AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP
NEWSLETTER

25.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS

Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 15 February 2004. Subscription details appear at end of Newsletter. [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]

The *Newsletter* is online through the "Publications" link from the University of Queensland's School of Journalism & Communication Website at www.uq.edu.au/journ-comm/ and through the ePrint Archives at the University of Queensland at http://eprint.uq.edu.au/),

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25.2 SISTER ACT: BRISBANE BROADSHEET THINKS TABLOID

Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd is watching the progress of the so-called "mini-Indy", the tabloid version of London's broadsheet *Independent*, with a view to attempting a "mini-Mail", a tabloid version of the *Courier-Mail*. The tabloid *Indy* exceeded expectations when it boosted overall sales of the *Independent* by 30,000 on its first day. It sold 42,000 copies of an 80,000 print run while sales of the broadsheet dipped 12,000. Queensland Newspapers managing director Jerry Harris believes the broadsheet/tabloid sister act could give the company the best of both worlds and act as a disincentive to Fairfax ambitions in the north. It could assist the company in some of the lower-circulation areas for the *Courier-Mail*, such as Brisbane's south-west and regional Queensland (David Nason, 'Independent's tabloid turnaround gets Brisbane broadsheet thinking', *Australian*, Media liftout, 30 October 2003, p.3).

25.3 NEW MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Prime Minister John Howard took the opportunity to make a major reshuffle of his Ministry on 29 September (see next day's *Australian* and other major dailies) when Communications Minister Senator Richard Alston indicated to him that this would be his final term in Parliament. Daryl Williams, the former Attorney-General, is the new Minister for Communications. Williams was profiled in the *Weekend Australian*, 11-12 October 2003, p.26. See also several articles in the Media liftout of the *Australian*, 2-3 October 2003, pp.3-5, including the cover article, "Pass the Portfolio" by Errol Simper and Andrew Dodd. Mark Day and Jane Schulze provide their insights and comments, too. Williams has revealed he will press ahead with the Government's planned reform, of media ownership laws this year (*Australian*, 14 October 2003, p.10).

25.4 MURDOCH OPENS REFURBISHED LIBRARY

News Corporation chairman Rupert Murdoch opened the refurbished State Library of South Australia on 15 October 2003 when he was in Adelaide for the annual meeting of News's shareholders. The redevelopment cost $44 million. News Corp contributed $400,000 for a newspaper reading room, named in honour of Ron Boland, who died in 2000, aged 89. Boland was a former editor of the *News*, Adelaide, which was the building block for Murdoch's world-wide media empire *Australian*, 16 October 2003, p.2).

25.5 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

23 August 2003	Death: **Milton Hayes**, aged 59 at Narrandera, NSW; editor, the *Irrigator*, Leeton, since 1987; background in New Zealand journalism; started a newspaper on Norfolk Island; edited *Geraldton Guardian*, WA (*PANPA Bulletin*, November-December 2003, p.63).
26 September 2003	Death: **Robert Raymond**, aged 81 in Sydney; founding producer of *Four Corners*, ABC-TV; award-winning documentary maker; accepted as trainee journalist at *Daily Sketch*, London, in 1940; later joined London office of Sydney *Daily Mirror* and then the London office of ABC; after war, his byline regularly appeared in Fleet Street papers (*Australian*, 10 October 2003, p.14).
2 October 2003	Death: **John Fisher**, aged 83; former general manager, Adelaide *News* (*Advertiser*, Adelaide, 4 October 2003, online).
6 October 2003	Death: **William Myles (Bill) Webster**, aged 85, journalist in northern Victoria for more than 50 years, mostly at the *Bendigo Advertiser*; enjoyed a reputation as a capable, accurate and principled journalist and tireless worker for improved conditions for provincial journalists, which earned him the AJA's Gold Honour badge; served in New Guinea with the 2/12th Infantry Battalion; was active member of Bendigo branch of Legacy, serving two terms as president; helped chronicle the history of Bendigo's Sacred Heart Cathedral; was one of a small group which started its credit union (*Herald Sun*, 24 October 2003).
24 October 2003	*Central Coast Express Advocate*, Gosford-Wyong, NSW, ceases to appear daily; appears four times a week from Tuesday, 28 October
9 November 2003	The Melbourne *Sunday Herald-Sun* revamps its appearance, including a new Entertainment supplement.
15 November 2003	Death: **Harvey Fuller**, aged 88 on Gold Coast; editor, *Chinchilla News*, 1937-79, and proprietor, 1942-79; councillor of Chinchilla Shire, 1961-81, and was president 13 of those years (*Courier-Mail*, 20 November 2003, p.38).
16 November 2003	The Melbourne *Sunday Age* revamps its appearance, including making "Agenda" (feature article section) into a magazine style format.
17 November 2003	The *Illawarra Mercury* introduces a new section called "Vibe" of articles about the Illawarra. This is not a separate section, but, in a first for Australian newspapers, starts at the back of the paper, with the paper flipped the opposite way around.

25.6 NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION

Quality broadsheet newspapers were affected by declining circulation in weekend editions in the six months to the end of September, according to the latest figures issued by newspaper publishers. But some titles, led by the *Sydney Morning Herald*, offset the weekend declines by boosting weekday circulation. Hardest hit among the weekend broadsheets was the *Weekend Australian* with a 3.83 per cent decline to 288,500. The weekend edition of the *SMH* fell 2.13 per cent to 381,217 copies while *The Age* dropped 1.6 per cent to 308,000. The weekend edition of the *Australian Financial Review* was the only quality newspaper to increase circulation with a 1.76 per cent rise to 85,986. The trend was generally negative on weekday circulation except for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, which rose 0.83 per cent to 225,861 and the *Age*, also published by John Fairfax, which recorded a 0.51 per cent lift to 197,000. The *Australian*'s weekday circulation was unchanged at 130,000 while *The Australian Financial Review*, *The Daily Telegraph* and the Melbourne *Herald Sun* all recorded weekday circulation falls (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 October 2003, online; *Australian*, 17 October 2003, p.18).

25.7 FAIRFAX BUYS TEXT MEDIA

John Fairfax Holding Ltd paid $64.7 million to take over Melbourne publisher, Text Media. Text publishes the glossy real-estate-infused *Melbourne Weekly* and was launched by Eric Beecher, former editor-in-chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and later of the Melbourne

Herald (*Australian*, 1 October 2003, p.37, and 30 September 2003, p.19; *PANPA Bulletin*, November-December 2003, p.17).

25.8 NEWS WITHDRAWS OPTIONS DEAL

Local institutional investors issued a rebuke to the News Corporation Ltd at its annual general meeting in Adelaide on 15 October. The company was forced to withdraw an options package for senior executives. The rebuff – described by News chairman and chief executive Rupert Murdoch as a "crazy misunderstanding" – came as he forecast annual earnings growth of 20 per cent in coming years and flagged higher dividends (*Australian*, 16 October 2003, p.21).

The News Corporation Ltd has extended its record of beating market expectations to seven successive quarters as international DVD sales helped drive first-quarter earnings up 31 per cent to $US719 million [$1.1 billion] (*Australian*, 7 November 2002, p.19).

25.9 BALI COMMEMORATION

In the days leading to the anniversary of the Bali bombing, newspapers were full of appropriate articles. The *Weekend Australian* of 11-12 October 2003, perhaps, had the biggest coverage of all, with a 16-page broadsheet section. On 17 October the *daily telegraph* filled its front page with the names of "199 heroes" who had been honoured for their "courage, endeavour and sacrifice during the Bali attacks last year".

25. 10 *CANBERRA TIMES* (1): STAND-ALONE SPORTS SECTION

Commencing Saturday 11 October 2003, the sports section of the *Canberra Times* became a daily stand-alone section in tabloid format.

25.11 *CANBERRA TIMES* (2): RECOVERY FROM DISASTER

The *Canberra Sunday Times* produced a 92-page colour magazine on 24 August, "Recovery: Canberra's journey from the ashes of January 18". It's a fascinating and moving publication about how the people of the national capital have been rebuilding their lives since the disastrous bushfires of 18 January 2003. It includes a two-page article by *Canberra Times* editor Michael Stevens about how the newspaper covered the bushfire and its aftermath.

25.12 WORLD CUP RUGBY

On 9 October the *Sydney Morning Herald* published a wrap-around to commemorate the imminent Rugby World Cup. Nothing unusual about that – except it was in tabloid format, making the *SMH* appear on casual viewing to be a tabloid newspaper. On 10 October, the *SMH* had what was to be a regular feature on the Rugby World Cup. This was eight broadsheet pages wrapped around the sports section. On 11 October, the first section of the *SMH* was the sports section! Special World Cup wraparounds were common in metropolitan papers in NSW and Queensland on the day that Australia played England in the World Cup final (22 November). The *Australian* ran an eight-page section at the front of its edition on Monday, 24 November, reporting England's 20-17 win in extra time and reviewing the cup.

25.13 FAIRFAX CODE OF CONDUCT

John Fairfax Holdings may introduce an editorial code of conduct, which would, basically, ban the use of anonymous sources in stories (Martin Chulov, 'Fairfax code of conduct could muzzle news scoops', *Australian*, Media liftout, 30 October 2003, p.10; and Mark Day, "Bureaucracy sinks sacred sources", *Australian*, Media liftout, 6 November 2003, p.6).

25.14 PAGING

The *Sydney Morning Herald* weekend edition of 1-2 November 2003 contained the tabloid equivalent of 548 pages, without the Motoring section, which is not available in Queensland (comprising 166 broadsheet pages plus 216 tabloid pages, including a 104-page Domain real estate section and 72-page *Good Weekend*); the *Weekend Australian* contained the tabloid equivalent of 268 pages (comprising 72 broadsheet pages and 124 tabloid pages, including a 52-page magazine and a 24-page special Adelaide Arts Festival 2004 magazine); and the Brisbane *Courier-Mail* contained the tabloid equivalent of 480 pages (comprising 116 broadsheet pages and 232 tabloid pages, including an 80-page Career.One [jobs] section and a 64-page real estate section as well as a 52-page Home magazine). In all, these three so-called broadsheet newspapers published 354 broadsheet pages and 588 tabloid pages. Approximately 45 per cent of their content was published in tabloid format or magazines slightly smaller than tabloid.

25.15 NICOLAS ROTHWELL, AUTHOR

Nicolas Rothwell, the *Australian's* Northern Territory correspondent, has won the *Courier-Mail's* $30,000 Book of the Year Award with his novel, *The Wings of the Kite-Hawk*. Described as a "set of linked journeys into the Australian landscape", the novel is about how the desert "enters into the composition of our souls", as the explorer Ludwig Leichhardt put it (Rosemary Sorensen, 'Dreamy quest for magic', *Courier-Mail*, 4 October 2003, BAM, p.7).

25.16 UN PEACE AWARDS FOR JOURNALISM

Sydney Morning Herald correspondent Paul McGeough and photographer Jason South are recipients of this year's United Nations Association of Australia media peace awards. McGeough won the print award for his reporting on the war in Iraq and South shared the photo-journalism award for his work in prewar Iraq. News Ltd's John Feder was the other recipient of this award (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 November 2003).

Natalie O'Brien, the *Australian's* investigations editor (what a great title), and senior writer Elisabeth Wynhausen won the Increasing Awareness and Understanding of Women's Rights Issues prize, in the UN Association of Australia Media Peace Award, for their exposure of the trafficking of women for prostitution. (*Weekend Australian*, 25-26 October 2003, p.2).

25.17 WHAT THE EXECS EARN

If you want to know what the top Australian media executives earned in the last financial year, see Sally Jackson's "Revealed: media moguls paid a packet", *Australian*, Media liftout, 9 October 2003, p.3. For example: John Alexander (former editor-in-chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald*), PBL Media CEO: $3.7m (base salary $1.6m); Fred Hilmer, Fairfax CEO: $2.26m ($1.036m); Ian Law, West Australian Newspapers MD and CEO: $831,509 ($454,220); Brian McCarthy, Rural Press MD: $817,593 ($567,050). Also see Geoff Elliott, 'What is your CEO worth?', *Weekend Australian*, 1-2 November 2003, pp.27, 30.

25.18 TOP FIVE MAG GROUPS INCREASE DOMINANCE

Magazine publishing's big five increased their dominance in the year to June and account for 83 per cent of all audited magazines sales, according to a new industry report. ACP Publishing controls 48 per cent of the market, with its 48 audited titles selling 53.5 million copies in the first half of 2003, up 17 per cent on the first half of 2002. The other four in the top five are: Pacific Publications (21.5pc market share), Time Inc South Pacific (6pc), FPC Magazines (5.1pc), and Murdoch Magazines (2.4pc) [Sally Jackson, 'The top five magazine groups increase their dominance', *Australian*, Media liftout, 6 November 2003, p.10].

25.19 FAIRFAX PROFIT IMPROVES

Concerns that the Australian operations of John Fairfax Holdings Ltd would be a drag on profit growth were dispelled at the annual meeting on 31 October when the company reported stronger local revenues (Jane Schulze, 'Fairfax home on profit, *Weekend Australian*, 1-2 November 2003, p.28).

25.20 TASMANIAN MAG CHANGES NAME TO A DEGREE

A Tasmanian full-gloss lifestyle magazine, *40º South*, has changed its name to *Tasmanian 40º South*, so that non-Tasmanians know what it's about. It was launched nine years ago by Bruce Montgomery and Chris Viney and is now run by Warren Boyles (*Australian*, Media liftout, 30 October 2003, p.10).

25.21 NEWS: DOG SHOOTS MAN

What were we all taught about the definition of news?   Dog bites man – that's not news; man bites dog – that's news. Well, how about: A French hunter was shot by his dog after he left a loaded shotgun in the boot of his car with two dogs and one of the animals accidentally stepped on the trigger, police said today (6 November).
(http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/11/06/1068013288433.html)

25.22 *WENTWORTH COURIER* BEATS OWN WORLD RECORD

The *Wentworth Courier*, a Sydney suburban title, says it has beaten its own world record for the largest single issue of a suburban/community newspaper. It set a record of 368 pages in 1997, surpassed it on 17 October 2001 with a 440-page issue and surpassed that on 5 November with a 452-page issue. (Source: John Ainsley, Courier Newspapers, Sydney, email to ANHG editor, 3 November 2003; also see ANHG 15.21).

25.23 *THE WEST* TO BE RELAUNCHED

The *West Australian*, Perth's morning daily, will be relaunched in February in an attempt to arrest years of declining circulation. Its parent company, West Australian Newspaper Holdings Ltd reported a net profit of $17.5 million for the first quarter of 2003-04 – up 9.5 per cent on the corresponding quarter the previous year (*Australian*, 7 November 2003, p.22; *PANPA Bulletin*, November-December 2003, pp.26-27).

25.24 CROSS-MEDIA LAWS

The Federal Government launched on 5 November its second attempt at a media shake-up designed to ease limits on foreign ownership and to allow media companies to expand their assets (*Courier-Mail*, 6 November 2003, p.4).

25.25 ADVERTISING BOOM BOOSTS MEDIA STOCKS

Since February this year, the prices of many large media stocks have jumped an average of 40 per cent, with media analysts continually upgrading profit forecasts as the extent of the advertising boom becomes apparent. Rural Press shares have jumped 45 per cent in a year (*Australian*, 4 November 2003, p.19).

25.26 CONRAD BLACK AND HOLLINGER

Conrad Black, formerly the controller of John Fairfax Holdings, Australia, has been forced to step down as chief executive officer of Hollinger International, publisher of the *Chicago Sun-*

Times, London's *Daily Telegraph* and the *Jerusalem Post*. An inquiry is being held into allegations that Hollinger made unauthorised payments totalling $A45 million to executives including Lord Black (for example, see *Australian*, 17, 19, 20 and 25 November 2003, pp.27, 41, 23 and 9, respectively; *Weekend Australian*, 22-23 November 2003, p.35; and *Courier-Mail*, 18 November 2003, p.23). See 25.70.14

25.27 'LONG LUNCH' ENDS AFTER FOUR AND A HALF YEARS

"Lunch with Maxine McKew", a feature of the *Bulletin* magazine for four and a half years, is coming to an end and she will move on to different forms of writing. (Margaret Simons, "Power and a little glory", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8-9 November 2003, Spectrum pp.4-5).

25.28 REPORTERS AND EVIDENCE

A magistrate quashed on 7 November subpoenas requiring two *Sunday Herald Sun* reporters to give evidence about articles that linked an alleged heroin-smuggling ship with murdered Melbourne gangster Jason Moran. Magistrate Duncan Reynolds described the subpoenas, issued by lawyers for the ship's crew, as being of a "fishing nature", but criticised the newspaper's decision to publish the allegations at a time when the accused had been charged with serious offences (*Age*, 8 November 2003).

25.29 *COURIER-MAIL* UPGRADES PRESS

Strong demand for colour advertising has led Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd (QNP) to spend $35 million on upgrading its printing presses at Murrarie in Brisbane's east. It will be the first major expenditure on the plant since it was installed eight years ago. From early 2005 readers of the *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail* (Brisbane) will see more colour in their newspapers. The number of colour pages in a Saturday edition of the *Courier-Mail* will jump from 16 to 40 and the number of colour pages in a 160-page *Sunday Mail* will rise from 48 to 80. During the next 12 months QNP's four printing presses will be taken out of production for three months each while eight "print couple towers" from MAN Roland in Germany are fitted. During the upgrade, some of QNP's papers will be printed at the new $35 million *Gold Coast Bulletin* printing press at Nerang, which will be completed by July (*Courier-Mail*, 17 November 2003, p.17).

25.30 EDITOR SOUGHT FOR *GOOD WEEKEND*

Fairfax is searching for a replacement for Fenella Souter, who has stepped down as editor of the *Good Weekend* after seven years (*Australian*, Media liftout, 13 November 2003, p.2; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22-23 November 2003, p.7, advertisement).

25.31 WALKLEY PRINT WINNERS

Winners of print-related awards at the 48th Walkley Awards for Excellence in Journalism on 27 November 2003 were:
News report: Martin Chulov, *Australian*, "The Bali Investigation"; newspaper feature writing: Hedley Thomas, *Courier Mail*, "Court In Crisis"; magazine feature writing: Kate Legge, *Australian*, "Patrick: A Case In The Life Of A Family Court Judge"; three headings: Tom Phelan, *Australian*, "Trio Grande"; cartoon: Mark Knight, *Herald Sun*, "Not Happy John!"; artwork: Sturt Krygsman, *Australian*, "Uncle Sam Gets Mad"; editorial graphics and design: Simon Pipe, News Limited, "9.11.01 - A Shock To History"; news photography, Darren Pateman, *Newcastle Herald*, "The Ashes"; daily life photography: Colleen Petch, *Herald Sun*, "Northern Exposure"; sports photography: Adam Pretty, Getty Images, "H20"; photographic essay: Jason South, *Age*, "Iraq".

All media: Best use of medium: The Canberra Times Team, *Canberra Times*, "Canberra Firestorms - January 2003"; coverage of suburban or regional affairs: Alexandra Smith, *Newcastle Herald*, "Plagiarism Crisis At Newcastle University"; international journalism: Paul McGeough, Fairfax, "The Iraq War"; business journalism: Geoff Elliott, *Australian*, "The Collapse Of New Tel"; investigative journalism: Jenny Dennis, *The Illawarra Mercury*, "Prostituted"; coverage of indigenous affairs: Michael Gordon, *Age*, "Sweeter Dreaming"; coverage of sport: Anthony Sharwood, *Inside Sport*, "Brothers In Arms"; coverage of the Asia-Pacific region: Eric Ellis, *Bulletin*, "Bali And Allah's Assassins"; social equity journalism: Greg Bearup, *Good Weekend/Age*, "On The Inside No-One Can Hear You Scream"; commentary, analysis, opinion and critique: Tony Walker, *Australian Financial Review*, "Before During And After The War".

Senior Walkley Awards: Journalism leadership: Paul McGeough, Writer-At-Large, *Sydney Morning Herald*; most outstanding contribution to journalism: Julie Duncan, Journalism Trainer And Educator; Nikon-Walkley Australian press photographer of the year: Jason South, *The Age*, "Iraq"; Gold Walkley: Richard Moran, National Nine News, "Canberra Bushfires"

This story was found at: http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/11/27/1069825925594.html

25.32 THE POLICE AND THE MEDIA

In November, police stepped up a campaign to clamp down on the reporting of crime in the Northern Territory media. Police Commissioner Paul White ordered his Alice Springs-based media office not to give information about crime to any newspapers, television or radio based outside of the town. The ruling applies even to media organisations, such as the *Northern Territory News*, that cover the whole of the Territory. White is known to have been angered by a string of exposes in the Northern Territory News (*Northern Territory News*, 19 November 2003).

25.33 *MARIE CLAIRE* AND A HISTORY LESSON

The 100th issue of the Australian edition of *Marie Claire* magazine went on sale on 12 November. Christine Jackman wrote a review of its history (*Australian*, Media liftout, 13 November 2003, p.3).

25.34 READERSHIP

John Fairfax Holdings has again raised doubts about the research methodology used to measure high-end AB readers after the latest readership figures suggested large declines at its titles (*Australian*, 20 November 2003, p.20 – includes readership table for metropolitan dailies; see *Australian*, Media liftout, 27 November 2003, p.12, for newspaper and magazine readership).

25.35 THE CAPTAIN DECLARES

Under the above banner, the *Australian* ran a series of articles to announce that Australia's Test cricket captain, Stephen Waugh, will retire after the four-Test series against India this summer. The coverage included: Page 1 main story; stories filling pages 8, 9 and 10; and a double-column editorial two-thirds of the length of the page.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: PROVINCIAL

25.36 *ESPERANCE EXPRESS* TURNS THIRTY

The *Esperance Express*, WA, published a 30th anniversary special edition of 64 pages on 11 September 2003, inside its ordinary edition of 28 pages. John Clarke (two-thirds interest) and editor Bob Dunwoodie (one-third) launched the *Express* as a weekly on 18 January 1973. They made it a bi-weekly on 9 August 1977. Today Rural Press Ltd owns it. The special edition includes only a few articles on the newspaper's history (on Pages 2 to 5, with half the space being devoted to advertising).

Esperance had had no newspaper from the end of the 1920s until 1965 when two emerged. The *Esperance News-Express* was started on 7 May 1965 by a Northam partnership, but survived only four issues. It sold out to the *Albany Advertiser* firm, which had started the *Esperance Advertiser* on 14 May, with Dunwoodie as editor. The Albany newspaper had promised repeatedly that the *Esperance Advertiser* would soon be printed in Esperance. After eight years it was still being printed in Albany. Each year Dunwoodie had made a submission to Albany about why the paper should now be printed in Esperance. At the end the manager was John Clarke. Frustrated, Clarke and Dunwoodie combined to launch the *Esperance Express*. The *Esperance Advertiser* ceased on 18 October 1974 (for background reading, see Bob Dunwoodie, "The Esperance Express", in *Faith, Hope & Reality: Esperance 1895-1995*, Esperance: Esperance Shire Council, 1995).

25.37 RURAL PRESS (1): BIDS FOR TASMANIAN NEWSPAPER COMPANY

Rural Press Ltd "sweetened" its offer of $47.6 million ($31 a share) for Harris & Co., the publishers of the daily *Advocate*, on the north-west coast of Tasmania, and the weekly *Western Herald*, Rosebery. Shareholders had until 1 December to accept. (*Australian*, 15 October 2003, p.39, and 17 October 2003, p.18; *Advocate*, Burnie, 17 October 2003, p.3; and Harris and Co., media release, 16 October 2003; *PANPA Bulletin*, November-December 2003, pp.6-7). The offer was extended again, until 15 December, with the price increased by 50c a share if RPL gets more than 50 per cent, $1 if more than 70per cent, and $1.50 for more than 90pc.

25.38 RURAL PRESS (2): WRITEDOWN

At its annual meeting on 17 October, Rural Press Ltd flagged a record first-half profit for 2003-04, and announced a "significant" one-off writedown as it adopted new accounting standards. John B. Fairfax told shareholders would have to take the writedown as it restated the book value of its mastheads to reflect their historical cost. In its latest annual report, RPL valued its mastheads at $594 million. The exact size of the writedown was not revealed. Fairfax assured shareholders the company would not "overpay" for Harris & Co. (see 25.37), the Tasmanian newspaper group that rejected the RPL takeover offer of $47.6 million (*Weekend Australian*, 18-19 October 2003, p.32).

25.39 RURAL PRESS (3): PUBLISHING SERVICES MANAGER

Rural Press advertised for a "Publishing Services Manager to join the senior management team of Regional Publishers NSW" on 8 November and a few days later it became clear why: it was announced that Tony Gillies was departing that role at Rural Press to become the new editor-in-chief at AAP (*Weekend Australian*, 8-9 November 2003, Recruiting p.9; *Australian*, Media liftout, 13 November 2003, p.2).

25.40 APN UPGRADES PROFIT FORECAST

APN News & Media Ltd raised its annual profit forecast on 23 October because of booming advertising markets in Australia and New Zealand. It now expected to exceed $100 million net profit for the calendar year (*Australian*, 24 October 2003, p.21).

25.41 *BORDER MAIL* AT 100

The *Border Mail*, straddling the NSW-Victorian border at Albury-Wodonga, celebrated its centenary on 24 October. It began as the *Border Morning Mail and Riverina Times* and has always been published daily and always owned by the Mott family. Its centenary issue contained 182 tabloid pages, including a 128-page Collector's Liftout, and two-page broadsheet wraparound headed "Centenary Souvenir Edition". The liftout was mainly devoted to presenting front pages from the 100 years. There were 11 historical articles, mainly brief ones, about the newspaper itself.

The *Border Mail* also put on sale a 64-page A4 monograph, *The Border Mail: A Century Together*, written by journalist Howard C. Jones. It is available for $20.

25.42 JULIE AINSWORTH MANAGES NEWCASTLE NEWSPAPERS

Julie Ainsworth has become the first woman in the 127-year history of the *Herald*, Newcastle, to be appointed general manager. Rod Quinn has been appointed editor and is also responsible for the *Herald*, Central Coast. Brian Evans, the previous general manager, has been promoted within Fairfax to oversee the New Zealand papers the company bought from INL. His role as the manager of the Fairfax regional and community newspapers within Australia has been taken by James Hooke. Former *Herald* editor-in-chief, Alan Oakley, has become editor of the *Sunday Age* (*PANPA Bulletin*, September/October 2003, p.61; Rod Kirkpatrick, telephone conversation with Natalie Erasmus, Newcastle Newspapers, 31 October 2003).

25.43 EDITORS

Travis Simmons become the editor of the *Murray Valley Standard*, Murray Bridge, South Australia, after the end of August. He replaced Jane Kempe, the *Standard's* first female editor, who had in the chair six months (*Murray Valley Standard*, 28 August 2003, p.13).

Peter Owen, editor-in-chief, Sunshine Coast Newspaper Co., is profiled in *PANPA Bulletin*, November-December 2003, p.18.

25.44 *BUNYIP* RUN AT RENMARK

In the final week of August the *Murray Pioneer* presses printed the *Bunyip*, Gawler, for the first time. The Taylor family, owners of the *Pioneer* since 1905, bought the *Bunyip* at the end of March after the paper had been owned by the Barnets since its establishment in September 1863 (*Murray Pioneer*, 22 August 2003, p.2).

25.45 REGIONAL TV NEWS

Southern Cross Broadcasting plans to reintroduce local news services across regional areas in Queensland, New South Wales, the ACT and Victoria early next year. The network began advertising for staff on 23 October after an Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) ruling that broadcasters must provide at least one hour of local coverage each week. The group general manager television for Southern Cross, Bruce Abraham, says the news bulletins are likely to be short windows of a few minutes to fit in with national network programming.

"We're not looking at standard news type bulletins in the sense that most people would be used to them," he said (ABC Online Brisbane, 23 October 2003).

25.46 *GOULBURN POST* TAKES AWARD

The *Goulburn Post's* campaigning for more nurses, heritage, public accountability and school transport has been rewarded with the E.C. Sommerlad Memorial Award for Editorial Leadership and Community Involvement. It is the second time in recent years the *Post* has won this award. *Goulburn Post* manager John Thistleton congratulated former editor Maryann Weston and senior reporter Louise Thrower on their tenacious pursuit of local issues, at times under trying circumstances.

25.47 *QUEENSCLIFFE HERALD* MARKS TOWN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The *Queenscliffe Herald* marked the town of Queencliff's 150th anniversary in June this year by publishing a 56-page tabloid booklet, with glossy cover, "Great News Stories of Queenscliff, 1853-2003". It contains some fascinating historical photographs. Greg Wane, proprietor and editor, tells us the booklet won a highly commended certificate in the PANPA marketing awards. [The town is Queenscliff – at the entrance to Port Phillip – and the district, Queenscliffe.]

25.48 BLACKALL GETS A PAPER AGAIN

The western Queensland town of Blackall lost its newspaper on 29 March 2001 has gained another. On 24 October 2003 a pilot edition of the tentatively entitled *Barcoo Independent* appeared, with the help of journalism students at James Cook University, Townsville, supervised by lecturer John Cokley. Eventually, the writing and typesetting processes and a possible website will be handed back to the local community. The Blackall steering committee includes Kirstie Davison, of Blackall State School, and Sally Cripps, the foundation journalist on the *Blackall Leader*, established on 15 June 1983 by the *Longreach Leader* (see ANHG 12.31 and 13.46.11).

25.49 *GEELONG ADVERTISER* SALE COMPLETED

News Ltd has completed its purchase of the Geelong Advertiser Group from Independent Newspapers Limited (INL). The group consists of the *Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria's oldest provincial newspaper, and two free weeklies, the *Geelong News* (70,000 distribution in greater Geelong) and the *Echo* (40,000 in the Bellarine Peninsula and the Otways). [*Australian*, Media liftout, 20 November 2003, p.9.]

25.50 *TOTALLY U* IN TAMWORTH

The first edition of lifestyle magazine Totally U was produced and published as an insert in the *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth on Saturday 15 November 2003. The pages in the 12-page magazine measure 278mm x 362mm. Editorial content was contributed by participating advertisers. Some material was written by contributors while other material was other stories were sourced from AAP. The paper quality was similar to the *Good Weekend*.

25.51 DOCTORS BURY THEIRS, LAWYERS HANG THEIRS …

How does the old saying go? "Doctors bury their mistakes, lawyers hang theirs, but newspapers put theirs on the front page." The *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth, NSW, published as its main front-page story on 9 April 1998, under the heading: 'Bring Morant home'; Community wants to bury hero. Reporter Frances Hibbard wrote: "A dignified burial on local soil and with full Australian Light Horse honours is the ultimate aim of a Tenterfield

community push to bring 'home' the remains of soldier hero Harry 'Breaker' Morant." Trouble is Harry Harbord Morant, horseman, balladist and solider (but "hero"?) was born at Bridgewater, England, on 9 December 1864 (see *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 10, p.581)..

NEWSPAPER HISTORY

25.52 DIGITAL CAMERAS AND ARCHIVES

From Canberra, Paul Livingston suggests: Re. 24.54: "Using digital cameras in archives", for some information on the use of digital cameras and scanners at the National Library of Australia, have a look at http://www.nla.gov.au/pict/copyjan03.html

25.53 McGILLS NEWSAGENCY, MELBOURNE

It is not often that a business survives for 150 years without drastically changing or diversifying. An example occurs in the newspaper business, but not a newspaper. In early issues of the *Argus* and the *Age*, McGill's Newsagency in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne usually heads the list of their agents. McGill's Newsagency still flourishes in Elizabeth Street near Bourke Street. It stocks not only local newspapers, but many titles from country Victoria, interstate and overseas. (Its only rival in Australia for the number of newspaper titles stocked is possibly the Boomerang Newsagency in Queen St, Brisbane with its large variety of country Queensland titles.)

25.54 COLOUR IN NEWSPAPERS

In response to an inquiry to ANHG, **Victor Isaacs** writes: The first colour photographs in Melbourne newspapers were in the *Argus* in 1952. The *Argus* was about 30-40 years ahead of other daily newspapers anywhere in the world in this. The reason that the *Argus* was so far ahead was that the process just did not work very well then. They had enormous problems. By the 1990s printing technology had advanced greatly. The *Herald Sun* and the *Age* first had colour photographs about 1992. But, believe it or not, it is impossible to say exactly when! This is because they were not introduced with a big bang. Rather, it was done very, very gradually. So, one day, they might add one extra colour to portion of one print run. After that had been assessed, a while later, perhaps a larger portion of a print run one day would have colour, and so on. Eventually, all of print runs had colour. So, when any reader first saw colour varied.

25.55 HANSARD VICTORIA

The following information has been obtained from the Victorian Hansard website: *Hansard* is the informal title for the official printed reports of parliamentary debates. The term is also used to refer to the parliamentary department that produces the printed record the Department of Victorian Parliamentary Debates. As the only complete, accurate and permanent record of the debates of Parliament in both Houses, *Hansard* contributes a necessary precision to the affairs of politics and provides an invaluable account of past parliamentary endeavours.

From the second half of the sixteenth century the British Parliament prohibited all reporting and publishing of its proceedings. The Parliament believed it should deliberate in private and regarded any attempt to publicise its proceedings as a serious punishable offence. By the late eighteenth century dissension among more progressive members of Parliament, the growing weight of public opinion and the increasingly outspoken attacks of the press, persuaded the Parliament to relax its stance. In 1803 the House of Commons passed a resolution giving the press the right to enter the Public Gallery.

That same year William Cobbett, publisher of *Cobbett's Weekly Political Register*, added to his newspaper a supplement entitled *Parliamentary Debates*, which was a reprint of journalists' reports of speeches extracted from other newspapers. In 1812 that publication was taken over by Cobbett's assistant, T. C. Hansard, who in 1829, changed the title of the reports to *Hansard's Parliamentary Debates*. By the late 1870s dissatisfaction with the accuracy of the report was being expressed. As a result Parliament voted Hansard the sum of £300 a year for shorthand assistance. The Hansard family continued to produce the *Parliamentary Debates* until 1889. Other publishers continued to print transcripts of the debates until in 1909 the House of Commons took control of the reporting and printing of parliamentary debates.

It was during the 60 years of the Hansard family's publication that the name Hansard became synonymous with the printed debates. In 1943 the British Parliament reinstated the name Hansard in the title of its formal records.

For the first decade of the Parliament of Victoria's history reports of the debates of both Houses were transcribed and published by the newspaper, the *Argus*. Called *Victorian Hansard*, they were of questionable accuracy and were often criticised. On 23 June 1865 a motion that the transcription and printing of proceedings be supervised by the Parliament was carried in the Legislative Assembly. Three former Argus reporters were hired to form a Department of Victorian Parliamentary Debates. They began reporting on 12 February 1866 at the beginning of the first session of the fifth Parliament of Victoria (four decades before the Parliament in Westminster passed a similar resolution). In the early years transcripts were still incomplete because of a shortage of suitably qualified staff. Gradually, additional staff members were appointed and it became possible to produce the debates in full. The bound volumes were officially entitled the *Victorian Parliamentary Debates*, but were always referred to by the familiar name of *Hansard*. Acknowledging the historical associations and bowing to popular usage, the term 'Hansard' was incorporated in the official title page of the parliamentary transcripts in 1958.

Hansard now consists of a Chief Reporter (the departmental head), 2 Assistant Chief Reporters, four sub-editors, 14 reporters, a secretary, a clerical assistant and 10 high-speed keyboarders employed sessionally. Hansard reporters have two methods of recording and transcribing the speeches of members of Parliament. Some use manual machines to record proceedings and then transcribe their notes by dictating to keyboarders. Others use computer-aided transcription (CAT) and edit text generated by computers that translate shorthand taken on electronic stenotype machines. Members of Parliament may read and correct the transcriptions. *Hansard* is not a verbatim report of what is said in the Chambers. Rather, it is an accurate representation of speeches and statements devoid of redundancies, obvious grammatical errors, slips of the tongue and factual errors or, as a founding member of Hansard and later Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, William Robinson, once told a new member of Parliament, the purpose of the *Parliamentary Debates* is 'to preserve the idiom of Parliament, but not the idiots'.

The measure of the work of the Department of Victorian Parliamentary Debates is found in the printed output. Between 1856 and 1866, 11 volumes of the *Victorian Hansard* were published by the *Argus*. Between 1856 and 1996, 427 volumes of the *Victorian Parliamentary Debates* appeared. It is a resource and a bequest for all Victorians. The full text of the Victorian Hansard is available on a database from 1991 onwards. *Hansard* is also available for downloading in Adobe Acrobat format.

25.56 INDEXES: *MACLEAY ARGUS*, KEMPSEY, AND *AUSTRALIAN*, WINDSOR

Judy Hoole and Rod and Wendy Gow, newspaper archivists, have published an index to the *Macleay Argus*, Kempsey, NSW, 1885-1889 (its first five years). This newspaper index contains references to articles of interest to family historians from the Hunter River to the

Richmond River and out to the New England district. If you would like them to check to see if one of the surnames you are researching gets a mention in this index, email them and they will let you know. The index is published on CD and retails at $30, postage free within Australia. For further details visit the web site (see below); also, have a look at the web page "Looking Back in Time - extracts from old newspapers". This page is updated on the first of each month and the previous articles are archived.

Rod Gow is at: rgow@ceinternet.com.au. Website: http://www3.ceinternet.com.au/~rgow

Rod and Wendy Gow have published an index to the "Australian – Windsor Richmond & Hawkesbury Advertiser" newspaper 1873 - 1883. This newspaper index contains 2,800 entries with references to articles of interest to family historians from the Hawkesbury district. The index is available on either CD-ROM and in book format and retails at $25, postage free within Australia. For further details visit the Gow website.

25.57 A HISTORY OF *THE WEST*

Griff Richards, a former editor of the *West Australian*, is 95 and in hostel accommodation. He has written much of a history of West Australian Newspapers Ltd from 1939-87. Completing the task of writing a history of the company from its formation in 1926 is now beyond him. His daughter, Margot Lang, hopes to finish it. She works three days a week at the *West Australian*.

25.58 BICENTENARY OF THE FIRST PRINTING IN VICTORIA

The Centre for the Book, Monash University, held an event on 16 October to celebrate the bicentenary of the first printing done in Victoria. To commemorate the occasion, the Ancora Press was used to reproduce the first of the 48 orders and notices worked off over four months at the end of 1803 and the beginning of 1804. Both setting and printing were done by hand. The celebration was held at the Antipodes Bookshop-Gallery, Ocean Beach Road, Sorrento, close to the site of the original press at Sullivan Bay. John Currey wrote the following about the first printing in Victoria:

Victoria's first printing press was brought to Port Phillip in October 1803 by Lieutenant-Governor David Collins, who had sailed from England to establish a British penal colony at Port Phillip. The press was used to print the Garrison and General Orders issued by Collins at his campsite at Sullivan Bay, near Sorrento. More than forty of the orders were printed between 16 October 1803 and 27 January 1804, when Collins, finding Port Phillip unsuitable for his settlement, began moving his party of 300 male convicts to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), where he founded Hobart Town. The press was a wooden-framed "common press" which Collins had purchased in London in February or March 1803 from Thomas Bensley, one of the great craftsmen of the Transitional Period of English printing. Bensley's invoice to Collins was for £17.12.6 ($35.25), and as a foolscap press at this time cost £21 ($42), the price suggests Collins' press was not new.

The press was set up in a tent behind the beach at Sullivan Bay, and supervised by Matthew Power, a convict. Power, a printer, had been convicted at Maidstone, Kent, in 1802, of uttering a forged Bank of England note, and sentenced to be transported for fourteen years. The body text of the orders was set in a size approximating modem 10-point. It was cut in an Old Style face – possibly a derivative of the original long primer roman from the Caslon foundry in London – and makes use of the archaic "long S" character. Both the type and the coat of arms on the orders were well used, with many characters extremely worn or damaged.

The largest sheet the press could print at a single impression was the traditional folio foolscap size (approx. 13 inches by *8.s* inches) but most of the orders at Port Phillip were printed on half sheets. The paper was supplied by the Crown Stationery Office and was watermarked

1802. When Collins began moving his party to the Derwent River in 1804 he took the press with him. After Power returned to England in 1809 it was used by his successor to print Tasmania's first newspaper, the fortnightly *Derwent Star and Van Diemen's Land Intelligencer*, and. later still, to print the first book in Tasmania.

25.59 *DAILY TELEGRAPH* 1903: FEMALE COLUMNIST UNA

Does anyone know the identity of a columnist who used the byline "Una" in the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* in 1903? She (or he) wrote about various social welfare institutions and activities, often concerning the experiences of women and children, and about social issues of the day. The style of the articles was very individual, combining narrative, description and conversational dialogue. A researcher has discovered "Una" while researching the introduction of female federal suffrage in 1903 and is intrigued by her identity.

25.60 READING PAPERS A CENTURY AGO

How did people, say a hundred years ago, read their main metropolitan newspapers? Did people generally start at the front page (advertisements) and proceed with pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and so on? Or did people generally turn straightaway to the centre pages where the main news and articles where? If they turned immediately to the centre pages (say pages 6 and 7) did they then turn the pages forward, or did they then turn the pages backward? It is quite likely that this is one of the many aspects of life that was so commonplace that no one ever thought of recording it. But hopefully someone knows.

25.61 LENSMAN OF MELBOURNE

When a collection of photographs capturing Melbourne in the opulence of the late 1880s came across librarian Ian Morrison's desk, little as known about the man who took them. Three years later and after a tireless search of records, death and marriage certificates and cemetery plots, little more is known about the lensman. Charles Bristow Walker walked the streets of Melbourne in the summer of 1888-89, taking images that tell the story of a city gripped by a land boom and teetering on the edge of economic collapse, but left no trace of his own life. His work has been recorded in *A New City: Photographs of Melbourne's Land Boom*, edited by Morrison, after the University of Melbourne, where he is curator of special collections, bought them at auction in 1999 (Alison Crossweller, "Lensman of Marvellous Melbourne lost to time", *Australian*, 8 October 2003, p.6). Morrison is an ANHG member.

25.62 MICROFILMING NEWSPAPERS IN THE US

From **Belinda Weaver**: This American site presents information about "a cooperative national effort among the states and the federal government to locate, catalogue, and preserve on microfilm newspapers published in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present." Browse by state to locate contact information and Web links for specific collections. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).
  http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html

25.63 THE *AGE'S* CIRCULATION, 1876, 1878, 1879 AND 1894

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: Melbourne's *Age* asserted in early 1876 that its circulation was "nearly three times the circulation of any other daily paper in Australia" (*Age*, 22 March 1876, p.2, col. 4). It said that its circulation had been copies for the week ending 7 February; 156,910 for the week ending 14 February; 157,700 for the week ending 21 February; and 157,550 for the week ending 28 February. This constituted a daily average of 26,180 sales.

[Does anyone have figures that show that any other daily of that period had a circulation significantly more than one one-third of 26,000 – say, more than 10,000?]

In early 1878, the *Age* announced, with a feeling of pride, that its circulation had increased to 32,000 daily, and "the statement is substantiated by public accountants" (*Newcastle Morning Herald*, 20 February 1878, p.2).

In early 1879 the *Age* announced its circulation was now more than 35,000 daily. It published the certificate of Messrs Ecroyd and Danby "to whose inspection our books have been submitted". Week by week, the daily average for November 1878 had been: 35,158 for the week ending 9 November; 35,356 for week to 16 November; 35,187 for the week to 23 November; and 35,048 for the week to 30 November. The daily average for the month was 35,162.

In 1894 the *Age* asserted that its circulation was "now four times larger than that of any other Melbourne morning paper". No figures were given (*Age*, 22 March 1894).

25.64 *BELFAST TELEGRAPH* ADDS DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Belinda Weaver writes: The *Belfast Telegraph* launched a digital archive in October, a database of 180,000 articles from the *Belfast Telegraph, Ireland's Saturday Night* and *Sunday Life*. While the content on The Belfast Telegraph site remains free of charge, as do the last seven days' content, archives older than that (including this new digital archive) require payment through a BT click&buy account (which I don't have, so I didn't get to test-drive this.) The new archive is available at http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/online_archive/ . There are three levels of payment. 50p will give you access to one article for 24 hours, £5 will give you monthly subscription to the full archive, and £50 will give you annual subscription to the full archive.

25.65 JACK FULLER AND I.T.

Belinda Weaver writes: Dr Stephen Quinn, author of *Newsgathering on the Net*, is currently based in the US. He attended the annual Online News Association conference held in Chicago on 14-15 November (http://www.journalists.org/2003conference/) and had the following report to make. "What's next?" someone in the audience asked Jack Fuller, who gave the keynote address on the first day. "I don't know," he said. "You probably don't either. Things are changing very rapidly." He spoke about lessons in humility he had learned from the online world: "What we need to do is to experiment and assess the results, and adapt, and do it over and over again – not get wedded to ideology about what people want."

Read more about Fuller at http://journalism.nyu.edu/pubzone/ReadMe/article.php?id=243.

25.66 PRINTING MUSEUM WINS GRANT

The sounds of the whirr, clack, rattle and thump of the old linotype and flatbed printing operations will become part of the visitor experience at the Wimble Museum of Printing at the New England Regional Art Museum in Armidale. Member for Northern Tablelands Richard Torbay has announced a grant of $8650 from the State Government to install surround sound and video footage to provide the authentic atmosphere of the old printing shops. Torbay said: "The machines are in excellent condition and a visit to the museum which is already a hands on experience will be made even more interesting with the sound and video equipment." The funding also includes a further $3750 towards funding a part-time collection manager to assist at the Printing Museum.

25.67 EPHEMERA OF A BREWER AND JOURNALIST

Dirk Spennemann, of Albury, writes: John Farrell (* 18 December in 1851 or 1852 Buenos Aires, † 8 January 1904 Sydney) is well known as editor, lead writer and, on occasion owner, of papers such as the *Lithgow Enterprise*, the *Australian Standard,* and the *Daily Telegraph.* Throughout his journalistic career he championed the poor and the oppressed, as he did in his verse, arguing for Free Trade and better conditions for workers. Less well known are his literary aspirations, which started in an earlier facet of his career, working as a brewer in Camperdown, and later Albury, where his literary career took off.

He had verses published in the *Albury Banner*; here the *Ephemera: An Iliad of Albury* made it's first appearance at the office of the *Border Post*; here he wrote the first of more than 90 poems that were to appear in the *Bulletin* over the next 21 years, until his death.

Ephemera, an Iliad of Albury was published in early May 1878. Advertised as *Ephemera: a local satire,* the book found favourable notice by the *Border Post:*

> …as form and metre go, it seems to be a parody on Byron's Don Juan. Several local bits are made in the poem, which is a very readable and somewhat clever piece of composition…as the price is only 1s., those who do encourage local talent can do no better than procure a copy. We are sure that they will not regret the outlay.

It seems to have found little notice apart from with the paper that printed the volume, as neither the *Albury Banner* nor the newspapers of the surrounding communities mention its publication (*Corowa Free Press, Wagga Wagga Advertiser).* Like many other self-publications by emerging writers, the book seems to have sunk to obscurity. We do not know how many copies Farrell had printed and how many copies he actually managed to sell, but we can assume that the edition did not exceed 100, possibly 150 copies.

Ephemera is a good example of the vagaries to which nineteenth century local publishing was exposed. Only one copy survives. *Ephemera, an Iliad of Albury*, has now been reissued by Letao Press, together with a collection of the other works of Farrell's Albury Period.

Spennemann, Dirk H.R. & Downing, Jane (eds) (2002) John Farrell, *An Iliad of Albury and other Poems.* Edited, annotated and introduced by Dirk H.R. Spennemann and Jane Downing. Albury, NSW: Letao Press. 184pp. ISBN 1 876940 06 9. RRP $19.95. Letao Publishing, PO Box 3080, Albury NSW 2640

25.68 NINETEENTH-CENTURY NEWSPAPERS IN SAMOA

Dirk Spennemann, of Albury, writes: The expatriate population living in nineteenth-century Samoa was very small. Nonetheless George Lyttleton Griffith of *Fiji Times* fame decided to branch out and establish a paper there. Commencing in 1877, the *Samoa Times* operated at a loss until 1881, its subscriber base never exceeding 100. After a break of seven years another *Samoa Times* was established. It soon prompted competition from the *Samoa Week Herald*. Neither paper was running profitably, despite job printing as measure to offset costs.

My report (publication details below) provides on overview of the history of the three nineteenth century newspapers published in Samoa: the *Samoa Times* in its two incarnations (1877–1881 and 1888–1896) and the *Samoa Weekly Herald* (1892–1900). The physical appearance of the papers in terms of bibliographic detail and paper used are discussed to draw conclusions on matters such a paper supplies to a remote location and the diligence of type setting and composition. It is amply illustrated with images of mastheads.

Spennemann, Dirk H. R. (2003) The Heritage of Nineteenth Century Samoan Newspapers. A Bibliographical Analysis. *Johnstone Centre Report* 195. Albury, NSW: The Johnstone Centre, Charles Sturt University. A4 39 pp. ISBN 1 86467 144 0. RRP: Free of charge, download at

http://www.csu.edu.au/research/jcentre/reports/JCReport195.pdf

25.69 BOOKS

25.69.1 THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS: A BICENTENNIAL RETROSPECTIVE edited by Victor Isaacs and Rod Kirkpatrick, published by the Australian Newspaper History Group, 13 Sumac Street, Middle Park, QLD 4074, 106 A5 pages, $20 (including postage). This book reproduces the proceedings of the ANHG's seminar in Sydney in March 2003 to commemorate the bicentenary of Australia's first newspaper. It includes papers on the "Sydney Gazette", its readers and its relationship with early Sydney, the literary content of early Australian newspapers, the production of newspapers in the nineteenth century, the National Plan for Australian newspapers, the development of national newspapers and discussion on the future of newspapers.

25.69.2 'THE ARGUS': THE LIFE AND DEATH OF A GREAT MELBOURNE NEWSPAPER: PAPERS FROM A CONFERENCE AT RMIT UNIVERSITY 2001, edited by Muriel Porter, RMIT University, 2003, 204 A5 pages, $20. Papers compressively covering the history of the Argus, and reminisces of the staff.

25.69.3 GEORGE HOWE: AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PUBLISHER by Gwenda Robb, Australian Academic Publishing, PO Box 299, Kew Vic 3101. 03-9654 0250, fax 03-9654 0250. The author researched her convict ancestor George Howe for many years. Her research took her to town and city libraries in England and to Howe's birthplace, the island of St Kitts in the West Indies. Her book represents the most meticulous research yet on Australia's first newspaper publisher.

25.69.4 KEITH MURDOCH: FOUNDER OF A MEDIA EMPIRE by R.M. Younger, HarperCollins, rrp $49.95. The author was given access to Murdoch's papers and personal and business letters and received the full cooperation f the Murdoch family.

25.70 ARTICLES

25.70.1 THE ANONYMOUS LEADER by Jack Waterford, *Canberra Times*, 11 October 2003. The editor-in-chief discuss the issue of anonymity amongst editorial writers and mentioned that the next day's editorial would be "the 250th in a row I have written, seven days a week bar Good Friday (on which we did not publish) since I returned from leave in February".

25.70.2 THE TRICK IS ALL IN THE FAMILY by Wendy Frew, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4-5 October 2003, pp.47, 50. A new book says Rupert Murdoch needs his children to keep delivering bias to order.

25.70.3 THE SHIPPING NEWS by Vin Maskell, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 23, Spring 2003, p.31. An obituary for the *Mariner*, the little monthly that gave a salty swig of life around Port Phillip Bay (see ANHG 21.28).

25.70.4 WHAT LIES BENEATH? by Frances Wilden, *Walkley Magazine,* Issue 23, Spring 2003, p.18. A NSW regional newspaper reporter discusses the problems of reporting a small community. She was cold-shouldered by the locals and given short shrift by the spin doctors when she tried to take a balanced approach to reporting a proposed charcoal plant for the South Coast.

25.70.5 JOURNALISM SOLD SHORT IN MEDIA COURSES by John Henningham, *Australian*, Media liftout, "Media Careers: A Special Report", 23 October 2003, p.1. A former university journalism professor asserts that universities are letting down journalism

students and the news-media industries. [This article stirred up a hornet's nest of discussion on the JEA net – for Australian journalism academics. In addition, four letters appeared in the Media liftout, 30 October, p.12.]

25.70.6 NO, NO, MR MURDOCH … YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS by Andrew Cornell, *Weekend Australian Financial Review*, 18-19 October 2003, pp.24-25. Shareholders are angry as hell about obscene payouts and now they are making their views known.

25.70.7 AMBUSH by Matt Price, *Australian*, Media liftout, 30 October 2003, pp.4-5. Australian journalists – even press gallery veterans – were muscled well out of the way by George Bush's US minders during his visit to Canberra, while their American counterparts were given ringside seats.

25.70.8 TROUBLE IN THE PRESS GANG by Geoff Elliott, *Weekend Australian*, 1-2 November 2003, p.25, and CRIME AND PUNISHMENT by Michael Stutchbury, *Australian*, Media liftout, 6 November 2003, pp.4-5. Brave and unorthodox, Fairfax columnist Paul Sheehan has targeted the foibles at Australia's second biggest newspaper house (Fairfax) in a new book. Stutchbury, editor of the *Australian*, "sheds light on the *Media Watch* attack on the *Australian's* Jane Albrechtsen". [A week later, Mark Day commented on Stutchbury's article: Media liftout, 13 November, 2003, p.6.]

25.70.9 ETHNIC PRESSES: THE EUROPEANS IN AUSTRALIA 1950s-1960s, *National Library of Australia News*, Vol. 9, No. 2, November 2003, pp.19-21. In the first of a two-part series, Barry York discusses the NLA's collection of ethnic community newspapers.

25.70.10 BOND PUSHES LICENCE TO KILL OFF HIS HISTORY by Bryan Frith, *Australian*, 5 November 2003, p.34. Total recall is not the theme in Alan Bond's autobiography, writes a reviewer.

25.70.11 THE SKY'S THE LIMIT by Emiliya Mychasuk and Peter Fray, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8-9 November2003, p.36. James Murdoch's new gig at the top of his father's satellite TV operations in Europe looks like an audition for the News group's top job. This article contains a valuable update on the Murdoch dynasty, including the two daughters Rupert has had by third wife Wendi Deng.

25.70.12 AT ODDS WITH THE COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION by John Henningham, *Australian*, Media liftout, 20 November 2003, p.7. The High Court and the media are seen as old adversaries, but as essential partners in democracy they need to find a better working relationship. [Based on a paper presented at the High Court centenary conference in Canberra in October.] See also Mark Pearson, "The High Court shifts on press freedom", *PANPA Bulletin*, November-December 2003, pp.16-17.

25.70.13 ALL THE NEWS! NOW YOU CAN SEARCH NSW NEWSPAPER RECORDS ONLINE FROM HOME, *Upfront*, Journal of the Friends and Supporters of the State Library of New South Wales, Winter 2003, vol.15, no. 2, p.9.

25.70.14 READ ALL ABOUT IT – MOGUL IN LONG RETREAT by Ian Griffiths and Paul Murphy, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22-23 November 2003, pp.45, 48. Napoleon admirer Conrad Black – whose media empire once included *Herald* publisher John Fairfax – is under fire for tapping management fees of $US200 million [see 25.26].

25.70.15 I FOUGHT THE LAW … by Wendy Bacon, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22-23 November 2003, Spectrum pp.6-7. The legal fraternity prevented Wendy Bacon, now an associate professor of journalism at the University of Technology, Sydney, from joining the Bar. Now the QC who helped stop her has his regrets. But does she have any?

25.70.16 NEWS BAR INVITES POLICE MISCONDUCT by Tony Koch, *Courier-Mail*, 22 November 2003, p.27. The Queensland Police Service's decision to change from an analogue to a digital radio service will end traditional access by reporters to immediate knowledge of an accident or emergency. Koch argues that the public's right to know will be eroded by the change.

25.70.17 HISTORIC PRINTING MATERIAL FROM THE CENTRAL VICTORIAN GOLDFIELDS IMPLICATIONS FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT by Sue Hughes, *Johnstone Centre, Report No 194* (Albury, NSW: Charles Sturt University, 2003). This can be read in pdf at: http://www.csu.edu.au/research/jcentre/

25.70.18 GAZETTEER OF NEWSPAPERS FROM THE CENTRAL VICTORIAN GOLDFIELDS, 1851-1901 by Sue Hughes, *Johnstone Centre, Report No. 198* (Albury, NSW: Charles Sturt University, 2003). This, too, can be read in pdf at: http://www.csu.edu.au/research/jcentre/

The ANHG Book Store

(1) The book arising from the Australian Newspaper Press Bicentenary Symposium held at the State Library of NSW on 1 March 2003 is now available. *The Australian Press: A Bicentennial Retrospect* features the papers presented at the symposium and is a 106-page A5 perfect-bound book, complete with ISBN. It will cost you $20 (including post and packing) for one copy or $35 for two copies. Make out cheques to R. Kirkpatrick (ANHG). No plastic.

(2) The companion volume, *Two Hundred Years of Sydney Newspapers: A Short History*, which was published in February this year, is available separately for $5 (including postage and packing). Make out cheques to R. Kirkpatrick (ANHG).

(3) You can buy one copy of (1) and one copy of (2) for a total of $23, including postage and packing. Make out cheques to R. Kirkpatrick (ANHG).

Barry Blair and Victor Isaacs are major contributors to this Newsletter.