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1 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: NATIONAL & METROPOLITAN

60.1.1 FAIRFAX (1): BRIAN MCCARTHY DEPARTS ABRUPTLY

It was (almost gleeful) front-page news in the *Australian* (7 December 2010): Fairfax Media CEO Brian McCarthy has stood down less than two weeks after presenting the market with a five-year strategic plan because he was unable to convince the board that that he had the energy to manage the company in an increasingly digital environment. The news was first reported online mid-afternoon on 6 December. Fairfax chairman Roger Corbett announced that McCarthy had been replaced that day by former Fairfax executive and new (since September) Fairfax board director Greg Hywood while a search for a new chief executive is conducted. Hywood, however, is expected to be given the job on a permanent basis in the first half of 2011. He would be the fourth CEO in 5½ years. McCarthy had been CEO since 10 December 2008 (see ANHG 50.1.1). See also: James Chessell and Geoff Elliott, “Papering over the cracks”, *Australian*, 8 December 2010, p.13.

The day after the McCarthy era ended, Australia’s richest woman, Gina Rinehart, bought nearly 2 per cent of Fairfax Media’s shares, a stake she was likely to increase. She recently bought a 10 per cent stake in Ten Network (*Australian*, 8 December 2010, p.35).

60.1.2 FAIRFAX (2): PRINT AND ONLINE TO UNITE

Fairfax Media Ltd has unveiled plans to bolster its efficiency and flexibility through such strategies as creating an Australian metropolitan media division and making efforts to “monetise” more of its online content (smh.com.au, 23 November 2010). The new division, to be one of nine units reporting directly to the Fairfax chief executive officer, will encompass the print operations of the *Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Canberra Times*, as well as the online sites, **smh.com.au**, **theage.com.au**, **Brisbanetimes.com.au** and **WAToday.com.au**, among others. Brian McCarthy, as chief executive officer, told an investor briefing on 23 November that a new CEO would be appointed to run the Australian Metro Media unit.

Fairfax had flagged plans earlier this year to reposition itself as readership shifted more to online and mobile devices from the company’s traditional newspaper base. Consultants from Bain & Co were appointed by chairman Roger Corbett early in 2010 to examine the company’s strategy over the next five years. While the intention of the revamp is to position Fairfax for the structural shifts affecting media markets globally rather than achieve cost savings, McCarthy forecast there would still be savings, possibly as much as \$10 million. The new metro division, which will include much of the current Fairfax

Digital unit and the Fairfax Community Newspapers, accounted for about 22 per cent of Fairfax's operating earnings in the 2009-10 financial year.

60.1.3 FAIRFAX (3): MUSICAL CHAIRS AT TABLOIDISED SMH

Peter Fray, formerly editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, has been promoted to become the editor-in-chief of that paper and its Sunday counterpart, the *Sun-Herald*. In a statement issued on 15 October, Fairfax Media announced that Fray, who had been the editor for almost two years, would "oversee the continuing integration of the editorial operations of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Sun-Herald*". Neil McMahon reported (*Mediaweek*, 25 October 2010, p.9): "Given the announcement came just a day before the Saturday *SMH* converted almost everything but its main news section to 'compact' format, the statement fuelled speculation that Fairfax is taking slow but sure steps down the path followed by News Ltd papers here and overseas in recent years: sacrificing the perceived heft of the broadsheet in the face of market demands for portability and convenience."

Sun-Herald editor Simon Dulhunty, appointed earlier this year to coordinate the development of Fairfax media's digital news apps, will continue in that role and not return to the Sunday paper. Acting editor Liz Hannan has been shifted to the *SMH* to fill the column-writing shoes of Miranda Devine who has joined the *Daily Telegraph*. Amanda Wilson, editor of the weekend edition of the *SMH*, is now acting editor of the weekday edition (*Mediaweek*, 25 October).

Victor Isaacs writes: The creeping tabloidisation of the major Fairfax newspapers continues. From Saturday 16 October more of the important Saturday edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* has been converted to tabloid format. News Review, Sport, Business, Commercial Property and the Race form became tabloid. The main news section and the employment and motoring advertising sections are the only sections to remain broadsheet. On Saturday 16 October a Media Column by Tim Dick began in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, News Review section – which was redesigned and tabloidised from that day.

60.1.4 FAIRFAX (4): A DAY ON THE LIFE OF THE AGE

Mark Day has reported (*Australian*, Media section, 6 December 2010, p.32) that the Melbourne *Age* will slide into the red next year after losing \$101 million in revenue and \$68 million in profit over the past five years, according to a confidential report he had obtained. The document – "The Age: A litany of decline" – had been prepared as the basis of a planned public vote of no confidence in the Fairfax management. The campaign was being organised by a group of "concerned citizens", including several former *Age* executives, and is expected to be launched early in 2011 in the form of an online petition calling for urgent action to save the *Age*. Day explores the issues further in his "On Media" column, 6 December 2010, p.27.

60.1.5 CIRCULATION

60.1.5.1 SYDNEY'S SATURDAY PAPERS

News Ltd has been forced to admit it was wrong to claim that the *Daily Telegraph* was selling more copies on Saturday than the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and has issued a retraction (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 November 2010). In the second week of November News breached industry rules by stripping out hotel, airline, events and education sales of the *Herald* to support its claim that the *Telegraph* was outselling the *Herald* on Saturday for the first time. Then, in a subsequent line in the same media release, News included those very same sales in its own figures to promote its lead over the *Herald* during the week. The Audit Bureau of Circulations told News Ltd that it had breached the rules but the body stopped short of imposing a fine.

The bureau made no further comment other than to say it had been given assurances that the *Telegraph* would publish a retraction within days. In a short statement News Ltd acknowledged it had broken the rules and that it had withdrawn the statement. No

apology was made. Lloyd Whish-Wilson, the chief executive of Sydney publishing for Fairfax Media, said: "The *Telegraph's* claim was based on creative counting and breached the bureau's rules for member conduct. I am pleased the bureau took swift action on this matter." Whish-Wilson said education, airline, hotel, bundled and event sales were recognised as net paid sales and as such deliver valued readers for advertisers.

60.1.5.2 MELBOURNE AGE

The Audit Bureau of Circulations has cleared the *Age* of any breaches of its rules after an extensive investigation into allegations that the paper misreported its education sales. In its finding, the ABC highlighted a lack of understanding of its rules and transparency surrounding subscriptions that had fuelled attacks on the *Age* and other newspapers in the trade press and on the website Crikey. ABC chairman Stephen Hollings said there had been confusion between the definitions of sales to schools and universities and individual subscriptions and the differences between supply of newspapers and what was actually eligible to be counted in final net paid sales figures. The report noted that while the ABC's rules and guidelines did not require publishers to report how subscriptions were fulfilled, the bureau recognised the value of exploring the reporting of individual subscriptions delivered to individuals and those delivered through third-party addresses (*Age*, 20 November 2010).

60.1.5.3 QUARTERLY FIGURES DOWN, AGAIN

Total sales of national and metropolitan dailies and Sunday newspapers declined for the 19th consecutive quarter in the three months to the end of September. They fell 2.9 per cent compared with the same period last year. Overall sales of the *Australian Financial Review* fell 5.2 per cent. The circulation of Saturday's *Sydney Morning Herald* was 332,066, down 4.66 per cent, and of Saturday's *Daily Telegraph* was 325,000+, down 1.9 per cent (*Australian*, Media section, 15 November 2010, p.30).

60.1.6 QWEEKEND AT FIVE YEARS

Qweekend, the colour magazine in the weekend *Courier-Mail*, celebrated its fifth birthday by publishing a special issue on 2-3 October. The issue included selections by journalists and photographers of their most memorable stories and pictures from the five years. Readers, too, wrote about the stories and columns that meant most to them. Writer Matthew Condon drew together the threads of five years by featuring events from the life of his son, Finnigan, born just days after the first issue of *Qweekend*. He addresses Finnigan in the second person in an engaging article. Kim Sweetman wrote one of her more memorable columns – about an online group of people from six different countries. The group formed about when *Qweekend* began publication. Her final sentence is the climax of an excellent column: "Thoughtful words and a powerful personality bridge any geographic divide." **Rod Kirkpatrick** says: I am one Queenslander who finds *Qweekend* a better read often than the *Weekend Australian Magazine*. And the fact that the *Qweekend's* Matthew Condon, Trent Dalton and Amanda Watts were the three journalists shortlisted for the features journalist of the year in the News Awards suggests that this view may have a little substance. Trent Dalton won the award on 29 October, for his "The Story of a Man" and "The Story of a Woman" and an article on a euthanasia support group (*Courier-Mail*, 30-31 October 2010, p.2).

60.1.7 RECENT CHRONOLOGY

60.1.8.1 EVENTS

1 October 2010: 170 years since the *Sydney Herald* became a daily. It changed its name to the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 1 August 1842 (Gavin Souter, *Company of Herald*s, p.591).

19 October 2010: James Packer acquires \$245 million of shares in Network Ten. Brett Clegg, of the *Australian*, broke the story online at 5.56pm. See newspapers on 20 October.

30 October 2010: First issue of the *Weekend West*, the revamped and newly titled weekend edition of the *West Australian*, Perth's daily morning newspaper (*Mediaweek*, 1 November 2010, p.11).

1 November 2010: The *Tweed Daily News* publishes four interesting pages of reproductions of the past – Melbourne Cup reporting from 1928, 1933, 1947 and 1951.

12 November 2010: Centenary conference of the Victorian Country Press Association.

21 November 2010: 170th anniversary of the launch of the *Geelong Advertiser* and the 150th anniversary of the launch of the *Maryborough Chronicle*, Queensland, now the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*.

60.1.7.2 DEATHS

Manning, Patrick Francis: D. October 2010 in Mackay, aged 44; started working at the *Daily Mercury*, Mackay, in 1985, became a reporter, sub-editor and then chief sub-editor. Highly regarded for his ethics (*Daily Mercury*, 8 and 9 October 2010).

Warner, Peggy Strafford (née Hick): D. 4 September 2010 at Frankston, aged 95; began working life as secretary to the editor of the Melbourne *Herald*; later joined reporting staff and married one of the reporters, Denis Warner; they sailed for Japan in 1947, with a six-week-old baby in her arms; they established homes in occupied Japan, England, Singapore, the United States and Australia; Denis pursued his career as a war correspondent and journalist, and she pursued her own journalism and writing career; she wrote four books on her own and four in conjunction with her husband; her first book was *Don't Type in Bed*, a colourful account of her early married life with a roving reporter (*Age*, 25 September 2010, p.10).

60.1.8 COVERAGE OF THE FLAGPIES

Yes, "Flagpies" was the heading on the front of the *Sunday Herald Sun* on 3 October after Collingwood's Magpies had won the premiership after a replay of the grand final. The newspaper devoted the first 20 pages of that issue to coverage of the match and 21 pages in its sports section. In addition, there was a two-page poster. The Herald & Weekly Times estimates it sold an extra 20,000 newspapers on the Sunday and Monday, with the Monday paper including a Collingwood bumper sticker. In a first for HWT, a special edition of the Sunday paper was published for fans attending the Collingwood club's family day. Pies fans bought more than 138,000 *Herald Sun* premiership posters in the three days after the grand final replay. The *Sunday Age* published 21 editorial pages in a wraparound compact section plus a four broadsheet page poster (*Mediaweek*, 11 October 2010, p.5).

60.1.9 FREEBIES AND GOODIE BAGS

Fairfax Media is reported to have "been caught" pleading for free food, clothing and cosmetics to fill "goodie bags" that will be handed out to journalists at its Christmas party (*Sunday Telegraph*, 10 October 2010). In a breach of its once-strict policy against accepting gifts, the publisher also urged businesses to donate "major prizes", pitching it as a great opportunity to "promote products to journalists and media staff". "Items could include, but definitely not be specific to, health and beauty samples, food samples, promotional items such as key rings, flash drives and clothing, vouchers and stationery," the company said in an advertisement posted on Source Bottle, a website that connects journalists with publicity officers and public-relations companies. Despite trumpeting its ethical behaviour, Fairfax, publisher of The *Sydney Morning Herald* and business newspaper The *Australian Financial Review*, brazenly declared the freebies "will reach 250 plus employees in everyday print and online media roles".

60.1.10 SUB HUBS FOR NSW AND VICTORIA

News Limited is moving to centralise the sub-editing and design of its Victorian papers after last week announcing the creation of a Sydney "sub hub" for its NSW publications (*Australian*, Media section, 4 Oct, p.30). NewsCentral NSW will bring together more than

100 sub-editors and designers to provide editing, layout and design for the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Sunday Telegraph*, Carsguide and more than 20 titles in the Cumberland-Courier community newspaper group, as well as sub-editing for some sections of the *Australian*. The seven-day centre, to be located at News's Holt Street, Sydney, headquarters, starts operating on 13 February. A News spokesman confirmed plans were under way on a Melbourne hub but said no date had been set for its launch. The start of the NSW operation followed the successful launch of similar sub hubs in Queensland and South Australia, News editorial director Campbell Reid said.

The restructure meant some roles would change, a small number of new jobs would be created and there might be "a handful" of staff losses, he said. "Final numbers will not be known until more work is done on deadlines, production flows, rosters and other needs," Reid said. "If there are any staff cuts, they will be minimal and most of them, if not all, are likely to be voluntary." The Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance had concerns about how the production changes would be implemented, federal secretary Chris Warren said. Newspaper publishers around the world have been centralising and also outsourcing their editing operations to cut costs. Some of this work has come to Australia: last year, London's *Daily Telegraph* outsourced production work on some of its weekly sections.

60.1.11 INVESTIGATIONS TEAM FORMED AT THE OZ

The *Australian* has formed a national investigative reporting team, with national chief correspondent Hedley Thomas at the helm. The announcement was made on 23 October by the editor-in-chief, Chris Mitchell, and the editor, Paul Whittaker. The other members of the team are Rory Callinan, Michael McKenna and Natasha Robinson (*Weekend Australian*, 23-24 October 2010, p.2).

60.1.12 FIJI TIMES EDITOR RESIGNS

Netani Rika, the outspoken editor of the *Fiji Times*, has resigned after Fiji's military regime forced News Limited to sell the popular daily. In a move set to raise concerns about the newspaper's independence, *Fiji Times* publisher Dallas Swinstead said editor-in-chief Netani Rika had quit because of perceptions he was anti-government. Rika described his departure as "something of a sacrifice" for the good of the company, Swinstead told the *Fiji Times* website. "He acknowledged that while he was seen to be anti-government by some sections of the community, he had always tried to be an editor who put Fiji's future above everything else," Swinstead said (*Australian*, 5 October 2010).

60.1.13 AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS DEMONSTRATE RESILIENCE

Australia's newspaper industry has emerged from the economic downturn seemingly more resilient than that of any other country. Australia's \$3.5 billion newspaper advertising market is equal to 0.45 per cent of the country's gross domestic product, higher than any other developed country. Germany is next highest at 0.37 per cent, according to a study designed to bust myths about the future of newspapers. Newspapers took 31 per cent of the advertising expenditure compared with a global average of 23 per cent. Between 2004 and 2008 Australian newspaper advertising rose 14 per cent while it fell 26 per cent in the US and 19 per cent in the UK. In 2009, Australian newspaper circulation fell 1 per cent compared with a 5 per cent drop in the US and 7 per cent in the UK (*Australian*, 4 October 2010).

The *Australian PricewaterhouseCoopers' Entertainment & Media Outlook 2010-2014* reports that in 2009 the Australian newspaper market contracted by 11.4 percent but improvement in 2010 due to the recovering economy, political and election spending should take revenue to \$5.2 billion. It is expected that growth will be sustained to 2014 at a compound annual rate of 1.8 percent, including revenues from newspaper websites. Ongoing migration to digital news and classifieds sites continues to erode the traditional newspaper model. A decline in both advertising revenues and unit circulation in 2009 reinforces this shift. The spread of broadband internet and rising website traffic will drive digital advertising. Total spending on newspaper print advertising declined by 15.7

percent in 2009. Australia's newspaper market however has proved to be more resilient than the United States or United Kingdom. The Australian industry is focused on a strategy for sustainability, with both print and digital models co-existing under single masthead brands.

60.1.14 PEOPLE

Janine Applegren, editor of the *Age Good Food Guide*, is profiled in the *Age Extra*, Issue 9, August 2010, pp.1-3. The *Extra* is now listed as a "biannual newsletter for readers of the *Age*"; it was formerly quarterly.

Julia Baird, a former *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist who is now deputy editor at *Newsweek* in New York, has signed a contract with Random House to write a biography of Queen Victoria. Dr Baird is featured in "Ten Questions" in "The Diary", *Australian*, Media section, 11 October 2010, p.31.

Bob Cronin, editor-in-chief of the *West Australian*, was featured in "Ten Questions", *Australian*, Media section, 6 December 2010, in the week he celebrated 50 years in journalism.

Rick Feneley, a journalist for 30 years (and a "good bloke, top reporter, funny writer", according to Caroline Overington), becomes the editor of the Sydney Sunday paper, the *Sun-Herald*, on 7 December (*Australian*, Media section, 29 November 2010, pp.38-39).

Tony Gillies, editor-in-chief of Australian Associated Press, was "Person of the Week" in *Mediaweek*, 22 November 2010, p.8. AAP celebrated its 75th anniversary this year and a history of the organisation was launched on 17 November in Sydney. *Mediaweek* published (p.6) a list of the people who have chaired and edited AAP since 1935. See 60.5.1.

Anthony Klan, of the *Australian*, won the Sir Keith Murdoch Award for excellence in journalism at the News Awards on 29 October. He won for his "relentless pursuit of the waste and mismanagement in the \$16.2 billion schools stimulus package" (see Caroline Overington's "The Diary", *Australian*, Media section, 1 November 2010, p.31, for an insight into the glitz of the News Awards ceremony—and see p.28 for a full list of winners).

Jacqueline Maley, the *Sydney Morning Herald's* new Canberra sketch writer, is interviewed by Neil McMahon in *Mediaweek*, 15 November 2010, p.11.

Lisa Pryor has left journalism at the *Sydney Morning Herald* after eight years and will study medicine from the beginning of 2011. She already has an arts degree and a law degree with first class honours from the University of Sydney. She is featured in "Ten Questions" in "The Diary", *Australian*, Media section, 25 October 2010, p.31.

Emma Tom, of the *Australian*, has become Emma Jane, not because she has married or divorced, but because there is a split in the Tom family (*Australian*, Media section, 18 October 2010, "The Diary", p.31).

Clifford Wilson has finished as associate editor of the national Christian newspaper, *New Life*. And the 72-year-old paper itself ceased publication on 25 November 2010 because it was no longer financially viable and "subscriptions continue to decline as loyal supporters and subscribers go to be with the Lord" (*New Life* website).

Laurie Wilson, former Nine Network political correspondent, is the new president of the National Press Club, replacing Ken Randall who had been president for 20 years. Randall stood aside (*Australian*, Media section, 22 November 2010, p.30).

60.1.15 NEWSPAPER FUTURE (1): NEW LONDON i

The Independent has launched a new daily: *i*. *The Guardian's* Roy Greenslade comments on Day 1: "My hunch, on the basis of this first issue, is that the cross-over from full-strength *Independent* to decaffeinated *i* will not be too great. The differences between the two papers—Big I and Little i—are greater than the similarities. But the fact that it

resembles *Metro* is more of a problem. Will people rushing to work take the trouble to stop and pay 20p for it rather than pick up their free *Metro*? Then there is the most obvious problem that faces the whole print market: can any paper supplant the enthusiasm among young people to consume their news and opinion online?" (*Mediaweek* online, 27 October 2010; also see "Indy blazes new paper trail, and verbose is taboo", *Australian*, Media section, 1 November 2010, p.28).

60.1.16 NEWSPAPER FUTURE (2): *GLOBE & MAIL* REDESIGNS by Victor Isaacs

It is sometimes argued that the future of newspapers will not be with paper, but with electronic delivery – by internet or iPad, or whatever it is that next comes along. However, if the future of newspapers is going to remain with print, perhaps the *Globe and Mail*, the main national daily newspaper in Canada, points the way. (The other Canadian national daily is the *National Post*.) The *Globe and Mail* was already an attractively designed paper. From 1 October, it presented a drastic redesign. While maintaining its content, it is even more attractive and has even more colour. The most notable new feature is the use of gloss paper on the outside pages of most sections. The result is a most swish looking, impressive newspaper. If your local major library receives the *Globe and Mail*, perhaps take a look and decide if this is the way for newspapers to adapt. [English-language, daily newspapers in the United Arab Emirates have printed on gloss paper for some time.]

60.1.17 GOOD WEEKEND REDESIGN

The *Good Weekend*, the magazine inserted in the Saturday edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*, unveiled a new look and "revitalised" editorial content on 27-28 November. New editorial columns accompany the former *Good Weekend* content, and are complemented by a new look including a redesigned cover, more contemporary typography and a refreshed logo using bolder colour, the Fairfax publicists tell us. There were sad farewells in the issue of 20-21 November from Maggie Alderson, after 12 years and "more than 600 columns of 650 carefully selected words" (p.35) and Stephanie Dowrick after "nine fortunate years (p.39). Among the editorial changes, one of Australia's most celebrated chefs, Neil Perry, joined the magazine as food columnist. New pages showcase what's new in design, travel, books, food and style. The redesign, one of the most extensive makeovers for *Good Weekend* since it was launched in 1984, has been undertaken in response to research among readers.

60.1.18 NATIONAL SPORTS REPORTING TEAM FOR NEWS LIMITED

News Limited is launching a national sports reporting team at the *Herald Sun*, Melbourne (*Australian*, Media section, 29 November 2010, p.38). Centralised national coverage of eight or nine key sports will be made available to readers of the company's tabloid mastheads, websites and apps in each state, complemented by local coverage from existing state-based newspapers and their websites. Twelve staff have been hired for the News Limited Sports Network. No print publication employees have been retrenched.

60.1.19 PRODUCTION MANAGER RETIRES AFTER 47 YEARS

News Limited's national production director George Calvi has announced that group technical manager Barry Johnson will retire at the end of the year after 47 years with the company. "Barry is a publishing icon at News and is widely regarded as the father of our modern day production operations," Calvi said. Johnson's mark at News was typified at the *Northern Territory News* in Darwin: he installed the paper's first offset presses in 1977, installed bigger ones in 1984 and is now overseeing their move to the latest computer-to-plate technology. He also managed the installation of new presses at the *New York Post* for two years and his ideas are incorporated at many other printing sites around the world (*Mediaweek*, online, 7 October 2010).

60.1.20 MAIN SOURCE OF NEWS

The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance commissioned Essential Media this year to conduct a public opinion poll of attitudes towards journalism: how and why people access

news, their levels of trust in various platforms, and their willingness to pay for news content online. It found that television remains the most common way of obtaining news (46 per cent of those surveyed cited TV as their primary source) followed by the internet (26 per cent), newspapers (14 per cent), radio (11 per cent) and magazines (1 per cent). Older people were more likely to say that newspapers and radio were their main sources of news, while 37 per cent of people aged 18 to 29 nominated online. In the survey, 811 were interviewed (*Walkley Magazine*, Issue 63, October-November 2010, p.6).

60.1.21 REPORT ON RAID CLEARS THE OZ

A report by the Federal Police watchdog has cleared the *Australian* of wrongdoing in its coverage of the country's second-largest counter-terror investigation, Operation Neath. The report's findings rebut the criticisms made by Victoria Police chief Simon Overland who accused the newspaper of breaking an agreement with the AFP by publishing its exclusive stories too early and potentially risking the safety of his officers. The report by the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity found that the *Australian* had acted in good faith and that it did not break any agreement with the AFP (*Weekend Australian*, 20-21 November 2010, pp.1, 10, 13, 15; *Herald Sun*, 20 November 2010, p.27; also see background quotes, in "Cut & Paste", *Australian*, 22 November 2010, p.15).

60.1.22 FUTURE OF PRINT (1): DEADLINES SET

Newspapers as we know them will cease to exist in the US within seven years (2017), followed by Britain and Iceland in nine years (2019), Canada and Norway 10 years (2020), according to futurologist Ross Dawson. Australia's concentrated print media ownership will push the lifespan of newsprint out by a couple of extra years, to 12 years (2022). The propensity of governments to support newspapers in countries such as France will lengthen their lifespan—until 2029 in France, and 2030 in Germany. Dawson, the author and chairman of the Future Exploration Network think tank, predicts newsprint will be "insignificant" in 52 countries by 2040—replaced by technologies such as lightweight, interactive digital paper that can show video, but can also be rolled and folded. He forecasts newsprint will continue to flourish in developing markets such as Africa, part of South America and parts of Asia (*Australian*, Media section, 1 November 2010, p.28).

60.1.23 FUTURE OF PRINT (2): ALAN RUSBRIDGER AND OLLE LECTURE

Editor of the *Guardian*, Alan Rusbridger, presented the 2010 Andrew Olle Media Lecture for 702 ABC Sydney on Friday. A commentator has written: "I especially like the parallel he draws between the challenge of Gutenberg centuries ago to the production of books and today's digital innovation on the production of all things print. There are many in the channel saying that some of us obsess too much about disruptive technologies such as the iPad. Alan Rusbridger eloquently and professionally opens our eyes to the challenges of disruptive technologies. His is a voice worth listening to." Listen to Rusbridger on abc.net.au and see James Ashton, "Guardian's desperate struggle for survival", *Australian*, Media section, 29 November 2010, p.36).

60.1.24 INDEPENDENT WEEKLY CEASES

The *Independent Weekly* of Adelaide ceased publication with the issue of 26 November-2 December. It continues on-line under the title of *Indaily*. Its peak circulation was 18,000 in mid 2009, but recently it was selling only 8000.

2 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: ONLINE

60.2.1 DES RYAN ACCEPTS NEW CHALLENGE

Veteran Adelaide journalist Des Ryan has become involved with Solstice Media in the relaunch of *Indaily*, a news service focusing on the South Australian market, as an iPad-style daily newspaper that offers a dramatic break from the long-established design of online news offerings. Instead of the traditional scrolling design, *Indaily* brings the tablet-style "slide" experience to a publication that can be accessed on any device,

including a standard desktop computer (reports *Mediaweek*, 27 September 2010, p.10). The platform has been developed by Solstice with digital publishing services provider Realview, and is billed as an Australian first. Solstice Media managing director Paul Hamra said the motivation behind the concept was that while tablets such as the iPad were changing the way people read online publications, the experience was available only to a very small audience. “Most *Indaily* subscribers are professionals and access their news through a desktop PC or laptop or phone during the day,” Hamra said.

60.2.2 JOURNALISTS AND TWITTER

James Massola, a journalist at the *Australian*, was threatened and abused by users of Twitter after outing an anonymous blogger using the pen name “Grog’s Gamut” as Canberra public servant Greg Jericho. Massola’s report led to thousands of comments from users of the micro-blogging website about the right of the newspaper to unmask Jericho. Massola explained in print why he named the anonymous blogger (*Australian*, 27 September, Media section, and 28 September, p.6). **Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: The reasons Massola gave for naming the blogger are the same reasons I gave more than a quarter of a century ago for writing to the editors of various regional dailies in Queensland, criticising them for publishing so many letters written by writers using pen names. Those taking part in democratic debate should be accountable for their views.

See also: James Paterson, “Blogger’s unmasking triggers yawn-inducing Murdoch rants”, *Australian*, Media section, 18 October 2010, p.32. And: the Andrea Carson article on Twitter, listed below in 60.5.2.

60.2.3 BEYOND THE PAYWALL

News International’s silence on subscriber numbers for London *Times* and *Sunday Times* online content continued, three and a half months after the paywall went up, reported the *Guardian*. But audience research company Nielsen took a stab in late October of estimating the number of UK web users who are going beyond the papers’ website front pages—and paywall—and accessing subscription content: an average of 362,000 per month between July and the end of September. Nielsen also estimated that 1.78 million monthly unique UK visitors went to the **thetimes.co.uk** and **sundaytimes.co.uk** front pages on average over the period, suggesting that of those, just over 20 per cent are going on to access subscription content (*Mediaweek* online, 27 October 2010).

60.2.4 SALES OF iPADS TOP 250,000

More than a quarter of a million Australians have bought Apple iPads, according to a consumer survey, but the device is yet to take away masses of eyeballs from TVs and computers for news consumption (*Australian*, 19 October 2010, p.31).

60.2.5 DIGITAL DAILY

During his recent visit to Australia, Rupert Murdoch did not do his annual interviews with any of his business or media reporters. However, he did find time to speak with former John Fairfax chief editorial executive Max Suich. The interview was published on 5 November in the *Australian Financial Review*. Murdoch talked to Suich about the rumoured new digital daily newspaper: “It will be a bit like the *New York Post*. But it will be national. It will only be seen on tablets. It will only employ journalists – and maybe eight to 10 technicians. [When asked what circulation the digital newspaper needs, Murdoch replied:] “At the price we are talking about, that’s \$1 a week – not a day, a week – we need 800,000... We wanted to call it the *Daily Planet* but DC Comics were not amused.” So it will be called the *Daily* (*Mediaweek* online, 5 November 2010; and *Canberra Times*, 22 November 2010, Business Section).

60.2.6 TABLET WITH THE OZ BUILT IN

The paid app of the *Australian* came pre-loaded and free on all Samsung Galaxy Tab tablet devices when they went on sale in Australia on 8 November. This was believed to be a global first in news content distribution. The app, which was designed specifically for the seven-inch tablet, was the only newspaper app to be pre-loaded on the device. It is

free on the Galaxy Tab for two months in deals struck with most mobile carriers. After that, Galaxy Tab users will be able to obtain the app for \$8.99 a month, or take a six-month sub for \$36.99. The *Australian's* app for Apple's iPad tablet is also set to increase to \$8.99 in coming months after launching at \$4.99 in May (*Australian*, Media section, 1 November 2010, p.32).

60.2.7 MEDIA SECTION CHANGES ONLINE PRESENCE

On 8 November the *Australian* changed the online presence of its Media and Marketing section. Geoff Elliott, section editor, announced: "Our makeover begins at www.theaustralian.com.au/business/media for breaking news throughout the week as well as new video panels and a new segment called Ad Watch for the latest in new ad campaigns. The Media section is also launching today a new commentary site www.theaustralian.com.au/business/media/commentary, showcasing the best of the *Australian's* writers on media and marketing as well as special columnists from the industry." (*Australian*, Media section, 8 November 2010, p.32.)

60.2.8 CLASSIFIEDS LIFT ONLINE AD GROWTH

A recovery in classifieds helped drive growth in the online advertising sector to pre-financial crisis levels in the September quarter, with revenues up by 23 per cent to \$572 million compared with the same period last year. The increase puts internet advertising on track to reach \$2.2 billion in 2010, ranking it the third biggest medium by expenditure—behind television and newspapers (*Australian*, Media section, 8 November 2010, p.28).

60.2.9 NEWS UNVEILS TABLET APPS FOR METRO MASTHEADS

Advertisers will reportedly spend close to \$1 million buying space in News Limited's tablet computer applications in their first 10 months, outstripping ad revenue from the company's mobile phone sites this year. Deals worth \$750,000 have already been signed for the four new iPad apps the company announced on 12 November for its major metropolitan mastheads, the Sydney *Daily Telegraph*, Melbourne *Herald Sun*, Brisbane *Courier Mail* and Adelaide *Advertiser*. (The *Daily Telegraph* ran a four-page wraparound promoting its app.) Lara Sinclair and Sally Jackson report that the latest packages were apparently based on News's forecast that 37,000 customers would sign up for the new apps by February, on top of more than 8000 subscribers for the *Australian's* iPad app. A one-month subscription to each of the apps, available through Apple's iTunes store, costs \$7.99 (*Australian*, Media section, 15 November 2010, p.32; *Mediaweek*, 29 November 2010, pp.22-23).

60.2.10 MATILDA TRIES TO WALTZ AGAIN

New Matilda, the online journal that went out of business in June, began publishing again in October. It is seeking a funding model that will enable it to keep publishing beyond Christmas. It has challenged its audience to donate enough money to keep it afloat (*Australian*, Media section, 15 November 2010, p.30). It seemed to have only days left in business at 6 December (*Australian*, Media section, 6 December 2010, p.30).

60.2.11 DIGITAL SUBSCRIBERS TO FAIRFAX APP

There are 1,200 digital-only subscribers to the iPad "Smart Edition" of the Fairfax Media *Sydney Morning Herald*. A further 16,000 print subscribers have also subscribed to the app (smh.com.au, 3 December 2010).

60.2.12 MITCHELL AND POSETTI

As this edition is going to press, the *Australian's* editor-in-chief Chris Mitchell was apparently watering down his original threat to sue journalism lecturer Julie Posetti for libel over "tweets" that she sent on Twitter about what Asa Wahlquist, former rural writer for the *Australian*, allegedly said about Mitchell (see "The Diary", *Australian*, Media section, 29 November 2010, p.39, and *Australian*, 3 December 2010, p.8, and top of main page of Media section, 29 November and 6 December 2010).

3 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

60.3.1 NEW CEO FOR APN

Brett Chenoweth has been appointed CEO of APN News and Media from 1 January 2011. Crystallising the decline of Ireland's Independent News & Media's influence, Chenoweth, 41, replaces Brendan Hopkins, who announced in July his plans to retire at the end of the year. Chenoweth is currently managing director and Asia-Pacific head of The Silverfern Group, a New York-based specialist merchant bank. INM said that the appointment and the retirement at the end of the year of two other IPN-aligned board members (Donal Buggy and Cameron O'Reilly) meant it would no longer control the board, triggering deconsolidation of APN's accounts from its own (*Australian*, 15 October 2010, p.25).

60.3.2 MACKAY: EDITOR RESIGNS TO STAND FOR COUNCIL

David Fisher resigned as editor of the *Daily Mercury*, Mackay, when he nominated for the seat left vacant on Mackay Regional Council by George Christensen. Fourteen other people nominated for the seat. Christensen resigned from the council after being elected to the House of Representatives in August as the Member for Dawson (*Daily Mercury*, Mackay, 9 October 2010, p.6). On 16 October the *Daily Mercury* devoted half a page, including a large image of David Fisher, to their former editor's candidature for the vacant council seat. The *Daily Mercury* advertised for a new editor on 23 October (p.86). Jennifer Pomfrett was acting as editor. [Fisher did not win the seat on council.]

Sue Murray, personal assistant to five editors of the *Daily Mercury* and an employee of the paper for 35 years, retired on 19 November (*Daily Mercury*, 20 November 2010).

60.3.3 SUNSHINE COAST: TWO NEW QUEST PAPERS

A new era in Sunshine Coast publishing began on 5 November with the launch by Quest Community Newspapers of the *Maroochy Journal* and its new sister title the *Caloundra Journal*. Quest's *Noosa Journal* was recognised recently as the best community newspaper in Australia. David Crossen, previously *Noosa Journal* editor will act as editor-in-chief over the new papers, as well as the *Noosa Journal* and the *weekender* magazine. He will also edit the *Maroochy Journal*. Candice Holznagel has been appointed editor of the *Caloundra Journal*. Holznagel has lived and worked in Caloundra for the past six years. She began her career with News Limited, working as a journalist with the *Ayr Advocate* and *Home Hill Observer* newspapers. Nathan Evans is editor of *The Noosa Journal*. Evans has worked in the media, both newspapers and radio, on the coast for several years (*Mediaweek* online, 5 November 2010).

60.3.4 NEW UMBRELLA NAME FOR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUPS

News Community Media is the new name for News Limited Community Newspapers, following its launch of a united, online destination called **whereilive.com.au** and its subsequent extended multi-platform offering. News Community Media comprises 105 mastheads and 6.1 million readers. The community groups include Cumberland (NSW), Leader (Vic), Quest (Qld), Messenger (SA), Community (WA) and Northern Territory. Nationally, NCM offers an audience of more than 6.5 million consumers every week (*Mediaweek* online, 5 November 2010).

60.3.5 GUNNEDAH, QUIRINDI, ETC

Barry Blair reports from Uralla, NSW: Gunnedah's *Namoi Valley Independent* has released the first edition of a glossy 16-page A4 full-colour magazine, *Spring: From paddock to plate*. It appeared as an insert on 23 September. Editor Kate Ramien said, "Spring is our new magazine saluting the excellence of the Namoi Valley's agricultural produce and the fine art of regional cooking." The magazine is printed by a Fairfax subsidiary, CanPrint Communications Pty Ltd, Fyshwick, ACT. Meanwhile, the *Quirindi Advocate* has published since February a bi-monthly 12-page insert, *QLife*.

4 – NEWSPAPER HISTORY

60.4.1 ARGUS LAW REPORTS by Victor Isaacs

The *Australian Law Reports* are, arguably, the most important series of law reports in Australia. They have a direct connection with the former Melbourne *Argus*. By the late 19th century the *Argus* had a very high reputation as a comprehensive newspaper, possibly Australia's best newspaper of the time. This extended to law reports. From 16 July 1895 the *Argus* began publication of a stand-alone publication, the *Argus Law Reports*, issued fortnightly and then re-issued, in a consolidated form, every six months. They were edited by J.S. Jones, the chief law reporter of the *Argus*, but because of ill-health, he retired after only the first issue, and was replaced by Arthur Herbert Davis. The *Argus Law Reports* may have been based on the *Times Law Reports*, which began publication in 1884 and were published until 1952. The *Argus Law Reports* were apparently well regarded by the legal profession. They continued, and even survived the closure of the *Argus* in January 1957. At that time, the owning company, Argus and Australasian, was taken over by the Herald and Weekly Times company. The *Argus Law Reports* continued to be published by the Argus and Australasian until 1959 when it was taken over by the law book publisher, Butterworths. In 1960, the publication was retitled *Australian Argus Law Reports*. In 1973, this was simplified to *Australian Law Reports*. The publication continues today, reporting decision of the principal courts.

60.4.2 THE 'WORLD'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER' CLOSES

Western Argus, Kalgoorlie, 22 January 1935, p.2: "Founded more than 1500 years ago, the *Pekin Bao*, thought to be the world's oldest newspaper, has ceased to be published. It first appeared in the reign of Tin Kuan Teang, an emperor, thought in China to be the inventor of printing in characters in lead and silver. The *Pekin Bao* was issued at first on sheets of yellow silk, the leaves being sewn together. It has been a daily newspaper since 1800 and, although frequently obliged to change its title, it always found means to resume its customary appearance. Now it is no more."

60.4.3 ALBURY EDITOR RETIRES

William J. Mangan, one-time owner-editor of the Albury *Daily News* that was absorbed by the *Border Morning Mail* in 1925, worked for the latter paper for 13 years after that deal. When he retired, he was entertained at dinner by Hamilton Charnock Mott, proprietor of the *Mail*. Mangan had become one of the best known figures in journalism in the Riverina where he worked for 50 years (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 January 1938, p.5).

60.4.4 WHY THE JOURNALISM FACULTY AT SYDNEY UNIVERSITY FAILED

The Faculty of Journalism at Sydney University failed because it did not give practical training, Vice-Chancellor Professor Steven Roberts told the New South Wales Country Press Association annual conference on 17 October 1950. He said similar courses at the University of Queensland and Melbourne University had succeeded. Another reason the Sydney course had failed was "lack of attendance" (*Canberra Times*, 18 October 1950, p.1).

60.4.5 PRINTING MUSEUM WEBSITES

- Museum of Printing, Armidale, NSW: www.neram.com.au/mop.html
- Melbourne Museum of Printing, Vic: www.PrintingMuseums.com/Melbourne
- Penrith Museum of Printing, NSW: www.printingmuseum.org.au
- Letterpress Printing Museum, Pinnaroo, South Australia:
www.malleebound.com.au/html/letterpress-printing.html
- Queanbeyan Printing Museum, NSW:
<http://queanbeyanprintingmuseum.com>

60.4.6 THE VICTORIAN EXPLORING EXPEDITION DEPARTS

What most Australians know as the Burke and Wills expedition was, in fact, the Victorian Exploring Expedition. It was 150 years on 20 August 2010 since the expedition had set out from Melbourne. Here's how the *Melbourne Age* reported the departure the next day (in part):

Yesterday will be a memorable day in the annals of Australian history. The 20th of August 1860 will long be remembered as the day upon which the largest and best appointed expedition yet organised in the Australian colonies started from Melbourne for the purpose of exploring the vast unknown interior of the Australian continent. Perhaps no similar expedition has ever excited greater interest than the one which has gone forth; the difficulty at first experienced in obtaining the necessary funds, the munificent donation of £1,000 from an unknown person, and the first employment of the "ships of the desert" in the undertaking, all have combined to add additional interest to the event. The expedition has now started, and time alone will show in what manner the attempt further to explore that territory into which as yet no white man has penetrated will eventuate.

One o'clock was the time appointed, but long before that thousands of persons were wending their way to the Royal Park. The road was crowded with vehicles of every description, and all classes of society hastened to take a farewell of those pioneers of civilisation and progress, some of whom perchance may never return to reap the reward of their labours, or live to see the result of their enterprise. The Royal Park presented a very gay and animated appearance, horsemen and equipages of every description were dashing about hither and thither. Some 15,000 persons were scattered about in groups, conversing in groups upon the all-engrossing subject, or thronging the stable doors endeavouring to catch a glimpse of the camels...

60.4.7 A TOAST TO THE EDITOR

Grafton Argus, 28 May 1875 (from the Papers): "At a printer's festival at Boston, a short time since, the following capital toast was drunk: 'The editor—the man who is expected to know everything, tell all he knows and guess the rest; to make known his good character, establish the reputation of his neighbours, and elect all candidates to office, to blow up everybody, and reform the world; to live for the benefit of others, and have the epitaph on his tombstone, "Here he lies at last"; in short, he is a locomotive runner on the track of public notoriety; his lever is his pen; whenever he explodes it is caused by non-payment of subscriptions.' "

60.4.8 MISS WINIFRED PONDER

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: I had never bumped into Winifred Ponder before, but I met her through the Digitised Newspapers link of Trove. She wrote a book about opera singer Clara Butt and quoted her as saying that Dame Nellie Melba had told her she would not have to worry about Australian audiences. "All I can say is –sing 'em muck. It's all they can understand!" Both singers later denied this. The article (*Hobart Mercury*, 11 August 1928, p.11) that reported this also said: "Miss Winifred Ponder was once a singer on the concert platform in England. She came to Australia for the good of her health and sought a life in the outback parts of Queensland. She had a mail contract in the country, but later she accepted a position as editress of a newspaper at Dalby, on the Darling Downs. She became associated with the late Mr C.J. De Garis when he established the *Sunraysia Daily* At Mildura. After she left Mildura she visited a number of islands in the Pacific and wrote a book entitled *An Idler in the Pacific*. Later she was engaged in journalism in Brisbane, and returned to England."

60.4.9 ACP AND 54 PARK STREET

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The ANHG has been trying to discover precisely when Australian Consolidated Press (under the Packer family) bought premises at 54-58 Park Street, Sydney. Was it after the company had sold the goodwill of the *Daily Telegraph* to Rupert Murdoch's News Limited in June 1972? The ACP-owned *Australian Women's Weekly* gave its address as 168 Castlereagh Street until the end of January 1979. Then it gave it as 54 Park Street. But the ACP-owned *Bulletin* magazine confuses the picture: it gave its editorial address as 252 George Street until the issue of 28 March 1964 when under a prominent "NEW ADDRESS" heading it announced it was now at 181 Elizabeth Street, but the advertising address was 168 Castlereagh Street. From 6 November 1965 the editorial address is given as 54-58 Park Street. The *Bulletin* of 6 November 1965

advertises premises available for leasing at “Telegraph House, corner Park and Elizabeth Streets. [Additional research by Victor Isaacs.]

60.4.10 AN EDITOR ASKS FOR PRAYERS

Advertiser, Adelaide, 15 February 1912, p.8: “The editor of the *King Island Record*, a manuscript newspaper published on a little island in Bass’ Straits, between Victoria and Tasmania, writes in the latest issue: -- ‘It is just to let my subscribers know that Jack’s alive, recovered from a long spell of serious illness. The next issue will not appear for three or four weeks, as I must go away for a change to see people, editors among others. I am sorry to have omitted the publication of much interesting news. It must await my return. Adieu, my friends. Pray for me.’ “

60.4.11 AN INFANT MANUSCRIPT NEWSPAPER AT SWAN RIVER

Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser, 28 April 1831, p.3 (extracted from the *Spectator*): “Our newspapers have been traced to the *diurnalia* of the Romans, and fragments of the journals of that singular people have been handed down to us; but what are we to say, in the year 1830, to a newspaper, not only composed after the same model as the Roman *diurnalia*, but circulating by the same means? Some of our readers may have observed a notice of a journal having been established at Freemantle, on the Swan River. The first number is now before us. It is entitled the *Freemantle Journal and General Advertiser*. Its date is ‘Freemantle, Feb. 27, 1830’; the price is marked 1s. 6d.”

60.4.12 NEWSPAPER COMPETITION IN AUSTRALASIA

Victor Isaacs writes: Newspaper competition is alive and well in Australia – mainly between News Ltd and Fairfax Media. These companies dominate the Australian newspaper industry. News has 58% of daily newspaper sales and Fairfax 28%. News has 77% of Sunday sales and Fairfax 23% (for more details see ANHG 56.1.10). Their spirited competition is well known in the national daily, Sydney daily, Sydney Sunday, Melbourne daily and Melbourne Sunday markets.

Less well known is that they also compete vigorously in the Sydney and Melbourne free suburban weekly markets. In Sydney, both companies have titles in the areas of Blacktown, Fairfield, the Hills, Liverpool, Mt Druitt-St Mary’s, Parramatta, Penrith and Rouse Hill. News also competes with independently owned weeklies in Ryde and Canterbury-Bankstown.

Competition is even more vigorous in Melbourne, because there is a third company involved with suburban publishing in a big way – the Star Group. Interestingly, in Melbourne, both News and Fairfax use the names of municipalities, rather than suburbs, in their titles. News and Fairfax have competing titles in Brimbank, Frankston, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Knox, Maribyrnong, Melbourne City, Melton, Mornington Peninsula. News and the Star Group slug it out in Whittlesea. And all three groups have competing titles in Berwick/Casey/Cranbourne, Dandenong, Hume, Lilydale/Upper Yarra and Wyndham/Werribee.

In country NSW Fairfax dailies and independent weeklies compete in Albury-Wodonga (perhaps this should be listed as Victoria) and Wollongong. A rare example of country town weeklies competing is between a Fairfax title and an independent title in Cooma.

In country Victoria, a Fairfax daily competes with an independent weekly in Bendigo. News has both daily and weekly titles in Geelong. The Star Group also has a weekly newspaper there. And News and Star both have weekly titles in the nearby Bellarine Peninsula. In Bendigo, there is a Fairfax daily, a Fairfax weekly and an independent weekly. Fairfax and a local publisher compete with weeklies in Colac. The Elliott Newspaper Group’s daily competes with an independent title in Mildura. Both News and Fairfax have weekly agricultural newspapers, although News’ *Weekly Times* is way ahead of Fairfax’s *Stock and Land* in circulation, advertising and pagination.

In Queensland, News and Fairfax compete with weekly titles in the suburban Wynnum area. News and APN (Australian Provincial News) compete in the Caboolture and Ipswich areas.

WA's own newspaper company, WAN (West Australian Newspapers), and News compete with weekly titles in Albany, Augusta-Margaret River, Bridgetown, Bunbury and Busselton-Dunsborough. News and Fairfax once again compete in Mandurah and in the outer northern suburbs. In the inner western suburbs, News competes with Post newspapers. Both WAN and Fairfax have local weekly agricultural newspapers. It might be argued that there is also competition in Perth between the major weekend newspapers, at least for classified advertising. On Saturday, there is WAN's *Weekend West* (the Saturday edition of the *West Australian*, renamed from 23 October 2010 to try to snare more weekend sales) and News' *Sunday Times*.

In Tasmania, both major dailies, News' Hobart *Mercury*, and Fairfax's Launceston *Examiner*, sell throughout the state, although each dominates its own area.

In the ACT, both Fairfax and local independent companies publish in the weekly market.

Fairfax also provides a pinprick of competition to News in Brisbane and WAN in Perth by website-only newspapers.

In New Zealand, the only major competition is in Auckland on Sundays, where Fairfax's two national titles compete with APN's local *Herald on Sunday*. There is also small competition in the local weekly market. Fairfax and APN both have such titles in Auckland City, Hamilton, Kapiti-Horowhenua (NW outer Wellington), the Wairarapa, North Canterbury and Christchurch. Allied Press and a local publisher compete in Ashburton.

Elsewhere in the South Pacific, there are two competing daily newspapers in Papua New Guinea (one owned by News), and three competing dailies in Fiji (two with Sunday siblings).

A full summary of newspaper ownership is available on request from the author at abvi@iinet.net.au

60.4.13 AN UNLUCKY NEWSPAPER (WHEN FIRE STRIKES TWICE)

Fires in newspaper offices in the Australian colonies in the 19th century were common. Try a search of the digitised files of Australian newspapers via Trove and you'll soon see how common. But here is an unusual one (taken from the *Adelaide Advertiser*, Wednesday 13 November 1895, p.5, but datelined Coolgardie, November 11): "The railway good-shed at Southern Cross, with its contents, was completely destroyed by fire on Saturday. It is feared the [*Goldfields*] *Courier* machinery which was ordered to replace the plant recently burnt in the Coolgardie fire was in the shed at the time."

60.4.14 QUEANBEYAN AGE AND 150 YEARS

The *Queanbeyan Age* issued a 24-page "Special Keepsake Publication" on 5 November to mark 150 years of publication. It was printed on pages about three-quarters the size of a tabloid. The newspaper began as the *Golden Age* on 15 September 1860. The contents includes articles on the Queanbeyan Printing Museum, the changing ownership of the *Age* over 150 years, Jim Woods (former owner) and others who worked at the *Age*. The *Age* of 5 November carries, in the newspaper proper, articles on Page 10 about Peter Neuss and some other former production employees.

60.4.15 EVENING EDITION OF SMH

House advertisement in *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 February 1901, p.6: "Evening edition. The *Sydney Morning Herald*. Special evening editions of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, published daily, for despatch to The Country by the evening mail trains, contain: The Latest Cables, The Latest Country and Interstate Telegrams, Latest Commercial and Market News, Sporting and General Intelligence..."

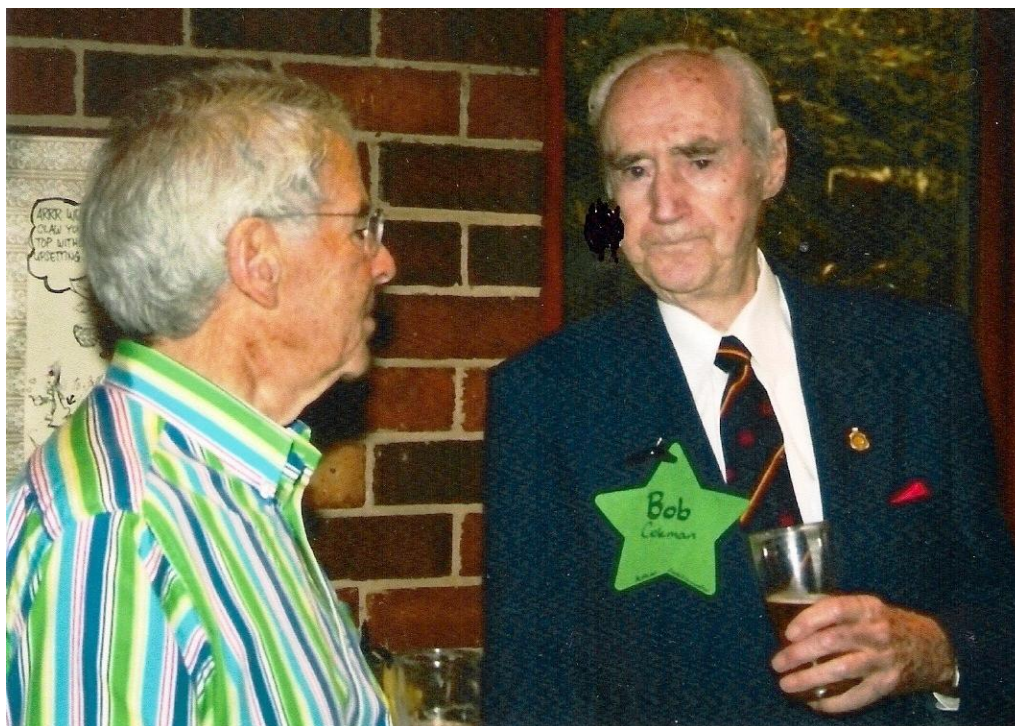
60.4.16 THE EDITOR FROM SNOWY RIVER

“Reminiscences of an old gold digger: Off to the Snowy River”, by Frank Shellard, *Queenslander*, 5 July 1913, p.8: “A newspaper was started at Kiandra, called the *Alpine Pioneer*. It was a very small sheet and looked like foolscap. It was 2/6 a copy. The plant and printing press had to be packed knee deep in snow. One large piece of the press, weighing 160lb, a big Chinaman packed on the end of his pole. The paper had a good run as it was mostly local news, as we could get Southern papers by post.”

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The *Alpine Pioneer & Kiandra Advertiser*, Kiandra, began publication on 3 August 1860 as a bi-weekly. It ceased in March 1861. Proprietor John Garrett shifted his press to Cooma and began publishing the *Monaro Mercury* there from 18 April 1861.

60.4.17 THREE FUNERALS AND A REUNION

From Melbourne, **Robert Coleman** writes: After three funerals, journalists Sally Davis and Tony Homfray decided there must be a happier occasion to bring together their former Melbourne *Herald* mates. The result was a grand reunion on Sunday, 3 October, the 20th anniversary of the paper's closure, held at the Emerald Hotel in South Melbourne. And what a joyous, unforgettable occasion it was for the 100-or-so who turned up to renew old friendships, exchange anecdotes, fill in news of the intervening years and generally add to the unceasing babble, backslapping, hearty handshakes, hugs and a few kisses.



PICTURED: At the *Herald* reunion in Melbourne, Walkley Award winner Peter Game (left) and Robert Coleman reminisce. Game had 43 years' service at the *Herald* and transferred to the *Herald Sun* until 2008, completing 61 years with HWT. Coleman, who was on the *Argus* when it closed in 1957, worked for the *Herald* for 29 years.

As Sally remarked later, the crowd covered *Herald* generations from teenage cadets and copy kids to veterans in their late 80s. Among them were three former editors, some highly decorated writers and many others whose bylines were household names in the golden days of Melbourne newspapers.

More that \$1000 was raised for the Geoff (“Chook”) McClure RMIT Internship fund which is aimed at providing experience on the London *Daily Express* where Geoff once worked. A genial and much loved character, he was chief sports sub at the *Herald* before joining the *Age* as a popular sports columnist in 1997. He died in March this year aged 59. Part of the money was raised by a raffle of four-time Walkley Award winner George Haddon’s original cartoon drawn for the occasion. The remainder came from private donations. A similar fund is being raised in tandem by staff at the *Daily Express*.

60.4.18 NEWSPAPERS IN THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, APRIL 1845

Sydney Morning Herald, 23 April 1845, p.2: “So many changes have recently taken place in the Newspaper Press of the colony, that we think a list of the New South Wales newspapers with their days of publication, will not be unacceptable, particularly to those residing out of the colony. It will be seen that considering the amount of population the number of newspapers is very large.” [We will present the list in tabular form for ease of reading. Victoria, of course, was not separated from NSW until 1 July 1851. – ANHG.]

City or town	Newspaper	Frequency of publication	Publication day/s
SYDNEY	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	Daily	Monday to Saturday
	<i>Australian</i>	Tri-weekly	Tues, Thurs, Sat, a.m.
	<i>Morning Chronicle</i>	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat, a.m.
	<i>Southern Queen</i>	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat, p.m.
	<i>Commercial Journal</i>	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat, a.m.
	<i>Weekly Register</i>	Weekly	Sat, p.m.
	<i>Shipping Gazette</i>	Weekly	Sat, p.m.
	<i>Sentinel</i>	Weekly	Wed, a.m.
	<i>Atlas</i>	Weekly	Sat, noon
PARRAMATTA	<i>Parramatta Chronicle</i>	Weekly	Sat, a.m.
WINDSOR	<i>Hawkesbury Courier</i>	Weekly	Sat, a.m.
MAITLAND	<i>Maitland Mercury</i>	Weekly	Sat, a.m.
MELBOURNE	<i>Port Phillip Patriot</i>	Tri-weekly	Mon, Wed, Fri
	<i>Port Phillip Herald</i>	Bi-weekly	Tues, Thurs
	<i>Gazette</i>	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat
	<i>Standard</i>	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat
GEE LONG	<i>Geelong Advertiser</i>	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat
PORTLAND	<i>Portland Guardian</i>	Weekly	Sat
	<i>Portland Gazette</i>	Weekly	Tues
	<i>Portland Examiner</i>	Weekly	

60.4.19 TROVE AND THE WEEKLY

A digital record of the first 50 years of the *Australian Women’s Weekly* magazine started going online on 22 November as part of the National Library’s Trove media digitisation service. Over the past 18 months the NLA has taken a high-quality digital image of each page of almost every issue of the AWW from its commencement on 10 June 1933 to when it changed to monthly publication after the issue of 15 December 1982. That represents *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, No 60 **December 2010** Page 17

about 2600 magazines comprising some 230,000 pages. About half were available to view in late November and more were being added daily (*Australian*, Media section, 22 November 2010, p.30).

60.4.20 THE JOURNALISTS' CLUB, SYDNEY

Siobhan Moylan is researching a history of the former Journalists' Club, Sydney. She seeks anecdotes from people who were once members. Contact her via Alan Knight at alan.knight@uts.edu.au/

60.4.21 THE LAND: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The *Land*, the NSW weekly farmers' paper, will be 100 years old on 27 January 2011. Macquarie University's Centre for Media History and Charles Stuart University's School of Communication and Creative Industries will coordinate a two-day interdisciplinary symposium, "The Land: Past, Present and Future", at the Bathurst campus of CSU on 5-6 May 2011. Papers are invited from academics, independent scholars and the media industry, exploring historical and contemporary issues in Australia on the following themes:

- Rural and regional media and audiences (newspapers, magazines, radio, TV)
- Rural and regional media futures
- Environmental reporting
- Mediating the land/human relationship
- Visual and textual relationships.

More details from Margaret Van Heekeren at mvanheekeren@csu.edu.au/. Send abstracts to her by 24 December.

60.4.22 THE PAKENHAM PAPERBOY

The *Herald Sun* (3 December 2010) reports that one of its correspondents, Thelma, says: "My paperboy, Rob McGregor, who is an employee of the Pakenham Newsagency, has delivered my paper on his bike, rain, hail or shine, for 52 years. I had an operation 12 years ago and ever since the paper has been put on my veranda for me. Well done Rob."

Rob is nearing 70, but he gets up every morning, except Sundays, at 5am and delivers his papers on the same bike he started with as a teenager. And despite working six days a week, Rob hasn't taken a single day's holiday since he started delivering papers in 1957.

5 – RECENTLY PUBLISHED

60.5.1 BOOKS

Australian Associated Press, *On the Wire: The Story of Australian Associated Press*, Australian Associated Press, Sydney, 2010. 160pp. Hard cover.

Gapps, Stephen, *Front Pages That Shaped Australia: 100 of the nation's most influential cover stories and newspaper headlines from 1629 to 2009*, Pier 9 (an imprint of Murdoch books), 352 pages, hardback, \$49.95.

Guthrie, Bruce, *Man Bites Murdoch*, Melbourne University Press, \$49.99. See 60.5.2 for mention of reviews.

Moore, Tony, *Death or Liberty: Rebels and Radicals Transported to Australia 1788-1868*. Murdoch Books, Sydney. \$34.95.

O'Brien, Barry, and **Cornwall, Peter**, *Moments in Sport: Celebrating the Passion and Emotion of South Australian Sport*, Advertiser, Adelaide, 2010, hardback, \$45.00.

60.5.2 ARTICLES

- Carson, Andrea**, “Vacuous, shallow, banal—don’t believe the twype”, *Age*, 11 October 2010. Twitter may have its place, but its relevance and influence are overstated. The author is a journalist who is working on a PhD thesis at the University of Melbourne on the future of new and old media.
- Crawford, Janine**, “Family tradition gone but not forgotten”, *Southern Free Times*, Warwick, 12 August 2010, p.4. An account of the end of the Lee commercial printing dynasty in Stanthorpe. The dynasty ended when David and Clayton Lee sold the family business to Action Graphics.
- Clark, Andrew**, “Loose Lips: Words that change history”, *Australian Financial Review*, 6 November 2010. A response to Max Suich’s two articles published the previous day (see below).
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