



A collage of front pages and special sections of some Australian newspapers published to mark the centenary of the Anzac landing at Gallipoli.

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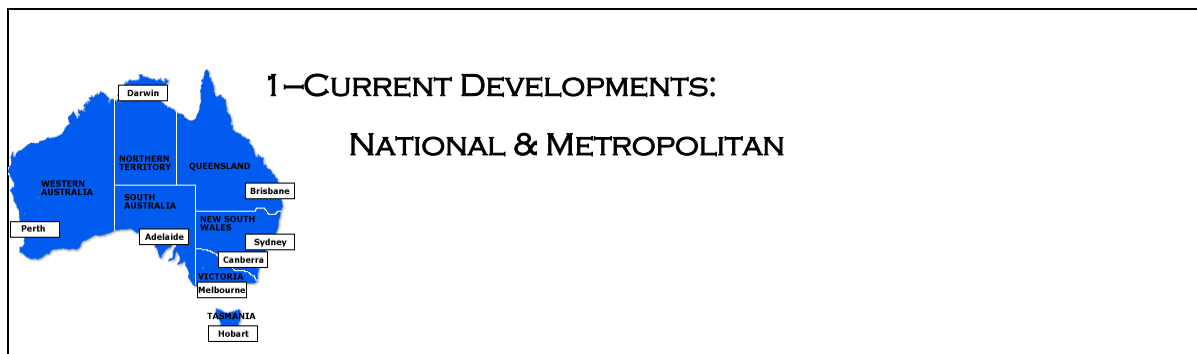
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Subscription details appear at end of *Newsletter*. [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]

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



82.1.1. Jewish newspaper and a whistleblower

The *Australian Jewish News* (*AJN*) has made a senior journalist redundant after he passed on information that helped a royal commission and led to the resignation of Australia's most senior Rabbi (*Australian*, Media section, 2 March 2015). Adam Kamien, who had worked for *AJN* since 2006, became the only person in the newsroom to be made redundant following an internal investigation into how text messages ended up being used by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The text message, sent from the Rabbi Meir Kluwgant to the editor of the *AJN*, Zeddy Lawrence, and read out at the royal commission, described the father of an abuse victim as a "lunatic" who neglected his children. "Zephaniah is killing us. Zephaniah is attacking Chabad. He is a lunatic on the fringe, guilty of neglect of his own children. Where was he when all this was happening?" Under intense cross examination, Rabbi Kluwgant said he sent the message to Lawrence during the commission evidence of Zephaniah Waks, father of victim and whistleblower Manny Waks. Soon after admitting to the text, Rabbi Kluwgant resigned as president of the Organisation of Rabbis of Australasia.

Yeshiva College sex abuse victim Manny Waks told the *Australian* Kamien was a whistleblower who courageously ensured that justice was done. "In my view it's clear that the journalist was effectively dismissed for disclosing to me a vital bit of evidence for submission to the royal commission," he said. "Had the text message not been disclosed, Rabbi Kluwgant would probably still have his senior leadership positions and victims and their families would still be accused of exaggerating the intimidation. The journalist's disclosure ensured the truth was told. It vindicated us fully."

The *AJN* launched an internal investigation into how the text message found its way to the royal commission and Kamien was suspended on full pay pending the outcome of an investigation. A few days later the *AJN* confirmed it had concluded its investigation and would "take no further action in relation to the matter". But on Friday, 27 February, group general manager Rod Kenning sent an email to staff saying that Kamien's position as senior journalist had become redundant as part of a restructure of the editorial team.

82.1.2 New direction for Press Council

New Australian Press Council chairman David Weisbrot sees the body playing a more active role in the defence of freedom of speech and freedom of the press, as part of a recalibration that distances him from the previous administration (*TheNewspaperWorks*, 4 March 2015). A former president of the Australian Law Reform Commission, Professor Weisbrot formally took over on 2 March from Professor Julian Disney, who had been the subject of criticism by publishers over the direction he had taken the council. Prof Weisbrot wants to develop processes that lead to more involvement of the full council, particularly on issues involving any third party complaints. He would prefer to move away from hard and fast rulings on these.

On the subject of freedom of speech, Prof Weisbrot said, "I'd like to see the press council do more in protecting and arguing for press freedom and freedom of free speech," he said. "Individual organisations within the council do this from time to time, but it may be a more powerful voice if the press council is involved formally in the debate." Prof Weisbrot cited the current metadata legislation as an example. He said this involved "increased surveillance that would be a detriment

to investigative journalism, in particular". He said his overall goal would be for the press council to play a more active role on these matters.

82.1.3 *Age* says sorry

You have probably heard the old saying that "doctors bury their mistakes, lawyers hang theirs and newspaper editors put theirs on the front page". On 4 March the *Age* acknowledged that it had made a big mistake on its front page in September 2014. The apology, which appeared on Page 1 under the heading, "The *Age* says sorry", read:

"The *Age* has reached a settlement with the young man wrongly identified in a photograph as part of its coverage of the police shooting of Numan Haider in Endeavour Hills. As part of the settlement, and in an effort to support the Muslim community in the area, the proposed Afghan mosque in Doveton has received a significant funding boost. The mosque project was given a cheque for \$20,000 by the *Age* on Monday [2 March]. Last September, the *Age* published a photograph of Mr Abu Bakar Alam on its front page. The editor-in-chief, Andrew Holden, said the *Age* had immediately accepted that it had made a terrible mistake, removed the photograph from its website and had no hesitation in apologising to Mr Alam.

"I have met with Mr Alam and he is an impressive young man. There is no question that he and his family had no association with Haider, or any terrorist activities. On behalf of the *Age*, I apologise again for the error that we made. It is a mark of the Alam family that, in reaching a settlement with the *Age*, they wanted their local community to benefit, and the *Age* is pleased to be able to support them in this way."

The Afghan mosque project will develop a new centre on industrial land in Green Street. It will be able to hold up to 600 people during festivals. The current mosque in Photinia Street is shared by a number of different communities and its facilities are unable to cope with demand. Mr Alam said: "Being wrongly identified as a terrorist was devastating and extremely hurtful to me and my family. I am happy and relieved that Fairfax has acknowledged it made a grave error and hope that such a mistake will never happen again. While I have suffered personally, I am pleased that some goodwill came out of what has happened to me through funds being provided for a new mosque." A number of other Fairfax papers and websites also carried the wrong image, and have apologised to Alam.

82.1.4 Recent chronology

82.1.4.1 Deaths

Ward, Peter Anthony: D. 17 March 2015 in Melbourne, aged 67; won 18 of 22 boxing bouts as an amateur, including the Victorian featherweight title; press photographer for 45 years until 2009 with the *Herald Sun* and its predecessor; won Walkley Award in 1994 (*Herald Sun*, 18 March 2015).

82.1.5 Journalists, sources and metadata laws

In the wake of the federal government's new metadata laws, News Corp Australia CEO Julian Clarke has said journalists would be wise to stop using text messages and email to communicate with sources (*Australian*, 23 March 2015). He says journalists should be aware that their current forms of communication are highly visible. "The fact that a journalist's sources can be looked at without the journalist or the company knowing is not optimum from our point of view," Clarke said.

Clarke should take precautions to protect their sources by doing things such as meeting in person. "We really believe in this idea that people can come to us with important matters of national interest and we want to protect that," he said. "Journalists, because they're smart people, will protect their sources. If that means meeting face to face, then they will do that. This is so important to a community like ours, a democracy, that people feel they can talk to journalists in confidence. With the laws as they are, you'll get journalists being very careful as to how those discussions take place. We are a highly scrutinised public."

News Corp has welcomed the amendments to the federal government's legislation on metadata, where a "public interest advocate" would make a submission outlining the public interest argument for refusing or obtaining a "journalist information warrant". The number of agencies able to access metadata was reduced from 80 to 20. News Corp, along with other major media companies, had warned that the legislation would have a chilling effect on press freedom.

Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull said a week earlier the new legislation did not give authorities new powers to access journalists' sources but dealt with the period in which the metadata would be retained — increasing it to two years. While the amendments are designed to help prevent the identification of confidential sources, it is not an ideal outcome for media companies or journalists. Journalists and sources would not be told when the government was attempting to obtain their metadata and the public interest advocate would not be able to consult with affected journalists or media organisations. Journalists could be jailed for two years if they report on the government's attempts to obtain an information warrant.

82.1.6 Fairfax price increases

From 5 April the cover price of the *Sun-Herald* rose from \$2.80 to \$3. This follows a similar increase for the *Sunday Age* from 5 October. From 7 April the price of the *Australian Financial Review* rose from \$3.50 to \$3.80.

82.1.7 *Australian* (1): Senator Milne

At a Senate inquiry, Greens leader Christine Milne accused News Corp of generating a tax benefit from the newspaper (*Australian*, 9 April 2015). Senator Milne, who initiated the inquiry into the tax affairs of overseas tech giants such as Google, Apple and Microsoft, made the *Australian* the focus of her opening questions to News Corp Australia chief executive Julian Clarke. "Can you tell me what are the tax benefits that you get from running the *Australian* at a loss?" Senator Milne asked. Clarke said the *Australian* was run on a for-profit basis. "If it's a choice that I make between making a profit on a newspaper and paying tax or on the other side getting some tax benefit, the preference is always to make a profit," Clarke said.

Senator Milne asked Clarke why the *Australian* was continued when it was not profitable. Clarke passionately defended the *Australian's* values. Committee chairman Sam Dastyari said News Corp's submission was one of the most frank and detailed disclosures after the bosses of Google, Apple and Microsoft were unable to answer basic questions on the Australian tax affairs of their companies.

82.1.8 *Australian* (2): Profitability

Rising consumer revenue and a larger share of the advertising market have set the *Australian* on a "clear pathway back to profitability", according to the newspaper's chief executive, Nicholas Gray. He said the newspaper would return to profit soon. The improvement was supported by "strong revenue growth" following several years of losses. Gray said that thanks to a range of initiatives, including investments in digital media and greater efficiencies, the newspaper's overall bottom line had improved "substantially" since 2012-13, when the masthead posted a loss of \$27 million before depreciation in the wake of the GFC.

82.1.9 Jack Waterford leaves *Canberra Times* after 43 years

Jack Waterford retired from the *Canberra Times* on 30 April after 43 years (*Canberra Times*, 22 April 2015). Waterford, a former editor of the paper, now writes a weekly column as a freelance contributor. Joining the newspaper as a copy boy in February 1972, Waterford's first role as a junior reporter was on the police round. He went on to report from the courts and federal parliament. Over the years he has also written on industrial relations, ACT politics and planning, indigenous affairs and the public service. In 1985 Waterford received the prestigious Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year award for his pioneering work on accessing government documents through Freedom of Information legislation.

He rose through the ranks of the editorial department to the position of editor, in 1995, and editor-in-chief, in 2001. He has been editor-at-large since 2006. In 2007 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours for his services to journalism.

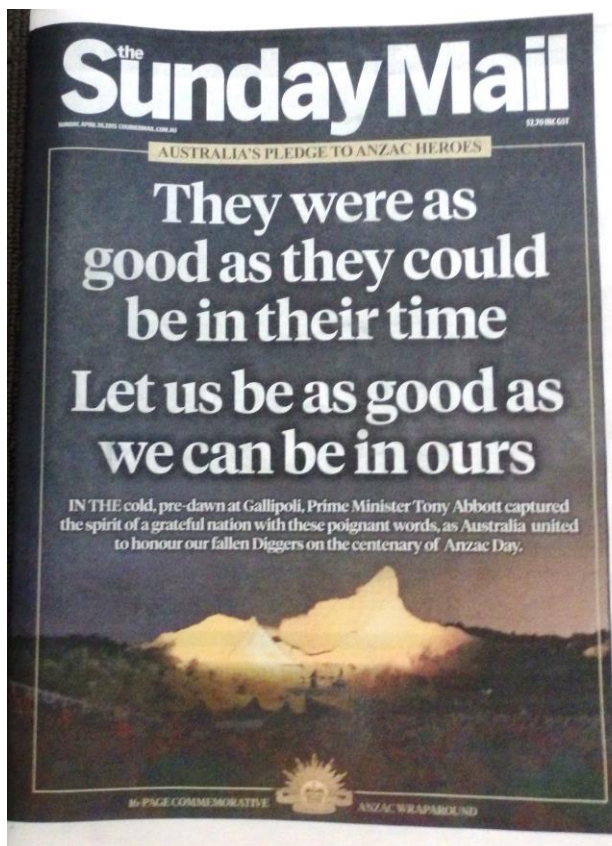


2—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: DIGITAL

82.2.1 Anzac centenary coverage

Both News Corp Australia and Fairfax Media reported huge engagement with their online Gallipoli centenary content (TheNewspaperWorks, 23 April 2015). A multimedia feature incorporating more than 140 archival photographs and extensive historical video was among the most popular pieces of coverage from Fairfax, while News ramped up its Anzac Live social media re-enactments which led to more than 30,000 Facebook accounts being engaged. News Corp's "Anzac Live" used social media accounts to recount the personal experience of people involved in the Dardanelles landing in their own voice, drawing on diary entries and historical documents. The accounts were run by teams of journalists. Campbell Reid, of News Corp, said before Anzac Day that the Anzac Live hashtag had reached 20 million social accounts and had been seen by five to six million people. "

News Corp Australia sent a combined 15 journalists and photographers to the commemoration. In addition, the *Daily Telegraph's* Janet Fife Yeomans travelled with war widows to the site and network reporter Mike Colman filed from London. Fairfax Media sent the *Age* national affairs editor Tony Wright, columnist Peter Fitzsimons and Middle East correspondent Ruth Pollard to the Gallipoli commemoration site. All filed video in addition to their usual role. Photographer Joe Armao and videographer Tim Doldissen was there to capture the event.



SUNDAY MAIL, BRISBANE, 26 APRIL 2015.

An interactive feature explaining the Gallipoli campaign was the centrepiece of Fairfax's centenary coverage. *The Story of Gallipoli*, produced during the past 12 months, featured historical video, 144 pictures individually colourised by a team in the Melbourne office and input from historian Dr Jonathan King. The interactive had had around 15,000 Facebook shares by 23 April, according to Martel.

There was also a 1.7 metre-long graphic which appeared in Fairfax's Saturday papers on 25 April; it was about the size of four broadsheet pages. Printed on one side was a map of Anzac Cove and the hills, and explainers around the broader context of the Gallipoli battle. On the other side was a list of the names of all the soldiers killed at Gallipoli.

The *Age* and the *Herald* featured a 16-page souvenir wrap on 24 April, followed by a *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, No 82, May 2015— 5

commemorative poster on the Saturday and an eight-page liftout in the *Sunday Age*. The liftout was 12 pages in the *Sun-Herald*. The *Herald Sun* published a glossy 48-page magazine on 18 April and the *Australian* featured a colour magazine produced with the Australian War Memorial.

82.2.2 News Corp CEO attacks *Mail Online*

The chief executive of News Corporation has strongly attacked the *Daily Mail*'s website, accusing it of operating like a "well-established kleptocracy" (*Australian*, 11 March 2015). Robert Thomson told US investors the British newspaper's global website Mail Online was guilty of "taking articles from other newspapers shamelessly without appropriate credit". His comments came after a former *Daily Mail* employee wrote a "scathing piece" for the US blog network Gawker about working in the British publication's New York newsroom that was published by News's Sydney metropolitan masthead the *Daily Telegraph*. James King wrote: "The Mail's editorial model depends on little more than dishonesty, theft of copyrighted material and sensationalism so absurd that it crosses into fabrication." It is understood that London-based lawyers acting for the *Daily Mail* have written to the *Daily Telegraph* to complain about the publication of the Gawker piece, in what is the latest chapter in a bitter feud between the two publishers.

82.2.3 Digital subscription achievements lauded

At Deutsche Bank's Media, Internet & Telecom Conference in Florida, News Corp CEO Robert Thomson lauded digital subscription achievements at the company's quality newspapers, singling out the *Australian*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Times* of London. He said charging people for access to online news attained more effective results for advertisers because the audience had more "intensity and affinity" for the brand, whereas free websites attracted passive, disloyal readers.

82.2.4 *Sunshine Coast Daily* and social media

The *Sunshine Coast Daily* has been internationally recognised for its highly successful social media presence which has allowed it to steer local and regional conversations. The International News Media Association has named the *Daily* as a finalist for the INMA Awards in the "best use of social media" category (TheNewspaperWorks, 11 March 2015). Mark Furler, the group editor for APN's Australian Regional Media division, which publishes the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, said the paper's huge social audience allowed it to draw directly on readers for their stories, and wield community influence. "For too long, news organisations have tried to dictate what the story is, and our approach is encouraging our readers – including our Facebook readers – to tell us what the stories are," Furler said.

82.2.5 Press Council and Facebook

Publishers have been given their first warning that they need to take more responsibility on social media. The Australian Press Council declared a breach in material used exclusively on a Facebook page, with the council viewing reader contributions on the platform as part of a masthead's online content (TheNewspaperWorks, 1 April 2015). The council upheld a complaint against Victorian community newspaper, the *Moorabool News*, for failing to remove offensive comments by users on its Facebook page. The comments were on a photo of a fatal car accident which, along with some derogatory comments by readers, caused great offence and were a breach of privacy of the family of the victim, according to the complainant.

The photo showed emergency services at the scene, with the car having struck a tree. The council ruled that while the photo would have been distressing to family members, it did not override the public interest justification, and did not breach any privacy as the victim could not be seen. It did not uphold that part of the complaint. But in relation to comments made by some Facebook users, the council's chair David Weisbrot said: "There can't be any public interest or news value in these personal comments which are, by any account, highly offensive to people who are grieving." The *Moorabool News* noticed and deleted some comments which contained explicit language, but did not remove a number of other sensitive comments – even when asked to do so by the victim's family. The victim's sister expressing her grief and outrage at the publication of the original post and some of the comments, demanding they be removed. "The fact that by then the report and comments may have already been read widely did not justify failing to delete them," the adjudication read.

The case has highlighted the ownership publishers must take over not just their own content, but anything that becomes a part of their online content, including reader contributions according to Professor Weisbrot.

The Press Council is also starting to see complaints about the use and attribution of Facebook photos. Many publishers and news agencies regularly publish photos taken from Facebook with little or no attribution, something that currently does not breach Facebook's guidelines, but could potentially run into the council's code on misleading or deceptive conduct. "In the past it may have been akin to a journalist visiting someone's house, and while their back is turned, grabbing a photo from the mantelpiece," Prof Weisbrot said. "Now that photos are out there everywhere it's become a more complicated and the ethics a little less certain. Some of the concerns expressed to us [are] that there has been no attribution at all."

82.2.6 Journalists to track readers

News Corp is set to roll out a real-time dashboard that will give its 2500 journalists unprecedented access to data on the size, demographics and location of the audiences their stories reach in digital and social media following a three-day data-centric "hackathon" at the end of April (*Australian*, 27 April 2015). And News Corp readers will be able to manage the permissions they give the company to send them information or exclude them from being contacted after staff developed a portal called iPrefer that will centralise customer consent information from across the company.

The two development projects were fast-tracked through Data Foundry, the first data-centric hackathon News Corp's innovation team has convened. Ten teams from Victoria, Queensland and NSW were at the company's Sydney head office to work out ways of using the vast pools of existing data, with the iPrefer portal and News IQ dashboard to go into production. The hackathon was the sixth News has held in about 18 months as head of innovation Mark Drasutis works to inject more of a start-up development culture into the publishing company, which increasingly competes with digital innovators such as Google and BuzzFeed.

Five projects have gone into production from previous innovation events, including a mobile advertising product that serves up ads that correlate with what a viewer is watching on TV. Peter Judd, from News group's editorial team, said a 20 per cent improvement in traffic from improved social and search promotion of stories — a likely outcome of journalists being able to see how their stories were performing via the News IQ dashboard — would equate to a 6.5 per cent increase in advertising revenue. "Most journalists don't post their stories on Facebook," Judd said. "It's about showing them where the fish are so they can cast their line into the pool instead of hoping they swim past."



3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

82.3.1 Victoria: Fairfax to cut 80 jobs in regions

About 80 jobs are expected to be lost when Fairfax Media implements various changes in its 13 Victorian regional newspapers. Fairfax has announced a suite of changes across its Victorian regional newspapers, which includes new editorial systems, visual redesigns as well as a program of redundancies (*TheNewspaperWorks*, 11 March 2015). Victorian journalists and sales staff were briefed in March. The changes are part of an 18-month plan that Fairfax subsidiary Australian Community Media announced last year. All 13 mastheads across Victoria will be revamped, although no titles will be closed. Newsrooms will adopt digital-first editorial practices. The

newsroom at the *Ballarat Courier* will become a centralised hub for services across the group, although each newspaper and its reporters will maintain a local footprint in their respective coverage areas. There will be around 80 full-time positions made redundant, including 62 newsroom management, subediting and photographic roles. The balance is made up of administration and sales staff.

“Journalists will report local news across multimedia, as well as be trained to write headlines, captions and fact-boxes,” ACM director John Angilley said in a statement. “Quality-checking processes and procedures will be in place and our editors will remain responsible for managing risk and maintaining editorial standards,” he said. “No final decisions have been made. It remains business as usual in other parts of our business as no plans for change have been developed in those regions. The Victorian proposal is the result of extensive consideration of the needs of the business.”

Gay Alcorn, a former *Age* journalist, wrote a long comment piece in **theguardian.com** on 15 April 2015. Some extracts follow:

Proposed cuts at 13 regional Fairfax Media newspapers in Victoria are so deep that they would all but finish the capacity of these local institutions to do public-interest journalism, as well as the bread and butter task of recording the stories of local people. All up, almost 40 per cent of editorial jobs would go under the proposal. 159 jobs would be slashed to fewer than 97— including 66 per cent of photography jobs.

Federal MP Andrew Broad has two newspapers in his vast electorate affected by Fairfax’s proposed cuts. The *Wimmera Mail Times* is set to lose five full time positions — two of its seven journalists, one of its two photographers, an editor and a production staffer. The idea is for a single editor and one photographer to serve three papers and their websites — the *Mail-Times*, the *Stawell Times News* and the *Ararat Advertiser*. That’s three large communities - Horsham, Stawell and Ararat — with a single editor and one photographer. [It is 95km by road from Horsham to Ararat.]

The *Ballarat Courier* serves Victoria’s second biggest regional city. It could lose 2.4 (full-time equivalent) journalists, a news director, chief of staff and three of its five photographers. The *Bendigo Advertiser* would lose 3.4 journalists, 2.5 special publications staff, two editorial leadership positions, more than four of its six photographers and a production staffer. The *Warrnambool Standard* would lose one journalist, two section editors, all 7.3 sub editors, and its photography staff would go from 4.2 positions to 1.5.

The *Border Mail* is a substantial regional newspaper that covers a large area straddling the Victorian and NSW border centred on Wodonga and Albury. It has won major awards for its stories on the impact of the drug ice in the region and its investigation into youth suicide. Under Fairfax’s proposal, it would lose all of its 11 subeditors, one journalist, three section editors and eight photographers, leaving it with just two to cover a vast area of substantial cities and smaller towns. They’re not just tweaking around the edges; they are disembowelling the place.

82.3.2 APN looks to Asia

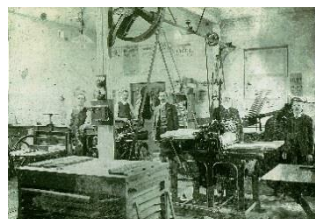
APN News & Media boss Michael Miller says the company will look to Asia for one of its growth strategies after News Corp Australia increased its stake in the radio business by an additional \$90 million (*Australian*, 23 March 2015). With greater liquidity in the company from new shareholders, Miller said he planned to pursue expansion opportunities in Asia, which included taking iHeart Radio into the region and growing the company’s Out-Of-Home advertising arm in Asia. News Corp Australia CEO Julian Clarke says that the company’s increased stake in APN is not the sign of a future play into the radio market and was simply a good investment in a company that has a strong future. “It’s an interesting company, it’s well run and we’re a believer in media. We think APN has a good future and is a good investment,” Clarke said.

News Corp’s \$90m purchase of 10 per cent of APN on 19 March, at 88c a share through Credit Suisse, took its total investment to 14.99 per cent of the media company, making it the second-largest investor after Allan Gray with 15.5 per cent. The deal is subject to ACCC and the Foreign Investment Review Board approval. APN resumed trading on the ASX on 20 March after Irish shareholder Independent News & Media and INM’s controlling shareholder, Irish billionaire Denis

O'Brien, exited the company in block trades worth about \$300m at Wednesday's closing price of 94c.

82.3.3 APN shuts one print site and re-opens another

APN News & Media is shutting down its Toowoomba print site and re-opening its print site at Warwick, reports **Peter Coleman** (*GXpress*, March 2015, p.30). A mothballed Manugraph Cityline press from the closed Ballina site is being installed at Warwick and will take on some of the work from Toowoomba. Production of APN's 10 Queensland dailies and its two northern NSW dailies will now rest with Rockhampton, Warwick and the productive coldset-heatset plant at Yandina on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland.



4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

82.4.1 Douglas Lockwood: The Petrov defection

Douglas Lockwood returned from World War II to his job as Melbourne *Herald* staff correspondent in Darwin. In 1954, remembering his inability to file the story of the bombing in 1942 (the post office was destroyed) he took precautions – clever precautions – when the Petrov affair headed his way. He later wrote (says son Kim):

On 19 April [1954] the Russians decided they had better get Mrs Petrov out of the country. They didn't want her in Australian hands to corroborate any of Vladimir's stories. At 1.13 p.m. she was hustled from the Canberra Embassy into the back seat of a car between guards Valery Karpinsky and Fedor Zharkov. The second secretary at the Embassy, F.V. Kislitsin, sat in front with the chauffeur. They headed for Sydney, 100 miles away.

A crowd at Sydney airport surged around Mrs Petrov. Her guards began to drag her across the tarmac towards the plane. It was then that she gave the first hint of her own feelings. "Help me! Save me!" she said in English, and then in Russian, "I do not want to go." Many in the crowd spoke or understood Russian. Police had to quell a near riot and the plane was delayed 15 minutes. Spectators fought, struggled, punched, kicked, and yelled while Karpinsky and Zharkov steered Mrs Petrov towards the gangway. She was weeping, and appeared ill. The guards exchanged blows with men who tried to get her away from them. Some followed the Russians up the steps, and had to be dragged away by police.

In Darwin, my telephone rang. Did I know Mrs Petrov was flying towards Darwin? Yes. It rang again. Did I know that the Prime Minister had instructed the Acting Administrator, Reginald Sylvester Leydin, to offer her political asylum when she arrived? No! Is that right? Are you sure? I drove around town. Lights were burning in unexpected places: in the Administration offices, the police superintendent's office, the security service offices. I set an alarm clock for 4am, and before going to bed sent precautionary telegrams to my Melbourne office: "Phone me every half-hour after 6am."

That was one of the wisest, perhaps luckiest, things I ever did. A few hours later, other journalists, trying frantically to get calls through to the south on lines jammed with government traffic, had to watch and listen helplessly as I dictated the complete story. My Melbourne office

was able to ring me on the reverse circuit, but I couldn't ring them. And at six o'clock, minutes were vital: the London morning papers were making up their first editions.

The aerodrome was bristling with armed policemen, from the Superintendent down. During the flight from Sydney Mrs Petrov had gone aft to the ladies' room and was followed by air hostess Joyce Bull. A few minutes later, Joyce passed on to Captain John Davys a warning from the sick and frustrated woman—her guards were armed. That message was flashed ahead to Darwin, where policemen cleaned and buckled on their pistols. As the Constellation taxied to a halt, they grouped around Reg Leydin, the Crown Law Officer, Keith Edmunds, and their own superintendent, Bill Littlejohn, at the foot of the gangway. The four Russians—Mrs Petrov, Karpinsky, Zharkov, and Kislitsin—were the last to get off.

Leydin approached Mrs Petrov to offer her asylum. Karpinsky and Zharkov tried to intervene, but Keith Edmunds and the policemen got between them. Zharkov struck at Edmunds, who was unarmed, with his briefcase. He was grabbed by Constables Gordon Raabe and Tom Hollow, and held while he was disarmed by Inspector Bill McKinnon. Karpinsky, not wanting to be left out, put his right hand inside his coat. I saw him reaching for what I guessed was a shoulder holster (it was) and quickly moved out of the firing line. But Karpinsky never made it. Sergeant Gregory Ryall, six foot one inch and weighing 225 pounds, stepped behind him, locked an arm under the Russian's throat, and yanked his chin back. Karpinsky's tongue shot out; he grimaced and groaned in pain while being relieved of his gun. He was then released.

Meanwhile, Reg Leydin was in earnest conversation with Mrs Petrov, who spoke fluent English, trying to establish whether she wanted asylum. She kept repeating, "But why should I stay; my husband is dead. I know he is dead. What is the use of staying here?" This, evidently, was the story she had been told by the Russians. Who had killed him? Why, the dreadful Australian kidnappers. She left Leydin and literally walked in circles, chewing her fingernails. Joyce Bull tried to console her. I have never seen greater mental torment reflected so clearly in the eyes of a human being. She was inconsolable.

I made an attempt to talk with Kislitsin, the senior Russian, but he was in snarling mood. "What is your freedom?" he shouted at me. "A lot of policemen with guns!" "Guns have just been taken from two Russian gentlemen," I reminded him. (Kislitsin himself was not searched.) "What do you say about that?" "I don't want to talk to you," he replied.

An hour went by. I was called to the phone, and dictated a story to Melbourne on what had happened. So far it was a no-decision contest. Mrs Petrov sat disconsolately in the lounge between Karpinsky and Zharkov, as though waiting for something to happen. Leydin approached her again and asked if she would like to talk to her husband by telephone. "Dead men don't talk," said Evdokia Petrov, the Communist realist. Rather than argue, Leydin signalled a security officer to get Vladimir Petrov on the line. That wasn't hard because Petrov was waiting in his hideout in NSW for just such a call, and a line had been kept open. But Leydin hadn't wanted to play this card until he was certain Mrs Petrov would talk to her husband. She would now have to do so to prove that he was or was not dead. In more ways than one, Reg Leydin that day was an outstanding diplomat.

There was a last-minute hitch because Kislitsin objected to a private telephone conversation between husband and wife. "This is a frame-up," he said. "She mustn't talk unless I am present." I certainly didn't object. Kislitsin's demand meant that Mrs Petrov went to a phone in the Customs lounge within earshot of anybody who wanted to listen. That meant everybody, including me. But she spoke in Russian. There was I, ear-wiggling, and not able to understand a word except the repeated '*Nyet! Nyet!*' of what must have been one of history's most dramatic conversations. I stood with Kislitsin and the guards behind her. The imperturbable Leydin was opposite.

The call lasted only two minutes. Later I learnt that Evdokia Petrov was a superb actress. She hung up abruptly, even angrily, and walked towards Leydin—with her back to everyone else, including the Russians. "No! No! That was not my husband!" she said, loudly. There was no mistaking that

she was a disillusioned woman, and now apparently ready to resume her flight. What I didn't know, and the Russians certainly didn't, is that as she spoke to Leydin she winked. Leydin was an equally good actor. His expression did not change, but his brain must have been working furiously.

"Well, then, Mrs Petrov, I will leave you now," he said, giving the Russians the impression they were going to win. "Goodbye and good luck." He began to move away, but at the last minute, as if by afterthought, touched her on the arm. "Would you like to sit in my office for a moment and have a short chat?" he said. "Yes, yes! A short conversation," she said, and followed Leydin into a nearby office. Once inside, she insisted that the doors be locked and moved away from a glass partition as though it was about to explode. The Russians, confident of their success, were temporarily caught off guard. When Kislitsin tried to follow Mrs Petrov he was kept outside on some plausible pretext, protesting loudly.

The phone rang. Melbourne calling Douglas Lockwood. I took the call and began dictating quickly, fearful lest I should now miss something of the drama. The connection was bad and I had to repeat sentences and spell words. I was in an agony of impatience, especially as I could not see Leydin's door from the telephone. But I need not have worried. One's friends are always one's friends, especially in the NT, and Kislitsin had helped me, no doubt unconsciously, by walking over to eavesdrop on my dictation. "Rubbish!" he said, as I spoke to Melbourne. "Nonsense! Lies. All lies!" "Shut up!" I said, in the best undiplomatic Australian I knew.

Mrs Petrov had been in the office less than five minutes when Keith Edmunds, an old friend who as Crown Law Officer was Leydin's chief assistant, approached and gave me a dig in the ribs. "Go away, Keith," I said. "I'm dictating." He gave me another poke in the ribs and winked. Then, turning to Kislitsin, he said, "Mr Kislitsin, I have to inform you on behalf of the Australian government that Mrs Petrov has accepted political asylum in this country. She will not be rejoining your aircraft." "Hold the line!" I yelled. I double-checked with Edmunds. "It's fair dinkum, Doug," he said.

"All right, Melbourne," I said, "here is a new story. First, an urgent-rate flash to London ... Mrs Evdokia Petrov decided here today to remain in Australia. She will rejoin her husband in exile." I dictated for 15 minutes, giving a complete cover of what had happened. When that was done, and the story "sewn up" as far as it had gone, I replaced the receiver. Thereafter the wires sang with official calls only; frustrated colleagues from opposing papers and agencies had to write their stories and lodge them by Press telegram, a slow and laborious business, especially when there is a London deadline and you are trying to watch other developments.

Kislitsin rushed to the room where Mrs Petrov and Leydin had been talking. The door was open. The room was empty. Leydin told me later that as soon as the office door had closed behind her she had seemed composed for the first time. She admitted that the person she spoke to was, indeed, her husband. He said he was cheerful and well, and asked her to stay and join him. Twice she looked apprehensively towards the door, watching shadows moving past the frosted glass partition. "Those guns would have been used," she said, then added simply, "Get me out of here."

82.4.2 Edward Samuel Chapman, 1842-1892, printer and racing writer

Petrina Dakin wrote of her ancestor, Edward Samuel Chapman, 1842-1892, in a family-history article mentioned below in 82.5.2. Here's a snapshot:

I discovered that Edward Chapman was a prominent racing writer and later sports editor of the *Australasian*, the weekly sister paper of the daily *Argus*. His career spanned more than 30 years until his death on 9 June 1892, aged 50. Journalists of the time wrote under a pseudonym. Obituaries revealed Edward's pen name had been "Augur" (and earlier "Orange Blossom"). This was the key to finding his published work.

Edward was born in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, on 1 June 1842, the first child of Edward Samuel Chapman senior (1816-1893) and Catherine Hobson (?-1854). Edward was an 11-year-old apprentice compositor on the *Colonial Times*, Hobart, when his mother died (he told the inquest).

From the mid-1850s (age 12 or 13 onwards) Edward contributed articles on racing news to the short-lived *Bell's Life in Tasmania* and then to *Bell's Life in Victoria* under his first pen name of "Orange Blossom". In 1863, Edward, who had married in 1860, joined the Melbourne *Herald* as a compositor and soon became the top operator, holding the No. 1 frame. He continued to write for *Bell's Life in Victoria* in his own time and, after it closed in 1868, he contributed articles to the *Argus* and the *Australasian*. In 1870 Edward got his break to enter journalism full-time when he was employed as a sports reporter on the *Herald's* sister paper, the *Weekly Times*. He continued to contribute articles to the opposition titles, the *Argus* and *Australasian*. He became the designated turf writer on the *Australasian* in December 1871 and a permanent member of staff in 1872, writing exclusively as "Augur" from that time. His articles were syndicated to major and minor newspapers around Australia and New Zealand. He became the sports editor in 1882. [Also see: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/list?id=30107/>]

82.4.3 Time flies (10): Gold! Gold! Gold!

ANHG editor **Rod Kirkpatrick** continues his career reminiscences (they began in issue No 73): I joined the University of Queensland as a journalism lecturer in January 1992. While I was completing a PhD thesis in history—"Ghost of caution haunts House of Dunn: The rise and fall of a Queensland newspaper dynasty (1930-1989)"—I took part in a teleconference with the NSW Country Press Association about its centenary in 2000. The association was planning a number of projects. I agreed to research and write a history of the NSW provincial press, to be published in time for the centenary conference in November 2000. Last-minute printing complications meant the deadline was met by only a few hours.

From January to June 1996, I took study leave from the University of Queensland to begin researching what became *Country Conscience: A History of the New South Wales Provincial Press, 1841-1995*. One of the first places I visited was Canberra and I wrote about my visit later that year for the 70th anniversary souvenir edition of the *Canberra Times*. Here's part of what I wrote:

I am setting up my laptop computer in the manuscript room at the National Library, waiting to study the first box of material in MS5799 – the A.T. Shakespeare Collection that includes 27 boxes each containing about six folders of material. Through the vast vertical columns of glass, Lake Burley Griffin is serene on a cool, summer's day. I have flown from Brisbane to study this material at the prompting of Lloyd Sommerlad, a former secretary of the NSW Country Press Association. He has told me that A.T. did a vast amount of research on the history of country newspapers, and nobody has taken the time to plumb the Shakespeare papers...

I spend the whole day in a mounting frenzy of excitement as I study box after box of the Shakespeare collection to sample what is there so that I can plan my research strategy for the coming week. My diary for 25 January 1996, reads: "Gold! Gold! Gold! That's what I've struck today. It is a magnificent accumulation of research notes, etc., on the NSW provincial press and its personalities." About two-thirds of the boxes contain material relevant to my project. Some of it is material that only A.T., or somebody closely involved with the Country Press organisation, could have obtained, for there is an extensive supply of obituaries gathered from a wide range of provincial newspapers by the Country Press Ltd. clipping service.

In January 1955 A.T. used the Country Press Association mailing list to send out a questionnaire to proprietors and editors, seeking biographical information and details of their press involvement and that of any family members. Many of these forms were filled in by hand and returned, and they now form part of the Shakespeare papers at the National Library. A.T. also did a lot of legwork, snatching a few hours at the Mitchell Library in Sydney or the La Trobe Library in Melbourne during trips associated with either his administration of the *Canberra Times* and (later) CTC Channel 7 or with provincial press associations.



ARTHUR THOMAS SHAKESPEARE

Throughout the collection there is the mind of an organiser, and the scent of a researcher on the prowl, a researcher wanting to separate fact from legend. His biographical notes on country press proprietors, editors and journalists are arranged alphabetically, as are his historical notes on the various newspapers – there have been an estimated 1,000 newspapers published outside of Sydney since the first provincial paper, the *Hunter River Gazette*, was established by Thomas Strode, formerly joint proprietor of the *Port Phillip Gazette*, on 11 December 1841. He refused to accept that just because the *Milton & Ulladulla Times* claimed it had been established in 1864 and the *Braidwood Dispatch* in 1855 that that was necessarily so. He wanted proof, preferably from a primary source. The correct Milton starting date was 1878 and the Braidwood one, 1858. Throughout his material, there are file notes or summaries he has written, explaining, for instance, why the *Dubbo Liberal* cannot trace its origins to 1874. He would often challenge proprietors to provide proof of their newspaper's alleged establishment date.

What triggered A.T.'s serious pursuit of research material on NSW provincial press history when he had plenty of irons in the fire in Canberra and elsewhere? The trigger was almost certainly the research and writing he did to produce *After Fifty Years*, to commemorate what was labelled the 50th annual conference of the NSW Country Press Association in 1949 (it was really the 49th annual conference). Two important chapters in that booklet focused on the development of provincial newspapers, as opposed to the history of the organisation established in October 1900 to represent their interests. His later research would have enabled him to produce revised chapters with many corrections to dates provided in the original versions.

In January 1994 A.T.'s widow, Heather Shakespeare, told me in a letter that A.T. had hoped to write the history that had now become my task. Two years later, as I sat, tapping away at my laptop in the manuscript room at the National Library, extracting nuggets from the Shakespeare mine, I was in another world: walking behind the dray taking the printing press over the ranges from Maitland to start the *Armidale Express* in April 1856; hand-picking type at the *Yass Courier*, established on 6 June 1857; and joining the rush to the Braidwood gold fields where three newspapers, including the first NSW provincial daily, were established in 1858-59.

[ANHG No 81.4.4 should have been labelled **Time flies (9)**, not (8)]

82.4.4 'First press photograph' in Australia

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The first known half-tone image published in an Australian newspaper appeared on 6 January 1888 in the Melbourne weekly *Table Talk*, Philip Parés said in 2001 (ANHG 15.56, November 2001). The first photographs to appear in the Melbourne dailies, the *Argus* and the *Age*, appeared on 21 April 1908 (ANHG 19.51, September 2002). But the *Sydney Morning Herald* presented a report on 20 March 2015 labelling a photograph taken in 1880 as "Australia's first ever press photograph". The photograph (inserted next page) shows the dead body of Joe Byrne, a member of Ned Kelly's infamous gang, strung up on a door outside the jail house in Benalla in regional Victoria. Byrne died from loss of blood after being shot in the groin during the siege of Glenrowan pub.

John William Lindt took the photo which features in an exhibition *The Photograph and Australia* at the Art Gallery of NSW until 8 June. Rose Powell wrote in her *Herald* report that "Australia's first ever press photograph" pushed boundaries few journalists would transgress today. Another photographer is pictured mid-shot, while an illustrator walks away from the new technology with his hat on and portfolio tucked under his arm. The gallery's senior curator of photographs, Judy Annear, reportedly told the *SMH*: "We see this as the first Australian press photograph. It has that spontaneity media photographs have, and it's also very evocative with many different stories in it."

When I queried the Art Gallery of NSW on the claim that the Joe Byrne image was "Australia's first ever press photograph", I was told that the journalist (Rose Powell) was briefed about the work with information from the following two texts: *The mechanical eye in Australia 1841-1900* (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1985) and Gael Newton's *Shades of Light: Photography and Australia 1839-1988* (Canberra: Australian National Gallery, 1988). Newton wrote that in the expectation of the capture of Ned Kelly journalists, artists and photographers commissioned by the newspapers were permitted to "join a special train of troopers and the official Victorian Government Photographer Mr Burman". By the time the train arrived, Ned Kelly, seriously

Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter, No 82, May 2015— 13

wounded early in the day, had been captured and Joe Byrne had died in the burning of the pub in which the gang was trapped. Newton wrote (p.44):



The official photographer was occupied recording the grisly remains, including the body of Byrne which was slung up on the door of Benalla Police Station to facilitate photographic records. J.W. Lindt (1845-1926) was among the agents despatched to the scene by the Melbourne newspapers. He chose to make an image recording Burman photographing Byrne and being watched by a group of onlookers. The artist Julian Ashton was also caught leaving the scene, having already sketched Byrne in the cells.

The Lindt picture is a mystery for it seems to point to his understanding of the role press photography (although it was not published) would have in the future development of what today would be called “a media event”. Perhaps he was simply testing exposure for his wet plates. However, this process was not one that naturally encouraged haphazard shooting. A decision to take a photograph preceded each image rather than a quick response to events unfolding in front of the camera. The first dry plates had been imported into Australia and Lindt had been among the first to test the new plates as he also ran a supplies service in addition to his photographic work. Dry plates were made using gelatin as the medium for the light-sensitive salts and were faster than the wet collodion process and far less contrasty.

Lindt’s assistant, Herman Krutli, wrote later (*The Mechanical Eye in Australia*, p.76): “While my principal scouted around with his camera, I stood by ready to sensitise the plates. After the arrest, record photographs were duly made and used by the newspaper as a guide to their woodcut artist—this, of course, was long before the days of process engraving.” Burman’s photograph was reproduced as engravings in several papers, including the *Bulletin*, in which it was captioned “Byrne, the outlaw, after death” (From a picture taken at Benalla by Mr Burman, Victorian Government Photographer). Newton (p.44) noted, too, that at first photographs were transferred to the woodblocks for the guidance of the engravers.

So, the ANHG suggests you could say that what has been labelled in 2015 as “Australia’s first ever press photograph” did not appear as a photograph but was used as a guide for woodcuts.

82.4.5 *Daily Telegraph* begins with ‘blare of bugles’ in Melbourne

The Melbourne *Daily Telegraph* began publication on Monday, 8 February 1869. The *Age*’s owner-editor David Syme had bought the *Herald* in December 1868 and converted the morning daily into an evening paper in January 1869. The *Daily Telegraph* was launched as a morning paper in response. The birth was announced “with the following blare of bugles and crashing of drums on the part of the spirited editor”, according to *Table Talk* (6 May 1892, p.6):

Where everything is new and nothing strange, the mere quality of newness in a public journal will not in itself attract much attention here in Victoria. We shall take leave to assume therefore, that the difference of age between ourselves and our local contemporaries will be neither an advantage nor a drawback, neither a gain nor a loss, unless we show as a title to extend favour that we are a trifle fresher than they are, and something livelier than they were wont to be. On the score of novelty alone, however, we may claim some attention, for if we are not wiser than our neighbours, we at least differ from them in this important respect, that we appear to-day as the unprejudiced and untried advocates of purely Liberal principles. So far as Melbourne is concerned, the character of a perfectly independent and fearless journal is altogether a novel one. We shall continue to represent that novel character to the close of our career, and until it ceases to be novel without reference to mercenary considerations, and without regard to private ends. We are not to be bought; we are not even in the market.

By, whatever name political parties are known, by whatever pledges public men are bound; by whatever links the unlovely and crapulous rank and file of faction are associated, we shall stand apart from the strife; and accepting neither fee nor retainer, we shall record the movements and comment on the manoeuvres of the combatants, and watch the issues of the conflict in the interests of the one and undivided, Liberal party—the people of Victoria. When we cease to do this we shall deserve to drift away on the slack of the tide, into the outer ocean of oblivion, where our sins will be visited with their due punishment, and where our wages will come to us in the form of a timely and merited extinction.

The end and aim of our experiment is not to count the welcome shower of coppers from men who despise while they use us. We have a higher ambition than this, and, therefore, we tell the people of Victoria that if we cannot maintain the position of independence which we propose to ourselves, we shall sink out of sight and abandon the field to those who can find congenial sustenance in it, and who possess the noble faculty of gathering grapes from thistles.

That we have confidence in those to whom we make our appeal, confidence in ourselves and confidence in the line of action which we have laid down as that from which we will not swerve, is proved by the fact of our existence.

The reason of our being is a simple one. We believe that we are wanted, that we have honest work to do, and we respond to the call. If the voice which we answer is not the voice of the people, but only an uncertain echo after all, then our perceptions are at fault, and the journals of the day—we say it with bated breath—are genuine enough and liberal enough for Victoria, and that we think is saying more than human credulity can realise.”

[The *Telegraph* closed on 3 May 1892, with the *Herald* absorbing it.]

82.4.6 New newspaper room at NLA

Victor Isaacs writes: A new Newspaper and Family History reading room has been built at the National Library of Australia. It is within an expanded Main reading room. It opened on 4 May and has the same opening hours as the Main reading room. Newspaper resources have been relocated from the existing Newspaper reading room.

82.4.7 Smythesdale and Bombala: more details

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: If you have read a little about Ballarat newspapers, or George Leonard Vogt, journalist and editor (*ADB*, Vol 12) and his father, Johann Hermann Vogt, printer, you may have seen brief mentions of the *Grenville Advocate*, Smythesdale. You probably received only a vague impression that it was published in the 1860s. I had some microfilm printouts from the *Argus* that reported that the *Grenville Advocate* was sold for £35 (\$70) by auction on 22 September 1866 at the instance of the Bank of New South Wales under a Supreme Court writ. The bank sold the paper for the same amount on 3 August 1867 to Richard Kelland, of Smythesdale (*Argus*, 25 September 1866 and 6 August 1867).

I came across the printouts when I was culling files recently and I thought: Trove will allow me to find out more about the *Grenville Advocate*. And it did. I discovered that the newspaper began publication on 8 March 1862 as a bi-weekly. It was called the *Grenville Advocate & Smythesdale, Brown's, Italian's, Carngham, Linton, and Woody Yaloak Reporter*. Andrew Semple, formerly connected with the *Ballarat Times* (defunct by then), was the editor. *ADB* says Johann Hermann Vote established the *Grenville Advocate*.

I followed a similar path of inquiry with two 1860s Bombala (NSW) newspapers. I had some basics in my hard-copy files, and Trove has just supplied some more details. I knew that Bombala's first newspaper, the *Southern Telegraph*, began publication on 6 April 1864 and the evidence I had gathered suggested it ceased publication around April 1865. The latest extract from that newspaper that I have been able to locate in Trove is from the *Queanbeyan Age* of 27 April 1865. So, the *Telegraph* may well have ceased at the end of April or in early May. The *Telegraph* was replaced by the *Monaro Star*, which my hard-copy files suggested began in July 1865 and ceased... well, possibly about 1871. Through Trove I had discovered the *Star* began in June 1865; the *Illawarra Mercury* reported on 23 June 1865 (p.2) having received the first issue of the *Monaro Star* after the plant of the Bombala *Telegraph* had changed hands. The *Mercury* remarked that it was "rather a precarious time to start a newspaper", but it wished its southern contemporary success. The *Star* ceased publication in June 1867 (*Bega Gazette*, 29 June 1867, p.2).

82.4.8 Selling the dream

Edwin Bernard has written a book called *Emporium: Selling the Dream in Colonial Australia* (NLA Publishing). He says one resource that opens a small window into the private lives of 19th century Australians from all walks of life is newspaper advertising. "What do advertisements tell us about our colonial ancestors?" he asks. "For a start that they were just as gullible as we are. There was a fascinating period when it dawned on some bright sparks that they could exploit the public's fascination with the wonders of electricity. Since few understood how it actually worked, it seemed quite plausible to suggest that electricity also had curative properties. The result was a range of bizarre garments—electric corsets, belts and insoles, electric curlers, toothbrushes and hairbrushes—all of them fitted with tiny 'galvanic batteries'. Sewn into the fabric so that they rested against the skin, these batteries generated a minuscule current that was supposed to impart beneficial effects to the wearer. The most prolific manufacturer and advertiser of these entirely useless garments was American-born 'Dr' George A. Scott. According to one 1890 advertisement, Dr Scott's electric corset was 'the most effectual remedy for spinal; complaints, incipient consumption, diarrhoea, pleurisy, tumours, asthma, bronchitis, epilepsy, lumbago, debility, paralysis, loss of voice, nervousness, indigestion, palpitations and loss of energy'. Why wouldn't you buy one?" (*In Print*, NLA, Autumn 2015, p.1)

82.4.9 Charles Bean remembered

No person looms larger in the telling of the Anzac story than Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean, Australia's official World War I correspondent and historian, and the driving force behind the establishment of the Australian War Memorial (writes **Troy Bramston**, *Weekend Australian*, 18-19 April 2015). For Bean's granddaughter, Anne Carroll, her memory is of a modest and compassionate man who almost never spoke about what he saw at Gallipoli when Australian forces landed in the pre-dawn of 25 April 1915, and evacuated eight months later, having suffered 26,111 casualties and a death toll that reached 8141. Carroll remembers when he told her of the bullet which had lodged in his right thigh at Gallipoli. It stayed there for the rest of his life. Ted (Edward Bean) Le Couteur, Bean's grandson, remembers a man with a deep sense of Australian egalitarianism, who was humble and modest, and reluctant to relive the war through conversation. "Bean was more willing to talk about the Australian War Memorial, which it is said started in his pocket as he walked the battlefields collecting relics to take home and to help sustain the memory of the Anzac soldiers. "It was (to be) a place in Australia's national capital where people could come, honour the Anzacs and learn what they had been through far away from their homeland," Carroll said.

Born in 1879, Bean was working as a Sydney-based journalist when he won a ballot run by the Australian Journalists' Association in September 1914 to become the official war correspondent. He sailed with the Australian troops to Egypt and reported on Gallipoli and the Western Front. He spent the next few decades writing and editing the official history of the war. He died in 1968. As an embedded journalist, his dispatches were censored and often contradict his diarised account. But nobody saw more of Gallipoli than Bean. He infused his writings with what he identified as the emergent values of a new nation and highlighted the bravery of the soldiers fighting for it. He was utterly devoted to his work. "That sense of responsibility was ingrained because of his

character, and was underscored by his recognition that his access to the frontlines and through to the higher levels of command was exceptional,” Carroll said.

[Two biographies of Bean are listed in 82.5.1 below.]

82.4.10 Under the governor’s thumb

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: At the best of times it cannot have been easy being the first newspaper publisher in Australia. For the first three years of editing and printing the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, George Howe was a ticket-of-leave convict and the (unpaid) government printer. He was publishing a weekly newspaper over which Governor King had ultimate control. Howe had to make his own ink and he used a government press, government paper and the government’s battered and worn type. Because the *Gazette* was published “By Authority”, the governor or his delegate could request changes to what Howe had set up in type.

Things became much more complicated after the military overthrew the governor, by then William Bligh, in January 1808. Alleged paper shortages had forced Howe to suspend publication five months before the overthrow of Bligh. The *Gazette* did not resume until 15 May 1808. There was a procession of different people listed as “Secretary” to the Governor or Lieutenant Governor over the next nine months. The first was John Macarthur, one of the sleaziest of the pioneering colonials. His name appeared only in the May issues, and he was followed by W.N. Chapman (June and July), James Finucane (August 1808 to 8 January 1809), and Alexander Riley.

On Sunday, 15 May 1808, when the *Sydney Gazette* resumed publication after 8½ months, Howe said: “We have once more the satisfaction of rendering our services to the public. We have had repeatedly to lament the necessity of vying with the camelion its change of colour and of being compelled to rival the prophetic son of Oceanus (divine personification of the sea) in the frequency of change that has been given to your shape. To necessity we cannot dictate. As servants of the public, exertion is our duty, and commendation our hoped reward. A supply of paper guarantees the promise of a continuance of this publication... This paper is printed on a half sheet of Demy, the pages made up to the very extent of our prefs:—and without hesitation we have to observe that the present two pages, compressed as the matter is, contains fully as much as four pages of pot folio, to which size we adhered for several months.”

Howe decided to collect the subscription monthly instead of quarterly. So, he would collect three shillings (30c) upon the delivery of every fourth paper. “And as the price of the paper is very exorbitant, we request that all arrears of subscription may be paid up in the course of the present month.”

82.4.11 Miners’ strike and discrimination against non-dailies, 1945

A combination of strikes by coal miners and the maintenance engineers at Bunnerong power house (Sydney) led the NSW Government to restrict the availability of electric power to newspaper publishers in December 1945. Only daily newspapers could be published and even they would receive only half their normal power. The *Manning River Times*, a bi-weekly, editorialised as follows on 15 December:

Commenting on the elimination of power for the publication of newspapers with the exception of dailies, the Hon. E. C. Sommerlad, MLC, manager of the Country Press Ltd., said “It was a shocking and outrageous discrimination against country newspapers. It really meant that a lot of country districts would be without news service at all.” The edict, which was responsible for the above remarks, was the announcement that electricity restrictions would apply in all areas of the State and that daily newspapers would be allowed to use 50 per cent, of normal power supplies. The use of power was forbidden to all other journals, including “free newspapers”. Anyone with an atom of fairness in his composition will re-echo the remarks of Hon. E. C. Sommerlad. Why country papers using electricity should be denied the right to publish whilst dailies are only curtailed to the extent of 50 per cent, of their normal power it is impossible to imagine. As far as the *Manning River Times* is concerned we have been at our wits’ end to endeavour to publish. We cannot use our large Swiss Duplex printing

press and it is only through the kindly offices of Mr R. T. Trotter, of Glenthorne, that we have been able to secure a small engine with which to work our linotype and print a reduced sized paper today. As our advertisers and readers will see we have found it impossible to print any contract advertisements and in this connection we are sure those concerned will bear with us. We wish to pay a tribute to the loyalty of our staff and trust our readers will appreciate our efforts to give at least some news of a local nature under exceptionally trying circumstances. As regards publication next week. We may find it necessary to only print one issue.

The *Manning River Times*, which was appearing on Wednesdays and Saturdays, missed its scheduled issue of 12 December, and appeared in only four pages on 15 December. It appeared twice the following week. [Thanks to newspaper indexer Wendy Gow for drawing the ANHG's attention to the editorial.]

82.4.12 ANHG helps digitisation project

In November 2014 *Inside History* magazine asked its readers to choose which Australian newspaper should be digitised next by Trove. The magazine presented a shortlist of six newspaper titles and invited its readers to vote. More than 31,000 votes later, the *Hamilton Spectator* (Victoria) was triumphant. The magazine reached its funding target of \$10,000 before dawn on Anzac Day. The Australian Newspaper History Group contributed \$1000 towards that target. The ANHG contribution will enable one year's copies of the *Spectator* to be digitised.



Hamilton is the jewel in the crown of Victoria's rich Western District, and the *Hamilton Spectator*, established in 1860, has appeared at least three times a week since October 10, 1876. It reflects the continuity and prosperity of the district. The *Spectator* became a daily newspaper twice, during the latter stages of a railway strike in May 1903, and for nearly nine years from January 1908.

82.4.13 Richie Benaud and the *Richmond River Herald*

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: Richie Benaud, former police rounds journalist on the Sydney *Sun*, died on 10 April 2015, aged 84. He is remembered, of course, as a dynamic Test cricket captain, a great all-rounder (the first cricketer to take 200 wickets and score 2000 runs in Tests), and a TV cricket commentator without parallel. Newspaper history buffs will be interested to know that Benaud's great uncle, Louis Ferdinand Branxton Benaud, established the *Richmond River Herald* at Coraki in northern NSW on 9 July 1886. When I was writing *Country Conscience: A History of the New South Wales Provincial Press, 1841-1995*, I corresponded briefly with Benaud about his great-uncle. When I was a high-school student in Sydney, I used to watch Benaud play for NSW and Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground. I always read his column in the sporting pages of the *Sun*, along with the columns by E.E. Christensen and W.F. Corbett.



5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

82.5.1 Books

Coulthart, Ross, *Charles Bean*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2014. 436pp. This is a biography of Australia's official World War I correspondent, Charles Bean. Peter Rees' biography of Bean is listed below.

Gill, Andrew (ed.), *Making Pain Pay: The 'Jail Journal' of J.M. Drew.* Perth: Hesperian Press, 2015. 79pp. Soft cover. \$25. Available from the author, 17 Talbot Road, Woodlands, WA, 6018.

REVIEW by Victor Isaacs

In 1895 J M Drew, editor of the *Geraldton Express* was sued for libel by the local medical officer. While the trial was in progress, he committed a contempt of court and was jailed for two weeks. He was actually treated quite gently and had an easy time in the lockup. Drew used a great deal of his time there interviewing fellow prisoners and the Colony's hangman (who for his own protection lived there). On his return to Geraldton, Drew published his so-called "Jail Journal", a record of these conversations. The resulting articles appeared in 15 instalments in his newspaper. They provide a vivid insight to the convict era of early WA.

Andrew Gill, foremost authority on the penal system of nineteenth century Western Australia, has rescued these articles from obscurity. In doing so, he does not take them at face value, but, in both his introduction and in endnotes following each article's reprint, meticulously analyses every statement made. Some are confirmed by other sources, some are found to be wrong, some are conflation of a series of events.

This book provides an example of how old newspapers can be used as important primary historical sources. Newspaper historians will be impressed by the way that Gill has used this material to shed light on social conditions of the nineteenth century.

Rees, Peter, *Bearing Witness: The remarkable life of Charles Bean, Australia's greatest war correspondent.* Allen & Unwin, 2015. 588pp. See Coulthart, above.

Rees-Jones, Margaret, *Printer's Progress: A New Zealand newspaper story 1840-1914.* Gisborne, NZ: The Gisborne Herald Co Ltd, PO Box 1143, Gisborne, NZ. Hard cover NZ\$75; soft cover (with flaps), NZ\$50. Email: general@gisborneherald.co.nz

New Zealand's first newspaper, the *New Zealand Gazette*, began 175 years ago on the beach near what is now Wellington. James Muir happened along the beach at a propitious time; a qualified printer from Edinburgh, with much adventuring along the way, he not only repaired the damaged press but pulled the first damp sheet. Most early New Zealand newspapers found the economic soil too tough and life for the printers was uncertain. In 1845 Muir and four other printers established the very successful *Wellington Independent*. They raced for the news in boats, worked a roster system at times, took produce in payment, and went against the fashion by illustrating their newspaper with woodblock prints. Printer's ink runs through six generations of the Muir family. James's son, Allan Ramsay, moved to Gisborne on New Zealand's North Island, where he bought the long-running *Poverty Bay (Gisborne) Herald*. It remains an independent daily newspaper to this day. But this is not just a story of a family, as it peers behind the scenes of New Zealand's newspaper world. It is a social history from the shop floor. Extraordinary changes have occurred in the world of printing and communication during this 175-year period and this story follows these changes, and with them the evolving communities of Wellington and the East Coast area of Gisborne and its surrounds in particular.

82.5.2 Articles

Baker, Jeannine, "Marginal Creatures: Australian Women War Reporters During World War II", *History Compass*, vol. 13, no. 2 (2015), pp.40–50

Baker, Jeannine, "Lines of Demarcation: Australian women war reporters in Europe during the Second World War", *History Australia*, vol. 12, no. 1 (April 2015), pp.187-206

Baker, Jeannine, "War stories: Remembering women conflict reporters", *Griffith Review* 48: Enduring Legacies (April 2015), pp.165-173

Clarke, Patricia, 'The Australian National Review: a Brave Cultural Adventure in an Embryonic City', *National Library of Australia Magazine*, vol. 6, no. 3, September 2014, pp. 14-17.

Dakin, Petrina, "Ink in the blood", *Ancestor* (published by the Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc.), 32:5, March 2015, pp.3-6. A family-history article about Edward Samuel Chapman (1842-1892) who was a printer and later sporting writer and sports editor of the

Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter, No 82, May 2015— 19

Australasian, Melbourne. He wrote under pen names such as “Orange Blossom” and “Augur”. Much detail for the article was obtained from various Australian newspapers.

Elliott, Tim, “NT News: Northern Exposure”, *Sydney Morning Herald/Age*, 2 May 2015, *Good Weekend* section, pp.16-19. Examines the *NT News* and its unique news presentation.

Herald Sun, “Wardy, A Legend: Peter Ward 1948-2015”, *Herald Sun*, 18 March 2015, pp.22-23. Tribute to long-time *Herald Sun* photographer Peter Ward, illustrated.

Ingram, Ken, “The Full Story”, *Canberra Historical Journal*, Canberra & District Historical Society, no. 74, March 2015, pp.29-35. Ken Ingram recounts his experiences and observations on the very impecunious *Canberra Times* in the 1930s.

Putnis, Peter, “Reuters and the South African press at the end of Empire”, *Critical Arts: South-North Cultural and Media Studies*, 29:1, 2015, pp.41-58. Also includes material on the post WW2 AAP-Reuters relationship and material on the role played by Rupert Henderson in the South African negotiations.

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