



Dungog Chronicle office (NSW), ca early 1900s.

AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

ISSN 1443-4962

No. 52

May 2009

Publication details

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Deadline for the next Newsletter: 15 July 2009.

Subscription details appear at end of Newsletter. [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]
The *Newsletter* is online through the 'Publications' link of the University of Queensland's School of Journalism & Communication Website at www.uq.edu.au/sjc/ and through the ePrint Archives at the University of Queensland at <http://espace.uq.edu.au/>

New ANHG books/CDs on sale – see final page

1 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: NATIONAL & METROPOLITAN

52.1.1 REVERSE TAKEOVER OF FAIRFAX MEDIA COMPLETED

Rural Press Ltd's reverse takeover of Fairfax Media Ltd has been completed. Brian McCarthy, as Fairfax CEO, has put former Rural Press executives in charge of the major areas of Fairfax. McCarthy was Rural Press CEO under chairman John B. Fairfax, who is now the biggest single Fairfax Media shareholder. In the new regime, Fairfax Media's metropolitan mastheads will take over responsibility for its key online classified brands as part of McCarthy's move to more closely integrate the group's print and internet

advertising revenue models. The management restructure seeks to position the group more along functional lines and less on geographic lines. McCarthy has abolished his own former position as Fairfax deputy chief executive and head of Australian newspapers. In the process, he has created a flat management structure of 16 executives who report directly to him, down from 25 before the changes were made.

Since February's results briefing, two senior Fairfax executives – its chief financial officer, Sankar Narayan, and the chief executive of Fairfax's New Zealand operations, Joan Withers (see *SMH Online*, 13 March) – have announced their departures. Now former executives of Rural Press have filled both of those roles. A former Rural Press senior manager, Allen Williams, is Fairfax's New Zealand publishing head. Brian Cassell, Rural Press's former chief financial officer, was already announced for the same role at Fairfax. Whish-Wilson, Fairfax's Sydney publishing head, is also a former senior Rural Press executive and a long-term right-hand man of McCarthy (*Australian*, 19 March 2009, p.19).

52.1.2 THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

52.1.2.1 NEW EDITOR

Brett McCarthy, 42, editor of Perth's *Sunday Times* for six years until 2007, has been appointed the editor of the *West Australian*. McCarthy was deputy editor of Sydney's *Sunday Telegraph* from 1999 and assistant editor of the *Daily Telegraph* before that. McCarthy's appointment comes after Paul Armstrong's tumultuous five-year reign at the helm of the monopoly daily ended in January (*Australian*, 16 March 2009, online; see also Mark Day's column, *Australian*, 16 March 2009, Media section, p.36).

52.1.2.2 STILL IN STRIFE

The *West Australian*, under its new editor, has not escaped controversy. Carjack victim Brigitte van de Voorde has complained that the newspaper totally misrepresented her reaction to the non-custodial sentence imposed by Judge McKechnie in the Supreme Court of Western Australia on the man who had carjacked van de Voorde's vehicle. The *West's* headline was, "Carjack victim's anger as judge sets thug free". Yet she had made it clear outside the court that she was not disappointed with the court's decision. (For more details, see Chris Merritt, "Carjack victim cross that the *West* made her look angry", *Australian*, Media section, 6 April 2009, pp.31, 33; and *Media Watch*, ABC-TV, 6 April 2009, via www.abc.net.au).

52.1.2.3 STOKES' CONTINUES TO INCREASE INTEREST IN WAN

Kerry Stokes' Seven Network Ltd continues to creep up the West Australian Newspaper Holdings Ltd's (WAN) share register. Australian Securities Exchange filings show the broadcaster lifted its stake in the newspaper publisher on Tuesday to 23.2 per cent, from 22.3 per cent. Seven lifted its interest in WAN in July from 19.4 per cent to 22.3 per cent. Seven, WAN's largest shareholder, has used "creep" provisions of the Corporations Act to lift its stake without triggering a formal takeover (SMH online, 3 April 2009).

52.1.2.4 BANKS ORDERED TO PAY \$1.58bn FOR GRABBING BELL ASSETS

A group of banks headed by Westpac has been ordered by a Perth judge to pay \$1.58 billion to the liquidators of the Bell Group, which collapsed in 1991, as compensation for their having grabbed security over a number of Bell assets in 1990 as the group was nearing collapse. Judge Neville Owen, of the WA Supreme Court, who presided over a 404-day hearing of a court case originally filed by liquidator Tony Woodlings in 1995, also ordered the banks to pay \$82.5 million in costs to the liquidator. The banks originally netted about \$820 million from selling the assets, including WA Newspapers, in 1991 but the payout has been hugely increased by the passage of time and the calculation of compound interest (*Australian*, 1 May 2009, p.1).

52.1.3 JOHN B. FAIRFAX AND A MORTGAGE

Property experts say John B. Fairfax's flagship family property could be worth as much as \$60 million on the open market if it went to sale (*Australian*, 19 March 2009). In January, Fairfax mortgaged "Elaine", his family's 6800sqm estate at Seven Shillings Beach on Sydney Harbour. The move came less than a year after Fairfax borrowed to take over the 211 million Fairfax Media shares owned by his family company, Marinya Media. Land title documents show "Elaine" is leased to media heir and businessman Cameron O'Reilly for \$6300 a week.

52.1.4 BOB GORDON TO RETIRE

The editor-in-chief of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, Bob Gordon, will retire on 3 July, ending a journalistic career spanning 50 years. He has been at the *Bulletin* for 12 years. Before that he edited Brisbane's *Sunday Mail*. Its circulation grew dramatically during his nine-year term. News Limited chairman and chief executive John Hartigan said Gordon was a superb and passionate journalist and editor. "Bob would relentlessly chase down stories as a reporter because they needed to be told, a sense that stayed with him as an editor," he said. One such story led to the Fitzgerald inquiry, which exposed a web of corruption involving police and major public figures in Queensland. At the time Gordon was chief-of-staff of the *Courier-Mail* and was determined to expose activities associated with establishments in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley. He assigned reporter Phil Dickie, whose reports rocked the state. Gordon began his career in Brisbane in 1959 as a cadet with Channel 9 and after a stint in Lismore joined Brisbane's *Telegraph*. In 1969, he moved to the *Canberra News* (afternoon daily) and, after it closed in 1974, he joined the *Canberra Times* and later became its chief of staff. He joined the *Courier-Mail* in 1986 (*Courier-Mail*, 17 March 2009, p.2).

52.1.5 A FALL, BUT GOOD NEWS ON THE ADVERTISING FRONT

Newspaper publishers are hailing a 0.6 per cent drop in advertising revenues last year as a sign the local industry is not suffering the structural declines seen in Britain and the US. British newspaper ad revenues fell 12 per cent last year while the 17.7 per cent decline experienced by US newspapers was the worst ever recorded, according to figures released by their respective industry bodies last month. On 31 March, Australia's four biggest press players – Fairfax, APN, West Australian Newspapers and News Limited – released first-time combined figures for the 95 per cent of the industry they estimate they cover. The publishers' peak body The Newspaper Works said their combined advertising revenues were about \$4 billion last year, down 0.6 per cent from the previous year. Data from the Commercial Economic Advisory Service of Australia last year valued total newspaper advertising at \$4.076 billion in 2007. The publishers said retail advertising in Australian newspapers last year grew 2.1 per cent, national advertising was up 1.3 per cent and magazine revenue rose 5.1 per cent. Classified advertising, which comprised less than 40 per cent of all revenues, fell 4.2 per cent, hurt by a 12.3 per cent drop in jobs ads and an 8.1 per cent fall in the automotive category (*Australian*, 1 April 2009).

52.1.6 CLASSIES PAGES FALL

The number of pages in Fairfax Media's major metropolitan newspapers continued to fall in February, broker Goldman Sachs JB Were has revealed. The February count was well down on previous years – 11 per cent down, compared with a 6 per cent decline in January (*Australian*, Media section, 9 March 2009, p.31).

52.1.7 RECENT CHRONOLOGY

52.1.7.1 DEATHS

Dunstan, Roy: D. 27 December 2008; an ANHG subscriber since the beginning; descendant of the Dunstan newspaper family that started newspapers at Minyip and Yackandandah in country Victoria and at Urana and Wagga Wagga in south-western NSW at the end of the 19th century (see Rod Kirkpatrick's *Country Conscience*, pp.84-226).

Kennedy, Tony: D. 7 April 2009 in Melbourne, aged 93; journalist for 46 years; joined Melbourne *Herald*, and later worked for *Truth* and the Sydney *Daily Telegraph*; with Jack Ayling, broke the famous Pyjama Girl murder case; joined the *Age* in 1946 and at a time when bylines were rare, wrote under the pen name "Heroic"; became chief racing writer for 32 years and retired in Cup Week 1978 (*Age*, 8 April 2009, p.18, supplied to ANHG by Larry Noye).

Martin, Catherine Ellen (née Askem): D. April 2009, aged 90; born in London; left school at early age and learned typing and shorthand and found employment easily during World War II when so many men had gone off to fight; in 1948 in Paris, she married Francis Martin, a Czech war refugee whom she met in Israel; they emigrated to Australia; a tumultuous marriage produced three daughters before Francis died in a car crash in 1957; joined *West Australian* as a reporter in 1957; wrote a series of investigative reports on the Australia Blue Asbestos mine at Wittenoom Gorge (which closed in 1967), uncovering a high incidence of illness and death from asbestos-related disease amongst the company's workers; she won four Walkley awards for her journalism, including the inaugural Gold Walkley (1978) for her work on the asbestos case (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 May 2009; see John Hurst, *The Walkley Awards: Australia's Best Journalists in Action*, pp.134-137, about the Walkley she won for her investigation of how community health nurses were fighting disease among undernourished and poorly-fed Aborigines in outback WA in 1973).

Power, Laurence Renton: D. 14 March 2009 in Melbourne, aged 86; youngest of a family rich in newspaper tradition: his father was chief sub-editor of the *Age*, three brothers were journalists and two others also worked in the industry; started as cadet at the *Age* before World War II in which he served as a pilot in the RAAF in Australia, Canada and Britain; discharged after two of his brothers (also in RAAF) were killed; returned to the *Age* working mainly at Law Courts before accepting an offer from the *Herald* where he worked for the next 36 years, mainly as a sub-editor of extraordinary skill in that aspect of the craft; was cadet counsellor in his last two years at the *Herald*; retiring in 1984, he continued to work part-time at the Leader group of suburban papers as sub-editor and cadet counsellor (author: Robert Coleman).

Smith, Geoffrey Norton: D. 31 January 2009 in Nadi, Fiji, aged 66; journalist, state-grade hockey player, public relations consultant; grew up in Launceston, cadet on Launceston *Examiner*; worked for the *Age*, then ADS7 in Adelaide; at various times worked for ITN (in Vietnam), print in Montreal and TV in Toronto (CBC) and London; was director of news in the early days of Channel 0 in Melbourne; moved into PR with Eric Whites; for the last 28 years ran Geoff Smith Public Relations, focusing on the travel industry, with major clients Air Pacific and the Fiji Visitors Bureau (now Tourism Fiji); was in Nadi as host of a group of Australian journalists when he died.


Sorell, John Ernest Forbes: D. 13 April 2009 in Melbourne, aged 71; born in Hobart, he began his career as a cadet on the *Mercury* before joining the merchant navy; two years later he jumped ship in Geelong and talked his way into a job on the *Age* before switching to the *Herald*; made his name with his column, "On The Spot", interviewing a newsmaker of the day; it won him two Walkley awards, but it was his occasionally unconventional methods of getting a story that won him the admiration of colleagues; he got a scoop with American oil rig firefighter "Red" Adair, by finding out which flight to Australia he was on, and grabbing the next seat; in early 1970s, became editor of *Sunday Observer*, and provided Melburnians with some startling and confronting tabloid journalism; became the director of news at Channel 9, Melbourne, for 28 years (*Age*, 17 and 18 April 2009).

Veitch, John Morgan (Jock): D. in France aged 81; born in Wanganui, NZ; joined *Wellington Star* as cadet journalist; in 1954 left for Australia to save money to 'go home' to England, as all good Kiwis did; joined *Daily Telegraph*, and his marriage to his NZ girl friend and the birth of three daughters forestalled plans to visit UK; joined *Sun-Herald* and *Sydney Morning Herald* in late 1950s, filling breach for a popular music writer; was soon writing about films, too; returned to *Daily Telegraph* in early 1970s; joined *Star* in USA; later reinvented himself as a medical writer; bought a house in a French village and left his old life behind (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 April 2009).

Wherrett, Peter: D. 23 March 2009 at Lake Macquarie, NSW, aged 72; best known as a television motoring-show compere, but also wrote on motoring for Fairfax and for *Wheels* magazine (*Age*, 2 April 2009, p.22).

52.1.8 JOURNALISM STUDENTS AND NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers will wither and perhaps die, unless they become online media platforms, according to the next generation of journalists. More than 200 first year journalism students this year took part in an online survey of their news reading habits conducted by QUT Journalism Professor, Alan Knight. More than 90 per cent of the respondents were aged under 21. Many of these want-to-be journalists don't read newspapers. More than 60 per cent read a printed newspaper once a week or less. Yet 95 percent said they enjoyed keeping up with news. Their preferred source of news was broadcast on television, particularly commercial television, with at least half watching television news at least once a day. Online news was their next preferred source with students nominating Google, Ninemsn and then other mainstream journalism sites. Facebook, specialist websites and Wikipedia followed. The results confirmed educators' suspicions. Even journalism students are not reading newspapers. This poses a greater threat to the printed press than the global economic crisis or the loss of advertising revenue to the web. If the journalists of the future don't want to read newspapers, who will?
http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/current/audioonly/bst_20090311_0824.mp3

Posted by Hongmedia 9 March 2009, at 5:44pm 

52.1.9 MAJOR US NEWSPAPER BECOMES ONLINE-ONLY

The 146-year-old *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* has become the first major US paper to go solely online (ABC News online, 17 March 2009). The paper printed its final edition on 17 March after its owner failed to find a buyer. The website will be run solely as a source of local news and opinion, rather than an internet incarnation of the former newspaper. There will be an editorial staff of 20, compared to the previous 150, and the remaining editorial staff will be expected to write, edit, take photos, and shoot video.

52.1.10 PEOPLE

Lachlan Colquhoun was sacked as editor of the *Adelaide Review* on his 47th birthday after spending two years revamping the highbrow monthly arts newspaper. Colquhoun is the son of former Adelaide newspaper editor and respected columnist, des Colquhoun (*Australian*, Media section, 30 March 2009, p.32).

Anne Davies, Washington correspondent for the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, is profiled in the fourth issue of the *Age Extra*, a quarterly newsletter for readers of the *Age* (March 2009).

Catherine Deveny, the *Age* columnist who has been on strike over what she claims is the paper's refusal to honour the contract promised by the previous editor, Andrew Jaspán, is featured in *Mediaweek*, 30 March 2009, p.10. Jen Jewel Brown interviewed Deveny before the "strike" began. Five books of Deveny's columns have been published.

Peter Fray, editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, is interviewed in *Mediaweek*, 20 April 2009, pp.3, 10.

Peter Gleeson is featured in *Mediaweek* (9 March 2009, p.10), which interviewed him about his first six months as editor of the *Townsville Bulletin*. Gleeson is a former chief of staff and chief reporter at the *Gold Coast Bulletin*.

Chris Jones, editor of Brisbane's *mX*, was interviewed by *Mediaweek*, 16 March 2009, p.10, as it neared its second birthday.

Peter Klein, AAP's racing manager, has had his second novel, *Punter's Turf*, published. He writes fiction on a laptop while commuting to Melbourne from Geelong by train (*Herald Sun*, 14 March 2009, Weekend section, p.24/

Jon Kudelka is "more than an occasional cartoonist for the *Australian*", the ANHG is informed (see ANHG 51.1.10). Kudelka has been a regular replacement for Bill Leak on the Opinion page (as Leak continues to recover) and also produces the weekly "Rearview" cartoon for *Review*.

Stephen Linnell, a former senior journalist with the *Age* and most recently the media director for the Victoria Police, escaped jail after pleading guilty to three charges of perjury and doing a deal with prosecutors to testify against the two men he had helped to undermine his boss, Christine Nixon, then the Police Commissioner (*Australian*, 26 March 2009, p.3).

Alan Oakley, a recent former editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, is now the national features editor for News Limited publications (*Mediaweek*, 23 March 2009, p.10; see 52.1.11).

Simon Pristel, editor of the *Herald Sun*, is “Person of the Week” in *Mediaweek*, 27 April 2009, p.4.

Cameron Stewart, associate editor of the *Australian*, has won the Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year for a body of work including newsbreaking interviews with jailed music promoter Glenn Wheatley and colourful identity Mick Gatto (*Australian*, Media section, 23 March 2009, p.40).

52.1.11 OAKLEY TO CONSOLIDATE NEWS’S FEATURE SECTIONS

News Limited will start consolidating the features sections in its nine metropolitan daily and Sunday newspapers mid-year to present a more uniform national offering across the mastheads and online. National features director Alan Oakley said the impetus for the restructure was about improving quality, not saving money, but acknowledged it was likely to result in job losses. “The compelling reason for doing this (is) to make sure the features content of all our newspapers is as good as it possibly can be,” he said. “If the end result of that is cost efficiency, that’s a good outcome, too. But that’s not the driving force. Building national brands across the group and the News Digital Media websites would entice readers and advertisers, Oakley said. The sections involved included the travel, personal finance, TV, food and health and lifestyle liftouts in Sydney’s *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph*, Melbourne’s *Herald Sun* and *Sunday Herald Sun*, Brisbane’s *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail*, Adelaide’s *Advertiser* and *Sunday Mail* and Perth’s *Sunday Times* (*Australian*, Media section, 30 March 2009).

52.1.12 MEDIA SECTION CELEBRATES 10TH BIRTHDAY

The Media section of the *Australian* celebrated its 10th anniversary with a special issue on 23 March. The first Media section appeared on 25 March 1999 as a tabloid liftout. It was the idea of Lachlan Murdoch, who was then the chairman and chief executive of News Limited. Murdoch said the idea for the section came from Britain’s *Guardian*, which had had a successful media section for many years. To celebrate the milestone, Murdoch has given his first interview since leaving News Corp. in 2005 to pursue his own interests (see Jane Schulze, *Australian*, Media section, 23 March 2009, pp.33, 38). While refusing to discuss his departure or succession planning at News (he remains a non-executive director on News Corp’s board), Murdoch gave no indication of returning to News any time soon. Instead, he remains focused on investing in Australian media but says our listed media groups are still too expensive. He also said:

- It was unlikely he would invest again with James Packer, as his friend’s investment focus was now beyond media.
- His sister Elisabeth was now an observer on News Corp’s board.
- He was sitting on “a fair amount of cash”.
- Newspapers needed to reshape their business model as advertising continued to erode.

The tops of pages 36-39 of the Media section of 23 March carry a brief year-by-year (not month-by-month) chronology of major media events in the decade since the section was introduced. It begins with (former *Sydney Morning Herald* editor) John Alexander being appointed CEO of Australian Consolidated Press in 1999, and ends with: “Advertising meltdown prompts cash squeeze across traditional media”.

Mark Day’s column (p.40) reflects on the half-million words he has written in his Media columns of the past 10 years, paying particular attention to the personalities.

52.1.13 MEDIA MISERY (1): AN INDEX

The *New Republic* published a “Media Misery Index” for America on 4 March 2009. Here’s a sample:

- Percentage of people who get most of their national and international news from the newspaper in 2008: 35
- Percentage of people who get most of their national and international news from the Internet in 2008: 40
- Percentage of people who got it from the Internet in 2001: 13

Source: The Pew Research Center for The People & The Press (PEW)

- Total daily newspaper circulation in 2000: 55,773,000
 - Total daily newspaper circulation in 2007: 50,742,000
- Source: Editor & Publisher International Yearbook

- Decline in the Sunday circulation of The New York Times in the six months ending on March 31, 2007: 9.3 percent
- Source: Audit Bureau of Circulations

- Amount total print ad revenue for newspapers was up in the third quarter of 2000: 4.3 percent
- Amount print ad revenue for newspapers was down in the third quarter of 2006: 2.6 percent
- Amount print ad revenue for newspapers was down in the third quarter of 2007: 9 percent
- Amount print ad revenue for newspapers was down in the third quarter of 2008: 19.26 percent

Source: Newspaper Association of America

- Percentage the Dow dropped in 2008: 34 percent
- Percentage the Gannett Company’s stock dropped in 2008: 79 percent
- Percentage the New York Times Company stock fell that same year: 62 percent
- The percentage that the New York Times Company stock has fallen since 2002, as of press time: 89 percent
- Percentage of national print journalists who spend half or more of their time producing unique content for their outlet’s website: 26 percent
- Percentage of national print journalists who say the website is of equal or greater priority than the print edition at their publication: 41 percent

Source: PEW and the Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ), 2008

52.1.14 MEDIA MISERY (2): CLOSE TO FREE FALL

US newspapers are in a state “perilously close to free fall” and time is running short for them to find a business model and reinvent themselves, according to a newly released study. The Pew Research Centre’s Project for Excellence in Journalism said its 2009 report on the State of the News Media was the “bleakest” it has issued since it began doing the annual studies six years ago. The study, released on 16 March, examined newspapers, online media, network, cable and local television news as well as news magazines, radio and the ethnic press. US weekly news magazines and daily newspapers, it found, are particularly troubled. “The newspaper industry exited a harrowing 2008 and entered 2009 in something perilously close to free fall,” the report’s authors said (*West Australian*, 17 March 2009).

52.1.15 INQUIRY REPORTS ON RAID ON *SUNDAY TIMES*

A parliamentary inquiry into a police raid on the Sunday Times newspaper in Perth last year has found the police over-reacted in what should have been a routine search. Twenty seven police officers took part in the raid, which was sparked by an investigation into the leaking of Cabinet material to a journalist. An Upper House committee has found there

was no direction given to police by any Minister, Members of Parliament or their staff. The Committee has also criticised the Corruption and Crime Commission for not rigorously assessing the initial complaint made about the leak by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, before it passed responsibility for the investigation onto police. The Committee also recommended that the Attorney-General, Christian Porter, continue to pursue laws to protect journalists from having to reveal their sources (*ABC News online*, 9 April 2009).

52.1.16 JOURNALISTS AND SOURCES: NEW MEDIA BILL

Judges will be given discretion not to jail journalists who refuse to divulge their sources under new laws introduced on 19 March by federal Attorney-General Robert McClelland. The laws will force judges to consider the public interest in a free press and the impact on a journalist's reputation of revealing their source, when deciding whether to order a journalist to take the witness stand. This will be weighed against other factors, including proper administration of justice. But media experts said the changes were a "Clayton's protection" that would do little to stop journalists from being jailed for refusing to reveal a source (*Australian*, 19 March 2009).

52.1.17 PUBLIC INTEREST AND PRIVACY

Media Watch (ABC-TV, 23 March 2009) demolished editor Neil Breen's attempt to defend in any way the publication by the *Sunday Telegraph* of photographs of a woman, purported to be but since found not to be, Pauline Hanson, in various states of undress. Chris Merritt, the *Australian's* legal affairs editor, wrote about the issue on 20 March 2009, p.7, after interviewing Breen.

52.1.18 FAIRFAX TO STICK TO THE BASICS

Claims that Fairfax Media was turning its back on quality journalism by cutting 550 jobs nationally were "best ignored", says the company's biggest individual shareholder and board member, John Brehmer Fairfax. Defending the company's commitment to quality amid last year's cuts, which included 120 journalists, Mr Fairfax said the commodity would be maintained in Fairfax publications through adherence to "the basics" (SMH online, 21 March 2009).

52.1.19 SCOOPED, OR ...?

Victor Isaacs writes: At about 4.45 pm on 30 March there was a total power failure in the Sydney CBD and surrounding areas. Next day, 31 March, the *Daily Telegraph* devoted its entire pages 1, 2 and 3 to this major event. In the *Sydney Morning Herald* – at least, in the first edition – there was not a word about it!

52.1.20 NEWS CORP SETS OUT TO SHARE NEWS ACROSS ITS CORP

News Corporation has created a new unit to share content and resources across the vast media empire. John Moody, executive vice president at the Fox News television channel, will head the operation, News Corp. says in a statement. "In this new role, Moody will collaborate with news chiefs across all News Corporation properties to improve news gathering efficiencies and identify areas of cost savings." It said Moody will also investigate the company's worldwide contracts and reliance on global news services. News Corp chairman Rupert Murdoch said, "The creation of a new unit designed to share valuable news content and harness the power of News Corporation's vast editorial resources is vital to our success as a global media entity." (*Australian*, 15 April 2009.)

52.1.21 EDITOR AND DEPUTY LEAVE MONTHLY

The editor of the *Monthly*, Sally Warhaft, has quit suddenly, allegedly in protest against increasing interference by prominent academic Robert Manne. The magazine's publisher, Morry Schwartz, issued a terse statement on 24 April, declaring that "as of today, Sally Warhaft is no longer editor of the *Monthly*". He said: "Sally and the *Monthly* editorial board had different visions for the future of the magazine." Industry sources say Professor Manne, who chairs the magazine's editorial board, had sought to increase his

influence over the content of the publication since mid-last year. Dr Warhaft had grown frustrated with what she saw as his micromanagement of the magazine and the reduction in her editorial discretion, these sources told the *Age*. Professor Manne denied that this was “in any way an accurate version of what happened”, but declined further comment. Dr Warhaft joined the *Monthly* in December 2005 (*Age*, 25 April 2009). Deputy editor David Winter resigned on 29 April after publisher Morry Schwartz made a stinging attack on Warhaft in a news website (*brisbanetimes.com.au*, 30 April 2009). Also see 52.5.1, Haigh.

52.1.22 PNG EDITOR SAYS PAPER IS BEING ‘GAGGED’

Port Moresby’s leading daily newspaper is being subjected to a campaign of strategic litigation and intimidation over reports of government corruption and mismanagement, reports Chris Merritt (*Australian*, Media section, 27 April 2009, p.33). *Post Courier* editor Blaise Nangoi says there has been “a running battle” with the PNG Government since Prime Minister Michael Somare came to office in 2007. In the past few months there has been a surge of litigation by PNG ministers against the media. “We have never faced this before,” says Nangoi. “We have had fights with the Government, but this is a totally new approach in what I think is a campaign to gag the media.”

52.1.23 WATCHDOG SEEKS ISSUES TO CHEW ON

The *Sydney Morning Herald* says it takes its watchdog role seriously and works to disclose corruption, problems or issues that otherwise would be unknown. “But we need your help, so please take the time to contact us. Confidentiality is guaranteed.” Email address is: investigations@smh.com.au or send documents to: Investigations, c/o, Sydney Morning Herald, GPO Box 506, Sydney, 2001. (*SMH*, 16 April 2009)

52.1.24 MERGE OR DIE, SAYS MARK SCOTT

Mark Scott, the managing director of the ABC and a former Fairfax newspaper executive, believes that Melbourne and Sydney will become one-newspaper cities. He says no Australian newspapers have been prepared to make the dramatic changes to their publications necessary to secure their survival in the face of competition from the internet and other media. Much of the bold and creative thinking about the future of print seems to be taking place outside the major publishers, he believes. One of his suggestions is that the *Australian* and the *Australian Financial Review* should merge to form a single national newspaper with a likely circulation of about 160,000 (*Age*, 9 April 2009).

52.1.25 PRESS COUNCIL REVISES STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Australian Press Council has revised its Statement of Principles and complaints procedures. The revised principles, together with two Notes, are published in the February 2009 issue of *Australian Press Council News* and also appear below. The procedures are on the website and published in a new edition of the Council’s information booklet. To assist the public and the press, the Australian Press Council has laid down the broad principles to which it is committed. First, the freedom of the press to publish is the freedom, and right, of the people to be informed. These are the justifications for upholding press freedom as an essential feature of a democratic society. This freedom includes the right to publish the news, without fear or favour, and the right to comment fairly and responsibly upon it. Second, the freedom of the press is important more because of the obligation it entails towards the people than because of the rights it gives to the press. Freedom of the press carries with it an equivalent responsibility to the public. Liberty does not mean licence. Thus, in dealing with complaints, the Council will give first and dominant consideration to what it perceives to be the public interest.

The Council does not lay down rules by which publications should govern themselves. However, in considering complaints, the Council will have regard for these general principles.

1. Publications should take reasonable steps to ensure reports are accurate, fair and balanced. They should not deliberately mislead or misinform readers either by omission or commission.
2. Where it is established that a serious inaccuracy has been published, a publication should promptly correct the error, giving the correction due prominence.
3. Where individuals or groups are a major focus of news reports or commentary, the publication should ensure fairness and balance in the original article. Failing that, it should provide a reasonable and swift opportunity for a balancing response in an appropriate section of the publication.
4. News and comment should be presented honestly and fairly, and with respect for the privacy and sensibilities of individuals.
1. However, the right to privacy is not to be interpreted as preventing publication of matters of public record or obvious or significant public interest. Rumour and unconfirmed reports should be identified as such.
5. Information obtained by dishonest or unfair means, or the publication of which would involve a breach of confidence, should not be published unless there is an over-riding public interest.
6. Publications are free to advocate their own views and publish the bylined opinions of others, as long as readers can recognise what is fact and what is opinion. Relevant facts should not be misrepresented or suppressed, headlines and captions should fairly reflect the tenor of an article and readers should be advised of any manipulation of images and potential conflicts of interest.
7. Publications have a wide discretion in publishing material, but they should balance the public interest with the sensibilities of their readers, particularly when the material, such as photographs, could reasonably be expected to cause offence.
8. Publications should not place any gratuitous emphasis on the race, religion, nationality, colour, country of origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, illness, or age of an individual or group. Where it is relevant and in the public interest, publications may report and express opinions in these areas.
9. Where the Council issues an adjudication, the publication concerned should publish the adjudication, promptly and with due prominence.

52.1.26 CALVERT-JONES STEPS DOWN AS HWT CHAIR

Herald & Weekly Times chairman Janet Calvert-Jones stepped down on 30 April after 20 years at the helm. She remains a director. She said her childhood experience of visiting her father, Keith Murdoch, in his office at the *Herald* taught her how much he cared for his employees. "This had such a lasting impression on me that when I accepted the chairmanship I knew that the one important thing I could offer would be to re-energise the family atmosphere that existed at HWT in his day." Julian Clarke, who served as HWT managing director for 16 years until his retirement in 2007, is the new HWT chairman (*Herald Sun*, 29 April 2009).

2 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: ONLINE

52.2.1 SEVENTY-NINE AND ONLINE

John F. Booth, proprietor and managing editor of Gladesville's *Weekly Times* in Sydney, writes: The *Weekly Times* celebrated its 79th birthday by going online worldwide and welcomed a whole new army of readers. The paper was established by Charles H Engisch in the Sydney suburb of Gladesville in 1921. On 1 May 1979 I became just the second owner of this important local newspaper. Charles H Engisch was most supportive when I launched the Ombudsman campaign in Australia in 1964 after serving in Local Government, and like the Remington man, I liked the product so much that I bought not only one issue of the paper but the whole company! Since then we have continued to prosper, grow and expand, and maintain our independence and withstand the onslaughts from the "Big Boys" like Rupert Murdoch's News Limited International and the Fairfax

conglomerate. But we have not forgotten our roots and our objective to serve the community. With ink running through my bloodlines it's difficult to become electrified! However, now with the wonder of modern electronics *TWT - The Weekly Times* becomes **TWT - The Worldwideweb Times!** Undated, but accessed 25 Feb 2009 via <http://svc160.wic018v.server-web.com/about.htm>

52.2.2 WEB AUDIT SERVICE INTRODUCED

The print circulation watchdog is cracking down on inflated internet audience claims by launching a web auditing service to ensure traffic is being counted in the same way by all publishers. The Web Audit Service was to be opened to publishers from 1 May, with the first data due to be released on 1 June, some 15 years after advertisers booked their first campaigns on the internet. The service is being touted as a first step towards a single readership figure for print and online audiences, which is considered the "holy grail" for newspaper publishers now that a significant number of readers are sourcing information from the internet. The service is being provided in conjunction with research firm Nielsen Online, whose Market Intelligence service will provide the basis of the Web Audit as well as the so-called "hybrid" internet audience measurement system being developed for the internet sector's peak group, the Interactive Advertising Bureau (*Australian*, 23 March 2009).

52.2.3 COWRA COMMUNITY NEWS

Barry Blair (5 April) has alerted us to the elaborate *Cowra Community News* website (current edition) at <http://www.cowracommunitynews.com/news.php?id=45>

52.2.4 GOOGLE AN INTERNET 'PARASITE'

Companies that aggregate mainstream media content without paying a fee are the "parasites or tech tapeworms in the intestines of the internet" and will soon be challenged, Robert Thomson, the Australian-born editor of the *Wall Street Journal* has warned. Thomson said companies such as Google were profiting from the "mistaken perception" that content should be free. "There is a collective consciousness among content creators that they are bearing the costs and that others are reaping some of the revenues – inevitably that profound contradiction will be a catalyst for action and the moment is nigh," he said. Thomson, a former editor of the *Times*, was appointed editor-in-chief of Dow Jones and managing editor of *WSJ* last May, said consumers must understand why they were paying a premium for content.

"It's certainly true that readers have been socialised – wrongly I believe – that much content should be free," he said. "And there is no doubt that's in the interest of aggregators like Google who have profited from that mistaken perception. And they have little incentive to recognise the value they are trading on that's created by others." Thomson said Google benefited from aggregating content from *WSJ* and other newspapers. Google argues they drive traffic to sites, but the whole Google sensibility is inimical to traditional brand loyalty," he said. "Google encourages promiscuity – and shamelessly so – and therefore a significant proportion of their users don't necessarily associate that content with the creator. Therefore revenue that should be associated with the creator is not garnered." (*Australian*, 6 April 2009.)

52.2.5 THE INTERNET AND SPORTING COVERAGE

On the one hand: A Senate inquiry has heard that sports administrators are using media accreditation for events to control how sport is reported. The inquiry is looking at how digital technology such as the internet is affecting the coverage of sporting events. News Limited's group editorial manager Campbell Reid told the committee sport administrators are unfairly restricting coverage. "In the past few years sports bodies started arguing that media accreditation should only be granted if media organisations agreed to a very limited and restricted definition of what these reports in words and pictures contain," he said. "Accreditation became a lever to restrict news coverage of sport." (*ABC News online*, 16 April 2009.)

On the other hand: Australia's leading sporting bodies say the advent of online "news" reporting of their events is affecting revenue streams and could limit their ability to support grassroots participation. Cricket Australia, the AFL and Tennis Australia are just some of the bodies calling for new laws to stop media companies posting photos and extended videos of matches on the internet under what they say is the "guise" of news reporting. Under the Copyright Act there's a fair use exception that allows non-rights holders to show content in news coverage. But the Coalition of Major Professional Sports says media companies are abusing that exception in the digital environment. They have told the Senate inquiry the government should step in and change the law to make it less ambiguous. "Ideally (we want) some legislative reform but if that's not possible, some guidelines that actually give everyone working in that (digital) space some additional comfort and understanding on the way this content ... is able to be used," Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said (*SMH online*, 15 April 2009).

52.2.6 BRISBANETIMES TURNS TWO

Fairfax Media's **brisbanetimes.com.au** is two years old, reports *Mediaweek*, 13 April 2009, p.10. Rachael Bolton writes about where the Fairfax entry into the Brisbane market is heading (also see 52.2.7 below).

52.2.7 ONLINE NEWSPAPERS PRODUCE PRINT VERSION FOR A DAY

Fairfax Media ran a one-off promotion for its Queensland and Western Australian readers on 20 April – a 24-page tabloid newspaper under the **brisbanetimes.com.au** and **WAtoday.com.au** masthead brands (*Mediaweek online*, 20 April 2009). For one day only, the latest local news from **brisbanetimes.com.au** and **WAtoday.com.au** ran in 15,000 special edition newspapers that were distributed at key points throughout the Brisbane and Perth central business districts. Promotional actors encouraged commuters and passers-by to 'read all about it'. Each 24-page tabloid showcased breaking news, lifestyle, technology and sports stories from the editorial teams of Fairfax Digital's two dedicated online news sites. The tabloids also included a special report, sponsored by ING Direct, to coincide with National Savings Week, starting on Monday 4 May. ING Direct worked closely with Fairfax Media on the newspaper concept, and also sponsored 15,000 cover-wraps of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age* using the same distribution method in Sydney and Melbourne. The campaign was supported by an online component across Fairfax Digital's masthead sites, says Fairfax Digital. See also *Mediaweek* (hard copy), 27 April 2009, p.10.

52.2.8 GLADSTONE, WARWICK AND PENRITH

Barry Blair writes (18 April): It appears that the *Gladstone News*, a weekly independent has not been sighted over the last few weeks. At Warwick, the *Southern Free Times*, in what appears to be a comeback, will have a new masthead. Find it at http://www.freetimes.com.au/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1 Meanwhile, the *Western Weekender*, Penrith, appears to have made a comeback, following 'difficulties' some months ago. Find it at: <http://www.westernweekender.com.au/>

3 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

52.3.1 APN (1): O'REILLY STEPS DOWN AT INM

Tony O'Reilly has announced that he intends to retire as chief executive of Independent News & Media PLC. O'Reilly, who has been involved with the company for 36 years, said in an announcement to the London Stock Exchange that he would retire on 7 May, his 73rd birthday. O'Reilly is the company's largest shareholder, with a 28.6 per cent stake. The group, with interests in 22 countries, publishes more than 200 newspapers and magazines including *Irish Independent* and the *Independent* in Britain and 17 daily and weekly newspapers in South Africa. It holds about 40 per cent of APN News & Media Ltd in Australia (*Mediaweek*, online, 16 March 2009).

52.3.2 APN (2): TAX DISPUTE SETTLED IN NZ

APN News & Media has won a long-running dispute with New Zealand tax authorities, eliminating the prospect of its debt-riddled largest shareholder, Ireland's Independent News & Media, making a \$100 million payment to that country's Government. The move capped a week of positive news for the related media groups. On 13 March, INM unveiled a truce between its former dissident shareholder, Denis O'Brien, who owns 26 per cent of the Irish group, and its largest shareholder, the O'Reilly family. The truce has prompted a 30 per cent recovery in the APN share price and an 80 per cent jump in the INM share price over the past week, the *Australian* reported on 21 March 2009.

52.3.3 APN (2): CEO'S REMUNERATION PACKAGE CUT BY 35pc

The annual remuneration package of APN News & Media chief executive officer Brendan Hopkins has been cut by more than 35 per cent, or \$1.25 million. He did not receive a performance bonus last year. The revelation came as the trans-Tasman media group announced the imminent departure of two key directors, former Brisbane lord mayor Sallyanne Atkinson and former APN chief executive Liam Healy. The two directors will not be replaced after retiring at the company's annual general meeting in May, reducing the size of the APN board from 12 to 10 (*Australian*, 1 April 2009). APN's 2008 annual report reveals Hopkins' cost to the company in 2008, including the cost of options he had been issued, fell from \$3.6 million in 2007 to just over \$2.3 million in 2008.



52.3.4 LARAMIE, USA: TOWN HAS A *BOOMERANG*

The daily newspaper in Laramie, Wyoming, is the *Laramie Boomerang*. Edgar Wilson Nye established the paper in 1881 and named it after his mule, which was called "Boomerang". Presumably, the mule always came back. Go to www.laramieboomerang.com/

52.3.5 MORWELL: NEW EDITOR

Kristin Favaloro, for the past two years, has worked as editor of the Geelong Advertiser Group's *Echo* newspaper, became the editor of the *Latrobe Valley Express* in March (*Latrobe Valley Express*, 12 March 2009). Before working at Geelong, she was employed at the *Shepparton News* for almost seven years, including two years as chief of staff. At the *Express*, she takes over from Celine Foenander, who was editor for three-and-a-half years.

The Wagin Argus

52.3.6 WAGIN: VEANA SCOTT RETIRES AFTER 27 YEARS

Veana Scott has retired from the *Wagin Argus* in WA's south-eastern wheatfields after covering the district's news for 27 years. Scott started work as a journalist at the *Argus* in 1982, working two days a week for managing editor Don Davies. She took over from Glenys Gmeiner. "I had written for newspapers and periodicals around South Africa and had been a correspondent for regional papers in country Western Australia," she said. "In the early days the *Argus* was humming. We had a staff of eight and an active print shop. I started writing stories on an old IMB golf-ball typewriter. We then graduated to compsets, basic computerised glorified typewriters, and eventually made the transition to computers. When I joined the *Argus* Barry Coleman, who was in charge of printing, still

occasionally used the old linotypes for small jobs. I well remember the tinkling sound of the linotype and a bevy of people working around the benches at the back of the *Argus* hand-collating the job printing. In the early 1980s we took notes by hand off the phone, there was no fax or email and the phones used to ring hot. There were fewer photos in the paper as prior to digital cameras Don would spend a day in the darkroom each week processing that week's roll of prints."

The *Wagin Argus* was one of the oldest family-owned papers in Western Australia when Rural Press bought the business in 1993. Don Davies retired as managing editor in 1999 and Scott gradually took on the dual role of journalist/editor. "In the early days my role was to write the news for the main editorial pages, front and page three," she said. "Since the recent appointment of Julie Mangalavite as branch manager I have been gradually winding down." Before that she was responsible for the entire editorial content of the paper. In 1983 she felt it was important for the town and district to publish a preview before the Woolorama event. This started as a two-page feature in the *Argus* and by 1985 it had grown to six pages. By 1986 it was a separate booklet of 24 pages. "I have continued to write the 'official' program, now 96 pages, for Woolorama since its inception." Drawing a line in the sand and deciding to retire after such a long association with the *Argus* was not an easy decision, but with her son gradually taking over the reins of the family farm and her first grandchild born in early March it was perfect timing (*Wagin Argus*, 9 April 2009).

52.3.7 LORD HOWE ISLAND: SIGNAL FOR TRANQUILLITY

A copy has been sighted of the fortnightly *Lord Howe Island Signal*, comprising 16 A4 duplicated pages. One page comprises official notices by the Lord Howe Island Board. The rest is local news plus a few puzzles. It costs \$3. The Island often goes for long periods without daily papers because mainland newspapers are the first items to be offloaded when – as is frequent – weather limits loads on aircraft flying to the island.

The ANHG Googled "Lord Howe Signal" and discovered a *Sydney Morning Herald* travel article (16 July 2005) mentioned that Lord Howe Island locals cared more about preserving what they have than chasing the tourist dollar. When a luxury cruise liner proposed running a service from the mainland, 98 per cent of the islanders voted against the proposal. The anti-cruise-ship lobby was enthusiastically led by the island's quirky local newspaper, the *Signal*. The editor, Barney Nichols, says that by allowing in cruise ships Lord Howe will undermine the tranquillity that draws people from around the world. The [Lord Howe Island] board has stipulated a maximum 400 tourists on the island at any one time," he says. "And with good reason. The limit on tourist numbers is widely advertised as one of our major attractions and visitors have the right to expect this to be the case."

52.3.8 WEIPA: NEWSPAPER FOR SALE

The *Western Cape Bulletin*, Weipa, was advertised for sale for \$550,000 in the Media section of the *Australian*, 6 April 2009, p.31. It claims a net profit of about \$300,000 a year.

52.3.9 TAMWORTH: NEW PRINT CENTRE READY TO ROLL SOON

Fairfax Media's new purpose-built print centre at Tamworth's Glen Artney industrial estate is expected to be operating about the beginning of June. The *Northern Daily Leader* (3 April 2009, p.6) has reported that the only work left to be done is to install the six-tower Goss press. The press, which will replace a Swedish-built Solna press that was last upgraded in the late 1990s, will increase colour capacity from 16 pages in one pass to 48 pages.

52.3.10 WARIALDA: COUNCIL REFUSES TO ADVERTISE IN LOCAL

The *Warialda Standard* was not published in the final week of April reportedly in protest at a refusal by Gwydir Shire Council to advertise with it. The *Northern Daily Leader* was

told (1 May 2009, p.2) that residents who would normally receive a copy of the *Standard* were given a one-page, typed leaflet. The leaflet claimed that the Shire Council had not advertised with the *Standard* since the end of March. Instead it was advertising in the Bingara paper.



52.3.11 KYABRAM: *FREE PRESS* DROPS BACK TO WEEKLY ISSUE

The *Kyabram Free Press* announced on 24 April that its issue that day was its last as a biweekly. From Wednesday, 29 April, the paper would have 'a bright new look' and a new masthead (the old one appears above) but as a weekly. Manager of Kyabram Newspapers, Ian Purdey, said the directors took into account many considerations before deciding to return to weekly issue. The *Free Press* was a weekly until it went bi-weekly in January 1967. "Many larger towns such as Seymour and Benalla have been weekly publications for many years and we have done well to be a bi-weekly for over 42 years," Purdey said. The paper is staffed by editor Michael Maskell, journalists Gus Underwood and Ben Moyle, Wayne Ewert in charge of advertising, with classified and office staff Sue Ewert and Cheryl Armstrong. You can view the online version of the paper at <http://freepress.kyabram.net.au/>

52.3.12 LIGHTNING RIDGE: GRADUATE JOINS *NEWS*

After three years of study at the University of New England and a tree change to Lightning Ridge, recently-employed *Ridge News* journalist Mitchell Kerr received his Bachelor of Communications at a graduation ceremony in Armidale at the beginning of April (*Ridge News*, 9 April 2009.)

4 – NEWSPAPER HISTORY

52.4.1 WHAT DO NEWSPAPERS DO?

Writing in *Flat Earth News* (2008), pp.44-45, Nick Davies says: Reporting without the benefit of facts, the global media carried some classic stories at the end of World War II when journalists refused to accept that Hitler was dead and solemnly reported that he was working as a waiter in Grenoble. They also reported that he was working as a fisherman in Ireland and as a shepherd in Switzerland and that he was a hermit in Italy and that he had made it to South America and to Eastern Europe and to Spain, having escaped simultaneously by plane and by submarine. The great American political reporter, David Broder, captured this basic level of error in a speech which he made honouring Pulitzer Prize winners in 1979: 'I would like to see us say – over and over until the point has been made – that the newspaper that drops on your doorstep is a partial, hasty, incomplete, inevitably somewhat flawed and inaccurate rendering of some of the things we have heard about in the past twenty-four hours – distorted, despite our best efforts to eliminate gross bias – by the very process of compression that makes it possible for you to lift it from the doorstep and read it in about an hour. If we labelled the product accurately, then we could immediately add: "But it's the best we could do under the circumstances, and we will be back tomorrow, with a corrected and updated version."'

52.4.2 AMT CONFERENCE FOR SYDNEY: CALL FOR PAPERS

The call for papers for the sixth Australian Media Traditions conference, to be held at the University of Sydney from 23-25 November this year, has been issued. Deadline for the 300-word abstracts is 30 May. The conference focus this year is "Internationalising Media History – From Australia to the World". Conference organisers are Dr Penny O'Donnell and Associate Professor Anne Dunn, Department of Media and Communications, University of Sydney. Co-sponsors of the conference are the ARC's Centre for Media History at Macquarie University and the Faculty of Arts, University of Sydney.

52.4.3 THE TROUBLES OF AN OLD-TIME EDITOR

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: While studying the *Capricornian*, the Rockhampton weekly published from 1875-1929, for information on a project not related to newspaper history, I keep stumbling onto gems of newspaper history. Three recent examples (the first two from the issue of 9 December 1911): An image (p.19) taken at a Rockhampton printers' wayzgoose in 1911; and a reprint (p.28) of a two-column article that Edward Smith Hall wrote in the *Monitor*, 25 July 1835. In the re-print, it was headlined "The troubles of an old-time editor" and certainly lived up to that. It made special reference to the libel laws. The third gem (from the issue of 11 March 1916, p.36): A paragraph about J. Dobbs, head of the jobbing department of the *Morning Bulletin*, celebrating 50 years since joining the paper.

52.4.4 CANBERRA TIMES SHIFTS FROM CIVIC TO FYSHWICK

The ANHG has received an inquiry that had us digging through our files. When did the *Canberra Times* shift its headquarters from Mort Street, Braddon, where the paper was founded in 1926, to Fyshwick? It was in 1987. The Governor-General, then Sir Ninian Stephen, officially opened the new \$12.5 million complex on 24 April 1987 (*PANPA Bulletin*, March 1987, p.29). That day the *Canberra Times* published a 14-page feature on Fyshwick, featuring the new *C.T.* complex and including a useful historical article by Ian Mathews, then the editor-in-chief. He mentioned that he joined the paper in March 1963 when the paper was a tabloid. The printing of the paper was done at Fyshwick from 1 July 1964 when the paper became a broadsheet shortly after the Fairfax acquisition of the paper from the Shakespeare family.

52.4.5 MORE ON WINDSOR TELEGRAPH

The *Windsor Telegraph*, which began publication in July 1850, was published until at least 15 March 1851, indexers Rod and Wendy Gow have discovered (see *Maitland Mercury*, 110 July 1850, p.2, col. 4, and 19 March 1851, p.4, col. 4).

52.4.6 LILLIAN ROXON LETTERS IN MITCHELL

The following manuscript collection was acquired by the Mitchell Library recently: Letters from Lillian Roxon to Aviva Layton, 1959-1973, and her son, David Layton, 1971, no date (MLMSS 7869). These letters from notable New York-based Australian journalist Lillian Roxon chart her growing status as an influential rock music journalist during the "Swinging Sixties".

5 – RECENTLY PUBLISHED

52.5.1 ARTICLES

Baume, Patrick, "How technology is changing journalism", *Australian*, Media section, 13 April 2009, p.31. The group media adviser at Media Monitors discusses changes in news-gathering and reporting over the past 10 years and provides a graph of when media coverage peaked in the 1999 East Timor independence issue, "9/11" in 2001, the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami and the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

Cryle, Denis, and Kaul, Chandrika, "The Empire Press Union and the expansion of imperial air services 1909-39 with special reference to Australia, New Zealand and India", *Media History*, Vol. 15, No. 1, February 2009, pp.17-30.

Haigh, Gideon, "When the media is the story", *Age*, 2 May 2009. A discussion of the departure of editor Sally Warhaft from the *Monthly*.

Higgins, David, 'news.com.au on why online journalism is now 'less of a lottery and more of a science'', *MediaWeek*, 2 March 2009, pp.10-11. Higgins did not write this article, but his quotes form 99 per cent of the article. He discusses how to market online journalism better; the importance of Twitter; adding "tweets" to the story mix; why Twitter is more important than Facebook; etc.

- Hughes, Gary**, "How I almost died twice", *Weekend Australian Magazine*, 7-8 March 2009, pp.12-17. Four days after the Black Saturday firestorm, the *Australian's* reporter Gary Hughes and his wife, Janice, were still listed as missing, feared dead. In this diary he tells how he and his family endured the bleak days after their home was destroyed.
- Hull, Crispin**, "Dying papers reborn in cyberspace...read all about it", *Canberra Times*, 21 March 2009. The author discusses the respective merits of news in newspapers and the internet. He suggests that newspapers could combine their coverage of some areas, and thus devote resources to develop coverage of other subjects.
- Johnstone, Graeme**, "Evolution of a masthead", *Age Extra* (quarterly newsletter for readers of the *Age*), No. 4, March 2009, pp.4-5. The article examines, discusses and illustrates the few changes that have been made to the masthead of the *Age* since the paper was launched in 1854.
- Johnstone, Graeme**, "Putting thoughts to paper: Readers write their way on to the letters page", *Age Extra* (quarterly newsletter for readers of the *Age*), No. 4, March 2009, pp.6-7.
- Messenger, Robert**, "Robert Messenger", *Canberra Times*, 6 March 2009, Times 2, p.2. A discussion of how rib-tickling newspaper apologies and corrections can be. A delightful read.
- O'Connor, Mike**, "The Interview: Paper Man", *Courier-Mail*, 11 March 2009, p. 23. The article profiles Bob Dean, who runs a Brisbane CBD newsagency which claims to have the largest selection of newspapers in Australia – stocking all regional Queensland titles and all metropolitan titles, plus some from overseas. [Victor Isaacs adds: This claim is correct, although McGills Newsagency in Melbourne CBD runs a very close second. What is very curious is the lack of any equivalent newsagency in Sydney.]
- Loy-Wilson, Sophie**, "Peanuts and publicists: 'Letting Australian friends know the Chinese side of the story' in interwar Sydney", *History Australia*, 6 (1), April 2009. In the wake of an Australian government embargo on Chinese peanuts, a group of Sydney Chinese merchants launched a pro-Chinese publicity campaign in late 1927. To do so, they hired a newspaper editor previously employed by the anti-Chinese *Labor Daily* and *Beckett's Budget*. The campaign was an act of minority resistance to the White Australia Policy, a shrewd business strategy, and a sophisticated example of cross-cultural public relations. By tracing two historical actors in this "drama of spin", the peanut and the publicist, this article reveals unexpected links between the Chinese-Australian and Anglo-Australian communities. In seeking "the Chinese side of the story", we find an alternative history of race, representation and citizenship in interwar Sydney.
- Simper, Errol**, "Newspaper are putting their print on evolution", *Australian*, Media section, 20 April 2009, p.36. A discussion about the future of printed newspapers.
- Tiffen, Rodney**, "Australian journalism", *Journalism*, 10 (3), June 2009, pp.384-386. This issue, the tenth anniversary issue focusing on the future of journalism, can already be accessed online (you will need to be a subscriber) at <http://jou.sagepub.com/content/vol10/issue3/?etoc>
- Waterford, Jack**, "The media kicks an own-goal", *Canberra Times* opinion page, 18 March 2009. The article argues that the publication of saucy photos, allegedly of Pauline Hanson, will do arguments for greater press freedom absolutely no good at all.
- Wickrematunga, Lasantha**, "A voice for the people", *Age*, 15 January 2009. A free press will survive in Sri Lanka, despite the brutal means used to silence journalists, wrote this journalist on 11 January, a few days before he was killed. He co-founded the *Sunday Leader* in 1994.

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