COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS

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1 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: NATIONAL & METROPOLITAN

50.1.1 THE GROUND IS SHAKIER THE HIGHER YOU GO

The top jobs in the print media in Australia are becoming less and less stable (see Simon Canning, "Editors play musical chairs", *Australian*, Media section, 8 December 2008, pp.35-36). The changes of the past few months shout this from the rooftops (see *ANHG* 49.1.1, 50.1.4 and 50.1.6). The leading items in this 50th issue of the *ANHG Newsletter* focus on these changes, some of which were occurring even as we tried to put this issue to bed. The backdrop: In November, in Melbourne, Bruce Guthrie was dismissed as editor-in-chief of the *Herald Sun*, and, in Sydney, David Penberthy left the editorship of the *Daily Telegraph* to tackle a new News Ltd challenge (see 50.1.3). Since then:

3 December: Ken Steinke resigns as CEO of West Australian Newspaper Holdings Ltd. less than two hours after chairman Peter Mansell and two other non-executive directors, Jenny Seabrook and Mel Ward, step down at the annual general meeting (see 50.1.6).
4 December: Alan Oakley stands aside as editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* (see 50.1.2).
5 December: David Kirk resigns, effective immediately, as CEO of Fairfax Media Ltd. (see 50.1.2).
9 December: Reports that Bruce Guthrie has launched a $2.8 million unfair dismissal claim against News Limited (see 50.1.3).
10 December: Brian McCarthy is confirmed as the new CEO of Fairfax Media Ltd. Ron Walker receives unanimous support from the Fairfax directors to continue as chairman. The board slashes the dividend payout ratio from 80 per cent of profits to 20 per cent (*Australian*, 11 December 2008, pp.3, 17).
11 December 2008: Kerry Stokes is elected chairman of the board of West Australian Newspapers Holdings. Chris Wharton, Seven's Perth managing director, is named the new CEO. Two independent directors, Don Voelte and Sam Walsh, are appointed (thewest.com.au, 11 December 2008).

50.1.2 KIRK AND OAKLEY DEPART

David Kirk, the chief executive of Fairfax media, announced his resignation as CEO on 4 December. It took immediate effect. In an email to staff at Fairfax, chairman Ron Walker thanked Kirk for his time at the helm. During Kirk's three years as CEO, Fairfax merged with Rural Press Ltd, and the rapid growth in internet earnings, from less than $10m when he

started to $115m in 2008, with much more to come. Deputy CEO Brian McCarthy, the former Rural Press CEO, acted as interim CEO until the board met on 10 December. McCarthy was then appointed CEO. Three years ago, Kirk was appointed CEO after an exhaustive search. He formally assumed the position in October 2005 (*Weekend Australian*, 6-7 December 2008, pp.1-2 and, editorial, p.18; Jane Schulze and Mark Day articles, *Australian*, Media section, 8 December 2008, pp.35 and 40; also see ANHG 35.3).

Alan Oakley has stepped aside as the editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* after three years in the job. The move follows the latest round of redundancies at Fairfax (see 50.1.4). Mark Day had written in the *Australian's* Media section on 1 December of Oakley's uncertain future, noting that he was in danger of falling for the three-card trick in making the *SMH* a broad-loid: "pissing off his existing audience while failing to grab a new one". Fairfax executive Lloyd Whish-Wilson said Oakley had been offered another senior position. Fairfax says it will consider a shortlist of internal candidates to take over as *SMH* editor. Deputy editor Michael Millett has taken over day-to-day editing responsibilities until a new editor is appointed, he said. (AAP, 4 December 2008).

Background: A move this year by John B. Fairfax to cement his influence over the company that bears his name has resulted in his taking a hit of at least $300 million to his personal fortune (*Australian*, 12 November 2008). Fairfax Media's share price fell on 11 November to $1.74, a 15-year low (it has been lower since). Fairfax's private company, Marinya Media, is the largest shareholder in the newspaper and radio group, holding about 14 per cent of the stock. In February, he bought his brother, Timothy, and his two sisters, Ruth and Sally, out of their combined 62 per cent stake in Marinya, taking sole charge of the family stake in the group that produces the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. The move covered about 130.8 million of the family's 211million listed Fairfax shares. The media group's shares were trading at more than $4 each.

50.1.3 GUTHRIE AND PENBERTHY AND AWARDS
The *Age* won the PANPA Newspaper of the Year Award last year and the *Herald Sun* won it this year. The *Age* lost its editor-in-chief, Andrew Jaspan, several months ago (49.1.1), and the *Herald Sun* lost its editor-in-chief, Bruce Guthrie, last month. Guthrie declined to comment but it is believed his removal comes after prolonged tension between him and Herald & Weekly Times managing director Peter Blunden. Guthrie, who was appointed to the role early last year after editing the *Australian's* weekly magazine, has been replaced by Adelaide *Sunday Mail* editor Phil Gardner. Simon Pristel, editor of the *Sunday Herald Sun* since 2005, has been appointed editor of the daily *Herald Sun.* Damon Johnston, assistant editor of the daily paper, replaces Pristel as Sunday editor (*Australian*, Media section, 17 November 2008, p.32). The new editor of the *Sunday Mail*, Adelaide, is Megan Lloyd, who has been at the helm of Messengers Newspapers, the suburban group, since 2004 (*Australian,* 24 November 2008, p.34). Guthrie has since launched a $2.8 million unfair dismissal claim against News Limited (*Australian*, 9 December 2008, p.2).

David Penberthy resigned as editor of Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* in the midst of the paper's campaign for the NSW Government to "sack itself" (ABC News online, 14 November 2008). After three years in the position, Penberthy has been replaced by former Channel 9 news and current affairs editor Garry Linnell, who joined News Limited just over a year ago as the *Daily Telegraph's* editor-at-large. Penberthy will become the first editor of a new national online, print and television venture at News Limited. Linnell is profiled in the *Australian*, Media section, 24 November 2008, pp.33-34. See Mark Day, "Newspaper editors in a wild game of musical chairs," *Australian*, Media section, 1 December 2008, p.36.

50.1.4 JOBS CUTS (1): FAIRFAX
After slashing more than 100 editorial staff from the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Fairfax media is left with what Stuart Rintoul (*Australian*, Media section, 20 October 2008,

p.33) describes as "a small and unhappy group of senior journalists who asked to go, but were refused". Prominent among them is Simon Mann, a former foreign correspondent, business editor, national news editor and associate editor, who has been, at times, a popular candidate for the editorships of the *Age* and the *Sunday Age*. At the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Fairfax was forced to sweeten its redundancy offer to designers before achieving sufficient numbers. Most of the staff accepted for redundancies finished on 31 October (*Australian*, 16 October 2008, p.2). Among those departing are former editors Max Prisk and Valerie Lawson, sportswriter Roy Masters, and political columnist Alan Ramsey, who finishes in mid-December (*Australian*, Media section, 3 November 2008, p.34).

50.1.5 JOB CUTS (2): NEWS

Rupert Murdoch is preparing to cut jobs from his Australian newspapers but will not say how many because he wants to avoid adverse headlines (*Age*, 7 November 2008). Murdoch has flagged job cuts at News Corp operations in Australia and Britain. The News Corp chairman and chief executive said media groups around the world faced a difficult period as advertising revenues slowed and businesses and consumers reined in spending. Murdoch said he was confident News could find a way through the economic storm due to its strong balance sheet and by cutting costs and losing jobs in Australia and Britain. News Corp reported a 29.6% fall in net profit for the first quarter of the 2008-09 financial year. It also slashed its profit outlook, saying it expected annual operating income to fall.

50.1.6 WAN: STOKES TAKES CHARGE

Seven Network chairman Kerry Stokes and his lieutenant Peter Gammell were elected to the board of West Australian Newspapers Holdings Ltd on 5 November. Details of the election lodged with the Australian Securities Exchange show that for Stokes there were 100.6 million shares in support and 7.1 million against, and for Gammell, 97.1 million for and 10.6 million against. WAN announced an agreement in September for two Seven Network directors to join an expanded board (*West Australian*, 5 November 2008, online).

Seven Network is free to continue building its stake in WAN, and even to launch a full takeover offer, thanks to a decision by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. The ACCC made the decision after Seven's interest in WAN increased above the usual 20 per cent takeover offer – to 22.3 per cent (*Age*, 30 October 2008).

Ken Steinke resigned as managing director of WAN on 3 December less than two hours after chairman Peter Mansell and two other non-executive directors, Jenny Seabrook and Mel Ward, had all stepped down at the WAN annual general meeting. Their resignations were announced simultaneously with the appointment to the board of Graeme John, the managing director of Australia Post. WAN said the board had approved two other appointments, both from WA, who would be confirmed by the end of December. A new chairman would be named then. It said the changes followed a review of the company's non-executive directors. WAN said Steinke would remain with the group until a replacement was identified (*West Australian*, 3 December 2008, online).

The *Australian* reported (4 December, p.2): Kerry Stokes yesterday cemented his grip on Western Australia's monopoly newspaper with the departure of the chief executive and every remaining director who fought his elevation to the board earlier this year (see: Tony Barrass, "Is Stokes up to firing his loose cannon?" *Australian*, Media section, 8 December 2008, pp.35-36.) Kerry Stokes was elected chairman of the WAN board on 11 December (AAP).

50.1. 7 PEOPLE

Tony Bourke, racing writer, has farewelled his readers in a column in the *Age,* 19 November 2008, after 42 years with the paper. He is one of those journalists who took a voluntary redundancy offered by Fairfax Media. He worked for *Truth,* the Melbourne bureau

of the *Daily Telegraph,* and the *Sun* before joining the *Age* in 1966. He was employed on the David Syme afternoon paper, *Newsday*, in 1969-70.

James Button, an *Age* senior writer, has been appointed to the Prime Minister's Department to write speeches for the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd (Age, 29 November 2008).

Michael Costa, the former New South Wales Treasurer, has become a regular commentator in the *Australian*. His first column appeared on 10 October, p.12.

Louise Evans has been appointed managing editor of the *Australian*. A former features and sports editor of the paper, she began her career working on suburban newspapers in Brisbane in the early 1980s after graduating from the University of Queensland with a BA with major in journalism. In the late 1980s, she became the first woman employed in the sports section of the *Sydney Morning Herald* (*Weekend Australian*, 29-30 November 2008, p.2).

Mark Forbes joins the *Sunday Age* as deputy editor early in 2009. Forbes has had an outstanding career over more than 20 years, most recently as Indonesia correspondent. He is a multi-award winner, and was a finalist in this year's Walkley Awards for his Indonesia coverage. He is a former state political reporter for the *Sunday Age*, an investigative reporter and foreign affairs and defence correspondent (*Sunday Age*, 30 November 2008).

Jennifer Hewett, the national affairs correspondent for the *Australian*, is interviewed by Jen Jewel Brown in *Mediaweek's* "The Reporters" series, 10 November 2008, p.11.

Tony Koch, of the *Australian*, won the Sir Keith Murdoch Award for Excellence, the major journalism prize at the News [Limited] Awards night (*Mediaweek,* 10 November 2008, p.3). His entry was an investigative series that set out to expose failures in the justice system in remote Aboriginal communities. Koch, with the *Australian's* North Queensland correspondent Padraic Murphy, won the Walkley Award for print news reporting for their story, "No Jail for Rape of Girl, 10", published in December 2007 (*Australian*, 28 November 2008, p.6). For full details of the Walkley winners, go to http://www.walkleys.com/the-awards/winners/2008-walkley-award-winners.html

Alan Kohler has been appointed chairman of Melbourne University Press. Kohler, a former editor of the *Age* and the *Australian Financial Review*, is the founder of the Eureka investment report and Business Spectator, a free online business commentary and news website (*Australian*, 15 October 2008).

Garry Linnell, the *Daily Telegraph's* editor-at-large, is interviewed by Jen Jewel Brown in *Mediaweek's* "The Reporters" series, 10 November 2008, p.10. Linnell has since become the editor (see 50.1.3).

Steve Mascord is interviewed by Jen Jewel Brown in *Mediaweek's* "The Reporters" series, 6 October, p.11.

Gerard Noonan, 57**,** a former editor of the *Australian Financial Review* and more recently a *Sydney Morning Herald* reporter, has been farewelled by his Fairfax colleagues (who were suffering "farewell fatigue").

Gordon Towell, CEO of the Audit Bureaux of Australia (formerly the Audit Bureau of Circulations), is "Person of the Week" in *Mediaweek*, 1 December 2008, p.6.

Ellen Whinnett has shifted from news editor of the Saturday *Herald Sun* to chief reporter of the *Sunday Herald Sun*. A reporter for almost 20 years, she joined the *Herald Sun* in 2005 after nine years with the *Hobart Mercury* and *Sunday Tasmanian*. She won a Walkley Award in 2004.

George Williams, of Brett Christian's *Post* group in Perth, has become the first suburban reporter to win the Daily News Centenary Prize, Western Australia's top journalism prize (*Australian*, Media section, 10 November 2008, p.32).

50.1.8 THE ACT LAUNCHES LEGAL ASSAULT ON MURDOCH
The ACT Government has launched a bold legal assault against Rupert Murdoch, claiming his News Corporation owes it more than $84 million in unpaid taxes and penalties (reports Noel Towell, *Canberra Times*, 8 November 2008, p.1). The Government wants the ACT Supreme Court to force Murdoch's companies to pay $53 million in alleged unpaid transfer duties, $26 million in penalties and $5 million in unpaid interest.

50.1.9 POLITICS AND THE *CANBERRA TIMES*

The *Canberra Times* of 16 October carried a Labor-funded sticker across its banner with the slogan "Liberals – divided and desperate. Don't Risk It." The ACT election was held two days later (and Labor clung to power only by obtaining the support of the Greens). The advertisement generated irate responses from some readers. Editor Peter Fray said the advertisement was a commercial decision, not an editorial decision.

On 17 October, another Labor-funded political sticker advertisement appeared on the front of the *Canberra Times*. On Page 2, the general manager, Ken Nicholls, wrote:

> Dear reader
> A number of you have expressed concern about the Post-it note style advertisement appearing on the front page of *The Canberra Times*. We appreciate your comments and will consider the issues you have raised. The Post-it note is a paid advertisement and is not designed or intended to be confused in any way with editorial content or comment. It is not an endorsement by this paper of any political party or point of view. Advertising of this nature has been available to all our clients for some time and it has previously been used in *The Canberra Times* and other national papers. Indeed, it was used for political advertising during the NSW state election. Placement of these Post-it note advertisements is totally governed by a mechanical process in the course of printing of the newspaper. After your feedback, we are reviewing the process to see if the note can be placed in another position in future. I would also like to take this opportunity to outline our policy regarding political advertising in general. All political advertising is accepted at standard commercial rates and page placement is also determined in the normal commercial manner. This policy is rigidly enforced. The system is transparent with details of all election advertising being provided to the Australian Electoral Commission. I'd like to thank all readers who have expressed an opinion about the advertisement. *The Canberra Times* greatly values its relationship with its readers and the local community.

50.1.10 RECENT CHRONOLOGY

50.1.10.1 EVENTS

17 October 2008: First issue of the *Australian's* business magazine, *the deal* (60 pages). Editor is Lyndall Crisp, a former *Bulletin* editor and a former long-serving Fairfax journalist. She was "Person of the Week", *Mediaweek*, 20 October 2008, p.4.

21 October 2008: The *South Western Times*, Bunbury, WA, issues a feature to celebrate its 120 years of publication. The newspaper began on 28 August 1888 as the *Southern Times* and became the *South Western Times* in 1908.

23 October 2008: The *Age's* "Green Guide" now appears in a compact magazine format, with green printing on white paper (it used to be black printing on green paper).

31 October 2008: New weekly news magazine, the *Week*, is launched for Australian market (see *Mediaweek*, 3 November 2008, p.6, and Mark Day's column, *Australian*, Media section, 27 October 2008, p.40).

16 November 2008: AAP introduces new story-identification procedures, discarding "Daylead" and "Nightlead" for "Update" and "Wrap" (see 50.1.13).

50.1.10.2 DEATHS

Brogden, Stanley Marcel William: D. 14 September 2008 in Melbourne, aged 94; journalist and author informed generations of readers across Australia about the latest developments in commercial and military aviation; wrote 22 books, including *The story behind your newspapers* (it includes illustrations from HWT sources, circa 1948); continued to write feature articles on aviation into his mid-80s; first aviation writer for both the *Australian* and the *Australian Financial review* and was launch editor of *Australian Flying Magazine* and *Aviation News*, which was folded into *Aircraft* magazine, with which his name was identified for decades (*Age*, 30 September 2008, p.14).

Brown, Don: D. 19 September 2008 in Melbourne, aged 75; began newspaper career at Melbourne's *Herald*; cut his teeth in management at *Barrier* Miner and Radio 2BH, Broken Hill; joined Leader Newspaper Group in 1971, aged 38; editor and head of Cumberland Newspapers, Melbourne; later editor-in-chief of Leader Newspapers; former finance editor of Adelaide News under Rohan Rivett (*Melbourne Observer*, September 2008; Bayside *Leader*, 1 October 2008).

Courtis, Brian: D. 29 September 2008 in Melbourne, aged 63; worked as journalist in England on newspapers at Portsmouth and Sheffield before joining *Daily* Express, London; joined short-lived Melbourne evening daily, *Newsday*, and then the *Daily News*, Perth; joined the *Herald*, Melbourne, in 1973 and later the *Age* as a sub-editor and was a daily television columnist for the paper from the late 1970s to the mid-1980s; after a stint in public relations, edited the Qantas in-flight magazine; joined *Sunday Age* as editor of arts section; edited the *Age's* "Green Guide" in late 1990s and later became TV critic for *Sunday Age* until 2007 (*Age*, 30 September and 6 October 2008).

D'Arcy, John: D. November 2008, aged 78; born in Cairns in 1930 and educated in Toowoomba; joined *Courier-Mail* and worked for Queensland Press for 30 years, rising to the role of deputy general manager; became deputy CEO of Herald & Weekly Times in 1984 and replaced Sir Keith Macpherson as CEO in 1986; retired in 1988 when News Limited took over the business (*Herald Sun,* 24 November 2008).

Graham, Tim. D. 27 October 2008 at Mornington, aged 69; New Zealander who made his mark in Australia as a gifted reporter, public relations executive, property writer and novelist; moved to Melbourne in 1965 to report for the *Age*; then worked for Australian Government's overseas information service before starting a long career in several commercial PR roles in Melbourne and Sydney; returned to *Age* As real estate editor; after moving to Mornington Peninsula, took on a weekly newspaper at Rosebud, but it eventually failed (*Age*, 4 November 2008, obituary written by John Tidey who joined *Age* on same day as Tim Graham).

Hurrell, Michael Phillip James: D. 29 August 2008 in Melbourne, aged 70; began working for *Age* in early 1960s and continued under Graham Perkin's editorship; became manager of creative services, 1970; later worked in advertising and public relations, generally for government or not-for-profit organisations (*Age*, 3 October 2008, p.16).

Macswan, Norman: D. 2 December 2008 in Sydney, aged 91; born Maclean, NSW; worked as journalist for two years before joining RAAF in 1940; discharged as a flight sergeant at end of World War II; returned to journalism at Hobart *Mercury*; joined AAP in Melbourne in 1950 and covered Korean war in early 1950s before working in agency's London office; worked also in Jakarta, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur and ran AAP's New York operation before returning to Australia as a senior editor in the newsroom; retired in 1980 as associate editor of AAP; wrote two books, a biography of journalist Richard Hughes and a novel loosely based on life of Wilfred Burchett (*Australian*, 3 December 2008, p.3).

Ryan, Martin: D. 5 October 2008 in Melbourne, aged 76; journalist for the Adelaide *Advertiser*, and the interstate bureau of the Melbourne *Herald*; relocated to Singapore for five

years as publications manager for the Australian Tourism Commission (*Herald Sun*, 30 October 2008).

Scott, Allan: D. 28 October 2008 at Mount Gambier, SA, aged 85; owner of the *Border Watch*, Mount Gambier, *Penola Pennant* and *South-Eastern Times*; moved to Mount Gambier from Milang in 1952 with one truck and built an empire that now boasts the Scott Group of Companies, the umbrella for many other businesses such as transport, fuel distribution and service stations, farming, media, property interests and development, horse racing and breeding, hotels, restaurants and retail department store Fidler and Webb (*Border Watch*, 28 October 2008).

Waldon, Steve: D. 26 October 2008 in Melbourne, aged 52; worked for Melbourne's *Age* for 35 years, rising from putting rubber bands around documents as a 17-year-old in the accounts department to become a talented and versatile journalist and a fine subeditor; also served as chief subeditor and production editor, and worked on the foreign desk, as letters and opinion editor; most remembered as a writer – columns, colour, features – whose best work was intelligent, empathetic, insightful, witty and eloquent; inspired probably more affection than any journalist on the paper for his unfailing generosity of spirit, indomitable cheerfulness and ridiculous sense of humour (*Age*, 28 October 2008, p.8).

Wheatley, Patricia: D. 26 October 2008 in Sydney, aged 64; secretary-executive assistant to former Prime Minister Bill McMahon, rebel newsletter publisher and newspaperman Max Newton and media mogul Kerry Packer (David Haslehurst's obituary of her, *Age*, 30 October 2008, is a fascinating read for newspaper historians).

50.1.11 FEW INCREASES IN CIRCULATION FIGURES

Few national or metropolitan newspapers recorded increases in the three-month audit period to 30 September, figures issued by the Audit Bureaux of Australia (formerly the Audit Bureau of Circulations) show. The *Northern Territory News* (5.6pc) and the *Australian* (2.2pc) were the only dailies to record an increase of 2 per cent or more in their weekday editions. The *West Australian* (Mon-Fri) recorded a decline of 2.7 per cent after falls of 4.1 per cent for the June quarter and 4.6 per cent for the March quarter. The Sydney dailies and Sundays all recorded declines. The *Sunday Times*, Perth, dropped 5.9 per cent, from 340,000 to 320,000. Among the regional dailies, notable declines included the *Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga), 6.75pc; *Fraser Coast Chronicle* (Maryborough and Hervey Bay), 5.24pc; Bundaberg *NewsMail*, 4.83pc; and *Sunshine Coast Daily*, 4.41pc.

	July-Sept 2008	July-Sept 2007	% variation
National			
Australian	140,000 +	137,000	+ 2.2
Weekend Australian	307,000 +	303,000	+ 1.3
Aust Financial Review	87,702	88,162	− 0.5
Aust Financial Review (Sat)	83,365	84,923	− 1.8
NSW			
Daily Telegraph	375,000+	383,000+	− 2.1
Daily Telegraph (Sat)	316,000+	327,000+	− 3.4
Sunday Telegraph	650,000+	668,500+	− 2.8
Sydney Morning Herald	209,508	211,700	− 1.0
Sydney Morning Herald (Sat)	347,299	355,850+	− 2.4
Sun-Herald	478,890	500,038	− 4.2
Regionals			
Border Mail (Albury)	24,664	25,499	− 3.27
Daily Examiner (Grafton)	5,638	5,546	+ 1.66
Northern Star (Lismore)	14,824	15,207	− 2.52
Herald (Newcastle & Hunter)	49,880	51,000	− 2.20
Daily Advertiser (Wagga Wagga)	12,604	13,517	− 6.75
Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong)	27,772	27,500	+ 0.99
Victoria			
Herald Sun	518,000+	530,500+	− 2.4

Herald Sun (Sat)	503,500+	510,000+	− 1.3
Sunday Herald Sun	615,000+	622,500+	− 1.2
Age	203,800+	203,500+	+ 0.1
Age (Sat)	292,300+	296,500+	− 1.4
Sunday Age	225,700+	225,500+	+ 0.1
Regional			
Geelong Advertiser	29,478	29,983	− 1.68
Queensland			
Courier-Mail	222,500+	221,828	+ 0.3
Courier-Mail (Sat)	310,224	316,251	− 1.9
Sunday Mail	566,773	594,846	− 4.7
Regionals			
NewsMail (Bundaberg)	11,068	11,630	− 4.83
Cairns Post	30,691	31,158	− 1.50
Gladstone Observer	7,229	7,250	− 0.29
Gold Coast Bulletin	46,219	47,087	− 1.84
Gympie Times	5,634	5,828	− 3.33
Queensland Times (Ipswich)	10,802	11,172	− 3.31
Daily Mercury (Mackay)	16,493	16,262	+ 1.42
Sunshine Coast Daily	21,604	22,600	− 4.41
Fraser Coast Chronicle	9,660	10,194	− 5.24
Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton)	17,933	18,117	− 1.02
Chronicle (Toowoomba)	22,871	23,110	− 1.03
Townsville Bulletin	29,634	29,765	− 0.44
Daily News (Warwick)	3,223	3,139	+ 2.68
South Australia			
Advertiser	185,633	188,936	− 1.7
Advertiser (Sat)	256,134	259,893	− 1.4
Sunday Mail	309,949	314,745	− 1.5
Western Australia			
West Australian	194,862	200,317	− 2.7
West Australian (Sat)	336,532	349,538	− 3.7
Sunday Times	320,000+	340,000+	− 5.9
Tasmania			
Mercury	46,000+	45,791	+ 0.5
Mercury (Sat)	61,000+	60,868	+ 0.2
Sunday Tasmanian	60,000+	59,811	+ 0.3
Regionals			
Advocate (Burnie)	23,576	24,432	− 3.5
Examiner (Launceston)	32,982	33,707	− 2.2
Sunday Examiner	40,882	41,979	− 2.6
Northern Territory			
Northern Territory News	22,188	21,017	+ 5.6
NT News (Sat)	32,637	32,226	+ 1.3
Sunday Territorian	23,548	22,881	+ 2.9
ACT			
Canberra Times	34,687	34.961	− 0.8
Canberra Times (Sat)	58,97	62,322	− 5.4
Canberra Times (Sun)	35,116	35,536	− 1.2

50.1.12 ALAN BOND AND THE *WEST*

A journalist from the *West Australian* will not be sent to jail for refusing to reveal the identity of a confidential source to businessman Alan Bond. The newspaper won a temporary reprieve

on 28 November in its long-running battle with Bond over an article published almost three years ago. The *West Australian* was appealing a decision handed down earlier this month by Supreme Court Justice David Newnes, who ordered the journalist to hand over audio tapes of an interview with the source to Bond. Bond, who was not present in court, was seeking the tapes following a series of articles published by the newspaper relating to his return to the Perth business world. In the Court of Appeal, Justice Christopher Pullin ruled the paper did not have to provide the tapes until the next stage of the former tycoon's civil action in about six months time (WA Today, 28 November 2008).

50.1.13 DAYLEADS AND NIGHTLEADS DITCHED FOR UPDATES AND WRAPS
From AAP in Sydney, **Mike Osborne** writes: After more than 50 years of using the traditional agency terminology of "Nightleads" and "Dayleads" to identify the main stories for newspapers, Australia's national news agency AAP has changed its story tagging procedures to reflect more accurately the modern 24-hour news cycle. The traditional agency story tags such of "Lead", "Nightlead" and "Daylead" have been replaced by AAP with the terms "Update" and "Wrap". An "Update" shows new developments in breaking stories, while a "Wrap" is the completed story for the day. This means newsrooms around Australia receiving the incoming AAP wires for domestic and international news, sport and finance will no longer see the traditional "Nightlead" tag when looking for a main story of the day on a certain issue. The changes reflect the impact of the digital world on news consumption and the growing importance of the internet as a source of breaking news.

Perth sports writer Justin Chadwick had the honour of filing the last "Nightlead" on the AAP wires. His NBL Wildcats "Nightlead" on the match between the Perth Wildcats and Cairns Taipans was issued in two takes at 2305 and 2349 on Saturday, 15 November 2008, before the new story identification procedures came into effect at one minute past midnight on Sunday, 16 November. Subeditors Greg Wilson (first take) and David Beniuk (second take) jointly transmitted the last "Nightlead". Canberra Bureau reporter Sandra O'Malley, in Washington with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, filed the first AAP "Update" at 0906 on Sunday, 16 November, when her report of his G20 activities slugged "G20 Rudd Aust Update" was issued by News Editor Jo Williamson.

AAP began using the "Nightlead/Daylead" terminology before 1957 when the organisation moved to Sydney. The terminology emanated from Reuters style which was the international model for many domestic newsagencies. Some of Australia's finest journalists have passed through AAP over the past half century or so and would have filed or subbed the requisite "Nightleads" as part of their work with the agency.

50.1.14 LAW WILL PROTECT IDENTITY OF SOURCES
Journalists and whistleblowers will have increased protection from prosecution under laws to be introduced by the Federal Government. Changes to the Evidence Act will mean journalists may no longer be legally forced to reveal their sources to courts even if a person has broken a law in providing information (*Age*, 3 November 2008).

50.1.15 *AGE* AND *HERALD SUN* DOWNGRADE CANBERRA DISTRIBUTION
Canberran **Victor Isaacs** writes: From Monday 1 December 2008 Melbourne's *Age* and *Herald Sun* stopped delivering to Canberra by chartered aircraft. Instead they are now road freighted to the national capital. Consequently delivery to newsagents in the ACT is now between 7am and 9am, generally too late for home and office delivery. The *Age* states that increased costs made the former arrangement no longer viable.

On 2 December, there were various moans on ABC local radio this morning and the politicians were complaining, too (see *Australian*, "Strewth" column, p.9). My local newsagent (who covers a big area) told me that on 1 December the Melbourne papers arrived

at 8.50am. On 2 December they arrived at 7.20am. He cannot and will not do a second delivery run just for the Melbourne papers.

50.1.16 RANDALL RETURNED AS NATIONAL PRESS CLUB PRESIDENT
Glenn Milne, a News journalist, failed in his attempt to topple long-serving National Press Club president Ken Randall. Milne, who had been a vice-president, put all his eggs in the one basket and declared he would not re-contest the seat he held if he failed to win the presidential ballot. Randall has been president since 1991. This year was the first time the presidency had been contested (*Canberra Times*, 8 November 2008).

50.1.17 ROWE NAMED POLITICAL CARTOONIST OF YEAR
A cartoonist's dream encountered a politician's nightmare on 1 December as Peter Garrett named the *Australian Financial Review* artist, David Rowe, the best political cartoonist of the year (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 December 2008). At an awards ceremony at the Australian National Museum in Canberra, the Minister said political cartoons were vital to democracy. While they poked fun at the nation's leaders, they also tapped into the political mood of its people. An exhibition of 82 political cartoons, *Behind the Lines: The Year's Best Cartoons 2008*, is being held at the National Museum of Australia, Canberra, until 1 February. It goes to the Riverside Theatre in Parramatta on February 13.

2 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: ONLINE

50.2.1 THE NEWSPAPER WORKS WEBSITE
The Newspaper Works, the newspaper industry's marketing group, has launched a website to help educate media and creative agencies on the medium's value. CEO Tony Hale said the site was developed over 15 months after taking advice from a panel of media planners and another panel featuring media strategists and traders (*Australian*, Media section, 13 October 2008, p.36). See **thenewspaperworks.com.au**
.
50.2.2 CNN COURTS NEWSPAPERS
US television news giant CNN is seeking to expand its reach by courting newspapers struggling to cut costs to survive in the digital age. The 24-hour TV news network is pitching a text service called CNN Wire, featuring print stories from CNN contributors around the world. CNN Wire would be the first major entrant into a field dominated by the US news agency the Associated Press (AP), Reuters (now owned by Canada's Thomson Corp) and Agence France-Presse (AFP), since an out-of-work equity trader named Michael Bloomberg launched a financial news wire more than two decades ago. To unveil its plans, CNN invited editors of more than 30 US newspapers to its futuristic headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, attend a three-day all-expenses paid event billed as the CNN Newspaper Summit (*Courier Mail*, 7 December 2008, online).

50.2.3 FAIRFAX BOOSTS ONLINE TRAFFIC
Fairfax Digital has boosted traffic to its regional and rural websites by 152 per cent and substantially increased its online classified revenues after adding new sites following Fairfax's merger with Rural Press Ltd. More than 50 websites were added to the Fairfax Digital Regional Network, which now comprises more than 160 sites from a total of 270 on the full Fairfax Digital network (*Australian*, Media section, 13 October 2008, p.36).

50.2.4 NEWS'S FLAGSHIP SITE RELAUNCHED
In the final week of October **news.com.au** relaunched its flagship news website with a new look, personalisation and aggregation features and a range of new opportunities for advertisers. Readers can customise their **news.com.au** home page with "drag and drop" news section modules, setting priorities for the news they want to read, in any order they choose. They can also choose how much information they want to see within each section. Their

preferences will be automatically saved for future visits to the website (*Mediaweek*, 3 November 2008, p.9).

50.2.5 NUMBER OF BROWSERS JUMPS
The *Age* published the following table of online unique browsers of Australian news sites (14 November 2008). There were no declines.

Site	Unique browsers, monthly average, July-Sept 2008	Percentage change Year of Year
Fairfax Digital News and Weather	7,575,489	+ 19.9
smh.com.au	4,348,519	+ 11.6
theage.com.au	2,881,072	+ 3.6
news.com.au	3,216,285	+ 24.6
heraldsun.com.au	1,821,919	+ 36.2
theaustralian.com.au	1,401,381	+ 47.5
dailytelegraph.com.au	1,641,026	+ 69.9
couriermail.com.au	891,344	+ 41.5
brisbanetimes.com.au	617,070	+ 27.4
National Nine News (ninemsn News)	4,111,037	+ 3.4

50.2.6 NEW BLOG ON MEDIA
Margaret Simons is the main author of a new blog on the media that began on the Crikey platform on 5 December. The link is http://blogs.crikey.com.au/contentmakers/
There is a fair bit there already about the troubles at Fairfax. If ANHG members want to bring anything to Margaret's attention, she is always interested.

3 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

50.3.1 APN NEWS & MEDIA LTD IS UP FOR SALE
APN News & Media Ltd is up for sale. It owns 14 regional dailies along the Australian east coast from Mackay in the north to Coffs Harbour in the south. In addition, it owns the *New Zealand Herald* and other New Zealand and Australian newspapers, Australia's largest outdoor media group, and half of the Australian Radio Network (owner of MIX FM stations). Independent News & Media (INM), controlled by Ireland's Dr Tony O'Reilly, has launched a review of its 39.1 per cent holding in APN. O'Reilly owns 28 per cent of INM. INM wants to raise £800 million ($1.53 billion) from the APN sale to reduce its debt from £1.4 billion top under £600 million.

The announcement came a week after APN's chief Brendan Hopkins extended his contract for another three years. (*Australian*, Media section, 3 November 2008, p.33, and *Australian,* 24 October 2008, online; reports on the APN move followed in the *Australian*, 4, 5, 6, 8-9 and 13 November).

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The Irish interests took over Provincial Newspapers (Qld) Ltd in July 1988 and later the company became Australian Provincial Newspaper Holdings Ltd. PNQ was formed on 1 April 1968 when six Queensland provincial newspaper families amalgamated their interests so that they could fend off offers from Rupert Murdoch and other large media interests and so that the families could afford to adopt the emerging new technologies of web offset printing and computerised phototypesetting.

50.3.2 SUNRAYSIA DAILY WINS PANPA AWARD

The *Sunraysia Daily*, the newest tabloid on the block, has won the PANPA Newspaper of the Award (for daily newspapers with a circulation under 20,000). The Mildura daily's transformation from tired old broadsheet to prize-winning tabloid is told in editor Lyall Corless's words in *Mediaweek*, 13 October 2008, p.9. (See ANHG 44.3.1 and 45.3.1.) The *Geelong Advertiser* won the award for dailies with a circulation from 20,000 to 50,000.

50.3.3 COOMA: COMPETITION

Lasting competition is developing in Cooma. A group of four former employees of the bi-weekly *Cooma-Monaro Express*, then owned by Rural Press Ltd (and now under the Fairfax Media banner), set up the weekly *Monaro Post* on a shoestring budget two years ago. Their enterprise was featured in the *Australian*, Media section, 6 October 2008, p.37, and mentioned in a letter, 13 October, p.34. The advent of competition has reportedly enlivened the long established newspaper, the *Express*. The *Post* has a website at: **www.monaropost.com.au/ThreadListView.aspx** and is also available at newsagencies in Bega, Merimbula, Tuggeranong, Tumut, Tathra, Yass, Eden and Queanbeyan. Copies are also available at the Monaro Regional Library and the NSW State Library.

50.3.4 EDITORS

Geelong Advertiser editor Peter Judd is interviewed in *Mediaweek*, 6 October 2008, p.10. Judd apparently accepts that the *West Australian's* origins cannot be traced back to 1833, because he says the *Advertiser* is the second oldest newspaper in Australia.

"Newspaper are not dying," says Steve Kelly, editor of the Warrnambool *Standard*. "They're just changing." Kelly talks about his attitude to newspapers in an interview in *Mediaweek*, 20 October 2008, p.8. He says the broadsheet format has come to the end of its time. The Warrnambool paper is one of three regional dailies that Fairfax Media owns in Victoria. The other two are Bendigo and Ballarat. And then there is the Albury-Wodonga *Border Mail*, which is a NSW daily printed in Wodonga, Victoria.

50.3.5 FRANKSTON: OFFICE CLOSES AFTER 119 YEARS

The *Frankston Standard and Hastings Leader* office closed at the end of October after almost 119 years. News Ltd is moving the staff of the Frankston paper in with the *Mornington Leader*, which has more office space. The staff members have been told nobody will lose his/her job as a result.

50.3.6 *OUTBACK* CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Outback's October/November issue carries an article about the magazine's 10 years of publication (pp.70-74). "Ten years ago this unknown bush magazine nudged its way into the nation's small but fiercely competitive publishing landscape with wild red dunes and a lone Akubra on the cover. Taking its place alongside glossy celebrity covers and more sedate lifestyle magazines, *Outback* took to the newsstands with something new – a positive, unapologetic and quintessentially Australian stance."

50.3.7 YORKE PENINSULA: NEW OFFICE OFFICIALLY OPENED

The *Yorke Peninsula Country Times* – which, the paper says, is "read all over The Leg!" – has shifted from Taylor Street, Kadina (this had been a newspaper office since 1888), and George Street, Moonta, to new offices at 31 Goyder Street, Kadina (where Price's Bakery used to operate). It did this in January, hosted a Country Press of South Australia conference in February, but the building was not officially opened by Senator Alan Ferguson until 6 November. A souvenir paper was printed on 4 November, and it included a photo of the ribbon-cutting ceremony taken a few minutes earlier. It also included front pages from the 143-year history of the paper. Kadina is at the northern end of the peninsula that the locals call "The Leg" (*Yorke Peninsula Country Times*, 11 November 2008, online). One article was

written by Trevor Ellis, former managing editor, about his career at the paper. He started work in January 1954 in the *People's Weekly* office in Ryan Street, Moonta, working for his father, Cecil Ellis, and partner Hugh Hughes. It's an important historical feature.

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The current newspaper is the result of many amalgamations over the years. The paper began on 1 February 1865 as the *Wallaroo Times and Mining Journal* at Port Wallaroo.

The *Yorke Peninsula Country Times* stated on 3 June 1970: "This edition marks the commencement of an era. In the place of five, one newspaper will serve the entire region and some districts north. Already incorporated in the *Yorke Peninsula Country Times* are the *Kadina and Wallaroo Times*, the *Moonta People's Weekly* and the *South Australian Farmer*. Welcomed into this extensive readership are those formerly served by the *Southern Yorke Peninsula News Pictorial*, which had arisen from the amalgamation of the *Maitland Watch* and the *Southern Yorke Peninsula Pioneer*."

50.3.8 MUDGEE: NINETEEN YEARS DOWN THE 'WALLABY TRACK'
When his first "Wallaby Track" column appeared in the *Mudgee Guardian* in 1989, Norman McVicker thought it would be short-lived, as many newspaper columns are. Nineteen years on, McVicker, now 88, has celebrated the publication of his 1,000th column. It all started with his interest in restoring the historic Eurunderee School. "I started to collect small fragments of history and information about the school and the Eurunderee people, the pioneers of the day, the Tierneys, Mullers, Rheinburgers, Roths, and others. And the column came about because I was writing bits of publicity about the school and Poss McGregor used to sit in the office at the front (of the *Guardian*) and she said to me one day 'look we should put this into a column, we'll go and see Doug', because they owned the paper at the time, and he said 'oh yes, we'll do the occasional column'," McVicker used to type the columns on a typewriter at home, bring them in to be retyped on the one *Guardian* computer and plated in-house for printing.

Today he types them up on his computer at home, scans the pictures and emails the lot. The "flash in the pan" column has now outlasted seven editors with current editor Lisa Gervais number eight to edit the column. As for ideas, McVicker said he once got very good advice from *Sydney Morning Herald* women's page editor, Connie Robertson, who told him "Norman, if you're going to write about an inanimate object, make sure you put some human interest in it, because readers aren't interested in things, they are interested in people. So, I always try to make sure I've got something of human interest, and the quirkier the better. I always look for the quirky bits that don't appear anywhere in the history books and the column reflects that" (*Mudgee Guardian*, 9 November 2008).

50.3.9 GOULBURN: LONG-SERVING JOURNALIST TO RETIRE
Barry Blair writes: *Goulburn Post* photojournalist/editor, Leon Oberg, will retire on 9 January 2009 after 44 years with the paper. Oberg edits *Town and Country Magazine*, a weekly insert in numerous SE NSW newspapers. He has maintained an avid interest in railways for over 50 years, and has written numerous books on the subject, including four editions of the definitive *Locomotives of Australia*.

50.3.10 GLADSTONE: 'FREE' TITLE CHANGES FORMAT, FREQUENCY
After eight years as a fortnightly tabloid newspaper, the *Gladstone News* has launched itself as a weekly glossy news magazine (*Gladstone News Weekly*, 15 November 2008). Manager Liz Rye said the transformation was based on strong demand from local business, industry and advertisers together with increased readership and community support. "The transition is also a tribute to the publication's owners James and Erin Robertson, who remain committed to providing a locally owned and operated independent publication which remains free to the public." The weekly publication and property feature is available online at **www.gladstonenews.com.au**

50.3.11 CLARE: BRIAN MATTHEWS' STINT AND MANNING CLARK'S LIFE

Brian Matthews, author, worked recently at the *Northern Argus*, Clare, South Australia, for five weeks. During that time his biography, *Manning Clark: A Life*, was published by Allen & Unwin. Matthews, a Clare resident since he and his wife Jane Arms returned from working in London some years ago, is Professor Emeritus at Flinders University where he was a teacher of English and Australian literature in the 1970s and 1980s and a national and international authority on the works of Henry Lawson. These days, he is a full time writer. He had a cult following as a weekly columnist for four-and-a-half years in the *Australian's Weekend Magazine*. A collection of his columns, *As the Story Goes,* was published in 2000. Since 2001 he has been a monthly columnist for the on-line magazine *Eureka Street* (*Northern Argus,* 19 November 2008)

4 – NEWSPAPER HISTORY

50.4.1 RESOURCES AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

Victor Isaacs writes: Researchers into Newspaper history in Australia should be aware that there are considerable resources available at the National Archives of Australia. Go to the NAA's website, **www.naa.gov.au**/ and then go to "Record Search". I recently tested this by typing in keywords such as "newsagency/ies", "newsagent/s", "newspapers". They all yielded results; "Newspapers" resulted in more than 3200 results. Of course, this can be refined by both subject and date. So it is worth typing in the names of particular newspapers or people. NAA's Record Search site also includes files held by the Australian War Memorial.

Australian Government records are usually available after 30 years. They cover a wide, and sometimes unexpected, number of subjects. By far the largest number of files with "newspapers" in the title were for registration as literary works for copyright. The next largest category was for registration for transmission through the post. Some other common entries included such things as: Wartime censorship; Wartime newsprint rationing; Placement of advertisements; Press cuttings about Prime Ministers or Ministers; Correspondence between newspapers and Prime Ministers/Ministers; Articles about Australia in overseas newspapers; The former requirement for permission to publish newspapers in languages other than English; Legal requirements in the ACT; Legal cases.

The holdings also include a number of photographs. NAA holdings are in various capital cities according to the origin of the file (with the largest number in Canberra). But one can request that a file be digitised and placed on the web, which is very useful if it is another city. Indeed many files are already digitised.

50.4.2 NEWSPAPER DIGITISATION (1): THE *ARGUS*

Peter T. Gill, of Ashburton, Victoria, writes: The Newspaper Digitisation Project (49.4.1) will have profound benefits for a wide range of researchers. I have already had some significant "hits" with several inquiries. However, there may be a slight drawback for people using the *Argus*. Apparently the microfiche used as a basis for the *Argus* was made at the Public Library of NSW, so the copies are of the first edition, which was sent interstate. I have already found a couple of omissions because of variations between the various editions. The digitised version does not always contain references shown in the printed *Argus* index. So, if the reference from the printed *Argus* index does not appear in the digitised version, it may be necessary to look at a bound copy of a second (or later) edition.

50.4.3 NEWSPAPER DIGITISATION (2): UPDATE

Mark Raadgever, of the Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program, reports: The Australian Newspapers beta service now contains 367,000 newspaper pages from 26 different newspaper titles dating from 1803-1954, providing access to more than 3.5 million newspaper articles. The National Library is currently undertaking a procurement process to establish a

panel of digital scanning and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) contractors for ongoing newspaper digitisation activities. During this period no additional content will be added to the Beta service.

50.4.4 NEWSBOYS WORKED RAIN, HAIL OR SHINE

Rain, hail or shine, Bob Urquhart stood outside the Melbourne Town Hall and sold the *Age*. It was 1946 and he was just 12. As one of seven children and with no father at home, he found the income handy, but the thing he thrived on was the social group connected with it, the Newsboys Club. Sixty-two years later, Urquhart, of Doncaster, is still a member of what has evolved into the philanthropic Newsboys Foundation. He was at the Spiegeltent, outside the Victorian Arts Centre, on 14 November to celebrate the foundation's 115th birthday. The foundation has allocated more than $9 million in grants since the start of its charity focus — funding young people to reach their potential — in 1974. But it had had a positive effect on Urquhart long before then. "My young life was around the Newsboys Club," he said. The club's headquarters at 109 Little Collins Street had a swimming pool, gyms, a library and a canteen. Members could do woodwork, play basketball or see a dentist. The club was the basis of lifelong friendships, and even helped inspire his career. At 40 he changed his occupation from factory worker to looking after problem and disadvantaged children. A recent Newsboys Foundation grant recipient, Westside Circus, performed at the annual meeting on 14 November. The circus aims to build confidence and resilience among disadvantaged and at-risk young people (*Age*, 15 November 2008).

Melbourne Newsboys Club members Bob Curry, Bill Howden and Bob Urquhart in 1947. (*Age*)

50.4.5 ADELONG, TUMUT AND GUNDAGAI: JAMES BAKER ELWORTHY

Geoff Burch of Wagga Wagga has published a 17-page monograph entitled, *Some history of James Baker Elworthy and his newspapers at Adelong, Tumut and Gundagai*.

50.4.6 REMINISCENCES ABOUT THE RED FOX

Historian and political commentator Ross Fitzgerald and Canberra historian Stephen Holt are seeking recollections about Alan Reid (known as the Red Fox), who was the Canberra correspondent for Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* in the days when Frank Packer owned the paper (*Australian*, 29 September 2008, "Strewth" column).

50.4.7 FAIRFAX EMPLOYEES ENTERTAIN THEIR BOSS

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 27 August 1860, p.5, column 1, reported that two days earlier the fourth anniversary of the *Herald* dinner or Wassgoose was observed. The "gentlemen of

the various departments" gave a complimentary dinner to mark their appreciation of the character of their employers, the Messrs Fairfax – John and Charles. The dinner was held at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, Botany Bay. The previous year John Fairfax had entertained the staff at Ginnagullah. The *SMH* report of the 1860 Wassgoose is extensive. [The ANHG thanks Janette Pelosi, of Sydney, for providing a copy of this article.]

50.4.8 FIFTIETH ISSUE OF THE *ANHG NEWSLETTER*

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The Australian Newspaper History Group, which emerged from a conference on local newspapers and local identities at Chiltern in north-eastern Victoria in October 1999, is an example of what individuals rather than committees can achieve. One of those at the Chiltern conference was Victor Isaacs, a Canberra public servant with wide-ranging interests in history. He wanted to form a group of people with interests in newspaper history and to issue some sort of publication for them. A few weeks later he single-handedly published the first issue of the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*.

That first issue carried only four A4 pages, but it was a start. Isaacs published a second issue in November (again 4pp), a third in January 2000 (8pp) and a fourth in February (10pp). Then he asked his growing ANHG readership whether anyone would like to take over the editorship from him. I put up my hand and built on the solid foundation that Isaacs had laid. Ten issues appeared in the first 15 months, but since 2001 the newsletter has appeared five times a year, without fail.

The size since 2001 has generally been 20 pages (about 10,500 words). This is issue No. 50. The newsletter breaks up items into sections that deal with current events in the capital-city dailies, online news as produced by newspapers, and provincial and suburban papers (the items are short, but are sourced so that readers can find out more if they wish). There are also sections on newspaper history (the "old" stuff) and on recent publications (books, theses, and journal, magazine and major newspaper articles) of relevance to newspaper historians. The newsletter has 230 electronic subscribers (who pay nothing) and 23 hard-copy subscribers (individuals pay $50 for ten issues). The subscribers include National and State Libraries, newspaper researchers, editors, managers, journalists, academics and librarians. The ANHG has published nine books and is working on its grandest publication yet: a comprehensive bibliography of Australian newspaper history. It will be the second edition of the bibliography, but this edition will dwarf the first edition. The ANHG plans to publish early in 2009 an index to the first 50 issues of its newsletter. All this from the initiation of one man and the taking up of the baton by two or three others.

Let **Victor Isaacs** tell in his own words what led to the formation of the Australian Newspaper History Group. "I had long had an interest in newspapers – their history as well as current topics. I was growing increasingly frustrated that there seemed to be no place to pursue this interest in Australia. There was no organisation of like-minded people, and there was no journal about the subject. In mid-1999, I finally decided that since there was no organisation, I would just have to found one. I drafted a form letter and sent it to the newspaper librarians of major libraries, university faculties of journalism and history, historical societies around the country, and daily and Sunday newspapers. I had no idea what sort of reaction I would get. Very soon after I sent the letter, I walked into the newspaper room at the National Library of Australia. The newspaper librarian said to me, 'That was an interesting letter we received from you. No doubt, you know about the forthcoming newspaper history conference in Chiltern.'

"No, I didn't. Clearly, there were other people who shared my interest! If I had not sent my letter, I would possibly never have heard about the conference. I received an approximately 30 per cent response to my letter, which is pretty good for that type of thing. Meanwhile, I went to the conference in October 1999. It was a weekend filled with papers about newspaper history of overwhelming interest. I thought this is what I have been looking for all my life!

"The final session of the conference was entitled "Where do we go from here?" I followed up on the letter, by raising the idea of a newspaper history group and journal. There was agreement that what we did not want yet another formal, academic magazine. There was a view that an informal journal keeping people in touch with what was going on would be very useful. On this basis, I put together the first issue of the *ANHG Newsletter*. I sent gratis copies to everybody who had replied to my letter and everybody who had attended the conference. I received very gratifying responses. The ANHG was away!"

Barry Blair, of Tamworth, NSW, has been one of the most consistent contributors to the ANHG over the years. He is involved with various publications. Let him tell something of his story: "Over the years, I've developed a range of hobbies and interests, and to keep myself informed of the latest developments in various fields, I daily scan every known online news source throughout Australia. Online sources include daily national/metropolitan newspapers, weekly suburban newspapers, provincial newspaper, and radio and television news. Now living in semi-retirement, I find the reading of thousands of online news headlines each, and every week helps me maintain a range of interests that I've developed over the years. With over 300 news sources to trawl each week, I've developed a keen eye for well-written headlines and teasers. Knowing just who and what organisation would be interested in particular news items keeps me enthused. The *ANHG Newsletter* ultimately benefits from an average of about 10 contributions a week from my online scouring."

Larry Noye, of Altona, has been a consistent supplier of clippings from Melbourne newspapers for some years. **Robert Coleman**, formerly of the *Herald*, also supplies Melbourne items regularly, especially obits of his former colleagues and rivals.

For the librarians and organised researchers, here is a table listing all 50 issues of the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, the dates of issue, and the number of pages in each issue. The average paging is 17.64 each issue, but it is 19.55 an issue since No. 11.

Issue No	Date	Paging	Issue No	Date	Paging
1	October 1999	4	26	February 2004	20
2	November 1999	4	27	May 2004	20
3	January 2000	8	28	July 2004	18
4	February 2000	10	29	September 2004	20
5	April 2000	6	30	December 2004	20
6	May 2000	9	31	February 2005	20
7	June 2000	12	32	May 2005	20
8	August 2000	18	33	July 2005	20
9	October 2000	14	34	September 2005	20
10	December 2000	15	35	December 2005	20
11	March 2001	22	36	February 2006	20
12	May 2001	19	37	May 2006	20
13	July 2001	20	38	July 2006	20
14	September 2001	20	39	October 2006	20
15	November 2001	20	40	December 2006	18
16	February 2002	20	41	February 2007	20
17	April 2002	20	42	May 2007	16
18	July 2002	20	43	July 2007	20
19	September 2002	18	44	September 2007	20
20	December 2002	20	45	December 2007	20
21	February 2003	15	46	February 2008	19
22	May 2003	20	47	May 2008	20
23	July 2003	20	48	July 2008	20
24	October 2003	18	49	October 2008	20
25	December 2003	19	50	December 2008	20

50.4.9 ARMIDALE: ORAL HISTORY AT PRINTING MUSEUM

The Museum of Printing at the New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM) has received a grant of $1000 from the Royal Australian Historical Society for the continuation of its oral history project. In the last two years curator of the museum Benjamin Thorn has recorded interviews with more than 20 people who started work in the printing industry from the 1930s to the 1970s. "It is providing a fascinating insight into an important industry and people's memories help contextualise the equipment and other materials we have on display," he said. "For instance I've spoken to people who made advertising blocks like those we have on display and someone who supervised the use of the actual monotype keyboard we have in the museum. I hope to be able to continue collecting material for another two or three years, and then edit it into a book that celebrates the printing industry in the last century. Already I have some very funny stories and some quite alarming occupational health and safety anecdotes, such as mixing up cyanide by putting your hand on the top of a bottle and shaking. You washed your hands before having your morning tea." Interviewees are a mix of locals, visitors to the museum, and others known to Thorn from his previous job with the National Printing Industry Training Council. He is always looking for other people who are happy to share their memories of the printing industry and he can be contacted on (02) 6772 5255 (*Armidale Express*, 12 November 2008).

The Museum of Printing at NERAM is the venue until the end of January for an exhibition that focuses on the use of typographical elements in art. The exhibition includes a section n which Thorne has called "Cabinet of Typographical Monstrosities" (*Armidale Express*, 26 November 2008).

50.4.10 POWERHOUSE AND NEWSPAPER HISTORY

Janette Pelosi writes: During the September-October school holidays in Sydney I visited the Powerhouse Museum's Castle Hill collection store where those items not on display at Ultimo are kept. I was pleased to see a number of newspaper history items. Not least of these was the 1890 Miehle Printing Press used by the *Bombala Times* from 1967 to 1985. There were also other newspaper items such as the 1901 Federation miniature edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the first issue of the *Sydney Gazette* (1803). There are also front pages of significant events (e.g. death of King George VI in 1952, Armistice Day 1918).

The Powerhouse Museum's collection database can be searched at http://castlehill.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/. I inserted "newspaper", "printing" and similar terms and found lots of interesting items. Many have photographs (e.g. the miniature and the *Gazette*) but unfortunately the *Bombala Times* printing press does not. The *Bombala Times* archive is also held. Each item in the database provides a description of the item and its significance.

5 – RECENTLY PUBLISHED

50.5.1 BOOKS

Cryle, Denis, *Murdoch's Flagship: Twenty-five Years of the* Australian *Newspaper*. Melbourne University Publishing, $39.99 as an e-book, and $49.99 as a paperback. Cryle, Professor of Communication and Media Studies at Central Queensland University, has written widely on newspaper history in Australia (see *Australian*, 5 December 2008, p.2).

Growden, Greg, *Jack Fingleton: The man who stood up to Bradman*, Allen & Unwin, 2008. **Alan Clark** reviews this book: This is far more than your run-of-the-mill cricket book, for it is the biography of a man who excelled in his chosen sport and also in his career as journalist and author. On the cricket field Jack Fingleton held the record for consecutive Test match centuries; he batted in the Bodyline series before Bradman,

and his differences of opinion with the great batsman are well documented. With access to family members and the wealth of correspondence, notebooks and diaries held in the State Library's manuscripts section, Growden was able to know his subject intimately. From humble beginnings, Fingleton became acquainted with several prime ministers when he was covering politics in Canberra. His work ethic in always meeting deadlines for newspapers and publishers while involved in other media as well, eventually took its toll on his family life. This is a fascinating read.

Launceston Branch, Tasmanian Family History Society. *Tasmanian Mail: A Photographic Index*, Vol. 1 1894-1904, Vol. 2 1905-1908, Vol. 3 1909-1912. (Contact: PO Box 1290, Launceston, Tas, 7250.)

Price, Matt, *Top Price*. Illustrated by Bill Leak. News Ltd, 2008. A collection of columns written by the late Matt price, on Australian football and politics.

Sayle, Murray, *A Crooked Sixpence*, Revel Barker, 2008. Now a veteran Australian foreign correspondent, Sayle wrote this book about his experience after getting off the boat in England and finding a job in London on a mass-circulation scandal-sheet in the 1950s. Published by MacGibbon & Kee in London and Doubleday in New York in 1960, the book was an instant hit, and sold to Hollywood for a movie, but it lasted in print only for a number of days because a near-penniless London aristocrat believed that he was identifiable in the story and wanted to sue – so the book was immediately withdrawn in the UK. Now comes the reprint.

Wolff, Michael, *The Man Who Owns the News: Inside the Secret World of Rupert Murdoch*. Knopf, 2008, 446pp. $49.95. Reviewed by Stephen Loosley, *Weekend Australian*, 29-30 November 2008, Review, p.13.

50.5.2 ARTICLES

Birnbauer, William, "The cereal offender", *Sunday Age*, 26 October 2008. Receiving threats is part of a long career in investigative journalism. That doesn't mean the threats always make sense. Farewell article by journalist employed by Age and Sunday Age for a total of 230 years. Leaves as part of redundancy program at *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Burrowes, Tim, "Straw that broke new ground", *Walkley Magazine*, No. 53, October/November 2008, p.20. *B&T,* a media-news weekly for 58 years, goes fortnightly and relies heavily on its online edition, *B&T Today*, to present breaking stories, writes the *B&T* editor. This article appears in a section devoted in this issue to "Magazines: Goss & Gloss".

Crittenden, Victor, "The Three Editors of The Atlas, a Sydney Journal 1844-1849", *Margin: Life and Letters of Early Australia*, No.75 (July/August 2008), pp.4-7. The three editors were Robert Lowe, James Martin and Angus Mackay. Margin is available from Mulini Press, PO Box 82, Jamison Centre, ACT, 2614.

Eldridge, Russell, "Why we need to be better storytellers", *Best* (APN), November 2008, pp.6-7. The former editor of Lismore's *Northern Star* suggests how journalists can become better writers by telling stories rather than writing reports.

Ellingsen, Peter, "Tying up history's loose ends", *Walkley Magazine*, No. 53, October/November 2008, pp.10-11. Being on the scene does not mean you understood the major moments in history.

Farquharson, John, "Shy farm girl became city matriarch: Pioneer devoted life to newspaper", *Canberra Times*, 7 October 2008, p.6 (see also *Age*, 27 October 2008, p.12). Obituary for Heather Shakespeare, née Cameron, who worked at the *Canberra Times*, 1929-1962, and who became the second wife of Arthur Shakespeare, managing editor of that newspaper, 1926-64. See ANHG 49.5.2, Downie.

Fisher, David, "How the Mercury won a hospital", *Best* (APN), November 2008, pp.2-3. The facilities were poor, the morale was shot, and nobody was doing anything to fix Mackay's hospital – not until the editor of the *Daily Mercury* swung his team into action.

Gawenda, Michael, "Newspapers must return to core business", *Australian*, 7 October 2008, p.10. The future of journalism depends on managers with ink in their veins, argues a former *Age*, editor. The article is an edited extract of the A.N. Smith lecture, delivered on 7 October at the University of Melbourne. See also *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age* of 7 October. (See Malcolm Colless's comment, *Australian*, Media section, 13 October 2008, p.34, and David Kirk's response to Gawenda's criticism, *Australian*, 15 October 2008, p.2.)

Holt, Stephen, "Mr Y and Mr Gorton", *Quadrant*, October 2008, online. The mysterious "Mr Y" from the saga surrounding the downfall of John Gorton as Prime Minister is identified at last.

Korporaal, Glenda, "Firm believer", *the deal*, Vol. 1, No. 2, November 2008 (magazine insert in *Australian*, 21 November 2008), pp.12-16. The deputy editor interviews Rupert Murdoch when he is in Australia to deliver the Boyer Lectures.

Masters, Chris, "Search for truth liberates veteran", *Australian*, Media section, 17 November 2008, pp.31-34. We should get rid of the "bloody great majority of commentators" and focus on genuine investigative reporting, says the retiring *Four Corners* investigative journalist. This is an article for journalists from all media – and for those who employ them and those who wonder about journalism's values and directions.

> **QUOTE:** "The thrill of it for me is this search for truth, a worthy-life-long quest. Never quite getting there is probably what makes it so energising. My most important trick was collected from my mother, and that is finding nobility in the commonplace. Olga Masters was a suburban reporter who did not need a car crash to find a story. I got from here a sense of proceeding with whatever I had selected, or come my way – and seeing where it took me. Every story, big and small, became a battle to find out as much as I could in the time that I had. Over time I came to recognise the brilliance of this approach."

Simper, Errol, "A feast of great words served up on historic day", *Australian*, Media section, 10 November 2008, p.36. Reflections on Barack Obama's victory speech in the USA presidential election, and on the power of words.

Starck, Nigel, "Anthony Trollope's travels and travails in 1871 Australia", *National Library of Australia News*, October 2008, pp.19-21. The author reveals the outrage, particularly as expressed in newspapers, at British novelist Anthony Trollope's views of colonial Australians as "blowers".

Warden, Ian, "The Great White Fleet in Sydney: 'What a time we are having!'", *National Library of Australia News*, pp.7-10. This is an account of "the greatest spectacle yet witnessed in the history of Australia", as the thrillingly anticipated Great White Fleet of 16 colossal American warships entered Sydney Heads 100 years ago. The event resulted in the first photograph published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Warden, Ian, "'Pale Sydney woman made strong and rosy!'", *National Library of Australia News*, November 2008, pp.14-17. The author uses the Newspapers Collection of the NLA to explore the health worries and associated "cures" of 100 years ago.

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