



Angelos Frangopoulos, Bridget Griffen-Foley and Harold Mitchell at the launch of the Media Archives Project database and the Australian Media History Database at Foxtel headquarters, Sydney, on 28 March 2012 (see 67.4.2).

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

1 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: NATIONAL & METROPOLITAN

67.1.1 FINKELSTEIN PRINT MEDIA INQUIRY

The release of the report of the Federal Government's Independent Media Review—generally known as the Finkelstein print media inquiry—was greeted by newspapers in a manner that was at least a little reminiscent of the less than balanced way they greeted the newspaper-regulatory options Media Minister Moss Cass put forward in 1975. One of those proposals in 1975 was for an Australian Press Council. The Press Council was instituted in 1976. The *Weekend Australian* reported (3-4 March 2011, pp.1, 8): "Print and online news will come under direct federal government oversight for the first time under proposals issued yesterday to create a statutory regulator with the power to prosecute media companies in the courts. The historic change to

media law would break with tradition by using government funds to replace an industry council that acts on complaints, in a move fiercely opposed by companies as a threat to the freedom of the press.” Two parts and the proposals of the Finkelstein inquiry are reported as though Federal Cabinet has already indicated its support for such actions. The Finkelstein inquiry is not even mentioned in those first two parts.

The main Finkelstein inquiry recommendations are:

1. Existing media regulatory mechanisms are not sufficient to achieve the degree of accountability desirable in a democracy.
2. A new body, the News Media Council (NMC), be established to set journalistic standards and handle complaints.
3. The NMC to cover print, online, radio and television.
4. The NMC should have secure funding from government and its decision made binding.
5. The NMC should seek to resolve a complaint by conciliation within two or three days.
6. The NMC should have power to require a news media outlet to publish an apology, correction or retraction or afford a person a right to reply. This is in line with the ideals contained in existing ethical codes but in practice often difficult to obtain.
7. The NMC be made up of 20 part-time members, 50 per cent female. Half should be members of media and half sourced from the public. However, media members cannot be managers or shareholders in a media company. Media nominations to come from media companies and the MEAA.
8. No case was found for government support of national and metropolitan news media.
9. Productivity Commission to conduct an inquiry into the health of the news industry and make recommendations on whether there is a need for government support to sustain that role.
10. Assess potential of “limited” government support for regional media given contraction in regional news markets over recent years.
11. Should be careful monitoring of the adequacy of news services in regional areas. There is some evidence that regional radio and television stations and newspapers have cut back substantially on their news gathering, leaving some communities poorly served for local news.
12. Consider establishing university-based Centre for International Journalism.
13. Claims trust in media is at a low but would be improved by industry being seen to live up to regulatory standards.

The 474-page report was issued on 2 March and the first newspaper reports appeared the next day. The *Weekend Australian* attacked the report in an editorial (p.23). An extensive range of comments was presented in the Media section on 5 March.

Columnist Janet Albrechtsen comments adversely on the Finkelstein proposals in “Never waste a crisis’ and other inexorable laws of political nature”, *Australian*, 7 March 2012, p.12, and editor-at-large Paul Kelly accuses the Finkelstein report of invoking the public interest to serve Labor’s end in “Naive hubris pervades media inquiry” on the same page. Katharine Murphy, the *Age*’s national affairs correspondent, questions the wisdom of the proposed News Media Council in “Feeding frenzy of news”, *Age*, 5 March 2012.

Wendy Bacon, former Fairfax investigative reporter and now a journalism academic, wrote in *New Matilda*, 6 March: “Last Friday the Independent Media Inquiry headed by ex-judge Ray Finkelstein released its report on the Australian media. If you have been following the media discussion since then, you couldn’t be blamed for thinking that Finkelstein wants to create a state super cop which will seize control of the media, impose new standards on journalists, dragging every blogger and tweeter into its net. Some media have accused the inquiry report of being “leftist”, academic and beyond the comprehension of ordinary people. *New Matilda* thinks part of the media’s job is to explain to the public what’s in reports they don’t have time to read so they can decide what they think. Here’s our go at doing that.

“The report begins by setting out some core principles. A free press is crucial and no regulation should be allowed to threaten its independence or censor it. The media and journalists have rights which they exercise on behalf of the public to whom they should be accountable. The report also accepts that media exercise power and can do harm. When harm is done, citizens need remedies. These are the core principles on which the report is based.” Bacon then proceeds to give a considered explanation of what the inquiry report says, with a little commentary here and there.

Graeme Orr, in *Inside Story* (inside.org.au), 6 March, commented adversely on the *AFR*’s headline of “Labor plan to control the media”. Orr says the Finkelstein reports’ central recommendation is for a single, publicly funded agency, the News Media Council, to handle complaints about the news media, whatever the type of media. The council would screen and conciliate complaints and, if necessary, hold a hearing, usually with either party present or represented. It could then order the publication of a clarification or right of reply. But the council would have no power to levy a fine or award damages. Indeed, anyone seeking the council’s assistance would have to forsake the right to litigate against the media outlet, say, for defamation. In other words, an independent inquiry has recommended the creation of an independent agency to conciliate mild remedies to enhance media accountability, with the independent courts having backstop powers to enforce (or overturn) any remedy. For a newspaper that is normally Australia’s most accurate and analytical to spin this into the headline, ‘Labor plan to control the media’, is telling in itself.”

On 10-11 March, the *Weekend Australian* published an article, “Media’s great divides”, by associate editor **Cameron Stewart** about an alleged “rift” between journalists and media academics. This created a hue and cry on the JEAnet (for members of the Journalism Education Association of Australia). It is a long time since there have been so many posts on one topic on the JEAnet in the course of only three days. For example, there were 29 posts on Monday, 12 March, when a response was being drafted to the Stewart article. The response was submitted to the *Australian* but was not published in hard copy. [The *Australian* published in its Higher Education section, 18 April 2012, pp.29, 30, 32, 33, various articles putting tertiary journalism studies under what some would say was a selective microscope.]

Tom Morton, director of the Australian Centre for Independent Journalism, University of Technology, Sydney, wrote a reasoned critique of the Finkelstein report, “The onus is on media to adopt ‘decent standards’”, *Australian*, 13 March 2012, p.14 (below a **Nikki Savva** column written in the way she thought the Government would like; it was, of course, satire).

Rodney Tiffen, emeritus professor of government and international relations at Sydney University, wrote an article, “Finkelstein gets a bad press”, *Age*, 14 March 2012, which concluded: “The controversial aspect of the Finkelstein proposal is that these inherent weaknesses of the Press Council [e.g. funding depends on the very newspapers that may be diverging from Press Council standards] mean there is a need for government involvement. This produces a reflex response among many that either censorship or corruption must follow. It should be remembered that all Australian TV and radio stations are publicly licensed but are obviously vigorous and independent, while the public broadcaster, the ABC, consistently ranks as the most trusted media organisation in the country. The sharpest conflict comes because, under the new proposal, publishers would not be able to opt out as they choose, but instead would have to publish the council’s findings. Also, the idea is that they would publish them in a regular agreed place in the paper so that adverse findings would not be buried. So two centuries of Western thought comes down to this—the right of editors to withhold from their readers the knowledge of an unwelcome adjudication on one of their stories by their peers and public according to standards they all profess to hold. The proposal is an attempt to make the media more accountable to their readers and those covered in the news. It does not increase the power of government to censor or restrict the media in any way. It seeks to conciliate and resolve disputes about news coverage in ways that further the free flow and exchange of information rather than restricting it.” [Tiffen assisted with the media inquiry.]

The *Weekend Australian* (17-18 March 2012, p.16) published three articles about the Finkelstein report: John Henningham, “State must not be a watchdog”; Tony Abbott, “News media council could muzzle debate”; and Nick Leys (“Diary” columnist for the Media section of the *Oz*), “Don’t

look at ABC for a complaints model". Each article was opposing some aspect/s of the Finkelstein report. If you were expecting balance on the page, you would have been disappointed.

See also: Nic Christensen, "Finkelstein set precedent for social media contempt path", *Australian*, Media section, 26 March 2012, p.25. This focuses on Mark Pearson's new book, *Blogging & Tweeting without Getting Sued*.

See 67.1.2 and 67.2.1 below.

67.1.2 PRESS COUNCIL DOUBLES ITS BUDGET

The Australian Press Council will double its yearly budget and introduce a rule requiring members to give four years' notice if they wish to quit. Changes to the council and the strengthening of its authority address concerns raised by the Finkelstein inquiry into the media, including the main criticism, that it is a toothless tiger. The *Australian* (5 April 2012) understands total funding will jump to \$1.6 million in 2012-13 and will rise to \$1.8m the year after. The four-year notice period to resign from the APC will remove any notion that members can simply punish it for an adjudication they do not agree with by walking away. The decision, which was to be ratified at midday on 5 April, led one member, Seven West Media, to walk away before the introduction of the notice period. The Kerry Stokes-owned company, publisher of the *West Australian*, is known to have been unhappy with a number of rulings that have gone against it. It is understood The *West Australian's* editor in chief, Bob Cronin, had a personality clash with APC chairman Julian Disney. Mark Day described Seven West Media's decision to quit the Press Council as "a disservice to the rest of the publishing industry". Seven West will set up its own regulator body.

The commitment from members – including News Limited, Fairfax Media and the media union, the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance – "would greatly strengthen the council's resources and effectiveness," Disney said. "This agreement to increase core funding, beginning in July, and the tighter restrictions on withdrawal, will strengthen resources and address key concerns about the council's stability," he said. He would not comment on whether the changes would influence a government decision on media regulation, except to say "the council had started down this path before the Finkelstein inquiry was announced. The council had resolved to strengthen itself some time ago and the publishers had agreed to raise the funding – this has just driven them along. "It will substantially improve our performance and show our model can be an appropriate method of regulation." News Limited group editorial director Campbell Reid said he and other members "are confident it will be an effective national self-regulatory body with or without WAN as a member". "News is committed to a beefed-up, better funded press council to ensure we have a strong self-regulatory body well equipped to manage and enforce standards of conduct for the industry." The moves increase core funding, but projects can still be funded in other ways – including by government – but only if a 75 per cent majority of members agrees. This was believed to have been a point of disagreement with WAN.

67.1.3 NEW MEDIA CENTRE IN BRISBANE

Queensland's biggest media centre with more than 1000 journalists, photographers, designers and multimedia experts has been officially opened after a \$56 million renovation (*Courier-Mail*, 8 March 2012). Named in honour of long-serving journalist and newspaper executive Keith McDonald, the open-plan, streamlined media hub was proof of the company's commitment to the future of Queensland, according to News Limited chief executive Kim Williams. It houses the *Courier-Mail*, *Sunday Mail*, the *Australian's* Brisbane bureau, Sky News, *mX*, *Brisbane News* and many of the Quest Community Newspaper mastheads in a seamless news environment. "This is without question the best, not just the best in Australia but the best anywhere," Williams said. "It represents the best of the best of what media companies should do." Echoing the words used to describe the original opening of the building in Bowen Hills in 1963, Williams said the renovation meant News Queensland was "built for the future".

News Queensland managing director Jason Scott said Keith McDonald House was a "sensational building". The refurbishment opens up the almost 10,000 sqm of floor space within the red brick building at the corner of Mayne Road and Campbell Street, Bowen Hills, and includes a sweeping open-plan newsroom, editing suite with a green screen, training and function rooms and a gym.

McDonald's daughter Dr Janet McDonald told the crowd of her memories of growing up with the *Courier-Mail*.

67.1.4 GILLARD VERSUS RUDD

Kevin Rudd resigned as Australia's Foreign Minister on 22 February and unsuccessfully challenged Prime Minister Julia Gillard for the leadership of the Government. The leadership ballot was held on 27 February. Gillard won 71-31. Here are some Page 1 headlines from the *Australian* during the leadership contest and the immediately aftermath.

- 20 February: Tackle Rudd now, Gillard urged.
- 21 February: Labor rifts widen as PM ducks the leadership chaos
- 22 February: MPs consider a Crean break amid leadership war
- 23 February: Gillard v. Rudd, Part II
- 24 February: ALP burns its own house down
- 25-26 February: Rudd ALP's best hope: Newspoll
- 27 February: Fears Gillard victory will not quell Labor warfare
- 28 February: First the fight, now the fightback
- 29 February: Mutiny kills PM's Bob Carr plan
- 1 March: Carr at odds with PM on ministry bid
- 2 March: Gillard admits talks to lure Carr
- 3 March: Carr helps PM out of Cabinet jam

Amanda Dunn wrote about issues of journalistic ethics (especially keeping the names of sources confidential where such agreements have been reached) in relation to the leadership contest in "Stoush that plays politics with journalists' standards", *Sunday Age*, 26 February 2012.

67.1.5 BATTLE OF THE NATIONAL TITLES

The *Australian* and the *Australian Financial Review* are in a constant battle for staff, as Neil McMahon highlights in *Mediaweek*, 5 March 2012, p.11. McMahon says some of the recent moves have been Michael Stutchbury to the *AFR* as editor-in-chief and Brett Clegg to the *AFR* as CEO. Stutchbury emphasises that the *AFR* is determined to affirm "its role as a national newspaper with a broad voice that stretched beyond the intricacies of business and the markets". He says the *AFR* and the *Australian* are competing more or less on the same turf.

67.1.6 FAIRFAX AND CIRCULATION

News Ltd's *Australian*, Media section, 26 March 2012, p.28, reports: Fairfax Media is stepping up its retreat from traditional print circulation. Fairfax is using a new Audit Bureau of Circulations measurement system to try to offset what could become a problematic message for advertisers as it tries to cut costs and quit low-yielding sales and high-cost regional distribution of its metropolitan mastheads. Fairfax is fast-tracking the use of ABC data to buttress an aggressive digital strategy. The move came after ABC members voted to allow publishers to add, for the first time, unduplicated sales for digital to traditional print sales to provide a total masthead circulation.

In a separate report (p.26), the Media section (26/3) said: Fairfax Media has started a monthly media audience report for its print and digital editions, measuring unique audience, time on site per person a month, average monthly streams, mobile site average monthly views, app downloads and tablet downloads, total masthead sales (print and digital) and net readership. Fairfax also issues a quarterly report.

67.1.7 PRINTING TALKS END

Talks between Fairfax Media and News Ltd on sharing printing and distribution facilities in Sydney and Melbourne to save as much as \$70 million a year have ended. It is reported that Fairfax was insisting any deal needed to be done by a joint venture, which "News was never willing to entertain because of the different industrial agreements at the companies". Fairfax plans to push ahead with its own cost-cutting drive at its printing sites as it ramps up its "Fairfax of the Future" restructuring plan to save \$170 million in the next three years (*Australian*, Media section, 12 March 2012, p.28).

67.1.8 FAIRFAX HOMOGENISES

As from Friday 23 March, the financial news section of the *Canberra Times* was revamped under the title “Business Day”. In practice, what this means, is that it uses some of the same articles as appear in the “Business Day” sections of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*. This is another step in the Fairfax homogenisation of the *Canberra Times* which has been implemented in the past few months. Many articles about national news are now identical to those in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age*. This is curious, writes **Victor Isaacs**, considering that Canberra is in the *SMH* circulation area. Recently the *Canberra Times* website was revamped and it is now a close clone of the *SMH* and *Age* websites.

As from 25 March both of the principal Fairfax Sundays, the *Sun-Herald* (Sydney) and the *Sunday Age* (Melbourne) were re-designed. The main change appears to be much greater use of colourful graphics. In the *Sun-Herald* sport has been moved from the main section to a separate pull-out section, while “Extra” and “Money” have gone the other way into the main section.

67.1.9 NEWSPAPER DISTRIBUTION

Victor Isaacs writes (29 February): News Ltd has discontinued discussions with newsagents’ associations about new models for newspaper distribution. This is probably while the company re-assesses its position. Both News and Fairfax are currently critically examining distribution into marginal areas; for example, the Melbourne *Herald Sun* is no longer supplied to Queensland newsagents on a “sale or return” basis, but only against firm orders. Fairfax is re-assessing marginal delivery areas, including whether home delivery is viable.

The distribution-only newsagent system which applies in WA and SA may be the model of the future elsewhere in Australia. Around 2009 Titan Distribution Holdings started taking newspaper deliveries from newsagents throughout western and south-western Melbourne. Titan specialises in newspaper and magazine delivery, leaving newsagents in this area as retail shops only. In early 2012 Titan was delivering 15,000 newspapers on weekdays and 20,000 at weekends. Titan commits to newspaper delivery by 6.30am on weekdays and 7.30am on weekends.

67.1.10 RECENT CHRONOLOGY

67.1.10.1 DEATHS

Brice, Chris: D. 28 March 2012, aged 62; worked as journalist for Adelaide Advertiser for more than 41 years at the newspaper, starting at age 16 as a cadet journalist in 1966 and retiring in 2007; his roles included senior police rounds reporter and later book review editor, letters page editor and obituary page writer and editor; in retirement, he continued his weekly column, “The Way We Were”, which appeared each Monday; died after a heart attack in hospital (*Advertiser*, 29 March 2012).

Veness, Peter: D. 16 January 2012 in Canberra, aged 27; studied journalism at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst; worked for *Western Advocate*, Bathurst; then joined Australian Association Press on his 22nd birthday; quickly established himself as a tenacious and eager reporter; died after three years of battling a rare form of brain cancer (*Walkley Magazine*, Issue 70, February-March 2012, p.37).

Worth, Norman: See 67.3.6.

67.1.11 DAILY TELEGRAPH’S NEW MASTHEAD

Almost a year after taking over the editorial reins at the *Daily Telegraph*, Paul Whittaker is putting his stamp on the Sydney tabloid with a comprehensive overhaul, including a redesigned masthead and a new slogan: “We’re for Sydney.” The update, unveiled on 12 March, is designed to refresh and modernise the paper and make it consistent in style with its digital editions. Changes include the first tweak to the 133-year-old masthead since 1995, when it reverted to being the *Daily Telegraph* after five years as the *Daily Telegraph-Mirror*, new headline fonts and a different colour palette, with more strong red and less pale blue. “The change to the masthead is significant but subtle in the paper but more obvious online and on the other digital platforms,” Whittaker said. “The new masthead has a more contemporary feel than the old and translates better to web and tablet.”

The “We’re for Sydney” campaign will be rolled out in stages in print and in outdoor advertising and on TV. “Since I got in here we’ve looked at our positioning as a newspaper and the space we’re going to own is that we’re championing Sydney, we’re celebrating Sydney, we’re campaigning for outcomes for the people of Sydney,” Whittaker said (*Australian*, Media section, 12 March 2012, p.28).

67.1.12 PEOPLE

Brett Clegg, CEO of the Australian Financial Review Group, was “Person of the Week”, *Mediaweek*, 19 March 2012, p.7.

Michelle D’Almeida, formerly digital director of the *Daily Telegraph*, is the new managing director of News Limited’s Western Australian operations, including the *Sunday Times* and digital site *PerthNow* (*Mediaweek*, 2 April 2012, p.8).

Matthew Denholm, the *Australian’s* Tasmania correspondent, is interviewed by Neil McMahon, *Mediaweek*, 9 April 2012, p.9. Denholm won five awards, including the Excellence in Print award, at the Tasmania Media Ball.

John Hamilton has won the 2011 Melbourne Press Club Lifetime Achievement for a 50-year career at the *West Australian*, the *Age* and the Herald & Weekly Times Ltd.

Amelia Harris, of the *Herald Sun*, a journalist for only three years, was named Young Journalist of the Year at the Quill Awards, as well as winning the RACV Transport award (with Stephen Drill) and the Best Use of the Digital or Online Medium award (with Anne Wright). “Amelia’s portfolio of stories on police and safety issues was impressive for its quality, impact and style,” the judges said (*Mediaweek*, 23 April 2012, p.10).

Andrew Holman, editor of the *Hobart Mercury* and former editor of the *Cairns Post*, is interviewed by Neil McMahon, *Mediaweek*, 27 February 2012, p.11.

Heather Killen, a former Australian finance journalist and a daughter of Sir James Killen, has lost out in a conflict-of-interest court case in the UK in relation to equestrian television. Killen, 53, made “her millions” through digital television in the United States in the 1990s (*Age*, 5 March 2012, p.6).

Garry Linnell has been promoted to become Fairfax Media’s group editorial director of its Metro Media division, reporting to Metro Media chief executive Jack Matthews. The move cements Linnell’s influential position within the company less than one year after he returned to Fairfax (*Australian*, Media section, 30 April 2012).

Jason Scott, managing director of News Queensland (News Ltd in Queensland), is interviewed by Neil McMahon, *Mediaweek*, 19 March 2012, p.10.

Melissa Stevens, deputy managing editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, has been appointed editor of the *Manly Daily*. She is a former editor of the daily commuter giveaway, *mX* (*Mediaweek* online, 29 March 2012).

67.1.13 LET EDITORS BE EDITORS

Nick Leys writes (in “The Diary”, *Australian*, Media section, 12 March 2012, p.27): “Let editors be editors. That creed, which has been knocking around News Ltd management circles for a while, seems to be gaining currency. The idea is that too much is getting in the way of a modern editor’s job—marketing, circulation, advertising—and everyone would be better served by a bit of clearing the decks to allow editorial executives to get on with getting out their paper.” The ANHG has been highlighting the different qualities newspapers have been seeking in editors since September 2001: for example, see ANHG 14.13, 18.18, 19.35, 21.30, 24.40, 41.50, and 45.1.7. The items, generally spoke volumes about the non-editorial qualities being sought in editors. Editors speak a different jargon now, talking of “the product” (not the newspaper and “the market” (not the readers or the audience).

67.1.14 WHAT THE PAPERS DID AT EASTER

From *Mediaweek* online, 5 April 2012: The *Sydney Morning Herald* again combined its Good Friday and Easter Saturday editions which meant the Friday papers carried the usual Saturday

sections Good Weekend, Drive, Traveller and My Career. The sections were on sale again on Saturday complete with updated News, News Review, Weekend Business and Weekend Sport. The Age published its EG section on Thursday, 5 April, a day early, while the Daily Telegraph published League Central on the Thursday, a day early. The AFR stuck to its holiday publishing schedule and on the Thursday released a bumper Easter weekend edition which was on sale until the next edition of the paper, Tuesday, 10 April. The paper came with the Life & Leisure, Smart Money and Review lift-outs...plus a special Pierpont Easter column on corporate resurrections! The Australian was not published on Good Friday and it brought forward publication of the April edition of Wish to the Thursday.

67.1.15 TABLOID MEDIA DEFENDED

A senior Supreme Court judge has defended the role of talkback radio and tabloid media and urged judges not to disregard their views on crime and sentencing, reports **Geesche Jacobsen** in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (5 April 2012). In a speech the previous week, the Chief Judge at Common Law, Justice Peter McClellan, said ignoring often emotional views on crime would create the perception of elitism and alienate large sections of the public. Tabloid media reflected the views of people affected by crime and had “democratic legitimacy”. He said, “We cannot ignore their contributions to the debate on criminal justice outcomes.”

67.1.16 BOB BROWN DEPARTS

Senator Bob Brown resigned as Greens leader on 13 April. **Terry McCrann** commented (*Weekend Australian*, 14 April 2012): Bob Brown has been an unremittingly destructive force in the political life of this nation. His career in public policy has left not a single redeeming consequence. That this has not been more universally recognised can be placed at the collective feet of the Canberra press gallery, the broadcast media in particular more widely, and the assorted current affairs programs led by the ABC’s Lateline. I think I could safely say without fear of contradiction that before his famous Parliament House courtyard meltdown last May, he had never been subjected – in any media context, across the entire span of the previous 20 years – to even just rigorous questioning, far less the aggressive style adopted for interrogations of, I dunno, Tony Abbott, say?

67.1.17 IN THE RIGHT CORNER, WE HAVE ...

A feature of the two national dailies in March and April has been an all-in brawl between News Ltd and Fairfax. At the heart of the brawl were the allegations made in the *Australian Financial Review* about News and “Pay TV piracy”. The *Australian* has saved particular venom for the AFR’s editor-in-chief Michael Stutchbury, who is a former editor of the *Australian*. See, for example, “Bring in police on News: Conroy”, *Age*, 29 March 2012, pp.1, 8; and “An old scandal exhumed”, *Weekend Australian*, 31 March-1 April 2012, p.13, and “Editorial concerns deepen at the House of Fairfax”, editorial, p.15; “News to AFR: put up or shut up”, *Australian*, Media section, 2 April 2012, pp.28, 26; and “A newspaper beat-up? Talk to the experts”, *Weekend Australian*, 7-8 April 2012, p.15.

67.1.18 ETHNIC NEWSPAPERS

Editors of ethnic publications in Australia say their circulation and advertising are “holding up, if not growing”. Some are even increasing their publication frequency (reports Paul Cleary, *Australian*, media section, 30 April 2012, p.25). More than 100 foreign-language newspapers are published in Australia, according to the NSW Community Relations Commission, which produces a daily summary of the ethnic media called “MediaLink” for subscribers. Most are based in Sydney and the tally includes more than 20 Indian newspapers, most published weekly or monthly. Five of the 14 Chinese newspapers are published daily. The Vietnamese community has eight newspapers, including two dailies. Arabic speakers can read eight papers, the Greeks seven, and the Italians four, including two dailies.

67.1.19 MURDOCH AND TWITTER

Annabel Crabb writes (*Sunday Age*, 1 April 2012): Religion is a vexed topic these days. Not only do we no longer in Australia have a vaguely agreed common deity, to whose actual existence we might privately subscribe with varying degrees of conviction; now there are a bunch of gods, and you have to be careful about invoking them carelessly.

It's with this in mind that I cast the widest possible ecclesiastical net when I offer devout joyous thanks, and a sizeable tithe, to whichever heavenly being it was who made Rupert Murdoch go on Twitter. Of all the published works for which Mr Murdoch is directly or indirectly responsible, his Twitter stream is the most weirdly, awkwardly, cringe-inducingly enjoyable, with the possible exception of *Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem*. It's got everything: Drama, pathos, suspense, and the sort of high-spirited shenanigans that inevitably ensue when an 81-year-old man tangles with predictive text.

(One tweet in January, reporting "universal anger with Optus", caused deep confusion in the Australian telecommunications industry until the mogul revealed he had actually typed POTUS – the President Of The United States – only to have his iPad decide otherwise on his behalf.) Where Murdoch was once a remote and vaguely terrifying global powerbroker, @rupertmurdoch – or "Twupert", as the twitterati have nicknamed his lovably cantankerous online persona – gives us access to his own breakfast table. It's rather a brilliant cosmic irony, but @rupertmurdoch is about as close as we ordinary mortals will ever get to hacking the squillionaire's voicemail. [For more, go to the original, online.]

Peter Wilson, the *Australian's* Europe correspondent, reports (Media section, 30 April 2012, p.28) on the "10 things we learnt" when Rupert and James Murdoch appeared again before the Leveson inquiry into British media standards during the previous week.

67.1.20 MURDOCH AND THE REPORT

News Corporation has accepted the main thrust of a blistering House of Commons report on its behaviour in the British phone hacking scandal while rejecting the most eye-catching attack on Rupert Murdoch. The media company said on 2 May there were "hard truths" in the report by the House select committee on the media but insisted the MPs were partisan and unjustified in declaring Rupert Murdoch "is not a fit person to exercise stewardship of a major international company". That sentence was inserted in the report by six MPs from the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties over the objections of the committee's five Conservative members, who said the Labour MPs had undermined the impact of the report by missing the opportunity for an all-party consensus. "Labour have shot themselves in the foot by taking a report that could have been quite damaging to their target and making it partisan and essentially worthless," said Louise Mensch, a Conservative member of the committee. Conservative MP Damian Collins said the Tories could not endorse the statement—inserted by Labour MP Tom Watson—that Murdoch was not fit to lead a major firm. But Collins stressed there had been cross-party support for all of the report's other criticisms of Rupert and James Murdoch and News Corporation. Those criticisms included declarations that News Corp had "corporately" misled the committee and deliberately covered up illegal news gathering and that Rupert Murdoch and his son James Murdoch had turned "blind eyes" to wrongdoing, with "wilful blindness". The 11 MPs also agreed that James Murdoch's competence as a senior executive was under serious question because of the "astonishing lack of curiosity" he showed when chief executive of the British subsidiary News International by not asking appropriate questions to uncover wrongdoing. The Conservatives joined the other MPs in accusing News Corporation of still withholding important evidence, calling on the firm to release a legal analysis of the phone hacking affair conducted for the company in 2007 by the law firm Burton Copeland but withheld on the grounds of client confidentiality.

2 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: ONLINE

67.2.1 CONVERGENCE REVIEW REPORT

Online giants would be spared tough new curbs on local media companies if the Federal Government adopted the advice of the Convergence Review report. Google and Facebook would fall outside the proposed regime while traditional TV networks would be subject to increased local content quotas and print companies would face an expanded statutory watchdog. The Convergence Review also mapped out an ownership regime that would remove existing bans on further concentration in favour of a "public interest test" overseen by a yet-to-be-established federal regulator. While the review dropped plans for a government scrutineer of all news and

current affairs—in what would have been a first for print and online content—it suggested a regime in which Canberra could issue directions to the industry’s complaints tribunal.

Communications Minister Stephen Conroy set up the review to create a framework for a “converged media age” in which online content breaks down the barriers between print, radio and TV. Inquiry chairman Glen Boreham said the resulting plan was “better and more effective regulation” rather than more red tape. Under the framework, a new regulator would absorb the existing Australian Communications and Media Authority and would gain expanded authority over ownership as well as content. Empowered to adjust its own regulations as needed, the agency would apply a “public interest test” that would replace today’s fixed-ownership rules. The first stage of the reform would remove the ban on any one TV network reaching more than 75 per cent of the population and the barrier to any company owning all three of the main platforms - newspaper, radio station and TV - in the one city.

See 67.1.1 and 67.1.2 above.

67.2.2 NATIONAL LIBRARY TO EXPAND LEGAL-DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT

The National Library will expand its archives to include selected blogs, online news stories and e-journals under proposed reforms designed to save Australia’s digital heritage (*Australian*, 8 March 2012). Proposed changes to the Copyright Act announced by Attorney-General Nicola Roxon require publishers to lodge copies of documents published on the web with the library – in much the same way publishers have for generations been required to provide copies of books and print-based publications. They are canvassed in a departmental consultation paper. Roxon said the law needed to be updated to ensure important material was safeguarded for the future. “The proliferation of electronic readers, smartphones and tablet computers means that publishers are increasingly making available and distributing works in an electronic-only format,” she said. “The government is seeking views on changes that would modernise the current legal deposit scheme by empowering the National Library to request certain electronic material be deposited.”

The discussion paper notes that print-based works are “no longer the primary mechanism by which society communicates, records and uses information”. It says, “Electronic publications are as important to the nation’s published heritage, but the window of opportunity to collect and preserve them is typically much narrower than for printed publications.” But recognising the vast volume of electronic material available, the expanded scheme would only apply to certain online publications identified and requested by the library. Upon notification, publishers would be required to deposit material within one month, or face a small financial penalty.

“A reason for restricting deposit requirements to an on-demand basis is that it would be impractical to place an obligation on all internet publishers,” the paper says. “In the context of the internet, most works made available online without restrictions may be considered ‘published’ for the purposes of the Copyright Act. As such, an unrestricted deposit obligation would fall on nearly all internet users, resulting in the collection of an excessive amount of material that would raise significant compliance and administration issues.”

The National Library would develop cost-effective “delivery mechanisms” for taking receipt of online material. Publishers would be required to unlock any technological protection measures on digital works, and bear the costs of depositing material with the library. Public access to digital documents would be subject to provisions of the Copyright Act, as is the case with print material. The library currently accepts e-publications provided in physical format through voluntary arrangements with publishers and creators, at a rate of around 700 per year. It also collects freely available online material with the permission of publishers, and makes this available in via its web archive, PANDORA, established in 1996. Written submissions were to be emailed to copyright@ag.gov.au by 14 April.

67.2.3 HERALD SUN LAUNCHES PAYWALL

Melbourne’s *Herald Sun* launched its paid content subscriptions on Monday, 12 March, but gave its most loyal print subscribers access to its relaunched website without charge. As one of the first mass circulation tabloids in the world to introduce paid online subscriptions, the News Limited title offers readers a two-month free trial of the redesigned layout. A \$5 million advertising campaign accompanied the launch. “Some people don’t believe our content is worth

paying for. We happen to believe it is and someone has to make the first move,” Peter Blunden, managing director of Herald and Weekly Times, said. “We will live or die by the quality of our content,” he said. *Herald Sun* readers who subscribe to the paper for six days a week or more receive a one-year digital pass for free. The *Herald Sun* follows Fairfax’s *Australian Financial Review* and News Limited’s *Australian*, in putting some of its premium content behind a paywall (*Australian*, Media section, 9 March 2012, p.28; *Mediaweek*, 12 March 2012, p.14)

3 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

67.3.1 MACKAY: NEW PAPER TAKES ON DAILY

Rod Kirkpatrick writes (from Mackay): The *Mackay Telegraph*, a free publication, appeared first on 10 March 2012. General manager is Darren McVean, who until two months early had been the general manager of the city’s *Daily Mercury*. The editor is Melissa Grant, a former *Mercury* journalist. McVean said: “My goal is to build a media company that treats its staff like family and provides a media platform befitting this great city. Our plan is to grow through providing exceptional service to our readers and advertisers.” Grant said the *Telegraph* was not about “bringing Mackay down”. “What we will write about is the great people doing great things in this great city.” The *Telegraph* would also need to scrutinise the challenges and campaign for better outcomes for its community.

In the promotional issue on 3 March, the *Telegraph* said it would appear twice a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays. However, no Wednesday issue had appeared by 21 April and no public apology had been made for that fact. The issue of Saturday, 24 March, clearly stated that that was the third issue of the *Telegraph*. From 7 April, the deliveries (well, some of them) were flat-wrapped. Water seeped into many of the flat-wrapped papers on 14 April. There was no delivery in my area on 21 April and the 28 April issue also struck the water issue of a fortnight earlier. At the end of April, McVean announced that there would soon be a *Central Queensland Telegraph* for the Rockhampton district. [N.B. Biloela has had the *Central Telegraph* since 1932.]

Changes have followed at the APN-owned *Daily Mercury* and *Mackay and Sarina Midweek* (a free). On 28 March, the 28-year-old *Midweek* appeared in new “clothes”—news masthead and different heading types. The paper is introducing letters to the editor and other “exciting” news sections such as Q&A, social photos and Question of the Week. The *Midweek* of 28 March also carried an interview with Charlie Payne, who was the first journalist responsible for it. Payne is now a sports writer on the *Daily Mercury*. On Saturday, 31 March, the *Daily Mercury* announced that readers would “better-tailored news coverage from Monday with the launch of a news and information service aimed at providing a regional perspective on state and national issues”. APN Australian Regional Media would launch APN Newsdesk, with reporting bureaus in Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra. Newsdesk reporters would provide stories, pictures and video for the group’s 12 regional daily newspapers, 58 non-daily titles and 30 websites. The *Daily Mercury* would also publish more content from other regional areas.

67.3.2 ST ARNAUD: ELLA EBERRY STILL THE EDITOR AT 96

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: Just wanted to mention I had a letter in February from Ella Ebery, still the editor of the *North Central News*, St Arnaud, at 96. She says her only aim—as her body “deteriorates” and she seeks therapy from a sports masseur in Ballarat who normally “treats healthy young footballers”—is to keep working.

67.3.3 SUNSHINE COAST: THREE TITLES CLOSE

News Limited has closed three local newspapers and a weekly magazine on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast resulting in staff redundancies. The *Noosa Journal and Weekender* published for the last time in late March, along with local editions in Maroochydore and Caloundra. The titles were acquired by News Limited in 2006 and 2007 respectively. In a statement, News Limited’s managing director of newspapers and digital products Jerry Harris said: “It is with regret that we are closing these titles, but with continuing slow trading conditions on the Sunshine Coast the reality is that they are no longer commercially viable. We have begun consultations with affected staff and intend to redeploy as many as we can into News’ other operations in south-east

Queensland, but inevitably there will be a number of redundancies.” (*Australian*, 15 March 2012.)

67.3.4 CAMDEN: SHOW COVERAGE HIGHLY COMMENDED

Ian Willis from Camden writes (31 March): The Camden press excelled itself in recent weeks with an incredible coverage of the 2012 Camden Show. The show always gets strong support from the local weekly newspapers – *Camden-Narellan Advertiser*, *Macarthur Chronicle* (Camden Edition) and the *District Reporter* – and this year was no different.

The amount of page space devoted to the show is worthy of special examination. Between January and March over 6300 column centimetres were devoted to the show matters, peaking in the weekly editions before the show. The *Advertiser* had an eight- page wrap-around, the *Chronicle* had a 12 page wrap-around while The *District Reporter* had a 24-page special edition, as well as its regular weekly edition. This was supplemented with extensive photo galleries on the newspaper websites and in their print editions after the show. In addition the *Macarthur Chronicle* offered to print a special front page for showgoers with their image at their show stall. The show committee supported this coverage with posters, pamphlets, programs, and television (first time 2011) and radio advertising.

The Camden Show illustrates one of the key strengths of the local press, which in the case of Camden is becoming increasingly the local suburban press, its localness. The Camden community is in a period of transition located on Sydney’s rural-urban fringe and undergoing a crisis of identity. The role of the local press in the success of this annual festival cannot be understated. The annual show (23-24 March 2012) is the premier cultural festival for the community, runs over two days and in 2012 attracted over 38,000 people. The constant theme in all material related to the show was its role as ‘still a country show’. The event had all the trade mark features of the stereotypical country show from cakes to show bags to cattle and wood chopping. The relationship between the Camden press and the show juggernaut is mutually beneficial and illustrates the strength of Camden’s sense of place, community identity and local parochialism.

The 2012 press coverage of the show illustrates the dynamic vibrancy of the local newspaper. In these days when the metropolitan press are increasingly under pressure the local press goes from strength to strength. Camden’s newspapers add to the resilience of the local community in the face of constant change on Sydney’s rural-urban fringe from urbanisation.

67.3.5 ALAN CLARK RETIRES AFTER 54 YEARS IN NEWSPAPERS

Alan Clark, a newspaper printer or journalist for 54 years, has gone on long service leave leading to retirement. Clark began as an apprentice compositor at the *Warragul Guardian* in Victoria’s Gippsland region in 1958. He worked at the *South Coast Register* for the past 37 years. He has combined deep interests in history and cricket with his newspaper work. The day before he left the *Register*, his 500th and final history column, “Historical Happenings”, was published in the paper (28 March 2012, p.12). The column, “Shoalhaven links for Pilgrim of the Press” focused on the newspaper career of Peter Jefferson Wallace. Clark’s column, published over the past 10 years, will not be lost to the *Register*; it plans to re-publish each of the columns week by week. [Rod Kirkpatrick writes: Alan Clark was an enormous help to me when I was researching the Nowra press for *Country Conscience*.]

67.3.6 HUNTER VALLEY: DEATH OF NORM WORTH

Norm Worth, a former editor of such papers as the *Maitland Mercury* and the *Singleton Argus*, has died in Tasmania, aged 75. He started his career on the *Northern Champion*, Taree, and worked on the *Manning River Times* before being posted to the Hunter Valley in 1968 for “a year” (*Maitland Mercury*, 5 April 2012).

67.3.7 APN SEES O’REILLY EXIT

Darren Davidson (*Weekend Australian*, 21-22 April 2012, pp.25-26) reported: The board of APN News & Media will appoint an independent chairman for the first time in its listed history after Gavin O’Reilly’s resignation as chairman and a director. APN informed the ASX on 20 April that O’Reilly was leaving the business after shareholder tensions forced him to resign as chief

executive of Ireland-based Independent News & Media on 19 April, ending four decades of control of the Irish and South African newspaper company by the O'Reilly family.

67.3.8 A 'NO' TO YASS CLAIM

PANPA Bulletin, March 2012, p.18, carries an article about the *Yass Tribune* with the highly inaccurate claim that it is "the third oldest newspaper in Australia outside Sydney". Here are just a few of the non-Sydney newspapers that are older than the *Yass Tribune*, which started in 1879 (although it likes to claim it started in 1857 because the *Yass Courier*, which it absorbed in 1929 had started then): *Geelong Advertiser* (1840), *Launceston Examiner* (1842), *Maitland Mercury* (1843), *Bendigo Advertiser* (1853), *Melbourne Age* (1854), *Hobart Mercury* (1854), *Castlemaine Mail* (1854), *Illawarra Mercury* (1855), *Ovens and Murray Advertiser* (1855), *Armidale Express* (1856), etc. And the *West Australian* likes to trace itself back to the *Perth Gazette* of 1833 although the title of the *West Australian* did not begin until 1879.

67.3.9 PETER BARRETT RETIRES AFTER 46 YEARS

The *Armidale Express* devoted a full page on 27 April to news editor Peter Barrett as he said farewell after 46 years.

4 – NEWSPAPER HISTORY

67.4.1 THE JOURNOS WHO PUNCHED KERRY PACKER

Gary Scully wrote this (and supplied it to ANHG at least 10 years before his death last year, and so allowance needs to be made for the tenses used):

Little known fact: There are several journalists, some still alive, who have been readily forgiven for punching one of the world's richest media moguls, Kerry Packer. And indeed, he punched them back. They include some of the better-known practitioners of Australian journalism in the past half century – some may even be called legends of the craft. It is true to say that it would never have happened without the Bjelke Petersens. No, not Sir Joh and Lady Flo – they came later. In the mid-twentieth century Bjelke Petersen's gymnasium was a going concern in Castlereagh Street, Sydney, not far from the offices of Frank (later Sir Frank) Packer's *Daily Telegraph*. It supplied gym instructors to some of Sydney's more expensive schools.

Sir Joh tells me the business was owned by his uncles, who had migrated first to Tasmania before starting their business in Sydney. Led by the late David Halpin, then a *Daily Telegraph* reporter, some of the young journos of the town took to going to Bjelke Petersen's one or two days a week to exercise and spar with one another. (You may remember David's controversial "Love Boat" story alleging that a group of leading Labor figures had been led astray by a voluptuous lady aboard a hire boat in the Hawkesbury – he later went to Queensland). Some of the journo gym-goers, like David and myself (working then as an ABC Radio News reporter), had done a bit of amateur boxing, others were there for the fun and the exercise. They included the wonderful Pat Burgess, whose memorable coverage of Vietnam became crushingly poignant to those who saw the former strapping six-footer reduced to a thin, and obviously sick person by the tropical disease he'd contracted there, as he marched through Sydney with the veterans in their 1987 Welcome Home March. Sadly, Pat died not long afterwards. There was Harry Potter, who later became quite a television personality. No, not THAT one.

Another was Clem Lloyd, now Professor Clem Lloyd of the University of Wollongong, author, academic, historian, and to his contemporaries, and to the hundreds of the university students who attended his media courses, certainly one of those legends. One of the best equipped for the sparring was Len Hill, who retired in recent years from the Sydney offices of News Ltd., and is well remembered by most of the current staff. In the 50s, Len was a clever boxer, fast, elusive, pretty to watch. And there was Consolidated Press photographer Boris Cook, former amateur boxing champion of New South Wales. Boris later was to extend his skills to cine camera work and shot a memorable documentary on artist William Dobell at Wangi. Not too many years later, Boris was sent to Papua New Guinea as a cameraman by the Department of Territories where he met a sad and untimely death by accidental drowning.

It was Pat Burgess, who brought the young Kerry Packer to join our group at Bjelke Petersen's. An agreeable, and somewhat shy young man, Kerry seemed then overshadowed by his elder brother Clyde. Time, of course, was to prove the difference. Boxing probably came naturally to Kerry – his old man, Sir Frank, had been a champion. He could handle himself pretty well, and since he was bigger than most of us, we treated him with a deal of care. He did most of his sparring with Pat, who was of a similar height, but he took the time to have a round or two with most of us. It is a matter of history that for a few weeks (he didn't come to the gym for long) we danced around, and in between punching each other, some got to punch Kerry Packer, while he, in turn, got to punch some of us. As I say, he was a big fellow, and I am sure he hurt us a damned side more than we hurt him. I remember that once he came to the pub with us afterwards and drank lemonade or some other form of soft drink, while we downed our beers. It was a time long ago and a fairly small incident in what became the very crowded life of Kerry Packer. If he remembered it at all he'd probably remember it as warmly as the journos involved – or at least those of us who are still alive. [Clem Lloyd died 31 December 2002; Kerry Packer died 26 December 2005; Gary Scully died 6 May 2011.]

67.4.2 TWO MEDIA-HISTORY DATABASES LAUNCHED

Media buyer and philanthropist Harold Mitchell launched two database initiatives on Wednesday 28 March at Foxtel headquarters, Sydney. They are the Media Archives Project database and the Australian Media History database. Angelos Frangopolous, CEO of Sky News, was the host for the occasion, organised by the Centre for Media History, Macquarie University. Mitchell applauded the databases, designed to facilitate research into the history of Australian media and to help save important archival material and to encourage – and catalogue – pioneering research into the Australian media and its rich history. As Frangopolous, Mitchell, and centre director Bridget Griffen-Foley (see picture at head of newsletter) each said, the databases will help fill a significant role in preserving the history of different media in Australia that is often lost to posterity. Professor Griffen-Foley said several recently submitted PhD theses by associate members of the Centre had contributed toward the centre's efforts to provide a locus for academic research into the history of the media in Australia. The launch was attended by a variety of academics, media professionals, and members of the centre. More details of the two databases appear below.

The Media Archives Project database (provides information about Australian print and broadcast media archives scattered in companies, peak bodies, community groups, practitioners' homes and even garages, with advice on how to access them: <https://mediaarchivesproject.mq.edu.au>)

MAP has been underway for three years. A pilot study focused on Sydney, before a full-scale project was launched to locate, and register, material about the media held by held by companies, peak bodies, community groups and individuals across Australia. The painstaking research has been undertaken by the broadcaster and historian, Dr Nathalie Apouctine, under the auspices of the Centre for Media History, Macquarie University. The types of materials uncovered by MAP include minute books, correspondence, scrapbooks, newspaper indexes, cartoons, equipment and footage.

Examples of the material MAP has uncovered, and which are now listed in the keyword-searchable database being launched on 28 March, include:

- Materials held by media companies and outlets including FOXTEL, Inparja Television, the Herald & Weekly Times, Leader Community Newspapers, the *Canberra Times*, Pacific Magazines, and the commercial television networks.
- Material held by organisations such as the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the Public Relations Institute of Australia, the National Press Club, the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, and the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council.
- Materials held by individuals, such as Ron Barratt's collection concerning the Perth *Daily News*; Butch Calderwood's collection relating to his work as a television cameraman; Bruce Carty's research into the history of some 600 AM radio stations; Wilma Dunbar's collection concerning her work as secretary to the managing director of the Melbourne *Argus*, Sir Errol Knox; 12,000 comic books and paper stories held by Ray Edmondston OAM, the inaugural Deputy Director of the National Film and Sound Archive; and Peter Pidgeon's collection of the cartoons of his father, William Edward Pidgeon ('WEP').

Through its search for archives to list in the database, MAP has also discovered collections at risk of disposal by individuals and organisations no longer able to keep them for lack of space or other reasons. MAP has liaised with a number of established collecting institutions to help find secure homes for these collections, including:

— A large advertising collection, built up over nearly three decades by the John Bevins advertising agency, which has gone to the State Library of NSW and the National Film and Sound Archive.

— Material relating to nearly twenty years of work for Perth's *Daily News* by journalist Kay Maisey has found a home in the State Library of Western Australia.

— Some historic equipment held by camera operator Murray Scott Pollard has been added to the collection of the Australian Cinematographers Society.

m—m Artefacts from the work of Ann Davis in early children's television have been relocated to the Powerhouse Museum and the Seaborn, Broughton & Walford Foundation Archives and Performing Arts Collection.

The [Australian Media History database](http://www.amhd.info/) has recently moved from the University of Queensland to Macquarie University and has been substantially expanded. It provides information on current research projects, as well as links to relevant resources, courses, associations and events: <http://www.amhd.info/>

The Researcher Database component lists details of around 90 projects currently underway about the history of Australian newspapers, magazines, radio, television, film, advertising, music, games and book publishing, including:

- biographies of Reg Grundy, David Syme, Sir Ernest Fisk and A. G. Stephens;
- histories of the Australian Film Institute; regional cinemas; commercial television programming in Sydney; talkback radio; Australian electioneering; and print finance journalism;
- a playable history of Australian digital games.

Back copies of the ANHG Newsletters are accessible through the "Associations" link in the AMHD database. See link in ANHG masthead above.

67.4.3 WILLIAM LANE AND SYDNEY

Brisbane Courier, 23 January 1900, p.5 (By telegraph from our correspondent, Sydney, 22 January): William Lane, of communistic notoriety, has apparently abandoned his friends in "Cosmo" (sic) colony, despite his recent assertions that after paying a visit to New Zealand he intended to return to South America. It is now announced that he has accepted the position of editor of the *Worker* of this colony (NSW). [N.B. Lane (1861-1917), the first editor of the *Brisbane Worker*, 1890, led the New Australia settlement party to Paraguay in mid 1893, but after divisions, he formed a new settlement, Cosmé, about 65km away, in mid-1894. He left it in 1899. Lane stayed only briefly with the Sydney *Worker* and returned to New Zealand and ended up as editor of Auckland's *New Zealand Herald*.]

67.4.4 FROM OUR GOLDFIELDS CORRESPONDENT

John Hamilton writes: I was filled with nostalgia when I saw the front page pic (ANHG No 66) of the *Kalgoorlie Miner*. Just graded, I was posted to Kal to spend the year there in 1961. I had the very grand title of Goldfields Correspondent for the *West Australian* and shared a desk (and carbon blacks of stories) with the reporters' room of the *Miner*. I learnt a very great deal about the craft under Mr Jack Hocking and his staff. And there were still hand set decks of headlines! There was a sub there who had once worked, I think, on the Sydney *Mirror* and he could rev things up and make even an accident in Hannan Street appear like a Great War offensive. This sort of thing:

HORROR IN HANNAN STREET

CAR VERSUS CAR

POLICE CALLED

ONE HURT

Great paper, great times... Alas, gone with the days of hot metal.

67.4.5 CANBERRA TIMES DIGITISATION

From decimal currency to the Dismissal; from Menzies to the moon landing; from the Beatles in Australia and to the eras of nine Prime Ministers – these events and more are what the digitisation of 40 years of the *Canberra Times* between 1955 and 1995 promises (*NLA Magazine*, March 2012, p.32). With the permission of the *Canberra Times*, digitising all the issues produced during these 40 years will be the National Library's special project to celebrate the centenary of Canberra in 2013. The project will enable free online access for audiences around the globe, to the cultural, scientific and political events of Australia's more recent history. A financial contribution of \$15,000 will support the digitisation of one complete year of the *Canberra Times*. Contributors will be acknowledge in a variety of ways, but the most enduring recognition will be a tribute in perpetuity, on every page and article view for the year of digitisation supported. Those wishing to contribute should telephone the NLA's Development Office on 02 6262 1141 or email the office at development@nla.gov.au to discuss your individual contribution or perhaps the combined contribution of a group of friends or colleagues.

67.4.6 MATILDA MOMENTS

An extract from Robbie Swan's article in the *National Library of Australia Magazine* (mentioned in 67.5.2): "Notwithstanding the vagaries of luck and horary philosophy, launching an independent political humour and satire magazine in Australia in the mid-1980s against the Packer and Murdoch magazine empires was considered to be risky business. To openly admit that you were using the magazine as a form of "bait" to hook and then drive a stake through the heart Australia's draconian defamation laws bordered on madness. Although my magazine was sued repeatedly, it was this initial madness that made *Matilda's* star burn so brightly, albeit briefly. Let me explain.

"The initial idea surfaced in 1984, while I was editing Australia's premier alternative magazine, *Simply Living*. I had noticed an increasing number of politicians suing publishers with impunity over the smallest things and I figured that there had to be a way to beat this insidious form of censorship. So, with the financial support of anyone who would listen to me and the legal backing of a couple of young defamation lawyers (Richard Refshauge and Chris Chenoweth among them), *Matilda's* first office was set up in the rented home of a Canberra businessman and partner Roger Lilford—100 metres away from the Lodge and five minutes from Parliament House. Roger, who looked like Frank Zappa and talked like Donald Trump, was a natural at the publishing game and *Matilda* could never have happened without him."

67.4.7 EDMUND ROUSE AND THE ALL-DAY SUCKERS

Christine Middap, editor of the *Weekend Australian Magazine*, writes (10-11 March 2012, p.4): "As a young journalist my first exposure to perverse workplace relations came one Christmas when Edmund Rouse, the then owner of the Tasmanian newspaper I worked for [the *Launceston Examiner*], marched through the newsroom armed with a gift for his staff. It was a lollipop—an all-day sucker—handed out by the great man himself because he thought we were all suckers. I can't recall any journalists losing sleep when Rouse was later jailed for attempting to bribe a politician—his treatment of staff hardly engendered loyalty." [Rod Kirkpatrick writes: I heard the basis of this anecdote some years ago from an executive of the *Launceston Examiner*. Middap's reminiscence in the *Weekend Australian Magazine* is confirmation of it.]

67.4.8 SINGLETON TIMES CHANGES HANDS

Maitland Mercury, 20 August 1870, p.3: The *Singleton Time*—This Journal has changed hands, the plant and copyright having been purchased by Mr [Robert] Burgess, who lately conducted a newspaper at Bega, Twofold Bay. Mr R.I. Miller, the late proprietor of the [*Singleton*] *Times*, has been a resident of Singleton for about six years and a half, during which time he has gained here a large circle of friends by his straightforward manner and unostentatious demeanour, and a generous disposition to assist at all times the oppressed and afflicted. [Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The *Singleton Times*, launched on 19 October 1861, and published daily from 7 September 1863 for three months, closed on 11 November 1871. Burgess, the final proprietor, took his plant

further up the Hunter Valley to the new railhead at Murrurundi where he started the *Murrurundi Times* on 9 December 1871.]

67.4.9 DAWN FOR TROVE

Now available online through Trove (trove.nla.gov.au) is the *Dawn: A Journal for Australian Women*, an early feminist journal published in Australia between 1888 and 1905. It was first published 15 May 1888 by Louisa Lawson. This excellent development is due to the efforts of Donna Benjamin, who persuaded a number of scholars to contribute funds to the project, making it possible for the National Library to add the *Dawn* to their digitising program (Bridget Griffen-Foley, email, 11 March 2012).

67.4.10 TEN YEARS IN CANBERRA

The *Canberra Times* reported on 3 September 1936 that it had completed 10 years of publication. The paper “had first appeared on September 3, 1936”. The proof reader missed the obvious typo. What followed was an interesting historical article about the *Canberra Times* (which started on 3 September 1926 and became a daily on 20 February 1928) and early Canberra. The article was headed “Ten years in Canberra”.

67.4.11 NEW SYDNEY NEWSPAPERS, 1834, 1844, 1855, 1860, 1864 AND 1941

[Note the regular use of the *Sydney Times* title.]

1834: *Sydney Herald*, Monday, 11 August 1834, p.3: A new paper, under the title of the *Sydney Times*, is advertised to appear on Friday next. Edited by Nathaniel Lipscomb Kentish, Esq., it is said, assisted by the well-known literary talents of Thomas Horton James, Esq. [The paper was published from 15 August 1834 until 21 March 1835, and again from 20 August 1836 until 26 March 1838. See R.B. Walker, *The Newspaper Press in New South Wales, 1803-1920*, pp.26-32, 49 and 56.]

1844: *Maitland Mercury*, Saturday, 7 December 1844, p.2: On Saturday last appeared the first number of the *Atlas*, a Sydney journal avowedly starting in opposition to the present government. It is beyond doubt the most creditable and complete first number of any newspaper commenced since we have been in the colony; and the leading articles are written with such ability as at once to place it on a level with the best existing papers in that respect. It is also distinguished by the abundance and quality of its literary matter and its “Bowl of Punch—Sydney and London ingredients” contains some capital hits in prose and poetry, in which the Hunter district serves as a butt to some tune. The typography and getting up of the paper, which are very nearly in the style of the London *Atlas*, are also first-rate. Altogether, the *Atlas* takes at once a very high stand among the newspapers of the colony. [R.B., Walker, *The Newspaper Press in New South Wales, 1803-1920*, pp.37-39, gives an account of the life of the *Atlas: Sydney Weekly Journal of Politics, Commerce, and Literature*. It was published from 30 November 1844 to 30 December 1848.]

1855: *Maitland Mercury*, 25 July 1855, p.2: The first number of the *Sydney Times*, a new weekly journal, has reached us. It is full of matter of interest, to an extent that few first numbers reach. If we have not mistaken the purport of the leading articles, the new journal will be a “conservative”, rather than a “progress”, one. If the new paper continues the system here commenced, of writing down, rather than extracting, the news of the whole week, it will fill a place now unoccupied among the papers of the colony, and probably attain early and decided success. The *Illustrated Sydney Journal* is another new paper, or rather we think an old friend, the *Illustrated Sydney News*, under another name and in a different form. The illustrations are good, and the literary matter well worth reading, for its spirit and variety.

1860: *Yass Courier*, 22 August 1869: We have to notice the demise of the *Southern Cross*, a Sydney weekly newspaper. A new journal has sprung up from its ashes, the *Sydney Times*, from which we learn that co-partnership and pecuniary difficulties were the cause of the decease. The new aspirant to public favour as well got up, and its politics appear to be similar to those of the late journal. [The ANHG does not have a finishing date for this *Sydney Times*.]

1864: The *Sydney Times: A journal for the promotion of Australian literature and the advocacy of encouragement to native industry* began publication on 2 April 1864. It ceased with issue 13 on 25 June 1864, as indicated below.

Bell's Life in Sydney, 9 July 1864, p.2: Obituary—A few days ago, at its office, after a brief struggle, borne with that unvarying ill temper, and prejudiced spirit which betokens a rickety (sic) constitution, the *Sydney Times*, universally unlamented. It. supported protection till it could neither support nor protect itself. (*Government Gazette*, please copy.)

1941: *Argus*, Melbourne, Tuesday 13 May 1941, p.5: SYDNEY, Monday—The new evening paper, *Daily Mirror*, made its first appearance today. The paper, which is published by Truth and Sportsman Ltd, differs from other Sydney papers in appearance, its pages being about a third of the size of the pages of the average newspaper. Today's issue consisted of 40 pages. Sydney now has two evening newspapers, the *Sun* and *Daily Mirror*. [The *Daily Mirror* ceased publication on 5 October 1990, being swallowed in the 24-hour title, the *Daily Telegraph-Mirror*, which on 2 January 1996 became simply the *Daily Telegraph*.]

67.4.12 SYDNEY WAYZGOOSE IN 1946

"The last [Sydney] wayzgoose proper I can find was the *Telegraph* in 1910," Isadore Brodsky says in *The Sydney Press Gang* (1974), p.168. A wayzgoose was an oldtime version of an annual printers' picnic or such festivity. ANHG has found one in 1946. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported (Monday 8 April 1946, p.4): "All departments of the *Sydney Morning Herald* were represented at the centenary wayzgoose of the *Herald* chapel held at Canley Vale on Saturday. Employees and their families were taken in double-deck buses from the assembly point outside the Mitchell Library to their destination. For part of the journey in the city, the procession was led by a Cobb and Co coach carrying a party of young men and women dressed in 1846 costumes. A sports programme was keenly contested and there were special attractions for the children, each of whom received either a book or a toy. Lady Fairfax presented the prizes."

A letter in the *SMH*, 29 June 1858, p.5, told of the origins of the word "wayz-goose". The writer, "K", of Macquarie Street, said *Bailey's Dictionary* gave the meaning of the word as "a stubble goose—an entertainment given to journeymen in the beginning of winter. In the old printing offices (in days when morning newspapers were unknown) nor journeyman was allowed to work by candle-light until the master has given his 'wayz-goose' or supper, at which that exceedingly palatable bird formed the principal dish. This was generally soon after Bartholomew-tide, or about the end of August. ... in England the master gives the men a "wayz-goose"; here, the men invite the masters. But, either way, an occasional social gathering of this description must be productive of kindly feeling, and, therefore, must be pleasing to all well-conducted minds."

67.4.13 NEWSPAPERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN IN SEPTEMBER 1879

SA Register, 6 September 1879, p.4S: The following newspapers are published in South Australia:—

DAILY — *Register* (morning), *Journal* (evening), *Advertiser* (morning), and *Express* (evening).

BI-WEEKLY— *Border Watch*, *Wallaroo Times*, *Kapunda Herald*, *Yorke's Peninsula Advertiser*, and *Northern Argus*.

WEEKLY— *Adelaide Observer*, *South Australian Chronicle*, *Government Gazette*, *Bunyip*, *Gawler Standard*, *Jamestown Review*, *Port Pirie Gazette*, *Southern Argus*, *Australische Zeitung*, *Methodist Journal*, *Licensed Victuallers' Gazette*, *Roman Catholic Record*, *Narracoorte Herald*, *South-Eastern Star*, *Christian Colonist*, *Australian Star*, *Port Adelaide News*, *Burra Record*, *Areas Express*, *Port Augusta Dispatch*. Satirical and Pictorial Weekly — *Adelaide Punch*, *Lantern*, *Portonian*, and *Frearson's Illustrated Weekly*.

MONTHLY— *Comet*, *Illustrated Adelaide News*, *Adelaide Prices Current*, *Presbyterian and Independent*, *Truth and Progress* (Baptist), *Christian Pioneer*, *Australian Sketcher* (Adelaide edition), *Free Presbyterian*, *Garden and Field*.

QUARTERLY — *Primitive Methodist Record*, *Bible Christian Magazine*.

The oldest South Australian newspaper is the *Register*, the first number of which was printed in London in 1836.

67.4.14 PINGELLY (1): ON THE NEWSPAPER TRACK

Western Mail, Perth, 11 August 1906, p.49: “The farming township of Pingelly is the latest of our rising agricultural centres to boast its own district newspaper. The *Pingelly Leader*, of which a copy of the first issue has reached us, is a distinctly presentable and newsy sheet, in which, naturally, matters of local concern constitute the larger part. There is now no township along the Great Southern Railway which is without its own journal, a fact which speaks volumes for the go-aheadness of this part of the country, and to the permanent character of the settlement which of late years has taken place, and is still proceeding in that direction.”

67.4.15 PINGELLY (2): PUTTING THE ‘GREAT’ IN GREAT SOUTHERN

Sunday Times, Perth, 18 August 1907, p.1S: The Great Southern district has a new paper - the *Great Southern Leader*, published at Pingelly. This is the introductory par: “This is more than necessary, it is urgent, therefore we publish it.—Victor Hugo. The above formed the introduction of the great, French author to the most important of his works, and the one which shook the French Empire to the foundations, and today it applies to us, or, more correctly, describes the reasons for our appearing amongst you.” Modesty is a pronounced characteristic of the Great Southern editor.

67.4.16 FIRST AUSSIE WAR CORRESPONDENT TO BE KILLED

William John Lambie was the first Australian war correspondent to die in the service of his profession. He was killed in action in February 1900 during the Anglo-Boer War in South Africa. Reg A. Watson tells the story in “Australian journalism’s first war victim”, *Australian*, Media section, 23 April 2012, p.25.

5 – RECENTLY PUBLISHED

67.5.1 BOOKS

Tidey, John, *Class Act: A Life of Creighton Burns*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2012. 194pp, including bibliography and index. RRP: \$34.95. Burns was the editor of the *Age* for eight years in the 1980s. This is an easy-to-read detailed account of the life of one of Australia’s foremost journalists covering a period from when Graham Perkin was editor of the *Age*, through Burns’ years as Singapore and, later, Washington correspondent for the paper, and his own editorship.

67.5.2 ARTICLES

Cannold, Leslie, “Aussie democracy: dumbed down and sold out”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 70, February-March 2012, pp.16-17. The author spells out what she sees as rotten in the state of Australian democracy, and apportions some of the blame to the media.

Deane, Joel, “Banquo’s Ghost: The everlasting influence of Rupert Murdoch”, *ABR Australian Book Review*, March 2012, no. 339, pp.12-16. A review of David McKnight’s *Rupert Murdoch: An Investigation of Political Power*.

Drewe, Robert, “Bob on the job”, *Good Weekend*, 17 March 2012, p.46, Back in the golden days of the *Bulletin*, the author shared a cubicle wall with Bob Carr. He recalls his past with the new Foreign Minister. Other former *Bulletin* journalists, Malcolm Turnbull and Tony Abbott, also get a mention.

Gawenda, Michael, “Nameless dread”, *Spectator Australia*, 3 March 2012, p.vii. The lesson of the Australian prime ministerial leadership tussle is the urgent need to address media reliance on anonymous sources.

Harmer, Wendy, “Why I love the word on the street”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 70, February-March 2012, p.5. So why did Wendy ditch working on a metro daily to return to a local rag? Because she liked talking to people.

Hyland, Tom, "Not just a paper tiger", *Sunday Age*, "Extra", 26 February 2012, p.13. Press Council head Julian Disney says newspaper have to lift their game. Media bosses disagree. The growing battle over media responsibility is examined.

Kirkpatrick, Rod, "Sworn to no mistress", *GXpress*, March 2012, pp.42-43. There is no shortage of historical precedent to media proprietors' use of their newspaper to further personal and political ambitions. Particular focal points: Gina Rinehart; Fairfax at 1961 election; and Tamworth and Grafton newspaper executives during New State campaign.

Mitchell, Alex, "Packed with rattlers", *Canberra Times*, 3 March 2012, Panorama section, p.30. A very complimentary review of Rob Chalmers' recent, posthumous book *Inside the Canberra Press Gallery: Life in the Wedding Cake of Old Parliament House* (ANU E-Press, 276 pages, free download from <http://epress.anu.edu.au> or hard copy for \$24.95).

Murdoch, Keith, "'Heroic' does not begin to describe this bravest of the Anzac brave", *Weekend Australian*, 21-22 April 2012, pp.18-19. This is a reprint, from a November 1961 issue of the Melbourne *Herald*, of an article by war correspondent Keith Murdoch, father of current News Corporation chairman Rupert Murdoch.

Perkin, Graham, "Media's best defence is self-policing", *Age*, 27 March 2012, p.11. This is an edited reprint of the Wilkie-Deamer lecture delivered by Graham Perkin as editor of the *Age* in February 1972. Neil Mitchell, the 2011 Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year, says the address still resonates. It is particularly relevant in the Finkelstein debate.

Swan, Robbie, "Sticks and stones: The story of Matilda magazine", *The National Library of Australia Magazine*, March 2012, pp.28-30. The co-founder and editor of *Matilda* magazine looks back on the glory days of the irreverent publication.

Totaro, Paola, "The Reluctant Son: Lachlan Murdoch and News Corp", *Monthly*, March 2012, pp.26-31.

Turnbull, Malcolm, "The case for non-profit news", *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 70, February-March 2012, pp.12-13. Democracy needs fearless, independent journalism, but who will fund it? This is the question posed by the Federal Opposition's spokesman on communications. The article is an edited extract from his speech to the Advanced Centre of Journalism, Melbourne University, 7 December 2011.

Zwar, Desmond, "The day Rupert rode my Moke", *Age*, 26 April 2012, p.13. Recounts some unusual episodes when Zwar was commissioned to write a biography of Sir Keith Murdoch in 1978.

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