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31.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS

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The *Newsletter* is online through the "Publications" link from the University of Queensland's School of Journalism & Communication Website at www.uq.edu.au/journ-comm/ and through the ePrint Archives at the University of Queensland at http://eprint.uq.edu.au/)
Barry Blair, of Tamworth, NSW, and Victor Isaacs, of Canberra, are major contributors to this Newsletter.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: METROPOLITAN

31.2 FAIRFAX FOLLIES

John Fairfax Holdings Ltd and its search for a new chief executive officer – to replace Fred Hilmer who announced last year that he would step down in 2005 – have been in the news constantly for more than a month, especially in the *Australian*. Tied in with the CEO search has been a report that Fairfax was keen to buy a stake in the Ten Network. Now read on:

❑ John Fairfax Holdings Ltd was negotiating secretly to buy a stake of up to $1 billion in the Ten Network before the Howard Government's planned changes to media ownership laws, the *Australian* reported (13 January 2005, p.1). Fairfax was one of a number of Australian-based media companies contacted by Ten Network's Canadian owner, CanWest, in the previous two months to gauge interest in buying a stake in the television network, the paper said. Ten is the number one network in the 16-39-year-old demographic with shows such as *Australian Idol, Big Brother* and *The Simpsons*. Consideration of the deal is reported to have delayed the announcement of Fairfax's new chief executive. Ten executive chairman Nick Falloon was mention as a possible CEO of a combined Fairfax/Ten (see also, *Australian*, 13 and 14 January 2005, p.15, both; and 31.51.10).

❑ The Fairfax newspapers did not report the alleged negotiations between Fairfax and Ten on 13 January, but the *Australian Financial Review* ran articles, by Pamela Williams and Katrina Nicholas, on 14 January, pp. 1, 63; and the *Sydney Morning Herald* ran an article, by Wendy Frew, in its business section on 15-16 January, p.47.

❑ Leonard Asper, chief executive of CanWest, dismissed reports the Ten Network is for sale. Speaking after CanWest's annual shareholder meeting in Toronto on 28 January, Asper described Ten's performance in the past year as stellar. He says the firm would prefer to grow its Australian assets rather than divest (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 29-30 January 2005, p.41). Mark Day says, "Don't believe the spin coming from Canada." That's a smokescreen, he says (*Australian*, Media section, 3 February 2005, p.20).

- Ten Network executive chairman Nick Falloon has scored a profit of up to $4.5 million after selling on 28 January half his shares in the youth-oriented TV network following the end of a financing deal. Falloon exercised the last of his options before Christmas to take his total stake in Ten to 3.75 million shares and has now sold half of those (*Weekend Australian*, 29-30 January 2005, p.31).

- Fairfax confirmed that it has ended negotiations with Australian expatriate, Doug Flynn, chief executive of the UK marketing group Aegis and a former News International executive. Fairfax has therefore extended its long search for a new CEO. An announcement is not expected before March. Hilmer is prepared to stay on until his replacement can begin (*Weekend Australian*, 5-6 February 2005, p.33).

- Doug Flynn was named chief executive of Rentokil Initial, an embattled British pest control and cleaning group, London's *Sunday Times* reported. But he rejected reports that he had not signed for Fairfax because of inadequate remuneration (*Australian*, 7 February 2005, p.27, and 8 February 2005, p.21).

- Fairfax broke off talks with Flynn when his remuneration demands reached what could have resulted in a $25 million payout, but his yearly salary would have been $5 million. Mark Day and Jane Schulze report that Fairfax might well try to persuade Hilmer to continue as CEO (*Australian*, 10 February 2005, pp.1-2, and Mark Day, "On media" column, Media section, p.20).

- Four months of Fairfax's courting of Doug Flynn fell apart because of the dilly-dallying. "In the end it was not the money," Flynn told Wilson. "… the truth is the process was too slow. It was inadequate. They had basically asked me to come but it was just taking forever to conclude it. It just felt a bit unwelcoming and a bit begrudging, the whole thing." Flynn had accepted the money, "which is about half what I am getting over here"(so reported Peter Wilson, the Australian's Europe correspondent in the *Weekend Australian*, 12-13 February 2005, pp. 1, 33, 36).

31.3 MAYNE SELLS CRIKEY TO BEECHER AND GRIBBLE

Stephen Mayne has sold his crikey.com.au newsletter and website to Eric Beecher's and Di Gribble's Private Media Partners for $1 million. Mayne is thus free to return to his role as a reporting hack and corporate activist. He plans to run as a reform candidate for boards across the nation, reports Mark Day (*Australian*, Media section, 3 February 2005, p.15).

Margaret Simons wrote (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 5-6 February 2005, p.27) that it was the first time in this country that an internet-based news service had changed hands for real money. Crikey had been part of the undertow of public life for the past five years. Circulating among politicians, investors, journalists and business leaders, it has provided a mix of insiders' gossip, breaking news, comment, analysis and speculation. Founded by Stephen Mayne, a business journalist and once Jeff Kennett's press secretary, its "heart and soul" is a daily news bulletin delivered by email to 5300 subscribers [including 150 in Federal Parliament and 130 at the ABC]. There is also a website, but Mayne says this has become little more than a marketing tool and an archive (see 31.51.14).

31.4 SAMUEL PROPOSES FREEING UP OF MEDIA MARKET

The chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Graeme Samuel, has suggested the Howard Government consider scrapping the current cross-media ownership laws and create an environment that uses new technology to deliver more diversity and competition. Samuel said the ACCC supports a Productivity Commission push to remove restrictions on the number of commercial free-to-air TV stations and encourage more multi-

channeling and data casting. Samuel, a former investment banker, is keen to handle competition issues in newspapers and broadcasting once the new regulations are in place, setting him apart form his predecessor as ACCC chair, Allan Fels, who eschewed the idea of being a media regulator (*Australian*, 29 December 2004, p.17).

31.5 THE YEAR 'THE MEDIA WILL BE SET FREE', OR WILL IT?

This is the year in which the media will be set free, writes Mark Day (*Australian*, Media section, 27 January 2005, p.13). Unnaturally boxed in by rigid but artificial ownership and control legislation since 1987, the media are about to have the brakes removed from the development and growth. The Howard Government has wanted to do this, but a recalcitrant Senate has blocked each attempt. From 1 July 2005, the Howard Government will have control of the Senate. Change will come, writes Day.

Michael Sainsbury reports (*Australian*, 2 February 2005, p.2): The Australian media is (sic) headed for a "big bang" as the Howard Government considers combining its plans to relax media ownership laws with the results of a review of digital television. The Government could link media ownership restrictions to decisions on whether Australia should have a fourth TV network and a range of new media technologies.

Legislation to establish the Australian Communications and Media Authority to replace the Australian Communications Authority and the Australian Broadcasting Authority passed the House of Representatives on 10 February with the support of Labor (*Australian*, 11 February 2005, p.18).

"Everyone expects media merger mania after the Government gets control of the Senate in July, but it's entirely possible it will be a non-event," writes Alan Kohler (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 12-13 February 2005, p.45). Apart from the fact that Prime Minister John Howard has made it clear he has "bigger sausages to cook", and the ACCC is preparing to block any anti-competitive cross-media mergers, it's hard to think of media mergers that make any sense.

31.6 QUESTIONING A LABOR LEGEND

With the benefit of the release of the 1974 Federal Cabinet documents, the *Weekend Australian* of 1-2 January 2005 questions the status accorded to the Whitlam government of 1972-75. The newspaper begins an editorial, "It's time to question a Labor legend" (p.12), thus:

"The history of the Whitlam Government in 1974 reads like a Greek tragedy written by the authors of *Yes Minister*. Even 30 years on, the cabinet papers released today, are scary stuff. They present men determined to transform Australia without transforming the machinery of government, stumbling to a doom largely of their own making. While Mr Whitlam and his colleagues staggered from policy pratfalls to political piefights for another year, their fate was formed in the farce of 1974 – in particular by the loans affair, a half-baked scheme to borrow millions in the Middle East. The record of 1974 makes a mockery of a great Labor legend – that the Whitlam Government's vision for Australia was defeated by reactionary opportunists and hard times."

On 3 January the *Australian* published an article, "Reckless spirit of '74" by Ian Hancock, the National Archives consultant historian for the release of the 1974 records. Hancock said the Cabinet documents refuted the Whitlam line on the loans affair.

31.7 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

4 Oct 2004	Death: **Melva Gertrude Thomas (née Vincent)**, in Canberra aged 91; contributed short stories to *Bulletin* in '50s and early '60s; author of *The Vincent Printers*, a history of the Vincent family's involvement in NSW country newspapers (family members started 16 newspapers in 14 towns); journalist 1929-36 on *Don Dorrigo Gazette and Guy Fawkes Advocate*, which her father started in 1910; secretary to A.D. Bourke, the Sydney representative of most of the NSW country papers and interstate radio stations, 1937-42; married Scott Thomas and lived at Menangle Park for 56 years; moved to Canberra on The Bushfire weekend, January 2002; an ANHG member (source: Rod Kirkpatrick).
26 Oct 2004	Death: **Audrey Ellen Halls (née McKeon),** in Sydney aged 79; third child of Francis James McKeon (1889-1962) and Violet McKeon; qualified as a letter press operator at the *Longreach Leader* where her father was the editor; father and brother, Francis Albert, bought the *Coonabarabran Times* in 1945; married Don Halls, a Coonabarabran printer; they moved to Sydney and continued in printing trade before she operated a retail outlet at Bondi (*Longreach Leader*, 26 November 2004, p.2; see also *Press Progress* 1962, pp.33-34).
23 Nov 2004	70th birthday of the *Murray Valley Standard*, Murray Bridge, South Australia.
5 Dec 2004	Death: **Neil Wishart Newnham**, aged 83; The Herald & Weekly Times Ltd, Melbourne, 1939-86: reporter, features editor, the *Herald*; feature services manager HWT. Widely popular man who overcame crippling poliomyelitis in boyhood to join AIF in 1942 and serve three years in SWPA on staff of General Douglas MacArthur; played cricket, tennis, and bowls despite necessity to wear built-up boot to overcome one leg several inches short. One of the founders of Herald Employees Credit Union (source: Robert Coleman for ANHG).
31 Dec 2004	Death: **Leonard Keith Berg**, aged 82; joined *Lachlan Leader*, Cowra, as cadet in 1939; served in World War II; became editor of *West Macquarie*, Blayney; moved to Gosford in 1953 and later became editor, *Central Coast Express*; editor, *South Coast Register*, Nowra, 1977-97 (*South Coast Register*, 12 January 2005, p.8).
6 Jan 2005	150th birthday of the *Ovens & Murray Advertiser*, Beechworth. Historical articles expected to be published on 23 February 2005.
19 Jan 2005	Australian newspapers report the resignation of Mark Latham as Leader of the Federal Opposition and as a parliamentarian. He was the shortest serving Federal Leader of the Labor Party.
28 Jan 2005	Death: **Peter Robinson**, in Sydney aged 78; foreign correspondent; war correspondent; editor, *Australian Financial Review*, 1972-74, and editor-in-chief, 1988-91; member, Industries Assistance Commission, 1974-78 (extensive obit. by Max Suich, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29-30 January 2005, p.62; *Weekend Australian*, 29-30 January 2005, p.8, and *Australian*, Media section, 3 February 2005, p.16).
29 Jan 2005	Australian newspapers report the return to the Federal Parliamentary Labor Leadership of Kim Beazley, the first person to regain the leadership of the party after losing it.
29 Jan 2005	Death: **Claudia Wright**, aged 70; widely renowned columnist for Melbourne *Herald* and broadcaster for 3AW through 1960s and '70s; groundbreaking feminist famous for witty, acerbic forays into Melbourne society which earned her the nickname "Claws"; silenced by Alzheimer's disease for past 15 years; was married to journalist Geoffrey Wright who died 2 Oct 2004 (*Herald Sun*, 31 January 2005, p.2; see ANHG 30.9)
30 Jan 2005	Death: **John O'Brien,** in Perth aged 69; worked on clerical and advertising side of various Herald & Weekly Times newspapers; became chief sales manager for the West Australian Newspapers group; retired late 1980s; died after being struck by hit-run driver (*Herald Sun*, 1 February 2005, p.64).

31.8 JACKSON IS NEW *MEDIA WATCH* HOST

Liz Jackson will be the new host of ABC-TV's *Media Watch*, which resumes on 7 March. She replaces David Marr, who took what turned out to be three years' leave from the *Sydney*

Morning Herald to be the face of *Media Watch*. Jackson is the first woman to be the host. The program's first host was Stuart Littlemore, followed by Richard Ackland and Paul Barry (*Australian*, Media section, 3 February 2005, p.17).

31.9 *AGE* LEANS TOWARDS TABLOID

Andrew Jaspan, the editor of the Melbourne *Age* since October 2004, is believed to be considering major structural changes to the 150-year-old broadsheet, including the launch of a new daily tabloid sport section. Several pull-out sections of the newspaper, including the broadsheet business section, the tabloid "A3" features liftout, and the "Domain" property supplement, may be folded back into the main newspaper under the reported plans (*Weekend Australian*, 24-25 December 2004, p.5). This report certainly reflects the sort of things that Jaspan said when he spoke off the cuff at the Best Australian Journalism of the 20th Century conference at the State Library of Victoria on 26 November 2004, with the qualification that he was talking about a range of ideas that suggested something had to be done some time in the next year or two to make the format of the *Age* more reader friendly, especially for those who read newspapers on public transport, writes Rod Kirkpatrick.

31.10 REAL ESTATE PAPER

The battle for print property classifieds opened on a new front on 15 February when major online advertiser realestate.com.au began trials of its own newspaper. A 96-page realestate.com.au Property Guide, containing more than 1,000 local homes and units for sale, was hand-delivered to 50,000 addresses in Sydney's eastern suburbs. Chief executive Simon Baker said that over the next few months the company would conduct half a dozen "live market trials" of the *Property Guide* in various locations around Sydney, and possibly other cities, to refine its sale, pricing and production models (*Australian*, 16 February 2005, p.26).

31.11 WAN (1): COMBINATION WITH PBL TO BUY HOYTS

Kerry Packer has sold his stake in the Hoyts cinema chain for $347 million to West Australian Newspapers and his publicly listed Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd. WAN and PBL will operate the chain, with 47 cinema complexes across Australia and New Zealand, as a joint venture (*Australian*, 15 December 2004, p.39).

Neither PBL nor WAN will have individual control over Hoyts if the purchase succeeds, according to information documents prepared for PBL's shareholders (*Weekend Australian*, 29-30 January 2005, p.31).

31.12 WAN (2): CHIEF RECEIVES NEW CONTRACT

West Australian Newspapers Ltd has negotiated a generous new employment contract with chief executive officer Ian Law. His base salary will be $800,000 a year. A short-term incentive plan allows him to earn 60 to 90 per cent of that amount as a bonus. He also gains a $900,000 interest-free loan to buy 100,000 shares in the firm with up to 51.5 per cent of the loan waived over five years if other targets are met (*Australian*, 22 December 2004, p.21).

31.13 WAN (3): PRINT CENTRE UPGRADE TO COST JOBS

West Australian Newspapers will spend $75 million to upgrade its printing plant to obtain extra colour capacity and to improve efficiencies. The upgrade will result in the loss of between 70 and 80 jobs. WAN's half-year interim profit to 31 December 2004 was $47.4 million, up 24.8 per cent (*Australian*, 4 February 2005, p.19). See 31.30 for rationalisation of regional printeries.

31.14 TWENTY QUESTIONS FOR THE MINISTER

Senator Helen Coonan, the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, answers 20 questions from a journalist in the *Australian Financial Review Magazine*, Summer 2004. She says her "most important professional and personal breakthrough" is: "Joining the Cabinet as the third woman in government – there have been only nine women in Cabinet since Federation. [Growing up] our telephone number was Mangoplah 36, a party phone. Now I am running a portfolio that is looking at privatising communications – the irony hasn't escaped me."

31.15 IAN CROWTHER RETURNS

Ian Crowther began 2004 as the CEO for the Harris Group at Burnie and before January was finished he had departed, after Rural Press Ltd had completed its takeover of the *Advocate* and its associated enterprises. He had a break from newspapers on his Central Coast (NSW) property and finished the year by being appointed general manager of the *Adelaide Review*, the magazine acquired by Spanish publisher Javier Moll to give him a toehold in the Australian newspaper industry (*PANPA Bulletin*, December 2004, p.21). Commuting from Sydney, Ian had worked on and off for three months on short and long term business plans for the *Review*. He was to begin implementing those plans from early January 2005 (Ian Crowther, E-mail message to Rod Kirkpatrick, 15 December 2004).

31.16 NICOLE KIDMAN, THE PAPARAZZI AND THE COURT

In a highly publicised court case, Waverley Local Court in Sydney granted film actor Nicole Kidman an interim restraining order against two celebrity photographers on 27 January. She claimed she had feared for her life during a high-speed car chase through Sydney the previous Sunday night. On 11 February, the photographers, Jamie Fawcett and Ben McDonald signed an agreement to stay 500 metres away from Kidman's Darling Point home. The restraining orders were lifted (*Australian*, 28 January 2005, p.3; *Weekend Australian*, 12-13 February 2005, p.8).

31.17 REVIEW OF 2004

Mediaweek carried in its final issue for 2004 (Nos 701-702, 13-20 December 2004) a review of the various media for the year. Its coverage of newspapers appeared on pages 14 and 15 and featured: the *Herald Sun* as newspaper of the year; David Fagan, of the *Courier-Mail*, as editor of the year, again; the *Daily Telegraph* for the best covers of 2004; the *West Australian* for redesign of the year; and the *Cairns Post* and the *Townsville Bulletin* for excellence in regional newspapers. *Mediaweek* said nice words about the Adelaide newcomer, the *Independent Weekly*, and the revamped Adelaide suburban, the *City Messenger*.

31.18 BRIEFS

The *Australian* did not publish its Media section on 23 and 30 December 2004 and 6, 13 and 20 January 2005.

The fortnightly satirical newspaper, the *Chaser*, closed after its issue of the weekend of 5-6 February 2005. Sales peaked at 12,000 (*Mediaweek*, 1-7 February 2005).

The Indian Ocean tsunamis: Circulation managers for the *Australian*, *Daily Telegraph, Sunday Telegraph* and Fairfax's metropolitan dailies said sales of papers were higher than normal for the holiday period (*Australian*, Media section, 27 January 2004,5, p.15).
Advertising revenues for Australian newspapers are expected to grow by 4 per cent in 2005, according to a survey of national advertisers. Advertisers will spend an additional $400

million on main media advertising this year, boosting the media advertising market by 4.6 per cent on average to about $9.5 billion (*Australian*, 20 December 2004, p.25).

31.19 FROM SEARCH ENGINES TO PODCASTING

Trevor Cook wrote an article for the Beach Holiday issue of the *Australian Financial Review*: `http://trevorcook.typepad.com/weblog/2005/01/here_comes_ever.html` In just 2000 words it covers search engines, SEO, Google bombing, podcasting, RSS, real-time searching, bloggercon, scoble, Bradbury, and more. The basic argument is that the way to manage information effectively is to use bloggers as your intelligent agents.

31.20 ALEXANDER THE GREAT EARNER

John Alexander, a former editor-in-chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, has signed a five-year contract as chief executive of the Packer family's Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd (PBL) that could be worth as much as $25 million to him. Alexander became the CEO of PBL on 9 June 2004. The new contract will pay Alexander, 53, a minimum of $3 million a year. The annual bonus may be doubled if the goals are exceeded (*Sydney Morning Herald* and *Weekend Australian*, 22-23 January 2005, p.47 and p.29, respectively).

31.21 THE *AGE* RECEIVES A WARNING

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal has found that gender was not a factor in the Melbourne *Age's* failure to increase Aileen Keenan's wage in her three years as editor of the paper's lucrative property section. But tribunal vice-president Susan Cohen warned the *Age* it would face complaints of sex discrimination or victimisation of it continued to deny Keenan a pay rise. In a written judgment, Judge Cohen said the longer Keenan was kept on at the same pay – which, at $79,000 a year is $45,000 less than the pay pocketed by her predecessor, Antony Catalano – "the more available will become the inference that she is not being advanced because she is female (or because she has brought this complaint)". In her ruling on the sex discrimination complaint, Judge Cohen found Keenan had been unfairly denied a company car because she was female. She said the paper had contravened equal opportunity laws by failing either to offer Keenan the company car normally provided to property editors or giving her the equivalent value in her salary package. Judge Cohen dismissed other complaints brought by Keenan who had claimed she was underpaid, had been denied pay rises and, because she was a woman, had not been given a $600-a-week contributor's role usually assigned to property editors. The *Age* plans to appeal against the judgment in relation to the company car (*Australian*, 23 December 2004, p.4).

31.22 *BULLETIN* AT 125

The *Bulletin* magazine celebrated its 125th birthday by publishing a number of special articles in its issue of 1 February 2005, including one on its founder J.F. Archibald (by Diana Bagnall, pp.34-38). There is also an article by Warren Fahey looking at the *Bulletin's* early days as the bushman's bible. And guess who is on the cover of the birthday issue? Princess Di.

31.23 TOTAL WEEKLY SALES DROP 159,000 IN 12 MONTHS

Total weekday sales of metropolitan and national dailies are down 21,727 copies a day, or 108,635 for the five days. This calculation is based on the Audit Bureau of Circulations figures for the six months to 31 December 2004. Weekend papers are down, too: Saturday papers by 49,404 and Sundays by 1,510. In an average week, 159,549 fewer metropolitan and national newspapers were sold than in the corresponding six months of 2003. The *Australian*, with an increase of 4.4 per cent, was the best performer in the weekday circulation figures for the second half of 2004. It was the only newspaper, apart from the *West Australian* (up 1.3pc),

to record an increase on weekdays. (That is if you discount the 100 extra daily sales that the *Herald Sun* recorded.) For the Saturday papers, the circulation news was all gloom. The only increase was so minuscule (*Herald Sun*, up 0.1pc) that it is hardly worth noting. The Fairfax Saturday papers, the *Sydney Morning Herald* (down 5.4pc)*, Age* (down 4.2pc) and *Australian Financial Review* (down 5.9pc) scored the sharpest declines. The best Sunday performer was the *Sunday Herald Sun* (up 2.5pc) followed by the *Sunday Tasmanian* (up 2.2pc) and the Sunday Examiner (up.1.6pc). Queensland's *Sunday Mail* rose by 1.3pc. (See also *Mediaweek*, 14 February 2005, pp.1, 6; and *Australian*, Media section, 17 February 2005, p.20.)

Metropolitan and national papers

Newspaper	Six months to 31/12/2004	Six months to 31/12/2003	Change %
Monday to Friday	**Daily sales**		
Australian	131,753	126,210	+ 4.4
Australian Financial Review	85,293	88,457	− 3.6
Daily Telegraph (NSW)	390,410	400,885	− 2.6
Sydney Morning Herald (NSW)	214,005	221,815	− 3.5
Herald Sun (Vic)	553,100	553,000	Steady
Age (Vic)	196,250	197,040	− 0.4
Courier-Mail (Qld)	208,902	214,155	− 2.5
Advertiser (SA)	198,172	199,340	− 0.6
West Australian	204,403	201,826	+ 1.3
Mercury (Tas)	48,451	48,630	− 0.4
Canberra Times	37,272	38,340	− 2.8
Northern Territory News	22,957	22,997	− 0.2
Total	**2,290,968**	**2,312,695**	
Saturday	**Weekly sales**		
Weekend Australian	289,968	291,823	− 0.6
Australian Financial Review	80,023	85,067	− 5.9
Sydney Morning Herald (NSW)	352,482	372,798	− 5.4
Daily Telegraph (NSW)	337,263	336,126	+ 0.3
Herald Sun (Vic)	512,000	511,500	+ 0.1
Age (Vic)	292,250	305,000	− 4.2
Courier-Mail (Qld)	332,335	335,550	− 1.0
Advertiser (SA)	272,341	274,858	− 0.6
West Australian	373,153	376,115	− 0.8
Mercury (Tas)	63,414	63,550	− 0.2
Canberra Times	68,446	70,732	− 3.2
Northern Territory News	32,588	32,548	+ 0.1
Total	**3,006,263**	**3,055,667**	
Sunday	**Weekly sales**		
Sunday Telegraph (NSW)	716,326	729,663	− 1.8
Sun-Herald (NSW)	513,888	526,188	− 2.3
Sunday Herald Sun (Vic)	605,000	590,000	+ 2.5
Sunday Age (Vic)	194,750	196,130	− 0.7
Sunday Mail (Qld)	621,419	613,212	+ 1.3
Sunday Mail (SA)	331,755	332,127	− 0.1
Sunday Times (WA)	353,000	351,000	+ 0.6
Sunday Tasmanian	59,939	58,649	+ 2.2
Sunday Examiner	43,884	43,186	+ 1.6
Canberra Sunday Times	37,610	38,293	− 1.8
Sunday Territorian	25,381	26,014	− 2.4
Total	**3,502,952**	**3,504,462**	

Regional dailies

Newspaper (Mon-Sat unless otherwise stated)	Six months to 31/12/2004	Six months to 31/12/2003	Change %*
Border Mail, **Albury-Wodonga (NSW)**	26,780	27,128	− 1.3
Western Advocate, Bathurst (M-F)	4,478	4,528	− 1.1
Barrier Daily Truth, Broken Hill	5,926	6,044	− 2.0
Daily Liberal, Dubbo (M-F)	5,641	5,496	+ 2.6
Daily Examiner, Grafton	6,094	5,819	+ 4.7
Northern Star, Lismore	16,760	16,549	+ 1.3
Maitland Mercury (M-F)	4,493	4,641	− 3.2
Newcastle Herald (M-Fri)	52,598	54,006	− 2.6
Central Western Daily, Orange	5,446	5,315	+ 2.5
Northern Daily Leader, Tamworth	8,447	8,513	− 0.8
Daily News, Tweed Heads	5,018	4,999	+ 0.4
Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga	14,149	13,950	+ 1.4
Illawarra Mercury, Wollongong	29,583	30,384	− 2.6
Ballarat Courier **(Victoria)**	N/A	20,441	N/A
Bendigo Advertiser	14,699	14,665	+ 0.2
Geelong Advertiser (Mon-Fri)	29,877	29,332	+ 1.9
Sunraysia Daily, Mildura	7,171	7,420	− 3.4
Shepparton News (M-F)	10,475	10,899	− 1.4
Warrnambool Standard	12,849	12,794	+ 0.4
Bundaberg News-Mail **(Qld)** (Mon-Fri)	11,878	11,534	+ 3.0
Cairns Post (M-Sat)	30,675	30,000 +	+ 2.3
Gladstone Observer (Tu-Fri)	7,654	7,780	− 1.6
Gold Coast Bulletin	47,069	47,608	− 1.1
Gympie Times (Tu-Sat)	5,780	5,545	+ 4.2
Queensland Times, Ipswich	12,808	12,782	+ 0.2
Daily Mercury, Mackay	15,942	15,541	+ 2.6
Sunshine Coast Daily, Maroochydore	23,416	22,560	+ 3.8
Fraser Coast Chronicle, Maryborough-Hervey Bay	10,129	9,814	+ 3.2
North-West Star, Mount Isa (Mon-Fri)	3,611	3,716	− 2.8
Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton	18,426	18,281	+ 0.8
Toowoomba Chronicle	24,972	25,195	− 3.8
Townsville Bulletin	29,407	28,811	+ 2.1
Daily News, Warwick	3,619	N/A	N/A
Kalgoorlie Miner **(WA)**	5,746	5,661	+ 1.5
Advocate, **Burnie (Tas.)**	24,764	24,610	+ 0.6
Examiner, Launceston	35,707	35,496	+ 0.6

31.24 MAGAZINE CIRCULATION

For an extensive rundown on the latest magazine circulation figures, see "Mags give ticker to circulation figures", *Australian*, Media section, 17 February 2005, p.20.

31.25 AN EDITOR WAITING TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED

The editor of a Sydney suburban newspaper sat on the explosive "money shot" of the former Strathfield mayor Alfred Tsang pocketing a developer's bribe because he was waiting to "see what happened". The Independent Commission Against Corruption heard on 9 February that Geoff Howe, editor of the *Inner Western Suburbs Courier*, was told of the video about two weeks after it was filmed in July 2004 by his "old friend", the Labor councillor John Abi-Saab. Cr Abi-Saab is alleged to have used the recording as blackmail to reclaim the mayoralty from Cr Tsang (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 February 2005, p.7).

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: PROVINCIAL

31.26 MAITLAND, COLLIE AND BENDIGO: RPL RATIONALISES PRINTERIES

Regional and rural newspaper printing in Australia is becoming increasingly centralised at bigger and grander regional printing centres. Rural Press Ltd has closed newspaper printing centres at Maitland (NSW), Collie (WA) and Bendigo (Victoria). The publications formerly printed in Maitland on the *Mercury's* web press facility are now printed at either the Port Macquarie or Tamworth print centre. The Collie printing was shifted in February 2005 to the new $20 million state-of-the-art Mandurah printing centre, built on a Greenfield site.

The Bendigo printing was shifted to Ballarat from the week beginning 13 February. All the printing staff employed at Collie agreed to transfer to Mandurah. The Maitland staff members were offered transfers to other print centres but it is not known how many accepted. RPL managing director Brian McCarthy said the closures of Maitland and Collie continued an industry trend in printing of having fewer printing centres, but with better technology and resources at those ongoing printing centres. "The Maitland centre could not satisfy the reader and advertiser demand for full colour advertising, and could not justify additional capital expenditure," he said.

Bendigo Advertiser manager Peter Dehnert said it would have been uneconomic to spend millions of dollars upgrading the Bendigo print facilities to a standard demanded by advertisers. And so Rural Press had decided to shift the Bendigo printing (including the tri-weekly *Wimmera Mail-Times*, Horsham) to the new RPL Ballarat print centre built on a Greenfield site. Eleven full-time printing staff have been offered the option of taking a "generous" redundancy package or relocating to another RPL printing site, such as Ballarat. (*Rural Press News*, December 2004, pp.2 and 14; ABC Melbourne online, 2 February 2005; *Bendigo Advertiser*, 1 and 2 February 2005, pp.3 and 5, respectively).

31.27 LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEE RETIRES

Printer Barrie Williams was Rural Press's longest serving employee until his retirement on 28 October 2004. He had joined the *Goulburn Evening Post* on 13 February 1956. Rural Press acquired the *Goulburn Post* (it dropped the *Evening* from its title on 12 October 1987 when it became a morning paper) in December 1995 as part of the chain of newspapers it bought from John Armati's Macquarie Publications Pty Ltd. Williams says, "A lot of romance has gone out of printing since the hot metal days and the change to 'cold type'. You had to have your wits about you to create something out of nothing." (*Rural Press News*, December 2004, p.5.)

31.28 CIRCULATION IN THE REGIONS

The top performers among regional dailies in the latest Audit Bureau of Circulations figures are all based on or near the coast. They are the *Daily Examiner*, Grafton, the *Gympie Times*, the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* and the *News-Mail*, Bundaberg (which has just changed its name to the *Bundaberg and Regional NewsMail*). See 31.23 for the ABC regional dailies' circulation table.

31.29 MORE GANNONS

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: In my *PANPA Bulletin* article (December 2004) on the Gannon newspaper dynasty, I quoted Dorothy Giles (née Gannon) as saying three of her four children represent "the only remaining active direct descendants of James Malachy Gannon still involved in newspapers in Victoria". In fact, there are more: three children of Frank Gannon

and his first wife, Betty, who died in 1973, are working in Victorian newspapers. They are: Elizabeth Frances (Libby) Scullie, who is the classifieds coordinator for North East Newspapers, the Wangaratta-based provincial group owned by Hartley and Maureen Higgins; Catherine Margaret (Kate) Gannon, who works in advertising at the *Sunraysia Daily*, Mildura; and Megan Frances Gannon, who is a journalist at the *Colac Herald*, owned by Mary Gannon, widow and second wife of Frank Gannon (source: E-mail message from Libby Scullie, 4 February 2005). See also 31.51.3.

31.30 EDITORIAL REINS CHANGE

❑ Graham Rich, a journalist for 39 years and Rural Press employee for 25 years, has retired. He has most recently edited papers in South Australia, including the *Eyre Peninsula Tribune,* the *Whyalla News,* the *Victor Harbor Times,* the *Murray Valley Standard*, Murray Bridge, and the *Transcontinental*, Port Augusta. Rich was responsible for the growth of the *Roxby Downs Sun*, a paper that was transformed from a fortnightly quarterfold two years ago to a "vibrant weekly tabloid newspaper". Jonathan Brooks has succeeded Rich as editor of the *Transcontinental* (*Rural Press News*, December 2004, p.10).

❑ Mitchell Murphy, for two years the editor of the *Illawarra Mercury*, Wollongong, has been promoted to group editor of Fairfax Community Newspapers, NSW. He replaces Peter Allen, who has retired. The *Mercury* editorship is being advertised (*Mediaweek*, 24-31 January 2005, p.10; see *Mediaweek*, 14 February 2005, p.7, for interview with Allen).

❑ *Cootamundra Herald* editor Peita Willmott will leave this month to move to Wagga Wagga. Peita joined the Herald staff, fresh from Charles Sturt University as a cadet journalist and became the editor after a short stint as the editor of the *Grenfell Record*. The *Cootamundra Herald* refers to Willmott as the "long-serving" editor. She was there a month under four years (*Cootamundra Herald*, 16 February 2005; see 12.20). Rod Kirkpatrick writes: It shows how brief editorships have become on many of the chain-owned newspapers. Barry Clarke was managing editor of the *Cootamundra Herald* for 31 years and retired in 1997.

31.31 RURAL PRESS IMPRESSES INVESTORS

Rural Press Ltd has raised its half-year net profit by 39 per cent to $58.4 million. The group, whose share price has risen by 51 per cent this year, declared a first interim dividend of 13c per ordinary share and 14.3c per preferred share. It also introduced a new second interim dividend of 6c and 6.6c respectively. This means Rural Press is now one of the few companies to pay, effectively, quarterly dividends – in March, June, September and November – and its dividend yield remains close to 5 per cent despite the massive share price increase (*Australian*, 11 February 2005, p.19).

31.32 INTRODUCING THE *NORTHERN TERRITORY TIMES*

On 17 February the regional areas of the Northern Territory received a new weekly newspaper, the *Territory Times*. The former *Litchfield Times*, it has decided to take on the whole Territory (except Darwin) and the little local papers with a Thursday-published weekly just for the outback (ABC Northern Territory Country Hour, 10 February 2005). The *Litchfield Times* itself began life on the fringes of Darwin as the *Humpty Doo and Rural Area Times*. Proprietor Val Smith, who founded the paper in 1983, plans to build the circulation from the current 3,000 to about 20,000 by the end of the year and hopes to make it a bi-weekly within 10 years. The *Times* has a staff of nine and is located in the Coolalinga Shopping Village. Smith says that rather than giving Litchfield Shire less attention, the paper will expand its cover of the rest of the Territory (*Australian*, Media section, 17 February 2005, p.21).

NEWSPAPER HISTORY

31.33 SMALL DISTRICT NEWSLETTERS

Lynn Bonomini, regional history coordinator at the Goulburn branch of the Southern Tablelands Regional Library (`lynn.bonomini@goulburn.nsw.gov.au`) writes:

Re. ANHG 30.31, the *Windellama News*: This particular community newsletter has been produced for some years now, within an area that was, until recently, part of the Mulwaree Shire Council (since local government amalgamations earlier in the year, Windellama and surrounding districts are now part of Goulburn Mulwaree Council). It is not the only community newsletter of this type in our region either. Such newsletters have thrived because their news and views are focused toward, and supported by, small but strong rural communities who feel they are not effectively serviced by their larger, theoretically "local", newspapers, such as the *Goulburn Post*, *Crookwell Gazette* and *Yass Tribune*, which are owned/operated by even larger concerns (Rural Press Ltd). Of particular importance in these newsletters is their emphasis on highly localised advertising as well as content.

Other monthly newsletters similar to the *Windellama News*, and also from the former Mulwaree council area, that I collect for the Regional History Room in Goulburn Branch Library include: the *Marulan District Magazine* (circulation 700), covering Marulan, Tallong, Big Hill, Brayton, Greenwich Park & surrounding districts; the *Bungonia Times* (375), roughly covering localities between Windellama and Marulan; and the *Tarago Times* (350), covering Tarago, Lake Bathurst, Mayfield, Boro, Taylor's Creek and surrounding districts.

Tuena Talkback is another such publication worth noting, though the editors have recently discontinued publication of this excellent magazine. Like the *Windellama News*, *Tuena Talkback* highlighted opinions and activities from their district, which is located at the furthest reaches of the former Crookwell Shire (now part of Upper Lachlan council). The Lions Club of Gunning also produces *Noticeboard*, a weekly publication, and I'm aware of at least one community newsletter in the Yass Valley area: the *Murrumbateman Messenger*.

Perhaps this phenomenon is an area of concern worthy of further study? I would be interested in know of such developments elsewhere, particularly if there are newsletters in our Southern Tablelands region of which I am currently unaware (Editor's note: See ANHG 9.21, for an extensive article on such publications; and 17.42).

The ANHG has received a copy of *Kimberley Community Profile*, a quarterfold newsletter produced in process colour on glossy paper. It was issue 08, November 2004, produced by the Catholic Diocese of Broome, Western Australia.

31.34 PETER ROBINSON UPSETS WARWICK FAIRFAX

Peter Robinson, a former editor of the *Australian Financial Review*, often upset Sir Warwick Fairfax, chairman of the *AFR's* publisher, John Fairfax & Sons, in the early 1970s by writing editorials advocating an independent foreign policy. Robinson died on 28 January 2005 (see 31.6). On 20 December 1971, Sir Warwick poured his anger into a memo to managing editor Vic Carroll, which the *AFR* printed with one of the offending editorials (*Weekend Australian Financial Review*, 5-6 February 2005, p.62).

31.35 INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER CONFERENCE AT NLA

The National Library of Australia is running an international newspaper conference, organised jointly by the IFLA Newspapers Section and the National Library of Australia, later this month. The newly opened Queanbeyan Printing Museum will have a special open

afternoon on Thursday, 24 February 2005, to allow those attending the International Newspaper Conference, organised by the National Library of Australia, (and others) to inspect. The restored linotype and printing machines will be operated. Transport from Canberra to Queanbeyan will be organised. If interested, please advise Victor Isaacs in advance on abvi@webone.com.au, or 43 Lowanna St Braddon ACT 2612, or 02-6257 1742.

31.36 *MEDIAWEEK* AT NO. 700

Sydney newsletter publisher Philip Luker launched *Mediaweek* more than 14 years ago. He sold it to current publisher and editor, James Manning, at the end of 1999. *Mediaweek* published its 700th issue on 6 December 2004, and marked the occasion by summarising what was making news in issues 1, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500 and 600. "Person of the Week" in No. 700 was Chris Anderson, a former editor-in-chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and more recently the CEO of Optus.

31.37 THE BUSH PAPER THAT WAS A BIG OPINION SHAPER

Kel Richards presents "Word of the Day" at 7.30am on ABC Classic FM. At the end of the week, he normally puts each "word of the day" into a sentence. On Friday, 10 December 2004, he put them into a "terse verse" that will interest students of newspapers. The words for the week were: moggy (a cat), ploughshare (the blade of a plough), piping hot (very hot), yarn (a bit of a chat), and bistro (a cafe).

> The *Bundiwallop Bulletin* is a very small bush paper,
> But in Bundiwallop shire it's a big opinion shaper.
> See the editor in his shirtsleeves – so busily he's typing rot,
> About the mayoral dinner, and the pumpkin scones (all piping hot);
> About the prize presented to the champion junior farmer,
> About the visiting display of old Ned Kelly's armour,
> (Which, he informs his readers, was once beaten from a ploughshare);
> About two local pigs that shared a prize (with the headline "Sow Pair").
> About the fire last weekend that burnt down Lawson's barn,
> And the bowls results and cricket score and every local yarn.
> He writes the ad for the little bistro that's just opened near the pub,
> And how the mayor's pet tabby cat drank beer slops at the club.
> Then how in a feline drunken daze it fell into the creek,
> From which the cat was rescued looking cute but wet and bleak.
> The editor writes the entire paper until his brain is tired and foggy,
> And that's his excuse for his cat headline of: "Soggy Groggy Moggy".

Found at: http://www.abc.net.au/classic/breakfast/stories/s1261954.htm

31.38 AMAZING TREASURES AT SLV

The State Library of Victoria has been reviewing its newspaper collection. Zoe Velonis takes up the story (*State Library of Victoria News*, November 2004-February 2005, pp.8-9):

It's a good thing that I was one of those children who liked to open presents very carefully rather than ripping off the paper, since the mysterious brown-paper package I opened a few weeks ago turned out to contain newspapers almost 140 years old. They were from "Buenos Ayres", Argentina, and so far I've found only one other library that might have them – in Argentina. I had discovered the papers – the *Weekly Standard* and its successor, the *Standard and River Plate News* – when looking through the Library's collection of international and interstate newspapers.

After nearly two years of repairs, cleaning and reorganising works, this collection has once again become available, revealing some amazing treasures. For example, we have several issues of a Greek newspaper called *Pharos* from Adelaide – unusual because it was published in 1936, before the main wave of Greek migration to Australia in the 1950s and 1960s. Another rarity is the *Sino-Australasian Times*, a Sydney newspaper which circulated to "prominent government officials" and "reputable Chinese, Japanese and Europeans" for the purpose of creating "international understanding and trade development between the East and Australasia" in 1930.

It has also been fascinating to make new discoveries – the Argentine papers a case in point. Other finds include a run of the French newspaper *Le Moniteur Vinicole* from 1893 to 1931; a New Zealand newspaper called *Society* from 1882 to 1883; and the German *Illustrite Zeitung* from 1864 to 1868 – just a few of the rarities which have remained unrecorded and largely unknown for decades. The wealth in this collection is truly inestimable. Opening a newspaper volume that was printed in a time and place so different, it seems like another world lends a richness and depth to history, culture and life that cannot be reproduced. Many of the newspapers are fragile and can only be used with great care. To ensure their preservation, only limited access is provided to researchers. For more information, see our website at www.slv.vic.gov.au/slv/newspapers/archival.htm

31.39 PLUMBING FOR HISTORICAL GEMS

David Turland, a Warrnambool plumber, spent 5,000 hours over 12 years indexing the city's first newspaper, the *Warrnambool Examiner*. The paper was published from 1851 until 1883, but with publication suspended from February 1852 to October 1853 (gold rush) and February 1878 to December 1879 (competition from other newspapers). Warrnambool Historical Society vice-president and research officer Elizabeth O'Callaghan describes the index as "a tremendous seminal work of incalculable value". She says is it "the greatest piece of historical indexing ever done in Warrnambool".

And it all began when Turland started researching his family's history about 13 years ago at the local library. He spent Wednesday and Friday nights and Saturday mornings at the library taking notes from old papers and soon he was preparing an index. He bought his own copy of the *Examiner* files on microfilm and a film reader so he could work at home. He paid a professional software writer to computerise his index and has donated copies to the Warrnambool District Historical Society and the Flagstaff Hill family history group. (*Standard*, Warrnambool, 15 December 2004, online; also see ANHG 28.45 and 29.54).

31.40 LITERARY ALBURY

Dirk Spennemann has sent the ANHG a copy of a pamphlet, "Literary Albury", which he wrote. It deals with a walking tour of Albury for those interested in the city's literary history. A section of the pamphlet deals with Albury's newspapers, with special mention being made of the *Border Post* (the first paper) and the *Albury Banner* (which won fame as a rural weekly). Among the writers who lived and worked in Albury at one stage was Thomas Alexander Browne, the police magistrate, better known by his pen name of Rolf Boldrewood, author of *Robbery Under Arms*.

31.41 PRINTING MUSEUM: BROADFORD, VIC

Add Broadford to our list of printing museums (see ANHG 30.34). Broadford is located 72 km north of Melbourne and 216 metres above sea level, in the sheep and cattle district of south central Victoria. It emerged as a township more because of the northbound traffic from Melbourne rather than the needs of the local farmers. In 1890 the town's huge paper mill was built by James McDougall – a relative of the noted publisher, Sands & McDougall. It is

largely upon the paper industry that the town now depends for its prosperity, although there is also a clothing factory and a wool-scouring plant. The town's substantial reserves of fine white kaolin clay are used both as a medical absorbent and for the manufacture of pottery.

Antiquated printing equipment can be seen in the *Broadford Courier* building, which was constructed in 1891. It was moved in the 1980s from its original site to one adjoining the Pioneer Cottage, beside the old Hume Highway. The latter building is a replica of the crude slab huts built by the early settlers. The interiors of both buildings are open for public inspection between 2pm-4pm on Sundays. Edited from information found at: http://www.walkabout.com.au/fairfax/locations/VICBroadford.shtml

31.42 INDEXING DEATHS AND OBITS

John Graham, a new member of ANHG, writes to tell us about the Ryerson Index: It is an online index to contemporary death, funeral and probate notices, and obituaries, in (predominantly) NSW newspapers. It has been compiled over the past six years by members of the Sydney Dead Persons Society, an organisation of genealogists with an interest in technology.

The Index started out in November 1998 when the DPS decided to index current death notices in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Daily Telegraph*. Our aim was straightforward – to compile an index that would, as it grew over the years, provide a resource for genealogists to complement the indexes to Births, Deaths and Marriages (which stop at 1945) and the Probate Index (which stops at 1985).

Shortly after we commenced, we decided to expand our coverage to add newspapers from country NSW, and even interstate when indexers could be found. We were also very fortunate to be given a hoard of *Sydney Morning Herald* death notices in an almost complete run from the beginning of 1986, and from that point on we have been indexing as many papers as we can, and including both current issues and back issues.

We have also relaxed the rules for inclusion to cater for the non-daily country papers, where a resident can be dead and buried between issues of the local paper, and so not figure at all in either the death or funeral notices. For country papers, we generally include death, funeral and probate notices, plus obituaries – that way we catch most deaths in an area.

The Ryerson index can be found on the web at **www.rootsweb.com/~nswsdps**, and is updated regularly. As at 25 January 2005 the index contained 897,069 entries from 87 newspapers, with the *Sydney Morning Herald* contributing 626,367 of these entries, in an almost-complete run from the beginning of 1974. The index is increasing by about 10,000 entries per month, from a team of about 60 active indexers.

31.43 UPDATE ON *NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT GAZETTE* PROJECT

Jerelynn Brown, Manager, Collection Services, State Library of New South Wales, writes: The *New South Wales Government Gazette* Project is gathering momentum. Late [in 2003] the Library expressed its intention of microfilming the *New South Wales Government Gazette*. Many libraries and organisations indicated interest in contributing copies for filming or in eventually subscribing to the microfilm version. In the first phase of the project the aim is to produce microfilm copies of the *New South Wales Government Gazette* from its first issue in 1832 up to 1900. The Library has now received the first six reels covering the first seven years, 1832-1838. The Collection Preservation Branch of the Library has inspected 100% of the microfilm carefully to ensure quality control on this key project.

The project timetable to June 2005 is:

1832-1838	Completed	Six reels
1839-1840	31 January 2005	Three reels
1841-1865	30 June 2005	Fifty reels

As the size of the *Gazette* gradually increases there are more reels per year. We have been advised that in the period after 1865, the average number of reels per year will go from two reels in the 1841-1865 period to three reels. One thing we are interested to know is whether other organisations have indexed any of the volumes over the years. The Library has the published indexes that will be filmed towards the end of the project, but we would like to canvas the range of options available to enhance access to this significant resource. Please contact me with information about the years indexed and type of indexing, such as name indexing, or by subject, for example. Your comments are welcome.

The microfilm supplier working with the project has said that he will circulate details enabling libraries to subscribe when he has completed filming the first 10 years in the first quarter of 2005.

31.44 OUR NEWSPAPERS: ODD, UNUSUAL, ENIGMATIC, CURRENT

The sin, no. 1, 22 November 1976

From Jurgen Wegner (Sydney): Industrial disputes have a long and colourful history in Australia. A quick check of mainstream reference sources reveals:
- 1791: The first organised industrial action is recorded when Sydney convicts demand daily instead of weekly rations (*Australian Trade Union Archives timeline* website)
- 1795: Australia's first industrial dispute over levels of wages paid to reapers of NSW wheat harvest (*The Macquarie book of events*, p. 258)
- 1822: First recorded strike. Convict James Straiter incites his master's servants to combine for higher wages and better rations (*Collins' milestones in Australian history*, p. 102)

And our first printers' strike:
- 1840: Government sends convict compositors to *Sydney Morning Herald* when the paper's own compositors went on strike over apprenticeship ratios (*The Macquarie book of events*, p. 258)

Strikes occasion the distribution of a variety of interesting printed matter whose ephemerality also makes them rare and valuable artefacts of our printing history. Unhappily, such material is not kept as often (or as accessibly) as it should be. Newspaper strikes produced leaflets, posters, strike "bulletins" and the occasional strike newspaper such as this one for the Fairfax strike of 1976. Fairfax were *inter alia* publishers of the *Sun*, of which this newspaper is a spoof. The banner title parodies the typography and the logo of the *Sun* down to the *Sun's* characteristic red star, here broken asunder!

Its four pages are largely a pictorial history of the strike showing picketers and picket lines, police, cartoons and protest banners. Under the headline of: *Fairfax dishonesty exposed*, text material discusses the strike issues from the unionists' perspective:

- "Union representatives were able to table extracts from Fairfax publication *Staff news* dated December, 1973 … that there would be no jobs lost [sic] as a result of new technology. He [Mr Farrell, a company spokesperson] added that 'human beings were more important than machines'"

- "Mr Farrell's discomfort was increased further when his claim that the June 1974 assurances were given before the full implications of automation were known was shattered. The unions were able to produce the text of a lecture … in February 1974 in which he outlined the same developments that are now being implemented"
- "Inside the Fairfax building there are so-called unionists working alongside imported strike-breakers; journalists are loading papers onto delivery trucks; children have been given the striking workers' jobs; non union housewives [sic] are doing the work of compositors"

There is also coverage of the police role ("the occurrence of violence on the Fairfax picket lines has been directly related to the police attitude… The obvious conclusion was that Fairfax was able to dictate police policy"). And in the traditional "breaking news" box on the final page: "Please remember, don't buy these scab-produced newspapers: The *Sun*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Sun-Herald*, the *National Times*, the *Financial Times*".

The history of printing in the second half of the 20th century was largely that of the impact of computer technology on machinery processes, the industry and livelihoods. If "a picture tells a thousand words" then this kind of printed ephemera also provides an immediacy to our history not found in more traditional sources. Are there collections of this kind of material; is there a national listing of such strike papers?

31.45 TOY DEPARTMENT MYSTERY SOLVED

From Perth, **David Marsh** writes: At long last, I have established that Red Smith coined the phrase of the "Toy Department" in reference to a newspaper sports department. He initially used the phrase in the 1950s, and was closely followed by another US sports writer Jimmy Cannon. Since then, it has been widely used by sports writers in America, the UK and Australia.

31.46 LEADER GROUP HISTORY

Teresa Murphy, a journalist employed by Melbourne's Leader Group of community newspapers, is writing a history of all the Leader papers and their predecessors. If you can contribute information to the history of any of the Leader papers, Teresa would like to hear from you: her postal address is 2-6 Railway Road, Cheltenham, Vic., 3192; and E-mail address: murphyt@ldr.newsltd.com.au

31.47 A NEW BOOK OF NEWSPAPER HISTORY

From **Sybil Nolan,** Commissioning Editor, MUP (formerly from RMIT Journalism): Many of you will remember conversations at Australian Media Traditions and other conferences, where journalism historians have discussed the possibilities of e-publishing Australian newspaper history material. Well, here's a good news story. More than 10 years ago, Elizabeth Morrison wrote a superlative PhD thesis on the colonial country press in Victoria. It is regarded as a landmark text for anyone seriously interested in writing newspaper history in this country. At last, Liz's study has been published. MUP has just released it as both an e-book (a downloadable pdf) and a digital book (a traditional paperback that you order over the web). Download free chapters to read, plus the book's valuable bibliography and appendices, by visiting MUP at http://www.mup.unimelb.edu.au/ebooks/0-522-85156-8/index.html

MUP is committed to building a media history list as part of its e-publishing program, and is looking for other works of outstanding scholarship to publish. For more information about e-publishing media history, contact me at nolans@unimelb.edu.au

31.48 WHO WAS THE *HERALD'S* 'ROUSEABOUT' IN NOVEMBER 1940?

ANHG member **Peter T. Gill**, of 2 Mernda Ave, Ashburton, Vic, 3147, asks: Who was "The Rouseabout" for the Melbourne *Herald* column, "In Town and Out" in November 1940? I am trying to identify "The Rouseabout" for a descendant of Sir Stanley Argyle, a former Victorian Premier who died in 1940. An item by "The Rouseabout" in the *Herald* column of 25 November 1940 indicated that the writer had been friendly with Sir Stanley for many years. Inquiries to former *Herald* and *Sun* journalists have not identified "The Rouseabout". It is believed that Frederick Howard was "The Rouseabout" for a period from 1938, but Howard was probably in the Army when the item about Sir Stanley Argyle was published. [Peter Gill can be emailed at janpeter@alphalink.com.au]

31.49 *TABLE TALK* SERIES DISCOVERED

Tom Darragh, of Melbourne, has discovered a series of 20 weekly articles on "The Newspaper Press of New South Wales" that appeared in weekly *Table Talk* from 6 October 1893 until 16 February 1894. There is a lot of information about newspaper people.

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The articles focus on Sydney or colony-wide publications. For example, No. 9 (1 December 1893) is about "Weekly Newspapers" such as the *Australian Town and Country Journal,* the *Bulletin* and the *Sydney Mail*; No. 12 (22 December 1893) is about "Religious Newspapers", such as the *Freeman's Journal*, the *Australian Record* and the *Australasian Independent*; and No. 14 (5 January 1894) is about "Labour, Socialistic and Communistic Papers", such as the *Worker*, the *Australian Workman* and the *New Australia*.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

31.50 BOOKS

31.50.1 THE FALL OF CONRAD BLACK by Jacquie McNish and Sinclair Stewart. Allen Lane, $45. Extracts appeared in the *Australian*, 3-7 January 2005.

31.50.2 SPOOLING THROUGH: AN IRREVERENT MEMOIR by Tim Bowden. Allen & Unwin, 2004. Bowden, best known for presenting *Backchat* on ABC-TV for eight years from 1986, began his journalistic career with the Hobart Mercury. This book includes reminiscences of his times at the *Mercury*, especially in Chapter 2, "Hot metal and copy paper", and, more briefly, at the Launceston *Examiner*. Newspaper people will also be interested in his reflections on his experiences reporting the Vietnam war.

31.50.3 THE AWFUL TRUTH: THE INSIDE STORY OF CRIME & SPORT by Brian Hansen, Brian Hansen Publications, 2004. ISBN 1-876151-16-1. A former *Truth* reporter writes about the weekly that outraged and excited many Australians for many years. Hansen makes startling disclosures on some of Australia's most bizarre unsolved crimes, including the Bogle/Chandler mystery, the recently re-opened Easey Street Murders and the strange disappearance and probable murder of his *Truth* newspaper librarian Julia Garciacelay.

31.50.4 See 31.47.

31.51 ARTICLES

31.51.1 KNUCKLING DOWN TO JASPAN AGE by Mark Day, *Australian*, 9 December 2004, Media section, pp.15-16. The new editor-in-chief of the *Age*, Andrew Jaspan, says his newspaper is not in a critical condition. The article mentions that Jaspan, a recent arrival from Scotland, lived in Australia from the age of seven to 15.

31.51.2 NEWSPAPERS: THE NEW MASS MARKET MEDIUM, *ProPrint*, December 2004, pp.48-49. A World Association of Newspapers leader tells the International Advertising Association why newspapers are the mass marketing medium of the future.

31.51.3 DUPLICATION 'DISEASE' SPREADS THROUGH COLONIAL PAPERS by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, December 2004, pp.94-95. A snapshot of the Gannon-Giles newspaper dynasty of Victorian country towns. See also 31.28.

31.51.4 PRESS FREEDOM HARDLY RATES ON THE PARLIAMENTARYT RADAR by Mark Pearson, *PANPA Bulletin*, December 2004, p.20. A study by Bond University's Centre for New Media Research and Education has found that Australia's federal MPs rarely mention press freedom in speeches in Parliament. The implications are discussed.

31.51.5 MAGAZINES NOW AND ESTABLISHED 'BUSINESS WITHIN A BUSINESS' by Nick Murphie, *PANPA Bulletin*, December 2004, p.81.A discussion of how magazines inserted in newspapers are multiplying and how they are responding to changing reader interests and needs.

31.51.6 PREDICTIONS THAT MISSED THEIR MARK by Gerard Henderson, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 December 2004, p.11. Journalists have gone very quiet on their enthusiasm for Labor leader Mark Latham, writes Henderson, in a discussion of the highly inaccurate prophecies made by many press gallery journalists and writers before the October federal elections. Journalists mentioned are: Alan Ramsey, Hugo Kelly, Michelle Grattan, Craig McGregor, Michael Duffy, Barry Donovan, Kerry O'Brien, Laura Tingle, Matt Price, Maxine McKew, Margaret Simons and Geoffrey Barker.

31.51.7 THREE STAND OUT IN BIG YEAR by Neil Shoebridge, *Australian Financial Review*, 13 December 2004, p.43. It's been a strong year for many media companies and three performances stand out from the rest (Ten Network, Australian Radio Network and Australian Consolidated Press, which now has 48 per cent of the Australian magazine market).

31.51.8 ANOTHER COUNTRY by Geoff Adams, *Walkley Magazine*, December 2004 / January 2005, p.28 Sharing their stories in the local paper (the Shepparton *News*) is making Iraqi refugees part of a country community, but the local media had to learn a few things first.

31.51.9 CRIME WRITERS by John Silvester, *Walkley Magazine*, December 2004 / January 2005, pp.19-21. Melbourne's *Soprano* wannabes don't mind you calling them gangsters – just don't suggest they are cowards. *Age* crime reporter Silvester shares his world of talking to hard men in black skivvies.

31.51.10 CHANGING CHANNELS by Jane Schulze, *Weekend Australian*, 15-16 January 2005, pp.25, 29. John Fairfax has been unable to consummate takeovers of West Australian Newspapers and the *Trading Post*. Can it succeed in an audacious bid for the Ten Network?

31.51.11 THE LOVE MATCH WAS OVER IN THE DAWNING by Max Suich, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22-23 January 2005, p.38. Mark Latham felt the media blow torch in the end, but he should remember it was a different story in the beginning.

31.51.12 PRESS FREEDOM SUFFERS FOR CELEBRITY SCRUTINY by Mark Pearson, *Australian*, Media section, 3 February 2005, p.16. The privacy battles of stars such as Nicole Kidman could hinder more serious reporting, suggests the author of *The Journalist's Guide to Media Law*.

31.51.13 SURGING ECONOMY DRIVES AD SPENDING by Neil Shoebridge, *Australian Financial Review*, 31 January 2005. Forecasts for higher advertising budgets underpinned by

a strong economy and profit growth vary widely. Includes table of advertising revenue by sector in 2004 and expectations for 2005 and 2006.

31.51.14 THE UNDERGROUND NEWS IS A GOING CONCERN by Margaret Simons, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5-6 February 2005, p.27. The sale of Crikey is a media milestone, says Simons, in an article that encompasses news on various attempts at significant online journalism (see 31.3). See also: CRIKEY! MAYNE FINDS A MILLION REASONS TO SELL HIS WEBSITE by Suzanne Carbon, *Age*, 3 February 2005, p.3.

31.51.15 NEWSPAPERS FADED AWAY AS THE AMALGAMATION DISEASE HIT by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, February 2005, pp.58-59. A potted history of newspapers in two newspaper ghost towns, Laura, South Australia, and Minyip, Victoria.

31.51.16 POWER AND PAIN IN OLD SYDNEY by Michael Pelly, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 February 2005, p.12. The NSW governor had absolute authority in the colony's early years, until judges and newspaper editors took him on.

31.51.17 ONE CLICK, YEARS OF STRIFE by John Huxley, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 February 2005, p.15. A 1969 photo – possibly the most invasive picture in Australian photojournalism – still divides those who procured it, 36 years after the event.

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