

Printers Bill Thurling and John Doust examine the first copies off the press of a Manning River Times many years ago.

The *Manning River Times*, Taree, NSW, published online a series of 217 photos related to its past when it celebrated its 145th birthday on 8 January 2014. The above picture, taken no earlier than January 1968, was one of them. Published with permission, it shows the Swiss Duplex press that was used at the *Times* for about 50 years until 1975 when printing of the newspaper was shifted to sister publication, the *Maitland Mercury*, owned by Australian Consolidated Press. It is now printed at Beresfield on the *Newcastle Herald* plant. See 76.4.6 and 76.4.7.

## AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

# NEWSLETTER

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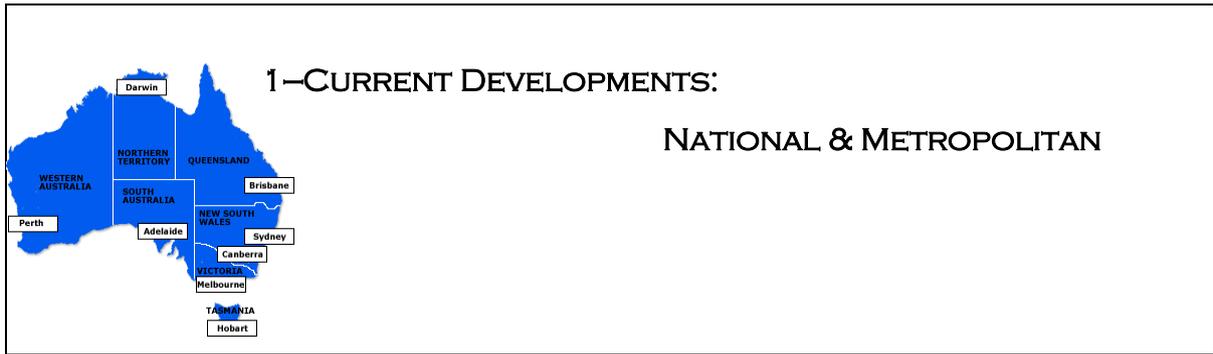
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Back copies of the *Newsletter* and some ANHG publications can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.amhd.info/anhg/index.php> [An Index to issues 1-75 is available \(see flyer\).](#)

**Deadline for the next Newsletter: 30 April 2014**

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.



### 76.1.1 Big weekend in Australian newspaper publishing

Circle the dates 1-3 March 2014 on the calendar of your memory. On 1 March, a new weekend newspaper was launched, and two old daily newspapers ditched their broadsheet weekend editions in favour of tabloid or “compact” editions. On 2 March, a Sunday newspaper also changed to “compact”. Concurrently, Fairfax Media launched new mobile sites. On 3 March, in Melbourne, the first and only issue of *Sirius*, an unusual newspaper, appeared.

**Saturday Paper:** On 1 March, Morry Schwartz, the property developer and publisher of the *Quarterly Essay* and the *Monthly*, launched the *Saturday Paper*—aimed at Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra markets—with a cover price of \$3 (*Age*, 29 January 2014). It is sold only at newsagents. The first issue was 32 tabloid size pages printed on high quality paper. It avoids small or local issues and focuses on serious issues of national importance. With the articles being reviews and commentary, the *Saturday Paper* is more a viewpaper (or a magazine) than a newspaper. It is printed on Fridays by Fairfax Media and is edited by Erik Jensen. Also see 76.5.2 Simons.



PAGE 1 OF THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE *SATURDAY PAPER*, 1 MARCH 2014.

**SMH and Age;** The *Sydney Morning Herald* (est. 1831) and the *Age* (est. 1854) ended weekday broadsheet publication on 1 March 2013 (see ANHG 71.1.) and precisely a year later they published their first compact Saturday editions. They had published their final broadsheet Saturday editions on 22 February. The *Sunday Age* published its final broadsheet issue on 23 February and its first compact issue on 2 March. The *Australian* (27 January 2014) reported that Fairfax had confirmed that at the same time as it abandoned the broadsheet format this month it would close operations at its printing plants at Chullora in Sydney and Tullamarine in Melbourne. It now prints its Sydney and Melbourne dailies at North Richmond and Ballarat. Fairfax Media continues to publish the *Canberra Times* as a broadsheet, but even its days as a broadsheet are probably numbered.

Whether by coincidence or design on 1 March, the main news sections of the *Age* and *SMH* were 72 tabloid pages. The *Herald* provided a guide to its layout on page 2, the *Age* on pages 2 and 3. The masthead of the redesigned *Age* still retains the British Royal Coat of Arms!

**Sirius:** On Monday 3 March, Rachel Buchanan launched Melbourne’s newest newspaper, *Melbourne Sirius*. She gave out 525 copies of *Sirius* – one for every defunct newspaper made in the city between 1838 and now – outside newspaper buildings past and present. The paper invites readers to stop and contemplate what this moment might mean for them and for their city. It asks you to read slowly. What other moments are suggested by the long list of dead newspapers and the radical variety in the lifespan, purpose and tone of each of these papers?

*Sirius* exists only as a paper object. There is no website to scan, no button to click, no link to share. The newspaper has been funded by a 2013-14 creative fellowship at the State Library of Victoria.

Buchanan was the publisher, editor, researcher, writer, photographer, sub-editor and proof-reader. She says: “Inside is my illustrated obituary of newspapers. Aside from listing the birth and death dates of 525 dead newspapers, *Sirius* also includes a four-page centrespread of mastheads photographs. The mastheads are laid out alphabetically. The first is *The Abstainer* (the Official Organ of the Grand Lodge of Victoria), a bi-weekly made in Melbourne from May 1889 until May 1890. The last is *Zundnadeln Blatter fur die heitere und ernste Welt* (Paper for the serene and serious world). Only two issues of this small German-language paper were made, in March and May 1873 and it is cared for in the State Library’s rare newspapers collection...

“The paper was printed by Arena in Fitzroy. Every aspect of *Sirius* pays homage to the beauty of newspapers and the mongrel creativity, ingenuity, passion and guts of the people who have manufactured them in Melbourne for the past 176 years.”

### 76.1.2 Circulation: Experience shockproofs us for double-digit declines

We paddle along now, almost shockproofed to double-digit print circulation declines and unsurprised at the rapid increase in digital sales. So, what is the overall situation for newspapers? According to Tim Burrowes, of Mumbrella, the circulation and other data issued on 14 February provide “the strongest signal yet that paywalls will not make up for lost print revenues”. He said: “We’ve been talking about it for five years, but there is now finally enough data on paywalls to call it. Digital subscriptions will not save the newspaper business model.”

Look back 10 years—as you can through the circulation table for the national and metropolitan dailies and Sunday newspapers, compiled by ANHG and inserted below—and you’ll see that during the decade:

- three newspapers lost more than 40 per cent of their print sales;
- 10 lost 30-40 per cent;
- 16 lost 20-30 per cent;
- five lost 10-20 per cent;
- only one lost 0-10 per cent (the *Australian*, weekdays, 3.13pc);
- the average circulation decline was 27.94 per cent.

In the three months to December 2013, digital sales for newspapers continued their rapid rise and print sales continued their sharp decline, according to data released on 14 February by the Audited Media Association of Australia. Leading national and metropolitan mastheads all increased sales strongly compared with the same quarter in 2012. The *Australian* rose almost 45 per cent on weekdays and on Saturdays. Melbourne’s *Age* posted a 217 per cent increase in its digital weekday and Sunday sales and almost 195 per cent rise on Saturdays.

Sales of printed newspapers continued their steep decline. The weekday edition of the *Age* was down by 17 per cent and the weekday *SMH* by 16.6 per cent. Thanks to the digital sales gains most of the major mastheads reported lifts in their combined print and digital circulation. Total print and digital masthead sales of the *Age* were up 19.5 per cent on weekdays and 4.3 per cent on Saturdays. The *Weekend Australian* declined 2.6 per cent with print sales down about 9 per cent (*Australian*, 14 February 2014).

PRINT editions only	Oct-Dec 2013	Oct-Dec 2012	July-Dec 2003	% variation over 10 years
<b>National</b>				
<i>Australian</i> [M-F]	122,269	122,428	126,210	— 3.13
<i>Weekend Australian</i>	242,158	266,696	291,823	— 17.02
<i>Aust Financial Review</i> [M-F]	62,455	66,709	88,457	—29.40
<i>Aust Financial Review</i> (Sat)	71,733	78,978	85,067	—15.67
<b>New South Wales</b>				
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> [M-F]	293,512	333,424	400,885	—26.78

<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sat)	286,683	320,505	336,126	—14.71
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	525,123	599,165	729,663	—28.03
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> [M-F]	131,737	157,931	221,815	—40.61
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sat)	228,392	272,849	372,798	—38.74
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	264,434	313,477	526,188	—49.75
<b>Victoria</b>				
<i>Herald Sun</i> [M-F]	394,597	450,090	553,000	—28.64
<i>Herald Sun</i> (Sat)	395,105	444,250	511,500	—22.76
<i>Sunday Herald Sun</i>	453,268	514,671	590,000	—23.17
<i>Age</i> [M-F]	130,767	157,480	197,040	—33.63
<i>Saturday Age</i>	196,051	227,826	305,000	—35.72
<i>Sunday Age</i>	164,243	191,139	196,130	—16.26
<b>Queensland</b>				
<i>Courier-Mail</i> [M-F]	161,172	185,770	214,155	—24.74
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (Sat)	214,603	237,798	335,550	—36.04
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	397,481	438,994	613,212	—35.18
<b>South Australia</b>				
<i>Advertiser</i> [M-F]	150,583	166,178	199,340	—24.46
<i>Advertiser</i> (Sat)	197,900	218,669	274,858	—27.80
<i>Sunday Mail</i>	236,261	259,791	332,127	—28.86
<b>Western Australia</b>				
<i>West Australian</i> [M-F]	166,468	176,105	201,826	—17.52
<i>West Australian</i> (Sat)	279,334	306,479	376,115	—25.73
<i>Sunday Times</i>	237,721	267,279	351,000	—32.40
<b>Tasmania</b>				
<i>Mercury</i> [M-F]	36,616	40,033	48,630	—24.70
<i>Mercury</i> (Sat)	49,671	54,047	63,550	—21.84
<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	46,909	50,976	58,649	—20.02
<i>Sunday Examiner</i>	31,075	34,660	43,186	—28.04
<b>Northern Territory</b>				
<i>Northern Territory News</i> [M-F]	15,485	17,782	22,997	—32.67
<i>NT News</i>	23,193	26,926	32,548	—28.74
<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	16,691	19,990	26,014	—35.85
<b>ACT</b>				
<i>Canberra Times</i> [M-F]	24,851	27,974	38,340	—35.18
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sat)	36,829	43,641	70,732	—47.93
<i>Canberra Times</i> (Sun)	24,424	27,717	38,293	—36.22

**Source:** Audited Media Association of Australia (and its predecessor, the Audited Bureau of Circulations), with percentages calculated by ANHG.

### 76.1.3 *Newsweek* returns to print

*Newsweek*, the weekly magazine that ceased print publication in 2012, plans to return to print in 2014. The magazine expected to begin a 64-page weekly edition in January or February, *Newsweek* editor-in-chief Jim Impoco said in December. He said *Newsweek* would depend more heavily on subscribers than advertisers to pay its bills — and that readers would pay more than in the past. At its height in 1991, the magazine had 3.3 million readers. In 2010, *Newsweek's* owner, the *Washington Post*, sold it to the billionaire investor Sidney Harman for \$1. Harman, who also assumed \$40 million in liabilities, then merged it with The Daily Beast, the website owned by IAC/InterActiveCorp (The Newspaper Works, 11 December 2013).

### 76.1.4 Recent chronology

#### 76.1.4.1 Events

**22 February 2014:** Final broadsheet issue of Saturday editions of *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age*, whose weekday issues changed to tabloid on 1 March 2013.

**23 February 2014:** Final broadsheet newspaper to run off the Fairfax Media press at Tullamarine.

**1 March 2014:** First issue of the *Saturday Paper*, published for Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

**1 March 2014:** First tabloid or compact editions of the Saturday *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age*.

**2 March 2014:** First tabloid or compact edition of the *Sunday Age*.

#### 76.1.4.2 Deaths

**Anderson, Walter James (Jim):** D. 16 September 2012, aged 81; turf editor of *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail*, Brisbane, 1975-1988, when he retired (*Walkley Magazine*, Issue 74, December 2012-January 2013, p.72).

**Fatchen, Max:** D. 14 October 2014, aged 92; legendary journalist in Adelaide for the *News*, *Sunday Mail* and *Advertiser*; his career spanned 75 years and more than 10,000 pieces of journalism; 20 books, including children's stories, poetry and prose. Recognised with an Order of Australia for services to literature in 1980; inducted in 2007 into the South Australian Media Awards Hall of Fame; he wrote his own obituary, published in *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 74, December 2012-January 2013, p.73.

**Hocking, Jack Kyle:** D. 27 January 2014 at Esperance, WA, aged 85; began his career as a printer on the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, owned by the Hocking family since 1895; worked as a journalist for 10 years, including a period as a sub-editor on the *Daily News*, Perth; in April 1970 West Australian Newspapers bought the *Miner* from the Hockings and in June appointed Jack as manager; he managed it until the end of 1974, leaving to return to Perth to work on the *West Australian* as a general sub-editor and then finance sub-editor until his retirement in 1987 (Rod Kirkpatrick, *A Short History of the Australian Country Press*, p.102; *West Australian*, 20 January 2014, p.10).

**Loizou, John:** D. 17 January 2013, aged 70; won ABC cadetship at 17; worked at the *Age*, Melbourne, and the *Northern Territory News*, under editor Jim Bowditch; worked as casual sub at *Sydney Morning Herald* after Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin at Christmas 1974; returned to Darwin and worked as a council labourer, then ABC Radio, and then edited the independently owned *Darwin Star* before rejoining the *NT News*; joined Vietnam's first English-language newspaper, the *Vietnam News*, in early 1990s and stayed 15 years, on and off, until illness forced him home to Australia in 2010; in 2000 John and partner Christina Pas launched the *Southeast Asian Times* as a broadsheet but soon made it an online digest, for 12 years (*Walkley Magazine*, Issue 76, July-September 2013, p.,52).

**Menzies, Colin:** D. 25 May 2012 in Hunter Valley, aged 61; born at Kyabram, Vic; began as unpaid teenage contributor to the *Lachlander*, Condobolin, NSW; while touring Greece in 1974, edited the *Athens News*; graduated BA at University of Sydney; worked as casual then full-time sub-editor at *Sun-Herald*; became the paper's theatre critic, reviewing more than 500 plays; switched to testing the latest high-powered motorcycles for the paper; chief sub and assistant editor of *Wheels* magazine, 1988-1993; later subbed for *Australian Financial Review*, *Courier-Mail* and *Sunday*

*Mail* (Brisbane), *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Newcastle Herald*; moved to property near Singleton and for five years produced the *Australian Holstein Journal* (*Walkley Magazine*, Issue 73, October-November 2012, p.49).

**Price, Tanya:** D. 11 September 2012, aged 44; born at Bowen Qld; after winning Rural Press university scholarship, studied at Queensland University of Technology; worked at *Gympie Times* and *Hawkesbury Gazette*; became a sub-editor at the *Sunday Telegraph* for seven years; returned north and worked as a sub on the *Townsville Bulletin*; graduated with a teaching degree (*Walkley Magazine*, Issue 73, October-November 2012, p.50).

**Wain, Barry:** D. 5 February 2013, aged 68; began journalism career at Channel 9, Brisbane; joined *Redcliffe Herald*, then ABC, then the *Australian's* Brisbane bureau where he later became bureau chief; became defence correspondent for the paper in Canberra; worked in Hong Kong for the *Star* and then the *Far Eastern Economic Review*; joined *Asian Wall Street Journal* 1976 and was posted to Kuala Lumpur where he launched into a career immersed in the politics and personalities of South-East Asia; one of first Western journalists to get back into hotspots such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar once they began to open (*Walkley Magazine*, Issue 75, April-June 2013, pp.47-48).

**Waites, James:** D. 12 February 2014 in Sydney, aged 58; from the early 1980s, reviewed for the *National Times*; after H.G. Kippax retired in 1989 following a long and distinguished career as chief drama critic of the *Herald*, Waites was named his successor; championed young independent artists and campaigned for theatre making that raised awareness and revealed the human condition; his reviews of the Australian play *Cloudstreet* and the musical *The Boy from Oz* recognised a coming-of-age in Australian theatre (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 February 2014).

**Watson, Chris:** D. 28 April 2013, aged 63; began journalism career on Cessnock *Eagle*; spent 40 years at *Newcastle Herald* as reporter, sub-editor, chief sub-editor, chief of staff, deputy editor, and editor; acted as editor three times between 1996 and 2000 and served as editor, 2002-2003; when he voluntarily stepped down as editor, he created his own job, designing a stable of highly profitable magazines that were inserted in the *Herald* and other Fairfax papers; took redundancy in 2012 when Fairfax sent production jobs to New Zealand (*Walkley Magazine*, Issue 76, July-September 2013, p.53).

### **76.1.5 Fairfax loses action by Kim Williams**

Fairfax Media has agreed to pay Kim Williams \$95,000 plus his legal costs after gossip columnist Joe Aston incorrectly claimed the former News Corp Australia chief executive had stormed out of a meeting of the Opera House trustees (*Australian*, 29 January 2014). The settlement was reached through consent orders in the NSW Supreme Court. The offending article appeared on 30 September last year in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Age* and the *Australian Financial Review*.

### **76.1.6 Lack of shield laws seen as a weakness**

Australia has been criticised for lacking laws to protect the confidentiality of journalists' sources in the latest World Press Freedom Index by lobby group Reporters Without Borders. This year's list of 180 countries, ranked according to their level of press freedom, put Australia in 28th spot, down from 26th last year. The top 10 countries in order were Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg, Andorra, Lichtenstein, Denmark, Iceland, New Zealand and Sweden (*Australian*, 12 February 2014).

### **76.1.7 Singleton sells Fairfax shares**

The future of Fairfax Media's struggling radio business was uncertain after advertising baron John Singleton sold out of the company on 28 February following the collapse of a \$200 million joint venture between Macquarie Radio Network and Fairfax Radio's stations. Singleton and investment banker Mark Carnegie offloaded a small strategic stake in Fairfax held by their investment vehicle Gutenberg, which acted in concert with Fairfax shareholder Gina Rinehart's Hancock Prospecting. The tiny 0.15 per cent stake in Fairfax was sold on market at 94c a share, netting the partners \$3.1m, which means Gutenberg doubled its investment after buying in at 47c a year ago (*Australian*, 1 March 2014).

## 76.1.8 Newspaper prices December 2013

Victor Isaacs has compiled a lists of the cover prices of national, capital city and most regional dailies and Sunday papers. The prices of many Fairfax regional dailies were not available.

Title	Mon-Fri	Sat	Owner	Title	Mon-Fri	Sat	Owner
<b>National</b>				<i>Daily Examiner,</i> Grafton	1.20	1.30	APN
<i>Australian</i>	2.20	3.30	News	<i>Northern Star,</i> Lismore	1.20	2.00	APN
<i>Financial Review</i>	3.30	3.30	Fairfax	<i>Barrier Daily Truth,</i> <i>Broken Hill</i>	1.10	1.10	Barrier Industrial Council
<b>Sydney</b>				<b>Provincial—Vic</b>			
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	1.20	2.00	News	<i>Geelong Advertiser</i>	1.20	2.00	News
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	2.30	3.30	Fairfax	<i>Border Mail,</i> Albury-Wodonga	1.40		Fairfax
<i>mX Sydney</i>	Free	n.a.	News	<i>Ballarat Courier</i>	1.50		Fairfax
<i>Manly Daily</i> (not Mon)	Free	Free	News	<i>Bendigo Advertiser</i>	1.40		Fairfax
<b>Melbourne</b>				<i>Warrnambool Standard</i>	1.40		Fairfax
<i>Herald Sun</i>	1.20	2.00	News	<i>Shepparton News</i>	1.10		McPherson
<i>Age</i>	2.30	3.30	Fairfax	<b>Provincial—Qld</b>			
<i>mX Melbourne</i>	Free	n.a.	News	<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i>	1.00	1.80	News
<b>Brisbane</b>				<i>Townsville Bulletin</i>	1.20	2.00	News
<i>Courier-Mail</i>	1.20	2.00	News	<i>Cairns Post</i>	1.20	1.70	News
<i>mX Brisbane</i>	Free	n.a.	News	<i>Daily Mercury,</i> Mackay	1.20	1.60	APN
<b>Other capitals</b>				<i>Morning Bulletin,</i> Rockhampton	1.20	1.70	APN
<i>West Australian</i>	1.50	2.50	Seven West	<i>Observer,</i> Gladstone	1.10	1.50	APN
<i>Advertiser</i>	1.20	2.00	News	<i>NewsMail,</i> Bundaberg	1.20	1.70	APN
<i>Mercury,</i> Hobart	1.00	2.00	News	<i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i>	1.20	1.40	APN
<i>Canberra Times</i>	2.00	3.00	Fairfax	<i>Gympie Times</i> (not Mondays)	1.20	1.50	APN
<i>NT News</i>	1.20	2.00	News	<i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i>	1.20	2.00	APN
<b>Provincial—NSW</b>				<i>Queensland Times,</i> Ipswich	1.20	1.70	APN
<i>Newcastle Herald</i>	1.50	2.10	Fairfax	<i>Chronicle,</i> Toowoomba	1.20	2.00	APN
<i>Illawarra Mercury</i>	1.40	2.30	Fairfax	<i>Daily News,</i> Warwick	1.10	1.50	APN

### Sunday newspapers

<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	2.50	News	<i>Sunday Times,</i> Perth	2.20	News
<i>Sun-Herald</i>	2.50	Fairfax	<i>Sunday Canberra Times</i>	2.00	Fairfax
<i>Sunday Herald-Sun</i>	2.50	News	<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i>	2.20	News
<i>Sunday Age</i>	2.80	Fairfax	<i>Sunday Examiner</i>	2.00	Fairfax
<i>Sunday Mail,</i> Brisbane	2.50	News	<i>Sunday Territorian</i>	1.30	News
<i>Sunday Mail,</i> Adelaide	2.50	News	<i>Sunshine Coast Sunday</i>	1.50	APN

### 76.1.9 Newsagents and distribution fees

From 17 March 2014 distribution fees for newsagents for News Corp newspapers will move to a fixed fee per copy, rather than the former percentage of the cover price. From 17 September 2013 News Corp placed newsagents with fixed territorial agreements on secure three-year agreements. News Corp is continuing to review home delivery fees.

On 23 January 2014 Fairfax Media wrote to newsagents to confirm that their contracts remain active. They said that while News Corp is rolling out new contracts, without knowing more information, it is difficult for Fairfax to know whether it will be necessary to change their agreements.

### 76.1.10 People

**Wayne Buttner**, a former general manager of the *Geelong Advertiser*, has been appointed editor of the *Weekly Review* Greater Geelong edition. It is owned by Metro Media Publishing and Fairfax Media (*Mediaweek*, 3 February 2014, p.4).

**Julian Clarke**, CEO of News Corp Australia, was made a Member of the Order of Australia, in the Australia Day honours, for services to the media (*Australian*, Media section, 27 January 2014, p.25).

**Matt Deighton**, assistant editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, has been appointed editor of the Hobart *Mercury*, replacing Andrew Holman (see below). Before his Sydney appointment, Deighton was editor-in-chief of the Messenger Community Newspaper group in Adelaide (*Stop! Press*, Davies Brothers Staff News, 31 January 2014).

**Timothy Fairfax**, formerly a significant shareholder in what is now Fairfax Media, was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day honours announced in January. He was recognised for eminent service to business and to the community, as an advocate for philanthropy and as a major supporter of the visual arts, the promotion of higher education opportunities, and rural and regional development programs. In 2012, Fairfax undertook the pro bono role of chancellor at Queensland's University of Technology and in 2008 he started the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, which donates \$3.2 million a year, principally to rural charities from his adopted home state of Queensland (*Australian*, 27 January 2014).

**Peter Fray**, most recently of PolitiFact Australia, has been appointed deputy editor (news) of the *Australian*. He is a former editor of the *Canberra Times* and *Sunday Age* and a former editor, editor-in-chief and publisher of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. He left Fairfax Media in June 2012 during a round of mass redundancies. At the *Australian*, Fray replaces David King (see below).

**Andrew Holman**, editor of the Hobart *Mercury*, has been appointed editor of the *Sunday Mail*, Adelaide. Holman, originally from Adelaide's western suburbs, returns to his home city after a number of senior News postings, including as editor of the *Cairns Post*. He replaces David Penberthy, who resigned from the *Sunday Mail* to take up a position in Adelaide radio, although he still writes a column for the group (*Stop! Press*, Davies Brothers Staff News, 24 January 2014).

**David King**, deputy editor of the *Australian*, announced last month that he was moving to SBS to become the network's domestic editor, world news. He had been at the *Australian* for 14 years where, according to Nick Leys, he had become a respected and central part of newspaper's news coverage as national chief of staff over the past four years and will be missed by his colleagues. He began his career in the newspaper's Holt Street newsroom in 2000 as a copyboy and went on to become a business reporter, news reporter in the Perth bureau and Sydney court reporter before being promoted to Sydney bureau chief (*Australian*, 21 January 2014; *Mediaweek* online, 22 January 2014).

**Nick Leys**, former Media editor at the *Australian*, has been appointed head of corporate communications at the ABC. His replacement is **Sharri Markson**, a former *Cleo* editor and a former chief of staff at the *Sunday Telegraph*.

**Garry Linnell**, director of news media for Fairfax Media, moved to radio full-time in January. He became part of Sydney station 2UE's new breakfast line-up alongside John Stanley (The Newspaper Works, 18 December 2013).

**Chris Warren**, secretary of the journalists' union since 1987, will step down early next year even as the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) consider whether to change the secretary's position from an elected one to an appointed one. Warren started his career as a cadet on the *Sydney Morning Herald* and also worked as a press secretary for Labor federal MP Brian Howe before joining the union full-time in 1986, when it was still the Australian Journalists' Association. In 1992 it amalgamated with Actors Equity and the Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees Association to form MEAA, representing journalists, actors and production crew. There are now 6000 journalist members among the 16,000 MEAA members (*Australian*, 17 February 2014).

**Pamela Williams**, the *Australian Financial Review* journalist whose book, *Killing Fairfax*, was published last year, has taken voluntary redundancy after 27 years. The multi-Walkley winning Williams will focus on fiction with plans to write a novel. Williams applied for redundancy from Fairfax several months ago but was knocked back. When she re-applied, she was granted a redundancy (*Australian*, 23 January 2014.)

### **76.1.11 Fairfax changes recruiting technique**

Fairfax Media is employing a different recruiting technique to select its latest round of journalist trainees. Applicants are asked to produce a 90-second video addressing the question, "What is the future of journalism in the digital world?" Of the hundreds of young journalists that have applied for the latest intake of traineeships, Fairfax hopes to speak to as many as possible by using a recruitment technique described as a "walk in".

To earn a "walk-in", applicants have been asked to provide a CV no longer than four pages plus the video. Fairfax recruitment manager for Australia and New Zealand Kylie Goodwin says the company has adopted the technique to reach out and engage with more candidates, allowing for about 100 candidates who impress in their initial application to come to Fairfax's offices in both Sydney and Melbourne and have a chance to meet the journalists they'll hopefully be learning from in the future.

### **76.1.12 Fairfax and finances**

Fairfax Media's net profit for the six months to December 31 fell to \$193.8 million from \$386.3million a year earlier when the 2012 half was boosted by the sale of a controlling stake in New Zealand online auction website Trade Me. Revenue fell 1.2 per cent to \$1.08 billion. The company will pay an interim dividend of 2c per share fully franked, up from 1c.

The magnitude of a deep cost-cutting drive that has claimed huge job losses and the closure of key publications underpinned the result, which was also boosted by the disposal of FRG Asia, InvestSmart and the Stayz Group businesses during the period, which generated net proceeds of \$221m. Operationally, print revenues continue to decline, with digital revenues only partially offsetting declines (*Australian*, 21 February 2014).

### **76.1.13 *Australian* and finances**

The ANHG generally turns a blind eye to the tit-for-tat warfare that goes on between the *Australian* and the ABC's *Media Watch*. But some information has emerged from the latest sniping: Editor-in-chief of the *Australian*, Chris Mitchell, said in the paper (27 February 2014, p.3) that claims by *Media Watch* that the paper newspaper was losing \$50 million were "3½ more than the *Australian's* actual loss". This suggests that the *Australian's* annual loss is about \$14.28 million and that each issue would lose on average, just under \$46,000.



## 2—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: DIGITAL

### 76.2.1 Australians are going online for news much more now

Australians are spending more than twice as much time on news websites now than a year ago, according to data released in December by Nielsen online. The data highlight that during the December quarter 2012 Australians would spend on average one hour 19 minutes a month on news websites. This rose to two hours 39 minutes in the December quarter 2013. Nielsen media industry group head Monique Perry said that Australians were tapping into the new ways of consuming news, most recently via news apps on mobile phones and tablets. “During 2013 unique audience numbers have remained stable but engagement levels have significantly increased. Despite the fanfare of new arrivals – on average two new websites a month – the larger sites have grown, and not lost share of time online,” Perry said. “Among these there have been some standouts – in the last year the ABC grew unique audiences by 34 per cent, the *Telegraph* by 25 per cent and even the *Guardian*, without an extra media platform, has increased unique audience by 11 per cent.” (The Newspaper Works, 11 December 2013).

### 76.2.2 Digital audiences rise

The digital audience for newspapers rose 7 per cent in the year to December, ensuring a slight increase in total readership for the industry in the past six months, according to the latest EMMA cross-platform survey (*Australian*, 10 February 2014). Titles with the strongest rises in combined print and digital readers included Adelaide’s *Advertiser* (up 5 per cent), the *Canberra Times* (up 12.6 per cent) and the *Sunshine Coast Daily* (up 7.5 per cent). The mastheads with the biggest overall readerships were Fairfax Media’s *Sydney Morning Herald* (4.75 million) and News Corp’s *Herald Sun* (four million) and *Daily Telegraph* (3.99 million). The figures released show the monthly digital audiences in their thousands in 2013 averaged:

Newspaper	Monthly 000s	Newspaper	Monthly 000s
<i>Advertiser</i> (Adelaide)	1486	<i>Sunday Times</i> (Perth)	1350
<i>Canberra Times</i>	734	<i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i>	342
<i>Courier-Mail</i> (Brisbane)	2977	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	4751
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	3998	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne)	3205
<i>Financial Review</i>	1284	<i>Australian</i>	3087
<i>Herald Sun</i> (Melbourne)	4012	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth)	2057
<i>Mercury</i> (Hobart)	354		

### 76.2.3 *Global Mail* backer withdraws

Another altruistic millionaire is being sought by staff of The *Global Mail* to bankroll the news website after its original backer, internet entrepreneur Graeme Wood, announced he would no longer fund the site (*Australian*, 31 January 2014). Wood, who also co-founded travel website Wotif.com, reportedly told the *Mail*’s approximately 20 staff members on 29 January that he would not continue supporting it after 20 February but that they were free to seek other investors.

The publication’s management, headed by chief executive Jane Nicholls, tried to put a positive spin on his withdrawal, saying in a statement that it “allows us to pursue ambitious plans for the

future”. The website launched in February 2012 under founding editor Monica Attard, specialising in long-form and international reporting, with Wood saying he had committed up to \$20 million over five years to the project. Last year he also invested in the launch of news website Guardian Australia, a local digital offshoot of London’s *Guardian* newspaper, which competes for the same audience. He is said to have told The Global Mail staff that the site had failed to reach its audience targets. The statement said that the site averaged 120,000 unique visitors and had more than 18,000 subscribers.



### 3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS:

#### COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

#### 76.3.1 Temora, Lake Cargelligo: Bradley sells to Watson

Arthur Bradley sold the *Temora Independent* and the *Lake Cargelligo News* to the Watson family of Tumut on 16 August 2013. The sale ended 106 years of Bradley family ownership of the Temora paper. Arthur Bradley stills holds a 60 per cent interest (with Fairfax, 40pc) in the *West Wyalong Advocate*. Keith Bradley, a Canberra lawyer, wrote a book about his family’s involvement in newspapers: “*Naked Nellie has a rag at last*”: *The Bradley family and NSW country newspapers 1889-1990*. Rod Kirkpatrick devoted a chapter in his *Country Conscience* (2000) to the Bradley family. In the Tumut district, the Wilkie Watson family has been producing newspapers since 1900. Luke Watson, a four-generation member of the family, now publishes three biweeklies—the *Tumut & Adelong Times*, *Gundagai Times* and *Temora Independent*—and two weeklies—the *Tumbarumba Times* and *Lake Cargelligo News*. Initially, Watson had the Temora and Lake Cargelligo papers printed at Fairfax’s Wodonga plant, but from January this year he has added them to his Tumut printing jobs (Keith Bradley, note to Rod Kirkpatrick, December 2013; Luke Watson, emails to Rod Kirkpatrick, 29 and 30 December 2013).

#### 76.3.2 NewsLocal: Osburn leaves, Lipari starts, *Advertiser* moves

NewsLocal editor-in-chief Bob Osburn has announced his retirement, after a 33-year career across Australia and 12 years as editor-in-chief (TheNewspaperWorks, 10 January 2014). Osburn began his career as a reporter with the *Geelong Advertiser*, and later worked at the *Age*, and the *Herald and Weekly Times*. He joined Leader Newspapers in 1991, before accepting the appointment as editor-in-chief of Cumberland Newspapers in Sydney. Osborn has also served on the Australian Press Council, has been a director of Community Newspaper of Australia, and a member of the Australian Arab Business Council.

Osburn’s replacement is Kathy Lipari, who began her career with News as a copy person and cadet reporter with the *Daily Telegraph* in 1993. She held several senior positions on that newspaper, including state political bureau chief, chief-of-staff and news editor, before moving to the *Manly Daily* as editor in 2007. She later edited the *Daily Telegraph* website before becoming head of digital with the news network.

#### 76.3.3 Yandina prints six dailies

APN’s closures of print centres at Ballina, Mackay and Bundaberg in recent years has left it with only three print centres: Yandina, Toowoomba and North Rockhampton. The three centres print 12 daily newspapers. Yandina prints six (Grafton’s *Daily Examiner*, Lismore’s *Northern Star*, Bundaberg’s *NewsMail*, the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, the *Gympie Times* and the *Sunshine Coast Daily*. North Rockhampton prints Mackay’s *Daily Mercury*, Rockhampton’s *Morning Bulletin* and

Gladstone's *Observer*. Toowoomba prints Ipswich's *Queensland Times*, Toowoomba's *Chronicle* and Warwick's *Daily News*.

### 76.3.4 Geelong and Wollongong: Readership rises

Readership of some regional newspapers is on the rise, according to the latest emma (Enhanced Media Metrics Australia) data. The *Geelong Advertiser* (up 6 per cent) and *Illawarra Mercury* (up 4 per cent), along with some other titles, have experienced readership growth since June. The September 2013 federal election appears to have contributed to a spike in reader retention for the *Canberra Times*. Regional newspapers have been included in the monthly emma data since June, allowing for planning alongside metro and national titles. The Newspaper Works chief executive Mark Hollands said the continuing growth in total audience numbers provided reason for industry optimism for the year ahead.

The trend for print audiences is down slightly on weekdays, slipping 0.7 per cent over five months. It was stable in November compared to October, and the overall readership continues to be bolstered by growth in digital numbers. Each monthly emma report features 12-month rolling data with cross-platform audience figures, readership of all titles, comprehensive consumer profiles and product data, plus fused Nielsen Online Ratings data (TheNewspaperWorks, 20 January 2014).

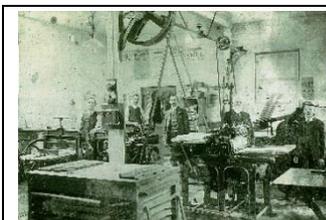
### 76.3.5 Mackay: Ortlieb stands in for Spilsbury as editor

Jon Ortlieb, a former senior editor at the Adelaide *Advertiser*, is acting as editor of the *Daily Mercury*, Mackay, while editor Jennifer Spilsbury is on maternity leave this year. He has worked mainly for News Corp Australia, for instance, at the *Herald Sun*. He has also filled the role of editor on newspapers on Palm Island and at Cairns (*Daily Mercury*, 17 January 2014, p.5).

### 76.3.6 APN: Surge in full-year profit

APN News & Media Ltd posted a net profit of \$2.6 million in the 2013 calendar year, a 101 per cent increase on its \$507.36 million loss in 2012. CEO officer Michael Miller said results were the group's best in a number of years. "The results reflect strong earnings growth in our radio businesses as they increased market share, a record result at Adshel, an improved second-half performance from our publishing businesses as cost saving benefits start to flow through and the impact of the sale of a number of non-core businesses," he said. The group declined to pay a dividend.

APN will acquire the remaining 50 per cent stake in the Australian Radio Network (ARN) and The Radio Network (TRN) from Clear Channel Communications at a cost of \$246.5 million. APN had been partners with Clear Channel for almost 20 years. In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange, APN said the acquisition would provide it with greater flexibility to pursue new revenue generating opportunities through closer collaboration between its media businesses in both Australia and New Zealand. As part of the acquisition, APN also secured an exclusive 10-year arrangement with Clear Channel to operate and broadcast the iHeartRadio digital radio platform in Australia and New Zealand.



## 4—NEWSPAPER HISTORY

### 76.4.1 The *Australian* at 50: a symposium

A symposium will be held on 7-8 July in Sydney to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the *Australian* on 15 July 1964. The Centre for Media History at Macquarie University is organising the event, to be held at Macquarie Graduate School of Management, CBD Executive Conference Centre, Level 7, 37 Pitt Street, Sydney. It is hoped the symposium will cover many aspects of the paper's history, such as: how it has reported international, national, and state politics, including

indigenous affairs, as well as business, education, work, family, the arts, the media, the law, and sport; its columnists, and its leader writers; its cartoonists, and its photographers; its supplements and magazines; its use of journalists other than its own, from wire services to the *Wall Street Journal*; its editors, its designers, and its distribution networks; its business models, and its work practices; its market research; and so on.

**Expressions of interest** in submitting papers (c.200 words) should be sent by **Monday, 10 March**, to Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley, Director of the Centre for Media History (b.foley@mq.edu.au), or to Professor Murray Goot, Deputy Director (murray.goot@mq.edu.au).

#### **76.4.2 Wyalong Argus sold for £5**

*Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill, 22 October 1900, p.2: Intercolonial News (By Telegraph)—Sydney, Monday: The *Wyalong Argus* has succumbed to financial difficulties, and, sold at auction, the paper realised only £5 (\$10), the purchaser being Mr Smethurst, the local council clerk, at one time of Broken Hill.

#### **76.4.3 Press excluded from ACTU Congress**

*Daily News*, Perth, 16 May 1950, p.5: MELBOURNE, Tues.: The Press has been excluded from today's big ACTU congress meeting which is discussing the basic wage, the Crimes Act and proposed legislation affecting trade union leaders. Exclusion of the Press from ACTU congresses is unusual, but the possibility of being "declared" under the anti-communist legislation now before Parliament influenced many delegates against admitting journalists. As delegates entered the hall, they were given free copies of a newspaper printed at a communist printery. It listed powerful unions which were "mobilising throughout the Commonwealth" to defeat the anti-communist Bill. Prime Minister Menzies was attacked as a dictator, seeking "to give himself absolute power to destroy any person or organisation that opposes him or his policies". The newspaper published a picture of the Rev. Frank Hartley, president of the Democratic Rights Council, and quoted him as saying: "There is no doubt in my mind that Christians and communists should stand shoulder to shoulder on this issue."

#### **76.4.4 Time flies (4)**

ANHG editor **Rod Kirkpatrick** continues his career reminiscences: Let's stick with my experiences at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education (DDIAE), Toowoomba, 1975-1982, before moving on. The senior lecturer took a year's sabbatical plus three months holidays from August 1978. The DDIAE operated on a three-term year and so I was responsible for the three levels (first, second and third year) of journalism students for four terms. The senior lecturer was supposed to have arranged for part-time teachers to cover his full teaching load during his absence. He arranged for none. And when I began to consider the difficulties of obtaining guest lecturers from Brisbane and elsewhere, I soon realised that it was going to be easier for me to present all the journalism lectures and take all the tutorials for the four terms. In that era, I was responsible for teaching print, radio and television journalism.

One of the outlets for the journalism students to gain practical experience was on the community radio station, 4DDB-FM, which was based on campus. One evening the students had a scoop; they reported a serious fire in the Administration Building at the DDIAE. Practical experience in print journalism came for the students through working in pairs, on a roster system, to gather and write the school news column at the local daily, the *Chronicle*. During the agricultural show season I would take four or five students to towns such as Tara, Jandowae and Crow's Nest to gather news for the district's show supplement to appear in the *Chronicle*. I would sub-edit the supplement and comment to each student about their stories. Among the students at this time were some who made their mark later: David Fagan, as editor of the *Courier-Mail*, and Lee Anderson, as news director of Channel 9 Brisbane.

Throughout my time at the DDIAE, I regularly received snippets in the post from Professor Henry Mayer, professor of political science at the University of Sydney. Mayer (1919-1991), is best known as the author of *The Press in Australia*, first published 50 years ago (1964). I first made contact with Prof. Mayer when I was a full-time journalist and part-time journalism student at Canberra CAE in 1974. I was researching an essay about the public-access radio stations that the Whitlam Government was introducing. Jonathan Dawson, my Canberra CAE lecturer, mentioned Henry Mayer in relation to this.



PROFESSOR HENRY MAYER

Over the next 15 years or so I regularly received from Henry packages containing newsletters or clippings with items of interest, often with a scrawled note of about 30 words or so. It might take me 15 minutes to decipher his scrawl, but it was important to do so. It always contained good advice or thought-provoking ideas. I remember that when I wrote my first thesis proposal—for a Masters in General Studies through the University of NSW—he commented that the scope was far too wide. [He was correct.] In later years, I often gave that advice to my own students. And I have tried to follow his example in sending clippings and notes (much easier now via email) to a wide range of students and ex-students and other researchers. Two years ago, I discovered that one of my former school-mates has established a friendship with Henry's widow, Elaine. I wrote Elaine a letter to say how grateful I had been for Henry's interest in me, and sent her a copy of my *Country Conscience* as evidence of what that assistance had helped produce.

#### 76.4.5 ANHG editor interviewed by Clive Robertson

**Janette Pelosi** writes: ANHG Editor, Rod Kirkpatrick, was interviewed by broadcaster Clive Robertson on Radio 2UE, Sydney, on Monday evening, 30 December 2013. Clive referred to Rod's role in the Australian Newspaper History Group before asking him about the early years of print in Australia. Rod told the listeners of George Hughes, Australia's first printer who doubled as an actor in the play *Jane Shore*. Hughes' *Jane Shore* playbill is the oldest known document printed in Australia and was a gift from Canada where it was discovered to the people of Australia. It is now held at the National Library of Australia. Rod talked about the difficulties in producing the *Sydney Gazette*. Being the official government paper there could be no editorial independence from the Governor. It was usually issued as four printed pages (sometimes just two), the type for each of which had to be dismantled before the next page could be composed – a good reason for making the paper a weekly! Asked the most prolific period of Australian newspaper production, Rod said it was the 1880s and 1890s. Clive expressed his disgust at editors who do not append their names to their editorials but was pleased when Rod recalled that when he was the editor of the *Central Western Daily* at Orange 30 years ago he had always included his name with his editorials. Clive then asked Rod about the future of print newspapers in a digital era and Rod linked the future of both to advertising sales and audience, with the prediction that print newspapers will still be around for at least twenty years despite online competition. Thanks to Rod for a great interview and for informing Clive's listeners of our wonderful newspaper history!

#### 76.4.6 Taree (1): Editor reflects on changes

**Toni Bell**, editor of the *Manning River Times*, Taree, wrote an article about the paper when it celebrated its 145<sup>th</sup> birthday on 8 January. She said she had begun as a cadet at the paper in 1976. She continued: "I had just missed the 'hot metal' days and 'bromide' was the new format, not that that concerned a cadet too much. The newsroom was dominated by typewriters and photographers printed their own photos from rolls of film in the *Times* darkroom, all black and white. We typed our stories on copy paper, the first paragraph on one piece of paper because it needed to be set in

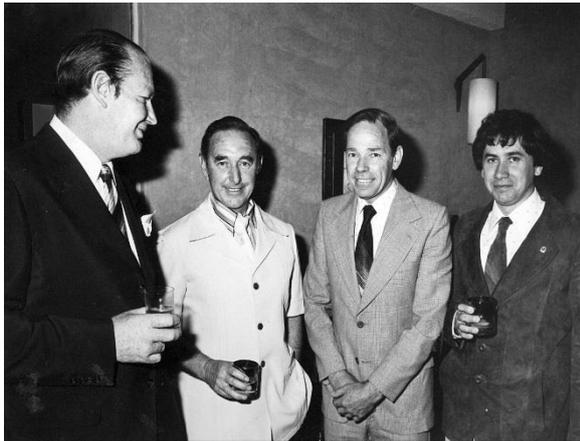
a larger font by the typesetters for the compositor to place on the page before the proof reader would check it. Typesetters, compositors and proof readers no longer exist.

“The arrival of computer technology has seen the news team assume more and more of these roles, until today when we are responsible for getting the finished pages to the press (so please forgive the mistakes). But from my first day at the *Times*, the focus has not changed. Our focus is local news—we are parochial and unapologetic about that.

“And today we have several new ways to deliver that news. Our online presence allows us to deliver breaking news. Floods and bushfires are always big news in the Manning and through our web page we can provide almost immediate updates on such serious events. Feedback tells us that our coverage helps. Online we can also deliver more in-depth news, photo galleries and video of news and events around the Manning. And it gives us a broader audience: news from the Manning is reaching the world.”

#### 76.4.7 Taree (2): A long time *Manning River Times* employee

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: The photograph of the Swiss Duplex flatbed *Manning River Times* press on the cover of this issue of ANHG led me to telephone John Doust, one of the two people in the photo. I wanted to know when the photograph was taken. I knew Doust from my two stints at the *Manning River Times* more than 40 years ago. I was the senior journalist (on loan from the *Maitland Mercury*) for nine months in 1968 and the editor of the paper, 1970-71. The *Times* was published four times a week. Now it appears twice a week as a paid paper, and its journalists also help produce the regional “free”, the *Manning-Great Lakes Extra*, and sub the weekly *Wingham Chronicle*.



OWNER KERRY PACKER, EDITOR KEN McDONALD, MANAGER JOHN DOUST AND JOURNALIST IAN CROWTHER AT THE *MANNING RIVER TIMES* IN 1978. CROWTHER BECAME A HIGH-FLYING NEWSPAPER MANAGER.

Doust (b. 1931) began as an apprentice compositor at the *Manning River Times* on 5 August 1946 at age 15. There were only six others on the staff. Doust said he had applied partly because W.B. Boyce, then the owner of the *Times*, had been his Sunday school superintendent at the Methodist church. Doust served a six-year apprenticeship and was appointed foreman the week the apprenticeship ended. He served as foreman until he became the general manager on 8 April 1975. He retired from that post on 5 August 1994 after precisely 48 years with the paper. He had also served as regional manager for the north coast for Regional Publishers Pty

Ltd, a subsidiary of Rural Press Ltd. Doust says the photo on previous page was taken in 1978. [One of those photographed, Ian Crowther, went on to become a senior newspaper manager, serving as CEO of Fairfax Community Newspapers in Sydney, as CEO of Harris & CO, publishers of the Burnie *Advocate* (before Rural Press took over), and as general manager of the *Adelaide Review*.] Doust said Packer made a few visits to the *MR Times* and always showed a keen interest in the details of the newspaper and its staff. NB: I interviewed Doust at his Taree home on 17 April 1996 when I was researching what became *Country Conscience: A History of the New South Wales Provincial Press, 1841-1995* (2000).

Doust thought the cover photograph for this ANHG issue might have been taken around 1963, but research by Rod Gow, newspaper indexer, of Cundletown, near Taree, shows that it could not have been taken before January 1968. I asked Gow to check when the masthead that appears in the cover photo of a newspaper rolling off the press had first appeared (I emailed him an enlarged image). The previous masthead last appeared on 29 December 1967, and the “new” masthead appeared from the first issue in January 1968. I joined the *Manning River Times* as senior journalist on 22 January 1968.

In the 12 February issue of the *Parramatta Advertiser*, the editor in chief advised that the Macquarie Street premises would be vacated by that day and the *Advertiser* and the Parramatta office of the *Daily Telegraph* would move to a new smaller office at 111 Phillip Street, Parramatta. The main regional team had already moved to the Holt Street offices for News Local in Sydney. The paper is printed at Chullora, but the press was still at the back of the Macquarie Street building in Parramatta.

#### **76.4.8 Camden: The heritage of ‘unique Australian potholes’**

The Campbelltown Library’s “History Buff” blog says the library recently discovered a copy of the *Macarthur Misleader* in its collection of newspapers in local studies. The Apex Club of Camden published this newspaper from the mid-1960s to raise money for local charity and the community. Its other purpose was generally to amuse readers with various nonsense articles and funny photographs. Only three or four editions were published. Campbelltown Library has the second issue, published just before Christmas 1965. One article related to Elizabeth Macarthur Drive, Camden. It announced that the road was to be taken over by the National Trust “to preserve the unique Australian potholes that exist in this wonderful, rugged stretch of road”.

See <http://campbelltown-library.blogspot.com.au/2014/01/the-macarthur-misleader.html>

#### **76.4.9 An artist and a newspaper**

Danila Vassilieff was an artist you might think had been dreamed up by a romantic novelist (writes **Kitty Hauser**, *Weekend Australian Review*, 4-5 January 2014). A Cossack who fought against the Bolsheviks before being captured by the Red Army, Vassilieff (1897-1958) travelled in China, the Northern Territory, France, Brazil, the West Indies, Spain and England before washing up in Melbourne in 1935. He has been posited as a missing link in Australian art history. Without his example in the late 1930s and 1940s, some say, the later work of the so-called Angry Penguin painters would not have been possible. Certainly he was an important figure for younger artists such as Sidney Nolan, Arthur Boyd and Joy Hester.

At Warrandyte on the outskirts of Melbourne, Vassilieff built himself a house out of rocks that he quarried out of the ground; he called it Stonygrad. He lived in a series of lodgings in Mildura, Swan Hill and Melbourne, earning money from teaching, but never lasted long at any post. In the last months of his life he was living in a fishing shack owned by a fellow teacher, Colin Wilson, at Buronga on the banks of the Murray River.

He had been dismissed from his last teaching job and turfed out from his beloved Stonygrad by his wife. His health was bad. He did a lot of fishing. And in the evenings he painted, usually on pages of the *Sunraysia Daily*, by the light of a kerosene lamp. His subject was the river, populated with birds, animals and alarming-looking women; he gave his pictures titles such as Many twists and turns has Mother Darling on Sunday but not as many as the girl from Wentworth. “Reflection in the Darling” was the last painting he did.

It is painted on newsprint, its bright colours reflecting Vassilieff’s exuberant love of the river and its flora and fauna. “Reflection” is one of 34 paintings given by Wilson (the owner of the shack) to Mildura Arts Centre, which is hosting an exhibition of Vassilieff’s works until 20 April 2014. [N.B. There’s an *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entry on Vassilieff.]

#### **76.4.10 Dubbo Dispatch and Sir Henry Parkes**

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: I have recently read a newly published biography of Sir Henry Parkes. It’s an enjoyable read, and is well written and thoroughly researched. It’s written by Stephen Dando-Collins, and is called *Sir Henry Parkes: An Australian Colossus*. On pages 301-303 the author tells of Sir Henry allowing a *Dubbo Dispatch* journalist to observe a day in his life and write about it. An extract (pp.301-302): ‘... after Sir Henry rose at daybreak, he spent thirty minutes breakfasting on a little toast and a cup of tea. With the reporter watching on, Parkes granted an audience to friends wanting a private word during breakfast, listening to their requests with a cheerful countenance as he ate. He then worked for several hours at his large “partner’s desk”,

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which sat in the middle of the expansive Colonial Secretary's office like a ship in the middle of an ocean. At noon, he donned his silk top hat, left the office, and went for a thirty-minute stroll to clear his head.'

#### **76.4.11 *Lone Hand* ceases**

*Riverina Recorder*, Balranald, 16 February 1921, p.2: The *Lone Hand* magazine, which for 14 years battled to obtain a solid footing as a truly Australian magazine, has given the fight best. In his final hit the editor says, "The *Lone Hand* was slaughtered on the altar of Charlie Chaplinism."

#### **76.4.12 *Canberra Times* digitisation completed**

The National Library's centenary gift to the capital—the complete digitisation of the *Canberra Times* from 1926 onwards—was finished in Christmas week 2013 (*Canberra Times*, 26 December 2013). This makes the ACT's newspaper one of the only daily papers to be fully available online via the library's Trove database to 1995, and through other databases from 1996 onwards. Library assistant director-general Cathy Pilgrim, who helped set up the project in 2011, said the digitisation of the paper was a genuine community collaboration, made possible through donations and made better through user corrections and contributions. The NLA raised about \$180,000 in sponsorships and donations for the Canberra project alone, while the community of Trove users has corrected more than 100 million lines of text where small errors were made by automatic scanning software across the entire database.

Digitising the newspaper has made almost 90 years of Canberra's immediate history fully searchable in a way that hasn't been possible before. The Trove database to date has been mined for information by family historians and academics, and even advertising and sports results have been put to use in studies or by communities, such as an international online group of knitters named Ravelry, which has scoured Trove's old newspapers for historic knitting patterns. Pilgrim said the complete digitisation of the *Canberra Times* across 481,875 pages—including 2,225,323 articles, 650,607 ads and 22,511 family notices—meant the first draft of the city's history had now become a genuine chronicle of historical events easily accessible by anyone, anywhere.

#### **76.4.13 A century and a printing press, 1888**

Newspaper extract: "As this issue of the *Australian Town and Country Journal* (28 January 1888, p.10) comes leaping by its tens of thousands from the most complete and elaborate printing machinery which modern mechanical science can produce, the day is opening which marks the centenary of the first establishment of European settlement on the shores of Port Jackson. And in this, the second of two numbers of the *Town and Country Journal* published to specially commemorate the centenary, it may be permissible—it will, indeed, be appropriate—to point out that few things work mark more strongly the great progress made by New South Wales during her hundred years of existence than does her newspaper press seen in the highest form of literary, artistic, and mechanical developments in the pages now before the reader.

"A hundred years ago to-day, there lay on board ship in Sydney Cove, soon to be landed, a printing press and some type of the fashion then in use, which, as far as the press was concerned, would be very old fashioned now. There was no one among the first settlers able to use either press or type, so that some time had to elapse before they were put to proper purpose for printing Government proclamations.

"Now the country teems with printing machinery and type, which give not only the latest news of the whole world, but free discussion of public men and public affairs, subject always to the peculiar views of judges and juries as to what is or is not libel."

#### **76.4.14 Newspaper digitisation in NSW**

Manager of Trove, Dr Tim Sherratt, has announced that the following NSW newspapers are being digitised in 2013/14 for inclusion on Trove, funded by the State Library of NSW's Digital Excellence Program. He is particularly excited about "our first Chinese language newspapers".

Title	Date range	Title	Date range
<i>Southern Star</i> (Bega)	1900-1923	<i>Branxton Advocate: Greta and Rothbury Recorder</i>	3 Mar 1916
<i>Tumut &amp; Adelong Times</i>	1864-1949	<i>Gloucester Advocate</i>	1905-1954
<i>Lockhart Review &amp; Oaklands Advertiser</i>	1910-1954	<i>Newcastle Sun</i>	1918-1954
<i>Western Age</i> (Cobar, 1899)	1914-1936	<i>Murrumbidgee Irrigator</i> (Leeton)	1915-1954
<i>Dispatch</i> (Dubbo)	1932-1933	<i>Daily Commercial News and Shipping List</i>	1891-1954
<i>Western Grazier</i> (Wilcannia)	1896-1951	<i>Methodist</i>	1892-1954
<i>Cootamundra Herald</i>	1877-1946	<i>Mudgee Guardian and North-western Representative</i>	1890-1954
<i>Cootamundra Daily Herald</i>	1946-1954	<i>National Advocate</i> (Bathurst)	1889-1954
<i>Barrier Daily Truth</i>	1908-1954	<i>Northern Champion</i> (Taree)	1913-1954
<i>Bombala Times and Monaro and Coast Districts General Advertiser</i>	1899-1905	<i>Scone Advocate</i>	1887-1954
<i>Bombala Times</i>	1912-1938	<i>Sydney Sportsman</i>	1900-1954
<i>Dungog Chronicle: Durham and Gloucester Advertiser.</i>	1894-1954	<i>Truth</i> (Sydney)	1894-1954
<i>Molong Express and Western Districts Advertiser</i>	1887-1954	<i>Ulladulla and Milton Times</i>	1895-1917
<i>Riverine Grazier</i> (Hay)	1873-1954	<i>Wingham Chronicle and Manning River Observer</i>	1899-1954
<i>Wellington Times</i>	1899-1954	<i>Sydney General Trade List</i>	17 May 1828-8 Oct 1829
<i>Camden News</i>	1895-1954	<i>Sydney General Trade List, and Mercantile Advertiser</i>	15 Oct 1829-19 Feb 1830
<i>Jerilderie Herald and Urana Advertiser</i>	1892-1954	<i>Sydney General Trade List, Mercantile Chronicle and Advertiser</i>	29 Apr 1830-14 May 1830
<i>North Western Courier</i> (Narrabri)	1913-1954	<i>Sydney General Trade List (1834)</i>	1834-1842
<i>Raymond Terrace Examiner and Lower Hunter and Port Stephens Advertiser</i>	1912-1954	<i>Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List</i>	23 Mar 1844-31 Dec 1860
<i>Riverina Recorder</i> (Balranald)	1887-1944	<i>Sydney Mail</i>	July 7, 1860-Feb. 25, 1871
<i>Daily Advertiser</i> (Wagga Wagga)	1911-1954	<i>Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser</i>	4 Mar 1871-27 Mar 1912
<i>Wagga Wagga Express</i> (1875)	1879-1919	<i>Sydney Mail</i> (1912)	3 Apr 1912-28 Dec 1938
<i>South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus</i>	1900-1954	<i>Gosford Times and Gosford and Wollombi Express</i>	1906
<i>Western Herald</i> (Bourke)	1887-1895, 1915-1951, 1962-1968	<i>Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate</i>	1906-1954

### 76.4.15 Mackay: Letters between a newspaper owner/manager and a GI

The “Our History” section in Mackay’s *Daily Mercury* has been publishing a series of letters from the late 1940s between its owner-manager and an American GI. Henry John (Jack) Manning, who succeeded his father, William Joseph Manning, in 1943 as principal of the *Mercury*, befriended the GI, Richard M. Fetter, when the latter spent some R&R time in Mackay during World War II. The letters were published in the *Mercury* on 3 January 2014, pp.14-15, and 10 January, p.25.

This follows on from the 75.4.3 when ANHG mentioned: Harry Moore, editor of the *Daily Mercury*, Mackay, 1941-1949, was featured in three historical articles in the newspaper—on 11 October 2013, pp.32-33; and 1 and 8 November 2013, pp.34-35, both times. Much of the second and third articles was based on Moore’s memoirs, transcripts of tape-recorded recollections and reminiscences.



## 5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

### 76.5.1 Books

**Barber, Laurie**, *Massacre at Myall Creek*. This is based on the following event: On Sunday, June 10, 1838, 12 horsemen bound about 28 indigenous Australians camping peacefully on Myall Creek Station. They took them over the hill and murdered them by cutting off their heads and throwing them into a fire. As a result of two one-day trials, seven men were hanged a week prior to Christmas that year.

**Dunlop, Tim**, *The New Front Page: New Media and the Rise of the Audience*, Scribe Melbourne, 2013, paperback, 258 pages, \$27.95.

**Ellis, John**, *A Working Life*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (2012). A memoir of the printing industry 1945-1990, incorporating the author's political activism and his passion for photography. 64pp. The first edition was printed and distributed by J.P. Wegner at the Blackdown Press in 2012, for private circulation to friends and supporters of the Brandywine Archive project. The second edition was printed by Paxton Press, Ocean Grove, Vic. John Ellis is at 13/231a Point Lonsdale Road, Point Lonsdale, Vic., 3225.

**Folkenfelk, David**, *Murdoch's World: The Last of the Old Media Empires*, BBS Public Affairs, New York, paperback, 373 pages, \$21.99.

**Jericho, Greg**, *The Rise of the Fifth Estate: Social Media and Blogging in Australia Politics*, Scribe, Melbourne, 2012, paperback, 320 pages, \$29.95.

**Simons, Margaret**, *Journalism at the Crossroads: Crisis and Opportunity for the Press*, Scribe, Melbourne, 2012, paperback, 144 pages, \$24.95.

### 76.5.2. Articles

**Clarke, Patricia**, "Queensland's first professional woman journalist: Mary Hannay Foott", *Queensland History Journal*, Vol 22, No 4, February 2014, pp.302-315.

**Davis, Matt**, "The net's next big thing", *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 77, October-November 2013, p.38. The author sees quality webcasting as a tool to put journalism back at the top of the viewing agenda, no matter what device you're on.

**Keane, John**, "Cheering a new generation of muckrakers", *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 75, April-June 2013, pp.14-15. Online muckrakers are continuing a tradition begun in the 19<sup>th</sup> century where activism, not objectivity, was the point.

**Kenny, Chris**, "Changing the truth: digital media is distorting mainstream coverage", *Weekend Australian*, 21-22 December 2013, p.15. Journalists are moving further away from engagement with their readers.

**Legge, Kate**, "Paper tiger" *Weekend Australian Magazine*, 14-15 December 2013, pp.20-24. He's a publisher with a grand plan to expand ... into newspapers. Who is Morry Schwartz?

**Matthews, Jack**, "The new house of Fairfax", *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 73, October-November 2012, p.17. The digital-first approach may still be a culture shock for traditional print journalists, but Fairfax needed a new newsroom model to survive, the author argues.

**Rodgers, Shane**, “APN flies its local colours”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 73, October-November 2012, p.18. Regional and local news has been doing it hard. APN’s Shane Rodgers explains how its newsrooms are being transformed to face up to some tough challenges.

**Simons, Margaret**, “The Saturday Paper: who on earth would launch a newspaper today?”, *theguardian.com*, 28 February 2014. Publisher Morry Schwartz tells of his audacious plan to buck the rampant trend towards digital.

**Tiffen, Rodney**, “The Odd Couple”, *Good Weekend* (in *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age*), 25 January 2014, pp.22-23. The relationship between Gough Whitlam and Rupert Murdoch in 1972-1975.

**Torsh, Daniela**, “How Women’s Lib came to the Journalists’ Club”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 75, April-June 2013, pp.43-44. Women may have gained equal pay as journalists, but in 1971 they didn’t have equal rights at the Journalists’ Club.

**Wood, Stephanie**, “Amid constant change, Herald tells story of Sydney and the nation”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 February 2014, p.6. In the last broadsheet *SMH*, a very brief summary of the evolution of the *SMH*.

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## Books for cost of postage

Victor Isaacs is disposing of duplicate books in his collection. They are available in return for the cost of postage. They are:

- Gilson, Miriam, and Zubrzycki, Jerzy, *The Foreign-language Press in Australia*, Australian National University Press, 1967, 267pp, hardback.
- Griffin-Foley, Bridget. *Party Games: Australian Politicians and the Media from War to Dismissal*, Text Publishing, 2003, 300pp, paperback.
- Lord, Peter, *125 Years of the Advertiser*, Griffin Press, 1983, 222pp, paperback. Extracts from the *Adelaide Advertiser*.
- Moyal, Ann, *Breakfast with Beaverbrook: Memoirs of an Independent Woman*, Hale Iremonger, 1995, 220pp, paperback. Memoirs of a varied career, including working closely with Lord Beaverbrook on his histories, and the beginning of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.
- Read, Donald. *The Power of News: The History of Reuters*, Oxford University Press, 1993, 440pp, paperback.
- Rolfe, Patricia, *The Journalistic Javelin: An Illustrated History of the Bulletin 1880-1980*, Wildcat Press, 1979, 314pp, hardback.
- Sommerlad, E.C., *Mightier than the Sword: A Handbook on Journalism, Broadcasting, Propaganda, Public Relations, Advertising*, Angus & Robertson, 1950, 254pp, hardback.

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