



Above: July 1979, and the deal is done. Michael Macgeorge, industrial manager for David Syme and Co Ltd, left, shakes hands with the Victorian secretary of the Printing and Kindred Industries Union, Fred Nelson, on the signing of the historic new agreement allowing for direct input to typesetting systems via visual display terminals (VDTs) by journalists and from classified advertising phone rooms and wire services. Others in the picture (from second left) are Keith Mattingley, manager, the Melbourne *Sun News-Pictorial*; Bill Hoey, industrial manager, The Herald and Weekly Times Ltd; Fred Nelson; and Ian Wenham, PKIU organiser. [Photo by Herald & Weekly Times Ltd.] See 100.4.1 below.

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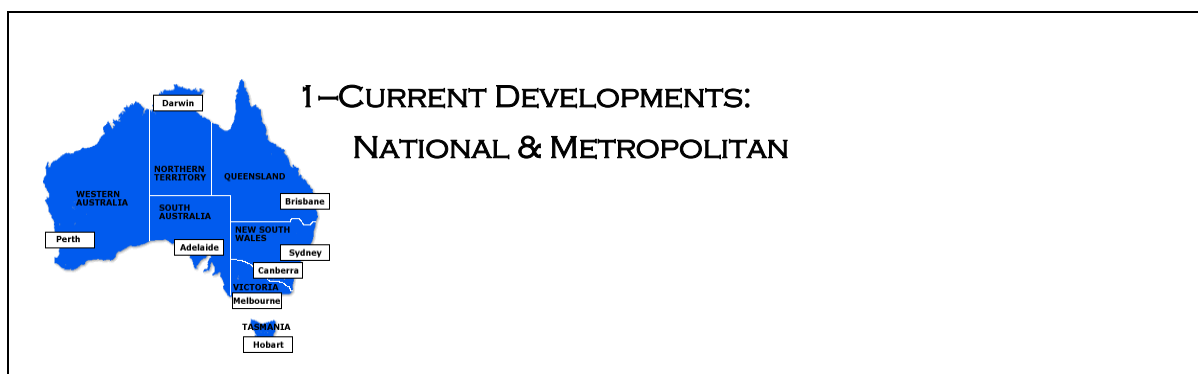
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<http://www.amhd.info/anhg/index.php>

Deadline for the next Newsletter: 23 February 2019

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.



Editor's note

ON REACHING 100: CLUNKY BUT COMMITTED AND COLLABORATIVE

Rod Kirkpatrick, editor, writes: The 100th issue of the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*—once described as the newsletter with the “clunky title” (Media section, *Australian*, 14 June 2001)—raises at least two big questions. The first is: how did we get to 100? And the second: what lies ahead?

I believe we have arrived at 100 through commitment and collaboration. Before those virtues emerged, however, there was another: initiative. It was through the initiative of Victor Isaacs, of Canberra, that the newsletter started in October 1999 within weeks of the local-newspapers and local-identities historical conference held by the History of the Book in Australia at Chiltern in north-eastern Victoria. How Victor started the newsletter is described in 100.4.11 below. Issue 4 announced that I would be taking over from Victor as editor from issue 5. The first issue that I edited appeared in April 2000 and issue No. 10 appeared in December that year.



VICTOR ISAACS (LEFT) AND ROD KIRKPATRICK, 2018

Even as I was beginning to gather material for the April 2000 newsletter, my wife, Maureen, had a major heart attack. Fortunately, it occurred as she was being wheeled into the emergency department at Wesley Hospital, Brisbane. It was 1pm on Sunday, 27 February 2000. She was 55. Eleven staff were brought on duty that afternoon specifically to operate on her. Maureen is still with me, for which I am so thankful, and her support has helped me continue with ANHG all these years.

From 2001, I reduced the publication frequency of ANHG to five issues a year and have maintained that since. That's the “commitment” part mentioned above.

Now, collaboration. Victor Isaacs, although no longer the editor, has continued to contribute items, to proof-read and to help me in many ways. Other collaborators have included Larry Noye, Peter Gill, Damian Bester, John Russell, Harold McLaren, John Tidey and Ken Sanz. They have helped enormously with their contributions regularly or irregularly at different periods over the years.

We have done much more than produce the newsletter. One of ANHG's earliest outside activities was to organise a one-day symposium in Sydney in March 2003 to mark 200 years of newspaper publication in Australia. Sixty people attended. We have also published 14 books, including a major Australia press history bibliography and indexes of the newsletter 1-25, 1-50, and 1-75. The published books are listed at 100.4.12.

One of the early information-digging exercises we conducted was to build up a chronology of the most significant dates in the Australian press, particularly in relation to the births, “marriages” (mergers) and deaths. This led to the National Library of Australia working with us to adapt our chronology to their uses as an online resource for all interested in newspaper-history dates (<https://www.nla.gov.au/australian-newspaper-plan/for-researchers/newspaper-chronology>). At different times the National Library refers to us those inquiries which their newspaper room has been unable to answer. Some of these have led us on fascinating hunts for information.

And now: What lies ahead for the newsletter with the clunky title? Only 13 copies of each newsletter are now printed and a couple of hundred subscribers receive an online copy. Will it continue to be printed, or is it time to take advantage of the flexibility provided by online format only? Is it time for a new editor to overhaul the newsletter and introduce new ideas? I am 75. Many of the brief obituaries of newspaper identities that I write now are for people younger than me. I am throwing this open now as I feel it is appropriate to do so at this stage of the ANHG’s life. Is there someone out there who wants to bring his/her own distinctive style to what a newspaper-history newsletter should be when printed newspapers, we are told, are almost history?

100.1.1 Fairfax and Nine operate as one from 10 December

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has ruled in favour of the landmark deal between Nine Entertainment Co and Fairfax Media (NewsMediaWorks, 8 November 2018). The merger, made possible by the Turnbull government’s reformed media ownership laws, was proposed in July but raised concerns over media plurality. The ACCC sought to review the consolidated company’s impact on the current competitive media market, particularly how closely Nine and Fairfax’s respective platforms competed in the supply for news content.

“While the merger between these two big name media players raised a number of extremely complex issues, and will likely reduce competition, we concluded that the proposed merger was not likely to substantially lessen competition in any market in breach of the Competition and Consumer Act,” ACCC chairman Rod Sims said in a statement. “This merger can be seen to reduce the number of companies intensely focusing on Australian news from five to four,” he said. “Post the merger, only Nine-Fairfax, News/Sky, Seven West Media and the ABC/SBS will employ a large number of journalists focused on news creation and dissemination. “With the growth in online news, however, many other players, albeit smaller, now provide some degree of competitive constraint.”

19 November: Fairfax Media shareholders have overwhelmingly voted in favour of a takeover from Nine Entertainment Co, with 81.49 per cent of shareholders approving plans for the two companies to merge by the end of the year in an historic deal.

The arrangement will give Nine control of Fairfax’s mastheads, including the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*, a 59 per cent stake in real estate listings website Domain, radio interests in Macquarie Media (owner of talk stations 2GB and 3AW) and an additional 50 per cent of subscription video streaming platform Stan. About \$50 million of annualised cost savings are expected in the next two years (msn, 19 November 2018).

Fairfax chief executive Greg Hywood was set to walk away from his seven years running the group with a total of \$8.5 million, mostly in cash, but also with enough shares to have an interest in how the merger performs. He has 2.09 million shares (*Australian*, 20 November 2018, p.2).

Also, see: Stuart Simson, “Fairfax-Nine merger could go off the rails”, *Australian*, 12 November 2018, p.24.; and Robert Gottliebsen, “Why Cat missed his canary”, *Australian*, 20 November 2018, p.28.

22 November (Australian): Fairfax Media would embark on asset sales worth more than \$800 million and try to partner with Seven West Media and ANZ to focus on real estate services such as mortgages and insurance under plans drawn up by former Domain boss Antony Catalano. Details of Catalano’s plans for Fairfax were shared with supporters of his last-ditch legal bid to halt Fairfax’s \$4 billion merger with Nine Entertainment ahead of the Federal Court potentially giving the green light to the deal (on Tuesday 27 November). Catalano’s plan would include selling Fairfax’s Macquarie Radio stake for \$180 million-\$200m, streaming provider Stan for up to \$300m,

offloading New Zealand assets and Australian rural assets in a series of sales that could reap more than \$200m, and disposing of some newspaper mastheads, forecasting service Weatherzone and other holdings such as property.

The plan would leave Fairfax with its metropolitan media assets such as the *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* and its 60 per cent of the now separately listed Domain. At that point Fairfax would attempt to strike partnerships with the likes of Seven and ANZ to drive the Domain business, Catalano has told confidants in messages seen by the *Australian*, with a focus on real estate-related services like mortgages and insurance rather than its being simply a classifieds business. Catalano, who quit the online property listing company in January, would return to Fairfax to oversee the Domain strategy.

28 November: The Federal Court has ruled in favour of the Fairfax-Nine merger, giving the final go-ahead. The combined companies will operate as one from Monday, 10 December.

4 December: Consulting firm Deloitte is set to be tapped by Nine Entertainment to review closer editorial working arrangements between television and newspaper reporters, as Nine boss Hugh Marks puts his stamp on the merger with Fairfax Media by axing 92 staff. Ahead of the media merger's completion on Friday, Nine chief executive Marks sent a note to 6000 Nine and Fairfax staff outlining the new corporate structure, which will lead to the departure of several top Fairfax executives, including chief executive Greg Hywood and chief financial officer David Housego, and dozens of back office staff. No editorial jobs have been lost as part of the new corporate structure, but Fairfax's top political journalist Mark Kenny has already jumped ship, joining the academic ranks at the Australian National University.

Marks said, "In total 144 roles will be made redundant due to duplication and some vacant positions will no longer be required. This impacts approximately 92 people," Marks said in the note, seen by *The Australian*. The enlarged group, to be called Nine, will be organised into four operating businesses: Australian Community Media, Printing and Stuff, Publishing, Stan and Television.

100.1.2 'This is cricket': cross-media promotion



For the first time, News Corp Australia has launched its summer of cricket coverage and the Fox Cricket channel with a 32-page guide to the 2018-19 season that wrapped around the *Daily Telegraph*, *Herald Sun*, *Courier-Mail* and on 24 October.

News Corp managing director of sales Lou Barrett said: "We are taking the cricket fans beyond the game, with the ultimate experience, keeping them engaged with News's suite of assets, including analysis, game day updates and commentary, as well as 'second screen' initiatives including Supercoach, the premiere location for any fan looking to be part of the game in a whole new way. Today [24 October] is the start of us redefining cricket in Australia, with unprecedented coverage across a print and digital network that reaches 12 million sports fans a month, including five million cricket fans. Australians have an insatiable thirst

for information about what happens beyond the game – and we are better placed than any other media group to satisfy that demand. This 32-page cricket wrap demonstrates just that and it's only the beginning of the largest print and digital launch of cricket in history, 24/7 right throughout summer."

Back covering cricket this year is iconic sporting journalist and commentator Robert "Crash" Craddock, who has covered more than 150 cricket Tests for News Corp and been involved with a series of Fox Sports shows including *The Back Page*, *Summer 360* and *Cricket Legends*. "After more than 30 years of covering the game, I am more excited than ever to be part of the News Corp cricket team and to help launch this landmark guide to cricket, like never before," said Craddock (one of your editor's former journalism students).

The centre-page spread is devoted to a pullout wall chart of the program of matches for the season, from Sheffield Shield to Big Bash League, from Test cricket to one-dayers and T20s. The News Corp cricket wrap features the fresh opinions of the new Fox Cricket commentary and analysis team with a series of exclusive columns from:

100.1.3 Death of letter writer and skilled, courageous war pilot

David J. Syme, of Mollymook Beach, NSW, a frequent writer of letters to the editor, died on 3 October, aged 94. Syme's life illustrates the courage of his generation, says Andrew Buttsworth, of Campbell, ACT. Returning home from a raid on Germany in 1943, Pilot Officer Syme's Lancaster was attacked by a German night fighter. With luck and skilled piloting, he put the heavily damaged bomber down safely in southern England. He and his crew went on to complete a full tour of operations. David was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and went on to success in business and family life. "We celebrate the long life of this courageous, friendly and humble man, and remember with gratitude his service."

In recent years Syme wrote letters to the *Australian* almost every day, according to his daughter, Jane James. "He would call me up all the time and would say, 'I got another one in darling.' He wouldn't let another newspaper in the house." (*Australian*, 9 and 12 October 2018).

100.1.4 People

Darren Davidson, media editor of the *Australian*, is off to New York to become editor-in-chief of *Storyful*. He will be in charge of the long-term vision and day-to-day operations of the global editorial team (*Telum Media Alert*, 26 September 2018).

Anthony DeCeglie, deputy editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, has been appointed senior editor of the *West Australian* and the *Perth Sunday Times*. He will take up his appointment by mid-2019. He was deputy editor of *PerthNow* and the *Sunday Times* before moving to Sydney in 2017 (*Telum Media Alert*, 4 December 2018).

Christopher Dore, the former editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, is the new editor-in-chief of the *Australian* (*Telum Media Alert*, 8 October 2018). He replaces Paul Whittaker (see below).

Ben English, the former editor of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, is the new editor of the *Daily Telegraph* (*Telum Media Alert*, 8 October 2018).

Rachel Hancock, the former deputy editor of the *Courier-Mail*, is the new editor of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* (*Telum Media Alert*, 8 October 2018).

Simon Pristel, director of news for the Seven Network in Melbourne, is leaving at the end of this year to establish his own communications company. Pristel is a former editor of the *Herald Sun*, Melbourne (*Age*, 11 October 2018).

Leonore Taylor has replaced **Angelos Frangopoulos** as chairperson of the Walkley Advisory Board, which oversees the Walkley Awards (*Telum Media Alert*, 15 and 17 October 2018).

Hedley Thomas, the *Australian's* national chief correspondent, and producer Slade Gibson won the Gold Walkley for 2018 for the crime podcast, *The Teacher's Pet*. The podcast also won the pair the Walkley Award for investigative journalism. The podcast investigated the disappearance of Sydney mother Lyn Dawson in 1982 and has been downloaded 27 million times worldwide (*Australian*, 23 November 2018; and see ANHG 99.2.1).

Paul Whittaker, who was editor-in-chief of the *Australian*, became the chief executive officer of Australian News Channel on 15 October (*Telum Media Alert*, 8 October 2018).

100.1.5 Magazines: Great War and VC winners

The *Weekend Australian* published on 6-7 October the fourth and final part of its magazine series entitled *The Great War*. This one was sub-titled, "Endgame and Aftermath", and included 56 pages, counting the front and back cover. On 10-11 November the *Weekend Australian* published a 52-page magazine, *A History of Courage: Australia's 100 recipients of the Victoria Cross*.

100.1.6 *mX* returns to promote a beer

The Melbourne commuter newspaper, *mX*, returned for four consecutive Wednesdays from 26 September 2018 after News Corp and Carlton & United Breweries collaborated on the special series, published to coincide with the launch of Carlton Zero, the brewer's non-alcoholic beer. It had been three years since *mX* was last published. The 2018 special editions were made available at Southern Cross, Flinders Street, Melbourne Central, Parliament, Flagstaff and Richmond stations on Wednesdays from 3pm. All the classic sections were back, including "mX Talk", "Gloss and Glam" and "For What It's Worth".

100.1.7 Monday Media sections in *SMH* and *Age*

The *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Melbourne Age* and *Canberra Times* launched a "Monday Media" section on 29 October. It is part of the business section of those papers (*Telum Media Alert*, 29 October 2018). Mathew Duncley is the editor of the section. He is the business editor for the newspapers.

100.1.8 *Senior* newspaper turns 40

Cheryl Field, the editor of the interstate editions of the national newspaper, *Senior*, has written about the newspaper's 40th anniversary. In its November issue (p.3), Field tells about the dismissive manner in which "the pensioners' paper" used to be mentioned and how the *Senior* has helped give older people a political voice. "The *Senior* is proud," says Field, "to have helped deliver their message and remain at the forefront of lobbying for all seniors, no matter what their financial situation, political persuasion or geographical location." The paper began as the *Australian Senior Citizen*, became the *Australian Senior*, and then, in 2006, the *Senior* with separate publications in NSW/ACT, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

The top halves of Pages 4 and 5 carry a timeline of the changes in the newspaper over the four decades.

100.1.9 News Corp revenue jumps

News Corp has posted a 23 per cent increase in total revenue for the first quarter to \$US2.52 billion, up from \$US2.06 billion in the corresponding period last year, with strong paid digital subscriber growth at the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Times* and *Sunday Times* and the *Australian* a highlight (NewsMediaWorks, 8 November 2018). Digital subscribers now account for more than half of the group's total subscriber base. News Corp chief executive Robert Thomson said growth in revenue and earnings reaffirmed the company's strategy to focus on digital development, and to put particular emphasis on subscriptions, as the advertising market continues to evolve.

The first-quarter growth reflects the impact from the consolidation of Foxtel's results following the combination of Foxtel and Fox Sports Australia into a new company and continued strong performances at the Digital Real Estate Services and Book Publishing segments. This growth was partially offset by lower print advertising revenues at the News and Information Services segment. The results also include the \$US48 million benefit related to News UK's exit of the gaming partnership with Tabcorp for Sun Bets, a \$US49 million negative impact from foreign currency fluctuations and \$17 million of lower revenues as a result of the adoption of the new revenue recognition standard. Total profit was up 44 per cent to \$US358 million.

100.1.10 Recent events

100.1.10.1 Deaths

Pickering, Lawrence (Larry): D. 19 November 2018, aged 76; while employed as a proofreader for the *Canberra Times*, he began displaying his cartoon drawings on the walls of the approaches to the men's toilets until some time in 1971 when the editor, John Allan, took sufficient note to invite him to contribute cartoons for the paper; won Walkleys for his cartoons four years in a row from 1971 to 1974, the first two during his time at the *Canberra Times*, then the *National Times* and *Sydney Morning Herald*; two years later during the Fraser era, he moved to the *Australian*, then retired from the role after five years in 1981; best known for his "Pickering's Playmates" calendars of naked politicians in the 1980s; in 2012, *A Current Affair* packed an extraordinary

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number of allegations of serious wrong-doing and general acts of sleaziness by Pickering into a segment of only four minutes and 56 seconds; died an undischarged bankrupt (*Australian*, 21 November 2018).

Sturrock, Edith Morna: D. 26 September 2018 in Melbourne, aged 93; [she was an ANHG subscriber for a number of years]; in the early 1950s she went to London for work; she was a journalist, and she and her mother shared digs; Morna attended night classes at the Royal School of Needlework for four years and her mother was so interested in the exercises she enrolled as a day student; it was an interesting time to be at the school because the King had died and all the regalia for the new Queen was being made; it was here she developed her passion for Jacobean Embroidery; in later years she founded the Embroiderers Guild in Victoria and won an Order of Australia for her contribution to embroidery; she has created ecclesiastical vestments for all denominations; she has been journalist, historian, academic, spearheader of the ordination of women; was a promoter and publicist for what is now Deakin University (Age, 10 November 2018, p.41).

100.1.11 ‘Spectrum’ revamped

The Saturday arts and culture section, “Spectrum”, published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Melbourne Age and *Canberra Times*, has received a makeover. The new-look Spectrum features more book reviews and stories, the “Lunch With” section, new columnists and sections, and a fresh design (*Telum Media Alert*, 9 November 2018).

100.1.12 Oakley believes in printed newspapers

One of the country’s most experienced editors believes there is a solid future for print newspapers, as long as publishers maintain the size, quality and news-breaking aggression of their editorial staffs to produce “compelling, exclusive content” (*Australian*, 26 November 2018). Alan Oakley, who retired from News Corp as editorial network director in November, describes himself as a “serial editor”, having edited the *Sunday Telegraph*, *Herald Sun*, *Newcastle Herald*, *Sunday Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*.

During his time at *The Sunday Age*, he turned around circulation from a 2.5 per cent decline to 2.5 per cent growth, strengthened a team of investigative reporters, and held firm on maintaining a discrete staff of journalists and photographers operating separately from the Age. “I insisted that it was not just going to be absorbed into a seven-day roster,” he said. “Sunday papers need to break great stories. You need talented, dedicated people to do that.”

British-born Oakley started his career on the *Leighton Buzzard Observer*, a regional newspaper in Bedfordshire, north of London, writing market reports on local livestock sales. “It taught you accuracy, because if you got it wrong, it really gave farmers the shits,” he said. Oakley left the *Daily Express* in Manchester to come to Australia in 1985 to work as a sub-editor on the *Daily Telegraph* in Sydney. Oakley planned to stay only a couple of years, but settled here.

While he believed newspapers must adapt to the digital age — one of his duties was to oversee newsroom transformation — he believed the central objective and requirement for success had not changed: breaking engaging stories. “That is the key: compelling, exclusive content is what it is all about,” he said. That dictum was not sufficiently appreciated by Fairfax Media during part of his stint there.

100.1.13 Journalism institute to be created in Sydney

Billionaire philanthropist Judith Neilson will donate at least \$100 million to create a journalism institute based in Sydney (*Australian*, 28 November 2018). The institute to be called the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism & Ideas, will distribute grants and host events to encourage quality journalism. Neilson, known for her world-class Chinese contemporary art collection displayed at her White Rabbit Gallery, is a Zimbabwe-born former graphic designer who has assembled an extensive Australian property portfolio and holds a stake in Platinum Asset Management, founded in 1994 by her former husband Kerr Neilson. She is ranked 1561 on the Forbes Rich List with assets of \$US1.1bn.



2—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: DIGITAL

100.2.1 Armidale paper erects pay wall

The *Armidale Express* in the NSW New England has introduced local news subscriptions for online readers (*Armidale Express*, 12 October 2018). Since 16 October it has been offering visitors to armidaleexpress.com.au full access to the latest news from Armidale for \$2 a week. The first 30 days of website access are free for subscribers, who can choose to pay monthly or take out an annual subscription with a 20 per cent discount. Subscribers also receive access to a digital replica of each day's print edition of the newspaper so they can read every page on their tablet or desktop. The *Armidale Express* began publication on 5 April 1856.

100.2.2 Digital readership rises 4pc

Digital readership of online news has risen 4 per cent in Australia in the past 12 months, reports the Media section of the *Age*. It reports that 13.6 million Australians access their content online compared with 12.1 million reading print publications. The August data from Enhanced Media Metrics Australia (Emma), released on 29 October found metropolitan newspapers were read by 9.9 million in print over the period while regional and community titles reached 5.8 million. Combining print and digital media, 16.6 million people were reading news through mainstream publishers.

100.2.3 Digital platforms report

The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) has released its Digital Platforms Inquiry preliminary report, which dives into Google, Facebook and Australian news and advertising. The inquiry into digital platforms kicked off in February 2018, with the ACCC calling for submissions from Australian media outlets and publishers to determine if the likes of Facebook's and Google's algorithms have breached consumer protection laws. Several networks and media organisations entered submissions into the inquiry in the months following. Now, the ACCC is offering 11 preliminary recommendations and eight areas for further analysis as the inquiry continues in its preliminary report. According to the ACCC, the commission has reached the view that Google has substantial market power in online search, search advertising and news referral, and Facebook has substantial market power in markets for social media, display advertising and online news referral. In the report, the ACCC detailed Google and Facebook's dominance over traditional media in ad spend with a series of graphs, one of which pinpoints 2013 as the year online spending took over print media (*B&T Magazine*, 10 December 2018).



3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

100.3.1 Mackay: New editor for *Daily Mercury*

Paul McLoughlin has been appointed editor of the *Daily Mercury*, Mackay, Queensland. He was previously group managing editor of southern NSW and northern Victoria for Fairfax Regional

Media. Before that he was group editor of the Riverina Media Group for 12 years (*Telum Media Alert*, 15 October 2018).

100.3.2 Wingham: Newspaper office closes

The *Wingham Chronicle* vacated its office on 9 November. The weekly paper is still published. Journalists Sam Brownrigg and Julia Driscoll remain accessible through email and mobile (*Telum Media Alert*, 7 November 2018).

100.3.3 Broken Hill: *Daily Truth's* 110th anniversary

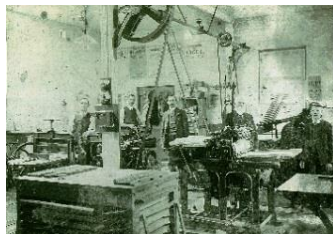
The Broken Hill *Barrier Daily Truth* printed on 20 November 2018 a special commemorative issue for its 110th anniversary. This was actually a few days late, as daily publication commenced on 2 November 1908. (Weekly publication commenced on 8 January 1898.) The issue included a reprint of the first daily issue. The special edition can be downloaded for \$2 from <https://bdtsales.com/>

The BDT's 110th edition held a surprise for Colin and Maureen Napier who saw their younger selves on the front page. This was the second milestone newspaper they had featured in. They were also in the 75th Anniversary newspaper in 1983, as pictured above.



100.3.4 Geelong: Editor departs after three years

Liam Houlihan finishes as editor of the *Geelong Advertiser* on 31 December after three years. His replacement will be Elise Potter who has been with the paper for three years.



4—NEWSPAPER HISTORY

At 100—from our subscribers

100.4.1 Both sides now, and no clouds at all [see cover picture]

Michael Macgeorge, of Melbourne, writes: I was born a journalist, yet finished up on the corporate side of the business. It happens sometimes in the media. Was I happy with the result? Let's see!

When I say I was born a journalist, I'm not kidding. My grandfather, the mighty J. S. Stephens, whom I barely knew, had dominated the subs' room of the *Age* as chief sub for 50 years, from 1885 until he finally agreed to retire in 1935 at the age of 81. He had spent 23 years working with David Syme, who died in 1908, and then another 27 years with Sir Geoffrey Syme.

It seemed natural to me that, early in 1942, at the age of 15, having left school, I began knocking on the door of the *Age*, looking for a job – any job – and in April, my knocking was answered. I began as a nervous kid, officially a junior clerk, downstairs in the commercial area. After a couple

of months, I was moved to the inquiries desk for the editorial department on the first floor, a move in the right direction. My duties here included meeting the demands of the sub-editors, such as to ensure razor blades and paste pots were in good condition—these were the real days of cut and paste—and to check that inkwells and copy paper supplies were up to the mark. I was learning from the ground up.

And then the news I was dreaming of. I would be joining the editorial staff from the beginning of 1944. I must have hit the ground running because, seven years after entering journalism as a mere cadet, I was dispatched to Canberra, to work in the Parliamentary Press Gallery under the commanding Ian Fitchett. I found my six years there enriching in every way. I loved the work and I lived cheaply and well for five of those years at the Hotel Canberra, where I rubbed shoulders with Cabinet ministers, among others. My successor in Canberra was Graham Perkin, a bright, up-and-coming colleague.

Back in Melbourne, I was appointed deputy chief of staff and within a few weeks became chief of staff. I was soon joined by Greg Taylor, the two of us becoming joint chiefs of staff, one on day shift and the other on night shift, rotating on a monthly basis. We worked harmoniously in this way for four years, until the fresh breeze that was Ranald Macdonald came along and steered the dynamic, multi-talented Perkin into the editorship, with Taylor as his deputy. In 1984, the calm and competent Taylor would become the company's chief executive after Macdonald's departure.

As editor, Perkin wanted his own team around him and gave me an attractive consolation prize—to be the company's London manager—and, incidentally, the first from Australia to occupy the post. We spent five years there.

When we returned to Melbourne in 1972, I knew my days as a journalist were over. I had reached the end of the line, as it were. I also soon realised I had returned at a critical and challenging time—the start of a revolution in printing. I had already made three visits to the United States, to see what was going on in newspapers there and, over the next few years, would make two more.

In Australia, the print unions were digging in hard, fearing – not without cause, as it turned out – that the new, electronic technology would destroy their trades and skills required in the existing hot metal age.

In Melbourne in 1975, a bitter dispute erupted in violence after talks broke down between “the proprietors”, as the negotiators for the newspapers then sometimes were, and the Printing and Kindred Industries Union, with its Federal and State officials and 26,000 members.

With the talks in deadlock after 13 days, I remember having a brief, corridor chat with Ranald in which I said to him: “Strikes like this are like atomic wars; there can be no winners.”

Soon after the strike collapsed, with little or no progress on either side, Ranald called me to his office with the esteemed general manager, Bill Bland, and told me I would now be in charge of negotiations and would report only to him. And so began 16 years of hard labour as the company's first industrial manager—years that were challenging, of high importance and, in their own way, broadening and rewarding.

Our major negotiations were conducted jointly with the Herald and Weekly Times, as it then was, and later with News Ltd, after Rupert Murdoch took over the HWT group. Soon after my appointment, HWT, then run by Sir Keith Macpherson, announced the appointment of Bill Hoey, a *Sun* senior editorial executive with a social conscience, to a similar role as mine.

Only a couple of months later, Graham Perkin died suddenly and tragically at home, at the age of 45.

Four years after Hoey and I began our innumerable meetings with people from the PKIU, we concluded a vital agreement with the union, with little or no industrial disruption. The agreement,

in April, 1979, met the key points we had sought – direct input to the new typesetting system by journalists, by editorial wire services and from classified advertising and editorial phone rooms. In exchange, our two companies agreed on a system of voluntary redundancy, with three weeks' pay, later increased to four weeks, for each year of service.

Concluding an agreement was one thing; implementing it was another. And it was just the beginning of a period of fundamental change. At the *Age*, the introduction of offset printing required an agreement between two competing unions before the press could spring into life.

In 1980, Justice Alley ruled that journalists should receive an extra \$5 a week for using visual display terminals (VDT's) in production, an allowance their union described as derisory, leading to strikes in all capital cities and resolved only when we proposed the said \$5 should be transformed into something like 5 per cent.

And so it went on, through the closure of the *Sunday Press*, a joint production of both companies, followed one week later by production of separate Sunday newspapers by the *Age*, the *Sun* and the *Herald* on the same day in August 1989, all three of them requiring agreements with the unions concerned.

With the *Age* falling into the hands of a Receiver after the craziness of young Warwick Fairfax's take-over attempt, journalists went on strike for 24 hours because of the Receiver's refusal to endorse a charter of editorial independence. Truly, there was never a dull moment.

Bill Hoey had retired in 1985. I replaced him as chair of the Victorian negotiating committee, responsible for negotiating with six unions then involved in the Melbourne dailies. In 1990, after the retirement of Brian Hogben, a senior editorial executive at News Ltd in Sydney, who had been chair of the employers' national committee for negotiating with the AJA, I became chair of that committee as well. As the only person outside News Ltd or HWT ever to sit in either chair, I appreciated the trust reposed in me, even if my own retirement was only about a year away.

So, to answer the question I raised at the start of this longish essay: was I happy with my lot? The best answer I can give, with abject apologies to Joni Mitchell, is this:

I've looked at clouds from both sides now
From up and down and still somehow
It's life's good fortunes I recall
I really don't see clouds at all.

100.4.2 The Ryerson Index

John Graham, president of the Ryerson Index Inc., writes: If you have ever wondered how to find a death notice published in an Australian newspaper, and don't know the precise date, then visit www.ryersonindex.org. This free website was originally started by genealogists, for genealogists, and while 20 years later that is still its primary purpose, its other uses are limited only by the imagination of its users.

Among the more than 6.7 million death entries, we have indexed all 2.1 million death notices from the *Sydney Morning Herald* from 1831 until last week (end of September 2018). We have indexed all the death notices ever published in some other papers since inception, such as the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* (originally the *Maryborough Chronicle*, from 1860), the *Northern Star* (from 1876), and *St George and Sutherland Leader* (from 1960). New entries (both current and back-dated) are being added at the rate of around 10,000 per week, by a team of about 125 active indexers.

Of particular relevance is the 4m-plus notices published for deaths in the past 30 years, details of such deaths being unavailable from the state BDM online indexes due to privacy considerations.

We are aware of individuals and organisations who use the Index for various non-genealogical reasons. It may be to identify those for whom a will might be held by a legal or trustee firm; to cleanse mailing lists by removing the names of those recently deceased; to keep track of cohorts

involved in medical studies. Our favourite is a chemist in a country town who checks the index each week before preparing the pill packs for the local nursing home - because Ryerson is faster at notifying a death than is the nursing home!

An analysis of the statistics shows a large drop-off in the number of death notices published in the metropolitan dailies in the past 60 or so years, with a smaller but still measurable decline in the number of notices in regional and country papers. As an example, the *Sydney Morning Herald* peaked at 27,504 death notices published in 1970. In 2017 the number was 8,055, despite the number of deaths in NSW increasing by 25.4% in the same period.

The Ryerson Index has grown into a go-to website for Australian genealogical research in its 20 years on the web, and the dedicated band of volunteers aims to keep it that way for at least the next 20.

100.4.3 The front page was full of ads

Victor Isaacs writes: What set off my interest in the design of newspapers? This is something I was always vaguely interested in, but there was one particular incident which really made me want to find out more. One day, I was researching something (I've forgotten what) in the great national treasure, the Newspaper Room of the National Library. I was scrolling through a microfilm copy of an old newspaper at a machine. A young lady was busy doing the same next to me. We were each minding our own business. Suddenly, she turned to me and exclaimed in great surprise something like, "I wanted to give my grandfather a copy of the front page of the *Courier-Mail* on his birthday for a birthday present. But the front page of the newspaper on this day consists entirely of classified advertisements! I can't believe it!" Her face was filled with such utter amazement and incredulity that I have never forgotten it. And so my interest really began.

100.4.4 How things have changed!

Alan Clark, of Nowra, writes: I was pleased to be associated for half a century in the newspaper industry during a period of revolutionary change. When I began a six-year apprenticeship as a hand compositor at Warragul (Vic.) in 1958, one of my earliest tasks was to hand-set the headlines for the weekly newspaper. There was one Linotype machine in the office, and another job was to melt down the metal slugs when each issue was completed and return them as ingots to be used again. The paper was printed two pages at a time, and when backed up, it was fed through a folding machine. The last process was to collate the sheets to make up the 16-page edition.

Before my apprenticeship was completed, I gained experience on the Linotype, using a keyboard vastly larger and different from the one I would use later in life. In 1975 I joined the *South Coast Register* at Nowra (NSW) and within a year was introduced to computers. The typesetter produced holed paper-tapes that were fed into a computer taller than me. It contained a film strip with seven typefaces, and eight lenses provided different sizes. Images went onto photosensitive paper which was processed using chemicals.

After nine years, there was new technology with articles stored on floppy discs, although they were processed the same way. The advantage was that files could be recalled for correction and editing. That method would continue until 1997 after Rural Press had taken over the paper, and the paste-up department was replaced by production people putting the pages together on screens. With the typesetting team reduced, I became a proof-reader and journalist, and filled those roles until my retirement in 2012. From time to time I still write an article for the paper which may be read on the *Register's* website. How things have changed!

100.4.5 Bush papers kept the record

Chris Harte, of London, writes: In late 1989, I was researching the newspaper archives in the Mortlock Library of South Australia. I had been commissioned to write the history of the South Australian Cricket Association and was looking for any scores and match reports from the 1880s and 1890s. In those days teams travelled to Inter-Colonial matches by either boat or train and it was quite usual for games to be arranged at places en route, some of which would last three or four days. No official records were ever kept of these fixtures as cricket statistics, in those times, were not considered

important. Any games taking place outside of the main cities were only reported in the relevant local newspapers.

In 1979, The Association of Cricket Statisticians (ACS) had submitted the result of many years of research to the appropriate cricket authorities for the approval of the definition of what were, and were not, first-class matches. Imagine my delight as I not only came across lost games which were obviously first-class but even the occasional photo and, in one instance, a presentation medallion.

The bush newspapers were wonderful in their descriptions and lists of players, including scorecards, umpires, local dignitaries who attended and even the caterers. I was able to include all of this information in my book and was delighted to present the information to the ACS for them to be able to reclassify the details in their records.

Alas, the chairman of the relevant sub-committee told me that there could be no going back on their previous decision. Although I was peeved, to put it mildly, the fact that I had discovered the huge amount of sporting material existing in bush newspapers meant that I had found a wonderful source of research for future books.

100.4.6 Leon Oberg's reflections (2): From typewriters to digital age

This is the second in a series of reflections by Leon Oberg, of Goulburn. The first appeared in ANHG 99.4.2.

Leon Oberg writes: When I started at the paper in 1964, journalists were generally using 1940s-1950s typewriters, bashing stories out onto copy paper a paragraph at a time. This material would go to the sub-editor for checking and the editor would determine newsworthiness – where the material would appear in the paper. The edited copy would then go down a chute to the production department where one of many linotype operators would re-type those words on a 90-character keyboard.

The clattering machine would then assemble matrices (molds for the letters and words being formed) in a line. The assembled line would then be cast as a single piece “slug”. This was a process known as “hot metal” typesetting and the finished story, set to a width earlier determined by the editor, would be placed on a forme by a compositor and gradually a page would be assembled using photo blocks and cast advertisements and so on. From this, a cast metal plate representing two pages at a time would be made and be bolted to the press.

When I began, the *Goulburn Evening Post* had a terrible airless, poky darkroom where film was developed allowing photographs to be printed. It was rather rudimentary, unhealthy, but effective. In later years I was able to design and commission a much larger air-conditioned area for the purpose, one that provided an office for writing and a purpose-built darkroom containing several enlargers meaning a number of photographers could work at once. With the 1985 restructure, journalists started using computers to write their copy and today, with the Internet and email, news gathering is so easy compared with what we went through in those early days it can only be compared with the horse and cart era and rocket science. Stories today can be written and emailed to people for fact checking and any corrections or suggested improvements can be back in the writer's hands within minutes. Data checking via Internet can be had at the press of a button.

Photography, up until effective digital imagery appeared in our newsroom from 2001, was rather time consuming. It would take 12 minutes to develop, fix and properly wash a film. If a photo for the front page was really urgent such as a last-minute crash, fire or civic announcement, it was possible to print from hastily rinsed wet film but the enlarger would need to be cleaned and the film strip properly washed and dried in the normal way for filing, afterwards. Even then 12-15 minutes would be required under the best emergency conditions to have a dried print for the editor.

With digital photography, we all know today how an image can be downloaded into a computer within seconds of connecting the camera. A picture for publication can be selected instantly and no more than 60 seconds need elapse before that photograph is forwarded to production for editing, sizing and page fitting. And no one breathes in chemicals or gets them on their hands, no more groping around in the dark, waiting on print driers and so on...

Another benefit of modern technology was the ability to receive news pictures quickly. Even when I started editing *Town and Country Magazine*, I had to rely on the vagaries of Australia Post when getting images. A photograph sent from Eden or Bega, for instance, would often take three or more days to arrive and sometimes miss the deadline altogether.

Modern technology has also vastly improved the quality of newspaper reproduction. When I started the hot metal printing process was rather rudimentary, and photographs would appear grainy due to the coarse 65 dots to the square inch screen in use and to poor paper stock. Offset printing from the late 1970s did improve that a tad but none of this holds a candle to today's digital plateless presses that have the ability to print material clearly and in a higher, sharper screen density.

They talk about the 'good old days' but who would go back to the quill, clunky typewriters, film cameras, teleprinters and hot metal presses? Computers, communications and cameras today still amaze me being one who grew up in the steam era and when some milkmen still delivered the milk by horse and cart.

Is journalism heading in the right direction? I guess it is given all of this technology. People like to be informed and if the media is used lawfully and without bias, of course it will survive and have credibility.

100.4.7 'Whites' in the hot-metal days

Peter Gill, of Melbourne, writes: I enjoyed most of the six years that I spent in two Melbourne newspaper offices (the *Argus* and the *Herald*) during an apprenticeship to become a compositor. Perhaps the aspects which had least appeal included working on Saturdays (because I wanted to pursue the sport of rowing) and the imminent prospect of mobbing to the night shift in early 1963. In that era, newspapers were reaching the pinnacle of hot-metal development of newspaper production. Although the *Argus* had included colour printing from time to time since 1952, much of the news content gathered by the newspaper's own staff came from teleprinters, and photos were transmitted by picturegram.

One task given to junior apprentices was the "making of whites". The type from the day's five-point classified advertisements was put into a chase, and the top of all the slugs (or lines of type) was planed off. There was always the prospect of the type being thrust into the air! "Whites" had the practical value of being used to make a five-point space, rather than using six-point spacing made on Elrod machines.

Now to the ANHG: Issues of this *Newsletter* have included a broad range of Australian newspaper history, from our earliest days through to modern arrangements and newspaper development. I have greatly appreciated the continuing details about big and small Australian newspapers and their varied histories. Rod Kirkpatrick and Victor Isaacs are to be congratulated for nurturing the *Newsletter* for 100 issues. As compiler, Rod must spend many hours in considering the material which is available for each issue, then selecting and editing the final copy. I hope that Rod has the personal enthusiasm and good health to continue with his significant activities necessary for each issue.

At 100—back to normal

100.4.8 *Nation*: 60 years in hindsight

The influential fortnightly magazine *Nation* was launched in Sydney sixty years ago today (26 September 2018). In this essay first published in 1989, one of its best-known contributors recalls its genesis; extract only (*Inside Story*).

Nation, "an independent journal of opinion", was published in Sydney from 1958 to 1972, each fortnightly issue a miscellany of editorial and contributed articles on politics and the economy, manners and morals and the arts. The writers include people well known already when *Nation* began, among them Cyril Pearl, W. Macmahon Ball and Max Harris, and others for whom *Nation* found a new reading public, such as Sylvia Lawson, Brian Johns and Bob Ellis. The time runs from the middle of the Menzies age to the eve of Whitlam, from the aftermath of French defeat in Indochina to the Vietnamisation of America's and Australia's war, from the pill to gay liberation,

from the early days of the Elizabethan Theatre Trust and Richard Beynon's *The Shifting Heart* to La Mama and Nimrod and David Williamson's *The Removalists*.

Over those fourteen years *Nation* readers were offered an informative, searching and quirky analysis of a nation's experiences: the myopic foreign and opportunistic domestic policies of Menzies and his Liberal successors, the stumbling recuperation of Labor, the changing face of cities, the boom in mining shares and tax avoidance and the slide in manufacturing, the zigzag quest for cultural identity, and much else that the newspapers either dealt with partially, trivialised, missed, or — often enough to delight the journal's makers — picked up from *Nation*. The principal makers, from beginning to end, were Tom Fitzgerald and George Munster.

Fitzgerald was thirty-eight, in 1956, when he decided to start his own paper. That August, Harold Levien's independent monthly, *Voice*, which he admired, went silent after five years of struggle. For much of 1956 Fitzgerald was in conflict with the bosses of the *Sydney Morning Herald* over the limits of his freedom as "financial editor" to speak his mind in their pages. And he had lately given up a private hope, nurtured since his discovery of America on the way to war in Europe, of making a life in the United States as an economist or a journalist.

Nation once carried an advertisement for a building society showing a milkman and an aircraft officer as different types of investor. This must have entertained the editor/proprietor, for he had been both. Thomas Michael Fitzgerald was born in 1918 on his grandfather's dairy in the Sydney working-class district of Marrickville. That grandfather and grandmother, his father's parents, were Irish-Catholic migrants, and so was his mother. Tom was the oldest of six children. When he was about ten, health inspectors closed the dairy, but his father had become a milk vendor, helped by three of his sons on a route that took them running through old inner suburbs — Marrickville, Newtown, St Peters, Leichhardt — before dawn and returning in daylight to collect money and talk companionably with the customers. This experience contributed to a lifelong sense of identification with working people. His father had a vivid awareness of the wrongs done to Ireland but was a less frequent churchgoer than his mother.

100.4.9 Photos run on cover page of ANHG issues

No cover photos were used in issues 1 to 50.

| Issue no. | Image used |
|-----------|---|
| 51 | Hobart <i>Mercury</i> pressroom 1902. |
| 52 | <i>Dungog Chronicle</i> office, early 1900s. |
| 53 | David Tulloch at <i>Maffra Spectator</i> office. |
| 54 | Horace Burgess Harvey as 15yo apprentice at Prompt Printery, Bundaberg, 1941. |
| 55 | <i>Wagin Argus</i> office, WA, 2007. |
| 56 | Joyce Saunders at centenary of North-Eastern Advertiser, Scottsdale, Tas |
| 57 | Delegates to the Australian Provincial Press Association Conference held in Brisbane in 1936 |
| 58 | <i>Manning River News</i> plaque at Tinonee, NSW |
| 62 | Office of the <i>Kangaroo Island Courier</i> , Kingscote, 1936. |
| 63 | Final issue of the <i>News of the World</i> , 10 July 2011. |
| 65 | Rob Wilson at Pinnaroo Printing Museum, 2003. |
| 66 | <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> building, August 2003. |
| 67 | Launch of Media Archives Database project: Angelos Frangopoulos, Bridget Griffen-Foley and Harold Mitchell. |
| 68 | Weston family pic, 1997, <i>Kiama Independent</i> . |

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|----|---|
| 69 | <i>Albany Advertiser</i> building, 2003. |
| 70 | (1) William Pettit and Ken McPhan, of the <i>Gippsland Independent and Express</i> , Drouin, Victoria. (2) Bacchus Marsh Express office. (3) Islander office, Kangaroo Island. |
| 71 | Front pages of first tabloid issues of <i>SMH</i> and <i>Age</i> . |
| 72 | <i>Charlton Tribune</i> workroom in hand-type days. |
| 73 | Rod Kirkpatrick researching bound volumes of <i>Maryborough Chronicle</i> , 1992 |
| 74 | Offices of the <i>Bunyip</i> , Gawler, South Australia, in 2003. |
| 75 | Donald Roy McPherson, of the McPherson family, owners of the Shepparton <i>News</i> since 1888. |
| 76 | <i>Manning River Times</i> 1960s photo of first copies being pulled off the old flatbed press. |
| 77 | Launceston <i>Examiner</i> building, 2003 |
| 78 | <i>Kilmore Standard of Freedom</i> half of Page 1 |
| 79 | <i>Bendigo Advertiser</i> staff 1918 |
| 80 | <i>Courier-Mail's</i> 11 August 1945 headline about imminent end of Japan war |
| 81 | Two pictures of <i>Gnowangerup Star</i> , WA: exterior of building; and Margaret Walker with hot-metal pages of final edition, 26 June 2003. |
| 82 | Collage of Anzac Day centenary front pages |
| 83 | Final Melbourne issue of commuter newspaper <i>mX</i> (12 June 2015). |
| 84 | Exterior of Victorian country newspaper offices at Bacchus Marsh, Camperdown and Donald in 2002 |
| 85 | Exterior of four country newspaper offices in Western Australia, ca 2003-05: Northam, Carnarvon, Manjimup and Kununurra. |
| 86 | Collage of photos of Christchurch's daily, the <i>Press</i> |
| 87 | The file room at Mt Gambier's <i>Border Watch</i> |
| 88 | <i>Inverell Times</i> office, 2012 (Barry Blair pic). |
| 89 | <i>Great Southern Herald</i> office, Katanning, WA |
| 90 | <i>Colac Daily News</i> , various |
| 91 | Our Year of Headlines, <i>Herald Sun</i> 2016 |
| 92 | A <i>Warwick Daily News</i> Linotype, 1971 |
| 93 | Series of photos related to Jennie Scott Wilson, feminist and Red-ragger |
| 94 | "Dryblower" Murphy |
| 95 | The front page of the only known extant issue of the <i>Mountain Tourist</i> , Belgrave, Victoria. It is the fifth issue of the paper which was reportedly the first newspaper published in the Dandenong Ranges |
| 96 | The front page of the <i>Canberra Times</i> of 11 February 1964, the first newspaper to report the scale of the Voyager disaster. The paper took a lead role in covering what was the worst peacetime disaster in Australian maritime history as it unfolded off the New South Wales south coast. |
| 97 | The <i>Cumberland Argus</i> office in George Street, Parramatta, in 1889. |

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| 98 | A photograph taken by Russell McPhedran of the Granville train disaster, Sydney, on 18 January 1977. Eighty-three people died and 213 were injured. |
| 99 | Screenshot of the top half of the front page of the <i>Australian</i> of 27 July 2018 with the banner headline, “THE DAY FAIRFAX DIED”, reporting the imminent merger of the Nine Network and Fairfax Media Ltd. |
| 100 | <i>Age</i> and Herald & Weekly Times industrial managers and the printing union representatives when the breakthrough industrial agreement is signed allowing for direct input into typesetting systems via VDTs by journalists and from classified advertising phone rooms and wire services. |

100.4.10 Publications of the Australian Newspaper History Group

1. Isaacs, Victor, and Kirkpatrick, Rod (2003), *Two Hundred Years of Sydney Newspapers: A Short History*. Sydney: with assistance of Rural Press Limited. [Now out of print, but available on CD.]
2. Isaacs, Victor, and Kirkpatrick, Rod, eds. (2003), *The Australian Press: A Bicentennial Retrospect*. Brisbane: Australian Newspaper History Group. ISBN 0-9751552-0-2.
3. Isaacs, Victor, Kirkpatrick, Rod, and Russell, John (2004), *Australian Newspaper History: A Bibliography*. Brisbane. ISBN 0-9751552-1-0.
4. Gillen, Karen, comp., and Kirkpatrick, Rod, ed. (2004), *The ANHG Index: Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter Numbers 1 to 25 (1999-2003)*. Brisbane. ISBN 0-9751552-2-9.
5. Russell, John C., transcr. (2005), *Bibliographical Notes for Henry Mayer's The Press in Australia*. Brisbane: Australian Newspaper History Group. ISBN 0-9751552-3-7.
6. Russell, John C., comp. (2005), *Early Printers of Melbourne: An Index*. Brisbane: Australian Newspaper History Group. ISBN 0-9751552-4-5.
7. Kirkpatrick, Rod, comp. (2006), *Press Timeline: Select chronology of significant Australian press events 1802-2005*. Brisbane: Australian Newspaper History Group. ISBN 0-9803128-0-9.
8. Isaacs, Victor (2007), *Looking Good: The Changing Appearance of Australian Newspapers*. Brisbane: Australian Newspaper History Group. ISBN 978-0-9803128-1-2. 44 pages.
9. Isaacs, Victor (2008), *How We Got the News: Newspaper Distribution in Australia and New Zealand*. Mackay: Australian Newspaper History Group. ISBN 978-0-9803 128-2-9. 67pages.
10. Gillen, Karen, comp., and Kirkpatrick, Rod, ed. (2009), *Fifty ANHG issues indexed: An index of the Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter Numbers 1 to 50 (1999-2008)*. Mackay: Australian Newspaper History Group. 180pp. ISBN 978-0-9803128-3-6.
11. Russell, John, Kirkpatrick, Rod, and Isaacs, Victor, comp. (2009), *Australian Newspaper History: A Bibliography*, 2nd ed. Mackay: Australian Newspaper History Group. ISBN 978-0-9803128-4-3.
12. Kirkpatrick, Rod, comp. (2009), *Press Timeline: Select chronology of significant Australian press events 1802-2008*. Mackay: Australian Newspaper History Group. Available only in CD format.
13. Gillen, Karen, comp., and Kirkpatrick, Rod, ed. (2013), *Australian Newspaper History Indexed: An Index to the Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter, Numbers 1 to 75 (1999-2013)*.
14. Kirkpatrick, Rod, *Dailies in the Colonial Capitals: A Short History*. ISBN 978-0-9751552-7-1.

100.4.11 When we were 50

When the 50th issue of this newsletter appeared, the following article was published about how it began:

Rod Kirkpatrick writes (ANHG 50.4.8): The Australian Newspaper History Group, which emerged from a conference on local newspapers and local identities at Chiltern in north-eastern Victoria in October 1999, is an example of what individuals rather than committees can achieve. One of those at the Chiltern conference was Victor Isaacs, a Canberra public servant with wide-ranging interests in history. He wanted to form a group of people with interests in newspaper history and to issue some sort of publication for them. A few weeks later he single-handedly published the first issue of the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*.

That first issue carried only four A4 pages, but it was a start. Isaacs published a second issue in November (again 4pp), a third in January 2000 (8pp) and a fourth in February (10pp). Then he asked his growing ANHG readership whether anyone would like to take over the editorship from him. I put up my hand and built on the solid foundation that Isaacs had laid. Ten issues appeared in the first 15 months, but since 2001 the newsletter has appeared five times a year, without fail.

The size since 2001 has generally been 20 pages (about 10,500 words). This is issue No. 50. The newsletter breaks up items into sections that deal with current events in the capital-city dailies, online news as produced by newspapers, and provincial and suburban papers (the items are short, but are sourced so that readers can find out more if they wish). There are also sections on newspaper history (the “old” stuff) and on recent publications (books, theses, and journal, magazine and major newspaper articles) of relevance to newspaper historians. The newsletter has 230 electronic subscribers (who pay nothing) and 23 hard-copy subscribers (individuals pay \$50 for ten issues). The subscribers include National and State Libraries, newspaper researchers, editors, managers, journalists, academics and librarians. The ANHG has published nine books and is working on its grandest publication yet: a comprehensive bibliography of Australian newspaper history. It will be the second edition of the bibliography, but this edition will dwarf the first edition. The ANHG plans to publish early in 2009 an index to the first 50 issues of its newsletter. All this from the initiation of one man and the taking up of the baton by two or three others.

Let **Victor Isaacs** tell in his own words what led to the formation of the Australian Newspaper History Group. “I had long had an interest in newspapers – their history as well as current topics. I was growing increasingly frustrated that there seemed to be no place to pursue this interest in Australia. There was no organisation of like-minded people, and there was no journal about the subject. In mid-1999, I finally decided that since there was no organisation, I would just have to found one. I drafted a form letter and sent it to the newspaper librarians of major libraries, university faculties of journalism and history, historical societies around the country, and daily and Sunday newspapers. I had no idea what sort of reaction I would get. Very soon after I sent the letter, I walked into the newspaper room at the National Library of Australia. The newspaper librarian said to me, ‘That was an interesting letter we received from you. No doubt, you know about the forthcoming newspaper history conference in Chiltern.’

“No, I didn’t. Clearly, there were other people who shared my interest! If I had not sent my letter, I would possibly never have heard about the conference. I received an approximately 30 per cent response to my letter, which is pretty good for that type of thing. Meanwhile, I went to the conference in October 1999. It was a weekend filled with papers about newspaper history of overwhelming interest. I thought this is what I have been looking for all my life!

”The final session of the conference was entitled “Where do we go from here?” I followed up on the letter, by raising the idea of a newspaper history group and journal. There was agreement that we did not want yet another formal, academic magazine. There was a view that an informal journal keeping people in touch with what was going on would be very useful. On this basis, I put together the first issue of the *ANHG Newsletter*. I sent gratis copies to everybody who had replied to my letter and everybody who had attended the conference. I received very gratifying responses. The ANHG was away!”

100.4.12 Typewriters and a yearning for permanence

Will Pavia writes in “Spotlight”, *Weekend Australian Magazine*, 13-14 October 2018: In a stretch of Manhattan full of digital agencies and social media companies, Paul Schweltzer sells machines that allow users to write messages on paper. They are called typewriters. Just as the rise of music streaming services has been accompanied by a vinyl revival, so have typewriter sales soared in the age of texting. Schweltzer says monthly sales have risen sixfold in five years, “especially the portable manual typewriters”. Some relate the trend to a revival of craftsmanship and a yearning for permanence.

100.4.13 Shorthand on the rocks

Chris Griffiths writes (Australian, 15 October 2018): Once upon a time, journalists used shorthand to transcribe interviews and meetings. It could be a discussion at a luncheon, courtroom proceedings or parliamentary proceedings. Now the reign of shorthand has all but ended, a skill

that goes back to ancient Greeks killed off by the digital age. Greek shorthand was believed to have begun with Xenophon's transcription of the memoirs of Socrates, while in Roman times, consul of the Roman republic Marcus Cicero instructed Tyro, a slave, to develop what became known as Tironian shorthand. Released in 1837, English educator Sir Isaac Pitman's shorthand was the standard system for reporters. It was later joined by Teeline, developed in the late 1960s.

Now machine learning is all but sounding shorthand's death knell, as computers and apps become more proficient at creating accurate transcripts. The internet offers different types of services depending on the degree of digital help you want. Sites such as transcribe.wreally.com and oTranscribe.com make it easy to transcribe manually from an audio file. You can slow down and pause the audio from your keyboard without touching your recording device.

Then there's human help, services that will manually transcribe your audio file. The cost varies wildly depending on the service's location, English skills, but some services work with thousands of freelance transcribers operating from their homes in various parts of the world. You have to make sure that they keep the contents confidential.

More recently automated transcription services have sprung up online. Speechmatics, Trint and Temi transcribe uploaded audio for as little as 10 cents per minute. But while accuracy can be excellent if the audio quality is good and there are no heavy accents, if the audio is muffled, or distant, you can end up with gobbledygook. The more recent development is real-time translation, where the transcribed text is created as you conduct your interview. Download the Otter.ai app, point your smartphone at the subject, begin the interview and a transcript appears in real-time as the interview proceeds. Again, accuracy varies depending on audio quality.

Otter lets you easily listen to the audio of any part of the transcription to check its accuracy, and you can edit it on the fly. This makes it very usable. Otter was developed by AISense, a start-up based in Los Altos, California and is available as an iOS and Android apps, and through the web. It is compatible with the Android app, ACR or "a call recorder", so you can transcribe phone calls on the fly. You can conduct an interview over the phone as you walk along the street, choose the option to send the conversation to Otter, and a few minutes later receive the transcription. Unfortunately ACR doesn't work with iPhones.

100.4.14 Claude Marquet and the comps of the season



From Cowan's 1904: Of the many Christmas greeting cards, we have to acknowledge that of the Melbourne *Argus* companionship, reproduced herewith, is the most original and artistic expression of the good feeling that is general among followers of typography. Mr Claude Marquet's design shows the skill in drawing, genial humour and faithful presentation of printing-office detail, which have long pleased typographic admirers of his art. Mr Marquet, whose drawings have appeared in most of the leading Australian illustrated newspapers, has experience in South Australia (his native state) as comp. and Linotype operator, but editorial recognition of his artistic gifts led him to

depend exclusively on black-and-white work. After a period spent in drawing for *Quiz* and other Adelaide papers, he came two years ago to Melbourne, where the excellence of his cartoons and other illustrative work has won him a high reputation. The *Argus* companionship is to be congratulated on securing this brilliant specimen of one department of Mr Marquet's art.

100.4.15 A bon Mott

Clifton Mott, an Albury newspaper sub-editor, was asked on the night of 23 October 1934 to find a way to use lights to signal an aircraft lost in an air race from England to Melbourne. Twenty teams had entered the 18,000km race. The team from the Royal Dutch airline, KLM, became hopelessly lost in a savage electrical storm over inland New South Wales. Mott enlisted the help of Lyle Ferris, Albury's municipal electrical engineer, and Reg Turner, the district postal inspector. Turner's knowledge of Morse code and Ferris's electrical expertise allowed them to switch the town's lights on and off to spell out A-L-B-U-R-Y. At least 80 motorists came out to use their headlights as landing lights. The aircraft landed safely at 1.17am and stuck fast in deep mud. A team of about 300 people gathered at day break to pull the aircraft free. It completed the race that day, finishing second despite the setback. Mott was a member of the Mott newspaper dynasty of Albury, Hamilton and Melbourne.

100.4.16 Correction

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: This is a correction to a statement I made in **73.4.2 Times flies (1)**: I said: "I had heard about the [Canberra CAE journalism] course when, as the Taree [newspaper] editor, I attended a weekend seminar on provincial journalism at the University of New England, Armidale, in August 1970 (it turned out to be the final seminar; viz. *Country Conscience*, p.182)." In fact, the seminar took place in May 1970 (22nd to 24th), not August, as my diary for 1970 clearly indicates.



5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

100.5.1 Book

Calder, Bill, *Pink Ink: The golden era for gay and lesbian magazines*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016.

NT News, *The Subtle art of Not Giving a Croc! Legendary Front Pages From the NT News Volume Two*, Hachette, 2018, paperback, 128 pp., \$20. Reproduces some of the outrageous pages of the *NT News* of recent years, along with some proud statements of how they were produced.

Spooner, John, *What the Hell was He Thinking? John Spooner's Guide to the 21st Century*. Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2018. \$65. Spooner was a cartoonist for the *Melbourne Age* for more than 40 years.

100.5.2 Articles

Green, Mel, "Dapper snapper had a rich career", *Canberra Times*, 1 December 2018, p.24. Obituary of former *Canberra Times* chief photographer (from 1964 to 1984) Jim Green 1919-2018.

Needham, Kirsty, "Our part in the birth of China Daily," *Age*, 6 December 2018, p.12; also in *Sydney Morning Herald* under the title of "Red all over: our newsman in Beijing," p.12. Tells the story of the involvement of the *Age* in the establishment of the *China Daily*.

Wright, Tony, "Hall of Fame a natural home for one of our best journos," *Age*, 17 November 2018, p.33. A tribute to Michael Gordon 1956-2018.

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