 78.4.5 Redcliffe Herald at 80

The *Redcliffe and Bayside Herald* published its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue at the end of May although it began publication on 26 January 1924 (couriermail.com.au, 1 June 2014). Bert Raymond was the first proprietor. The first extant issue is 15 March 1935, available on microfilm at the Redcliffe and John Oxley Libraries.

#### 78.4.6 Time flies (6)

ANHG editor **Rod Kirkpatrick** continues his career reminiscences: Persistence came in handy when I tried to contact George Groom, a member of the famous Groom newspaper and political family of Toowoomba. In ANHG 77.4.9, I told you that I caught the Sunlander train from Cairns to Innisfail on 22 July 1981 and spent the day with William Henry George Groom (1900-84). I had first tried to contact Groom by letter on 8 July 1977 (when he still owned the *Innisfail Advocate*). I received no reply. I wrote to his retired journalist brother, Spencer, on 13 August 1979, and he forwarded to George a copy of my letter. I telephoned George from my Toowoomba home on 23 August 1979 and we spoke for 25 minutes (in the days when long STD phone calls cost the proverbial arm and leg). Groom said he had lost my 1977 letter; he had been ill at the time and had not felt like “dredging up the past; too many faction fights, etc.” He did mention that he had written and published a number of articles on north Queensland newspaper history (one was “Graveyard of newspapers: Chequered (sic) history of Innisfail newspaperdom”, *Johnstone River Advocate*, Special Souvenir Issue, July 1936). I followed up immediately by writing to him again that day and then, after some research at the State Library of Queensland, I wrote again on 18 September.

I received a brief reply on 1 October, dated “Sep. 1979”, printed all in caps in scratchy blue biro. It read almost like a telegram. ‘REGRET PERSONAL PROBLEMS MUST DELAY REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF SEPT 18<sup>TH</sup>. WILL GET ROUND TO IT AS SOON AS I CAN AFTER INSPECTING RECORDS I HOPE I STILL POSSESS.’ I wrote again on 7 November, giving him a brief update on my research and telling him I had “my fingers crossed” that he would find the records he was seeking.

George Groom was the person most adversely affected by the unexpected sale of the *Toowoomba Chronicle* by the Groom family in 1922 (see my chapter, “The Chronicle: Groomed to survive”, in Bruce Hinchliffe, ed., *They Meant Business*, 1984). There was little doubt that he would otherwise have become managing editor and principal of the Toowoomba daily. Instead, George Groom, assisted financially by his mother, became the owner and editor of a group of newspapers based on Innisfail, 1928-78. He published the *Innisfail Advocate* as a daily (the *Evening Advocate*) from 25 November 1940 to 28 September 1973 and the *Sunday Australian* for Cairns, 1939-52. Before 1928, amongst other things he had amalgamated various printing and newspaper interests at Longreach (1922), and had served as managing editor of the *Bundaberg Daily Times* (1926) and as executive secretary to Keith Murdoch at the Herald & Weekly Times (1927-28).

George Groom finally wrote to me on 15 December 1979, but it was not good news. He had delayed writing in the hope of being able to “carry out the duties you required of me but the wheels of fate will not permit it”. He was suffering rheumatoid arthritis and had cataracts on both eyes. He did give me some clues for further research, but I had to wait until I met him on 22 July 1981 before I could obtain answers to the questions I had been asking him in letters. I found that he was a big, solidly built man with only a few wisps of hair. He wore long trousers and no shirt—just a singlet. All the books on his shelves showed the effects of mould. Before I left Innisfail that day, Groom told me that no one was looking forward to reading my planned book on the Queensland provincial

press more than he was. The book, *Sworn to No Master: A History of the Provincial Press in Queensland to 1930*, was published in September 1984. George Groom had died two months earlier, on 20 July.

Max Tomlinson, a later editor of the Innisfail paper and at one stage the general manager of the North Queensland Newspaper Co., held George Groom in high esteem. Tomlinson passed on to me for archival preservation various scrapbooks and notebooks that Groom kept during his career. They reveal a razor-sharp mind concerned with the whole spectrum of newspaper publication.

[See also: Rod Kirkpatrick, "The Groom dynasty implodes and a new chain emerges in the north", *PANPA Bulletin*, September 2002, pp.59-62.]



## 5-RECENTLY PUBLISHED

### 78.5.1 Books

**Cass, Philip**, *Press, Politics and People in Papua New Guinea 1950-75*, Unitec e-press, Auckland, 2014. ISBN-978-1-927214-09-1.

This book explores the changing function of the press in PNG from the post-war Australian return to the coming of independence in 1975. Inspired by Hank Nelson's pioneering study of the PNG press, it shows how newspapers gradually changed from being a mirror of the expatriate world to a reflection of the growing aspirations of the indigenous people. Drawing on archival research and interviews in the UK, the Vatican, Australia, PNG and Fiji, the author examines how three newspapers – the *Rabaul Times*, the *Post-Courier* and *Wantok* – covered some of the most significant stories in PNG's history. Informed by author's experience of growing up in PNG and working as a journalist, trainer and academic in the Pacific, the book also sets the PNG experience against the wider picture in Melanesia. The book began life as the author's doctoral thesis, the first chapters of which were written on Delma Island in the Arabian Gulf on an overheating computer.

*Press, Politics and People in Papua New Guinea 1950-75* is available as a free download from <http://www.unitec.ac.nz/eypress/index.php/press-politics-and-people-in-papua-new-guinea-1950-1975/>

**Folkenflik, David**, *Murdoch's World: The Last of the Old Media Empires*, Public Affairs, New York, 2013, paperback, 382 pages, \$21.99.

**Hills, Ben**, *Stop the Presses! How Greed, Incompetence (and the Internet) Wrecked Fairfax*, ABC Books, \$39.99, hardback, 394pp.

**Morrison, Elizabeth**, *David Syme: Man of the Age*, Monash University Press, paperback, \$39.95, ISBN 978-1-922235-35-0 (also available as an ebook ISBN 978-1-922235-36-7).

**Murray, Robert**, *The Making of Australia: A Concise History*, Rosenberg Publishing, Sydney 2014. It is a short history of Australia, from the earliest Aboriginal arrivals to Tony Abbott as PM, written by a journalist in the terse, concise journalistic style. 320pp. \$29.95

### 75.5.2 Recent articles (MIA)

*Media International Australia* published its 150<sup>th</sup> issue in February this year—a commemorative edition with three sections. The journal was founded in 1976 by Henry Mayer, Professor of Politics at the University of Sydney under the title of *Media Information Australia*. Mayer was the doyen of media studies in Australia. He edited *MIA* until his death in 1991, whereupon six editors jointly undertook what Mayer had done. *MIA* is now published by the School of Journalism and

Communication in association with the Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies at the University of Queensland. The three sections in the 150<sup>th</sup> issue are:

- Reflections on *MIA* from foundational figures and former editors (edited by Gerald Goggin),
- Articles inspired by the forthcoming publication of *A Companion to the Australian Media* (edited by Bridget Griffen-Foley, the editor of the *Companion*), and
- New Voices, articles by emerging scholars, and general articles (edited by Sue Turnbull).

The second section includes some articles of particular interest and value to students of newspaper history. These are:

- Van Heekeren, Margaret, “Stop the presses: Strikes in the Australian news media”,
- Anderson, Fay, “Chasing the pictures: Press and magazine photography”,
- Hamilton, Stephen and Carment, David, “The Northern Territory press”,
- Lloyd, Justine, “Women’s pages in Australian print media from the 1850s”, and
- Richardson, Nick, “From ‘rags’ to ‘riches’: The evolution of the Australian suburban newspaper”.

### 75.5.3 Recent articles (other)

**Abbott, Tony**, “One of the world’s very best newspapers”, *Australian*, 16 July 2014, p.6. Speech to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner of the *Australian*.

**Albanese, Anthony**, “Newspapers’ troubles are also bad news for a robust democracy”, *Weekend Australian*, 26-27 July 2014, p.24.

**Ackerman, Piers**, “Proud to have an Australian attitude to life: There is no stopping the force of nature that is Rupert Murdoch”, *Daily Telegraph*, 18 July 2014, p.40.

**Browne, Paul**, “Two newspapers, one city: The battle of Mort Street”, *Canberra Times*, Inside Story (Swinburne University sponsored section), July 2014. How the newly established *Australian* and the *Canberra Times* battled for the Canberra newspaper market in 1964.

**Coleman, John**, “Doing it tough but fair”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 80, July-September 2014, p.49. They were legendary, tough and talented—newspaper editors on three continents for whom the author worked in a lifetime of journalism. Coleman pays homage to T.C. Bray, Jim Gibbard, John Junor and Ian Hamilton.

**Coleman, Peter**, “Cossar tales”, *GXpress*, June 2014, pp.30-32. It was the “new technology” of its day, but only two Cossar presses now remain.

**Coleman, Peter**, “Urban renewal”, *GXpress*, June 2014, pp.20-21. While retrofitting the latest control technology to its 20-year-old Brisbane presses, News Corp Australia has brought a new manufacturing culture to its print site.

**Day, Mark**, “Dying art of wordsmiths”, *Australian*, 16 June 2014. Focuses on those in Australia who are keeping alive the art of writing and bemoaning, briefly, that modern newspapers no longer rely on great writing.

**Day, Mark**, “A preposterous concept in so many ways, and yet here we are”, *Australian*, Media section, 14 July, p.26. An edited version of Day’s talk about the history of the *Australian* given to Macquarie University’s Centre for Media History’s symposium on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the newspaper.

**Day, Mark**, “The next half century beckons”, *Australian*, 14 July 2014, p.17. A review of the first 50 years of the *Australian*.

**Elliott, Tim**, “Stop press: Chullora” *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 June 2014, p.17. The end of printing at Fairfax’s Chullora press.

**Elliott, Tim**, “Reality of war’ exposed in publication of graphic images of MH17, Gaza dead”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 July 2014, pp.30-31.

**Henderson, Gerald**, “Who’s the narcissist now?” *Weekend Australian*, 5-6 July 2014, p.16. A response to Margaret Simons’ article cited below.

**Hills, Ben**, “Read It & Weep: Fairfax Media” (in table of contents as “An ex Fairfax journalist laments the passing of the glory days”), *Weekend Australian Magazine*, 21-22 June 2014, p.24-27. Also “For hybrid Fairfax, the only way is down”, *Australian*, Media section, 23



June 2014, p. 28. Extracts from Hills' new book, *Stop the Presses! How Greed, Incompetence (and the Internet) wrecked Fairfax*.

**Holmes, Jonathan**, "Press Council's new rules make writers face facts", *Age*, 30 July 2014, p.45.

**Kenins, Ian**, "Where all news is good news", *Age*, 14 July 2014, pp.14-15. Examines how rural newspapers are thriving, using in particular as examples, the *Warracknabeal Herald* and the *Buloke Times*.

**Kirkpatrick, Rod**, "An island tradition", *GXpress*, June 2014, pp.34-35. A brief history of Norfolk Island newspapers, with particular focus on the founders of the current title.

**McDonald, Willa**, "A Vagabond: The Literary Journalism of John Stanley James", *Literary Journalism Studies*. <http://www.ialjs.org/?p=1726>

**Markson, Sharri**, "Always prepared to push the boundaries", *Australian*, Media section, 14 July, p.27. A major profile of Chris Mitchell, the editor-in-chief of the *Australian*, on the eve of the newspaper's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Morrison, Elizabeth**, *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, June 2014, Vol. 100, part 1, pp.115-117, Review of *A Short history of the Australian Country Press* by Rod Kirkpatrick (published by the Australian Newspaper History Group, 2013).

**Murdoch, Rupert**, "One challenge for us all is to avoid narrow nationalism", *Australian*, 16 July 2014, p.6. Speech to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner of the *Australian*.

**Pearson, Noel**, "The start of serious national reporting on original Australians and our affairs", *Australian*, 16 July 2014, p.7. Speech to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner of the *Australian*.

**Pollard, Ruth**, "Unjust justice in Cairo", *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 80, July-September 2014, pp.39-40. The author, Fairfax Media's Middle East correspondent, reveals the grim realities of covering the trial of Peter Grete and his Al-Jazeera colleagues.

**Rielly, Derek**, "The slow, painful death of our newsagents", *Sydney Morning Herald* online at <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/derek-rielly-the-slow-painful-death-of-our-newsagents-20140724-zw0da.html>

**Secombe, Mike**, "Murdoch and the IPA roll a big one", *Saturday Paper*, 28 June 2014, pp.1, 4. Argues that a campaign of false data planted in the *Australian*, is being used to weaken tobacco laws abroad.

**Simons, Margaret**, "The daily narcissist", *Monthly*, July, pp.10-12. Argues that a "national newspaper is a fine and important thing," and the *Australian* "was the best newspaper in Australia", but that it has become "increasingly partisan, its campaigns more belligerent, its attacks on its critics more persistent and nasty."

**Simper, Errol**, "In a dog-eat-dog world, Sir Frank led the pack", *Australian*, 16 June 2014. A review of the second edition of Bridget Griffen-Foley's biography of Sir Frank Packer. This edition is entitled: *Sir Frank Packer: A Biography*.

**Stewart, Cameron**, "A make or break gamble", *Australian*, 15 July 2014, p.13. The establishment of the *Australian* from 15 July 1964, especially the challenges of technology and logistics.

**Stokes, Alan**, "Fate of newspapers lies with the readers", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 June 2014, p.19.

**Stokes, Alan**, "Stories sustain newsrooms whatever the medium", *Age*, 24 June 2014.

**Wright, Tony**, "The gifts that keep on giving and taking", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 July 2014, p.9. Critically examines the relationships between Prime Ministers and Rupert Murdoch.

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