



The free commuter newspaper, *mX*, ceased publication in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane on 12 June (front page of final Melbourne issue is pictured). The title began publication in Melbourne (5 February 2001) and later expanded into Sydney (4 July 2005) and Brisbane (5 March 2007). The Melbourne edition was initiated the same day that Fairfax launched a free commuter paper, *Melbourne Express*, which ceased publication on 7 September 2001. See 83.1.2 below.

## AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

# NEWSLETTER

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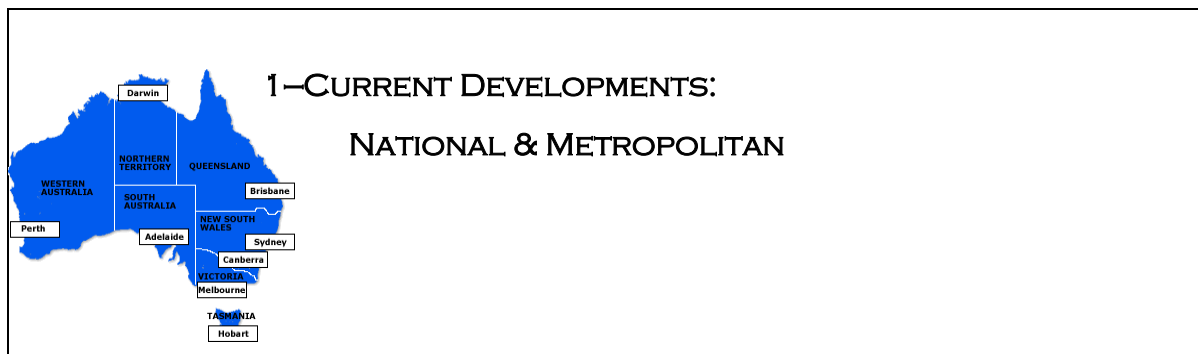
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**Deadline for the next Newsletter: 30 September 2015.**

Subscription details appear at end of *Newsletter*. [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]

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



### 83.1.1 When the archives make the headlines

It took a TV journalist to break the news about the uncertainty surrounding the photographic archives of Fairfax Media. Lisa Millar, of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, broke the story on Sunday, 7 June. Here's a summary:

“An accused fraudster has allegedly been selling-off parts of a priceless Australian archive he was paid to protect. The future of millions of photos from the nation's oldest media company—Fairfax—is in limbo as a complex court drama plays out in America's south.”

Extracts from Lisa Millar's full report (from ABC News online) follow:

IT SEEMED like a brilliant deal for Fairfax Media, who had to find a way to save its valuable archival photos from deteriorating but could not spend a fortune doing it (see ANHG 73.4.1, July 2013). Rogers Photo Archive in Little Rock, Arkansas, offered the solution. That company would digitise the photos, add metadata for easy searching and then return an online accessible version to Fairfax—taking an ageing and deteriorating archive and giving the cash-strapped media company a digital library in return. For its efforts Rogers Photo Archive would be able to sell the originals and make a profit. Except it did not.

Fairfax had signed its deal in March 2013. The photos were shipped over in September that year. Just months later, the FBI raided the warehouses in Little Rock over allegations of sports memorabilia fraud and questions were being asked about the financial health of Rogers Photo Archive.

*Arkansas Business* senior editor George Waldon was following the trail. “Behind the scenes things were starting to come apart at the seams in John's world,” he told the ABC in Little Rock. “Unfortunately for Fairfax, the timing for their deal was right ahead of the FBI publicly opening their probe into the business affairs and it all came tumbling down.”

BUSHES now grow over the path of the warehouse at 2501 North Poplar Street. Paint peels off the side of the building. Next door there is a newer building in this industrial area but both are devoid of any markings apart from the “For Sale” sign outside. This is where Fairfax's photo archive has been left in limbo — part of a court battle involving at least a dozen different people and organisations.

Rogers Photo Archive is now in the hands of receiver Michael McAfee, who was appointed by the court. Fairfax's valuable images are locked away under 24-hour surveillance and any digitising work has been suspended. It is more than two years since the contract was signed and 18 months since the photos were sent abroad. This has become an extraordinarily complex situation that Fairfax must be deeply regretting. It is unclear during the time of the receivership and before how many items of Fairfax Media property may have been sold for her direct benefit.

The receiver's first quarterly report makes for fascinating reading. McAfee details his concerns that Fairfax photos were already being sold on eBay before the contract and digitising had been completed. The New Zealand government had signed an exemption to allow the export of the photos under the Protected Objects Act. “In late March [2015] the receiver discovered that over 1,000 items related to Fairfax Media were being listed for sale by Angelica Rogers [John Rogers' ex-wife],” the report says. “Some of the items listed related to the New Zealand archive. This selling

of New Zealand items is a direct violation of New Zealand Protected Objects Act and might warrant further action by the New Zealand government.

“After the discovering of this fact all items were picked up that day and it was found that her inventory was in excess of 97,000 photos. The initial estimate given by her of her inventory was approximately 25,000 photos. It is unclear during the time of the receivership and before how many items of Fairfax Media property may have been sold for her direct benefit.”

A spokesman for New Zealand’s ministry for culture and heritage, Tony Wallace, told the ABC it was the worst possible outcome. “Obviously we’re not happy with the way things have transpired,” he said. “The decision to grant an export order was made in good faith at the time on the information available.”

Other newspaper companies also entrusted Rogers Photo Archive with their materials. The *Alaska Dispatch* and *Digital First Media* contracts have not been completed either.

The *Age* has had its photos returned to Australia. But images from the *Sydney Morning Herald* and New Zealand publications remain in Little Rock — at least those that the receiver can be confident have not been sold.

**11 June (TheNewspaperWorks):** The digitisation of Fairfax Media’s extensive photo collections by a US company now in receivership has ground to a halt, but the collections are safely and securely stored, the publisher has said. An arrest warrant was issued this week for the owner of the Arkansas company contracted to carry out the work. Bail for John Rogers, whose business Rogers Photo Archive went into receivership in January, has been put at \$US1.5 million.

Despite the reports of eBay sales, a Fairfax spokesperson said yesterday the image collections were secure. “The hard-copy photo images involved, of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and New Zealand publications, are being safely and securely stored. The materials remain rightfully owned assets of Fairfax,” the spokesperson said. Numerous other parties are launching legal action against Rogers, including Digital First Media, which owns newspapers including *The Los Angeles Daily News* and *The Denver Post* and is suing him for the return of its archive. First Arkansas Bank is separately suing Mr Rogers for unpaid debts of \$US15 million. Fairfax continues to utilise a storage facility at Alexandria, among other locations.

### 83.1.2 Commuter dailies close

News Corp closed its three *mX* publications on 12 June. The daily afternoon newspaper was distributed on train platforms and other CBD locations in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. “The decision is a reflection of the changing reading habits of commuters who now turn to their mobile phones and tablets on their way to and from work,” News Corp said in a statement. The equivalent of 30 full time journalists were affected across Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, but it is not clear how many lost their jobs. Management told staff redundancies were inevitable although they would try to redeploy some positions to other News Corp mastheads.

### 83.1.3 Hockey wins libel case

The *Sydney Morning Herald*’s editor-in-chief Darren Goodsir lost objectivity and was motivated by malice when he crafted a headline claiming Joe Hockey was “for sale”, the Federal Court has found (*Australian*, 1 July 2015). Federal Court judge Richard White ruled on 30 June that a poster and tweets promoting the story with the words “Treasurer for sale” were defamatory, awarding Hockey \$200,000 in damages following a year-long dispute with the publisher. However, Justice White said the “Treasurer for sale” headline was not defamatory when placed in the context of the accompanying articles.

Hockey sued Fairfax over front-page stories published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Age* and the *Canberra Times* on 5 May 2014. The stories which claimed Hockey was offering privileged access to businessmen and lobbyists in return for donations to the Liberal Party. The headline “Treasurer for sale” was written by Goodsir and adopted by the *Age*’s editor Andrew Holden. Hockey claimed the articles falsely implied he accepted bribes to influence decisions, corruptly sold privileged access to businessmen and lobbyists, and knowingly permitted Liberal fundraising

group North Sydney Forum, with which he was associated, to accept money from the “corrupt Obeid family”. In a 120-page judgment, Justice White said “ordinary reasonable readers” who read the articles as a whole would not have understood that Hockey had engaged in corrupt conduct. He also rejected the imputations of bribery. However, he said those who saw the poster and tweets on their own would have taken them to mean Hockey was willing to accept corrupt payments to influence his decisions as Treasurer. This was the case even though the tweets contained a link to the articles.

Justice White said it was reasonable to suppose that more than a million people saw the poster without reading the articles and “perhaps” tens of thousands read the tweets without clicking further to the stories. The judge said even if the defence of qualified privilege had been available to the *Herald*, this would have been defeated by malice. He said Goodsir wanted a headline that was “hurtful of, or damaging to” the Treasurer. “Mr Goodsir had lost objectivity,” he said. “If it was not for his desire to get back at Mr Hockey, I consider it probable that he would have selected a less provocative headline.” Emails and text messages uncovered during the litigation between Goodsir and Holden revealed anger with Mr Hockey over his insistence on a correction and apology for a previous story about the North Sydney Forum. That story had incorrectly stated the Treasurer had personally returned funds to Australian Water Holdings — a company in which the Obeids held an interest.

Defamation specialist David Rolph, associate professor of law at Sydney University, said the case showed the media it could be held liable within Twitter, “regardless of longer-form journalism to which tweets might link. A few characters could be defamatory without the context or meaning of what is being conveyed,” he said. Dr Rolph said it was only the second case in Australia where damages had been awarded over a defamatory tweet, but there were bound to be more.

#### 83.1.4 State of Origin 1: *Tele 12, SMH* 0

**Victor Isaacs** writes: Some ANHG readers may, like me, have absolutely nil interest in the State of Origin Rugby League games. Nevertheless, the games are very interesting as a demonstration of the effect of recent changes at Fairfax. These games attract enormous interest in NSW (and Queensland). They are played in the evening. The problem is that with recent stringent economies the *Sydney Morning Herald* (as also the *Age*) has only one edition, and this has a deadline of 8.30pm. So, anything happening in the evening cannot be covered. The resulting coverage of the result of the State of Origin 1 game in the Sydney newspapers of 28 May was:

<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	12 pages
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	0 pages

The *DT* coverage included the front page, two news pages and nine pages in the sports section.

#### 83.1.5 Three in Queen’s Birthday honours

Three men closely related to the print industry were given awards in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for 2015. They are:

**William Peter Coleman:** (AO)—Made an Officer of the Order of Australia in the General Division, for services to the print industry as a noted editor, journalist, biographer and author, to the parliaments of Australia and New South Wales, and to the community. He was the editor of the *Bulletin*, 1964-1967.

**Morris Zoltan Schwartz:** (AM)—Made a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division, for services to the print industry, as a publisher and to the community through promoting Australian political and intellectual discourse. He publishes the *Saturday Paper*.

**Ross William Lanyon:** (OAM)—Awarded a Medal in the General Division of the Order of Australia, for services to thoroughbred racing and to Mildura. He is the principal of the Elliott Newspaper Group, based in Mildura but including various Victorian country newspapers.

### 83.1.6 Fairfax cuts NZ jobs (see also 83.3.1, 83.3.2, and 83.2.2)

Fairfax NZ announced on 28 May that about 166 staff positions— an estimated 23 per cent of the company's workforce — would be “discontinued”. They would be replaced by other, more online-focused roles in which journalists find, write, edit, check and publish their stories direct to the web and, with minimal oversight, to print. According to Paul Tolich, senior industrial officer of the NZ journalists' union (the EPMU), the move effectively aims to remove from the business the “editorial leadership” positions of news editor and above, as well as sub-editors. That would give Fairfax's NZ newspapers, which include the *Press* in Christchurch, the *Dominion Post*, the *Waikato Times* and the *Sunday Star Times* as well as numerous local newspapers and the stuff.co.nz news website, a publishing model akin to that of a digital media start-up.

A source close to Fairfax Media Australia said that while 166 jobs would be “disestablished” in New Zealand, 180 new positions would be created. However, it is understood the company is not undertaking to redeploy all staff affected by the restructure.

### 83.1.7 Recent chronology

#### 83.1.7.1 Recent events

**12 June:** Closure of the Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane *mX* newspapers.

#### 83.1.7.2 Deaths

**Leeson, Raymond John:** D. 26 June 2015 in Goulburn, aged 90; joined *Goulburn Evening Post* as a cadet in February 1941; several years in RAAF during World War II; returned to *Post* as D grade journalist; served 36 years as editor, 1952-1988 (*Canberra Times*, 3 July 2015; see also Rod Kirkpatrick, *Country Conscience*).

**Stubbs, John:** D. May 2015 in Lismore, aged 77; born at Cunnamulla, western Queensland; A short stint on the Brisbane *Telegraph* was followed by a move to *The Age* before the first of two excursions to Asia — in Malaysia with the *Straits Times* and later in Hong Kong where he worked on *The Star* and the *South China Morning Post*; was a journalist on the *Australian* when it started in July 1964; in the late 1960s, became chief political correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, aged 30; had two periods working in London, mainly for Fairfax, and after the Whitlam government fell he was on the staff of ministers in Don Dunstan's government in Adelaide; wrote three definitive books on Australian society and political history.

**Winburn, Barry:** D. 21 June 2015 in Hobart, aged 79; news photographer for Hobart *Mercury* for 50 years; covered everything from Royal tours (visits by three generations of the Royal family) to racehorses; took the epic photo of two cars dangling over the edge of the Tasman Bridge after the *Lake Illawarra* smashed a hole in the bridge on the night of 5 January 1975 (he ran up the broken bridge to the edge to take the photo); son Leigh is now chief photographer at the *Mercury* and penned a tribute to his father in *Stop Press*, Davies Brothers Staff News, Issue 203, 29 June 2015, pp.5-8. Also see *Mercury*, 26 June 2015, article by Ross Gates and editorial.

### 83.1.8 Press freedom and East Timor

**Paul Cleary** writes: Leading East Timorese journalist Jose Belo says his country is no longer democratic and press freedom has been all but destroyed (*Australian*, 9 June 2015). Belo — who was imprisoned and tortured by the Indonesians — is the editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper *Tempo Semanal*, which has in recent years broken a series of stories about corruption and maladministration in the fledgling country. At a time when the government of “national unity” means little or no effective opposition, there are signs media scrutiny is being undermined by a government that has dampened criticism through “subsidies” and the threat of draconian controls.

### 83.1.9 Murdoch succession at Fox

The board of 21st Century Fox has elevated Rupert Murdoch's eldest son Lachlan to the top job as part of a wider management reshuffle after directors endorsed Rupert Murdoch's succession plan (*Australian*, 17 June 2015). A board meeting in New York in the early hours of 16 June approved a reshuffle that carried out a long-anticipated leadership transition, effective 1 July. Lachlan, 43,

was promoted from non-executive co-chairman to executive co-chairman. Rupert, 84, the company's founder and currently the chairman and chief executive, has become executive co-chairman alongside his eldest son. Lachlan will steer a sprawling entertainment conglomerate that includes the Fox broadcast network, cable channels in the US and around the world, and one of the largest film and television studios. James, 42, formerly co-chief operating officer, has become CEO, while Chase Carey, formerly chief operating officer and Rupert's right-hand man, has become executive vice chairman. Lachlan is now based in Los Angeles, and intends to spend one week a month in Australia, having spent the past two decades building, operating and investing in some of the world's most prominent television and publishing businesses.

### **83.1.10 Buffett still sold on print**

American investor Warren Buffett remains a fan of newspapers, both as a reader and an investor, and says he's still interested in owning them (*Australian*, 17 June 2015). "If the right newspaper came along and the price was right, I'd buy it tomorrow," Buffett told reporter Andrew White. The world's most famous investor established his first business as a paperboy aged 13 and has continued to invest in print and television through the 50-year history of his Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate, including stakes in the *Washington Post* in the 1970s. "I love newspapers. I read five newspapers a day and I feel good when I'm reading newspapers," he said yesterday after announcing his first deal in Australia. He predicts that titles such as the *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times* will survive because "there are just enough people who are going to want to read outstanding national newspapers", but admits that it will get tougher for local newspapers

### **83.1.11 Changes at top for News Corp**

News Corp Australia chief executive Julian Clarke will retire at the end of the year. The new CEO will be Peter Tonagh. Michael Miller will rejoin the company in the newly created role of executive chairman (*Australian*, 19 June 2015). Miller, who was the chief executive of APN News & Media (APN), is to return to News Corp's Australian operations two years after leaving the company. He will join the company at an unspecified date. Both appointments will report to News Corp's global chief executive Robert Thomson. Clarke, who came out of retirement in August 2013 to take the helm. It's understood News Corp remains fully committed to its investment in APN, which will be led by Australian Radio Network chief Ciaran Davis.

### **83.1.12 News personnel on bench for Rugby World Cup**

News Corp and Fairfax Media, have withdrawn from officially covering the 2015 Rugby World Cup in England and Wales after organisers insisted on "draconian restrictions" which would have impeded independent journalism (*Australian*, 22 June 2015). World Rugby, the international body overseeing the World Cup, has demanded strict control of broadcasting interviews and news beyond existing Australian law, in return for providing journalists and photographers with access to games, training grounds and official team hotels at the tournament, which starts on 18 September. World Rugby's refusal to lift restrictions means that many rugby writers and photographers from Australia will not officially attend World Cup games.

### **83.1.13 Newspaper circulation**

Newspaper print circulation losses have eased off as digital subscriptions continue to grow, according to the latest figures (*Australian*, 15 May 2015). While no newspaper increased print sales in the January-March quarter, a few newspapers were only slightly down. The Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) quarterly figures reveal that the *Weekend Australian* has experienced a year-on-year average net paid print sales fall of 3.3 per cent to 230,182 copies. This was its smallest reduction in three years. The weekday edition of the *Australian* fell 6.5 per cent to 104,165. Paid digital subscriptions for the *Australian* increased the masthead's overall reach, reversing print circulation declines and opening up a new source of revenue. The *Australian* added 5455 paid digital subscriptions, a rise of 8.8 per cent, to reach a total of 67,561 average net paid digital sales.

In "Newspapers may be down, but the story ain't over", *Australian*, 11 May 2015, Mark Day writes: "There's no point in going into too much detail, but here's a snapshot: Worldwide newspaper

revenues at News Corporation (owner of the *Australian*) are down 9 per cent in the first quarter of 2015 in a year-on-year comparison and 6 per cent on a year-to-date basis; advertising revenues are down 12 per cent, although much of this was caused by currency fluctuations. Britain was another strong negative where the latest sales figures show monthly circulation falls for dailies ranging from 11 per cent (the *Sun*) to 1 per cent (the *Times*) and Sundays falling from 14 per cent (*Sunday Sun*) to 2 per cent (*Sunday Times*), year on year for April.)

### 83.1.14 Rex Gardner to retire

Rex Gardner, the chief executive of Davies Brothers Ltd, the publisher of the Hobart *Mercury*, will retire on 24 July. His 46-year newspaper career has taken him from copy boy at the Melbourne *Sun* in 1969 to reporter and chief of staff, general manager of the *Fiji Times* (with two military coups), editor-in-chief and managing director of Leader Group in Melbourne, another stint in Fiji (he was deported from Fiji by the ruling military junta in January 2009—see ANHG 51.1.5), and two periods as CEO of Davies Brothers in Hobart—the first of 12 years and this one of six years. Gardner will contribute a column to the *Mercury* after his retirement (*Stop Press*, Davies Brothers Staff News, Issue 203, 29 June 2015, pp.1-3).

### 83.1.15 Fairfax sells Chullora and Tullamarine

Property funds manager Charter Hall Group has bought Fairfax Media's two printing plants in Sydney and Melbourne in a deal worth about \$55 million (*Australian*, 9 July 2015). Fairfax had originally hoped to gain almost \$70 million from the combined sales of Tullamarine site in Melbourne's northwest and the larger Chullora facility in Sydney but they are now both in due diligence at the lower sum. While Charter Hall has been keen to secure sites in land constrained core logistics precincts, the pricing reflects the vacant nature of the sites and the need to reposition them.

### 83.1.16 Afternoon editions printed when Crows coach dies

When Adelaide Crows AFL team coach Phil Walsh was stabbed to death on 3 July, the story was broken online, but special afternoon print editions were also distributed by the *Herald Sun* and the *Advertiser*. In Melbourne, the *Herald Sun* printed 10,000 copies and sold out. In Adelaide itself, the *Advertiser* also printed 10,000 copies (TheNewspaperWorks, 9 July 2015).



### 83.2.1 Moving to mobile

Readers of newspaper media are continuing to flock to mobile as it again leads the growth of newspaper media readership, rising by 15 per cent year on year, according to emma (Enhanced Media Metrics Australia) data released on 11 June (TheNewspaperWorks, 11 June 2015). The data for the 12 months to April 2015 show tablet follows mobile at 5 per cent, and PC/laptop has increased by 4 per cent. Under-25s spearheaded growth in overall digital readership growth, jumping 12 per cent year on year. However, while digital readership continues to grow at a rapid pace, print still commands the largest share of Australian readers. Newspaper media – print and digital – reaches 94 per cent of all Australians, or 16.5 million people, with national and metro printed newspaper media reaching 12.4 million people over a four week period. Community newspapers are firm favourites across the country with an audience of 7.9 million, or 44 per cent of the population.

Across platforms and age groups, newspapers have a strong crossover effect. Printed newspapers reach seven in 10 people aged under 30, or 3.4 million, and digital closes the gap with a hold on 65



per cent (3.2 million). While older demographics still prefer print, digital has a strong footprint among those aged over 70 at 990,000, or 47 per cent. When it comes to sheer bulk of digital readers, PC and laptop readership remains on top with an audience of 10.6 million, or 59 per cent of the population. Mobile follows at three million, or 17 per cent of people, and tablet at 2.7 million or 15 per cent.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* continues to lead with the highest cross-platform readership, 5.48 million readers, followed by the *Daily Telegraph* on 4.48 million and the *Herald Sun* on 4.17 million.

### 83.2.2 Reuters offers ‘free’ copy

Newswire service Reuters has announced it is offering free wire copy, pictures and video to publishers and any consumer that establishes an account, using a metered model (TheNewspaperWorks, 11 June 2015). Users will have access to an allotted amount of content per month in a decision the agency hopes will give it greater reach. The service is available through the Reuters Media Express portal. The company said in a statement, “As the media industry navigates the unprecedented shift to digital publishing and online news consumption, Reuters is committed to ... challenging conventional models in order to help publishers and expose more readers to its news content.” The statement did not detail how much users would be able to access per month under the meter, nor what proportion of total Reuters reportage is accessible. However, it appears that 10 articles are available to any user per month, for unlimited access and republication. The Reuters Media Express portal says it contains “a selection of the best stories, photo and video from Reuters Editorial and vetted third-party contributors”.

### 83.2.3 Women’s Weekly online traffic jumps

The *Australian Women’s Weekly* has increased its online traffic by 33 per cent since launching its new website and ending a longstanding tie-up with NineMSN. Figures released to *the Australian* (13 July 2015) show the AWW online has increased its users from 846,644 in May 2014 to 1,133,820 in May 2015, following its relaunch on 1 April.



## 3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

**The “revitalisation program” outlined below for Fairfax Media’s country newspapers (see 83.3.1, 2 and 3) have huge implications for the future of the regional press throughout Australia. The job cuts below total 127 with about two-thirds of those being from editorial departments.**

### 83.3.1 Fairfax Media (1): Queensland and NT changes

Another regional daily is about to bite the dust—so far as daily publication is involved. The *North-West Star*, Mount Isa, will become a tri-weekly, Fairfax Media has announced. This piece of information was contained in a story about how Fairfax Media is planning to “revitalise” its newsrooms serving regional, rural and suburban Queensland with a significant investment in new systems, training and equipment for journalists and sales staff (*North Queensland Register*, 21 May 2015). The program is part of an 18-month overhaul of Fairfax’s Australian Community Media (ACM) division aimed at building “a stronger, more sustainable, network of locally-focused newspapers and websites”.

Queensland staff were briefed in mid-May about the proposed changes at *Queensland Country Life*, *Redland City Bulletin* (which is a combination of the former *Redland Times* and the *Bayside* *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, No 83, July 2015— 8



*Bulletin*), *Jimboomba Times*, *Beaudesert Times*, *North West Star* and the *North Queensland Register*, as well as the *Katherine Times* in the Northern Territory.

If the proposal goes ahead the company expects voluntary redundancies of around 22 full-time equivalent positions across Queensland, including about 14 full-time equivalent editorial roles as well as some management, administration and sales positions. ACM newspapers in Queensland and the Northern Territory will be redesigned and made easier to read, and staff at some sites will move to new premises.

Other changes include adjusting the frequency of the *North West Star* to three days a week, and revitalising the *Jimboomba Times* with a slightly larger format that also retains its point of difference in the market.

### **83.3.2 Fairfax Media (2): NSW changes**

*Illawarra Mercury* editor Alistair Langford-Wilson resigned ahead of a restructure of the publisher's Illawarra and south coast operations announced on 25 June (TheNewspaperWorks, 25 June 2015). Langford-Wilson was the second Fairfax editor to resign over restructuring within Fairfax Media regional mastheads. Di Thomas resigned as editor of the *Border Mail* in May after 23 full-time staff were lost there.

Employees were briefed on 25 June on the new structure, which involves the *Mercury*, *Wollongong Advertiser*, *Kiama Independent*, *Lake Times*, *South Coast Register*, *Shoalhaven & Nowra News*, *Milton Ulladulla Times*, *Bay Post*, *Moruya Examiner*, *Narooma News*, *Bega District News*, *Merimbula News*, *Eden Magnet* and *Bombala Times*. Fairfax will seek voluntary redundancies in 47 full-time equivalent roles across the area, close to the 50 they had proposed earlier in the year. Thirty-four of those will be in editorial functions. One new administrative role at the *Mercury* has been added to support editorial and sales staff. The *Wollongong Advertiser* is set to combine with the *Lake Times*; and the *South Coast Register* will reduce from a tri-weekly to a bi-weekly. The Illawarra newsroom will act as a base for shared services, although reporters and sales staff would remain in the areas they serve. Fairfax also said all newspapers in the South Coast group will be redesigned, and the NewsNow digital-first newsroom model would be rolled out to each masthead.

### **83.3.3 Fairfax Media (3): South Australian changes**

The job losses continue at Fairfax Media as the company continues to roll out its NewsNow publishing system across its regional newspapers, with the company announcing it will cut 35 jobs in South Australia (*Australian*, 3 July 2015). The move, which includes the loss of 22 editorial positions, is part of a restructure that entails the closure of one free newspaper, and moving another from a bi-weekly publication schedule to weekly. In details published on the *Whyalla News* website on 2 July, the company said the job losses would come from voluntary redundancies across administration, sales and management, as well as editorial.

The SA newspapers affected include the *Whyalla News*, *Port Lincoln Times*, *Murray Valley Standard*, *Murray Bridge*, *Transcontinental*, *Port Augusta*, and the *Naracoorte Herald*. The *Whyalla News* will be published once a week instead of twice and the *Roxby Downs Sun*, a free weekly paper, will be closed. A commercial printing business in Bordertown, in SA's south-east, will also close. Fairfax said the distribution of other free papers the *Barossa and Light Herald* and the *Flinders News* would be "adjusted", without offering further details.

### **83.3.4 Fairfax Media (4): Journalist who can sell**

MEAA (the union representing journalists) says Fairfax Media has advertised combined sales and journalist positions in its regional newspapers as far back as March, casting doubt on the company's claim that a job ad seeking one person to perform both roles that ran on 3 June was a mistake (*Australian*, 5 June 2015). The publisher of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age* came under fire on social media after it advertised for a "sales representative/journalist" in Wagga Wagga. Traditionally, there is a demarcation between reporting and advertising roles on newspapers. "(This type of job description) has been in circulation since the beginning of March," said Katelin McInerney, acting director, media for the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance. "It has popped up in the Victorian (regional) position descriptions." She said the union was less concerned about non-daily newspapers in regional areas in which journalists traditionally wear

“more than one hat”. Fairfax said on 4 June the position “at a small weekly paper in regional NSW had been mistakenly advertised as a combined role”.

### 83.3.5 Launceston: *Examiner* moves

The Launceston *Examiner* has shifted headquarters for the first time in 161 years. It has shifted from Paterson Street to 113 Cimitiere Street. Before Paterson Street, it was located at Charles Street and before that, at Brisbane Street. The *Examiner*, owned by Fairfax Media, has sold its Paterson Street building for “about \$3 million” (*Examiner*, 25 May 2015, p.3). The Paterson St building was decommissioned on 23 May. “There had been extensions to the building, but it used to have the printing press in the basement like all newspapers, and hot metal production,” editor Mark Baker said. The presses were eventually moved to Rocherlea Print Centre in the interest of centralisation and production technology takes up far less space than it once did. “We were rattling around in three floors plus a basement with fewer staff,” Baker said of the old offices.

The *Examiner* adopted Fairfax Media’s “Evolving our Workplace” program as part of the move, which gives staff access to smartphones, tablets and laptops to allow them to be more mobile and to eschew allocated desks for most staff. The new five-storey building is at 113 Cimitiere St, which is still inside Launceston’s CBD. It’s closer to the police station and the magistrate’s court, but further away from the Supreme Court and the hospital. Editorial and advertising departments are on the same level and the classifieds department will be located near reception on the bottom floor. The design of the office is open-plan, unlike the Paterson St building.

On 26 May the *Sunday Examiner* included a 40-page feature, “Moving with the times: Our history, your stories”, that includes excellent articles related to the history of the newspaper. Of particular interest are articles about different recent editors. The current editor is Mark Baker, 35, who began his career at the newspaper in 2003 and became editor late last year. Other recent editors featured are Martin Gilmour (2010-2014), Fiona Reynolds (2008-2010), Dean Southwell (2004-2010), Rod Scott, (1992-2004) and Michael Courtney (1976-1992). There’s a fascinating sidebar feature “Press Times” that provides a chronological summary of major technological changes in production of the *Examiner*.

One story the “Moving” feature does not mention is the jailing in 1989 of Edmund Rouse, then the newspaper’s proprietor, for trying to bribe a politician to change the balance of power in the Tasmanian lower house.

The *Examiner*, launched on 12 March 1842, is the fourth oldest newspaper in Australia behind the *Sydney Morning Herald* (1831) and the *Herald Sun* (which began in January 1840 as the *Port Phillip Herald*) and *Geelong Advertiser* (November 1840). The *Examiner* is No. 12 in Australia in its length of time as a daily. See below for periods of daily publication of the top 12:

1. *Sydney Morning Herald*, daily from 1 October 1840.
2. *Herald Sun*, from 1 January 1849 as *Melbourne Morning Herald* (and later changes of title).
3. *Geelong Advertiser*, 13 November 1849.
4. *Age* (Melbourne), 17 October 1854.
5. *Bendigo Advertiser*, 7 April 1856.
6. *Mercury* (Hobart), 1 January 1858.
7. *Advertiser* (Adelaide), 12 July 1858.
8. *Courier-Mail*, from 14 May 1861 as the *Courier* (and later changes of title).
9. *Courier* (Ballarat), 10 June 1867.
10. *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton), 2 January 1873.
11. *Newcastle Herald*, 3 April 1876.
12. *Examiner* (Launceston), 21 December 1877.

Various claims have been made about how long the *Examiner* was based at Paterson Street. Through Trove, ANHG can state categorically: The *Examiner* began publication in Brisbane Street and was published there until the issue of 12 August 1848. It was published from Charles Street

(in “the premises adjoining Mr Crooker’s Ironmongery Warehouse and Opposite the Commercial Bank”) from the issue of 16 August 1848 to that of 11 July 1854. The *Examiner* was published at Paterson Street (which used to be Patterson St) from the issue of 13 July 1854 until the weekend of 23-24 May 2015.



## 4—NEWSPAPER HISTORY

### 83.4.1 First Australian half-tone image: new information

**Anthony Laube**, content services librarian, State Library of South Australia, writes:

Further to *ANHG Newsletter* May 2015, item 82.4.4, “First press photograph’ in Australia”, which began: “The first known half-tone image published in an Australian newspaper appeared on 6 January 1888 [p.7] in the Melbourne weekly *Table Talk*, Philip Parés said in 2001 (ANHG 15.56, November 2001).”

In fact, two Adelaide newspapers published half-tone images more than a year earlier. The half-tone technique was used by the Adelaide press to publish photographs as early as March 1887 within two major newspapers: the *Adelaide Observer* (owned by the publishers of the morning daily, the *South Australian Register*); and later that month in the city’s main illustrated newspaper, the *Pictorial Australian*. The earliest half-tone in the *Adelaide Observer* appeared on 19 March 1887, p.8, a photo of Sir Samuel Davenport, who had been in charge of the SA Exhibition at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in Calcutta. The photo is reproduced at right. Other photos then appeared in the *Observer* regularly.



SIR SAMUEL DAVENPORT, K.C.M.G.

It was claimed that the particular process employed at the *Register* was developed by a member of the editorial staff, George Sutherland, with the technical input of a long-time member of the printing staff, Sydney Moody. (See: “The late Mr George Sutherland MA”, *Register*, 4 December 1905, p.5, and “Death of Mr S.L. Moody”, *Adelaide Observer*, 19 September 1896, p.13.) The illustrations were copies of photographic portraits of individuals (mostly men) who were prominent either locally or internationally.

From 1899 the *Register* used the cheaper and more secure method of line process blocks for newspaper illustration, in particular to accompany news reports of the South African (Boer) War, and later also the so-called Boxer Rebellion, in which the South Australian naval ship HMCS *Protector* took part.

From late 1895 both Adelaide’s dominant newspaper companies – the *Register* and the *Advertiser* – inserted occasional glossy photographic illustrations into their weekend titles, the *Observer* and the *Chronicle*. These became regular four-page photographic features from early 1902, notably through the sensationalised reporting attached to the murder trial of Mary Schippan, charged with the still unsolved stabbing to death of her younger sister – this use by the press drawing criticism from the presiding judge.

The *Pictorial Australian*, published by the three Frearson Brothers (Samuel, Septimus and Robert) had long experimented with pictorial techniques, so not surprisingly issued their first half-tone

images in the same month as the *Observer*. Also driven (in part) by sensational reporting of murders and other crimes, the Frearsons went on, in May 1887, to publish Adelaide street scenes, as “sun pictures printed without the aid of human hands” alongside its usual lithographic and line process illustrations. From 1893 the *Pictorial Australian* contained only photographic illustrations.

Adelaide is also the home to possibly the earliest illustrations in the Australian press. In 1841 Nathaniel Hailes and George Dehane published a series of “pen and ink sketches” in the *Adelaide Independent and Cabinet of Amusement* as loose-leaf lithographic inserts, possibly the work of the versatile George Hamilton – sailor, artist and overlander turned police trooper and later newspaper editor. The satirical cartoons of Adelaide individuals (including editor Hailes) went too far in depicting a drunken brawl between two prominent Adelaide men, losing Hailes his position at the newspaper.

Simple woodcut illustrations appear in advertisements within the *Register*’s pages from 1850, and also in a delightful periodical publication, the *Monthly Almanac and Illustrated Commentator*, published by the entrepreneurial James Allen, of the *Adelaide Times* newspaper. The *Monthly Almanac* was edited by publican/journalist William Akehurst, assisted by well-known engraver Samuel Calvert. It includes possibly South Australia’s first periodical and cartoon illustration depicting Aborigines – who in this instance are depicted as superior and amused onlookers to the plight of a couple of English “new chums” who have managed to lose everything (including their trousers) during a doomed attempt to farm in the bush.

### 83.4.2 My time at the Age newspaper library

**John Langdon** writes: I spent 37 years working at the *Age*—starting in February 1977 as a 17-year-old straight out of school—in a job I didn’t actually even apply for. I had just begun a Library Technician’s course at Prahran College of Advanced Education and it was purely luck that the *Age* librarian contacted them to see whether any new students might be interested in a full time job in the library at the *Age*. After a brief interview, I accepted readily. I finished my time at the *Age* at the end of February 2014 taking a voluntary redundancy.

Like just about any job in which someone has stayed at for nearly four decades there have been huge changes mostly of course due to the development in technology which has changed virtually every industry and workplace. Two of the main roles in the job were always maintaining/adding to the collection and research; only some of the tools changed.

The library’s general and sports clippings collection had started in the late 1950s, although some personal files go back to the 1930s. The clipping collection was the heart and soul of the library occupying the most time and they were heavily borrowed. It was a daily process of classifying, cutting and filing of the *Age* and other Melbourne daily papers. Close tabs were kept on files as they were often in demand by a number of journalists working on the same big “breaking” story at the same time. There would be visible disappointment if the file was with someone else already. Depending on urgency or priority we or they might see if we could move the file on quickly or share it together. Leader (editorial opinion) writers would always have priority. Files were great for an overview of a topic or profiles of people, but if they went missing it was a real problem. We would chase up files regularly if they were not returned promptly. They were not meant to leave the building. However, they would find their way up to State Rounds at Victorian Parliament House at times. Our file on Switzerland went missing and was found in a hotel room—in Switzerland and returned to us! It wasn’t a large file. The journalist (no names) could have photocopied it before going. Good work, though, by hotel staff.

The early years were sparse of technology apart from a photocopier and a microfilm reader (still used but much more modern machine capable of saving to pdf, jpg files, etc.). This pretty well applied in the newsroom, too, apart from the clackety telex machines housed in the Communications Room. In the years before the library had access to a fax machine we would receive phone calls from journalists outside the building, mainly from the Canberra Bureau, based in Parliament House. Mostly that person would be chief political writer Michelle Grattan and we would read through articles she wanted read until she might indicate enough of that article and

onto the next. Others whose fortune it was not to have answered the phone first sometimes looked across in occasional sympathy or with wry smile.

Articles started to be filed into an internal database in 1988 though not all the articles from the paper initially, mainly features and political stories. The database was up and running taking in most of the editorial content of the daily paper by the early 1990s. The process of marking and clipping articles into the *Age's* extensive and valuable clipping files overlapped until the end of June 1996 when clipping finally ceased.

Over the decades the *Age's* Pictorial Library had been an entirely separate entity from the Editorial Library to the extent we barely came into contact with each other. The merging of the two libraries was a gradual process from the late 1990s as staff from the two sections learned about the respective libraries, beginning to perform duties and tasks. For a while this consisted of the two teams moving into the same space with the collections brought together, a big job involving many new compactuses. From the early 2000s it became known as the Research Library taking in all inquiries and research and we would be dealing with whatever was thrown our way. This meant the formerly editorial librarians got to know the photographers and cartoonists better and the photo librarians the journalists and marketing and advertising staff. Evening shifts involved inquiries from journalists as they were finishing off their stories. Later deadlines back then meant this might occur till mid evening at least. Phone calls from the subs might continue till close to 11pm as they checked spellings, quotations, fact checks in journalist's copy. Sub-editors because of the internet and access to the Fairfax database comprising all Fairfax papers have tended to do most of the checking themselves in the evenings for many years now.

In my early days we had access only to the Melbourne papers and the *Sydney Morning Herald* which arrived later in the day and formed the basis of our clipping collection. After the arrival of the internet from around 1996 we began to have access to so much more information. We started to subscribe to international newspaper databases like LexisNexis and Factiva and to the local News Corporation database, Newstext and to the ASIC database.

Over the past 20 years the library became more involved with Editorial and Marketing departments, too. This could be being involved in a longer term project, advertising or promotion campaign getting information and/or photographs together. It could involve working with the investigative team often doing property, company or personal searches on the ASIC database, often following threads one thing leading to another and spending a lot of money in the process.

We also often were called on to compile timelines to accompany stories as the journalists often did not have time. It was usually on a tight timeframe, as is the nature of newspapers, TV and radio, and was a quick learning curve on some subjects, combined with it being imperative to be accurate.

Another duty given to library staff about six years ago was to compile the daily quiz published in the hard-copy paper and also formatted and loaded ready for the next day's tablet edition. Along with uploading daily cartoons onto the *Age* website, this has diversified the skills of staff having to come adept enough at photoshop and loading cartoons and photos into the system.

Emails and internet mean more communication with overseas correspondents than early years when perhaps you might get the occasional phone call from overseas sometimes resulting into trying to successfully fax articles to them. Email has meant it is much easier to send articles and often pdfs of the pages their stories were published on.

At its highest point we had a staff of about 14, including part-timers, and the Pictorial Library about eight staff. When I left the numbers were down to three in the library although a few of us leaving the *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* Library at the same time meant the two Fairfax libraries effectively combined, sharing inquiries and rosters. This is similar to a worldwide trend, especially in the United States, of newspaper libraries scaling down dramatically in staff numbers or ceasing altogether.

### 83.4.3 How the Adelaide *Advertiser* was produced, 1892

Adelaide's *Advertiser* published a highly detailed article about its history and production process when South Australia's Governor, Lord Kintore, started the new Marconi press on 24 September 1892. Here are extracts which appeared under the headings "How the paper is published" and "Stereotyping" (*Advertiser*, Adelaide, 26 September 1892, pp.5-6):

**HOW THE PAPER IS PUBLISHED.** The work of "getting out" an eight page daily paper naturally requires a number of collaborators, and as the paper has to be published to time each morning everything has to go like clockwork. To accomplish this task successfully requires, in the case of The *Advertiser*, the energetic co-operation of the managing editor, the sub-editors (night and day) and their assistants, leader writers, foreign and country correspondents, critics, reporters, business manager, canvassers and clerks, publisher and assistants, printer (head of the composing department), overseers and assistants, readers and copyholders, compositors, stereotypers, proof-pullers, machine minders and boys, engineers, electricians, and others. The number of working compositors employed on the *Advertiser* is 57. It may be mentioned in this connection that on the staff is a compositor who is one of the fastest in Australia, his average in typesetting being 2,500 letters in minion per hour.

"Copy" is the name technically given to all matter (handwritten, typewritten, or printed) which is given to the printer for publication. As soon as it has been passed up from the sub-editor's room to the composing-room it is placed on a table in convenient "takes", and is covered by a weight bearing the name of the type the article is to be set in. The types used in this paper are three—bourgeois, for leading articles and cable messages; minion, for general news; and nonpareil, for matters of only sectional interest. When "copy" is called each man in turn lifts a "take" and goes to his case to set it up. Each compositor, has two sloping cases in front of him, the upper (containing capitals, accents, &c.) is divided into 98 boxes, and the lower (containing ordinary letters) into 54. The compositor picks out the letters he wants and places the words in a frame of steel called a "stick", and holding some 20 lines of type. When the stick is filled the compositor takes it to the "bulk" or "random", a sloping desk like fixture, and there places his work on a "galley", which is a long brass receptacle for the purpose.

When there is sufficient, slips of the matter are printed—this is called "pulling a proof"—one going to the editor, one to the sub-editor, and the third to the "reader". When the proof has been read by the reader, who marks his corrections on the margin, it is handed back to the compositor, who makes the necessary alterations, and a revise proof is pulled which is compared with the first proof to see that the corrections have all been made, and the type is handed over to the "maker-up" for arrangement into columns and pages. The page being locked up in a square iron frame called a "chase" is taken into the stereo foundry. Here a mould is taken from which the plates are cast in a semi-circular form exactly fitting the printing cylinder. The plates when they have gone through the processes of picking, trimming, chipping, &c., are lowered into the machine-room. Here, as soon as the machine has its complete set, the striker is pulled, and instantly the completely printed papers begin to descend the tapes at the rate if necessary of 200 a minute. As soon as the machine has commenced printing the papers are removed and taken into the publishing department, where a number of hands are immediately busy wrapping up parcels for the post and railway and counting out the supplies for the runners.

**STEREOTYPING.** This is a process which is adopted in large newspaper offices. It consists of taking a mould from the type and casting therefrom as many stereo-plates, or duplicates of the type, as are required. Hence, as the name implies, the printing is done from a solid cast instead of from moveable types. Of course, several stereo-plates can be taken from the same mould, and a corresponding number of machines set to work simultaneously printing the same edition. It is in this way that the great London dailies are enabled to keep the supply equivalent to the demand. The process of stereotyping was invented by William Ged, a goldsmith, of Edinburgh, in the year 1725.



The page of the newspaper having been secured in its frame by the compositors, the stereotypers rub the surface of the type with a fine brush, slightly anointed with olive oil. A damp matrix made of three layers of tissue paper, two layers of blotting paper, and one piece of stout paper pasted together with a special paste, one on the top of the other, is then placed on the type and beaten in by brushes until every letter is indented into the substance. Several thicknesses of blanket are then placed upon the matrix as it lies on the type, and the two are run through a mangle, where the matrix is pressed further home, and the mould is thus formed. The oil permits the paper mould to be easily lifted from the page of type.

The damp matrix or mould is now carried and placed upon a hot steam chest, and covered with flannels. It is here baked dry in about two minutes, and is then dusted over with French chalk, and placed in a curved casting box. Molten type metal is poured in, and when cool the plate is ready to be placed on the printing machine. In order that every plate may be the exact thickness required, they are passed through a planing machine before being put on to the printing machines. When done with, the plates are returned to the pot, and remelted for future use. The *Advertiser* is the first paper in South Australia to employ the stereotype process.

#### **83.4.4 Birth of colour Rotogravure in Australia**

A document that fell off the back of the proverbial truck has come into the hands of the ANHG. It is headed: "Sungravure Proprietary Limited, 57-59 Regent Street, Sydney, NSW, 2008". It says (complete with spelling errors and typos):

1935 "Woodsgravure" was situated in the Old Fish Markets at the corner of Forbes and Plunkett Streets, Woolloomooloo, now a first class Travelodge.

Woodsgravure to Sungravure in 1936 [ANHG note: the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 September 1935, p.11, says: Woodsgravure Ltd has changed its name to Sungravure Ltd; and *SMH*, 18 November 1933, p.17, says: Publishers Ltd has changed its name to Woodsgravure Ltd].

It consisted of 1 L & M press that printed a sheet of 18" (45.7cm) x 11½" (29.2cm). Could print an 8-page booklet or multiples. Hand folded and cut, 1 colour both sides, small catalogues and film dodges for M.G.M.

A Waite and Saville Press printing a sheet 34½" (87.5cm) x 24" (61cm) for 16-page catalogues or multiples. Hand stapled and cut.

The first 4 colour job printed in Australia, in Gravure, was a film leaflet of Janette McDonald and Nelson Eddy in "Maytime" for M.G.M. Each colour printed as a separate unit. 1<sup>st</sup> Yellow 2<sup>nd</sup> Red 3<sup>rd</sup> Blue 4<sup>th</sup> Key or Black. The machine had to be changed each time. Paper was suction fed. Registration very difficult.

2 units of the Hoe press printing monotone on each side. Approximate size 16 page tabloid. Pictorial Sunday Supplement printed in rich sepia tone. 32 page Tabloid and Quarto jobs.

This press was converted into a five unit by Mr Sid Hardy and later to 10 units all made by Associated Newspapers for Sid Hardy and team.

The first colour cover of "Woman" was printed on the press in 2 colours Red and Green. A shot of Helen Twelvetreves, an Australian Actress of "Squatters Daughters" fame.

The Hoe Machine then dismantled was sold to a company in the Phillipines.

The first "Goss" press now No 1 at Rosebery was installed 1936-37. 5 units. The installation of this machine was a mechanical masterpiece. As Woolloomooloo is reclaimed land with concrete strips running north to south. It was difficult to find the right foundations. A fitter whilst probing the land between the strips lost the piece of conduit in the muddy waters of Woolloomooloo bay.

This machine paved the way for Editorial artistic and expression of Rotogravure to be presented to the Australian public never seen before.

Four colour on one side of the sheet and mono on the other. This was the birth of colour Rotogravure in Australia.

From there all things seemed possible so we thought. We started 4 colour in magazines and catalogues . This was a challenge to all: Conpress, our opposition, started up with the expertise of our general manager, Mr C. Donnelly. His replacement was Mr Joe Wilkinson who really put experience to work. He imported material and know how from England & America. Allen Bell, England, and Alex Zellar, U.S.A. from this point Rotogravure was definitely on it's way.

With 5 Goss Units in operation producing full capacity another 5 Unit was installed giving Sungravure the opportunity to expand. Woman 64 to 96 pages, Sporting Life 64 pages quarto, glamour, pix, comics. Disney comics were then printed in 4 colours both sides of the sheet.

During the war years a special Tabliod book called "YANK" was done for the Armed Forces.

Sungravure was well represented in the Forces and we lost three stalwarts, Jack Manyon, Les Hunt and Bill Rattle.

It was 1955 when John Fairfax and Associated Newspapers merged [ANHG note: but see Gavin Souter, *Company of Heralds*, p.316, in relation to Fairfax having controlled Associated since 1953]. In July 1955 the complete staff of Sungravure was transferred to Morley avenue Rosebery, a big shift well organised and no loss of production time. Mentmore Press eventually took the name of Sungravure. Mentmore at the time had a Cuneo Press which proved a big success in printing the base paper designs for Laminex.

An extra 10 units of Goss press was installed at Rosebery giving Sungravure 20 units widening out scope in the commercial field of catalogues and Preprint. [For more on Sungravure, see Souter, *Company of Heralds*, espec. pp.537-538.]

### **83.4.5 Longreach: Changing technology, 1970s**

Brian Reynolds was managing editor of the *Longreach Leader* (published by the Longreach Printing Company Limited) in 1975 when Ken Sanz wrote to him about changes in the *Leader's* printing methods. Here's an edited version of what Reynolds wrote in reply to Sanz (who is now an ANHG subscriber):

"A change was made from the conventional letterpress method late in 1972 but we are not printing offset as you suggest. Composition and make-up are carried out in 'cold composition' style as for offset but the plates we use are A.P.R. letterpress plates, which we refer to as plastic plates for the benefit of simplicity. The plate is formed from a liquid resin which is hardened by UV light passing through the plate negative and gives us a letterpress plate about .040" [inch] thick with a depth of etch which we can vary from .010" [inch] to .030" [inch]. The thickness of the plate can be varied but we are at present using plates .043" [inch].

"Our press is a conventional 16-page Cossar (reel fed, flat bed) and the plates are mounted on solid mounts using a double-sided adhesive. We moved into the new process gradually, which we could do with letterpress, but the first issue completely printed by this new method was 15 December 1972. We did not make a big thing of this new process, mainly because there were quite a number of problems involved, mainly with the reproduction of half-tones and I must admit that while we have improved half-tone reproduction tremendously, we have not really perfected the system.

"Our type is set on a Compugraphic 2961 TL with a range up to 24pt, and the few lines we use over that size are set on a Prototype. The system used in our plant was featured in the trade magazine, *Printing World*, in June 1973. I think we have made quite a breakthrough in production of a small newspaper. The high cost of machinery does not make a change to offset a practical proposition yet we have been able to take advantage of computerised type-setting methods.

"P.S. We are the first newspaper in Australia to be printed letterpress from plastic plates. Tests on Nyloprint on a full rotary were made by Building Publishing (Sydney) in 1971, but the company was sold to Maxwell Newton the same year and he got rid of the plant and produced the publications in his Canberra factory. Just prior to this I was the editor of one of Maxwell Newton's publications."

### 83.4.6 Brisbane's *Daily Standard* (1912-1936): a potted history

*Courier-Mail*, 11 July 1936, p.6 (letter to the editor):

Sir. — In view of statements which have been published regarding the *Daily Standard* I should like to recite the following facts :—

The founders of the *Daily Standard* were the Labor Daily Newspaper Company and Mr. J. B. Sharpe, afterwards M.H.R. for Oxley, under an agreement which provided, that the policy of the paper was to be that laid down by the triennial Labour Conventions, Mr. Sharpe providing the finance and to be manager. The editor was to be appointed and continued by consent of both parties, an arbitrator deciding the question in the event of a disagreement.

The Labor Daily Newspaper Coy took over from Mr. Sharpe in the year following its establishment, with the assistance of the A.M.I.E.U., Waterside Workers' Federation, the A.W.U., and other unions. In later years the A.W.U. was the principal factor in helping the Labor Daily Newspaper Company to continue.

There have been three editors in the 23½ years:— Mr. A. Robertson, 1923-1932, following me (1912-1922), and Mr. Frank Burke taking over from Mr. Robertson to this year. The progression of managerial heads has been:— 1912-13, Mr. J. B. Sharpe (manager and part-proprietor); 1913-14, Mr. J. V. MacDonald (managing editor); 1914-1917, Mr. M. McCabe (managing director); 1917-1927, Mr. W. R. Crampton (manager, a former director, and general manager); 1927-32, Mr. A. Robertson (managing editor); 1932-33, Mr. W. Collins (general manager and secretary to Labor Daily Newspaper Co., 1927-36); 1933-36, Mr. C. J. Morley (general manager) .

A number of leading Australian newspaper men have been connected with the, *Daily Standard* in its early years on both literary and business sides. Sir Keith Murdoch was Federal correspondent in Melbourne. In 1912-13. Mr. Norman White was secretary and accountant to the company for a term in its early years, and it was a distinct loss to the managerial side when he joined the *Brisbane Mail*. These and others are now household names. — I am, sir, &c, (Senator) J. V. MACDONALD.

### 83.4.7 The *Herald*, the *Weekly Times* and the *Sun News-Pictorial*

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: I was reading newspaper-related extracts from *The Encyclopedia of Victoria* when two errors of fact jumped out at me. The writer said the Melbourne *Herald* had started the *Weekly Times* (1869) and also the *Sun News-Pictorial* (1922). In fact, the *Daily Telegraph*, Melbourne, started the *Weekly Times* and it became part of the *Herald* stable only when the *Herald* absorbed the *Daily Telegraph* in 1892. Hugh Denison, principal of the Sydney *Sun*, launched the *Sun News-Pictorial* in Melbourne on 11 September 1922 (and the *Evening Sun* on 4 April 1923). The *Sun News-Pictorial* was acquired by the Herald & Weekly Times Ltd on 30 May 1925 for £175,000. Denison closed the *Evening Sun* on 25 April 1925.

### 83.4.8 *Golden Era* of Bonnie Doon: it aspired to become a daily

Bonnie Doon is a small township in Victoria, formerly known simply as Doon. Gold gave it a boost at the beginning of the 1890s and on 27 August 1892, the *Camperdown Chronicle* (Vic.) reported a telegram from Mansfield as stating: "Information from Table Land states that the result of the crushing at the Golden Mountain has exceeded expectations going 10 dwt to the ton. A newspaper called the *Golden Era* is to be established at the goldfields." The paper first appeared on 16 September 1892 (Peter Gill has sent a printout of Pages 1 and 2 of the first issue) with grand ideas. "No better guarantee of our sincerity could be given," the proprietors Harrie George Amor and James Munro, of Mansfield, declared, "than in pointing to the fact that we have placed a printing plant at Bonnie Doon, and launched the *Golden Era*, which, we hope, from a modest beginning will yet blossom into a daily journal, representing a large and influential centre of population." One paper was soon referring to it as the "crisply written" local paper for the growing township of Tableland (*Yea Chronicle*, 27 October 1892, p.2). The *Golden Era* ended on 2 December 1892, if the final extant issue is an accurate indication of its lifespan. A Trove search does not suggest the paper continue into 1893.

### 83.4.9 Hobart: Tasmania's first dailies

The Hobart *Mercury* on 1 January 1938 (p.10) said: "Eighty years ago, on January 1, 1858, the *Mercury* was first published as a daily newspaper. Established by the late Mr. John Davies, in July 1854, it was first published on Wednesday and Saturday. On January 1, 1855, it was being published tri-weekly, and on, January 1, 1858, it became the first daily newspaper in Tasmania."

In fact, the *Mercury* was the third (not the first) Tasmanian newspaper to venture into daily publication. The *Courier*, which began life as the *Hobart Town Courier* on 20 October 1827, became a daily on 1 January 1853. The *Tasmanian Daily News* began publication on 14 May 1855. The *Mercury*, which began publication on 5 July 1854, became a daily on 1 January 1858 and soon absorbed the other two dailies: the *Tasmanian Daily News* on 1 June 1858; and the *Daily Courier* on 1 June 1859.

### 83.4.10 Trove adds more titles

The National Library of Australia has announced that the following newspapers, digitised by the National Library through the Australian Newspaper Plan program, have been added recently to "Digitised newspapers and more" on Trove. Many of these newspapers are currently being added to Trove and further issues will become available shortly.

#### Australian Capital Territory

Good Neighbour (ACT: 1950 - 1969)

#### New South Wales

Armidale Chronicle (NSW: 1894 - 1929)  
Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser (NSW: 1856 - 1861; 1863 - 1889; 1891 - 1954)  
Blackheath Beacon (Katoomba, NSW: 1930 - 1931)  
Blackheath Bulletin (Katoomba, NSW: 1929 - 1931)  
Blue Mountain Star (Katoomba, NSW: 1929 - 1931)  
Blue Mountains Advertiser (Katoomba, NSW: 1940 - 1954)  
Blue Mountains Daily (Katoomba, NSW: 1939)  
Blue Mountains Gazette (Katoomba, NSW: 1903 - 1904)  
Blue Mountains Times (Katoomba, NSW: 1931 - 1937)  
Chronicle (Katoomba, NSW: 1929)  
Coffs Harbour Advocate (NSW: 1907 - 1942; 1946 - 1954)  
Daily Examiner (Grafton, NSW: 1915 - 1954)  
Hospital Saturday News (Katoomba, NSW: 1930)  
Independent (Katoomba, NSW: 1930 - 1931)  
Inverell Times (NSW: 1899 - 1954)  
Katoomba Daily (NSW: 1920 - 1939)  
Katoomba Times (NSW: 1889 - 1894)  
Manilla Express (NSW: 1899 - 1954)  
Mountain Daily (Katoomba, NSW: 1919 - 1920)  
Mountaineer (Katoomba, NSW: 1894 - 1908)  
Tweed Daily (Murwillumbah, NSW: 1914 - 1949)  
Uralla News (NSW: 1904 - 1907)  
Walcha News (NSW: 1932 - 1935)  
Walcha News and Southern New England Advocate (NSW: 1904 - 1907; 1927)  
Walcha Witness (NSW : 1895 - 1906)

#### Queensland

Cloncurry Advocate (Qld: 1931 - 1953)  
Daily Standard (Brisbane, Qld: 1912 - 1936)  
Darling Downs Gazette (Qld: 1881 - 1922)  
Warwick Daily News (Qld: 1919 - 1954)  
Week (Brisbane, Qld: 1876 - 1934)

#### South Australia

Kangaroo Island Courier (Kingscote, SA: 1907 - 1951)  
Laura Standard (SA: 1889 - 1917)  
Laura Standard and Crystal Brook Courier (SA: 1917 - 1948)

Pinnaroo and Border Times (SA. : 1911 - 1954)  
Pinnaroo Country News (Lameroo, SA: 1908 - 1922)

### **Tasmania**

Critic (Hobart, Tas.: 1892 - 1893)  
Devon Herald (Latrobe, Tas.: 1877 - 1889)  
Land (Hobart, Tas.: 1924 - 1925)  
Trumpeter General (Hobart, Tas.: 1833 - 1834)  
World (Hobart, Tas.: 1918 - 1924)

### **Victoria**

Banner (Melbourne, Vic. : 1853 - 1854)  
Champion (Melbourne, Vic. : 1895 - 1897)  
Farmer's Journal and Gardener's Chronicle (Melbourne, Vic. : 1862 - 1864)  
Free Lance (Melbourne, Vic. : 1896)  
Melbourne Punch (Vic. : 1856 - 1900)  
Sporting Globe (Melbourne, Vic. : 1922 - 1954)  
Victorian Farmers Journal and Gardeners Chronicle (Melbourne, Vic. : 1860 - 1862)  
Woman Voter (Melbourne, Vic. : 1911 - 1919)

### **Western Australia**

All British (Perth, WA: 1916)  
Collie Mail (Perth, WA: 1914 - 1918)  
Eastern Recorder (Kellerberrin, WA: 1914 - 1918)  
Harvey Chronicle (Pinjarra, WA: 1915 - 1916)  
Labor Vanguard (Perth, WA: 1911; 1916)  
Nor-West Echo (Broome, WA: 1914 - 1918)  
Sparks' Fortnightly (Perth, WA: 1916 - 1919)

## **83.4.11 Charles Bean and pictorial coverage of the Anzacs**

When a bundle of newspapers arrived at Gallipoli from Britain on 21 June 1915, Australia's official war correspondent Charles Bean was annoyed by what he saw (as detailed in Peter Rees' biography of Bean, *Bearing Witness*, pp.159-160:

The picture agencies really ought to be shown up—they are a disgrace to English journalism. There is never a bundle of these cuttings comes in but it contains a barefaced fraud upon the public. A photo of our men jumping out of boats without packs and without overcoats rolled is given as 'the first Australians on Turkish soil'. The men here take it as obviously a picture of one of our practice landings in Lemnos Harbour. It was far too dark when the first lot landed to take any instantaneous photo. Photos taken around camp at Mena, or on the old drain along the road, are given as views of active service on the Suez Canal. This is the sort of stuff which the picture papers are supplied with—and dish it up to the public. There really ought to be a law against it.

Bean's attitude to the use of photos to illustrate the war was unbending; there was no room for manipulation. To say a photo represented something it did not was unacceptable.



**5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED**

### **82.5.1 Books**

Reid, Alan, *The Bandar-Log: A Labor Story of the 1950s*. Paperback, 360 pages, ISBN 9781925138528, \$34.95 (Alan Reid's previously unpublished novel about the Labor Split).

Edited by Ross Fitzgerald; Introduction by Ross Fitzgerald and Stephen Holt; Foreword by Tony Abbott; Postscript by Laurie Oakes.

**Moore, Andrew**, *Mr Big of Bankstown: The Scandalous Fitzpatrick and Browne Affair*, University of Western Australia Press, 2011, paperback, 261 pages, \$34.95. This book examines how

a small suburban newspaper, the *Bankstown Observer*, became the centre of national political attention in 1955, with Federal Parliament exercising for the first and only time its power to punish contempt by sending the publisher and author to jail.

## 82.5.2 Articles

**Baker, Jeannine**, ‘Australian Women Journalists and the “Pretence of Equality”’, *Labour History*, No. 108 (May 2015), pp. 1-16 Article DOI: 10.5263/labourhistory.108.0001 Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5263/labourhistory.108.0001>. Female journalists were granted equal pay for equal work in 1917, under the first Australian federal award for journalists. This article analyses the role of women in Australian journalism in the first half of the twentieth century. Although World War II enabled many women journalists to move into higher status positions, they continued to be perceived according to gendered assumptions about their roles, modes of behaviour and abilities.

**Carey, Robert**, “Vacated marketplace: a lost battle for editorial independence in the Catholic press”, *Australian Journalism Review*, 37 (1), July 2015, pp.133-147. Particular focus on the struggle for editorial freedom fought at Melbourne’s Catholic paper, the *Advocate*, in the 1960s.

**Carson, Andrea**, ‘Behind the newspaper paywall – lessons in charging for online content: a comparative analysis of why Australian newspapers are stuck in the purgatorial space between digital and print’, *Media Culture Society* published 10 July 2015, 10.1177/0163443715591669

**Juliano, John**, “The new normal”, *GXpress*, June 2015, p.8. The newspaper industry is shifting from the general digital-first to the now more specific mobile-first.

**Kirkpatrick, Rod**, “Biography that Syme deserved”, *Australian Journalism Review*, 37 (1), July 2015, pp.191-192. A review of Elizabeth Morrison’s *David Syme: man of the Age* (2014). See Webby below.

**Tiffen, Rodney**, “From punctuated equilibrium to threatened species: the evolution of Australian newspaper circulation and ownership”, *Australian Journalism Review*, 37 (1), July 2015, pp.63-80. The immediate past of Australian newspapers is examined and thoughts are offered on the future. Deeply researched article.

**Waller, Lisa, and Holberton, Simon**, “Early reminders: Anzac Day in three Victorian country newspapers 1916-1925”, *Australian Journalism Review*, 37 (1), July 2015, pp.51-62. Explores how three Victorian country papers shaped and reinforced the collective memory of Anzac Day in its first decade.

**Young, Sally**, “To old-school journalists everywhere: thank you”, *Age*, 4 June 2015, page 29. If we want the powerful held to account, we should care about the loss of journalists.

**Webby, Elizabeth**, Review of *David Syme: Man of the Age* by Elizabeth Morrison, *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, June 2015, Vol. 101, Part, 1, pp.101-102. See Kirkpatrick above.

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