



A Victorian newspaper stand at a railway station headlining an attempt to kill King Edward in July 1936. The so-called attempt on the King's life was made by a journalist, George Andrew McMahon. The photograph is held by the National Library of Australia. [Call Number: PIC Album 1168/3 #PIC/15582/144. Created/Published 1936. Extent: 1 photograph: black and white; 12.6 x 17.8 cm.] See ANHG 113.4.2 below.

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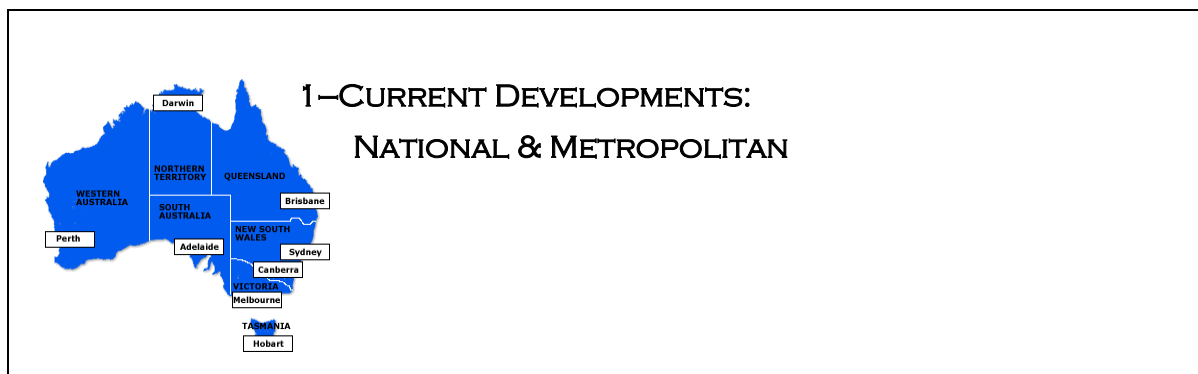
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Subscription details appear at end of *Newsletter*. [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]

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



113.1.1 News (1): Digital shift boosts quarterly profit

News Corporation chief executive Robert Thomson says the financial performance of Foxtel has provided it with more flexibility and options, after the global media company announced a \$650 million refinance of the pay TV business's debt (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 May 2021). Foxtel's sports streaming service Kayo Sports had reached than one million subscribers in the previous month, while 855,000 subscribers provided some form of payment between January and March this year. Entertainment service Binge, which launched in May 2020, had 516,000 paying subscribers. "Foxtel's resurgence during the pandemic, coupled with the continuing value of its broadcast product, the rapid growth of Kayo and Binge and a relentless focus on cost transformation have delivered a much-enhanced financial performance that certainly gives us flexibility and optionality," Thomson said.

Subscription video service revenue fell 4 per cent in the quarter, excluding the impact of Foxtel, acquisitions and dispositions. On a reported basis revenues grew 13 per cent to \$US61 million (\$78.3 million) year on year. EBITDA for the subscription video service segment grew 34 per cent. Foxtel has 3.5 million subscribers, but fewer than two million are residential and commercial subscribers. News Corp owns 65 per cent of Foxtel and Telstra owns the remaining 35 per cent.

Thomson said the global media company is on track to report its most profitable financial year since 2013 after reporting further increases in revenue and earnings. The performance is largely due to investment in sectors such as real-estate and book publishing.

The *Weekend Australian* (8-9 May 2021) reported: Pre-tax earnings across the News Media business of \$US8m were down 67 per cent during the March quarter compared to the same time a year earlier mostly because of the negative impact from the sale of News America Marketing operations a year earlier. New Media revenue for the quarter came in at \$US550m. Digital revenue for the unit, which includes News' Australian and UK mastheads, represented 30 per cent of News Media segment revenue in the quarter, compared to 19 per cent in the previous year.

Digital revenue represented 28 per cent of the combined revenue of the newspaper mastheads. Closing digital subscribers at News Corp Australia's mastheads have hit a record 760,000, compared to 613,300 in the previous year. In the UK, the *Times* and *Sunday Times* digital subscribers were 354,000, compared with 345,000 in the previous year. The Harper Collins book publishing arm had a 45 per cent jump in pre-tax earnings to \$US80m during the quarter as revenue lifted on higher sales of back catalogue and the launch of several new titles.

113.1.2 News (2): 100 new editorial positions

In the coming year News Corp Australia will create at least 100 new editorial positions, including 30 cadetships and 20 digital positions. The company said this in an internal note to staff on 7 May. The note reported "strong audience and digital growth" across the company's Australian publications.

Executive chairman Michael Miller said, "Additional roles will be recruited in the areas of data, audio, visual and video journalism and in segments such as sport, regional, hyperlocal news and new topic areas where audience interest is growing." (*Telum Media Alert*, 10 May 2021.)

113.1.3 *Koori Mail* at 30

The *Koori Mail*, the national Aboriginal newspaper, celebrated its 30th anniversary in May this year. More than 700 editions have been published. The newspaper's general manager, Naomi Moran, says the *Koori Mail* is just one part of the Black media landscape, which champions the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. "We are sharing the voices of our people. We are sharing the stories of our people that are being told in the most genuine and authentic way and we are responsible for the truth-telling in our communities," she told NITV's *The Point*.

Moran has been the general manager of the *Koori Mail* since 2017, but her relationship with the paper started in 1998. "I actually started at the *Koori Mail* when I was a teenager," she said. She was 14 when she decided she wanted to quit school. "Coincidentally at that time the *Koori Mail* had reached out to my high school that I was at and said 'we've got a traineeship position for a young person'. I put my hand up straight away and said 'please pick me'. I was desperate to get out of school. The day I signed out of school, the following Monday I started work with the *Koori Mail* newspaper and that was the start of a 10-year journey for me."

Naomi stayed with the *Koori Mail* until 2008, working in the administration, finance, editorial and advertising departments, as well as managing the subscription database. She returned later as general manager.

113.1.4 *Washington Post* establishes Australian bureau

The *Washington Post* is establishing a bureau in Australia in a bid to report more extensively on issues that resonate with US readers, including the country's relationship with China and its position on climate change (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 May 2021). The publication, owned by Amazon's billionaire founder Jeff Bezos, has appointed reporter Michael Miller as its bureau chief to be based in Sydney. Foreign editor Douglas Jehl said the decision to move Miller to Australia would allow the newspaper to deepen its coverage of the region.

113.1.5 *Canberra Times* office may be sold

The *Canberra Times*' office in Fyshwick is being reviewed by its owners Antony Catalano and Alex Waislitz as their company, Australian Community Media (ACM), pushes ahead with a nationwide property sale spree. The pair's Ballarat print site sold in early May for \$6 million, adding to the \$20 million worth of sales made in the last two years. Industry sources, who spoke anonymously because the plans aren't finalised, said Catalano and Waislitz are considering whether to appoint a sales agent or redevelop the Fyshwick office, which has been home to the *Canberra Times*' editorial and administrative employees since April 1987. The newspaper was first printed there in 1964 (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 May 2021).

113.1.6 Above the Speaker for 30 years

National editor of the *Australian*, Dennis Shanahan, has occupied for more than 30 years the "central press gallery seat directly above the Speaker" in the House of Representatives sittings. Shanahan mentioned this in an article in the newspaper (14 May 2021, p.2). The seat has given him what he calls "a Speaker's view of all MPs and a quirky interest in procedures". He says: "... apart from the opportunity to be able to make a judgment on the quality of 11 Speakers and more than a score of leaders of the house and managers of opposition business from the ranks of Nationals, Liberals, Labor and even an independent, those more than 30 years have cemented the principle that you can't take the politics out of parliament, especially during question time".

113.1.7 Annika Smethurst and the law

Extract from Peter Barrett, "Holding the powerful to account", *Monash Life*, 2020, pp.22-24:

In the mid-2000s [the noughties], 20-something journalism student Annika Smethurst sat in a lecture theatre at Monash University, listening to a reporter from the *Age* talking about media law. "I don't need to worry about this," she thought to herself. "This is Australia. We're not the sort of country that sends journalists to jail." It's a memory that today provokes a bitter laugh from the 32-year-old.

In the decade or so since she completed her Bachelor of Arts in journalism and international studies, Smethurst has become a multi-award-winning journalist and, until recently, was the national political editor for News Corp's *Sunday*

Telegraph and *Sunday Herald Sun*. Her explosive front-page stories have held the powerful to account and, in a few cases, led to some high-profile resignations. They include a speaker of the House of Representatives (Bronwyn Bishop), a federal health minister (Sussan Ley) and, as part of a *Herald Sun* reporting team, a Victorian premier (Ted Baillieu).

In 2018, she got the scoop on leaked secret plans to widen the domestic spying powers of the Australian Signals Directorate, cousin to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation. The story prompted an investigation into the leak by the Australian Federal Police, who raided Smethurst's Canberra flat.

As detailed in ANHG 112.1.2, the police investigation of Smethurst and of ABC journalists Dan Oakes and Sam Clark ultimately did not result in charges being laid, but the unsuccessful probe ran for more than a year, exacting a heavy toll on the trio and their employers.



113.1.8 PEOPLE

Karen Barlow has been appointed chief political correspondent for the newspapers of Australian Community Media. This expands her role as chief political correspondent at the *Canberra Times* (*Telum Media Alert*, 4 June 2021).

Rachel Baxendale, Victoria state political reporter for the *Australian*, was featured in “Quick Q”, a weekly Q & A series in the media section of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, designed to find out “more about the personalities that matter most in the Australian media landscape”.

Here's an extract:

What was your first job? Picking grapes, pruning and other manual labour in my parents' vineyard in northeast Victoria. I still really love the tangible nature of physical work. I took all of March off this year and worked vintage as a cellarhand at a Mornington Peninsula winery—doing everything from processing samples in the lab to driving forklifts and plunging and digging out red ferments (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 June 2021).

Tim Burrowes, a founder of Mumbrella and current editor-in-chief, has resigned and will finish on 30 July. His first book, *Media Unmade*, was released this month (*Telum Media Alert*, 5 July 2021).

Matthew Cranston has been appointed US correspondent for the *Australian Financial Review*. The former economics correspondent, he is based in Washington (*Telum Media Alert*, 17 May 2021).

Debbie Cuthbertson has been appointed editor of the *Sunday Age*. She is the former deputy news director for the *Age* and is also a former deputy editor of the *Sunday Age*. She replaces David King who has become the editor of the *Age's* Saturday edition (*Telum Media Alert*, 26 May 2021).

John B. Fairfax, former media proprietor, has lamented the savage cost-cutting carried out by some publishers during the pandemic and urged media companies to recognise their responsibilities to communities and to think beyond profits. Fairfax, who was the largest shareholder in Fairfax Media between 2007 and 2011, said media organisations must recognise their responsibilities to serve their communities with trusted information and public-interest journalism (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 June 2021, p.14).

Eugenie Kelly will return to *Harper's BAZAAR Australia* as editor-in-chief when Switzer Media and Publishing re-launches the magazine in September. Kelly worked for 17 years at the old *Harper's BAZAAR Australia*, in a variety of roles, including deputy editor and beauty director and, from 2018 to 2020, editor-in-chief. *Are Media* closed the title last year (*Telum Media Alert*, 11 June 2021).

Joanna Mather, superannuation reporter for the *Australian Financial Review*, becomes the paper's deputy news director on 19 July after returning from maternity leave (*Telum Media Alert*, 14 July 2021).

David Millikin, the Sydney bureau chief for Agence France-Presse, has been appointed North American sales and marketing director for the global newswire. Millikin has been with AFP for nearly 40 years and has reported from Hong Kong, Paris and Jerusalem. He starts his new role on 15 July (*Telum Media Alert*, 31 May 2021).

Ron Mizen, a reporter covering national news for the *Australian Financial News*, has been appointed its economics correspondent and is based in Canberra (*Telum Media Alert*, 17 May 2021).

Angus White, a grandson of the late Lady Nancy Fairfax and Sir Vincent Fairfax, has bought a \$15 million house on the Balmain peninsula. The vendors were bookshop owner Jay Lansdown and wife Fiona. The house they sold was built in 1883 as a maritime villa with a façade oriented to face the harbour to monitor the tides. Now it has a view of the Harbour Bridge (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 22-23 May 2021, p.9).

David Williams replaces David Millikin as Sydney bureau chief for Agence France-Presse in July. He was formerly chief editor (Europe) of AFB (*Telum Media Alert*, 31 May 2021).

Matt Williams, former editor of the *NT News*, Darwin, is News Corp's new national racing and sports wagering editor (*NT News*, 3 June 2021).

Print journalists named in general list in Queen's Birthday honours, 2021:

- **Simon George Bouda** (Waverley, NSW): AM. For significant service to the television and print media and the community (these details and those below are sourced from the Queen's Birthday honours website: <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/australian-honours-lists>)
- **Gregory Thomas Chamberlin** (Paddington, Qld): AM. For significant service to print media through editorial roles.
- **Ian Francis Doyle** (Beulah Park, SA): OAM. For service to journalism and the community.
- **Lindsay Edmund Murdoch** (Coconut Grove, NT): OAM. For service to journalism (See "Former Fairfax journalist Murdoch honoured with OAM", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 June 2021.)
- **Patrick Hugh Smith** (Sorrento, Vic.): OAM. For service to the print media as a journalist. (See "Sporting legend honoured for relentless campaigns", *Australian*, 14 June 2021, p.19.)

113.1.9 Roy Morgan's first Enhanced Cross-Platform results

The *Sydney Morning Herald* has come up trumps in Roy Morgan's first Enhanced Cross-Platform Audience survey. The new "digital-first" results are drawn from interviews with 66,050 Australians, aged 14 and over, as well as machine-based data collected in the 12 months to March 2021. The *Sydney Morning Herald* was the most widely read state-wide and national masthead with a total cross-platform audience of 8.5 million. The Melbourne Age had an audience of six million and the *Australian*, 5.1 million (*Telum Media Alert*, 26 May 2021).

113.1.10 New look for Sunday magazines

News Corp unveiled new-look Sunday magazines on 23 May. The following changes were made:

Body+Soul expanded to become a stand-alone magazine ahead of the title turning 21 this year. The new-style magazine features additional pages of advice on fitness, nutrition, beauty, family issues and social dilemmas. It features recipes and meal prep advice from taste.com.au.

Stellar and the *Binge Guide* are now combined as a flip-cover magazine, offering *Stellar's* celebrity, fashion and lifestyle content as well as the *Binge Guide's* television trend coverage. This new magazine is published in the *Sunday Telegraph*, *Sunday Herald Sun*, *Sunday Mail* (Adelaide) and *Sunday Mail* (Brisbane). (*Telum Media Alert*, 19 May 2021).

113.1.11 Government funding for AAP

Australian Associated Press will receive \$15 million from the Federal Government because of the 11 May budget. The funding will be delivered in two packages of \$7.5 million, one in 2021-22 and the second the following financial year. AAP, a not-for-profit organisation, is owned by a consortium of impact investors and philanthropists. It was close to ceasing operations as a commercial enterprise in early 2020. CEO Emma Cowdroy said the \$15 million grant would "help underpin the AAP newswire on its path to sustainability" (*Telum Media Alert*, 12 May 2021).

113.1.12 Indigenous sport month at News Corp

Every day during June, Australia's Indigenous sportspeople told their stories as part of News Corp's inaugural Indigenous Sport Month. At the beginning of the month, News Corp national

deputy sports editor Tim Morrissey said, “While it’s a celebration of our Indigenous athletes, it’s also an interrogation of some of the troubling issues they face. You’ve got to listen and expect that sometimes the answers you get may make you feel uncomfortable. And that’s part of a wider debate for this country.” The campaign, which was a company-wide collaboration across News Corp Australia’s newspapers, Fox Sports and Kayo, featured daily interviews, profiles and videos of Indigenous athletes telling their stories in their own words.

Two Indigenous journalists from Fox Sports, Jake Duke and Hannah Hollis, were heavily involved with the project since the development stage earlier this year. Duke, a Kamilaroi man born in Moree in northern NSW, has been a journalist for a decade and says that while he has seen improvements in the way Indigenous athletes are treated by the public and the media, the relationships are still “a work in progress”.

On 10 July, during NAIDOC Week, Indigenous tennis player Ashleigh Barty, of Ipswich, Queensland, became the first Australian to win the Wimbledon women’s singles title in 41 years. She defeated the Czech, Karolina Pliskova, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3.

113.1.13 National Archives: from crowdfunding to government funding

Crowdfunding, May: The National Archives asked the public for donations after the federal budget did not contain urgently needed funds. The keeper of Australia’s memories urgently needs at least \$67.7 million to digitise records that are disintegrating or becoming obsolete. The archives received a tiny increase of \$700,00 to its operating budget and no funding for extra staff (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 May 2021, p.11; see also articles in ANHG 5.2 below by Haigh and Wright, Curtis.)

Government funding, June: The National Archives of Australia will receive a significant immediate funding boost to ensure documents, photos, maps, audio and film recordings that tell the story of Australia will be preserved for future generations and digitised to make them more easily accessible (*Australian*, 1 July 2021). On 30 June, the Morrison government’s Expenditure Review Committee approved \$67.7m in new funding for urgent digitisation and preservation, additional staffing to speed-up access to records, and enhanced cybersecurity and digital record custody measures. Attorney-General Michaelia Cash said the urgent funding recommended by the Independent Functional and Efficiency Review by former senior public servant David Tune would be provided over four years, rather than the recommended seven years, to ensure at-risk records were safeguarded without delay.

Josh Frydenberg strongly advocated for the additional funding. The Treasurer’s mother, Erika Strausz, fled Hungary’s communist regime and was granted a certificate of exemption from the Immigration Act and declared “stateless” when she arrived in Sydney in 1950. The Archives holds the original of this certificate. Frydenberg read the Tune Review and met with the director-general of the National Archives, David Fricker, for a briefing about records that are in danger of deterioration and permanent loss, and the funding required to preserve them, boost access and digitise the high value items.

113.1.14 Deaths

Ashton, Christopher Philip Mackenzie: D. 5 May 2021 in Buenos Aires, aged 79; journalist, foreign correspondent and travel writer; postings included Port Moresby, PNG, and Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Harare, Zimbabwe); grew up on a property near Junee, in south-western NSW; paternal grandfather was James Ashton (later knighted), who in 1890s bought equity in several NSW country newspapers, was an editor and wrote for them; after a gap year jackarooing in rural NSW in 1960, continued his studies at Sydney University (B.A. Hons); studied at Oxford in 1965 in its postgraduate School of Social Anthropology for a 12-month diploma; wrote a thesis for a B. Litt. in social anthropology on “European minorities in tropical countries with special reference to Australians in PNG”; returned to Sydney and joined *Daily Telegraph*; from 1972 spent four years in Port Moresby as a freelance journalist, contributing to many international publications; aired his own weekly radio documentary program, partly in pidgin English, in which he was fluent; in 1976 moved to southern Africa, initially Kenya and later Salisbury; stringer for ABC and for NBC, as well as writing for the *Australian* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*; returned to Sydney in 1980

and wrote for the *Bulletin* and *Australian Business*, often on travel (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 May 2021, p.32).

Hedgcock, Murray: D. 6 May 2021 in London, aged 90; born to a postmaster father, he moved around Victoria as a youngster; became a bank clerk, but “drifted into journalism”; served a three-year cadetship on the *Geelong Advertiser* and in 1953 travelled to England; it was the coronation year, but Hedgcock was there hoping to see Lindsay Hassett’s team retain the Ashes; they lost 0-1; running short of money he found a job on a South London newspaper that came with a press pass to The Oval in Kennington; back in Australia, he turned up on an afternoon daily, Adelaide’s *News*, owned by Rupert Murdoch; was posted to the company’s London office, where he stayed; became known as the long-serving News Corp London correspondent and bureau chief; loved covering Test cricket and the Wimbledon tennis; Murdoch said: “Murray was a great and wise friend and adviser for many years.” Hedgcock didn’t drink, smoke, gamble, drive or swim — “some Aussie”, he would say — and neither was he keen on travel, describing to his old friend, former News Corp editor Piers Akerman, that “a serene and leafy southwest London suburb offers me a satisfying bolthole” (*Australian*, 10 May 2021).

Lynch, Paul: D. 27 May 2021 in Brisbane, aged 63; copy boy, then cadet, at *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney; worked later at the *Australian* and Brisbane’s *Courier-Mail*, also in publications and politics; covered Costigan Royal Commission, Rainbow Warrior bombing, Fitzgerald Inquiry; scored (with photographer Geoff Henderson) a world exclusive on the debris of Skylab falling to earth over Australia; worked on media team for Brisbane’s Expo 88; returned to journalism for some years, and then spent his remaining years in the craft working as an adviser to Peter Beattie when Queensland premier and as press secretary to senior cabinet ministers (*Australian*, 31 May 2021).

113.1.15 Media fined total of \$1.1m for contempt in Pell case

Some of Australia’s biggest media companies have been fined a combined \$1.1 million for breaching contempt of court laws over the way they first reported George Pell’s conviction on sex abuse charges (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 5-6 June 2021, p.23). The *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* are among the news outlets to have pleaded guilty earlier this year to breaching a suppression order over news reports they published in December 2018, in the days after a County Court jury found Cardinal Pell guilty. The *Age* was fined \$450,000 after pleading guilty to three breaches, related to an online article, a front-page story in the newspaper and an online editorial. None of the media reports named Cardinal Pell or detailed his charges but referred to a high-profile person being found guilty of serious crimes, when the cardinal was still awaiting another trial. The second trial was later aborted by prosecutors. Cardinal Pell had his convictions quashed and was released from prison last year after a successful appeal to the High Court.

113.1.16 Tiptoeing around press freedom

In mid-June 2019, federal police knocked on journalist Annika Smethurst’s door with a search warrant. The next day, a posse of feds arrived at the ABC’s Ultimo HQ with another warrant, writes **Jonathan Holmes** (*Age*, 6 June 2021). The raids on the home of Smethurst—then a senior News Corp reporter and now Victorian state political editor for the *Age*—and on the national broadcaster’s offices created headlines in Australia and around the world. And they forged a temporary alliance between all the big media players. One day in October 2019 the nation’s newspapers carried pages of blacked out, “censored” news to draw attention to Australia’s increasingly secretive and paranoid polity.

Faced with this outcry, the government asked, in August 2019, the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Security and Intelligence to inquire into the impact of Australia’s security laws on press freedom. In August 2020, the committee’s report laid out the problem succinctly and forcefully. To quote just one sentence: “... the prevailing argument to this inquiry from non-government stakeholders is that the balance in legislation and culture within the Australian Government has tipped away from transparency and engagement to excessive and unnecessary secrecy”.

Since, the government has grasped a proposal put forward by the Law Society: that the role of so-called public interest advocates be extended. PIAs were invented in 2015 by the attorney-general, then George Brandis, to ward off media protests over a law that requires telecoms to store our data

for two years, so police and intelligence agencies can access it. If they want to search a journalist's metadata to identify their sources, the law says they first must get a Journalist Information Warrant; and the granting of that warrant can be contested by a PIA. But PIAs are a fig-leaf, and a farce. Holmes says: "They are lawyers, not journalists; they perform in secret, not in public; they are not permitted to consult the journalist or media organisation whose data is to be searched, so they are reduced to mouthing general platitudes about the public interest in a free press; we don't know who they are, what warrants they have contested, or how successfully."

The Attorney-General's Department has completed a survey of Commonwealth secrecy legislation that identified 11 general secrecy offences, 487 specific secrecy offences and 210 non-disclosure duties.

113.1.17 'Good Food' over 190 years

The *Sydney Morning Herald's* "Good Food" section celebrated the newspaper's 190th birthday in April with a double-page spread, "190 years of Sydney dining". Readers were invited to join "our guided tour to the pivotal movements and moments that have made the city one of the world's tastiest".

113.1.18 Press Council, MEAA and News Corp

Tensions between the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance and News Corp Australia were exposed when the union (MEAA) decided to stop contributing to the funding of the Australian Press Council. MEAA said the arbitrations of the Press Council were "out of touch" and that more robust regulation was needed (Nick Bonyhady and Zoe Samios, "Press Council move exposes News Corp, union tensions", *Age*, 24 May 2021, p.27).

113.1.19 Brisbane daily celebrates 175 years

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, issued a 24-page page souvenir edition, entitled "Making History", on Monday, 21 June, the day after the paper's 175th anniversary. The feature sets out mainly to tell of the stories it has covered over the years and the causes it has espoused; there is much less of a focus on the history of the newspaper itself. Yet when the *Brisbane Courier* published its "80th Birthday Number" on 22 June 1926, for instance, it told so much about the struggles of those early years, its editors, its production changes and its competition. The middle two pages of the 175th year souvenir edition are a reproduction of the front page of Vol. 1, No. 1, of the *Moreton Bay Courier*.

On Page 3 editor Chris Jones says: "This masthead—the newspaper you hold in your hands—was for Queensland even before there was a Queensland." [Queensland was not a separate colony until 10 December 1859.] That statement glosses over the fact that the masthead of 20 June 1846 was the *Moreton Bay Courier* and has since changed three times: to the *Courier* (on 14 May 1861, when it became a daily); to the *Brisbane Courier* (11 April 1864); and to the *Courier-Mail* (28 August 1933, when it amalgamated with the *Daily Mail*, established 3 October 1903). The souvenir edition's timeline, across the foot of most pages from 4 to 15, fails to mention the advent of the *Daily Mail* in 1903.

The *Courier-Mail* proper of 21 June 2021 featured a front page where half the space was occupied by a Harvey Norman ad. (the page contained only seven pars or sentences of news). Pages 2 and 3 were full-page ads., also for Harvey Norman. The editorial on Page 18 placed the location of the first *Moreton Bay Courier* office "on the corner of Queen and Elizabeth streets", which are parallel streets. Fortunately, the front-page article in the souvenir edition said the first office was "on the corner of Queen and Albert streets", which are intersecting streets.

113.1.20 Plural subjects, singular verbs

In this era of diminishing emphasis on proof-reading and sub-editing, Australian newspaper reports (especially sports reports) containing sentences with more than one subject but a singular verb seem to be proliferating. Some examples (and they seem to be spreading like a virus):

- “The Blues’ domination and desire was summed up by an act of desperation early in the second half from Trbojevic when Xavier Coates seemed certain to score.”—Brent Read, *Australian*, 28 June 2021, p.24.
- “The peace and quiet and serenity of Wollombi is as far from the hustle and bustle of Wimbledon as a former champion can get.”—Will Swanton, *Weekend Australian*, 26-27 June 2021, p.1.
- “There’s at least four Australian stars who walk into the best T20 line-up, who aren’t in the West Indies right now.”—Russell Gould, *Weekend Australian*, 3-4 July 2021, p.38.
- “The Australian Rugby League Commission chairman doesn’t shy away from the fact that there is far more points being scored and that some of the teams are struggling to keep pace.”—Paul Crawley, *Australian*, 5 July 2021, p.22.
- “All year, Barty’s global travelling and competition has led to this moment...”—Jacqueline Magnay, *Australian*, 9 July 2021, p.1.
- “Dual US Open champion Pat Rafter believes the brilliant defensive capabilities of Ash Barty is key to the Australian’s chances of claiming a famous Wimbledon success on Saturday night.”—Courtney Walsh, *Weekend Australian*, 10-11 July 2021, p.33.

113.1.21 Covering international sport in a pandemic

- ❖ **Gideon Haigh** suggested at the beginning of July that no Australian news organisation would have a journalist reporting from the Caribbean during the Australian white-ball cricket teams’ visit to the West Indies (*Weekend Australian*, 3-4 July 2021). T20 matches were scheduled from 9 to 16 July and one-day internationals from 20 to 24 July. Haigh sets out an argument for cricket journalism *in situ*, rather than “done off the telly”.
- ❖ For the first time in almost 75 years, Australian Associated Press is not sending a team of journalists to cover an Olympic Games. AAP has covered every summer Games since the end of World War II, but the logistical hardships caused by the pandemic, coupled with reduced staff numbers prompted management’s decision. AAP editor Andrew Drummond said the agency would rely on a single journalist and a photographer, seconded from the Press Association, to anchor its on-the-ground coverage in Tokyo (*Australian*, 5 July 2021). It was announced on 8 July that no crowds would be allowed at the Tokyo Olympics. Tokyo was entering its fourth state of emergency because of Covid.

113.1.22 Executive reshuffle at Nine

Chris Janz, the executive who spearheaded a revival of the former Fairfax newspapers, such as the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age*, has resigned from Nine Entertainment Co. Janz was Nine’s chief publishing and digital officer (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 July 2021). He oversaw the commercial aspects of the *Herald*, *Age* and *Australian Financial Review*, online streaming platform 9Now, Pedestrian Group and Nine’s product team. Nine chief executive Mike Sneesby has announced that Janz will be replaced by two executives: James Chessell, who is being elevated from the position of executive editor of the *Herald* and the *Age*, and Nine’s former chief digital officer Alex Parsons. Chessell will become managing director—publishing and will be responsible for the commercial performance of the *Herald*, the *Age* and the *Australian Financial Review*. Chessell will be replaced as executive editor by national editor of the *Herald* and the *Age*, Tory Maguire. Maguire, the former editor-in-chief of HuffPost Australia, joined Fairfax Media (now Nine) in 2018. She had since led the newspapers’ federal politics, business, world and environment coverage.

113.1.23 Savva joins the *Herald* and *Age*

Political columnist Niki Savva has ceased contributing to the *Australian* after 10 years and has joined the *Sydney Morning Herald* and Melbourne *Age*. Savva’s final column in the *Australian* appeared on 24 June. She ceased writing for the paper after the editor Michelle Gunn told her she would have to share a page on Thursdays with a new columnist, Peta Credlin, a Sky News host. Credlin is a former chief of staff to Tony Abbott when he was Prime Minister. Savva wrote a book, published in 2016, that was highly critical of the role Credlin paid in the downfall of the Abbott government. Savva’s first column for *Herald* and *Age* will appear on 5 August (*Telum Media Alert*, 14 July 2021, and a mix of other sources).



2—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: DIGITAL

113.2.1 Seven West increases digital earnings

Seven West Media has flagged a sharp increase in digital earnings and told investors it is on track to beat its full-year profit forecasts amid a strong recovery in advertising spending (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 June 2021). In a market update, the owner of the Seven free-to-air TV network, the *West Australian* and other newspaper assets said it expects to nearly double its digital revenue next year, that its debt levels for the current fiscal year will be lower than previously indicated, and that it now expects advertising revenue for the June quarter to grow more than 45 per cent. Seven West's net debt was expected to land between \$240 million and \$250 million by 30 June 2021. The company has reduced net debt by \$320 million over the past 18 months and said it is aiming to refinance its debt facilities later this year. The company posted a net profit of \$116.4 million for the fiscal half year compared to a \$49.4 million loss a year earlier.

113.2.2 Irritations removed

John Menadue's public policy journal, *Pearls and Irritations*, has informed its online readers they can no longer provide comments on its website. In May the team said it had made this decision because it takes a lot of time to moderate discussions; there's a potential defamation risk; some comments are offensive; and "the software we use to manage comments is 'clunky'."

113.2.3 News consumption: Australia in 2021

The rapid increase in news consumption by Australians at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic has not been maintained in 2021. The *Digital News Report: Australia 2021* says the proportion of people paying for news has not increased this year and interest in news has declined since 2020. Australians have become more trusting of news in general, but their concern about misinformation remains high. Here are some key findings of the report:

- **Trust in news has rebounded** to 43 per cent but is well below the high of 53 per cent trust in COVID-19 news coverage found in April 2020.
- **News consumption has fallen** from the COVID-19 high, with heavy news use dropping from 69 per cent in April 2020 to 51 per cent in January 2021, and lower than previous years.
- **Interest in the news continues to decline**, with those expressing high interest down from 64 per cent in 2016 to 52 per cent in 2021.
- **Most Australians support impartial and balanced news**; 73 per cent agree news should present a range of views and 71 per cent say news should give equal time to all sides.
- **Women and young people** say they are underrepresented in news, with 26 per cent of Gen Z women saying news does not give their gender enough coverage.
- **Local news continues to be an important part of Australian's news diet**, and the findings confirm a significant role of local newspapers in generating a sense of community.

This report is part of a long running international survey coordinated by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, an international research centre in the comparative study of journalism based at the University of Oxford. The *Digital News Report* delivers comparative data on media usage in 46 countries and across six continents.

The News and Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra is the Australian partner institute and author of the *Digital News Report: Australia*. This is the seventh annual *Digital News Report: Australia*.

113.2.4 Nine and Facebook and Google

Nine Entertainment Co has said it will back digital journalism in its publishing and television newsrooms over the next five years after formalising deals with Google and Facebook for use of content on their platforms (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 June 2021). Industry sources, who spoke anonymously because they had signed non-disclosure agreements, said the two deals were signed early on 1 June, after months of negotiations and the introduction of landmark new media bargaining laws. The two deals are in addition to the agreements struck with News Corp Australia and Seven West Media. Nine confirmed the news in a statement on the ASX and said it expected growth in publishing earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation to be between \$30-\$40 million this financial year.

113.2.5 Guardian Australia and Facebook

Guardian Australia has entered into a new agreement with Facebook that will have Guardian provide news content to Facebook's News tab. The News tab will be Facebook's dedicated news feed for journalism and will be curated by Facebook staff. The partnership follows a similar deal that Guardian struck with Google in February (*Telum Media Alert*, 5 July 2021).

113.2.6 Country Press Australia and Facebook

Country Press Australia, which represents more than 170 regional newsrooms across Australia, has signed a Letter of Intent with Facebook. This letter, subject to signing a long-form agreement between the two entities, is a multi-year agreement to provide an innovation fund to support newsroom sustainability and digital transformation. Country Press president Andrew Manuel said the funding provided by Facebook under this agreement would help sustain original public-interest journalism in the many regional and local communities served by Country Press members (*Telum Media Alert*, 5 July 2021).

113.2.7 Google boss happy to live with media laws

Google's global chief executive Sundar Pichai has expressed a degree of support for the Australian government's media bargaining laws. Google has signed binding contracts with News Corp Australia and Seven West Media, as well as letters of intent with Nine, Guardian Australia and the ABC (*Age*, 29 May 2021, p.4).

113.2.8 Warrnambool: Digital edition

News Corp launched the digital title, the *Warrnambool News*, on 17 May. Simon Cameron is the publication's sole reporter. Stories are shared on the *Warrnambool News*'s Facebook page but appear on the *Herald Sun*'s website. This follows recent changes made by News Corp so that many local publications merge content with their capital-city mastheads (*Telum Media Alert*, 7 May 2021).

113.2.9 Reddit opens office in Sydney

Online news aggregation and discussion website Reddit will expand its business to Australia, opening an office in Sydney to look after local communities, moderation and sales (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 July 2021). The move follows the US-based company's expansions to the UK and Canada, as part of an international push to offer more value to local brands and advertisers hoping to tap into Reddit's 52 million daily active users. The site's local operations at Barangaroo will be managed by David Ray, currently head of digital platforms at WooliesX, who was previously involved in the Australian expansions of Twitter and Amazon Music. Reddit said Australians make up the site's fourth largest user base, growing at 40 per cent per year. Australian users spend an average of 31 minutes a day on Reddit, collectively contributing 158 million posts, comments and votes each month.



3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

113.3.1 Sunshine Coast and Mackay: Dailies to return as printed weeklies

The *Sunshine Coast Daily* and Mackay's *Daily Mercury*, which last appeared in print in June 2020 and have since been available only digitally, will return to printed editions in August, but only weekly and only "on trial". The papers will appear each Friday from 6 August (*Telum Media Alert*, 10 May 2021).

113.3.2 Movement on Sydney's North Shore

Louise Jameson, of Sydney, reports: Home delivery of the *North Shore Times* print version disappeared some time ago. The print version is still available for pick-up at certain places, such as the local library. The digital version still exists but is slim. It can be found at: <http://newslocal.smedia.com.au/north-shore-times/>

A new paper, *Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Post*, seems to be gaining support. A print version was home delivered recently. Digital website is: <https://www.hkpost.com.au/digital-edition>

113.3.3 West Wyalong: *Advocate* sold and continues

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: Arthur S. Bradley, former newspaper owner, has sold the *West Wyalong Advocate* and has been winding up the affairs of the business he had owned in partnership with ACM's Regional Publishers P/L. "It was both interesting and challenging," he said. "After announcing the closure of the *Advocate* in December 2020, I was contacted by two parties interested in seeing the paper continue. This was before we had produced our final issue so we entered into discussions with the one we felt most practical, Evolution Mining. This resulted in negotiations which went on for over four months but eventually led to the sale of the building and newspaper."

Evolution Mining formed a locally based foundation, in which it had no control, and gifted the paper, plant and equipment to it to enable the *Advocate* to resume with complete editorial freedom. The foundation began publishing, weekly, on 14 May. Bradley said, "Of the five people who worked in the old business, four have a role in the newspaper, with the other having retired at the end of December, so all in all a good result for the town and the staff and with the sale of the building, the previous owners. The *Advocate* switched from bi-weekly to weekly in April last year, because of the Covid pandemic.

For more on Bradley, see ANHG 99.3.1:

113.3.4 Ballarat and Wyndham: 2 new magazines

Provincial Media, which publishes lifestyle title *Geelong + Surf Coast Living*, has launched two new print magazines, *Ballarat Living* and *Westside Living* (Wyndham City in Melbourne). The quarterly magazines are published "in line with a season and focus on style, aspirational living and local lifestyle in their regions". Jon Zabiegala is the managing editor of the Ballarat and Westside titles (*Telum Media Alert*, 11 June 2021).

113.3.5 Mildura: *Sunraysia Daily* increases to 4 editions a week

Mildura's *Sunraysia Daily*, which has not been printed daily since the end of March 2020, has added a fourth edition to its weekly printing timetable. It was issued weekly (Saturday) from 4 April 2020, bi-weekly (Wednesday/Saturday) from 20 May 2020, and tri-weekly

(Wednesday/Friday/Saturday) from 19 June 2020 (ANHG 109.3.9). It added a Monday edition on 15 February 2021 to make it a four-day a week paper.

Sunraysia Daily general manager Glenn Robinson “cannot foresee the print edition publication days increasing in the near future unless print advertising by national brands and local businesses is substantially reinvigorated”. He says Harvey Norman is a classic example of a national brand that is supporting only metro print publications, “with minimal (if any) print advertising in regional and rural publications”. Robinson recently counted 22 pages of Harvey Norman advertising in one edition of Melbourne’s *Age*, which would be lucky to sell 500 papers in Sunraysia (Glenn Robinson, email message to ANHG, 13 July 2021).

113.3.6 Perth: End of Community Newspaper Group

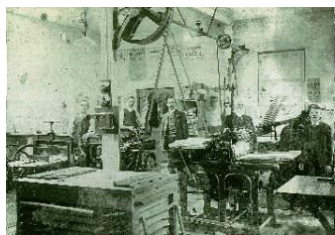
Seven West Media has announced changes to its printed community newspaper offerings and will launch a local paper under the *PerthNow* brand on 5 August. The new title will have 10 localised editions, to be published weekly. Seven West Media’s Community Newspaper Group will be retired when *PerthNow* is launched. The *Sound Telegraph* and the *Mandurah Coastal Times* will continue (*Telum Media Alert*, 28 June 2021).

113.3.7 WIN News axes local news bulletins

The WIN Network shed staff across its regional newsrooms when it axed local news and moved to state-wide bulletins from July 1 (*Australian*, 25 May 2021). The local bulletins have been replaced by state-wide regional bulletins, screened at 5.30pm to precede the 6pm Nine News. The new state-wide bulletins are broadcast into additional regional areas including Mackay, Bundaberg and Hervey Bay in Queensland and Orange, Dubbo, Wagga Wagga and Griffith in NSW, as well as Albury Wodonga in Victoria. In three locations—Wollongong, Canberra and Tasmania—WIN News continues to be aired in its old format but has also moved to the 5.30pm timeslot.

113.3.8 ACM appoints national editorial trainer

Australian Community Media has appointed Saffron Howden as its national editorial trainer. She will train ACM’s editorial staff across dozens of regional newsrooms throughout Australia. Howden was Google News Initiative’s first teaching fellow for Australia and New Zealand and was the co-author of *Kid Reporter: The Secret to Breaking News*. She founded the national children’s newspaper, *Crinkling News*, and has worked as a reporter and editor for nearly 20 years (*Telum Media Alert*, 5 July 2021).



4—NEWSPAPER HISTORY

113.4.1 Daisy Bates and Ernestine Hill

Extract from **Craig Munro’s** review (*Australian*, 24 May 2021) of Eleanor Hogan’s book, *Into the Loneliness: The Unholy Alliance of Ernestine Hill and Daisy Bates*, NewSouth Publishing, 444pp.:

In 1932, freelance journalist Ernestine Hill travelled to the remote railway siding of Ooldea in South Australia to interview the legendary Daisy Bates. The two women made an odd couple—the youthful Hill in shorts, and Bates in a full-length skirt and holding aloft the black umbrella she carried with her everywhere. The Victorian-era formality of Bates’ clothes was at odds with her life among the Aboriginal people at Ooldea. Her tent was in the sand dunes, and she was using an upended galvanised iron water tank to store her extensive archive of artefacts, notebooks, manuscripts and books. There was barely room in her tent for a bed, which was covered in kangaroo skin.

Born Margaret O’Dwyer in 1859, she’d grown up in Ireland before emigrating to North Queensland as a governess. She was married briefly to “Breaker” Morant, and then acquired the surname Bates after a bigamous marriage to another

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drover, Jack Bates. Her life's work among Aboriginal people in Western Australia and South Australia began on her return in 1899 from a sojourn in London. By coincidence that was the year Ernestine Hill was born in Rockhampton—as Ernestine Hemmings. From an early age she wanted to be a writer, publishing a book of verse in Brisbane before moving to Sydney in search of a career in journalism. Ernestine worked for a time as a sub-editor on *Smith's Weekly*, which was managed by Robert Clyde Packer, and she assumed the married name "Mrs Hill" in 1924, after giving birth to her son. Robert Packer was the father.

After their affair, Hill joined the staff of the Launceston *Examiner* and around 1930 she became a freelance feature writer for the high-circulation *Sunday Sun*, travelling the outback with her camera and typewriter. Her interview with Bates in 1932 made the front page of the *Sun* and created a nationwide media sensation with its claims of cannibalism—something that had become an obsession of Bates'.

113.4.2 Cover picture: Alleged attempt to kill King

On 17 July 1936, the news summary column on Page 1 of the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported:

Summary: Overseas News. Attempt on King's Life.

What appears to have been an attempt on the King's life was made yesterday at Hyde Park corner in London, as the King was returning from a parade of the Guards. A man pointed a revolver at the King over the heads of the crowd. Instantly a constable struck the man's arm. The revolver was hurled through the air and struck the King's horse. A man was arrested. He is George Andrews Mahon (sic), a journalist. The King was calm. He rode on towards Buckingham Palace, with the crowd cheering madly.

On 1 August 1936, the *West Australian* reported on Page 21:

THREAT TO THE KING ACCUSED MAN'S STORY. NO WISH TO KILL. COMMITTAL ON THREE CHARGES George Andrew McMahon (35) was committed for trial from the Bow-street Police Court, London, yesterday on three charges relating to the alleged threat to the King's life on July 16. In the witness box accused told of how he had sought the redressing of the wrongs which he believed he had suffered. His actions on July 16, he said, were an attempt to draw attention to his case. Accused denied that he had pointed a weapon at the King or had any wish to hurt him. He said that he threw a revolver in the path of the procession. At one point in his evidence accused broke down in tears.

LONDON, July 31.—The Police Court hearing of the charges against George Andrew McMahon (35), arising from the alleged threat to the King's life on July 16, was concluded in the Bow-street Court today. McMahon was committed for trial on the following three charges: (1) Having carried a loaded firearm with intent to damage life and property. (2) Having presented to the person of His Majesty a revolver with intent to break the public peace. (3) Having produced a revolver near the person of His Majesty with intent to alarm him. The feature of the day's hearing was the evidence of McMahon himself. He denied that at any time he wished to harm the King. He merely threw the revolver in the path of the procession in the hope of attracting attention to his own misfortunes. His account of what happened contradicted the version given by a special constable named Dick, who after he claimed to have knocked the revolver from accused's hand was acclaimed as the hero of the hour.

113.4.3 *Hansard* in Victoria

[Source: Parliament of Victoria website]

From the second half of the sixteenth century the British Parliament prohibited all reporting and publishing of its proceedings. The Parliament believed it should deliberate in private and regarded any attempt to publicise its proceedings as a serious, punishable offence. By the late eighteenth century dissension among more progressive members of Parliament, the growing weight of public opinion and the increasingly outspoken attacks of the press persuaded the Parliament to relax its stance. In 1803 the House of Commons passed a resolution giving the press the right to enter the public gallery. That same year William Cobbett, publisher of *Cobbett's Weekly Political Register*, added to his newspaper a supplement entitled *Parliamentary Debates*, which was a reprint of journalists' reports of speeches extracted from other newspapers.

In 1812 that publication was taken over by Cobbett's assistant, T. C. Hansard, who in 1829 changed the title of the reports to *Hansard's Parliamentary Debates*. By the late 1870s dissatisfaction with the accuracy of the report was being expressed. As a result Parliament voted Hansard the sum of £300 a year for shorthand assistance. The Hansard family continued to publish Parliamentary Debates until 1889. Other publishers continued to print transcripts of the debates, until in 1909 the House of Commons took control of the reporting and printing of parliamentary debates. It was during the 60 years of the Hansard family's publication that the name "Hansard" became synonymous with the printed debates. In 1943 the British Parliament reinstated "Hansard" in the title of its formal record.

For the first decade of the Parliament of Victoria, reports of the debates of both houses were transcribed and published by the *Argus* newspaper. Called *Victorian Hansard*, they were of questionable accuracy and were often criticised. On 23 June 1865, a motion that the transcription and printing of proceedings be supervised by the Parliament was carried in the Legislative Assembly. Three former *Argus* reporters were hired to form a Department of Victorian Parliamentary Debates. They began reporting on 12 February 1866 at the beginning of the first session of the fifth Parliament of Victoria (four decades before the Parliament in Westminster passed a similar motion). In the early years the reports were still incomplete because of a shortage of suitably qualified staff. Gradually additional staff members were appointed, and it became possible to publish the debates in full.

The bound volumes were officially entitled *Parliamentary Debates* but were always referred to by the colloquial name, *Hansard*. Acknowledging the historical association and bowing to popular usage, "Hansard" was incorporated in the title page of the official report of parliamentary debates in 1958.

The *Hansard* staff consists of a manager, (the unit head), an editor (Assembly) and an editor (Council), sub-editors, reporters, publishing and IT officers, and a business support officer. The unit uses a range of advanced technologies to produce *Hansard*. All staff have access to the digital audio recording of the proceedings of Parliament. The methods used to transcribe and edit speeches include computerised shorthand and voice-activated transcription, and keyboarding. Hansard also uses a modified form of Microsoft Word's word processing system and desktop publishing software in producing the official report.

Hansard is not a verbatim transcript of what is said in the chambers. Rather it is an accurate report of speeches devoid of redundancies, obvious grammatical errors, slips of the tongue and factual errors.

Daily Hansard, which is a proof version, is available on the internet four hours after the House adjourns for the day. *Weekly Hansard*, which comprises the revised dailies for the week, is available on the internet three working days after the end of the sitting week and in hard copy approximately one week afterwards. The books are later incorporated into bound sessional volumes. The measure of the work of *Hansard* can be found in its printed output: between 1856 and 1866, the *Argus* published 11 volumes of *Victorian Hansard*; since 1866, Hansard has published 472 volumes of *Parliamentary Debates*. *Hansard* is a bequest to and a resource for all Victorians.

113.4.4 Flashback 100 (3): Last of the copykids

- This is the third in a series of flashbacks to items in the *ANHG Newsletter* 100 issues ago (20 years ago). This extract is from *ANHG* No. 13, July 2001.

Under the heading, "last of the copykids", Jim Buckell wrote in "The Diary" in the Media liftout in the *Australian* on 24 May 2001, p.2:

Next week marks the passing of an era in journalism training at the Sydney branch of News Limited, MATP (Mirror Australian Telegraph Publications). It will be the last occasion when cadet journalists are chosen from the ranks of copykids - a system which had clung on at MATP after it had been abandoned by the other major employers in the country. Group editorial manager Warren Beeby, himself a copyboy on the now defunct Sydney *Daily Mirror* in 1960 (along with Blanche D'Alpuget and Anna Torv, a former wife of News Corporation chairman Rupert Murdoch), says it's a sad passing of an era. "The system has served us well but times have changed," says Beeby. Now, when most applicants for cadetships are university graduates, it seems inappropriate to have them running errands. Not to

mention inefficient. More than one graduate has passed up a copy position at MATP in favour of a cadetship at another paper, sometimes in the same group. The *Daily Telegraph* will appoint four cadets next week and the *Sunday Telegraph* one. Together with five cadets on the *Australian*, they take up their positions in July. Copyperson duties will in future be undertaken by clerical staff.

113.4.5 Number of dailies falls by 23 since 1980

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: I was asked recently to provide figures on the number of daily newspapers published in Australia in 1980 compared with now. I found that there were 23 fewer dailies being printed in July 2021 compared with 1980. The most dramatic fall has been in the number of regional dailies in print; that figure has fallen from 37 to 20, mainly because of the Covid pandemic last year.

Type of daily	1980	2021	Decrease
National	2	2	Nil
Capital-city (metro)	16	10	6
Regional	37	20	17
TOTAL	55	32	23

In 1980, the daily newspapers in Australia were as listed below:

National: *Australian*, *Australian Financial Review*.

Metro (or capital cities): Brisbane: *Courier-Mail*, *Telegraph*. Sydney: *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Sun*, *Mirror*. Melbourne: *Sun News-Pictorial*, *Age*, *Herald*. Adelaide: *Advertiser*, *News*. Perth: *West Australian*, *Daily News*. Hobart: *Mercury*. Canberra: *Canberra Times*. Darwin: *Northern Territory News*.

Regional: Tasmania: 2 (*Examiner*, Launceston; and *Advocate*, Burnie and Devonport). Western Australia: 1 (*Kalgoorlie Miner*). Victoria: 6 (*Geelong Advertiser*; *Courier*, Ballarat; *Advertiser*, Bendigo; *Sunraysia Daily*, Mildura; *Standard*, Warrnambool; *News*, Shepparton). NSW: 15 (*Border Mail*, Albury; *Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga; *Daily Liberal*, Dubbo; *Central Western Daily*, Orange; *Western Advocate*, Bathurst; *Goulburn Evening Post*; *Maitland Mercury*, Illawarra Mercury, Wollongong; *Newcastle Morning Herald*; *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth; *Northern Star*, Lismore; *Daily News*, Murwillumbah; *Daily Examiner*, Grafton; *Barrier Daily Truth*, Broken Hill; *Lithgow Mercury*). Queensland: 13 (*North West Star*, Mount Isa; *Cairns Post*; *Townsville Bulletin*; *Daily Mercury*, Mackay; *Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton; *Gladstone Observer*; *News-Mail*, Bundaberg; *Maryborough Chronicle*; *Gold Coast Bulletin*; *Queensland Times*, Ipswich; *Chronicle*, Toowoomba; *Sunshine Coast Daily*, Maroochydore (estab. 7 July 1980); *Daily News*, Warwick).

In July 2021, the Australian daily newspapers are:

National: *Australian*, *Australian Financial Review*.

Metro (or capital cities): Brisbane: *Courier-Mail*. Sydney: *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Daily Telegraph*. Melbourne: *Herald Sun*, *Age*. Adelaide: *Advertiser*. Perth: *West Australian*. Hobart: *Mercury*. Canberra: *Canberra Times*. Darwin: *NT News*.

Regional: Tasmania: 2 (*Examiner*, Launceston; and *Advocate*, Burnie and Devonport). Western Australia: 1 (*Kalgoorlie Miner*). Victoria: 5 (*Geelong Advertiser*; *Courier*, Ballarat; *Advertiser*, Bendigo; *Standard*, Warrnambool; *News*, Shepparton). NSW: 8 (*Border Mail*, Albury; *Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga; *Daily Liberal*, Dubbo; *Central Western Daily*, Orange; *Western Advocate*, Bathurst; *Illawarra Mercury*, Wollongong; *Newcastle Herald*; *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth). Queensland: 4 (*Cairns Post*; *Townsville Bulletin*; *Gold Coast Bulletin*; *Chronicle*, Toowoomba).

N.B. On 30 June 2021, the *Daily Journal*, for Warwick and the southern Downs, ceased daily issue after six months of publication. It is now published twice a week.

113.4.6 *Argus* and kindergarten holiday home

The *Burwood Bulletin*, Melbourne, of March-May 2021 carried an extract from the *Age*, 29 March 1927, that tells of the part the former *Argus* building played in a holiday home for kindergarten children. The ANHG has edited the extract:

For the past students of the Kindergarten Training College, yesterday was an important occasion. The new holiday home, Forest Hill, near Tunstall, came into operation. Ten children from Brunswick kindergarten were sent there—the first to enjoy the change of air and the country food which these kindergartens have made possible. It is estimated that the home will cost £600 (\$1200) a year to maintain. This money will have to be found by the girls who initiated this scheme. They hope that the Charities Board will make a grant when that matter is considered in June.

Because of delays, fund raising by private means has been necessary. Numerous bridge parties have been organised, realising more than £100. At the opportunity shop in the old *Argus* building, Collins Street, on Wednesday and Thursday this week, many who desire to aid the past students in their work for the children of the city will find the opportunity to do so. [The *Argus* had moved to Elizabeth Street.]

113.4.7 Trove: Jewish newspapers digitised

Fifteen new newspaper titles have been digitised in Trove (trove.nla.gov.au) as part of the Australian Jewish Newspapers project, which is a huge collaborative effort. This collection of newspapers, says Trove, provides free and fully searchable access to more than 200,000 pages and 180 years of Australian Jewish community history. The new titles are digitised over the years 1871 to 2008. Two titles cover 2008 to 2020 and are shared with Trove as digital-only issues. Researchers will see these as a duplicate title listed below and will open them in a separate viewer.

The titles are:

Australian Jewish Herald, Melbourne, 1920-1933; *Australian Jewish News*, Melbourne, 1935-1999; *Australian Jewish News*, Melbourne, 2000-2020; *Australier Leben = Australian life*, Melbourne, 1931-1933; *Westralian Judean*, Perth, 1924-1925, 1929-1955; *Australian Hebrew Times*, Sydney, 1894; *Dialectic: Jewish Monthly*, Fitzroy, 1875; *Australian Zionist Pioneer*, Sydney, 1929; *Australasian Hebrew*, Sydney, 1895-1896; *Australian Jewish Chronicle*, Sydney, 1922-1931; *Sydney Jewish News*, 1939-1954; *Australian Jewish Times*, Sydney, 1953-1990; *Australian Jewish News*, Sydney, 1990-2008; *Australian Jewish News*, Sydney, 2009-2020; *Australian Jewish Herald*, Melbourne, 1935-1955; *Australian Israelite*, Melbourne, 1871-1875; *Jewish Weekly News*, Melbourne, 1933-1935.

The project is a collaboration between the National Library of Australia, the National Library of Israel and the Australian Jewish Historical Society. This joint initiative was made possible with financial assistance from philanthropic supporters, including the David Lesnie Foundation, the Embassy of Israel in Australia, the Besen Family Foundation, and Eitan Neishlos and Lee Levi.

113.4.8 *Sport* in 1908

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: In 1971, I began studying for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Professional Writing at the Canberra College of Advanced Education (now the University of Canberra). That year, for a magazine project report, I wrote a research paper about Australian sports magazines. I called it, “What’s the score on sport in the magazine?” Among the magazines I studied were three failed titles, *Sports Novels*, *Sporting Life* and *Sport*. Each had been published in Sydney.

Peter Gill, of Melbourne, has reminded me of all this by sending me a package of material which included the front page of the first issue of a Melbourne sporting newspaper. The city had a weekly sporting newspaper from May 1908 until November 1917. It was called, variously, *Sport* (issues 1 to 73, 1 May 1908 to 17 September 1909), *Sport and Playgoer: A journal devoted to sporting and theatrical matters* (Nos. 74 to 90, 24 September 1909 to 14 January 1910), and, again, *Sport* (Nos. 91-306, 21 January 1910 to 30 November 1917). From 13 April 1913, the masthead of the paper stated that it was published under “the patronage of the Victorian Football League, Victorian Football Association, and leading Junior Associations”.

The first issue of this publication contained a statement of editorial direction that said, in part:

The proprietors of *Sport* have made extensive preparations to place within the reach of all a first-class sporting paper. It will deal as fully as space will permit with all branches of clean sport, and within this limit each branch will be afforded that prominence which its votaries desire. The constant endeavour of the proprietors will be to obtain the latest and best information for the edification of their subscribers. ...

With horse racing always extensively reported in many other publications—we have decided not to interest ourselves. ... Cricket, Tennis, Baseball, Lacrosse, Bowls, Hockey, Rowing, Angling, Swimming, Amateur Athletics, and other sports will have liberal representation in our columns, and full accounts, interesting to all followers of each, will be provided.

113.4.9 Rousing the henchman of the public weal

An unusual newspaper editorial motto: from the *Muswellbrook Chronicle*, in the NSW Hunter Valley, 19 January 1898, p.2:

O, sacred weapon, left for truth's defence,
Sole dread of folly, vice and insolence,
Reverent we touch thee but with honest zeal
To rouse the henchman of the public weal.

113.4.10 Miners declare newspaper 'black'

Armidale Express, 29 May 1928, p.8: Muswellbrook Miners' May Day committee has been responsible for a decision which has aroused much comment. At a meeting to deal with the result of the sports held here recently reference was made to a number of business people having refused [to make] donations. Twelve delegates were present from St. Heller's colliery And only two from Muswellbrook colliery. A motion was passed declaring the *Muswellbrook Chronicle* "black" and calling on the business people to withdraw their support from the paper. The meeting also decided to withdraw their support from other business people who did not contribute to the May Day sports fund. The *Chronicle* is charged with having practically snubbed the collector when he called at the office for a donation. The paper is also charged with its definite anti-working class attitude (sic).

113.4.11 Christmas issue of *Longreach Leader*

Daily Mercury, Mackay, Monday, 6 December 1937, p.8: The Christmas issue of the *Longreach Leader* reached us on Saturday. The publication is printed on art paper and there is a wealth of reading matter and photographs relative to the West. The sheep industry and wool-washing and droving stories are features of a very fine issue.



5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

113.5.1 Book

Becker, Elizabeth, *You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War*. Black Inc., 2021. 320pp. \$32.99 (PB); \$14.99 (e book).

113.5.2 Articles

Australian, "Great enemy of truth is those who conspire to lie", *Australian*, 8 June 2021, editorial, p.10. An editorial about journalism ethics. It makes particular mention of the ABC in relation to journalists such as Sally Neighbour and Louise Milligan. See the newspaper's letters page on 9 June.

Bramston, Troy, "Spirit of an artist", *Weekend Australian*, 5-6 June 2021, Weekend Review, p.5 Comic strip illustrator Sy Barry reflects on his work, including 33 years of drawing The Phantom.

Dale, David, "His and myths: an illustrated history of our storied past", *Sun-Herald*, 18 April 2021, p.21. In April 2020, the author challenged cartoonist Matthew Martin to illuminate

“a story a day till the COVID’s away”. They were still at it in April 2021. Dale teaches media at the University of NSW.

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Masters, Chris, “Lessons from the ‘big little’ stories of my journalist mother”, *Age*, 10 May 2021, p.27. An excerpt from the speech Masters made as keynote speaker at the opening of the Judith Neilson Institute’s new offices in Chippendale, Sydney.

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Muller, Denis, “NSW and Victoria lockdown coverage reveals much about Covid politics”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 June 2021. This article was originally published in *TheConversation*.

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