

Lachlan Murdoch rejoins the family fold—77.1.1

Genesis of weather maps in Australian newspapers—77.4.1



THE *EXAMINER* BUILDING, LAUNCESTON, IN 2003. THE FIRST EDITOR, THE REV JOHN WEST, BECAME THE FIRST NON-PROPRIETOR TO EDIT THE *SYDNEY MORNING HERALD* (1854-73). THE *EXAMINER*, A DAILY SINCE 21 DECEMBER 1877, IS ONE OF THE OLDEST NEWSPAPERS IN AUSTRALIA, BEHIND THE *SYDNEY MORNING HERALD* (1831), *HERALD SUN* (THE *HERALD*'S ORIGINS GO BACK TO JANUARY 1840), AND THE *GEELONG ADVERTISER* (NOVEMBER 1840). THE *WEST AUSTRALIAN*, SOMETIMES SAID TO HAVE ITS ORIGINS IN AN 1833 PUBLICATION, ACTUALLY BEGAN IN 1879 WITH VOL 1, No 1 (SEE IT ON TROVE).

## AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

# NEWSLETTER

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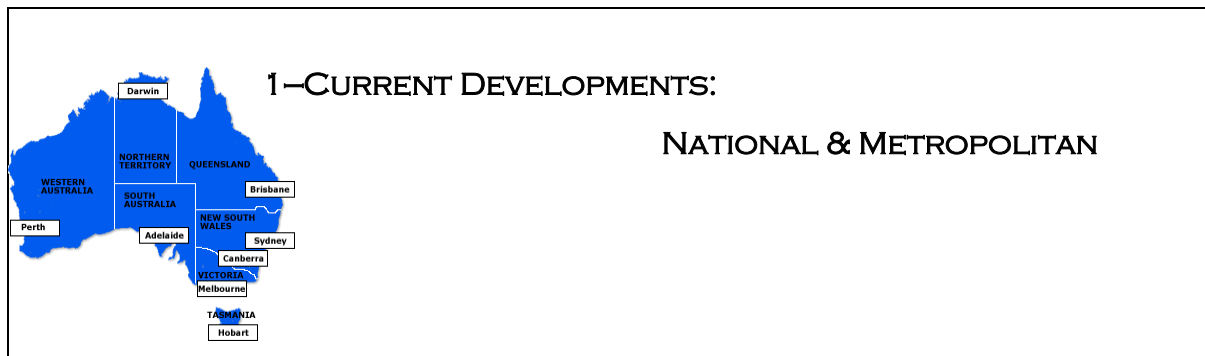
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**Deadline for the next *Newsletter*: 4 August 2014.**

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.



### 77.1.1 Lachlan rejoins Murdoch fold

Lachlan Murdoch has been named non-executive co-chairman of News Corp and 21st Century Fox in a clear sign that his father Rupert may finally be putting in place a succession strategy (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 March 2014). Lachlan will share the chairmanship of both companies with his father, and has stepped down as a chairman and a director of Ten Network, where he holds an 8.8 per cent interest. "This appointment is a sign of confidence in the growth of News Corp and a recognition of Lachlan's entrepreneurial leadership and passion for news, digital media and sport," Rupert Murdoch said in a statement released to the ASX on 26 March. "In the elevated role, Lachlan will help us move News Corp forward as we expand our reach and invest in new technologies and markets around the world." Lachlan's brother James has been elevated to the position of co-chief operating officer at News Corp.



LACHLAN MURDOCH

Lachlan Murdoch left the family firm in 2009, moving from New York to Sydney. One source told Darren Davidson, of the *Australian*, that Lachlan, who had wanted to prove he could go it alone, was eventually told by his father that he could come back "but without coming back full-time and still run your companies". Lachlan Murdoch is now able to continue leading the companies he has built under the umbrella of his investment vehicle Illyria. "It's a big job but it allows Lachlan to run his own businesses in Australia and India, and you've got Rupert I think putting succession in at a number of levels," a source said (*Australian*, 28 March 2014).

Some of the press reaction to the announcement:

**James Chessell** in the *Australian Financial Review*: Lachlan Murdoch is very tough. As James Packer told Fairfax: "My view on Lachlan is anyone who underrates him is making a mistake." Lachlan is often described in black or white terms. He is either hopeless or a genius. The truth, of course, is somewhere in

between.

**Dominic White** in the *AFR*: Lachlan Murdoch is expected to work three weeks out of four in Australia with the remainder of his time divided between New York and Los Angeles, home of 21st Century Fox's movie business.

**Jake Mitchell** in the *AFR*: News Corp Australia's chief operating officer Peter Tonagh is firming as the next chief executive of the local arm of Rupert Murdoch's media empire.

**Neil Chenoweth** in the *AFR*: Lachlan has always been Murdoch's preferred heir. His upbringing and training has seemed consciously modelled on Rupert's own youth, and the heartache Murdoch senior felt at the alienation from his son is easily underestimated.

**Mark Day** in the *Australian*: Rupert Murdoch's long-expected move to bring his elder son, **Lachlan**, back into his \$83 billion media companies establishes clear lines of succession, but it does not mean he is about to hand over control any time soon.

**Elizabeth Knight** in the *SMH*: The news that his son Lachlan will take the role as joint chairman of both arms of the listed empire and that Murdoch's younger son, James, will assume the mantle of joint chief operating officer of 21st Century Fox is unsettling for many investors.

See also: Darren Davidson, "The kid with newspaper ink in his blood takes his place at the helm", *Weekend Australian*, 29-30 March 2014, p.15.

### **77.1.2 Fairfax to sack 80 newsroom staff and may close some newspapers**

Fairfax Media said it would dismiss up to 80 newsroom staff across production, layout and photography (*Australian*, 7 May 2014). The company will outsource the work. Editors told staff of the job losses on 7 May. The losses will affect long-serving photographers, senior picture editors and layout and production staff, with work outsourced to contributors and external agencies. On 8 May, the *Australian* reported that photographers would be hardest-hit, with 45 of them across the *SMH*, *Age* and *AFR* titles axed, leaving five each in Sydney and Melbourne, and two in Canberra. Most Fairfax photography will be outsourced to Getty Images, an agency that specialises in sports photography and has fewer than 15 full-time photographers. That company prefers to contract staff and doesn't have a Canberra bureau. After the announcement of the staff cuts, Fairfax employees went on strike for 24 hours (see also, Damion Kitney, "News Corp chief keeps faith in newspapers amid flat earnings", *Weekend Australian*, 10-11 May 2014, pp.23-24).

The *Australian* reported (in the main story in its Media section, 12 May 2014, p.20) that more than 30 Fairfax Media newspapers, including the daily *Illawarra Mercury*, were under review for possible closure.

### **77.1.3 Courier-Mail fined for publishing names of family members**

The Brisbane *Courier-Mail* has been fined \$120,000 for illegally identifying a family involved in a court custody battle. The publishers, Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd, was fined in the District Court in Brisbane on 24 March for breaching restrictions on publishing court proceedings. The newspaper published on its front page in 2012 names and photos of a mother and her children involved in a Family Court dispute. Australian media are prohibited from identifying anyone involved in Family Court proceedings. District Court Justice Terence Martin said the *Courier-Mail* deliberately and blatantly disregarded the law for commercial gain. "It seems to me that the newspaper seized upon what it regarded as a sensational story, which would be attractive to readers, and put the story ahead of its legal obligations," he said. The court heard Queensland Newspapers breached the law four times by identifying the family members in four newspapers across a week in May 2012. Journalists were warned multiple times by a court staffer and a legal officer about the ramifications of identifying the family. Justice Martin fined the company \$30,000 per breach, saying the offending was in the worst category and the newspaper had shown no remorse (brisbanetimes.com.au, 24 March 2014).

### **77.1.4 Catholic Weekly pulps edition**

The *Catholic Weekly* pulped a recent edition because the issue featured a front-page story on the death of a young Sydney actress (*Australian*, 4 April 2014). The *Catholic Weekly* withdrew an estimated 12,500 copies of the newspaper on 30 March in what is believed to be the first instance of its kind in its long history. A recorded phone message at the *Catholic Weekly* said, "Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have had to withdraw the current issue of the *Catholic Weekly* dated 30th March, 2014, from circulation." The story celebrated the life of 22-year-old Lauren Langrell, who is understood to have committed suicide at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, on March 18 after an extended stay. A copy of the newspaper features a prominent picture of - Langrell alongside the headline "Tragedy strikes a life, a family and Sydney".

The story recounts the achievements of a popular and successful young woman, whose death shocked the global Catholic community. The article does not mention the circumstances surrounding her death. The recently-appointed editor of the *Catholic Weekly*, Peter Rosengren,

who started in the job last November, was unavailable for comment. The author of the story, the newspaper's print and digital editor, Sharyn McCowen, would not comment. The communications director of the archdiocese of Sydney, Katrina Lee, said the publication of the story had resulted from a "misunderstanding". Lee said Langrell's parents, Mark and Mary, did not know the newspaper was planning a story until they met Rosengren on the day of publication. "The editor felt it was inappropriate and withdrew it out of respect for the family," she said.

### 77.1.5 Celebrating 50 years in print

The *Australian* launched a campaign on 3 April to celebrate 50 years in print in the lead-up to its official birthday on July 15 including a glossy, collectors' edition magazine nominating the 50 most influential people of the period. The newspaper launched an editorial series looking at key events that have shaped the past 50 years including the Vietnam War and the dismissal of former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam. The first edition of the paper, launched by News Corp executive chairman Rupert Murdoch, has been recreated digitally to highlight the progress of journalism and print advertising over the past five decades. A 50th anniversary digital hub features videos, images, cartoons and stories published in the *Australian* since its launch.

### 77.1.6 People

**Darren Goodsir**, editor-in-chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, talked to James Manning (*Mediaweek*, 3 March 2014, pp.8-9) about the redesign of the Saturday *Sydney Morning Herald* when it went compact (tabloid). Goodsir, who began his career as a copy boy on the *Daily Mirror* in the mid-1980s, sees himself as "an evangelist for integrated newsrooms and digital journalism for the future".

**Andrew Holden**, editor-in-chief of the *Age*, spoke to James Manning (*Mediaweek*, 10 March 2014, pp.8-9) about design insights when editing news for print and web.

**Jeni O'Dowd**, editor of the Saturday *Daily Telegraph*, talked to Sally Rawsthorne (*Mediaweek*, 17 March 2014, p.7) about "improvements" to the Saturday *Tele*.

**Katharine Viner**, founding editor-in-chief of Guardian Australia, is moving to New York to head the Guardian's US operations (*Australian*, 7 March 2014). The new Guardian Australia editor is **Emily Wilson**, current UK network editor of theguardian.com/. The Australian office has grown to nearly 40 staff and has recently announced the establishment of a Melbourne office.

### 77.1.7 Putting a value on print media

A new report has measured the economic value of the Australian writing, publishing and print media sector in 2011 (*Mediaweek*, 24 February 2014, p.4). The report says 55,645 people were working in the sector. The Australian Government's Creative Industries Innovation Centre, issued the report, which also found:

- 34.9 per cent of businesses in the sector turned over less than \$50,000 a year.
- 26.2 per cent turn over between \$50,000 and \$200,000 a year.
- 32.3 per cent turn over between \$200,000 and \$2 million.
- 6.6 per cent turn over more than \$2 million a year.

### 77.1.8 Chronology of recent events

#### 77.1.8.1 Deaths

**McLaren, Harold Geoffrey**: D. 30 January 2014, at Murray Bridge, aged 72. Contributed sports reports to the *Murray Valley Standard*, Murray Bridge, SA, for more than 50 years; contributed 1018 weekly sports columns in an unbroken sequence from September 1994; he had researched thoroughly the history of newspapers in Murray Bridge and was generous in sharing the information he gathered; see ANHG 74.3.7 (October 2013).

### 77.1.9 Cover price increases for News Corp papers

As from Monday 17 March, the prices of most News Corp Australia newspapers increased as indicated in the table below:

| Title                           | Days    | Old price | New price |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Daily Telegraph (Sydney)</b> | Mon-Fri | \$1.20    | \$1.30    |
| <b>Herald Sun (Melbourne)</b>   | Mon-Fri | \$1.20    | \$1.30    |
| <b>Courier-Mail (Brisbane)</b>  | Mon-Fri | \$1.20    | \$1.30    |
| <b>Advertiser (Adelaide)</b>    | Mon-Fri | \$1.20    | \$1.30    |
| <b>Advertiser (Adelaide)</b>    | Sat     | \$2.00    | \$2.20    |
| <b>Mercury (Hobart)</b>         | Mon-Fri | \$1.00    | \$1.20    |
| <b>Geelong Advertiser</b>       | Mon-Fri | \$1.20    | \$1.30    |
| <b>Gold Coast Bulletin</b>      | Mon-Fri | \$1.20    | \$1.30    |
| <b>Townsville Bulletin</b>      | Mon-Fri | \$1.20    | \$1.30    |
| <b>Cairns Post</b>              | Mon-Fri | \$1.20    | \$1.30    |

### 77.1.10 Scent of hot-cross newspapers

In mid-March supermarket giant Coles placed ads in Fairfax, News Corp and Western Australian newspapers carrying the scent of hot cross buns, with a special gadget being set up to spray the page carrying the ad as the presses roll (*Age*, 15 March 2014).

### 77.1.11 Briefs

From Tuesday, 1 April, the *Daily Telegraph* improved its business news coverage. It is now on a par with the business sections of the *Herald Sun* or *Courier-Mail* (writes Victor Isaacs).

The *ANU Reporter*, the quarterly magazine of the Australian National University, is no longer inserted into the *Canberra Times*. The *Canberra Times* continues to carry the quarterly magazine of Melbourne's Swinburne University.

### 77.1.12 Selecting journalism trainees

Nick Richardson, a senior journalist with News Corp Australia, wants to indicate that the adoption of a video application process for Fairfax Media's graduate cadets (see ANHG 76.1.11) is "a case of follow-the-leader". Three years ago News introduced video as part of the application process for its News Limited Victorian trainee journalism program. Richardson writes: "In addition to filling out a written application form that helped establish media consumption habits, grammar, newsroom understanding, being able to turn a set of facts in to a news story, etc., we also asked the applicants to provide us with a 30-second video of a local news story that they had shot, edited and voiced themselves. It was a very effective way of identifying applicants with a natural facility for video storytelling."

### 77.1.13 Ita interrupts deliveries

On Tuesday, 15 April, the *Australian* noted: "Due to production issues, parts of regional Queensland and northern NSW did not receive yesterday's copy of the newspaper. The *Australian* apologises to its readers. Please contact your newsagent if you would like to received Monday's edition." Cyclone Ita crossed the north Queensland coast at Cape Flattery about 10pm on Saturday, 12 April, and affected much of the rest of the Queensland coast on the Sunday. One of News Corp's printeries is located at Townsville in north Queensland.

### 77.1.14 Anzac centenary: war diaries come to life

News Corp Australia and the State Library of NSW have announced a partnership that will result in the two organisations working together to bring to all Australians for the first time the evocative and often confronting war diaries of diggers who served in World War I. The partnership is part of a broad ANZAC centenary program that will see also meant that News Corp Australia will:

- Encourage modern day diggers to share their stories at war working with the Australian War Memorial (AWM) to capture a contemporary view of war.
- Produce a library of rich and comprehensive materials that become an ultimate resource for high schools around the country to access and contribute to.

Through its national network of newspapers including the *Daily Telegraph*, *Herald Sun*, *Courier-Mail* and *Advertiser* and their websites, News Corp Australia will use the latest and most innovative storytelling techniques to take readers to the front line (News Corp Australia media statement).

### 77.1.15 *AFR* and Anzac edition

*The Australian Financial Review's* editor-in-chief Michael Stutchbury has apologised to readers for a series of production errors with the newspaper's Anzac Day edition, and admitted they would result in a "revenue loss" (*Australian*, 24 April 2014). Copies of the paper on sale in Western Australia have appeared with cover lines such as "The legacy of Gallipoli" (sic). Twitter users drew attention to another page-one misspelling of the Gallipoli Anzac Day campaign, this time as "Gallipolli", and the incomprehensible subheading: "Army chief here". On the east coast, copies on sale in newsagents did not have a barcode printed on the back page, which means vendors were not been able to carry out a transaction. In an email response to a series of questions posed by the *Australian*, Stutchbury blamed the problem on a "simple error" that led to an "extremely bad result". He said the entire 16,000-copy print run for Western Australia was affected.

### 77.1.16 Reporting a Premier's resignation

**Victor Isaacs** writes: Newspapers reported the unexpected resignation of Barry O'Farrell as NSW Premier on Thursday, 17 April. The *Sydney Morning Herald* had an eight tabloid page wraparound reporting the event. The *Daily Telegraph* devoted seven tabloid pages to it, and the *Australian* most of its front page plus two broadsheet pages. (This was a day with a great deal of NSW centred news; besides politics, there was the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, deaths in a coal mine disaster, and an announcement of new infrastructure for Western Sydney). Next day, Good Friday, 18 April, the *Sydney Morning Herald* again had an eight tabloid page wraparound about NSW politics. The *Daily Telegraph* had six tabloid pages on this subject.

### 77.1.17 Circulation and revenue in the US

Circulation revenue for US newspapers has improved for the second consecutive year as an increasing number of US newspaper publishers start charging for online content (*Australian*, 23 April 2014). In a fillip for newspaper publishers, the increasing prevalence of subscription models in the US pushed circulation revenue up 3.7 per cent to \$US10.87 billion (\$11.07 billion) in 2013. Total revenue for the US newspaper industry, including advertising revenue, fell 2.6 per cent to \$US37.59 billion, according to the latest data from the Newspaper Association of America. By comparison, total revenue had dropped 2 per cent in 2012 suggesting the rate of revenue decline is more stable than some have previously assumed as publishers achieve success charging for access and broadening their businesses into new revenue streams to offset weak demand for advertising.

Advertising revenue decreased 6.5 per cent to \$US23.57 billion in 2013, but new sources of revenue rose 5 per cent to \$US3.15 billion, and direct marketing revenue gained 2.4 per cent to \$US1.40 billion. Print revenue posted the sharpest revenue decline, down 8.6 per cent to \$US17.3 million, as the impact of publishers reducing the number of newspapers they print to cut costs eats into profitability. But multi-platform packages are gaining traction, with print and digital bundled circulation revenue surging 108 per cent, while digital-only circulation grew by 47 per cent driven by paywalls. The positive result for circulation revenue adds to growing evidence that consumers are willing to pay for digital subscriptions four years after the first major general news website erected a paywall, *The Times* of London.

### 77.1.18 Good Friday newspapers

**Victor Isaacs** writes: On Good Friday, 18 April, most metropolitan newspapers were published but, as usual, the two national newspapers were not. Fairfax Media abandoned its practice of the past few years of producing the Weekend Edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age* on both Good Friday (at the Saturday retail price) and then again as an updated edition on Easter Saturday. Perhaps this is a by-product of the tabloidisation of the *SMH* and the *Age*. Or perhaps it was unpopular with buyers, and perhaps it was partly because it would not work next Christmas because Christmas and Saturday will be separated by a couple of days in 2014.



### 77.1.19 *Ladies' Home Journal* stops printing in July

On Thursday, 24 April, *Ladies' Home Journal* (USA) announced it would cease publication, ending a 131-year run. The magazine launched in 1883, and has a circulation of 3.2 million. Its owner, Meredith Corporation, says the magazine will stop monthly printing in July and will become a special-interest publication starting in the fall. Its website will remain running. "It's not a consumer issue; it's an advertising issue," a spokesman said.

### 77.1.20 Printing at Fairfax

In Melbourne, Fairfax Media ceased printing at its Tullamarine print site on 25 April 2014. The *Age* is now printed at Ballarat. In Sydney, Fairfax Media is preparing to cease printing at its Chullora site. The *Sydney Morning Herald* will then (probably from June 2014) be printed at North Richmond.

Fairfax print sites throughout Australia at 30 April are (starting from Queensland and going by state in a clockwise direction) are: Mount Isa, Ormiston, Beaudesert, Tamworth, Dubbo, Beresfield, North Richmond, Chullora, Canberra, Albury-Wodonga, Morwell, Ballarat, Launceston, Murray Bridge, Mandurah.



### 77.2.1 Digital boosts advertising revenue

Advertising revenues totalled \$13.376 billion across all media in 2013, an increase of just 0.8 per cent despite strong growth in digital, new industry figures show (*Weekend Australian*, 12-13 April 2014). Pay-TV revenues grew 14 per cent to break a half-billion dollars for the first time (\$501 million), according to the Commercial Economic Advisory Service of Australia report, which indicated a continuing patchiness in the media economy as consumers migrate to digital screens. Total print advertising fell 16.1 per cent to \$3.719bn, with newspapers down 16.8 per cent to \$2.383bn and magazine advertising falling 16.7 per cent to \$397m.

It was not all bad news for newspapers, however: first-time figures showed the digital revenue they earned last year totalled \$672m, and was helping recoup losses in print. Total digital revenues were up 19.3 per cent to \$3.987bn. "We're seeing a hell of a shift," CEASA managing director Bernard Holt said. "(Consumer goods) advertisers are obviously using digital to the hilt." Metropolitan television revenues rose by 2.1 per cent for the year to \$2.679bn, while regional revenues were down 1.1 per cent to \$818m. Outdoor advertising was strong, up 8.3 per cent to \$544m, and cinema revenues jumped 14.5 per cent to \$102m. Metropolitan radio revenues grew 2.9 per cent to \$693m but regional station revenues fell 1.3 per cent to \$334m.

**'We're seeing  
a hell of a  
shift'—CEASA**

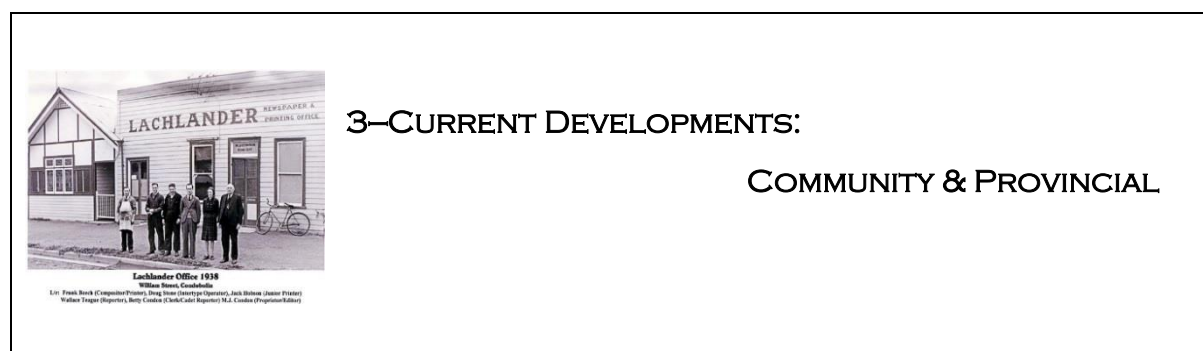
### 77.2.2 Revamped News Corp websites

Visitors to *The Daily Telegraph* website were greeted with a massive design makeover on the morning of 29 April. In a message to visitors, the site explained: "*The Daily Telegraph* today launches a new era online with reinvigorated and enriched desktop and mobile sites that comes with exclusive Member benefits and rewards. Bolder designs, new live and local features in news, sport and entertainment are at the heart of an exciting offering that will continue to give you the stories you want, when you want, on your device of choice. Our stories are now easier to find and faster to access."

*The Herald Sun* website also received a makeover on 29 April. News Corp UK websites are also getting new content as Press Gazette reports: “News UK has added near-live clips of England international cricket matches to the online sports package available to *Times*, *Sunday Times* and *Sun* website subscribers. The deal with the ECB will give website subscribers access to video of all the wickets, boundaries and sixes in England international cricket, including the next Ashes series, from May. News UK digital subscribers already have access to video clips of football Premier League and FA Cup football as well as Aviva Premiership rugby.

These changes at the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Herald Sun* were part of a revamp of the four biggest News Corp Australia masthead websites for desktop and mobile. Changes at the *Courier-Mail* and the *Adelaide Advertiser* took place a week later.

Another significant development is the addition of MyNews, a hub for members to store saved articles, create section shortcuts and see their browsing history. This gives readers “the ability...to tag content on one platform, like the website, and then access it directly from their personalised settings on another device or another platform, like the mobile site.”



### 3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS:

#### COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

#### 77.3.1 Dubbo: Editor departs

Simon Chamberlain has left the editorship of the *Daily Liberal*, Dubbo, after two and a half years to become the media adviser to the Federal Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce. Chamberlain had been commuting from Tamworth.

#### 77.3.2 APN termination benefits for ousted CEO

Changes to the management and board of APN News & Media last year resulted in ousted chief executive Brett Chenoweth receiving termination benefits of \$1.6 million (*Australian*, 21 March 2014). Chenoweth, who had been a board member since 2011, received a “termination payment equivalent to 12 months' salary”, a payment of \$100,000 to pay out short-term incentives, salary of \$836,344 to 19 February 2013 and all leave entitlements.

The remuneration report showed he was paid \$2.57m for the year to December 2013, which included a three-month leave of absence. Chenoweth left the company with three other directors after a shareholder revolt among major stakeholders, led by Irish billionaire Denis O'Brien and Allan Gray, who objected to a planned capital raising.

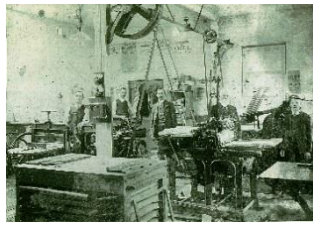
#### 77.3.3 APN NZ has new CEO

Radio Network CEO Jane Hastings takes over as chief executive of APN New Zealand on 12 May. She replaces Martin Simons, a former Rockhampton journalist, who had been CEO since 2006. Hastings joined the APN-owned Radio Network as chief executive in 2012 and has helped TRN deliver increases in revenue of 9 per cent and operating earnings of 22 per cent in her two years in the job.

In the new role, she will be responsible for APN's publishing, digital and radio operations in New Zealand.

Simons is expected to accept a consultancy role that would focus on recent digital projects including discount site GrabOne.





## 4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

### 77.4.1 Genesis of weather maps in Australian newspapers

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: Fourteen months before the *Sydney Morning Herald* published its first weather map, the New South Wales Government Astronomer, H.C. Russell, wrote to the newspaper. In his letter (*SMH*, 17 December 1875, p.6), he said: “The weather map published daily in the *Times* and other English papers is not simply a map of the direction of wind and state of the weather at each station, but rather a pictorial view of the temperature, barometer, pressure and state of weather all over the United Kingdom, as indicated by a great number of daily telegrams received at the Meteorological Office. These telegrams, as soon as they are received, and the proper corrections applied, are written on a large chart, and a general view of the meteorological condition of the United Kingdom obtained. This is compared with similar charts of preceding days, and the scientific result obtained is embodied in a small chart, which is sent to the *Times* and there converted into a printing block.”

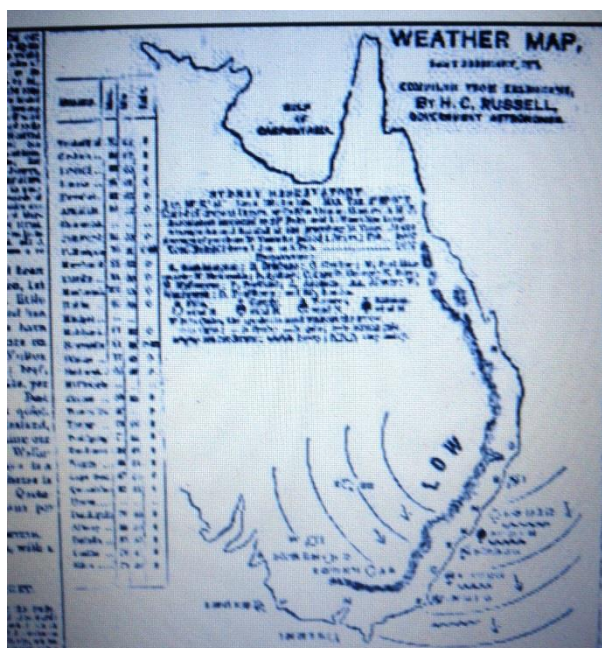
Russell had recently visited the Meteorological Office in London, familiarising himself with both the scientific methods of producing the chart, and with the mechanical details. In Washington, DC, he found the American weather chart system was “much more complete and very much more expansive than that in use in England”. His letter continued: “The idea of weather charters was first started by M. Le Verrier, the great French astronomer in 1858. Its advantage was at once seen, but the difficulties were so great that it was not copied in England until 1872.

“Since 1859, knowing what was being done in England and other places with this object in view, I have been preparing data for the publication of weather maps here, and in 1863 I proposed to the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce a partial daily weather chart for the information of persons interested in the mercantile Marine, but at that time sufficient interest was not taken in the subject, and my offer was not accepted. By combining the information I obtained in Europe and America and modifying it to suit our circumstances, I have devised a system by which a weather chart, bearing favourable comparison with those in England and America, will be published daily in the *Herald* and *Echo* newspapers.”

Before they could act, the Electric Telegraph Department had begun exhibiting daily “a wind and weather chart similar to that published in the London *Times* (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 December 1875, p.8).

The two newspapers obviously struck production obstacles because the *Sydney Morning Herald* did not publish the first Australian newspaper weather map until Monday, 5 February 1877. In an introduction beneath the map, Russell said weather maps were now common in England and America, “but it is probably necessary to say a few words on presenting the first weather map that has been published in the Australian colonies, not only because it is the first but because it differs from those published in other countries”. He said:

In the first place, then, it has been thought best to prepare a map, or rather printing block, which could be at once transferred to the newspaper printing machine. Had the ordinary method by lithography been adopted, only a few copies could have been distributed, and an expensive and slow process is required before such a map can be reproduced in a form fit for the ordinary printing press, while by this method it is at once placed in the hands of every reader of the newspaper. This has somewhat reduced the size of the map but it is still larger than those usually published in the newspapers elsewhere.



THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER WEATHER MAP—  
*SYDNEY MORNING HERALD*, 5 FEBRUARY 1877, PAGE 6.

Russell explained the symbols on the map at length, but said, for instance, “R” means “Rising” and “F” means “Falling. The names of those cities or towns mentioned were indicated by their first letters to save space (e.g. “M” was “Melbourne”, “E” was “Eden”, “S” was “Sydney”, “N” “Newcastle”). Russell said, “The information given in the map will be increased as the observing stations are multiplied, but it did not seem desirable to delay the publication longer as it already includes the coast lines of New South Wales and Victoria, probably the most important part of Australia for this purpose.” The information in the first map was up to date as at 3pm on Saturday, 3 February 1877.

From the very beginning of its career, the *Herald* had made a strong point of its weather reports. *A Century of Journalism* (p.29) reported: “It published in every issue, at the foot of the last column of the last page, a ‘Meteorological Table’, showing the state of the weather, the prevailing wind, and the variations of the thermometer at 6am, noon and

6pm each day.” The table was compiled by William Cape, whose daughter kept a school at the time in O’Connell Street, near the site of the 1931 *Herald* building.

\* H.C. Russell was Henry Chamberlain Russell (1836-1907). Read the *ADB* entry, by G.P. Walsh, online at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/russell-henry-chamberlain-4525> or in Vol 6 of the hard-copy *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

## 77.4.2 The fascinating world of newspaper history

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: The newspaper-history-related emails that bob up in my Inbox never cease to fascinate. Within a few days in March, I received one from a psychologist writing a novel and another from a company CEO researching a biography on an artist. The psychologist wanted to know about newspaper production methods in country papers about 40 years ago and about 20 years ago. And the CEO wanted to know about the publication in which a particular quote appeared. “It was,” he said, “from a newspaper or magazine published on 3 May 1932... It was a review of an exhibition held at Grosvenor Galleries in Sydney. I believe the publication was called the *World* but I can’t find any record of this or others with similar names.”

As some ANHG subscribers will know, the *World* was a Labor daily in Sydney for a short period in the 1930s. In form and content, it was “an attractive popular paper, well laid out and well illustrated with news pictures”, according to R.B. Walker (*Yesterday’s News*, p.68). The State Library of NSW has it on microfilm, (Vol 1, No 1) 26 October 1931 to 14 November 1932 (final issue; see link). <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l-decade=193&l-year=1932&l-month=11&q=world+newspaper>

Back to the psychologist: She has a family connection to newspapers. Her father worked for the *Sydney Sun* and then *Fairfax* until his retirement about the late 1970s. She still remembers going to his office in the old *Fairfax* building in Haymarket and also seeing the Linotype operators at work and the presses rolling. “In the period of strikes my dad was the only executive the unions trusted in their negotiations. I also remember Dad staying there all night to help get the paper out during strikes,” she says. [I have tried to avoid identifying the sources of the email inquiries and the subject of their books.]

### 77.4.3 A 'lone hand' from *Queensland Figaro*

At the end of 1882, Roma's *Western Star* (8 November 1882, p.3) alerted its readers to the imminent publication by "Punch Byrne" of a new weekly, *Queensland Figaro*. Byrne—John Edgar Byrne, often called "Bobby"—was a witty writer and journalist based in Brisbane. He was already publishing the monthly satirical magazine, *Punch*. When he launched *Queensland Figaro* on 6 January 1883, he wrote under the heading, "A Lone Hand", his introductory editorial in which he boasted of his independence. The editorial motto was: "Fear God; Speak evil of none; Stick to the Truth; and never be done." The editorial began:

This is a new venture, gentle public. A genuine attempt to furnish what has often been promised—an honest newspaper. It will present you from week to week something which will be as near to the naked truth as a modest journal dare attempt in an eminently respectable and sensitive community... The "influential" citizen who veils his wrong-doing under the cloak of decorous respectability, who purchases the connivance of society by his lavish hospitality, and of the church with his ready cheque-book, will get no more consideration from me than the most commonplace sinner who does evil in a shiny old black coat on two pounds a week. On the contrary, it will be our earnest endeavour to reach with the whip-lash of public scorn the sensitive hide of the man under all his many envelopes of fat and padding. Nor will we allow ourselves to be hoodwinked by the other kind of fraud—by the man who affects a jolly Bohemianism, a "not a bad sort of devil" demeanour, to cloak his innate meanness, and to direct attention from his wrong-doing.

Reviewing one of the early issues of *Queensland Figaro*, Sydney's *Evening News* remarked: "The writers in *Figaro* do not mince matters; they hit out 'straight from the shoulder' at the slightest abuse; they claim to be the people's friends and they, therefore, keep a most jealous watch on the people's interests. But *Figaro* holds rigidly aloof from all scurrility, spitefulness, and gross personalities. There are no "character assassins" on its staff, and, as a consequence, the paper is welcomed on all sides." The *Evening News* review concluded: "Altogether, *Queensland Figaro* overflows with sparkling wit and cheery wisdom. It is fearless and outspoken, but it is also clean and respectable. May it go on, and prosper!"

*Queensland Figaro*—which began with a sub-title of *Titbits for everyday about everybody and everything with a peep at society, science, sport, and the drama*—was published until 1936. It can be found on Trove.

### 77.4.4 Harry Moore and Eleanor Roosevelt: that interview

**Rod Kirkpatrick** writes: When Henry Amos Moore (1903-1998) died, the *Australian* published an obituary (11 May 1998, p.14) that said that his death meant that Australia had lost "possibly its last living link with the literary, romantic journalism of the J.F. Archibald era". I interviewed Moore, known as Harry, in Brisbane in June 1979 a month after completing my first major newspaper-history research trip. Harry Moore spent 19 years in Mackay, Queensland, mainly as editor or associate editor of the *Daily Mercury*. I have lived in Mackay for the past six years. When the United States entered World War II, during the Pacific campaign Mackay was a recreational leave centre for US servicemen. On 12 and 13 September 1943, Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the US President, visited Mackay at the end of an 11-day Australian tour. She visited American troops and US Red Cross centres in Mackay, but took part in no public functions. Her visit to Mackay was not announced in the press before she arrived.

Moore's obituary said that, in Mackay, Roosevelt "was not allowed to be interviewed by the local newspaper editor". The obituary continued: "The next day the *Daily Mercury* carried an article on the editorial page headed 'America's first prisoner of war'. It claimed that Roosevelt had been confined to barracks at a local doctor's residence, which had been



HENRY AMOS MOORE

commandeered, and that she was uncontactable. The colonels reacted and the editor got his interview.” This is fairly similar to what Moore’s memoirs state.

The first thing I want to say is that there was no general indication during the First Lady’s visit that she was being shielded from the press. For example, when she arrived in Canberra from New Zealand on 3 September (the fourth anniversary of the beginning of World War II), she held a press conference at Government House, with 40 Australian and American journalists quizzing her (*Morning Bulletin*, 4 September 1943, p.3). On 13 September, a few hours after arriving in Brisbane on the eve of her departure from Australia, she held an informal press conference at her hotel for 20 Australian and overseas war correspondents when she “frankly answered a barrage of questions on and off the record” (*Courier-Mail*, 14 September 1943, p.3).

So, what really happened in Mackay? To find out, I spent several hours in the Heritage Room at Mackay City Library studying microfilmed files of the *Mercury* for September 1943. I found nothing to support the two assertions: that the paper published an item headed anything like “America’s first prisoner of war” during Roosevelt’s visit; and that “the editor got his interview”. I studied the files for a week or so before and after the visit which fell on a Sunday and Monday.

‘unimaginative  
officials, fretful  
of their own  
importance’

This meant only the Monday edition of the *Daily Mercury* appeared while she was in Mackay, and she flew out of Mackay on the Monday morning because she was in Brisbane by Monday afternoon, addressing an audience of 3000 at City Hall. (*Courier-Mail*, 14 September 1943, p.3). There was little time for the American colonels to “react” to what we are told had appeared in the paper and for an interview to be arranged.

In mid-September 1943, the *Daily Mercury* generally carried six broadsheet pages, although the issue of Monday, 13 September, was only four pages. The closest Moore came to saying anything that could even vaguely relate to Eleanor Roosevelt being “America’s first prisoner of war” was in his editorial, “Mrs Roosevelt’s visit”, of 9 September in which he observed: “It would be a pity if unimaginative officials, fretful of their own importance, were permitted to crowd her away from the public and limit her view.” At that stage, however, there had been no public announcement that Roosevelt would actually visit Mackay. All that had been announced—and this was made public only on 8 September—was that Roosevelt would visit Queensland, taking in some centres and Brisbane. And so Moore’s editorial referred generally to places she might visit in Queensland.

In his memoirs, Moore says that he got his interview with Eleanor Roosevelt—and that “it wasn’t much of an interview”. My research indicates that the interview certainly did not lead to publication of a separate story in the *Daily Mercury*. I suspect that, assuming the interview did take place, that some of the things she said crept into Moore’s editorial on 13 September, also headed “Mrs Roosevelt’s visit”, or to the news report in that same issue. And I wonder whether the headline “America’s first prisoner of war in Mackay” (as recorded in Moore’s memoirs) was more of a threat than an actuality and whether the passing of half a century faded the edges of memory.

#### 77.4.5 *Sirius* celebrates births and death of newspapers

The once grand *Argus* building, now sadly sporting blacked out windows and abundant graffiti, was just one in a chain of sites selected by Rachel Buchanan for the launch of *Melbourne Sirius*. The *Sirius* celebrates the birth and death of 525 Melbourne newspapers. In Rachel’s words, the *Sirius* ‘is a homage to newspaper people and to librarians, archivists, conservators and all those others who so diligently and modestly care for our material culture past and present, including old newspapers.’

The tabloid size *Sirius*, featuring a red and white ‘stop press’ star on its front page, is an illustrated obituary of newspapers. Aside from listing the birth and death dates of 525 dead newspapers, the *Sirius* also includes a four-page centre-spread of masthead photographs 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).

#### 77.4.6 Press centennial banquet

The *Australian Town & Country Journal* (4 February 1888, pp.12-13) devoted one and a half pages to a report of “Press Centennial Banquet: Great gathering of journalists” of 25 January 1888. One of the guests wrote the report.

#### 77.4.7 A timeline of the *Australian*, 1964-2004

The *Australian* will be 50 years old on 15 July this year. When the *Australian* published a 13-part series of magazines to mark its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2004, it include a brief timeline running at the foot of pages 24-27. An edited version of the timeline events is presented below:

| Year | Date        | Event   |
|------|-------------|---|
| 1964 | 15 July     | The first issue of the <i>Australian</i> , four days early, is a sell-out. It is printed in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne. |
| 1964 | 21 July     | The first computer articles appear in the <i>Australian</i>   |
| 1967 | 6 March     | The <i>Australian</i> moves its headquarters from Canberra to Sydney  |
| 1971 | 28 February | The first issue of the <i>Sunday Australian</i> , the nation’s “first qualify broadsheet Sunday newspaper”.                 |
| 1977 | 2-3 July    | The first issue of the <i>Weekend Australian</i> .  |
| 1979 |             | The first Harris system computers are used in the newsroom.   |
| 1980 | 13 February | The first Higher Education Supplement is published.   |
| 1988 | 3 September | The first edition of the <i>Australian Magazine</i> is published.   |
| 1992 | 7 March     | Colour is introduced to the paper’s Review section.   |
| 1996 | 1 May       | The <i>Australian</i> goes online for the first time.   |
| 1999 | 25 March    | Media section introduced. [This was omitted from the magazine list.]  |
| 2001 | 6 August    | The entire edition of the <i>Australian</i> is available to download online.  |

#### 77.4.8 Clare, SA: Enter one Alfred, exit another

The *Northern Argus*, launched at Clare in South Australia’s Barossa Valley on 19 February 1869, remained in Tilbrook family ownership for 127 years. At the beginning, it was owned by a partnership between Henry Hammond Tilbrook and Alfred Clode. Tilbrook married Clode’s sister, Marianne, at Christ Church, North Adelaide, on 1 January 1870. Clode himself married six days later—Marion Martyn, at St Paul’s Church, Adelaide.

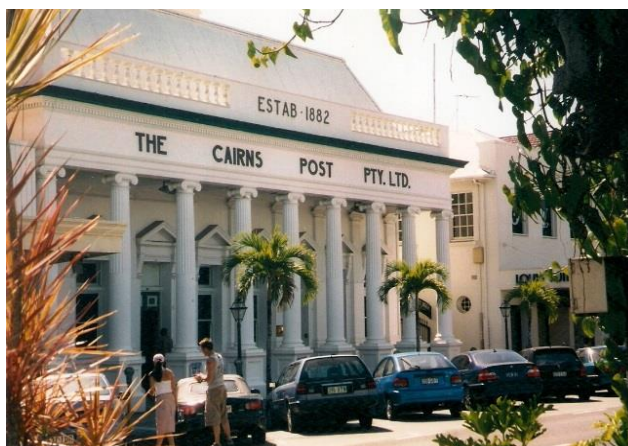
The newspaper partnership ended eight months later, but first it had to accommodate, from 1 July, the addition of a third partner, Tilbrook’s brother Alfred. Soon it was a case of: enter one Alfred, exit another. Alfred Clode departed the partnership on 22 August. After two years, Clode headed for Japan where he started an English newspaper (*South Australian Register*, 8 January 1870, p.4; *Northern Argus*, 26 August 1870, p.2; *Recorder*, Port Pirie, 27 September 1937, p.1).



H.H. Tilbrook left the *Northern Argus* after 20 years and went on to practise the art of photography in South Australia and south-western Victoria at the end of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth with such perception and skill that the Art Gallery of South Australia mounted a three-month exhibition of his work in 2001 (Denis Temple Tilbrook, typescript notes about the Tilbrook family, supplied to author, circa January 2003).

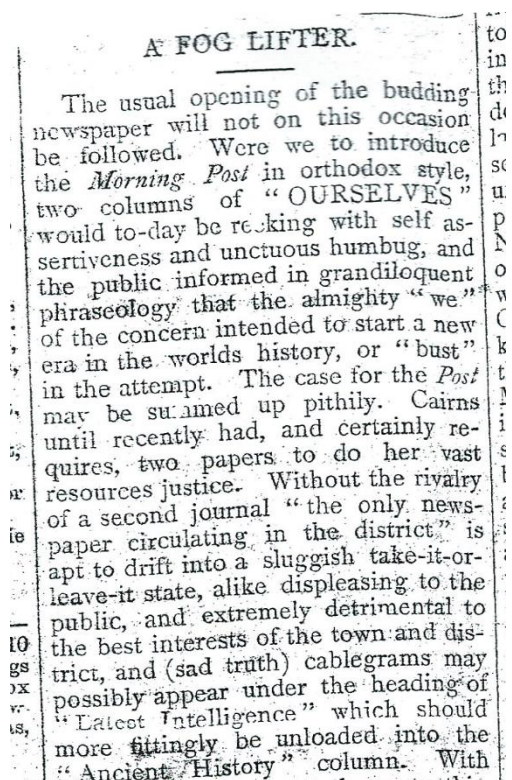
### 77.4.9 Time flies (5)

ANHG editor **Rod Kirkpatrick** continues his career reminiscences: Growing up in Sydney, I had a dream of becoming a sports reporter, partly so that I could cover Australia's cricket tours of England. I ditched that dream a few years after entering journalism but cricket has remained my first love in sport. I wished I was in England in on 20 July 1981 when Ian Botham created mayhem at Headingley, Leeds, smashing 149 not out in the second innings of a cricket Test in which Australia held a first innings lead of 227; England won the Test. Instead, I was in Cairns on my first full-day of research in the tropical city and it seemed to rain every 10 minutes. I was



CAIRNS POST BUILDING IN 2004

staying in an old weatherboard hotel, the Grand, and there was a television set several metres outside my room in a central lounge. Each night it was tuned in to the cricket. For hours on the night of 20 July, as I tried to sleep, I could hear the roar of the crowd as Botham demolished the Australian attack—giving what one cricket writer described as “an impersonation of a blacksmith”—and turned not only the match but the series on its head. England, down by one Test before Headingley won the series 3-1.



I had arrived in Cairns on Sunday, 19 July, after travelling by the 5.30am coach from Bowen to Townsville and then flying to Cairns. Late in the afternoon I visited the offices of the *Cairns Post*, which proudly (and incorrectly) claimed it was “ESTAB. 1882”. As I noted in my letter home the next morning, it was “only cribbing 13 years”. I wrote also that I had found the files of the *Cairns Post* “in a shambles, stacked on the floor, on table, on chair, and some in cupboards and on shelves”. The shelved files were in some semblance of order. “Rest a mess.” The oldest volumes seemed to be used as a stepping stone to climb to the newer volumes on the shelves.

I found the first volume of the *Morning Post*, forerunner of today's *Cairns Post*—and portion of the very first issue, 6 June 1895. “So,” I noted, “I have already made a major discovery before I officially start.” I found two tattered portions of the editorial policy statement (see insert at left) that had been made in the first issue, and the issue of 13 June 1895 was clearly labelled No. 2. The *Morning Post* had definitely started on 6 June 1895, two

years after a newspaper with the title of the *Cairns Post* had ceased publication. That title had been published 17 May 1883 to 20 May 1893. Its plant was bought by the *Cairns Argus* in October



1894 and its title incorporated in the *Argus* from 5 February 1895. There was no link between the *Cairns Post* of 1883-1893 and the *Morning Post* established in 1895—a paper that became the *Cairns Post* on 5 July 1909.

While in Cairns I typed out recommendations to the management about how to preserve their files better. I left Cairns having been commissioned by the editor, Alan Hudson, to write a history of the Cairns press, 1877-1910. That history was written but not published because in 1982 the *Cairns Post* was hosting the annual conference of the Regional Dailies of Australia Ltd on the grounds that it was the newspaper's centenary. Hudson would not listen to my explanation of why 1982 was not the centenary of the newspaper (in fact, no newspaper started in Cairns in 1882). In 1983 the *Cairns Historical Society Bulletin* published in issues no. 282 and 283 (June and July) my two-part article on the first *Cairns Post*.

On 16 August 1986, a different editor of the *Cairns Post* published a letter from me explaining why the newspaper could not claim 1882 as its year of establishment. The editor added a footnote to the letter: "The early history of newspapers in Cairns has been clouded by the loss of early newspaper files. Records on hand have pointed to the *Post's* origins as being established in May 1882, but we will not dispute Mr Kirkpatrick's claims."

Trove, of course, now makes it possible for anybody with a serious interest in getting things right about Cairns and its early newspaper history to find the correct details.

I caught a train to Innisfail on 22 July 1981 and met William Henry George Groom (1900-84). I plan to tell you about this next time.

#### **77.4.10 *Farmer & Settler* going tabloid**

*Narandera Argus*, 1 October 1953, p.4: The *Farmer & Settler* newspaper is changing its size from its next edition, to be published on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. For the past 48 years the *F and S* has been published as a broadsheet, and is changing to tabloid, half its present size. The management announces that it will retain all its usual features. [The newspaper began on 7 February 1906 as the official organ of the Farmers and Settlers Association of New South Wales. By the end of 1910 there had been a court case and a split, and the *Land* began on 27 January 1911 (see ANHG 61.4.1.1.as the association's new organ. The *Farmer and Settler* ceased publication on 27 December 1957. ]

#### **77.4.11 Repatriation of Australian newspapers**

**Margy Burns**, Assistant Director-General, Australian Collections & Reader Services, National Library of Australia, responded on 31 March 2014 as follows to an inquiry the ANHG editor made:

Given your research interest in the history of newspapers in Australia, I hope you will forgive an extended reply to your enquiry about newspaper repatriation. I will also answer your questions about specific titles. You are aware of ANPLAN, the Australian Newspaper Plan, <http://www.nla.gov.au/australian-newspaper-plan> a collaboration which ensures that one copy of every Australian print newspaper title is preserved and retained in the jurisdiction in which it was published. ANPLAN grew out of a recognition that the costly task of preserving the large volume of Australian print newspapers was beyond the capacity of any single Australian library.

Each ANPLAN library keeps all titles published in its jurisdiction, and contributes records of holdings to Libraries Australia, the national bibliographic database. The ANPLAN libraries also microfilm newspapers as a preservation strategy, and the large corpus of microfilmed titles created over many years has enabled the mass digitisation of newspapers now available through the acclaimed Trove service, the world's largest digital newspaper archive. Newspapers in Trove have rapidly grown from an initial four million pages in 2010, at the end of the first stage of implementation, to 12 million pages today, with new content being added constantly. There were 17 million uses of Trove newspapers last year.

As we noted on our website announcement concerning repatriation, the National Library's responsibility under ANPLAN is to collect and preserve print copies of national titles, including ceased titles such as the *National Times*. We share responsibility for collecting and preserving print copies of all ACT papers, including suburban weeklies, with the ACT Heritage Library. Additionally, the National Library continues to collect and preserve print copies of capital city dailies, ethnic newspapers and subject based newspapers.

To ensure that the National Library is able to support the research needs of most onsite users, we also collect and retain significant regional papers Australia wide; higher use titles (defined as those which have received more than ten uses in the past seven years); as well as copies of newspapers from nearby areas in NSW. Print copies of these titles are not retained once they are available on microfilm.

To answer your specific questions: the National Library will continue to receive and preserve hard copy papers of the Brisbane *Courier Mail*, the Melbourne *Age*, the Hobart *Mercury* and all other capital city dailies. Regional papers of record, such as the titles you cite, the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, the *Bendigo Advertiser* and the *Wimmera Mail-Times*, will continue to be collected by the National Library, initially in print, but once available on microfilm, print copies will no longer be retained. Preservation of hard copies of these regional titles is the responsibility of the relevant ANPLAN Library. If microfilm is not available for these titles, the National Library will retain print copies. We regard the *Goulburn Post* as a regional paper of record, but more locally focussed papers from other communities close to Canberra will also be kept in hard copy, until microfilm copies are available, to serve access needs of onsite users.

The reason for not giving examples of significant regional newspapers, newspapers from surrounding areas in NSW, ethnic and subject based newspapers on the website was for brevity. Examples of titles in these last categories include:

### **Ethnic**

*Ellinikos Kirikas* = Greek herald

*Aozhou Xin Bao* = Australian Chinese Daily

*Indian Voice: The Victorian Monthly Newspaper*

*Napredak: List Jugoslavenskih Iseljenika Australije i Nove Zelandije* (ceased)

*Australijos Lietuvis* = The Australian Lithuanian (ceased)

*Cagri: Turkish Newspaper* (ceased)

### **Subject based**

*Land*

*Australian Worker*

*Greyhound Recorder*

*Lorgnette: A Journal of Amusements* (ceased)

*Australian Army: The Soldiers' Newspaper* (ceased)

*Anglican* (ceased)

### **ACT region**

*Braidwood Times*

*Tumut and Adelong times and Batlow district news*

*Cooma Monaro Express*

*Queanbeyan Observer* (ceased)

*Bombala Herald and Delegate, Cooma, Eden and Coast Districts General Advertiser* (ceased)

*Yass Post* (ceased)

The ANPLAN libraries are committed to retaining, preserving and making accessible all Australian newspapers. The process of repatriation coupled with digitisation will ensure that all Australian newspaper titles will be preserved and made widely available through national cooperation. You may be interested to know that ANPLAN is also a vehicle for locating newspapers known to be

missing from ANPLAN institutions. Last year issues from 11 titles were located, mostly dating from the nineteenth century (1851-1894) including four supplements from *Süd-Australische Zeitung*. Issues of the *Bay Advocate* (NSW) 1979-1982 and the *NT Suburban* (1995-96) were also located.

#### **77.4.12 *Argus* starts evening halfpenny paper**

The proprietors of the Melbourne *Argus* announced on 24 September 1881 (p.9) that they intended to launch soon “a daily evening journal”, to be called the *Evening Mail*. The starting date would soon be announced. The new paper started on Monday, 17 October 1881. The State Library of Victoria and the National Library of Australia have files of the early issues, but not of the final issues. It is unclear from the online catalogue of SLV just where its holdings end, although the NLA says it holds issues until 30 June 1882. A search via Trove reveals, however, that the *Evening Mail* closed on Saturday, 26 August 1882. The proprietors of the *Melbourne Evening Herald* bought its evening competitor from the *Argus* and incorporated its title in the *Herald*. The *Evening Mail* was published for a week or so more than 10 months (Sources: *Colac Herald*, 25 August 1882, p.2, and *Mercury*, Hobart, 25 August 1882, p.2).

One distinguishing feature of the *Evening Mail* was its price; it sold for one halfpenny (a ha’penny, as we used to say it before decimal currency was introduced on 14 February 1966). The publishers said (*Argus*, 15 October 1881, p.9): “It is the first experiment of the kind that has been made in Australia, or, indeed, in any of the British colonies...” The halfpenny press in Great Britain had an enormous circulation”. London possessed one halfpenny evening paper, and three biweeklies and eight weeklies that sold for that price. In the British provinces no fewer than 43 dailies, mostly evening papers, sold for a halfpenny. Some of these, such as the *Birmingham Daily Mail* and the *Liverpool Albion*, sold more than 50,000 copies a day. Two of the low-priced papers, the *Northern Evening Mail* and the *Midland Counties Evening Express*, issued five editions during the afternoon and evening. Another two, the *Manchester Evening News* and the *Nottingham Evening Post*, issued three. Edinburgh supported one, Paisley one, Greenock two, Dundee three and Glasgow three evening halfpenny papers.

#### **77.4.13 Importance of reporting Parliament in 1856**

When the New South Wales Parliament was taking a big step forward in 1856—it was now elected by all men, in secret ballots, in roughly equal electorates and with no property qualifications for members—the *Sydney Morning Herald* published (16 May 1856, p.5) a 2050-word consideration of “Newspaper reporting” at such a time. Here’s an extract.

Not the least among those minor matters in which a change will follow on the inauguration of the New Parliament is the newspaper reporting of the debates and discussions in the Legislature. That the reports in question are of the greatest interest and importance it is scarcely necessary to say. Whether or not the speeches of the members, as reported by the Press, are read attentively each day by their constituents, friends, and a large number of the public, does not much affect the importance which must attach to those reports in every community where constitutional freedom prevails and is valued. A good deal might indeed be said to show that, without the regular publication of full and accurate reports of the proceedings of the Legislature, the best and most efficient bond for the preservation of constitutional freedom would be wanting, and that the right of representation itself might be liable to be rendered of little avail.

Certainly the various constituencies have little other means of judging of the efficiency, the consistency, and the faithfulness of their several representatives than is afforded by the newspaper reports, while the body of the public are saved the large amount of time and attention which they otherwise would be called upon to devote to the affairs of state, by having a picture of those affairs, as far as it is necessary they should be known, brought day by day to their doors. But on this point it is unnecessary to enlarge. The services of the Press in this and other reports have been long recognised, and have been repeatedly acknowledged in all quarters.

During the last two or three sessions of the late Council, several discussions, explanations, and scenes arose to prove, if proof were wanting, that those who deliver the speeches are not indifferent as to the versions of their remarks sent abroad through the medium of the daily journals. And it is not to be expected that they should be indifferent. Leaving out of the question, the important bearing which the speeches as published, have upon the reputation and political influence of the individual speaker, and passing over the fact, that on the reports of the speeches of particular members in a great measure depends the rank which the colony will occupy in regard to the art of oratory; omitting these considerations, the gentleman of good, or even of ordinary acquirements and talents, who attains to a seat in the legislature, has a right to expect the best attention of those who purpose to furnish the public with full and true accounts of the sayings and doings of the men who think, speak, and act in their service. The regular debates of the legislature on important questions are not to be classed with the back parlour and platform declamations and rhapsodies of every-day aspirants to the palm of eloquence.

Then the general importance of the reports in question—their present and future importance to the state, as matters of literature, history, and collective wisdom—is to be kept continually in view. “Not only the actions of mankind,” says Bacon, “but also their sayings ought to be preserved, and may doubtless be sometimes inserted in history, so far as they decently serve to illustrate the narration of facts; but books of orations, epistles, and apothegms, are the proper depositories of human discourse. The speeches of wise men upon matters of business, weighty causes, or difficult points, are of great-use, not only for eloquence, but for the knowledge of things themselves.

Nor do apothegms only serve for ornament and delight, but also for action and civil use, as being the edge tools of speech, - ‘Secures aut mucronea verborum’, which cut and penetrate the knots of business and affairs for occasions have their revolutions, and what has once been advantageously used may be so again, either as an old thing or a new one. Nor can the usefulness of these sayings in civil affairs be questioned, when Caesar himself wrote a book upon the subject, which we wish were extant; for all those we have yet seen of the kind appear to be collected with little choice and judgment.”

If any sayings in civil matters are worthy of being preserved, those of the members of the legislature of a country must be; and there can hardly be a better, book of orations than a widely-circulated and extensively-read journal. If, however, speeches be prepared and collected with little choice and judgment, no matter how wise the speakers, how important the matter of business, how weighty the cause, or how difficult the point, they will be of little use. And if on the other hand, they be prepared and published in a careless, a confused, and an inaccurate style, they will be worse than useless. They will either directly mislead, or so render the meaning that the essence of the discourse, and the most important points of the argument will be hopelessly lost amid a mass of surrounding confusion,

The reports of the proceedings of the late Legislative Council have been more than once commended by those who were most interested in their accuracy and general character, but who, notwithstanding, could have no motive in giving them unmerited praise. Indeed, that they possessed considerable merit was obvious. In fulness, they would bear comparison with the reports of the proceedings of any legislative body in the world, the Parliament of England excepted. Nor was the quality much, if at all, inferior to the best reports of a similar character, none excepted, whenever a particular occasion called forth the energies of those engaged in the work of reporting. But, on the other hand, complaints, in some instances well grounded, were made from time to time; and it is pretty certain that in other instances cause of complaint existed where no dissatisfaction was expressed. Quite certain it is, that those who clamoured most loudly against the reporting on those occasions when the subject was entertained, were those who, generally speaking, ought not to be the first to find fault.



## 5-RECENTLY PUBLISHED

### 77.5.1 Books

**Gelder, Ken, and Weaver, Rachael**, *The Colonial Journals and the Emergence of Australian Literary Culture*. Perth: UWA Publishing, 2014. 438pp. Colonial Australia produced a vast number of journals and magazines that helped to create an exuberant literary landscape. They were filled with lively contributions by many of the key writers and provocateurs of the day – and of the future. Writers such as Marcus Clarke, Rolf Boldrewood, Ethel Turner and Katharine Susannah Prichard published for the first time in these journals. Gelder and Weaver present a miscellany of content that enabled the “free play of intellect” to thrive and, matched with wry visual design, made attractive artifacts that demonstrate the role this period played in the growth of an Australian literary culture.

**Griffen-Foley, Bridget**, *Sir Frank Packer: A Biography*, Sydney: Sydney University press, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2014. See Bridget’s article, “The Packers, a lost heir and the end of the media dynasties”, *crikey.com.au*, 16 April 2014.

### 77.5.2 Recent articles

**Call, Jennifer**, “Mary Gilmore: Courage and grace”, *National Library of Australia Magazine*, March 2014, pp.16-19. How much do you know about the woman (poet and journalist) on the \$10 note?

**Davidson, Darren**, “Don’t call it paper, but print will last a while: Murdoch”, *Weekend Australian*, 12-13 April 2014, p.30. News Corp chief Rupert Murdoch opens up in a *Fortune* magazine interview.

**Griffen-Foley, Bridget**, “Monsignor James Meany, the *Catholic Weekly* and 2SM”, *Journal of the Australian Catholic Historical Society*, ‘Monsignor James Meany, the *Catholic Weekly* and 2SM’, Vol. 34, 2013.

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Packer in a fist fight with Gyngehl hit the market on 5 May. The images were taken outside Packer's multimillion-dollar Bondi Beach home on Sunday afternoon, and showed the pair in the midst of throwing and receiving punches.



YOU'VE HEARD OF PAGE 3 GIRLS, BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS JUXTAPOSITION OF SIGNS AT NARROGIN, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, IN 2007 MEANT FOR THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER. —PHOTO BY ROD KIRKPATRICK

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