

# AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER

No. 1

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## 1.1 **WELCOME** to the first Newsletter of the Australian Newspaper History Group!

This Newsletter is the result of my circular letter to organisations I thought may be interested in this subject and is being sent to all who responded expressing interest. It is also the result of discussions at the Local Newspapers – Local Identities Conference held at Chiltern, from 1 to 3 October 1999, and is also being sent to all participants of the Conference.

The idea of a very informal group arose from discussions at that Conference. So too did the idea that, rather than a journal, it should produce a simple newsletter to let interested people know of activities in this field. As the initiator of the idea, I also seem to have finished up producing the Newsletter. However, offers to take over this function will be gratefully received! The Newsletter will not have a schedule, and will appear on an irregular basis when there is something to impart.

The costs of the initial exploratory mailing and of this mailing are being borne by me. The next issue – whenever that might be – will, however, probably include a request for a remittance, amount yet to be determined, to defray the costs (which are mainly postage). By the next Newsletter, my skills may have improved enough to be able to place the Newsletter on the Internet. In the meantime, to conserve costs, if you do not wish to receive future issues, a brief phone call / note / email would be appreciated. Conversely, if you know of someone who may wish to receive a copy, let me know that too.

Contributions to the Newsletter are invited and welcomed!

## 1.2 **LOCAL NEWSPAPERS – LOCAL IDENTITIES CONFERENCE**

A very successful Conference was held at Chiltern, North East Victoria, on the weekend of 1-3 October 1999. About 60 participants enjoyed papers on:

- The history of the Chiltern *Federal Standard* (Ross Harvey)
- Dynasties in the NSW provincial press (Rod Kirkpatrick)
- The Shepparton *News*' recent history (John Tidey)
- Newspaper preservation (Wendy Smith)
- Old Journalism at Moreton Bay (Denis Cryle)
- The *Barrier Daily Truth*'s women's column in 1910 (Liz Macnamara)
- The effect of the introduction of radio on the *Dimboola Banner* (Leigh Edmonds)
- Newspaper trade directories (Dennis Bryans)
- Circulation figures for nineteenth-century Victorian country newspapers (Tom Darragh)
- Newsprint in nineteenth-century Australia (Carol Mills)
- Weekly and monthly papers in the nineteenth-century (Peter Dowling)
- Country Catholics and the Melbourne press (Victoria Emery)
- Patriotism reflected in WWII *Camden News* and *Camden Advertiser* (Ian Willis)
- Community, identity and the ethnic press (Sonia Mycak)

- Australian literature in 1840s regional newspapers (Elizabeth Webby)
- Poetry published in Illawarra newspapers (Peter Knox)
- The career of Handley Sterndale (Dirk Spennemann, Jane Downing).

Discussions were held on the Newspaper Dictionary project (see next item) and the future direction of Australian newspaper history. The premises of the Chiltern *Federal Standard* were open, providing an opportunity to view its still operable Linotype and Letterpress. The *Federal Standard* was revived with a special edition dated 2 October 1999. The Conference was excellently organised by Ross Harvey and Elizabeth Morrison and was supported by the History of the Book in Australia and by the Albury-Wodonga *Border Mail*.

The Conference papers will be published by the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand in their *Bulletin* no. 4 of 1999. Membership of the Bibliographical Society is \$40 per year including *Bulletins*. Enquires about the Bibliographical Society may be made to Brian Hubber, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000, 03-9669 9032, bhubber@slv.vic.gov.au. All participants at the Conference will be advised of the publication of this edition of the *Bulletin* which is expected to cost \$10.

### 1.3 NEWSPAPER DICTIONARY PROJECT

The Chiltern Conference discussed production of an Australian Newspaper Dictionary. Ross Harvey, Professor of Library and Information Management, Charles Sturt University, Locked Bag 675, Wagga Wagga NSW 2678, rossh Harvey@csu.edu.au, will co-ordinate the collection and organisation of data. The aim is to record the existence of all Australian newspapers. Thoughts at the Conference tended towards publication on the internet allowing for regular updates. Links would be provided to relevant sites, including current Australian newspapers, and library catalogues and union lists.

1.4 **THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH PRESS** is a new journal (issue 1 in December 1998) devoted to independent newspaper publishers. It includes practical information to assist small publishers and histories of small country newspapers. It is edited by Greg Wane (also the editor of the Ocean Grove *Whistler*), Whistler Publishing, PO Box 358, Ocean Grove VIC 3226, ph/fax 03-5255 2562. Subscriptions are \$10 per annum for four issues.

### 1.5 RECENT BOOKS

1.5.1 **PRINTER AND NEWSPAPER REGISTRATION IN VICTORIA 1838-1924** by Thomas A. Darragh, 1997, Elibank Press, 35 York St, North Perth WA 6006, elibank@pobox.com, ISBN 0-9583496-2-2, 464 pages, \$50. Provides transcriptions of registration documents required under various acts for Port Phillip and Victoria from 1838 to 1924. Full names, addresses and professions of all personnel mentioned are given. Titles, proprietors of publications, firms, printers, publishers, places of printing, sureties, and witnesses to documents are fully indexed. A substantial introduction provides a history of the development of legislation in NSW to control printers and the publication of newspapers and its application in Victoria.

1.5.2 JOURNALISM: PRINT, POLITICS AND POPULAR CULTURE edited by Ann Curthoys and Julianne Schultz, 1999, University of Queensland Press, PO Box 42, St Lucia QLD 4067, ISBN 0-7022-3137-1, 331 pages, \$24.95.

Investigates the fascinating history of print journalism in Australia in all its aspects – the lives, working conditions and consciousness of journalists, and the newspapers and magazines they produced. It investigates the inventiveness of the journalists and the changing patterns of ownership and readership to which they adapted. Articles are:

- British press traditions, Colonial Governors and the struggle for a ‘free’ press (Clem Lloyd)
- The provincial press 1825-1900 (Rod Kirkpatrick)
- Black Wednesday (Victoria 1878) and ‘the manufacture of public opinion’ (Elizabeth Morrison)
- Popular journalism 1860-1930 (Denis Cryle)
- The radical press (Frank Bongiorno)
- *The Bulletin* from 1880 to Federation (Sylvia Lawson)
- Journalists, gender and workplace culture 1900-1940 (Paula Hamilton)
- *The Home* in the 1920s (John Docker)
- The shadow of the photographer (Kathryn Evans)
- Cadet training at Consolidated Press in the 1940s (Bridget Griffen-Foley)
- The investigative tradition in Australian journalism 1945-1965 (David McKnight)
- Newspaper feature writing 1956-1996 (Mathew Ricketson)
- Editors as intellectuals (Pat Buckridge)
- Polling, politics and the press 1941-1996 (Stephen Mills)
- Journalism and technology since the Second World War (Rosslyn Reed)
- Business journalism in the 1980s (Jennifer Kitchener)
- The Australian journalist as historian (Prue Torney-Parlicki)
- The many paradoxes of independence (Julianne Schultz)

1.5.3 DISREPUTABLE PROFESSION: JOURNALISTS AND JOURNALISM IN COLONIAL AUSTRALIA edited by Denis Cryle, 1997, Central Queensland University Press, PO Box 1615, Rockhampton QLD 4700, ISBN 1-875998-18-7, 178 pages, \$19.95, Articles are:

- Colonial journalists and journalism: an overview (Denis Cryle)
- The ‘convict press’: Edward Smith Hall and the *Sydney Monitor* (Sandy Blair)
- Edward John Hawksley: a Catholic and a radical (Marion Diamond)
- James Harrison’s journalism in Geelong, Melbourne and London (Elizabeth Morrison)
- ‘A manly endeavour’: George Dunmore Lang (Denis Cryle)
- Thadeus O’Kane and the *Northern Miner* 1873-1889 (Rod Kirkpatrick)
- ‘Rational authority’: William Croote (Denis Cryle)
- ‘The journalist as entertainer’: George Loyau (Denis Cryle)

1.5.4 THE HOUSE OF PACKER: THE MAKING OF A MEDIA EMPIRE

Bridget Griffen-Foley, 1999, Allen & Unwin, 9 Atchison St, St Leonards NSW 1590, ISBN 1-86448-882-4 398 pages, \$39.95. This is the first book about the creation of one of Australia’s foremost media empires. It tells how their activities provided the capital for the launch of the *Australian Women’s Weekly* followed by the *Daily* and *Sunday Telegraphs*, the Nine television network, the *Bulletin* and *Cleo*.

1.5.5 THE WHISPERING GALLERY Hal Myers, 1999, Kangaroo Press, 20 Barcoo St, East Roseville NSW 2069, ISBN 0-86417-985-5, 205 pages, \$24.95. The author recreates his life as a newspaper reporter in Sydney, London and Canberra.

1.5.6 BREAKING THE NEWS, Tom Mead, Dolphin Books, Sydney, 1999?, ISBN 0-9585325-1-6, 276 pages. The events which shaped life in Australia through the eyes of a man who worked at the front line of journalism in provincial, city and suburban NSW and politics.

1.5.7 LOOKING BACK, L.J. Woods, 1995, The Queanbeyan Age, 210 Crawford St, Queanbeyan NSW 2620, 116 pages. An autobiography covering sixty-six years in the printing and newspaper industry in provincial NSW 1928-1994.

1.5.8 THE VOICE OF THE GOLDFIELDS: 100 YEARS OF *THE KALGOORLIE MINER*, 1995, The Kalgoorlie Miner, PO Box 10392, Kalgoorlie WA 6430.

#### 1.6 RECENT ARTICLE

NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND by Ross Harvey, in *Media History*, Vol.5, No. 1, 1999.

#### 1.7 INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST

[idun.itsc.adfa.edu.au/ASEC/HOBA.html](http://idun.itsc.adfa.edu.au/ASEC/HOBA.html)

History of the Book in Australia.

[www.nla.gov.au/ferg/brwlist.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/ferg/brwlist.html)

scanned Australian periodicals  
1840-1845.

[www.nla.gov.au/oz/npapers.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/npapers.html)

links to current Australian newspapers.

[www.terrigal.net.au/~joanf/news.htm](http://www.terrigal.net.au/~joanf/news.htm)

list of NSW/ACT provincial newspapers  
in 1945.