



David Tulloch relives the hot-metal era at the old *Maffra Spectator* office, near Sale, Victoria, 2002.

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1 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: NATIONAL & METROPOLITAN

53.1.1. NATIONAL TIMES TO LAUNCH ON WEB

Fairfax Media says it will relaunch one of Australia's historic newspaper brands, the *National Times*, as an opinion and editorial website covering the nation's political and national affairs debates (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 June 2009). The masthead's online revival as ***Nationaltimes.com.au*** comes more than two decades after the paper (by then called the *Times on Sunday*) was forced to fold after the 1987 October share-market crash and Warwick Fairfax's failed takeover of the publisher. The final issue appeared on 13 March 1988, the day before the final issue of Fairfax's Sydney evening paper, the *Sun*. Incurring public wrath from powerbrokers such as the former premier Neville Wran and the prime ministers Paul Keating and Bob Hawke, the *National Times* had won praise and notoriety for its independent and confronting journalism. Under editors such as Max Suich, David Marr and Brian Toohey, several of its stories prompted the establishment of royal commissions.

The website is expected to be launched in August. It will replace the opinion section on news sites including smh.com.au and will feature the best of Fairfax's opinion writing, commentary and analysis, coupled with guest commentaries from politicians, academics and other public figures, the publisher said. It will also contain a "Goanna" column, recognising the paper's infamous role in publishing documents from the Costigan royal commission in 1984 that accused Kerry Packer of crimes including involvement in drug trafficking, pornography, fraud, money laundering, and tax evasion – allegations the late media magnate, codenamed the Goanna, vehemently denied. Jack Matthews, the head of Fairfax Digital, said the advertising-funded site would include interactive features such as blogging tools, forums and polls (see also *Australian*, Media section, 15 June 2009, p.33).

53.1.2 BUDGET (1): THE LAST LOCKUP?

One of journalism's great traditions should, if common sense prevails, have ended in May in Canberra, with the last hurrah of the great anachronism that is the annual federal budget lock-up. Well, this is Michael Wilkins' view (*Australian*, Media section, 11 May pp.35-36). He says: "This ambition won't come as a surprise to Wayne Swan, who has, like most past custodians of the grand theatre that is the budget, chosen to try to preserve an archaic practice despite years of lobbying by publishers to end it. To describe the road trip undertaken by hundreds of my colleagues each May as a waste of time is frankly an artful understatement of its true nature. News Limited this year will send almost 90 people to Canberra – editors, reporters, op-ed writers and the odd cartoonist – to be shut in a wing of parliament for six hours and fed the worst sandwiches and party pies ever inflicted on civilised people (OK, maybe we deserve that – and we still love them). Then, via encrypted phone lines and computer links, temporarily set up at a cost of tens of thousands of dollars, they will transmit the decisions of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Swan back to our various state papers.

"There, so-called 'subs lock-ups' in our papers' home HQs will have yet more people preparing the actual pages -- production staff, subs, layout designers plus senior editors and a couple of re-writers to massage the copy. And here the folly continues apace. Treasury insists we're not allowed to have anyone with the title 'journalist' in these subs lock-ups. Just a note, treasurer: sub-editors are journalists too. It's like saying a backbencher isn't an MP. I know you'd like to believe that but it isn't true. What he is really trying to say of course is no reporters actually generating the content should be outside the guarded environment of the Canberra shindig. And why? Simple. It's the spin, stupid. The Government rarely has the chance to hold the nation's journalistic leaders hostage within its walls, an opportunity during which officials can ply their take on the numbers to a captive audience searching for answers. Shortly after they arrive in Canberra to be sequestered, handing over mobile phones and signing a document threatening legal action for any external communication in the process, journos are confronted with mountains of paper consisting of budget books, press releases and analytics, which they have until the Treasurer rises at 7.30pm to decipher. The time for any real analysis gives way to deadline pressure and the chance of any external input is, of course, nil."

53.1.3 BUDGET (2): COVERAGE ROUNDUP

Victor Isaacs reports: The 2009-10 Federal Budget coverage in major newspapers on 13 May was:

- *Australian*: 14 page broadsheet wraparound (of which 1 page was an ad).
- *Financial Review*: 32 page tabloid wraparound
- *Sydney Morning Herald*: 20 page tabloid (!) wraparound (of which 1 page was an ad).
- *Daily Telegraph*: 17 tabloid pages
- *Age*: 10 broadsheet pages (of which 1 was an ad).
- *Herald Sun*: 20 page tabloid wraparound:

- *Canberra Times*: Front broadsheet page, plus 24 page tabloid insert.

53.1.4 PAUL AMSTRONG JOINS PR FIRM

Former editor of the *West Australian* Paul Armstrong has left journalism to take up a consulting role at the Subiaco PR company, Read Corporate. Armstrong was on a reported \$430,000 a year package at the *West* (PerthNow, 11 May 2009).

53.1.5 WAN REVENUE DOWN

The *West Australian's* circulation revenue fell by 5.6 per cent, partly resulting from the introduction of a new distributor compensation arrangement. Disgruntled distributors had been for several years calling for their contracts to be renegotiated in light of higher oil prices and a larger Saturday newspaper, which required it to be distributed in two sections. Circulation of the Saturday edition rose 0.2 per cent in the March quarter compared to the same quarter in 2008, while circulation of the weekday editions lifted 1.6 per cent. The Kerry Stokes-led company said its digital publishing division recorded a loss of \$4 million for the nine months to March 31 but, "the rate of loss has shown a steady improvement each quarter." CEO Chris Wharton said in February the financial performance of this division would improve through an online news joint venture between WAN and Yahoo!7, which is operated by the publisher's largest shareholder Seven Network Ltd. "The revenue and cost saving benefits to flow from the Yahoo!7 arrangement should start to appear in the first quarter of the next financial year, when the new site will be fully operational," WAN said in a company statement. (AAP, 5 May 2009).

53.1.6 NT NEWS EDITOR AND DRINK DRIVING

The editor of the *Northern Territory News*, Julian Ricci, 46, pleaded guilty in Darwin Magistrates Court on 7 May to driving with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.18 per cent. The *NT News* had been running a campaign against drink driving, printing the names, charges and sentences of all drink-drivers facing court. Magistrate Melanie Little said Ricci would probably endure more than the usual publicity. She did not convict him but fined him \$350 and disqualified him from driving for six months (ABC News online, 7 May 2009; *Australian*, Media section, 11 May 2009, p.40).

53.1.7 NEWS CORP PROFIT DOWN 47pc

News Corporation reported a 47 per cent fall in operating profit – to \$A1 billion – for the three months to 31 March. Chairman Rupert Murdoch believes there are "emerging signs" of the end of precipitous declines for media companies (*Australian*, 8 May 2009, p.17).

53.1.8 WAR-ZONE SAFETY COSTS RISE

Australia's media are spending more to train journalists before they head into war zones and natural disaster areas but bureau closures mean journalists are less familiar with local dangers than in the past. Experts in training corporate employees, including journalists, say the reduction in staff numbers at TV stations, newspapers and other media outlets is increasing the likelihood that news-gathers will be exposed to dangerous situations. Former Australian Army Commando Anthony Moorhouse, who founded global crisis and travel risk management company Dynamiq three years ago, says the days of journalists relying on their "street smarts" to get them out of dangerous situations are over (*Australian*, Media section, 11 May 2009, p.37; see also John Stapleton's "Perils and satisfactions of covering Afghan conflict", same page).

53.1.9 RECENT CHRONOLOGY

53.1.9.1 EVENTS

21 June 2009: The *Daily Examiner*, Grafton, is 150 years old. It began on 21 June 1859 as the *Clarence & Richmond Examiner*. It was ostensibly launched by William Edward Vincent, but the man holding the purse strings was wealthy politician Clark Irving, who was seeking re-election. It became the *Daily Examiner* on 1 July 1915.

22 June 2009: Merger of the *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* bureaux in the Canberra press gallery (*Australian*, Media section, 22 June 2009, p.36).

7 July 2009: The *Star Observer*, Sydney, publishes its 30th anniversary issue. The free weekly gay and lesbian newspaper began on 6 July 1979. Its audited distribution is now almost 21,000 copies a week. Its website (www.starobserver.com.au) gets about 40,000 hits a week. Check out the link to the 7 July 2009 issue for historical information about the paper. Also see Sally Jackson's article, *Australian*, Media section, 13 July 2009, p.34.

53.1.9.2 DEATHS

Burney, John: D. late June in Sydney, aged 81; his first scoop was an interview with entertainer Bing Crosby; he started writing articles for a local paper in his home town of Glasgow, while still a schoolboy; left school at 15 for a job as a copy boy on the *Glasgow Daily Record*; after working in newspapers in the UK and as a freelance, Burney (with his family) arrived in Australia in 1968 and was recruited to the *Daily Telegraph* as a feature writer; became a senior writer with the paper; his son John is a former picture editor on the *Australian* (*Mediaweek* online, 30 June 2009).

Cockburn, Stewart: D. 6 July 2009 in Adelaide, aged 87; began journalism career as a copy boy on Adelaide *Advertiser* in 1938; moved to the Melbourne *Herald* and later wrote for the Reuters news agency in London; at *Advertiser* in the 1970s and 1980s, he did much of the investigative journalism for which he became renowned; his investigation of the case of convicted murderer Edward Splatt whom Cockburn was convinced had been wrongly convicted forced a royal commission and Splatt was released, pardoned and compensated; wrote books about high-profile South Australians, such as atomic scientist Mark Oliphant and premier Thomas Playford; retired from *Advertiser* in 1983 (report, *Australian*, 7 July 2009, p.2, and Don Riddell's obituary, Media section, 13 July 2009).

Devine, Frank Derek: D. 3 July 2009 aged 77; born on 17 December 1931 at Blenheim, New Zealand; began career as a journalist at age 17 on *Marlborough Express*; took a second job on the railways to help pay for world trip; worked for *West Australian* and married a women's-page reporter, Jacqueline Magee; became a foreign correspondent for three years in New York and five years in Tokyo; became editor-in-chief of the Australian and NZ editions of *Reader's Digest*; moved to US to become an editor of the American edition of the *Digest* and met Rupert Murdoch; became editor of Murdoch's *Chicago Sun-Times* in 1986; then edited *New York Post*; in 1988-89 edited the *Australian* until he was sacked for reasons not explained to him; stayed with the *Australian* as a columnist for 17 years, his final column appearing on 24 April 2009 (report, *Weekend Australian*, 4-5 July 2009, p.19; tributes by Errol Simper, *Australian*, Media section, 6 July 2009, p.36, and Christopher Pearson, *Weekend Australian*, 11-12 July 2009, p.26; obituaries by Jane Fraser, *Australian*, 8 July 2009, and Damien Murphy, *Age*, 13 July 2009; funeral report, *Australian*, 9 July 2009 – in all a rich fund of journalistic memories and historical anecdotes).

Gardiner, John Gregory (Greg): D. 14 May 2009 in Sydney, aged 66; appointed chief executive of the John Fairfax company at age 37 in 1980; resigned when "young Warwick" Fairfax took over the company in 1987; before that he had built a cooperative group out of the highly competitive and diverse interests of the Sydney-based papers, including the *Herald*, *Sun* and the *Australian Financial Review*, the *Age* in Melbourne, the magazine group of mainly women's titles, Channels 7 in Sydney and Brisbane, the Macquarie Radio network and major shareholdings in Rural Press and AAP; born in Sydney; grew up at Bondi; studied economics at night at Sydney University, then accountancy; worked for Bowater Paper; appointed general manager of Delfin, the merchant banking arm of Development Finance Corporation, in 1971; Fairfax hired him in 1975 (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 May 2009).

Heinrichs, Arthur: D. 12 May 2009 on the Gold Coast, aged 85; began career as cadet journalist on the *West Australian*; served in WW2 at Moritai before moving to Melbourne in 1951 where he became a reporter on the *Sun News-Pictorial*; after stints as a sub-editor and news editor, was promoted to editor in 1972; became press secretary to Kim Beazley sen. in 1974-1975 (*Herald Sun*, 13 May 2009).

Holland, Gordon: D. 18 May 2009 in Melbourne, aged 96; became a cadet on the *Bendigo Advertiser* before joining Melbourne *Age* in 1935; enlisted in Army during WW2; posted to Port Moresby as adjutant of Army's public relations unit; discharged May 1944 to become war correspondent for operations in the South-West Pacific; also became an accredited war correspondent at Allied supreme General Douglas MacArthur's general headquarters; at the *Age* after the war, covered state politics before becoming chief of staff in the 1950s; left *Age* shortly after new editor Keith Sinclair made Graham Perkin, the assistant editor; entered public relations and became state manager of Eric White Associates; after 10 years joined Australian Finance Conference, an association of major finance companies; at age 69 and opened his own public relations firm (Michael MacGeorge, an ANHG member, wrote the obituary for Holland, *Age*, 24 June 2009, p.19).

Murphy, James Joseph (Jim): D. 18 April 2009, aged 74; popular chief sports writer for the *Courier*, Ballarat, for 30 years until he retired in 1999; began his working life as a fitter and turner for the railways, but dabbled in writing as a stringer for the *Courier* in the early-1960s, covering local football matches; loved sport and especially Ballarat sport, so he took up a full-time job with the newspaper in 1969; he was a justice of the peace who signed warrants at all hours for Ballarat police; married Una in 1959, and they had eight children, including two sets of twins (*Age*, 7 May 2009, p.16).

Powis, Jon Bartlett: D. in June, aged 78; joined *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1948 as cadet and worked in Sydney, Canberra and Darwin; in 1956 married journalist Mary Metcalf and sailed for the UK and the *Herald's* London office; became reliable all-rounder and was appointed the London correspondent for the *Australian Financial Review*; moved to Munich in 1960 to work for the US-owned Radio Free Europe (at that time broadcasting in 21 languages to Eastern Europe under communist control), and eventually became editor-in-charge; after 16 years returned to Sydney and became senior feature writer for the *National Times*; entered public relations two years later; became press secretary to John Howard when he was Federal Treasurer; with fall of Fraser Government, Powis established his own public relations consultancy (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 June 2009).

Whittaker, Bill: D. 8 May 2009 in Sydney, aged 79; born at Malanda, Atherton Tableland; family moved to Sydney in 1942; spent two years as a clerk in Customs House, and contributed to Ron Casey's *Turf Monthly*; at 19, joined the *Newsletter*, a weekly racing publication; began writing about trotting; worked for *Trotguide*, edited the *Trotting Recorder*, and joined *Daily Telegraph* in 1954; Sir Frank Packer would telephone him for tips; joined *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1959; succeeded Bert Lillye as *SMH* turf editor in 1983; "retired" in 1988 but continued to contribute articles until 2004; won Racing Writer of the Year and Sportswriter of the Year awards and was declared a living legend by Harness Racing NSW (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 May 2009).

53.1.10 PAGING OF METRO SATURDAY PAPERS ON 9 MAY 2009

Compiled by Victor Isaacs

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Aust.	26/16/10B	36T	40T	6B	-	-	12B	6B	=108B
Fin. Rev.	64T	-	16T	-	-	-	-	-	80T
SMH	34/20/14B	48T	56T	24T	68T	28B	36T	-	=212B
DT	72T	12T	-	-	32T	36T	8T	16T	192T
Age	28/16/10B	48T	56T	24T	68T	26B	48T	12T	=196B
Herald Sun	120T	-	28T	-	?	-	-	-	148T*
Courier Mail	120T	36T	40T	-	56T	20T	36T	28 (Week-end Shopper)	336T*
Advtsr	112T	-	40T	-	56T	36T	32T	40T	316T
Merc	80T	-	12T	-	?	20T	-	-	112T*
CTimes	36B & 20T	32T	-	-	72T	8B	14B	-	=130B

* Plus Real Estate

KEY: 1. News/Business/Sport; 2. Entertainment / Literary; 3. Magazine; 4. Travel; 5. Real Estate; 6. Cars; 7. Employment; 8. One-off supplement; 9. TOTAL.
B = Broadsheet; T = Tabloid

NOTES: The *West Australian* not yet available for 9 May. *Herald Sun & Mercury* real estate sections not available in Canberra. The divisions are somewhat arbitrary, as they vary between papers. In particular, the categorisation of “Entertainment/Literary” or “Magazine” is especially arbitrary. Magazine pages are counted as “Tabloid”, even though they are a smaller size.

53.1.11 PEOPLE

Roger Brock, editor of the *Newcastle Herald*, talks about localism in a *Mediaweek* interview (6 July 2009, p.9).

Bob Gordon, editor-in-chief of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, retired on 3 July after 13 years in the position (see 52.1.4 and 53.3.12). Bruce Loudon profiles him in “Sun, serves and keeping in circulation: golden years of Bob Gordon”, *Australian*, Media section, 1 June 2009, p.35.

Garrett Jones has been presented with the Media Alliance’s Gold Badge, the union’s highest award. He became a member of the AJA (Australian Journalists Association) when he was offered a cadetship on the *South West Times*, Bunbury, WA, in 1963. His career has since included Tasmania, the *Daily Mirror*, Sydney (including reporting from Vietnam), the London bureau of News Limited, the *Times on Sunday* and the *Australian Financial Review* (see *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 56, May-June 2009, p.11).

Ben Naparstek, 23, has been appointed editor of the *Monthly* after the departure of Sally Warhaft. He started on 25 May and declared his independence, saying he will commission the stories, including from conservatives (*Australian*, 27 May 2009, p.6).

David Penberthy, editor of The Punch, is “Person of the Week” in *Mediaweek*, 8 June 2009, pp.6, 9. The Punch, an opinion-driven current affairs site, was launched at the beginning of June.

Kenneth Maxwell Randall, of Chifley, ACT, has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his continued service to journalism and public affairs and through raising awareness of issues affecting the future of Australia and contributions to national debate. He has been president of the National Press Club since 1991 (*Australian*, 8 June 2009, p.6; see ANHG 50.1.16).

Chris Wharton, the relatively new CEO of West Australian Newspaper Holdings, was ‘Person of the Week’ in *Mediaweek*, 1 June 2009, p.6.

53.1.12 ARIZONA: OUR EPITAPH

Arizona’s oldest continuously published newspaper, the *Tucson Citizen*, produced on 16 May its final edition, headlined “Our Epitaph”. The 48-page commemorative edition was filled with individual columns by editors and staffers, along with highlights of the paper’s 138 years of publication. The *Citizen*, whose circulation of 60,000 in the 1960s had fallen to 17,000, continues only in an online format. The *Ann Arbor News*, Michigan, plans to publish its final edition on 23 July (*Australian*, Media section, 18 May 2009, p.32).

53.1.13 COMPETING READERSHIP RESEARCH LIKELY

Australia’s newspaper industry could soon have competing readership research after the sector’s peak group began on 10 June the search for figures it will officially endorse (writes Jane Schulze, *Australian*, 11 June 2009, p.19). The Newspaper Works, the industry’s peak body, has launched a tender for a measurement contract and hopes to have data available by the first quarter of next year. The move follows complaints by publishers about figures provided by Roy Morgan Research, which collects readership data as part of its Single Source survey. Newspaper Works chief executive Tony Hale said with the media continuing to fragment and usage changing, the industry needed the best possible information on consumer behaviour. He said the new research might, for the first time, measure the viewing of newspapers on mobile phones. Independent research

consultant Ian Muir has been hired to oversee the tender and “undertake an extensive review of best-practice readership standards and trends throughout the world”. Hale expected “three or four” research groups to respond, but Roy Morgan Research chief executive Michelle Levine said her company would not be one of them. (See also “Dual poll for print under fire”, *Australian*, Media section, 22 June 2009, p.31.)

53.1.14 CIRCULATION FIGURES JANUARY TO MARCH

The January-to-March circulation figures were issued on 15 May. The *Australian's* daily weekday circulation rose by 3.6 per cent to 134,000 and its weekend circulation by 3.7 per cent to 305,000. The *Australian Financial Review* went backwards: 6.5pc on weekdays and 3.9pc on weekends. The *West Australian*, under new management, was up 1.6pc on weekdays and 0.2pc on weekends. Most metropolitan dailies and weekend papers simply held ground or lost slightly in the quarter (*Australian*, 15 May 2009, p.18; also see *Mediaweek*, 18 May 2009, pp.8-9). Please note: ANHG will publish the April-June and October-December figures.

53.1.15 FAUX PAS IN CANBERRA

Victor Isaacs reports: On Monday 8 June, Queen’s Birthday, the *Canberra Times* printed only a portion of the Queen’s Birthday honours list. It omitted all of the gallantry awards and all of the functional awards, including the public service medals – the latter a matter of very great interest in Canberra. On Tuesday, 9 June, the following appeared: “Parts of the Queen’s Birthday honours list was omitted from the yesterday’s *Canberra Times* due to a production problem... We apologise for any inconvenience.” The missing awards occupied an entire page.

53.1.16 NEWSAGENCIES: MCGILLS CLOSES; AND ADELAIDE CHANGES

McGills Newsagency in Elizabeth S, Melbourne, opposite the former GPO, closed on 5 June, citing increased costs, and competition from nearby bookshops. McGills was the second oldest newsagency in Australia, having operated since 1850. Birchall’s Newsagency in Launceston is the oldest surviving newsagency in Australia, having operated on the same site since 1844 (*Age*, 3 June 2009; see ANHG 43.37 and 53.4.4).

The Adelaide *Advertiser*, over the next 18 months, is to take control from newsagents of all subscribers’ accounts. Although newsagents will remain vital in the delivery and retailing of the *Advertiser*, this raises some questions about their future. It also poses the question as to whether this will be extended to all other News Ltd newspapers in Australia.

53.1.17 REUNION OF NEWSDAY JOURNALISTS 40 YEARS ON

Former *Newsday* journalists will gather for a reunion on 30 September, 40 years after David Syme & Company launched the tabloid evening daily in Melbourne. *Newsday* was meant to challenge the dominance of the broadsheet *Herald*, then selling about 500,000 copies a day. The first editor was Tim Hewat, but when *Newsday* ran into trouble, Graham Perkin was drafted to try to save it. He spent several months working around the clock, editing both the *Age* and *Newsday*. The new daily closed on 3 May 1970. Ex-*Newsday* journalists are encouraged to contact Trevor Grant on grant.trevor@hotmail.com if they wish to attend the reunion (Amanda Meade, “The Diary”, *Australian*, Media section, 15 June 2009, p.36).

53.1.18 DEFENCE DEFENDS MINISTER (WHO IS NO LONGER MINISTER)

Defence Department secretary Nick Warner dismissed as “pure fiction” claims by Fairfax newspapers that his officials had spied on Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon. Warner said an exhaustive review of the claims found no evidence to suggest anyone in Defence had held any concerns about Fitzgibbon’s friendship with Chinese-Australian businesswoman Helen Liu. Fitzgibbon resigned as Minister for Defence on 4 June after breaching the ministerial code of conduct (*Weekend Australian*, 30-31 May 2009, and *SMH online*, 4 June 2009).

53.1.19 JOHN HARTIGAN ON FUTURE OF NEWSPAPERS

John Hartigan, the chairman and CEO of News Limited, believes the future of newspapers, especially Australian ones, is bright. He told the National Press Club that, in contrast to newspapers in the US and UK, advertising revenues in Australia had been growing over the past five years while circulation declines had been modest. Hartigan said Australian papers were far less reliant on classifieds. "In the UK there are simply too many newspapers. In the US, newspapers haven't kept up with television as a source of news, especially local news." He said Australian papers reached a greater proportion of readers than overseas papers did. Consequently, Australian papers accounted for 35 per cent of all advertising revenue, while US newspapers accounted for less than 25 per cent. Hartigan suggested newspaper journalists would have to rethink their news values. For example, he believed that most people were bored by "the politics of politics". And so he suggested the Canberra press gallery move out of Parliament House and away from politicians. He forecast there would be a move to hire more specialist writers. "I think we are going to see an upsurge in recruitment of highly educated people with specialist knowledge to fill our newsrooms." Several newspapers, notably the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Australian*, had prospered by investing in quality reporting (*Australian*, 2 July 2009, p.6, and see p.12 for extract from Hartigan's speech, and 3 July, p.13, for editorial).

53.1.20 FAIRFAX CHIEF SELLS PART OF HIS STAKE

Fairfax Media CEO Brian McCarthy has reduced his overall holding in the company. He sold 350,000 shares on 15 June for \$467,250 to reduce his personal debt. Fairfax's share price that day was the highest in nearly five months (*Australian*, 23 June 2009, p.7).

53.1.21 PERTH WEEKDAY FREEBIE

The WA Public Transport Authority has called tenders for a free weekday newspaper to be distributed at Perth railway stations. News Ltd, Fairfax Media and West Australian Newspapers are expected to tender (*Australian Financial Review*, 17 June 2009, p. 52).

53.1.22 STAMPEDE FOR WAN REDUNDANCIES

West Australian Newspapers Holdings has significantly increased the size of a redundancy program announced early in June, with about 90 full-time staff departing the group under an organisation restructure completed on 25 June. Originally it was planned to cut the staff by 5 per cent, but 8.6 per cent of employees are departing. The redundancies had "virtually all" been voluntary, according to CEO Chris Wharton (*Australian*, 26 June 2009, p.21).

53.1.23 MICHAEL JACKSON COVERAGE

Mediaweek devoted four pages to how different media covered the death of pop star Michael Jackson, first reported in Australia early on 26 June (6 July 2009, pp.11-14).

53.1.24 CHANGES TO WALKLEYS

The Walkley Foundation has unveiled major changes to its Walkley Awards to ensure they recognise "skills-based" journalism as media forms continue to converge, writes Jane Schulze (*Australian*, Media section, 13 July 2009, p.34). The Walkley trustees commissioned new Walkley advisory board chair Quentin Dempster (ABC) and former chair Paul Bailey (Fairfax) to conduct the first review of the awards in 10 years. (For reference to Dempster's summary of the review findings, see 53.5.2 Dempster.) The 2009 Walkleys will feature the first award, across all media, for the Best Scoop of the Year, and a new award, Outstanding Continuous Coverage of an Issue or Event, replacing the Best Use of Media award.

53.1.25 STOKES AND PACKER AND CONSMEDIA

James Packer has made an 11th hour bid to keep control of his family's only remaining stake in a once mighty media empire. Kerry Stokes lifted his stake in Consolidated Media Holdings (ConsMedia) to 19.8 per cent on 15 July after spending \$262.3 million in a week.

Packer's private company, Consolidated Press Holdings, bought 2.87 per cent of stock during the same week. Packer's stake is now 40.8 per cent (15 July). Through ConsMedia, James Packer has 25 per cent of pay-TV operator Foxtel, 50 per cent of Premier Media Group, which produces Fox Sports, and 26 per cent of online jobs site SEEK (*Daily Telegraph*, 11 July 23009, and *Australian*, 16 July 2009, pp.17-18).

2 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: ONLINE

53.2.1 ABC WEB HUBS: VIRTUAL TOWN SQUARE

Mark Day reports and comments (*Australian*, 1 June 2009, p.36) on the Federal Budget's allocation of \$15 million to the ABC to set up 50 local web hubs around the nation. The proposal allows the ABC to move into areas which, up to now, have been judged to be non-viable by commercial operators. One APN reaction was that it would "suck the oxygen" out of regional markets for commercial ventures. ABC managing director Mark Scott told the Senate Estimates Committee the grant would allow the ABC to hire "specialist video content makers" in each of its local radio stations across 50 communities in Australia. "They will be filming, editing and uploading original local content for that market, for that community, so content from that region and for that region will be distributed through our ABC local website. This allows the community to create its own content, to develop its own stories and to share those with the broader community. We will be establishing community websites and genre portals which allow Australians to talk with each other and to share experiences. This is the creation of a virtual town square, a place where Australians can come together to listen to each other, to learn from each other, to speak and to be heard."

Scott said the plan was to match the development of the hubs with the rollout of the proposed \$43 billion high-speed National Broadband Network. The ABC plan also ticks what Day describes as "some globally trendy boxes". It is hyper-local, thus meting the conventional wisdom that future media will be relevant at the quality and local ends of the market, with the middle under the greatest threat. It is an incubator for new skills, bringing show-and-tell minstrels to country towns that otherwise would not attract them. If anything kicks along the emergence of citizen journalism, it will be these new rural "specialist video content makers", says Day. And the plan completes a circle of local content: ABC local radio stations will draw traffic to local websites as well as drawing content from them. Day then gets stuck into APN and Rural Press for criticising the ABC plan after failing to do something similar. He says: "Their local websites are weak extensions of their newspapers – flimsy on news and largely devoid of any local inspiration that could be described as coming close to the ABC's video/citizen journalism plans. If the regional operators have run the numbers on what it would take to build viable and profitable sites in key regional markets, they've backed away from serious investment because they haven't been able to make a commercial case for it." (See also: "ABC web centres a threat to investors", *Australian*, Media section, 25 May 2009, p.31.)

53.2.2 MURDOCH AND ONLINE

As US newspapers shrivel up and die, an unlikely figure is emerging as their potential savior: News Corp. chairman Rupert Murdoch. The much-vilified Australian-born media tycoon is preparing to battle against the practice many hold largely responsible for newspapers' current plight -- the "original sin" of giving away their content for free online. The 78-year-old Murdoch announced this week that the days of free are over. He said he planned to begin charging readers of the websites of News Corp. newspapers "within the next 12 months," testing the scheme "first on some of our stronger ones. "We are now in the midst of an epochal debate over the value of content, and it is clear to many newspapers the current model is malfunctioning," said Murdoch, whose newspaper holdings include the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Post*, the *Times* of London, the *Sun* and the *Australian*, among others. The *Wall Street Journal* online already requires a subscription fee but newspaper owners across the United States will be closely watching as Murdoch bucks the conventional wisdom and extends a pay wall to other publications.

Murdoch himself is a late convert to the notion of making readers pay online, having planned before buying the Journal two years ago to do away with the subscription system in a bid to increase traffic to wsj.com. He changed his mind after taking over the paper, but it is precisely that kind of flexibility that some analysts point to when they say Murdoch may be the media magnate best equipped to lead newspapers into the digital age (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 May 2009).

53.2.3 INTERACTIVE DIGITAL WORLD



To see your newspaper come to life, you need a PC or Mac with a web camera, internet access and the target icons, as shown above. (Photo by *Sunday Herald Sun*.)

On 17 May the *Sunday Herald Sun* (and other News Ltd Sunday papers) became part of a newspaper revolution, where readers are given the chance to enter an interactive digital world. Using new technology powered by Total Immersion, the readers were among the first to access the digital experience, called Papermotion. The technology has been brought to Australia through French company Total Immersion's partnership with Dreamscape Group. To try it, you need is a personal webcam on your computer. Turn to an advertisement on Page 25 of the 17 May *Sunday Herald Sun* and go to heraldsun.com.au/papermotion, following the links. Holding the ad in front of a webcam brings the media to life by triggering interactive displays of 3D animation, film clips, music, mini-sites and games. For the launch on 17 May, readers were able to celebrate the release of the new Ben Stiller film, *Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian*, by activating a virtual-reality world where they could interact with characters from the film. News Limited group marketing director Joe Talcott said the technology enhanced readers' experience by adding a new dimension to their newspaper, using video and interactive content. "Papermotion, powered by Total Immersion, is the greatest innovation in print media since coloured ink," he said.

53.2.4 NEW WAYS OF DELIVERING HIGH QUALITY JOURNALISM SOUGHT

An experiment in new media journalism was launched on 2 June (writes Andrew Dodd, on Crikey.com), based loosely on an innovative US website called Spot.us/ Melbourne's Swinburne University has set up the Foundation for Public Interest Journalism, promising to bring together journalists, academics and the public to experiment with new ways of delivering high quality journalism in the new media world. Its aim is to foster interactive and investigative reporting in an age when traditional mainstream media companies are cutting costs, shedding reporters and centralising their operations. The foundation is seeking donations from the public and philanthropic trusts and will establish a website, bringing together journalists and the public to pitch, fund and publish the types of stories the rest of the media are neglecting to cover. "It's an experiment and like experiments it will change over time," says Dr Margaret Simons, who when she's not writing for Crikey, is an academic at Swinburne University's Institute for Social Research, the body behind the foundation.

The **spot.us** model relies on individuals pitching stories which they would like to write themselves or which they'd like someone else to write for the public's benefit. The public are then invited to make a donation to fund that story. The donors are transparent and the editorial direction is left in the hands of the reporter and the site's editor. The Foundation for Public Interest Journalism hopes to be operating by the end of the year.

53.2.5 INCREASE IN VISITORS TO US NEWSPAPER WEBSITES

American newspaper Web sites attracted an average of 73.3 million unique visitors per month in the first three months of the year, a 10.5 percent jump from the same period last year, according to Nielsen Online. The average number of pages views climbed nearly 13 percent to 3.5 billion. Both figures were the highest since 2004, according to the Newspaper Association of America, which commissioned the analysis. The Nielsen figures are the latest to show a growing audience for newspapers on the Web, even as publishers continue to struggle in their search for a viable online business model to replace falling print revenue (*SMH* online, 24 April 2009).

53.2.6 BREWARRINA 10 YEARS ON

On 4 August 1999, writes **Barry Blair**, news was broadcast on ABC Orange/Dubbo that Brewarrina was to begin a local newspaper. Almost 10 years later you may read it online at <http://www.breshire.com/news/html>

53.2.7 JOURNALISTS AND TWITTER

Sally Jackson writes (*Australian*, Media section, 29 June 2009, pp.31, 34) about journalists who have a presence on Twitter. Created in early 2006 by US software architect Jack Dorsey, Twitter is now beginning to gain mass popularity. Twitter Inc. won't divulge an official count of registered users but research firm eMarketer estimates that there were about six million US users last year. This total is expected to double this year. Julie Posetti, a journalism lecturer at the University of Canberra, is one of the first in the world to study the media activity on Twitter. She says there has been an "explosion" of media professionals on the Twittersphere this year and has described local journalists as "literally in a Twittering frenzy".

Posetti has told the network of Australian journalism educators (the JEA net): "I've been researching journalists' engagement with Twitter – the ethical, professional and industry implications – and I've just published the third instalment in a series based on this research at the PBS website Mediashift (www.pbs.org/mediashift) I've received lots of feedback from media employers and journalists around the world who are keen to engage with these issues and many journalism students have also contacted me seeking input into their own Social Media Age definitions of journalism. So, it's timely stuff and probably relevant to your teaching. If you're interested you can source the articles via these links:

- Part 1: How Journalists are Using Twitter in Australia (<http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2009/05/how-journalists-are-using-twitter-in-australia147.html>)
- Part 2: How Journalists Balance Work, Personal Lives on Twitter (<http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2009/06/how-journalists-balance-work-personal-lives-on-twitter159.html>)
- Part 3: Rules of Engagement for Journalists on Twitter (<http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2009/06/rules-of-engagement-for-journalists-on-twitter170.html>) This article includes a list of 20 tips for journos using Twitter.

Posetti says: "I've also published an overview on New Matilda here <http://newmatilda.com/2009/06/16/twitters-difficult-gift-journalism> (note the bizarre comments thread!) and on request, I've excised the TOP 20 TAKE-AWAY TIPS FOR

TWEETING JOURNOS list and posted at my blog here: <http://www.j-scribe.com/2009/06/top-20-tips-for-journo-twits.html>”

53.2.8 WARWICK: SOUTHERN FREE TIMES

Barry Blair reports that the *Southern Free Times* at Warwick is finally online. The web page is at: <http://www.freetimes.com.au/>

3 – CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

53.3.1 APN SEES TOUGH TIMES AHEAD

APN News and Media has warned the tough times for the media sector are far from over, announcing its second major profit downgrade in less than three months. Chairman Gavin O’Reilly told APN’s annual general meeting on 5 May that the company’s net profit after tax (NPAT) for the year to December 2009 would be up to \$20 million, or 16.7 per cent, lower than the previously anticipated \$120 million. APN is now forecasting an NPAT excluding one-off items of between \$100 and \$110 million for calendar 2009 (*Australian*, 6 May 2009).

53.3.2 APN ‘NOT FOR SALE’

The new Independent News & Media chief executive Gavin O’Reilly says the company’s 39 per cent stake in APN News & Media is now “not for sale”. His comments came after INM in January shelved a sale of its APN stake, which would have helped it to pay down its debt. Last week, INM admitted there was a “strong likelihood” of a breach of its debt covenants this year as it battled to pay off a bond in May: raising questions about whether it could be forced into selling assets such as APN. But in response to a question from the *Australian*, O’Reilly – who is also APN chairman – said a sell-off of APN was not an option (*Australian*, 6 May 2009).

53.3.3 DIMBOOLA: BANNER CELEBRATES 130 YEARS

The *Dimboola Banner* was 130 years old on 10 May and published a special anniversary edition on 13 May. Owner David Ward invited readers to join current and former staff at the Dimboola office to celebrate the newspaper’s milestone. Ward credited the supportive Dimboola community with ensuring the newspaper’s longevity. “The *Banner* is very important to the community which is evidenced by the fact that its circulation almost equals the population of Dimboola,” he said. Business advertising consultant Jenny Stewart agreed. “The *Banner* receives terrific support from the community,” she said. “We have many valued contributors and advertisers, without whom the paper would not exist.” Readers received a commemorative poster printed on one of the historic printing presses featured in the Dimboola Print Museum. Two of the *Banner*’s oldest readers cut an anniversary cake. A prolific publisher, Henry Barnes, launched the *Banner* on 10 May 1879, with his brother William as editor. The paper is now printed at Warracknabeal, but the Dimboola office continues with Audrey Hurst as journalist, office manager and photographer. Ward also owns the *Warracknabeal Herald*.

53.3.4 FAIRFAX EXITS NSW CENTRAL COAST

Fairfax closed the *Central Coast Sun Weekly* on 30 April 2009. It has since become www.coastingtoday.com.au/ It was from the offices of the *Sun* that Fairfax launched its ill-fated daily, the *Central Coast Herald*, on 28 September 2002. News Ltd responded by converting its bi-weekly free, the *Express Advocate*, into a free daily and by issuing a ‘Central Coast Extra’ liftout in the *Daily Telegraph* each day from 27 September 2002. The *Herald* closed on 12 June 2004. Alan Oakley, the editor of the *Newcastle Herald*, said the aim all along had been to “extend the footprint” of the Newcastle daily, but that is not how editor Dean Gould saw it. Interestingly, both Oakley and Gould are now News Ltd employees. Fairfax bought the *Central Coast Sun* in July 2001 and rebadged it as the *Central Coast Sun Weekly* (Rod Kirkpatrick, ‘When the gloves are off: the Central Coast newspaper fight’, *Australian Journalism Review*, 28 (2), December 2006, pp.53-65; also see *Australian*, Media section, 11 May 2009, p.37).

53.3.5 ADELAIDE: MESSENGER SETS OUT TO BUILD BRIDGES

Messenger Community Newspapers has launched a “Building Bridges” campaign across its 11 free titles with a claimed readership of about 700,000. Editor-in-chief Matt Deighton says the focus is on “solution-based journalism” (*Mediaweek*, 4 May 2009, p.11).

53.3.6 WARIALDA AND BINGARA: WAR OF WORDS

Following on from ANHG 52.3.10: At the end of April and in early May a war of words broke out between the *Warialda Standard* and the Gwydir Shire Council, with the *Bingara Advocate* taking part. Then the *Standard* was sold to Rachel Sherman, a former Inverell radio journalist who moved to Warialda in mid 2008. She was born in Warialda and grew up there. She introduced herself in an editorial in the *Standard* on 10 June.

53.3.7 MACKAY: SMASHING DOWN THE WALLS

Mercury House, on Wellington Street, Mackay, has been transformed from a labyrinth of corridors and closed doors into a single open office space that takes up most of the ground floor. Three separate departments – newspaper sales and marketing, editorial and advertising – now all work alongside each other, reports Sarah Crawford (*Daily Mercury*, 20 May 2009). On 19 May APN Australian Publishing chief executive Mark Jamieson toured the new office and met staff. APN project manager of group facilities Anne Brider said the dramatic office renovation had been a great success. The construction phase took 16 weeks. “The idea was to bring everyone together to work as a cohesive team instead of people being squirreled away in their individual hidey-holes,” she said. The *Daily Mercury* is the first site in the APN Australian Publishing group to receive the makeover. Eventually all Australian sites will be refitted in the same style.

53.3.8 BRITAIN: LOCAL PRESSES ROLL TOWARDS OBLIVION

One of the most accurate barometers of the recession’s impact on the UK city of Bristol writes Martin Fletcher, is the volume of advertising in the *Bristol Evening Post* and its sister paper, the 150-year-old regional *Western Daily Press*. In one recent week the *Evening Post* property section was 44 pages, compared with 72 in the same week last year. The jobs section shrank from 25 pages to 12, the motoring section 24 to 12, and the classifieds from 57 to 40. Neither editor would talk to Fletcher, but Susie Weldon, the journalists’ union convener, said: “Advertising has fallen off a cliff.” Bristol has been home to at least 114 newspapers over three centuries. (*Times*, 9 April 2009, p.14.)

53.3.9 FRASER COAST: BATES RETIRES AFTER 21 YEARS AS EDITOR

When Nancy Bates retired as editor of the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, the daily that serves Maryborough and Hervey Bay, Queensland Premier Anna Bligh gave her a send-off in Parliament. She said Bates had been with the *Chronicle* for nearly 40 years, including 21 as editor. ‘I understand that in that time she has written more than 5,500 editorials. I can personally attest to the fact that not all of them have supported my side of politics.’ (*Australian*, Media section, 15 June 2009, p.33).

53.3.10 TAMWORTH: NEWS ON WHEELS

For 20 years, Tamworth’s News on Wheels has provided disabled residents with their local news, reports Haley Sheridan (*Northern Daily Leader*, 5 May 2009, p.12). A group of about 20 people meets weekly and records articles from the *Northern Daily Leader* in audio format, puts them on CD, and posts them around the district to housebound people who desire the service. The service began in 1989 when a local man was rendered quadriplegic after an accident on his bicycle. He was unable to read. The service gradually expanded to encompass other people. Sixteen people now do the reading.

53.3.11 LEADER REBADGES

In the week of 29 June-4 July, Victoria’s Leader Community Newspaper group relaunched all 33 of its titles with new designs and a “greater commitment to local news”, reports Simon Canning (*Australian*, Media section 29 June 2009, p.35).

53.3.12 GOLD COAST: AFFLECK ENDS LONG ASSOCIATION WITH *BULLETIN*

Deputy editor John Affleck left the *Gold Coast Bulletin* in late June after an association that began almost 30 years ago (*Mediaweek* inline, 23 June 2009). Affleck joined the *Bulletin* as a sub-editor in 1981 after working on newspapers in regional Victoria and Queensland. He was seconded to edit the bi-weekly *Albert and Logan News* and became the first editor-in-chief of Quest Community Newspapers, Brisbane. He returned to the *Gold Coast Bulletin* in 1988 and after rising to the rank of editor was, in November, 1998, appointed editor of the *Townsville Bulletin*. He returned to the *Gold Coast Bulletin* in 2004 as deputy editor. The new deputy editor of the *Bulletin* is Ken Robinson, the former night editor. See also 53.1.11 for Bob Gordon's retirement as editor-in-chief.

4 – NEWSPAPER HISTORY

53.4.1 HORSHAM: FIRST FEMALE EMPLOYEE AT THE *TIMES*

This is a story about an item of mail that took nearly four and a half years to be delivered from Queensland to Victoria, but it is really a story about how some stories come to be written. Rona Connel Riley, born on 19 May 1919 at Horsham, became the first female employee of the *Horsham Times* in 1935 when John Vyvian Snaith Ward was proprietor and Andrew Millett was the editor. Ward required one of her parents to sign a document that declared that they would not ask her about the business affairs of the newspaper, and she would not divulge details of the affairs. She worked at the *Times* for 16 years, gradually moving from office work to journalism. Early in World War II she became engaged to a local man, William John Laidler, and he went off to war, but was listed as missing in the Siege of Tobruk a year and a half later. Riley and Laidler were both 22. She says, "It was 17 months before his mother, who was very precious to me and I to her, went into the bank in Wangaratta and the accountant said the manager wanted to see her and it was the manager who said her son was now posted as dead. Seven of them went out on patrol and were never seen again."



Rona Young, when nearly 90.

Ten years later Rona met Andrew Dickson Young, "a very wonderful man, a gentle quiet man – he had a degree in civil engineering; he was 10 years my senior; he came out of Melbourne University towards the end of the Great Depression and they couldn't afford to have the degree conferred". He could not find a job and so returned to the farm which was about 30km north of Horsham towards Warracknabeal. Young and Riley married on 27 October 1951 at St John's Anglican Church, Horsham, the church in which she had been baptised and confirmed. The marriage produced two children: Elizabeth (b. 1953) and Andrew Paul (b. 1955). Rona Young wrote a history of the Anglican church at Warracknabeal in 1988 and of St John's, Horsham, in 1996. She published privately a book of poetry. She contributed regularly to the *Wimmera-Mail Times* when Allan Lockwood was editor.

There is much more, but that is for another time and place. I first interviewed Rona Young by telephone on 3 August 2004, shortly before my article on the Horsham and Natimuk newspapers was published in *PANPA Bulletin* (September 2004, pp.58-59). About six weeks later I posted a photocopy of the article to Rona Young. It arrived four years four months later, in January 2009 – and helped contribute to the jargon of the age, “snail mail”. She wrote to me on 2 May 2009 and her letter was forwarded to me in Mackay by former employer, the University of Queensland. I rang her on 11 May, eight days before she turned 90. She is well and her memory as is sharp as a tack. She lives independently but has a carer call each morning and evening. “I’m still very blessed,” she says. “Life is still good. When it’s time, it won’t be me who’ll say when I go. God will look after that. It’s nothing to do with me. I really am very happy.”

53.4.2 HOW THE NYT DROPPED THE BALL ON WATERGATE

The *New York Times* could so easily have broken Watergate before the *Washington Post*, it seems. In August 1972, *Times* reporter Robert Smith, in his final days at the newspaper before leaving to study at Yale Law School, heard aspects of the tale of intrigue and corruption that reached all the way to the White House. Acting FBI director Patrick Gray told Smith the Attorney-General was involved in a cover-up and he gained the distinct impression the matter went right to the top. Smith repeated Gray’s disclosure to a *Times* editor, Robert Phelps, but the story died because the paper was consumed with other political stories (*Australian*, 27 May 2009, p.3).

53.4.3 NEWSPAPERS THAT GATHER DUST

If there’s a stack of old newspapers gathering dust under the bed or out in the shed, Australian libraries want to know about it. The search is on for these valuable pieces of our social history, as part of the Australian Newspaper Plan, a nation-wide initiative of state and territory libraries designed to find, collect and preserve access to historic newspapers.

Some of Australia’s most wanted newspapers include:

- *Cairns Advocate* (1897-1882);
- *Croydon Miner*, Qld (1887-1888)
- *Mundic Miner and Etheridge Gazette* (1889-1917);
- *Pilbarra Goldfields News* (1901);
- *Renmark Pioneer* (1893-1895).

Once the wanted newspapers have been tracked down, they will be saved to ensure their preservation for future generations. Access will be available through the libraries. For a full list of the wanted newspapers, go to www.nla.gov.au/anplan

53.4.4 WHERE CAN I BUY MY OVERSEAS, INTERSTATE OR COUNTRY DAILY?

By Victor Isaacs

With the recent closure of the long-established McGills Newsagency in Elizabeth St, central Melbourne (53.1.16), the question arises of remaining places in Australia where overseas, interstate and country daily newspapers can be bought outside their primary distribution areas. Overseas daily newspapers are indeed rare in Australia. The *West Australian* is rarely seen in eastern Australia.

The following list is a preliminary attempt. You are invited to provide additional entries and corrections.

Overseas dailies

News Ltd newspapers (*Times*, *Sunday Times*, *London Sun*, *News of the World*, and *New York Post*): at:

Sydney, *Daily Telegraph* shop, Holt and Kippax Streets, Surry Hills

Melbourne, *Herald Sun* shop, opposite HWT Tower, Southbank

Brisbane City newsagency, Creek and Elizabeth Streets

London *Financial Times*, Asian edition at most of the "Interstate" entries below.

(The *Guardian Weekly*, *Weekly Telegraph* and *International Express*, being the weekly edition of London dailies, are available almost everywhere).

Interstate dailies at newsagencies or newspaper kiosks at:
ALL MAJOR AIRPORTS

SYDNEY

Daily Telegraph shop, Holt and Kippax Streets, Surry Hills (News Ltd papers)

Central station

Queen Victoria Building basement, next to Town Hall station

Wynyard station

Circular Quay ferry terminals/station

Bondi Beach, Campbell Parade

MELBOURNE

Sun-Herald and *Sunday Telegraph* generally available

Herald Sun shop, opposite HWT Tower, Southbank (News Ltd papers)

Melbourne Central station, opposite State Library, Swanston St

Southern Cross (Spencer St) station

South Melbourne, Clarendon St

SE QUEENSLAND

Sydney Morning Herald, at many outlets. *Sun-Herald* and *Sunday Telegraph* generally available

BRISBANE

City, Creek and Elizabeth Streets

Brisbane Transit Centre (Roma Street station), first floor

PERTH

Plaza Arcade, between Murray and Hay Streets

ADELAIDE

Age at many outlets

City, Regent Arcade

Glenelg, Jetty Road

Port Adelaide, St Vincent St

CANBERRA

Sydney and Melbourne daily newspapers are available everywhere. Some other major interstate dailies at:

Civic, Bus Interchange, East Row

Civic, West Row

Civic, Petrie Plaza

Kingston, Giles St

Manuka, Franklin St

Belconnen Mall

Woden Plaza (now also known as Westfield Woden)

RIVERINA & SE NSW

Age, *Herald Sun* and *Canberra Times* generally available

TASMANIA

Age and *Herald Sun* available everywhere

Country dailies

SYDNEY

Central station – Newcastle's *Herald* and Wollongong's *Illawarra Mercury* only

MELBOURNE

Southern Cross (Spencer Street) station – *Geelong Advertiser* only

BRISBANE

Creek and Elizabeth Streets – all Queensland country dailies

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Kalgoorlie Miner commonly available throughout south-west WA

TASMANIA

Launceston *Examiner* available almost everywhere

Burnie *Advocate* sometimes available.

53.4.5 NINETEENTH CENTURY UK PERIODICALS

The National Library of Australia (NLA) reports: "19th Century UK Periodicals" is a database using content from the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, the NLA, and many other sources, to make available digitised versions of key 19th Century UK Periodicals. For the more than 180 periodicals currently available, every front page, editorial, article, poem, recipe, advertisement and classified advertisement that appeared within their pages for the period available is accessible. Users of the database will be able to search every word on every page. The database is to be released in five series. The NLA currently has access to Series 1: New Readerships: Women's, Children's, Humour and Leisure/Sport, and Series 2: Empire: Travel and Anthropology, Economics, Missionary and Colonial. This database is accessible from offsite to all registered NLA Readers through their reader's card.

53.4.6 SIR GEOFFREY SYME

Dr Veronica Condon, a Melbourne-based ANHG subscriber, is putting together a comprehensive website about her late father, Sir Geoffrey Syme. It is a work in progress but is growing into an impressive historical resource. Visit it at www.sirgeoffreysyme.com.au

53.4.7 SOMETHING ABOUT NEWSPAPERS

Phillip Adams has written a nostalgic piece about newspapers (*Weekend Australian Magazine*, 6-7 June 2009, p.38). An extract: "A few weeks ago a kind reader sent me a copy of the very first edition of the *Australian* from 1964 in such mint condition it might have been printed last night. And as I turned the pages with fascination I realised how much newspapers have changed in these few decades. In typography, illustration, layout and emphases. Here was hard evidence of an era when the newspaper was, without question, the dominant force in setting a national agenda. Back then the only threat came from television. Now, as technologies pull a plague of rabbits from electronic hats, we struggle to find a new *raison d'être*, new methods of holding reader interest. But as a paperboy who became a pundit I still love the damn things. Even when editorials infuriate and many of the columnists seem certifiably insane. There's something about the feel, the smell, the rustle of a newspaper that cannot be replaced or replicated. Stop the presses? No thanks."

53.4.8 BIOGRAPHICAL SCOOP FOR BRITISH AND IRISH JOURNALISTS

Allow the ANHG to introduce you to *Scoop!* With over 24,000 entries – the result of 16 years of research – *Scoop!* represents the most comprehensive biographical dictionary of British and Irish journalists ever compiled and an invaluable resource for anyone interested in newspaper history: <http://www.scoop-database.com/> *Scoop!* covers the period in media history when the modern newspaper began to emerge. It also embraces the beginnings of radio and newsreel journalism. The men and women in the *Scoop!*

biographical dictionary are British or Irish journalists who died between 1800 and 1960. Also included are a small number of journalists who, although not born in Britain or Ireland, spent a significant proportion of their career there. *Scoop!* is described as “an invaluable resource for both family history and genealogical researchers as well as those interested in house and property history“.

53.4.9 RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Margaret Rees-Jones, of Melbourne, is writing the story of her “printing family”, which begins in Edinburgh then moves to New Zealand. Her great-great-grandfather, James Muir, was apprenticed to James Ballantyne in Edinburgh and worked on Sir Walter Scott’s Waverley Novels. He found himself in New Zealand by a circuitous route and pulled the first damp sheet from New Zealand’s first newspaper, the *New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator*, in April 1840. Rees-Jones’s cousin, Michael Muir, who owns the *Gisborne Herald*, will publish the book. Her deadline is some time next year, which will be the family’s 160th year of printing in New Zealand, bar a three-year break.

John Tidey, of Melbourne, is writing a biography of former *Age* editor Creighton Burns.

Ben Hills, of Melbourne, is writing a biography of former *Age* editor Graham Perkin.

5 – RECENTLY PUBLISHED

53.5.1 BOOKS

Levi, Vic, *Hot Metal, Hot Stories and Cold Cases: Requiem for a Newspaper*. Self published by Vic Levi, 4 Gordon St, Eleebana NSW, 2282, \$25. Levi, formerly a reporter and executive of the *Newcastle Sun* from 1954 to 1980, recounts in a light-hearted way his period there, and especially stories of his colleagues.

North, Louise, *The Gendered Newsroom: how journalists experience the changing world of media*, Hampton Press, 2009. ISBN 978-1-57273-872-0. Cloth format. \$62.50. An exploration of the gendered production of news – and in particular the experiences of women – in the Australian print news media. North’s fascination with newsroom gender politics was born from her own experience during a 20-year print career which included stints with the Messenger newspaper group and Hobart’s *Mercury*.

53.5.2 ARTICLES

Adams, Phillip, “Phillip Adams”, *Weekend Australian Magazine*, 16-17 May 2009, p.46. Discussion of columnists in newspapers. Extract: “Increasingly abrasive columns began to fill newspapers in the early ’60s. Struggling to compete with the immediacy and visual wallop of TV, papers had to rethink their role – and opted for an emphasis on analysis and opinion.”

Coleman, Peter, “‘Hunger’ as teased Brisbane burns for print alternative”, *gxpess*, May 2009, pp.13-14. The author discusses the intentions of Fairfax media for the south-east Queensland market after it published one print edition of brisbanetimes.com.au

Day, Mark, “Newspapers can survive by playing host to the web”, *Australian*, Media section, 15 June 2009, p.36. Gives special mention to News Ltd’s The Punch and to the proposed online National Times venture by Fairfax.

Dempster, Quentin, “The Walkleys are changing”, *Walkley magazine*, Issue 57, July-August 2009, p.25. The Walkley Advisory Board chair shares the results of the first review of the Walkley Awards in 10 years.

Dobbie, Mike, and Este, Jonathan, “The shrink rap”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 56, May-June 2009, pp.13-14 (in a section “Making News Pay” – see also Jarvis, Mayne and Mutter). Newspapers are in crisis with ad revenues diving and editions getting skinnier. So do we need an iTunes of journalism? Or a sugar daddy with deep pockets? Or a government handout?

Emerson, Craig, “Rorts-and-all ‘gotcha!’ unfairly tainted this honest bloke”, *Weekend Australian*, 30-31 May 2009. An Australian Government Minister discusses

tabloid newspaper representations of him as an alleged rorter of parliamentary expenses.

- Gardner, P.D.**, “Brief Notes on Some Fraudulent Aspects of the Secret Compositions of William Lawrence Ballieu and Friends 1892”, *Victorian Historical Journal*, Vol. 80, No. 1, June 2009, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, pp. 61-75. Among the secret compositions examined are those of Theodore Fink, proprietor of the Melbourne *Herald*.
- Haigh, Gideon**, “3000 characters in search of content”, *Age*, 16 May 2009, A2, p.15. A remarkable public project – the Australian Newspaper Digitisation Program – is sealing the cracks in Australia’s written history.
- Haigh, Gideon**, “When the media is the story”, *Age*, 2 May 2009, Insight p.5. A former *Monthly* contributor gives his perspective on the convulsions that culminated in the ousting of the magazine’s editor, Sally Warhaft.
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