



The Kalgoorlie Miner building, August 2003. The *Miner* (estab. 14 Sept. 1895) is the only regional daily in Western Australia.
—Photo by Rod Kirkpatrick

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

1 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: NATIONAL & METROPOLITAN

66.1.1 GINA RINEHART AND FAIRFAX MEDIA

At the beginning of February, Australian mining billionaire Gina Rinehart built her shareholding in Fairfax Media Ltd to 12.6 per cent with a sudden splurge of about \$192 million. A media lawyer said Rinehart's raid was an "each-way bet" on the proposed dumping of the cross-media ownership restrictions (*Australian*, 2 February 2012, p.24). She could not buy more than 14.9 per cent under the current ownership laws because she already holds 10 per cent of Network Ten and is a director on the board. *Mediaweek* online reported (2 February 2012): Communications Minister Stephen Conroy has given his strongest indication yet that he will push for a tightening of media ownership laws in the wake of Rinehart's raid on Fairfax, writes Nick Butterly in the *West Australian*. WA Premier Colin Barnett said the rest of Australia should get used to being taken over by WA companies. "Little old Wesfarmers bought Coles, Kerry Stokes bought Channel 7 nationally, now Gina Rinehart is going to own Fairfax," he said.

Adele Ferguson commented: "When Gina Rinehart pushed the go button on buying 10 per cent of Fairfax Media she put the entire sector under the blowtorch, both in investment terms and from the perspective of the role the media has in influencing political and social policy. The outcome of her raid is yet to play out but Rinehart's next move will surely be to try to win a board seat as well as increase her stake in Fairfax to just under 20 per cent. While the challenges facing the traditional media industry have been well documented, traditional media is still the most effective way to influence state and federal politics."

Senior Labor backbencher John Murphy called for the government's media inquiry to examine Rinehart's bid for an influential share of Fairfax and said it reinforced the need for a tough public interest test in media ownership. Murphy said the mining billionaire had a "massive conflict of interest" on the carbon tax and the mining tax. "Will the *Australian Financial Review*, the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* start to campaign against the mining tax and the carbon tax?" The backbencher's concerns put him at odds with Communication Minister Senator Stephen Conroy, who has said the influence wielded by small shareholders over media companies was a matter for the company board rather than government regulation. Senator Conroy said neither existing nor prospective media laws could stop a small shareholder trying to exert political influence.

Mark Day in *The Australian*: "Twenty billion bucks, or even a mere 1 per cent of it, can buy Gina Rinehart every comfort in the world, but it won't buy her love, happiness, or influence at Fairfax. If Australia's richest person is spending \$200 million on Fairfax shares in order to have her voice heard across the nation, she's picked the wrong megaphone. The views of individual shareholders amount to diddly-squat on the editorial floors of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Age* and the *Australian Financial Review*."

James Chessell, Lisa Murray and Neil Shoebridge in the *AFR*: "Communications Minister Stephen Conroy says stronger ownership laws are needed to prevent individuals exerting influence over media coverage, following Gina Rinehart's successful \$192 million raid on Fairfax Media. However, Ten's largest shareholder, WIN Corporation owner Bruce Gordon, dismissed Conroy's comments: "If Gina Rinehart wants to talk to any politician in the country, she's got their ear," he told the *Financial Review*. "She doesn't need to get into television or newspapers for that." Advertising and media executive John Singleton said he had talked to Rinehart about the Fairfax share raid in "general terms" in recent days. Singleton, who tried unsuccessfully last year to convince Rinehart to join him in a bid for Fairfax's capital city radio stations, said she would definitely request a board seat. "Why wouldn't you if you'd paid out that much money?" he said.

Fairfax columnist Elizabeth Knight explained how Rinehart could get editorial influence at the media group (*Mediaweek* online, 6 February 2012). Rinehart would first have to acquire enough shares to control the board. The 12.58 per cent she had now probably would not do it. Once the 20 per cent level was reached, she would be able to use the Corporations Law to creep up by 3 percentage points every six months. Within a year she would be able to reach a shareholding of almost 26 per cent without the need to launch a takeover – the dynamics of power on the Fairfax board would have her in a strong position of influence. Ironically the template for this corporate manoeuvre was used by Stokes to get his tentacles around West Australian Newspapers. ...the highly regarded editorial integrity and trust built up over 150 years could be sacrificed for a few hundred million pieces of gold. To do this she would need to inject a few user-friendly editors into the Fairfax newspapers including the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Age* and the *Financial Review*, but this could all be done well in time to influence the course of the next election.

66.1.2 FAIRFAX RECLAIMS LOST PROPERTY ADVERTISING

Fairfax Media has paid \$35 million for a half-share of Antony Catalano's MMP Holdings in a deal awaiting the approval of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. The deal will fold Fairfax Community Newspapers, Victoria, into the venture. Catalano had been marketing director and head of newspaper sales at the *Age* before taking a seven-figure redundancy in 2008. About 300 FCN staff will be absorbed by the venture and MMP will have full management control. FCN publishes 32 weekly newspapers across greater Melbourne, with total weekly distribution of 1.25 million. MMP, founded by Catalano in 2010, publishes the *Weekly Review*, which is a free weekly real estate and lifestyle magazine delivered to about 220,000 households.

The publication took about \$20 million in revenue from Fairfax and destabilised a further \$40 million of advertising mostly derived from the weekend edition of the *Age* (*Weekend Australian*, 24-25 December 2011, p.23; and *Mediaweek*, 13 February 2012, p.10).

66.1.3 JOURNALISM AND THE QUEENSLAND'S FLOODS INQUIRY

Queensland's royal-commission-style flood inquiry was recalled after two articles in the *Australian* (23 and 24 January) by its national chief correspondent Hedley Thomas raised serious questions about the truth of some of the statements made to the inquiry last year. The additional hearings, over six days, were announced on 24 January and began on Thursday, 2 February. The unscheduled hearings forced a delay in the deadline for the inquiry report and pushed back the date for the Queensland State elections to 24 March. This led to a four-week delay in the Queensland local government elections, from 31 March to 28 April. The inquiry report, originally due on 24 February, is now due on 18 March. Here's how Hedley Thomas began his first report, on 23 January:

A raft of official internal documents produced by senior public servants during Brisbane's devastating flood in January last year shows the Wivenhoe Dam was mismanaged for two crucial days in a serious breach of its manual. An investigation by the *Australian* also shows that, after the flood, dam operator SEQWater adopted a different position about its actions, inconsistent with its own comprehensive documentary evidence of the dam's management. The investigation suggests SEQWater used the wrong operating strategy for the flood, contributing to the inundation of thousands of properties in Brisbane and Ipswich with a total cost to the economy of more than \$5 billion. But neither the flood engineers nor SEQWater have been asked by the \$15 million royal commission-style public inquiry, set up by Premier Anna Bligh, to explain the numerous references in many documents they created during the flood that show they were using the wrong strategy based on dam levels...

The *Australian's* investigation has collated an abundance of contemporaneous evidence, including internal emails, flood log entries, briefing papers, memorandums, situation reports and technical reports that suggest SEQWater remained in the wrong strategy, known as W1, throughout the weekend of January 8-9 last year and into early Monday morning January 10. There is no known contemporaneous documentary evidence from this period of the flood event to support the claims made later by SEQWater to the inquiry that the correct operating strategy, W3, began at 8am on Saturday, January 8.

The next day, 24 January, Thomas reported:

Leaked email communications from a Wivenhoe Dam engineering officer underline concerns that the Brisbane River flood was mostly caused by massive releases from the dam after it had held on to water too long over a crucial 72 hours before the severe rainfall that hit the region last week. The emails, which become increasingly urgent in tone as the situation became critical as the dam's levels rise rapidly, were provided to the *Australian* by a source who said the stream of data had convinced him the river flood of Brisbane could have been largely avoided if the dam's operators had taken action much earlier. A commission of inquiry will examine whether the dam's operators erred in permitting the dam's flood compartment to be severely limited for a major rainfall event because of their strategy to let the dam's levels rise over the weekend of January 8-9. According to figures from Wivenhoe's operator, SEQWater, the dam's capacity went from 106 per cent full on the morning of Friday, January 7, to 148 per cent full on the morning of Monday, January 10, due to the limited weekend releases. Experts have said this severely compromised the dam's ability to store additional runoff. By Monday morning the dam was at 100 per cent capacity for its supply of water for urban use, holding 1,150,000 megalitres. In addition its flood compartment, with a capacity of 1,450,000ML, was almost half full. The dam reached about 190 per cent capacity by Tuesday, when its operators made huge and unprecedented releases to prevent the system from collapse.

Tony Downes, of The Gap, Qld, wrote in the *Australian* (letters, 7 February 2012, p.15): Without the *Australian's* national chief correspondent, Hedley Thomas, we came within a few weeks of receiving a whitewashed report into one of Australia's biggest flood disasters. With the reconvening of the inquiry, we are finally finding out what many Queenslanders suspected caused the catastrophic flooding: the incorrect management of the Wivenhoe Dam. A dam solely conceived, designed and constructed so that Brisbane would never again suffer the inundation it experienced in 1974. When the inquiry hands down its report based on what I hope is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, heads should roll. The only person involved in this inquiry with his head still held high will be Thomas. We are truly indebted to him.

The *Australian* editorialised (7 February 2012, p.15): "For the public, an alarming aspect of the [Wivenhoe Dam] issue is that the mismanagement was not uncovered by their elected representatives or through the initial inquiry hearings, but by senior journalist Hedley Thomas's painstaking reading of official records." The *Courier-Mail* editorialized (27 January 2012, p.28) about the fact that newspaper investigations – by the *Australian* of the Wivenhoe Dam issues and by the *Courier-Mail* of the "nepotism scandal" that ended the careers of the two most senior academics at the University of Queensland – were more necessary than ever "precisely because of the emergence of so many other sources of immediately available news and information".

Nick Leys wrote about Thomas's "dam obsession" (calling him "Deep Moat") in the Media section of the *Australian* on 13 February, p.27. Thomas told Leys had he emailed editor Clive Mathieson on 19 January to summarise his investigation into SEQWater and the management of Wivenhoe Dam before, during and after the Brisbane and Ipswich floods in January 2011. Thomas had trawled through thousands of pages of evidence to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry, writing his own brief along the way, tracking how engineers and hydrographers at SEQWater had potentially mismanaged water releases and, as claimed at the commission, tried to hide the truth. "I'm sure Clive must have read that email and thought I'd lost it," Thomas told Leys. "It was pretty blunt." Thomas wrote that he had no doubts the commission of inquiry "has been misled" and key personnel had given false testimony about management of the dam. And he claimed that this series of breaches had caused Brisbane's flooding. "If the inquiry has the spine to confront our findings, I think it could have repercussions," he wrote to Mathieson.

66.1.4 THE AGE (1): COURT ORDER TO REVEAL SOURCES

The Age has been ordered to reveal its sources for a story that claimed former Labor Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon had accepted \$150,000 from Chinese businesswoman Helen Liu, amid revelations the paper was willing to pay \$10,000 for documents used in the story, reports Leo Shanahan in the *Australian* (*Mediaweek* online, 2 Feb 2012). In a NSW Supreme Court judgment, judge Lucy McCallum said the right of three journalists to protect their sources was outweighed by the "interests of justice" and Liu's right to sue for defamation. The judge found the offer of payment, questions of the legitimacy of the documents and the failure of one of the journalists to comply with a request of a source meant the newspaper's case was undermined and Liu should have a right of access to the documents.

On 2 February in the NSW Supreme Court, Justice McCallum granted a 28-day stay to enable the journalists and the *Age* to launch an appeal over her orders.

66.1.5 THE AGE (2): ALLEGED PRIVACY BREACH

Some News Ltd newspapers have highlighted allegations that the Melbourne *Age* breached personal privacy when it published in November 2010 allegations that the state ALP branch maintained a data base of people. This has enabled News Ltd papers to apparently provide some retribution for Fairfax reporting of News Ltd breaches, especially by the London *News of the World*. On 15 December Victoria Police raided the *Age* offices over the matter. On 16 December, the Sydney *Daily Telegraph*, in particular had a lot of fun. The *Telegraph* devoted most of a page to reporting the story. Page 11 was cleverly made to look like a page of the *Age*. At the top of the page was an *Age* masthead. The article was headed "Our hacking shame" and its layout and typeface mimicked the style of the *Age*. That day's *Telegraph* also had a righteous editorial and cartoon. [The *Age*, 16 December, declared editorially that it would protect its sources "at all costs".]

66.1.6 BIAS IN THE MEDIA

Newsstand says that bias does exist within the Australian media and "it's endangering the ability of politicians and the public to engage in important policy debates." After an exhaustive review, the Australian Centre for Independent Journalism has released research showing news coverage of the carbon price debate in News Limited papers had negative coverage outweigh positive coverage by 82 per cent to 18 per cent. The light at the end of the tunnel, says Newsstand in a media release, is that after 11 years of John Hartigan, a new News Limited CEO, Kim Williams, has just started. With a new CEO, News Limited has the chance to turn over a new leaf.

- News Limited—the company that controls most Australian metropolitan newspapers, and *The Australian*—had a four-times-more-negative coverage than positive coverage of the carbon price debate.
- 11 per cent of news and features quoted no source and 30 per cent of the rest quoted only one source, not testing claims about the likely impact of the carbon policy against the views of other sources.
- Bluescope Steel was quoted 71 times. This was more than the number of times all NGOs and scientists combined.
- The *Australian* used ‘tax’ in 44 per cent of stories and ‘price’ in 11 per cent of cases.

66.1.7 FAIRFAX’S CHRISTMAS

Over Christmas 2011, Fairfax Media continued its recent practice of producing so-called “bumper editions” of their two main newspapers, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*, that is, producing a paper with most of the extra Saturday features on the weekday before the holiday, and repeating these features in the usual Saturday paper – and charging Saturday prices for both editions. This meant that the *Age* on Friday 23 December 2011 was titled (including masthead) as *The Saturday Age*.

66.1.8 WEEKLY TIMES ANNUAL

The *Weekly Times* has revived the *Weekly Times Annual*, albeit only as an eight page newsprint wraparound. This was included with the edition of 21 December 2011. The centre pages were a reproduction of all front pages of 2011.

66.1.9 FAIRFAX CUTBACKS

From 28 January the *Age* discontinued including the “My Career”, “Domain” and “Drive” sections in the early edition sent to the country. These sections were dropped a couple of years ago from copies sent interstate; and the *SMH* discontinued distribution of its real estate “Domain” section outside of Sydney.

66.1.10 THE NEWSPAPER WORKS FOR ALL THE NEWSPAPERS

The four major Australian newspaper publishers have announced the consolidation of the newspaper publishing industry bodies into a new peak organisation that will represent the interests of the newspaper industry from early 2012 (*Mediaweek* online, 12 December 2012). The scope of the new peak organisation will encompass all industry issues including: advocacy; marketing and advertising; government lobbying; regulation; the environment and sustainability. It will operate under the existing industry group of The Newspaper Works and will be charged with aggressively promoting newspapers across all print and digital platforms to audiences including advertisers, consumers, governments, shareholders, and the newspaper industry. News Ltd, Fairfax Media, Seven West Media and APN News & Media will continue to own The Newspaper Works with membership broadened to include other publishers and industry partners as associate members. The new body includes The Newspaper Works, the Newspaper Publishers’ Association/PANPA, the industry’s environmental bureau, PNEB and the advertising compliance body, PAAB, as they apply to the newspaper industry. Tony Hale will lead The Newspaper Works as CEO, and Mark Hollands of NPA/PANPA will be executive director responsible for leading the new organisation in areas including advocacy and industry best practice (see also: “The Diary”, *Australian*, Media section, 27 February 2012, p.27).

66.1.11 PEOPLE

Garry Bailey was farewelled on 5 January in the newsroom of Hobart’s *Mercury* at a ceremony attended by his wife Kym, father Bruce and sister Jenny. He had been the editor of the daily for 10 years and a newspaper journalist for 42 years (see ANHG 65.1.7). Bailey has since become the drive-time broadcaster for the ABC in northern Tasmania (*Stop! Press*, Davies Brothers’ Staff news, 6 January 2012).

Ross Dunkley, the Australian part-owner of the weekly censored *Myanmar Times*, Myanmar (published in Burmese and English) and the daily *Phnom Penh Post*, Cambodia, was featured in a documentary, *Dancing with Dictators*, on ABC-TV on Sunday night, 12 February. *Mediaweek* (30 January 2012, p.14) wrote about Dunkley’s south-east Asian enterprises. Dunkley was jailed

for 47 days shortly after the so-called democratic elections in Myanmar in late 2010. Dunkley now lives mainly in Phnom Penh (see ANHG 63.1.5).

Michael Gill, formerly the Financial Review Group boss, is suing former employer Fairfax Media for unlawful age discrimination. He is seeking more than \$1 million damages as well as publication of a full-page apology in its national business daily, the *Australian Financial Review* (*Australian*, Media section, 30 January 2012, p.28).

Jennifer Hewett, business-politics writer for the *Australian*, is to join the *Australian Financial Review* (*Australian*, Media section, 30 January 2012).

David Hoath has been appointed chief executive and publisher for Fairfax Media's Melbourne publishing arm after acting in the position since early September (*Age*, 20 December 2011).

Andrew Holman, editor of the *Cairns Post* and a journalist for 35 years, has been appointed editor of Hobart's *Mercury* and the *Sunday Tasmanian*. He replaces Garry Bailey (see above). Holman is a former sports editor and deputy editor of the Adelaide *Advertiser* (*Mercury*, 23 December 2012).

Peter Hudson, *Herald Sun* political editor and president of the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery, was interviewed in *Mediaweek*, 12 December 2011, p.8.

Peter Macourt, chief operating officer of News Limited since 2001, stepped down at the end of 2011. He joined the company's finance department in 1983 (*Australian*, 13 December 2011, p.19).

Neil Melloy, former editor-in-chief of News Limited's Brisbane suburban group, Quest Newspapers, has been appointed editor of the *Cairns Post*. He replaces Andrew Holman (see above). In 2007, Melloy was launch editor of Brisbane's *mX* before being appointed executive editor of the *Courier-Mail* in 2008 and joining Quest in 2009.

Ben Naparstek, editor of the *Monthly*, has been appointed editor of the *Good Weekend* magazine which appears with the Saturday *Sydney Morning Herald* and Melbourne *Age*. He became editor of the *Monthly*, which has published a series of highly contentious articles, in May 2009 at the age of 23. He was due to take up his role at Fairfax in February (*Australian* online, 15 December 2011).

Wayne Tomkins, general manager of the Bundaberg *NewsMail* for four and a half years, began duties as the general manager of the Mackay *Daily Mercury* in January 2012. Before his Bundaberg appointment, he was advertising manager of the *Daily Mercury* (*Daily Mercury*, 21 December 2011, p.2).

John van Tiggelen, 45, a writer for *Good Weekend* magazine since 1999, has been appointed editor of the *Monthly* (*Australian*, 13 January 2012). He beat a field of 75 applicants for the position. His book, *Mango Country: A Journey Beyond the Brochures of Tropical Queensland*, was shortlisted for the Colin Roderick Prize for Australian Literature in 2004.

Peter Veness, a 27-year-old journalist with the Canberra press gallery, died on 15 January after a three year battle with brain cancer (*Australian*, 16 January 2012).

Kim Williams, new CEO of News Limited, was the subject of "Ten Questions", in the *Australian*, Media section, 12 December 2011, p.27.

Bruce Wolpe, a former communications director for Fairfax Media, is to join the Prime Minister's office at the beginning of March as senior adviser, speaking directly with the business community. He has been working as senior staffer to California congressman Henry Waxman (*Age*, 17 January 2012).

66.1.12 NEWSPAPER FRONT-PAGE DESIGN IN FINLAND

Victor Isaacs writes: I have discovered an amazing fact about newspaper design in Finland. Some Finnish newspapers—including the biggest newspaper in Scandinavia and an influential newspaper (according to Professor Wikipedia), the *Helsingin Sanomat*—devote their entire front pages to advertisements! I had thought this was only a British or British-influenced peculiarity.

And I had thought this custom had entirely died out (except for one small weekly in Cornwall) but it is alive and well in 2012 in Finland.

66.1.13 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Media section of the *Australian* (12 December 2011, p.26) reviewed the major media events of the year in the final issue of the section for the year. *Mediaweek* presented its review in the issue of 19-26 December 2011.

66.1.14 BRAVE NEW MEDIA LANDSCAPE ENVISIONED

The interim report of the Convergence Review Committee, issued in December, anticipates a new media world in which traditional television or radio broadcasters—or their proprietors—will not necessarily be the central interest of media regulation. In several far-reaching regulations (reports Michael Bodey, *Weekend Australian*, 17-18 December 2011, p.21), the committee precipitates a potential free-for-all in media consolidation by opening up spectrum, abolishing cross-media ownership laws and considering online players, such as Google or Telstra, as being as integral to the media landscape as, say, a Seven West Media or a News Limited. It breaks down the old media paradigm in which the size of the Australian media market resulted in an oligopoly dominated by a handful of proprietors. The interim report foresees a world in which any media player—an influential blogger or a multi-national online titan—will be considered a “content service enterprise” and be subject to content, public interest or other regulatory conditions.

66.1.15 DEADLINES

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The third cricket Test in Perth between Australia and India provided an interesting insight into newspaper production deadlines and, perhaps, other quirky things. Perth is, of course, three hours behind those eastern states observing daylight saving and two hours behind Queensland, which does not. There was, you may remember, a fascinating first day's play on Friday, 13 January: India (which had already lost the first two Tests) was dismissed for 161 after being sent in to bat, and the Australian openers added 149 runs in 23 overs before stumps, with David Warner scoring the equal fourth fastest century in Test history. The next day, the *Weekend Australian* edition received in Mackay, Queensland (where I live), reported only on the Indian innings; the *Courier-Mail* had five pages of cricket with the full day's scores; the local *Daily Mercury*, which is printed in Rockhampton, published nothing on Friday's play in the Test. [Play finished about 7.50pm Queensland time.] I accessed the *Daily Mercury* website at 8.30am on the Saturday and there was a link to a report that showed India at four wickets for 73 at lunch on Day 1. Lunch was taken at 2.30pm Queensland time.

66.1.16 FAIRFAX URGED TO HALVE WORKFORCE

Analysts and fund managers expect more job cuts at Fairfax Media as media companies continue to struggle against powerful structural and cyclical headwinds (reported **James Frost**, *Australian*, 23 January 2012). CCZ media analyst Roger Colman believes Fairfax should cut its workforce by more than half, from 11,000 to 5000. “The environment is getting more difficult for newspapers across the board,” he said. With more than 20 years' experience analysing media companies, Colman believes he knows the recipe for restoring Fairfax's profitability. “Costs are easy to get out of newspapers,” he said. “You just keep sacking people, reducing the size of the newspaper and upping the cover price and squeezing it a bit harder.”

66.1.17 RECENT CHRONOLOGY

66.1.17.1 DEATHS

Birch, Harold Everard Reid: D. 30 November 2011 at Subiaco, WA, aged 101; joined the *West Australian* in 1925, was given a broom; one task was to get rid of rats, “for which lumps of lead came in handy”; when his artistic skill was noted, he was shifted to the photography section where his tasks included cracking eggs to supply the whites (albumen) applied to glass negatives; attended a school of engraving in Fleet Street; prowess as artist and artisan is evident in his album of England, Europe and both ship voyages; advances in production methods in the 1960s included a Klischograph electronic engraver and he was put in charge; retired in 1973 after offset printing had transformed much of the newspaper world.

Brewer, Dick: D. late 2011; born 1917; American businessman who became a member of General Douglas Macarthur's intelligence unit in Australia in 1942; set up intelligence office at Hotel Australia and was responsible for censoring the Sydney newspapers, radio broadcasts and film; he stood up to Frank Packer, Keith Murdoch and the Fairfax family, politely but firmly deciding what war news would be published; from 1943-45, conducted war correspondents to New Guinea (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 February 2012).

Richards, Richard David: D. aged 82; devoted almost entire working life to the production of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, from the hot-metal days to the offset era; rose to management level and had to roll up his sleeves during strikes, especially the major one in 1977; joined the paper in 1949 as a tradesman stereotype after a printing apprenticeship elsewhere; was transferred to manage the Fairfax store in Ultimo and worked out a more efficient way to use paper; moved back to the Fairfax building on Broadway as a manager and saw through the technological transition; retired in 1988 and moved to North Rocks and later the Gold Coast (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 February 2012).

Ryan, Mark: D. 10 December 2011 in Sydney, aged 55; regarded as one of the most influential trade union officials in shaping wages and working conditions for journalists and workers in the entertainment industries over the past 25 years; born in Sydney; completed an arts/law degree at the University of Sydney; after working with the Local Government Union and for commissioner Thomas Brack at the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, he moved to the Water and Sewerage Employees Union as its industrial organiser, the first organiser the organisation had employed who had tertiary qualifications; in 1987, he moved to the Australian Journalists Association as the federal industrial officer and, after the union merged in 1993 to form the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance, he became the assistant federal secretary, a position he held until his death (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 December 2011).

66.1.18 SURVEY OF NEWSROOM EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN

In the largest survey of its kind, more than 1000 female journalists will participate in research in February into whether women working in Australian newsrooms find them bleak (writes **Sally Jackson**, *Australian*, Media section, 30 January 2012, p.26). The project, headed by Monash University senior journalism lecturer Louise North, follows up a 1996 survey by the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance. The 1996 survey showed that 51 per cent of the women who responded had experienced sexual harassment in the newsroom, and 23 per cent had left a job in journalism because they felt they were being discriminated against in opportunities to get promoted. North said, "I wanted to replicate that survey, revised and updated to reflect the industry today, and see what has changed for women in that 16-year period. Is it better for women in the industry now? Is it the same? What things might have gone backwards?"

The online questionnaire will gather information on issues such as discrimination in recruitment and promotion, working conditions, job segregation and sexual harassment in print, online and broadcast media and wire services. North is a 19-year newsroom veteran, having worked for AAP in Brisbane and on suburban, rural and metro mastheads, including the Hobart *Mercury* and the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, Hervey Bay-Maryborough. She describes her newsroom experience as "bleak", but does not suggest that every woman shares that experience. "I found ways of surviving over that 19 years and many, many women do," she said. "But newsroom culture is blokey and women try different strategies to cope with newsrooms that still are male-dominated, particularly in decision-making."

North's survey expands on the work she did for her 2009 book, *The Gendered Newsroom*, based on lengthy interviews with 17 female and male journalists. It concluded that a female journalist trying to make it in a newspaper newsroom had just three options: use her feminine wiles, act like one of the boys, or accept she would always be an outsider.

"What I'm trying to do now is go from in-depth interviews into a larger, quantitative survey so I can back it up with a representative sample," she said. "I hope female journalists will see it as being relevant and won't just see it as something that is academic. I'm hoping women will respond and keep us up to date with what's going on." Women journalists who do not receive the email survey and would like to participate can email louise.north@monash.edu

66.1.19 CIRCULATION: SMH AT GREAT DEPRESSION LEVELS

The *Sydney Morning Herald's* circulation is down to the levels of the 1930s depression – in the low 200,000s when weekday and Saturday sales are combined (see *SMH* circulation graph in Gavin Souter's *Company of Herald*s, p.616). Average Monday to Saturday circulation for the *Herald* for the December quarter of 2011 was 206,291. Monday-to-Friday circulation averaged 184,613, down 11.9 per cent on final quarter of 2010. The Audit Bureau of Circulations figures show that Australia's print newspaper circulation fell by 4 per cent. Weekly sales of national, metropolitan and regional dailies and Sundays fell from 19.7 million in the 2010 final quarter to 18.9 million in the final quarter in 2011.

Victor Isaacs remarks that the general large decline for Sydney newspapers evident in the last couple of quarters has stabilised for the *Telegraph*, but, in contrast, the *SMH* and *Sun-Herald* are now in an alarming decline – almost of US or UK proportions! Nevertheless, the *SMH* (10 February 2012) put a very positive spin on the figures by highlighting not the hard-copy figures, but overall readership of the *SMH* over the internet, tablets and apps, as well as hard copy. In NSW (population 7,303,700 at December 2011) the *SMH/Sun-Herald* and *Daily* and *Sunday Telegraphs* sell 4,328,987 a week and in Victoria (pop. 5,624,100) the daily and Sunday *Ages* and the daily and Sunday *Herald Suns* sell 4,783,489. The Sydney News Ltd sales are 2,684,729 and the Sydney Fairfax sales, 1,644,218; The Melbourne News sales are 3,377,371 and the Melbourne Fairfax sales, 1,406,118.

	Oct-Dec 2011	Oct-Dec 2010	% variation
National			
<i>Australian</i> [M-F]	133,701	129,166	+ 3.5
<i>Weekend Australian</i>	295,066	290,286	+ 1.6
<i>Aust Financial Review</i> [M-F]	72,282	74,733	– 3.3
<i>Aust Financial Review</i> (Sat)	81,667	78,783	+ 3.7
New South Wales			
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> [M-F]	347,722	354,252	– 1.8
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sat)	327,209	327,177	Static
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	618,950	617,824	+ 0.2
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> [M-F]	184,613	209,644	– 11.9
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sat)	314,683	341,041	– 7.7
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	406,470	442,650+	– 8.2
Regional			
<i>Border Mail</i> (Albury)	23,496	24,330	– 3.4
<i>Western Advocate</i> (Bathurst) [M-F]	3,460	3,704	– 6.6
<i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill)	5,804	5,875	– 1.2
<i>Daily Liberal</i> (Dubbo) [M-F]	4,559	5,190	– 12.2
<i>Daily Examiner</i> (Grafton)	5,126	5,467	– 6.2
<i>Northern Star</i> (Lismore)	12,760	13,619	– 6.3
<i>Maitland Mercury</i> [M-F]	4,123	4,236	– 2.7
<i>Herald</i> (Newcastle)	46,072	48,100	– 4.2
<i>Central Western Daily</i> (Orange)	4,748	4,790	– 0.9
<i>Northern Daily Leader</i> (Tamworth)	7,088	7,348	– 3.5
<i>Daily News</i> (Tweed) now only a weekly	3,689	3,939	– 6.4
<i>Daily Advertiser</i> (Wagga Wagga) [M-F]	11,134	11,353	– 1.9
<i>Illawarra Mercury</i> (Wollongong)	25,006	26,310	– 3.1
Victoria			
<i>Herald Sun</i> [M-F]	472,444	495,000+	– 4.6
<i>Herald Sun</i> (Sat)	469,574	489,000+	– 4.0
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	545,577	578,500+	– 5.7
<i>Age</i> [M-F]	184,156	195,900+	– 6.0
<i>Age</i> (Sat)	263,047	281,500+	– 6.6
<i>Sunday Age</i>	222,291	231,000+	– 3.8
Regional			
<i>Courier</i> (Ballarat)	18,093	18,557	– 2.5

<i>Advertiser</i> (Bendigo)	13,064	13,466	– 3.0
<i>Geelong Advertiser</i>	27,388	28,290	– 3.2
<i>Sunraysia Daily</i> (Mildura)	7,279	7,382	– 1.4
<i>News</i> (Shepparton) [M-F]	9,464	9,882	– 4.2
<i>Standard</i> (Warrnambool)	12,061	12,572	– 4.1
Queensland			
<i>Courier-Mail</i> [M-F]	192,970	201,687	– 4.3
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (Sat)	260,178	275,610	– 5.6
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	463,011	498,673	– 7.2
Regional			
<i>NewsMail</i> (Bundaberg)	10,225	10,835	– 5.6
<i>Cairns Post</i>	22,574	24,053	– 6.1
<i>Gladstone Observer</i>	7,158	7,107	+ 0.7
<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i>	39,051	41,340	– 5.5
<i>Gympie Times</i>	4,851	5,238	– 7.4
<i>Queensland Times</i> (Ipswich)	9,683	10,324	– 6.2
<i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay)	14,050	14,941	– 6.0
<i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i>	17,723	19,259	– 8.0
<i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i>	8,643	9,258	– 6.6
<i>Morning Bulletin</i> (Rockhampton)	16,040	17,634	– 9.0
<i>Chronicle</i> (Toowoomba)	21,346	22,298	– 4.3
<i>Townsville Bulletin</i>	26,681	28,309	– 5.8
<i>Daily News</i> (Warwick) [M-F]	2,824	3,101	– 8.9
South Australia			
<i>Advertiser</i> [M-F]	175,987	180,960	– 2.7
<i>Advertiser</i> (Sat)	231,258	239,319	– 3.4
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	275,583	288,603	– 4.5
Western Australia			
<i>West Australian</i> [M-F]	185,477	184,545	+ 0.5
<i>West Australian</i> (Sat)	302,412	314,004	– 3.7
<i>Sunday Times</i>	282,585	293,244	– 3.6
Regional			
<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i>	5,438	5,436	Static
Tasmania			
<i>Mercury</i> [M-F]	41,894	44,094	– 5.0
<i>Mercury</i> (Sat)	57,569	59,975	– 4.0
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	54,905	57,283	– 4.2
Regional			
<i>Advocate</i> (Burnie)	22,000	23,208	– 5.2
<i>Examiner</i> (Launceston)	31,375	32,221	– 2.6
<i>Sunday Examiner</i>	37,923	39,097	– 3.0
Northern Territory			
<i>Northern Territory News</i> [M-F]	19,058	19,066	Static
<i>NT News</i> (Sat)	28,802	28,955	– 0.5
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	21,012	20,670	+ 1.7
ACT			
<i>Canberra Times</i> [M-F]	30,262	32,364	– 6.5
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sat)	48,759	52,182	– 6.6
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sun)	30,242	32,315	– 6.4

Source: Audit Bureau of Circulations

66.1.20 MITCHELL ON READERSHIP

Harold Mitchell writes (*Age*, 10 February 2012): They say that newspapers are dying. So I must be mad to be writing about marketing in the new digital world in the old-fashioned medium that

was traditionally used to wrap up fish and chips. But try doing that with your iPad. Now there's an idea for an app. You would be forgiven for thinking that all the talk in this column over the past couple of years about embracing the digital world must have slipped past the editor. The fact is that the dear old *Age* is not quite the victim of technological change that many think it to be. Many are surprised to know that *The Age* is gaining readers, not losing them, even though the river of gold is more like a babbling brook these days.

You see, 10 years ago the *Age* reached more than one in six Melburnians (16.9 per cent). Today its news print readership has dropped to 14.4 per cent. Aha, you say, newspapers *are* dying. Well this one isn't, because the number of Melburnians reading it online is almost equal to the ones with the ink on their fingers. In fact, the readership has increased to the point where one in four Melburnians (25.6 per cent) read the paper in its two forms and the overall readership is creeping up on the other paper we don't mention here.

So what on earth have those sales people been doing to produce this result? Well, Fairfax Metro Media chief executive Jack Matthews is sick of all this exaggerated talk about death and has pulled together all of the facts in something called the Fairfax Metro Media Audience Report. For the first time it brings together all the data about the total readership from all sources in a major report that will be published 10 times a year. This is long overdue research and it proves yet again that content is king. People want to know what's going on and they are prepared to dispense with the old fish and chip wrapper and take it whichever way it comes. More and more that's digitally.

Specifically, this first Fairfax Metro Media Audience Report shows that the clever and discerning readers, including those of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Financial Review*, have grown 26 per cent over the past five years. It also shows that there is a significant loyal and growing digital readership that is using the Fairfax websites of their choice for well over an hour every month with many of the readers returning to the sites many times a day. The business section attracts 68 per cent of the online audience.

66.1.21 NEWS LIFTS QUARTERLY EARNINGS

News Corporation lifted its second-quarter net profit by 65 per cent to \$US1.06 billion, but it warned that costs related to the British hacking scandal had blown out and could not be predicted (*Australian*, 10 February 2012, p.19).

66.1.22 MERCURY HEADQUARTERS ON MARKET

The Macquarie Street headquarters of the Hobart *Mercury*—a landmark in the Tasmanian capital—went on the market on 2 February. The *Mercury* will shift to a building overlooking the main entrance to Salamanca Square in the midst of the waterfront entertainment areas about August this year. The Macquarie Street property, one-third of a CBD block, includes the separate heritage-listed Ingle Hall, currently used as a printing museum and offices (*Mercury*, Hobart, 2 February 2012, p.2, and see ANHG 65.1.2).

66.1.23 THE 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL IN THE MEDIA

The *Australian* (20 February 2012) lists the following as the 50 most influential people in the Australian media: 1, Stephen Conroy; 2, Kerry Stokes; 3, Rupert Murdoch; 4, Harold Mitchell; 5, Kim Williams; 6, David Leckie; 7, David Gyngell; 8, Mark Scott; Greg Hywood; 10, Rhys Holleran; 11, Lachlan Murdoch; 12, Tim Worner; 13, Alan Jones; 14, Ray Hadley; 15, James Warburton; 16, Andrew Bolt; 17, James Packer; 18, Chris Mitchell; 19, Peter Blunden; 20, Richard Freudenstein; 21, Simon Pristel; 22, Neil Breen; 23, Helen McCabe; 24, Paul Whittaker; 25, Nick Leeder; 26, Laurie Oakes; 27, Mark Britt; 28 Gina Rinehart; 29, Michael Stutchbury; 30, Russell Tate; 31, Frank Kelly; 32, Neil Mitchell; 33, Matthew Stanton; 34, Rohan Lund; 35, Brett Chenoweth; 36, Angelos Frangopoulos; 37, Brett Clegg; 38, Kate Torney; 39, David Fagan; 40, Andrew Denton; 41, Annabel Crabb; 42, Peter Fray; 43, Paul Kelly; 44, Kyle Sandilands; 45, Nick Chan; 46, Alan Kohler; 47, Michael Ebeid; 48, Sue Spencer; 49, Eric Beecher; 50, Rick Ellis.

66.1.24 NEW EDITOR FOR IRISH ECHO

Dubliner Luke O'Neill is the new editor of Australia's fortnightly Irish newspaper, the *Irish Echo*. O'Neill, 27, was born and raised in Balbriggan, North Co Dublin. After graduating from the

journalism program at Dublin City University, he worked at the *Irish Times*, Newstalk Radio, the European Parliament Office in London and the Irish Courts Service. He moved to Australia three years ago and had been writing for the *Irish Echo* newspaper and website since July 2010. The *Echo* was established in 1988 (*Irish Echo*, 11-24 January 2012, p.5).

66.1.25 PERTH'S NEWSPAPER HOUSE TO BECOME BAR

The front office Perth's Newspaper House, opened in January 1933, 100 years after the first issue of the *Perth Gazette*, will become a hotel bar and dining room in the second half of this year. Former editor of the *West*, Paul Murray, wrote a nostalgic piece about Newspaper House (*West Australian*, 15 February 2012, p.13).

2 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: ONLINE

66.2.1 GLOBAL MAIL HAS FIVE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

The *Global Mail*, a non-profit, Sydney-based, web-only news outlet, was launched on 5 February. Managing editor Monica Attard says one of the reasons for the launch of theglobal.mail.org is that other news organisations are cutting back on their international coverage. Her team of 17 includes five foreign correspondents, based in Indonesia, the United States, Europe, the Middle East and South America. The news organisation is supported by Graeme Wood, the man behind the online hotel-booking service, wotif.com. Neil McMahon reported (*Mediaweek*, 6 February 2012, p.12): "The brief is public-interest journalism, with a strong investigative bent, driven by a team of powerhouse Australian talent who bring decades of local and foreign experience to the table. It promises to be free of commercial pressures, and ready to fill the gap left by staff cuts and tight budgets as existing media outlets." (See ANHG 65.5.2 Attard.)

66.2.2 ONLINE ADS OVERHAULING NEWSPAPERS AND TV

More will be spent in advertising online than in newspapers or on television within 18 months, the head of the Interactive Advertising Bureau has predicted. IAB CEO Paul Fisher said online advertising had grown 17 per cent last year to \$2.66 billion. He expected online ads to take a 23 to 24 per cent share of the market within 18 months and to surpass TV and newspapers to become the No. 1 medium. Expenditure in online ads in the past year grew by \$400 million (*Australian*, Media section, 13 February 2012, p.30).

66.2.3 HARDY PAYS UP IN LEGAL ROW OVER BLOG

Columnist and author Marieke Hardy is reported to have paid about \$13,000 in a confidential legal settlement over an online shaming campaign. On 23 December, Hardy posted a retraction on her blog after wrongly identifying Melbourne man Joshua Meggitt as the author of a hate blog dedicated to her (*Age*, 27 December 2011, p.3).

66.2.4 APN TAKES STAKE IN START-UP

APN News & Media has joined with technology business incubator Pollenizer in two investments, including taking a 25 per cent stake in online start-up Friendorse (*Australian*, 23 January 2012). APN said the investment followed a successful trial of Friendorse, a neighbourhood-based community recommendations web service for local businesses. "Part of APN's strategy for our regional publishing businesses is to provide more services and useful local information relating directly to those communities," APN chief development officer Matt Crockett said. "The Friendorse model based around recommendations is a good fit with that strategy."

66.2.5 NEW-LOOK CANBERRA TIMES WEBSITE

On 16 February, the *Canberra Times* unveiled a new-look website at canberratimes.com.au. The site claims to offer more news, sport, information and opinion from the city, the region, the nation and the world. For the first time, it gives users the opportunity to personalise their homepage. The My Masthead tool allows you to select the people, places or issues in the news that interest you the most, so the latest information is ready and waiting when you next log on. You can save stories to read later, and manage your comments on the site, using your existing Fairfax ID, Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn account. *Canberra Times* editor Rod Quinn said the newspaper's move to a fully integrated newsroom would allow its journalists to deliver breaking news and exclusive content across both digital and print platforms.

3 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

66.3.1 WHERE TO BUY YOUR COUNTRY PAPER IN MELBOURNE

The *Geelong Advertiser* can be bought at a few newsagents in central Melbourne, as well as at the News Ltd shop at Southbank. Only a few other Victorian country newspapers – the *Ballarat Courier*, *Bendigo Advertiser* and *Warrnambool Standard* – were available and only at the Southern Cross (nee Spencer St) Station newsagency. Other Victorian country titles have been unavailable altogether since the closure of McGills Newsagency in central Melbourne. Now a recent change of ownership of the Southern Cross Station outlet means these four country titles are no longer stocked (although the new owner says it is “investigating” getting them). However, these four titles are now available just a few metres away, at the City West Newsagency, 600 Collins Street.

66.3.2 MACKAY: TERRY HAYES FINISHES AFTER 53 YEARS

Terry Hayes, 85, has finished writing for the *Daily Mercury*, Mackay, after 53 years during which he was never a full-time journalist. He began covering Rugby League for the paper in 1958 when he was a clerk for the Railways department, added cricket coverage in 1963 and the racing a few years later. Full-time journalists had not been assigned to sporting coverage. In 1987, he took early retirement from the Railways and began working part-time for the *Mercury*, writing historical supplements, such as the Mackay Chamber of Commerce centenary feature. Meanwhile, he contributed a weekly sporting column 1975-99 and organised and wrote the articles related to the Mackay Sports Awards, 1965-98. From 1999-2011, he contributed a weekly history column, “Yesterday”. His final column appeared on 13 December 2011, p.9.

66.3.3 MACKAY: BLAIR HUNT, PROLIFIC LETTER WRITER

Blair Hunt, who wrote thousands of letters to the editor of the *Daily Mercury* over more than 20 years, died on 22 February. He will be remembered for his wit and his ability to make a point concisely (*Daily Mercury*, 24 February 2012, p.4).

4 – NEWSPAPER HISTORY

66.4.1 CIRCULATION IN ADELAIDE IN 19TH CENTURY

Circulation figures are notoriously hard to find for Australian newspapers in the colonial era. And those figures that were claimed and announced are not as reliably accurate as those provided since the Audit Bureau of Circulations came into existence in the 1930s. Your editor, in reading E.J. Prest’s recently published biography of Sir John Langdon Bonython (Australian Scholarly, 2011), noted various references to the circulation of the Adelaide dailies in the 19th century. Here are some edited extracts about circulation and the capacity of the presses:

pp.17-18: Around June 1860, the *Advertiser* had bought a steam printing machine capable of producing 2,500 copies an hour. The paper launched an evening daily, the *Express*, in late 1863 (to compete with the evening *Telegraph*, started in 1862). Early in 1864 the *Advertiser* proprietary claimed a combined circulation of 15,000 copies a week, leading that of all other papers. The *Advertiser* bought up the machinery, plant and goodwill of the *Telegraph* and its *Weekly Mail* in 1867.

pp.21-22: The *Advertiser* installed a new Prestonian Perfection Press, which could print on both sides of a sheet at once and could print and fold 12,000 eight-page papers an hour.

p.24: On the day Bonython became editor (1 January 1884), he announced that the weekly *Chronicle’s* circulation was 17,000. He reduced the price of the *Advertiser* to a penny with a consequent increase in circulation. By 1886 the Bonython company’s stable of three papers—the *Chronicle* (weekly), *Advertiser* (morning daily) and *Express* (evening daily)—had each doubled the circulation of their rivals, the *Observer*, *Register* and *Journal*.

p.29: In 1892 the *Advertiser* claimed a weekly circulation of 129,500 or 21,580 daily. In 1894 its circulation was said to be double that of the *Register*. In 1896 the *Advertiser* installed a new press capable of printing 20,000 eight-page papers an hour.

pp.40-41: The *Advertiser's* daily circulation was claimed to be 42,000 in 1911 and, with war news in such high demand, 57,000 in 1915.

66.4.2 SUTTONTYPE PRINTING: BIBLIOGRAPHICAL QUERY

There is a nagging query from B.J. McMullin in *Script & Print (Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of Australia & New Zealand)*, Vol 35, No 3 (2011), p.157. He mentions that the *Ballarat Courier* of 12 December 2006 ran a series of pen portraits of "100 Ballarat Greats". One of those featured was Henry Sutton (1856-1912), inventor of "Suttontype". McMullin unsuccessfully sought bibliographical sources other than W.B. Withers' history of Ballarat and asks: What was the Suttontype process and was it ever put into practice? ANHG's research on Trove has produced:

Euroa Advertiser, 29 November 1889, p.2: **Suttontype**. Last week we had an opportunity of inspecting some blocks by the new engraving process called after the inventor "Sutton-type". The blocks have all the appearance of copper-plate electros taken from the finest engravings. Like wood engravings, they may be printed with type, but unlike wood engravings, they can be produced ... photographic one, and as the rapid dry-plates are used, daylight is not necessary for the working. In all photo-mechanical work hitherto invented, daylight has been a *sine qua non*, as the substances used, either bitumen or a chromic salt in combination with a colloid body; are so feebly sensitive as to be practically unworkable by artificial light. Mr Sutton has got away from the beaten track of workers in photographic engraving, and, realising that any process to be commercially successful must be independent of uncertain and varying daylight, has sought for and perfected a process in which bromide of silver replaces the bitumen and bichromates. The negative, taken in the camera, is itself the mould for electro- typing, so that no time is lost in printing on zinc, or making transfers from stone.

It is stated that within ten minutes from the actual exposure in the camera the mould is ready for the electrotyping bath. Although the usual "screen" is used, Mr Sutton has succeeded in effecting what has hitherto been an obstacle with all half-tone printing processes, viz., the flowing of the darker tones, so as to get rid of the mechanical "draughtboard" appearance of the curves and shades. Mr Sutton may honestly claim to have practically solved a problem that has baffled workers for nearly half a century, for he states that on a rapid bromide dry plate he can get a gelatine relief, of one thirty-second of an inch. In the method of swelling the gelatine up to so comparatively great a height lies Mr Sutton's invention. Relief in gelatine negatives has for some years been tempting inventors, but the difficulty of getting sufficient relief has baffled everyone but the present inventor. The blocks are all that could be desired for fine engravings, and can also be produced sufficiently coarse for moderately open work. If, as Mr Sutton states, they can be produced more cheaply, than zinc blocks, and a tithe of the cost of wood engravings; there is every probability of "Suttontype" becoming worked commercially on a large scale.

There were two other mentions of Suttontype: *Argus*, 28 January 1890, p.5; and *South Australian Register*, 13 September 1890, p.7.

66.4.3 WILD, HAGGARD LOOK OF A MAN ABOUT TO START A NEWSPAPER

Western Australian Times, 9 November 1877, p.2: A tramp was arrested, taken before an American justice, and sentenced for three months. His worship, in explaining the sentence, remarked that while there was no evidence that the prisoner had been guilty of any crime, he thought it prudent to commit him, as he had the wild, haggard look of a man about to start a newspaper.

66.4.4 NEWSPAPERS IN NSW AND NZ IN 1842

Thomas Strode writes in the *Hunter River Gazette*, 21 May 1842, p.3, col. 1: Nothing shows so much the rapid advancement of the various Australasian colonies in political and social importance as the number of journals which, within the last four years, have been established in them. This great additional encouragement held out to literary undertakings results from the rapid increase of the population and the improved circumstances of the people, moral and pecuniary. Within the period mentioned, no less than thirteen journals have been established in the colonies of New South Wales and New Zealand, all of which, we understand, have met with abundant success, and as commercial investments are likely to turn out well. Of these journals,

called into existence, three have been established in the middle district, namely, the *Australasian Chronicle* and the *Observer*, published in Sydney, and the *Hunter River Gazette*, at Maitland; five in the district of Port Phillip; and an equal number in New Zealand. We perceive, also, that another paper is about to be started at this latter settlement as a sort of joint stock concern.

At a public meeting lately called for the purpose at Wellington, it was resolved to establish a journal by one hundred shares at £10 each, and of this number no less than seventy-five shares were subscribed for before the meeting broke up. This evinces a spirit among the settlers of New Zealand which we are glad to witness, and which cannot fail rapidly to advance the interests of that colony. The effect of this extensive encouragement of literature in these colonies has already been perceived in the improved social condition of the people, and in the dissemination of that political knowledge, which are its natural results. [ANHG: The five newspapers launched in the Port Phillip district by May 1842: the *Port Phillip Advertiser*, *Port Phillip Gazette*, *Port Phillip Patriot*, *Port Phillip Herald* and *Geelong Advertiser*. Incidentally, the *Hunter River Gazette* ceased on 25 June 1842, with proprietor Thomas Strode heading for Melbourne to help run George Arden's and his *Port Phillip Gazette*.]

66.4.5 COUNTRY LIFE AND LONG SERVICE

Newspaper News, 1 March 1945, p.5: In the history of Australian journalism there is probably no paper of commensurate size which can rival the enviable record established by *Country Life*, NSW. In the entire 56 years since it began publication, its staff has never numbered more than 25, yet the celebration last month of a silver jubilee of service by Mr D.F. Withers, assistant wool editor, is the fourth similar occasion within a few years. Known affectionately to his associations as "D.H.", the late Mr D.H. Souter served as a member of *Country Life* staff for 40 years.

Its most widely known and well loved editor, "Gossip" (the late Mr Robert McMillan), held the reins for 20 years, and for many years after he had relinquished them was actively interested in the old firm. Its late editor, Mr Darcy Gilligan, served for 35 years and the present editor, Mr Frank O'Loughlen, has already completed 18. Mr C.D. Murphy, advertising manager, and, in the absence on service of Lieut. Col. C.H. Neville, acting business manager, this year completes 30 years' service. Mr W.D. Augh, whose handling of advertising copy contributes so much to the firm's goodwill outside, can claim 28 years with *Country Life* this year.

66.4.6 NOMAD IN MAITLAND

Wingham Chronicle, 11 October 1905: Another weekly paper is being published in Maitland named the *Nomad*. So far it is only demi folio size but contains well written reading matter and a fair number of advertisements.

64.4.7 MEET MISS SMITH, COUNTRY CORRESPONDENT

Gareth Evans writes in the *Courier-Mail*, 50th anniversary issue, 1983: In early December 1965, the telephone rang in the chief of staff's office at the *Courier-Mail*. It was the newspaper's Toogoolawah correspondent, Miss Eunice Smith, and she had one message. "I don't know what's going on and nobody will tell me, but they are shooting pregnant cows in the Brisbane Valley." This tip from probably the most prolific of the newspaper's country correspondents became one of the great stories of 1965. Between 600 and 700 dairy cattle were slaughtered because it was suspected they had a virus known as blue tongue. Cattle semen which was suspected of carrying blue tongue had been smuggled into the area from British Columbia and used on one farm. Orders to slaughter the cattle were kept an official secret. Thanks to the tip from Miss Smith, the story came out. The army was called in and the potential threat of a spread of the disease was eradicated.

66.4.8 FRANCIS CAMPBELL BREWER

An obituary worth noting appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 November 1911. It was for Francis Campbell Brewer, who began working for the *Sydney Monitor* in 1835. He was articled to Edward Smith Hall. The article described him as one of the oldest journalists in Australia. Gavin Souter mentions Brewer in *Company of Herald*s, p.70. He says Brewer had been first a sub-editor on the *Sydney Morning Herald*, then night editor and, from 1877 to 1879, the *Herald's* correspondent in London. Brewer was probably the first *Herald* journalist sent to London, and is thought to have succeeded Samuel Cook as editor of the *Sydney Echo* in 1880. Brewer had been

with the *Herald* since 1839 and did not retire until 1891. Long service was already a tradition with the Fairfaxes, but for some reason John Fairfax himself did not approve of more than one generation among his employees. “I expect Brewer’s eldest son—now a reading boy in the office—will go to the Bank of New South Wales next week,” he wrote. “I am glad for the boy’s sake, and also because of my objection to sons of the men being in the office.”

R.B. Walker (*The Newspaper Press in New South Wales, 1803-1920*, p.99) said: F.C. Brewer, after starting work under ‘Monitor’ Hall, was employed by the *Herald* from 1839 to 1891, when he retired on a pension of £200 (\$400) per annum. Walker cited the *Herald*, 14 August 1891.

In chasing that citation via Trove, ANHG discovered: (1) *Launceston Examiner*, 19 February 1891, p.3: On 18 February, as a result of remarks made by C.H. Haggar in that day’s *Herald* (in particular an innuendo about the morality of Brewer and his wife) Brewer went to the *Herald* office and chastised Haggar. Haggar took out a summons against Brewer for assault, and Brewer instructed proceedings be commenced against Haggar for defamation of character. (2) *Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, 17 April 1891, p.5: Charles Haggar, editor and publisher of the *Charters Towers Daily Herald*, who was accused of criminally libelling Francis C. Brewer, was fined £20, with £10 costs, at the Charters Towers Police Court today. (3) *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 August 1891, p.7: In a letter to the editor, Brewer said he began working for Edward Smith Hall on 12 December 1835. Brewer wrote at length in high praise of Hall.

66.4.9 COMFORT THE AFFLICTED...

At various times, journalism historians seek the source for the much-quoted role seen for newspapers to “comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable”. From time to time, members of the American-based J-history net have posed that question, and answered it. Here’s the generally accepted answer: Finley Peter Dunne, a nationally syndicated columnist, wrote: “The newspaper does ivrything for us. It runs th’ polis, marries the foolish, comforts the afflicted, afflicts the comfortable, buries the dead and roasts thim aftherward.” The quote appeared in several papers, including the *Boston Globe*, 5 October 1902. Grace Eckley wrote a compact biography, *Finley Peter Dunne*, Twayne, Boston, 1981. The National Library of Australia holds a copy.

66.4.10 BRADMAN BATS AND BATS AND BATS

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: When Australian captain Michael Clarke scored 329 not out against India in the second cricket Test in Melbourne on 3-5 January 2012 and the next day dismissed Indian’s Sachin Tendulkar, the highest run-scorer in Tests, the *Weekend Australian* (7-8 January) ran a heading over a front-page picture of Clarke: “Clarke bats and bats ... and bowls”. Beneath the picture, the paper ran an image of what it said was a 1934 *Evening News* poster: “BRADMAN BATS AND BATS AND BATS”. That set off alarm bells in my mind. Sydney’s *Evening News* had closed by 1934, hadn’t it? Yes, it had—on 21 March 1931. Ah, but the poster was from London’s *Evening News*, as I found when I checked Michael Page’s *Bradman: The Illustrated Biography*. There was the 1934 poster on page 200. In fact, the book reproduces quite a few newspaper Bradman posters, such as BRADMAN 0 (London *Evening News*, May 1934); BRADMAN VERSUS ENGLAND (London *Daily Press*, 12 July 1930); BRADMAN WORLD-BEATER (London *Star*, July 1930); and HE’S OUT (London *Star*, undated but ca 1930).

66.4.11 SHORT-LIVED SUNDAY TIMES IN SYDNEY, 1849

The *Sunday Times* (estab. 1849) appears to be the first designed Sunday newspaper in Australia. The *Sydney Gazette* had, of course, appeared on Sundays for some years early in the piece. The *Colonial Times*, Hobart, reported 6 July 1849, p.2, that a new weekly journal, called the *Sunday Times*, had been started at Sydney on 17 June. It had professed “independence”, and appeared to be published by a company. It promised it would invariably be published on a Saturday evening (*South Australian Register*, 28 July 1849). R.B. Walker, *The Newspaper Press in New South Wales, 1803-1920*, p.115, says the publisher was Thomas Revel Johnson, “a somewhat disreputable solicitor who had been sentenced to two years’ jail in 1843 for criminally libelling James Martin”. Johnson had launched *Bell’s Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer* (estab. 1845), but ceased to be connected with it in mid-1848. The *Argus*, 20 July 1849, p.2, reported (under the byline of its Sydney correspondent, dated 13 July): “The *Sunday Times* I hear is defunct, and the *New South Wales Times* the proposed daily is still in *future*, there being as yet no prospect of its appearance in August next.” It seems that the *Sunday Times* appeared three times, at most four.

66.4.12 HARRY KNEEBONE RETURNS

Sunday Times, Perth, 20 April 1924, p.18: After innumerable attempts, Harry Kneebone has at last succeeded in getting into the South Australian Talking Shop. Harry was early in Coolgardie and was for a good while in charge of the mechanical production of the *Coolgardie Miner*, but eventually returned to Adelaide, and got on to the literary side of the Labor daily in the Holy City. Then he got a job on the publicity staff of Australia House in London, through Andy Fisher and Co, but the cold of the Old Land was too near zero and once more he returned to Adelaide and the editorship of the *Daily Herald*. He's a zealous propagandist for the Labor Objectives, and will no doubt regenerate society now that he is among the chosen people pie of political South Hoss.

66.4.13 BUMPERS OF CHAMPAGNE GREET NEWSPAPER FOR STREAKY BAY

Streaky Bay, about 10km from present-day Ceduna, South Australia, had drama in the first few months of its life as a newspaper-publication centre. The Streaky Bay correspondent of the *Register*, Adelaide (4 July 1912, p.5), wrote on 29 June that a weekly newspaper, the *West Coast Sentinel*, had begun publication the previous day. "By invitation, a large number of townspeople and residents of the district assembled at the printing office to celebrate the occasion. The machine was set in motion by Mrs. W. H. Betts [wife of a local merchant], and the first number of the paper printed. Luncheon was provided and Mr John Speed (Chairman of the District Council), presided. The toast of 'The King' was given by the Rev. Canon. Howard. Mr W. H. Betts proposed 'Success to the *West Coast Sentinel*', coupled with the name of the proprietor (Mr C. J Wallace), which was enthusiastically received. Mr Betts dealt with the rise and progress of the west coast in an interesting speech, and congratulated the proprietor on his enterprise. Mr Wallace responded and expressed thanks for the kindly sentiments. The toasts were all drunk in bumpers of champagne. At the conclusion of the proceedings Mr Betts offered at auction the first copy of the newspaper, printed on white silk, and Mr John Speed became the purchaser at £3/7/6 (\$6.75). The new printing machine is a double-royal Dawson, capable of turning out 1,200 papers an hour, and is worked with a petrol engine. A Challenge Gordon machine is provided for the jobbing work which with all new type and a modern cutting machine, completes the plant."

Sadly, within three months, the newspaper proprietor was dead. The *Advertiser*, Adelaide, reported on 24 September 1912, p.8: "A correspondent telegraphed last night that great regret was expressed in the Streaky Bay district at the sudden death in Adelaide of Mr Charles James Wallace, the proprietor of the *West Coast Sentinel*." The *Sentinel* began as a four-page broadsheet that circulated "throughout the Great West Coast, Eyre's Peninsula". It became a tabloid on 9 February 1924 and incorporated the Ceduna-based *Western Mail* from 9 January 1931. From 23 July 1926 to 23 January 1931, it carried the strange sub-title '*and Blossom Tea*'. From mid-1968, the paper had offices at both Streaky Bay and Ceduna, and from December 1978 the paper has been located only at Ceduna. The *Sentinel* is still published.

[Streaky Bay was so named by the explorer Matthews Flinders who noticed the streaks in the water there – streaks that, we now know, were caused by the oil released by kelp growing in the bay.]

N.B. The State Library of South Australia is in the process of conserving a silk copy of the first issue of the *Laura Standard*, donated by the Laura Historical Society.

66.4.14 PORT LINCOLN PAPER'S PITHY PARS

District correspondents were renowned for their verbosity, generally because they were paid per line. So, Adelaide's *Register* (11 May 1906, p.4) took notice when it discovered one whose focus was brevity: "The Fowler's Bay correspondent of the *West Coast Recorder*, Port Lincoln, reports his district news with telegraphic pithiness. Thus: 'M.C. Donegan and family left here per the *Australian* regretted by the people. Dingoes numerous. Rabbits scarce. Water ditto. Feed ditto. Rain badly wanted. Jetty out of repair; dangerous to the public. Roads out of repair; bad for bikes. Good country locked up for want of roads. What about new Hundred of Wakita?' "

66.4.15 WOMEN INVADE 'MAN'S DOMAIN'

West Gippsland Gazette, Warragul, 26 March 1912, p.15 (edited extract from *Australian Printer*): Woman has now invaded most of the walks of life in which man was supposed to be pre-eminent

and even the printing business is not exempt. For two young ladies in Sydney have now established a thriving printery and it is the only one of its type in the Commonwealth. Under the title of the Wallace Sisters, the Misses Rena and Muriel Wallace, two young women of more than the average personal charm, employ themselves setting type, running a handy little jobbing machine and another larger press for posters and the like, and generally carrying on the business of an up-to-date printery. That they are mistresses of their art the general excellence of their work and the promptitude with which orders are attended to fully testify. "It's just about two years ago since we began," Miss Muriel says, "and of course, we had to start where rents were not too high. You see, we belong to a news- paper world, so it's natural enough that when father died we should turn to print ing. Father owned a paper and we, of course, learned to assist him in typeset- ting, reporting, and in other ways."

Their father, Peter Jefferson Wallace was a well-known figure in the newspaper world of the State, being proprietor and editor at one time or another of the *South Coast Herald*, the *St. Leonard's Record*, the *Murrumburrah Signal*, the *Liverpool Progress* and the *Kangaroo Valley Pioneer*. "No, the work isn't exactly pleasant," Miss Muriel declares. "Our friends tell us that we should wear gloves; but you can imagine how impossible that would be. Setting type demands a very acute sense of touch, and in gloves we would be hopelessly handicapped. No, I'm afraid our fingers must be sacrificed. But the business is an interesting one. It is of course, hard, and turning the press by hand too heavy for us in reality when a rush of orders come along. Indeed, the printing of the New South Wales Dairy Association Conference quite tired us out, but we were nevertheless proud of it, and we did it in good time, too." The booklet referred to, is a very creditable production; and these Australian girls may well be congratulated upon their pluck and enterprise.

66.4.16 THINGS THAT TEND TO SHORTEN A NEWSPAPER PROPRIETOR'S LIFE

Croydon Mining News (Queensland), 28 November 1903: Our late wires. – For some unexplainable reason (wrote owner-editor William Sidney Murphy), our last batch of wires from the south did not reach us last night. Neither did our usual wire giving the latest quotations for Charters Towers stocks come to hand. We regret this extremely, but ask our readers to accept the inevitable in as philosophical spirit as they can. It is one of those unavoidable accidents that tend to shorten a newspaper proprietor's life and worry him into an untimely grave.

66.4.17 RENMARK AND HARRY SAMUEL TAYLOR

ABC-TV's *Landline* visited Renmark to produce a segment on highlighted family-owned country newspapers in a segment on February 19. Reporter Kerry Staight interviewed third and fourth generation members of the Taylor family which has owned the *Murray Pioneer* since 1905. The "first" Taylor—Harry Samuel, editor, 1905-32—made the *Pioneer* "the best country newspaper in Australia", according to some experts, and a must-read for the local orchardists. The Lock family of printers has also been closely involved with the *Pioneer* throughout the Taylor ownership. Harry Lock, 91, told *Landline* his father worked there 27 years, his brother Jack for 37 years, brother Mick 48 years, brother Lindsay 48 years, he himself 46 years and now son Barry had worked there 40 years.

5 – RECENTLY PUBLISHED

66.5.1 BOOKS

McKnight, David, *Rupert Murdoch: An Investigation of Political Power*, Allen & Unwin, 2012. 296pp. RRP \$32.99.

The author tracks Murdoch's influence, from his support for Reagan and Thatcher, to his attacks on Barack Obama and the Rudd and Gillard governments. He examines the secretive corporate culture of News Corporation: its private political seminars for editors, its sponsorship of think tanks and its recurring editorial campaigns around the world. Its success is reflected in the fact that the campaigns are familiar to us all: small government and market deregulation, skepticism on climate change, support for neo-conservative adventures such as Iraq and criticism of all things 'liberal'.

Wegner, Jürgen, *Working life: An autobiography of a life in typesetting in Melbourne*. 48pp.

The author writes: Small number of copies produced; third in the *Shadowland papers* series: *John Ellis' 'Working life'*. Ellis started his working life as an apprentice in a small trade typesetter in

Melbourne having worked as a comp. and a typesetter (see John Ellis' *A typesetter's apprenticeship, The shadow-land*, 32 (2011), pp. [11-14]). He subsequently worked for many years at the Herald & Weekly Times before moving across to Herald Gravure Printers (afterwards re-branded as Giganticolour). Ellis retired in 1990. The autobiography covers a period of great change – both technological and industrial; Ellis lived through it all – and survived to write about it from his own, personal perspective. *Working Life* is about 16,000 words (48pp.). For further information contact: Jürgen Wegner: branntweinarchiv@hotmail.com

66.5.2 MONOGRAPHS

Josephi, Beate, “Supporting democracy: How well do the Australian media perform?”, *Australian Journalism Monographs*, Vol. 13, 2011. The central section of this study is part of the Media for Democracy Monitor project, which was developed for mature democracies, and has been carried out in nine European countries and Australia.

Otago Daily Times, Dunedin, 15 November 2011. NZ's oldest daily newspaper commemorated its 150th anniversary with a special issue, including an 80-page supplement. This reproduced news from the past 150 years, laid out in the style of the present day paper. The supplement also included a brief history of the paper and a reproduction of its first issue.

66.5.3 ARTICLES

Boreham, Glen, “Recalibrating policy as new era dawns”, *Australian*, Media section, 30 January 2012, p.24. The chairman of the Convergence Review Committee argues that technology has outpaced policies and regulations. The article sets out to clarify some of the key findings from the committee's interim report, under the headings: Content service enterprises; Australian content; a new regulator; media diversity; and content standards.

Brook, Stephen, “It's who, not how many, that counts for future of newspapers”, *Australian*, Media section, 12 December 2011, pp.28, 25. The Media editor discusses newspaper circulations, readership and especially “executive readership”. One media buyer's quote: “Certain target segments are experiencing growth [for the *Australian* and the *Australian Financial Review*] despite general readership trends being in decline.” See also Mark Day, “When numbers count they must be right”, *Australian*, Media section, 20 February 2012, p.30.

Clarke, Patricia, “The transformation of Stella Allan: from soapbox socialist to conservative women's page editor”, *Australian Journalism Review*, 33 (2), December 2011, pp.41-49. Examines the influences that transformed young NZ journalist Stella Allen (1871-1962) from a committed socialist and feminist to a conservative establishment figure who edited the women's pages of the Melbourne *Argus* for three decades.

Cryle, Denis, “Unworldly celebrity? Sir Charles Todd's centennial challenge”, *Australian Journalism Review*, 33 (2), December 2011, pp.9-17. Argues for a wider understanding of Todd, the legendary builder of the Overland Telegraph, grounded in his British connections as well as his colonial experiences.

Josephi, Beate, “Supporting democracy: How well do the Australian media perform?” *Australian Journalism Monographs*, Vol. 13, 2011. This monograph analyses how well the Australian media perform in their role of supporting democracy. The central section of the study is part of the Media for Democracy Monitor project, which was developed for mature democracies, and has been carried out in nine European countries and Australia. The study concludes that, in comparison with the European countries, Australia performs moderately well and that its legal framework and media ownership structure are the two most significant factors impeding its democratic functioning.

Kirkpatrick, Rod, “How local is local”, *GXpress*, November 2011, pp.34-35. Shows how “centralised printing” has forced change and an effective end to the notion of “a job for life”. This article was inspired by the closures of the APN printeries in Mackay and Bundaberg.

Kirkpatrick, Rod, “Mitchell King Armstrong, editor and exemplar”, *Australian Journalism Review*, 33 (2), December 2011, pp.27-34. This article focuses on the founder of the

Kyneton Guardian, the patriarch of a four-generation dynasty at the Victorian paper. Armstrong built up an enduring family newspaper ethos that arose from his newspaper editorials, his community involvement and his paternal influence.

Klein, Ezra, “And now a word for our sponsor”, *Age*, 10 January 2012. Advertising has helped stock the storehouse of human knowledge, taking over, in the US context, from political parties as the major financiers of newspapers.

Morrison, Elizabeth, “Australian Titan? (Re)writing the life of David Syme”, *Australian Journalism Review*, 33 (2), December 2011, pp.19-26. This article argues the need for a new biography of the great owner-editor of the *Age*, shifting emphasis from the portrayal in existing studies of Syme as a political animal to a focus on his identity as the newspaper man of his time in the context of a developing Australian daily press.

Munro, Craig, “Printer’s ink and purple prose: the newspaper apprenticeship of A.G. Stephens”, *Australian Journalism Review*, 33 (2), December 2011, pp.35-40. Examines the early life and career of Stephens (1865-1933), the *Bulletin’s* influential and celebrated “Red Page” literary editor from 1896-1906.

Oosterman, Allison, “The subject as love object: Malcolm Ross—a biographical conundrum”, *Australian Journalism Review*, 33 (2), December 2011, pp.51-60. Ross was New Zealand’s first official war correspondent. The author talks of her struggle to form a “loving” relationship with Ross as she researched his biography for her PhD thesis.

Putnis, Peter, “Keith Murdoch: wartime journalist, 1915-1918”, *Australian Journalism Review*, 33 (2), December 2011, pp.61-70. Explores Murdoch’s developing “journalistic vision” and his desire to influence public opinion in furtherance of the war effort.

Sheahan, Mike, “Thanks for everything” and “Tales from a footy tragic”, *Herald Sun*, 17 December 2011, pages 19 and 49. A top football writer reminisces upon his retirement. [Correction: ANHG misspelt the author’s name as “Sheehan” in No. 65.]

Simper, Errol, “Top reads in the Top End”, *Australian*, Media section, 20 February 2012, p.30. A reminiscence on the 60-year-old *Northern Territory News* where the author worked more than 40 years ago.

Stuart, Nicholas, “A good editor should be there to save us from ourselves”, *Canberra Times*, 13 December 2011, pa. 13. Discusses the decline in all news media – except in the *Canberra Times* – of editorial resources and of sub-editing.

Waterford, Jack, “Hark, Herald angels tell of rising fees in hell”, *Sunday Canberra Times*, 11 December 2011, p. 17. A discussion of the “silly season” in news reporting over the holiday period. Waterford claims that the silly season starts when the *Sydney Morning Herald* runs as its main news story that private school fees are going up.

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