

The *Cumberland Argus* office in George Street, Parramatta, in 1889. See this issue for ANHG 97.4.2.

# AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

# NEWSLETTER

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## **Publication details**

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# 97.1.1 Anzac Day and the *Daily Telegraph*

**Victor Isaacs** writes: To commemorate Anzac Day, on Wednesday, 25 April 2018, the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* appeared with its outside pages as a wraparound in broadsheet format. The DT's old Gothic-style masthead was revived. There was an eight-column, broadsheet layout, with multi-deck headlines, and stories written in an old style. (The DT went to tabloid from 1 September 1942, when it said the change "will last only as long as the war".) See also 97.4.9 below.

# 97.1.2 ACT Chief Minister is 'over' mainstream media

ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr has declared he is "over" the mainstream media and "hates journalists" (*Canberra Times*, 12 March 2018). Barr, speaking to communications specialists at a "meet the buyer" event at the ACT parliament on 8 March, set out his new communications plans to bypass traditional media. "It is a very clear and deliberate strategy for change, it has the backing of my government, my administration," he said in a recording of the event leaked to the *Canberra Times*, challenging the communications companies to come up with contentious and risky ideas.

"And if the word of the chief minister is anything in this context, let me be absolutely crystal clear about our intention to both resource this and to deliver this change. It has to happen. We're going to make it happen," he said. Barr told the group he had been "blunt and frank" in delivering the same message to "everyone within the communications area of government". "It is absolutely clear to me that that is the way forward and that is the path that we are going to be pursuing over the next few years."

Barr began his remarks by saying he would start with some "frank statements that may or not shock some people in the room". "I hate journalists. I'm over dealing with the mainstream media as a form of communication with the people of Canberra. What passes for a daily newspaper in this city is a joke and it will be only a matter of years before it closes down," he said.

Barr claimed the average age of viewers of the ABC television 7pm news bulletin was in the mid 60s, and the circulation of the print edition of the Canberra Times was less than 15,000. Most Canberrans did not consume traditional media, Barr said, referring to the relative youth of the wider community with half of Canberrans aged under 34. It is a recurring theme of Barr's that older Canberrans have a disproportionate say, including last week when he hit out at the opposition of "a certain generation of Canberrans" to tall buildings.

"We need to completely overhaul the way we communicate as a government and that's exactly what we're doing," he told the communications specialists. "My challenge to everyone in this room is to be at the cutting edge of communication, to put up contentious, risky and interesting ideas about how we can communicate ... No idea should be too crazy ... We won't accept every single one of them, but we definitely have to change how we engage."

The government wanted to hear directly from Canberrans and communicate directly back to them, "not through the filter of journalists, and particularly through the filter of print journalists, which is a dying industry", he said, inviting ideas for digital, video and creative content that would "completely sweep aside the reputation that Canberra has for being bureaucratic and dull". A Fairfax Media spokesperson said Canberra was well served by its independent media—including Fairfax's own publications. "Those held to account by the media often find it not to their liking," the company said in response. "It is worth remembering the profound words of the United States Supreme Court in its landmark decision on media freedom to report—for the protection of 'the governed not the governors'." Barr has had an uneasy relationship with the media and has often criticised the *Canberra Times*, frequently refusing to deal directly with its political reporters.

Barr later apologised and backed down-a little (Canberra Times, 14 March 2018).

#### 97.1.3 Chessell becomes Fairfax group executive editor

Fairfax Media has appointed James Chessell as group executive editor of its Australian Metro Publishing division (*Australian*, 14 March 2018). The new role was created by Chris Janz, managing director of Australian Metro Publishing, but does not include supervision of the *Australian Financial Review* whose editor in chief Michael Stutchbury will report directly to Janz. Chessell, a former media business writer for the *Australian* (see ANHG 63.2.5 and 64.1.11), will have editorial responsibility for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Melbourne *Age* and *Canberra Times* as well as the *Brisbane Times* and *WAtoday* websites and Fairfax's Life Media division.

Janz created the new role after pondering how to restructure the editorial division when editorial director Sean Aylmer left last October. Chessell was previously national editor of the *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* and, earlier, was the *Australian Financial Review*'s Europe correspondent and companies and business editor.

# 97.1.4 Tingle and the PM's Department

Journalists must be "extra vigilant" about accepting paid speaking engagements from organisations on which they report, one of the nation's leading media academics has warned (*Australian*, 8 March 2018, p.3). High-profile reporters' side gigs, and the ethical dilemmas they may present, have become the topic of fierce debate after the *Australian* revealed on 7 March a \$15,000 government tender involving the *Australian Financial Review*'s most senior political journalist. The political editor of Fairfax Media's flagship business title, Laura Tingle, was paid the sum by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's department for two days' work at the ASEAN business summit this month.

Tingle, who will soon take up a new position as chief political correspondent at the ABC's 7.30 [she did so on 30 April], said she saw "no conflict" in being paid by Mr Turnbull's department to attend the event, where she will host a Women in Business breakfast and roundtable discussions. But Peter Fray, professor of journalism practice at the University of Technology Sydney, said journalists must "err on the side of caution" when dealing with potential conflicts in an era of fake news and mistrust of the media. He said while Tingle's integrity was "not in question", it was incumbent upon journalists to disclose to readers any payments that could raise questions. "In these days, we all need to be as transparent as possible," Professor Fray said. "I do think our audiences probably expect more from journalists than ever before when it comes to things like this."

Tingle declined to say whether she had planned to inform her readers about the payment, instead telling the *Australian*: "I will let my journalistic reputation speak for itself." Professor Fray said the media was in the midst of a "trust crisis" and journalists had a responsibility to remedy their standing in the eyes of the public.

## 97.1.5 Suppression orders highest in Victorian courts

Justin Quill, a media lawyer who acts for the *Herald Sun*, has highlighted in that paper (13 February 2018, pp.20-21) that Victoria is a "laughing stock in legal circles" because of the tendency of Victorian courts to make suppression orders. Quill said figures had come to hand for the number of court suppression orders state by state in 2017: "South Australia, at 179 suppression orders, and New South Wales, with 181, were roughly the same. The Northern Territory had 43, Queensland 10 and Tasmania two. But Victoria was way ahead with an astonishing 444 suppression orders." Quill said: "These figures were collated by News Corp and while probably not exact, clearly demonstrate there's a problem with how many orders are made in Victoria. Quill hopes the

situation in Victoria is about to change. "Last year the Victorian government appointed former Supreme Court judge Justice Frank Vincent to conduct a review of suppression orders."

# 97.1.6 Robert Gottliebsen given lifetime award

Robert Gottliebsen, of the Australian, has been honoured with the Melbourne Press Club Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to business journalism in Australia (Australian, 19 March 2018). Gottliebsen, a daily business columnist with the Australian, started Business Review Weekly after being the founding editor of the Australian Financial Review's "Chanticleer" column. He was also a founding investor and commentator of the pioneering site Business Spectator. He is a former Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year and inductee of the Australian Media Hall of Fame.

Sharing the Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award for 2017 were Nick McKenzie and Richard Baker, of the Melbourne Age.

# 97.1.7 Aussies win British press awards

Pilita Clark, formerly of the Sydney Morning Herald and now with London's Financial Times, was named environmental journalist of the year at the British Press Awards in March (Australian, 19 March 2018). Richard Kerbaj, formerly of the Australian, shared the award for scoop of the year. Clark won her award for a magazine feature on the state of renewable energy. Clark has won the award three times. Kerbaj's scoop reported that police had found pornographic material on one of the computers of Damien Green, then the deputy prime minister.

#### **97.1.8** Perspectives on readership

Look at the latest table of readership figures for metropolitan and national daily newspapers, below right, as published in the Australian on 12 April 2018. What are the highlights for you? Whatever they are for you, the Australian published a story that touched on just about no other newspaper than itself. It also reported:

The new figures from Enhanced Media Metrics Australia came after Ipsos tweaked the methodology for how measured. sections The are measurement agency also updated its English-speaker population estimates to the latest census data, meaning readerships in some geographical areas fell because of lower populations, an effect felt most strongly in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Since the previous EMMA release, Google has



unveiled plans to sell digital subscriptions to newspapers in its Play Store as part of an effort to help publishers generate revenue from their journalism. The search giant is also preparing to share data that shows which internet users have a propensity to pay for online journalism as part of a range of measures that add up to a \$US300 million (\$390m) investment globally.

## 97.1.9 Crinkling News ceases publication

Eight months after raising more than \$200,000 to help fund its publication, the Australian children's newspaper, Crinkling News, has ceased hard copy publication. The newspaper's founders, Saffron Howden and Remi Bianchi, say they have "made every cent stretch as far as it possibly could", but could not go on publishing. Publication ceased on 16 January, but the website (https://www.crinklingnews.com.au/founders-statement/) is still live (GXpress, March 2018, p.38).

## 97.1.10 End of PANPA era

Australia's NewsMediaWorks has discarded the globally-known PANPA brand in what it says is "an important evolution" of its annual awards (GXpress, March 2018, p.3). The new look awards combine the former PANPA Newspaper of the Year Awards—which would have been in their 50<sup>th</sup> year—and the Advertising and Marketing Awards to create the News Media Awards. The top awards will go to the "news Brand of the Year".

The group says the change reflects audience engagement across print and digital and is a new emphasis on "platform agnostic news brands". Entry in most categories is limited to members of NewsMediaWorks—which is owned by News Corp Australia, Fairfax Media and West Australian Newspapers. This year, however, some categories are being opened to advertising creative developed either in-house by advertisers, publishers or by a third party such as an agency. The awards recognise excellence in cross-platform news publishing in Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific.

PANPA—standing for Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association—had its origins in 1974 in the former ANZWONA, the Australian and New Zealand Web Offset Newspapers Association. One survivor of the PANPA era is the Hegarty Scholarship, established in 1987 in memory of former PANPA executive director Patrick Hegarty. The scholarship allows a young executive to travel overseas to find out more about an aspect of news media operations.

## 97.1.11 Aylmer goes to PR

Sean Aylmer, editorial director of Fairfax Media, 2013-2017, has joined Res Publica where he now heads the firm's financial and corporate communications division (*Telum Media Alert*, 26 April 2018).



# 97.2.1 Sharp rise in digital defamation cases

Social media has sparked a sharp rise in digital defamation cases as private citizens wage costly legal attacks against each other, prompting calls for new laws in response to a publishing world dominated by the internet (*Australian*, 12 March 2018). In one of the most detailed studies of Australian defamation law cases, researchers have tracked a trend of litigation sparked by insults lobbed on digital platforms, calling for law reform to update a system they say is ill-equipped for the internet age. Emails, podcasts, Facebook posts, online chats, eBay reviews, Google search results, text messages, tweets and even a conference paper featured in the digital defamation lawsuits analysed, in research obtained by the *Australian* shows. The proportion of defamation cases based on digital publication — whether it be on a blog, social media page or news site — increased from 17 per cent to 53 per cent in the 10 years to 2017, the study by the Centre for Media

Year	Cases where media organisations are defendants	Cases where media organisations are not defendants	Percentage of digital defamation cases
2013	3	10	23.1%
2014	5	15	25.0%
2015	7	17	29.2%
2016	8	16	33.3%
2017	5	11	31.3%
TOTAL	28	69	

Transition UTS at (University of Technology Sydney) found. Most digital defamation cases from 2013 to 2017 did not involve professional journalists, the researchers said, with less than one in three cases naming a media company as a defendant. Only about 21 per cent of defamation judgments were for cases brought by public figures.

Source: UTS Sydney; media organisations as defendants in digital defamation cases, 2013-17 public

Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter, No 97, May 2018-5

"The cases that attract the most public attention are the high-profile, mainstream media cases like Rebel Wilson, Chris Gayle and Lloyd Rayney, but they are the sort of defamation cases that are out of the reach of all but the most tenacious or resourceful plaintiffs, because they are complicated, expensive, time consuming and stressful," said Matthew Collins QC, who acted for Wilson in her successful defamation suit against magazine publisher Bauer Media. "In the lower courts, there is

an increasing trend towards social media and battles between individuals," he said. Over the five years of defamation cases analysed in the study, 16 involved Facebook posts, 20 emails and 37 websites not affiliated with media organisations, Facebook or Twitter.

Four cases involved tweets and two involved text messages — including one in which a man was awarded \$100,000 over a text sent to just one person. "Something has gone awry with Australia's defamation laws and they need to change," said Peter Fray, professor of journalism practice at UTS and one of the study's authors. People are addicted to defamation. It has become a way to take out your enemies — and the legal system is behind."

The results of the study — which was partially funded by New Corp, publisher of *The Australian* — will be seized upon by a coalition of Australia's largest media companies lobbying for defamation law reform, a process that requires a co-ordinated effort by state and territory governments. "Its findings point to the need for a broader debate among lawmakers at state and federal level as well as among the media industry and the platforms that have become essential to distributing the industry's work," the study's authors, Professor Fray and Professor Derek Wilding, said.

NSW District Court judge Judith Gibson, who has conducted previous research on the topic, said the courts were being clogged with "revenge litigation" over what she termed "internet road rage" — and running up hefty legal bills in the process. "It's not the press that's the problem — it's the internet, it's online publication," she said, noting the work of the Australian Press Council in mediating complaints in the self-regulating industry. Judge Gibson said self-represented litigants were coming to court "very angry and upset", with matters proceeding to trial that would have been struck out for triviality in the US.

In one case, a man sued his former son-in-law for comparing him to Denis Denuto, the bumbling lawyer in the film *The Castle*, in an email about children's visitation arrangements. The matter went all the way to trial before being dismissed after the plaintiff failed to establish actual harm to his reputation.

Campbell Reid, director of corporate affairs and editorial management for News Corp Australia, said it was "clear as day that the digital environment is pushing our defamation laws to their limits". "A defamation action in 2018 is three times more likely to be an individual suing another individual rather than a public figure suing a media outlet," Reid said. "It's about time the laws were updated, before the courts are overrun with defamation claims." The study also found that successful defamation suits were on the rise, with plaintiffs winning 43 per cent of cases in 2017 — up from 32 per cent in 2013.

## 97.2.2. Johns wins digital post at News Corp

Bryce Johns has been appointed executive editor, digital, at News Corp with responsibility for regional and metro titles across Queensland, the Northern Territory and northern New South Wales (*Telum Media Alert*, 13 April 2018). His territory includes Quest Newspapers in Brisbane and the former APN (Australian Regional Media) dailies from Mackay south to Grafton. Johns was formerly editorial director for News Regional Media and before that held a similar role with Australian Regional Media. He moved to Australia from the *NZ Herald* in 2013. Neil Melloy, the former regional network editor, replaces Johns as editorial director. Melloy's deputy is Claire Gould, formerly the editor-in-chief of *Choice* magazine (*Telum Media Alert*, 18 April 2018).

# 97.2.3 Social media producer appointed

Elise Pfeiffer has been appointed the social media producer at the *Australian*. She assists in creating and carrying out social media strategies across a number of platforms. She was most recently a rural journalist at the *Singleton Argus* and won the J.B. Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism in 2017 (*Telum Media Alert*, 18 April 2018).



# 97.3.1 Geelong: Advertiser to move this year

The *Geelong Advertiser* is moving from its Ryrie Street offices after 58 years. Its new location will be the bottom level of what will be a newly refurbished building across the mall from the Market Square shopping complex. The site was formerly home to the discount department store, Spare Change, which closed in July 2017. Gartland property director Michael De Stefano said the building would undergo a "World-class fit out", which would include a completely new façade (*Geelong Advertiser*, 17 February 2018). Peter Gill, of Melbourne, recalls that in the *Geelong Advertiser* building of the 1960s there were bound copies of the newspaper and "members of the public were able to use these copies on a regular weekday for research, etc".

## 97.3.2 Albany: Supermarket power versus newspaper

One of Australia's few independently-owned regional newspapers has been plunged into crisis after angering advertisers with a front-page story labelling the picturesque West Australian town of Albany "Dullsville" for its peculiar trading hours restrictions (Australian, 1 April 2018). The Great Southern Weekender — which employs three reporters and an editor and distributes 22,000 papers a week in the town of 37,000 people and local region—lost a little more than \$200,000 in annual advertising overnight when it published the 1 March story "Albany shopping Dullsville", which compared the town's protectionist trading hours with other towns where Sunday trading is permitted. Unlike Coles and Woolworths, Albany's three IGA supermarkets are allowed to stay open late and to open on Sundays. The rules are set by the local council partly because they deem IGAs to be small operators. Reporter Chris Thomson wrote: "Albany has the most restrictive shopping hours of any place with a Woolworths, Coles or ALDI in the southwestern corner of the continent, and there are no plans to change the status quo". Though the story was correct, the fallout was immediate: Paul Lionetti, a local entrepreneur who runs two IGA supermarkets in Albany and owns shares in the *Great Southern Weekender*, withdrew his weekly advertisements. The owners of two other IGAs — one in Albany's northern suburbs and one in the nearby town of Mt Barker — also cancelled their advertising.

## 97.3.3 Sydney suburbs: Six papers to fold

Six newspapers in competitive environments in Sydney's north-western suburbs are to be closed. Fairfax Media has declared them "no longer commercially sustainable. The papers are: the *Hills News, Rouse Hill Courier, Penrith City Gazette, St Mary's/Mt Druitt Star, Blacktown Sun* and *Parramatta Holroyd Sun*. A "proposed new magazine publication" is to replace them. Seven editorial jobs and four sales jobs will go (*GXpress*, March 2018, p.36).

# 97.3.4 Warwick: Press shuts again

The two-year-old coldest web facility at Warwick is to be the first print casualty of New Corp Australia's acquisition of the former APN Australian Regional Media operation. The south-east Queensland print site reverted to sheetfed only production after Christmas, reprising the situation when the *Daily News's* Harris web press was shut down 17 years before in an earlier "consolidation". News managing director of publishing operations Neil Monaghan says the move follows a review of operations across south-east Queensland following the APN ARM acquisition earlier this year. Warwick coldest web printing work is being moved to the recently upgraded Brisbane print centre in suburban Murarrie and the Yandina centre, acquired from APN, on the Sunshine Coast (*GXpress*, March 2018, p.26).

# 97.3.5 Suburbans and country titles: News Corp opens talks about sale

News Corp has opened talks with potential buyers of its regional and local newspapers, including private equity bidders (*Australian*, 27 April 2018). Sources close to the discussions cautioned that the talks were exploratory and may not lead to a sale of any titles. They said the company was obliged to review its options after receiving interest and no decisions had been made. News Corp has hired investment bank Citi as an adviser. Potential suitors include private equity firms Anchorage Capital and Apollo. It is unclear which titles are involved. Staff at some newsrooms were briefed on the situation on 26 April.

News Corp has an extensive portfolio of regional and suburban print titles around the nation, including the *Geelong Advertiser*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, Leader Newspapers in Melbourne, News Local in Sydney and Quest in Brisbane. The company acquired APN News & Media's regional newspaper portfolio in December 2016 in a \$37 million deal that covered 12 daily newspapers, 60 community titles and 30 websites based in regional Queensland and northern NSW.

News of the interest comes after the Turnbull government relaxed media ownership laws, giving media companies the ability to reconfigure their assets as disruptive technologies up-end the old order. In an interview with *The Australian*'s Media section in February, News Corp Australia executive chairman Michael Miller spoke of his priorities for this year, outlining plans to deliver profitable growth. There would be a bigger focus on growing digital audiences and revenues and targeting growing markets. He also raised the potential of rebalancing the publisher's portfolio of assets. Other targets included completion of the Foxtel merger with Fox Sports, which has now been finalised. Apollo has also shown interest in Fairfax Media's regional newspapers.



4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

# 97.4.1 Pat Clarke, writer extraordinary

Issue 18 of *Biography Footnotes*, published by the National Centre of Biography at the Australian National University, honours Pat Clarke (an ANHG subscriber), a long-term member of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography's* Commonwealth Working Party and *ADB* author who has spent a lifetime researching and writing about Australian women. Here are some extracts from the *Biography Footnotes* article:

At 91, Pat Clarke retains her love of historical research and writing, on most days sitting down at her computer or heading to the National Library. Her latest project continues her fascination with the lives and careers of women journalists. In some ways a continuation of her 1988 book, *Pen Portraits: Women Writers and Journalists in Nineteenth Century Australia*, she has expanded her time frame to 1950 and her coverage to include women journalists who visited Australia and reported their impressions, and Australian women journalists who reported from overseas, in the context of the difficulty for women in entering the profession.

Her subjects are those whose devotion to writing inspires her: women such as Alice Henry (1857-1943) who, barred from enrolling at the University of Melbourne, became a journalist in Melbourne, working for such newspapers as the *Argus* and the *Australasian*. Another of Clarke's subjects, Janet Mitchell (1896-1957), also led an extraordinary life despite her fragile health.

Apart from initially studying maths and economics at university, Clarke always wanted to write. Raised in a family that was "Melbourne through and through", she was taken each Saturday by her father to watch his beloved Carlton Australian rules football team. Her father was born and brought up in Lygon Street. Pat's parents (her maiden name was Ryan) were "practically fanatical" about education and insisted that she, as well as her brothers, complete school and go on to study for a profession. She became a journalist and it was in this capacity that she came to Canberra in 1957 to relieve for three weeks for the Commonwealth News and Information Bureau. This became a permanent move.

In 1961 she married Hugh Vincent Clarke (1919-1996), a public servant and former prisoner of war, who later became well known as an author. They settled in Deakin in the home she now still occupies. She became a casual but full-time journalist with the ABC in the parliamentary press gallery. In 1968 the journalist and newspaper proprietor, Max Newton (1929-1990), a controversial figure, recruited her to edit his *Parliamentary and Legislative Review* and *Tariff Week*, a role that allowed her to work from home and to be around for her growing family. She was then employed by the National Capital Development Commission as editor of publications, and she spent the remainder of her professional career with the NCDC.

#### 97.4.2 Parramatta: Cumberland Argus, history and progress

*Cowans*, July 1924, pp.49-50: A way back in the dark ages, the year 1843 to be correct, the first newspaper was established in Parramatta, known as the *Parramatta Chronicle*. [Kris Jacobsen lists the *Parramatta Courier*, as the first; it appeared for only two issues, 13 and 20 May 1843.] After a short and fitful career, [the *Chronicle*] ceased publication, and for a period of 20 years no really successful attempt was made to issue a paper in what was then known, and still is, as "the cradle of Australia". From 1865 to 1867 the *Parramatta Chronicle* No. 2 was published, as also was a journal known as the *Parramatta Mercury*. In the course of time the latter swallowed its contemporary, and then was absorbed itself into the *Cumberland Mercury*. Here we are getting down to the beginnings of things as they are today, for the *Mercury* lives and flourishes in this present year of grace, though the name is no longer familiar, the paper having been incorporated into the *Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate* in 1895...

Today the *Cumberland Argus*, after standing the test of time as a bi-weekly, is second to none as a provincial newspaper in the State of NSW. For many years the journal was owned by Messrs T.D. Little and R.S. Richardson, and under careful guidance it made slow but steady progress. After nursing the sheet from its infancy until it had obtained a firm foothold on the troubled sea of journalism, the partners, having made a success of the paper both financially and journalistically, decided in 1919 to sell out—lock, stock and barrel. The publication found a ready sale, being purchased privately, and the new owners formed it forthwith into a limited company.

Mr L.S. Phillips was elected in the position of Managing Director and Editor. Mr Alan Little (son of Mr T.D. Little, a former partner, and since deceased) occupies a seat on the Board of Directors, and now fills the position as sporting editor, while the third member on the directorate fell to Mr F.W. Camper, who holds the position of works manager. Shortly after the new owners had taken over, it was found that in order to keep pace with the march of progress, modern plant and machinery and up-to-date methods would



**CUMBERLAND ARGUS MASTHEAD IN 1898** 

have to be adopted in order to give the news-loving public the latest items in crisp style, and above all with expedition. The battery of three Linotypes was unable to cope with the ever-increasing work, and a fourth had to be obtained. After much investigation, the latest model Intertype was installed by Messrs Alexander Cowan & Sons Ltd, of Wynyard Square, Sydney, and from that day the progress of the journal; has never looked back...

On the year following, owing to the heavy demand for papers and still more papers, the Directors saw trouble ahead in the form of the Wharfedale printing press. After doing faithful service for over 40 years, it was discovered that the machine would have to make way for a larger and speedier press. Again it fell to the lot of Messrs. Alexander Cowan & Sons Ltd to supply the necessary improvement in the form of a Cossar flat-bed rotary printing press, designed on the most modern lines. A difficulty, however, stood in the way regarding the selection, as no other like machine had

been previously introduced into Australia. Letters from several satisfied printers in New Zealand were obtained, and eventually the machine was decided upon. It was designed by Mr Cossar to fill the gap between the big rotary stereotype machine and the two-feeder Wharfedale, and was manufactured by the well-known firm of Dawson, Payne & Elliott, of Otley, England.

For speed, clean printing, both in the ordinary letterpress and halftone illustration work, the machine has proved all that the makers claim, and in the matter of simplicity it stands alone. Set on a concrete foundation, its solid weight of 17 tons sits firmly on the bed, so much so that vibration is nil; a penny set edgeways on any portion of the framework will not topple over, even when the machine is travelling at full capacity of 4000 16-page copies per hour. Recently the management installed a process engraving plant, with the object of supplying illustrations of local happenings in the district in which the journal circulates. [The official starting of the Cossar took place on Friday morning, 9 May.] ENDS

**Dictionary of Sydney entry, online, for** *Cumberland Argus*: The *Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate* was a weekly newspaper printed at Parramatta between 1887 and 1950, continued by the *Cumberland Argus* until 1962.

The following website provides a lot of historical detail on the newspaper. It appears to be soundly researched. Some extracts appear below:

(https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=The%20Cumberland%20Argus&item\_type=topic)

First published on 24 September 1887, the *Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate* continued under this title until issue No. 3397, on 15 March 1950, when the newspaper was officially renamed the *Cumberland Argus*. It remained under this banner for a further 12 years until it ceased publication on 24 October 1962.

The newspaper was founded by Messrs. Thomas Davies Little, Frederick William James Lovell, Richard Stewart Richardson and Alfred Gazzard, all formerly associated with the *Cumberland Mercury*. The paper's office was located in Phillip Street, later George Street, Parramatta, with correspondents located around various districts. Initially issued weekly on Saturdays, costing 2d an issue, a subscription to the *Cumberland Argus* cost two shillings (20c) per quarter in 1888.

## 97.4.3 Gloomy future for Melbourne Museum of Printing

The Melbourne Museum of Printing—home to dozens of hulking machines, a horde of treasures and ephemera of the printing industry in Australia, a vast and disordered collection of boxes of engraved images, rays upon trays of lead fonts, antique tools and a library of books and manuals, and working artefacts that predate the Linotype—has an uncertain future. The museum's initiator, Michael Isaachsen, has received a notice to quit from the landlord of the museum site because Isaachsen owes more than \$500,000 in rent. Joe Hinchliffe wrote about the museum's plight in the *Age*, 29 March 2018.

#### 97.4.4 Fairfax Media archive (1): Historian's insights

# Following is an extract from Bridget Griffen-Foley, "Keeping company: A historian shares her delight in the recently acquired Fairfax Media Business Archive", *SL* [State Library of NSW] Magazine, April 2018:

'Don't do it!' was the headline advice I received 25 years ago. I had just graduated with Honours in Modern History from Macquarie University along with, as one thesis examiner joshed, "endless enthusiasm". My passion for history was increasingly focused on the media.

As an undergraduate, I had been introduced to primary sources by Dr Frank Clarke and Dr Michael Roberts. In his second-year Australian history course in 1990, Frank had encouraged me to read "old newspapers". This was in an analogue era, well before Trove and digitised newspapers. Focusing on cartoons, I had dipped into microfilmed newspapers in the bowels of the old Macquarie University Library. I had spent a good deal more time there in my 1992 Honours year, as well as in the newspaper section of what is now the Governor Marie Bashir Reading Room, researching how the press had portrayed Australian politician Dr HV Evatt.

During Honours I encountered *Company of Heralds* (1981), Gavin Souter's superb history of the Fairfax media corporation. I was struck by the fact there was no equivalent for Australian

Consolidated Press, and that the only biography of its founder, Sir Frank Packer (1906–1974), was a hagiography written while he was still alive. And so my Honours and PhD supervisor, Professor Duncan Waterson, suggested that I talk to a retired colleague, then the finest historian of the New South Wales press, about my interest in writing a biography of Sir Frank, or a history of ACP. The telephone conversation was dispiriting — with the best of intentions, the historian expressed concern that there was no ACP archive (as there was for Fairfax) and there were no known Packer family papers. The fearsome reputation of the intensely private Kerry Packer (Sir Frank's son and heir, and the richest man in Australia) may also have been mentioned.

By early 1993, following a polite but dismissive letter from Kerry Packer's office, I was increasingly concerned about how I would research aspects of his father's private life. But Sir Frank's public career, and his business, still seemed to have potential. At the very least, there would be ACP's outlets themselves — led by the *Australian Women's Weekly*, the *Daily* and *Sunday Telegraph*, and the *Bulletin* — to probe. As I began wading through oceans of microfilm, I convinced myself that a company history would be possible, with additional records available in the form of journalists' and editors' manuscript collections (many of them in the State Library), the records of journalists' and printers' unions, and regulatory material in the National Archives of Australia.

By mid-1993, having mined Gavin Souter's book, and talked to him, I was also aware that there was relevant material in the Fairfax archive. It was hard to know how much, given I was in the early stages of working on the history of a rival company. But for me (and, I dare say, Gavin), the stories of the knights of the Sydney press — the Fairfaxes and the Packers — have always been imbricated and inseparable.

In July 1993 I wrote my first letter to the chief legal counsel and company secretary of Fairfax, Gail Hambly, requesting access to the collection. Within weeks I was walking from Central Station to Mountain Street, Ultimo, where the archive was housed, not far from Fairfax headquarters in Jones Street. The company's first archivist, Eileen Dwyer, had recently retired, leaving her successor, Louise Preston, to continue compiling detailed listings of records. I occupied one of the two desks in the archive's office, making notes in pencil, while Louise occupied the other.

As her guide to 1400 boxes emerged, it became abundantly clear that the Fairfax archive would be pivotal to my PhD thesis. The records of successive general managers (my favourite was RP Falkingham) would prove particularly valuable in recording the competition (and occasional collaborations) between Fairfax, ACP and their mastheads. The archive also contained the records of companies acquired by Fairfax, including Associated Newspapers Ltd, a corporate octopus founded in part by RC Packer, and which, through a daring deal (documented nowhere better than in the archive), seeded the creation of what became ACP in 1936.

In the book based on my thesis, *The House of Packer: The Making of a Media Empire* (1999), I acknowledged the debt I owed to the Fairfax archive. Some of the material I found there helped to flesh out my second book, a biography of Sir Frank. Meeting in the Library, the NSW Working Party of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* had decided to take a punt on a young historian by inviting me to write the major Packer entry. This undertaking, leading as it did to research on ancestry, schooling, sport, marriages and children, helped to finally convince me that a full-scale biography, encompassing the personal as well as the public, was viable.

# 97.4.5 Fairfax Media archive (2): Archivist's insights

Sydney Morning Herald, 31 March 2018: When the Germans surrendered after World War II on May 7, 1945, the editors, reporters and managers of *The Sydney Morning Herald* didn't only report the news as it happened. They also signed a copy of the front page for the company's archives. "Having those names there is symbolic," State Library of NSW's archivist Peter Arfanis said about the 1945 front page. "Most people don't think about what goes on behind the paper. You can sense that this is such a euphoric moment, that they are bringing great news to the people."

That front page was contained in one of the 2100 boxes of documents that comprise the Fairfax Media Business Archive, which was given to the State Library of NSW. They range from 1790 to the 1990s and across five generations of the Fairfax family, the former owners of Fairfax Media, which publishes this website. The archive details how the papers were run, and the day-to-day decisions ranging from the financial to those affecting staff.

Arfanis, who led the project to catalogue the archives which finished last week, sees himself as a "time traveller" who has spent the past 18 months hurtling through the "vortex of time and space" as he sifted through the material. The archives take up 270 metres of library storage space - about 14 cricket pitches in length- and yielded 40 kilograms in rusty paper clips.

It took a team of volunteers and two full-time library staff, including Arfanis whose work was funded by a donation by John Brehmer Fairfax, more than a year to catalogue the material so it was accessible to the public and historians. It would have taken three to four years to organise, but for the work of two former Fairfax archivists who, while using two very different systems, introduced some order to the documents.

Even so, every box would bounce Arfanis around "like a time tunnel". Like a lucky dip, one box would reveal early records from the 1840s detailing John Fairfax's involvement with the Congregationalist church, plus that church's minutes. The next "zoomed off" to industrial disputes. Another to the day in April 1944 when the *Herald* started printing the news on the front page for the first time. The next might contain leases and land titles of properties owned by people associated with Fairfax. Others contained strike newspapers from 1944 where the management of four competing mastheads—including the *Daily Mirror*, the *Sydney Morning Herald, the Sun* and the *Daily Telegraph*—worked together to produce an emergency edition during a dispute with the printer's industrial union. Arfanis sees his ability to organise these archives as providing a navigational aid to future time travellers so they can discover some "really great stories".

The archives include carefully catalogued lists of letters between Fairfax's owners and prime ministers - many on changing rules affecting media ownership. In 1942, W. O. Fairfax wrote to PM John Curtin about the call up of journalists for military service. There are diaries of general managers of John Fairfax & Sons, some in shorthand that needed transcribing by a specialist. There are boxes of bills, union records, board minutes, contracts for printers and paper mills, personnel files, and satirical files and original artwork of production staff.

The history of today's *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Sun-Herald*, which are no longer owned by the Fairfax family, dates back to the *Sydney Herald*, which was purchased by John Fairfax with Charles Kemp in 1841. It was renamed the *Sydney Morning Herald* the following year.

After buying out Kemp, John Fairfax and his sons James Reading and Charles, formed the company John Fairfax & Sons. For the next 133 years, the company was controlled by the family until it went into receivership in 1990, a year before the 150th anniversary of Fairfax ownership.

There are also archives within the archives, with extensive records from other companies acquired. These include newsprint company Australian Newsprint Mills Ltd, and Associated Newspapers Limited, the former owner of the now-closed *The Sun* newspaper, radio station 2UE and Macquarie Broadcasting. There are records from television stations, including ATN 7, and a huge number of newspapers across Australia, including *The Age, The Newcastle Herald, the Canberra Times,* and the now-closed *National Times.* As Arfanis said, "It's huge."

## 97.4.6 Australian newspaper fiction: 'To be continued...'

Katherine Bode, ARC Future Fellow and Associate Professor, Literary and Textual Studies at Australian National University College of Arts and Social Sciences, has garnered considerable interest in her project 'To be continued...', which identifies and harvests serialised fiction from Trove's digitised Australian newspapers. This has resulted in a database, a forthcoming monograph, A World of Fiction: Digital Collections and the Future of Literary History, and an edited series republishing some of the newly rediscovered fiction. The first edited collection, "How I Pawned My Opals" and Other Lost Stories publishes five previously lost stories by important Australian author, feminist, socialist and world-traveller, Catherine Martin.

Trove will be running a Trove Book Club with some of these works – keep an eye on their blog. The *Canberra Times* also ran a story on it recently: http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/thousands-of-forgotten-novels-uncovered-by

#### To be continued ... The Australian Newspaper Fiction Database.

https://www.nla.gov.au/app/eresources/item/4670 or http://cdhrdatasys.anu.edu.au/tobecontinued/

This is a database of serialised fiction stories as they appeared in 19th and early 20th Century Australian newspapers, harvested from Trove. Compiled by Katherine Bode and Carol Hetherington at the ANU, the database is searchable by author, story title, newspaper title, and date. Transcripts of the stories are included as well as links to the original newspapers in Trove Digitised Newspapers. Coverage: 1828-1914.

# 97.4.7 Index to a Methodist newspaper

ANHG subscriber Peter Gill, of Melbourne, recently attended a seminar on Victorian church archives, and was particularly interested to hear about an index to the Victorian Methodist newspaper, the *Spectator*. There were several variations to the newspaper's name, although Gill recalls it as simply the *Spectator* (and he subscribed to it for a couple of years after his marriage in 1967). The original index appears to be handwritten, and any inquiry probably needs to be sent to the UCA Archivist, Dr Jennifer Bars, at Jennifer.Bars@victas.uca.org.au/ The State Library of Victoria has the *Spectator* on microfilm, and the NSW Public Library and the National Library are also shown as holding reasonable runs.

Gill says: "The index covers a wide date range and provides a good coverage of names from the newspaper. For example, there is an obituary for my great grandmother—as simply a dedicated churchgoer who died in in 1909. This contained information about her that was not already known to me. (I am aware the Catholic *Advocate* has an index, which is certainly available in a microfiche version, but its focus tends to be on the churches, and the clergy.)"

Notes about the Victorian Archives of the Uniting Church say: "The Victorian Archives manage a collection of records beginning with the earliest years of the Colony of Victoria. Many topics of public interest, social relevance and concern have been discussed in reports of church courts, periodicals and special commissions. Historians of most disciplines, secondary, tertiary and postgraduate students, genealogists and family history enthusiasts will find useful resources. The archives were established at the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia to be a central repository for the historical records of the Synod, presbyteries and parishes of Victoria. Commissioned to collect and preserve records of the institutions and individuals relating to the Uniting Church, it is staffed by a qualified archivist, Dr Jennifer Bars, assisted by a group of voluntary workers. Their contribution of expertise in history, custody and research of archival material maintains the archives' service to the Uniting Church and the wider community.

# 97.4.8 Spectator and Methodist Chronicle begins

*Cornwall Advertiser* (Launceston, Tas.), Tuesday 18 May 1875, p.2: We have received from Mr R. Gee, the local agent, the first number of the *Spectator and Wesleyan Chronicle*, a weekly journal of religious and general news and social politics, published, in Melbourne, and taking the place of the *Wesleyan Chronicle*. The new venture contains 12 pages of demy folio, and the yearly subscription is 15s. (\$1.50). Though of an avowedly Wesleyan character, the promoters, design that the new paper shall be "eminently catholic in its tone", and "will place Christianity above mere denominationalism whilst "the drinking' customs of society will find us a most persistent and uncompromising foe". The first number is a very creditable one, embracing amongst its contents leading articles on "Ourselves" and "The General Conference", "The Week", "Easy Chair Chat", "Review", "The Essayist", "Religious Intelligence", "Correspondence", "General News", "Temperance", "Miscellaneous", "Young Folks", "Farm and Garden", "Commercial, Shipping", "Insolvencies", advertisements, &c. Single copies can be obtained for threepence (2c).

# 97.4.9 Fifty years after Gallipoli

In April 1965 *Ken Inglis* travelled to Gallipoli with 300 Anzac pilgrims and filed seven reports along the way for the *Canberra Times*. Here is how he introduced (for *Inside Story*, 24 April 2015) two of those dispatches (http://insidestory.org.au/letters-from-a-pilgrimage/)

In 1965 the Returned Services League, or RSL, and its New Zealand equivalent sponsored a threeweek cruise around the Mediterranean, visiting sites of significance in Anzac memory and culminating in a landing at Anzac Cove on the fiftieth anniversary of the first one. Some 300 pilgrims signed up. A few were World War II veterans whom the tour planners enabled to visit sites of their own experience, and there were also some former nurses and some wives. More than half the men in the party had served at Gallipoli. Most were in their seventies.

Australia's experience and memory of the first world war had become my central interest as a historian. Going on the pilgrimage would let me talk at leisure with a large group of veterans and be with them as they returned, most of them for the first time, to old battlefields and the resting places of comrades. Kindly colleagues swapped teaching duties to let me be away for long enough.

That left only the problem of money. The whole tour – Qantas flights to and from Athens, a berth on the Turkish liner *Karadeniz*, coaches and hotels ashore – would cost £650. Most of the pilgrims had their expenses covered by RSL sub-branches and associated clubs. Half my fare was paid by the Australian National University, my employer, and half by the *Canberra Times*, whose editor, John Pringle, agreed to have me represent his paper and send back stories. In the event the *Sydney Morning Herald* also used some of them. By airmail I dispatched stories and photographs of life aboard and time ashore in Athens, Valletta, Cairo and Beirut, and on 25 April I reported by cable from Gelibolu, as the Turks named the town inside the Dardanelles where we anchored midmorning after our dawn landing at Anzac.

Becoming a journalist had been my only boyhood ambition (formed after reading Isobel Ann Shead's novels *Sandy*, about a lad who became a newspaper reporter, and *Mike*, about another who became a radio man). I enjoyed part-time journalism, especially for the fortnightly magazine *Nation*. I was enraptured now to be carrying a press card authorising me to send cables via London to Sydney. I was pleased to be going as a journalist for another reason: I thought that the old soldiers might speak more freely to a reporter than to an academic. I doubt whether that was right. Certainly they talked willingly to me and to Norman MacSwan, the thoroughly professional newspaperman who was on board for Australian Associated Press; but I think most of them would have been just as open with any man, or woman, who showed a serious curiosity about their memories, thoughts and feelings. They gave me plenty to write about.

On the night of 24–25 April, among men now – as on that night in 1915 – steaming from Lemnos towards Anzac Cove, I enjoyed a sample of the generosity that made Pringle so respected by people who worked with him: a cable to the ship, complimenting me on the items sent so far and wishing me well for Anzac Day.

The historian, however, got the better of the amateur reporter on that morning. After the dawn meeting on the beach between Anzac pilgrims and Turkish hosts I could have got a lift with MacSwan across the peninsula to reach Gelibolu in good time to file a story for the next day's paper. Instead I went back to the ship in a Turkish lifeboat, getting a splinter in my ankle after a rotten seat broke as I stepped on it, and having men who had gone ashore fifty years earlier in the face of enemy shells and bullets being tenderly solicitous about my scratch. I wanted to hear what they said about the landing as we sailed around Cape Helles and up to Gelibolu (and I wanted time to compose my report, unsure that I was up to doing it on the run as MacSwan was).

By the time my typewritten words were tapped from the Gelibolu cable office to London and thence to Canberra and Sydney it was just too late for the *Canberra Times* of 26 April. The paper carried MacSwan's report, as all other papers did, and used mine on the 27th. Later that week the *Canberra Times* published a seventh piece I had written on the way home, with photographs taken at Anzac Cove and Gelibolu.

#### 97.4.10 Enterprising country editor

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Australian country papers ran, from time to time, extracts from American papers about the lot of a country editor or the trials of country papers. Here's one.

*Armidale Express*, 24 July 1874, p.6: He was once out on a jaunt in the township of White Oak, Ingham county, sticking to every farmer until he got his name and money, and it so happened that he came to a house where death had called a few hours before. The farmer's wife was laid out, and the husbandman and his children were grieving over her loss when the editor knocked at the door.

"What's up?" inquired the editor, as he saw the farmer's solemn countenance before him. "My wife is dead," replied the farmer. "Is that so?" mused the editor, a little disappointed. "Did she die easy?" "Dropped off like a lamb." "Did she say anything?" "Not a word—just went right to sleep like." "I didn't know," continued the editor, a sad look on his face, "but what she might have requested you to subscribe for the *Cascade*, which you know is the best paper in the country. If you want it I'll take your name right in, and under the circumstances I won't charge you a cent for the obituary notice!"

The farmer hung off for a while, but before the editor went away he had two additional dollars in his pocket and had written out an obituary notice for publication in the next issue, which the bereaved husband pronounced a "mighty smart piece".

#### 97.4.11 The country editor

Urana Independent and Clear Hills Standard, 12 October 1917, p.1:

I chronicle the bloated pig, The fatted steer, the spud so big; Write up the Pumpkin large and round. That wore a groove along the ground When grown on Gillooley's farm. I chronicle the teacher marm Who spanks the kids at Geyser's Ridge; Write up the need for road or bridge. I tell the public Murphy's plough Has got eight horses to it now; I chronicle the cow that stepped Into the local church and slept; I chronicle the country dance, And ne'er omit, by any chance, To say the "popular" M.C. Dolled up the dance hall "tastefully"; And when the wee sma' hours arrived, To wend their way home all contrived. I chronicle the big J.P. For few loom quite so large as he. I tell you when the swaggie died, The J.P. hurried to his side; And when a fellow townsman leaves I tell how Dingo Hollow grieves. O'er local weddings I enthuse, (For girls they are the best of news) The presents always cost a lot Who buys the cheap ones I know not). I chronicle the wondrous hen That lays a great egg now and then Make one small par without a blush Of Our Own Correspondent's slush. I use the mystic mighty We, And boost the local industry. I chronicle all happenings, And when the local Melba sings, I say her "pleasing" youthful voice Makes the audience rejoice. I quote from Shakespeare, Byron, Scott, Sometimes I'm right, more often not; But hamlets such as this don't know Whence my great inspiration flow. The dictionary on the shelf, Is now portion of myself? To be obscure I often pounce

On words that no man can pronounce 'Tis grand to be an editor And paste that word upon your door. 'Tis grand in verbiage to sink; And make the foolish- public think That fourteen men are on the staff Of *Dingo Hollow Telegraf*. I foil; and ever as I toil I burn the smellful midnight oil Each night and day I dream and think Of' nothing else-but type and ink. Oh! As, I sagely wrote before, It's grand to be an editor.



5-RECENTLY PUBLISHED

#### 97.5.1 Book

- Martinkus, John, Lost Copy: The Endless Wars. Australian Scholarly Publishing, Paperback. 342pp. The memoir of celebrated Australian war correspondent John Martinkus, who covered conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Aceh, Sri Lanka and Burma. [Reviewed in Weekend Australian, 21-22 April 2018.]
- Woods, Philip, Reporting the Retreat: War Correspondents in Burma, 1942. Singapore, NUS Press Pte Ltd. 2017. xx, 208pp. List Price: \$116.70 Your Price: \$105.00 (including shipping & handling. by registered airmail), ISBN: 9789814722612 KK-136719

#### 97.5.2 Articles

**Bagnall, Diana,** "Between the covers", *Inside* Story, 20 March 2018. The problems at the Park Street headquarters of Bauer Media are a microcosm of an industry slowly adjusting to a blizzard of change. Extract:

Print is far from dead, but the analysts and consultants are having a field day. Data is cut every which way. There are summits and reports galore, mostly forecasting more pain ahead. You've heard it all before. The old business model is shot. The ads have gone elsewhere, and the expectation that everything you read online should be free is proving difficult to dislodge. Magazine circulation (where it's still counted) and readership slide month by month, particularly among mass-market magazines that, as London-based media consultant Colin Morrison recently tweeted, "still shout the loudest, even in free fall."

It all happened so quickly, didn't it? One moment we were paying the extra for our airfreighted copies of *Vanity Fair* and the next we were mourning the passing of the golden age of magazines that Tina Brown documents in her *Vanity Fair Diaries*. When Condé Nast owner Si Newhouse and *Playboy* founder Hugh Hefner died within a week of each other last October, the *Financial Times* ran what was effectively an obituary for the glossy era. The balance of power between technology and media had "shifted irrevocably," the *FT* pronounced, and the question was how long magazine publishers would survive the new era.

**Buchanan, Rachel,** "Foreign correspondence: journalism in the Germaine Greer Archive", Archives and Manuscripts, 2018, Vol. 46, No. 1, pp.18-39 (https://doi.org.10.1080/01576895.2018.1434673). Germaine Greer's print journalism forms a significant portion of her archive. It needs to be reassessed and recognised as having equal value to her other types of writing. Greer's journalism powers much of this major archive and it is important to acknowledge that this archive is as much a journalist's one as it is the archive of a feminist, a performer or literary scholar.

Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter, No 97, May 2018-16

- Fuller, Glen, and Barnes, Renee, "A history of anticipating the future: an analysis of the AN Smith lectures, Andrew Olle Lectures and media commentary", *Media International Australia*, 19 April 2018. There are multiple narratives of technological and organisational change for making sense of the news media industry since the turn of the century. In Australia, the Andrew Olle and AN Smith lectures have served as key sites whereby leading members of the journalistic field have articulated narratives of change.
- Horsfield, Jennifer, "C.E.W. Bean's Years at Tuggeranong Homestead", *Canberra Historical Journal* no. 80, March 2018, pp.11-19. War historian Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean and his secretarial staff occupied the 26-hectare Tuggeranong property, near Canberra, residing in the homestead and other cottages on



**ANDREW OLLE** 

the site, from October 1919 until April 1925. The team of historians, draftsmen and secretaries recorded the Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918.

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