



An early photo of the *Gippsland Standard* production room. The newspaper—initially called the *Gippsland Standard and Alberton, Foster, Port Albert, Tarraville, Woodside, Woranga and Yarram Representative*—began at Port Albert, Victoria, on 5 March 1875. It later moved to Yarram and continued publication until 29 September 1971. It amalgamated with the *Yarram News* and became the *Yarram Standard News*. In 2009, it became the *Yarram Standard*. It ceased publication, during COVID-19, in March 2020. The photo shows John Rossiter (white beard), and a son, Augustus John (centre), with two employees. Some of the old type cases, make-up benches and machinery remained in the office in 1975. This image was featured in publicity material at the centenary celebration of the Victorian Country Press Association in 2010.

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Ten issues had appeared by December 2000; the *Newsletter* has appeared five times a year since 2001.



112.1.1 Shift in Fairfax emphasis on Nine board, and new CEO

Board: Fairfax Media’s influence in the Nine Entertainment Co boardroom is close to ending with the resignation of a key director and uncertainty over the future of two other directors with ties to the historic publisher (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 March 2021). Nine director Patrick Allaway confirmed his resignation in an ASX statement on 1 March. The resignation follows months of tensions at board level over governance and transparency and a report in the masthead revealing an investigation into deputy chairman Nick Falloon over allegations he misused a corporate golf club membership. These factors appear to have accelerated Allaway’s resignation. The former investment banker and Bank of Queensland chairman told close associates before March he intended to resign as a Nine director, according to three people familiar with the conversations.

Both Allaway and Falloon joined the Nine board following the \$4 billion 2018 merger with Fairfax Media. The third Nine board director with ties to Fairfax, Los Angeles executive Mickie Rosen, has also indicated to multiple sources she is considering resigning. Nine is the owner of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*. The company also owns television, radio, real-estate and publishing assets, making it the biggest listed media group in Australia.

“It was always my intention to stay on the board through the merger and to see the success we have created is gratifying,” Allaway said. “With more intense duties now as chairman Bank of Queensland I have taken this opportunity to step down and allow for orderly renewal of the Nine board.” At 1 March, Nine’s six-person board comprised three directors with ties to the television company — chairman Peter Costello, Samantha Lewis and Catherine West; and three with ties to Fairfax — Falloon, Mickie Rosen and Allaway. Allaway was to step down formally in early April.

New CEO: Nine’s board has chosen Mike Sneesby, the 46-year-old boss of its streaming business, Stan, to be the new chief executive of Nine Entertainment. In the end it was a three-horse race for the top job, with Sneesby, the boss of Stan for seven years, edging out Nine’s publishing and digital boss, Chris Janz, and outsider, Carl Fennessy, who ran production company, Endemol Shine Australia (*Australian*, 4 March 2021, pp.15, 20).

Reflecting on the Sneesby appointment, Glenda Korporaal (*Australian*, 4 March 2021, p.24) said: “When it came to the press conference to announce his appointment on [3 March], there was little mention of Nine’s traditional print business [which includes the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age* and *Australian Financial Review*]. These days print journalism ranks as one of the varied forms of ‘content’ produced or sold by the group. While [chairman Peter] Costello continued to stress the Nine board was not split between directors supporting the traditional print business and the television side, Sneesby’s appointment is very much a sign that the TV side of the business is dominant—and seen as the future of the media conglomerate.”

New director. Media mogul Bruce Gordon has secured a seat on the board of Nine just weeks after striking a deal to air its shows on his regional television network, WIN (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 March 2021, p.24).

112.1.2 ‘Security laws a risk for all’

In early 2019, a team of researchers at the University of Queensland, headed by award-winning foreign correspondent Peter Greste, began an in-depth review of Australia’s national security laws, and how they affect press freedom (*Australian*, 1 March 2021, p.19). Within a few months, exhibits

A and B were presented to them on a platter: two police raids, the first on News Corp reporter Annika Smethurst's Canberra home on 4 June, and the second on the ABC's Sydney newsroom a day later, amid suspicions the journalists' stories had "undermined national security". While the police investigation of Smethurst and ABC journalists Dan Oakes and Sam Clark ultimately did not result in charges being laid, the unsuccessful probe ran for more than a year, exacting a heavy toll on the trio and their employers.

The ordeal energised the UQ unit of Greste, senior law lecturer Rebecca Ananian-Welsh and -researcher Sarah Kendall, giving them further impetus to push for policy reform — and the protection of public interest journalism — in the areas of espionage, national security, whistleblowing, and shield laws. In early March, the UQ team released its first policy paper for 2021, on Australia's espionage laws and their impact on press freedom.

The paper recommends three urgent reforms: greater legal clarity of what actually constitutes an offence under the laws, including whether publication amounts to "communication to a foreign principal", an offence that in theory carries a jail term of life; introducing mental elements to the laws (such as proof of intent); and a "carve-out" that recognises that public interest journalism is not a crime.

112.1.3 Printing plant closes

Ovato has shut its magazine-printing plant at Clayton in Melbourne's south-east. Listed on the ASX, Ovato is the nation's major contract printer, with clients that include the *Australian Women's Weekly* (a monthly) and *New Idea*. The company emerged out of the former PMP business and is backed by the Hannan family, of Sydney. It is seeking to consolidate its Sydney operations (*Herald Sun*, 2 January 2021, p.51).

112.1.4 Readership: *SMH* is streets ahead

Australia's major groups have recorded their ninth straight quarter of growth in digital news readership (gxpresse.net/ 7 March 2021). ThinkNewsBrands—which includes Nine, News Corp and Seven West Media's West Australian Newspapers—has published new Emma figures showing an 8 per cent increase for the 12 months to last December, compared to the same period of 2019. Overall, the news brands experienced a 2 per cent cross-platform increase with a total readership of 18 million for the period, reaching 94 per cent of the population aged 14 or over. Across measured digital platforms, news brands reached 16.9 million Australians representing 89 per cent of the population aged 14+. Print reach was 10.8 million, to 57 per cent of Australians.

In the four weeks to this report, the top 10 mastheads in Australia for cross-platform readership were: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9,387,000; *Age*, 4,865,000; *Australian*, 4,677,000; *Daily Telegraph*, 4,608,000; *Herald Sun*, 4,355,000; *West Australian* and *Sunday Times*, 3,646,000; *Australian Financial Review*, 3,094,000; *Courier-Mail*, 2,845,000; *Adelaide Advertiser*, 1,754,000; *Canberra Times*, 1,118,000.

112.1.5 Deaths

Barrass, Tony: D. 28 February 2021 in Perth, aged 58; son of Tom Barrass, Newcastle and Sydney journalist who became a life member of the Australian Journalists' Association; Tony's innate news sense and wry, larrikin style infused his accomplished writing over four decades at newspapers including the *Courier-Mail*, *West Australian*, Perth's *Sunday Times* and the *Australian*; in 1989, he became the first Australian journalist to be jailed for refusing a court request to name a confidential source; served seven days in maximum security; had obtained the personal tax records of Rothwells bank chief Laurie Connell, the rogue at the heart of the WA Inc scandal, and splashed the story on the front of what was then News Corp's Perth *Sunday Times*; withstood heavy questioning in the witness box and never told how he got the documents, even when he was hauled back to court the following year and threatened with five years' jail or a \$50,000 fine (*Australian*, 1 March 2021, p.19).

Golding, Peter Somerville: D. 2 April 2021 in Sydney, aged 98; born in Perth in 1922 but grew up mainly in Melbourne; from age of six, wanted to be a journalist; joined *Argus* from Melbourne High School as a messenger boy in 1938; became a cadet journalist there in 1940; after army service in Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo, became a political writer, covering Prime Minister

Ben Chifley's losing election campaign in 1949 which was the start of R.G. Menzies' record reign as prime minister; front page columnist for the *Argus* from early 1950s until the paper closed in January 1957; mixed satire and wit with more homely material in six to eight short paragraphs, while maintaining an underlying seriousness of purpose and desire not to be too unkind; the column made him a celebrity of the day – television arrived only in the column's last weeks; reluctantly moved the column to the rival *Sun News-Pictorial* when the Herald & Weekly Times bought the troubled *Argus* to close it; he differed with the new management and resigned after a few months; joined rapidly developing public relations industry with Eric White Associates; moved to Sydney in 1960 to head the firm there and later started a more boutique PR business, Public Affairs Management, with prestigious clients; achieved fame as a biographer, his subjects included deputy prime minister and interim prime minister John McEwen and 1950s New South Wales premier Joe Cahill (source: Robert Murray, who was Peter Golding's *Argus* copy boy.)

Maiden, Anthony Neville (Tony): D. 14 February in Newcastle, aged 76; born Cooma, NSW, and began career as cadet journalist at *Cooma-Monaro Express* in 1961; had periods with the *Canberra Times*, Melbourne *Sun News-Pictorial* and English papers; joined the *Australian Financial Review's* Melbourne office in 1969; rose to be editor and then managing editor of the *Review*, 1982-86; a protege of the great Fairfax editor Vic. Carroll, Tony had stints with the *National Times* and in the Fairfax London office before becoming deputy editor of the *Review* under Max Walsh and then *P.P. (Paddy) McGuinness*; the 1980s was the era of the Hawke-Keating economic reforms and Tony's deft touch leading the *Review* was critical in explaining them to the business world; in 1986 he moved across to become Sydney Bureau chief for *Time Australia* and in 1988 left Fairfax after twenty years and joined Max Suich's *Independent Monthly*; he semi-retired to Wangi Wangi on Lake Macquarie, editing a Hunter business newspaper and internet electricity and gas publications (source: Robert Murray, friend and former colleague).

112.1.6 Good news story for staff of *Post-Courier*

News Corp Australia announced on 19 March that it would build three residential apartment blocks across the road from the offices of the *Post-Courier*, Port Moresby, the daily serving Papua New Guinea. Each of the three blocks will contain 11 apartments, allowing 33 staff members and their families to be housed rent-free at the complex. Those employees who won't be housed in the new apartments will be eligible for rental allowance, and all will have access to secure transport to their homes at the end of their shifts. The newspaper has a staff of about 200. One of their biggest challenges each day is getting home safely. Port Moresby is a city with one of the highest rates of violent crime in the world.

112.1.7 Cyber attack on Nine affects newspapers

Security experts say the cyber attack launched against Nine Entertainment in March carries hallmarks of a ransomware extortion attempt, but the lack of any demands suggests hackers were seeking sensitive company data or trying to disrupt its media services (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 March 2021). The attack that hit Nine on 28 March targeted its broadcast TV business and not its publishing arm. However, measures put in place to stop it from spreading continued to affect the company, including the print production of its newspapers such as the Melbourne *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. A number of internal services continued on 29 and 30 March to be disrupted, including page layouts, loading of pictures and graphics. Production and access to news websites have not been affected.

Nine's major newspapers each carried an "editor's note" on 30 March, which included an apology for the "disruption" and the "compromise you will note in the quality of our newspaper today". The *Australian* (31 March) was told that senior figures at the company's major newspaper titles were unsure whether the printed product would be published at all on the Tuesday but a limited print run was achieved, despite staff being unable to access usual production technology or normal design functions.

Also on 30 March, editor Lisa Davies wrote to online readers to say that the *Herald's* ability to produce the news remained "disrupted by the deliberate violation of Nine's systems over the weekend". Their print production was "impaired" as was Nine's TV broadcast capability out of Sydney. "Monday, I'm afraid, brought more challenges," wrote Davies. "Our regular production

system was unavailable to us all day so we moved to a Plan B, making the paper in an entirely different system that only a handful of staff can use. Our portal to the old system got back up just after 8pm. We made the quick decision to revert to what we knew, and moved at lightning speed to get the paper out the door. It was an extraordinary hour as we raced towards deadline. I can't praise the team enough, led by production editor Steve Georgopoulos, for getting the best possible product to our subscribers. There were tears of relief when the front and back pages, the last to go, were finally sent to the printers." Also see *Herald* editorial "Cyber attack on Nine highlights a broader threat", 31 March 2021, p.16.



112.1.8 PEOPLE

James Campbell has been appointed News Corp Australia's national weekend political editor. He now oversees News Corp's political coverage across all of its Saturday and Sunday metro mastheads in Australia. Campbell was formerly investigations editor for the *Herald Sun* and *Sunday Herald Sun* (*Sunday Herald Sun*, 28 February 2021, p.9).

Alessandra Galloni has been appointed editor-in-chief of Reuters. She is the first woman to lead the 170-year-old global news agency. Based in London, she replaces Stephen Adler, who retired in April. Galloni was formerly global news editor, overseeing journalists in 200 locations (*Telum Media Alert*, 14 April 2021).

Peter Gill, one of ANHG's valued contributors, was featured in an article (*Age*, 27 March 2021) marking the 150th anniversary of the Yarra Yarra Rowing Club. Gill, 80, and Jim Skidmore, 82, have been members of the club for more than 60 years. Gill supplied much of the historical information for the *Age* feature article.

Jackson Graham, a journalist for the daily Warrnambool *Standard*, has moved to Melbourne to rotate through various roles at the *Age* until June. He has been seconded to the *Age* as part of the William Buckland Foundation Fellowship (*Telum Media Alert*, 26 March 2021).

Peter Greste and **Christine Jackman** were featured in *Good Weekend's* feature, "Two of Us" (20 February 2021, p.7). Here's the intro: "After spending 13 months in an Egyptian prison for reporting the news, foreign correspondent Peter Greste, 55, was released in 2015. Back in Australia, he met journalist and author Christine Jackman, 51, who helped him rebuild his life."

Alex Lavelle, former editor of the Melbourne *Age*, says his abrupt departure from the paper in 2020 was "sudden" and "emotional" and could have been avoided. His exit came just weeks after Victorian newsroom staff voiced concerns over the paper's editorial direction being increasingly controlled by Sydney (*Australian*, 12 April 2021).

Nick McKenzie, of the *Age*, won the 2020 Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year. The judges said his work with the *Age* and Channel 9's *60 Minutes* "shone a powerful light" on war crimes, Crown casino and corruption in the ALP and he "continues to make a difference, not just by prompting official actions... but by encouraging other media to investigate issues" (*Age*, 27 March 2021, pp.2-3).

Jacqueline Maley, a senior *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist, has written her first novel, *The Truth About Her*. She was featured in the "Lunch With" article in the *Herald* on 10-11 April 2021, in "Spectrum", p.7.

Oliver Murray has been appointed editor of news.com.au. He has been with the news site since 2016 and had filled such roles as copy editor, news editor and deputy editor (*Telum Media Alert*, 7 April 2021).

Caroline Overington, a senior writer for the *Australian* and twice the winner of the Walkley Award for investigative journalism, has been appointed literary editor of the newspaper to replace Stephen Romei (see below). She is a former New York correspondent and the author of 14 books. Her column in the Review section of the *Weekend Australian* is called "Come Writers & Critics" (from Dylan Thomas). Her first column appeared in the issue of 24-25 April 2021.

Stephen Romei has stepped back (his term) from being literary editor of the *Australian*. He announced this in his column, “A Pair of Ragged Claws” (*Weekend Australian*, 3-4 April 2021, Review section). He has entered what he calls “semi-retirement”; Review editor Tim Douglas described Romei’s change of direction (Review, 17-18 April) as “less a full stop to a career on the Oz and more a semi-colon”. Romei says, “I do not plan to become a hermit, as tempting as that is. I intend to remain part of the literary world and I hope you will see my name in this newspaper, and elsewhere, as a freelance writer on books and writers.” Romei was also reviewing films for the *Australian* and “agreeably, he will continue writing film reviews”, says Douglas. The 56-year-old began as a copy boy for the morning and afternoon tabloids, the *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mirror*, in 1983 and, apart from a mid-career stint as a press secretary and speech writer for the NSW government, he has been a print journalist all his working life. See also: James Madden, “Straight from the horse’s mouth, how tabloid copy boy became a leading literary type”, *Australian*, 5 April 2021, Media section, p.20. See Overington, above.

Wayne Smith, a sportswriter for the *Australian*, has written his final rugby column/article after 50 years. It appeared in the *Australian*, 25 March 2021, pp.24, 22. Rugby was his greatest sporting love, but he covered swimming and Olympics sports, too. In a separate article, Will Swanton described Smith as “the unrivalled rugby writer for the *Australian*” (*Australian*, 25 March 2021, p.22). Peter Lalor wrote an affectionate reflection on Smith’s career and some of his quirks (*Weekend Australian*, 27-28 March 2021, p.40).

Cam Wilson became associate editor of Crikey on 19 April. He is reporting on internet culture and technology and is also driving projects aimed at increasing Crikey’s audience. He was formerly reporting for Gizmodo Australia and Business Insider Australia (*Telum Media Alert*, 14 April 2021).

112.1.9 Australia’s ‘first Indigenous newspaper photographer’

Following are extracts from **Helen Pitt**, “Boy from the bush to big moments”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27-28 February 2021, “Spectrum”, pp.4-5:

As a boy growing up in Brewarrina in the 1950s, award-winning photographer Mervyn Bishop would borrow his mother’s box camera to chronicle the characters of his bush childhood. From about the age of 10, the now 75-year-old, who went on to become the *Sydney Morning Herald*’s and Australia’s first Indigenous press photographer, would use her Kodak 620 to take candid snaps of his younger sister Cynthia, his cousins and neighbours. Aircraft were early subjects too: the DC-3s, the de Havilland Dragon Rapides and Tiger Moths that would touch down on the airstrip near his home in the north-western NSW town near Bourke on the banks of the Barwon River.

[There was a] long wait for film to be mailed off, developed and delivered, [so] a local amateur photographer, Vic King, showed Bishop how to develop photographs in his makeshift home darkroom. “I still remember when my first print went into the developer, and I saw it coming out—I thought that was just so magical I was hooked instantly ... I couldn’t get enough.” He saved up enough money from lawn mowing to buy his own 35mm camera, a Japanese Acon, and as he improved, his family began hosting slide nights in their backyard. “Half the street” would come along to see Bishop’s pictures, beamed from a borrowed projector onto an old sheet strung on the clothesline.

Now, 65 years on, instead of an old sheet, his photos will appear on the walls of Canberra’s National Film and Sound Archive from [the beginning of March], with not just his early works but the iconic images, for which this influential photographer became famous. Like the one of former prime minister Gough Whitlam pouring soil into the hands of traditional owner Vincent Lingiari at the 1975 Gurindji handback ceremony at Dagaragu (Wattie Creek) in the Northern Territory. It takes pride of place in Old Parliament House. This picture was actually a re-enactment, explains Bishop, who was then working as a photographer for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. “They had a ceremony in the shade of a bough shed which was too dark so I approached Mr Whitlam to ask if we could do it again outside in the sunshine and blue sky and he agreed, so I escorted uncle Vincent Lingiari who was pretty blind with trachoma, and posed them up again,” he recalls.

Bishop loves the small details of that big moment: “Uncle Vincent’s trousers were too big for him so they were stitched onto him to keep them up,” he laughs now in recognition as he wears

suspenders to keep his pants up. He remembers Lingiari's dignity, which inspired many from Dr Fred Hollows' starting his eye health program to musicians Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly and their song, "From little things big things grow".

Bishop began as a photographer at the *Sydney Morning Herald*, after scoring a cadetship at the newspaper in 1963, when most other candidates were "blonde and blue-eyed". He'd completed high school in Dubbo, where he went to board as Brewarrina High only went to Year 9. His parents paid for it with the help from the Aborigines Welfare Board, and a fund some *Herald* subeditors had set up to help Indigenous education. When he had his interview for the cadetship, acting photographic manager Fred Halmarick was impressed with his portfolio of slides and his darkroom skills. Bishop went on to study photography at Sydney Technical College, and was in the first graduating class at Ultimo. He's still in touch with his teacher, Harry Millen, and pays tribute to his many mentors throughout his career, including Gough Whitlam.

Mervyn Bishop: The Exhibition is at the National Film and Sound Archive, Canberra, until 1 August.

112.1.10 Poet's column a year old

World Poetry Day fell on the weekend of 20-21 March. It was 12 months since Sarah Holland-Batt started her "Poet's Voice" column in the Review section of the *Weekend Australian*. The "Poet's Voice" columns will become a book, *Fishing for Lightning*. The publisher will be University of Queensland Press and the release date is October. The Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas and the Copyright Agency fund "Poet's Voice".

112.1.11 Racism and character attacks denied at inquiry

News Corp Australia has denied making and breaking prime ministers, having "racism as a business model" and running campaigns of "character assassination" (*Canberra Times*, 20 February 2021). Fronting a parliamentary inquiry into media diversity on 19 February, News executive chair Michael Miller said, "Democracy is messy; it is a work in progress and relies on the robust exchange of news, views and opinions. This is not democracy failing; this is democracy working. When quizzed by committee chair, Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, about "Dictator Dan" headlines during Victoria's five-month lockdown, Miller said, "We ask tough questions. He (Premier Andrews) was telling Victorians how to live and they weren't happy about it." News Corp group executive Campbell Reid said: "It's not character assassination to closely examine the actions of people in public life."

Speaking as the first witness, former prime minister Kevin Rudd called for Australians to resist the Murdoch media empire "culture of fear" and the emerging monopolies of Google and Facebook. Proposed media bargaining laws simply entrenched the power and reach of the "Murdoch mob", he warned. Rudd said he was "fearful" of News Corp while prime minister.

Malcolm Turnbull, another former prime minister, told the inquiry News Corp posed a real threat to Australian democracy. He said it surpassed the Coalition or Labor as the most powerful political force in the country (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 April 2021, p.14).

112.1.12 AAP 'doomed', says Catalano

Regional media owner Antony Catalano says Australian Associated Press is "doomed" and he is reconsidering ACM's contract with it. He said this only weeks after the end of a non-compete period that prevented News Corp Australia from poaching any AAP clients (*Age*, 15 February 2021, p.26).

112.1.13 So-called whistleblower named in Age

The editor of the *Age* has defended the newspaper's decision to publicly identify the "whistleblower" who shared footage of a Liberal staffer performing a lewd act on a federal MP's desk. Editor Gay Alcorn wrote to the man who exposed the incident to tell him there was no "compelling reason" to protect his anonymity (*Australian*, 31 March 2021). On 27 March, the *Age* published an article by chief reporter Chip Le Grand in which the identity of the self-described "whistleblower" was revealed. Le Grand wrote that the man's motivation for sharing the footage with media outlets was "part revenge porn and part political activism", and he was not "a whistleblower in the true sense

of the word". Alcorn wrote to the man, "The decision to publish your name was not made lightly but our policy is to name people ... unless there is a compelling reason not to — that they are a confidential source, for instance, with a strong reason to remain anonymous."

112.1.14 Leunig on the new journalism



Cartoonist Michael Leunig comments on the style of journalism evident in the coverage of recent major issues, such as the allegations against Christian Porter and the Brittany Higgins matter. —*Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 March 2021, p.17.

112.1.15 News Corp to stop metro deliveries to some Qld towns

News Corp Australia plans to reduce the distribution of eight of its newspapers to parts of regional Queensland this year. From 26 September, newsagents in select areas (in the far west) will no longer receive the *Courier-Mail*, *Australian*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Cairns Post*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Weekly Times* and *Sportsman*. ABC online news reported part of this on 29 March and *Telum Media Alert* followed with a report on 31 March. The towns that will miss out on deliveries are west of Charters Towers in the far north, west of Emerald in central Queensland and some parts of the south-west. News Corp blames the "very high cost" of distribution for the decision.

112.1.16 SMH at 190 and three female editors

The *Sydney Morning Herald* had its 190th anniversary on 18 April, and published a 12-page supplement the next day. In its latest decade, the *Herald* has had not only its first female editor, but its second and third. They are Amanda Wilson (appointed 2011), Judith Whelan (2013) and Lisa Davies (2017). Davies is the current editor. Whelan says the *Herald's* three female editors have been great supporters of each other. [The current editors of the *Australian* and the *Age* are both female.]

Executive editor of Nine's Australian Metro Publishing, James Chessell, wrote: "Over the past 190 years, a bewilderingly long lineup of news outlets have challenged the *Herald's* preeminence. More recently, the digital revolution has upended how people consume news and transferred advertising revenue to Facebook and Google. Low barriers to entry for online news have allowed small independent publishers to flourish; multinational news giants, such as the *New York*

Times and the *Guardian*, to set up in Australia; and the ABC to move into digital publishing. Meanwhile, the competition for eyeballs has been joined by the likes of Netflix, Stan and, yes, TikTok because people have more choice about how they spend their limited spare time.

“Yet the *Herald* is in its strongest editorial and financial position in decades. This is no accident. Good journalism is in the business of holding the powerful to account; it should also inform, explain and, when appropriate, entertain. Newsrooms compete to come up with the best ideas. But any examination of this masthead’s remarkable longevity must also call attention to the fierce spirit of independence that has shaped its evolution.”

Among the things the ANHG draws your attention to in the 12-page feature are: Peter FitzSimons’ article on Fairfax historian and former Fairfax journalist Gavin Souter (“Career with masthead heralded a life of fond memories”), Page 4; the article on female editors (“It took 180 years to crash through this glass ceiling”), Page 5; a timeline of the *Herald* (“The evolution of the *Herald*”), across the top of Pages 6-9; the changes at the *Herald* (“How we’ve changed in 190 years”), Page 8; articles by the *Herald*’s longest-serving writer, Ross Gittins, and its youngest reporter, Laura Chung (“The joy of being a small part of a very grand history” and “I know for sure there is no other job I would rather do”), Page 9.

112.1.17 Murphy awarded \$110,000 in libel case

Criminal lawyer Chris Murphy, 72, has been awarded \$110,000 in a defamation action against the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* (*Australian Financial Review*, 19 April 2021). Justice Michael Lee found in the Federal Court that Murphy had been defamed by a column in the *Telegraph* which suggested he was too old, too deaf and “ravaged by age” to adequately represent his “famous” Sydney clients.



112.2.1 Facebook, Google and the news

Australian news content returned to Facebook on 26 February, eight days after the social media giant banned it from the feeds of the digital platform’s local users (*Australian*, 26 February 2021, p.6). It was also the day after the issue of ANHG No. 111. Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said, “I think there was understandable outrage across the broader community as to what Facebook did.”

The return of Australian news to Facebook followed the final passage of the federal government’s mandatory news media bargaining code into law on 25 February, which brought to a close a three-year campaign to ensure that digital platforms including Google and Facebook fairly remunerate media companies for the original content they generate. The law is primarily intended to address the bargaining power imbalance between news media businesses and digital platforms, and to sustain public interest journalism.

On 25 February, Facebook’s global policy chief Nick Clegg said the company planned to invest an extra \$US1bn in the news industry over the next three years as a sign of commitment to journalism. “Facebook is more than willing to partner with news publishers. We absolutely recognise quality journalism is at the heart of how open societies function — informing and empowering citizens and holding the powerful to account,” he wrote in a blog post.

Australia’s biggest two media companies, News Corp and Nine Entertainment, have struck long-awaited content deals with Facebook, with the social media giant finally agreeing to pay news organisations for their journalism when it appears on the digital platform (*Australian*, 16 March 2021). News Corp announced on 16 March it had reached a three-year agreement with Facebook under which the tech giant pay the media company for displaying its Australian news content on

the Facebook News product. The monetary value of the deal has not been disclosed. “The agreement with Facebook is a landmark in transforming the terms of trade for journalism and will have a material and meaningful impact on our Australian news businesses,” News Corp’s chief executive,



The Google logo (inspired by Gutenberg) on 14 April 2021.

Robert Thomson, said. The agreement follows a similar payment-for-content deal struck between News Corp and Google a month earlier, under which Google agreed to make “significant payments” for displaying News Corp’s journalism across the world on its Google News Showcase.

Eric Beecher writes (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 February 2021, p.30): News Corp, along with Nine Entertainment (owner of this title), has apparently convinced the government that the two digital

giants have stolen their content (they haven’t—media companies provide their journalism to the platforms because they gain huge benefit from the exposure) and stolen their advertising revenue (they haven’t—most of the advertising revenue that used to support journalism has ended up in the pockets of realestate.com, owned by News Corp; Domain, owned by Nine; and websites such as Seek and Carsales). But Google and Facebook are hardly saints. Even though they aren’t directly responsible for the collapse of the huge profits that filled the coffers of the owners of the big daily newspapers for decades, these two digital players are too powerful. Their market dominance and the information they collect about their users’ online behaviour is (sic) scary. And there should be laws to make sure they pay corporate tax on *all* their Australian profits that stem from *all* their Australian revenue.

An American billionaire, who has put hundreds of millions of dollars into promoting democracy, equity and governance around the world, believes Australia’s action in convincing Google and Facebook to pay for journalism is a “huge step for the world” and democracy that will spur global change (*Australian*, 24 March 2021). Nicolas Berggruen, a Californian philanthropist who has established institutes for democracy around the world, said Australia was leading the world in combating COVID-19, its democratic institutions and its place in the Asia-Pacific.

Media companies face pressure to explicitly commit to using the money sealed through landmark deals with Google and Facebook to invest in newsrooms and journalism jobs (*Age*, 1 March 2021, p.27). *Guardian Australia* is expected to take another floor in its Surry Hills, Sydney, office for new employees while industry sources have indicated News Corp Australia is considering hiring nearly 100 journalists with the money. News Corp would not comment. Seven West Media chief executive James Warburton said most of the money the company expects to gain from its deals with Google and Facebook will be used for Perth-based newspaper, the *West Australian*, and its regional titles. A particular focus will be to improve the newspapers’ digital strategy.

112.2.2 Competition policy key to tech giants deal

Communications Minister Paul Fletcher says Australia’s decision to treat the news media bargaining code as a competition policy issue, rather than a copyright matter, was one of the key drivers in getting the legislation across the line, with overseas countries now seeking to do the same. Fletcher said the “competition approach was a well-established policy tool” in Australia when dealing with industries where bargaining power imbalances existed. Several ministers from countries including Canada, France, Germany, Finland and the UK, have contacted Fletcher to discuss Australia’s strategy in legislating a mandatory news media bargaining code, in addition to the conversations that Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Treasurer Josh Frydenberg had with heads of state including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canada’s leader Justin Trudeau. The code became law in Australia on 25 February after last-minute amendments were approved by parliament. “There’s certainly significant overseas interest in the particular approach we have used,” Mr Fletcher said. “But different countries tackle these things in different ways.

112.2.3 ABC ends *New Daily* agreement

The ABC will terminate its commercial agreements with several news websites, including industry superannuation fund-backed website, *TheNewDaily*, in a strategic shift that will focus on agreements with aggregation platforms such as Facebook and Google (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 March 2021, p.29). *TheNewDaily* is published by Motion Publishing, a subsidiary company of Solstice Media. Money to fund journalism at the news site is received through advertising and funding from industry Super Holdings. Members of industry superannuation funds receive daily newsletters from the website. Solstice Media, which is chaired by Eric Beecher, is the publisher of *TheNewDaily* and runs South Australian website *InDaily* and *InQueensland*. Industry sources familiar with the performance of ABC's content said it had performed better than expected when it ran on *InQueensland*, which receives a commercial benefit from the appearance of the articles.

112.2.4 *Huffpost* ceases covering Australian news

Huffpost Australia ceased covering Australian news from 19 March 2021. A smaller Australian team remains in the office, but will only cover global news. The shift was part of a company-wide round of redundancies announced by the publisher and follows the acquisition of *Huffpost* by BuzzFeed in February. The *Huffpost Australia* web page continues to operate but features only international news (*Telum Media Alert*, 19 March 2021).

112.2.5 Local mastheads merge with metros

Some News Corp regional newspapers that have become digital only titles have expanded their digital reach by merging their news content with News Corp's metro sites in their capital city (*Telum Media Alert*, 30 April 2021). The regional websites will still publish their own content but their stories will now appear in a stand-alone section on metro websites such as the *Daily Telegraph* (NSW), *Courier-Mail* (Queensland), *Herald Sun* (Victoria) and the *Advertiser* (South Australia). These new sections will be named after the relevant town.

Among the media outlets affected by the change are: *Northern Star*, Lismore; *Noosa News*; *Gympie Times*; *Byron Shire News*; *NewsMail*, Bundaberg; *Tweed Daily News*; *Daily Examiner*, Grafton; *Fraser Coast Chronicle*; *Warwick Daily News*; *Ballina Shire Advocate*; *South Burnett Times*; *Gatton*, *Lockyer & Brisbane Valley Star*; and *Chinchilla News*.



3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

112.3.1 *Gympie Today* and others

Despite the closure of a long list of regional and local publications across Australia in 2020 (see, for example, ANHG 108.3.1-7), there are some new papers emerging. One of these is *Gympie Today*, which is managed by Andrew Guiver. The 64-page weekly has replaced the daily *Gympie Times*, whose print edition was closed by News Corp in June 2020. The *Times* was started in 1868. *Gympie Today* started on 31 July 2020. Backed by the Thomas family's Pakenham-based Star News Group — an independent, Australian media company that owns eight regional titles in Queensland and a dozen local newspapers in Victoria — *Gympie Today* has a weekly circulation of 4000. Some of the subscribers go into the office to pay their (\$3 a week) subscriptions with cash or cheque because they don't have credit cards.

Damian Morgan, director of *Gympie Today*, says, "We're seeing a resurgence of thriving, independent newspapers. For sure, it's a challenging environment but we're able to provide vibrant and diverse news coverage," Morgan said. "In most markets where there are independent start-

ups, such as Gympie, News Corp has retained a digital presence, and the ABC has a strong presence as well.”

Now a viewpoint from Bruce Davidson, boss of media production services company Pagemasters, is well-placed to assess the health of the Australian media market, given that his company provides major metro titles — as well as more than 50 independent news publishers across Australia — with layout and design, as well as puzzles, crosswords and TV pages. “Since July 2020 we have secured new work with 30 independent publishers,” Davidson says. “It’s been great to see so many locals taking the initiative and starting up papers and websites. It’s happening all over the country. Locals are really embracing the grassroots element.” (*Australian*, 8 March 2021.)

112.3.2 *King Island Courier* revived

ANHG 111.3.2 reported the closure of the *King Island Courier*. It did close, on 11 November, only to be revived (before it was cold) because it was sold. The *King Island Courier* is the third regional newspaper which Font PR has acquired and brought back to life after closure. Roger Hanson, recently made editor-at-large across Font’s stable of seven Tasmanian newspapers, is now the editor of the *King Island Courier*.

Sorell Times/Tasman Gazette/East Coast View editor Martine Haley (former *Mercury* deputy editor and *Manly Daily* editor) is now also the editor of the *Derwent Valley Gazette*. Font PR has separated its public relations and newspaper activities.

They have recently appointed a cadet to work across all their titles. The titles are: *Tasmanian Country*, *Derwent Valley Gazette*, *Sorell Times*, *Tasman Gazette*, *East Coast View*, and *Tasmanian Business Reporter* (part attribution to *Advocate*, Burnie, 27 November 2020).

112.3.3 ACM increases share of Prime Media

Australian Community Media partners Anthony Catalano and Alex Waislitz conditionally acquired another 5 per cent share of the Prime Media Group, taking their share of the regional television broadcaster from 14.57 per cent to 19.99 per cent. Prime Media produces news bulletins for the NSW Central West, New England, the north west region, the north coast, Wagga Wagga and the Riverina, and Albury-Wodonga (*Newcastle Herald*, 10 March 2021). (*Telum Media Alert*, 10 March 2021).

The deal has been approved by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (*Newcastle Herald*, 9 April 2021, p.18).

112.3.4 Catalano’s vision

Antony Catalano is intensifying his push for a regulatory overhaul after unveiling ambitions to combine the newsrooms of his regional publishing company with broadcaster Prime Media Group to create a regional media giant (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 April 2021, p.25). Catalano, who jointly runs Australian Community Media with Melbourne rich lister Alex Waislitz, has said he is planning to launch several newspapers. He will urge the federal government to review media laws so that he can push ahead with plans to create a media conglomerate.

112.3.5 Cronulla, Parramatta, Marrickville: new hyperlocal titles

Local magazine publisher, Neighbourhood Media, has plans in place to launch three new hyperlocal titles: *2230* (Cronulla), *2150* (Parramatta), and *2204* (Marrickville). Each title is taken from the particular suburb’s postcode. The publishers told *Telum Media Alert* (12 March 2021) that *2230* would be published in early April, with the other two titles to begin at a later date. In February, three magazines—*2010* (Surry Hills), *2037* (Glebe), and *2099* (Dee Why) were launched.

112.3.6 Media executives launch NewsFarm

A consortium of media executives has launched NewsFarm, a business that will facilitate the establishment of news media outlets throughout regional Australia. NewsFarm will provide these outlets with business expertise, technology, editorial and commercial strategies and workflows. As well as providing ongoing support, it will also fund launches in these communities.

The founders of NewsFarm are Tony Gillies, former editor-in-chief of Australian Associated Press, and Alan Oakley, former editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Sunday Age* and the *Newcastle Herald*. The company has a three-year plan to establish print mastheads and websites in more than 100 “news deserts”—communities where the supply of news has been significantly reduced.

The NewsFarm network aims to create more than 450 local media jobs and publish more than 5000 local news stories each week (*Telum Media Alert*, 19 March 2021).

112.3.7 Print editions of five papers resume

ACM resumed publishing print editions of five regional newspapers in the week beginning 19 April, a year after the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic led to the suspension of printing. The five are: the *Armidale Express* and the *Dungog Chronicle* (NSW); the *Goondiwindi Argus* (Queensland); and the *Coastal Leader*, Kingston, and the *Flinders News*, Port Pirie (South Australia). ACM managing director Tony Kendall said the resumption of printed editions of the long-standing local mastheads had been made possible by the support of the Morrison government’s Public Interest News Gathering (PING) program. He said the PING grant that ACM received had helped the company continue to provide public interest journalism for 91 mastheads serving regional and rural communities in every state and territory.

“As we review the viability of our portfolio, we have also had to make some difficult decisions,” Kendall said. This included closing a number of websites where advertising support “has not recovered since print publishing had to be suspended”, such as the *Wingham Chronicle* and the *Bellingen Courier-Sun* in NSW. These titles had continued to provide local news online after the April 2020 suspension of their weekly printed newspaper. They were among 12 mastheads retained as digital-only local news providers under ACM’s PING grant.

The *Wingham Chronicle’s* website has now been incorporated into Taree’s *manningsrivertimes.com.au*. The recent closure of the *Bellingen Courier-Sun* website followed ACM’s launch of a new publication, the *Northern Rivers Review*, which is distributed to more than 20 communities across northern NSW, including Byron Bay, Ballina, Lismore and Casino.



4—NEWSPAPER HISTORY

112.4.1 Sunday newspaper (1): Melbourne, 1889

Fitzroy City Press, Friday, 11 October 1889, p.3: A meeting was held in the Collingwood Town Hall on Wednesday evening with reference to the opening of museums, art galleries, and public libraries on Sunday, and also to aid in starting a Sunday newspaper in Melbourne. Mr. M. Ash occupied the chair, and the attendance was fair. The chairman, in opening the meeting, said he did not expect to be able to preside, but he “would do his best to preserve order. and entreated those present to give each speaker a fair and impartial hearing.... The meeting throughout was very disorderly and from the beginning there was a continual uproar throughout the hall. The chairman repeatedly called several of those present to order, and at one time, in consequence of some remark passed by one of the audience, Mr. W. H. L. Bailey, who was present, stated that if such remarks were repeated, he would call in the police. Resolutions to the effect that it was desirable to open the public libraries on Sundays, and that a Sunday newspaper was needed, were carried by a large majority. A letter was read from Mr. D. C. Murray, stating that he thoroughly sympathised with the object of the meeting, and was convinced that the vexatious obstruction must cease; also that the narrow-minded policy of the opponents must become before long impossible in a country like Australia. Addresses were given by Messrs. W. H. L. Bailey, D. Gaunson, and McNaught, after which the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding.

112.4.2 Sunday newspaper (2): Sydney, 1933

Mercury, Hobart, Saturday, 3 June 1933, p.11: Sydney last Sunday produced the first issue of a new Sunday newspaper, the *Sunday Observer*, which is apparently to move along lines other than those of the “yellowish” colour of the past. The freshly launched journal intends to rank the problems of the hour a prominent feature. In the words of its first editorial, it “hopes to give the public something of permanent value”, and to do this it proposes to be no party organ or political opportunist, but to give news, and comment with wide vision. Such is its ideal, and the first Issue is within its own definition. It is a good journal, and if its standard remains at opening level, it should meet with success.

112.4.3 Sunday newspaper (3): Newcastle, 1936

Newcastle Sun, 20 August 1936, p.11: The Aberdare Central Miners’ Lodge decided last night to ask the Northern Board of the Miners’ Federation to arrange aggregate meetings to allow Mr. James, M.H.R., the directors of the Labor newspaper, and leaders of the Federation to place the facts regarding the proposed Sunday paper before the miners. [This occurred when the *Newcastle Morning Herald* was gradually taking over full operation of the afternoon paper, the *Newcastle Sun*.]

112.4.4 Sunday newspaper (4): National Labor, 1948

Advocate, Burnie, 17 September 1948, p.5: CANBERRA, Thursday: The Federal Parliamentary Labor Party will investigate the possibility of launching a Sunday Labor newspaper to circulate in all cities and major country centres. The proposal was put before the party today, and it decided to appoint a special sub-committee of Cabinet to examine it. Members said it was intended to launch, if possible, a paper which would provide general news cover without overemphasising the Labor point of view,

112.4.5 Sunday newspaper (5): Cairns, 1952

Daily Examiner, Grafton, 8 April 1952, p.5: CAIRNS, Mon. — Australia lost its only Sunday newspaper published outside the capital cities when the North Queensland *Sunday Australian* ceased publication at Cairns at the weekend. High cost of newsprint and penalty rates for weekend work under the 40-hour week forced it out of circulation. It had the second largest circulation of any provincial weekly in the Commonwealth, and its rising circulation was ironically one of the main reasons which forced it out of existence. The staff has been placed with other newspapers, and the paper’s model plant and newsprint will be placed on the market. [George Groom, of Innisfail, ran the paper.]

112.4.6 Flashback 100 (2): Rupert at 70, taking on the world

- This is the second of a series of flashbacks to items in the *ANHG Newsletter* 100 issues ago (20 years ago). This extract is from *ANHG* No. 12.

When the Australian-born American citizen and multi-national media magnate, Rupert Murdoch, celebrated his 70th birthday in New York City on 11 March with his four children by his first two wives and with his third wife, Mark Riley wrote in the *Sydney Morning Herald*: “In the past few years, he has been knighted by the Pope, been named humanitarian of the year by an organisation of Jews, bought himself a baseball team, lost himself a rugby league competition, been divorced, been married, been diagnosed with cancer and, apparently, beaten cancer. He has endorsed Tony Blair, he has endorsed George W. Bush, he has abused Ted Turner, he has belittled the Dalai Lama. He has been lashed by investors for getting into the Internet, and now he is entangled in the biggest deal of his career as he tries to take a stranglehold on America’s satellite TV market. Mere mortals retire between 60 and 70. Rupert Murdoch takes on the world.”

[Rupert Murdoch turned 90 on 11 March 2021. He now has a fourth wife, Jerry Hall, whom he married in March 2016 (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 March 2016).]

112.4.7 Trove’s latest digitised newspapers

The newspaper titles listed below have recently been digitised and made available in Trove, a National Library website. The year range listed for the item is an indication of what is

currently available in Trove; it does not always reflect the full span of years during which the item was published.

NSW newspaper titles

- *NOTA—News of The Area* (Hawks Nest & Tea Gardens) 1970-1999
- *Nowra Colonist* 1899-1904.
- *Telegraph and Shoalhaven Advertiser* 1879-1881
- *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* 1888-1961

Victorian newspaper titles

- *Box Hill Reporter* 1925-1930
- *Reporter* (Box Hill) 1889-1925
- *Brunswick & Coburg Leader* 1914-1921.
- *Mildura Telegraph and Darling and Lower Murray Advocate* 1913-1920
- *Sunraysia Daily* 1920-1927
- *Mildura and Merbein Sun* 1921
- *Mildura Irrigationist* 1892-1893
- *Mildura Irrigationist and Murray River Agricultural Times* 1888
- *Mildura Irrigationist and Murray River Cultural Advocate* 1891-1892
- *Merbein Irrigationist and Murray Valley Soldiers' Gazette* 1919-1920

Queensland newspaper titles

- *Noosa News* 1968-1974
- *Noosa Advocate* 1911-1929
- *Noosa Advocate and Cooroora Advertiser* 1929-1934

Western Australian newspaper titles

- *Dampier Herald* (Kununoppin) 1928-1937
- *Cathedral Chronicle* (Geraldton) 1931-1954
- *Corrigin Chronicle and Kunjin-Bullaring Representative* 1925-1943
- *Weekly Judge* (Perth) 1919-1931

112.4.8 Digitising Victorian newspapers

Wayne Hodges, who was participated in the Digitise Knox and Dandenong Ranges (digitiseKDRnews) campaign (ANHG 101.4.7), has written to the ANHG about Trove and the digitisation of Victorian newspapers. He notes that collective funding of the digitisation of local newspapers by the Federal Government finished a long time ago. "Now communities themselves are responsible for funding their area's digitisation," Hodges says. "This disadvantages areas with limited funds. The Victorian Government could offer support to rectify this situation, similar to the collectively funded digitisation programs being run by the NSW and WA Governments for their State's newspapers."

Early in 2021 Hodges conducted a survey of the State Library Victoria out-of-copyright microfilmed newspapers digitised to Trove. About 10,000 years' worth, or 66 per cent of the newspapers in the selection, were yet to be digitised to Trove. Hodges said, "Although only 81 per cent of SLV's microfilmed newspapers listed frequencies, this could be used to estimate how many issues need to be digitised. Allowing 12 pages per estimated issue that would be 9.9 million pages, which at current rate of microfilm digitisation would cost \$15.2 million to digitise (a large figure, but it could be covered by the Victorian Government committing about 80c per Victorian per year for three years).

"A Victorian Parliamentary e-petition is being run and closes on 30 May. It is accessible by visiting www.MoreTroveForVic.org/petition. The petition has had the support of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, and a number of local historical societies. It has more than 1000 signatures and it would be great to gain it as much support as possible. Any resident of Victoria can sign the petition."

112.4.9 Buying out the opposition in Tumut, 1925 and 1942

Tumut and Adelong Times, Tuesday 17 February 1942, p.2: For the second time in 17 years the proprietor of this journal has bought out the opposition newspapers, in the first place acquiring the interest of the oldest established newspaper, which dated back to 1861, and now the *Tumut-Batlow-Adelong District News*, the initial publication of which appeared in 1933. In each instance the sale of these newspapers has been impelled by the high expense incurred in newspaper production, rendering it impracticable to equip and maintain two printing works with separate literary and office staffs and workmen. It has been another ease of the “survival of the fittest” by reason of the consistent support accorded the enterprise of the present proprietor, as well as general public approval and acceptance of the conduct of the *Tumut and Adelong Times* and the *Adelong and Tumut Express* for the past 42 years.

Experienced pressmen are only too well aware that all the public cannot be pleased all the time; but our endeavour has been right: throughout the piece to do our best for the greater number where conflict of interests occur, consistent with, distinction between right and wrong, and at the same time not neglect giving publicity to the views and contentions of both sides. This we will continue to do after carefully weighing the pros and cons of contentious interests, having in mind all the while that the progress and advancement of our district and the prosperity of its people, as well as the national duty, are placed paramount. Only fair and true reports will be given publicity, uninfluenced by any outside or ulterior motives. We embrace this opportunity of thanking our legion of friends who have stuck staunchly by us for the past 42 years, trust that we will justify their continued confidence and that our new clientele will be satisfied with our efforts to promote the welfare of the community while at the same time providing a substantial compendium of up-to-date news.

[The proprietor of the *Tumut and Adelong Times* in both 1925 and 1942 was Alexander Wilkie Watson; he owned also the *Adelong Express*. The proprietor of the *Tumut-Batlow-Adelong District News* was his son Clyde Goulburn Watson, who established the bi-weekly paper in January 1933 in opposition to his father's two weeklies. For nine years, seven members of the Watson family produced four newspaper issues a week for the Tumut and Adelong districts.]

112.4.10 Perel and the *Patriot*

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The Library of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland has been given a copy of the *Patriot*, dated 31 May 1925. The copy was found during renovations to a farmhouse built in 1922, Kay Cohen reports in the April issue of the *RHSQ Bulletin*. The item reminded me of the intensive research I conducted on the *Patriot* 40 years ago when I was



Irvine (Jack) Perel

investigating the Labor papers of Queensland. The newspaper was launched in Maryborough on 23 July 1892 by the Maryborough Political Reform Association, with W. Adam, W. Mitchell and J. Murray at the head. J. Hennessy, the first editor, took as his motto “Measures, not Men”. Early in 1893, Irvine (Jack) Perel became the editor and owner and remained so until his death on 23 October 1928. Meanwhile, he moved the paper to Bundaberg (1898) and then Brisbane (1903). He became involved also in John Norton's Brisbane *Truth*.

Perel—born Isidore Perel at Ararat, Victoria, in 1861 to Elias and Elizabeth Perel—had been an electrical engineer with the Posts and Telegraph Department. He re-organised and conducted the Townsville telephone exchange until suspended—virtually, not ostensibly—for sympathising with Labour (as it then was) at a by-election. He was transferred to Bundaberg to establish an exchange there only to be “Grifflewraithed” again, as the *Worker* put it. (Griffith and McIlwraith were leaders of the parties in a coalition government after years as opponents.) The radical and almost revolutionary character of the Perel brand of journalism in the early years of the *Patriot* was such that

business support was not generally accorded to it, but Perel would not modify his views for monetary gain. By 1926 he had changed his ideas dramatically. “When I think of the ideas I cherished at twenty-five, I can smile at my own folly.”

[You can read more in Rod Kirkpatrick, *Sworn to No Master*, pp.158-161. The sketch of Irvine Perel is taken from *Truth*, 28 October 1928, p.15.]

112.4.11 *Western Port Times*, Grantville & Districts

Peter Gill has seen a copy of the second issue of Volume 1 of the *Western Port Times*, Grantville and districts, dated June 2018, but the first issue seems to be missing in action. The magazine was introduced as a “rebirth of the original *Western Port Times*, published from 1898 to 1910. Produced by the Waterline News, for the U3A Local History Group based in Grantville, the magazine is a “creative exercise” to showcase Grantville’s history, via the group’s website. Twelve issues were published in Volume 1, concluding with April 2019. Volume 2 also had 12 issues, concluding with April 2020. By February this year, 10 issues in Volume 3 had been published. The magazine mainly carries extracts from newspapers of about a century ago. The 1898-1910 publication was published for its first 10 years by T.C. Monger and then by Harold B. and J.A. Sullivan. Fire was blamed for the publication’s demise.

112.4.12 Kiandra and the Chinese

Extract from David Hill’s *The Gold Rush* (2010), pp.223-224: The Chinese ... had a vital role to play in the establishment of the Kiandra newspaper, the *Alpine Pioneer*, started by the brothers John and Thomas Garrett, John was a member of parliament and his brother the mayor of Wollongong and founder of the *Illawarra Mercury* newspaper. The [two brothers] were initially unable to transport the heavy printing press to Kiandra, which was “twice locked in by snow” after the dray carrying the equipment had struggled “16 days in getting six miles”. The Chinese, however, managed to carry it on the final leg.

Fifty Chinamen were engaged for this job, the drays were got at with considerable difficulty, and the entire loading weighing 4,400 lbs, was carried a distance of 14 miles through snow, and over very broken country in about 10 hours.

The Chinese may have rescued the printing press, but they were still despised, even by the newspaper they had saved. Shortly after it began publishing, the *Alpine Pioneer* ran an editorial [31 August 1860] attacking the Chinese and calling on the government to rid them from the goldfields.

[The Chinese] pour in to the country in hordes, solely to dig and to carry away, rendering no return ... they bring no women and do not care to settle ... All that the Chinaman thinks of is his lump of gold ... The Chinaman requires to be dealt with in a manner different from the other foreigner, and we do not think the export duty is the right mode of dealing with him.

[The *Alpine Pioneer* was published from 3 August 1860 to 22 March 1861.—Rod Kirkpatrick, *A Short History of the Australian Country Press*, p.207.]

112.4.13 *Dunolly Express*: unfilmed copies found

John Tully writes (*Western Historian*, No. 227, June 2020, p.3): In 1924 the Dunolly Public Library sold off their file copies of the *Dunolly Express*. They went to local businesses to wrap parcels. A young local named Albert Ling saw the historic value in retaining these papers and purchased back as many copies as he could. Soon after he moved to Mildura. This newspaper collection was donated to the Dunolly Museum in 2018. We have been going through them and have nearly 100 issues that are missing from the SLV microfilms. We suspect these are the only copies in existence.

[The *Dunolly and Burnt Creek Express* was published from 31 May 1862 to 1949. It had various sub-titles, changing from “Burnt Creek” to, mainly, “Betbetshire”.]

112.4.14 Victorian country press: for and against Federation, 1898

Weekly Times, Melbourne, 21 May 1898, p.13: It is a difficult task to ascertain the attitude towards the Commonwealth Bill of the large number of newspapers published throughout the country districts, but as far as we have been able to find out, up to the present, there are 75 which have shown themselves in favour of the bill, whilst only four have pronounced against it. Amongst the

remainder, whose altitude we have been unable to discover, there will no doubt be a very large proportion on the side of Australian unity, and possibly a few against it.

For the bill (75): *Ararat Advertiser, Ararat Chronicle, Avoca Mail, Benalla Standard, Benambra and Bogong Advertiser, Ballarat Star, Ballarat Courier, Bairnsdale Courier, Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo Independent, Bacchus Marsh Express, Cranbourne and Country Herald, Coleraine Albion, Colac Herald, Colac Reformer, Camperdown Chronicle, Dunolly and Betbetshire Express, Donald Times, Dandenong Advertiser, Evelyn Observer, Evening Mail (Bendigo), Euroa Advertiser, Euroa Gazette, East Charlton Tribune, Geelong Advertiser, Gippsland Mercury (Sale), Gippsland Standard (Alberton), Gippsland Times (Sale), Goulburn Advertiser, Goulburn Valley Yeoman, Hamilton Spectator, Horsham Times, Kowree Ensign, Koroit Sentinel, Kyneton Observer, Kyneton Guardian, Korumburra Times, Kerang Observer, Lancefield Mercury, Minyip Guardian, Mortlake Dispatch, Moira Independent, Mildura Cultivator, Mount Wycheproof Ensign, Nhill Mail, Numurkah Standard, Ovens and Murray Advertiser, Ovens Register, Omeo Standard, Port Fairy Gazette, Rokewood Gazette, Rushworth Chronicle, Riverine Herald, Rutherglen and Wahgunyah News, St. Arnaud Mercury, St. Arnaud Times, Stawell Times, South Gippsland Express, Shepparton News, Shepparton Advertiser, Steiglitz Miner, Talbot Leader, Violet Town Sentinel, Wangaratta Chronicle, Wodonga and Towong Sentinel, Woodend Star, Gisborne, and Macedon Advocate, Warragul Guardian and News, Wimmera Star, West Wimmera Mail, Warrnambool Standard, Warrnambool Echo, Werribee Express, Warracknabeal Herald, Yarrawonga Chronicle and Riverina Advocate, Yea Chronicle.*

Against the bill (4): *Avoca Free Press and Farmers' and Miners' Journal, Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser, Narracan Shire Advocate (Moe, etc.), North-Eastern Ensign.*

So far the newspapers whom we have to place on the “doubtful or unknown list” number 113, but we shall be glad to hear from any whose names are not given above, that they have declared on the subject of the Bill.

112.4.15 *Sydney Morning Herald* 21st century timeline

Following are the 21st century entries in the timeline for the *Sydney Morning Herald* featured in the supplement to mark its 190th anniversary (see ANHG 112.1.17 above):

- ❖ **25 March 2009:** The Smart Edition (a digital replica edition of the printed newspaper) is officially launched. It remains accessible today via the homepage and iPad and phone apps.
- ❖ **23 July 2009:** The *Herald* posts its first story to Facebook, a report about whether it was the right time to buy a home. It received three comments from readers. Today more than 1.2 million people follow its page.
- ❖ **January 2011:** Amanda Wilson is appointed editor of the *Herald* after several months acting in the role. She is the first woman to hold the position and was followed by Judith Whelan (2013) and Lisa Davies (2017).
- ❖ **31 May 2011:** The *Herald* iPad app is launched.
- ❖ **1 March 2013:** The last weekday broadsheet edition of the *Herald* is published. On the following Monday it was compact, or tabloid, sized. One year later the Saturday edition also became compact.
- ❖ **December 2018:** Fairfax Media and Nine Entertainment merge. Fairfax shareholders received Nine shares and some cash for surrendering control of their company and its assets. Nine chief executive Hugh Marks runs the enlarged business.
- ❖ **17 March 2020:** The *Herald* newspaper, website and apps are produced with the entire staff working from home for the first time as the coronavirus pandemic shuts down NSW.
- ❖ **17 August 2020:** The *Herald* moves to its new offices at 1 Denison Street, North Sydney. [They were officially opened on 4 December 2020.]



5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

112.5.1 Books

Boylan, Chris, and Phillips, Jessica Lindsay, *Man Who Cannot Die* is about The Phantom being appropriated as a tribal/warrior shield motif in the highlands of Papua New Guinea: <https://www.manwhocannotdie.com/index.php>

Includes a chapter by Dr Kevin Patrick, the leading scholar on The Phantom, who describes the dissemination of the character throughout the Pacific region. Published in February 2021 by art dealers Chris Boylan of Sydney, Australia, and Jessica Lindsay Phillips of Toronto, Canada, the book is an exhaustive study of this tradition. Features essays by a number of experts in the field, placing the shields within their historical, cultural, and cosmological contexts. A catalogue section illustrates 105 examples from museum and private collections in North America, Europe, and the Antipodes, drawn from a research group of some 150 shields, which represent the majority of known examples.

Greguric, Paul J., *The Man Behind the Prize*, Shawline Publishing, \$22.94 from Booktopia. See Westwood item in 112.5.2 below.

Miralles, Nina-Sophia, *Glossy: The Inside Story of Vogue*, Quercus, 2021, 330pp. \$32.99.

Vine, Josie, *Larrikins, Rebels and Journalistic Freedom in Australia*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2021. <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030618551>.

This book sets out to provide a cultural history of Australian journalism. In a democratic nation where a free news media is not guaranteed, Australian journalism has inherited what could be described as a “larrikin” tradition to protect its independence. This book mines Australian journalism’s rebelliousness, humour and distinct disrespect for authority in various socio-historical contexts, to explore its determination to maintain professional independence. Vine highlights the audacious, iconoclastic and determined figure of the larrikin-journalist, forever pushing boundaries to protect democracy’s cornerstone—freedom of the news media.

112.5.2 Articles

Birtles, Bill, “‘A day to pack up our lives and get out’: journalist Bill Birtles on fleeing China”, *Good Weekend*, 1-2 May 2021. An edited extract from *The Truth About China* by Bill Birtles (Allen & Unwin, \$33). Birtles was the ABC’s China correspondent. Michael Smith, of the *Australian Financial Review*, had to leave China at the same time.

Curry, John, “The *Derwent Star*”, *THRA (Tasmanian Historical Research Association) Papers and Proceedings*, Vol. 68 No 1, April 2021 pp46-64. The *Derwent Star* and the beginnings of the press in Van Diemen’s Land. The author traces the story of the first newspaper in Hobart and its successors. Includes a look at the history of the press which printed it. Only copies of number 7 of the *Star* are extant, probably because it reported the death of David Collins, past Lieut.-Governor of the colony.

Groch, Sherryn, “Why has Facebook banned news and what does it mean for you?”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20-21 February 2021, p.28.

Hatch, Patrick, and Samios, Zoe, “Murdoch’s next bet”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20-21 March 2021, “Business”, pp. 1, 4-5. The Murdoch empire is betting big on the US wagering gold rush and has now cast its eyes to Australia. The Murdoch family’s long road into wagering has intersected with the tussle played out over the future of Australia’s largest gambling group, the ASX-listed Tabcorp.

Hyland, Anne, “Online harassment a regular hazard for female journalists”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 March 2021, p.10.

Marshall, Konrad, “Whole new ball game”, *Good Weekend*, 10 April 2021, pp.12-16. Shallow, manipulative snake-oil salesman or “horribly admirable” builder of Australia’s version of ESPN? Meet Craig Hutchison, the university dropout turned journalist who created a national sports media empire by stealth.

Mitchell, Chris, “Journos who got election wrong now mislead on vaccines, assault”, *Australian*, 5 April 2021, p.19. The former editor-in-chief of the *Australian* comments, in his weekly media column, on the stance taken by “left-wing” Australian journalists in covering the prime minister’s leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and the sexual-assaults issues.

Mitchell, Chris, “Truth doesn’t matter when Indigenous reporting is driven by social media”, *Australian*, 3 May 2021, p.19.

Siddiqui, Aalia, and Wayland, Sarah, “Lost from the conversation: missing people, and the role of police media in shaping community awareness”, the *Police Journal: Theory, Practice and Principles*, 20 January 2021. Media as a public health messaging tool can shape community perception. In missing persons’ investigations Police utilise media to assist in location and recovery of absent people. This study, of Australian media in 2019, revealed that the statistical evidence of who goes missing, and returns, is not replicated in news articles. Content analysis of 2,400 media items highlighting a disconnect between statistical rate of return from being missing (up to 98%) and the media profiling those who return (17% of media articles including returned missing persons narratives). In addition, police and family dominate media conversations paying minimal attention to the reasons why people vanish or including comment from those who return. Recommendations for police media strategies, that include an accurate portrayal of the experiences of returned missing persons, as a public health tool, is required.

Simons, Margaret, “Australian media’s latest expert”, *InsideStory.org.au*, 25 March 2021. *Conversation*, a unique medium for disseminating academic research, is celebrating its first decade.

Westwood, Matthew, “Painting a legacy”, *Australian*, 22 April 2021, p.12. A new biography of J.F. Archibald was written at the State Library of NSW each day by an author sleeping at a shelter each night (see ANHG 112.5.1 above).

Whitbourn, Michaela, “Opinions and defamation brawls”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 February 2021, pp.25-26. In theory, the law of defamation allows people to express honest opinions, even harsh ones, on matters of public interest. In practice, there are catches.

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