



**When government keeps the truth from you,
what are they covering up?**

yourrighttoknow.com.au
#righttoknow

AUTHORISED BY MICHAEL MILLER, 2 HOLT ST, SUNNYSIDE NSW 2010

This was the front page of the *Australian* on Monday, 21 October 2019, the day the nation's media companies "censored their own front pages in a united call for greater media freedom following a sustained attack on the rights of journalists to hold governments to account and report the truth to the Australian public" (*Australian*, 21 October 2019, p.2). See ANHG 105.1.1 to 105.1.5 below.

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



105.1.1 Right to know (1): United media campaign

Scott Morrison declared that journalists should not be prosecuted at the “whim of politicians”, a month after Attorney-General Christian Porter gave himself new powers to make the final call to take reporters to court for exposing government secrets (*Australian*, 22 October 2019, p.1). The Prime Minister’s comments came after media organisations launched a united push against government secrecy, issuing heavily redacted front pages on 21 October to protest a sustained attack on the rights of journalists to hold governments to account and report the truth to the public. As media companies demanded six reforms to better protect journalists and whistleblowers, the Prime Minister told Parliament Australians did not want to be part of a country where politicians determined prosecutions.

The cover of the *Australian* on 21 October (see cover of this newsletter) was the sort of front page you might have expected if the media had been censored in a world war. On the heavily redacted page, the words in small type which were not obliterated but which were scattered a few here, a few there, included: “News restrictions. Secrecy. Jail terms for journalists and whistleblowers. It couldn’t happen in Australia? It’s happening now. When the government starts hiding the truth from Australians what are they covering up? The elderly are being abused and neglected inside our nursing homes. The government won’t tell you which ones.”

The newspapers whose front pages appeared much like the *Australian’s* included all of Australia’s capital-city dailies and national dailies as well as many regional papers—including Lismore’s *Northern Star*, Gladstone’s *Observer*, Rockhampton’s *Morning Bulletin*, Toowoomba’s *Chronicle*, the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, the *Cairns Post*, the *Townsville Bulletin*, Mackay’s *Daily Mercury* and Bundaberg’s *NewsMail*. The *Australian* also featured “Your Right to Know” articles on Page 2 (about two-thirds of the page, with articles by Michael Miller, executive chairman of News Corp Australasia, and Leo Shanahan, Media editor of the *Australian*; an article (“Only journalism can keep government accountable”) by Arthur Moses, SC, president of the Law Council of Australia, on Page 12; a full double-column page length editorial, “Your Right to Know is a cornerstone of democracy”; and filled the front page of the Media section, with articles by Leo Shanahan, Paul Whittaker (former editor-in-chief), Hedley Thomas (chief reporter), Chris Kenny (associate editor), David Penberthy (South Australia correspondent) and Paul Maley (“Why I can’t tell you the full story”).

What triggered the media campaign? On 4 June, police conducted a six-hour raid on the home of News Corp political journalist Annika Smethurst over an April 2018 story. The story had revealed a proposal for electronic intelligence agency the Australian Signals Directorate to take on an expanded domestic role and that figures inside government were concerned about the idea.

On 5 June, as part of a separate leak investigation, police raided the Sydney headquarters of the ABC over a 2017 series on accusations of war crimes committed by Australia’s special forces in Afghanistan. The warrant named multiple ABC journalists responsible for the reporting. A week earlier, a former military lawyer was committed to stand trial over the leak of documents to the ABC.

A further raid on News Corp was planned for 6 June but did not go ahead. The back-to-back operations, taking place long after the publication of the stories, triggered concerns that police

were seeking to intimidate whistleblowers and journalists. The police actions highlighted a perceived rise of cultural secrecy and legal restrictions that impinge on media freedom in Australia.

For more background: see the first seven items in ANHG 104. Also see many articles listed in 105.5.2 below. See the letters to the editor and political cartoons in newspapers for a few days after the redacted front pages appeared. Also see ABC iView for *Gruen*, 23 October 2019, for a satirical take on the “Your Right to Know” campaign.

105.1.2 Right to know (2): Ex-intelligence officer named

The Government is pursuing former intelligence official Cameron Gill as the alleged source for a story by News Corp journalist Annika Smethurst that revealed a secret proposal to expand the powers of the Australian Signals Directorate (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 November 2019, p.15). Court documents confirm authorities believe Gill leaked classified information to Smethurst for the April 2018 story, which triggered an investigation and an AFP raid on the journalist’s home on 4 June 2019. Police also executed a warrant at Gill’s house in September but had previously refused to confirm the reasons for the raid.

105.1.3 Right to know (3): Media ‘encouraged’ by negotiations

Media bosses say they are encouraged by their latest negotiations with the government over press freedom, expressing optimism they will secure support for reforms to restrict secrecy and protect journalists and whistleblowers (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 November 2019, p.10).

105.1.4 Right to know (4): Validity of warrant challenged

Lawyers for News Corp journalist Annika Smethurst locked horns with the federal government on the first day of the High Court hearings over the police raids on her home on 4 June. The hearing began on 12 November.

105.1.5 Right to know (5): Letting the cat out of the bag

Paul Turner writes (*Australian*, 5 November 2019, p.12, extract only): Wednesday [30 October] marked the second anniversary of my dismissal for disclosing the Queensland government’s shameful mistreatment of a homicide victim’s family. I was a media officer in the Department of Justice when my career collided with two “high priority” emails about convicted killer Benjamin Oakley and his victim’s mother, Leanne Pullen. (Oakley was sentenced to eight years’ jail for his part in the brutal killing of Gary and Leanne Pullen’s son, Tim, whose remains were dumped in remote bushland.) The first email warned of “negative media attention” because Pullen — a strong advocate for “no body, no parole” laws — was about to be told of a Parole Board decision to release Oakley in a matter of months. The second email, minutes later, advised that victim notification had instead been stopped pending a review by Parole Board president Michael Byrne QC.

This last-minute intervention to withhold approved information was unprecedented, to my knowledge, as was the review and political context. Attorney-General Yvette D’Ath and Corrective Services Minister Mark Ryan had just held a media conference with the Pullens to celebrate parliamentary passage of the no body, no parole laws. Ryan had been briefed on the parole decision days earlier but did not tell the Pullens, so their statements at the media conference and in follow-up interviews were based on the mistaken belief that Oakley would still face no body, no parole requirements. The two emails I received were also sent to numerous ministerial advisers and departmental executives, including the director-general and acting commissioner for Corrective Services, but no one seemed in any hurry to tell the Pullens.

The following day I learned that victim notification had only been stopped after Ryan’s chief of staff called the commissioner’s office and Byrne in response to the first email.

So, why was a political adviser meddling in routine operational matters? After a couple of sleepless nights, I decided to contact the *Australian*’s Hedley Thomas, who informed the Pullens and broke the story days later. The Pullens were devastated by the Oakley decision and incensed at having been paraded for political advantage and denied information to which they were entitled. Ryan claimed he was bound by confidentiality constraints but failed to explain why the Pullens were

treated like “political pawns” or why victim notification had to be stopped when they could simply have been told the truth — that parole had been granted but was being reviewed.

105.1.6 Melbourne Press Club turmoil

A stoush within the upper echelons of the Melbourne Press Club has culminated in the exodus of three of the club’s top leaders and has left it without a president, vice-president and chief executive (*Australian*, 24 October 2019, p.3). Vice-president and co-host of ABC News Breakfast, Michael Rowland, MPC president Adele Ferguson, and CEO and former editor of the *Canberra Times* Mark Baker, all resigned on 22 and 23 October. Rowland was reportedly the first to quit, on 22 October, over ongoing bickering between Baker and former editor of the *Age* Michael Smith. The pair reportedly clashed over the choice of publisher for a second press club book about the Australian Media Hall of Fame. The *Guardian* reported that the rift emerged after Baker objected to using Wilkinson Publishing because the company had bought the rights to the Milo Yiannopoulos book *Dangerous*. The departures reportedly came after a bout of mediation between members of the club’s board, including Ferguson, Rowland and lawyer Richard Leder, failed to resolve the dispute.

On 24 October, the club’s board appointed Eileen Berry, who was its other vice-president, as acting president and acting CEO (*Australian*, 24 October 2019; *Age*, 25 October 2019, p.6).

105.1.7 Bauer acquires Pacific Magazines

Bauer Media Group is acquiring Pacific Magazines from Seven West Media for \$40 million. Pacific publishes magazines such as *Better Homes & Gardens*, *New Idea* and *Marie Claire*. Combining Pacific Magazines with Bauer Media Australia’s existing multi-platform publishing portfolio brings together over 50 highly complementary titles. The companies’ media statement asserted the enlarged business has deep expertise in the women’s entertainment and lifestyle, fashion, beauty and health, and food and homes categories, and be well placed to maximise reach and engagement with consumers while continuing to invest in new, must-have content.

Seven West has also merged with regional broadcaster, Prime. Seven West owns newspapers such as the *West Australian*, *Sunday Times* and groups such as Community Newspapers and WA Regional Newspapers (*Australian*, 21 October 2019).

105.1.8 People

- **Matthew Dunckley** has been appointed digital editor of the Melbourne *Age*. He was previously the national business editor for the *Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *brisbanetimes.com.au*, *Canberra Times* and *WAtoday* (*Telum Media Alert*, 30 October 2019).
- **Peter Norman Jeremy Gaunt**, an Englishman who became general manager of Fairfax Magazines and later general manager and then managing director of John Fairfax Ltd, has died. See obituary, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 November 2019, p.39.
- **Clive James**, Australian author, journalist and critic, died in Cambridge, England, on 24 November, aged 80. Extensive coverage of his life and death appeared in Australian newspapers on 29 November. On 30 November-1 December, the *Weekend Australian* published a mono four-page wraparound for its Review section, “Home, James: Remembering a cultural giant”.
- **Damon Johnston**, editor of the *Herald Sun*, Melbourne, for seven years, has been appointed Victoria editor of the *Australian*. The new editor of the *Herald Sun* will be **Sam Weir**, editor of the *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, for the past two years (*Herald Sun* and *Age*, 23 November 2019; see also Jennifer Duke, “News’ editor changes sparks (sic) intrigue”, *Age*, 2 December 2019, p.25, who explores this unusual shift for a journalist who has spent seven years as the editor of the highest circulating daily in Australia and four years before that as editor of the *Sunday Herald Sun*).
- **David King**, Victoria editor for the *Australian*, has continued the exchange of journalists between News Corp and Nine Entertainment (which owns the former Fairfax metro dailies). King is in the editor of the *Sunday Age*, Melbourne (*Telum Media Alert*, 30 October 2019).

- **Johannes Leak** has been appointed the new editorial cartoonist at the *Australian* (*Weekend Australian*, 9-10 November 2019, p.1). He is only one of half a dozen who have held the position since the paper began publication in 1964. The previous editorial cartoonist was Bill Leak, father of Johannes. Bill died in the job in 2017.
- **John McDuling**, the deputy business editor of the *Age* for 12 months, has been appointed business editor. He is a senior writer and columnist, specialising in media and tech. Previously he worked for the *Australian Financial Review* and for Atlantic Media, where he helped building world-leading business publication *Quartz* (*Age*, 21 November 2019, p.3).
- **Zoe Samios**, formerly media writer at the *Australian*, is joining the *Age* as media and telco reporter, replacing **Jennifer Duke**, who is moving to the federal politics team in Canberra to cover economics (*Age*, 21 November 2019, p.3).
- **Jane Wardell** has returned from maternity leave and is now a senior specialist editor for Reuter's global editing desk, based in Sydney. She was previously the newswire's Australia and New Zealand bureau chief (*Telum Media Alert*, 30 October 2019).



105.1.9 The Age on Saturday

On Saturday, 23 November 2019, the Melbourne *Age* appeared with the normal *Age* masthead with “Saturday” spread out above it in smaller caps and a sans serif font (see immediately above). From 30 November the masthead changed to *Saturday Age*, all in caps, of course.

105.1.10 Sixty years of *Vogue*

On 11 October, the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra invited a number of high-profile guests to join *Vogue* Australia in celebrating its 60-year history with the opening of its exhibition, “Women in Vogue: Celebrating Sixty Years in Australia”. At the VIP celebration, which was hosted by *Vogue* Australia editor-in-chief Edwina McCann and National Portrait Gallery director Karen Quinlan, former Foreign Minister, Julie Bishop, took to the stage to unveil the exhibition. With the likes of former *Vogue* Australia editors Nancy Pilcher and Juliet Ashworth in attendance, together with *Vogue* Australia cover stars Samantha Harris, Anneliese Seubert and Ursula Hufnagl, the event was unusual. Edwina McCann said before the exhibition, “The elegant

and contemporary exhibition will draw on our archive and highlight *Vogue* Australia's role in documenting the changing roles and diversity of Australian womanhood over two generations."

The exhibition, which was split up into three different segments—Looking Back, featuring images from the 1960s and 1970s; Looking Out, a visual representation of the second wave of feminism; and Looking Forward, depicting the faces currently shaping the country—was open to the public from 11 October to 24 November.

105.1.11 Paper drops claim of bias against judge

Midway through an appeal hearing in the full court of the Federal Court, the *Daily Telegraph's* publisher abandoned a claim that the judge in the Geoffrey Rush defamation case acted in a way that made him appear to be biased. Rush, 68, successfully sued Nationwide News and journalist Jonathon Moran over two stories and a newsagent poster published in late 2017, which detailed allegations that he behaved inappropriately towards a co-star during a Sydney Theatre Company production of *King Lear* in 2015-16 (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 November 2019, p.8).

105.1.12 *Broadsheet* No. 27

One of our Melbourne contributors, Peter Gill, has sent ANHG a copy of *Melbourne Broadsheet*, No. 27, dated August-September 2019, labelled "Always online—sometimes in print". It is a tabloid sized newspaper that focuses on dining out, the arts, entertainment, things to do, travel and fashion and style. This issue is 48 pages. There's a high level of advertising and promotional copy.

105.1.13 Gold Walkley to Dowsley and Carlyon

Anthony Dowsley and Patrick Carlyon, of the Melbourne *Herald Sun*, won the Gold Walkley at the 2019 Walkley Awards journalism presentation on 28 November. Their coverage of the Lawyer X informer scandal" also won the awards for all media for best coverage of a major news event or issue and for investigative journalism. See the following site for a full list of Walkley winners for 2019: <https://www.walkleys.com/awards/walkleys/>



105.2.1 Facebook's news service

The launch of Facebook's news service is a "powerful precedent that will echo around editorial departments", News Corp chief executive Robert Thomson has declared (*Australian*, 28 October 2019). Thomson said it had been a difficult decade for journalism, but Facebook's service was an important step. He said, "Great journalism will only be sustainable at scale if there is a fundamental change to the digital ecosystem. This announcement is an important step on the road."

News Corp's deal with Facebook — which covers the *New York Post* and Dow Jones publications such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *MarketWatch* and *Barron's* — will generate licence fees reaching into the double-digit millions of dollars a year, people familiar with the agreement said. "Of itself, it begins to change the terms of trade for quality journalism, both in establishing the principle of payment, and in allowing news organisations a clearer opportunity to generate advertising revenue on their terms," Thomson said. He has led a global battle against Facebook and Google over issues including opaque algorithms, digital advertising dominance and a failure to pay for journalists' work.

On 25 October he explained he had fought against the digital giants “persistently and puckishly” but admitted there had been risks involved. “I remember a conversation a couple of years ago with a media executive who said that he very much agreed with our content critique but was ‘standing behind a very large rock with a pair of binoculars to see what happens to you’,” he said. “The perceived potential punishment would be that an algorithm would make your journalism disappear or that it simply wasn’t worth the digital distress of antagonising powerful players.” Thomson said Zuckerberg deserved “genuine credit” for the “digital damascene moment” on 25 October. “There has been a bit of banter between our companies — we’ve had our disagreements — but he has been consistently thoughtful on the subject of journalism,” Thomson said. “His individual introspection has obviously been a catalyst for an institutional response.” Thomson and Zuckerberg had joined with some of the world’s biggest news publishers for the launch of the service, which Facebook hopes will give the publishing industry a much-needed boost.

Facebook’s news service launched with a test audience of 200,000 US users, but the platform plans to roll it out beyond the US early next year. A date for launch in Australia has not been announced.

105.2.2 Online journalists have big win

Journalists at online publications including *Daily Mail Australia* will win access to penalty rates and overtime under a landmark decision that found their minimum conditions were “significantly inferior” to print journalists (*Australian*, 22 November 2019). The Fair Work Commission ruled digital media workers should no longer be denied access to the Journalists Published Media Award and were entitled to the same rights and protections as those at print publications, including newspapers with digital arms. The Full Bench decision followed a successful claim by the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, which was opposed, to varying degrees, by *Daily Mail Australia*, *Nine Entertainment* and *Rural Press*.

The *Daily Mail* said applying the award would result in a “significant increase in wage costs” if existing rosters and working arrangements continued. It said the “imposition” of weekend penalty rates might require it to “reconsider its operating model”. *Daily Mail* assistant managing editor Kimberley Brunt said the publication operated 20 hours per day, seven days a week and editorial employees were required to work on a roster of day, afternoon and night shifts. Employees were employed on a contract that paid an annual salary and expected them to work “reasonable additional hours”. Brunt said applying the award would change its “workplace culture” as employees who typically stayed back to finish a story would be required to hand over the story at the end of a shift to prevent overtime incurring. Modelling done by the *Daily Mail* showed the salaries of some employees would have to be increased to cover all award entitlements, assuming existing working patterns were maintained.

Kerri Elstub, the digital editorial director for Nine, and responsible for the 9NEWS site, Nine’s Wide World of Sports site, the 9Honey site, *Nine Entertainment* and the *nine.com.au* site, said applying the award to their employees would result in “significant cost impacts”. Elstub said she did not have any surplus in the staff budget and no current scope to increase employment costs. She said that if the award was applied, she would need to identify the impact on staffing costs and determine how current staffing arrangements could be changed to accommodate budget restraints and still deliver a competitive product to readers. *Guardian Australia* journalist Christopher Knaus said *Guardian* management made a deliberate decision to establish its Australian edition as a digital-only publication, allowing it to operate “like a start-up” with a small stable of journalists, at lower rates of pay, employment on-costs, and no expensive physical publishing costs.

MEAA media director Neill Jones said the decision “means that if you work for a digital media start-up or a digital-only publication you are no longer treated as a second-class journalist”.

105.2.3 Response to digital platforms report delayed

The Morrison government is gearing up to delay its long-awaited response to the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission digital platforms inquiry until next year, with Cabinet yet to discuss the still unfinished response to the landmark report (*Australian*, 2 December 2019). Despite being handed the report in July, Cabinet has not considered the final response, which is being managed by Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, Communications Minister Paul Fletcher and

Attorney-General Christian Porter, reports the *Australian*. The three ministers' officers are quietly preparing to delay the reply until next year despite promising a response by Christmas.

It is understood the co-ordinated final response is also yet to be completed following a 12-week consultation process between media companies and the digital giants Google and Facebook. Fletcher's office redirected questioning on the report to Treasurer Josh Frydenberg who did not commit to meeting the end-of-year deadline set by the government when the ACCC released the document in July. "The government released the ACCC's Digital Platforms report for consultation on 1 August 2019," Frydenberg told the *Australian*. "The consultation process ended in late October and since then the government has been working on finalising its response."

105.2.4 Blue Mountain News the 6th digital publication

NewsLocal has launched the *Blue Mountain News*, a hyperlocal digital only publication. The news site will deliver local content from 27 towns and villages in the Blue Mountains region, and covers the latest in crime, development, transport, environment, education, health and sport, as well as lifestyle and hospitality. The Blue Mountain News is NewsLocal's sixth exclusively online platform and is headed by Isabell Petrinic (*Telum Media Alert*, 6 December 2019).

105.2.5 Fake news and democracy

The use of social media by foreign interests to undermine Australia's democracy will be examined in a new parliamentary inquiry (*Australian*, 6 December 2019). A Senate select committee will be established to examine the risks of foreign interference via social media platforms, amid fears Australia's electoral system could be subverted by offshore misinformation campaigns. The inquiry, proposed by Labor and backed by the government, follows Russia's use of fake news – shared on Facebook and other platforms – to meddle in the United States' 2016 presidential election. China has also been accused of running cyber operations seeking to disrupt elections in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

In Australia, WeChat is widely as a political communications tool to target Chinese Australian voters, but the platform offers little transparency over messages posted in closed chat groups. The Select Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media will include two Labor senators, two Coalition senators, and one nominated by minor parties and independents. The establishment of the committee came a day after a parliamentary committee was tasked by Foreign Affairs Minister Marise Payne to look at introducing new targeted sanctions to seize the assets of human rights offenders and ban them from entering the country.

105.2.6 Podcast tops 1m downloads

A six-part investigative podcast series about the mysterious disappearance of tourist Theo Hayez in beach side town Byron Bay has captured the attention and hearts of people around the country and Belgium (*Australian*, 9 December 2019). The *Australian's* latest series, *The Lighthouse*, has been downloaded more than one million times since its launch on 1 November, and has held the No. 1 spot on Apple's podcasts chart in Australia for six weeks. It also reached No. 1 on the chart in Belgium. David Murray, the newspaper's national crime correspondent, says the purpose of the podcast series was to find the 18 year-old who disappeared on 31 May, or what happened to him. Hayez was less than a fortnight away from returning home to start an engineering degree when he disappeared, after arriving in Australia last year in November.

105.2.7 More fact-checking for tech giants

Australian Associated Press chief executive Bruce Davidson says global governments are likely to force Facebook and Google to fact-check more of the content being shared online and has called on local policymakers to tighten up copyright laws. The AAP has a fact-checking agreement with Facebook that started about August, which Davidson is hoping to extend in the future. It includes a team of four full-time employees who check about 50 posts a month for the social media website. The deal came after worldwide criticism of social media sites for allowing unchecked claims in posts and advertisements online, potentially swaying public opinion (*Age*, 18 November 2019, p.25).



3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

105.3.1 Melbourne docklands: ‘Trusted source of information’

Following is what the *Docklands News* says about itself (3 October 2019) on its website, www.docklandnews.com.au: The first *Docklands Community News* edition was published in 2003. Since then we have grown at the same speed as the Docklands, looking to serve the community in the best way possible. In October 2009 we modified our name to be simply the *Docklands News*. The *Docklands News* is printed monthly and 12,000 printed copies are distributed throughout the Docklands area as well as specific outlets in neighbouring suburbs. The *Docklands News* was established by VicUrban, the Victorian Government’s development agency, as a community building tool. Today, it is privately owned and operated by Shane Scanlan and Sean Car.

It is our job to inform the community of events, news and changes that are evolving around the area. We are a trusted source of information for residents, workers and visitors within the Docklands. We are the voice of Docklands. During our seven years of publication there have been many significant changes in the area. There has been a total investment of \$4.4 billion in the project so far, with the total amount estimated to be \$10 billion by 2020. By 2020, the Melbourne Docklands area is expected to become the home of 20,000 people, workplace of 40,000 and the destination for 55,000 visitors per day. We intend to keep you up to date with all developments throughout this time.

Owners/Editors - Shane Scanlan and Sean Car. Contributors: Abby Crawford, Barbara Francis, Michael Lindell (cartoons), Bill Reid, Andrew Ward, Tom Bacon and Janette Corcoran.

105.3.2 Bingara and Warialda: Newspaper survives, for now

The *Gwydir News* has survived a few months of uncertainty and is continuing to be published. The Gwydir Shire Council stepped in and became caretakers for 12 months. Here’s an edited version of how the paper reported the story on 17 August 2019:

Early in 2019, despite an extensive search for a buyer by former owner and editor of the *Gwydir News*, Nancy Capel, a suitable candidate was unable to be identified. Capel who has been in the newspaper business for 33 years, 23½ of them as owner of the *Bingara Advocate*, and three years as owner of the *Warialda Standard*, expressed her concern for the paper but felt after many years of sacrifice it was time to retire. “For the past 33 years, apart from Christmas, I have not been able to take a long weekend break, and during the past 11 years while my husband, John ‘Wacka’ Williams, was a senator, I was unable to attend many of the functions that I should have and would have liked to. My husband also passed up opportunities because I was committed to publish the paper each week. Now that ‘Wacka’ has retired from politics, we want to do things together, including travel,” said Capel.

With the future of the paper still in jeopardy, Gwydir Shire Council felt that the *Gwydir News* was a community asset too important to lose. After much discussion, it was resolved at a recent Council meeting that Gwydir Shire Council would step in as the caretakers for a period of 12 months to ensure that the paper continued until a suitable buyer was found. Mayor John Coulton said that while a newspaper was not a normal function of Council, it was felt it was necessary to ensure that the *Gwydir News* continued. “A local newspaper is an important part of building a strong community, without it we lose an important asset and part of our identity,” said Coulton.

2018: The paper began publication on 29 March 2018 as the result of the merger of the *Bingara Advocate* and the *Warialda Standard*. Most of the following details appeared at the time of the merger: The *Bingara Advocate* was started by Samuel Dickson in 1934. His son, Rex, continued as editor until 1979 when Rob and Jennifer Lewis bought the *Advocate*. They sold to the current owner, Nancy Capel, in December 1995.

The *Warialda Standard* was uncertain about its history but the ANHG can state that it began publication around April 1896 (the earliest extract from the paper discovered via Trove appeared in the *Walcha Witness* on 18 April 1896). The *Warialda Standard* office, along with all its archives, was destroyed by fire in the 1970s. The paper was purchased by Nancy Capel in June 2015. The editor of the *Gwydir News* at the beginning was Laura Carroll. Manager was Nancy Capel, and Kerry Mitchell handled the classified advertising. Anne Brien took charge of accounts.



4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

105.4.1 Death of Victor Isaacs, founder of ANHG

Victor Mark Isaacs, the founder of the Australian Newspaper History Group, was an extraordinary man of multiple interests and a gentle and wry sense of humour. He died in Canberra on 8 October, aged 69.

Victor, the youngest of three sons of Fred Isaacs, who taught singing, piano and elocution, and his wife, Berta, née Hart, was born and grew up in Melbourne. His family said he was a “good student” at Auburn South Primary, Camberwell Central and Camberwell High schools. He joined the Commonwealth Public Service in Melbourne in 1970 “in the days when Commonwealth and Victorian Public Service offices were higgledy-piggledy behind State Parliament House”, says brother Albert. Victor moved to Canberra in 1973 when his whole department was relocated. He became a career public servant, working until 2001 in a permanent position and then until 2007 on contract. He generally filled ministerial advisory or policy formulation roles at the centre of Australian politics, both in the international division of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and at Parliament House in the offices of various Ministers and the Prime Minister. He was skilled in correspondence handling, committee secretariats, and archival actioning of documents. He had particular strengths were in security policies, international issues, transport, and parliamentary practice. His widow Agnes says, “Through all Victor’s demanding work, he also looked after me through various illnesses. When I was almost housebound in the early nineties, he often left his busy work to come home for a brief visit. It meant everything to me.” Agnes said his job was often very stressful, but he could handle it all very calmly. On his retirement in 2007, he became a multi-faceted and multi-skilled volunteer in various Canberra organisations.



VICTOR ISAACS

Agnes Boskovitz met Victor Isaacs when she went on a blind date with someone else. “It was not love at first sight,” she said, “but I immediately knew that this chap was worth getting to know a bit more.” She recalled the evening that he invited her for the first time for dinner to his home (with Jim and Robyn Stokes) was the evening before the Combe-Ivanov spy affair broke, in 1983. “Victor and his colleagues were so frantic at work that he didn’t make it home for dinner and the

Stokeses and I enjoyed dinner at his home without him. We received regular phone calls from Victor throughout the evening, although all he could tell us was to read tomorrow's *National Times*. This was a very stressful evening for him, as the source of the leak was not known, and therefore his office was implicated, but he spoke with us calmly and with humour."

Following are some of Victor's activities and contributions to different organisations:

- Australian Railway Historical Society: a member in Melbourne since his teenage days, a foundation member of the ACT Division, and a regular hard worker at the Queanbeyan ticket office until it closed a few years ago.
- Australian Newspaper History Group: founder, 1999.
- ACT Transit Group: co-convener
- Australian Timetable Association: always on the committee including stints as president
- Editor of *Table Talk*, the monthly news journal of the Australian Timetable Association. There were already six news items in the November 2019 issue. He last added to it on 4 October, four days before he died.
- Producer of *Train Times*: a co-ordinated timetable of all trains and railway-operated buses in Australia and New Zealand – freely available on the web.
- Australian Jewish Historical Society, ACT Branch: committee member including president, and presenter of talks
- Australian Association for the Study of Labour History, Canberra Branch: committee member, including president, and presenter of talks.
- Canberra and District Historical Society, committee member including president. Gave presentations, including a very funny but thoughtful after-dinner speech at last year's Christmas dinner.
- Friend of the Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Canberra, 1999-2019: committee member since 2010 and Public Officer in recent years
- University of the 3rd Age (U3A): Victor had run 28 courses since 2008. Courses that he repeated regularly were on unusual borders of the world, newspapers, railways, and American politics. Victor was a stalwart of the Northside Australian History Group, including serving in the last year as the regular meeting chair, joke presenter and one-minute history presenter. He also was a strong contributor to the Contemporary Issues Book Group and the International Issues Group. [In November, posthumously, the U3A awarded Victor an Outstanding Service Award in recognition of the many courses he had run over the years.]
- Victor regularly presented to many groups on his areas of expertise, including other U3A groups, Melba Men's Shed, Probus and Rotary.
- From 2011 to early 2019, Victor joined the oldies gym class at the CIT gym. He attended at least once a week, and sometimes thrice, and often enjoyed coffee and a chat after the class. From February 2019 he had to cease the gym because of his health.

Victor wrote or co-wrote five newspaper-history monographs, including one on 200 years of Sydney newspapers, another on the changing appearance of Australian newspapers and another on newspaper distribution in Australia.

Victor published the first issue of the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* in October 1999 (see ANHG 50.4.8 for background), edited it for four issues, inspired a new editor and gave him support for more than 19 years. He was a cheerful, generous friend and helper. He was a very useful proof-reader because he had a busy mind and could see connections that others might miss.

Despite his multiplicity of interests, he was a humble, gentle man who did much to help members of Agnes's family and his own. —**Rod Kirkpatrick**

Here are some remembrances of Victor Isaacs from ANHG subscribers:

Prue Neidorf: I well remember Victor Isaacs. I was working in the National Library of Australia as Music Librarian, and all of us special librarians who didn't have our own reading rooms to manage, spent time managing the Petherick Reading Room, a room for postgraduates and independent scholars like Victor (Vic) Isaacs. He used to huddle over his books, his nose about five inches from the page he was reading. He was such a quiet, gentle gentleman.

Janette Pelosi: I am sorry to hear that Victor died. I remember speaking to him at the newspaper history symposium held at the State Library of NSW back in 2003. He was absolutely thrilled to be there and to meet so many people who shared his interest in newspaper history.

Phil Lee: Victor was a lovely person with a wide range of interests. The U3A course that he ran on the history of newspapers in NSW was always booked out. In typical Victor fashion he also ran courses on the US Presidential elections, unusual world borders and the history of steam engines. Victor was also an active member and former President of the ACT Branch of the Labour History Society. A remarkable person.

Margaret Rees-Jones: I had various conversations with Victor some years ago and I always enjoyed his contributions.

Patricia Clarke: The ANHG was always near to his heart and what a great gift to us all that he began it from nothing.

Elizabeth Morrison: He was a quiet stalwart of the newspaper history community.

John Myrtle: ... at the funeral [of Victor] I found a seat at the end of a row, sitting next to a gentleman who I had not previously met. After few minutes, I asked him what association he had with Victor. He told me that they had both been members of the Melba Men's Shed. Maybe he noticed an unconscious expression of surprise on my face, because he then laughed and told me that the Melba Men's Shed is different from most men's sheds in that rather than making things, they usually just talk. He hastened to say that Victor's "talking" was very much appreciated – no doubt talking about political history, railway history, newspaper history and other interests.

105.4.2 The disappearance of Juanita Nielsen

Tharunka, University of NSW, Sydney, 31 August 1975, p.15: Juanita Nielsen disappeared from Kings Cross on July 4, 1975, well over three weeks ago. Her fortnightly suburban newspaper *NOW* has not appeared since and it is unlikely that it will ever come out again.

The paper was published where she lived in a small terrace house, 202 Victoria Street, Kings Cross. During the past eighteen months she emerged as a vigorous and effective figure in the Green Ban and Resident Action movement, a movement which is holding up some \$3,000 million worth of development in the inner city of Sydney. She was a publicist and advocate of green bans. The articles she wrote in *NOW* show clearly how bold she was in style and content; they also indicate how effective she was in the pressure she exerted.

Juanita was more than a writer, she was an activist. When the Federal body of the Builders Labourers' Federation finally crushed the NSW branch in late March '75 and lifted the green ban on Victoria Street, Juanita was one of those who made contact with the NSW Building Trades Group. The result was a combined meeting at which a temporary stay on demolition was agreed to by all parties. At about the same time, Juanita approached a close friend, John Glebe, secretary of the Water Board Employees Union. In the second last issue of her paper, she published a statement by Glebe opposing the Victorian Street development; yet another ban was in the air. Such a ban could mean bankruptcy for at least one developer, Frank Theeman.

To understand the position she was in, one has to look at the particular situation in the street where she lived and worked. There are three points that have to be made. Firstly, the Victoria Street action group lost much of its base when the squatters were evicted. Secondly, the BLF green ban was lifted in April '75 and the major obstacle had been removed. Thirdly, the nature of resident action had changed to some degree; the groups had become established, councils were committed to dealing with them and so were developers.

Juanita fitted much better into the new scene than the old; as the old obstacles to development lost their force, her position and approach gained strength to the point where she became the biggest

single hurdle to development in Victoria Street. When you add to this a history of violence and intimidation extending for more than two years, and add the fact that time is running out for the developers, you have our reasons for stating that the vested interests in Victoria Street are an important area of investigation into Juanita's disappearance.

Intimidation in Victoria Street

One previous example of Victoria Street violence is the following. Arthur King, a resident of the street for 10 years, played a central role in the formation of the action group and in the fight against the mass eviction of 400 low income tenants from properties belonging to Victoria Point Pty Ltd in early 1973. In April 1973 Arthur disappeared. Friends became worried when he failed to keep appointments with them and members of the action group. They discovered that he had left without his car, wallet or shoes and that there were the signs of a scuffle in his bedroom. A witness made a statement to the police that he had seen a man being dragged screaming into a car outside the entrance to Arthur's flat in the early hours of the morning. After three days, Arthur returned. He moved straight out of the street and never gave a satisfactory explanation for his disappearance. Like Juanita, Arthur could be described as a key opponent of the developers.

The present state of the inquiry

No one can complain that the NSW police force has not spent time and resources in its search for Juanita Nielsen, as their extensive search of the Penrith area demonstrated. The police cannot be criticised for what they have done, but sensationalist press coverage has disguised what they have failed to do. Juanita disappeared on the morning of July 4. The police were first informed that she was missing on the 5th. The C.I.B. advised her business partner, David Farrell, against going to the press until, on July 8 they themselves released a statement that they believed she could have been murdered. Since then, the detectives have interviewed various friends and acquaintances of Juanita—union officials, an architect, members of various action groups. Many of these people referred the police to her anti-development activities and suggested that there could be a political motive behind her disappearance.

Yet, on July 17, 13 days after her disappearance, detectives told representatives of the *Victoria Street RAG* that they had interviewed NONE of the Victoria Street developers or their employees. Although no one is surprised at their interviewing her friends, one would expect her enemies to be interviewed ALSO. At various stages the police have told the press that Juanita "may be on a holiday" and may have been kidnapped for ransom. At no stage have they admitted there could be a political motive behind her disappearance. Why not? In private, for what it is worth, they have told action group members that they do consider this a plausible explanation. On Tuesday, July 22, the police searched the properties owned by Victoria Point Pty. Ltd. They also questioned one employee of Victoria Point Pty Ltd, Joe Meisner. There is documented evidence that employees of Victoria Point have been involved in intimidation before. Surely a more thorough investigation is required. Who are these employees? Who organised them? We do know that large numbers of security men were earlier organised for the firm by Fred Krahe, personal friend of Mr Frank Theeman, ex-policeman and now director of an Eastern Suburbs security firm. These employees used the Barrell Room, a Kings Cross cabaret, as a meeting place. We are not accusing those people, but have they, like the resident activists, all been asked if they know of any enemies of Juanita and their whereabouts?

Until last week, the last sighting of Juanita was at the Carousel Cabaret at about 11 am, on July 4. The Carousel is a business owned by Abe Saffron (recent landowner in Victoria Street). This did not appear in the press until July 16. At no stage have the police been quoted as stating it. Why didn't they name the actual spot, if not the cabaret itself, where she was last seen? Press reports have stated that Juanita left the Carousel for a luncheon appointment. Those interviewed at the Carousel (Mr Triggs, the evening manager, is the only one we know of) are the only source of this information. According to the *Sunday Telegraph* (July 20) she was reluctant to keep that appointment—again the Carousel is the only source. If that luncheon appointment existed, why didn't Juanita tell David Farrell whom she regularly informed of her movements since receiving threats, or John Glebe, another close friend? Her reason for visiting the Carousel was to finalise arrangements for advertising "businessman's luncheons". The Carousel has never advertised in *NOW* previously, and there is no businessman's luncheon currently offered. The most recent "new

lead” is a report that Juanita was seen (by a “friend” according to the *SMH*) getting into a car containing men, in Darlinghurst Road. A vague description was given of one man. Who is this friend and why did this person take so long in coming forward? At the moment the media have quietly dropped the case. The police have not officially put forward any theory as to what did happen, but they have not contradicted a lot of unlikely theories. Although they may not feel it is their job to correct the press, their public relations division works closely with the media and it is fair to assume that some of the stories originated with them. At this stage of the Juanita case it is likely that only an inside tip will lead to anything conclusive. If this is so, the posting of a reward would be to the point but so far none has been put forward.

Adapted from “NOW OR NEVER”.

Forty years after Juanita Nielsen’s disappearance, the following article appeared: Peter Rees, “The 40-year mystery of Juanita Nielsen, the lady who vanished”, *Good Weekend*, 3 July 2015.

105.4.3 Perth *Morning Herald* quickly into profit

Telegraph, Brisbane, 5 February 1897, p.5: At the offices of the Perth *Morning Herald* last month, a large number of the employees of the firm of Stirling Bros, and Co., Limited, assembled to bid bon voyage to Mr Lovekin, the managing director of the company, and editor of the journals conducted by the firm, who was leaving on a trip to the eastern colonies. In the course of a speech Mr. Lovekin said that the chairman of directors (Mr. Forrest) had been told when leaving for England last year, by a gentleman who should know something about newspapers from his long connection with one in Perth, that there must be a loss of £16,000 on the first year’s working of the *Morning Herald*. Another gentleman, also connected with the Press of the colony, had estimated the loss at £8,000. The fact was, however, that the expenditure had been £24,895 (£16,900 of which went in wages alone), and the receipts had been £28,484. Thus, there had been no loss, but a profit of nearly £3,900.

105.4.4 Stitching up the subscribers

Weekly Times, Melbourne, 8 January 1898, p.22: An announcement of much importance is made this week. The proprietors of the Herald and Weekly Times have entered into arrangements with one of the most reliable of manufacturers of sewing machines in the United States for the supply of first-class machines, which will be disposed of at rates at least 30 per cent, below value. The machines are guaranteed in every respect and will be furnished to subscribers to the *Weekly Times* of not less than one year’s standing for £5 7s. and to other purchasers for £6, which includes one year’s subscription to the *Weekly Times*. The machine is a brand new one, with all the latest improvements made in the high-priced machines and is very easy to work. It is neat and elegant, in addition to being solid and substantial, and will be found of great value by the ladies. Full details of the leading features of the machine and its numerous conveniences will be found in our notification on Page 21.

105.4.5 The penny post and praise for former journalist

Leader, Melbourne, 9 October 1869, p.10: In the current number of the *Colonial Monthly*, we find this compliment to an ex-journalist-who, in entering the purely political arena, appears to have retained all his active sympathy for the welfare of the press:— “Our article of last month, on ‘Restrictions on Colonial Literature’, has been so far successful that the *Colonial Monthly* has been placed upon the list of periodicals entitled to the privilege of the penny post. Immediately after its publication, representations were made by the proprietor to the authorities; and the warmest thanks of the reading community, as well as of all those interested in the advancement of knowledge, are due to the late Attorney-General for his prompt action in the matter, and liberal interpretation of the law affecting the *Colonial Monthly*. This is no party newspaper, but in recording the events of the past month, it would be an act of injustice to pass unnoticed the manner in which Mr G.P. Smith received the representations addressed. Large sums of money are spent, and a great deal of talk is uttered about education in this country, but a simple action like that of the late Attorney-General does more to advance progress in this respect than all the speeches ever delivered on a platform. We congratulate our readers, ourselves, and colonial literature generally, on the alteration thus made.”

105.4.6 Star ceases to shine

Daily News, Perth, 11 April 1936, p.9: After a life of only two and a half years, the *Star* newspaper, Melbourne, ceased publication on Thursday. An evening, newspaper in competition with the *Herald*, the *Star*, though backed by the resources 'of the famous *Argus*, suffered the same fate as the *Evening Sun* and *Morning Post*, other dailies which in recent years, unsuccessfully entered the newspaper field in Melbourne. The *Evening Sun* ceased publication in 1924 after a slightly longer run than the *Star* enjoyed. The *Morning Post* had an even shorter life. The withdrawal of the *Star* leaves four daily newspapers in Melbourne—the *Age*, *Argus*, *Sun News-Pictorial* and *Herald*. Published by the *Argus* proprietary, Messrs. Wilson and McKinnon, the *Star* made its appearance on 30 October 1933. For its production journalists were recruited from all States, including Western Australia and New Zealand. The new paper was of the narrow sheet type of five columns.

The first issue consisted of 32 pages, and 250,000 copies were printed. It started auspiciously, for in July 1933, one half of the year's allocations of advertising space had been booked up. At the end of the first year several administrative changes were made. The *Star* found a formidable opponent in the *Herald*, the circulation of which was approaching 200,000. As often happens in newspapers, the end came with startling suddenness. The first intimation of the decision to cease publication received in Perth was the telegraphed report on Thursday stating that that day's issue would be the last. Only a few days before, a report had been received of a former Western Australian journalist's acceptance of an important position on the now defunct paper. The proprietors announced that their decision was rendered necessary because the heavy cost of production and distribution had not been met by revenue from advertising and circulation to a degree anticipated when the paper was founded. Mr. F. A. Launder, secretary of the Commercial Travellers' Association of Western Australia, who was taken to the St. John of God Hospital yesterday suffering from a nervous breakdown, is reported to be progressing favourably. It may be necessary for him to spend a few weeks in the hospital.

105.4.7 Print and broadcast news, World War II

In *Valiant for Truth: The Life of Chester Wilmot, War Correspondent* (2016), Neil McDonald writes (pp.120-121) in relation to the Australians battling the Italians in Egypt in World War II and highlights the technological challenges of getting the news back to Australia:

Everyone was terrified of live broadcasting where speakers were improvising. A description of an air-raid or a battle was fine, so were sporting events. Interviews, however, were almost invariably scripted. They would be discussed beforehand, then typed out and delivered as in a radio play. Chester was very good at making these seem natural, but never completely succeeded, even with a friend like Damien Parer. He would, however, try to get improvised comments from participants during live descriptions.

These recordings in the field were taken [from Bardia] back to ikingi Maryut and then to Cairo, where they were radio-telephoned to the BBC on London, which then radioed them to the ABC in Australia. In spite of this roundabout method, the [ABC] Broadcast Unit's dispatches were often to be broadcast ahead of the [publication of the] print journalists' stories even though all they had to do was telegraph their copy. At Bardia, according to Alan Moorehead, the newspapermen simply drove to Mersa Matruh to transmit their dispatches.

105.4.8 Why one newspaper ended

Queensland journalist, *Bulletin*, 4 September 1883, p.6: I have the honour to be engaged on a bush weekly (in North Queensland) in the polyglot capacity of sub-editor, reporter, compositor, war correspondent, and book-keeper. I look after the dog-fights, the drought, missionary meetings, gigantic water-melons, and the Irish policy of the Government. I calculate weekly the number of sheep that have died in the colony from want of water, and the amount of odour which their carcasses can be expected to produce, supposing they odorise for 24 hours daily.

Our journal was originally started to fill a yawning cavity in the Northern intellect, and the long-felt want of the district is that we should stop for evermore. I have long endeavoured to discover the cause of our non-success, and have come at last to the conclusion that it may be accounted for in two ways. First, we try to please everybody; secondly, nobody buys the paper.

105.4.9 *Daily Commercial News* now digitised

Victor Isaacs wrote (four days before his death): The *Daily Commercial News* is a little known Australian national daily newspaper – now digitised by the National Library. The founder was Howard Ignatius Moffat, born in Redfern, NSW, in 1861. He travelled to the US at an early age to study American business methods. He returned to Sydney in 1887 intent on establishing a shipping newspaper, founding Shipping Newspapers Ltd under the name the *Daily Shipping Paper* in November 1890 with business partner Jeremiah Roberts. On Monday, 13 April 1891, the first edition of *Daily Commercial News* (DCN) was published. By 1966 Shipping Newspapers Ltd had expanded to include subsidiaries in Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane, each with its own printing plant.

There was some editorial matter, but most content was advertisements by shipping companies of their services and lists of ship arrivals and departures in ports.

During World War II, authorities sought suspension of publication of all shipping movements for fear that the information could fall into enemy hands. With the strong support of the Australian shipping industry a compromise was reached – only after a ship had sailed, returned and sailed again would its original sailing be published. This policy was revoked at the conclusion of the war.

Asset rich, but underperforming in share value, Shipping Newspapers Ltd became a prime target for corporate raiders. Sir Ronald Brierley purchased the company in 1969, dividing and selling its assets. Subsequently, DCN was sold to businessman Maxwell Newton with funding from Marrickville Holdings. In 1981 Peter Isaacson bought the newspaper from the liquidators of Maxwell Newton. Peter Isaacson Publications was acquired by Independent News & Media's Australian media arm, Australian Provincial Newspapers (APN) in 1993, where DCN remained until purchased by Informa Plc in 1999. It is now online as part of Lloyd's List, the same name as the long-lasting British equivalent.

Daily Commercial News ran for 108 years under its original banner (with 16 months in the mid-1970s as DCN). During this time, it occupied a unique position amongst a very select group as one of only three national Australian daily newspapers alongside the *Australian* and the *Australian Financial Review* – yet with a much more tightly defined market and readership than its colleagues.

Also see ANHG 17.47.

105.4.10 John Hunter first publisher of printed news in Australia

Following is an extract from Rod Kirkpatrick's *Dailies in the Colonial Capitals: A Short History* (2016). A limited number of copies of this soft-cover book is available through the ANHG for \$35, including \$12 post and packing. Proceeds go to the ANHG. Contact Rod for details.

John Hunter, governor [of New South Wales], 1795-1800, has irrefutable claims to be recognised as the first publisher of printed 'news' in the Australian colonies. It was under Hunter's command that the printing press and plant which arrived at Port Jackson from England on 26 January 1788 were, nearly eight years later, put to use. Hunter discovered among the convict population of Sydney a printer, George Hughes, who had apparently arrived on 14 February 1792. Now Hunter had not only the *means* for issuing printed government orders, but also the *man*. Within two months of formally assuming the governorship on 11 September 1795, Hunter was issuing proclamations, orders and notices which Hughes was setting up in type and printing on the small wooden screw press in a skillion room attached to Government House. David Collins, Judge-Advocate of New South Wales, noted:

A small printing press, which had been brought into the settlement by Mr Phillip, and had remained from that time unemployed, was now found very useful; a very decent young man, George Hughes, of some abilities in the printing line, having been found equal to conducting the whole business of the press. All orders were now printed, and a number thrown off sufficient to ensure a more general publication of them than had hitherto been accomplished.

The orders carried the force of law; they set the parameters for how life could be lived in the fledgling colony. This could range from banning loitering on the wharves by those who had no official reason for being there to reminding people owning pigs that they must ensure their animals did not interfere with the gardening plots at Dawes Point. If you read the orders in reverse, ‘they tell us what ordinary people were up to’. The printed orders were, in effect, ‘news’ sheets. Grace Karskens writes: ‘Before 1803 the boats from Sydney to the outlying districts brought the latest Government and General Orders from Sydney—a kind of de facto news service-cum-list of regulations.’

These government orders have been classified among the broadsides of colonial Australia. Geoffrey Chapman Ingleton wrote about these publications in *True Patriots All* (1952), which was sub-titled *Or News from Early Australia, as told in a Collection of Broadsides*. A broadside or broadsheet consisted of a single large sheet printed on one side only. This allowed copies to be pasted on the walls of inns and taverns, on the doors of churches or civic halls, or occasionally on trees, as in Australia when proclaiming threats to bushrangers or the native population. George Mackaness noted: ‘They were used for the publication of proclamations and government notices, for ballads, “New Songs”, as well as for much popular and political propaganda.’ The earliest broadsides in England predated the newspaper. They were essentially folk literature and dealt with an extraordinary range of topics: ‘wars, plagues, fires, inundations, thefts, murders, massacres, meteors, comets, spectrums, prodigies, apparitions of towns taken, cities besieged in France and Germany’. They contained, amongst other things, the earliest examples of sensationalism and popular journalism in print. Two broadsides about the Bounty mutineers were published in Dutch in 1789 after Bligh’s arrival in Batavia. John Alexander Ferguson discovered these when he visited the Archives Department at Batavia while compiling the first volume of his *Bibliography of Australia*. His book includes facsimiles of such items as the bills of two plays produced in Sydney in 1800 and the title pages of the *Description of Botany Bay, on the East Side of New Holland, in the Indian Seas, where Government Means to Form a Settlement* (published at Lancaster, England, 1787).



5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

105.5.1 Book

Hogan, Jesse, Auteri, Simon and Faulkner, Andrew, *For Cap and Country*, HarperCollins, 2019. RRP \$34.99. This book contains the personal stories behind the baggy green—what it means to have played for Australia in Test cricket. The principal author, Jesse Hogan, took leave from his employment as a sportswriter at the *Melbourne Age* in early 2016 and was working 14-hour days on the book. Then, two weeks before the first draft was due, he had a massive stroke that left him unable to speak, write or walk. Months after his stroke, Hogan asked his close friend, Andrew Faulkner, a cricket writer for the *Australian*, to complete the work he had begun.

105.5.2 Articles

Abdullah Ali Khil, “Take it from me, press freedom too precious to take for granted”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 October 2019, p.21. We must work to keep our right to report, because once it it’s lost, it’s very hard to regain.

Bagshaw, Eryk, “ATO attacks ‘out of control’ press over whistleblowers”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 October 2019, p.11. Report on Senate Estimates hearing

Bonyhady, Nick, “National Archives runs up legal bill in face of budget cuts”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 October 2019, p.11. The agency charged with sharing the nation’s memory has

spent more than \$850,000 in legal fees fighting applications to access archival government documents over the past two years, even as it has had repeated funding cuts.

Clarke, Patricia, “Frances Taylor, founder and editor, guides *Woman’s World* to success”, *La Trobe Journal*, No.103, September 2019, pp.40-56.

Clarke, Patricia, “Police raids on journalists not new”, *Canberra Times*, 9 November 2019, Panorama, p.11. Recalls a raid by Commonwealth Police on journalist Max Newton’s Canberra home on 23 May 1969. See also: Deborah Snow, “Damaging leaks, threatening raids”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9-10 November 2019, pp.28-29.

Chingaipe, Santilla, “Reporting racism”, *thesaturdaypaper.com.au*, 9-15 November 2019, p.3. A new study highlighting systemic racism in the Australian media has called for stronger guidelines to regulate against both overt and covert prejudice.

Crowe, David, “Consumer advocates back press freedom campaign”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 October 2019, p.6. Consumer advocates have backed a new campaign against government secrecy in the hope of forcing more disclosure of misconduct and corruption amid a political fight in Parliament over the call for stronger laws.

Ergas, Henry, “There’s need for secrecy—it’s a question of balance”, *Australian*, 25 October 2019, p.12. The national interest often demands that some government business is not revealed.

FitzSimons, Peter, “This shimmering thing will keep us strong”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 November 2019, pp.32-33. An edited extract from the 2019 Andrew Olle Media Lecture.

Greste, Peter, “Seeking shelter for journalism, not journalists”, *Australian*, 24 October 2019, p.12. No one is above the law—and neither is anyone arguing that reporters should be.

Hall, Bianca, “Press freedom is a necessary and important part of a democracy”, SMH 26 October 2019, p.29. The unprecedented media campaign is about much more than journalists

Hull, Crispin, “The root cause of misinformation”, *Canberra Times*, 26 October 2019, p.29. On a recent survey of Australia’s federal politicians by the Museum of Australian Democracy.

Knight, Elizabeth, “Australia Murdoch’s earnings headache”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9-10 November 2019, “Business”, p.2. See also Colin Kruger, “News flags shift in content landscape”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 November 2019, p.27.

Langford, Ben, “How can we continue to call this situation a democracy?”, *Sunday Canberra Times*, 27 October 2019, p.16. Langford is a senior journalist with the *Illawarra Mercury*; the article is about a NT journalist accused of “leaking” information that the NT government’s power utility had been paying the electricity bills for the controversial McArthur River mine – to the tune of \$100m. Questions the ability to debate policy in public. Suggests, get involved and consult the Your Right to Know website.

Leunig, Michael, “For stirring the possum, I copped malice”, *Sun-Herald*, Sydney, 3 November 2019, p.31. The author was hurt by the response to his cartoon of a mother, her phone and baby. Extract: “It was exactly 50 years ago that I started working as a full-time newspaper cartoonist, and as if to celebrate this anniversary, mysterious fate had me drawing a cartoon that brought so much hostile reaction that I began to lie awake at night why I had followed such a troubled, painful and precarious career path. In the offending cartoon I drew a mother with her eyes glued to a phone and wheeling a pram from which her baby had fallen unnoticed.”

McCarthy, Joanne, “Quiet Australians need a free press”, *Canberra Times*, 26 October 2019, pp.30-31. The “Your Right to Know” campaign isn’t just about the media. Features a photograph of members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery in front of Parliament House, holding up redacted copies of Monday’s front pages

Merritt, Chris, “The secrets they keep”, *Australian*, 22 October 2019, p.11. Government “safeguards” for journalists send shockwaves through legal; circles. Merritt is the legal affairs editor of the *Australian*.

- Quill, Justin**, “Laws that limit our freedoms must change”, *Herald Sun*, 21 October 2019, p.25. A comment about the objectives of the “Your right to know” campaign.
- Sheridan, Greg**, “Lunatic culture of secrecy is deeply undemocratic”, *Australian*, 24 October 2019, p.12. Parties of all hues work to deny the public the truth.
- Smethurst, Annika**, “I hope no one will see how terrified I am”, *Herald Sun*, 27 October 2019, pp.8-9. Eighteen months ago journalist Annika Smethurst exposed a government plan to spy on Aussies. Her house was then raided by police and she is now under criminal investigation. This is her story about the price of telling the truth.
- Taylor, Andrew**, “Transparency official defends secrecy”, *Sun-Herald*, 27 October 2019, p.12. The state’s top bureaucrat in charge of government transparency has defended government agencies which refuse to release information (NSW Information Commissioner, Elizabeth Tydd).
- Turner, Paul**, “Emails proved that tragic family was manipulated”, *Australian*, 5 November 2019, p.12. The author was sacked two years earlier as a media officer in the Queensland Department of Justice. See ANHG 105.1.2 above for extract from this article.
- Uhlmann, Chris**, “A free press is far from perfect, but the alternative is worse”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 October 2019, p.21.
- Vigna, Paul**, “Tiring of the tech titans”, *Australian*, 30 October 2019, p.11. The push is on to create a new internet—one for the users, not corporate monopolies.
- Walker, Tony**, “Time to enshrine press freedom”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 November 2019, p.20. There’s one sure way to shine a light on our secretive brand of democracy—fix the law.
- Waterford, Jack**, “More authoritarian and less accountable”, *Canberra Times*, 26 October 2019, pp.28-29. The problem is bigger than excessive secrecy. Once we agree to restrict our liberties by increasing the powers of those in the national security state, the slippage begins.
- Williams, George**, “When politicians decide what’s news, no one is safe”, *Australian*, 22 October 2019, p.12. Government has gone out of its way to shut down debate in the name of security. Williams is dean of law at the University of NSW.

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