



ABOVE: The *Great Southern Herald* building, Katanning, Western Australia, 2003. The paper began publication on 5 October 1901. Issues from 1901-54 have been digitised and are available through Trove. BELOW: The *Narrogin Observer*, also WA, was in a shopping complex, with some distractions, 2003. It began publication on 26 August 1905. Both newspapers are still published.



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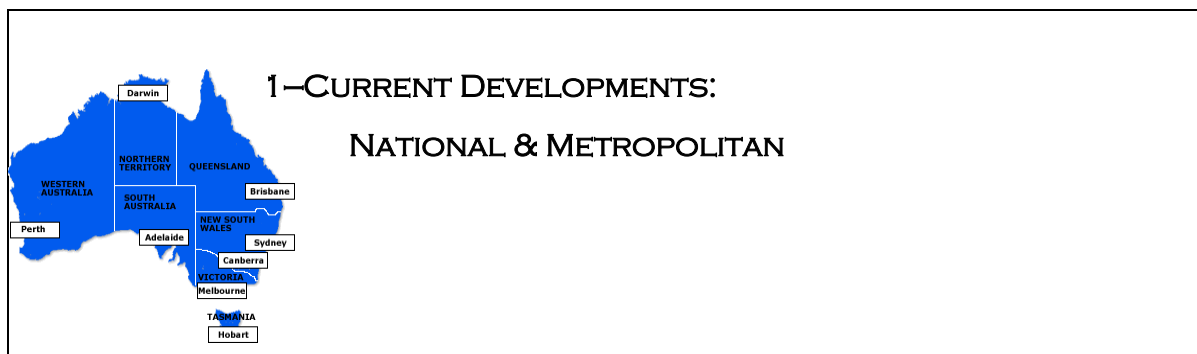
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Ten issues had appeared by December 2000 and the *Newsletter* has since appeared five times a year.



Editor's note: This issue appears about a week early because my wife and I will move on 29 September into our new home in Brisbane after five months in “no fixed abode”—in various holiday apartments in one block at Redcliffe. My new address is in the details box on Page 1.

89.1.1 *Sunday Times* and *PerthNow* go to Seven West

The competition watchdog has delivered its approval to a proposed shake-up of the Western Australian media landscape. After two false starts, Kerry Stokes' Seven West Media will soon have control of the state's two mainstream metropolitan mastheads (*Australian*, 15 September 2016). The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has cleared Seven West's (SWM) acquisition of the *Sunday Times* newspaper and the perthnow.com.au website from News Limited. News Corp Australia agreed in May to sell the *Sunday Times* and its PerthNow website to Seven West Media for a price believed to be in the range of \$12-\$15 million. In a statement on 15 September, the regulator said the deal was unlikely to substantially lessen competition. Seven West already runs Perth's only daily newspaper, the *West Australian*, and many country newspapers in WA. It met with some pushback from the ACCC, with two delays to its decision timeline before the 15 September decision in the affirmative, with the regulator assessing whether the media landscape had changed enough for it to wave through a deal that will see the two largest metropolitan newspapers in WA merge.

89.1.2 Holden heads Cricket Australia communications wing

Cricket Australia appointed Andrew Holden, a former editor-in-chief of the Melbourne *Age*, as its head of communications from 8 August. Holden was the national production editor for all Fairfax newspaper coverage of the Sydney Olympics in 2000. He was the editor of the *Press*, Christchurch, during the 2011 earthquake (Telum Media Australia Alert, 27 July 2016).

89.1.3 ‘Threat’ to journalism from anti-corruption commissions

Peter Fray has warned that anti-corruption commissions pose a greater threat than the courts to the protection of journalists' confidential sources (*Australian*, 25 July 2016). Fray, who is now a professor of journalism practice, has urged media proprietors to make a joint effort to prevent these commissions from coercing journalists in secret to reveal their sources. “This sort of cloak-and-dagger method of suppressing information and free speech is working,” said Fray, who is based at the University of Technology, Sydney. Anti-corruption commissions and associated bodies have the power to demand information from journalists in secret, which enables them to avoid the public scrutiny and procedural safeguards that accompany such moves in the courts. But Fray believes the time is fast approaching when publishers might need to expose these organisations whenever they try to use their powers to identify journalists' confidential sources.

Before joining UTS, Fray was deputy editor of the *Australian* and had previously been editor or editor-in-chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Sun-Herald*, *Canberra Times* and *Sunday Age*. His concerns are in line with those of Joseph Fernandez, who is head of the journalism department at Curtin University, Perth, and a former editor-in-chief of the *Daily Express* in Malaysia. Fernandez described the state anti-corruption commissions as “a real and present threat” to improvements in the protection of journalists' sources.

89.1.4 Saturday cover prices rise at News

On 23 July the prices of News Corp's metropolitan Saturday newspapers were increased: the *Herald Sun* from \$2.20 to \$2.40, the *Daily Telegraph* from \$2.20 to \$2.40, the *Courier-Mail* from \$2.20 to \$2.50 and the *Advertiser* from \$2.50 to \$3.

89.1.5 Recent chronology

89.1.5.1 Deaths

Falconer, Dixon Alexander: D. 26 May 2016 in Brisbane, aged 87; entered journalism as a cadet at the *Bulletin*, Sydney; involved in the commencement of the *Darling Downs Star*, a new daily for Toowoomba, in 1955, and stayed for about four years; returned to Brisbane but moved to *Sydney Morning Herald* at end of 1950s and before long was chief of staff, and served in that role for about 10 years; press secretary to federal Minister for Northern Development, Dr Rex Patterson; chief of staff, *Sunday Mail*, Brisbane; ran his own private journalism school; was a visiting cadet lecturer to Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association newspapers (source: Graham Earle).

Fraser, Colin Lovat: D. 26 July 2016 in Melbourne, aged 95; born Remuera, NZ; joined Herald and Weekly Times as copy boy; at 19, became a war correspondent in Singapore and Malaya for the *Sun News-Pictorial*; RAAF navigator during World War II; returned to Herald and Weekly Times after war and became chief of staff at the *Herald*; sent by the *Herald* to USA to "learn television" and buy programs; returned to help set up HSV 7 as program manager; wrote booklet on Television Advertising which was used Australia wide to explain television advertising to potential advertisers; became a Licence Advocate for Victorian Country Broadcasters; joined George Patterson Bates, first as head of television, then Creative Director winning the first of many overseas awards for an Australian agency; became managing director of the Melbourne office which became the most profitable agency in the Bates network worldwide; worked as a consultant for a number of organisations including the *Herald* and Australia Post; joined Samuelson Talbot and Partners as joint chairman and had another 25 year career working into his late eighties.

Lamble, Stephen George Clark: D. 8 September 2016 on Sunshine Coast, Queensland, aged 67; left high school early; went jackarooing; became a teacher, ambulance officer, journalist and then academic; started in journalism on *Bairnsdale Advertiser*, Victoria; started a newspaper, the *East Gippsland Review*; edited *Noosa Review*, Queensland; became Sunshine Coast correspondent for Brisbane's *Sunday Mail*; established the journalism program at the University of the Sunshine Coast; outstanding teacher; author of journalism texts (*Sunshine Coast Daily*, 14 September 2016).

Neville, Richard: D. 4 September at Byron Bay, aged 74; co-editor of *Oz*, launched 1 April 1963; prosecuted for obscenity twice, and was convicted twice (having pleaded guilty the first time and not guilty the second); he was jailed for six months but this second conviction was overturned; launched London *Oz* 24 January 1967 and was co-editor along with Felix Dennis and Jim Anderson (it folded in November 1973); the three were prosecuted for obscenity published in the May 1970 issue and also for "conspiracy to corrupt public morals"; at the time the longest obscenity trial in British legal history; Richard was jailed for 15 months, but appeal process ultimately quashed the convictions for the three editors; London *Oz* closed in November 1973; Neville worked on the *Living Daylights* and *Nation Review* back in Australia; later became a television commentator and author (*Australian*, 6 September 2016, p.15).

89.1.6 Fairfax write-down

Fairfax Media chief executive Greg Hywood has written down a huge part of its publishing business (*Australian*, 2 August 2016). Hywood shifted the focus to Fairfax's online classifieds portal Domain Group by separating its operating results from Australian Metro Media, publisher of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age* and *Australian Financial Review*. In doing so, Fairfax moved a step closer to spinning off Domain while leaving the newspapers more directly exposed to the stock market's obsession with short-term profit through trading. Fairfax took a \$989 million pre-tax revaluation on 1 August against its publishing assets. A write-down of \$484.9 million was booked against its Metro Media unit, \$408.8m against its rural and regional papers, and \$95.3m in New Zealand. At the most recent half-year results, Domain's earnings jumped 74 per cent to \$65.7m for the six months to the end of December.

Extract from “A Word from the CEO Greg Hywood” from the Fairfax Media Annual Report 2015-2016 released 10 August, p.8: For our Australian Metro Media titles the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*, it should surprise no one, and certainly not us, that the seven-day-a-week print model will eventually give way to weekend-only, or more targeted printing in the case of the *Australian Financial Review*. This trend is already occurring globally. Exactly when we move towards implementing this new model depends on the view we form about trends in consumer and advertiser behaviour.

Fairfax Media’s digital assets and those outside of its traditional print business will account for well over half of earnings in the year ahead (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 August 2016). Driven by its real estate services business Domain, Fairfax Media’s earnings from digital, including its mastheads online, such as the *Australian Financial Review*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age*, life and events and digital ventures such as Allure Media and Weatherzone, will account for 60 per cent of earnings before interest, depreciation and amortisation, up from 42 per cent in the year ended 30 June.

89.1.7 Three cheers for print: Thomson

News Corporation chief executive Robert Thomson says the company is proud of its print heritage and will continue to play an important role in multi-platform publishing (*Australian*, 18 August 2016). Addressing staff in a town hall-style discussion on the newsroom floor at the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, Thomson underscored the importance of the printed newspaper at a time of “much upheaval” when “lesser media companies are contemplating” an exit from print. Thomson, who started his career in 1979 as a cadet journalist in Melbourne, also criticised the low quality of much “commoditised” digital content, arguing it could not compare with the original journalism produced by the company’s news brands. “We have to confidently exert the values of all our platforms and our people,” said Thomson. “There is a vast cauldron of crap content out there. It’s ladled out liberally by distributors and recyclists who are not environmentally sound but are the news equivalent of strip miners.”

89.1.8 Readership grows

The *Australian’s* average daily newspaper readership grew 3.6 per cent to 465,000 over the past year, despite an intense battle for readers from online channels (*Australian*, 18 August 2016). The *Weekend Australian* also gained daily issue readers over the 12 months to June, up by 0.5 per cent to 584,000, according to latest data from the NewsMediaWorks’ Enhanced Media Metrics Australia (emma). Measured by print and digital platforms, the *Australian* had 3.175 million monthly readers.

Readership of the *Australian Financial Review* grew by 7.2 per cent over the 12 months. The *AFR’s* total masthead audience was 1.645 million during June. In Sydney, the *Daily Telegraph* had a daily readership gain of 0.1 per cent to 984,000, while the Saturday edition slipped 3.6 per cent to 756,000. Readership of the print edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* fell 2.5 per cent to 652,000, while the Saturday edition plunged 6.4 per cent to 693,000. In Melbourne, the *Herald Sun’s* audience slipped 2.3 per cent to 1.25 million, while the *Herald Sun’s* Saturday edition was down 1.9 per cent at 1.06 million. The *Age’s* daily readership grew 9.5 per cent to 611,000, while its Saturday edition was up 6.4 per cent at 614,000.

The latest total masthead figures include data from Digital Ratings (Monthly), which was launched by Nielsen and the Interactive Advertising Bureau Australia in March. The data, collected through about 10,000 nationally representative metered computers and devices, has shown Australia’s newspapers to have bigger audiences than thought, but they are more volatile, too.

89.1.9 Changes to *Herald Sun* political team

There were several changes to the *Herald Sun’s* political team in September. Ellen Whinnett finished as national political editor and moved to London as Europe correspondent for all News Corp Australia metros. Ellen had been national political editor for three years and has been replaced by James Campbell, the Victorian state political editor for four years. Campbell was replaced by Matthew Johnston, a state political reporter since 2013 (Telum Media Alert, 24 August 2016).

89.1.10 Fairfax strategy (1): Under Mitchell microscope

Is the collapse of the once great Fairfax newspapers a threat to Australian democracy and accountability journalism? **Chris Mitchell** explored this question in his column in the Media section of the *Australian*, 22 August 2016. And he asked also: what is the real task for newspaper publishers in moving to their digital futures? Some media executives have seen their main roles over the past five years as being to take costs out of print as fast as possible and build up digital news websites and apps even more quickly, Mitchell argued. News Corp has tried to extract as much revenue from print as possible while building up newspaper digital businesses, national free site news.com.au and special interest verticals such as taste.com.au, at the same time building paywalls where possible to generate consumer revenue.

Following are edited extracts of what Mitchell wrote: “Since Greg Hywood took over from Brian McCarthy in 2011 as Fairfax CEO, he has accelerated the decline of the publishing business’s main revenue drivers: its print products. In this latest result, Fairfax wrote down the value of these mastheads by another \$1 billion. A share price of \$5 before Greg Hywood took over languishes below \$1 and has for years.

“This does not please me. As an editor I always wanted strong competitors. I would have loved him to be able to do what the journalists at Fairfax thought he would when they welcomed him back after he left the business under failed former CEO Fred Hilmer in 2003: they wanted him to save the once great *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age*. Hywood had a track record as a successful editor at the *AFR*, *SMH* and *Age* and time to build business strategies to offset the long-run collapse of the company’s former classified revenue sources in cars, property and jobs, the so-called rivers of gold. But under his former chairman, one-time Woolies CEO Roger Corbett, he failed miserably. So much so that the future of Fairfax is now most likely as a property website, Domain.com.au, and perhaps not as a provider of journalism at all. It has already flagged selling its community and regional newspapers and may even be open to offers on its metro titles. It seems clear it will close Monday to Friday print editions within 12 months.

“At the *Australian* the print product still generates more than 75 per cent of earnings and annual revenue since 2013 is up \$40 million a year, largely on the back of increased consumer revenue (newspaper cover price rises and paid digital subscriptions) and strongly increased display advertising as luxury advertisers flock to the last full size metro broadsheet. Yet, as with Fairfax, *The Australian* was very badly hurt by collapsing employment advertising for mainly federal and state government jobs on Saturdays and IT jobs on Tuesdays.

“The News Corp tabloids are probably still earning about 90 per cent of annual revenue in print even as they have built enormously popular news websites. Why would anyone wind the papers down? Fairfax’s metros have lost about 60 per cent of their peak weekday circulations while most of the News Corp tabloids have lost a third of their peak sales. Latest readership numbers show the *SMH* losing readers too. And Friday’s circulation audit results showed the midweek editions of the *Australian* for the first time ever now outselling the *Age* and *SMH*. And guess what? Newspaper circulations and readership really are linked to advertising volumes.

“Fairfax has for almost a decade been doing what former group editor-in-chief Mark Scott once referred to as “shaking off low-value sales”. A decade ago some sales really were not worth having. Papers were almost given away to audiences of little or no interest to advertisers. Think bulk sales to schoolkids. But what these geniuses did — and not just at Fairfax — was cut discounted sales to prime targets. Teachers for example. Or people flying at the front of the plane. Or staying in premium five-star hotels.

“These are exactly the sort of people advertisers to prime AB audiences (the sort of audiences Fairfax claims to be targeting) value highly. And in the case of *The Australian* even these sales are at profitable prices to the publisher. In addition, Hywood, and before him Hilmer, targeted the best and most highly paid journalists for redundancy, those journos their papers’ buyers wanted to read. The papers got smaller, went tabloid and adopted a “digital first” strategy so that people who read Fairfax’s websites all day got a paper the following morning that simply packaged up what consumers had already read.”

* Chris Mitchell wrote further on the above issues on 29 August in his Media column in the *Australian*.

89.1.11 Fairfax strategy (2): Whish-Wilson comments

Lloyd Whish-Wilson, who was chief executive and publisher of Fairfax's NSW metro newspapers from 2007 to 2011, commented on the Fairfax issues raised (above in 89.1.10) by Chris Mitchell. He said Mitchell rightly laid much of the blame for the collapse of Fairfax newspapers at the door of chief executive Greg Hywood, but he had let off lightly the man who appointed him, chairman Roger Corbett. Whish-Wilson continued: "Corbett sat on the board when the company did not take positions in fast-growing online classifieds portals, and called in consultants Bain & Co, whom he had used at Woolworths, to override executives and lay down a publishing strategy. Corbett may have been successful at Woolworths, but unfortunately for Fairfax, he knew little about the drivers of newspaper revenue. In 2007, when I became Fairfax NSW Metro Publisher, I found that the board had already approved, and announced, a plan to convert the *Sydney Morning Herald* to 'narrow-sheet', a US-style format that it was claimed could save on newsprint while maintaining some of the strengths of a broadsheet. An internal financial analysis had been done on the assumption that advertisers would pay the same price for a narrow-sheet full page as they did for a broadsheet — that is, the advertising column centimetre rate would increase in proportion to the space lost. As they say in the trenches, pigs might fly. This was my initial exposure to the lack of publishing knowledge at board level.

"My take on the revenue situation was that internally the Fairfax 'quality journalism' mantra had encouraged people to underrate the contribution of the advertising department, and to rationalise the impact on advertising revenue of what were, at times, unbalanced reports and elitist sneers. Advertisers, in the main, were not seeking any special favours — just a fair go. Given no other redress, their only resort was to try to get some attention by cancelling advertising contracts. Often, they just wanted their grievances to be heard. The list included half a dozen of what were some of our biggest advertisers. Some started advertising again; some did not.

"Hywood took on the role of CEO at the time Bain & Co was to implement its strategy for the business, about which most print executives had major concerns. The focus on digital and print costs meant Bain was blind to the continuing contribution of print revenue. It appeared that after all the Fairfax strategic errors of the early 2000s, there was a mad rush for the business to be seen to be doing something dramatic. The relationship between print revenue and newspaper readership appeared lost on Bain; hence its readiness to take up the theory of so-called "uneconomic" print copy sales. Mitchell has spelt out the impact of this tellingly." **For more**, see: Lloyd Whish-Wilson, "Loss of respect behind demise, *Australian*, 29 August 2016, pp.23, 25.

89.1.12 Changes on Sunday

News Corp launched *Stellar*, a weekend magazine, on 28 August. It features columnists such as Frances Whiting and Rory Gibson and is available in the *Sunday Telegraph* (Sydney), *Sunday Herald Sun* (Melbourne) and *Sunday Mail* (Brisbane). The magazine includes a mix of features, fashion, beauty and home content, along with 10 pages of food content put together by the *delicious*. on Sunday team.

U on Sunday's final edition was printed on 21 August. Some of the magazine's content has been merged into a new "Sunday Life" section at the back of the *Sunday Mail*. "Sunday Life" is a guide to socials, parties, Confidential, fashion, parenting, weddings, babies, pets and the arts.

Sandra Killen, *U on Sunday*'s former editor, has moved into a similar role with *Brisbane News* replacing Jane Scott.

89.1.13 Canberra Times (1): At 90

On Saturday 3 September the *Canberra Times* included an eight page wraparound to commemorate its 90th anniversary. This mainly consisted of many, very small reproductions of notable front pages.

89.2.14 Canberra Times (2): As tabloid

Victor Isaacs writes: Quality control at the *Canberra Times* since its tabloidisation on 16 July 2016 leaves a lot to be desired. Typos are frequent. On many occasions, articles include phrases such as "... so-and-so informed the Age that ..." The Saturday edition is the paper's most prominent

Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter, No 89, September 2016— 6

and biggest-selling edition. Yet on Saturday 30 July, one article appeared twice – in the general news section, and again in the BusinessDay section. On that day, one column, “Today in History/Today’s Birthdays/Trivia”, was the same as one that appeared the day before. On Friday, 9 September, the “Today in History/Today’s Birthdays/Trivia” column was again the same as had appeared the preceding day.

More generally, content appears to have decreased. World News is easy to compare. There used to be about five broadsheet pages of World News (admittedly including ads) in the Saturday editions. Now there are merely two tabloid pages. A World News section of two pages has become the weekday standard. These two pages are almost always identical to the pages in the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. However, occasionally, there is only one tabloid page of World News in the *Canberra Times*.

89.1.15 Rothfield cleared, resumes columns

News Corp Australia has cleared sports editor-at-large Phil Rothfield of allegations made about his links with Sydney punter Eddie Hayson. News Corp CEO Michael Miller told staff in early September that Hayson had cooperated fully with the inquiry and had made available records of his betting account. All the articles that had appeared under Rothfield’s byline in News Corp papers over the past 10 years had been examined. Miller said the company found “no evidence that Phil has compromised the integrity of his reporting nor the integrity of the papers he works for”. Rothfield has resumed his columns for the *Sunday Telegraph* and the *Daily Telegraph*.



89.2.1 The web’s 10,000 days

If the sun seemed a little brighter when you woke up on 29 July, ABC News Online may have found the reason: the World Wide Web marked a milestone overnight. The previous day, 28 July, had marked 10,000 days since Sir Timothy Berners-Lee, widely credited with being the inventor of the web, made his proposal for an information management system on 12 March 1989. It took another couple of months, until November of the same year, for the first hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) communication. Fast-forward a few more years, and this became the melody of connecting to the World Wide Web. Since then the web has transformed the way we communicate, learn, do business and yes, even get our news.

89.2.2 News Rewired in NZ

It was around 18 months ago when a radical plan to re-engineer Fairfax Media New Zealand to thrust it into a squarely digital future was conceived. The News Rewired project, as it was known, would mean that every single role was either redefined or created anew so that every person was geared towards the publisher’s digital centerpiece, Stuff.co.nz. (NewsMediaWorks, 22 July 2016).

Newsrooms across New Zealand were decoupled from working on specific mastheads and transformed into a united engine room powering Stuff. The transformation was completed before Christmas last year and, by the end of March 2016, Stuff had increased its unique monthly audience to more than two million – an impressive feat in a country of around 4.5 million people.

The figures from the March Nielsen Online Ratings include audience from desktop and mobile web, but not the Stuff mobile app. Sinead Boucher, Fairfax NZ executive editor and group digital editor since 2007, said News Rewired basically rebuilt all newsrooms from the ground up and was a significant factor in Stuff hitting the two million milestone.

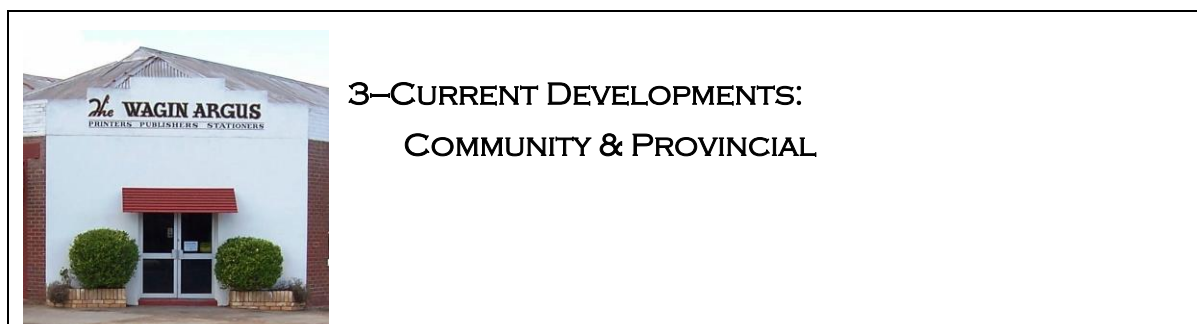
Along the road to this milestone, Fairfax experimented with new digital platforms, put social media at the heart of the newsroom, handed out iPhones to journalists to increase video content and coordinated training for video production, search engine optimisation and quality. Mobile was a key focus too. Developing a new article page for the mobile web was given priority over desktop or redesigning the homepage.

Behind the scenes, Fairfax also rolled out a new content management system that put everything into digital, with print products retro-fitted from it. “Just in itself, moving people into the digital-centric content management system tripled our digital output overnight,” Boucher says.

Fairfax’s print products played a significant role in engineering the company around digital. Or rather, making the production of those newspapers far less onerous. The design and template for Fairfax’s newspapers were streamlined, with daily and community mastheads sharing a universal blueprint each. Journalists also now choose photos, captions and videos for their articles, ensuring all their work is “publish ready”.

The newspapers themselves have been recast as just one product, and one audience, that Fairfax journalists serve. The priority is on serving local and national audiences with compelling content, not on a specific product.

“Instead of thinking about ourselves as an integrated newsroom, we think about ourselves as a digital newsroom where there’s a bit of print on the fringe,” Boucher says. Fairfax’s NZ newspapers do not have individual websites. Rather Stuff acts as a stable for online content.



89.3.1 Country Press (1): Co-operative closes after nearly 125 years

The Country Press Co-operative Company Limited, one of Australia’s oldest industry organisations, ceased operations on 30 June after nearly 125 years. The company was founded on 22 December 1891 with 60 shareholders who were proprietors of newspapers in country Victoria. Its function was to provide telegraphic news, feature articles, supplements and advertising. The company also became a forceful lobby group on behalf of members and regional Victorians. In the modern era over about 60 years, the co-operative conducted a successful advertising agency, provided administration services and purchased premises in Exhibition Street, Rosslyn Street and Epsom Road in central Melbourne. These “Country Press House” buildings were shared as headquarters for the Victorian Country Press Association Ltd and Country Press Australia.

Following the sale of the two-storey building at 163 Epsom Road, Flemington in February the board of directors decided to wind-up the company and distribute dividends to shareholders. The company was responsible for the inauguration of the Victorian Provincial Press Association on 2 September 1910 and always maintained a benevolent liaison with the association. It is business as usual for VCPA and CPA in the building which is now owned by a Victorian regional newspaper company. VCPA also maintains a secretariat for the NSW Country Press Association. The last board of Country Press Co-operative Company Limited consisted of Bruce Ellen (Morwell) and three VCPA life members, Bob Yeates (Bairnsdale), Brian Hopkins (Warragul) and Lloyd Jenkins (Geelong) who ensured that shareholders received maximum benefits from the voluntary liquidation. Another life member, Chris McPherson (Shepparton) was chairman at the time of his death last February.

89.3.2 Country Press (2): Lloyd Jenkins honoured

The Victorian Country Press Association has recognised 50 years as a director by Lloyd Jenkins. VCPA chairman, Rob Duffield and Country Press Australia chairman, Paul Thomas co-hosted a dinner in Melbourne to thank Jenkins for his contribution to administration in the industry. Dr Kristy Hess, of Deakin University, and Dr Mandy Oakham, of RMIT University, praised his 25 years of service in helping to develop post-cadet and cadet journalism training courses and work as a tutor for students in five States. Jenkins had a career spanning half a century as a regional and metropolitan journalist and is still mentoring some cadet journalists. Lloyd's wife, Val, retired after 38 years in newspaper service as office manager, proof-reader and part-time reporter, and their elder son Ken has achieved more than 40 years in newspapers, mainly with the *Gannawarra Times* and *Loddon Times* (Kerang, Victoria).

89.3.3 Country Press (3): David Sommerlad's international first

David Sommerlad, revered journalist and country press administrator, has become the first Australian to receive the prestigious Eugene Cervi Award from the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors. The award was established in 1976 and recognises "a career of outstanding public service through community journalism and for adhering to the highest standards of the craft with deep reverence to the English language". The first Australian president of ISWNE, Barry Wilson, of Kiama, NSW, announced the award at a dinner held at Melbourne University in June at the conclusion of the annual conference attended by delegates from North America and Australia. Sommerlad, of Sydney, is regarded as one of Australia's most distinguished journalists. After working and advocating for country newspapers, including the *Inverell Times*, *Glen Innes Examiner* and *Armidale Express* for 30 years, he served as executive director of Country Press Australia and Country Press New South Wales and is a life member of both organisations. He has also been a member of ISWNE for 50 years. Because of ill health, Sommerlad could not attend the presentation which was received on his behalf by friend Lloyd Jenkins. As colleagues in Country Press Australia they worked for many years on creating unique training programs for country journalists through Deakin University.

89.3.4 About 300 jobs likely to go at APN papers

News Corp's planned acquisition of APN News & Media's Australian Regional Media newspaper business will result in up to 300 job losses as back office synergies are sought to secure the future of quality journalism in the affected regions. That's a loss of one in four current jobs (*Australian*, 12 September 2016). The cuts are expected to be implemented over an initial phase. The deal was approved by shareholders on 16 September, but is still subject to approval from the Foreign Investment Review Board, the ACCC and other third party consents. A subsequent round of cost cuts once News Corp has had more time to assess the ARM operations across regional Queensland and northern NSW. There are reportedly no plans to shut ARM titles, which include regional dailies from Mackay to the Sunshine Coast and inland at Ipswich, Toowoomba and Warwick, as well as Lismore and Grafton in New South Wales. It is understood cuts will be aimed at back office, printing and distribution functions, with News Corp seeking to retain as many journalists as possible. The news comes at a time when the regional newspaper industry is at a crossroads after rival Fairfax Media stripped \$60 million in annualised costs out from its Australian Community Media division and entertained interest from potential suitors, including Platinum Equity. ARM publishes 12 daily newspapers, 60 community papers and non-daily publications, and more than 30 regional news websites. News Corp holds a stake of almost 15 per cent in APN, which means shareholder approval is required for what has been deemed a related-party transaction.

89.3.5 APN CEO joins board

APN News & Media chief executive Ciaran Davis has been appointed to the company's board (*Australian*, 24 August 2016). The former boss of the company's radio business, Australian Radio Network, has been appointed managing director. Davis was promoted to the chief executive role in August 2015. Davis has overseen the divestment of the company's regional newspaper business and demerger of its New Zealand operations this year.

89.3.6 APN looks to non-print future

APN News & Media is keen on its post-print future as a media company with no traditional publishing assets, as it books a hefty interim loss (*Australian*, 26 August 2016). APN booked a net loss of \$256.9 million on 26 August for the six months to 30 June, swinging into the red from the previous interim profit of \$7.5m. Revenue edged down slightly to \$129.1m over the half year. APN has recently spun out its New Zealand Media Entertainment division and is in the process of selling its Australian Regional Media business to News Corporation (see 89.3.4). Having just conducted an equity raise, APN decided against paying an interim dividend. Earnings before interest, tax depreciation and amortisation were up 7 per cent, which chairman Peter Cosgrove welcomed.

89.3.7 Burnie: *Advocate* shifts main office

The *Advocate*, Burnie and Devonport, has moved its main office to 39-41 Alexander Street, Burnie, in the former Harris Print Centre where the *Advocate* was once printed. The move took place on 18 July. The Devonport office is at 45 Best Street (*Advocate*, 16 July 2016, p.2).

89.3.8 Parkes: If retirement doesn't work the first time...

Roel ten Cate, managing editor of the *Parkes Champion-Post*, has retired again (ABC Central West News, 8 July 2016). He started work at the paper in October 1968 and was editor of the *Forbes Advocate*, 1979-1984. He returned as managing editor of the Parkes paper and retired first in 2008 (see ANHG 49.3.8) and continued working part-time only to return to the editor's chair "after a couple of years" (*Champion-Post*, 31 May 2016). The new editor is Christine Speelman who comes from the *Young Witness*, where she spent four years after previously working at the Parkes paper. Bill Jayet, a journalist with the Parkes paper for 35 years, has also retired. Denis Howard, sports editor at Parkes for three years, has been appointed editor of the *Young Witness*.

89.3.9 *Queanbeyan Age* and Canberra suburban

Victor Isaacs writes: Fairfax's free weekly Canberra newspaper, the *Chronicle*, and Fairfax's weekly Queanbeyan newspaper, the *Queanbeyan Age*, have taken on a new look since the issues of 16 August. Both papers now use the NewsNow technology which facilitates publication of news both online and in print. The result is that both papers look like most other Fairfax papers. The main change, however, is that production of both papers has been substantially integrated. In the first changed edition of 16 August, after the first five pages, the two papers were substantially the same product. In fact, this means the *Queanbeyan Age* is bigger than formerly. It has also gone from a paid-circulation paper to being distributed free. The *Chronicle* included a 16-page Allhomes real estate advertising section which was not included in the *Queanbeyan Age*. (Allhomes is the name for Fairfax's real estate advertising in the Canberra market, which everywhere else is known as Domain. This is because Allhomes is uniquely in Canberra ahead of News Corp's **realestate.com** and was established with that name when taken over by Fairfax.)

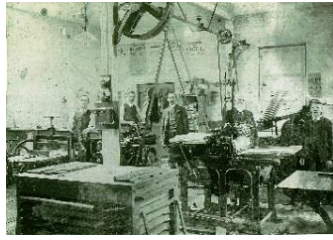
The *Queanbeyan Age* was founded in 1860. The *Chronicle* dates from 1981. Both newspapers on 16 August even included unchanged four pages which had already appeared in the *Sunday Canberra Times*. The website for the combined papers is <http://www.queanbeyanagechronicle.com.au/>

89.3.10 Renmark: New editor for *Murray Pioneer*

Pamela Perre has returned to the *Murray Pioneer* as its editor. She had been the editor of sister paper, the *Loxton News*, since 2015. Before that she was a journalist and online editor at the *Murray Pioneer*. In 2015, she was awarded Young Journalist of the Year at the South Australian Country Press awards (Telum Media Australia Alert, 26 August 2016).

89.3.11 Katherine: McLennan is new editor

Chris McLennan has joined the *Katherine Times* as editor. He was previously a senior reporter with the *Weekly Times*, Victoria. A Walkley award winning journalist, McLennan is now be responsible for supervising the production of the weekly newspaper and its digital platforms (Telum Media Alert, 14 September 2016)



4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

89.4.1 Researching women journalists before and since the internet

Patricia Clarke, who turned 90 on 30 July, has provided the reminiscence below at the invitation of the ANHG editor. Patricia, a prolific researcher and writer (see information below this reminiscence), is the author of *Pen Portraits: Women writers and journalists in nineteenth century Australia*, Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 1988. She is currently working on another book about women journalists, both Australians who reported from overseas and overseas journalists who reported on Australia.

I began working as a journalist in the early 1950s, an era that is now part of media history. Women journalists were scarce and usually employed in the lower grades in the organisations I worked for. The pervading male culture dominating all aspects of press and radio work made our boast of getting equal pay, when most women employees were paid only a proportion of male wages, rather hollow.

When I left full-time journalism I began researching and writing about the social and technological changes that had determined the position of women in journalism. I followed their story from the first contributors in the nineteenth century through the hundreds of anonymous women who filled the women's pages with cooking recipes and household hints, the social page writers doomed to report endlessly on the social scene, the driven social improvers to the bright young women striving for a chance to shine in print. Often it was individual stories that illustrated changes in the standing and perception of women journalists most compellingly.

My research methods now seem as ancient as the days of handwritten copy before the invention of typewriters. I began researching my book about women writers and journalists in nineteenth century Australia, *Pen Portraits* (Allen & Unwin, 1988), by laborious searching through newspaper files, histories of the press and journalism, journalists' memoirs and reminiscences, biographical dictionaries and similar sources. I was aware of the well-known names Catherine Helen Spence, Alice Henry and Mary Gilmore, and I knew the courageous stories of the women who began their own papers: Louisa Lawson's *Dawn*, Maybanke Wolstenhome's *Woman's Voice* and Vida Goldstein's *Woman's Sphere*. But I was searching for the army of anonymous women whose identities were hidden behind pseudonyms and who were otherwise unrecorded because they were usually employed as casual contributors. Tracing these women was an exercise in detection. I sought archival information from the major dailies but depressingly few had retained any early staff or contributor records.

I had my greatest successes searching gossip columns in old periodicals, particularly 'The Inky Way' in the *Bulletin*, and similar sources in *Dawn*, the *Bookfellow*, and *Lone Hand*. The *Bulletin* usually noted women journalists in a disparaging or satirical way but the items themselves could be full of information about particular 'female inky wayfarers'. It was always a thrill to find in some obscure item the identity of a woman who wrote under a particular pseudonym, sometimes setting a trail that led to many others. In all these sources it was often only in noting their deaths that the women were rescued from anonymity through the revelation of their pseudonyms. The *Bulletin* was also the source of one of best quotes on women's page journalism that I came across. It described routine work on the society pages as 'the deadly, dreary ruck of long dress reports and the lists of those who 'also ran' at miscellaneous functions'.

By the time I was asked to write the entry on 'Women in the Media' for *A Companion to the Australian Media*, (ed. Bridget Griffen-Foley, published 2014), there had been a revolution in researching. The resources of the internet, particularly the National Library's invaluable Trove,

had reduced some research from months to minutes and having instant access to checking basic facts and establishing dates was a boon.

The position of women in the media, too, had undergone a revolution: from the few who somehow or other inveigled themselves into being the first parliamentary reporters, the first war and foreign correspondents, the first women to broadcast and the first women to break into television news and current affairs programs to their present-day prominent public profile in press, radio and television.

The women's liberation movement and widespread social changes of the 1960s and 1970s triggered the move of women journalists into previously out-of-bounds areas, as investigative journalists, reporters in the financial press, to head of the Federal Press Gallery and editor-in chief of a major newspaper. Young women, observing the industry changing from its former status as a male bastion, began to flock to journalism courses. During the next decades women became commonplace in journalism some achieving high-profile appointments. Now women are anchors of prestigious current affairs programs on radio and television and writers on the opinion pages of newspapers although the public profile of notable women tends to disguise the fact that most women in the media are still employed in low and middle range positions.

I used some of the old methods in researching this entry on 'Women in the Media' particularly issues of the *Australian Journalist* with its invaluable picture of the changing media, still available only in hard-copy. But judicious internet searching solved many questions with breathtaking speed compared with lengthy searches in the last century. As I found another hundred or so sources for a woman that years ago I would have struggled to find mentioned anywhere, I also wondered whether it equalled the joys of old time researching.

I think of the days I spent deep in the dusty vaults of the London *Times* in Wapping searching the heavy volumes of long-past issues to find the dispatches from the Australian journalist, Jessie Couvreur (pseudonym Tasma), ringed in heavy blue pencil with her name scrawled across them. She sent her news and opinion pieces from Brussels where, very unusually for a woman in the 1890s, she was the *Times*' foreign correspondent. Then I looked at the Foreign Manager's letter books and read how he criticised, praised, berated and instructed her, always in exquisitely polite language, as he undertook her education as a *Times* foreign correspondent, 'a *métier* to be learnt', he told her. Finding a hundred or so internet sources seems very tame in comparison.

Patricia Clarke is a writer, editor and historian whose major focus has been on women in Australian history. Several of her twelve books are biographies of women writers and she has also written extensively on media history. She has lived in Canberra since 1957 when she moved from Melbourne in her work as a journalist. A former president and now a councillor of the Canberra & District Historical Society, she edited the *Canberra Historical Journal* from 1987 to 2000. She is a Fellow of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies and an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities. She was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in June 2001 "for service to the promotion of Australian history through research and writing, to the study of Australian writers of the nineteenth century and to the Canberra and District Historical Society".

89.4.2 *Argus* employees gather for reunion

Former staff members of the Melbourne *Argus*, which ceased publication in 1957, gathered for their annual reunion, this year on 28 June. It was effectively the 59th reunion. They gathered in the Melbourne Institute of Technology (MIT) building, the refurbished former *Argus* building. It is now "a very modern educational institution, with interior refurbishments up to university standards", as Peter Gill puts it. The Melbourne Museum of Printing mounted a display that included examples of hot-metal type and equipment from the *Argus* era.

The following [slightly edited] report of the occasion appeared on the MIT website:

On June 28 MIT welcomed to the *Argus* building former employees of the Melbourne morning newspaper, the *Argus*, which closed in 1957. Eighteen former journalists, photographers, artists and office staff attended the reunion. For most, it was the first time they had been in the building since 1957. Journalist Jim Usher said his colleagues were surprised and delighted at the redevelopment of the building by MIT.



Pictured: (From left) Bernard Barrett, Warren Embery, Ian Hamilton, Jeanette Conway, Barrie Dunstan, Brian Wood, Mal Brynong, Bob Murray, Jim Usher, Alan Green, John Kiely, Judy Beddoe, Ian McDonald, Pierre Russo, Peter Gill, Ray Kennedy, Bob Condon, Stewart Anderson, Vane Lindesay.

Jim said: “The *Argus* was a most reputable newspaper which informed and educated the people of Victoria from 1846 to 1957. We very much appreciate that MIT has continued that role of educating and informing the young students in its care. We wish MIT every success in the role they have taken on in the State of Victoria. We also appreciate that MIT has established an *Argus* memorial by creating a mini ‘news room’ of *Argus* newspapers and items that were used in the production of the paper.”

When the *Argus* folded, many of the staff went on to establish new careers. Bernard Barrett became an academic at Melbourne University, Jeanette Conway went into TV then became a Nun and worked in human services, Bob Murray is a historian who has written 15 books, Ray Kennedy has a public relations company and speakers bureau, Bob Condon took up positions in public relations at Melbourne and La Trobe universities, Ian McDonald was team manager of the Australian Test cricket team for 14 years, Alan Green went on to become company secretary of The Herald & Weekly Times, Vane Lindesay was an artist and cartoonist who has produced 12 books, Pierre Russo established himself in publishing, Barrie Dunstan had a distinguished career in finance journalism, Peter Gill changed career in mid-life and became a school teacher. Mal Bryning moved into TV production. John Kiely held senior position at the *Age* and with The Herald & Weekly Times group, as did Ian Hamilton. Jim Usher also held senior positions in The Herald & Weekly Times group and has written three books, one on the Black Saturday bushfires in which he nearly became a victim.

89.4.3 Research on *Baily's Magazine of Sports*

Chris Harte, who lives in Wales, is preparing a history and bibliography of *Baily's Magazine of Sports & Pastimes*, the premier sporting magazine in Britain from 1860 until it was killed by the General Strike of 1926. He says: “There is a considerable amount in it which might appeal to those in Australia. For example, they were the people who gave Adam Lindsay Gordon his first break. I’m probably going to publish 25 printed copies with online copies available. I expect it to be around 900 A4 size pages. It was originally commissioned by The British Library but their publishing arm has now closed down.” Harte lived and worked in Australia as a journalist for 16 years. He has

written 57 books, with three more planned over the next four years. He has won two Australian literary awards. Chris is at chrismedia47@yahoo.co.uk

89.4.4 Reporters' association celebrates first anniversary

The Victorian Reporters' Association celebrated its first anniversary on Saturday night, 25 October 1890, at a "numerously attended dinner" in Melbourne (*Inquirer and Commercial News*, Perth, 29 October 1890, p.6).

89.4.5 Soldiers' editor summonsed

Geelong Advertiser, Wednesday, 14 May 1919, p.3: Brisbane, Tuesday.—It is understood that today the State Repatriation Board summoned T. De Toper Markowicz, editor of the *National Leader*, before the board to answer a charge preferred against him by a summons issued in accordance with regulation 73, framed under the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act of 1917. The Press was not invited. It is understood that a subsequent application for Press representation was refused, and somewhat of a scene was reported to have occurred when counsel presented himself for admission to the inquiry. It is alleged that considerable discourtesy was shown to the gentleman, who stated that he appeared on behalf of Markowicz. Later this difficulty was overcome and counsel was admitted. The inquiry was then proceeded with, but had shortly to be adjourned in consequence of the indisposition of Markowicz. It is understood that Markowicz was summoned before the board in consequence of an article in the *National Leader*, which is the official organ of the returned soldiers.

89.4.6 Bednall retires from newspapers and radio

News, Adelaide, 3 December 1953, p.18: Mr Colin Bednall, one of Australia's most distinguished journalists, last night announced his retirement from Australian newspapers and radio. Mr Bednall, who was born in South Australia, has been managing editor and director of Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd, publishers of the *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail*, for the past eight years. In recent months he has been a member of the Royal Commission on Television, set up by the Federal Government. Mr Bednall's resignation will take effect from January 13, 1954. From that date, Mr T.C. Bray will become editor-in-chief of the *Courier-Mail* and Mr D.S. Sherman will become general manager. The *Courier-Mail* announced that Mr Bednall's retirement was entirely voluntary.

89.4.7 New press (1): *Westralian Worker*, Perth, 1923

Westralian Worker, Perth, Friday, 9 November 1923, p.5: "Another milestone on the road to a Labor daily." Such was the way vice-chairman A.J. Watts, of the People's Printing and Publishing Co. expressed himself, and such was the conviction of the big assemblage which gathered round the new Swiss Duplex rotary flatbed printing press at 40 Stirling-street on the afternoon of Friday last. Those present included the directors, staff, prominent Laborites, and city business men, and they attended in response to an invitation to be present at the official "setting of the wheels in motion." Mr. Watts presided, and at the outset expressed pleasure at seeing such a large attendance. He said the occasion was an auspicious one, because in his opinion another milestone on the road to a Labor daily had been passed. He said the progress being made by The Peoples' Printing and Publishing Company was very gratifying, and to a large degree was due to the efforts of Mr. J. B. Holman (chairman of directors), who could very well be looked upon as the promoter of the Company. Amid applause, he said he had much pleasure that afternoon in presenting to Mr. Holman, on behalf of the directors, a silver rose bowl. Part of the inscription upon the bowl read, "In appreciation of valuable services rendered." Mr. Holman, in responding, said he was deeply grateful. It was certainly a proud day for him, and for all of them, because they were now independent of any other concern. For years past the *Worker* had been printed at the *Sunday Times* office, and they had all looked forward to the day when the paper would be wholly set up and printed in their own establishment. That time had arrived. He turned over the pages of a scrap book he had with him, and quoted from the original circular sent out in 1909 for the purpose of starting The Peoples' Printing and Publishing Company. He said that four years later the Company had secured the services of Mr. D. Watson as organiser, and from that time forward they had never looked back. The Company made a brilliant commencement, because it was floated at a cost of less than 1 per cent, of subscribed capital.

89.4.8 New press (2): *Catholic Weekly*, Sydney, 1948

Catholic Weekly, Sydney, Thursday, 4 March 1948, p.1: Notable milestone in the history of Catholic journalism in Australia was passed last Monday when His Eminence Cardinal Gilroy blessed the new rotary press on which this issue of the *Catholic Weekly* is printed.

89.4.9 New press (3): *Western Herald*, Bourke, 1960

Western Herald, Bourke, 8 April 1960, p.1.: Our new Automatic Printing Press arrived this week and will be unpacked at the weekend. The machine will not be in operation until after Easter when an Engineer will check it over and complete its installation.

89.4.10 Tahmoor's once-a-century publication

Ian Willis, of Camden, writes: On 1 September 2016 the local independent weekly, the *District Reporter*, published an eight-page wraparound supplement under the banner heading of the "Tahmoor Times Souvenir Edition". It was "edition 1, volume 1" of a special edition that was "published every 100 years". The supplement celebrated the centenary of the naming of Tahmoor NSW and the Back to Tahmoor celebrations. It was sponsored by the *District Reporter* and the Tahmoor Chamber of Commerce under its president Bob Clayton.

The *District Reporter* is a free 16-page weekly published by a family owned company, Wombaroo Publishers, of Camden. The newspaper was launched in 1998 and has a distribution of 16,900 primarily across the Camden and Wollondilly Local Government Areas, including Tahmoor. The publication has a popular weekly local history feature on the back page called "Back Then" under the direction of newspaper editor Lee Abrahams. Volunteers read aloud the supplement to some of the residents at the local Carrington Convalescent Home.

The idea of the supplement and its promotion were the brainchild of Bob Clayton who is variously described as a team of one taking on roles from journalist and political editor. Clayton's editorial stated that he only published the supplement "every one hundred years" with the next edition in 2116. Clayton supplied the content with layout done by the *District Reporter's* sales manager Noel Lowry.

The supplement's feature article "Bridge to Bridge – Tahmoor a History" presented an interesting collection of images with a short story of the history of the town. Past extracts from the Picton Post supported the story. For example, in 1933 local character Barney Abbot spotted a UFO from his farm paddock one night. Then there was an offer in 1934 to take a Ford V8 for a drive with a recent sighting of Elvis Presley in Tahmoor.

Mr Clayton said, "It was all to have a bit of fun and to tell tales from the past. History is a bit dry and you need to make it interesting."

Other centenary celebrations were outlined in the supplement and are a "Back to Tahmoor Day", a history publication, a photographic exhibition, the development of a history walk and a time capsule for Tahmoor Public School.

Storytelling occurs in all cultures and the "Tahmoor Times" supplement adds to some of the colourful yarns about the local area. Clayton said he would send a copy of the supplement to the National Library. The supplement provides an insight in to the area's sense of place and its cultural landscape.

***DAILIES IN THE COLONIAL CAPITALS* (advertisement)**

More than half of the print run of *Dailies in the Colonial Capitals: A Short History* by Rod Kirkpatrick has been sold. It went on sale on 31 August.

Details: 72,000 words; 14 chapters; biographical register; bibliography; index; 19 illustrations; 12 tables. Soft cover. ISBN 978-0-9751552-7-1.

Price \$65 plus \$15 post and packing. Contact: Rod Kirkpatrick, email: rkhistory3@bigpond.com; or ring him on his Mobile 0400 031 614.



5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

89.5.1 Books

Anderson, Fay, and Young, Sally, *Shooting the Picture: Press Photography in Australia*, MUP, 2016. Paperback, RRP \$45.

Kirkpatrick, Rod, *Dailies in the Colonial Capitals: A Short History*. Self-published, 2016. Soft cover. 152pp. \$65 plus \$15 postage and packing. [See advertisement at foot of Page 15 of this newsletter.]

Mitchell, Chris, *Making Headlines*, MUP, 2016. RRP: \$32.99. The author was editor-in-chief of the *Australian* from 2002 until December last year. [One reviewer, David Fagan, editor of the *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, 2002-13, described the book as “this 240-page love letter to himself and the newspaper he edited”. Fagan also wrote: “*Making Headlines* puts Australia's most controversial editor of the past 20 years back in the news, raises more questions than it answers about the relations between media executives and the politically powerful and creates profound doubts about the traditional trust between journalists and their sources. In revealing his conversations with recent prime ministers, which they might have believed confidential, Chris Mitchell, former editor-in-chief of the *Australian*, may have compromised future journalists' and editors' dealings with sources. His memoir may lead others to ponder: will this discussion later turn up in a book? To be fair to Mitchell, *Making Headlines* is a sometimes thrilling read for political and media tragi-comics as it takes readers through long lunches and dinners at various restaurants, prime ministerial abodes, Mitchell's home and even the sauna room of a Sydney hotel.” (David Fagan is now an Adjunct Professor at QUT Business School and its director of corporate transition.) Chris Mitchell and Mark Day devoted their Media section columns in the *Australian*, 19 September 2016, to discussing various aspects of the book.

Rolls, Mitchell, and Johnston, Anna, *Travelling Home: 'Walkabout Magazine' and Mid-Twentieth-Century Australia*. Provides a detailed analysis of the contribution that the mid-20th-century *Walkabout* magazine made to Australia's cultural history. It was integral to Australia's sense of itself as a nation.

Woods, Martin, *Where Are Our Boys? How Newspapers Won the Great War*, National Library of Australia Publishing, 252pp. paperback, \$50, ISBN 9780642278715. Describes and illustrates how the course of the Great War 1914-1918 was charted and followed by maps and other illustrations in Australian newspapers. There are copious illustrations from the newspapers of the period. The author is curator of maps at the National Library.

89.5.2 Articles

Bradsher, Keith, and Innis, Michelle, “Sydney Morning Herald faces uncertain print future in Australia”, *New York Times*, 17 August 2016, http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/18/business/international/australia-media-fairfax-smh.html?smid=tw-share&_r=1

Clarke, Patricia, “Flora Shaw: A ‘Lady from London’ reports on 1890s Queensland” in *Celebrating Independent Thought ISAA Twenty Years On: 2015 Conference Proceedings*, Canberra, Independent Scholars Association of Australia, Canberra, 2016, pp.33-50. [See 89.4.1.]

Geiger, Dominic, “Don turns back page: Journo's great curiosity tour lands him at the *Post's* doorstep”, *Cairns Post*, 6 August 2016, p.25. An interview story about Don Hook, a former *Cairns Post* reporter who went on to a wide-ranging career in journalism.

Mitchell, Chris, “How to report on Hanson and Islam”, *Australian*, Media section, 25 July 2016, p.24. The former long-serving editor-in-chief of the *Australian* offers wise advice on reporting Pauline Hanson (by “looking at the facts”) and Islam and terrorism.

Smits, Thomas, “Looking for *The Illustrated London News* in Australian Digital Newspapers: Colonial readership and the formation of imagined communities, 1842–1872”, *Media History*. Published online: 17 Jun 2016. Demonstrates that digital newspaper archives can be used to shed new light on the historical readership of nineteenth-century newspapers and magazines. The digital newspaper archive of Australia (Trove) was used to study the distribution and reception of the *Illustrated London News* (ILN) in the Australian colonies between 1842 and 1872. This article shows that around 17,000 copies of the magazine reached the Australian colonies by each mail in 1862. This corresponds to 8–11 per cent of the total circulation of the ILN at that time so making it the most widely read British publication in the Australian colonies.

Stanley, Peter, “The man behind the legend”, *Canberra Times*, Saturday 6 August, Panorama (magazine) section, pages 8-9. A brief description of the life of C E W Bean, WW1 War Correspondent, to coincide with the exhibition “Charles Bean: Life and Work” at the Australian Defence Academy Library, Canberra

ANHG SUBSCRIPTIONS

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