



Above is much of the front page of the only known extant issue of the *Mountain Tourist*, Belgrave, Victoria. It is the fifth issue of the paper which was reportedly the first newspaper published in the Dandenong Ranges. It was published from 5 September 1919 until 28 June 1920. See ANHG 95.4.6 below.

AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

ISSN 1443-4962

No. 95

December 2017

Publication details

Compiled for the Australian Newspaper History Group by Rod Kirkpatrick, U 337, 55 Linkwood Drive, Ferny Hills, Qld, 4055. Ph. +61-7-3351 6175. Email: rod99anhg@gmail.com

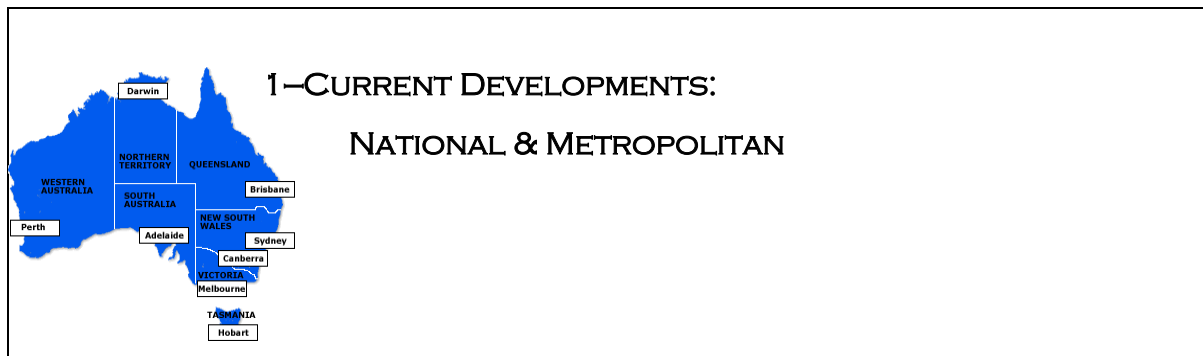
Contributing editor and founder: Victor Isaacs, of Canberra, is at abvi@inet.net.au

Back copies of the *Newsletter* and some ANHG publications can be viewed online at:
<http://www.amhd.info/anhg/index.php>

Deadline for the next Newsletter: 24 February 2018.

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.



95.1.1 Beleaguered print

When it comes to the beleaguered print magazine business, Time is betting that less is more (*Wall Street Journal*, 11 October 2017). The publisher is cutting back on the circulation and frequency of some of its biggest titles, part of a far-reaching cost-reduction and restructuring program meant to ensure the profitability of its core brands. The company gradually will reduce the weekly circulation of its flagship *Time* magazine by one-third to two million copies. That move is partly a recognition that it isn't worth it to keep printing as many promotional copies. It also is aimed at focusing on a core audience considered more valuable to advertisers. Time Inc also is reducing the print frequency of seven titles, including *Sports Illustrated*, *Entertainment Weekly* and *Fortune*. The move is based, in part, on its research showing that consumers have less time for leaning back with magazines.

The circulation of *People en Espanol* also will be reduced. “From an advertising perspective, clearly there are some headwinds in print,” said Brad Elders, Time’s chief revenue officer. “What we’re trying to do is reimagine the way we produce these products in a long-term, sustainable way.” The print cutbacks could be a drag on revenue. Elders said *Time* would have to reduce its ad rates to reflect the lower circulation it is guaranteeing. But Elders believes the total cost savings from the entire print restructuring will more than offset the potential declines in advertising and newsstand revenue. Time believes that a better print product will enable it to increase spending from current advertisers and attract new marketers, potentially offsetting lower ad rates. The changes will be effective from January 1.

The continuing challenge for Time chief executive Rich Battista — like his peers throughout publishing — is how to manage a print business that is in steady decline. He is hoping to inject new growth into the company with initiatives in digital video and branded content, but figuring out the most economical way to run the print business in coming years is also a high priority. He continues to believe in its future as a storytelling and advertising platform.

“Earlier this year we decided to step back and take a big-picture view of the print landscape,” Battista said, adding that research showed readers were “OK with fewer issues as long as the issues have more inside”.

Sports Illustrated, for example, will publish 27 issues in 2018, down from 38 this year. The magazine will publish more editorial pages in each issue and print on heavier paper stock.

95.1.2 Readership fluctuating

Read the reports on readership of newspapers in News Corp papers, such as the *Australian*, and you will struggle to find the figures for Fairfax Media’s newspapers. So, let’s begin this report with some Fairfax figures. The *Australian Financial Review*’s weekday edition increased its print readership by 14.9 per cent to 347,000 people during the 12 months ending in August. The *AFR Weekend* rose 4.8 per cent to 130,000 people. The weekday *Australian* increased its print readers by 5.6 per cent in the past 12 months. The paper’s weekday audience rose 26,000 to 494,000, while the *Weekend Australian* was up 2.8 per cent to 590,000 for the 12 months ending in August, according to the Enhanced Media Metrics Australia statistics.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* fell 3.5 per cent to 640,000 people Monday to Friday, while its Saturday edition was down 8.4 per cent to 655,000. In Melbourne, weekday print readership of

News Corp's *Herald Sun* fell 5.1 per cent to 1.190 million, while the paper's Saturday edition dropped 7.3 per cent to 974,000 readers. The *Age* fell 8.7 per cent to 549,000 readers, with the Saturday edition down 11.4 per cent to 522,000.

The *Australian's* total combined audience across print and digital platforms was 3.159 million, down 4.1 per cent on the year. Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* was the best performing of the state-based News Corp papers, with its Monday-to-Friday edition up 1 per cent to 1.003 million readers; its Saturday edition rose 4.7 per cent to 798,000 readers. The *Sunday Telegraph* print readership fell 5 per cent to 1.027 million readers.

Emma found 13.1 million Australians — 70 per cent of the population — read news media electronically on smartphones, tablets, mobiles or computers. Across all platforms, including print, news media was read by 16.7 million people, 90 per cent of the population.

95.1.3 Media reforms package receives final approval

The Turnbull Government's media reforms package passed the House of Representatives on 18 October (*Telum Media Alert*, 18 October 2017). It had passed the Senate with amendments in September before returning to the Lower House for final approval. Key reforms include:

- Repeal of the “two-out-of-three rule” which prohibited media companies from owning more than two out of the three types of traditional media in the one market.
- Abolition of broadcast licence fees and their replacement with a spectrum charge.
- Implementation of a \$60 million Regional and Small Publishers Jobs and Innovation package which includes a \$50 million innovation fund, provisions to support 200 cadetships and 60 regional journalism scholarships.

95.1.4 Letter writer and cartoonist shared bleak view of tyranny

Jim Wilson, a retired schoolteacher and prolific letter writer to the *Australian*, bonded with cartoonist Bill Leak over a subject in which he has some experience: civilisational decline (*Weekend Australian*, 2 December 2017, p.5). Wilson had been a young man with two infant children working for the British civil service in central Africa when Belgium granted independence to the nearby Congo in 1960, initiating a descent into chaos across the region.

Children were bashed, nuns were raped, food became scarce and Europeans fled. Wilson and his family remained for three years before joining the exodus, to the safest country they could find: Australia. Now 80 and retired, Wilson has for many years been a regular on the *Australian's* letters page, railing against the “progressive” forces he says are pushing the country in the same direction as central Africa half a century ago.

It was his often-terse letters about this alarming but potentially absurd topic that drew Leak's attention. He contacted Wilson via the letters page editor several years ago. They quickly became “soulmates”, Wilson says, talking and emailing every other day. “Bill and I used to fulminate about things,” he says. “The phone would turn red. We had the same gloomy view of Western civilisation, we hated the same people.” Of their countless conversations and correspondence, the one that produced Wilson's favourite cartoon began as a letter to the editor on 18 February 2016.

“The West is facing three barbarians: militant Islam, Russia and China,” he wrote. “The enemy within the gate is the new religion of political correctness with its first commandment, ‘Thou shalt not offend’ ... If you want to keep something you believe in, you sometimes have to fight for it. None of the Western world's present leaders are prepared to do that.” Leak sent a draft of his interpretation to Wilson, who recalls thinking it was “bloody marvellous”. It was the closest he came to inspiring an entire cartoon. “It was a vindication of one's existence, no less,” he said. “Bill was like a Cassandra character. He was always saying, ‘Look, this is going to happen.’ And now it bloody well is happening.”

In May 2016, 10 months before Leak's death, Wilson flew to Sydney for a lunch cooked by the cartoonist's Thai wife, Goong, at their home, before being a guest at a conversation between Leak and columnist Chris Kenny, put on for the *Australian's* subscribers. They spent the whole day together, and “there was not a spare moment in our conversations”, Wilson recalls. “It was as if

we'd known each other all our lives. In many ways our lives had parallels. We were interested in other cultures and languages. Mine are French, German and Chinese, his were Thai and German. We shared an interest in the world. Bill was interested in anything, but he was mostly worried we have lost the transcendental in Western civilisation."

95.1.5 Geraghty and Bachelard share Gold Walkley

Some details from the 2017 Walkley Awards presentations: Louise Milligan was awarded the **Walkley Book** award for *Cardinal: The Rise and Fall of George*, published by Melbourne University Press. The **Gold Walkley** was won by Fairfax Media photographer Kate Geraghty and reporter Michael Bachelard for their two assignments in Mosul, talking to people who had survived three brutal years under IS. Geraghty won the press photographer of the year award, was unable to collect in person. Michael Gordon of the *Age* won the **outstanding contribution to journalism** award. The **investigative journalism award** went to Adele Ferguson, Sarah Danckert and Klaus Toft from the *Age/Sydney Morning Herald* and *Four Corners* for exposing the scandal over charges levelled at residents of the Aveo retirement village operator. John Silvester of the *Age* won the **commentary award** for his analysis of law and order issues affecting Victoria.

95.1.6 Jones shifts to Hobart to edit *Mercury*



Chris Jones, pictured left, has been appointed as the new editor of the Hobart *Mercury*, replacing Matt Deighton, who has been promoted to be the next editor of the *Adelaide Advertiser* (*Mercury*, 25 October 2017). Jones had been executive editor of the *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail* in Brisbane for the past six months, and deputy editor of both titles since 2013. He was previously the managing editor of couriermail.com.au during a period when the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association twice recognised it as the region's best digital news destination.

In his 19-year career with News Corporation, Jones has also covered state and federal politics as a reporter, been the head of news for the *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail*, and edited the Brisbane afternoon commuter newspaper *mX*.

95.1.7 Recent events

95.1.7.1 Deaths

Agars, Mervyn Stanley: D. 8 August 2017 in Nuriootpa, South Australia, aged 92; sports editor of the *Adelaide Advertiser* for 19 years; had an astute grasp of the economic realities underpinning Australian rules football; as early as the 1960s was advocating a national competition with South Australian involvement; a useful player for West Adelaide in 106 league games between 1946 and 1952 during which he kicked 92 goals, including a club list topping tally of 22 in 1951; played in West's 1947 premiership side, and represented South Australia eight times; admitted to South Australian Football Hall Of Fame in 2002.

Aldridge, Roger: D. 21 September 2017 at Snug, Tasmania, aged 78; born at Ayr, north Queensland; attended 14 schools down east coast of Australia, finishing in Melbourne; worked as a junior clerk in the Victorian Railways before attending Dookie Agricultural College, where he graduated in 1960 with a Diploma in Agricultural Science; later worked for Whelan the Wrecker and narrowly escaped death when a seven-tonne stone dropped from a crane close enough to injure his foot; joined the Melbourne *Age* at age 21; became a gifted writer there; became part of the team of reporters that editor Graham Perkin used to bring in-depth reporting to the paper during his stint, 1966-75; his five-part series, "Second hand alcohol", won the Australian Medical Association's National Press Award in 1972 (the final part is a detailed description, often from his personal experience as a reporter, of the various ways people are killed or maimed in car crashes); sent by Perkin to Africa in 1974, he was told, "Don't give me game parks, chap. I want the feel of the place; left journalism in 1975 to renovate a bluestone mill at Malmsbury; moved 11 years later to Bruny Island, Tasmania, where he restored old houses and wooden boats; continued to write: hilarious

accounts for the Kettering Yacht Club newsletter (some now collector editions) and for his friends, who received long letters of great warmth and wit (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 November 2017).

Chubb, Philip Anthony: D. 9 November 2017 in Melbourne, aged 66; journalist with the *Age*, Melbourne, and *Time Australia*; national editor of ABC-TV's *7.30 Report*; won Gold Walkley in 1993 for the documentary series, *Labor in Power*, which told the inside story of the Hawke and Keating governments; won a UN Media Peace Prize; joined Monash University and was a driving force behind its highly successful journalism program; became deputy head of the School of Media, Film and Journalism there (*Age*, 13 November 2017; *Australian*, 9 November 2017).

Colless, Malcolm: D. 31 October 2017 in Sydney, aged 73; began newspaper career in 1962 on the *Daily Mirror*, Sydney, and later worked on the *Times*, London, before returning to Australia in 1972 to work on the *Australian*; in 1977, scooped the press gallery in an early-morning edition through engaging a source in a solid evening of entertainment in which he was able to obtain off-the-record confirmation that the Governor-General Sir John Kerr — who had controversially sacked the Whitlam government two years earlier — would resign; moved into management in 1982, where he worked initially as general-manager of the *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth, taking over from Matt Handbury (a nephew of Rupert Murdoch); went on to Channel Ten in Adelaide, then spent three years in China from 1985 where he set up a bureau for the *Australian* and investigated business opportunities; became chief executive of the Herald & Weekly Times Ltd in 1988 soon after Rupert Murdoch's 1987 takeover of the company; held a multitude of senior positions at what is now News Corp Australia, retiring in 2007 as director of corporate development. During his 16 years in that position, he played a major role in establishing pay-TV and online platforms that are now an integral part of news media subscriptions (*Australian*, 2 November 2017).

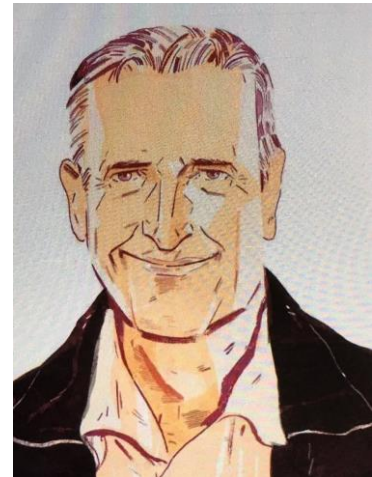
De Fraga, Christopher Goodwin: D. 1 October 2017 in Melbourne, aged 80; general reporter and Canberra parliamentary reporting for the Melbourne *Herald*; motoring editor at the *Age* for 27 years from 1965; worked in other departments of that paper later; during 1970s was also a regular contributor to the *Age*-owned magazine, *Motor Manual*; took a special interest in the dramatic steps taken in the car industry relating to vehicle handling and safety; became well known as a motoring broadcaster for Radio 3AW, Melbourne, in the early 2000s; author of 1975 book, *100 Years of Yachting on Port Phillip Bay*, which centred on history of Royal Brighton Yacht Club (*GoAutoNewsPremium*, 6 October 2017).

Hamilton, John: D. November 2017 in Melbourne, aged 76; started in 1959 as a first-year cadet journalist with the *West Australian* in Perth on a salary of £10 (\$20) a week; on his second day he went out with the chief police roundsman to cover the funeral of a mass murder's victim; later moved to Melbourne to join the *Herald*; became a highly regarded reporter, feature writer and columnist for the *Herald* and *Herald Sun* over more than 40 years; at one stage did work in public relations for a short period but missed journalism too much; winner of two Walkley awards; achieved boyhood dream of becoming a career foreign correspondent, serving firstly as a White House correspondent in Washington [during the administrations of Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter] and then as European Bureau Chief based in London as well as travelling on afterwards to report from other trouble spots around the world; said once the biggest story he covered was the great Ethiopian famine of 1984 in which more than a million people perished; covered the Port Arthur massacre, the Bali bombings, the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, the Sydney Olympics, the 85th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing, and visits by John Howard as Prime Minister to Turkey, France, Israel and East Timor; author of three books on World War I (*Goodbye Cobber*, *God Bless You*; *Gallipoli Sniper*; and *The Price of Valour*); final job in journalism was as associate editor of the *Herald Sun*, writing everything from colour pieces to leaders (*Herald Sun*, 23 November 2017; *Australian*, 7 November 2011). [John was an ANHG subscriber.]

Sandilands, Benoni Fairfax (Ben): D. October 2017, aged 73; grew up in the Blue Mountains and Sydney; left Randwick Boys High School at 16 and joined the *Sydney Morning Herald* as a cadet, working at night, and studying by day, doing an arts degree at Sydney University; graduating, he embarked on a career focused on aviation, travel and adventure; in 1965, joined a team making the first assault on Balls Pyramid, a towering volcanic rock near Lord Howe Island

in the Pacific Ocean, then swimming to the boat to file his reports by radio; in 1972, was in Cyprus, reporting on the United Nations peacekeeping operation; in 1973, was in New York, working as a correspondent for the ABC, and in 1974, reporting from London; in 1977, rejoined the *Herald*, and reported on the disappearance of anti-drugs campaigner Donald Mackay in Griffith; developed a specialty in aviation journalism and probed the airlines with difficult questions; his journalistic career also took him to the *Bulletin*, the *Australian Financial Review*, the *Guardian*, *Crikey* and magazines such as *Travelweek* and *Aircraft*; in later years blogged on aviation through *Plane Talking* (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 November 2017).

Shedden, Iain: D. 16 October 2017 in Sydney, aged 60; born Lanark, Scotland; began journalism career as a reporter and sub-editor on local paper in Wishaw, North Lanarkshire, on the Clyde River; joined the *Pop Star Weekly*; had already founded his first band, as drummer with punk outfit, The Jolt; band split up in 1979; joined Small Hours band; joined The Saints punk band in 1981; joined the *Australian* on 12 October 1992 as a sports sub-editor, before taking over as music writer, a role he held until; his death; covered all the upheavals in the music industry, from the end of parallel import restrictions on CDs in the late 1990s to the rise of digital downloads and the resurgence of vinyl; greatly respected and loved by key music industry performers (*Australian*, 17 October 2017). [Stephen Romei, the literary editor and a film critic at the *Australian*, wrote an article, “Irreplaceable writer, noblest friend”, *Weekend Australian*, 21-22 October 2017, p.21. Tim Douglas, editor of the “Review” section of that paper, wrote a remembrance of Iain Shedden on Page 2 of the “review” section of 21-22 October accompanied by the sketch at right of Shedden.)



95.1.8 News Corp and tax

Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation paid no tax whatsoever in 2015-16 on an Australian income of \$2.9 billion, reported the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 9 December 2017. Its competitor Fairfax Media, owner of the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, paid \$16 million on an income of \$1.48 billion. The payments are revealed in the third annual corporate tax transparency report required under legislation that forces the Tax Office to divulge tax details for Australian public and foreign-owned entities with income of \$100 million or more.

95.1.9 Patrick Smith finishes weekday columns for the *Australian*

Patrick Smith has written his final sports column for the weekday *Australian*. His final column appeared on 27 November 2017. In the new year he will write a column for the *Weekend Australian*. Chip Le Grand wrote (*Australian*, Media section, 27 November 2017) that when Smith left the *Age* to join the *Australian* it was the equivalent of “Barassi quitting Melbourne for Carlton or Buddy [Franklin] flying north to Sydney”. Smith was an established, big-time columnist and the *Australian* needed a strong, national voice on which to build its back page. His impact was immediate and lasting.

Le Grand said Smith’s columns were “meticulously crafted, effortlessly engaging and leaves no one in doubt where he stands”. Smith had been a news breaker, a satirist, a campaigner and above all, an entertainer. He campaigned to eradicate racism from football and whips from horse racing, to expose drug cheats and to protect umpires and referees from Australia’s culture of abuse. He became best known for his AFL coverage but his true sporting love is the turf. A Melbourne Cup was never quite won until you read Smith’s peerless account in the following day’s paper, when he would put you in the stirrups of the winning mount and guide you through the great race.

“For almost two decades at the *Australian*, Patrick Smith has given us a master class on how to do sports commentary,” says Les Carlyon, a celebrated newspaperman and author. “He is fearless, he is never boring and he carries the authority of one who has seen it all. These however, are the lesser things. His greatest gift is the quality of his prose. There are no impenetrable thickets, none

of the clichés that so often deaden sports writing, just one crystal-clear sentence marching effortlessly into the next. There is always humour and sometimes, a hint of mischief.” For 14 years Smith wrote his column six days a week. He won two Walkley Awards.

95.1.10 Leaks: from Pentagon to Panama to Paradise

Rod Tiffen writes (“The age of the mega-leak”, *Inside Story*, 7 November 2017): When a disillusioned senior military analyst, Daniel Ellsberg, decided in 1971 to leak the highly sensitive Pentagon Papers to the *New York Times*, he spent night after night covertly smuggling out and photocopying 3000 pages of analysis and 4000 pages of government documents. When Bradley Manning, a US army private based in Iraq, decided to release a trove of top-secret material to WikiLeaks, it was a matter of smuggling it out on discs disguised as Lady Gaga albums. According to one estimate, the Pentagon Papers clocked in at two and a half million words. The diplomatic cables leaked by Manning amounted to a staggering 300 million words.

The Panama Papers, released in April 2016, were another quantum leap in size. Where the cables released by WikiLeaks had filled 1.7 gigabytes, the Panama Papers were 2.6 terabytes, or roughly 1500 times the size. They opened an unprecedented — and unprecedentedly detailed — window into how offshore shell companies were being used for tax evasion and international money-shifting.

The era of digital leaking is clearly upon us. The Panama Papers were emblematic not just of the relative ease of copying vast troves, but also of new opportunities for international cooperation among journalists. It was the innovative techniques of the Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, or ICIJ, under its Australian director Gerard Ryle, that made the Panama Papers possible.

The story of that breakthrough began when two German investigative reporters, Bastian Obermayer and Frederik Obermaier, were contacted in 2015 by a source using the unpromising name of John Doe. The source wanted to expose criminal wrongdoing allegedly facilitated by a Panama-based law firm, Mossack Fonseca. “It will take years, possibly decades, for the full extent of the firm’s sordid acts to become known,” the source later wrote. “In the meantime, a new global debate has started, which is encouraging.”

The material soon overwhelmed the two journalists. “As more and more data sloshed in,” wrote *Guardian* editor Alan Rusbridger, “the Brothers Obermay/ier [as they were nicknamed] repeatedly had to purchase ever-larger computers...” The pair approached the ICIJ, which had a track record of collegial investigative work on similar, though much less ambitious, stories, including LuxLeaks, SwissLeaks and tobacco smuggling.

What followed has been described by one of the participants, *Guardian* journalist Luke Harding, as “a thrilling and secret year-long journalistic collaboration across more than eighty countries.” Almost 400 journalists set to work with the aim of publishing on 3 April 2016. “Via a secure platform called iHub,” writes Harding, “journalists were encouraged not to compete with each other but to share information actively and to swap leads and tips. We did, in a flurry of encrypted emails.” According to Rusbridger, his editor, “A new breed of data specialists from around the world had to be assembled to advise on encryption, creating databases, search software, data visualisations, graphics, and communications.” By the time the material was released, more than 107 media organisations in seventy-six countries had participated. [Extract only.]

95.1.11 Hall of Fame goes national

Fifty-four late and living legends of journalism in New South Wales have been inducted into the Australian Media Hall of Fame, which celebrates how great journalism has enriched the history of the nation. The inductees—reporters, photographers, broadcasters, cartoonists, editors and publishers—were honoured at a gala dinner in Sydney on Friday, 10 November, inaugurating the national phase of the Hall of Fame project. They include trail-blazing women journalists Ita Buttrose and Anne Summers, star broadcasters Mike Willesee and John Laws, global investigative journalists Phillip Knightley and John Pilger and publishers Sir Frank and Kerry Packer and Ezra Norton. The keynote address at the dinner was delivered by veteran *Sydney Morning*

Herald investigative journalist Kate McClymont, who also was inducted for her outstanding contribution to Australian journalism.

The Australian Media Hall of Fame is an initiative of the Melbourne Press Club aimed at celebrating through individual stories how journalism has benefitted the Australian public and shaped our history. Melbourne Press Club CEO Mark Baker said journalism had played a vital role in exposing corruption in all levels of government, business and other institutions for more than two centuries. “It is important the public understands this when the traditional business models of journalism are being challenged and people are being asked to pay for journalism in new ways,” Baker said.

The Media Hall of Fame shows how great journalism matters and is worth paying for, indeed is vital for the continued health of our democracy.” The latest NSW inductees join 81 Victorians honoured between 2012 and 2014 and another 30 pioneers of NSW journalism – from first settlement to the 1930s – whose names were announced in June. Inductees from other states and territories around Australia will be announced at a dinner in Canberra late next year. The judges for the NSW selections were former Fairfax editor Michael Smith (chair), media commentator Mark Day, media historian Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley of Macquarie University and *Guardian Australia* photographer Mike Bowers.

The pioneers announced in June are: Florence Baverstock, George Bell, Samuel Bennett, Harold Cazneaux, Hugh Denison, John Fairfax, Herbert Fishwick, Mary Gilmore, Edward Smith Hall, Livingston “Hop” Hopkins, George Howe, Frank Hurley, Henry Lawson, Louisa Lawson, Norman Lindsay, David Low, Louise Mack, Phil May, George Mott, John Norton, Robert Clyde Packer, Henry Parkes, Andrew Barton “Banjo” Paterson, Ernest Christian Sommerlad, Alfred George Stephens, John West, Robert Wardell, and Watkin Wynne.

The inductees of 10 November are: Col Allan, Eric Baume, Richie Benaud, Ita Buttrose, Ian Carroll, Vic Carroll, Mark Colvin, Patrick Cook, Adrian Deamer, Steve Dunleavy, Tom Fitzgerald, Lorrie Graham, Bruce Gyngell, Rupert Albert Geary “Rags” Henderson, David Hill, Donald Horne, Robert Hughes, Alan Jones, Caroline Jones, Margaret Jones, Paul Kelly, Phillip Knightley, John Laws, Bill Leak, Kate McClymont, Alan McGilvray, David McNicoll, Russell McPhedran, Chris Masters, Emile Mercier, George Molnar, David Moore, Maxwell Newton, Ezra Norton, Kerry O’Brien, Frank Packer, Kerry Packer, John Pilger, John Douglas Pringle, Alan Ramsey, Elizabeth Riddell, Constance Robertson, Lillian Roxon, Ron Saw, Murray Sayle, Gerald Stone, Max Suich, Anne Summers, Max Walsh, Glen “George” Warnecke, Kate Webb, Brian White, Evan Whitton, and Mike Willessee.

95.1.12 Domain separates from Fairfax

Fairfax Media has announced its scheme of arrangement to separate Domain from Fairfax has now become effective (*Telum Media Alert*, 8 November 2017). On 8 November Fairfax lodged the Federal Court of Australia’s approval of the separation, which occurred on 7 November, with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Domain was expected to begin trading on the Australian Stock Exchange on 16 November, initially on a deferred settlement basis, and the separation was expected to be implemented on 22 November.

95.1.13 Walkleys CEO departs

Walkleys CEO Jacqui Parks will leave the Walkley Foundation for Journalism at the end of December. Parks has filled the role since 2013 when the organisation was incorporated as a not-for-profit organisation and previously was executive director (*Telum Media Alert*, 24 November 2017). Stephen Brook (*Australian*, 27 November 2017) says Park “is well regarded for her role in expanding the Walkleys and securing sponsorships, reaching out to US institutions, and for her vision for journalism’s future”.

95.1.14 Photographers and Press Council ruling

Photographers have criticised the Australian Press Council after it ruled that an image of a woman pulled from the wreckage of a car in the aftermath of a fatal crash breached standards on privacy and minimising distress (*Australian*, 27 November 2017).

95.1.15 *SMH* and *Age* redesigned

Since 20 November the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the Melbourne *Age* have been appearing in different garb. They have adopted a more modern design, with more white space and a streamlined layout with simplified colours. The editor of the *Age*, Alex Lavelle, wrote: “As part of our ongoing investment and commitment to our daily newspapers, we have freshened up and modernised our design. From today, you will see the same great content you expect from our outstanding newsroom, but with a sleek new presentation, designed to enhance your reading experience across all sections. We have streamlined layouts and simplified colours to make for a more consistent newspaper across the week. And since you asked for more international coverage, we have increased the number of world pages to help showcase the work of our overseas correspondents.”

95.1.14 Newspapers and the future

Chris Mitchell writes (*Australian*, 27 November 2017): Good newspapers are assured of a future provided they understand their audiences, their journalists are not at war with their readers and they have a real prospect of replacing departing advertising with revenue from digital - subscriptions. The improved prognosis for newspapers is great news because they remain the most powerful drivers of news-breaking and still provide a fresh daily diet for radio and television news and talk shows. The *Australian* has found the way forward. Having succeeded at building paid digital subscriptions to 100,000 — more than half its total sales — how does the future look now the national daily has navigated the path from classified ads to consumer revenue?

One thing is clear: digital subscriptions at \$8 a week over a full calendar year add up to more than \$40 million, close to the revenue once generated by employment classified ads that have moved to Seek and other disruptive digital businesses during the past seven years. Those ads used to sit in the Tuesday IT section, the once 12-page Wednesday Higher Education supplement and the 24-page Employment section in the *Weekend Australian*. As one News Corp executive remarked last week: “It is clear our paid digital strategy is right and is accelerating. It is also clear there is headroom left in the price consumers will pay.”

Display advertising at the national daily is broadly on par with where it was when newspaper revenues across the country peaked in 2008. It is fair to say the *Australian* is the first paper to take gross revenue close to where it was before the big wave of digital disruption from 2010-12. This has been accompanied by lower fixed costs on print publishing and distribution and lower staff costs. In fact News Corp worldwide chief financial officer Susan Panuccio told analysts at the release of the company’s fiscal fourth-quarter results in August that the *Australian*’s print advertising revenue had grown year-on-year. [This is only part of Mitchell’s media column of 27 November in the Media section of the *Australian*. Mitchell is, of course, a former editor-in-chief of the *Australian*.]

95.1.15 Fairfax splits with HuffPost

Fairfax Media has terminated its joint venture agreement with HuffPost Australia, ending weeks of speculation about the online publisher’s future (*Australian*, 29 November 2017). Two years after editor Tory Maguire launched the local arm of the global Huffington Post brand, the news and commentary website has been cast adrift after a review of its funding by the media company’s global arm. HuffPost Australia’s staff of about 30 were briefed on 29 November after anxiously awaiting details of the site’s future as rumours circulated throughout Australia’s media industry. A spokesman for HuffPost Australia said: “Employees were briefed today on the decision of HuffPost and Fairfax to bring the Australian joint venture to an end. HuffPost will operate a stand-alone Australian edition from December 1 with a smaller local team. If redeployment is not possible, regrettably redundancies will occur.”

95.1.16 Mainstream news sets the agenda, study shows

US scientists have analysed the impact of mainstream news with a medical-style experiment to measure media influence (*Australian*, 10 November 2017). A Harvard University-led team has found that traditional media still wields power, with just a handful of articles in modestly sized news outlets capable of boosting social-media traffic across the country by one-fifth. The study also found that a one-off article in a major newspaper such as the *New York Times* could quadruple

national Twitter traffic on the same broad topic. The findings suggest that rather than being swamped by a flood of tweets, mainstream media sets their agenda.

Findings also contradict suggestions that social media has spawned an echo chamber, where people get their news exclusively from like-minded sites. Conversely, people proved equally likely to post comments about news stories whether they agreed with them or not. Harvard says the findings, published on 10 November in the journal *Science*, stem from “the first large-scale randomised experiment ever conducted” on the influence of news outlets. “The effect of the media is surprisingly large,” said lead author Gary King, who heads Harvard’s Institute for Quantitative Social Science. “Our study’s implications suggest every journalist wields major power, and has an important responsibility.”

The study, which took about five years, recruited 48 mostly small and medium-sized outlets. In co-ordinated experiments, between two and five of these outlets were asked to run simultaneous articles on one of 11 broad topics such as race, jobs, abortion or food policy. The editors chose the specific stories and published them through normal channels. The experiment was run 35 times across 18 months, with the team selecting two-week periods when no unusual reporting spike on the topics was expected. The researchers tracked Twitter traffic in ensuing days and compared the results with “control” weeks when no extra items were placed.

On average, posts on the same broad topics increased almost 20 per cent on the day the stories were published. While traffic fell away in subsequent days, the extra tweets persisted for six days. An analysis of the posts also revealed a 2.3 percentage point swing by the end of the week towards viewpoints expressed in the articles. “(The) study provides one of the most rigorous and convincing data points to date on the agenda-setting power of the media,” said Stanford University economist Matthew Gentzkow.



95.2.1 *WSJ* ‘pivots away from print’ in Europe and Asia

The Wall Street Journal doubled down on digital in Europe and Asia as it ceased publication of its print editions in the two regions in September-October, according to the global managing director of publisher Dow Jones (*Australian*, 2 October 2017). Jonathan Wright said the time was right to pivot away from print because the *WSJ*’s digital paid subscribers in Europe and Asia were more than 90 per cent of its total subscribers. Part of the *WSJ* strategy is to step up co-publishing initiatives in cities where the *WSJ* will stop printing its own editions to ensure the masthead maintains a print presence in other publications. It follows a similar deal with the *Australian*, which carries branded *WSJ* content in every edition. “We’re putting the customer at the heart of what we do; we are not stopping print altogether,” said Wright, a British native based in Hong Kong, with a knockabout English charm that has all but vanished from a publishing industry living in the shadow of the tech giants. We are changing the business model. We are looking at different ways of doing print and supplying it. We’re pretty positive at Dow Jones because we think we have found a sustainable model for professional journalism that is growing. In the last two years we’ve seen an explosion in digital.”

Dow Jones does not break out subscriber numbers on a region-by-region basis but total subscribers across all products reached 2.8 million globally in the fourth-quarter, driven by higher digital-only subscriptions which rose 34 per cent to 1.27 million. Subscribers to the *WSJ* numbered 2.27 million. “We’ve doubled our readership in Asia digitally,” Wright said. “In markets where we are not in print, we are carried in print by partners.” He confirmed the final issue of the *Journal*’s European

edition was sold on 29 September, with print publication of its Asian edition ceasing on 6 October. After that, the printed newspaper was no sold in some markets, while in Tokyo it has been replaced by the US edition.

95.2.2 Australian passes digital milestone

Digital sales of the *Australian* have passed 100,00 and now account for more than half of total paid sales at the *Australian* (*Australian*, 30 October 2017). The landmark figure was reached on 24 October, six years to the day since the paper became the nation's first major news media brand to charge for online journalism with a hard paywall. The *Australian* added 13,213 digital subscribers in the 12 months ended October, a rise of 15 per cent. This followed a rise of 12 per cent over the year to October last year. Digital sales represented 53 per cent of total paid sales this month, up from 47 per cent in October last year, and 43 per cent two years ago. Paul Whittaker, editor-in-chief of The Australian, said the subscription milestone was one of the most significant in the masthead's 53-year history and represented "a digital coming of age".

At the News Corporation Australia annual awards night on 27 October, the Sir Keith Murdoch Award for Excellence in Journalism was awarded to the late Bill Leak, who had been chief political cartoonist for The Australian.

95.2.3 Data journalism awards

The Data Journalism Awards, organised by the Global Editors Network, with support from the Google News Lab and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, is open for submissions. The awards are given to examples of data-driven articles or investigations, data-driven applications and storytelling projects that use data visualisation to cover topics relevant to the general public and aiming at having an impact on society. Deadline for application is 26 March 2018 at 11.59pm GMT (*Telum Media Alert*, 24 November 2017).

95.2.4 ABC news restructure

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation—a major supplier of online news in Australia—has announced a new structure for sharing its news and content across all formats. It has created three specialist teams that will produce content across television, radio and digital. ABC managing director Michelle Guthrie said the restructure would "reduce overlap between ABC people covering the same subjects for multiple programs and platforms and ensure it extends its reach and relevance. The three new teams are:

- News, Analysis and Investigations: Led by Director of News, Gaven Morris. Responsible for state coverage network news and investigations, and in-depth reporting.
- Entertainment and Specialist (including children's content, music and creative development, factual and entertainment, drama, comedy, and indigenous programming): Led by current ABC Director of Television, David Anderson.
- Regional and Local: Led by current Director of Radio, Michael Mason. Includes rural and regional teams, capital city and regional productions.

In addition, the ABC is creating a Content Ideas Lab to focus on developing and introducing content for new audiences. The ABC will also fast-track the recruitment of up to 40 regional reporters, producers and presenters under its Connecting Communities initiative that was announced in March 2017 (*Telum Media Alert*, 15 November 2017).



3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

95.3.1 Orange: Hadley lashes out at regional media

Broadcaster Ray Hadley has accused two large media companies of censorship over a court case involving a truck driver (*Australian*, 12 October 2017). Hadley took aim at Southern Cross Austereo and Fairfax Media after his broadcast about the court case, in the NSW central west city of Orange, was not played on the local Triple M station or reported in the *Central Western Daily* newspaper. The truck driver — who was involved in a fatal accident and has been charged with dangerous driving causing death, and negligent driving causing death — had his licence returned by a magistrate. The truck driver is an employee of West Orange Motors, a prominent local advertiser. “It’s a commercial decision for you to make, fellas. I couldn’t give a tinker’s cuss if you were here or not here,” Hadley said of Southern Cross Austereo, which broadcasts his show in the area. Fairfax Media owns Macquarie Media, which owns Hadley’s radio station 2GB and it is not the first time the group’s “left-leaning papers and right-aligned radio interests” have clashed. A Fairfax spokesman said on 11 October: “*The Central Western Daily* has been covering the court case and will continue to cover the court case. Our editorial decisions are not influenced by commercial considerations.”

95.3.2 Country press associations and the future

Australia's country press associations will have the questionable benefit of regaining their traditional independence with the withdrawal of 133 Fairfax Media titles from membership (writes **Peter Coleman**, *GXpress* magazine, September 2017, p.35). But the idea presented by former publisher and former president of both CPNSW and CPA John Dunnet in the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* (93.3.2) that he might outlive the association of which he is a life member, seems premature. Executive director Bruce Morgan says Country Press Australia is far from winding down: “We see this as an opportunity to bring the state organisations closer together and giving remaining NSW independents a pathway for support and engagement.” For Fairfax, however, it seems the association, which allowed it to join after a rush of country newspaper acquisitions in the 1990s, has served its purpose. A spokesperson told *GXpress*: “We believe that our interests in regional and rural publishing are better served on the whole through existing company representation. “We will continue to cooperate and support industry initiatives where it makes sense - unfortunately we do not believe membership in the Country Press Association has any meaningful role to play.”

In New South Wales, some 14 independents will be all that remains of a state association that once encompassed more than 150 titles, while in South Australia, the Fairfax withdrawal has made it an easy decision for CPNSA to close a little-used office, administration manager Trevor Auliffe mostly working from his home. There have also been talks with the state affiliate in Queensland, where News Corp Australia recently acquired APN News & Media's Australian regional media business. Each Australian state has its own association, traditionally of independently owned newspapers, but a wave of acquisitions in the 1990s led to the number of independents being decimated—especially in New South Wales, where CPNSW later sold its advertising clearing house to Neville Jeffress Advertising—and membership being extended to groups such as Fairfax. With fewer proprietors in the state selling out, the Victorian CPA became the largest of the associations, and took over administration of the national body.

95.3.3 Suburbans' new executive editor

Louise Roberts has been appointed to the newly created role of executive editor at NewsLocal. Roberts had been news editor at the *Manly Daily*, Sydney, since 2014. She began her new role on 30 October (*Telum Media Alert*, 13 October 2017).

95.3.4 Eastern suburbs, Sydney: Kim Doherty edits *Wentworth Courier*

Kim Doherty is the new editor of the *Wentworth Courier* in Sydney's eastern suburbs. Doherty was editor-in-chief of the *Australian Women's Weekly* magazine for a year until June 2017. She will be "guest editor" at the *Courier* on a six-month contract. It is a return to News Corp for the journalist, who edited the company's parenting website kidspot.com.au before leaving to head up the *Weekly*. She was previously editor-in-chief of *New Idea*. The *Courier*, Malcolm Turnbull's local newspaper, is prized for its massive real estate listings. It was relaunched this year by Steve Howard as a lifestyle magazine and part of News Corp's prestige advertising network.

95.3.5 Manly: Howard to edit *Daily* which is to become a bi-weekly

Manly Daily (1): Steve Howard became the editor of the *Manly Daily* on 25 October, replacing Louise Roberts. He was the editor of the *Wentworth Courier* from 2014 to 2017 (*Telum Media Alert*, 18 October 2017).

Manly Daily (2): On 5 December the *Manly Daily* announced that from 10 January it will convert from daily publication (Tuesdays to Saturdays) to just twice weekly, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, plus online updates. The paper will also be redesigned so pages are "lighter, brighter, more contemporary in their look, feel and tone." The *Manly Daily* was the only daily suburban or free newspaper in Australia. There is no indication that it will change its name to reflect the changed publication schedule. (The nearby *Mosman Daily* changed to weekly publication many years ago, but retained its name.)

95.3.6 Western suburbs, Perth: *Post* celebrates 40 years

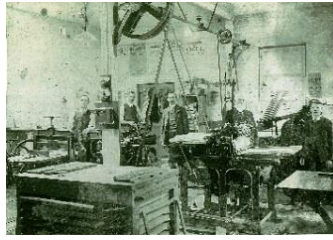
The *Post*, published in Perth's western suburbs, has celebrated 40 years of publication under founder and editor Brett Christian. Paige Taylor has written about it in the Media section of the *Australian*, 23 October, p.26. She says Christian is committed to investigative journalism and righting injustices. He led reporting on the Claremont serial killings and put his own money into the successful fight to overturn the wrongful murder convictions of John Button and Darryl Beamish. Christian's long-time chief of staff George Williams, a former news editor of the *Australian*, describes him as a "courageous, sometimes barefoot, always tieless editor who clings to his mission statement that if we're not having fun, we're doing it the wrong way".

95.3.7 Townsville: new editor

Jenna Cairney, recently the editor of the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, has been appointed editor of the *Townsville Bulletin*. Cairney had been the editor of the Sunshine Coast paper since 2014 and was named Australian Regional Media editor of the year in 2015 (Statement by News Corp Australasia chairman Michael Miller, 25 October 2017).

95.3.8 Bourke: *Herald* to close

The *Western Herald*, Bourke, will cease publication on 20 December after 130 years. It began publication as the *Western Herald and Darling River Advocate* on 1 October 1887. The owner, Navoc Pty Ltd, has announced the closure, *Telum Media Alert* reported on 4 December. Editor Frank Povah he said he hopes to remain in Bourke and possibly operate a newspaper independently.



4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

95.4.1 Letters to the editor (5): Norm Christenson, man of letters

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: This is the fifth in a series of articles about letters to the editor and the nation's keenest contributors of such items to newspapers. I am drawing on my "letters to the editor" clippings file. Paul Christenson wrote to the *Australian* when his father, a prolific writer of letters to the editor, died. In a letter published on 26 March 2004, p.14, Paul Christenson wrote: "Many of your readers may be sad to know that just before midnight on Wednesday, my father, Norm Christenson, of Thornleigh, died in hospital after a year-long struggle with cancer and other problems. In a "career" spanning close to 30 years, my father sent around 250 letters to newspapers around the country. The *Australian* was kind enough to print many of them. Dad loved his news and current affairs and I hope his letters brought a smile to the faces of some people and pricked the consciences of a few others." Paul Christenson wrote a letter, phrased differently but conveying the same news, to the *Sydney Morning Herald* (published 26 March 2004, p.14).

The following day the *Weekend Australian* (p.16) published three letters commenting on Norm Christenson's letters and the *Sydney Morning Herald* published six. The letters in the *Australian* came from (1): Peter Cain, of Homebush West: "Your father's letters often brought a smile to my face Paul Christenson, your letter (26/3) brought a tear to my eye. Vale Norm." (2) Steve Forsyth, of Tumut: "When opening the *Australian*, I'd always look to see if Norm Christenson had a letter in. He was the best." (3) Andrew Wyminga, of Bicheno, Tasmania: "The small and perfectly polished Norm Christenson diamonds truly sparkled among the many heavy boulders on the Letters page. Vale Norm and thank you for the riches which brightened so many days."

Here are two of the letters in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 27-28 March 2004 about Norm Christenson and his letters: (1) Mary Shelley Clark, of East Lindfield (extract): "The Letters page won't be the same without Norm Christenson and Ted Matulevicius, who went just one month before. As kindred spirits in challenging pomposity, they set a standard. It behoves those who write on to question prejudice, irrational views and unbridled power. And always retain a sense of the ridiculous. Vale, Norm and Ted." (2) H. Boulton, of Armadale, Victoria: "On Radio National I once heard artist Bill Leak say he would like to have a barbecue and invite all his favourite letter writers, especially Norm Christenson. I felt the same way. Con Vaitsas, it's over to you."

95.4.2 Herald & Weekly Times Ltd machine room changeover

Weekly Times, Melbourne, 16 December 1911, p.42: Mr Miles McNaught, who has just retired from the position of head of the Machine Room of "The Herald" and "Weekly Times" Ltd., was on December 14 entertained by the directors and staff of the company. The function was held in the Board Room. The Chairman of Directors (Mr Theodore Fink) occupied the chair, and all branches of the office were fully represented. The Chairman said that they had met to drink the health of Mr McNaught, who after many years of strenuous work was retiring from active service. Incidentally the gathering was intended as a welcome to Mr Robert Nicholson, the newly-appointed printing engineer, and Mr Walter May, the new overseer of the Composing Room.

In future Mr McNaught was to fill the position of consulting engineer to the company. The company had determined to make a move forward, and as a first step had secured the services of Mr Nicholson, one of the best printing engineers in Great Britain. He had made certain recommendations to the Board of Directors, and as a result an entirely new printing plant was now being constructed. When this was completed and erected the office would have as complete and as up-to-date an equipment as any newspaper office in the world. In order to meet the demands made

upon a modern newspaper, other departments were also being reorganised. With that object in view Mr May had been engaged as overseer of the Composing Room. These changes did not mean displacement of the old hands who had served the Company well, but were being effected with the object of coping with the new order of things.

Mr A. H. Massina supported the Chairman's remarks, paying a high tribute to the work of Mr McNaught and Mr Whitehorn. Mr W. Whitehorn and Mr J. Winter also spoke. They emphasised the great strides made in the office in recent years. Mr McNaught, in responding, gave a brief and interesting survey of the development of newspaper printing in Melbourne during the last fifty years. On being called upon, Mr Nicholson said that the plant which it was proposed to install would be equal to any-thing that existed in Great Britain or the United States for the production of an evening paper. He had been only a month in Melbourne, but so well had he been received that he felt already like an old servant of the Company. He could assure them that when everything was in running order they would be prouder of "The Herald" and "Weekly Times" Office than they had ever been before.

95.4.3 HWT papers 'braced for foul weather' in 1942

Weekly Times, 9 December 1942, p.5: "Like a good ship, well braced in foul weather, the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd. has entered another year of war work," said the chairman of the company (Sir Keith Murdoch) at the annual meeting of shareholders. "We cannot be sure of what lies ahead. But we can be sure that newspapers must continue as a vital part of the war effort, as the great trusted distributors of information, the commentators, the critics and the expounders."

The Herald and Weekly Times, said Sir Keith Murdoch, had set its course for an unlimited war effort from the first, and this meant not only that newspapers should be smaller, but also that all newspapers and their organisations should be kept in existence and that stocks be shared at least until peace was in sight. Before the war the company published 186 pages weekly in the *Herald* and 294 in the *Sun*. *The Weekly Times* published 64 pages weekly, and the *Sporting Globe* 22 pages. Today the *Herald* was down to 52 pages a week, the *Sun* to 88, the *Weekly Times* to 24, and the *Sporting Globe* to 12.

The irony of it was that the company had made elaborate preparations for war. It had its stores full of newsprint; it had a binding contract for yearly consumption at the New York price; the Tasmanian mill was coming into being—certainly delayed for two years by oppositions which were now convinced and friendly—and nearly a million dollars had been bought in New York, partly as a safeguard against the depreciation of the Australian pound, and partly as an insurance on finance. Today, the company had enough paper in stock to carry on with present sizes and circulation for 114 years, and it had the right to a large share in the Tasmanian production. A further reduction in size within a few months could be looked forward to unless the shipping position changed radically for the better. Employees (sic) totalled 1342 when war began. That excluded newsagents, runners and part-time men. Of these, 450 men had gone into the services and 97 into munitions. It had cost the company £65,000 in making up the difference in their pay. Sir Keith Murdoch referred sympathetically to the death of the late chairman (Mr Theodore Fink), and to the death recently of his son, Captain Thorold Fink, who had been a member of the board.

95.4.4 Sydneysiders buy *Brisbane Courier* for Golden Casket results

Newspaper News, 1 July 1933, p.6: On the afternoon of Wednesday, June 21, the Sydney public were astonished to hear newsboys calling *Courier*, and to see the *Brisbane Courier* posters occupying prominent positions around the city news stands. The *Brisbane Courier* showed enterprise when they had papers for sale in Sydney containing the full results of the drawing of the big golden casket lottery on the same day as they were published in Brisbane and days before the official result slips would reach Sydney.

The first batch of papers came by New England Airways plane and arrived in Sydney at 10 minutes to one on the Wednesday, and within an hour they were sold out. Next day a further batch of some thousands arrived by rail, and these were snapped up by newsagents and street sellers. Friday's plane and Saturday's express from Brisbane brought further supplies to meet the demand for the paper. It is reported that the Sydney office of the *Brisbane Courier* supplied papers to close on 200 newsagents.

95.4.5 Ken Inglis remembered

Peter Browne writes (*Inside Story*, 5 December 2017—extracts only): When I visited Ken Inglis early [in November], a few weeks before he died, I found him engrossed in the day's edition of the *Sunday Age*. It was perhaps 80 years since he'd begun reading the papers as a schoolboy in the inner-Melbourne suburb of Preston, and during that time he'd become one of Australia's most highly (and warmly) regarded historians. But his passion for the press — his fascination with the way it recorded "the history of the present", as the historian Timothy Garton Ash calls it — was undiminished. And not just newspapers — on the table beside his bed were copies of the *New Yorker*, the magazine that helped shape his style and fuel his remarkable curiosity.

Ken will be remembered most for his major books — *The Stuart Case*, his forensic study of the prosecution of Max Stuart; *The Australian Colonists: A Social History of the Period from 1788 to 1870*; his two-volume history of the ABC; and his award-winning exploration of Australian war memorials, *Sacred Places* — and for two great collaborations, the 11-volume *Australians: A Historical Library* and a forthcoming two-volume account, with Semus Spark and Jay Winter, of the men brought forcibly to Australia during the second world war on board the *Dunera*...

Journalism had been his "only boyhood ambition", he wrote when he was in his late sixties, an ambition "formed after reading Isobel Ann Sheard's novels *Sandy*, about a lad who became a newspaper reporter, and *Mike*, about another who became a radio man." But the times — this was near the end of the second world war — turned out to be against him. Young Ken, the 16-year-old editor of Melbourne High School's fortnightly newspaper, the *Sentinel*, called on the editor of the *Age*, Harold Campbell, who told him that too many experienced journalists were about to return from the war expecting their jobs back. But the ambition lived on, and found its perfect outlet in the late 1950s.

Ken's capacity to do two things very well — to identify the shortcomings of the press and to write superior journalism of his own — first became clear in his work for Tom Fitzgerald's groundbreaking fortnightly magazine, *Nation* (1958–72). Ken had written for newspapers before, and he had also been an occasional contributor to Harold Levien's magazine, *Voice* (1952–56), the first serious attempt to produce an Australian version of the *New Statesman*. But *Nation* was a revelation for contributors and readers alike — topical, on-time, sharply written, well-informed and, above all, independent — and Ken, along with Sylvia Lawson and others, was in its pages from the first edition...

Ken wrote about all kinds of things for the magazine, from the Australian tour by the radical American singer-songwriter Tom Lehrer to a Jehovah's Witness rally in Adelaide. But mostly he wrote about the press, and what distinguished the pieces from other reporting about newspapers and broadcasting was his careful reading of their content, including their visual styles. Fitzgerald was more than happy to give space to this kind of scrutiny: his ambition with *Nation* was to show the broadsheet papers, one of which he worked for, how to better serve their readers...

All the characteristic elements are there in Ken's first piece on the press, which describes the rivalry between the establishment Adelaide *Advertiser* and young Rupert Murdoch's afternoon paper, the *News*. "The *News* and the *Advertiser* usually ignore each other's existence, though they are not inflexible about it," he writes drily, before describing an early instance of what would become Murdoch's *modus operandi*: boosting his own paper by relentlessly attacking the opposition paper's news as stale. "The attack rested on the undeniable fact that the *Advertiser* comes out in the morning and the reasonable assumption that a lot of things happen in the world which enable evening papers to report them first."

...Ken's technique is on display in two long pieces he wrote for *Nation* after the launch of Rupert Murdoch's boldest new project, the *Australian*, in mid 1964. The new paper, he wrote a few days after its launch, "is, first of all, a clean and handsome thing to look at. Not all the news pages have the 'elegant appearance' we had been led to hope for; but compared with those of every other Australian newspaper they are, as promised, 'uncluttered.'" But the paper's prose was less elegant: "Contributions by such writers as Robin Boyd, Jock Marshall, Kenneth Hince and Edgar Waters read as if the layout were designed for them; some other pieces, signed and unsigned, sit there less happily." Even more worryingly, most of page three was devoted to an extended gossip column with

a horoscope. Rupert Murdoch's contradictory impulses, and his fear of failure, were on vivid display.

"On Saturdays," Ken wrote in a second piece, four months later:

... it seems to me quite clearly the best paper we have. During the week, if I lived in Brisbane or Adelaide or Hobart I would feel a daily surge of gratitude to Mr Murdoch for giving me an alternative to the stifling parochialism and ugly layout of my morning paper... If I lived in Sydney or Melbourne or Perth, my estimate of the *Australian* would depend on how it happened to be performing on any particular day; for its quality as a provider of news varies much more than its readers were led to expect.

Between pieces for the magazine, Ken also had a chance to do the kind of journalism he'd had in mind when he'd called on the editor of the *Age*. In 1965 he accompanied a pilgrimage of old diggers to Gallipoli for the fiftieth anniversary of the Anzac landing, half his fare paid by his employer, the Australian National University, and half by the *Canberra Times*. He wrote seven richly reported dispatches from the journey, which *Inside Story* published as an ebook another fifty years later, in April 2015. He later confided that he had been "enraptured" to be carrying a card authorising him to send cables via London to Sydney. He would write in a similar register in several of his books, including his memorable description of his visit to Central Australia researching the extended postscript for Black Inc.'s reissue of *The Stuart Case*.

After *Nation*, Ken continued to write, though less frequently, for newspapers and magazines. Ten years later, a new fortnightly (later a monthly), *Australian Society*, was launched, and after I became editor in 1985 Ken was a contributor of occasional pieces, including a forensic examination of the twenty-fifth anniversary edition of the *Australian*, a historically informed defence of Radio Australia, and an account of a slightly hair-raising early-Yeltsin-era visit to Moscow ("Will he take all my dollars, and leave my body to be covered by snow under the birches?"). One of his *Australian Society* pieces was about *Nation*, and in that same year, 1989, he published a book, part-history, part-anthology, about *Nation* and its creators.

Ken was a deft, careful and generous writer whose prose lit up any magazine or newspaper — or book or journal — it appeared in. He was also great company, the possessor of a prodigious memory and an insatiable curiosity (clichés that, though accurate, would no doubt bring a smile to his face), and a source of wise counsel. As Graeme Davison wrote in a recent edition of *History Australia*, his "influence is not to be found in the sum of his scholarly contributions — or not in those alone — but in his influence upon others, and the unfailing generosity of spirit and acuity of mind that he has imparted to our professional and national life."

95.4.6 Dandenong paper

Armin Richter wrote to the ANHG on 6 December 2017: I am a member of the Monbulk Historical Society and we recently received a copy of the *Mountain Tourist*, Vol 1, Issue 5, 3 October 1919. The *Mountain Tourist* was the first newspaper published in the Dandenong Ranges and ran only from 5 September 1919 until 28 June 1920 when it appeared to be shut down by the Fern Tree Gully council.

Further information on the *Mountain Tourist* appeared in the first edition of the *Mountaineer* (27 August 1920), the newspaper that replaced it. It was around for only 43 weeks of publication, which may have been 42 editions as it was common for district papers to skip an issue in the Christmas/New Year period. I had known of the *Tourist* newspaper as it is mentioned in the book, *Story of The Dandenongs*, by Helen Coulson (1959, reprinted 1968 and 1982). On pages 142-143 she discusses it as follows:

The first attempt to establish a local newspaper took place at the conclusion of the First War, when Arthur W. Madge, Belgrave chemist, began publication of a paper named The Tourist and hawked copies up and down trains standing in the Belgrave station. The editor, a man named Buchanan, took on himself the role of watchdog in the public interest, and his reports of Council proceedings certainly pulled no punches. Maps illustrating the location of councillors' properties in relation to new roads were mainly responsible for the withdrawal of his press privileges but Buchanan overcame the difficulty by exercising his right as a ratepayer to listen to Council deliberations. A. W. Madge and his editor later disagreed on the policy of the paper, which ceased publication about 1920. Madge then joined with Chas. Walker (veteran journalist, now of Menzies Creek) and F. L. Byrne of Belgrave in the publication of a fortnightly paper known as the *Mountaineer*. This paper, also brutally frank in its

criticism of councillors, remained in circulation until about 1923. It was succeeded by *The Pilot*, printed and published by a man named Bear at Upper Fern Tree Gully.

It appears that Helen had some access to those who were involved with the *Tourist* to make the statement in 1959. Buchanan, who was mentioned as being involved with the *Tourist*, was also involved with the *Mountaineer*. The *Mountaineer* was a weekly newspaper not fortnightly as stated and only ran until 1921, not 1923 as mentioned.

I contacted Paul Dee at the Victorian State Library and they had no record of *The Mountain Tourist* so I thought I might let you know about it. Unfortunately, we only have the one edition.

[ANHG editor's note: Thomas A. Darragh's *Printer and Newspaper Registration in Victoria 1838-1924* (1997), carries, on p.312, two registrations for the *Mountain Tourist*. Arthur William James Madge, of 166 Riversdale Road, Glenferrie, was listed as the proprietor.]



5-RECENTLY PUBLISHED

95.5.1 Books

Thorn, Benjamin, *Keep the Presses Running: The Australian Printing Industry in the Twentieth Century*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2017, paperback, 324 pp. This book describes the Australian printing industry in the 20th century through the words of people who worked in it. The author interviewed over seventy informants whose involvement in the industry ranged broadly, and recollections and observations reveal its culture, social and economic significance, technical processes and interesting participants.

95.5.2. Articles

Crawford, H. Zoe, "The social editress in the 1930s", *Tasmanian Historical Research Association Papers and Proceedings*, vol. 64, no. 2, August 2017, pp.19-27. A frank and entertaining description of how the social columns of the Launceston *Examiner* were written in the 1930s. [Abstract: Never, for a moment, did I consider myself a journalist; not even in the years when I described myself as such in my income tax return, during which period the door to my small office bore in gilt the words "Social Editress". To become the social editress of a provincial newspaper back in the thirties did not entail years of arduous cadetship to equip one with experience for the job. When my predecessor decided to resign, her employers asked her to find someone to take her place. She approached me. I said, "What makes you think I could take charge of the "Women's Column"?" She replied, "The way you play a hand of bridge". It was as easy as that. (Also available through online resources at <https://search.informit.com.au/documentSummary;dn=047022377491159;res=IELHSS>).

Korporaal, Glenda, "Holmes a Court and the champagne days", *Australian*, 16 October 2017, p.25. An ambitious tilt at the *Australian Financial Review* was upset by the 1987 stock market crash.

ANHG SUBSCRIPTIONS

Electronic: No fee. Email your request to Rod Kirkpatrick at rodk99anhg@gmail.com/

Hard copy: For ten issues (two years)—\$75 for individuals; and \$100 for institutions. Postal address details are provided at head of newsletter. Pay by cheque made out to Rodney Kirkpatrick, or by internet transfer: A/c name: R and M Kirkpatrick. BSB: 484 799. A/c no. 160 080 705. Email Rod first.