AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER

No. 3   **January 2000**

Please send your **CONTRIBUTIONS** to Victor Isaacs, PO Box E383, Kingston ACT 2604, ahdb@compuserve.com, 02-6257 1742.

3.1 LEFT WING WOMEN'S JOURNALS

Liz Macnamara (lizm@bullwinkle.econ.usyd.edu.au) is looking for papers and journals which either targeted, or were written/edited by, left wing women. The era being covered is 1910-1980. Ones that are accessible in Sydney would be preferred, though she is interested in compiling a list of other sources. Also, if anyone knows of any extant copies – in addition to those mentioned in *Newspapers in Australian Libraries* - of *Solidarity* 1917-18, owned by the Industrial Labor Party and edited by Betsy Malthais, they would be doing her a great favour by passing on the information.

3.2 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 1989 TO 1997 by Rod Kirkpatrick

13 August 1989	Last edition of Melbourne *Sunday Press* (joint publication of Herald & Weekly Times and David Syme & Co)
20 August 1989	First editions of Melbourne *Sunday Herald*, *Sunday Sun News-Pictorial* and *Sunday Age*
6 August 1990	The Shepparton *News* switches to morning daily issue after publishing as an afternoon daily since 3 July 1972. This was the last of the provincial afternoon dailies.
11 September 1990	Final issue of the Perth *Daily News* (established 1882).
5 October 1990	Final editions of the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* (established 1879), Sydney *Daily Mirror* (established 1941), Melbourne *Sun News-Pictorial* (established 1922) and Melbourne *Herald* (established 1840).
8 October 1990	Birth of "24-hour" newspapers to replace the above: Sydney *Daily Telegraph-Mirror* and Melbourne *Herald-Sun*.
1991	Protracted battle throughout the year for Fairfax empire, which was in receivership.
31 March 1991	Closure of the Melbourne *Sunday Herald* (established 20 August 1989)
10 December 1991	Closure of the Brisbane *Sun* (afternooner since February 1988, morning 1982-1988).
15 December 1991	Conrad Black's Tourang wins control of Fairfax empire.
27 March 1992	Closure of the Adelaide *News* (established 1923) – last afternoon paper in Australia.
25 March 1992	Release of *News & Fair Facts*, report of the House of Representatives Select Committee on the Print Media.
29 March 1992	Brisbane *Sunday Mail* goes tabloid.
14 April 1992	Closure of Brisbane Sunday *Sun* announced. *Sunday Telegraph* and *Sun-Herald* commence publishing south-east Queensland editions.
9 October 1993	First edition of Brisbane *Weekend Times* (80c). Proprietor Michael Hawke sold the (free) *City News* to Rupert Murdoch reportedly for $1.5 million.
20 November 1993	Closure of Brisbane *Weekend Times*.

22 December 1993	APN takes over Peter Isaacson Publications, Melbourne, publisher of more than 40 titles including the *Daily Commercial News*.
8 May 1994	Final south-east Queensland edition of *Sunday Telegraph*.
15 May 1994	Final south-east Queensland edition of *Sun-Herald.*
11 December 1995	Rural Press pays $68.9 million to acquire the Bathurst *Western Advocate,* Orange *Central Western Daily*, Dubbo *Liberal*, Goulburn *Post* and other Macquarie Publications newspaper properties.
2 January 1996	Sydney *Daily Telegraph-Mirror* reverts to title of *Daily Telegraph.*
2 November 1996	Final daily issue of Goulburn *Post.*
4 November 1996	Goulburn *Post* reverts to tri-weekly issue.
14 March 1997	Weston Print (publishers of the *Kiama Independent*) print first issue of new national weekly, the *Republican*.
16 August 1997	First issue of the *Good Weekend* (Saturday *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age* insert) in enlarged format.
29 August 1997	Final issue of the *Republican*.

For a continuation of this Chronology from mid-1997 to late 1999 see Newsletter no.2, November 1999, item 2.8 "Chronology of Recent Events".

3.3 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS
The entry for **6 August 1999** in item 2.8 of the November 1999 should have read: APN News & Media acquires **Gympie Times** [not Gympie Press] from Rural Press. (Thanks to Ken Sanz for pointing out this typo).

15-19 Nov 1999	Sydney *Daily Telegraph* promotion – nominal daily price of 20c and daily historic photographs supplements.
4 December 1999	Death of John Douglas Pringle, editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* 1953-57 and 1965-70 and *Canberra Times* 1964-65 (obituaries *SMH* 7/12, *CT* 10/12, *Australian* 22/12).
8 December 1999	David Syme & Co announce company name change to The Age Co.
12 December 1999	The longest-serving editor of an Australian metropolitan daily, Paul Murray of the *West Australian*, announces his resignation after ten years.

3.4 RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST
FAMOUS FRONT PAGES OF THE 20TH CENTURY Reproductions of pages from the Melbourne *Herald, Sun, Herald-Sun, Sunday Herald, Sunday Herald-Sun*, *Weekly Times, Listener-In* and *Sporting Globe*, Hardie Grant Books/Herald & Weekly Times, Level 3, 44 Caroline St South Yarra 3141, ISBN 1-86498-060-5, 1999.

A CENTURY OF SUNDAYS by Frank Dunn, Sunday Times, 14 Stirling St, Perth, ISBN 0-646-33799-8, 1997. The story of the Perth *Sunday Times* 1897-1997.

HOLD PAGE ONE: MEMOIRS OF MONTY GROVER, EDITOR Loch Haven Books, Arthur's Seat Rd, Main Ridge 3928, ISBN 1-875308-13-X, 1993. Memoirs of Grover's journalistic life including as founding editor of the Melbourne *Sun News-Pictorial* and editor of the radical Sydney *World*.

A HACK'S PROGRESS by Phillip Knightley, Random House 20 Alfred St, North Sydney, ISBN 0-09-977281-7, 1997. Journalistic experiences in Fiji, Australia (Melbourne *Herald*) and Britain.

THE MEDIA IN AUSTRALIA: INDUSTRIES, TEXTS, AUDIENCES edited by Stuart Cunningham and Graeme Turner, Allen & Unwin, 9 Atchison St, St Leonards, ISBN 1-86373-343-4, 1993.

3.5 AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER REPRODUCTIONS by Victor Isaacs
Known published compilations of reproductions of pages from Australian newspapers are:

THIRTY YEARS OF THE *AUSTRALIAN*: A SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION, 16 July 1994 (newsprint compilation).

160 YEARS OF *THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD*: MAJOR NEWS STORIES 1831-1990, John Fairfax Group, ISBN 1-86290-042-6, 1990.

OVER ONE HUNDRED & FIFTEEN YEARS OF NEWS FROM *THE DAILY TELEGRAPH MIRROR* 1879-1995, Adrian Savvas, ISBN 0-949155-29-2, 1995.

FAMOUS FRONT PAGES OF THE 20TH CENTURY Reproductions of pages from the Melbourne *Herald, Sun, Herald-Sun, Sunday Herald, Sunday Herald-Sun*, *Weekly Times, Listener-In* and *Sporting Globe*, Hardie Grant Books / Herald & Weekly Times, ISBN 1-86498-060-5, 1999.

ONE HUNDRED & FIFTY YEARS OF NEWS FROM *THE HERALD* 1940-1990. Southbank Editions, ISBN 0-949318-04-3, 1990.

66 YEARS OF *THE SUN NEWS-PICTORIAL* 1922-1988, Herald & Weekly Times, ISBN 0-7316-4940-0, 1988.

THE SUN NEWS-PICTORIAL: MY WAR – MORE THAN 150 EPIC EVENTS OF WORLD WAR 2 by Jack Cannon, Schwartz & Wilkinson, ISBN 1-86337-018-8, 1990.

THE BIBLE OF THE BUSH: 125 YEARS OF *THE WEEKLY TIMES* 1869-1994, Hamlyn Australia, ISBN 0-947334-66-1, 1994.

GREAT PAGES OF *AGES*, Fairfax Research, no ISBN, 1997.

THE AGE: Farewell to a century, 31 December 1999 (newsprint compilation).

OVER A CENTURY OF NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES OF *THE TRUTH* 1890-1993, Adrian Savvas, ISBN 0-949155-22-5, 1993.

THE MORETON BAY COURIER TO *THE COURIER-MAIL* 1846-1992, Portside Editions, ISBN 0-949155-18-7, 1992.

THE COURIER-MAIL FRONT PAGES: HISTORY IN THE MAKING 1933-1988, Courier-Mail, no ISBN, 1988.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN: FIFTY YEARS OF HEADLINES 1938-1988, West Australian Newspapers, no ISBN, 1988, (newsprint compilation).

A CENTURY OF SUNDAYS, Sunday Times, ISBN 0-646-33799-8, 1997. Includes a few reproductions of recent Perth *Sunday Times*.

THE CANBERRA TIMES: THE TIMES OF OUR LIVES 1926-1996, Canberra Times, no ISBN, 1996, (newsprint compilation).

SIXTY NINE YEARS OF EVENTS FROM THE PAGES OF *THE NEWS* [ADELAIDE] 1923-1992, Adrian Savvas, ISBN 0-949155-21-7, 1992.

A NEWSPAPER HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA by Nic van Oudtshoorn, Rigby, ISBN 0-7270-1486-2, 1982.

NEWS NEWS NEWS: 101 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS by Keith Willey, Sunshine Books, ISBN 0-86777-176-3, 1982.

BACKPAGE: AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST SPORTING MOMENTS! by Ian Heads, Lester-Townsend Publishing, ISBN 0-949853-23-2, 1989.

ALAN McGILVRAY'S BACKPAGE OF CRICKET by Norman Tasker, Lester-Townsend Publishing, ISBN 0-949853-26-7, 1989.

THE WAY WE WERE: AUSTRALIAN POPULAR MAGAZINES 1856-1969 by Vane Lindesay, Oxford University Press, ISBN 0-19-554409-9, 1983.

3.6 FRONT PAGE NEWS by Victor Isaacs
The dates that major metropolitan newspapers first placed news instead of advertisements on their front pages are:

Melbourne *Herald*	17 October 1889 (gradual process, but main change on this date)
Daily Telegraph	8 October 1924
Argus	13 September 1937
Courier-Mail	28 February 1938
Mercury	3 August 1939
Examiner	4 September 1939
Age	20 December 1941
Advertiser	16 February 1942
Sydney Morning Herald	15 April 1944
West Australian	10 December 1949

The Melbourne *Herald* did not have the serious reputation of the morning newspapers, the *Age* and the *Argus*. The *Daily Telegraph* changed as it struggled to keep its market in the turbulent Sydney newspaper market of the 1920s. Towards the late 1930s, a number of papers changed to what was now seen as acceptable modern style. The *Age*, *Advertiser*, and *Sydney Morning Herald* changed only under the

pressure on newsprint resulting from wartime rationing. The new style of popular papers, Sydney *Sun* (established 1910), Melbourne *Sun News-Pictorial* (1922), Adelaide *News* (1923) and Sydney *Daily Mirror* (1941) had news/pictures on their front page from the beginning.

As far as I am aware, the last Australian newspaper to retain advertising on its front page was the *Bombala Times*, NSW, which did not print news on page one until 14 February 1985! This coincided with a change of ownership at the *Bombala Times* from the Johnson family (1938-85) to the Bradleys, a change from hot metal letterpress to cold press offset printing, and a change of editor. (In 1985, at least one British daily newspaper, the *Dundee Courier and Advertiser,* still had the old layout of advertising on page one and the main news pages in the centre).

3.7 INDEXES TO AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS by Victor Isaacs

There are few indexes to Australian newspapers. The following is mainly based on a survey of holdings at the National Library of Australia. It excludes indexes prepared by local historical societies which only encompass births, deaths and marriages. It also excludes internet-based indexes of current newspapers. There are, no doubt, other general subject indexes. Advice of these will be welcomed.

NEWSPAPER	INDEX PUBLISHED BY NEWSPAPER	PHOTOCOPY OF INDEX CARDS	INDEX PUBLISHED BY LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY / LIBRARY
Sydney Gazette		1803-29	
(1st) *Australian*		1824-42	
Sydney Morning Herald	1927-61	1842-45 1904-1918 1927-87 (microfiche)	
Bulletin	1963-65		
Aust'n Town & Country Journal		1870-1914 (microfiche)	
Sydney Mail		1860-1938 (microfiche)	
Newcastle Morning Herald			1861-1984
Age	1868-78 1892-99		
Argus	1910-49		1845-54 (1855-59 in typescript at State Library of Victoria) 1860-1869
Advertiser, Adelaide	1932-35		
Gippsland Times, Sale			1861-1900
Geelong Advertiser			1966-67

Maitland Mercury			?
Manning River News, Taree			?
Manning River Gazette, Taree			?

This situation is fairly dismal, especially compared to, say, the richness of US newspaper indexes. Clearly Sydney and Newcastle newspapers are the best indexed. It would be a great pity if the Newcastle City Library did not complete their project of indexing the *Newcastle Morning Herald.* Of course, in the last few years, the situation has changed very greatly for the better with the availability of key word indexing of newspapers on the internet.

3.8 NEWSPAPER PRICES by Victor Isaacs

Prices of major Australian daily and Sunday newspapers as at **December 1999** were:

	MON-FRI	SAT
Australian	1.00	1.70
Financial Review	2.00	2.00
Sydney Morning Herald	1.00	1.70
Daily Telegraph	.80	1.20
Age	1.00	1.70
Herald-Sun	.90	1.10
Courier-Mail	.80	1.30
West Australian	.80	1.60
Advertiser	.80	1.20
Canberra Times	1.00	1.40
Mercury	.80	1.10
Examiner	.80	1.10
NT News	.80	1.20
Newcastle Herald	.80	1.20
Illawarra Mercury	.80	1.20

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Sun-Herald	1.20
Sunday Telegraph	1.20
Sunday Age	1.40
Sunday Herald-Sun	1.30
(Brisbane) *Sunday Mail*	1.30
(Perth) *Sunday Times*	1.40
(Adelaide) *Sunday Mail*	1.40
(Canberra) *Sunday Times*	1.00
Sunday Tasmanian	1.10
Sunday Examiner	1.30
Sunday Territorian	1.00

In **1938** prices, where known, of major daily, Sunday and weekly papers, also other daily papers where competition existed, were (sources The Press Directory, published by Country Press Ltd, Sydney and National Library holdings):

Sydney	*Sydney Morning Herald*	1½d
	Daily Telegraph	1½d
	Labor Daily	1½d

	Sun (afternoon)	1½d
	Sunday Sun and Guardian	3d
	Truth (Sunday)	3d
	Smith's Weekly	4d
	Sydney Mail (weekly)	6d
	Bulletin (weekly)	6d
	Australian Worker (weekly)	1d
	World's News (weekly)	2d
Melbourne	*Age*	1½d
	Argus	1½d
	Sun News-Pictorial	1½d
	Herald (afternoon)	1½d
	Smith's Weekly	4d?
	Truth (weekly)	3d
	Australasian (weekly)	6d
	Leader (weekly)	3d
	Weekly Times	4d
	Labor Call (weekly)	2d
	Table Talk (weekly)	6d
Brisbane	*Courier-Mail*	2d
	Telegraph (afternoon)	2d
	Sunday Mail	3d
	Truth (Sunday)	4d
	Smith's Weekly	4d?
	Queenslander(weekly)	6d
	The Week	3d
	Queensland Worker (weekly)	2d
Adelaide	*Advertiser*	1½d
	News (afternoon)	1½d
	Express & Journal (Sat eve)	
	Mail (Saturday evening)	3d
	Truth (weekly)	3d
	Smith's Weekly	4d?
	Chronicle (weekly)	
	South Australian Worker	
	Workers' Weekly Herald	1d
Perth	*West Australian*	2d
	Daily News (afternoon)	2d
	Sunday Times	3d
	Mirror (Saturday evening)	3d
	Western Mail (weekly)	6d
	Smith's Weekly	4d?
	Westralian Worker	3d
Hobart	*Mercury*	2d
	Voice (Labor)	
Launceston	*Examiner*	2d
	Saturday Evening Express	
Newcastle	*Newcastle Morning Herald*	1½d
	Newcastle Sun (afternoon)	
Canberra	*Canberra Times*	1½d

Bathurst	*Western Times*	1$_{1/2}$d
	Bathurst National Advocate	
Ballarat	*Ballarat Courier*	1$_{1/2}$d
	Ballarat Mail (afternoon)	

3.9 SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL!

The following major newspapers were not published on Christmas Day 1999:
Australian, Financial Review, Sydney Morning Herald, Courier-Mail, West Australian
The following were published: *Daily Telegraph, Herald-Sun, Age, Advertiser, Mercury.*

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

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