AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER

No. 4   **February 2000**

4.1 NEWSLETTER
From the next issue, the Newsletter will be edited by Dr Rod Kirkpatrick, a Senior Lecturer in Journalism at the University of Queensland. Rod wishes to encourage contributions and feedback. His address is Department of Journalism, University of Queensland, Brisbane QLD 4072, or r.kirkpatrick@mailbox.uq.edu.au.

This issue is edited by Victor Isaacs, PO Box E383, Kingston ACT 2604, 02-6257 1742, ahdb@compuserve.com.

4.2 CARING FOR NEWSPAPERS by Wendy Smith
The Problem
Newspapers are important publications, and the information they contain is likely to be needed by researchers well into the distant future. However, because the chief reason for their existence is to provide current information - most of us expect to read a newspaper then discard it – they are generally produced on one of the cheapest types of paper available.

Inevitably, newspapers only have a short life expectancy because the paper contains significant amounts of acidic chemicals. These in time make it brittle and weak. In addition, there are other well documented enemies of newspapers which make their survival forever unlikely:
- continued exposure to light and to high temperatures - which causes loss of strength high humidity - which encourages the growth of mould
- animal and insect pests - that chew or gnaw newspapers to almost total destruction
- poor storage and handling by humans - which causes physical damage or loss: tears; holes; detached and lost pages.

There is another enemy in the modern electronic world. Some newspapers and newspaper-like materials are now only being published in an 'online', electronic format. Unlike traditional newspapers published in 'hardcopy' on paper, they have no physical format to preserve. Electronic storage is very expensive and involves sophisticated technologies. The long-term survival prospects for newspapers published online is even more uncertain than that of our current paper copies.

What you can do
There is no one single 'best' solution to preserve newspapers, so you need to consider:
- why you want to keep your newspapers 'forever'
- how the newspapers are going to be used
- whether it is more important to keep the newspaper itself or to ensure that the information is preserved.

To keep original copies in good condition, some things you can do are:
- make photocopies of the most important information on good quality paper (most Australian made A4 copy paper is quite satisfactory) and use the copies instead of the original paper

- store the original copies in a dry, cool and dark environment - opened out and flat, and wrapped or boxed for further protection (because newsprint will automatically become brittle with age, boxing rather than binding of newspapers is recommended)
- store loose cuttings in plastic 'page protectors', rather than in scrapbooks. The page protectors that you can buy nowadays are made out of quite inert plastics, unlike the PVC of earlier times. Adhere the cuttings if necessary to good quality paper, with a relatively inert adhesive or glue (not sticky tape).

Remember that you are saving the papers because they are important to you. Newspapers rarely have any monetary value. You can be fairly certain that there will be a library somewhere in Australia that will have a copy of your newspaper, either in original or microfilm format. However, if you think your particular paper might be unique, please check with your State Library to confirm it, and they may then be able to help you to preserve it.

What libraries do
For libraries and other organisations who have a responsibility to preserve and provide access to the published historical record, the challenge is to preserve the 'information' that the newspapers contain. Since it is very difficult to preserve the original object itself, this means that most newspapers are copied onto a more stable material, or into a more stable format. Because of the expense of copying, it is important that it done just once, but done properly to international standards.

Microfilm is the current accepted way of creating a more permanent copy, and many Australian newspapers are microfilmed for preservation on an ongoing basis. For electronic materials new methods of digital archiving are being explored.

Whatever method of copying is chosen, it is important that a master copy is created and stored in a secure environment, that information about its existence is made known through library catalogues or other means and that access to user copies is guaranteed. This means that the information, if not the newspaper itself, can be preserved 'forever'.
E-Mail: Wendy.Smith@alianet.alia.org.au

4. 3 FUTURE RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY
by Ross Harvey
The *Local Newspapers – Local Identities* conference held at Chiltern, Victoria, on 1-3 October 1999 included a session with the title *Forum on Future Projects*. One of the themes of this conference was gaps in research in Australian newspaper and journalism, and several speakers had noted some lacunae in the field. (Papers presented at the conference are to be published in the *Bulletin* of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand in 2000.)

Five speakers gave short presentations at the *Forum on Future Projects* session. Gordon Beavan posed the question 'what is a local newspaper?', indicating that they were a dying breed and arguing that newspaper historians need to pay more attention to the local xeroxed A4 newsheets which are supplanting them. Wallace Kirsop noted the need for indexing of booktrade advertisements in journals and newspapers, for more case studies of particular communities such as that presented at the conference by Leigh Edmonds on the media in Dimboola, for further work on immigrant

communities and the part they played in the regional press, and for a union list of printing trade directories. Elizabeth Morrison reported on concerns about the preservation of and location of registers for sources for media history in Australia, including the newspapers themselves, and business records and personal papers. Brian Hubber suggested that the location register could also extend to other sources, including buildings, equipment, films, and oral history. Victor Isaacs spoke about the need for an Australian Newspaper Historical Society which would aim to promote interest and research into the history of newspapers in Australia, to publish a newsletter, and promote the collection and preservation of Australian newspapers.

A Historical Dictionary of Australian Newspapers
The major part of this session was devoted to a discussion of a historical dictionary of Australian newspapers. This has been on the agenda of the HOBA (History of the Book in Australia) project for several years. Ross Harvey presented a brief summary of his presentation given earlier in the conference.

Defining the term *newspaper* is probably the essential first step. Next, the bibliographical listings of Australian newspapers which currently exist must be updated and refined. This will require that agreement is reached about what bibliographic data should be included. This dictionary will have to be a collaborative product – the task is simply too large. It is probably best developed as an online database, one which is flexible enough to accommodate a wide variety of data and which can readily be updated and expanded. It will probably use the World Wide Web as its host and also as a delivery mechanism. At a later date products in other formats, such as printed works, could be made available from the database.

Questions which need to be addressed include: who will host the database? who will be responsible for database maintenance? what editorial processes need to be in place to ensure consistency of the database? what technology and software will be used? A pilot study will probably be required to resolve any logistical and other problems which will inevitably arise.

Discussion by the participants at the Forum raised the following points: a planning phase would be required in order to define matters such as scope and timetable; chronological limitation should be considered, but problems would arise of defining this limitation; a national working party should be set up; an early step should be to ascertain what is already available (use existing knowledge as the starting point); the possibility of industry financial support should be investigated; the National Library of Australia's union list of newspapers could be used as a basis, and similar state listings should also be investigated; the project should set an end date (five years was suggested).

An interim planning group was established:
Ross Harvey	rossharvey@csu.edu.au
Denis Cryle	d.cryle@cqu.edu.au
Wallace Kirsop	Meredith.Sherlock@arts.monash.edu.au
Bill Tully	b.tully@nla.gov.au
Victor Isaacs	ahdb@compuserve.com
Victoria Emery	v.emery@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au
Elizabeth Morrison	lizmor@netspace.net.au
Ken Sanz	Ken_Sanz@aue.salvationarmy.org

Rod Kirkpatrick   r.kirkpatrick@mailbox.uq.edu.au
Sonia Mycak   s.mycak@unsw.edu.au
Stephen Herrin   Stephen.Herrin@arts.monash.edu.au

Anyone interested in participating should contact Ross Harvey
(rossharvey@csu.edu.au).

4.4 INDEXES TO AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS additional information from
Tom Darragh, Paul Eggert, Rod Kirkpatrick, Bill Tully, Alan Ventress,
Mark Hildebrand and Ettie Pullman.
Further to Newsletter no. 3, item 3.7, further general indexes have come to light. For
convenience the following list also repeats entries from item 3.7. The origin of some
indexes has been guessed. As in item 3.7 this listing does **not** include indexes only of
births, deaths and marriages, nor does it include internet or CD-ROM indexes.

TOWN	PAPER	LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY	CARDS PREPARED BY PAPER	LIBRARIES AVAILABLE AT
Sydney	*Sydney Gazette*	1803-42		National SL NSW SL Victoria
Sydney	(1st) *Australian*	1824-42		National SL NSW
Sydney	*Empire*	1854-55		SL NSW
Sydney	*Illustrated Sydney News*	1853-89		SL NSW
Sydney	*Sydney Morning Herald*	1842-45 1885 1900-18 1927-date	1927-61	National SL NSW
Sydney	*Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph*	1910-75 (NSW Parliamentary Library index)		National SL NSW
Sydney	*Bulletin*	1880-1962?	1963-65	National SL NSW SL Victoria
Sydney	*Australian Town & Country Journal*	1870-1914		National SL NSW
Sydney	*Sydney Mail*		1860-1938	National SL NSW
Bathurst	Various	1848-57 1859-61 1872-1922		SL NSW
Bombala	*Bombala Times*	1912-20		SL NSW
Cowra	*Cowra Free Press*	1878-1937		SL NSW

TOWN	PAPER	LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY	CARDS PREPARED BY PAPER	LIBRARIES AVAILABLE AT
Deniliquin	*Pastoral Times*	1859-1875		SL NSW
Gloucester & Raymond Terrace	*Examiner*	1893-1925		SL NSW (on order)
Kiama	*Kiama Independent* & others	1858?-1957		SL NSW
Liverpool	*Liverpool Herald*	1898-1907		SL NSW
Maitland	*Hunter River Gazette*	1841-42		National, SL NSW Newcastle?
Maitland	*Maitland Mercury*	1843-44		National, SL NSW Newcastle?
Maitland?	*Hunter Valley Register*	1843-1905		SL NSW
Newcastle	*Newcastle Morning Herald*	1861-1984		National Newcastle SL NSW SL Victoria
Shoalhaven district	Various	1856-66 1867-73		SL NSW SL Victoria
Taree	*Manning River News*	?		?
Taree	*Manning River Gazette*	?		?
Wauchope	*Hastings Shire Gazette*	1975-80		SL NSW
Wollongong	*Illawarra Mercury*	1856-1900		SL NSW
Melbourne	*Port Phillip Gazette*	1838-45		SL NSW SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Port Phillip Herald*	1840		SL NSW SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Herald*		Jan-Sept 1849 1910-70	SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Herald, Age, Argus*		*Herald*? War Index 1914-19	SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Yeoman and Australian acclimatiser*		1861-64	SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Australasian*		1864-1933 1937-47 1950-57	SL Victoria

TOWN	PAPER	LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY	CARDS PREPARED BY PAPER	LIBRARIES AVAILABLE AT
Melbourne	*Melbourne Advertiser*	1838		SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Age*		In Melbourne *Herald* index 1910-25	SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Age*		1868-78 1892-99 1950-57 1959-60 1962-73	National SL NSW SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Argus*		1845-69 1910-49	National SL NSW SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Newsday*		1969-70	SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Star*		1933-36	SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Sun News-Pictorial*		1929-1970	SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Daily News*		1849	SL Victoria
Melbourne	*Punch & Table Talk*		1904-29 (Profiles series)	SL Victoria SL NSW
Melbourne	*Port Phillip Patriot*	1845-46		SL Victoria
Ararat	*Ararat and Pleasant Creek Advertiser*	1857-1924 1928 1949-83		SL Victoria
Ballarat	*Ballarat Star*	1855-69		SL Victoria
Ballarat	*Ballarat Times*	1854-55		SL Victoria
Bendigo	*Bendigo Advertiser*	In *Annals of Bendigo* 1851-1987		SL Victoria
Creswick / Clunes	*Creswick and Clunes Advertiser*	May 1859-December 1861		SL Victoria
Dandenong	*Dandenong Journal*	1876-82 1910-15 1919-21 Jan 1928-Feb 1931		SL Victoria
Geelong	*Geelong Advertiser*	1840-Nov 1850 1870-81 1966-67 1979		Geelong Historical Records Centre SL Victoria
Gisborne	*Gisborne Express*	1858-62		SL Victoria SL NSW

TOWN	PAPER	LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY	CARDS PREPARED BY PAPER	LIBRARIES AVAILABLE AT
Kyneton	*Kyneton Guardian*	1856-1862 in *History of Kyneton*		SL Victoria
Kyneton	*Kyneton Observer*	1863-1900 in *History of Kyneton*		SL Victoria
Nathalia	*Nathalia Herald*	1884-1900 in *Nathalia's history in Print*		SL Victoria
Nhill	*Nhill Free Press*	1900-10 1919-50		SL Victoria
Mildura	*Sunraysia Daily*	1920-39		SL Victoria
Portland, Vic	*Portland Mercury & Normanby Advertiser*	1842-43		SL Victoria
Sale	*Gippsland Times*	1861-1900		National SL Victoria
Warrnambool	*Warrnambool Examiner*	1853-59		SL Victoria
Brisbane	*Brisbane Courier*	1888		SL Queensland SL NSW SL Victoria
Brisbane	*Queenslander*	1888 (by SLQ)		SL Queensland
Maryborough, Qld	*Chronicle*	1900-07		SL NSW
Rockhampton	*Morning Bulletin*	1977- (by UCQ)		Uni Central Qld
Toowoomba	*Toowoomba Chronicle*	1867-1965, 1980- (by USQ)		Uni Southern Qld
Toowoomba	*Darling Downs Gazette*	1860-1922		Uni Southern Qld
Adelaide	*Observer*	1880-15 (by SL SA		SL SA
Adelaide	*Advertiser*		1932-35	National SL NSW SL SA
Port Augusta	*Port Augusta Dispatch*	1877-82 (by SL SA)		SL SA
Perth	*Daily News*		1933-47	National
Devonport	*North West Post*	1887-1916		SL NSW (on order)
Launceston	*Examiner*	1977-88		SL Tasmania, Launceston

TOWN	PAPER	LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY	CARDS PREPARED BY PAPER	LIBRARIES AVAILABLE AT
Darwin	*North Australian*	1883-1900		SL NSW
Darwin	*NT Times*	1873-1914		SL NSW
Darwin	*Darwin Sun*	1981-82 (by NT Library)		NT Library

Some of the above information is drawn from INDEXES IN AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES: A TOWARDS FEDERATION 2001 SURVEY by Margaret Henty and Rachel Jakimow and NEWSPAPERS: A SELECTION by Ettie Pullman (for details see item 4.8 below).

4.5 VICTORIAN NEWSPAPER PRESERVATION
On 6 January 2000 the Victorian Premier announced grants for 66 local history projects. According to the *Herald-Sun* of 7 January 2000, p.22, and the Public Records Office of Victoria website (www.prov.vic.gov.au) these include:
* Ararat Genealogical Society, $5000 for conservation and microfilming of *The Ararat Advertiser*
* Coleraine and District Historical Society, $1800 for microfilming and preservation of *The Coleraine Albion*
* Koroit and District Historical Society, $2808 for conservation and microfilming of the fragile originals of *The Koroit Herald* and/or *the Koroit Sentinel and Tower Hill Advocate* (depending on the source).
* Kyneton Historical Society, $980 for microfilming covering 20 years of the *Kyneton Observer.*

4.6 COUNTRY PRESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
The Country Press Association of South Australia represents 27 newspapers and was founded in 1927. Terry Williams, the Executive Officer is happy to assist readers with relevant queries. His email address is ascp@iweb.net.au and his phone is 08-8373 6533.

4.7 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS
30 December 1999	Hobart *Mercury* reprints edition of 1 January 1900 as an insert.
31 December 1999	26,000 copies of *The Canberra Times* are printed dated 1 January 2000 stating on p.1 "Preparation of *The Canberra Times* was affected early this morning by Y2K problems. As a result, we are unable to bring you today a special wraparound showing Canberra moving into the New Year and our special *First World* magazine. These will be distributed with *The Canberra Times* tomorrow." These copies were pulped.
31 December 1999	*Cairns Post* reprints edition of 6 January 1900 as an insert.
16 January 2000	Adrian Deamer, Editor of the *Australian* 1966-1971, dies. Articles and obituaries *Australian* 17 & 18/1/00, SMH 17 & 18/1/00, *Daily Telegraph* 18/1/00, *Age* 18/1/00.
24 January 2000	Sydney *Daily Telegraph* introduces layout changes.
31 January 2000	Perth *West Australian* placed on internet (www.thewest.com.au), the last major metropolitan paper to do so.

4.8 PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST
4.8.1 NEWSPAPERS: A SELECTION by Ettie Pullman, Genealogical Society of Victoria publication no. 6, 179 Queen Street, Melbourne VIC 3000, 1994, ISBN 0-9593604-1-7, 42 pages, $9.50 including postage. Provides a survey of the value of newspapers for historical research. Especially valuable as practical guide to the State Library of Victoria's newspaper collection.

4.8.2 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS: A SELECTION FROM THE EXTENSIVE RESEARCH NOTES GATHERED FOR A PROPOSED HISTORY OF THE PRESS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA by Leonard Marquis, prepared for publication by Ronald Parsons. Available from Ronald Parsons, PO Box 89 Lobethal SA 5241, ISBN 0-909418-60-8, 104 pages, $18.50 including postage. Mr Marquis was in charge of the South Australian State Library's newspaper collection. He did not complete his proposed history of SA newspapers before his death. This book arranges his research notes.

4.8.3 INDEXES IN AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES: A TOWARDS FEDERATION 2001 SURVEY by Margaret Henty and Rachel Jakimow, National Library of Australia, Parkes Place, Canberra ACT 2600, ISBN 0-642-10657-6, 1995, 165 pages, $15.

4.8.4 NEWSPAPERS IN THE DIXSON LIBRARY compiled by B A Rice. University of New England publication no. 4, 1983. UNE, Armidale NSW 2351.

4.8.5 UNION LIST OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS IN NSW PUBLIC LIBRARIES, State Library of New South Wales, Public Library Division, 4th edition,1995.

4.9 RECENT ARTICLES OF INTEREST by Victor Isaacs and Bill Tully
4.9.1 READING ALL ABOUT IT IN THE SMALL PRINT, in *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 January 2000, p.10, about the growth of community newspapers in the suburbs.

4.9.2 AN 'ECCENTRIC' PAPER EDITED FOR THE UNWELCOME ALIENS: A STUDY OF THE EARLIEST AUSTRALIAN CHINESE NEWSPAPER, *THE CHINESE ADVERTISER* in *Australian Academic and Research Libraries* (AARL) December 1999, published by Australian Library and Information Association, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604, ISSN 0004-8623.
This article provides evidence of the date range of *The Chinese Advertiser* and its printing methods. It is probably the first Chinese newspaper printed by lithography, possibly the first bilingual newspaper with Chinese in the world and is the earliest remaining Australian Chinese printing.

4.10 INTERNET SITE OF INTEREST by Bill Tully
www.elibrary.com/s/edumark/ contains the following News Ltd Australian newspapers on Electric Library Australia: *Australian, Weekend Australian* (including magazine), *Sportsman, Daily Telegraph, Sunday Telegraph, Herald-Sun, Sunday Herald-Sun, Weekly Times, Courier-Mail,* Brisbane *Sunday Mail, Advertiser,* Adelaide *Sunday Mail, Mercury, Sunday Tasmanian*, Tasmanian *Country Express,* Perth *Sunday Times* (including magazine).

To search a particular title:
1. From the ELA home page, select only Newspapers to search
2. In the Publication box type in the newspaper title required
3. Select the date range if required
4. Then type in the key words required in the Search box.

The site has a daily feed (24 hour delay) plus five backfile years (Australian 12 years). Coming soon the site will also include: *Townsville Bulletin, Cairns Post, Northern Territory News*, Cumberland suburban group Sydney (about 20 titles), Leader suburban group Melbourne (about 30 titles), Quest suburban group Brisbane (17 titles), Messenger suburban group Adelaide (10 titles).

4.11 THE LION AND THE UNICORN by Victor Isaacs
A peculiar feature of some Australian newspapers has been their appropriation of the British Coat of Arms for their mastheads despite having no official status. Even stranger is the survival of the practice despite the lessening of ties between Australia and Britain. Melbourne newspapers have been especially fond of this practice.

Newspapers which still use the British Coat of Arms are:
Melbourne *Age,* even surviving the major redesign as recently as 9 March 1998
Melbourne *Sunday Age,* although this newspaper only commenced publication on
            20 August 1989
Kalgoorlie Miner.

Among newspapers which incorporated the British Coat of Arms in the past were:
Melbourne *Argus* until its demise on 19 January 1957
Melbourne *Herald* until 19 September 1958
Perth *West Australian* until 5 May 1966
Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, Australia's first newspaper,
            5 March 1803 – 20 October 1842. This paper did have semi-official
            status and published government notices.

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS
To Rod Kirkpatrick, Department of Journalism, University of Queensland, Brisbane QLD 4072, r.kirkpatrick@mailbox.uq.edu.au
Please send email copies of the Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter to
_____
email address_____
OR please send hard copies to
_____address_____
_____
I enclose $10 (cheque or money order payable to R Kirkpatrick, or 22x45c stamps) for the next ten hard-copy issues.