



A Linotype that was used at the *Warwick Daily News*, Queensland, before the newspaper changed to computerised typesetting and web offset printing in October 1971. (Photo courtesy of John Irwin.)

## AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

# NEWSLETTER

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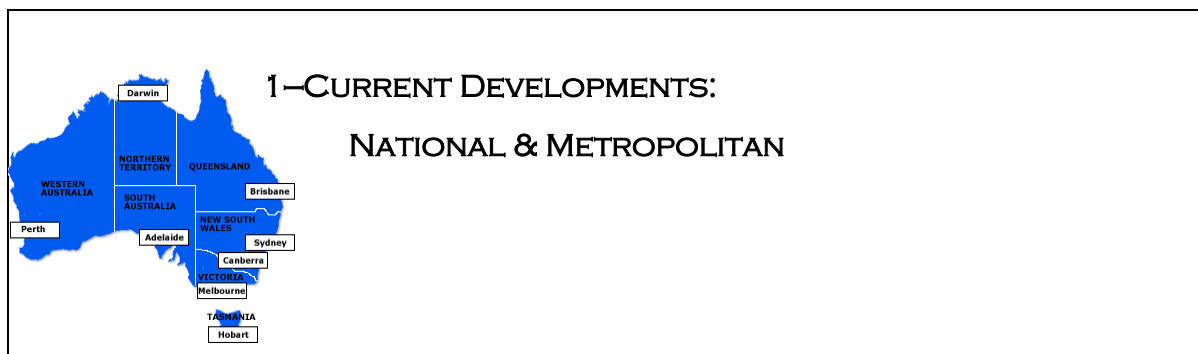
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Subscription details appear at end of *Newsletter*. [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]

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



### 92.1.1 Redundancies at News Corp Australia

News Corp Australia has announced a national redundancy program and outlined plans to modernise newsrooms (*Australian*, 12 April 2017). The publisher did not specify a number, but confirmed changes include moving from an in-house photographic model to a hybrid model as part of a wider move to cut costs and gain efficiencies from production processes. A core team of photographic specialists will be complemented by freelance and agency contributors, and print edition production teams will be rationalised. The changes accelerate ongoing efforts designed to make the print newspaper more sustainable for the long haul and help boost the newsroom's digital transformation.

The *Age* reported (12 April 2017), p.9: News Corp will sack significant numbers of photographers in each capital city. Up to 40 photography jobs are at risk in Melbourne alone, with some people to be hired back as freelancers, according to sources. In Adelaide, a department of 24 photographers is expected to be reduced to just eight.

The *Australian*, again: Campbell Reid, director of editorial management, told staff at the metropolitan mastheads about the changes on 11 April. Reid said: "These changes are necessary to achieve the balance of resourcing between content creation, content production and digital excellence. Our core franchise is journalism and we will always protect and preserve that."

Advertising expenditure on newspaper print ads fell by 8.7 per cent to \$US52.6 billion (\$70bn) in 2016, according to GroupM, the media-buying arm of British ad giant WPP. The *New York Times*, the *Guardian* and the *Daily Mail* have all reduced staff in the past 12 months.

### 92.1.2 Bill Leak, cartoonist, 1956-2017

Bill Leak, newspaper cartoonist and artist, died on 10 March. He had had a suspected heart attack. Leak won nine Walkley Awards for excellence in journalism, 19 Stanley Awards from the Australian Cartoonists Association, and two News Corp awards for cartoonist of the year. For his paintings, he was 12 times a finalist in the Archibald Prize. The *Weekend Australian*, with which he concluded his career, honoured him on 11-12 March and the *Australian* followed up with more in the Media section on Monday, 13 March. Many readers paid tribute, too, through letters to the editor. Here is a summary of the coverage in the *Australian* (which was sprinkled, of course, with examples of Leak's cartoons):

*Weekend Australian*, 11-12 March 2017:

- ✓ **Pages 1-2:** Trent Dalton, "Fearless and funny, philosopher and cartoonist without peer: Leak drew us out of our comfort zone" (half of p.1).
- ✓ Matthew Westwood, "‘Prophet not acknowledged in own land’".
- ✓ Hedley Thomas, "Nobody was spared by this unabashed warrior of the pen".
- ✓ David Crowe, "Leaders laud a free speech champion".



**BILL LEAK**

- ✓ **Four-page “Inquirer” wraparound**, headed “Bill Leak 1956-2017”, pp.15-16 and 23-24.
- ✓ Greg Sheridan, “Vale Bill the brave”.
- ✓ Bill Leak, “Suck it up, Snowflakes” (transcript of speech that Leak delivered on 8 March at the launch of his latest book, *Trigger Warning*, a collection of his most popular cartoons published in the *Australian* in 2016; the report on the book launch appeared in the *Australian*, 9 March 2017, p.3.)
- ✓ Nick Cater, “He cut down bullies with his pen”.
- ✓ Leigh Sales, “Generous to a fault”.
- ✓ Barry Humphries, “Unacknowledged prophet”.
- ✓ Patrick Cook, “All passion and discipline”. Warren Brown, “‘It was always a top night when you were there, Bill’ ”.
- ✓ Brendan O’Neill, “Larrikin spirit made flesh”.
- ✓ Stephen Fitzpatrick, “Obituary: The people’s choice”.
- ✓ James Jeffrey, “Strewth!”
- ✓ **Commentary page (p.22):** Editorial, “Bill Leak was brilliant, fearless and widely loved” (double-column editorial, full length of page). Cartoon: Blank, with Bill Leak’s signature at bottom right. All the letters to the editor commented on Bill Leak. So, too, did the “Cut & Paste” column. Many more letters in the *Australian* on 13 March commented on Leak; the first letter in “Last Post” was from Dorothy Macleod, of Sandy Bay, Tas.: “I have just finished reading every word published about Bill Leak in the *Weekend Australian*, including your wonderful editorial, but what moved me the most was the blank space on the editorial page with just two words on the bottom right hand corner—‘Bill Leak’. The 13 March letters were accompanied by a Bill Leak cartoon on the theme “Man hit by cartoon” (and being taken to the “Hurt Feelings Unit” of a hospital on a stretcher carried by two lawyers.

*Australian*, 13 March 2017, Media section:

- ✓ Chris Mitchell, “We’re here to ‘push, prod and offend’ ”. (In this article the former long-serving editor-in-chief of the *Australian* explains why he wanted Leak to leave Fairfax and join the *Australian*. “It was a decision many in the company did not initially support, yet I was clear why I wanted Bill, and the company went with it. I wanted the paper to reclaim some of the larrikin personality that marked it out from the then stodgy *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age* of the 1960s. We launched the daily Strewth column and a daily comedy piece called ‘The Wry Side’. I hired John Durie from the *Australian Financial Review* and for a while called his daily business column Martin Collins, another nod to the original genius of the paper launch by Rupert Murdoch in 1964.”
- ✓ Bill Leak, “Vilified because someone, somewhere, was affronted” (Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry into the Freedom of Speech in Australia).
- ✓ “News Corp renames award after legend”. (News Corp announced that it had renamed its “Cartoonist of the Year Award” in honour of Bill Leak.

Leak was privately cremated a few days before the public memorial service, attended by more than 750 people, in Sydney Town Hall on 17 March. Report, *Weekend Australian*, 18-19 March 2017, pp.1, 8. And on Page 17 of that issue, see: Steve Waterson, “Cartooning genius turned friendship into an art form”; and Paul Kelly, “Courage and principle shaped ordinary bloke who became a great Australian” (transcript of the speech Kelly delivered at Leak’s memorial service).

### 92.1.3 *Rugby League Week* closes

*Rugby League Week* closed on 27 March after being published since 1970. Publisher Bauer Media sold off the magazine’s major assets, the rights to the Immortals, to the National Rugby League,

which has vowed to reinvigorate it. The NRL didn't want the magazine because it had big plans to beef up its nrl.com news website, published by Telstra. But the NRL's Telstra contract runs out at the end of the year and the "Diary" section of the *Australian's* Media section believes the league has big plans to get into rugby league journalism to compete with the *Daily Telegraph* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. The NRL is reportedly looking to hire up to 80 people, including journalists, to beef up its digital content business.

Mike Colman wrote in the *Sunday Mail*, Brisbane, on 12 March, p.61: "If you loved rugby league in the 1970s and '80s, you loved *Rugby League Week*. Under the editorship of the one-and-only Geoff 'Pinky' Prenter, it was brash, fun and outrageous, much like Pinky himself. A weekly publication set up in competition to mainstream newspapers, it could only succeed if it gave readers something different, something they simply could not ignore. No one could have provided that with more aplomb than Pinky, a man who could blow up a story within an inch of its life better than just about anyone in the game. Pink's front pages were legendary—Tommy Raudonikis wearing a mask under the headline 'I'm the Phantom Biter!', or my personal favourite, an empty space with the caption 'a picture of Bill Mullins' broken jaw that was too shocking to print'.

"When Pinky moved on after 10 frantic years, his seat was filled by the well respected Ian Heads who took a less sensationalist approach but still produced some unforgettable front pages—Wayne 'Junior' Pearce in a nappy; feuding Manly teammates Paul Vautin and Noel Cleal dressed in US Civil War uniforms before an origin campaign; and a stunning shot of muddied Eel Paul Taylor walking off Parramatta Oval in semi-darkness.

"Over the years *RLW* published the work of the game's top writers and reporters. Some, like the late, great Mike Gibson, wrote under aliases so as not to upset their full-time employers (he was Stewart Calder). For others, like Neil Cadigan, whose interview with Paul Hayward in a Bangkok was arguably the magazine's best article, it provided the springboard to an illustrious career."

#### 92.1.4 People

- ❖ **Peter Game**, "who blew the lid on the 1975 'Khemlani loans affair'", was featured in the "In Black & White" column in the *Herald Sun* on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, 7 April 2017. Game wrote the "In Black & White" column in the Melbourne *Herald* in the early 1970s. His reporting on the Khemlani loans affair also appeared in the *Herald*. Game said his Khemlani scoop had resulted from a letter he had written to Pakistani commodity dealer Tirath Khemlani via his daughter, Shanti, in Singapore. Game told Shanti her father ought to tell his story because his name was being blackened in the Australian Parliament. Eventually, Khemlani responded from London and they arranged to meet in Sydney and then London where Game recorded 19 hours of interviews. Game's scoop, in which Khemlani revealed he still had the go-ahead to raise the loans, appeared in the Melbourne *Herald* on 8 October 1975, sending shockwaves through Australian politics. After further revelations by Game, the Minerals and Energy Minister Rex Connor resigned, giving Opposition Leader Malcolm Fraser the "reprehensible circumstance" he had sought to justify blocking supply. The crisis culminated with the sacking of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam by the Governor-General Sir John Kerr on 11 November 1975. Game won a Walkley Award that year for his scoop, the highlight of a career that began when he was hired as a cadet by Herald and Weekly Times chairman Sir Keith Murdoch in 1947. Initially he wrote shipping news for £3 (\$6) a week. Over six decades, Game was investigative reporter, feature writer, editorial writer, columnist, chief of staff and assistant to the editor. He retired at age 81 (Jen Kelly, "Career game-changer", *Herald Sun*, 7 April 2017, p.27).
- ❖ **Jane Harper**, who has worked as a journalist at the *Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria, and the *Hull Daily Mail*, England, has won the \$4000 book of the year prize at the Indie Awards (voted by Australia's independent booksellers). She won the prize with her first novel, *The Dry*, published by Pan Macmillan in May 2016. It has since been sold to 20 international publishers and film rights have been optioned by Reese Witherspoon's production company (*Australian*, 21 March 2017, p.3).

- ❖ **Ken McGregor** has been appointed editor of the *Sunday Territorian*, Darwin, and deputy editor of the *NT News* (*Telum Media Alert*, 17 March 2017).
- ❖ **Nikki Savva** has been honoured by the Melbourne Press Club with its Lifetime Achievement Award for her outstanding coverage of Australian politics—as reporter, columnist and author. Savva had worked twice for the *Australian* as political correspondent and was national political editor for Melbourne’s *Herald Sun* and bureau chief for the *Age*. She has been a political columnist for the *Australian* since 2010 (*Weekend Australian*, 18-19 March 2017, p.2).
- ❖ **Nick Tabakoff**, winner of the 2016 Walkley Award for national scoop of the year, has been appointed associate editor of the *Australian*. He is a former editor-at-large and associate editor of Sydney’s *Daily Telegraph*.

### 92.1.5 *Australian’s* brand campaign

In an era of ground-shaking political upheaval and “fake news”, there has never been a greater “need for quality information”. That’s the message driven home by the *Australian’s* first promotional campaign since 2013. The newspaper is promoting itself as being “For the informed Australian”. Spearheaded by a 30-second TV commercial, the marketing campaign was launched on 6 March, supported by billboards, radio advertising and print ads displaying evocative and defining moments from the past year, writes **Darren Davidson** (*Australian*, Media section, 6 March 2017, p.25).

### 92.1.6 Printing at Rockhampton

The *Australian* and the Brisbane *Courier-Mail* are now being printed at three Queensland locations: Brisbane, Townsville and Rockhampton. The Rockhampton printing began with the editions of 6 March 2017. The Rockhampton presses, formerly owned by Australian Regional Media (part of APN News & Media Ltd), became part of the News Corp Australia operation when the company acquired ARM at the end of 2016. ARM owned 10 regional dailies in Queensland, including Rockhampton’s *Morning Bulletin*, and two in northern NSW (*Courier-Mail*, 6 March 2017, p.11).

### 92.1.7 A new paper in the inner-Sydney neighbourhood

A free monthly newspaper, *Neighbourhood*, begins publication in Sydney this month. Jonathan Samway has been working towards this goal for two years. “This really came about because we felt that there was a digital saturation point and that once reached, to get to the most user-friendly way of communicating actually came back to a newspaper,” says Samway, who is backing the new venture himself from a grand sandstone terrace in inner-Sydney Surry Hills. “From my point of view it is far more user-friendly than an iPad.” Hence the launch of *Neighbourhood*, a monthly 20-page newspaper printed in the narrow broadsheet Berliner format on imported French newsprint (*Australian*, 10 April 2017). The paper, with a monthly print run of 75,000 copies, is aimed at creating a local intimacy for readers who are standing firm against the digital flood of information online.

“I would like to feel that we are embedded and a part of this inner-city community and that we are felt to be an integral contributor to it,” says editor Mark Mordue, an award-winning journalist who was the 2010 Pascall Prize Australian critic of the year. “I would like the publication to be something that people are excited to see.” Mordue has contributed to the *Australian*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Saturday Paper*, *Guardian Australia*, *Interview*, *Salon* and *Rolling Stone*, where he won a Human Rights Media Award in the 1990s for a feature on AIDS.

“Unlike a lot of local papers, it’s a creative and cultural entity as well and I don’t see a lot of local papers doing that,” he says. “We are fortunate that the nature of the community across the inner city and inner east and inner west is receptive to that type of approach.” That community comprises a beltway of 12 Sydney suburbs from harbourside Potts Point to the inner-west enclave of Marrickville, as well as Bondi Beach.

Backing the venture is Samway, who owns creative content company Moth Projects, which produces advertising and marketing content for clients. He would not divulge financing for the

venture. Corporate advertisers are being engaged for a 12-month period rather than an issue-by-issue basis, he says. “I am running this contrary to what a lot of other newspapers do,” Samway says. “I am running editorial at 80 per cent and trying to keep the advertising at 20 per cent. I know that is lofty ideals, but so far we are getting there.” The website was to be launched two weeks ahead of a print launch in the first week in May. Listening to the pair extol the virtues of their new product does have an element of the passion project to it.

The paper is expected to emphasise “essay-like thinking” and “in-depth features” alongside opinion, reviews, art, poetry, humour and community issues. The aim is to bring a local intimacy that connects readers to bigger, global issues as well. Typical features might include a profile of a singer or poet, transport issues, how to curb digital addiction.

### **92.1.8 Booth leaves production role**

News Corp Australia veteran Geoff Booth will leave his role as managing director of operations after 37 years with the company (NewsMediaWorks, 13 April 2017). Booth previously held the positions of national director of production and logistics and general manager Nationwide News. He was also had executive roles at the *New York Post*, and the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd. He will continue as a consultant for the company. In leaving, he will be joined by national director of pre-media Bruce Harvey, who has been with the company 20 years, and Mark Whitby, national logistics specialist, who has been with News for 13 years. General manager of logistics and support Marc Bouza also will be departing.

### **92.1.9 Centre for independent journalism closes**

The Australian Centre for Independent Journalism, based at the University of Technology Sydney, has closed. Formed in 1990, the centre collaborated on major investigations with a wide range of media outlets including the *Sydney Morning Herald*, ABC-TV's *Media Watch*, the *Global Mail*, *Crikey* and *New Matilda*. It was also involved in both national and research collaborations such as the Global Environmental Journalism Initiative (via the Erasmus Mundus program overseen by the European Commission). (*Telum Media Alert*, 12 April 2017).

### **92.1.10 Panama Papers investigation wins a Pulitzer**

The Panama Papers investigation, published in April 2016, has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting. The prize was given to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists which included Australian journalists from *Four Corners*, the *Australian Financial Review* and *Guardian Australia*. The investigation involved more than 300 reporters across six continents (*Telum Media Alert*, 12 April 2017).

### **92.1.11 Fairfax and real estate ads**

Justice Bernard Murphy has ruled in the Federal Court that most of the content in a Domain advertising campaign did not breach consumer laws. The court case was launched after Fairfax Media's subsidiary, Domain, began a new advertising campaign in February 2016. The REA Group, which runs the realestate.com.au website and is majority owned by News Corp, began legal action in the Federal Court. Justice Murphy ruled that five out of seven advertisements published by Domain were entirely reasonable claims or just “advertising puffery”. But he found two ads were misleading or deceptive because they falsely implied Domain had the most listings in greater Sydney and the caveats on the claim in the newspaper ads were too small for readers to find easily. REA Group had wanted to stop Domain using any phrases claiming it was the “#1 property app in Australia” or that its website or app had the most property listings in Sydney or the best property listings in Melbourne. Seven print and billboard ads were identified in the complaint (*Age*, 14 February 2017, p.23).

### **92.1.12 Recent chronology**

#### **92.1.12.1 Deaths**

**Isaacson, Peter Stuart:** D. 7 April 2017 in Melbourne, aged 96; began as messenger boy at the *Age*, Melbourne, and finished media career as largest independent newspaper publisher in the country; after a distinguished career in the air force in World War II (DFM, DFC), he worked as

the aviation correspondent for the Melbourne *Argus* before establishing his first newspaper, the *Elsternwick Advertiser*, in 1947; opened Peter Isaacson Publications that year; among the 60 titles it eventually published were dozens of industry publications and the *Sunday Observer*; in 1986 his company took over the Asher Joel Media Group; inducted into Melbourne Press Club Hall of Fame in 2014; from 1956, he served as a trustee, chairman and then life governor of the Victorian Shrine of Remembrance; awarded Order of Australia Medal (Age, 16 April 2017).



## 2—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: DIGITAL

### 92.2.1 News Corp unhappy with ‘digital duopoly’

The chief executive of News Corp has labelled Google and Facebook a “digital duopoly”, blasting the global tech giants for manipulating the flow of information to suit their financial advantage and creating a “dysfunctional and socially destructive” environment for journalists and publishers (*Australian*, 31 March 2017). Robert Thomson, in a speech delivered at the Asia Society in Hong Kong on 29 March, accused Google of tailoring its confidential algorithm — which answers users’ search queries — to boost its bottom line and blurring the distinction between fake and quality news to the detriment of traditional media companies. “Both companies could have done far more to highlight that there is a hierarchy of content, but, instead, they have prospered mightily by peddling a flat earth philosophy that doesn’t wish to distinguish between the fake and the real because they make copious amounts of money from both — for them, free content has been free money,” Thomson said.

In 25,000 random Google searches, Thomson said, advertisements for Google products appeared in the most prominent slots more than 90 per cent of the time, highlighting the ubiquity of Google Chromebook ads when users searched for laptops. “How on earth is that not the unfair leveraging of search dominance and the abuse of the algorithm? Candidly, Kim Jong-un in North Korea would be envious of results like that at election time,” he said.

In a speech entitled “The Fake, The Faux, The Facts, The Future”, the veteran journalist and former editor of the *Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* said Google had misled advertisers by allowing their brands to appear alongside extremist or pornographic material. “It is risible, no, no, no, beyond risible, that Google/YouTube, which has earned, literally, hundreds of billions of dollars from other people’s content, should now be lamenting that it can’t possibly be held responsible for monitoring that content,” he said.

Telstra has joined a growing list of companies such as Bunnings, Foxtel, Toyota, Ford, and Caltex that have pulled their advertising from YouTube, which is owned by Google, after it emerged their brands had been sullied by such associations. The backlash could cost Google as much as \$US750 million (\$980m), according to Nomura. “The digital duopoly has rewritten the rules in a way that has written much journalism and integrity out of the script,” Thomson said, arguing the two firms were publishers — the most powerful in history — and needed to be held to the same standards as others. Google and Facebook have enjoyed about 90 per cent of the growth in advertising revenue over the past two years. Unlike traditional media companies, which have large overheads to produce news and analysis, Google and Facebook can source their content for free. The only cost of content for these companies has been lucrative contracts for lobbyists and lawyers, but the social cost of that strategy is far higher, as is becoming painfully and thankfully clear,” Thomson said.

News Corp is engaged in a longstanding antitrust dispute with Google in Europe.

See also: Mark Day, “We must unite against the content thieves before it’s too late”, *Australian*, 1 May 2017, p.24.



### 92.2.2 Digital takes precedence at ABC News

ABC News seems set to become the major online news competitor for Australian newspapers. It is planning a major refocus away from TV and radio to concentrate on expanding its digital news output in a move that could affect the 7pm flagship news. The strategy is already under implementation across ABC newsrooms around the country and is part of a 2017 ABC News business plan, seen by the *Australian*, that is set to more than double funding and activity aimed at digital audiences over the next three years (*Australian*, 3 April 2017). One element of the business plan calls for “changes to broadcast programming” next year, which could lead to a shake-up of news and current affairs programs. A strategy document is due for completion in August; this would then be submitted to the ABC board.

ABC director of news Gaven Morris did not confirm the size or scope of any possible changes, but said the broadcaster was “weaving digital into everything we are doing”. “That’s what the business plan is saying. It is as much about a focus on the activities we are doing with our teams than any issues of resources,” Morris said. “If that means we do a little less on TV and radio to do a little more on digital then that is part of the equation — but only a part of it.” The business plan states ABC News, the largest news organisation in Australia with 1400 staff, will “develop a proposal for board approval to reshape ABC News broadcast services to enable greater resourcing for digital services”.

The dimensions of the reshaping are unclear, but ABC News has already cut its budget by 2 per cent by axing 40 support and news operation jobs as part of the 200 jobs ABC managing director Michelle Guthrie cut in March. The job cuts will divert money into a contestable content fund open to ABC divisions and external program makers. A \$20 million fund will be available next financial year, rising to \$50 million. Staff are set to attend workshops in May for briefings about how to pitch ideas to the fund.

### 92.2.3 Facebook and fake news

A former employee of social media giant Facebook says the site is abdicating its responsibilities as a media company, as questions are raised over what the US firm is doing with Australians’ data (*Australian*, 11 April 2017). Adam Schrader, a journalist with Facebook before its entire newsroom was scrapped, told the ABC’s *Four Corners* program on 10 April the company was failing the public by letting fake news run rampant. “After the trending news team was let go, there was a big problem with sensational or factually incorrect or misleading news sources and trending topics. It was just a disaster,” he said. “I don’t think that I trust the general public’s ability to identify fake news, real news, you know, anything like that.”

The ex-journalist, whose job was handed to an algorithm, said Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg had declared Facebook was not a media company. “I think that’s a mistake, a kind of a denial. They’re definitely a media company and I think that they should try and treat themselves more as one in the future,” he said. As reported by the *Australian* late last year, Facebook had to issue a *mea culpa* to Australian advertising executives amid anger it allegedly overestimated video viewing for two years. According to Schrader, Facebook likely influenced the US election results, and its political power was a reason government security agencies went to such lengths to collect citizens’ data.

“I think that Facebook and algorithms are partially responsible, if not ... the main reason, why there’s this shift towards hyper-partisan belief systems these days,” he said. “(Algorithms) don’t have the ability to reason ... Artificial intelligence hasn’t gotten to the point where it can ... really function like a human brain and determine what has news value, what is good for the public, what is not.”

The *Four Corners* episode was reported by journalist Peter Grete, who said Facebook had been one of the most important tools in the campaign that ultimately led to his being freed from Egyptian prison, but the site had also censored his Facebook page. “Three years ago, I was imprisoned in Egypt on trumped-up terrorism charges. My own family used Facebook to help organise supporters, and keep them informed,” he said. “The Facebook page became a place anybody could find the latest on our case, and the underlying algorithms helped push it to people who might have been interested in supporting our cause.”



However, Greste said his Facebook page was suspended after an Egyptian court convicted him of terrorism charges, but the company refused to say why. Similarly, United Patriots Front leader Blair Cottrell said Facebook had censored the use of the word “Muslim” to the point where he had to start spelling it differently. “(Facebook has been) indispensable to the development of our organisation ... (But) if we’d explained an incident or a point of view and we’ve used the word Muslim, sometimes that registers in Facebook’s computer and they automatically delete it.”

Other incidents cited as examples of Facebook’s censorship include women named Isis whose accounts were deactivated in 2015 after being wrongly identified as being run by terrorists, and the iconic Vietnam War “napalm girl” image which was deleted by Facebook, which later apologised.

“The community standards are developed by (Zuckerberg’s) staff,” Rebecca McKinnon, internet freedom advocate for the New America Foundation told *Four Corners*. “The community didn’t develop those standards. They’re called community standards but they were developed by Facebook ... They also get input from governments. It’s not like the community got together and developed these standards.”

The site claims 1.8 billion users. However, IT security consultant Nik Cubrilovic warned, in five to 10 years users will need to be much better equipped to grapple with Facebook’s influence on their lives: “One of the problems in the privacy realm is that we only have one identity, and we can’t take back what we’ve already handed over.”



### 92.3.1 When Debbie dropped in up north

When word of the possibility of a tropical cyclone forming reached the *Townsville Bulletin* newsroom on 21 March, the editorial team started planning (NewsMediaWorks, 30 March 2017). Led by editor, Ben English, the team started to put together early plans for workflow and staff management. English said there were a lot of moving parts, a lot of planning in terms of what roads to use, how reporters were going to get to where they needed to be. Would they have enough supplies, access to power, phones, staff connections. “There was a whole host of logistical things going on in the background,” he said.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie formed on 25 March before making landfall as a category 4 cyclone on 28 March, near Airlie Beach. With winds in excess of 240km/h and dumping more than 200mm of rain along the north Queensland coast, Cyclone Debbie was the only Queensland cyclone so far this season. The *Bulletin* has 40 staff, with nine general reporters. Split into teams, reporters and photographers travelled along the coast to various centres that were likely targets. One team, led by journalist Domanii Cameron, was sent to Bowen, while John Anderson led the team in Airlie. The pair worked independently and filed to the Townsville newsroom.

The *Bulletin* team was aided by neighbouring News Corp regional mastheads, the *Burdekin Advocate* and *Bowen Independent*. The *Courier-Mail*, the Brisbane-based morning daily, had its own reporters in the affected areas, but the *Townsville Bulletin*’s material was available to boost its coverage. Kelsie Iorio, a reporter from the *Advocate*, was on her second day as a journalist when she was assigned to help cover the cyclone. After power was lost the *Bulletin* journalists were able to continue to file stories by phone and laptop because they were equipped with a portable generator – one of the results of the forward planning sessions.

“As this was an emergency, people depend on us as a regional newspaper for vital information,” English said. “We decided we would be digital first about everything, we weren’t going to hold back, and in fact that did remarkably well. Social media was an important feature of the *Bulletin*’s strategy to get the most recent news to its readers, which included regular tweets, posts and videos.” English said the response from readers was overwhelming. “We made a number of key decisions early and one was to be very active on Facebook and Twitter and we were essentially sharing with our social media audience as rapidly and richly as possible. If your audience is engaged, they have a really strong sense of ownership of the paper,” he said.

The most popular story shared through social media was a photo of Debbie, the Cockatoo. Named after the cyclone, the drenched and exhausted bird was photographed, then rescued by staff photographer Alix Sweeney. The photo received more than 500,000 impressions and the paper’s Facebook page gained more than 1000 likes.

While the printing and distribution of the *Bulletin* was largely unaffected, the *Bowen Independent* was unable to meet its regular schedule. Sending copy to Townsville, the *Bulletin* printed and bundled the *Independent*’s next edition, but road and rail closures delayed its distribution.

The *Whitsunday Times*, published for Airlie, was at ground zero of Cyclone Debbie. Huddled around a table in the paper’s office, the team was without power and water. Quick thinking from editor Sharon Smallwood had the team running a power inverter from one of the company cars into the editorial room, allowing the team to charge laptops and phones. As the eye of the storm passed, Smallwood and journalist Peter Carruthers were able to leave the office to gather stories and take photos and video.

“In the eye of cyclone we did manage to get photos. I stress I don’t recommend anyone go out in the middle of a cyclone. However, the eye was over 100km wide so we had quite a time window to get out safely and back,” Smallwood said. Some of the stories covered include the looting of a local restaurant and two iconic concrete mermaids being washed into the sea. While the paper went to the printers on 28 March, accessibility issues prevented it from being delivered to the Whitsundays the next day.

### 92.3.2 Launceston: *Examiner* marks 175 years

Launceston’s daily, the *Examiner*, turned 175 years old on 12 March. The paper started as a weekly on 12 March 1842 and appeared twice a week from 12 October that year. It became a tri-weekly on 4 January 1853 and a daily on 21 December 1877. [Note: The NewsMediaWorks article of 16 March 2017 about the *Examiner*’s 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary had a string of factual errors about important dates in its history.]

### 92.3.3 New England newspapers

**Barry Blair** reports: The *Guyra Argus* closed its doors as a separate publication on 12 August 2016. It is still published, but as an insert in the *Armidale Express*. In Guyra, a locally produced community newsletter, the *Guyra Gazette*, began in February this year. It is published by the Guyra Adult Learning Association.

The *Walcha News* closed its office sometime in 2016. The *Walcha News* local contact is maintained via one locally-based mobile phone. According to website information, all New England newspapers (from Walcha to Tenterfield, including the *Armidale Express*) are edited by Laurie Bullock, the former *Inverell Times* editor.

The *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth, of 25 March 2017 contained 64 pages plus a 56-page glossy “Domain” real estate magazine. The *Armidale Express* of 24 March contained 28 pages including four pages of “Domain” (newsprint). There has been no household delivery of the *Armidale Express* for some months. Only major pickup points are in New England. For about a year a group of New England real estate agents has published an independent glossy magazine, generally fortnightly and generally 28 pages.

### 92.3.4 Kalgoorlie: Female reporter stays put

A *Kalgoorlie Miner* reporter, Monique Preston, refused to leave the courtroom when Aboriginal leaders, including a local pastor, ordered her out of a trial because she is a woman (*Australian*, 3

April 2017). Preston held her nerve for two days running after she was ordered out of the Kalgoorlie courthouse by Aboriginal pastor Geoffrey Stokes, who was on trial. He allegedly fired a rifle over the heads of workers in a dispute over mining on traditional lands. His lawyer, Brendan Slattery, did not make a formal application to the court, but backed his client's request for all the women present in the courtroom to leave. Why? Because the male witness wanted to speak about culturally sensitive Aboriginal men's business and could not do so with any women present.

Preston, 40, who has been a reporter on and off for 15 years, in between stints working in a winery, a cheese shop and managing a restaurant, sat defiantly in court, joined by female colleagues from the *Miner*. Magistrate John O'Sullivan has reserved his verdict in the case until June.



## 4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

### 92.4.1 Letters to the editor (2): Getting your point across

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: This is the second in a series of articles about letters to the editor and the nation's keenest contributors of such items to newspapers. I am drawing on my "letters to the editor" clippings file that goes back to 1974. [The first article in this ANHG series appeared as item 91.4.5 in the previous ANHG.] In 1979 the Letters Editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* wrote a column called "Post Script" mainly to provide readers with advice about writing letters to the editor or to provide readers with comments about issues arising from the publication of recent letters. Here's the column from 29 March 1979, p.6, headed "Getting your point across" and sub-titled "It's a stiff contest of wills".

The style of letter that the Letters Editor most likes to receive makes its points simply and briefly. Flourishes and fine writing can often cloud the issue. Repetition only makes the readers yawn. It takes up space which another letter could be occupying more profitably. These are faultless principles. Try putting them to a letter-writer when he is convinced every word he has written is a gem, and every paragraph an indispensable step in his final argument.

We are not tough editors. To cram every letter into a bald minimum of words would spoil the flavour of our diversified letters column. Probably more than half the letters printed are exactly as they come from the writer's pen or typewriter. (We are very happy to have them typed and double-spaced too.) But—yes, some letters do have to be edited. And our rule is that changes have to be approved by the letter's author. Only recently we lost an interesting opinion about affairs in Queensland as the author, Mr Jet Black of the New Wave group The Strangers, had already left Sydney for London. Sometimes we get our London and other overseas offices to check letters.

Some correspondents are easygoing about suggested changes. Some are grateful. Some fret. In a stiff contest of wills they demand we print the whole letter or nothing. Sometimes we lose a good letter that way. Mostly we reach commonsense agreement. One dissatisfied customer recently wrote: "I would like to first say that it is with the greatest reluctance that I submit an abridged version of the original letter. I am sure that the letter has lost both information and impact." The original was long and muddled. And even the re-submitted version required three vital corrections. Strong letters are only strong if firmly based on fact.

For all our checking we can still fall in. We fell in unexpectedly with a letter in the series about x-ray perils. Mr M. Bills, of Allawah, a radiographer, put forward his case for the registration of radiographers, based on American experience. His own qualifications include those of ARRT (American Register of Radiography Technicians) and ASRT (American Society of Radiography Technicians). We made a few changes to shorten his letter and had his approval. One change we neglected to check. It introduced, quite innocently, the

word “technician” as a description of a radiographer. Unwittingly we struck a sore point. Radiographers in America may well be called Radiology Technicians. Here a lot of them feel strongly that technician is an inappropriate term—and we landed it right in the middle of Mr Bills’s letter. Sorry. We should have checked more thoroughly.

We do have a conscience and our pencil can hover before we settle on a suggested cut. So letter writers must not worry if we get into finicky discussions over the telephone about the wording in a letter or its length. We just want to get it right. Above all they should not worry about having their prose ruined. An outsider’s impartial eye can usually tell whether a writer is putting over his point to the best advantage or whether he has muffled his argument. In suggesting changes we are only trying to do justice to the letter and to the quality of the page.

#### 92.4.2 What do you think this is, Bush Week?

**John Dunnet**, of Toronto, NSW, writes: “The idea of a glorified gunyah in Centennial Park is nothing less than tommyrot!” That was the view of one outspoken country newspaperman in 1919 about a proposed gala exposition to be staged in Sydney at the beginning of 1920 to feature the produce, promise and potential of regional New South Wales. In a long diatribe against the untrustworthy inhabitants of the “City”, John Joseph Sullivan, of the *Cowra Guardian*, warned fellow members of the NSW Country Press Association at its 1919 conference about the dangers of such a venture. He said the idea was “degrading to the intelligence of the country districts” and urged the meeting to have nothing to do with an event bearing the name “Bush Week”. But fellow country newspapermen did not share the dark views of the motives of city slickers and the vote to allocate 750 pounds to the enterprise was approved.

Now, people living in rural and regional Australia are generally well aware of the divide between “the city and the bush”. Rarely a day goes by when there is not another political or media reminder that the Australia’s population today is one of the most urbanised in the world with something like two-thirds living and working in the major metropolitan areas. The roughly 34 per cent of people who continue to live in the “real Australia” producing agricultural wealth, harvesting the seas, managing timber resources, mining, processing and manufacturing or conducting education and research facilities often chafe at the apparent inequities which are the lot of a political or social minority. What country area does not have a long list of infrastructure, services and lifestyle shortcomings which seem unfair and unjustified?

You may think the so-called city-country divide was not always so... but this is not the case. In the early 1900s more than 40 per cent of the population lived and worked in “the bush”. Indeed, 48 per cent of the population could be found in communities with fewer than 3,000 people. And, if you lived in a big city—say, Sydney—it was likely that you had relations and friends who lived in a country area. The early part of the 20th century saw NSW dotted with a great many small, but busy towns and districts. The road system may have been pretty average but the railway network reached near and far, carrying passengers and freight to the coastal cities and ports. The telephone was making gradually inroads into the regions. There was reason for optimism in the future of agriculture. However, there were also some disturbing signs that change was on the way. More people were beginning to leave rural areas for the prospects and opportunities that the metropolitan areas appeared to offer. And governments, both State and Federal, did not seem to be giving the country areas their due.

It was a time when almost every small community had a local newspaper. There would have been close to 200 such publications operating in NSW. The proprietors of these worthy organs were independent, hard-working, opinionated and patriotic. Above all, they were proud of their districts and keen promoters of rural agriculture and industry. The “local” was truly a mirror of its circulation areas and a forum for ideas and discussion. But, country papers were doing it tough at the time; faced with a serious newsprint shortages and rising costs, along with the economic impact of a serious drought.

Immediately after the horror, hardship and human losses of the Great War (World War I), country newspapers everywhere were looking towards a happier future. An idea, initiated in the *Grenfell Record* on 12 February 1918, to highlight and demonstrate the importance of the bush to NSW and Australia was enthusiastically taken up by many papers and community leaders across the state.

What better to proudly show the strength and depth of country NSW than by staging a big festival in Sydney! Despite the hard times the NSW Country Press Association backed the plan in 1919 and “Bush Week” was born.

As mentioned earlier, it should be said that not all proprietors were keen to spend the £750 (\$1500) allocated by the Association to the city-based organising body “The Bush Week Council of Control”. Cowra’s J.J. Sullivan was opposed because he saw it as a scheme to draw country people to the city to extract their money.

“If there is anything more than another to damn the whole scheme it is to call it Bush Week,” was his view. But Sullivan’s amendment failed and the recommendation succeeded. From the Country Press perspective, the event offered an opportunity to address a growing problem of population drift to the city and to highlight the employment and investment opportunities offered by regional areas. (It should be noted that the name Bush Week was not overly popular, but no one could come up with a better alternative).



From *Farmer & Settler*, 13 February 1920. Image: Trove

The city cousins showed themselves to be keen supporters of the project. Major firms, such as Farmer’s, committed themselves to the idea. And, after the event Farmer’s issued a special booklet, *A Souvenir of Bush Week*. The event was planned to run for as many as four days in Sydney from 9 February 1920. When it went ahead, the attractions included an exhibition in Sydney Town Hall, impressive street decorations in George Street and Martin Place, featuring flags and arches displaying produce, shop window arrangements, a three-day spectacle at the Sydney Sports Ground, and more, including a parade through the city streets. Farmer’s department store was festooned with decorations celebrating the productivity of agriculture and industry.

The success of Bush Week was such that it generated its own memories, stories, opinions and a typical Australian deprecation (probably to the chagrin of J.J. Sullivan). An outcome of the excitement was the emergence of a new laconic idiomatic expression: “**What do you think this is, Bush Week?**” The figurative sense of the phrase took hold as a more or less indignant response to a city-slicker asking a silly question or trying to pull a fast one.

An interesting excursion into the story of Bush Week is contained in a blog called *Ozwords* published in October 2016. *Ozwords* is from the Australian National Dictionary Centre, a joint project of the ANU and Oxford University Press. The author, Julia Robinson, traces the journey of Bush Week from its inception in Grenfell to its realisation in Sydney in 1920 - and the emergence of the term as an expression that implicitly recognises the Australian stereotypes of city slicker and bush bumpkin. The pejorative association that Bush Week conjured was quickly evident. A scathing observation was made in the *Gundagai Independent* (16 February 1920) after the event. "... the whole damn thing is an insult to the bush".

Ozwords researcher Julie Robinson traces the evolution of the term through the years but notes that the term has also been appropriated by university students in Melbourne. She found a more nostalgic and sympathetic treatment in the staging of a Bush Week festival in Moss Vale (*Southern Highland News*, 9 March 2015). Bush Week, it seems, is here to stay.

### 92.4.3 John Joseph Sullivan dies

*Sun*, Sydney, Monday, 3 August 1936, p.14: Cowra, Monday: Proprietor of the *Cowra Guardian* for the past 16 years, Mr John Joseph Sullivan, died in a private hospital, a few days after admission, at the age of 56. A native of Monaro, Mr Sullivan obtained his first journalistic experience in the office of the *Cooma Express* under the late Augustus Miller, MLA. With two brothers, he established the *Gundagai Independent*, later acquiring the *Coonamble Independent*, which he conducted for 10 years. Afterwards he owned the *Leeton Irrigator* and then the *Cowra Guardian*. Mr Sullivan also started daily papers at Bondi and Orange, but eventually disposes of them and devoted all his time to the *Cowra Guardian*.

He was several times president of the Country Press. He was a constant advocate of closer settlement and formed the Advance Cowra League. A widow and two sons survive.

### 92.4.4 Death of William Kippen, 70 years with the *Queensland Times*

*Queensland Times*, 1 February 1940, p.6: Mr. William Kippen, one of the pioneers in the newspaper industry in Queensland, and who, for 70 years, was actively associated with the production of the *Queensland Times*, died in his 90th year yesterday afternoon at his residence in Syntax-street, Ipswich. Mr. Kippen became one of the proprietors, of the newspaper in 1877 and succeeded to the chairmanship of the board of the directors in 1914, a position he filled until 1938.

Born in Aberfeldy, Perthshire, Scotland, Mr. Kippen came to Australia as a boy with his parents. At a farm at Texas he lost his father through drowning, and with his mother he made the hazardous trip to Ipswich by horse and sulky. He secured employment with the *Ipswich Herald* (estab. 1859), which shortly afterwards (1861) changed its name to the *Queensland Times*. In 1877, with the late Mr. A. J. Stephenson, he joined in partnership with the late Mr. Hugh Parkinson. and until a few years ago he was actively associated with the business. Mr. Kippen passed through the whole of the operations of newspaper production. He was at times "printer's devil", compositor, proof-reader, floor hand, make-up man, leader writer, and finally Chairman of Directors.

His connection with the paper, lasting for 70 years, is probably unique. Mr. Kippen was one of the first journalists in Queensland to learn shorthand. His versatility as a newspaperman was shown by the fact that in the hand-setting days he frequently put his leading articles into type as he went along because pressure of time prevented him from writing it first.

Throughout his life Mr. Kippen was noted for his innate modesty. Of his own accomplishments, and the help he gave in a quiet way to many citizens, he would never speak. Those who were privileged to know him learned to admire his lofty conception of citizenship and his. unflagging moral courage. Always industrious himself, he greatly admired industry and devotion to duty; and the welfare of every member of his staff always was assured of his genuine interest. His sound judgment, wide experience, and honesty were attributes which meant much to the *Queensland Times* in its progress,

Just over 60 years ago the late Mr. Kippen married Miss Mary Broughton, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Broughton. Mrs. Kippen died in August 1938. Except for a period of about 12 years at Southport, Mr. Kippen spent the greater part of his life in his home in Syntax-street, where he practised his favourite hobby, the growing of rose trees. The late Mr. Kippen is survived

by two sons: Messrs. James Kippen, Waghorn-street, and Norman Kippen, Thorn-street, and two daughters, Mesdames C. W. Aylward and F. Lockhead, Syntax-street. There are seven grandchildren. The funeral will take place to-day to the Ipswich Cemetery.

[**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: On 17 April 1979 at the *Queensland Times*, I interviewed Norol Devon (Kip) Kippen, a grandson of the above William Kippen. One or two things in the obituary published above are not strictly accurate. William Kippen became a run boy for the *QT* in 1862 and a printer's devil some months later (not in 1860 or 1861). N.D. Kippen retired as deputy editor of the newspaper on 27 November 1980, ending the 118-year link between the Kippen family and the *QT*. Kip's son, Andrew, became national news editor for the APN group of newspapers.]

#### 92.4.5 Tasmania: Newly digitised papers on Trove

**Ian Morrison** writes (NLA website, 30 March 2017): The latest Tasmanian additions to Trove, funded by the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, include more than 30 titles, spanning the 1820s to the 1920s. Trove now provides access to more than 100 of the approximately 130 newspapers published in Tasmania before 1954.

The most significant new addition is the suite of titles that began with the merger of the *Tasmanian* (Hobart, 1827-29) and *Murray's Austral-Asiatic Review* (Hobart, 1828) to form the *Tasmanian and Austral-Asiatic Review*. It went through a dozen title changes, splits and mergers until its eventual absorption by the *Colonial Times* in 1845. Its principal editor, Robert Lathrop Murray (1777-1850), was a colourful controversialist who indulged in petty personal vendettas as fiercely as he engaged with broad political issues. Historian E. Morris Miller described him as "a master of literary finesse and insinuation" but one who "frequently dissipated the points of his argument in vaporizings" (*Pressmen and Governors*, pp.9-11).

Other newly added titles from this period include:

- *Independent* (Launceston, 1831-35)
- *Bent's News and Tasmanian Three-Penny Register* (Hobart, 1836-38)
- *Irish Exile and Freedom's Advocate* (Hobart, 1850-51)

Also among the new additions are four short-lived titles that deepen Trove's regional coverage of Tasmania:

- *Mount Lyell Standard and Strahan Gazette* (Queenstown, 1896-1902)
- *Banner* (Strahan, 1900-01)
- *Midland News* (Oatlands, 1902-04)
- *Northern Standard* (Ulverstone, 1921-23)
- *Tasmanian Punch*

A highlight is a group of titles loosely described as 'Tasmanian Punch':

- *Tasmanian Punch* (1866)
- *Hobart Town Punch* (1867-68)
- *Fun, or The Tasmanian Charivari* (1867)
- *Tasmanian Punch* (1869-70, 1877-1878)
- *Hobart Town Punch* (1878)

*Tasmanian Punch* was among the earliest of many imitators of the iconic London-based satirical magazine *Punch* (1841-2002), characterised by its erudite wit and visually complex cartoons. Although short-lived in comparison with *Melbourne Punch* (1855-1925), *Tasmanian Punch* and its successors were notable contributors to the political and social debates of the time. The editors explicitly saw themselves as competing with the major newspapers: "We mean going it this time, my boys!" depicts *Punch* beating other newspapers (including the *Mercury* and the *Evening Mail*) in a velocipede race.

#### 92.4.6 And, somewhere, somehow, a printing press

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: When the eleven ships that comprised the First Fleet sailed from Portsmouth on 13 May 1787, the officers on board included the first three governors of the colony of New South Wales. Captain Arthur Phillip, the commander, had the honour of serving as the first governor; the second-in-command of *Sirius*, Captain John Hunter, who was destined to be the second governor, became the first publisher of printed 'news' in the colony; and the third governor, Lieutenant Philip



Gidley King, became the colony's first newspaper publisher. The equipment and stores sent out with the First Fleet included: 'guns, cannonades, ammunition; *barrels* of flour, pease, rice, *firkins* of butter, *tierces* of beef, pork; *casks* of water and beer; *chauldrons* of coal, *chords* of wood, *bags* of bread; portable soup; cheese; *Hogsheads* of seeds; beads, looking glasses and other trifles for natives encountered; tools, agricultural implements; spirits, medical supplies, bandages, surgical implements; handcuffs, leg irons, chains'. Among the tools and implements were 700 steel spades, 700 iron shovels, 700 garden-hoes, 700 felling axes, 747,000 nails, 504 saw files and much, much more. A prefabricated house was constructed for the governor to specific measurements and packed flat. Bricklayers and labourers stowed 5000 bricks on board. And, somewhere, somehow, a printing press and type founts were included.

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

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

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

[THE ABOVE IS AN EXTRACT FROM ROD KIRKPATRICK'S *DAILIES IN THE COLONIAL CAPITALS: A SHORT HISTORY*. IT IS NOW AVAILABLE AT A MUCH REDUCED PRICE. SEE BELOW.]

## ***DAILIES IN THE COLONIAL CAPITALS***

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### **92.4.7 New digitised newspapers**

Recent additions to the digitised newspapers in Trove are: the *Kyneton Guardian* (Vic: 1870-1880) and *Bent's Monthly Advertiser* (Hobart, Tas: 1828).

### **92.4.8 *Pacific Islands Monthly* digitised**

The National Library recently completed the digitisation of the entire run of the Pacific Islands monthly (PIM) magazine, from August 1930 to June 2000. Founded in Sydney by New Zealand-born journalist Robbie Robson, the magazine was originally published by Pacific Publications with

£1000 worth of £1 shares. The first issue was in newspaper format and boasted 12 pages. By its 17th issue, in December 1931, it had become a magazine and by its later life, a glossy colour magazine.

In 1930, the *Pacific Islands Monthly* was the only place to go to read about the islanders' current affairs, politics, weather, social to shipping news, it had no peer. It was also the place to go for the equally important news: which tinned biscuits survived best in the tropics? Or which refrigerator was 'a marvel of modern science' and 'the miracle of ice from heat'? Many of these advertisements told the real story of island life and today provide us with valuable insight into a time long gone. Browse, search and view all issues of PIM on Trove or you can learn more in Julie Whiting's wonderful blog post (source: posting to Australian Media History list, 1 April 2017).



## 5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

### 92.5.1 Books

**Farram, Steven,** *Charles James Kirkland: The Life and Times of a Pioneer Newspaperman in the Top End of Australia*. Darwin: Uniprint (Charles Darwin University), 2017. 240pp. Paperback. \$30. Charles Kirkland arrived in Palmerston (Darwin) in 1878, less than a decade after the settlement's establishment. Kirkland proved to be one of the Northern Territory's most enduring and successful pioneers and was one of the best-known individuals in the Palmerston/Darwin of his day. He had a long career as editor and owner of the *Northern Territory Times and Gazette*, but during his half century in the Territory capital he was also active in its social, civic and political life. As a result, Kirkland became well-acquainted with all the major figures in the community. A biography of Kirkland is long overdue. This book not only tells the story of Kirkland, but is brimming with detail about many of the major and minor characters who also played a part in the Territory's early history. [ANHG has one free copy it can supply for \$15 post and packing.]

**Smee, Ben, and Walsh, Christopher A.,** *Crocs in the Cabinet – Northern Territory politics: An instruction manual on how not to run a government*, Hachette Australia, 2016, paperback, 320 pages, \$30. The deputy editor and a political journalist at the *NT News* chronicle the dysfunctional NT Country Liberal Party government of 2012 to 2016. The narrative includes many extracts from articles in the *NT News* and includes 16 illustrations of *NT News* front pages. It includes references to relationships and contacts between the *NT News* and NT politicians, and how the *NT News* came by and developed stories.

### 92.5.2 Articles

The latest issue of *Australian Journalism Review*—Vol 38 (2), December 2016—is a themed issue, “Rethinking news media and local government”. The themed articles fill pages 5 to 98.

**Hess, Kristy, and Waller, Lisa,** “Rethinking news media and local government: Journalism, politics and symbolic power”.

**Freeman, Julie, and Hutchins, Brett,** “Digital media and local democracy: News media, local governments and civic action”.

**Sissons, Helen,** “Journalists versus public relations practitioners: Power and agency at a media conference”.

**Waller, Lisa, Hess, Kristy, and Demetrious, Kristin,** “Twitter feeders: An analysis of dominant 'voices' and patterns in a local government mosque controversy”.

**Strong, Catherine,** “Local authority codes of conduct: Anti-conflict and anti-media?”.

**English, Peter, Fynes-Clinton, Jane, and Barnes, Renee,** “Roles, routines, and responsibilities: The 3Rs of educating journalists for local government reporting”.

**Simmons, Peter, and Erskine, Victoria**, “Public mission as strategy for future Australian local government communication”.

**Mitchell, Chris**, “Incisive interviews and objective reporting will never go out of date”, *Australian*, 1 May 2017, Media section, p.25. Extracts (intro; and conclusion): “The pre-eminence of opinion journalism is destroying both the profession and our politics.” And: “TV and radio news directors need to cut the pejoratives and loaded adjectives from their news bulletins and be rigid about excising comment from straight news and newspaper editors ought to concentrate on breaking news. After all, electronic media have always followed the news lead provided each morning by the capital city daily papers.”

**Morrison, Michael, and Lisa Clausen**, “The Gardener & The Dame”, *Weekend Australian*, 15-16 April 2017, pp.18-22. Edited extract from their book, *Cruden Farm Garden Diaries*, Lantern Books.] Over four decades Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, widow of newspaper proprietor Sir Keith Murdoch, and mother of media magnate Rupert Murdoch, cultivated a magnificent country garden—and an extraordinary friendship.

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