



The Press, Christchurch: Full caption, Page 2.

## AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

# NEWSLETTER

ISSN 1443-4962

No. 86

February 2016

### Publication details

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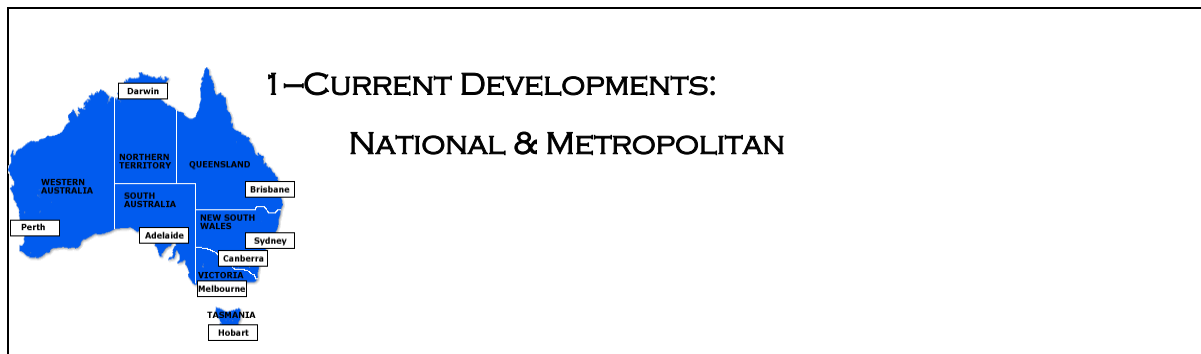
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<http://www.amhd.info/anhg/index.php>

**Deadline for the next *Newsletter*: 30 April 2016.**

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

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



**Caption for Page 1 image:** A collage of photographs taken by the ANHG editor when he was visiting Christchurch in late January. He took the photos inside and out the offices of the *Press* in Gloucester Street and included photos of the Christchurch Cathedral (bottom right), severely, damaged in the 22 February 2011 earthquake and of the Transitional Cathedral (top right), built largely of shipping containers and cardboard and designed by Japanese “emergency” architect Shigeru Ban. During the earthquake, the tower of the original neo-Gothic Cathedral collapsed. Further after-shocks destroyed the iconic rose window and cracked the whole Cathedral like a plate. The *Press*, first issued on 25 May 1861, observed its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary a few months after the ‘quake. There was another earthquake in the Christchurch region on 14 February 2016 (your editor flew out of Christchurch precisely one week earlier). See 86.1.13 and 86.1.14 below.

### 86.1.1 Newspapers to cease weekday editions within three years: Scott

ABC managing director Mark Scott has predicted some of the nation’s most important newspapers will stop publishing weekday editions within three years as he mounted a strident plea for the national broadcaster to avoid funding cuts in the May budget (writes Sid Maher, *Australian*, 24 February 2016). In a farewell address to the National Press Club on 24 February, Scott also predicted the closure of many regional newspapers (see 86.3.1 below) and the few regional radio and TV news services as the media industry is confronted by increased competition from the internet. While he was not specific, Scott’s comments come after it emerged that Fairfax investigated publishing some of its metropolitan papers only on weekends in 2013. Scott used the impact of digital disruption to argue that the ABC’s role as an Australian provider of local content had become more important.

### 86.1.2 Rupert Murdoch, 84, to marry for fourth time

Rupert Murdoch, the executive chairman of News Corporation, has announced his engagement to Jerry Hall, the actress and former supermodel (*Australian*, 12 January 2016). Murdoch and Hall had been dating for several months. They made their relationship public in October by appearing together at the rugby World Cup final and got engaged over the weekend of 9-10 January in Los Angeles, where they attended the 73rd Golden Globes awards gala. Murdoch announced the engagement with a classified advertisement in the *Times*, London, on 12 January. It said: “Mr Rupert Murdoch, father of Prudence, Elisabeth, Lachlan, James, Grace and Chloe Murdoch, and Miss Jerry Hall, mother of Elizabeth, James, Georgia and Gabriel Jagger, are delighted to announce their engagement.”

The father of Hall’s children is Sir Mick Jagger. The marriage will be Murdoch’s fourth and Hall’s second. She married Sir Mick in a Hindu ceremony in Bali in 1990 (although in divorce proceedings in 1999 he claimed that they were not legally married). Murdoch, 84, had had three wives: Patricia Booker, journalist Anna Torv, and Wendi Deng, whom he divorced in 2013.

### 86.1.3 Clive Mathieson to leave the *Australian*

*The Australian*’s editor, Clive Mathieson, is leaving at the end of February to become the director of economic, infrastructure and state priorities in the office of NSW Premier Mike Baird. Mathieson has been editor of the newspaper since April 2011. Mathieson had previously served in several

senior roles at *The Australian*, including business editor, night editor and deputy editor. He started his 24-year career in journalism at the *Advertiser* in Adelaide, joining the *Australian* in 1996. He spent three years at the *Times* in London before returning to the *Australian* in 2002. New editor-in-chief Paul Whittaker said a new editor would be appointed “in due course” (*Australian* online 2 February 2016)]

*Sunday Herald Sun* editor Jill Baker has been promoted to a new national role, in one of several senior editorial changes at the Herald & Weekly Times announced on 20 January. Baker will become executive editor, Sundays, while *Geelong Advertiser* editor Nick Papps will take over as editor of the *Sunday Herald Sun*. *Herald Sun* news editor Liam Houlihan will become editor of the *Geelong Advertiser*. All three editors will all report to News Corp Australia’s Victorian managing director of editorial, Peter Blunden (TheNewspaperWorks, 21 January 2016).

#### **86.1.4 News Corp’s poor financial results**

News Corp’s profit declined in its fiscal second quarter, weighed down by foreign-exchange fluctuations and lower print advertising sales at its news and information-services unit. The company reported net income of \$US63 million, down from \$US143 million, a year ago. Revenue fell to \$US2.16 billion from \$US2.26 billion a year earlier as the company posted an 8 per cent drop in sales at the news and information services segment, which accounts for two-thirds of News Corp’s total revenue. The company said that, excluding the impact of foreign currency, overall revenue would have increased 2 per cent in the quarter. At the news and information services division, 70 per cent of the revenue decline was attributable to currency fluctuation. (*Weekend Australian*, 6 February p.27).

#### **86.1.5 Australia Day honours**

The achievements and commitments of many were recognised in the Australia Day Honours announced on 26 January. These included:

##### **Officer of the Order of Australia (AO):**

**Henry Ergas**, for distinguished service to infrastructure, econometrics, higher education, public policy development, and a supporter of emerging artists. Professor Ergas is a columnist in the *Australian*.

**Anne Kantor**, for distinguished service through philanthropic support for a range of environmental, social welfare, arts and educational organisations and to psychotherapy. Kantor is the sister of Rupert Murdoch, AC.

##### **Member of the Order of Australia (AM):**

**Richard Ackland** for service to the print and television media industries, particularly through reporting on legal issues and as a publisher.

**Lisa Wilkinson** for service to the print and broadcast media as a journalist and presenter and service to a range of youth and women’s groups.

##### **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM):**

**Catherine McMahon** for service to community health, particularly through traumatic stress to journalists.

#### **86.1.6 Future of *Sunday Times*, Perth**

News Corp has been discussing the sale of its Perth *Sunday Times* to Seven West. This would provide Seven West with a seven-day newspaper operation in Perth and would give it a virtual newspaper monopoly there. It would enable News to close its print operation in Perth. It would also break News’ hold on Sunday newspapers in all capitals (except Canberra). In 1955 the *Sunday Times* was one of Rupert Murdoch’s first acquisitions. The talks include provision for Seven West to print and distribute News’ national daily the *Australian* in WA. Talks have been underway for a year, but have picked up recently, according to the *Australian* on 21 January. And it is significant that the *Australian* reported the possible deal, possibly meaning it is close to finality. At the most

recent circulation audit of December 2015, the *West Australian* sold an average of 149,486 per issue and the *Sunday Times* 184,012 (*Australian* 21 January 2016, p. 19).

On 5 February, Fairfax's *WA Today* website claimed that a sale "was imminent" ([www.watoday.com.au](http://www.watoday.com.au)).

PerthNow, the website companion to the *Sunday Times*, is, however, looking to publish mid-week newspapers before long weekends during 2016. It distributed its first such edition on 20 January. Fifty thousand copies of the 40-page paper were delivered across the CBD mid-afternoon, to commuters, residents, and businesses. It included a mixture of breaking news from Perth and Western Australia, as well as national and international reports, regular content from the *Sunday Times*, such as lifestyle content and food sections, and several pages of sport.

The free newspaper was funded by several of PerthNow's commercial partners, with IGA being one of its major sponsors. The paper was also distributed to several IGAs in central Perth. Although this was the first mid-week edition for PerthNow, it was not the first time it had distributed a mid-week newspaper. The first one was distributed in December 2010, with others published sporadically until May 2012. If the paper is successful, PerthNow may consider putting out a regular weekly mid-week print edition, but there are no immediate plans to do so (TheNewspaperWorks, 21 January 2016).

### 86.1.7 Essendon and the doping scandal

When punishments for Essendon Football Club players in relation to the doping scandal of the past few years were announced by the Court of Arbitration in Sport, it was big news in all newspapers on 13 January 2016. But the news was, of course, especially featured in Melbourne newspapers. The *Herald Sun* devoted 21 pages to the story – an eight-page wraparound, seven general news pages and six sports pages. The *Age* devoted 11 pages – five general news pages and six sports pages.

### 86.1.8 Recent events

#### 86.1.8.1 Chronology

**8 January 2016:** *Maitland Mercury* ceases daily publication after 122 years. The *Mercury* is the oldest country paper in NSW. It became a tri-weekly from 11 January 2016.

**25 February 2016:** APN News & Media announces it has put its newspapers (including 12 regional dailies, 10 in Queensland and two in NSW) on the market.

#### 86.1.8.2 Deaths

**McPherson, Christopher Roy:** D. 21 December 2015, aged 61; joined his father's newspaper company, based on the *Shepparton News*, straight from school and worked his way through typesetting, composing and printing to advertising; became joint managing director in 1985 with brother Ross upon their father's retirement at age 60; first elected as an executive councillor of the Victorian Country Press Association in 1982 at age 26 and was elected president, 1990-1992; became a director of Country Press Australia in 1999 and elected president in 2006 for two terms; involved in many industry organisations including serving on the council of the Melbourne College of Printing and Graphic Arts and, from 1986, the board of PANPA; was president of PANPA in 1995-97; after he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, championed awareness of the disease by instigating the Biggest Ever Blokes Lunches which have also helped to raise funds for prostate cancer research

**Paterson, William John (Bill):** D. 29 December 2015 in Melbourne, aged 78; began work at Melbourne *Argus* as apprentice compositor in early 1950s, later becoming a skilled leading stone compositor at the *Herald*; worked for 46 years on Melbourne daily newspapers; conscientious printing unionist; became Father of the *Herald* Chapel; closely involved with negotiations as composition moved from hot-metal towards digital methods; his father and grandfather had been printers at the *Argus*; the three generations of Patersons reach a total of 100 years as a newspaper family (details supplied by Peter Gill, Melbourne).

### **86.1.9 Revival of *National Indigenous Times* to be attempted**

Aboriginal businessman Wayne Bergmann has taken control of the collapsed *National Indigenous Times*, with the aim of transforming it into a newspaper that celebrates indigenous achievement in business, politics and sport. A company majority-owned by Bergmann has bought the paper from liquidators and is expected to relaunch it within weeks. Veteran Perth journalist Tony Barrass will become the editor of the publication, which will be resurrected online before a decision is made whether to resume in print. The old *Times* had enraged some aboriginal leaders with its hardline approach to indigenous affairs. Kimberley Aboriginal leader Bergmann said on 20 January that he wanted the paper to focus heavily on indigenous business success stories. Barrass, who has a 49% stake in the company, promised the publication would be upmarket, entertaining and provocative. “It will reflect a range of indigenous views, not just one political leaning,” he said (*Australian*, 21 January 2016, p.6).

### **86.1.10 *Argus* reunion**

A reunion for former employees of the Melbourne *Argus* (closed January 1957) and its associated companies will be held in Melbourne on Friday, 4 March. For information email Peter Gill on [janpeter@bigpond.com/](mailto:janpeter@bigpond.com/) (*Weekly Times*, 6 January 2016).

### **86.1.11 Get them young**

A new national newspaper targeted at young Australians has been launched by a former *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist who hopes the self-funded venture will create “a whole new generation of journalists”. Saffron Howden, who is the mother of a two-year-old girl, launched the new weekly paper *Inkling* online on 20 January. Its first printed edition will be published in April with an initial run of 5000. *Inkling* will feature local and international news stories presented in an engaging and child-appropriate way, opinion pieces and reviews written by child reporters and other stories specifically relevant to the paper’s 7-to-14 year-old audience. The paper will be funded by a combination of its \$4.50-per-week subscription model and carefully chosen sponsorships, particularly around cultural events such as exhibitions, plays and musicals (*TheNewspaperWorks*, 21 January 2016)

### **86.1.12 Media law reforms approved by Cabinet**

The long-awaited media law reforms promised by the Australian government after the Coalition was elected two-and-a-half years ago were approved by cabinet in the final week of February, but met with immediate criticism from News Corp Australia and Seven West Media (*TheNewspaperWorks*, 26 February 2016). The reforms will scrap the “two out of three” rule that prohibits a single entity owning a commercial television licence, radio licence and a newspaper in the same area and the “reach rule” which prevents a commercial broadcaster reaching more than 75 per cent of the population. Despite the cabinet approval, there may be a long wait before the changes are enacted. The laws face a difficult passage through parliament and may not be passed until after the federal election due later this year.

### **86.1.13 Christchurch’s *Press* and the earthquakes**

It was a little after 1pm on Sunday, 14 February 2016, when the office of Christchurch daily newspaper the *Press* began shaking as a 5.7 magnitude earthquake hit the garden city of New Zealand’s south island. As computers, pot plants and ceiling panels in the newsroom crashed to the floor, foremost in the minds of some of the long-serving staff were the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes – the latter of which devastated the city and claimed the lives of 185 people. To make the tremors even more significant, the quake occurred only days from the five-year anniversary of the quake of 22 February 2011. There were no fatalities or major structural damage in the city, unlike in 2011 when the *Press*’s old building partially collapsed, killing accounts clerk Adrienne Lindsay and seriously injuring two others.

Moments after the quake hit at 1.13pm, the *Press* team published content online with more videos, articles and photos filed throughout the afternoon. Their coverage, which included footage of cliffs collapsing in Christchurch’s seaside suburbs, helped Fairfax news site Stuff.co.nz attract its biggest audience ever. It received more than 1.1 million page impressions over the course of Sunday

afternoon. On Monday, the *Press* published a special earthquake edition. It included dramatic photos, scientific analysis of the likelihood of another quake, reflections on the event in relation to the 2011 quake and information on where to get mental health support. Another earthquake edition was published on 22 February to mark the fifth anniversary of the 2011 earthquake.

#### **86.1.14 Andrew Holden writes of personal reaction to Wye River fire**

The family holiday home of *Age* editor-in-chief Andrew Holden at Wye River in Victoria's Great Ocean Road region was destroyed by bushfire on Christmas Day 2015. He has written about the experience and the response of people around the world to the news in "A sad walk through the burnt and blackened streets of Wye River", *Age*, 31 December 2015, pp.6-7. Holden was the editor of the *Press*, Christchurch, when the February 2011 earthquakes hit the Canterbury region of New Zealand's South Island. Christchurch is the principal city in that region.

#### **86.1.15 *Age* editor-in-chief leaves Fairfax**

The editor-in-chief of *The Age*, Andrew Holden, will leave Fairfax Media newspaper as part of a "new metro editorial structure for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*" that could result in the Melbourne paper ceding editorial control to Sydney (*Australian*, 17 February 2016). Holden's departure was confirmed in a statement from Fairfax Media editorial director Sean Aylmer. He said the restructure would allow it to "better deliver its 24/7 digital news and newspapers". Aylmer said that the new newsroom structure would be similar to those at the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Daily Telegraph* of London and will "strengthen our audience-first approach". He added there will be 10 days of consultations before finalising the model. The *Australian* understands the Sydney-based Darren Goodsir, editor-in-chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Sun Herald*, will oversee the Metro publications. He is already a regular presence in Melbourne at Fairfax House.

Despite senior sources suggesting the new editor-in-chief of *The Age* must have "Melbourne blood", the Melbourne editor-in-chief is expected to be one of eight chiefs based in Sydney reporting to the editorial director. Aylmer told ABC radio "the structure we announced yesterday doesn't change anything" although the proposed structure shows the role of the editor at the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* has been diminished, reporting to three separate managers, including the editor-in-chief. The power in the new Fairfax Media editorial management structure has moved to production managers, with the flat organisational structure placing the editors-in-chief of the two major newspapers on the same level as bosses for "digital channels", "print channels", presentation, video, and the national managing editor.

National "topic editors", who will commission journalists in Melbourne and Sydney in areas including sports, federal, world and national breaking news, are likely to be based in Sydney, - although they report to the editors-in-chief of both papers. The proposed changes to the management structure were outlined in meetings with staff on Thursday after the resignation of Andrew Holden. *Sunday Age* editor Mark Forbes has moved into the role of acting editor-in-chief for the *Age* and *SMH* editor-in-chief Darren Goodsir, who is a regular visitor to Fairfax House in Melbourne, is expected to be given the top job as editorial director overseeing the group.

#### **86.1.16 Hobart *Mercury* photographer retires after 40 years**

Leigh Winburn has retired from Hobart's *Mercury* after 40 years with the paper. He rose from photographer to chief photographer and pictorial editor. His career began in the darkroom days and ended in the digital era, which he helped to pioneer. He covered the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 and the Atlanta Games in 1996. Winburn was farewelled on 14 January (*Stop Press: Davies Brothers Staff News*, Issue 214, 27 January 2016).

#### **86.1.17 Fairfax Media reports profit increase**

Fairfax Media reported a first-half net profit of \$27.4 million, which was up by 4.2 per cent compared with the previous corresponding period, as growth in the company's Domain Group property business helped offset falling newspaper advertising and circulation revenues (*Australian*, 19 February 2016). Fairfax's revenue was up by 1.6 per cent at \$958.1 million for the six months ended December 2015, while earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) were up by 15.5 per cent to \$98.6 million. Metro Media Publishing, which



includes the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*, reported print advertising falls of 14 per cent, while digital subscription revenue was up by 14 per cent.

Domain Group underpinned the result, as its EBITDA surged by 74 per cent to \$65.7 million, although the growth was equivalent to 46 per cent excluding the impact of one-off costs in the prior period. Fairfax's regional newspaper business, Australian Community Media, saw EBITDA fall by 20.1 per cent to \$45.2 million.

Fairfax's digital ventures division, which holds the company's investment in digital streaming service Stan, recorded revenue growth of 22 per cent. Fairfax said Stan, which is a joint venture with Nine Entertainment, was approaching 400,000 active subscribers. It marks the first time Stan's active subscriber numbers have been broken out, with the company previously referring to the gross number of more than 700,000 subscribers.

### 86.1.18 Circulation of printed newspapers

The circulation of print editions of Australian newspapers continues to decline, but two Darwin figures rose for the October-December 2015 quarter: the weekly sales of the *Northern Territory News* (by 0.4 per cent) and the sales of the *Sunday Territorian* (6.3 per cent). For across-platform figures, see 86.2.3.

PRINT editions only	Oct-Dec 2015	Oct-Dec 2014	Percentage variation
<b>National</b>			
<i>Australian</i> [M-F]	102,068	104,774	—2.6
<i>Weekend Australian</i>	234,691	227,486	+ 3.2
<i>Aust Financial Review</i> [M-F]	51,425	57,451	—10.5
<i>Aust Financial Review</i> (Sat)	58,523	63,621	—8.0
<b>New South Wales</b>			
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> [M-F]	255,448	273,241	—6.5
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sat)	257,943	275,380	—6.3
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	452,377	489,257	—7.5
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> [M-F]	104,155	114,634	—9.1
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sat)	194,207	210,115	—7.6
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	200,851	227,340	—11.7
<b>Victoria</b>			
<i>Herald Sun</i> [M-F]	338,998	363,384	—6.7
<i>Herald Sun</i> (Sat)	347,175	363,399	—4.2
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	396,574	417,442	—5.0
<i>Age</i> [M-F]	97,503	106,843	—8.7
<i>Saturday Age</i>	166,917	180,447	—7.5
<i>Sunday Age</i>	136,043	147,017	—7.5
<b>Queensland</b>			
<i>Courier-Mail</i> [M-F]	149,408	158,286	—5.6
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (Sat)	189,654	197,963	—4.2
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	339,738	363,068	—6.4

<b>South Australia</b>			
<i>Advertiser</i> [M-F]	126,856	136,458	—7.0
<i>Advertiser</i> (Sat)	168,293	178,350	—5.6
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	200,264	214,609	—6.7
<b>Western Australia</b>			
<i>West Australian</i> [M-F]	149,486	158,400	—5.6
<i>West Australian</i> (Sat)	239,623	255,335	—6.2
<i>Sunday Times</i>	184,012	204,892	—10.2
<b>Tasmania</b>			
<i>Mercury</i> [M-F]	31,578	33,111	—4.6
<i>Mercury</i> (Sat)	42,423	45,367	—6.5
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	40,232	42,645	—5.7
<b>Northern Territory</b>			
<i>Northern Territory News</i> [M-F]	13,728	13,670	+0.4
<i>NT News</i>	18,198	19,636	—7.3
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	15,363	14,450	+6.3
<b>ACT</b>			
<i>Canberra Times</i> [M-F]	18,837	23,183	—18.7
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sat)	29,750	32,094	—10.4
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sun)	19,700	21,578	—8.7

**Source:** Audited Media Association of Australia.

### 86.1.19 *The Weekly* and *Cleo*

Former *New Idea* editor-in-chief Kim Wilson has been appointed editor-in-chief of the *Australian Women's Weekly*, replacing Helen McCabe. Wilson is currently editor of parenting website Kidspot.com.au, owned by NewsLifeMedia, and ran *New Idea*, published by Pacific Magazines, for five years until 2014 (*Australian*, 10 February 2016).

Bauer Media has announced the closure of *Cleo* magazine. The final edition will be dated March, and went on sale on 22 February. *Cleo* was founded by Kerry Packer's Consolidated Press in 1972 as a magazine to appeal to teenage girls, providing a frank view of social issues, including sex (*Weekend Australian*, 16-17 January 2016, p.5; Bauer Media press statement, 20 January 2016).



### 86.2.1 *Daily Mail* joint venture falters

Nine Entertainment has withdrawn from its joint venture with the British *Daily Mail* as backer of the Mail Online Australian website. Mail Online launched its Australian site in 2014, as a source of celebrity and social gossip. It has been accused, in particular by News Corp, of plagiarism. A statement by the *Daily Mail* to the London Stock Exchange showed that revenue of the site



declined from £18.5 million in 2014 to £16.5 million in 2015, down 9.5 per cent (*Weekend Australian*, 16-17 January 2016, p.5).

### **86.2.2 Readership across digital platforms remains strong**

Readership of newspaper media on mobile devices jumped 16 per cent from December 2015 to December 2016 to 3.6 million, according to the latest Enhanced Media Metrics Australia data issued on 11 February. The emma report found accessing news and information on smartphones was growing more quickly than other digital platforms. PCs are, however, still the most popular way to read news media with readership of 9.4 million, while news media on tablets is read by 3 million. Readership of news media across digital platforms remains steady at 11.4 million, or 63 per cent of the population.

Print still dominates as the preferred medium for the majority of news media readers, at 13.8 million or 77 per cent of the population. Newspapers also provide a valuable audience to advertisers, with 95 per cent of the “high value” audience, managers and professionals, reading news media each month. Eight in 10 read print newspapers, while 78 per cent access news media via digital platforms and 35 per cent read news media on their smartphones.

The Newspaper Works CEO Mark Hollands said the early commitment by Australian news media publishers to continuous innovation and evolution of their brands across all platforms had paid off.


The *Sydney Morning Herald* finished 2015 with Australia’s largest cross platform readership, reaching 4.9 million readers. The *Daily Telegraph* followed with 4 million readers and the Herald Sun with 3.9 million.

### **86.2.3 Guardian Australia website’s losses increase**

*Guardian Australia*’s website was reported as losing \$14 million in the 12 months to 30 June 2015, up from a loss of \$6 million in the preceding twelve months (*Australian*, 27 January 2016, p.19).

### **86.2.4 Government advertising forgoes print**

Since January the ACT Department of Environment and Planning has not placed Development Applications in the *Canberra Times*. The department now places them only on its own website.



### **3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS:**

#### **COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL**

### **86.3.1 APN puts regional papers up for sale**

APN News & Media Ltd has put up for sale more than 100 regional newspapers and websites in Queensland and NSW (news.com.au, 25 February 2016; *Australian*, 26 February 2016, p.22). APN says it no longer wants to pour money into the challenging market. The company says it is in talks with several interested parties about the divestment of its Australian Regional Media (ARM) business, which reaches an audience of more than 1.5 million between Mackay and Coffs Harbour. The main APN papers in Australia are the dailies in Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Gympie, Maroochydore, Ipswich, Toowoomba and Warwick (Queensland) and Lismore and Grafton (NSW).

ARM's earnings dropped 27 per cent in calendar 2015, despite millions of dollars in cost cuts and growth in digital subscriptions beginning to replace the declining newspaper audience. APN chief executive Ciaran Davis said, “Further investment in this business is now inconsistent with APN's

long term ambitions and we have commenced the process to divest the business.” Talks have begun, but it is too early to speculate on a possible sale price, he said. A \$51 million cut to the value of APN's regional newspaper mastheads dragged the company to a loss of \$10 million for 2015.

APN may also end up selling its New Zealand newspaper, radio and magazine business, which is its second biggest earner. Plans to list NZME on the share market have been scrapped because of falling advertising spending, and APN said it is now considering its options for the business. The company wants to focus on growth in its more successful businesses, the Australian Radio Network and outdoor advertising group Adshel.

Radio earnings rose 25 per cent in 2015, as Kyle Sandilands and Jackie O drove ratings success at KIIS, while its Pure Gold network also rated well in Sydney and Melbourne.

Davis said the Australian radio market was up five per cent in January, with ARN continuing to take market share. The network wants to grow its younger audience, with investment in mobile, video and social platforms, such as the iHeartRadio app. Adshel's earnings rose four per cent in 2015 as it launched digital billboards at bus stops.

### **86.3.2 Townsville, etc.: Trompf heads News Corp regionals division**

News Corp has brought its regional and community newspapers into a single business with the formation of a regional publishing division led by Nick Trompf. The former general manager of the *Cairns Post* and *Townsville Bulletin* now heads a unit comprising these titles plus the *Hobart Mercury*, *Northern Territory News*, *Gold Coast Bulletin* and *Geelong Advertiser*. Commercial leaders in each region report to Trompf, who reports to Damian Eales, managing director of metro and regional publishing. The regional portfolio has a monthly cross-platform audience of 1.7 million. Eales says the move will give the titles more focus, help them capitalise on opportunities and address their common challenges: "By bringing these titles together into a new division, we can increase collaboration across editorial, marketing and advertising sales, delivering more for our readers and making it easier than ever for our commercial partners to engage with this important audience," he says. The restructure results in the departure of Sean Ryan, whose job as Queensland director for metro and regional publishing disappears. A replacement for Trompf in Cairns has yet to be named (*GXdigital*, 3 February 2016).

### **86.3.3 Cairns: *Post* changes editorial format**

A redesigned *Cairns Post*, with shorter stories and more commentary, will be launched on 12 March (TheNewspaperWorks, 11 February 2016). The changes were announced at a function at the Hilton Cairns on 10 February before an audience of more than 100 business and community leaders. The *Cairns Post* editor Jennifer Spilsbury promised readers a publication that better reflected the tropical North, as well as tighter stories and additional commentary. "The paper hasn't had a major upgrade for more than a decade, and over that time readership and readers' needs have changed," she said. The changes include new lifestyle and leisure sections such as Backyard Tourist, Our Lives, Northern Family, Faces in Places, Well and Good, Play, a refreshed real estate guide and Cars Guide – and new sport features. Spilsbury is a former editor of the *Daily Mercury*, Mackay.

The *Cairns Post*'s executive general manager and new head of News' regional titles, Nick Trompf, said a range of new digital assets would complement the printed product. "We're really about helping small, medium and large businesses in Cairns make their way through the maze of marketing options," he said. "Digital has provided a huge amount of opportunity but it's also brought a lot of complexity to marketing. Our ambition is to be a one-stop shop."

### **86.3.4 Geraldton: *Guardian* ceases tri-weekly issue**

The *Geraldton Guardian*, Western Australia, is changing from a tri-weekly to a bi-weekly. The Monday and Wednesday editions are ceasing with a larger Tuesday edition to take their place. The Friday issue will continue. Editor Michael Philipps said the change was in response to feedback from readers and advertisers. "Changes in the advertising market have made Monday's edition quite a slim product," Philipps said. "People have said they were finding it quite a disappointing product because of its size." He said the change would not come at the cost of any jobs at the paper.

(ABC News online, 18 February 2016: see <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-18/geraldton-guardian-changes-tack/7177410>).

### 86.3.5 Fairfax closes Dubbo print centre

Fairfax Media has closed its Dubbo print centre, bringing to an end 150 years of printing tradition in the NSW country city (gxpess.net, 17 February 2016). The first Dubbo paper began publication in 1866. Production at the plant attached to the *Daily Liberal* offices in Macquarie Street ended on 18 February, with work switched to Fairfax sites in Tamworth and North Richmond, NSW, Albury/Wodonga and Canberra. Twenty staff including casuals were affected by the closure. Regional general manager, print and distribution Michael Aubrey says one apprentice has taken up an offer of relocation, going to the Tamworth site. Among those leaving is print centre manager Charlie Fletcher, who was with the company for 31 years. "It's very sad, but the result of print volumes continuing to drop," he says. The change of publication schedules at other centres had also freed up capacity to take on the Dubbo workload.

The site won the 2011 PANPA health and safety award following upgrades which improved guarding and removed many manual tasks. Between 1949 - when the *Liberal* was bought by Leo and Pat Armati - and 1995, when their family sold out to Rural Press, Dubbo was the centre of a Macquarie Publications network which grew to 56 newspapers and magazines under John Armati. Rural Press merged into Fairfax in 2007. With the closure, Fairfax will have 11 print sites in Australia and three in New Zealand.

### 86.3.6 Bungendore: *Palerang Bulletin* repositions itself

The locally-owned *Palerang Bulletin* in Bungendore NSW has re-named itself the *District Bulletin* and now has a sub-heading "Country Living in Queanbeyan and Palerang".

### 86.3.7 Maitland: *Mercury* ceases daily issue

The *Maitland Mercury*, a daily from 1 January 1894, became a tri-weekly from 11 January 2016. It now appears each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. The *Mercury*, which began publication on 7 January 1843, is the oldest country newspaper in New South Wales.

### 86.3.8 Orange: *Land* editors

Fairfax's *Land*, the NSW weekly agricultural newspaper, advertised in December for both a deputy editor and a livestock editor. Both positions will be based in Orange.

*Postscript:* Fairfax's *Canberra Times* frequently carries a "Notice to Employment Advertisers". In part, this says "Please give.....income basis and contact details, not just website addresses." On a number of occasions, this advertisement for the *Land* Editors appeared adjacent to this notice. But the *Land* advertisement gave neither income basis, nor any contact details other than a website address.



## 4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

### 86.4.1 A reminiscence (1): The local rag

**Paul Henningham**, of the Blue Mountains, NSW, writes in the first part of a two-part reminiscence: In the early post World War II years, most Sydney suburban free newspapers were sidelines for local printers or business ventures for advertising salesmen who "outsourced" the printing. The papers contained little news – indeed the stated object of many proprietors was to distribute a "newspaper" with no news whatsoever – and such as they did contain were press

handouts or contributions from local social or sporting organisations, unedited and used only to fill the spaces between the ads.

It was one of these newspapers, in steep decline, that we acquired as a family enterprise in 1954, ignoring the sound advice of our accountants and determined to re-create it as a community newspaper. It was a four-page broadsheet allegedly delivered to 10,000 households in the inner Sydney Municipality of Marrickville. It was named the *Rocket*, probably to reflect the interest in rocket science at the time. The name did not appeal so we soon changed it to the *Guardian*.

The invoice from the printer for 10,000 copies brought our first shock. The previous proprietor had been printing only 4,000, justifying this slight exaggeration by insisting that it was common practice and that it was reasonable to assume that each paper was read by two or more people. We were also faced with the time and expense of employing extra delivery men. However, we did manage to cover all expenses of the first issue in May 1954, making a very small profit.

I was reporter, sub-editor, editor and advertising salesman; my wife was business manager, book-keeper and proof-reader.

The printer was not interested in our plan to change the format to tabloid, but was willing to provide typesetting service; so we rented an old factory and installed our own printing plant, employing two casual compositors (moonlighting Fairfax employees), an elderly printer who could hand-feed the quad-crown press and two table-hands.

We were busy: delivering subbed copy to the typesetter, collecting galley proofs and designing pages on paper “dummies”; bringing the corrected galleys to our factory for make-up by the compositors. Page proofs were then read and, after final corrections, the heavy formes were man-handled onto the machine-bed and locked up ready for printing overnight. We found it necessary to learn a few basic skills so that we could fill in as compositors or printers if our casual employees failed to turn up.

I enjoyed my role as reporter/editor. The chore I disliked was selling advertising, which, of course, was our one source of revenue. Fortunately more local news meant more readers and more readers brought more advertisers; so, despite the reluctance of many of our customers to pay within a reasonable time, we managed to remain solvent.

Determined to be politically neutral, I soon became friends with our local aldermen (now called councillors) and State and Federal Members of Parliament. I took my place at the press table at local council meetings and had regular chats with the politicians. Fred Daly, MP for the safe Labor seat of Grayndler, was well known as the wit of the House. He soon began regular visits and, when satisfied that I could be trusted, imparted a wealth of information – most of little local interest. Occasionally I found myself privy to party affairs for which journoes working for the metropolitan dailies would have given their eye teeth. Fred was delightful company, ever-ready with a quirky comment on the events of the day and the decisions of the then Liberal Government. In those more civilised days members of governments and oppositions were often friends and Fred spoke highly of some of his political opponents.

P.N. (Norm) Ryan was a local State MP who became Minister for Works when the Opera House was in its painful early stages of construction. I was given a conducted tour of the site – including the laboratory in which complex engineering problems were being solved.

My weekly rounds included a call on the chief librarian, Frances Charteris, a young woman of exceptional dedication, whose efforts to establish an art society, music society, dramatic society and sundry other cultural groups we were happy to support. Among her many protégés were a teenage assistant librarian and amateur actress named Noeline Brown; and Richard Meale, a young composer. We claim credit for having published the first reviews of their performances.

In 1958 we accepted a proposal to merge with our neighbouring long-established weekly, still called the *Newtown Daily*, owned by a subsidiary company of a Sydney North Shore group of newspapers. The manager/salesman was already a friend with whom we had worked on local community projects so he was welcomed with open arms as advertising manager of the *Guardian and Newtown Daily*. We were happy, by then, to close our factory and transfer printing to Mosman.

Now relieved of production and sales responsibilities, I was free to enjoy news-gathering, writing and making life difficult for local officialdom.

### **86.4.2 Looking back on more than half a century in country newspapers**

**Lloyd Jenkins**, of Leopold, Victoria, writes: Millions of words, thousands of pictures, countless page layouts and management headaches – it's hard to remember the myriad ups and downs of 50 years in journalism.

The long journey began with a teenage adventurous move from home in Queensland to become a copyboy/cadet at Australian United Press in Melbourne. Opportunity later called to the *Kerang New Times* and *Hamilton Spectator* in Victoria, then *Toowoomba Chronicle* and Regional Daily News Service in Brisbane. Multi-skilling was enhanced in Brisbane mainly with State politics but also major sport including Sheffield Shield cricket, Davis Cup tennis and national swimming championships.

Family concerns brought a return to Victoria for editorship at Hamilton and after five years the opportunity to join a family partnership at Kerang. The biweekly and commercial printing venture expanded to include the *Pyramid Hill Advertiser*, *Cohuna Farmers' Weekly*, *Boort Standard-Quambatook Times* and the *Wedderburn Times* over more than 30 years. The consolidation now is into the *Loddon Times* and *Gannawarra Times*.

This half-century in newspapers with some duties in radio, spanned the most dramatic and exciting revolution in production and communication. Our early days at Kerang had hot metal type from Linotypes with handset heads and printing on a handfed Wharfedale press. Later there was tentative introduction of phototypesetting and paste-up of pages taken to the *Shepparton News* for negatives, plates and offset printing. Then came more sophisticated computerisation including pioneer development of an integrated system for editorial, advertising and accounting tailored to country newspapers. Now we have convergent journalism with print and online.

Our early illustrations came from blocks engraved at Bendigo, then a second-hand Scanagraver using plastic plates and my first darkroom was the home laundry to develop black and white film and prints.

Newspaper work at Kerang was demanding with editing, reporting and management. Love of sport continued with long service as publicity officer and a board member of a major football league. I received the Victorian Country Football League media award and the highest service honour. We also published the weekly *Records* for three leagues.

Proprietorship opened the door to election to the Victorian Country Press Association executive council and this has extended to 50 years of service. The last annual conference marked 51 consecutive years of attendance. I was president 1975-77 and led Country Press Australia 1992-94. Life membership of both organisations was a cherished honour. I have been a director of Country Press Co-operative Coy for 21 years including eight years as chairman. A highlight was the privilege of working with Rod Kirkpatrick on the production of *The Bold Type*, an unsurpassed history of Victoria's country newspapers, 1840-2010.

Retirement to Geelong 14 years ago was met with an offer from Deakin University to become a tutor in the Deakin-CPA Post-cadet Journalism Course. This was in tandem with assessment of cadets in the CPA Community Journalism program. Mentoring of young journalists working in five States has been immensely satisfying. The avid interest in journalism training began during my CPA presidency and with David Sommerlad we became involved in a national committee which developed the courses for non-graduate and graduate cadets and then the partnership with Deakin.

The unexpected award of the Order of Australia Medal on Australia Day 2015 for services to the print media, journalism and the community was really a family honour. Son Ken, still managing editor at Kerang, was VCPA president for the centenary year 2010. Adding his daughter Emma's journalism and the work of my wife Val in the Kerang business we have accumulated 142 years in newspapers. Hopefully it will continue.

### 86.4.3 Melbourne at the end of the 1960s: a photographic record

**James Cockington writes (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 January 2016):** It's not every day a new artist is discovered at the age of 91. In May 2013, a colour print by Melbourne photographer Angus O'Callaghan, called *Melbourne Milk Bar*, sold for \$2928, including buyer's premium, at a Leonard Joel auction. At the same sale, another of his prints, *Coffee Lounge*, sold for \$2440 IBP, as did a black-and-white photo called *Block Arcade*.

Leonard Joel managing director John Albrecht nominates this as the time when O'Callaghan's work officially "went gangbusters". His prediction was that these photos – reprinted in limited numbers – would at least double in value over the next decade. It didn't take that long. Later in 2013, another photo, *Princes Bridge, Evening*, sold for about \$11,000, the current record price. This was one of a limited edition of five in the "supersize" (160 centimetres by 160 centimetres) format.

The Angus O'Callaghan phenomenon is one of the most inspiring to have happened in the past decade. It began modestly enough in 2008, when O'Callaghan was still a spritely 80-something, at a Brighton Primary School art fair fundraiser. Ben Albrecht, an art dealer and John's brother, was guest auctioneer that night. One of the items for sale was a photo taken 40 years earlier by O'Callaghan, a retired school teacher. When Albrecht saw it, a variety of alarms, bells and whistles went off. By chance, O'Callaghan was there that night and he explained that he'd taken these photos in the late 1960s in the hope they might be some day be published as a book. Publishers weren't interested, so he stored the negatives and had forgotten about them until they were found 40 years later during a house move.

Albrecht had some high-quality digital prints produced on art paper. He decided to test them on the secondary market and the response was spectacular. Among their biggest fans were a new generation of hipsters who weren't born when O'Callaghan took the shots. This was a Melbourne they had never seen before. Suddenly, O'Callaghan was the new photographic star, his work now included among that of established artists such as Wolfgang Sievers and Mark Strizic.

The next step was to produce a book. Albrecht raised the finance through the modern medium of crowd funding and the hard-cover, coffee-table edition, simply entitled *Melbourne*, was released in December 2015. Despite predictions by experts that he'd be lucky to shift 200, he sold 2500 copies in the first month.

### 86.4.4 'Falcon' was Nelson Page Whitelocke

Remember 85.4.15 and the inquiry from Dr Martin Woods who was trying to track down the identity of a journalist whose column, under the byline "Falcon", appeared regularly in the *Newcastle Morning Herald* from the early 1900s to about end of 1927. Ralph Sanderson supplied the answer: Nelson Paget Whitelocke, whose obituary appeared in the *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 3 January 1929, p.4. Sanderson is the reference librarian in Information Services at the National Library of Australia.

Some brief details on Whitelocke (from the above-mentioned obituary): He died at Mosman, aged 66; he had been born in London, his mother being a grand-daughter of the "Lawson" who was part of the Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth team that first crossed the Blue Mountains, near Sydney (1813). As a young man, Whitelocke contributed to the press as both writer and illustrator. He contributed to the *Sydney Mail*, *Echo*, *Illustrated Sydney News* and *Australian Journal*, and was the first artist on the staff of the *Tribune*. For many years he drew most of the lithographic plans that passed through the hands of Gibbs, Shallard and Company. He became the editor of the United Licensed Victuallers Association's *Gazette*. He resigned to become the editor of Broken Hill's *Barrier Miner*, a daily protectionist Labor journal. He later edited the *National Advocate*, Bathurst, another Labor daily. He made his home at Mosman where he engaged in general literary work. He was the author of "Pen Notes and Pencillings", which for about 30 years was a feature of the *Newcastle Morning Herald*.

### 86.4.5 Blessings of daily newspapers, an 1844 perspective

A day after the *South Australian Register* began a brief fling at daily publication on 23 December 1844 it published the following paragraph about the blessings of daily newspapers:



A thousand times have we heard this question and answer: —Two gentlemen meet. "What's the news?" asks one. "Nothing but what you see in the newspapers." They pass on about their business. Has it ever been noticed that, among the thousand benefits of a daily paper, not the least is, that it does away at one sweep with the tittle-tattle, gossip, street yarn, foolish exaggerations, scandal, and newsmongering, which once took up so much lime of those who were always hearing or telling some new thing! One real evil is thus ended. The man rises in the morning, looks over the paper, and is satisfied that he knows all worth knowing of the passing history of the world. He has nothing to tell, nothing to hear. He does not spend his time in giving information which his neighbour knows as well as himself—he is not annoyed in the midst of his business or pleasures by the recital of affairs in which he takes no interest. The same with women. Curiosity is gratified without loss of time. The scandal of the day has not employed a hundred busy meddling tongues in its circulation and exaggeration. Conversation takes a higher tone. Principles of morals and taste are discussed. The new poem, the last book, the magazine, or the review, becomes the subject of conversation. Even in the minor matters of life, society owes a large debt of gratitude to the newspaper.

The *Register* ceased daily issue on 12 February 1845 and waited until 1 January 1850 before becoming a daily again. This time it appeared daily until its closure on 20 February 1931.

#### **86.4.6 Queen and Queanbeyan**

The Queanbeyan Printing Museum holds copies of letters written by the Queen to congratulate the *Queanbeyan Age* on its 100<sup>th</sup> and 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries (in 1960 and 2010, respectively).

#### **86.4.7 Lyne Patterson Young, editor of four newspapers**

The following item is an edited version of an obituary that appeared in the *Canberra Times* on 27 June 1970 on Page 2:

A former editor of the *Canberra Times*, Lyne Patterson Young, died at his home in O'Connor early yesterday morning. He was 62. In a long and distinguished career in journalism, Young had edited four newspapers in NSW, Queensland and the ACT, and the Canberra edition of a fifth. Since late 1965, and for a brief earlier spell, he had been press officer at the Canberra head office of the Department of Health. As a journalist and a private citizen, he was a supporter of organisations for the handicapped and of the live theatre. His choice of a newspaper career was probably determined by family tradition and the influence of his back ground. Young was born in Chillagoe, Queensland, in 1908, where his father was a writer on the local newspaper. While he was still very young, his family made the move to NSW, where Young senior took over a country newspaper, the *Carcoar Chronicle*. During his early years, when he attended the local primary school, Young spent a good deal of his free time in the newspaper office.

Later, when the family took over the *Henty Observer*, another small-town newspaper, he took to working with his father on the paper. This was broken, however, by his secondary education. He attended the Wagga Wagga High School for two years, then was sent to Shore Boys' Grammar in Sydney, to complete his education. On leaving school, Young went to work first for his father, at Henty. After a brief period, however, he chose to seek metropolitan experience, and moved to Sydney, becoming State capital correspondent for the *Newcastle Morning Herald*, and working extensively at the same time for the Australian United Press.

In 1935 he married Leah Edith Adrian. Not long afterwards he was transferred to Newcastle, to a position of some seniority as the paper's chief roundsman. Young remained with the *Newcastle Morning Herald* until about the outbreak of the war, when he was offered a position on Ezra Norton's proposed new Sydney newspaper, the *Daily Mirror*. He had already moved with his family to Sydney when a ruling on war-time rationing of newsprint caused the temporary cancellation of this venture.

In 1940 he travelled north to Bundaberg, to become editor of the local *News-Mail*. In July 1942 he came south again, this time to Lismore, NSW, as editor of the *Northern Star*, a position he retained until 1949. In Lismore, Young's enthusiasm for the arts marked both his editorial policy and private activities. He was a strong supporter of the Lismore art gallery and of the then novel ABC celebrity concert programmes.

In 1949, however, he moved again, this time to Wollongong, to become a partner in, and editor of, the *Illawarra Mercury*, then a weekly. It became a daily at the beginning of 1950. He did not remain

with the venture long, however, and in 1952 went briefly to work for the Sydney Morning Herald before being offered the post of editor of the *Canberra Times* by A. T. Shakespeare. Young arrived in Canberra with his family soon before Christmas of that year. He spent more than seven years at the editorial desk, writing with expertise on the broad range of subjects that was *de rigueur* for the editor of a newspaper that sought to serve both a national capital and a community that was still, in many respects, a country town.

Young maintained his interests in the theatre during these years. He also supported the cause of the handicapped, an area that he had pioneered during his time in Wollongong. A lifelong member of the Anglican Church, he took part in the establishment of St. Philip's Parish in O'Connor in the days when the parishioners met in the local infants' school for want of other accommodation.

In January, 1960, he moved on again, this time to the Department of Health at a time when departmental press officers were still a rarity, and he handled the full range of the department's public relations single-handed. In 1963, he moved again, this time to take over the Canberra office of the public relations firm Eric White and Associates.

The association was not a happy one. Mr Young never managed to reconcile the activities of professional public relations firms with his own view of the way things ought to be done. He left the firm and went back briefly to the Commonwealth Public Service, this time as press officer for the Department of National Development.

In mid-1964 the *Australian* was launched by Rupert Murdoch, from a Canberra base. Young was invited to join the newspaper as editor of its Canberra edition — a task that he carried out, before the local supplement was closed in 1965, almost single handed. Young chose to return to the public service rather than remain with newspapers, and in September, 1965, rejoined the Department of Health.

#### **86.4.8 Great War hits country newspapers**

*Gippsland Farmers Journal*, Traralgon, 7 September 1915, p.3: Very few businesses have been hit harder than the country newspapers, owing to the war. In Great Britain several publications have ceased to appear, and others have been reduced in size. Practically all the country press in the Commonwealth is affected by the war. Printing machinery has advanced from 25 to 50 per cent. A double royal machine could have been bought for less than £300 two or three years ago, but the price is over £400 now. All type has advanced in price, and all papers. News has risen from [a penny and five-eighths of a penny] per lb. to 2¼d. Linotype metal was 30s per cwt. when the war was declared, and it is now 44s. The Federal government is proposing to double the bulk postage rates on newspapers. In common with all other telephone users the country newspaper offices will have to pay the heavier rate for effective calls. The high cost of living affects them just as much as other people but unlike the Trade's Hall agitators, they cannot pass the increased cost on to the "other fellow."

#### **86.4.9 The Great War 100 years ago: the latest casualties**

*Daily News*, Perth, 7 February 1916, p.8:

MELBOURNE, This Day: Australian casualties, including the 119th list, now total 38,090.

The details are:

Officers. — Dead, 338; wounded, 354; missing, 21; sick, 667; prisoners of war, 6; nature of casualty unknown, .49.

Chaplains. — Dead, 1; wounded, 4; sick, 7.

Nurses. — Dead, 2; sick, 9.

Other Ranks.— Dead, 6,187; wounded, 12,122; missing, 1,780; sick, 16,233; prisoners of war, 52; nature of casualty unknown, 258.

### 86.4.10 Trove 7 arrives

Trove—the National Library's online discovery service—closed down for a few days (22-25 February) for one of the largest updates in its history. Trove now sports a range of new features that allow you to:

1. Make use of the new 'Browse' facility—choose from broad topics like state, title, date and category, and narrow your selection down to the article you want.
2. Navigate more easily using the icons on the left of the screen.
3. Correct text more easily—new lines can be added and empty lines deleted.
4. Customise the display—set your own contrast, font style, size and favourite zoom level.

In other Trove news:

#### A new zone for Trove—Government Gazettes

The State Library of New South Wales and the National Library of Australia are working together to make the *NSW Government Gazette* (1832–2001) the first title available in the new zone. Nearly one million pages will be completed by the end of the project. Local, family and social historians, legal researchers and others will enjoy easy access to this unique resource. You can use gazettes to find everything from official notices about licensing, land, honours and trade, to colonial development and convict information.

#### Discovery

The nuts and bolts of the Trove engine have been upgraded for faster, more responsive searching and an improved experience on your mobile device.

#### What is staying the same?

Many things you know and love about Trove are staying the same, including the look and feel of most zones, tagging, commenting and lists, the forum and the fantastic content from organisations around Australia.

### 86.4.11 Value of newspaper businesses in 19<sup>th</sup> century

An extract from Henry Mayer's *The Press in Australia* (1964), p.16:

Prices at which newspaper businesses were sold varied tremendously [in the 19<sup>th</sup> century], and the accounts are often vague about precisely what was bought and sold. In the 1820s Dr Wardell sold "the copyright" of the *Australian* for £3,600 [\$7,200]. The Tasmanian *Government Gazette* and the Hobart Town *Courier* were sold to Dr Ross in about 1837 for £12,000 [\$24,000]. In 1839 the paper and plant of the *Trumpeter* were sold for \$3,500. In the forties a South Australian weekly would change hands for £600 to £800. In 1848 the *Argus* plant was sold to Edward Wilson for £300, but John Fairfax and Charles Kemp, with the help of David Jones' money, acquired the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1841 for £10,000. The *Age* started with a capital of £7,000 in 1854. A year later its estimated quarterly revenue was £799. In 1873 the *Brisbane Courier's* property changed hands for £13,600 and was re-sold for £15,600. Between 1879 and 1880 Charles Harper was able to buy the *West Australian* and its premises for £2,050. But a group of Presbyterians who bought the Melbourne *Daily Telegraph*, and turned it into a "wowser's" paper with "a special brand of double-distilled cleanliness" needed a capital of £35,000. In 1893 the cost of starting a Sydney daily was estimated at £50,000; in 1904 a figure of £250,000 was quoted for Melbourne [ANHG: Linotypes were in common use by 1904; see also R.B. Walker, *The Newspaper Press in New South Wales, 1803-1920*, Table 1, "Capitalization of newspapers, 1827-54", p.48.]

### 86.4.12 Clever young journalist

*Nambucca and Bellinger News*, 30 January 1931, p.7: One of the brightest ornaments of the *Sydney Morning Herald's* staff, Kenneth Wilkinson, is being given a year's holiday to travel through Europe and gain experience. Wilkinson, a young graduate of Sydney University, was the first to gain the diploma of journalism. His weekly reviews of films have attracted notice on all sides. They are incisive, impartial, and literary—and, above all, readable. Wilkinson is learning German, as he is going to interview big men there.



## 5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

### 86.5.1. Books

**Elenio, Paul**, *The Dominion Post: 150 Years of News*, Fairfax Media NZ, ISBN 978-0-473-29855-5, 264 pages, paperback, illustrated, \$NZ 34.99. Former *Evening Post* journalist Paul Elenio provides a comprehensive history of Wellington's daily newspaper, the *Dominion Post*, and of its predecessors, the *Dominion* and the *Evening Post*.

**Sykes, Jolyon**, *Andrew Fisher and the news media* [Print Replica], Kindle Edition. The complete illustrated version of this 7,000 word booklet has now been published on Kindle.  
[http://www.amazon.com/dp/B01ASWFS6K?ref\\_=pe\\_2427780\\_160035660](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B01ASWFS6K?ref_=pe_2427780_160035660)

**Victor Isaacs** writes: This pamphlet is a valuable contribution to both Australian political history and to Australian newspaper history. One hundred years ago, Prime Minister Andrew Fisher was fully aware of the significance of sympathetic coverage in the press and took care to engender good relations with newspapermen. The researches of Sykes document this well. Fisher's first government was still a novelty as a Labor administration. His second government of 1910-1913 was one of the most activist and reforming administrations in our history and his third government in 1914 was instrumental in Australia's commitment to the War effort.

Curiously, one of the most known aspects of Prime Ministerial/journalist relations is not mentioned. That is, Fisher's friendship with the young Keith Murdoch and his despatch of Murdoch to London via Gallipoli as the Prime Minister's personal and confidential investigator of conditions in that ill-fated campaign. Nevertheless, this is a good read.

**Downie, Graham**, *Servants and Leaders: Eminent Christians in Their Own Words*, Halstead Press, \$28.95. Interviews with church leaders by the former religious writer of the *Canberra Times*.

### 86.5.2. Article

**Bramston, Troy**, "The Oakes report: five decades of scoops", *Weekend Australian*, Inquirer section, 9-10 January 2016, page 16. Chronicles Laurie Oakes' 50 years as one of the nation's top political reporters.

### 86.5.3 Chronology

Jolly, Dr Rhonda, *Media ownership and regulation: a chronology. Part one: from print to radio days and television nights*, Parliament of Australia, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliamentary Library, February 2016. Covers Colonial days to the end of 1971 (see link below). Part two 1972-1995 and Part three 1996 to the present, are forthcoming.  
[http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/library/prspub/4333672/upload\\_binary/4333672.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf#search=%22Jolly,%20Rhonda%22](http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/library/prspub/4333672/upload_binary/4333672.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf#search=%22Jolly,%20Rhonda%22)

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