



A 1938 image of the staff of the *Lachlander* outside its office in William Street, Condobolin, New South Wales: From left: Frank Beech, compositor/printer; Doug Stone, Intertype operator; Jack Hobson, junior printer; Wallace Teague, reporter; Betty Condon, clerk/cadet reporter; Michael John Condon, proprietor/editor. Condon (1863-1955) bought the paper in January 1911, after selling the *Bemboka Advocate*, which he had founded near Bega in 1899. Condon became heavily involved in the community at Condobolin, just as he had been in Bemboka. He served as mayor of Condobolin in 1936-37 and was a long-serving alderman. He found time also to be an active member of the wider country press fraternity. Over half a century he rarely missed a NSW Country Press Association annual conference, was president in 1924-25, and was made a life member in 1940. He was the weekly newspapers' delegate to the Australian Provincial Press Association for some years. Condon said he helped write the first code of ethics of the Australian Journalists' Association. He sold the *Lachlander* in 1952. The *Lachlander*, ditched hot metal production in November 2003, leaving only two Australian papers still produced by those methods (the *Don Dorrigio Gazette*, still "hot"; and the *Koondrook and Barham Bridge*).

## AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

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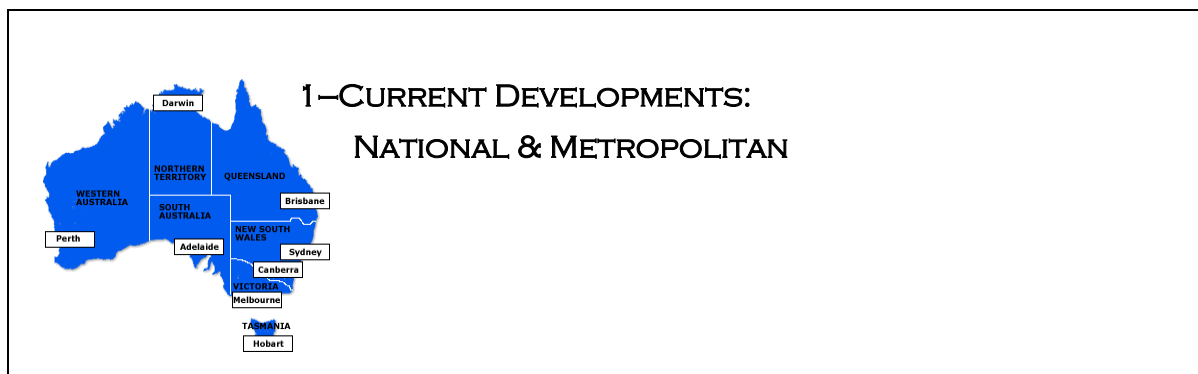
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Ten issues had appeared by December 2000; the *Newsletter* has appeared five times a year since 2001.



### 115.1.1 *Herald* editor resigns; new one appointed

Lisa Davies resigned as editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* in late October and left the masthead after almost a decade (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 October 2021). She had been the editor since February 2017 (ANHG, 91.1.1, February 2017). “After almost five years in the best job in journalism, I have decided it’s time to move on,” Davies said. “It has been an immense privilege to lead this newsroom, which is full of talented and passionate individuals wholly committed to delivering news our readers can trust—day in, day out. The last two years in particular have tested us all in ways we couldn’t have imagined so as things return to a more even keel, the time feels right for me to look towards what’s next.”

Davies joined the *Herald* as a crime editor in 2012 after seven years at the opposition paper, the *Daily Telegraph*, owned by News Corp Australia. She began as the *Herald*’s editor in 2017 and has led the masthead through some of its most significant periods, including the 2018 merger of Fairfax Media and Nine Entertainment Co, the national bushfire crisis and most recently the coronavirus pandemic. In her time leading the masthead, the *Herald*’s audience has grown from 5.5 million readers to 8.4 million, according to 2017 data from Enhanced Media Metrics Australia and the most recent figures from new measurement provider, Roy Morgan. Davies left on 19 November.

The *Herald*’s deputy editor, Cosima Marriner (see 115.1.6 below), is acting as editor. The *Herald*’s and *Age*’s executive editor, Tory Maguire, thanked Davies for her passion and dedication to the role. Davies’ resignation is the latest of several changes to the newsrooms of the *Herald* and the Melbourne *Age*. Former executive editor, James Chessell, is now Nine’s managing director of publishing, and Maguire was elevated from her role as national editor to executive editor in July. The changes were made following the departure of Nine’s chief digital and publishing officer, Chris Janz.

**New editor:** On 1 December, Nine announced the appointment from January 2022 of Bevan Shields, the current Europe correspondent for the *Herald* and *Age*, as the next editor of the *Herald*. Before his Europe posting, Shields spent five years based in Canberra as federal editor and Canberra bureau chief for the two papers (*Telum Media Alert*, 1 December 2021).

### 115.1.2 Leunig dropped by *Age*

Michael Leunig’s storied half-century career as the *Age*’s best-known editorial page cartoonist has ended (*Australian*, 25 October 2021). A 39-word statement on its letters page on 18 October said that the Melbourne newspaper was “trialling new cartoonists” on the page. Leunig has confirmed that he was axed from his Monday editorial page position by the *Age*, after it dumped a cartoon in which he compared Daniel Andrews’ threat of “vaccine mandates” for Victoria to the famous Tiananmen Square vision of “Tank Man”, the Beijing dissenter who defiantly faced off against the Chinese government’s tanks in 1989. The cartoon never made it into the newspaper because the *Age* refused to publish it. But Leunig self-published on his own online site, earning angry criticism from #IStandWithDan supporters on social media. Leunig says the *Age*’s editor Gay Alcorn called him soon after she banned the offending cartoon to “break the news gently” that he was no longer wanted on the editorial page. “Gay feels this type of cartoon is not in line with public sentiment, and the *Age*’s readership, who it does seem are largely in favour of the Andrews Covid narrative. But my job is to challenge the status quo, and that has always been the job of the cartoonist.” On

6 December (p.19), the *Australian* reported that Leunig now claimed that Age had censored his cartoons for 12 weeks in a row before his removal in October.

See also: Angela Shanahan, “Leunig is far more awake than the woke, thankfully”, *Weekend Australian*, 30-31 October 2021, p.16; “Diary”, *Australian*, Media section, 1 November 2021; and Peter Craven, “Leunig toons; don’t worry—that’s not all folks”, *Australian*, 2 November 2021, p.11.

### 115.1.3 The Paine of double jeopardy

A newspaper article that was about to be published led to the resignation of Tim Paine as captain of Australia’s Test cricket team and possibly to the end of his representative career. Paine resigned as captain on 19 November, the day before News Corp Australia’s tabloid metropolitan dailies broke the story of explicit text messages sent between Paine and a female employee of Cricket Tasmania in 2017. The texting incident had been investigated by both Cricket Tasmania (CT) and Cricket Australia (CA) three years ago, with the woman not cooperating, and Paine had been cleared of breaching player codes of conduct. Stephen Drill, national correspondent for the Sydney *Daily Telegraph*, Melbourne *Herald Sun*, Brisbane *Courier-Mail* and the Adelaide *Advertiser*, broke the story on 20 November. When Paine announced his resignation at an afternoon press conference on 19 November, he said he had become aware that a “private text exchange” he had had with a woman in 2017 was about to “become public”. On 20 November, the *Courier-Mail* splashed the story on Page 1 and filled Pages 2, 3, 4 and 5 with it, and other papers highlighted it, too.

On 24 November, the *Australian* published two comment pieces with directly opposing viewpoints, both written by women. One was chief sports reporter Jessica Halloran and the other, columnist Janet Albrechtsen. Halloran questioned how, suddenly, Paine had become the victim. “Cricket Tasmania made it official with a press statement on Tuesday [23 November] claiming Paine’s treatment by Cricket Australia had been appalling. But what is most ‘appalling’ is both Cricket Tasmania and Cricket Australia’s handling of this complaint by a woman. ‘Elite honesty’? Try elite cover-up. These cricket authorities have tried to convince us they are truly keen on fighting for the fairer sex, when in fact if an incident can destroy their Australian men’s team, they will absolutely protect him at all costs.” CA chair Richard Freudenstein said on 19 November his board would not have reached the same conclusion as the board did in 2018. “While I cannot speak about the original decision-making in 2018, what I can say is that faced with the same circumstances, and with the benefit of all relevant information about this matter, Cricket Australia would not make the same decisions today,” he said.

By contrast to Halloran, Janet Albrechtsen said: “It’s bad enough that codes of conduct within workplaces, including sporting codes, can be highly ambiguous and therefore discretionary and unclear in their application. It’s far worse when an employer, here CA, decides there are effectively two courts of law: one set down by a legally enforceable code of conduct and, when it doesn’t like that outcome, then it defers to another court – the front-page headline of a tabloid newspaper – where re-prosecutions can be launched retrospectively, pronouncements made, also retrospectively, and careers ended.”

Henry Ergas wrote in fairly similar vein to Albrechtsen (*Australian*, 26 November, p.11). He said, “There are, in effect, compelling reasons the principles underpinning the rule against double jeopardy should deny complainants who choose not to come forward a second chance: as well as robbing the accused of a clear outcome, whose finality would provide some certainty, a system in which complainants could reopen proceedings at any time would encourage the withholding of information – possibly with the intention of eventually selling it to the media – and facilitate blackmail. As a result, CA’s decision to junk the earlier investigations, which do not seem to have been marred by procedural flaws, is not only inconsistent with natural justice; it also threatens the integrity of its complaint process going forward, exposing players to risks that are as unnecessary as they are unjustified.”

On 26 November Paine announced that he had advised Cricket Australia that he was “taking a leave of absence from all forms of cricket for the foreseeable future”. This may well mean Paine’s representative career is over. Paine turned 37 on 8 December, the day the first Ashes Test in Brisbane began.

### 115.1.4 Climate-change campaign and who inspired it

The News Corp Sunday papers in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide and Darwin began on 10 October a fortnight campaign promoting the benefits of a carbon-neutral economy (see ANHG 114.1.1). The company's daily newspapers in those cities—the *Courier-Mail*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Herald Sun*, *Mercury*, *Advertiser* and *NT News*—became the main vehicles for the campaign from their issue of 11 October. They began with a 16-page wraparound supplement, and online campaign championing the drive to cut climate-warming emissions by 2050.

This change of editorial direction was not handed down from on high, the company's global; chief executive says. It reflected the collective will of local news editors and was not something imposed by Rupert Murdoch, Robert Thomson told the Senate inquiry into media diversity on Friday. "Glasgow [the city's climate summit] is the time to concentrate minds and thinking, and that's what our local editors have done in Australia, not dictated by me or anyone else," he said. He became aware of the editors' climate-change campaign when he read about it in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

See also: David Crowe, "Hypocrisy, cynicism, realism lie behind Murdoch's CO2 switch", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 October 2021, p.13; and Parnell Palme McGuinness, "Do you want the good News or the bad?", *Sunday Age*, 17 October 2021, p.29.

### 115.1.5 Seven West's bid for Prime

Seven West Media is set to acquire the business and assets of Prime Media Group for \$131.88 million. The acquisition is subject to a number of conditions, including a vote among Prime shareholders in December and approval from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. Prime owns the regional television network, Prime 7, in eastern Australia and GWN7 in regional Western Australia. Seven West Media owns the Channel 7 network and West Australian Newspaper Goldings (*Telum Media Alert*, 1 November 2021).

Australian Community Media, owned by Antony Catalano and Alex Waislitz, held a 23 per cent blocking stake in Prime. It grabbed a holding in 2019 to thwart Seven West's earlier attempts to buy the business and had kept lifting it. ACM walks away from the transaction with \$44 million, doubling its money in the buyout. Seven West had 43.5 per cent support for its proposal at 1 November, and needs 50 per cent to get a deal done (*Australian*, 2 November 2021).



### 115.1.6 PEOPLE

**Louise Bryant** has had her News Corp role of managing editor, *Vogue Australia*, *Vogue Living* and *GQ Australia* expanded to include being managing editor, the *Australian* (News Corp Australia announcement, 26 November 2021).

**Jenna Cairney**, most recently the editor of the Hobart *Mercury*, became the director of communications, media and public relations for the Tasmanian Premier, Peter Gutwein, on 29 November. Cairney had become the *Mercury's* editor in January 2020. Since 2012, she had been editor successively of the *Daily Examiner*, Grafton, the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, and the *Townsville Bulletin* (*Telum Media Alert*, 29 October 2021). See "Warhurst" below. See also ANHG 68.3.1, 95.3.7, and 106.1.4.

**Nerida Hodgkins** has been appointed editor of the *Saturday Age*, Melbourne. She was most recently the deputy print editor of the *Age*. She replaces David King who has been appointed national editor (*Age*, 9 October 2021, p.2).

**Eugenie Kelly**, announced in ANHG 113.1.8 (July 2021) as editor-in-chief for the re-launch of *Harper's BAZAAR Australia*, resigned on the eve of the re-launch (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 October 2021). Fashion editor **Jillian Davison** was elected to the editor's role.

**Rachael Knowles**, acting editor of the *National Indigenous Times* since September, has been confirmed as editor. She has worked for the paper since 2019 (*Telum Media Alert*, 24 November 2021).



**John Lehmann** has been appointed managing director of the *Australian* for NSW, the ACT and the News Prestige Network. He also joins the Publishing Board. He replaces Nicholas Gray (News Corp Australian announcement, 26 November 2021).

**Sharri Markson**, investigations writer for the *Australian*, has won the 2021 Sir Keith Murdoch Award, the top award in News Corp Australia's annual journalism awards. She won it for her ground-breaking reporting on the origins of Covid-19. Markson wrote a series of investigative articles on links between the Wuhan Institute of Virology and how the pandemic started, and in September her critically acclaimed book, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, was published. On 9 November she addressed US Congress members on her findings (*Australian*, 8 and 25 November 2021).

**Cosima Marriner** has been appointed deputy editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. She began her career at the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 2000. She was appointed editor of the *Sun-Herald* in 2018, as reported in ANHG 98.1.6 (*Telum Media Alert*, 6 October 2021).

**Maria Ressa** and **Dmitry Muratov**, journalists, have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their "courageous" defence of freedom of speech and expression in the Philippines and Russia (*Age*, 9 October 2021, p.2). See also: Tim Elliott, "Hot press", *Good Weekend*, 18 September 2021, pp.6-9 (about Maria Ressa); and "Journalists at the front line in democracy fight", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 October 2021, p.28 (editorial).

**David Skapinker** becomes director of communications and corporate affairs for the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas this month. He was formerly Telum Media's region head for Australia and New Zealand (*Telum Media Alert*, 22 October 2021).

**Michael Smith** relocated from Australia to Japan in October to become North Asia correspondent for the *Australian Financial Review*. This marked the return of a *Financial Review* bureau to Japan after an absence of 15 years. Smith is continuing to cover China and Taiwan in this new posting. He has been the China correspondent since 2018, firstly in Shanghai and secondly in Sydney (*Telum Media Alert*, 22 October 2021).

**Melissa Stevens**, digital editor of the *South China Morning Post*, will become editor of the *Sun-Herald*, Sydney, in February 2022. Nick Calacouras, the new deputy weekend editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Sun-Herald*, is acting as editor of the *Sun-Herald* till Stevens' arrival (*Telum Media Alert*, 19 November 2021).

**Greg Thomson**, formerly general manager of the *NT News*, has been appointed managing editor of the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, *Saturday Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph*, as well as [nerrws.com.au/](http://nerrws.com.au/) (News Corp Australia announcement, 26 November 2021).

**Gayle Tomlinson** has been appointed editor of the *Illawarra Mercury*, the daily serving Wollongong, and the Illawarra, New South Wales. She was previously head of audience for Australian Community Media (*Telum Media Alert*, 27 October 2021).

**Peter Tonagh**, a former chief executive of News Corp Australia and Foxtel Management Pty Ltd, is the new deputy chair of the board of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Tonagh, a non-executive director of the ABC since 13 May this year, will be deputy chair until 12 May 2026 (ABC online news, 15 November 2021).

**Craig Warhurst**, editor of the *Townsville Bulletin*, has been appointed editor of the *Hobart Mercury*. Warhurst is also a former editor of the *Sunshine Coast Daily* and the *Gympie Times* (News Corp announcement, 26 November 2021).

### 115.1.7 Murdoch and Morgan: Then and Now

**Samantha Hutchinson** and **Stephen Brook** write (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 September 2021, p.2): When News Corp wants to pivot, the media giant is shameless. Witness this pirouette from News Corp global chairman Rupert Murdoch regarding British broadcasting loudmouth and Meghan Markle-denier Piers Morgan.

THEN: "Piers Morgan seems unemployed after failing to attract any audience in US. Seemed out of place. Once talented, now safe to ignore."—Murdoch on Twitter, 10 September 2014.

NOW: “Piers is the broadcaster every channel wants but is too afraid to hire. Piers is a brilliant presenter, a talented journalist and says what people are thinking and feeling.—Murdoch on 16 September 2021.

\*\* On 17 September the Associated Press reported:

LONDON -- British presenter Piers Morgan will join News Corp and Fox News Media and host a TV show that will air in the US, Britain and [Australia](#), the company said [16 September].

### 115.1.8 Opening the Pandora Papers

At 3.30am (AEDT) on Monday, 4 October, news organisations around the world began publishing stories about the rich, powerful and sometimes famous. The mass publishing event by 600 journalists in 17 countries under the banner of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), was the result of an epic 12-month investigation dubbed the Pandora Papers. Underpinning the investigation was a trove of 11.9 million documents taken from 14 firms that specialise in setting up exotic offshore e business structures. Those documents revealed the secret business affairs of the world elite, from royalty (King of Jordan) to politicians (for example, former UK prime minister Tony Blair and Russian president Vladimir Putin) and pop stars (including Elton John and Ringo Starr). More than 400 Australians were found in the documents, from financiers to property developers and the super-rich. There were also examples of politically exposed people and foreign citizens accused of corruption buying up assets in Australia or funnelling unchecked potentially ill-gotten gains through entities incorporated in Australia (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 October 2021).

### 115.1.9 Deaths

**Kelett, Frank:** D. 26 September 2021 on Sunshine Coast, aged 81; began career with *Newcastle Morning Herald* as a cadet journalist in 1958; was graded and in 1966 was promoted to features editor, in 1968 to news editor, in 1972 to deputy editor; in 1977, was appointed to handle planning and implementation of the Harris system for the papers and was also in the computer planning for advertising and production; the changeover to the system from a pure hot metal operation started in August 1978 and was completed by April 1979; in 1980, was appointed advertising manager of the *Newcastle Herald* and *Sun*; in 1981, Neville Jeffress Advertising in Sydney appointed him advertising administration manager; he planned the computerisation of the agency’s operations; moved to Sydney with his wife, two sons and a daughter; in 1986, became executive director of the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association (PANPA) and served in that role until the end of 2001; a former PANPA president John Tidey says Kelett made a huge contribution to the Australasian newspaper world in his role at PANPA and later as chief executive of the Publishers National Environment Bureau; on his watch PANPA achieved an international reputation and one of its conferences famously attracted more than 1,000 delegates; PANPA activities ranged from production groups and trade shows to management training and Kelett himself initially edited the well regarded *PANPA Bulletin*; was ably assisted in all PANPA activities by his wife Robin who survives him; in recent years they lived in retirement on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

**Kelly, Peter:** D. 31 August 2021 in Sydney, aged 91; born in Launceston; began working life at 15 as a guillotine operator and proofreader before moving into journalism; at *Bulletin* in late 1950s, worked with editors such as Donald Horne and Peter Coleman; allowed his membership of the Labor Party to lapse at this time; in 1963, editor told him Clyde Packer was going to sack him; became press secretary to a federal minister, William McMahon; stayed with him five years; joined Maxwell Newton’s newspaper enterprises in 1968; rejoined McMahon’s staff for 1975 election campaign after dismissal of Whitlam government; later worked for Federated Ironworkers Association; in 1990 became press secretary to Dr John Hewson (Josephine Kelly and Sean Kelly, “Trusted adviser revelled in political thrust and parry”, *Weekend Australian*, 16-17 October 2021, p.30).

**Kennedy, Trevor:** D. 28 November 2021 in Sydney, aged 79; born in Albany, Western Australia, where his family owned a drapery store; educated at Aquinas College, Perth; worked on land for short time before entering journalism at the *Albany Advertiser*; moved to Canberra where he worked on the *Canberra Times* and was recruited into the Canberra bureau of the *Australian*

*Financial Review*; formed a close, at times tempestuous, relationship with the paper's bureau boss, Maximilian Walsh; after working as a political reporter, was sent to London by editor Vic Carroll; scooped all the News Ltd papers about the daily twists and turns in the closely fought takeover of the *News of the World* by Rupert Murdoch in 1968-69; returned to Australia to head *AFR* Melbourne Office, and was later appointed foundation editor of *National Times* in 1971-72; in late 1972, was lured by Frank Packer with a commission to revive the ailing *Bulletin*; it thrived under his editorship and in 1981, Kerry Packer appointed him as editor-in-chief of Australian Consolidated Press; five years later he was appointed managing director of Consolidated Press Holdings, reporting to Kerry Packer; resigned from CPH during the tumultuous and ultimately unsuccessful manoeuvrings by Packer to take over John Fairfax; appointed to the Qantas Board, and during his career also served as chairman of Oil Search, Commsoft Group and Cypress Lakes Group, and as a director of both public and private companies, including Qantas Superannuation, Downer EDI, FTR Holdings and RG Capital Ratio; resigned from his directorships after it was announced that he was under federal investigation over tax issues; no charges were laid; in 2010, the *Financial Review* reported that ASIC had dropped its "seven-year inquiry into Mr Kennedy over allegations he was involved in a secret shareholding in print group Offset Alpine, which sparked a major investigation into secret Swiss bank accounts involving deceased stockbroker Rene Rivkin and former federal Labor minister Graham Richardson" (*Australian Financial Review*, 28 November 2021).

**Mathews, Ian Richard:** D. 28 November 2021 in Canberra, aged 88; born at Mitcham, Surrey; spent much of childhood, including Blitz in London, farmed between various relatives; had attended nine primary schools by aged 12; left school at 16, worked for year as a junior clerk in local government before joining the merchant marine for several years; joined a small newspaper group that published mainly weeklies around Tunbridge Wells; received a thorough training in journalism as an indentured apprentice; in late 1950s, he and wife Joyce became ten-pound Poms, migrating to Australia; joined Rupert Murdoch's Adelaide *News* as a sub-editor; joined *Canberra Times* in 1963, owned by Shakespeare family but soon to be acquired and much expanded by the Fairfax organisation as it came into competition with Murdoch's *Australian*; working alongside editors David Bowman and John Allan and for a while managing editor John Pringle, Mathews was soon in executive positions, as chief sub-editor, news editor and deputy editor; became editor 1972-85, and editor-in-chief, 1985-88; his editorial policy promoted a broad liberal and deeply civilised view of the nation and world, attentive to issues of social welfare, human rights and Aboriginal affairs; the newspaper won a number of UN Peace Prizes for its coverage of international issues; with the 1987 break-up of the Fairfax empire and the acquisition of the *Canberra Times* by Kerry Packer, Mathews was squeezed out in 1988, but remained closely involved in Canberra affairs; published a newspaper for the United Nations Association, and an RSL newspaper (*Canberra Times*, 2 December 2021). Also, see Graham Downie, "Celebrating a man who changed my life", *Canberra Times*, 5 December 2021. Graham was blind journalist who was initially hired for a three-month trial in 1973. He had worked for the newspaper as a male telephonist from 1968.

**Travis, Michael Warren Kennedy:** D. September 2021 in Canberra, aged 94; born and raised in Melbourne; became a cadet journalist at the *Age*; embarked with a university friend on what was an unsuccessful business venture, starting a coffee plantation in Papua New Guinea; returned to newspapers, working for the *Moree Champion*, NSW; joined *Canberra Times* as a sub-editor in January 1966, rose to become chief sub-editor within a few years; worked at paper full-time for 22 years and as a casual sub for 19 years (to age 80); renowned as a custodian of style, grammar and language; Peter Brewer's *Canberra Times* obituary included fulsome tributes from Max Prisk, a sub for the paper who went on to become editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1988-93; Ian Mathews (see obituary above); and Jack Waterford, a cadet who went on to become editor, 1995-2001, and editor-in-chief, 2001-06 (*Canberra Times*, 23 October 2021, p.23; and other research).

### 115.1.10 Pandemic blamed for media job losses

Australia's media and telecommunications industry has lost more than 30,000 jobs since the coronavirus took hold. The media industry was hit with widespread job losses between March and June 2020 because of sharp falls in advertising spending. New research by economist Jim Stanford

on behalf of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance shows that less than 25 per cent of the jobs lost in that period had been regained by November 2020, with the remaining losses likely to be permanent (Age, 1 November 2021, p.27).

#### **115.1.11 Nine and News Corp employ more young journalists**

**Nine:** The *Sydney Morning Herald* and the Melbourne *Age* announced in November that they would hire 10 trainee journalists as part of an expansion of their newsrooms. The papers will also add another four roles in presentation and distribution.

**News:** News Corp Australia has announced the appointment of 30 journalism cadets across the country. There were more than 400 applicants. The cadets will spend six months at a time in each of four newsrooms, some in the capitals and some in regional centres, such as Townsville, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast, during their two-year cadetships. The *Australian* ran a full-page house ad. about the appointments on 6 December (p.6). Ten of the cadets are from NSW, eight from Victoria, eight from Queensland and four from South Australia.

They are: Alasdair Belling, Amaani Siddeek, Chole Overington Whelan, Georgina Noack, Joanne Tran, Madeleine Bower, Noah Yim, Rebecca Borg, Samuel King and Tamaryn McGregor (NSW); Alexandra Middleton, Carly Douglas, Edward Bourke, Elena Couper, Laura Placella, Mashuka Tabassum, Owen Leonard and Sarah Perillo (Victoria); Chole Grimshaw, Fia Walsh, Finn Morton, Georgia Cleland, Kayla Mclean, Paul Harvey, Sarah Petty and Tricia Lee Rivera (Queensland); and Evangeline Polymeneas, Monique Van Der Heyden, Riley Walter and Tia Ewen (South Australia).

The cadets will start in early 2022. News Corp will offer newsroom-assistant roles to another 13 applicants (*Telum Media Alert*, 6 December 2021). See also 115.3.2 below.

#### **115.1.12 Print problems at Truganina**

Melbourne's *Age* has apologised to print subscribers for disruption in October to home delivery and "retail experiences" (*Sunday Age*, 17 October 2021, p.2). News Corp Australia (publisher of the opposition *Herald Sun*) recently opened a new plant at Truganina and production of the *Age* was being transitioned to the new facility. Technical and production issues at Truganina were compounded by Covid restrictions that prevented the printer from sourcing technical expertise outside Victoria. Covid exposure also limited staff numbers allowed on printing sites. One ANHG subscriber's *Sunday Herald Sun* was missing pages 32 to 57 on 24 October. A replacement newspaper was delivered a couple of days later.

#### **115.1.13 Readership figures**

ThinkNewsBrands has published its second Total News readership figures, produced by Roy Morgan. The survey ranks the 10 most-read news brands (across print and digital) in Australia, with results based on the last four weeks, averaged over the 12 months to September 2021. The results are:

1. *Sydney Morning Herald*—8.7 million readers.
2. *Age* (Melbourne)—6.0 million readers.
3. *Australian*—5.4 million readers.
4. *Daily Telegraph* (Sydney)—4.9 million readers.
5. *Herald Sun* (Melbourne)—4.7 million readers.
6. *West Australian* and *Sunday Times* (Perth)—4.4 million readers.
7. *Australian Financial Review*—3.5 million readers.
8. *Courier-Mail* (Brisbane)—3.1 million readers.
9. *Advertiser* (Adelaide)—1.7 million readers.
10. *Saturday Paper*—0.9 million readers.

#### **115.1.14 News Corp Aust posts loss**

News Corp Australia posted a \$60.7 million loss in the 2020-2021 financial year, as it transitioned to digital-only titles for many of what were previously printed newspapers. News Corp has publicly disclosed the performance of its local publishing arm to the Australian Securities and Investments



Commission. The company reported earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation of \$48.6 million, down from \$61.7 million the previous year. The company is now making more money from its subscriptions than from advertisers (*Age*, 8 November 2021, p.34).

### 115.1.15 *Forbes Australia* to launch in 2022

*Forbes* has signed a licensing agreement with Success Publishing to launch an Australian edition of the magazines in 2022. The *Forbes Australia* brand will include a magazine, digital presence and various events and conferences. *Forbes Australia* will syndicate content from *Forbes's* stable of global titles, and also publish localised content from its onshore editorial team. *Forbes* publishes 45 licensed editions in 76 countries (*Telum Media Alert*, 6 October 2021).

### 115.1.16 Saturday magazines get national influence

News Corp Australia has unveiled new or revamped Saturday magazines in four of its capital-city daily newspapers. The long-established *QWeekend* in Brisbane's *Courier-Mail* and *SAWeekend* in Adelaide's *Advertiser* have undergone a makeover, whereas Melbourne's *Herald Sun* has launched *VWeekend* and Sydney's *Saturday Telegraph* has launched *Sydney Weekend*. The changes were made on 6 November. The four magazines include longer-form content about the biggest stories in each state, in addition to travel, food, fashion and other local lifestyle content. Laura Chalmers, head of features at the *Courier-Mail* for 18 months, has become national editor-in-chief of the four magazines (*Australian*, 1 November 2021).



### 115.2.1 Source of news for many young people

When Sam Koslowski and Zara Seidler started uploading news breakdowns on Instagram for their family and friends in 2017, they couldn't have predicted that four years later it would become a trusted news source for hundreds of thousands of young Australians (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 October 2021). *TheDailyAus* has grown into the go-to news source for young Australians, jumping from 70,000 readers in December 2020 to 219,000 less than a year later. The social media-driven platform's aim is simple, engage the young in the news that matters.

"We think of ourselves as a speed bump that meets our readership where they are. You should be able to scroll on social media, see a photo of a coffee, a brand you like, and then a little, digestible explainer of ours about interest rates before going back to what you're doing more knowledgeably," Koslowski said. Over 85 per cent of the publication's 219,000 followers are under the age of 35, and a significant proportion exclusively use it to get their news. Koslowski says young people gravitate towards *TheDailyAus* because it delivers high-quality news that isn't patronising and is devoid of jargon. For now, the publication is focused on producing explainer articles, and while it's likely to dip its toe into the breaking news space, Koslowski would "rather be slow and right, than fast and wrong" for now.

Unlike most traditional media companies, *TheDailyAus* has consciously avoided adopting a subscription-based revenue model. Instead, Koslowski and Seidler are focusing on growing a devout readership before thinking about how to monetise them. Koslowski is proud of the way *TheDailyAus* has made its mark on young people. He's cautious about disrupting that relationship with revenue grabs too early and said the publication was more likely to emulate publications such as the satirical newspaper *The Betoota Advocate*. "Our audience doesn't sit on web browsers and pay to read like other generations do," he said.

Following in the footsteps of *The Betoota Advocate* makes sense. Both organisations are primarily social-media based, have audio offerings, newsletters, and are both published by Piers Grove.

Grove argues working with brands to advertise around an article on a website is ‘a really horrible way’ to cultivate a media business because it makes the relationship with the audience immediately transactional.

### 115.2.2 Flash news goes on stream

Foxtel has launched another streaming service called Flash, an aggregated assortment of 24/7 news brands that starts at 20 and is set to rise (gizmodo.com.au, 14 October 2021). Users can log in and select a news channel for \$8 per month with no contracts, without the need for a Foxtel subscription. The new service has joined Binge and Kayo in the growing stable of streaming platforms that are one foot in, one foot out of the Foxtel umbrella.

Julian Ogrin, CEO of both Binge and Kayo, is also heading up Flash. Ogrin said 85 per cent of Australian houses would have streaming services by 2023. Australians already regularly spend seven hours a week watching paid streams. He takes this as evidence that Australians are willing to pay for premium streams and, indeed, pay for more of them. Binge now has 830,000 subscribers, leaving Kayo in the dust at closer to 100,000. The Flash team said peak periods had 55,000 signups a day, with 300,000 concurrent streams with less than 10 seconds of delay. All in all, they support more than 50 live channels.

From launch, users can load up Flash on a smartphone, tablet, desktop or TV, with the term “Flash player” taking on a very different meaning from 10 years ago. More than 20 news sources appeared in the announcement, ranging from Sky and Fox to RT and Al-Jazeera (full list at the bottom). Due to the polarising nature of news today, time was spent in Flash’s launch presentation and Q&A making it clear it didn’t want to alienate anyone.

### 115.2.3 *Australian* celebrates 10 years behind a paywall

Staff at the *Australian* were excited and anxious when the newspaper’s online presence went behind a paywall on 24 October 2011. Ten years later, every major metropolitan newspaper in Australia has followed the lead. The *Australian*’s digital subscription numbers have reached 180,000. Editor-in-chief Christopher Dore said, “Our success in building our subscribers is in no small part a result of our team embracing new forms of digital storytelling. From outstanding investigative news podcasts, through to website improvements designed to place our award-winning journalism at the centre of the experience, we will continue to explore new ways of telling stories to bring the best journalism to our subscribers.”

In 2011, 59 per cent of subscribers to the *Australian* fell into the over-55, male executive category; today’s subscriber is more reflective of the Australian population, with 32 per cent of readers aged over 55 and 30 per cent under 35. Chris Mitchell, who was editor-in-chief in 2011 when the *Australian*’s paywall was introduced, said: “It has been a lifesaver for premium journalism.”

### 115.2.4 Facebook and Google and the news

Margaret Simons writes (see 115.5.2 below): Rod Sims is concerned that Facebook isn’t dealing with media companies “in the right spirit” under the news media bargaining code. The chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission was responding to an emerging campaign by at least 21 small, independent publishers that have not been able to strike deals with Google, Facebook or both. Sims says Google has done more deals than Facebook. “Google has reached deals with the *Conversation*, SBS and other organisations that Facebook has not done deals with. Google is still negotiating and finalising deals with more news media companies and seems to be approaching this exercise in the right spirit. We are concerned that Facebook does not currently seem to take the same approach.”

Facebook’s dealings with the smaller independents will form part of a review of the code due to start in March next year, says Sims. The review “can examine closely the performance of all parties and whether the government’s expectations have been met.” The campaign by the independents will highlight the murky mix of money, politics and strong-arm tactics that characterised the news media bargaining code’s first year of operation. The code, which came into force in March this year, is world-first legislation under competition law to force Google and Facebook to reach agreements with news media companies for featuring their content. It aims to protect the viability of public

interest journalism and redress an imbalance in market power between the digital platforms and media companies.

### **115.2.5 CNN dismantles its Australian Facebook pages**

US news giant CNN has become the first major international media company to disable its Facebook pages in Australia after the High Court ruled publishers are liable for defamatory remarks made on their Facebook pages. CNN said it had approached Facebook to see whether the platform would disable the comment functionality on its Australian pages but Facebook chose not to do so (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 30 September 2021).

### **115.2.6 *Herald* launches audio bulletins**

The *Sydney Morning Herald* has strengthened its commitment to audio with the launch of two news bulletins for smart speakers and podcast platforms. Each weekday at 6.30am and 4pm, the *Herald* releases “News with the *Sydney Morning Herald*”, a summary of the most important news, hosted by journalists from across the newsroom.

Users with Amazon Alexa-enabled smart speakers can add the bulletins directly or ask for them to be played by saying “Alexa, play news from the *Sydney Morning Herald* newsroom”, and the latest bulletin will launch immediately. Apple HomePod users can ask Siri to play it by saying “Hey, Siri, play News with the *Sydney Morning Herald* podcast” (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 September 2021).

### **115.2.7 Murdoch wants Google and Facebook reined in**

Rupert Murdoch has expressed deep concern over the corporate behaviours of Google and Facebook, accusing the tech giants of censorship, collusion and a lack of transparency that has left other companies and consumers worse off. At News Corp’s annual meeting of stockholders, Murdoch, the company’s executive chairman, called for “significant reform” of some of the business practices employed by the digital platforms (*Courier-Mail*, 19 November 2021, p.2).

### **115.2.8 Jaspan to launch newswire**

Andrew Jaspan, founder of the website The Conversation, is launching **360info**, an independent newswire service that aims to disseminate reliable and credible information across the globe. From January 2022, the new service will provide university research-based content, free of charge, to media outlets under Creative Commons. Media outlets and schools can sign up to the newswire and publish their own content. Initial funding for 360info has been provided by Monash University, Melbourne, which will collaborate on the project with its campuses in Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta. Charis Palmer, former chief of staff at The Conversation, has joined 360info to lead its Asia-Pacific hub (*Telum Media Alert*, 24 November 2021).

### **115.2.9 Publication, profit and philanthropy**

Growing investor appetite in backing fast-growing businesses that also deliver a social good has been a boon for online lifestyle magazine *Primer*, which has not only managed to weather the Covid storm but also found advertisers to back the business. Founded by *Marie Claire* editors Felicity Robinson and Anna Saunders in 2019, the self-funded publication is the latest addition to the local crop of social enterprises that are putting their profits into a social cause. Robinson and Saunders, who live in Melbourne and Sydney respectively, donate 50 per cent of the profits to women’s non-government organisations. This money currently goes to the Women and Girls’ Emergency Centre in Sydney because of the experience of the two founders as journalists reporting on domestic violence (Zoe Samios, “Primer’s ethical view pays off”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 October 2021, p.27). Visit [primer.com.au/](http://primer.com.au/)

### **115.2.10 CNBC business coverage in *West Australian***

The *West Australian* has announced an Australia-first syndication deal with US-based news network, CNBC. The new partnership is aimed at bolstering the newspaper’s business and financial coverage by providing readers access to CNBC’s business coverage, market analysis and special reports. The deal features news around the clock. Readers of the *West* will also be able to

view video content, investigations, in-depth features, explainers and mini documentaries on key events impacting global markets (*Telum Media Alert*, 6 October 2021).



### 3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

#### 115.3.1 *Guardian Australia* launches Rural Network

The *Guardian Australia* introduced on 7 October a weekly newsletter, the *Rural Network*. The aim was to expand the news site's reach by appointing a highly experienced rural and regional editor to anchor its reporting and to set up a network of trusted contributors and collaborating independent regional news organisations. The *Guardian* says, "We think this will give us 'eyes and ears' in different places and provide us with insights we would not otherwise get."

Gabrielle Chan has been appointed editor of the *Rural Network*. *Guardian* editor-in-chief Lenore Taylor said, "I've worked with Gabi on and off for more than 30 years, in the Canberra press gallery and when she was the politics live blogger in *Guardian Australia*'s early years. For almost all of that time Gabi has also lived on a sheep and wheat farm in rural New South Wales. She is an authoritative thinker and commentator on rural issues and the divide between rural and urban Australia, bringing her unique perspective to two acclaimed books on country Australia and farming." The *Rural Network* is funded through a generous three-year philanthropic grant from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation in collaboration with University of Technology Sydney's Centre for Media Transition.

Via the University of Technology graduate partnership, the *Guardian* has also employed a reporter, Natasha May. Taylor said, "When lockdowns permit, Natasha will begin a posting with the *Gilgandra Weekly* newspaper – an independent newspaper owned and edited by Lucie Peart – reporting for both *Guardian Australia* and the *Gilgandra Weekly*."

#### 115.3.2 ACM: Journalism traineeships offered

Australian Community Media has inserted full-page ads in its regional daily newspapers, offering 10 journalism traineeships that are one-year long. The ad. invited people to "become a trusted voice in the forefront of digital news in regional Australia". It said: "Over 12 months you will be embedded in a dynamic multimedia newsroom working across breaking and daily news to cover local, regional and national issues. Locations available for the traineeships to be undertaken include: *Canberra Times*, *Newcastle Herald*, *Border Mail* (Albury-Wodonga), *Examiner* (Launceston), *Illawarra Mercury* (Wollongong), *Courier* (Ballarat), *Standard* (Warrnambool), *Northern Daily Leader* (Tamworth), *Advertiser* (Bendigo), and *Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga). Applications closed 25 November (*Newcastle Herald*, 13 November 2021, p.30).

#### 115.3.3 AAP establishes regional desk

AAP is extending its regional coverage with the launch of a regional and rural desk. Based in Orange in central-western New South Wales, the desk is covering news and issues affecting regional Australia, including industry and services, social welfare, employment and development. Stephanie Gardiner is the desk's first reporter (*Telum Media Alert*, 24 November 2021).

#### 115.3.4 Lismore: Weekly fills gap left by daily

Australian Community Media (ACM) launched the weekly *Lismore City News* on 11 November filling the print gap left by the closure of the print edition of the daily *Northern Star* in June 2020. David Kirkpatrick, who was the final editor of the *Northern Star*, is the editor of the new weekly (*Telum Media Alert*, 3 November 2021).



### 115.3.5 Albany: Weekly to cease

The final issue of Albany's 28-year-old free weekly, the *Great Southern Weekender*, will appear late in December. The owner, Great Southern Media, announced the closure after a board meeting in November decided to restructure the company. The company also owns radio stations 88Fly FM and Gold MX1611 and digital platform Great Southern Live. The future of these media outlets is under negotiation. The *Great Southern Weekender* will close its doors on 23 December. The newspaper's final edition will be distributed on 30 December. The editorial staff of the newspaper will continue filing stories for Great Southern Live (*Telum Media Alert*, 26 November 2021).

### 115.3.6 Brunswick: *Il Globo*

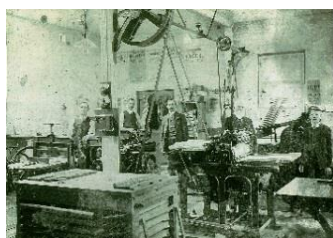
Nicole Lindsay reports (*Age*, 9 October 2021, p.26): The owners of Italian-language newspaper *Il Globo* have spent \$5 million on property in the neighbourhood shopping strip on Melville Road, West Brunswick (Melbourne). The deal could mean new offices for *Il Globo*, which is produced out of digs in nearby Victoria Street.

### 115.3.7 Regional publishers face cost increases

The fate of Australia's regional newspaper publishers is uncertain because of expected price hikes. Norwegian-owned Norske Skog has told some of Australia's newspaper publishers and print suppliers that it will increase its rate by between 30 and 40 per cent because of rising electricity prices and the high costs of freight shipping that have created supply problems (*Age*, 1 November 2021, p.26).

### 115.3.8 Bendigo: *Advertiser* for sale

Australian Community Media has advertised the *Bendigo Advertiser* for sale "to comply with an outdated media diversity requirement pursuant to the Broadcasting Act 1992". (*Canberra Times*, 13 November 2021, p.61, advertisement). The *Advertiser*, a daily since 7 April 1856, began publication on 9 December 1853.



## 4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

### 115.4.1 Fairfax obituaries: A selection

John Myrtle writes: As an enthusiastic reader of the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, I look forward to seeing which historical photograph will introduce each issue. No.114 featured the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Australian Financial Review*, with the photograph reproducing the top half of the front page of the first issue. So, what did it tell us? The newspaper was subtitled "A Sydney Morning Herald Publication", with 28 pages and costing one shilling (10c). The *ANHG Newsletter* also indicated that within a decade the *AFR* would become a bi-weekly (24 October 1961); within two years, a daily (6 September 1963); and that a weekend edition, was introduced on Saturday, 6 September 1997.

As a researcher with a particular interest in the history of John Fairfax Limited and its predecessors, I was led to explore Gavin Souter's *Company of Heralds* (MUP, 1981) for background on the motivation for the establishment of this important addition to the Fairfax stable, with further information also available in Souter's *Heralds and Angels: The House of Fairfax* (Penguin, rev. 1992). *Company of Heralds* is an important company history and given my interest in the history of journalism, my copy of this valuable work bulges with obituaries of Fairfax identities



that have been published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in recent years and filed in my copy of the book. The following represents a selection of those Fairfax obituaries:

### The Fairfax family

**Sir Warwick Fairfax (1901-1987).** He died on 14 January 1987 with a death notice and obituary, *SMH*, 15 January 1987, pp.1-2. His funeral service was held at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, on 30 January 1987. Evan Whitton's report on the service, "Universality of his mind crossed all barriers", *SMH*, 31 January 1987. Note: This report includes a detailed list of mourners.

A few weeks later Alan Gill, *SMH* religion correspondent, wrote "Sir Warwick's passion for spiritual truth", *SMH*, 18 February 1987, p.8. See also the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol.17 (2007) and online, for Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley's biographical essay on Warwick Fairfax.

**Lady Mary Fairfax (1922-2017).** Born Marie Wein in Warsaw, Poland, she married Warwick Fairfax in July 1959. It was her second marriage and Warwick's third. Their son Warwick was born in December 1960 and in 1968 they adopted two babies Charles and Anna, both born in Britain. Two obituaries were published in the *SMH*, 19 September 2017, pp.1, 4-5 (by Andrew Hornery), and 19 September 2017, p.32 (by Valerie Lawson). See also, a funeral notice, *SMH*, 20 September 2017, p.31

**Marcie Elizabeth (Betty) Fairfax (1907(?)-1995.** She was the first wife of Sir (then Mr) Warwick Fairfax. Her three children were Caroline Simpson, James Fairfax and Edward Gilly. Short news article, "Sydney hostess", *SMH*, 23 March 1995.

**Caroline Simpson (1930-2003).** Born in October 1930, she was the eldest child of Warwick and Betty Fairfax. She married Philip Simpson in April 1959. She was an historical writer and philanthropist. Obituary (by Valerie Lawson), *SMH*, 9 January 2003, p.34.

### Senior executives

**Rupert Henderson (1896-1986).** Rupert Albert Geary Henderson became a cadet reporter for the *Sydney Morning Herald* in June 1915 and rose to be general manager and later managing director. Although he never held a senior editorial position with the Fairfax organisation, at the time of his death he was described as one of the outstanding figures in the history of newspapers in Australia. Obituary, *SMH*, 12 September 1986: 2.

See also the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol.17 (2007) and online, for V J Carroll's entry on Rupert Henderson.

**Angus McLachlan (1908-1996).** Angus Henry McLachlan began his career at the *Herald* in 1936 and was appointed news editor in the following year. Subsequently he was to hold several senior positions in the Fairfax organisation and oversaw the modernisation of the *Herald*. He was appointed managing director of John Fairfax Ltd in 1965 but retired from the post on medical advice three years later. He remained a director of the company until 1980. Obituary, *SMH*, 13 August 1996, pp.5, 33.

See also the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (online) for Michael McKernan's entry on Angus McLachlan.

### Editors

**John Douglas Pringle (1912-1999).** The Oxford-educated Pringle joined the *Manchester Guardian* as a journalist in 1934 and served two terms as editor of the *Herald*, firstly 1952-57, and secondly 1965-70. At times, Pringle's liberal views caused strains with Fairfax's senior management. He also worked for some time as managing editor of the *Canberra Times*. Obituary, *SMH*, 7 December 1999, p.2.

**Guy Harriott (1914-1981).** He served as a war correspondent from 1940 to 1945 and was the only editor of the *Herald* whose entire working life was spent on the staff of the newspaper. Editor, 1970-79. Obituary, *SMH*, 3 June 1981, p.8.

**Angus Maude, Baron Maude of Stratford-upon-Avon (1912-1993).** In 1933 the Oxford-educated Maude joined the *Times* as a financial journalist. Elected to the British Parliament in 1950, he fell out with the Conservative government in 1958 and was appointed editor of the *Herald* in 1958. He had an uncomfortable relationship with the *Herald's* management and resigned three years into his five-year contract and was later re-elected to the British Parliament. Obituary, *SMH*, 11 November 1993, p.11.

**David Bowman (1930-2021).** Born in Adelaide, Bowman's journalism career took him from copy boy at the *News* (Adelaide) to editor-in-chief of the *Herald*, 1977-80. Along the way he worked as editor of the *Canberra Times* for 18 years. He was a gifted and thoughtful writer; in the words of his obituary: "His hatred of injustice and bigotry was often in evidence." Obituary, *SMH*, 27 January 2021, p.33.

**Ron Ford (1933-2021).** English-born, Ford was editor-in-chief of the *Sun*. Obituary, *SMH*, 24 September 2021, p.33.

**Michael Davie (1924-2005).** An Englishman, Davie edited the *Age* for 2½ years, from 1979 to 1981. Obituary, *SMH*, 10 December 2005.

## Journalists

**Robert Haupt (1947-1996).** He died in New York in September 1996, on his way home after five years as the *Australian Financial Review's* Moscow correspondent. Before that, he had been Moscow correspondent for the *Herald* and the *Age* and was acknowledged as one of the outstanding writers of his generation. Obituary, *SMH*, 5 September 1996, p.4.

**Peter Robinson (1926-2005).** Robinson was a leading professional journalist with expertise in economic and defence issues. Post-World War II he had volunteered to serve in the British Commonwealth occupational forces in Japan, initiating a life-long interest in Japan and Asian politics. For many years he worked as a senior writer for Fairfax papers and was later editor-in-chief of the *Australian Financial Review*. In 1974 he joined government with a four-year term as a member of the Industries Assistance Commission. Obituary (by Max Suich), *SMH*, 29 January 2005, p.62.

**Margaret Jones (1923-2006).** Born in Rockhampton, having worked as a journalist with the Mackay *Daily Mercury*, as a stringer with the ABC and the *Daily Mirror* in Sydney, Margaret Jones joined the *Herald* in 1954. She was a trailblazer for women journalists with a number of foreign correspondent appointments, including New York, Washington, London and Beijing. Retiring from the *Herald* in 1987, she served on the Australian Press Council from 1988 to 1998. Obituary (by Gavin Souter and Tony Stephens), *SMH*, 3 August 2006, p.18.

**Peter Hastings (1920-1990).** An experienced journalist and foreign correspondent, Peter Hastings was highly regarded for his insights on the Asia-Pacific region. A key role for him between 1964 and 1976 was his work as executive officer of the Council on New Guinea Affairs. Early in his career he had worked for the Packer organisation, including the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Sunday Telegraph*, and as editor of the *Bulletin*. He had several roles with John Fairfax Ltd including associate editor of the *Herald* from 1979 to 1985. Obituaries (by David Jenkins, Gavin Souter, and Milton Cockburn), *SMH*, 9 August 1990, pp.2, 11.

See also the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol.17 (2007) and online, for Gavin Souter's entry on Peter Hastings.

**Alan Gill (1937-2018).** English-born, Alan Gill was the *Herald's* religious affairs writer from 1971 to 1988. A journalist of strong Christian conviction, Gill also wrote about other faiths, including Judaism, Buddhism, Scientology and Islam. Obituary, *SMH*, 1 March 2018, p.36.

**T. S. (Thomas Stanley) Monks (1916-2011).** Best known for his byline "T S Monks", the English-born journalist was a significant source of news and commentary for *Herald* readers for more than 30 years. Post-war, he joined the *Herald's* editorial staff in Sydney and returned to England in 1948. Obituary, *SMH*, 14 November 2011, p.20

**Rosemary Munday (1940-1996).** Munday was a leading journalist who worked for the *Herald* and most of Sydney's other major publications. She left the Fairfax group in 1973 to work freelance and battled multiple sclerosis for many years. Obituary, *SMH*, 17 August 1996, p.76

**Peter Ruehl (1947-2011).** Born in New York. When covering the 1983 America's Cup he met Jennifer Hewitt, the US correspondent for the *Herald*. They married in 1984 and two years later moved to Australia. Ruehl is best remembered for his humorous columns in the *Australian Financial Review*. An example: 'The Mardi Gras parade is on this Saturday night and once again I can't make it. Nothing to wear. A blue blazer and Khaki trousers would make me stand out like Eddie Murphy trying to infiltrate a Ku Klux Klan rally.' Obituary, *SMH*, 14 April 2011, p.20

### Cartoonist

**George Molnar (1910-1998).** A cartoonist and academic architect, the Hungarian-born Molnar came to Australia in 1939. Established as principal cartoonist for the *Daily Telegraph*, in 1953, he was hired by the *Herald*. The *Herald's* obituary is accompanied by two classic Molnar cartoons and a tribute written by former *Herald* editor, John Douglas Pringle, who described Molnar as his best friend. Obituary, *SMH*, 17 November 1998, p.4.

### Photographer

**Anton Cermak (1933-2003).** Born in Czechoslovakia, Anton Cermak fled Prague in 1968 after risking his life photographing invading Russian officers. Arriving in Sydney he worked for the *Herald* and other Fairfax newspapers and won several awards, including one in the British Press Photographer of the Year competition. Obituary, *SMH*, 9 September 2003, p.32.

### Librarians

**Hans Forst (1911-1997).** A refugee from Nazism, Dr Hans Forst worked as librarian for the *Herald*, 1946-76. Obituary, *SMH*, 26 November 1997, p.37.

**Kate Owen (1928-2010).** Early in her career Kate Owen worked as a cadet journalist in Adelaide. When her family moved to Sydney, she joined the library of the *Herald* and was later appointed chief librarian. Obituary, *SMH*, 3 January 2011, p.18.

## 115.4.2 Newspaper owners become TV kingpins

The State Library of NSW's Coral Thomas fellow, Professor Sally Young, gave a public lecture on 14 October. Her theme was how Australian newspaper groups took over Australian television in the 1950s. When Australia's policymakers started to plan for the introduction of television in the early 1950s, the country's major newspaper groups (the *Herald* and *Weekly Times*, Consolidated Press, Associated Newspapers and Fairfax & Sons) had already spent more than 10 years studying television overseas, especially in the UK and the US. They lobbied policymakers for an American-style commercial television system rather a British-style system of public broadcasting that would lock them out of the new medium. The newspapers also shaped public and business perceptions by reporting that television was going to be extremely expensive and financially risky to start up.

By the time Australian commercial television licence applications were opened in 1955, the newspapers had frightened off potential competitors or else convinced them to join up with them. Across Australia's major cities, 10 of the first 11 commercial television licences were awarded to groups with a newspaper company as a major shareholder. And by 1960, newspaper groups were in control of all of Australia's commercial television stations.

In later years, new television players emerged when the government handed out country television licences and additional licences in metropolitan cities. But the newspaper groups which had got into television early and obtained the key first licences in the largest markets, reaped the benefits for decades. Television delivered even more power and profits to Australia's largest newspaper empires.

Prof. Young, of the University of Melbourne, is the author of *Paper Emperors* (UNSW Press, 2019) which provides a history of Australian newspapers from 1803 to 1941. She is currently writing its sequel.

### 115.4.3 Indigenous print history

Jack Latimore, appointed in July to be Indigenous journalist for Melbourne's *Age*, has written an important article on the proud history of "Blak media" ("Voices that carry", *Age*, 17 October 2021, pp.26-27). He refers to the *Aboriginal or Flinders Island Chronicle*, handwritten at Wybalenna, as having been the first Australian Indigenous printed newspaper. The first edition, which appeared on 10 September 1836, comprised two pages and was jointly written and edited by Thomas Brune, aged about 14, and Walter George Arthur, aged about 17. Commandant of the Aboriginal settlement, George Augustus Robinson, oversaw the publication. Latimore mentions another Aborigine, Walter Juba Martin, as having been one of the clerks writing the issues of the paper. Flinders Island is off the north-east coast of Tasmania.

Latimore says the *Chronicle* was produced for about three years until March 1839. He provides no source for that assertion. Michael Rose's *For the Record: 160 Years of Aboriginal Print Journalism* (1996) and the internet sources available indicate that 29 editions of the *Chronicle* were produced to the end of December 1837, which suggests that although it aimed at weekly publication, it was more like a fortnightly. Wikipedia cites the "Papers of George Augustus Robinson, ML A7073, vol. 52, part 4, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales" as the source for how many issues were published and for December 1837 as the final issue.

See also: Michael Gawenda, "Absence of Indigenous voices has served our readers poorly", *Age*, 18 October 2021, pp.10-11.

### 115.4.4 SpringDale: *Messenger* at 30

ANHG has received a copy of the *SpringDale Messenger* of November 2020 which marked the completion of 30 years of publication. The monthly publication was one of the first projects of SpringDale Community Cottage and is now the flagship service of SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre. The *Messenger* started through discussion in Sue O'Connor's lounge room between the founding members of SpringDale. The first issue of the *SpringDale Messenger* was eight sides in A5 format and black print on white paper and has grown to a stable 24-page, A4 full colour magazine. It is delivered in hard copy to more than 15,000 homes. The editor since 2003 has been Anne Brackley, who is now the secretary of Community Newspaper Association Victoria (*SpringDale Messenger*, November 2020).

### 115.4.5 Sporting hero, massacre and 1895 newspaper article

An 1895 article in the *Chicago Herald Tribune* suggests that a sporting hero of the Australian colonial era, Tom Wills, took part in reprisal attacks on indigenous people. There is no date or page number for the newspaper article cited. Wills' biographer, Greg de Moore, says "there could be a thread of truth" in the 1895 article in which an anonymous American correspondent quotes Wills describing his involvement in deadly reprisal attacks that followed the Cullin-la-ringo massacre. On 17 October 1861, while Tom Wills was away getting supplies, his father Horatio Wills and 18 others in their party were murdered at the newly established Cullin-la-ringo station in central Queensland, which sat within the 15,000 square kilometres of Gayiri land between Springsure and Capella. It was the largest massacre of white settlers by Aboriginal people.

In the *Chicago Herald Tribune* article, titled "Old Days in Australia", an anonymous correspondent, with the byline "G", concludes a "racist diatribe" about his own days as a gold miner in Australia by loosely quoting Wills's description of his tearful arrival back at the scene of the Cullin-la-ringo massacre.

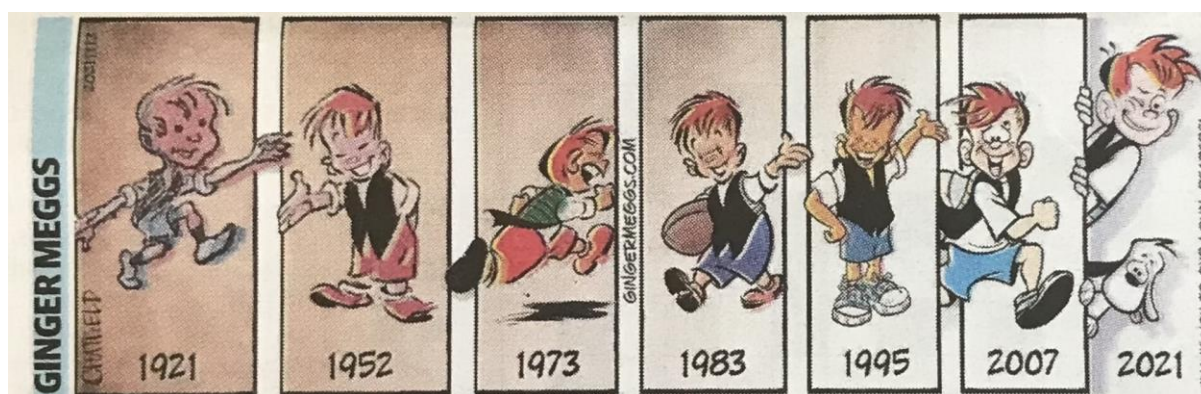
In the account, Wills is reported as saying: "I turned to the drovers, who were crying like children, and ordered them to gallop to the neighbouring 'runs' to spread the news. Before morning thirty good men and true were at the door, among them two native trackers who were friendly to us, who said there was about forty in the gang. If you ever saw men set out to kill it was these. There was 'death to the devils' written on every face.

"After eight hours' galloping we came up with the band about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. What a shout went up as we sighted them! How we galloped down upon them! I cannot tell all that happened, but know we killed all in sight. Just as we thought they were all settled I happened to

see a dirty, shrinking, greasy brute with my Zingari jacket on sneaking off. O, the desecration of it! Fancy my Zingari jacket! O, didn't I gallop after him, and when I got alongside I emptied the whole six barrels of my revolver into him, the brute." Wills is regarded as a co-inventor of Australian Rules football and a cricket star. (Russell Jackson, "Research discovery suggests AFL pioneer Tom Wills participated in massacres of indigenous people", ABC News online, 18 September 2021, updated 28 September 2021.)

#### 115.4.6 Centenary for Ginger Meggs

From 8 to 13-14 November 2021 Melbourne's *Herald Sun* published in its comic strip section, in the *Ginger Meggs* slot, strips that marked the centenary of the appearance of the strip and its predecessor, *Us Fellers*. Ginger Meggs first appeared in *Us Fellers* on 13 November 1921. There were strips featuring the Meggs cartoonists over the years and a short biography: Jimmy Bancks, 1921-1952; Ron Vivian, 1953-1975; Lloyd Piper, 1975-1983; James Kemsley, 1984-2007; and Jason Chatfield, 2007-present. There was also a strip featuring the different faces of Ginger over the years. See image below. Also see ANHG 102, cover, and 102.4.1 and 102.4.2. Thank you contributor Peter Gill.



#### 115.4.7 SMH production story on film

A film retrieved from 1970 tells the production story of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and its sister newspapers (gxpresse.net, 29 June 2021). From the individual efforts of reporters and graphic designers, through keyboard operators to tape-driven Linotypes – with Ludlow-cast headlines (*pictured*) – and letterpress platemaking equipment, the process finishes with printing on a double-width Goss letterpress producing a 144-page edition at 70,000 copies per hour, to mailroom equipment described as “the most modern in the world”. Though blurred and with poor sound, it’s a comprehensive record of production 50 years ago, complete with some history and a glimpse of generations of Fairfax management including a young Warwick Fairfax. The video is on the Facebook pages of the Australian Letterpress Fellowship, thanks to Gold Coast-based former mechanic George Finn reporting to the Metal Type website that he has re-posted it after it had been lost as a result of changes to the site.

#### 115.4.8 South Australian photographer plunges into world scene

**Alan Howe** writes (“Photographer’s eye on changing world”, *Weekend Australian*, 20-21 November 2021, p.33): “History got a hurry on at the turn of the 20th century – in short order powered flight was invented, as were submarines, so too radio and sonar, the world went to war, Russians revolted, the first photographs appeared in newspapers, and humans began to explore our planet’s polar extremes. George Hubert Wilkins might have been growing up a hemisphere away in South Australia’s marginal farming wastelands, but he wasn’t about to stand still and have all this history to flow about him. He dived in, mostly recklessly, often swimming ahead of these sweeping tides in the affairs of mankind. He learned to operate the bulky cameras of the new medium, and then how to fly an aeroplane, and filmed early battles of the Balkan War in 1912, a preliminary bout to the looming European conflagration. He stepped between the walking warriors of World War I to film and photograph the men – Germans and Australians – in such a nonchalant manner that the bemused enemy troops called him “*dieser verruckte Fotograf*” – that mad photographer –



and discussed if they should shoot him. He would photograph soldiers carrying injured men on stretchers taking them back to relative safety accompanied by a raised Red Cross flag. But Wilkins – burdened by weighty gear, often a 3kg Gaumont camera encased in polished mahogany, with a brass lens and on a sturdy wooden tripod – had no flag. And no weapon. Ever.” See Maddern book in 115.5.1 below.

#### 115.4.9 Flashback 100 (5): End of line for *Melbourne Express*

- This is the fifth in a series of flashbacks to items in the *ANHG Newsletter* 100 issues ago (20 years ago). This extract is from *ANHG* No. 15, November 2001.

The Fairfax-owned free commuter tabloid, the *Melbourne Express*, ceased publication on 7 September [2001], seven months after it was first issued (see *ANHG* 11.2). Michael Gawenda, editor of Fairfax’s *Melbourne Age*, said the *Express* (a morning publication) had been losing “a significant amount of money” and could no longer support itself in Australia’s worst advertising market in a decade. A month earlier News Ltd’s *mX* (an afternoon publication), *Express*’s opponent, increased its distribution from 75,000 daily to 90,000, taking in such key points as the Stock Exchange.

Page 1 of the final issue of the *Express* was headed “Goodbye” and said: “And thanks for all the fish. Well, we figure some of our papers must have ended up wrapped around your fish’n’chips. This is the end of the line *Melbourne Express*, the first ever free commuter daily to hit the streets of Melbourne, on February 5. It’s been a thoroughly entertaining ride, and we hope you’ve enjoyed our mix of news, features and fun. Sadly, our parent company believes the business fundamentals of this paper are not sound enough to continue. We’d like to thank all of those who have helped us put out a paper on the streets every morning, especially the army of distributors who have braved the heat or cold to hand you the paper. And we’d like to thank you, our readers, for the compliments, the criticisms and the debate. Now, whose turn is it to order breakfast?” (*Melbourne Express*, 7 Sept. 2001, p.1; *Geelong Advertiser*, 8 Sept. 2001, p.11; *Courier-Mail*, 8 Sept. 2001, p.73; Andrew Dodd, “Death of a newspaper”, *Australian*, Media liftout, 13 Sept. 2001, pp.12-13; *PANPA Bulletin*, October 2001, pp.16-17, 27.) *Express* editor Andrew Holden has since left Fairfax (*PANPA Bulletin*, November 2001, p.78).



#### 5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

#### 115.5.1 Books

**King, Mags (ed.),** *Sydney Lives*. Published by Nine Entertainment. Details: 160 Pages, 160GSM Satin (light sheen), 350GSM Satin non-scuff laminate softcover. A4 Portrait ISBN: 978-0-646-85009-2. Regular price: \$129.

This photo book will be printed on demand in Sydney by Nine’s print partner Memento. First shipment will be in early 2022. *SMH* photo editor Mags King reveals the best of the *Sydney Morning Herald*’s extensive and rich archives in a 160-page photo book that celebrates the extraordinary people, cultures and places that shape Australia’s oldest city.  
<https://thestore.com.au/products/sydney-lives>

**Lyons, John,** *Dateline Jerusalem: Journalism’s Toughest Assignment*, Monash University Publishing. See also: Michael Gawenda, “Dealing with the Lobby is not the toughest gig”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 October 2021, p.20.

**Maddern, Peter,** *The Eye of Wilkins: The Complete Photographic Retrospective of George Hubert Wilkins*. Peacock Publications, Adelaide, 120pp. \$79.95. Reviewed by Alan Howe, “Photographer’s eye on changing world”, *Weekend Australian*, 20-21 November 2021, p.33. See extract in 115.4.8 above.

**Pawle, Fred**, *Die Laughing: The Biography of Bill Leak*. Institute of Public Affairs, 2021. Biography of cartoonist Bill Leak.

### 115.5.2 Articles

**Cavanough, Ed**, “It’s vital to ask the tough questions”, *Canberra Times*, 25 September 2021, p.23. We should be embarrassed that journalists are now routinely condemned for simply doing their jobs.

**Darian-Smith, Kate, and Dickenson, Jackie**, “University Education and the Quest for the Professionalisation of Journalism in Australia between the World Wars“, *Media History*, Vol. 27, Issue 4. Free e-prints are available at this link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/PHK2W5ETZPVY54NTRPSJ/full?target=10.1080/13688804.2020.1843421>

**Houghton, Des**, “Felled by fake news”, *Courier-Mail*, 6 November 2021, p.48. The cold hard truth for all of us in the media is that Federal Member for Bowman Andrew Laming was bullied out of office by fake news.

**Manning, Paddy**, “Welcome to Lachlanland”, *Saturday Paper*, 2-8 October 2021, p.3. With strategic acquisitions by Lachlan Murdoch putting News Corporation and Fox in a strong financial position, and a float of Foxtel expected

**Mercer, Neil**, “Star witness called into question”, *Sun-Herald*, 3 October 2021, pp.20-21. The recent ABC documentary on newspaper journalist Juanita Nielsen has only added to the many rumours surrounding her murder. Nielsen disappeared in 1975.

**Samios, Zoe**, “Journalists on Taliban ‘killing list’”, *Age*, 13 September 2021, p.26. Extract: “Former Al Jazeera journalist Peter Greste [an Australian], who was jailed in Egypt for 13 months, has written to Foreign Minister Marise Payne on behalf of some of Australia’s biggest [media] outlets to request support for media workers in Afghanistan.”

**Simons, Margaret**, “Cracking the code”, *InsideStory*, 25 October 2021. Are Google and Facebook picking and choosing who they will deal with under the news-media bargaining code? See extract in 115.2.4 above.

**Simons, Margaret**, “Here we go again”, *InsideStory*, 25 November 2021. This time the federal election campaign needs to be reported differently.

**Tiffen, Rodney**, “The rise and fall of an Australian dynasty”, *InsideStory*, 22 November 2021. The Packers maintained their wealth and power through almost four generations. Then things went wrong.

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