



The offices of the *Bunyip*, Gawler, South Australia, on 29 January 2003 when the ANHG editor visited to interview editor John Barnet and brother Craig. The Barnets, who had owned the paper since helping to found it in 1863, sold the paper on 31 March 2003 to the Taylor family, of the *Murray Pioneer*, Renmark. The *Bunyip* celebrated its 150th anniversary on 5 September this year. It began as a monthly satirical journal under the title of the *Bunyip; or Gawler Humbug Society's Chronicle, Flam! Bam!! Sham!!!* It omitted the Humbug Society guff from its title in 1864, appeared twice a month in 1865 and weekly from 1866. William Barnet, the founding printer and owner, died in 1895. The Barnets' possible sale of the *Bunyip* had been discussed since soon after the death of third-generation owner Kenneth Lindley Barnet on 16 May 2000.

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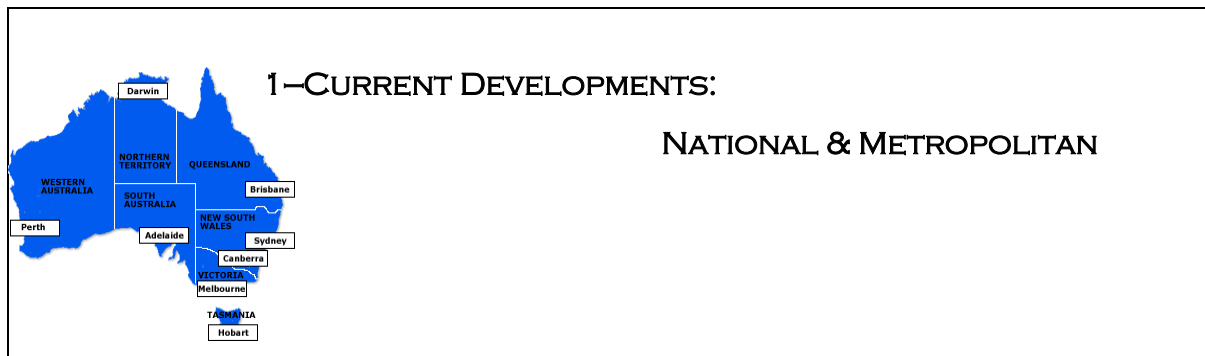
Deadline for the next *Newsletter*: 9 December 2013.

Subscription details appear at end of *Newsletter*. [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]

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

A composite index of issues 1 to 75 of ANHG is being prepared. It will be completed shortly after No. 75 appears in

December and will be available only on CD and through the AMHD website.



74.1.1 Rinehart fails in bid to force journalist to identify source

A Perth judge has dismissed Gina Rinehart’s bid to force a journalist to hand over source material for articles detailing her family feud (*Australian*, 7 August 2013). After an 18-month legal battle between the billionaire and Walkley Award-winning journalist Steve Pennells of the *West Australian*, judge Janine Pritchard ruled that Rinehart’s subpoena should be set aside. The judgment gave strong support to Western Australia’s “shield” laws, which prevent journalists from being compelled to reveal sources. *West Australian* editor Brett McCarthy said the judgment was a win for Australian journalism: “(It) backs the principles enshrined in shield laws and is an important judgment for all journalists in this country.” The Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance’s federal secretary Christopher Warren said the judgment underscored “the need to acknowledge and respect journalist privilege in relation to the journalist’s ethical requirement to refuse to disclose confidential sources”. The judgment came after lawyers for Rinehart had attempted to keep the judgment under wraps on legal grounds. Her application was dismissed.

74.1.2 Wilfred Burchett and the KGB

War-time journalist Wilfred Burchett—a fearless truth-teller from behind communist lines and hero of the radical Left—was a paid KGB operative, according to documents copied from Soviet archives. The revelation was made in an essay for the *Monthly* in August by La Trobe University professor Robert Manne, who declared that after years of conjecture about Burchett, the case was now closed. Burchett’s account of Hiroshima after the dropping of the atomic bomb, and his reporting of the Vietnam and Korean wars, marked him out as a courageous, independent journalist motivated by compassion and principle. To his detractors, Burchett was a communist sympathiser, a man who could not be trusted and, perhaps, a traitor to his country.

In 1971, Democratic Labor Party leader Vince Gair rose in the Senate and thundered that Burchett was an agent of the Soviet Union. Now, 30 years after Burchett’s death, Professor Manne has written that documents copied from the Soviet archives by dissident Vladimir Bukovsky reveal that Burchett was a paid KGB operative who shared information with his Soviet paymasters, likely assisted with covert operations and was used to “penetrate the American and West European press”. Professor Manne said, “The question of Wilfred Burchett has been the most important line dividing Australian intellectuals and historians involved in judgment about the Cold War. This is the most important evidence about the truth of his allegiance and his shameful connection to the worst aspect of the communist system.” (*Australian*, 26 July 2013)

74.1.3 Hywood says print timetable unchanged

Fairfax Media chief executive officer Greg Hywood has denied growing speculation that the company will bring forward the date of closure of its Monday to Friday editions in Sydney and Melbourne, amid a weak advertising climate and next year’s planned reduction of the company’s printing capacity (*Australian*, 29 July 2013). Senior Fairfax insiders have said the plans currently involve the weekday editions of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*. While Hywood has previously flagged a possible closure of print editions as early as 2015, it is believed weak revenues and the company’s avowed declaration of a “digital first” strategy have hastened the historic retreat

from its print products. But Hywood said there had “been no change to the timetable”, adding: “I totally rule out that speculation”.

Fairfax is making changes to its printing capacity after announcing it will close its main printing presses at Chullora (Sydney) and Tullamarine (Melbourne) next June. One insider said Fairfax keeps “shortening the timetable”, as another source said chairman Roger Corbett and Hywood were involved in a significant amount of soul-searching about bringing forward plans at the 172-year old publisher. Last October, Hywood said Fairfax would move to a digital-only model in “three years, or five or 10 or 15 years”. He warned in June that overall group revenues in the last half continued to track 9 per cent to 10 per cent lower than in the previous corresponding period.

74.1.4 Allan arrives, Williams departs, Clarke returns

Col Allan, the *New York Post*’s editor-in-chief, was set to turn his immediate attention to News Corp Australia’s stable of Sunday newspapers when he began a temporary posting on 29 July (*Australian*, Media section, 29 July 2013). On 26 July, the chief executive of the “new” News Corporation, Robert Thomson, announced that Allan would return to Australia to spend “two or three months” working with News Corp Australia chief executive Kim Williams. Thomson said that the former editor-in-chief of Sydney’s *Daily Telegraph* would provide “extra editorial leadership for our papers, which are in the midst of an important period of transition in our key markets”. Allan’s editorial style is characterised by witty, irreverent attention-grabbing front pages, particularly on politics. In an email to staff, Thomson said Allan would return to his position at the *Post* once his work was done in Australia.

On 9 August, less than a fortnight after Allan’s arrival, News Corp Australia CEO Kim Williams submitted his resignation. He was replaced by Julian Clarke, a former chairman of The Herald & Weekly Times in Melbourne. More changes are expected to follow. The move was confirmed in a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange, in which News Corp executive chairman Rupert Murdoch thanked Williams for his contribution (News Corp Australia, media release, 9 August 2013). Mark Day wrote about the Williams departure in “Data-driven boss at odds with News culture”, *Australian*, Media section, 12 August 2013, p.24.

An early Clarke appointment was Peter Tonagh as chief operating officer. Tonagh joined the company from Foxtel where he had held the position of chief operating officer and chief financial officer (*Mediaweek* online, 22 August 2013).

74.1.5 Election headlines (1): ‘Kick this mob out’



On Day 1 the 2013 federal election campaign, the front page of the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* made headlines (*Australian*, 6 August 2013). “Finally, you now have the chance to Kick This Mob Out,” Australia’s most notorious tabloid declared in unambiguous style (see left). Instead of a reported piece, the newspaper ran an editorial arguing why the government did not deserve the support of voters. At last, the power is within the hands of the Australian people to deliver a change of government and to rebuild Australia’s strength and stability,” it said. “At last, the time is up for Kevin Rudd and his Labor government.”

It’s not the first time the tabloid—owned by Rupert Murdoch’s News Corporation—has been so bold. On 20 August 2010, the day before the last federal election, the paper, at the time edited by Garry Linnell, splashed with the headline, “Yes He Can: Why Labor deserves a liberal dose of anger” beside an image of Opposition Leader Tony Abbott. “Labor is in a sick state,” the newspaper declared. “It needs to heal itself and only a stint in opposition can give it the opportunity to rediscover its moral compass.” Linnell is now the editorial director for Fairfax Media, whose websites carried much of the debate on 5 August about the *Telegraph*’s “Kick this mob out” front page.

Some local and international newspapers attributed the headline to the extended visit to Australia of the New York Post’s editor-in-chief Col Allan (*Australian*, 9 August 2013). But *Telegraph* insiders said there was only one author of the front page that became a news story in its own right: Paul

Whittaker. The *Telegraph* editor could never be accused of being grey. From the 2011 “King Rat” front page on the day Peter Slipper left the Liberal Party to secure the Speaker’s job (which depicted him with whiskers and a tail) to the March 2012 paper that compared then communications minister Stephen Conroy with Joseph Stalin and other world dictators over his controversial media changes, Whittaker built a reputation for campaigning front pages long before Allan’s visit. Of the Rudd front page, Whittaker would only say: “The Daily Telegraph has a long and proud tradition of taking the fight to the establishment.”

74.1.6 Election headlines (2): ‘Send in the clown’



Neil McMahon reported (*Mediaweek*, 19 August 2013, p.11): *Courier-Mail* editor Chris Dore has said that “hysteria” over his newspapers election coverage in the first week was “laughable”. The reaction had been more to do with political strategy than reality; both sides recognised that privately. “We cover the election at the *Courier-Mail* with honesty and integrity. Try telling Dennis Atkins he’s part of some grand conspiracy. It’s ludicrous.” Dore said the “Send in the clown” front page was a classic case in point. That front page absolutely captured the mood in Queensland on that day. No question. The feedback in Queensland has been overwhelmingly supportive. People were dismayed when Peter Beattie showed up out of the blue that day. ‘Oh what a circus’ was the immediate reaction of so many. People know the history of Kevin Rudd and Peter Beattie and people are tired of political cynicism. And with pointed humour we captured that perfectly. Queenslanders saw that front page and laughed, because they got it.” One of the inspirations for the page had been a piece by Annabel Crabb on the ABC website,

The Drum. She wrote of the Beattie return: “And it thoroughly confirms all suspicions that Queensland—beautiful one day, unbelievable clown-suit-wearing, Disney-on-Ice-styler political vaudeville the next—would eventually swallow this election campaign whole. It’s only taken four days, Queensland, so well done you.”

74.1.7 Election editorials

For the federal election on 7 September, newspapers published their final election editorial on the previous day. The ANHG editor was in Sydney that day and found it interesting to compare the Friday editions of the four dailies immediately available where he was staying. Each of the four papers supported the election of Tony Abbott’s Liberal-National Party coalition.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> | 56pp | Editorial, p.22 (extract on p.1) | “Australians deserve a government they can trust” |
| <i>Daily Telegraph</i> | 136pp | Editorial, p.98 | “Abbott offering a change for better” |
| <i>Aust. Financial Review</i> | 48pp | Editorial, p.46 | “Two cheers for Tony Abbott” |
| <i>Australian</i> | 40pp | Editorial, p.17 | “Leader who will govern in the national interest” |

Some of the statements from the various editorials (obtained from *Mediaweek* online, 6 September 2013): *Australian*: “The *Australian* believes Mr Abbott is capable of governing in the interest of the nation, including its indigenous population.”

Sydney Morning Herald: “Labor under Kevin Rudd in 2013 is not offering a stable, trustworthy government on which Australians can depend. The Coalition under Tony Abbott deserves the opportunity to return trust to politics.”

Brisbane’s *Courier-Mail*: “Abbott has passed every test his party has set him. He has met community expectations to be a steady, responsible head and heart in national affairs.”

AFR: “Australia’s prosperity would be better served by a Coalition government.”

West Australian: “The level of dysfunction, incompetence and poor judgment that has characterised affairs in Canberra should make the decision an easy one. Put simply, it’s time for a change.”

Age: “*The Age* has long held that policy, not personality, is the core of our democracy. It is on this basis that we advocate a vote for Labor in the federal election on Saturday.”

Adelaide Advertiser: “Australians are eager to move on from the past six years and start afresh. Mr Abbott and the Coalition have earned the right to lead our great nation.”

Daily Telegraph (reminding readers of its campaign Day 1 editorial): “Events over the subsequent four weeks have absolutely vindicated that early call.”

Melbourne Herald Sun: Devotes its front page to a call for a new government: “Tony’s time.”

Hobart Mercury: “We believe in a new way forward. We believe Tony Abbott is the best man to reignite the hope, purpose, enthusiasm and enterprise of this great nation.”

[Tony Abbott’s coalition of Liberals and Nationals was elected.]

74.1.8 More sub-editing jobs cross the trench

Fairfax Media will send 25 more sub-editing jobs to New Zealand following the end of its agreement with Pagemasters, the editorial provider based in Brisbane (*Australian*, 8 August 2013). The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance has confirmed the decision by Fairfax to move the jobs to its New Zealand-based editorial operation, a cheaper option than entering into a new agreement with Pagemasters or employing the sub-editors in the local Australian operation. The 25 full-time employees worked on features and sections for newspapers including the *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. This means that popular sections of the newspapers such as Good Living, Epicure and Metro will now be sub-edited in New Zealand but published in Australia. A Fairfax Media spokesman refused to comment on the decision. The Australian understands news, business and sport on the metro titles will still be subbed by Pagemasters in Australia. Sub-editing of Fairfax’s *Illawarra Mercury*, *Newcastle Herald* and seven associated community papers have already moved to New Zealand. Some Fairfax executives have long held the view the Pagemasters solution was too expensive for the company and the move last year of some production operations to New Zealand was described by one unnamed executive as intended to send a clear message to Pagemasters that the publisher had other options.

74.1.9 People

Nick Cater, senior editor, has left the *Australian* to complete his second book, a sequel to last year’s *The Lucky Culture*. Cater, who had spent 24 years at News Corp including nine years in senior editorial positions at the *Australian*, will retain a weekly column with the newspaper. The British-born Cater started his career at the BBC but migrated to Australia and was hired by Piers Akerman on the *Adelaide Advertiser* in 1989 (*Australian*, 9 September 2013).

Martin Gilmour, editor of the Launceston *Examiner*, was interviewed in *Mediaweek*, 23 September 2013, p.9. He has been with the paper 35 years, starting as a cadet.

Rachel Hancock, the new editor of the *Northern Territory News*, was featured in “Ten Questions”, *Australian*, Media section, 29 July 2013.

Mark Hollands, chief executive officer of The Newspaper Works, was “Person of the Week” for *Mediaweek*, 12 August 2013 (p.8). Hollands was appointed to the position after a year away from the industry following his departure from a similar role at the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association.

Andrew Holman, editor of the *Hobart Mercury*, was interviewed in *Mediaweek*, 23 September 2013, p.8. He is a former editor of the *Cairns Post* and deputy editor of the *Adelaide Advertiser*.

Jonathan Holmes, the recently retired presenter of the ABC's *Media Watch*, has joined the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. From August, he has been writing regular columns on the media, including a weekly analysis during the election campaign. Holmes presented *Media Watch* for five years in a 35-year career with the ABC and the BBC (*Mediaweek* online, 26 July 2013).

Andrew Webster, sportswriter, has returned to the *Sydney Morning Herald* after some years at the *Daily Telegraph* (*Mediaweek*, 16 September 2013, p.11).

Richard Woolveridge, weekday editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, has decided to retire. Colleague Kate McClymont noted he wanted "adventure before dementia" (*Mediaweek*, 6 September 2013).

74.1.10 Theatre company goes on international tour with *Rupert*

The Melbourne Theatre Company will perform David Williamson's new play, *Rupert*, based on the life of media mogul Rupert Murdoch, at an international theatre festival in Washington DC next March (*Herald Sun*, 17 July 2013). The company presented *Rupert* at the Playhouse, Arts Centre, Melbourne, from 24 August to 28 September.

74.1.11 News Corp Australia to consolidate Sydney real estate holdings

News Corp Australia is undertaking a major consolidation of its Sydney real estate holdings, involving about 2600 staff, with plans for an upgrade of its Surry Hills headquarters and the melding of most of its suburban sites. Staff at the company's offices at 175 Liverpool Street in the city and its offices at 170-190 Bourke Road in Alexandria will move to Surry Hills to work at either 2 Holt Street or Newspoll House at 407 Elizabeth Street, where the company will negotiate a new lease (*Australian*, 1 August 2013). News Corp is expected to sell its 142-154 Macquarie Street, Parramatta, building and bulk up its office at Phillip Street, Parramatta, where it leases space. News Corp executives had been undertaking a review of the company's real estate holdings for several months. Internal staff relocations at 2 Holt Street, where a major renovation is planned, are scheduled to begin this month (October).

74.1.12 Fairfax loses \$16m

Fairfax Media made a loss of more than \$16 million last financial year amid lower earnings and further asset writedowns. The company made a net loss of \$16.4 million for the latest financial year, a marked improvement on the \$2.7 billion loss it posted the previous year. Excluding significant items, Fairfax made a profit of \$143m, down 37 per cent from \$212m last year. Revenue was down 8 per cent to \$2.03bn while earnings were \$366 million, down 28 per cent on last year (*Australian*, 22 August 2013).

74.1.13 Circulation and readership (1): Print falls, digital rises

Newspaper sales have plunged again in the three months to June compared with the same period last year but publishers are reporting strong sales in digital to offset some of the falls, reported the *Australian* (16 August 2013). The Audited Media Association of Australia figures showed combined Monday-to-Saturday national newspaper sales dropping 9.5 per cent compared with the previous corresponding period, and Monday-to-Sunday metropolitan titles falling 11.1 per cent. Fairfax Media, which has a strategy of cutting loss-making and uneconomic sales, continued to fall fastest in print, with the *Sydney Morning Herald* down 17 per cent on weekdays and 20 per cent on Saturdays, and the Sunday title, the *Sun-Herald*, falling 20.4 per cent.

Digital sales for newspapers continued to climb. When digital sales are included, the total decline for the metros was cut to 8.7 per cent, with only a handful of papers not yet reporting audited digital sales. Combined print and digital sales for the national titles were up 11.1 per cent. The *Australian's* weekday digital sales increased by 11.7 per cent from 45,869 in the March quarter to 51,213, lifting its combined Monday-to-Friday print and digital audience to a record 164,439. The *Weekend Australian's* net paid print sales exceeded those of the Saturday *Sydney Morning Herald* for the first time. Elsewhere, in digital sales the *Herald Sun* in Melbourne recorded 30,624, the *Age* 26,359 and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22,589.

| Print circulation* | | | | Print readership** | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | April-June 2013 | April-June 2012 | % variation | emma June 2013: '000s | % variation |
| National | | | | | |
| <i>Australian</i> | 116,655 | 129,363 | — 9.82 | 540 | + 47.14 |
| <i>Weekend Australian</i> | 254,891 | 285,644 | — 10.77 | 746 | — 2.48 |
| <i>Aust Financial Review</i> | 66,220 | 71,061 | — 6.81 | 312 | + 32.20 |
| <i>AF Review</i> (Sat) | 64,478 | 75,575 | — 14.68 | 170 | + 16.44 |
| New South Wales | | | | | |
| <i>Daily Telegraph</i> | 310,724 | 350,059 | — 11.24 | 1173 | + 54.55 |
| <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sat) | 290,222 | 325,501 | — 10.62 | 924 | + 31.81 |
| <i>Sunday Telegraph</i> | 541,749 | 610,253 | — 11.23 | 1365 | + 11.89 |
| <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> | 141,699 | 170,666 | — 16.97 | 814 | + 44.84 |
| <i>Sydney M. Herald</i> (Sat) | 233,335 | 292,413 | — 20.20 | 918 | + 12.09 |
| <i>Sun-Herald</i> | 276,172 | 346,960 | — 20.40 | 906 | + 12.55 |
| Victoria | | | | | |
| <i>Herald Sun</i> | 416,027 | 463,543 | — 10.25 | 1446 | + 34.76 |
| <i>Herald Sun</i> (Sat) | 416,662 | 454,318 | — 8.29 | 1193 | + 12.87 |
| <i>Sunday Herald Sun</i> | 485,943 | 529,063 | — 8.15 | 1130 | + 4.05 |
| <i>Age</i> | 142,050 | 169,582 | — 16.24 | 753 | + 39.70 |
| <i>Age</i> (Sat) | 203,753 | 238,818 | — 14.68 | 757 | + 7.99 |
| <i>Sunday Age</i> | 171,255 | 194,040 | — 11.74 | 642 | + 11.27 |
| Queensland | | | | | |
| <i>Courier-Mail</i> | 173,095 | 189,733 | — 8.77 | 713 | + 47.01 |
| <i>Courier-Mail</i> (Sat) | 223,443 | 250,988 | — 10.97 | 714 | + 18.80 |
| <i>Sunday Mail</i> | 415,808 | 450,922 | — 7.79 | 960 | + 4.92 |
| South Australia | | | | | |
| <i>Advertiser</i> | 155,635 | 172,899 | — 9.99 | 540 | + 25.87 |
| <i>Advertiser</i> (Sat) | 208,624 | 231,519 | — 9.89 | 547 | + 3.60 |
| <i>Sunday Mail</i> | 246,007 | 271,293 | — 9.32 | 572 | + 0.53 |
| Western Australia | | | | | |
| <i>West Australian</i> | 178,385 | 195,394 | — 8.70 | 641 | + 27.18 |
| <i>West Australian</i> (Sat) | 290,536 | 301,923 | — 3.77 | 692 | + 0.87 |
| <i>Sunday Times</i> | 250,290 | 274,955 | — 8.97 | 570 | + 1.79 |
| Tasmania | | | | | |
| <i>Mercury</i> | 37,419 | 40,240 | — 7.01 | 116,000 | + 41.46 |
| <i>Mercury</i> (Sat) | 51,302 | 55,665 | — 7.84 | 122,000 | + 1.67 |
| <i>Sunday Tasmanian</i> | 48,605 | 52,590 | — 7.58 | 113,000 | + 8.65 |
| <i>Sunday Examiner</i> | 33,193 | 37,206 | — 10.79 | 77,000 | + 10.00 |
| Northern Territory | | | | | |
| <i>NT News</i> | 16,508 | 18,977 | — 13.01 | 64,000 | + 64.10 |
| <i>NT News</i> (Sat) | 25,375 | 28,874 | — 12.12 | 60,000 | + 13.21 |
| <i>Sunday Territorian</i> | 18,087 | 21,034 | — 14.01 | 43,000 | + 22.86 |
| ACT | | | | | |
| <i>Canberra Times</i> | 26,153 | 28,550 | — 8.4 | 102,000 | + 39.73 |
| <i>Canberra Times</i> (Sat) | 40,475 | 46,879 | — 13.66 | 113,000 | 0.00 |
| <i>Canberra Times</i> (Sun) | 26,138 | 29,134 | — 10.28 | 72,000 | — 2.70 |

* Audited Media Association of Australia circulation figures

** Enhanced Media Metrics Australia (emma) readership figures (the variations are based on a comparison with the previous Roy Morgan Research figures).

74.1.14 Circulation and readership (2): emma's first figures

The first newspaper readership figures provided by Enhanced Media Metrics Australia (emma) have been issued. The *Australian* (19 August 2013) says emma has turned readership research on its head. Of the major weekday editions, the audience for the following was significantly higher than revealed in the previous figures, provided by Roy Morgan Research. For instance, the *Sydney Morning Herald* (up 38pc), *Daily Telegraph* (53pc), *Age* (37pc), *Herald Sun* (32pc), *Courier-Mail* (46pc) and *West Australian* (29pc).

The Newspaper Works welcomed the official launch of emma, and said the new data showed newspapers were strong and vibrant, commanding very large audiences across print and digital channels. The chief executive of The Newspaper Works, Mark Hollands, said analysis of the new data showed “readership of our industry’s journalism is, as expected, higher even than previously reported”. Some 88 per cent of Australians read a newspaper and/or digital edition every month, according to emma figures. Hollands said the multiplatform strategies of publishers were having a significant positive impact on the newspaper readership habits of Australian consumers. Across print and digital, metropolitan newspapers reach 82 per cent of Australians with 14.1 million readers. National newspapers reach 22 per cent of Australians, or 3.74 million readers, according to emma. Hollands said the emma data had shown that branded sections were “incredibly popular with readers and powerful for advertisers”. The emma data show 71 per cent of Australians – 12.16 million readers – have read sections of national, metropolitan and regional newspapers in the past four weeks.

74.1.15 Recent events

74.1.15.1 Deaths

Balderstone, David: D. 29 August 2013, aged 67; journalist, writer, broadcaster; freelanced in Cairo in 1970-71 for London’s *Sunday Times* and *Daily Express*; in 1977 became first Australian to become Fairfax’s Middle East correspondent; reported on fall of Shah of Iran, Middle East peace moves and setbacks, the Iran-Iraq conflict from both front lines, and the civil war in Lebanon; his coverage included rare interviews with Ali Khamenei, who later took over as Iran’s supreme ruler following Ayatollah Khomeini’s death, and PLO leader Yasser Arafat; wrote two novels based on his Middle East experiences (*Age*, 28 September 2013).

Dunstan, Keith: D. 11 September 2013 in Melbourne, aged 88; attended Geelong Grammar School; in 1946, joined the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd, publishers of the Sun News-Pictorial and the Herald; foreign correspondent for HWT with posts in New York (1949–52) and London (1952–54); then became “Day by Day” columnist on Brisbane’s *Courier-Mail*; returned to Melbourne and from 1958 to 1978 wrote a daily column, “A Place in the Sun”, for the *Sun*; from 1962 he wrote regularly for the *Bulletin* under the pseudonym of Batman; and for the magazine *Walkabout*; in 1976 and 1977 he was president of the Melbourne Press Club, succeeding Rohan Rivett; was United States West Coast Correspondent (1979–82) for HWT; afterwards was a regular columnist and occasional contributor to the *Age*; wrote 30 books, including four on Australian character: *Wowsers* (1968), *Knockers* (1972), *Sports* (1973) and *Ratbags* (1979), and an autobiography, *No Brains at All* (1990); in 1967 he started the Anti-Football League in Melbourne, and it ran for 30 years (*Age* and *Herald Sun*, 12 September 2013).

Lanyon, William Russell: D. 20 September 2013 in Melbourne, aged 75; learned all phases of the family newspaper business, but a qualified accountant; became company secretary of the Elliott Newspaper Group, Victoria, in 1960; manager of the firm’s *Sunraysia Daily*, Mildura, in 1969; and executive chairman of the group in 1988 on the death of his father, Charles Dudley Lanyon; handed over managing director’s role to son Ross in 2008, but was still chairman on his death; long held at bay the pressure to change the *Sunraysia Daily* from broadsheet to tabloid format, but finally made the change on 15 September 2007, the last regional daily to convert (Rod Kirkpatrick, *The Bold Type: A History of Victoria’s Country Newspapers, 1840-2010*, pp.142-144; W.R. Lanyon, interview with Rod Kirkpatrick, Balwyn, 3 October 2002).

Manning, Clarence Morcom: D. 22 August 2013 in Brisbane, aged 96; educated Mackay State Boys School and Scots College, Warwick; University of Queensland, grad. B.A., Dip., Journalism; clerk,

briefly, then cadet journalist, *Daily Mercury*, from January 1939; journalist, *Courier-Mail*, 1946-48; chief of staff *Daily Mercury*, 1948-49; editor, 1949-80, with managerial responsibilities, too, from 1961; chief executive, PNQ, 1 Jan. 1981-31 August 1987. Director, PNQ, 1968-88; chairman, PNQ, 1970-88; chairman, APN, 1988-89; chairman, Regional Dailies of Australia Ltd, 1975-78; director, Mackay Television Limited, 1968; chairman, 1982-87; awarded OBE, 1988, for services to regional newspapers (Rod Kirkpatrick, "Ghost of caution haunts House of Dunn", PhD thesis, Department of History, University of Queensland, 1995; *Daily Mercury*, Mackay, 30 August 2013, pp.22-23; *Courier-Mail*, 7 September 2013, p.34).

Wynhausen, Elisabeth: D. 5 September 2013 in Sydney, aged 67; born in Holland in 1946 and came to Australia in 1951 with her family; grew up on Sydney's northern beaches; began cadetship at *Daily Telegraph* in 1970; made her name writing profiles at the *Bulletin* and the *National Times* before heading to the US in 1978 to work from New York, which became her second home; wrote book-length odysseys of reportage, *Dirt Cheap* (2005) and *The Short Goodbye* (2011); worked on the *Australian* in recent years (obituaries by: Tom Dusevic, *Australian*, 9 September 2013; and David Marr, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 September 2013).

74.1.16 Cover price rise for *Australian*

From Monday 19 August, the *Australian* increased its price by 20c to \$2.20 on weekdays and by 30c to \$3.30 on Saturdays (the same price as the *Financial Review*).

74.1.17 *Financial Times* ceases print deliveries to Australian subscribers

The Financial Times ceased newspaper print deliveries to subscribers in Australia from the end of August. Readers who had the paper delivered to their home or office have been forced to take a digital subscription if they wish to continue reading the paper. The company made the decision because of the high cost of delivery. It continues to publish and distribute the *FT* in Australia and make it available in selected newsagents and retailers (*Mediaweek* online, 21 August 2013).

74.1.18 *Honi Soit* and its cover under cover

The now infamous University of Sydney student newspaper which featured the genitalia of 18 women was re-released in sealed plastic packaging (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 August 2013). In mid-August 4000 copies of *Honi Soit* were removed from the stands after it was discovered that the cover's black bars, which were supposed to censor the 18 vulvas, were transparent and potentially constituted a criminal offence. Initially, *Honi Soit's* editors were instructed to cut off the offending covers in order to be allowed to redistribute the newspaper. While some guillotined editions were released on 23 August, most copies were made available intact on 26 August, in sealed plastic packaging. Lawyers from Sydney University's Student Representative Council, which publishes *Honi Soit*, advised the editors they could keep the controversial cover if it was sealed and rated R 18+. The edition was then placed behind the counter of the SRC office and made available to students over 18 years. Collecting a copy required proof-of-age identification.

74.1.19 New 'substantial' shareholder in Fairfax

On 27 August, Fairfax Media gained a second new substantial shareholder in less than a week, as a broker renews its call for a break-up of the group (*Australian*, 28 August 2013). UBS emerged with 5 per cent of Fairfax's shares through a consolidated position across a number of the bank's local and global entities. A share lending agreement in the ASX filing suggested UBS is shorting the stock on behalf of a client after Fairfax. The new shareholding came after a group of former Barclay Global Investors executives acquired a 5.05 per cent stake in Fairfax. Morry Waked, Charles Genocchio and Andrew Jackson run Vinva Investment Management, which specialises in identifying "mispricing opportunities that may be under-researched or ignored".

74.1.20 Former *Mercury* property handed over

The former home of Hobart's *Mercury*, in Macquarie and Argyle Streets, was handed over to its new owners on 26 July, ending a 159-year link with the central city site for the newspaper (estab. 1854). Education office Damian Bester spent the fortnight before the handover in Ingle Hall, delving through historical records and winding up the *Mercury* print museum (*Stop! Press*, Davies

Brothers Staff News, 26 July 2013, p.1). ABC online news reported on 27 June: “It is understood the buyer is Hobart financier Bruce Neill who has a personal wealth of close to \$400 million and is listed on the *BRW* Rich List.”

74.1.21 *Weekend Australian Magazine* at 25

The 25th anniversary issue of the *Weekend Australian Magazine*, published on 21-22 September, carried stories about newsmakers from each of the 25 years: Tony Fitzgerald, corruption fighter (first personal interview since “the Inquiry”); Nicole Kidman, actor; Fiona Stanley, child health champion; Anthony Field, Wiggle; Gabi Hollows, eyesight campaigner; Noel Pearson, land rights leader; Clive Small, police officer; Colette Dinnigan, fashion designer; Walter Mikac, who lost his wife and two daughters in the Port Arthur massacre; Lowitja O’Donoghue, indigenous leader; Brian Schmidt, Nobel Prize scientist; Peter Cosgrove, soldier and peacekeeper; Cathy Freeman, Olympic champion athlete; Lleyton Hewitt, tennis player; Fiona Wood, Bali burns surgeon; Sophie Delezio, survivor; Ian Thorpe, swimmer; Cate Blanchett, Oscar winner; Brant Webb & Todd Russell, the Beaconsfield miners; Bert Newton, TV personality; Christos Tsiolkas, author; Mark Donaldson, Victoria Cross winner; Jessica Watson, solo sailor; Bruce Bonyhady, NDIS campaigner; Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton, wrongly jailed for death of baby Azaria; and Adam Scott, golfer.

74.1.22 John B. Fairfax to sell 'Elaine'

The sale of “Elaine”, the Sydney Harbour waterfront mansion owned by the Fairfax family for 122 years, will create history as “the most expensive ever residential listing in Australia”, reports Michael Bodey (*Australian*, 23 September 2013). The property is owned by John Brehmer Fairfax, no longer a shareholder in Fairfax Media.

74.1.23 Advertising revenue for print media falls by nearly 20pc

Bernard Holt's biannual Commercial Economic Advisory Service of Australia (CEASA) report for advertising expenditure in main media for the six months to June shows advertising revenue for newspapers was down 19.4 per cent and magazines, down 18.2 per cent. For media as a whole, the revenue was down 2.5 per cent to \$6,573,660,000. CEASA reported that other sectors were growing. Television was up 0.7pc, radio 1.4pc, online 15.5pc, outdoor 5.6pc and cinema 6.3pc. Digital advertising revenue in print media, surveyed for the first time, was \$247,280,000 (*Mediaweek* online, 25 September 2013).



74.2.1 And the election weekend winner, says Fairfax, is Fairfax

Fairfax Media has claimed smh.com.au scored a resounding win on the election weekend, trouncing the opposition by polling the highest unique browsers of any news website through the day and evening of Saturday 7 September. The site achieved a record 1.19 million unique browsers (desktop + m-site), the highest ever on a single day for smh.com.au, and an increase of 88 per cent on the average of the previous four Saturdays in August. The smh.com.au site was the only news site to record more than one million daily unique browsers (desktop + m-site) on polling day, including more than 500,000 unique browsers on mobile devices, which marked another record. Traffic momentum continued during the following week, setting a record five consecutive days for daily unique browsers above one million.

Video coverage comprised more than five hours of continuous live programming on election night, delivered over 320,000 streams on the Saturday (94,000 of which were of the live coverage) and over 410,000 streams on Sunday. Election coverage also included a live election results strap on

the home pages and an electorate-by-electorate interactive map showing predicted winners as called by Tim Colebatch and Tom Allard. This was a co-production between Fairfax Media and Google, which generated 3.5 million page impressions and 346,349 unique browsers over Saturday and Sunday (Fairfax Media via Mediaweek online, 13 September 2013).

74.2.2 *Australian's* sites redesigned

The web and mobile sites of the *Australian* were relaunched with a refreshed design on 16 September. The new sites are said to have a more modern layout and were designed for easier navigation, with more content on the home page. The *Australian's* digital subscription has been increased to \$4 a week. The *Australian* has more than 55,000 digital subscribers (*Australian*, 16 September 2013).

74.2.3 Adelaide and the switch to the Methode platform

The transfer of News Corp Australia's tabloid dailies to Methode—a centralised editorial and publishing program—began when Adelaide's *Sunday Mail* went live on the new EidosMedia multiplatform editorial system, reports *GXpress* magazine (August 2013, p.6). Following in quick succession were the Adelaide *Advertiser*, the Brisbane *Sunday Mail*, the Melbourne *Herald Sun* and the Sydney *Daily Telegraph*. Earlier there were successful transitions for News's community newspapers. Methode will make publishing easier across all platforms, according to Melvin Mansell, News's editorial director for SA, WA, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

74.2.4 Future of digital journalism

Hansika Bhagani writes (*Mediaweek*, 19 August 2013, p.12): Media professionals gathered at the Storyology conference [in August] in Sydney, organised by the Walkley Foundation, to talk media and creativity. Among the more interesting panels was "Success in the age of smartphones—the new design and shape of digital journalism", in which panelists talked not just about mobile but covered a gamut of digital journalism issues. Panellists included, Garry Linnell, group editorial director, metro media, Fairfax Media; Katharine Viner, editor-in-chief, *Guardian Australia*; Alisa Brown, group director, digital product and development, News Corp Australia; and Bruce Belsham, head of current affairs, ABC. Linnell said, "In the last three or four months we've seen really big developments—all our reporters are now going digital-first. There are some stories we hold back for print because we still believe in print as a medium... but we're doing 80 to 100 stories a day that are going digital first." For more, visit www.storyology.org.au/



Lachlander Office 1938
L to R: Frank Beck (Composer/Printer), Doug Ross (Country Operator), Jack Wilson (Junior Printer),
William Tinger (Operator), Betty Condon (Chief/Cashier/Reporter) M.A. Condon (Program/Editor)

3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS:

COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

74.3.1 Gold Coast: printing plant to close

News Corp has announced plans to close its multimillion-dollar print centre at Molendinar on the Gold Coast. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* will be printed in Brisbane from April 2014 as News Corp continues to consolidate its Queensland operations. *Bulletin* staff at the printing facility were told of the closure on 13 August. The newspaper shed 17 editorial staff last year and it is understood the relocation of its printing operations will affect up to 60 jobs. Editor Cath Webber said there would be no forced redundancies (**BrisbaneTimes.com.au**, 14 August 2013; ABC online news, 14 August 2013). News Queensland regional director Jason Scott announced that the *Bulletin's* office would move to the Seabank building in Southport in September. In June, News Corporation Australia announced that after 35 years absence, the *Gold Coast Bulletin* would leave its Molendinar site and move back to its original stomping ground: Southport. It has committed to a

whole-floor lease at the Seabank building, one of the city's highest-profile office buildings located at 12-14 Marine Parade (*Gold Coast Bulletin*, 16 August 2013).

74.3.2 APN (1): Miller urges, 'Don't apologise for print'

Newly installed APN News & Media chief executive officer Michael Miller has told the media industry to stop being "apologetic about print", appealed for rival publishers to collaborate more and ruled out an immediate fire sale of assets (*Australian*, Media section, 29 July 2013). In his first public pronouncements since taking the reins at the trans-Tasman publisher, Miller appealed to rival publishers to put aside competitive differences and work together to drive cost savings and fly the flag for print. APN has been sharing back-end costs with News Corp Australia in Queensland to achieve cost efficiencies and Miller wants to include other publishers such as Fairfax Media. He is even proposing collective selling between publishers to offer advertisers the opportunity for national sales. "I think in the next 12 months there is a greater opportunity than we've had for the past decade. Generally we need to be more comfortable about print," he said. APN's regional publishing business, which accounts for 50 per cent of the trans-Tasman company's profit, had a tough first quarter, with revenue down by 13 per cent, but Miller cited a new measurement system as a reason to feel bullish.

74.3.3 APN (2): Six-month profit posted

APN News & Media posted a \$12.7 million net profit after tax for the six months to June under newly installed CEO Michael Miller (*Australian*, 16 August 2013). The result beat a loss of \$319.4m in the prior year, when APN took a \$485m impairment charge on intangible assets. Mr Miller said the company would continue to cut costs in an attempt to pay down debt. The former News Corp Australia executive started in June.

74.3.4 Mackay and Toowoomba: *Telegraphs* close

The Mackay and Toowoomba *Telegraphs* appeared on 27 July for the final time, the *Daily Mercury* (Mackay), 31 July 2013, reported. The company controlling the two newspapers, Queensland Media Holdings Ltd, went into liquidation in mid-July. About 25 employees—20 in Mackay and 15 in Toowoomba—were thrown out of work. A statement from liquidator BRI Ferrier said the Telegraph's director thought he could obtain enough funds from third parties to propose a Deed of Company Arrangement to creditors, but funding to provide cash flow for continued operations during the liquidation period, had not been forthcoming.

"We, as liquidators, will continue our investigations into the financial affairs, including the resultant insolvency of the company and report to creditors and The Australian Securities and Investments Commission accordingly," the statement said. The *Mackay Telegraph* began publication on 10 March 2012 and the *Toowoomba Telegraph* began on 13 October 2012. The *Queensland Telegraph*, serving Rockhampton and Gladstone, was launched on 23 June 2012, closed after 12 months' publication (see ANHG 67.3.1, 68.3.5, 69.3.2, 70.2.2, 70.3.7, 70.3.8, and 73.3.7)

74.3.5 Dandenong: Star News acquires *Journal*

The Star News Group, based on Pakenham in Melbourne's south-east, has acquired the *Dandenong Journal* from Metro Media Publishing (MMP). It is the only one of MMP's former eight eastern titles that remained open after the June closures. Star News Group managing director Paul Thomas said the group had worked closely with former owners—David Syme & Co, Rupert Murdoch and Fairfax Media.

Star News grew out of the newspaper—the Berwick News and Pakenham and Cranbourne Gazette—that Thomas's great-grandfather, Albert Edward Thomas, started at Berwick, near Pakenham, in 1909. The paper is now the *Pakenham-Berwick Gazette*. With the recent acquisition of the *Armidale Independent*, *Tweed Coast Weekly* and *Port Macquarie Independent* in NSW, and the *Southern Free Times* in Warwick, Queensland, Star News now has a three-state network of 27

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community newspapers with a combined circulation of more than 578,000 a week. (See also: Neil McMahon, “Surviving Melbourne’s suburban print challenges”, *Mediaweek*, 29 July 2013, p.7.)

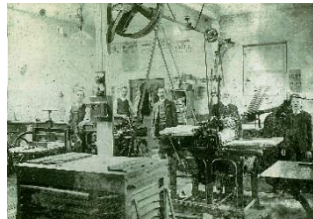
74.3.6 Armidale: *Express* manager retires

Lorraine Coffey has retired after 23 years as general manager of the *Armidale Express*. For much of that time she was also managing the *Guyra Argus* and the *Walcha News*. Coffey has been replaced by Angela Bourke, who grew up in Armidale but has had wide experience in advertising, especially with APN News & Media Ltd. In 2008, while working for the *Queensland Times*, Ipswich, she was named APN News and Media Sales Manager of the Year (*Armidale Express*, 15 August 2013; *Guyra Argus*, 8 March 2013).

74.3.7 Murray Bridge: Sports columnist hits four figures

Harold McLaren chalked up a significant milestone in country newspaper sports writing on 10 September. His 1000th successive weekly “Sports Scene” column was published in the *Murray Valley Standard*, South Australia. The editor, Sharon Hansen, paid tribute to McLaren in her column that day. She said McLaren had been contributing sports reports to the *Standard* for more than 50 years and the “Sports Scene” column since September 1994. He had never missed a deadline. “To many people, he is the face of the *Standard* because they see him at all of our local sporting venues, come rain or shine.” Hansen said McLaren had done “so much to enrich people’s lives, especially through his love of history and sport”. McLaren’s “column”, by the way, has been a full tabloid page for “many years”.

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: Harold McLaren has been an ANHG subscriber since early 2002. He is the expert on the history of newspapers at Murray Bridge and I interviewed him on 4 February 2003 when I visited the town on a South Australian research trip. He provided an enormous amount of assistance on local newspaper history. This helped me greatly in preparing my article, “Murray Bridge took its time to cross publishing barriers”, *PANPA Bulletin*, March 2005, pp.58-59, and in writing about Murray Bridge in *A Short History of the Australian Country Press*.



4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

74.4.1 Australia at war, 1939: How we found out

Victor Isaacs writes: For most of the British Empire, World War II commenced on Sunday, 3 September 1939. Following the German invasion of Poland on 1 September, Britain and France presented a joint ultimatum demanding German withdrawal by 11am Greenwich Time, 3 September (8pm Australian Eastern Time: AET). After the ultimatum expired, the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, made a statement to a special session of the House of Commons. His statement concluded about 8.20pm (AET). With radio news in its infancy and newspapers as the main method of news dissemination, how did Australians receive the momentous news that they were at war?

Some capital city newspapers published special Sunday evening editions. The problem of news dissemination was much greater in Victoria, because a conjunction of extreme Sabbath observance and the commercial interests of the established publishers of the weighty weekday papers had resulted in making Sunday newspapers illegal. The *Sunday (Newspapers) Act*, no. 1033 of 1889

imposed very heavy penalties for publishing newspapers on Sundays. On a third and subsequent offence this could extend to the seizure of the plant and machinery used. However, an exception was allowed for the “purpose solely of giving immediate information of any news of great national or public importance”. This was not to occur on more than three Sundays in a year. (The only other jurisdictions that I am aware of that banned Sunday newspapers were South Australia – but there the custom was to publish on Saturday night, at about 11.30 pm - and Canada).

Therefore in **Melbourne** at the beginning of September 1939 there had been news starvation since the previous Saturday afternoon. The Melbourne evening newspaper, the *Herald*, published a four-page, ad-free “EXTRAORDINARY EDITION” on Sunday evening, 3 September 1939. Pages 1, 2 and 3 were packed full of war news, photographs and maps.

On Monday, the *Sun News-Pictorial*, sister paper of the *Herald*, published an article (p.10), headed:

**How Melbourne Heard the News
Crowds Rush War Editions in City and Suburbs;
No Demonstration Made**

It reported that extraordinary editions the previous evening had sold almost as soon as they came off the presses. The *Argus* and the *Age*, both morning papers, also published on that Sunday evening. I have not been able to ascertain details of the *Age*'s effort. However, the next day, Monday 3 September, an article recorded (page 10): **Scene In The City: The Age's Office Thronged**. The *Argus* published a four-page “EXTRAORDINARY” edition. The main article took up the entire front page in large type, much of it in bold capitals. However, the *Argus*, apparently at short notice, could not produce enough large type bold capital “E”s. Small non-bold “E”s are used in three places in the middle of words, giving a very odd appearance. Next day, the *Argus* reported: “Groups of people reading special editions of the newspapers and the calls of the news-sellers were the only signs in the city last night that Melbourne had received the most momentous news of the century.”

In **Sydney** both the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Daily Telegraph* published special editions on Sunday evening, 3 September. The *Tele*'s was designated “SPECIAL EXTRA” (see right), was four pages and carried no advertisements. It contained news, photographs and maps. The *Daily Telegraph* had already published a four-page “EXTRA SPECIAL EDITION” on Friday afternoon, 1 September, conveying the news of the German invasion of Poland. It contained two pages of news, then two pages of photographs, headed respectively “Armed Forces of Nations” and “A World Prepared For War” (and no ads). This special edition would have competed with, or complemented, the then sole Sydney afternoon paper, the *Sun*.

On Monday 4 September, the *Daily Telegraph* reported (page 7): “A few minutes after the news that Britain was at war was received last night, excited groups of people gathered in Sydney's formerly deserted streets. At King's Cross hundreds mobbed newspaper sellers and gathered on the pavement. A newspaper boy was trampled in the rush of the crowd to get newspaper special war editions. At one stage, when only a few copies were left, buyers were giving the paper-sellers 1/- and 2/- for a 1½d copy.”

Details of the *Sydney Morning Herald*'s Sunday evening edition are unavailable, but next day the *SMH* reported (p.9): “People returning to their homes from Church services and pleasure outings



gravely read the news in extraordinary editions of city newspapers. The first special edition of the *Herald* was published soon after Mr Chamberlain had finished speaking. Two other editions containing supplementary news including the declaration of the Prime Minister Mr Menzies that Australia was at war with Germany, were issued later.”

The **Brisbane** *Courier-Mail* also issued a special edition. I cannot locate a copy, but next day’s paper had a photo caption (page 9): “The Sunday night crowd in the city eagerly bought the special edition of *The Courier-Mail* which announced the news that Britain and the Empire were at war.”

It is hard to track down many details of these special editions, because oddly, copies of these issues of the *Age*, *Argus*, Melbourne *Herald*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Courier-Mail* are not included in either the microfilm record of the National Library (and presumably not in the equivalent microfilms at the State Libraries of Victoria, NSW and Queensland) nor on the National Library’s Trove electronic resource. However, both special editions of the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* are included with the microfilm record.

A reproduction of the front page of the Sunday evening *Sydney Daily Telegraph* also appears in *Over One Hundred & Fifteen years of News From The Daily Telegraph Mirror*, (1995) compiled by Christopher Wright. A reproduction of the front page of the Sunday evening edition of the Melbourne *Argus* appears in *Famous Front Pages in Modern Australian History 1923-1973*, Heritage Publications, Melbourne, 1973. A reproduction of all of the special edition of the Melbourne *Herald* is currently available at the Australian War Memorial shop for \$5.95, plus postage estimated at \$1.20.

There were no special editions in Adelaide, Perth, Hobart or Canberra, nor, as far as I have been able to ascertain, by any country daily newspaper. However, there were some unusual features in some country dailies.

The **Launceston Examiner** changed its layout from Monday 4 September, the first day of the war. Hitherto page 1 had the old-fashioned layout of being devoted to classified advertisements. From this day, the main news of the day appeared there. (This change also occurred then for London’s *Daily Mail*). The **Goulburn Evening Penny Post** on Saturday, 2 September, inserted a special small sheet of paper, printed on one side only, with the latest overseas news designated “BULLETIN SPECIAL CABLE SERVICE”. The **Mildura Sunraysia Daily** on Monday 4 September abandoned its usual practice of devoting its front page to local news, to highlight the outbreak of war.

74.4.2 Hill End newspapers

Lorraine Purcell, of the Hill End and Tambaroora Gathering Group, NSW, writes: Two additional issues of the *Hill End and Tambaroora Times and Miners Advocate*, located in the depths of the Mitchell Library manuscript collection in 2010, have been preserved and microfilmed by the State Library of NSW and are now available as separate microfilm when requesting the entire collection at the library. The two issues now available are 18 and September 1874.

We now have a total of nine issues available to us and we are still wondering where the rest have gone, considering that it was published twice a week for at least five years until its demise on 29 January 1876. The first issue (the SL has a partial copy) that we can locate is 23 September 1871 (Vol. 1, No 31). The final issue available to us is dated 30 October 1875 (Vol. 4, no. 418), so there must be about 410 + issues that are missing!

According to the banner the newspaper was circulated throughout “Hill End, Tambaroora, Bathurst, Sofala, Hargraves, Mudgee, Gulgong, Windeyer, and the Western Mining District”. One can only wonder if there are copies sitting in someone’s cupboard, or even under the lino in some of these other villages, or even their local or family history collections with the current owners not really realising that it is such a rare item.

Some years ago I began indexing the issues but unfortunately the files became corrupted and are really no longer of much use. This project was not resurrected as it was decided that we should

apply to have it all digitised and placed on Trove and the Gathering Group is only too happy to sponsor this project. After all it is a total of only 44 pages or so. Once it is on Trove and the OCR corrected fully it will then be available to be searched in the usual way.

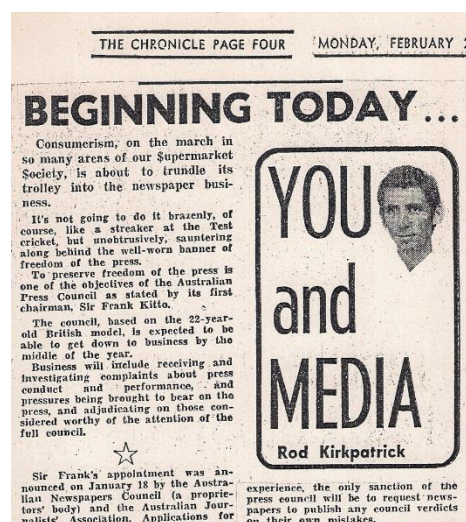
The two new issues reveal that the editor at the time (ca 1873-1874) was John Stanley-Lowe who took over from Richard Egan-Lee. Lee went on to establish the Victorian *Police News* and he seems to have earned some notoriety in the Melbourne press because of this publication and his associated activities. He died a “miserable death” in Adelaide on 31 March 1883 (“abject poverty and deplorable misery surrounded the chamber of death”—*Evening News*, 31 May 1883, p.3). We have at least now identified three editors over this period, the other being George William Morison, who took over from Lowe. [Lorraine has written this and more in the September issue of the twice-yearly *Hill End and Tambaroora Gathering Group Newsletter* which you can view at <http://heatgg.org.au/he/publications/newsletter/>

74.4.3 Time flies (2)

ANHG editor **Rod Kirkpatrick** continues his reminiscences: The first problem I struck in working in tertiary education was understanding the jargon, especially the acronyms (such as WSUs—weighted student units). The Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education (DDIAE) was operating on a three-term year when I arrived in Toowoomba in October 1975. [The poet Bruce Dawe was a literature lecturer there and caught the bus to the West Street campus each day.]

On election day, 13 December (the Whitlam Government had been sacked on 11 November), I left Toowoomba to drive to Bathurst to attend the first national meeting of journalism lecturers. On 15 and 16 December the lecturers resolved to form the Australian Association for Tertiary Education in Journalism—the forerunner of what is now the Journalism Education Association of Australia.

By the beginning of the 1976 academic year, I was contributing a weekly media column to the Toowoomba *Chronicle* (see ANHG 26.50). Former top editor and media executive Colin Bednall had been contributing a fortnightly media column to the Melbourne *Age* since the previous March, but my column was described by Henry Mayer as “to my knowledge the first weekly media column on this topic in any Australian newspaper” (*Media Information Australia*, July 1976, p.189). My first column, which appeared on 2 February 1976 (see right), focused on the announcement that the Australian Press Council would begin operating that year. Sir Frank Kitto, a former High Court judge, had just been appointed chairman and I interviewed him in Armidale by phone from Toowoomba.



In the various columns I covered such events as the changes in the media that had resulted during the Whitlam era. Despite the political nature of a lot of my columns, the only column that struck problems at the *Chronicle* was one about the joint advertising agreement which the local 10-4-5 TV channel had established with various other channels. *Chronicle* editor Bruce Hinchliffe was away at the time and his deputy refused to publish the column. It was published two weeks later (26 July) when Hinchliffe returned.

My second column, “There’s little star attraction in a hail storm”, compared the “news values” Queensland newspapers applied to cyclones with those applied to a hail storm. Toowoomba had been savaged by a hail storm on 10 January 1976 (precisely 35 years later the inland tsunami struck the city). It received much less attention in the Brisbane press than Cyclone David which caused far less destruction. I concluded: “Hellish as a humble hail storm may be for a quarter of an hour, it is not in the same ‘news’ league as Tracy, Althea, David and co.”

My fourth column (23 February) focused on how Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen manipulated the media. On 14 June I wrote about Colin Bednall whose column, “The Media”, in the *Age* had ceased on 16 February and who had died on 26 April. Bednall said in a letter to me that he had not received as good a run in the *Age* since the death of editor Graham Perkin the previous October.

In Toowoomba, in the midst of contributing the weekly column, I became *North* magazine’s Toowoomba correspondent. *North* was a new monthly insert in the seven regional dailies owned by Provincial Newspapers (Qld) Ltd.

I ceased contributing the column, “You & Media”, on 6 September 1976, as the pressure of meeting my academic commitments mounted. I contributed another *Chronicle* article, “Missing the newspaper”, on 14 March 1977 after a prolonged printers’ strike at regional dailies. And from time to time I wrote letters to the editor that were published—on a range of issues from the confusion apparent at several major traffic intersections in Toowoomba to “ambit claims”, “what makes news” (13 August 1981) and the importance of writers of letters to the editor being identified.

74.4.4 Trove (1): Glass-plate negatives

The first batch of the glass-plate negatives from the Fairfax Glass Plate Collection has now been digitised and published. The images capture significant events, news and everyday life in Australia during the early 1900s. Fairfax Media donated more than 18,000 glass-plate photographic negatives to the National Library in December 2012. Since then, the Library has been undertaking an extensive project to restore, digitise and catalogue the collection. Explore the first 4,000 images in Trove.

74.4.5 Trove (2): Women’s pages

Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley writes: I’m delighted to advise that in the course of researching her entry on “women’s pages” for *A Companion to the Australian Media*, Dr Justine Lloyd has developed a public list in the National Library’s Trove searchable database of digitised newspapers, which is archived here with her research notes: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/list?id=42452>

74.4.6 The last days of newspapers

Rachel Buchanan has written a 40,000-word book, *Stop Press: the last days of newspapers* (expected to be published Scribe in October 2013). It combines reportage, archival research and memoir to document the final era of the mass manufacturing of newspapers in Australia and New Zealand. It documents the collapse in newsprint-making, the closure of metropolitan printing presses and the outsourcing and off-shoring of newspaper work, including subediting and advertising production.

74.4.7 South Australian press articles

Brian Samuels has recently finished updating the Subject Index to the *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* Nos 1-40 for publication soon. The index is an updating and consolidation of the “Subject Index to the *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* Nos 1-20 (1974 [sic] - 1992)” which appeared in the 1993 Journal and its successors for Nos 21-25 (1998 Journal) and 26 - 30 (2003 Journal). The newspaper-history related articles are:

Bartrop, P., “South Australia and the Nuremberg Trials: Perceptions of Inhumanity and Justice”, 22, pp.98-112.

Cockburn, S., “Looking Back with a Light Heart”, 20, pp.97-104.

Manuel, D., “Roads not taken’: Some minor concerns of Adelaide’s newspapers at the mid-nineteenth century, 8, pp.84-91.

Saunders, M., “For Renmark and the South Australian Riverland: Harry Samuel Taylor and the *Murray Pioneer*, 1873-1932”, 23, pp.82-96.

Saunders, M., “Harry Taylor, the *Murray Pioneer*, and the Issue of German War Guilt 1905-26”, 26, pp.112-135.

Seaman, K., “The Press and the Aborigines: South Australia’s First Thirty Years”, 18, pp.28-36.

Stevenson, C., “From Pariah to Pacesetter: The Adelaide Media and the Quakers, 1915-1923”, 19, pp.165-172.

Stevenson, C., “Sharply On The Watch: C.R. Wilton (1855-1927) – A Forgotten Journalist”, 25, pp.119-131.

74.4.8 Grant helps gathering of oral histories of printers

Benjamin Thorn has received an \$1100 grant from the NSW government to help him continue cataloguing the stories of veterans of the print industry (*Armidale Express*, 28 August 2013). As the curator of the Museum of Printing, Armidale, Thorn has been collecting the oral history of veterans on the print industry for six years. The money will help his project to further understand the history of printing. “When you’ve got a museum you’ve got to put the equipment you’ve got into context such as knowing about the people who use it,” he said. “A lot of things people have told was when they started work a job would be spread over three or four days, now with computers people expect it in half an hour. This is one of the drawbacks of modern technology, you can do anything and you can do it really fast but you don’t have time to think about what you’re doing.

Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall said it was great to be able to support historical studies. “This funding will help Mr Thorn with his research and the transcribing of the many interviews he’s conducted. Since beginning this project he’s interviewed more than 80 people; the oldest was 99 and began working in the printing industry in 1930,” he said



5-RECENTLY PUBLISHED

74.5.1 Books

Hastings, David, *Extra! Extra! How the people made the news*, Auckland University Press, paperback 287 pages \$NZ 45, includes illustrations A history of newspapers in Auckland in the nineteenth century. A theme of the book is that newspapers have not manipulated opinions, rather they have been responsive to people’s interests.

Reviews: Kenneth Sanz, a long-time amateur newspaper historian, reviews the following books:

Ryan, Colleen, *Fairfax: The Rise and Fall*. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 2013. 288pp.

Williams, Pamela, *Killing Fairfax: Packer, Murdoch & the Ultimate Revenge*, Sydney: HarperCollins, 2013, 352pp.

The recent publication of *Killing Fairfax*, written by Pamela Williams, and *Fairfax: The Rise and Fall*, by Colleen Ryan, tell of the machinations between the board and management of Fairfax Media and how and why it lost its shareholder value. Fairfax has attracted a lot of books on its history and management, and these two continue the intriguing story of why Fairfax has lost its value over the years since the disastrous 1987 buy-out by Warwick Fairfax jun. Even what seems to have been a reverse takeover of Rural Press, left the incumbent J. B. Fairfax, who took over for a period after the merger, with no shareholding of any value left in the company. Burdened by debt and shrinking profits, the board seemed to be mesmerised by the notion of the death of newspapers and its own circulation declines to such an extent that it failed to see what the future of its newspapers held.

The focus seems to be to get the internet to get advertising particularly the classified or line ads back into the papers and to restore the titles of its metropolitan papers back into the black. The

company embarked on finding a high profile management guru as chairman of the board. After a number of changes of management, it has now opted for someone with newspaper experience. Some of the investments the company went into were not too bad. Both authors warn against investing in more newspapers. In fact they imply that Rural Press, because it did not yet have the problems of the metropolitan mastheads, thought that using their own model would bring about the results desired. It did not; in fact, they simply set board members against each other as well as staff.

The so called rivers of gold relied on a monopoly situation, not understood by modern management who thought competition would come from other newspapers, but in reality it came from new media, the internet and now smart phones. The classifieds were overpriced, because they were a successful monopoly in both Sydney and Melbourne. Instead of doing something about this by giving advertisers a second site on the internet and a cheaper rate, the company lost most of this. Advertising in the last ten to fifteen years was cheaper on the internet and the coverage was far broader than Sydney and Melbourne.

Investing in internet companies such as car sales, real estate and jobs as a system in its own right would have provided the necessary income to overcome print losses. The board just did not see this coming. They wanted to save print; with little money for publicity, to save and increase circulation and attract more advertising, they lost what income they had and embarked on a staff sacrificing binge to try to remain afloat. Unfortunately, both books say little about the circulation slide and why new readers are not found. Little is said about the poor choice of what is news and an understanding of what people want. Fairfax does not use its other newspapers to find stories the public will read to attract readers. New Zealand, where Fairfax is strong, is covered sparsely in its metropolitan titles, even with the recent earthquake in Wellington.

Both books are well written and cogently argued. Apparently Rupert Murdoch has read them, how else would he correct the mistake by changing a management guru in Kim Williams for a retired former manager of the Herald and Weekly Times!

Has Fairfax learned its lessons? Some say no as it sold Trade Me in New Zealand instead of holding on to it and reaping better rewards for the whole company. Currently its holiday rentals website **Stayz** is making money and it is questioned whether it is being groomed for sale. I do believe that in the right hands Fairfax has a future, but if it does not heed the basis of both these books, News Limited will be the one newspaper monopoly in the metropolitan areas.

74.5.2 Articles

Barry, Paul, *Breaking News: Sex, Lies & the Murdoch Succession*, 2013, Allen & Unwin, hardback, 480 pages, \$39.99 (\$29.99 at Dymocks). The phone hacking/bribery scandal at News Corp's *News of the World* and *Sun*, the break-up of the News Corp into two companies, and the question of the family succession in the Murdoch family.

Bridges, Scott, "Caught on a moving train", *Canberra Times* "Inside Story" Swinburne University supplement, September-October edition, Tuesday 27 August 2013, p.19. Journalism is increasingly becoming a matter of selecting from an avalanche of material.

Butler, Ben, "The old guard returns to run Murdoch empire", *Sydney Morning Herald* Business section, 10 August, p.4 (and *Age* Business section, p.4).

Chessell, James, and Hyland, Anne, "Allan puts punch back into News", *Australia Financial Review*, 5 August 2013, pp.1, 52 and 53. An analysis of the editorial and financial situation of News Corp's Australian newspapers, against the background of the appointment of the Australian, Col Allan (editor of the *New York Post*), to review them

Elliott, Tim, "How Williams was cut down ", *Sydney Morning Herald*, Saturday 10 August, p.1 (also in *Age*, p.1, "How News Ltd cut its CEO"; and *Canberra Times*, p. 2, "How Williams was cut down").

Ferguson, Adele, “Boot went in after footy coup, *SMH* Business section, 10 August p.1; also in *Age* Business section, p. 1; and *Canberra Times*, Business section, p. 5.

Guthrie, Bruce, “There are two kinds of truth: what happened and what News Ltd says happened”, *Sun-Herald*, 11 August, pages 32-33.

Hull, Crispin, “And the winner is: News Ltd’s propaganda, *Canberra Times*, 7 September 2013. Review of coverage of the Federal election by News Ltd newspapers, concluding that without News Ltd’s campaign, Labor would have stood a chance of winning.

Kirkpatrick, Rod, “Front line in a war of words”, *GXpress*, August 2013, pp.34-35. The steam-driven press of Barcaldine’s anti-union *Western Champion* was just metres from the headquarters of the striking shearers in 1891.

Knight, Elizabeth, “Man overboard as Murdoch clings to past”, *Age*, 10 Aug 2013, Business, p.5.

Maiden, Malcolm, “Williams has gone, but problems at News remain”, *Sydney Morning Herald* Business section, 10 August p.9 (and *Age*, Business section, p.2 as “News boss departs, but problems remain”; and *Canberra Times*, Business section, p. 5, as “Williams has gone but News’ problems remain for his successor”).

Money, Lawrence, “Lasting legacy of city’s newsboy tradition”, *Age*, 5 August, p.15. A brief history of Melbourne’s newsboys and the City Newsboys Club.

Robins, Brian, “Upheaval at News as Williams quits”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, Business section, 10 August, p. 5 (and *Age*, Business section, p.5).

Simons, Margaret, “Pressures on the old press”, *Sydney Morning Herald* Spectrum section, 17 August 2013, pp.30-31 (and *Age*, Life & Style section, pp.24-25, as “A struggle to survive”; *Canberra Times*, Panorama section, pp.22-23, “Press against the wall”). A review of two recent books about the troubles of the Fairfax Media company, Colleen Ryan’s *Fairfax: The Rise and Fall* (Miegunyah Press) and Pamela Williams’ *Killing Fairfax: Packer, Murdoch and the Ultimate Revenge* (Harper Collins).

Tabakoff, Nick, “Tyres go flat on the campaign caravan”, *Australian*, Media section, 12 August 2013, p.23. An examination of why fewer political journalists now opt to jump on the campaign caravan to report the lead-up to an election. Quote from Michael Gawenda: “Most editors have realised the campaign caravan is full of fake crap.”

Tiffin, Rod, “Punching power of the press”, *Canberra Times*, Friday 30 September 2013. The events leading up to and the fist fight in 1960 in Sydney between Sir Frank Packer’s sons and Murdoch employees over ownership of the Anglican Press [It produced the memorable headline in the *Daily Mirror*: “Knight’s sons in city brawl”.]

Waterford, Jack, “News stance has little sway: Murdoch backs likely winners then claims credit when they win”, *Sunday Canberra Times*, 11 August, p.17.

74.5.3 Other items

Play: Williamson, David, *Rupert*, Melbourne Theatre Company, 24 August – 28 September. A critical review of Rupert Murdoch and his newspapers.

TV Drama: *Power Games: The Packer-Murdoch Story*, Nine Network, Sundays 8 and 15 September. Rupert Murdoch’s entry into the Sydney newspaper market and rivalry with Sir Frank Packer in the 1960s and 1970s, and founding of the *Australian*.

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