



This is the front page of a rag paper edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* in January 1928. The rag paper editions—basically, special library editions—can be difficult to identify as the paper is similar in thickness and feel to regular newsprint. Rag, however, does not discolour and become brittle like regular newsprint. See 104.4.1 below. —*State Library of NSW photo.*

## AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

# NEWSLETTER

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

Contributing editor and founder: Victor Isaacs, of Canberra, is at [abvi@inet.net.au](mailto:abvi@inet.net.au)

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**Deadline for the next *Newsletter*: 9 December 2019.**

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

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



## 20 years of publication

This edition of the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* completes 20 years of publication. Victor Isaacs published the first edition in October 1999 a few weeks after the “Local Newspapers, Local Identities” conference, staged by the History of the Book in Australia, at Chiltern in north-eastern Victoria. See issue 100. Victor is still a key part of ANHG. – **Rod Kirkpatrick, Editor.**

### 104.1.1 AFP and the media (1): Coalition wants right to fight warrants

The nation’s leading media organisations have demanded the right to contest warrants being used to gather evidence against journalists to combat a “rising tide of secrecy” threatening press freedom in Australia (*Weekend Australian*, 3-4 August 2019). In a submission to the parliamentary inquiry into freedom of the press, Australia’s Right to Know Coalition — including News Corp Australia, Nine Entertainment Co and the ABC — claim the inquiry is not broad enough in scope and complain about increasing “intimidation” targeting the media. The committee was established by the Morrison government as a result of an outcry by media companies following Australian Federal Police (AFP) raids on the home of News Corp journalist Annika Smethurst and the ABC’s headquarters in Sydney. A third raid was also planned on News Corp’s headquarters in Surry Hills, central Sydney, but was called off by the AFP. Following the raids, Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton said journalists in possession of secret material could be investigated by police for committing a crime, saying “nobody was above the law”.

The submission — authored by 14 media companies and organisations — says that while the support of some government ministers for a free media is welcome, “disappointingly, others have suggested that the mere fact that a journalist may be in possession of leaked documents should be sufficient for them to be considered to have committed a criminal offence”. “This amounts to suggesting that a necessary element in the reporting of matters of public interest is the receipt of information which is not publicly known is sufficient to support a finding of criminal activity ... This seems to us is the nub of the problem this inquiry should have as its main focus.” Warrants of the type used against Smethurst and the ABC would be contestable under the proposals put forward by the media companies.

The submission suggests all warrant applications for journalists and media companies be made to an independent judge in open court with experience in weighing up such matters, media organisations be informed and represented and a warrant will only be authorised if the public interest in accessing the metadata and/or content of a journalist’s communication outweighs the public interest in not granting access. The media companies are also calling for better protection for public-sector whistleblowers and a properly functioning freedom of information regime. A wide-ranging reform of defamation law in Australia is also recommended. It also calls on changes to national security laws and asked that “journalists be exempted from national security laws enacted over the last seven years”.

### 104.1.2 AFP and the media (2): Home Affairs dept fights to restrict media

The Department of Home Affairs is pushing back against demands by leading Australian media organisations for a right to contest warrants targeting journalists, claiming reporters may destroy

evidence (*Australian*, 7 August 2019). The ABC has hit back at such suggestions, saying there are already laws against the destruction of evidence and a similar set of British laws expressly prohibits the disposal of any material being sought by authorities. In a submission to the parliamentary inquiry into press freedom, the Department of Home Affairs has defended the current regime as “appropriate”. It said the government was “open to considering suggestions”, current legislation already reflected the need for any “limitations on rights and freedoms (to be) reasonable, necessary and proportionate for the pursuit of a legitimate objective”.

### **104.1.3 AFP and the media (3): Parliamentary inquiry into press freedom**

The first public hearings of the parliamentary joint committee on intelligence and security’s inquiry into press freedom were held on 13 August 2019. One of the first to give evidence before the committee was George Williams, dean of law at the University of NSW. He contributed an article, “9/11 changed things, but we’ve overstepped the mark”, to the *Australian*, 13 August 2019, p.12. The concluding section of the article follows:

My evidence to the committee today will propose several changes to the law. These include only permitting access to the metadata of journalists that would identify their sources when it is alleged a serious crime has been committed. Journalists should also be told that their metadata may be accessed so they can contest this. Offences for disclosing information, such as about intelligence activities, should include an exemption for doing so in the public interest. What is in the public interest should be carefully defined to ensure journalists only receive protection where serious matters are at stake, such as revealing that a government official has contravened a law or perverted the course of justice. Otherwise, the secrecy of national security information should prevail.

Whistleblowers also need better protection. The law recognises no circumstances in which a person can pass intelligence information to a journalist. Instead, they can reveal information about wrongdoing only within government. This should be changed so that a whistleblower can speak to a journalist where it is reasonable to believe that disclosing information within government is inadequate. These changes are needed, but even they are not enough. They only touch the surface of the laws already on the statute book that directly or indirectly impact on press freedom.

A stronger counterbalance is required. The federal parliament should also enact clear, positive protection for freedom of speech and freedom of the press that ensures national security and other laws are applied to respect these freedoms. Other countries already do this, and it is time Australia did the same.

### **104.1.4 AFP and the media (4): Miller says freedoms ‘at risk’**

Australians are at risk of losing democratic freedoms without an overhaul of rules to protect the work of journalists, News Corp executive chairman Michael Miller told the parliamentary joint committee on intelligence and security which is inquiring into press freedom (*Australian*, 14 August 2019). Miller argued protections were needed to allow the media to fulfil its role in scrutinising institutions. “We may not be living in a police state but we are living in an ever-increasing state of secrecy,” he said. “There are many laws that criminalise journalism.”

### **104.1.5 AFP and the media (5): Leaks and jail**

News Corp Australia has hit back at Home Affairs secretary Mike Pezzullo, declaring the targeting of one of its journalists “smacks more of intimidation than investigation”, after the senior bureaucrat criticised the leaking of a top-secret document and said the person responsible should go to jail (*Australian*, 15 August 2019). The Australian Federal Police said on 14 August it had identified the suspected leaker and was concerned about the leaker’s position in the public service as Pezzullo launched a strong attack against the leak. The parliamentary joint committee on intelligence and security is considering how law enforcement and intelligence powers are impacting on the freedom of the press after the AFP raided the home of News’s Sunday papers’ politics editor, Annika Smethurst, in June over a 2018 story suggesting the country’s cyber spy agency could for the first time monitor Australians.

The next day, the agency raided the ABC over its Afghan Files series. The leak to News Corp was referred to the AFP by Defence secretary Greg Moriarty, with the Department of Home Affairs copied in. “Frankly, subject to judicial process and fair process, they (the leaker) should go to jail

for that,” Pezzullo said. “It was designed to play into a Canberra game about which agency is asking other agencies to expand its powers and remits. It’s completely unacceptable for public servants to be playing in that way. It is completely unacceptable for someone to have given the journalist that document or at least passed on a screenshot or passed on some imagery of it. It is a crime.”

Campbell Reid, News Corp’s head of corporate affairs, policy and government relations, said Pezzullo’s comments went “a long way towards confirming our concern that you can risk jail if you annoy people in power”. He said: “We have been told repeatedly that the issues Australia faces are of such scale that police and intelligence agencies must have powers that can send reporters to jail, but in his evidence yesterday Mr Pezzullo appeared to paint a different picture,” Reid said. “He said Annika Smethurst’s story was of so little consequence he had forgotten about it; he declared ‘there’s no whistle to be blown here’ and dismissed the report as inaccurate. If all of that is true, how can it justify a seven-hour police raid on a reporter’s home and an ongoing legal limbo that is still unresolved after more than 70 days? As we said at the time of the raids, the episode smacks more of intimidation than investigation.”

Outgoing AFP commissioner Andrew Colvin said the agency had received 75 referrals in the past five years for potential unauthorised disclosure offences that “could have resulted in evidence being sought from a journalist”. That had occurred on only two occasions: the investigations into leaks to Smethurst and the ABC’s Dan Oakes and Sam Clark. Asked by Labor’s legal affairs spokesman Mark Dreyfus whether Smethurst could be charged, Colvin said: “That investigation is ongoing. As police, we do not target specific sectors of the community, such as the media. We target criminality, which is determined by the laws created by the parliament, and based on our investigation we establish facts and evidence.”

#### **104.1.6 AFP and the media (6): PM and freedom of the press**

Prime Minister Scott Morrison had declared there are enough protections for whistleblowers in Australia and the role of a robust media is not under threat (*Australian*, 6 September 2019). He said the Australian Federal Police was “just doing their job” in raiding the Canberra home of Australian Signals Directorate officer Cameron Gill. The AFP has refused to say whether the raid was related to the investigation into News Corp Australia journalist Annika Smethurst who reported leaked material suggestion the Signals Directorate was, for the first time, considering surveilling Australians. See also: “Culture of secrecy eroding rights of quiet Australians”, *Australian*, 6 September 2019, editorial, p.15.

#### **104.1.7 AFP and the media (7): A-G given veto to ‘safeguard’ journalists**

Journalists from News Corp Australia and the ABC who revealed government secrets have been handed a lifeline after the government expanded its political veto of prosecutions based on legitimate news reports (*Australian*, 1 October 2019). The new arrangements mean prosecutions under four federal laws will not proceed against journalists without the permission of Attorney-General Christian Porter.

#### **104.1.8 Nine and ABC consider High Court challenge**

The Nine newspapers and the ABC are considering a High Court challenge after the full bench of the Federal Court on 2 August threw out their truth defence in a high-stakes defamation case launched by Chinese-Australian billionaire Chau Chak Wing (*Weekend Australian*, 3-4 August 2019). A senior source confirmed on 2 August the media companies were closely reviewing their appeal rights after losing their bid to use the truth defence against Chau’s claims that an ABC *Four Corners* program on 5 June 2017, cast him as a spy for the Chinese Communist Party who had infiltrated the Australian government. The program, “Power and influence: The hard edge of China’s soft power”, was a joint investigation with Nine newspapers, the *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. It reported Chau, one of the country’s most generous political donors, was under suspicion by ASIO, and linked him to allegations of espionage and bribery.

The ABC, Nine newspapers and *Age* journalist Nick McKenzie are relying on a range of defences, including qualified privilege. But at the heart of their defence was their claim the allegations against Dr Chau were substantially true or they had good reason to believe they were true. In August last year, judge Stephen Rares ruled their claims of a truth defence inadmissible because

they did not amount to “any reasonable defence or basis for such a defence and are embarrassing”. The media organisations appealed the decision. But in a unanimous decision by the full bench of the Federal Court on 2 August, the three judges dismissed the appeal and ordered the companies to pay Chau’s costs.

McKenzie tweeted: “Terrible news for investigate (sic) journalism ... Another terrible precedent for journalism. Makes all journalists jobs harder.” But a member of Chau’s legal team told the *Weekend Australian* it was more like “a terrible day for Nick McKenzie”.

#### 104.1.9 Newsagency home deliveries drawing to an end

**News Corp:** Australia’s biggest newspaper publisher, News Corp, is to introduce major changes to newspaper distribution. Beginning in late 2019 and extending to June 2020, News Corp will introduce direct delivery of their newspapers in the Sydney metropolitan area by their own contractor. This function will be taken over from retail newsagencies. Distribution by local, retail newsagencies has been the traditional delivery method for newspapers in Australia. News Corp’s program will commence with News taking over the billing function, then extend to actual delivery. At this stage, News Corp will not alter delivery arrangements in the Sydney CBD, because of what it describes as “access and time delivery issues.” Some suburban newsagencies have expressed disappointment at the level of compensation being offered by News Corp. It is believed there have been some distribution problems in Sydney, which is why News Corp has made the changes there. As part of the change, newspapers will be flat wrapped at News Corp’s Chullora printing plant.

**Nine Entertainment:** Newsagents around Sydney and parts of NSW are being asked to stop home deliveries of newspapers from next year after Nine Entertainment Co decided to overhaul its print distribution arrangements in a move that could also resolve a long-running stalemate over who owns the customer data (*Australian*, 16 September 2019). Nine wrote to newsagents in mid-September, saying it was cancelling existing agreements covering home delivery and retail distribution from March next year and would seek discussions with outlets about continuing to sell newspapers in store. “While Nine has terminated the Existing Agreements, it remains committed to the newsagent retail channel for its publications,” according to a letter signed by the director of circulation, contracts and clients, Wayne Couzins.

#### 104.1.10 People

**Eryk Bagshaw** will be based in Beijing from next year as China correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*. He will continue as the Canberra-based economics correspondent for the two papers until January (*Telum Media Alert*, 28 August 2019).

**Liz Deegan**, for 30 years a News Corp employee (including editor, *Sunday Mail*, Brisbane, and general manager of corporate affairs and relationships), has joined the National Rugby League as head of communications (*Australian*, 30 September 2019).

**Peter Frilingos**, former chief rugby league writer for the *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, has been inducted into the NRL’s Hall of Fame. Frilingos, who died in 2004, covered four Kangaroo tours and 40 successive grand finals for the Sydney and, later, NRL competitions (*Australian*, 14 August 2019).

**Rob Harris**, who has spent four years in Canberra as the *Herald Sun*’s national political reporter, has joined the *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* as national affairs editor. Harris has worked in radio, including for the ABC, and on newspapers in Britain covering the 2010 general election and the Commonwealth Games in Delhi (*Age*, 13 July 2019, p.3). Chip Le Grand and Patrick Elligett are also recent senior appointments to the *Age* and *SMH* (see ANHG 103.1.11).

**Matthew Knott** has been appointed the United States correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*. He has been acting in that role while completing a master’s degree in journalism at Columbia University, New York. He will move to Washington DC at the end of the year (*Telum Media Alert*, 28 August 2019).

**Sharri Markson** has become the political editor-at-large at the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*. She was previously the paper’s national political editor. John Rolfe, the former cost-of-living editor for News Corp, is the new national political editor (*Telum Media Alert*, 26 August 2019).

**Mike Osborne**, editor of Australian Associated Press for 11 years, will leave the organisation on 30 November. Osborne has been with the newswire for 35 years and his senior roles included foreign correspondent, finance editor and news editor. He covered six Olympic Games and multiple Federal budgets (*Telum Media Alert*, 19 July 2019).

**Nino Randazzo**, who edited the Melbourne-based Italian-language newspaper, *Il Globo*, for nearly 30 years, has died, aged 87. In 2006, as an overseas candidate for the Centre-Left coalition, he was elected as a senator in the Italian elections (*Herald Sun*, 13 July 2019, p.8).

**Andrew Rule**, crime writer for the Melbourne *Herald Sun*, has written about how his experience of heart problems on a holiday in Japan led to the discovery of a “ticking bomb” in his chest. He has since had heart surgery (Andrew Rule, “Don’t take your heart for granted”, *Sunday Herald Sun*, 4 August 2019, pp.32-33).

**Bevan Shields** has been appointed the Europe correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*. He will take up the appointment in December after a three-month holiday. Shields was the former federal editor and Canberra bureau chief for Nine’s metro mastheads (*Telum Media Alert*, 26 August 2019).

**Laura Tingle**, journalist, author and essayist, will deliver the second K.S. Inglis Address at the Australian Media Traditions conference at University of Melbourne on 29 November. Her topic is “How media convergence has helped create virtual politics – and how the Press Gallery has responded”.

#### 104.1.11 Profit: News Corp and Nine

(1) **News Corp** has swung back to profit. For the financial year ended 30 June 2019, it has reported \$US228 million (\$A335m) in net profit compared to a net loss of \$US1.44 billion a year ago. Digital subscriptions for its newspapers and sport-streaming service Kayo have been the standout performers (*Weekend Australian*, 10-11 August 2019). Revenue of \$US10.07bn for the full financial year was a 12 per cent increase compared to the previous year, with total EBITDA for the year up to \$US1.24bn. For the fourth quarter of 2019, total revenue for News Corp was down \$US2.47bn, an 8 per cent fall compared to \$US2.69bn in the period in the previous year, mainly because of a \$US105m negative impact from foreign currency fluctuations and lower revenue in the book-publishing segment.

(2) **Nine Entertainment Co.** has announced final results from the 2018-19 financial year (*Telum Media Alert*, 23 August 2019). The results include the impact of Nine’s merger with Fairfax Media in December 2018. Metro Media earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) increased by 65 per cent. Total revenue for Metro Media rose from \$442.9 million in financial year 2018 to \$454.4 million in financial year 2019. This was an increase of 3 per cent. Revenue for 9 Digital Publishing fell by 11 per cent and EBITDA by 21 per cent. The combined EBITDA of Metro Media, 9 Digital Publishing and 9Now amounted to \$130.1 million, an increase of 56 per cent. Group EBITDA grew by 36 per cent and net profit after taxes was \$187.1 million, an increase of 19 per cent.

#### 104.1.12 Nine and the Libs and the ‘independent’ newspapers

Nine Entertainment chief executive High Marks hosted a \$10,000-a-head Liberal Party fund-raising event on the set of the network’s *Today* show, prompting an angry backlash from the company’s newspaper journalists (*Australian*, 3 4 September 2019). The Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance said journalists from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age* and *Australian Financial Review* raised serious concerns “about the impact on their newspapers’ charter of editorial independence” after the event which raised \$700,000 for the Liberal Party. The newspapers, previously Fairfax mastheads, were part of the merger last December between Nine and Fairfax Media.

#### 104.1.13 Far-right claims rejected

Victoria University has rejected claims its academics found News Corp publications had fuelled far-right sentiment, amid concerns its research is in danger of being distorted (*Australian*, 15 August 2019). The university rejected as inaccurate a front-page claim by Morry

Schwartz's *Saturday Paper* that News Corp journalists had intensified far-right recruitment. "At no point does the (academics') research report claim that News publications fuelled far-right sentiment," a university spokeswoman said. "The report does, however, argue that mainstream media content was used extensively by far-right groups." The statement, responding to questions from the *Australian*, also raised concerns about the university's research being skewed before it was made public through peer-reviewed channels. "The researchers are concerned about having their research taken out of context," a spokeswoman said. The *Saturday Paper* splashed its edition on the weekend of 10-11 August with the false claims about the unreleased work of VU academics on the impact of media on race hate, and continued (at 14 August) to make them in its online edition.

### 104.1.14 Recent events

#### 104.1.14.1 Deaths

**Freudenberg, Norman Graham (Graham):** D. 26 July 2019 at Redcliffe, Queensland, aged 85; great speech writer for Labor politicians such as Arthur Calwell, Gough Whitlam, Bob Hawke, Neville Wran, Barrie Unsworth and Bob Carr; began work as a cadet journalist for the Brisbane *Telegraph* at age 17; worked for several other newspapers, including the *Daily Mirror* in Sydney and the *Sun News-Pictorial*, Melbourne; became deputy news editor with GTV9, Melbourne, in 1958; joined staff of Labor leader Calwell as press secretary in 1961; returned to journalism in 1966 and the following year returned to political speechwriting; wrote more than 1000 speeches in his career (*Weekend Australian*, 27-28 July 2019, p.18; see also, Troy Bramston, "Our democracy lost for words", *Australian*, 30 July 2019, p.12.).

**James, Joyce Mildred (née Staff):** D. 1 November 2018 in Sydney, aged 100; a schoolteacher with a particular interest in psychology, she was the editor of the weekly *Anglican* for 17 years; husband Francis started the paper and managed it; born in Wollongong and grew up there; excelled in 1935 Leaving Certificate at Wollongong High School; studied at Teachers College and did Arts degree by night at Sydney University; taught at Taren Point and at Canterbury Girls High; completed two years of an economics degree; joined the NSW Education Department's psychological research unit; married Alfred Francis James in London on Anzac Day 1945 (he had been a prisoner of war for three years); a few years after World War II, she became the head English teacher at Ravenswood Girls School, Gordon; in 1952, the mother of three children, she became the editor of the *Anglican*; he wrote the editorials; she went to the Chippendale office four days every week; wrote out every word in her clear longhand and gave the sheets of paper to typesetters and compositors; edited more than 800 issues, "an invaluable record of the working of the church in Australia and elsewhere in the 1950s and 1960s" (Tony Stephens, Alfred James); *Anglican* prospered until mid-1960s, but its strong opposition to the Vietnam war, on moral and logistical grounds, led many supporters to cancel subscriptions; when *Anglican* closed in 1970, she became a school counsellor at Cheltenham Girls High School; Francis was missing (imprisoned, as it turned out) in China for four years from 1969; he died in 1992, aged 74 (Tony Stephens and Alfred James, "A century of adventure and devotion", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 December 2018, p.27; also see Kay Keavney, "The ordeal of Joyce James", *Australian Women's Weekly*, 21 February 1973).

**Macgeorge, Michael:** D. 8 September 2019 in Melbourne, aged 93; joined the *Age*, Melbourne, at age 15 as a clerk in the original Collins Street premises (his grandfather, J.S. Stephens, was chief sub-editor, 1885-1935); moved to the editorial department about two years later when Harold Campbell was editor; in a long and distinguished career, was a political reporter in Canberra, chief of staff in Melbourne, manager in London, and finally industrial manager in Melbourne; this last appointment was a highly challenging one dealing with a range of unions at a time of great technological change in the newspaper industry—see ANHG 100.4.1 (notes provided by John Tidey; Michael was a long-time ANHG subscriber.)

**Millett, Michael:** D. 7 September 2019 in Sydney, aged 60; worked for *Sydney Morning Herald* as a journalist for 20 years; served at different times as Canberra bureau chief and North Asia correspondent; was a senior editor upon his departure in 2009; became director of communications at the ABC; was director of corporate affairs at his death (*Australian*, 9 September 2019; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 September 2019).



### 104.1.15 Judge rejects Rush's attempt to silence media

Geoffrey Rush has failed in his bid to permanently stop the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Australian* from republishing allegations at the heart of the high-profile defamation case the actor won earlier this year (*Australian*, 29 August 2019). In the Federal Court on 28 August, Justice Michael Wigney dismissed the Oscar winner's application for a permanent injunction, which would have prevented all Nationwide News publications from repeating or republishing the allegations, which have been found to be defamatory and untrue. Among his written reasons for his latest decision, Justice Wigney said a permanent injunction could "restrict" the right to free speech. He wrote: "Nationwide, like any other person, has a right, within limits, to criticise and express disagreement with the liability (defamation trial) judgment. There is at least a risk the injunction sought by Mr Rush might effectively impinge on or restrict that right in a way that is not warranted or justified."

The judge, who presided over Rush's defamation trial, said the actor had failed to demonstrate that "there is a real or appreciable risk that, if not restrained from doing so, Nationwide will repeat or republish the relevant defamatory imputations". The *Daily Telegraph* is appealing against the defamation verdict, claiming that Justice Wigney's conduct of the case had given rise to "an apprehension of bias" and also that the judge had awarded excessive damages. An appeal date has yet to be confirmed.

### 104.1.16 When Robert Mugabe needed a typewriter

When Robert Gabriel Mugabe (tyrannical ruler of Zimbabwe for almost 40 years) died in Singapore at the age of 95 on 6 September, journalist Bruce Loudon wrote: "... it is to my everlasting shame that I played a very small part in helping him outsmart rivals and become Zimbabwe's leader in 1980". Loudon writes (*Weekend Australian*, 7-8 September 2019): "It was in the midst of the 'chimurenga', the war of liberation being fought by Zimbabwe's barefooted bush fighters against white rule. At a summit of post-colonial leaders from across the African continent in Gabon, West Africa, crucial decisions were imminent on whether Mugabe or his arch-rival, Joshua Nkomo, should be supported to become Zimbabwe's leader. Mugabe was the outsider. In the media room as the crucial gathering got under way, he appeared downcast. Nkomo was surrounded by aides and helpers. Mugabe had only his loyal deputy, Edgar Tekere, with him. They desperately needed to type up a statement for the continent's leaders but had no typewriter. They fixed their eyes on my ancient Olivetti Letra 32 typewriter [in the late 1970s] the standard resource for foreign correspondents battling around the world's troublespots. They asked if they could borrow it.

"Mugabe sat at the keyboard pecking away, trying to compose his vital statement. It was clear his two fingers were hopeless. To get him off my typewriter, I offered to help. He dictated while I typed. It did much, apparently, to swing Africa's support behind him and eclipse Nkomo, enabling him to become Zimbabwe's leader in 1980. Yet on the occasions when I saw Mugabe afterwards, he never once recalled, much less thanked me, and that says much about the man who became one of the world's most feared and corrupt despots."

### 104.1.17 Cadet journalists sought

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: Remember when newspapers used to advertise for cadet journalists (or aren't you that old)? I know that my entry to journalism arose from an advertisement in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 14 April 1962. The director of news at ATN Channel 7, Epping, sought a "fully qualified A Grade Journalist" and a "1<sup>st</sup> Year Cadet". I was one of 28 applicants for the cadetship and, for reasons still unknown to me, I got the job. I began duties on 7 May 1962.

When I was lecturing in journalism—for 25 of the years between 1975 and 2007—I told my final-year students not to wait for an ad. to appear for cadets at the metro dailies; just apply. And the cadet counsellors told me that at the *Sydney Morning Herald*, for instance, more than 1000 applications were received each year. The numbers were pretty much the same at papers such as the *Daily Telegraph* or the *Courier-Mail*. the cadet counsellors told me that at the *Sydney Morning Herald*, for instance, more than 1000 applications were received each year. The numbers were pretty much the same at papers such as the *Daily Telegraph* or the *Courier-Mail*.



## Cadet Journalists: *The Australian*

*The Australian* is seeking candidates for 12-month cadetships in journalism. This is your chance to join a leading masthead with the opportunity to translate it into a permanent position as a journalist.

### What's the role?

- An introduction to the range of skills needed for modern journalists
- Those who complete the program will be in a leading position to take a permanent place in our newsrooms
- The cadetship is demanding and rewarding. You will report and write for the paper and website
- Shift work including nights and weekends is expected

### Who are you?

- Strong interest in news, politics, sport and current affairs is necessary
- An undergraduate degree
- Experience on a regional or suburban newspaper or news website an advantage
- You want to tell stories - in words, pictures, video and audio
- You can write clearly and concisely
- You know Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and the latest app where news is being shared
- You should be a regular consumer of news and a regular reader of *The Australian* online or in print
- Most of all, you need to be passionate about a career in the media

You need to demonstrate initiative, intelligence and sheer interest in the discovery and presentation of information to our switched-on and committed audience.

### What comes next?

Send us your CV and a short statement on why you want a cadetship

Apply now or for more information on careers at News Corp Australia visit

[www.news corpora australia.com/careers](http://www.news corpora australia.com/careers)

**THE AUSTRALIAN**  
For the informed Australian

In this context, it was interesting to see the *Australian* advertise (see above) in its Media section on 9 September for “Cadet Journalists”. Note in the screenshot of that ad. that the cadetships are for 12 months and applicants are expected to have an undergraduate degree and experience at news writing. Lots of other interesting aspects to the ad, too.

### 104.1.18 Robert Menzies, Jesus and newspaper style

**Tim Douglas**, the editor of the *Review* section of the *Weekend Australian*, wrote about a change in the newspaper’s style in his column on 21-22 September 2019.

The first thing I learned about the *Australian* when I started here more than a decade ago was that in published copy only two subjects with surnames ending in S are exempt from the pos-s rule — a possessive apostrophe followed by another S. Those subjects were, and indeed they remain: Menzies and Jesus. You see it’s the sibilance, the result of those pesky frictive consonants that produce a hissing sound (there are three frictives in each name) when pronounced that one should avoid. (Every other moniker ending in S, for the record, gets the pos-s treatment, on

I must confess I am an enthusiastic scholar — if not still an apprentice compared with this organ’s venerated senior sub-editor, Ruth Dunn — when it comes to style, and in particular the Oz’s 215-page *Style Guide* (the one on my desk is the third edition, edited by Kim Lockwood). In my first week here, I was presented with a brand spanking new copy of the style tome (“the new testament”) and a *Macquarie Dictionary* (“the old testament”), a wonderfully bedraggled edition from the early 80s, all off-the-shoulder jacket and yellowed pages that every so often reveals the faint redolence of cigarettes. (If you put your ear close to it, you can hear the sound of sub-editors swearing at each other.) While I’m fondest of the latter, I am quite well acquainted with the former, and its myriad banned words (“icon”; “sidewalk”; “elevator”) and disallowed headlines (if you ever see “Going for baroque” in these pages, you have permission to hang, draw and quarter me).

[You'll note that the ANHG style is "the *Australian*"—or any other newspaper title, and italicised—whereas Tim Douglas wrote "The Australian"; also, I have italicised the book titles that his paper's style now does not.—R.K.]

#### 104.1.19 Age and SMH increase cover price

### 104.1.20 Readership grows

A person's hands are shown holding a tablet computer. The screen of the tablet displays a word cloud. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'PRESS' being the largest and most central word. Other prominent words include 'JOURNALISM', 'MASS MEDIA', 'PRINT', 'NEW', 'WORD', 'SPORT', 'INTERNATIONAL', 'CONTEMPORARY', 'INDEPENDENT', 'JOURNAL', 'COURAGE', 'TRUTH', 'POWER', 'VOICE', 'COUNTRY', 'CITY', 'WORLD', 'PEOPLE', 'LIFE', 'DEATH', 'LOVE', 'HATE', 'WAR', 'PEACE', 'HAPPINESS', 'SADNESS', 'JOY', 'GRIEF', 'HOPE', 'FAITH', 'DREAMS', 'REALITY', 'IMAGINATION', 'CREATIVITY', 'INNOVATION', 'TECHNOLOGY', 'SCIENCE', 'ART', 'CULTURE', 'HISTORY', 'PRESENT', 'FUTURE', 'PAST', 'TIME', 'SPACE', 'MATTER', 'ENERGY', 'LIFE', 'DEATH', 'LOVE', 'HATE', 'WAR', 'PEACE', 'HAPPINESS', 'SADNESS', 'JOY', 'GRIEF', 'HOPE', 'FAITH', 'DREAMS', 'REALITY', 'IMAGINATION', 'CREATIVITY', 'INNOVATION', 'TECHNOLOGY', 'SCIENCE', 'ART', 'CULTURE', 'HISTORY', 'PRESENT', 'FUTURE', 'PAST', 'TIME', 'SPACE', 'MATTER', 'ENERGY'. The words are in various sizes and orientations, creating a dense and colorful visual representation of media-related concepts.

### 104.2.1 Tech giants face day of reckoning

*Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, No 104, October 2019— 10

**Rod Sims**, chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), has warned Facebook and Google a recommended “code of conduct” will have “enormous teeth” (*Australian*, 29 July 2019, Media section). He dismissed concerns that regulators would not be tough enough to hold the digital giants to account. (See also articles by Chris Kenny and Adam Creighton in the Media section of the *Australian* that day.)

**Alan Kohler** argues (*Australian*, 30 July 2019) that “the only way to properly regulate Google and Facebook and other ‘designated platforms’, as the ACCC calls them, is to treat them like utilities or banks and require them to be licensed”. Most of the ACCC’s 23 recommendations could be incorporated into the licence conditions along with others, Kohler says.

**Margaret Simons** writes (Inside Story, 30 July 2019): Once upon a time, if you stepped onto a train you could be pretty sure that most of the passengers would have their noses buried in newspapers. These days, commuters look at their phones. It’s a powerful example of how much digital platforms have become central to our lives. In all of our overlapping personas — friend, employee, audience member and citizen — they have become the means to our ends. This means the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission’s report on digital platforms, released last week, is potentially one of the most important documents in our recent national history, with the potential to affect every area of life. Whether it fulfils that potential will depend on the response of government, and of course the lobbying attempts of Google and Facebook, both of which will oppose much of the regulatory thrust despite this being the local version of inquiries and initiatives around the globe. Bringing these new and uniquely powerful players to heel will require an international lawmaking effort.

So far, media attention has focused on the business impacts of the report and the issues surrounding privacy. I want to focus here on what the report says about journalism. This, surely, is the aspect of the report that is most important to our role as citizens, the health of our democracy and the capacity of our political processes and system of government to meet the needs of the nation.

First, the ACCC reaffirms its view that journalism is a public good, important for democracy. It also confirms that journalism is in crisis, thanks largely to the flow of advertising revenue to the digital platforms. Significantly, in a first for a government agency, the ACCC declares that despite the fact that most journalism is produced by private businesses, this is an appropriate area for government action. The ACCC’s research for this inquiry confirms that the number of journalists employed in print and online businesses (traditionally the main employers) dropped by 20 per cent from 2014 to 2018. More than one hundred local and regional newspapers have closed over the past ten years, and as a result, twenty-one local government areas have no press coverage. Swathes of suburban and regional Australia are now news deserts.

The digital news business models reward those who provide international and national news. Local news falls through the cracks. It’s now generally easier to find out what Donald Trump did last night than it is to find out what’s happening at your local school, why a local property development has been approved or what the story is behind that column of smoke on the horizon. The results of the dive in the number of employed journalists are real, according to the ACCC research. There are 26 per cent fewer articles on local government issues, 40 per cent fewer articles reporting on local courts, 30 per cent fewer articles on health issues and 42 per cent fewer articles on science.

**Sandra Peter and Kai Riemer** write (*Australian*, 1 August 2019); Last Friday was a good day for Google and Facebook. It was the day the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission released its report into digital platforms and their effect on traditional media. [The report fundamentally reaffirms and cements the existing business models of Facebook and Google.] Two things need to happen.

First, public discourse must take account of the true nature of digital platforms. More awareness will provide lawmakers with a mandate to make fundamental changes. To be fair, such changes are beyond any Australian regulator. Second, meaningful changes need to focus on the inner workings of these platforms. Once governments realise that various digital platforms are now akin to other infrastructures essential for our society, doors might open to allow more fundamental changes. We need to rebalance the value that derives from these platforms for all stakeholders—

users, advertisers, media companies and the wider society for which these platforms provide a vital infrastructure.

### **104.2.2 Heed law or go, tech giants told**

ACCC chair Rod Sims has warned tech giants Google and Facebook either to abide by our laws or to leave our shores (*Australian*, 14 August 2019). Sims, who led a landmark regulatory investigation into digital platforms over 19 months that uncovered many “adverse effects” associated with the tech giants, said “Australia can, if necessary, act alone” with its crackdown. “Facebook and Google are clearly subject to our laws. They either comply or do not do business in Australia,” Sims said in a speech to the Melbourne Press Club on 13 August.

In the past, the tech giants have threatened to withdraw services from a country in response to local laws, but Sims does not think that will happen here. “Not only are our measures carefully calibrated, but we are closely in touch with our overseas counterparts who are sympathetic to both the issues we have raised, and our solutions,” he said.

### **104.2.3 Online advertising earns \$9bn**

Brands have spent more than \$9 billion in online advertising in the past year, despite soft advertising conditions that have hurt some of Australia’s biggest media companies (*Australian*, 2 September 2019). The PwC Interactive Advertising Bureau’s Online Advertising Report, which covers the past financial year, shows a 7.1 per cent increase in online advertising to a record high of \$9.05bn. Most of the growth came from search and directories advertising, up 8 per cent for the year to \$4.03m, while general display advertising also grew to \$3.367m. PwC’s report includes financial data from more than 1000 websites and estimates from Google and Facebook.

### **104.2.4 Newcastle: Digital-only title launched**

See 104.3.1 below.

### **104.2.5 Google changes how it presents the news**

Original news reporting will get new prominence and stay at the top of searches longer as Google addresses a major concern of publishers and reporters that their work was being swamped by copycats (*Weekend Australian*, 14-15 September 2019). Google said it wanted to “highlight articles that we identify as significant original reporting”, and give readers a better chance to find the work that sparks many follow-ups. “This means readers interested in the latest news can find the story that started it all, and publishers can benefit from having their original reporting more widely seen,” Google vice-president of news Richard Gingras wrote in a blog post on 13 September. The changes follow sustained criticism from traditional media organisations that helped spark the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission inquiry into digital platforms.

Media organisations including News Corporation have complained that expensive and time-consuming original journalism was not given due prominence in search results, reducing the audience and the opportunity for publishers to sell subscriptions and advertising that fund the work. Follow-ups and rewrites, often without attribution of the original work, were often given more prominence in search, often within minutes of the original story breaking.

Google’s changes follow reports in August that News was developing a news distribution service called “The Knewz” that would be open to all publishers and favour original content. “We are exploring this with the goal of recognising and rewarding the provenance of journalism, and to drive traffic and data to publishers — including subscription sites — so their original work is respected ...” News told the *Wall Street Journal*.

### **104.2.6 News launches Schools Hub**

News Corp Australia has launched Schools Hub, a data-rich comparison tool to provide access to data about every school in Australia (*Telum Media Alert*, 20 September 2019). Schools Hub is led by Tanya French, digital editor at the *Courier-Mail*, and Geoff Egan, national education data journalist at News Corp. The launch was supported by an editorial and marketing campaign across all major News Corp newspapers. A new national web page, **education.news.com.au**, has also been launched, directing readers to education verticals across News Corp mastheads.

### 104.2.7 Hong Kong and *The Little Red Podcast*

**Eric George**, podcast producer, writes (*Weekend Australian*, 21-22 September 2019, extract only): Too often the concept of news podcasting revolves around daily shows, such as the *New York Times*' excellent, dominant the *Daily*. But there's a wealth of informative, newsy niche programming out there. Recently I've been listening to a lot of The Little Red Podcast to keep across the turmoil in Hong Kong. It's part of a growing suite of shows from the University of Melbourne, hosted by veteran journalist Louisa Lim and academic Graeme Smith. The show's tagline is "China beyond the Beijing beltway", a fair summation of what is a deeply informative outside view of a fascinating country.

The Little Red Podcast has mostly relied on conversational interviews on current affairs and issues inside China from religion to feminism. These are meaty subjects tackled in-depth. It can be tricky to thread the needle between making these topics clear for a curious but unfamiliar listener without watering things down, especially when relying on experts for most of your interviews.

### 104.2.8 Apple and News work together

Apple's subscription news service News+ has launched on 1 October in Australia with News Corp Australia the exclusive local provider of news (*Australian*, 1 October 2019). The Apple News app already offers access to free news services. Now a new tab marked News+ adds content from hundreds of news sources and magazines that operate from behind a paywall. News Corp chief executive Robert Thomson, who welcomed the partnership with Apple, took aim at Apple's rival Google which he said preferred "hype and hypocrisy". "We are proud to partner globally with a company (Apple) that truly believes in the profundity of provenance and that there should be a premium for premium journalism," Thomson said. "Apple has acted positively, honourably and decisively to change the digital landscape, while other gatekeepers, such as Google, prefer hype and hypocrisy."



### 3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

#### 104.3.1 Newcastle: Digital-only title launched

News Corp launched on 19 August a digital-only community title, *Newcastle News*, to provide hyper local news, sport and lifestyle articles for readers in the Newcastle and Hunter regions (*Daily Telegraph*, 19 August 2019). The digital masthead sets out to bring readers news on local crime, sport, development, transport, environment, education and health. Amy Ziniak is the journalist and she is expected to update the website daily. Subscribers will also gain access to the *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph*. The *Newcastle News* follows in the footsteps of other News Corp digital-only community titles launched recently, including the *St George Shire Standard*, the *Illawarra Star*, *Central Sydney* and the *Canberra Star*. Readers can connect on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or email: [thenewcastlenews@news.com.au](mailto:thenewcastlenews@news.com.au)

#### 104.3.2 Quarterly magazine for regionals

On Friday 30 August, Australian Community Media published the first edition of a new quarterly magazine *Future Focus* which they describe as "Celebrating Regional Australia". The magazine is being carried in all 14 of ACM's daily newspapers, including the *Canberra Times* and *Newcastle Herald*, as well as agricultural weeklies *The Land*, *Queensland Country Life* and *Stock & Land*.



ACM's partners in this project are University of New England and Dell Australia. It is a 24-page colour magazine filled with optimistic stories about rural areas.

### 104.3.3 Smaller page size for some News regionals

News Corp is to change the format of *CQ News*, *Gympie Times*, *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, *Central & North Burnett Times* and the *South Burnett Times* to a smaller page size.

### 104.3.4 Bendigo: Merger of two titles

The Bendigo *Advertiser*, a daily, and the *Bendigo Weekly* are merging this month. A combined Domain real estate guide and a new-look weekend edition of the *Advertiser*, incorporating the *Weekly*, will be launched this month.

### 104.3.5 *Weekly Times* at 150

When a group of Melbourne journalists launched the *Daily Telegraph* in that city on 8 February 1869 it was during an era when such dailies published a weekly, too. And so the *Daily Telegraph* launched the *Weekly Times* on 11 September 1869. It aimed to be a “journal of literature, sport, agriculture, science and politics”. The paper was published each Saturday and was 16 pages at the beginning. In 1892 the *Daily Telegraph* sold its buildings and mastheads to the Melbourne *Herald*, which closed the *Telegraph* but continued publishing the *Weekly Times*, by then an agricultural weekly.

That role continues today and the *Weekly Times*, now owned by News Corp Australia, is now 150 years old and has had only 15 editors. Ed Gannon is the current editor. See *Australian*, Media section, 9 September 2019, p.25.

On 11 September 2019, the *Weekly Times* published a commemorative issue to celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It included a 20-page wraparound with a breezy history of the newspaper, and poor reproduction of the 16-page first issue of 11 September 1869. The reproduction was overlaid with presentations of some of the articles in modern style, meaning a great deal of the original was unreadable, and making it difficult to appreciate the style of the original.



## 4—NEWSPAPER HISTORY

### 104.4.1 The local rag: *Herald* printed on ‘paper of permanence’

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: This story begins with Peter Gill, of Melbourne, sending the ANHG the following item, headed: “Special filing edition”. It was from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 November 1932, p.2, and read:

A limited edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* on rag-made paper is published daily. This edition is intended especially for libraries, both public and institutional, that wish to have files on paper of permanence. Copies of the edition are available to the general public. Orders for the filing edition should reach us as early as possible. Rates will be supplied on application.

JOHN FAIRFAX & SONS, LTD.

So, I wondered when this practice of producing the special filing editions began and, with the aid of Trove, soon discovered the answer. It was 2 January 1928. On Page 6 of that day's edition of the *SMH*, the following article appeared:

A special filing edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* is to be published daily as from to-day. No other newspaper in Australia is more largely filed than the *Herald*. This has been the case for nearly a century. Since the publication of the quarterly Index to the news and topics in the *Herald* the increase in files established in public libraries, institutions, and offices has been very considerable. The vast consumption of paper for newspapers nowadays necessitates the use of wood pulp which, unfortunately, does not possess the permanent qualities necessary for files, as this material tends to deteriorate in a few years time.

In public libraries especially where the references to the *Herald* are so constant, the files in many instances bear much evidence of wear and tear. In response to requests by librarians and others it has been decided to print a limited edition daily on rag-made paper, the kind used before the wood pulp product took its place. Rag-made paper possesses the requisite strength and durability for filing, being practically everlasting. The earliest *Herald* files, printed on this paper, are in perfect condition after the lapse of nearly a hundred years. The price of the special filing edition will be sixpence per copy. Subscriptions will not be accepted for a less term than three months. Orders should reach us as early as possible.

And, of course, I wondered when the practice ended. Well, it was still going at the beginning of 1941 as the article below indicates (but publicity of the special filing editions ends in 1941; the final reference discovered appeared on 20 May 1941).

*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 February 1941, p.8: It is common knowledge that the paper upon which newspapers of today are printed has not the durability of the material used many years ago. This is due to the fact that modern "news-print", as it is called, is made from wood pulp, with chemical additions, and lacks enduring qualities. How long it will last is difficult to say, because experience carries us back less than half a century when "news-print" first came into general use. The experience of the *Herald*, whose files go back over a hundred years, is that those of the 'thirties and 'forties, up to the 'eighties, of last century, when rags and bleached straw were the principal raw materials, are still in perfect condition, whereas those of the wood-pulp period, and particularly when chemical additions began to grow heavier, are, excepting for our own specially printed library editions, becoming much the worse for wear.

Anyone may observe for himself how quickly ordinary newspaper deteriorates when left exposed to sunlight and air. Tests made by the *Herald* afford striking proof of this. The perishability of modern paper is causing no little concern to librarians and others who desire to ensure the permanence of the newspaper and other records of the age we live in. Not only newspapers are affected, but all other records and books printed on the commoner kinds of paper, and unless steps are taken to fix standards of durability for such editions as are intended for libraries or for other record purposes, few decades hence there is likely to be a serious gap in the printed matter from the start of the twentieth century onwards.

The *Herald* has done its part. For long it has realised the problem of file preservation, and met it by beginning in 1928 the printing of a special edition on imperishable rag-made paper. It is the only newspaper south of the line, and one of the few newspapers in the world, to do this. Every morning after the ordinary edition of the *Herald* is printed, a reel of this expensive rag-paper is put on one of the presses and a special filing edition run off—a very small number, of course, compared with an average of well over a quarter of a million copies of newsprint which are rushed off to reach readers by breakfast time.

This limited edition performs a special service; it ensures the preservation for posterity of the *Herald's* record of the affairs of to-day and provides superior files that can stand any amount of handling. Most of the rag-paper editions go to libraries in this and other States and abroad, and are used for filing in Government and other institutions in the city.

Gavin Souter's *Company of Herald's* does not mention rag-paper editions of the *Herald*.

Twenty years ago this month, Carol Mills presented a paper, "Newsprint in the Australian colonies", at the conference that led to the introduction of the *ANHG Newsletter*. The conference, "Local Newspapers, Local Identities", was held at Chiltern in northern Victoria. Carol's paper notes: "Typically, the story of paper use by newspapers in the Australian colonies has been told by proprietors unable to resist their facility to offer reports on their problems and interests. It is invaluable to the history of Australian papermaking." In early 1833, Carol said, the *Sydney Herald* was being printed on cartridge paper. Other newspapers of that period were printed on paper of all colours; buff, brown, green, blue, and of varying textures. In 1843 the *Sydney Morning Herald* (as it had become) changed its size for almost two months, going from eight columns to seven, and



shortening its columns by 1½ inches. The previous size was re-adopted when appropriate paper was available.

Near the end of her article, Carol Mills remarked that some of the curiosities of Australian newspaper history related to paper substitutes.

In 1890, the *Central Australian and Bourke Telegraph* found itself isolated from its paper supply lines by the Darling in flood. During April one issue was printed on silk, one on satin and two on calico. The first issue of the *Cooktown Independent* in 1884 was printed on white satin with a red border. One issue of the *Normanton Chronicle* for 1886 was of white satin with a blue edge. When the bullock drays with paper failed to arrive, the *Etheridge Courier*, in Georgetown, Queensland, in the 1870-s, was printed on calico handkerchiefs from the local draper.

In my file of examples of various newspaper printings on silk, one comes from a friend of nearly 40 years, Ken Sanz, who noted that on 24 March 1871 at Muswellbrook, NSW, the first issue of the *Upper Hunter Courier* was published and one copy was printed on white satin so that it could be sent on the train to be presented to the Governor, the Earl of Belmore, when he opened the railway at Scone on 17 April 1871. (Ken Sanz, “Newspapers of the Upper Hunter”, *Scone Historical Society Newsletter*, September 1974, p.62.)

After my initial research had produced the 1928 and 1941 details above, I made inquiries through a contact, Jerelynn Brown, manager collection strategy and development, State Library of NSW (see 104.4.2 below for an article from her). She referred my inquiry to Peter Arfanis, acting team leader, mixed formats team, at the library. Peter responded by email on 16 August:

I had a look through the catalogue of the Fairfax Media Business Archive but I could find no obvious reference to rag paper editions of the *SMH* in the archive collection, apart from a copy of the 1931 Centenary edition. Someone would need to trawl through the correspondence and minute books in the collection to see if there is anything there providing background to the production of rag paper editions. I did send an email to a contact at Fairfax Media/Nine requesting they have a look at their bound collection of the *SMH* and confirm if they have a set of the rag paper edition. They replied they didn’t but I think they may have been wrong because if anyone was going to keep a “preservation” copy of the paper John Fairfax & Sons would. I suspect the people who checked the bound editions may not have known what to look for. The rag paper editions can be difficult to identify as the paper is similar in thickness and feel to regular newsprint. However, rag doesn’t discolour and become brittle like regular newsprint.

The State Library does have rag paper editions in its collection between 1928-1941. They are bound and mixed with regular newsprint copies. The majority of copies for this period seem to be rag paper. The rag paper edition does not seem to continue past 1941 and there is no evidence of other newspaper titles being printed on rag paper.

#### 104.4.2 Digitisation program at NSW State Library

**Jerelynn Brown**, manager, collection strategy and development, State Library of NSW, writes: The State Library of NSW, through the NSW state government, funds an extensive digitisation program, the Digital Excellence Program (DEP). Over the past seven years, more than 12 million pages have been digitised through the project. This includes more than nine million pages from newspapers, journals and the *NSW Government Gazettes*. These are all freely available via the internet on Trove, and in 2018-19, they received 17,876,349 page views, demonstrating the high interest this material has for people.

In terms of newspapers specifically, there are 489 NSW titles digitised, most from the pre-1954 period, representing nearly a quarter of all NSW newspaper titles in the Library’s collection. DEP funded the digitisation of 52 per cent of these titles and 70 per cent of all pages. NSW public libraries, councils, historical societies, organisations and individuals have worked through the National Library of Australia’s Newspaper Contribution Program to sponsor the digitisation of 126 NSW titles or 1,281,084 pages. In these instances, the State Library collaborated by providing microfilm to enable the digitisation.

In past years the Library focused on digitising newspapers published during the colonial period and those published during World War I, aiming to achieve a good geographic spread across

NSW. This year the Library will focus on digitising pre-1945 NSW newspapers in languages other than English. A feature will be what we believe to be Australia's first foreign language newspaper, *Die Deutsche Post Fur Die Australischen Kolonien* (1848-1850), a South Australian title from the State Library of NSW collection.

### 104.4.3 In lieu of soft paper

Jen Kelly, "In Black & White", *Herald Sun*, 10 June 2019, p.14: In the days when newspapers were used as toilet paper, the ones with the softest squares were naturally in high demand. So when Mick Robertson's grandmother and her church congregation were asked in the 1960s to donate old papers, there was one catch. "A visiting missionary priest asked the congregation to kindly save two particular papers, the *Sporting Globe* and the *Weekly Times*, for the natives in New Guinea," recalls Mick, of Geelong. "These papers were preferred by the natives for rolling their cigarettes. At the post-Mass gathering, my grandmother was unusually vocal and determined that the natives would not be getting her papers as these were the softest of all newspapers and properly torn to squares, the best toilet paper."

### 104.4.4 *Labour Daily* memories stirred by 1945 fire

Harry Moore, editor, *Daily Mercury*, Mackay, Queensland wrote in the *Journalist*, August-September 1945, p.3: Many of us of the ink-stained breed who padded the rounds in Sydney in the early twenties got a pungent whiff of an eventful past from the fire that burned out the old *Labour Daily* offices [owned by Consolidated Press] in Brisbane Street, Sydney, the other day [25 June 1945]. Fortunately, you can't cremate memories, and I'm sure the memories that many will share of the anxious, sometimes desperate, and oftentimes comic, efforts to keep the *Labour Daily* going will exhilarate their thoughts in these days of streamlined journalism. The old *Daily*, sickly from the start, began its convulsive career as the *Daily Mail*, at offices in Pitt Street, near the Quay. Michael Shannon was Editor, and an optimistic cove named White was publisher. I had transferred my cadetship from the genial interest of Walter Jago and Bill Lawless at the old *Fairplay* and *Lone Hand* to the *Daily Mail*, there to learn the remorseless business of scrounging for news as an unidentified nuisance from an unknown sheet.

We were a scratch crew, but we had a zest and gaiety in earning a precarious pay. Vince Stratton covered the waterfront; the late E.J. Dunn and Jim Birch did the financial and commercial rounds respectively; Claude Delalande floated in and out; and Charles Lee, C.S. McNulty and Jim Rogers fitted in somewhere. The social chatter and hot news on the kitchen front were served up by Rena Wallace and Abby Clancy. One [journalist called] Stone, and Roger Kearney subbed. Then we shifted our gunyahs to Brisbane Street, [and] began anew to wrestle with the unremitting attention of mortgage men and the problems of doubtful public appearances. The Labour party had bought us, and soon we spread ourselves as the *Labour Daily*. Again we were an unheard of crew, and it was not always comfortable to face up to a "big shot" for an interview on behalf of the *Labour Daily*.

We had a bewildering succession of editors. Roy Connolly figured as the boss somewhere about that time, and soon after we had given him a farewell he turned up again in the same capacity. Godfrey Kelly came to the throne, followed by Kelsall, L.L. Woolacott, E.J. Dunn and one or two more. For a while we had as our news editor, the mercurial personality who hit international headlines for his interview with De Valera "in smoke"—Chris. O'Sullivan to be sure. George Warnecke was one of our numerous news editors, and Butler Gye buzzed about the same office for a while. We had a chap on Australia's longest round—Aiden de Brune. He walked around Australia, and told our readers what it felt like. Aidan wrote some good detective fiction after that.

There was a strike in the *Labour Daily* office—about 1923 or 1924. I forget what it was all about—nothing really consequential, for all but three of us went back to work that same evening. I remember making a bitter speech against the strike, finding that some who had shouted for it were the first to hurry back to work, and going off in disgust to Melbourne.

Flames have consumed the building, but its ghosts live on; and one of my life-long memories will be of Bob Aubrey, "Brother" Inge and myself anxiously watching the pay clerk enter with a bag strangely flat and wondering whether there would be enough to go around!

For more on Henry Amos (Harry) Moore, see ANHG 75.4.3; 76.4.15; 77.4.4; and 80.4.1.

### 104.4.5 Melbourne suburban cinema ads in the 1930s, 40s and 50s

**Keith Davies** writes (*CinemaRecord*, Issue 101, Edition 1 of 2019, the Quarterly Journal of the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society of Australia Inc.): In December 1932, a group of independent cinemas in the suburbs of Melbourne began advertising in the *Age* and *Argus* daily newspapers under the banner “Suburban Entertainment”. In May 1936 another group of independent cinemas began advertising in the same newspaper as “Independent Suburban Theatres”. Hoyts also began advertising its suburban cinemas in the (Melbourne) *Herald* and the *Sun* newspapers. In 1941, Hoyts headed their suburban column with the slogan “Be Bright, Go Tonight”, and in the spring of 1941, used the slogan “Something to Sing About! Is Springtime in Hoyts Suburban Theatres”.

In March 1943, Hoyts introduced the slogan “You’ll Be Happier in Your Hoyts Suburban Theatre”. With this slogan, Hoyts began featuring a series of cartoons, with people in stressful or unfortunate situations. Often the cartoons coincided with sporting events, elections, holidays, seasons, etc. The cartoons were often repeated and there must have been well in excess of 100 used. The campaign corresponded with programs on radio station 3XY, sponsored by Hoyts, with the title “Be Happy with Hoyts”.

Hoyts had a jingle to the tune of “The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo” with the words:

Oh we can’t show all the pictures so we only show the best,  
The others show the rest, you can put it to the test.  
So call your girlfriend right away.  
When she hears the news she’ll shout Hooray.  
You’re happier in a Hoyts suburban theatre.  
Happier, happier, happier,  
Happier in a Hoyts suburban theatre.

The cartoons ran for about four years in the *Age* newspaper until the end of 1951, although the “You’ll be Happier” slogan continued to be used. However, the cartoons continued in the *Herald* with lessening frequency until about 1956.

Hoyts continued to include a variety of slogans and cartoons to head their suburban column from the mid to late fifties and early sixties. In 1956 a series of cartoons appeared corresponding to the Olympics with slogans like “As they straddle the horse, the best shows of course”, “Our flag joins the line, you’ll see shows that shine”, “Back stroke or crawl, the winners are all tonight in your Hoyts Suburban Theatre” and “They pass in a flash, and then they all dash tonight to a Hoyts Suburban Theatre”.

Also in 1956, a cartoon appeared at the time of the atomic bomb testing in South Australia, reading “No A-Bomb today! Lets go gay”. Christmas 1957 featured “Take Santa’s tip, the show’s a pip”. When the days were hot in summer, “When the sun goes in, film fun will begin” and, for the coming of the 1958 Aussie Rules footy season, “The teams will soon be vying, but our flag’s now flying”.

In November 1959, one of the last of the cartoons reflects the difficulty cinemas were having with the influence of television and encouraged people to “Let’s go OUT to the movies to Hoyts Suburban Theatres”.

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### 104.4.6 Sunday newspaper wars 30 years on

On 20 August 1989 three new newspapers began in Melbourne – the *Sunday Herald*, the *Sunday Age* and the *Sunday Sun*. (Melbourne Press Club website). The Sunday war between Rupert Murdoch and his Fairfax rivals was one of the most frenetic moments in Australian newspaper history. But within a couple of years only one of the Sundays survived as a stand-alone paper. Thirty years later (on 23 August 2019), the Melbourne Press Club hosted a long lunch to relive the highs and ponder the lows of an extraordinary era. The event included a panel discussion and Q&A with: Bruce Guthrie, founding deputy editor of the *Sunday Age*; Chris de Kretser, founding editor of the *Sunday Sun*; Steve Foley, founding deputy editor of the *Sunday Herald*; and Louise Graham, former picture editor of the *Sunday Age* and the *Sunday Herald Magazine*.



## 5-RECENTLY PUBLISHED

### 104.5.1 Books

The books below are written by journalists but generally not principally about journalism.

**Box, Dan**, *Bowraville*, Penguin, 336pp. \$34.99.

A true crime story cannot often be believed, at least at the beginning. In Bowraville, all three of the victims were Aboriginal. All three were killed within five months, between 1990 and 1991. The same white man was linked to each, but nobody was convicted. More than two decades later, homicide detective Gary Jubelin contacted Dan Box, asking him to pursue this serial killing. At that time, few others in the justice system seemed to know – or care – about the murders in Bowraville. Box spoke to the families of the victims, Colleen Walker-Craig, Evelyn Greenup and Clinton Speedy-Duroux, as well as the lawyers, police officers and even the suspect involved in what had happened. His investigation, as well as the families' own determined campaigning, forced the authorities to reconsider the killings. This account asks painful questions about what "justice" means and how it is delivered, as well as describing Dan's own shifting, uncomfortable realisation that he was a reporter who crossed the line.

**Growden, Greg**, *Major Thomas*, Affirm Press, 2019. Breaker Morant and Peter Handcock, two Australian soldiers serving during the Boer War, were shot in 1902 for war crimes. There was, says author Growden, a third victim—Major Frank Thomas, who unsuccessfully conducted their defence. This poignant tale of his rise and fall begins and ends in Tenterfield, the NSW town where Thomas, a bush lawyer and newspaper proprietor, was a highly regarded member of the community. [Reviewed by Stephen Loosley in the *Review* section of the *Weekend Australian*, 28-29 September 2019.]

**Harris, Steve**, *The Lost Boys of Mr Dickens*, Melbourne Books, 272pp. plus 16 pages for photo section. The author is a former editor-in-chief in Melbourne for Fairfax and the Herald & Weekly Times Ltd. This is the story of two young boys sent by the British Government as impoverished and unwanted juveniles to exile in the world's first prison built exclusively for children. Some 3000 boys doing their best to survive on the streets of 19th century Great Britain were forcibly removed from their Oliver Twist lives, a stolen generation to be "saved" from a life of crime by being transported to the other side of the world to endure seven or 14 year sentences in the extraordinary colony of Van Diemen's Land. Prejudice, moral panic, harsh justice

**Toohey, Brian**, *The Making of Australia's Security State*. Melbourne University Press, 2019. Toohey draws on decades of inquiries into national security to examine governing by stealth. Elected governments pose the greatest threat to Australians' security. Political leaders increasingly promote secrecy, ignorance and fear to introduce new laws that undermine individual liberties and magnify the risks of being dragged into an horrific new war for no good reason.

### 104.5.2 Articles

**Chatfield, Tom**, "Fake news: Ideas to change your life", *New Philosopher*, Issue 17, August-October 2017. Visit: <https://www.newphilosopher.com/articles/fake-news/>

**Clarke, Patricia**, "Australian influence on the American women's labour movement in the first decades of the twentieth century: Alice Henry and Miles Franklin, editors of *Life and Labor*", *Independent Scholar*, Vol. 5 (August 2019), <https://www.ncis.org/the-independent-scholar/tis> This paper recounts the arrival in the United States early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century of female journalist, Alice Henry, and novelist, Miles Franklin, both

feminists and social activists, fresh from Australia where women had won the right to vote and to be elected to Parliament, and where labour laws provided protection for workers. In Chicago they used their separate talents to further the cause of woman suffrage, labour reform and the organisation of women workers, initially in their work for the National Women's Trade Union League, and later as editors of *Life and Labor*.

**Henderson, Gerard**, "Anti-Pell media pile-on has its day despite Weinberg dissent", *Weekend Australian*, 24-25 August 2019, p.22. Argument for an option of trial by judge alone was never more evident than in this case.

**Merritt, Chris**, "Guarding against secrecy", *Australian*, 23 July 2019, p.11. The High Court will decide the validity of contentious secrecy laws that led to the Australian Federal Police raids on a journalist's Canberra home and on the ABC (see ANHG 103.1.1).

**Mitchell, Chris**, "'Feel-good' SMH missing when debate on Aboriginal voice gets serious", *Australian*, 19 August 2019, p.24. A discussion of where different newspapers stand in relation to indigenous issues, as seen by *Australian's* former editor-in-chief.

**Westwood, Matthew**, "Everything old renewed again", *Australian*, 23 September 2019, p.14. Museums around the world are busily digitising their precious collections. Trove (and its digitisation of newspapers) receives a special mention.

**White, Andrew**, "Tech giants' dirty little secrets", *Weekend Australian*, 27-28 July 2019, pp.15, 18. Australian Competition and Consumer Commission chair Rod Sims is betting his far-reaching 619-page report on digital platforms such as Facebook and Google will bring the titans to heel. [See also, editorial, *Weekend Australian*, 27-28 July 2019, p.23.]

## INDEX PUBLISHED SOON

An index to the first 100 issues of the newsletter will be available by mid-October. For those who have already contributed towards its cost, you will be emailed a copy. For others, it will be available at \$20 per person and \$50 per library or institution. To order a copy, email me at [rod99anhg@gmail.com](mailto:rod99anhg@gmail.com) and lodge payment by one of the methods detailed below in the "subscriptions" instructions.—Rod Kirkpatrick

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