

Four country newspaper offices in Western Australia, 10 to 12 years ago. Barry Blair, of Uralla, NSW, took the photo at top right and your editor the other three. Clockwise from top left: *Avon Valley Advocate*, Northam, 2003; *Northern Guardian*, Carnarvon, 2005; *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times*, Manjimup, 2003; and *Kimberley Echo*, Kununurra, 2005.

AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

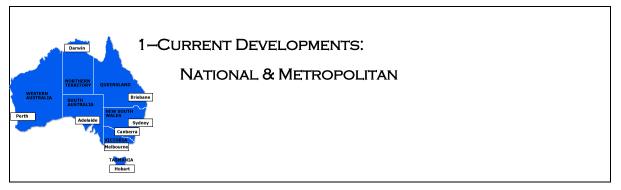
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85.1.1 Herald Sun at 25

Melbourne's *Herald Sun* published a special issue on 8 October to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the merging of the *Herald* estab. 1840) and the morning *Sun News-Pictorial* (1922). The issue featured a four page wrap-around including a front and back page cartoon summarising the events of the past 25 years, and a 24 page glossy colour magazine with a summary of events, including a very brief history of the *Herald Sun*. A book was published *Herald Sun 25 Years of Pictures*, 208 pages, hardback, \$39.95 and \$10 postage.

85.1.2 The Packers in the news

News about the Packers is still of interest to newspaper historians, even though it is three decades since the family owned newspapers. There were two items of interest within a few days in the *Australian*. The *Weekend Australian* reported (17-18 October, p.1) that James Packer and his sister, Gretel, have carved up their fortune in a formal multi-billion-dollar settlement that severs the siblings' financial ties. The *Australian* (19 October, p.3) reported: James Packer is poised to move his private Consolidated Press Holdings from its legendary Park Street headquarters in Sydney in what will be the end of an era for the Packer family. Packer will move CPH to the ANZ Centre in Pitt Street next year. In August 2009 CPH entered into a sale and leaseback agreement on the Park Street building for \$50 million, ending the Packer's "40 years of direct ownership".

85.1.3 Press Council and metadata

Australian Press Council chairman David Weisbrot has warned investigative journalists will need to think and behave like drug dealers to do their jobs following the introduction of metadata laws (*Australian*, 21 October 2015). Professor Weisbrot accused the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, of a backflip on his position on metadata retention laws from three years ago when he described them as a "sweeping and intrusive new power" with a "chilling effect on free speech". "He was quite critical," Professor Weisbrot said. "He said these things are not going to improve our lives or improve our safety and they have practical consequences, in the case of metadata retention — it's going to be quite expensive and will be passed on to consumers. So we're paying for the government to snoop in our private affairs."

In his Alfred Deakin Memorial Lecture in October 2012, Malcolm Turnbull mounted a strong argument against attorney-general Nicola Roxon's plan to expand data interception, mandatory data retention and government access to private digital information. "I must record my very grave misgivings about the proposal," Turnbull said. "It seems to be heading in precisely the wrong direction. Surely as we reflect on the consequences of the digital shift from a default of forgetting to one of perpetual memory we should be seeking to restore as far as possible the individual's right not simply to their privacy but to having the right to delete that which they have created in the same way as can done in the analog world. "Now this data retention proposal is only the latest effort by the Gillard government to restrain freedom of speech."

Professor Weisbrot said there were alternatives to the intrusive metadata retention laws, introduced in October. "We of course are going to continue to fight here," he said. "No one would argue with a regime that says, if the police have a reasonable suspicion that you're involved in bad

behaviour that they shouldn't be able to get a warrant and be able to intercept messages or surveil you in various ways. The change here is that it's sweeping up ... the information from 23 million people, most of whom are not engaged in any nefarious activities at all." Committed to a fight to overturn the legislation, Professor Weisbrot said journalists should not need to act in a "paranoid" way, going to great lengths to keep sources confidential, when they are working in the public interest.

85.1.4 International press freedom conference for Sydney

Obstructions to press freedom, defamation law reform and the effect of technological change on journalism are some of the key themes to be discussed at an international press freedom conference to be held by the Australian Press Council in Sydney next year (TheNewspaperWorks, 29 October 2015). The three-day conference, beginning on 3 May, will mark the council's 40th anniversary and is expected to feature speeches from leading media professionals, a panel of international press council officials and a session with senior executives from Google, Facebook and Twitter. International speakers set to attend the conference include celebrated Russian investigative journalist Anna Nemtsova, founding editor of New Dehli's NewsLaundry Madhu Trehan and former China editor of the *South China Morning Post* Willy Lam.

85.1.5 New editor for Canberra Times

Grant Newton, a member of the *Canberra Times*' staff since 2001, is the paper's new editor. His appointment was confirmed on 6 November, the paper reported that day. He had been acting editor much of this year. Newton succeeds James Joyce as editor. Joyce is now executive editor of Fairfax Media's Australian Community Media division. Scott Hannaford, an award-winning digital media journalist who began at the *Canberra Times* as a cadet reporter in 1999, is the new be deputy editor and news director. He was most recently senior writer and, before that, editor of *The Sunday Canberra Times*.

The appointments of Newton and Hannaford follow the recent appointments of John-Paul Moloney as group managing editor of the Canberra region and Meredith Clisby as editor of the *Sunday Canberra Times* and the *Chronicle*.

85.1 6 Campbell Reid's appointment

Campbell Reid was appointed on 11 November to lead News Corp's communications with government, business, the public and staff. As director of corporate affairs and content Innovation, Reid will also be responsible for driving "strategic thinking around the innovative use of content across all channels", the company said in a statement. Reid was formerly group director for editorial (*Australian*, 11 November 2015).C

85.1.7 Chris Mitchell retires; other changes at News Corp papers

Chris Mitchell retired as editor-in-chief of the Australian on 11 December (Australian, 2 December 2015). He has been replaced by Paul Whitakker, formerly editor of the Sydney Daily Telegraph. Courier-Mail editor Chris Dore has become editor of the Daily Telegraph. Clive Mathieson remains editor of The Australian. Mitchell began his career as a cadet at the Telegraph in Brisbane at the age of 17. He went on to write for the Townsville Bulletin, the Daily Telegraph and the Australian Financial Review, before joining the Australian in 1984. St the start of 1992, Mitchell, then 35, was appointed editor of the Australian. He held that position for three years before returning to Brisbane as editor-in-chief of Queensland Newspapers. He has been an editor for 24 years and is the longest serving editor at News Corp globally. In 2002, Mitchell returned to the Australian as the paper's editor-in-chief, overseeing the Monday to Friday paper, the Weekend Australian and the Australian Magazine. He will contribute a column to the Australian on 7 December.

85.1.8 Newspaper House sells

Newspaper House, a six-level historic sandstone building at 247 Collins Street, Melbourne, has exchanged for \$23 million, reports Marc Pallisco (*Age*, 24 October 2015).



85.1.9 The Baden-Clay Appeals Court judgment

A Brisbane Supreme Court juryy found Gerard Baden-Clay guilty in July 2014 of the murder of his wife, Allison, on 19 April 2012. On 8 December 2015, the Queensland Court of Appeal's three justices, led by new Chief Justice Catherine Holmes, downgraded the murder conviction to one for manslaughter. The decision caused public outrage in Queensland. In an editorial on 9 December, the *Courier-Mail* said: "... even if the Appeal Court's extraordinary decision is accepted, Baden-Clay is a violent coward who took a life.He lied about his life and relationships before he killed if wife and lied in court when asked to explain himself. He has never faced up to what he did and never taken responsibility for his actions. Baden-Clay has never deserved the benefit of the doubt. He will always be seen as the man who killed Allison."

ABOVE: Brisbane's *Courier-Mail* published successive front pages on 9 and 10 December devoted to the killing of Allison Baden-Clay by her husband, Gerard. The first page, "The law is an ass", followed the judgment by the Queensland Court of Appeal to downgrade Gerard Baden-Clay's conviction from murder to manslaughter; the second page, "For Allison", took the newspaper's campaign a step further.

The small text of 9 December says: "Gerard Baden-Clay cheated on his wife Allison, then killed her, and dumped her body under a bridge. He immediately tried to claim her life insaurance. During his murder trial, he denied any involvement in her death. But now, the father-of-three could leave jail early after an appeal court found he did not murder his wife." Inside coverage was provided on Pages 4 to 9.

The small text of 10 December says: "Dear Gerard Baden-Clay, We you are a liar, a cheat and a killer. You humiliated your wife, the mother of your children, before taking her life. In death, as in life, you continue to dishonour her and disgrace yourself. It's time to stop. Tell the truth. Ap;ologise to Allison's family, show remorse, beg for forgiveness, and serve your time in jail." Inside coverage was provided on Pages 4 to 7.

85.1.10 Fairfax and News: more cuts

Fairfax will axe 150 jobs at its Metro Media division by May in a much bigger wave of cuts than was initially anticipated, reported "Diary' (Australian, Media section, 23 November 2015). This Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter, No 85, December 2015—4

was in addition to deep cuts in the marketing and product departments "in recent weeks". At the recent AGM, chief executive Greg Hywood signalled another push to reduce costs but did not disclose any targets or areas of the business impacted by the move. Metro Media publishes the *Australian Financial Review*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the Melbourne *Age*.

News Corp Australia, too, was expected to "lose" 55 journalism roles in the final week in November—"a handful of jobs, at most, in any particular news outlet" (*Australian*, 23 November 2015).

85.1.11 Walkley Awards

The Australian's Trent Dalton has won a Walkley Award for the best feature for his harrowing article on the murders of eight children in Cairns. The piece, which was published in the *Weekend Australian Magazine* in June, included details of drugs and violence told by chattering neighbours along Murray Street, where the tragedy unfolded six days before last Christmas.

The Gold Walkley went to Caro Meldrum-Hanna, Sam Clark and Max Murch for their *Four Corners* investigation into live baiting in the greyhound industry. The trio also took out the investigative journalism gong.

Michael Bachelard and Armando Cordoba of *The Age* won the Walkley for print journalism for a piece about "white jihadist" teen Jake Bilardi. The Walkley Award for Journalistic Leadership was awarded to Debi Marshall, for her determination to reveal the truth during her investigation into the Family Court murders.

85.1.12 Recent chronology

85.1.12.1 Death

Horin, Adele: D. 21 November 2015 in Sydney, aged 64; won cadetship on *West Australian* in 1970s while completing part-time arts degree; social affairs reporter for Fairfax Media; won Walkley Award 1981 for Best Feature in a Newspaper or Magazine, for a series of articles about sex in Australia, published in *National Times*; in 2011, received Australian Human Rights Commission media award for stories on abuse and neglect of people with disabilities living in licensed boarding houses.



85.2.1 Paris shootings and how we heard the news

Madonna King writes (brisbanetimes.com.au/ 19 November 2015): The evil that embraced Paris this week showed, amongst so many other things, that newspapers are dead. I write those words without glee; my adult life has been wrapped in the ink that fills their pages. But it's over. And it's not the declining circulations of the nations' newspapers that signal that change. Nor is it the growth of the personal brand, where individual journalists are able to lure more followers than a masthead. It's the acceptance of social media as the legitimate and immediate source of information that's buried newspapers and their clunky, untimely information.

Just consider how you devoured the news that stole so many lives in the City of Love this week. Was it on Facebook, or Twitter? Or through the pages of newspapers thrown onto the front lawn of your home early each morning? Social media—online blogs, Twitter posts and Facebook jottings—was able to bring to life the drama, with a sense of urgency. It provided the sickening accounts of those, lying in the Bataclan Theatre, waiting to die. Perhaps it was a final gesture of defiance, but their harrowing accounts made their horror our horror. It took us inside an apartment, just up the road from last night's anti-terror operation. It delivered us an eyewitness, from the comfort of his mobile phone. They told us what was happening, and we believed them.

They cut out the middle man. We didn't have to trust that we were being told the truth. We could see it. We could hear it. But it allowed something else, that traditional media has been unable to deliver. It allowed us to be part of the story. On Twitter, Parisians offered a home for those looking for safety. On Periscope, citizen journalists delivered live videos from hundreds of different locations. Locals checked on their friends in real time. And we were able to offer our heartfelt condolences, with #JeSuisChien trending, shortly after the police dog at the centre of last night's operation was killed. Facebook guided us into changing our profiles into red, white and blue.

Of course, there are downsides in this new media landscape. Without moderation, inaccurate news can spread like wildfire. Live information can risk police operations, and provide information to those they are targeting. Someone can find out about the death of a loved one, on their mobile phone screen. It can fan fear. But it can also inform us whenever and wherever we are. And it's here to stay. Newspapers will continue to have their use, but it's doubtful it will span generations. My 10-year-old asked for a newspaper to take into craft day on Monday. The iPad just didn't make the grade.

For more on this theme, see:

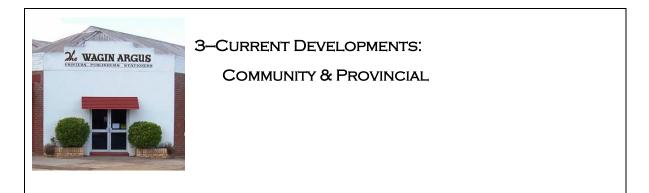
Crawford, Hal, Hunter, Andrew, and Filipovic, Domago J., *All Your Friends Like This: How Social Networks Took Over the News*, HarperCollins, 2015.

85.2.2 Paywall and the Sunshine Coast

APN News and Media (now Australian Regional Media), owner of the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, has dismissed community concern at having to pay for local online news (ABC News, 19 November 2015). The company has begun charging \$3 a week to access more than 10 articles from their local newspapers and other state publications. An overwhelming majority of ABC Sunshine Coast Facebook users claimed they would not pay for local news online. But APN News and Media editorial director Bryce Johns said the company was not targeting Facebook users to pay for their online news. "We know our readers, and the vast majority are the Facebook readers [that] come in less than 10 times a month. Everyone gets 10 stories free," he said. Johns said the company would rely on only the 10 per cent of their readers who read more than 10 stories a month to pay for its online news. He said APN had introduced paywalls throughout Queensland, not just because hard copy sales were declining but to cater for more people reading news online.

85.2.3 Fairfax takes 25pc stake in Nabo

Fairfax Media has taken a 25 per cent stake in Australian social network Nabo, joining Seven West Media and Westpac-backed Reinventure as a major shareholder (*Australian*, 7 December 2015). Nabo, which launched in 2014, is a social network that allows neighbourhood residents to connect with each other, their local councils and organisations. The site covers 5800 suburbs. Fairfax managing director of Australian Publishing Media Allen Williams said Nabo was a "compelling investment". "The digital business strongly aligns with Fairfax's long history of connecting communities via hundreds of newspapers and websites across rural, regional and metropolitan areas," Williams said. "Nabo complements our investment in New Zealand's leading local social network, Neighbourly, which has achieved tremendous growth by leveraging our large-scale audiences."



85.3.1 Fairfax job cuts: New England, NSW

Twenty-two jobs—11 of them editorial—are expected to be lost in Fairfax Media plans for a major restructure of its papers in the New England, the north-west of NSW and the border areas of NSW-Queensland (ABC online news, 6 November 2015). Staff members were told the news at meetings on 5 November. The proposed cuts are the latest changes announced to the company's Australian Community Media (ACM) division as Fairfax Media rolls out changes across regional Australia. Under the proposed changes, 13 papers have been told they will lose positions, including the Northern Daily Leader, Namoi Valley Independent, Armidale Express, Goondiwindi Argus, Country Leader, Walcha News, Inverell Times, Glen Innes Examiner, Guyra Argus, Tenterfield Star, Moree Champion and Border News.

Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance director of media Katelin McInerney said she was concerned about the impact any loss of editorial staff would have on newsrooms that were already lean operations. "While we understand the regional model of Fairfax Media's newspapers is struggling to make money in the new digital and online world, we just can't see how the cuts will continue to allow these newspapers to provide the same level of service, the same level of content or the stories that they have in the past," she said. She said Fairfax had put voluntary redundancies on the table and was starting negotiations with the staff. We don't believe that you can continue to deliver the same service that these papers have been delivering to their communities for many, many decades with the depths of these cuts," she said.

85.3.2 Fairfax job cuts: Central West, NSW

Fairfax Media is considering plans to shut the *Lightning Ridge News* and reduce the number of editions at papers in Mudgee, Lithgow, Forbes, Narromine, Cowra, Parkes, Young and Wellington (ABC News, 3 November 2015). There will also be changes at newspapers in Orange, Bathurst, Dubbo, Blayney, Boorowa, Canowindra, Grenfell, Nyngan and Oberon. If the restructure goes ahead, it will lead to the loss of 27 positions in editorial production such as sub-editing.

85.3.3 Fairfax job cuts: South Australia

Fairfax Media closed its offices in Kingston and Bordertown, South Australia, at the end of November (ABC News, 19 November 2015). The *Border Chronicle* and *Coastal Leader* newspapers will continue, but journalists will now work as "roving reporters" with their base at Fairfax's main south-east publication, the *Naracoorte Herald*. Fairfax Media in July announced a major overhaul of its Australian Community Media (ACM) division, which resulted in the loss of about 35 jobs in its regional South Australian mastheads and the closure of the *Roxby Downs Sun* in August. The closures signal the end of an era for the two south-east newspapers, which have been locally produced in their respective regions for many decades, and since 1908 in Bordertown.

The old stone building in De Courcey Street, Bordertown, home to generations of journalists, sales staff and printers since the *Chronicle* moved there in 1939, were to be sold, along with Kingston's Agnes Street office. The three publications were family-owned until 2010, when Richard Peake sold the trio to SA Regional Media, a division of Fairfax Media. Figures from the Audited Media Association of Australia show the *Chronicle's* weekly circulation has dropped by 24 per cent in the past four years, while the Leader has dropped by about 19 per cent.

85.3.4 Mid-West: WA mastheads merge

Two West Australian Newspapers mastheads, the *Northern Guardian* and the *Mid West Times*, were amalgamated from the issue of 4 November. They serve the Mid West and Gascoyne areas. The new paper is known as the *Midwest Times Northern Guardian* and appears on Wednesdays (Mark Fletcher's newsagency blog, 28 October 2015).

85.3.5 Bungendore: Mirror ceases print edition, continues online

John Mitchell published the final issue of the *Bungendore Mirror* in print format on 30 September 2015 and continues to publish online. Bungendore is a village that Canberrans pass through on the way to their South Coast holiday venues.

85.3.6 Geelong: Advertiser at 175

The Geelong Advertiser celebrated its 175th anniversary on 19 November (two days early) with a dinner for 200 guests, including politicians, business leaders, athletes, and celebrities. High-profile locals at the dinner included 2011 Tour de France winner Cadel Evans, Geelong AFL premiership captain Cameron Ling, and Geelong mayor Darryn Lyons. The event was hosted by Herald Weekly Times chairman Penny Fowler. Geelong Advertiser editor Nick Papps said the night was an opportunity to thank everyone who had supported the paper over the years. [The Herald Sun can trace its origins to the Port Phillip Herald, which began publication on 3 January 1840; the Geelong Advertiser is the second oldest Victorian paper, having begun on 21 November 1840.]

85.3.7 MPs and regional newspapers

A push to recognise the value of regional newspapers and ensure they receive a fair share of Australian government advertising spending has gained the support of the Senate, following a similar motion in the House of Representatives early in November (TheNewspoaperWorks, 26 November 2015). On 23 November, Opposition Whip Anne McEwen called on the government to ensure regional and community newspapers received their fair share of government campaign spending. The motion, co-sponsored by Greens senator Scott Ludlam and Motoring Enthusiast Party senator Ricky Muir, passed without dissent.

The move follows Country Press Australia's recent discussions with the government about how it can improve its communications with regional Australians. McEwen, a Labor Senator for South Australia, said regional newspapers were important for their communities, but also for members of parliament. "There's quite a great affection of members of parliament for regional newspapers. We all get them. We all read them. It's a great way for us to understand what's happening in our regional communities as well as a great way for us to communicate with our regional constituents," Senator McEwen said. "The motion will give us an opportunity to have a look at government advertising spends in the future and if regional media aren't getting their fair share, we'll follow it up." Senator McEwen's motion follows Labor MP Nick Champion's November 9 motion in the House of Representatives, which drew support from members from both major parties. I think there's really good cross-party support for the campaign within the federal parliament," Senator McEwen said.

85.3.8 Maitland: Mercury awaits date

The *Maitland Mercury* awaits a date from Fairfax Media for when the paper will cease being a daily and become a tri-weekly. It is expected to be about February-March 2016. That is when redundancies flowing from the impending change will come into effect.

85.3.9 Queanbeyan: Jim Woods turns 102

Jim Woods, founder of the Queanbeyan Printing Museum and former owner of the *Queanbeyan* Age, turned 102 on 11 November.

85.3.10 Mount Isa: Samantha Walton arrives in town

When Charles Sturt University journalism graduate, Samantha Walton, arrived in Mount Isa after a six-month stint at the *Moree Champion*, she announced herself in the *North West Star*. The *Star*, now a tri-weekly, ran her story about her excitement to be in the Isa. She grew up in Gilgandra, NSW, and her love of the outdoors—she enjoys roo shooting, pigging, camping, horse riding, *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, No 85, December 2015—8 speedway, motor bike riding, playing guitar and attending Rugby games. She is passionate about freedom of speech and giving the community a voice (*North West Star*, 5 December 2015).



4–NEWSPAPER HISTORY

84.4.1 A reminiscence by Ken Sanz: Size and shape

Ken Sanz has had a long association with newspapers, sometimes very tenuously. Starting as an afternoon paperboy in Marrickville, Sydney, while a high school student, he later joined the *Sydney Morning Herald* as a messenger, then became an apprentice hand and machine compositor and a journeyman compositor. He became a Salvation Army officer who once wrote the front page article four weeks in a row for a country weekly and ended his career as editor-in-chief in the Army's eastern states. In retirement he spent five years running the Army's eastern territory heritage centre and museum which included both hard copy and microfilms of 140 years of the *War Cry*. His passion for collecting all began with the purchase of the last issue of the *Argus*, Melbourne, at a free Sydney Symphony Orchestra recital at the Town Hall! And then he was addicted to collecting all manner of historical issues of Australian newspapers. He gave those away, and then started again. This is the second of two reminiscences.

Last issue I looked at classified or line advertisements, but you might ask how come I became a hand-and-machine compositor for the Fairfax newspapers. I cannot recall how it happened but when I was in high school I gained an afternoon paper run with a local newsagent. My job was to turn up at the Sydney newsagency along with a number of other boys (no girls then.) We had a pile of *Suns* and *Mirrors*, waiting for us to count again to make sure the number was right. We were supplied with a wide leather belt, slung across our shoulders and a small money bag slung across the other. The papers were placed in the belt against our side and with a whistle supplied, set off with a list of those who paid the newsagent for delivery and a list of people who had paid us weekly for a week's deliveries. Some put out the money, which I took and replaced with the right paper. I had a set number of streets to traverse, whistling as I went to get those people out who wanted a spot purchase.

In that era the biggest days for these afternoon tabloids were Wednesday and Thursdays with all the major stores' full page ads. The smallest papers and lowest circulation day was Saturday afternoon with 12 or 16 page papers full of sports results! "Big is beautiful" held no weight with me.

On Sundays we were provided with a barrow to fit the papers in. There were three, the *Sun-Herald*, *Sunday Telegraph* and *Truth*, all of which were larger papers. Now this is where I got into strife. The Sunday run was larger than mid-week. The *Sunday Telegraph*, to increase its circulation, started "Tele-words", a crossword for which the answer was in a safe in Castlereagh Street. The idea was for everyone to buy a paper and fill out the Tele-word crossword and someone would win. The problem for me was that one of my customers thought he was an amateur mathematician. He bought one copy of the paper and worked out for himself how many copies of the crossword he needed to win. He asked for 54 copies. To save him from disposing of the extra copies he just took out the four pages on which the crossword was and gave me back the rest. This went well until I had sold all of the good copies and then sold those without the crossword. Did I cop it when I got back to the newsagency! They had telephones then. I had to take back good copies to those I had deceived! It never happened again. The *Sun-Herald* at that time had a finance section called *Financial Review* from which the weekly then daily took its name.

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When I finished high school with a School Certificate in my hand I was given an appointment by my father to turn up at the Wattle Street headquarters of Fairfax. My father knew a man in the next street who was a head stereotyper and he had arranged the interview with the idea of my becoming a *Herald* messenger. Interestingly, the *Sun* had copyboys and girls, but we were messengers. This was some years after Fairfax took over Associated Newspapers and they had still not been able to unite the staff.

The move to Wattle Street enabled the company to enlarge the number and size of presses to print the products. It included a full colour Hoe rotary press to print in four colours which came from the Pitt Street offices of the *Herald*, with a cold stereo press on which to make the colour plates. In my time they printed colour comics, but it was not big enough to print *Sun-Herald* comics. This was done at Sungravure by the gravure process. [See also: 85.4.14 below.]

85.4.2 Graham Perkin, editor and absent parent

Kate Legge writes (*Australian*, 26 October 2015): A roll call of Australian journalists gathered in Melbourne two weeks ago to laud the legendary newspaper editor Graham Perkin, who died 40 years ago from a massive heart attack. Not only could he write like an angel but as a leader he lifted the energy of everyone around him, transforming the *Age* from a limp conservative journal into a cracker of a broadsheet that demanded to be read. I began my career in this paper's newsroom six years after his death but the revolution he'd overseen from 1966 to 1975 continued to thrum long after he'd gone, through the fervour of investigative campaigns, opinionated commentary straddling both sides of the political divide, pioneering coverage of indigenous affairs and the environment, women's march into male-dominated newsrooms, cartoonists who broke the rules, and a fiery prosecution of the public interest.

Those who had worked with him painted vivid thumbnail pictures of his commanding presence. They recalled the passion that lit his dark eyes. They told of sweating under his penetrating gaze. By turns gruff and gentle, he possessed a punishing work ethic that ensured he was often poring over front-page copy as the presses rolled after midnight, for ink truly flowed in his veins...

Towards the end of the evening his adult children stood to talk about an often absent father who was only 45 when he exited their life at the voracious peak of his professional prime before the ebb of retirement could return him to them. "I'm sometimes asked if he influenced me in my career," his son Steven, a columnist with the *Herald Sun*, began. "I tell them that ... his influence was enormous, but perhaps not in a way they might imagine." It was Steven, then aged 22, who carried out CPR after his father's collapse. "I looked at my father lying there and as clearly as I'm standing here now I remember thinking to myself: 'I bet the last thought that went through your head wasn't, 'I wish I'd worked harder'."

His children's immense pride in their father's achievements is tinged with the terrible sadness of loss. "Had he chosen different priorities, he might be alive today," Steven suggested, imagining "an 85 year-old enjoying the company of his first grandchild, or coming fishing with me on the boat that one of his grandsons restored, or browsing his daughter's bookshops, or enjoying family meals ... But his priorities were set and they were rigid." The idea of balancing family with work had yet to percolate through the echelons of men who were mostly sole breadwinners hardwired for the rewards of vocational achievement.

Perkin's daughter, Corrie, a former journalist who owns two bookshops, was 14 when her father died. "I have no adult memories. We didn't spend a lot of time together — he was always working or travelling ... but whenever he might say on a Sunday afternoon, 'Mops, I'm going into work for a couple of hours ... wanna come?', I'd be in the car before he could change his mind." She joined the *Age* on leaving school because this was a sacred place where she could feel close to him, but like her brother she strove to better balance the competing demands of career and children.

85.4.3 Malvern papers to 1950s

The *Local History News* of Malvern Historical Society, Victoria, June/July 2015, p.5, lists "Local Malvern Papers to the 1950s". Simone Sharpe, local history officer, compiled the list,

1880s- 1900s	Malvern and Armadale Express	1890s	Malvern, Caulfield & Armadale Recorder
1930s	Malvern, Caulfield & Oakleigh Dispatch	1890s/1900s	Malvern & Armadale Recorder
1890s- 1930s	Malvern Argus (incorporated into Prahran Telegraph from 1902, often with identical content, only different masthead)	1900s/1910s	Malvern Courier & Caulfield Mirror
1900s/1910s	Malvern News	1930s/1940s	Malvern Spectator
1900s	Malvern Standard	1940s/1950s	Malvern Advertiser
1948-1959	Prahran News; News of Prahran, Windsor, Balaclava, St Kilda; Prahran and Malvern News; St Kilda-Prahran News		

85.4.4 Diseases of printers

Dr L.L. Smith (1830-1910) spent most of his adult life in Melbourne and is the subject of a significant biography recently published by John Paynter, *The Audacious Adventures of Dr Louis Lawrence Smith* (694pp in two volumes). In *Dr L.L. Smith's Medical Journal* (No. 2, 1854), pp.7-8, he began a series of articles on "Diseases of the Labouring Classes". The first article dealt with "Diseases of Printers". The following is an edited version of it.

"I have commenced with a class of men who, in this Colony, will soon feel the effects I am about to describe. Why I say "in this Colony" is that, through there being an urgent demand for their services, they are often compelled to work both day and night; and, in consequence of the dearness of house room, and want of suitable premises, they are forced to be more crowded, and therefore inhale a fouler air, than their brethren in London and other cities. The diseases of Printers are of two kinds, widely different the one from the other, and we may divide them into classes, thus—the one has a great deal of violent exercise, namely, the Pressman; the other, the Compositor, on the contrary, is sedentary, and his business is to stand or sit still and set the type, as well as distribute the letters after the forme requires to be broken up.

"The Pressmen are compelled to be always standing, and are, consequently, subject to varicose veins(enlarged, twisted veins observed in the legs of all persons who stand long in one position) and so bad are they with this, that many of them are continually compelled to have their legs bandaged, and often strapped up, for support. Then, again, they use very violent exercise in pulling, which, with the closely confined rooms in which they work in this town, induces a violent state of perspiration. They then incautiously expose themselves to the cold air, and those who have night work are more in danger of this. The consequence of which is that perspiration is checked; and colds, coughs, and ultimately inflammation of the lungs, with continued fevers, ensue, and the most serious diseases occur, if great attention is not paid to it at the onset. I should advise all Pressmen to wear flannel next the skin; to avoid the chills which cold air produces, by putting on their clothes before going outside; and if they are at all delicate in the lungs, to keep a handkerchief before their mouths on issuing into the air.

"The Compositor may or may not be subject to varicose veins, according to whether he stands or sits. His particular disease is in the eye, arising from weakness of the sight. He continually has his eye fixed on a black type, and this continued gazing at one object, without variety, acts soon upon *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, No 85, December 2015—11 the retina of delicate network of nerves situated behind the eyeball, and weakens it greatly; so likewise does it act upon the tone of the muscular fibre of the eye. In this country also, we have them compelled to work often with an indistinct light of the candle, or an uncertain flickering lamp, the consequence of which is that the delicate pupil is strained and weakened and the person perhaps then issues forth in the night air which, striking on the eye, causes ophthalmia. They are greatly subject also to cataracts; and, if intemperate in their habits, they are often compelled to quit that line of business for fear of total blindness. A Compositor will tell you that so close is the application to the black type, that the eye often retains the image of the type for a length of time after he has done his day or night's work, until a variety of objects are presented to the eye, which destroys the illusion.

"In standing and sitting, also, another disease is contracted by the Compositor, more especially when he has commenced his business young, namely—a curvature of the spine. Being compelled to have his head and chest bent forward to look for the letters, the position keeps the spine in a certain curved form, and hence curvature. Again, this position produces Pneumonia, or inflammation of the lungs; and great constriction across the chest. Besides which, they are subject also to the same influences and changes to which the Pressmen are. I should recommend Compositors to get a good pair of spectacles, so that the tone of the eye should not be injured; and also to vary the monotony on the eye by turning around for a minute occasionally and looking at another object. If there should be any weakness of sight, by bathing the eye with a lotion composed of a drachm of alum, half a drachm of acetate of lead, or half a drachm of sulphate of zine in half a pint of water, the eye will be materially strengthened.

"For both Compositors and Pressmen: the best thing they can do to preserve themselves in health is to allow themselves a certain time in the 24 hours for outdoor exercise, and a certain time for meals and rest. Do this regularly each day, and it only requires habit to do it constantly. Remember also to take care not to go immediately, in a state of perspiration, into the cold air, but to wait a short time until the body is cooler, and then clothe yourselves, and you may go into the air with impunity. If these directions, simple as they are, are followed up, disease might easily be driven away; and combined with temperance in drink, a man can live as long and as health at this trade as any other."

85.4.5 Gloucester: another newspaper

The *Gloucester Pioneer*, a newspaper unknown to the State Library of NSW, was published from 14 March 1908 to a date in August 1912. The sources are: *Wingham Chronicle*, 18 March 1908, p.2; and the *Maitland Weekly Mercury*, 24 August 1912, p.14. The *Pioneer* competed with the *Gloucester Advocate*, which began publication on 8 July 1905; it is still published. There were two earlier titles with Gloucester at their forefront, but both were published in and for Raymond Terrace and district (in the County of Gloucester).

- 1884, ca. 12 March: Gloucester Gazette and Lower Hunter and Williams River Advocate, Raymond Terrace, begins (Bulletin, 22/3/1884). Henry Courtney, proprietor.
- 1893, 24 Nov.: *Gloucester Examiner and Lower Hunter Advertiser*, Raymond Terrace, begins; William Brown and George S. Hill, proprietors.

85.4.6 Age advertises its plant

When the Melbourne Age seemed on the verge of extinction after only ten weeks of publication, it advertised its machinery and plant for sale (28 December 1854, p.4):

1 four-feeder machine; 1 Napier machine; 1 Albion press; 1 Royal do; 1 Folio do; 1 Galley do.

All the news and jobbing type, imposing tables, chases, racks, cases, and materials usually found in newspaper establishments.

To be disposed of, the whole of the Machinery, Type and Plant used in the production of this journal for the last three months. The whole of the materials being of a first-class description, the

Proprietors confidently recommend them to the attention of parties who may require all the articles necessary for newspaper and job printing.

The items may thus be particularized:

1 four-feeder machine capable of printing from 4000 to 6000 impressions per hour; the same which was in action and by which this journal was struck off for a short time in the Exhibition building;

1 Napier machine in first-rate condition, and the one by which the Age has been printed for the last two months. This machine was purchased new by the proprietors and has been employed for this purpose only.

1 large double demy Albion press in the best possible condition and adequate to the requirements of a weekly journal.

1 Royal press

1 Folio do.

And an extensive quantity of jobbing wood and metal type in all descriptions of plain, ornamental and fancy letter, a great portion of which is entirely new and of the best description produced.

The News founts consist of Long Primer, Bourgeois, Breveir, Minion and Nonpareil, the character and description of which will require no explanation, as the impression may be seen in the columns of the *Age*. Several founts are entirely new, and have suffered but little detriment from the short time they have been in use.

The Proprietors can recommend the whole of the above articles [they were the very best in all respects that could possibly be obtained.

85.4.7 Press gallery and future Victorian Premier

Bulletin, 17 March 1888, p.9, col. 1: When Graham Berry gave up the little huckster's shop on the Toorak road, he conceived and carried out the project of purchasing [in the 1860s] a small suburban paper, the Collingwood Advertiser. Soon afterwards he attempted one night to take a seat in the [parliamentary] reporters' gallery, but the high-toned representatives of the wealthy morning journals objected, and the then Speaker, Sir Francis Murphy, sustained the objection. The little 'Tiser did not indulge in extended parliamentary reports and no seat or desk was set apart for that journal. So that the man who afterwards led the House and ruled the country [Victoria] was refused a seat in the reporters' gallery. [Berry, knighted in 1886, was involved in ownership of newspapers in Geelong and in leader writing for various dailies. See Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 3, for more.]

85.4.8 Tasmania's first daily: a correction

In 83.4.9, the ANHG accorded the *Hobart Town Courier* the honour of becoming the first daily in Hobart—on 1 January 1853. That was wrong. In fact, it was the second daily. The first Hobart daily was the *True Colonist*, or to give it its full title, the *True Colonist*, *Van Diemen's Land Political Despatch*, and Agricultural and Commercial Advertiser. It became a daily on 2 January 1835 and ceased daily issue on 20 March that year, with its proprietor and editor, Gilbert Robertson, jailed for libel. This means the *True Colonist* was only the second daily in the Australian colonies. The first was the *Sydney Gazette*, for six weeks in Jnuary-February 1827. It also means that the Hobart *Mercury* was the fourth daily in that city.

85.4.9 Trove corrections

John Warren is the top text corrector for Trove's digitised newspapers. By 18 November he had corrected 3,546,845 lines of text, more than one million ahead of the second top corrector, Neil Hamilton (2,510,641). The magazine *Inside History*, July-August 2015, pp.45-47, featured an interview with Warren, who was born in Orange, NSW, and has a particular interest in newspapers

that were published in the Central West of that state. He says he spends 40 hours or more a week in correcting.

85.4.10 Operating the Dictaphones for 13 years

William George Rendall (1908-1997) joined the *Maryborough Chronicle*, Queensland, in 1936 and worked there for 38 years. One of the things he did in retirement was to assist your ANHG editor with his research on Maryborough's local newspapers, the first of which began in 1860. Following is the transcript of an interview Rod Kirkpatrick conducted with Bill Rendall on 20 April 1992.

RK: How did you come to work at the Chronicle?

WGR: I had occasion to go into the *Chronicle* about half-past four one afternoon to see Hector Dunn [a member of the ownership family and the local manager], who was associated with the same church that I was. And he told me Mr Eadie [business manager] wanted to see me. And I said, well, I've got to start work at 5 o'clock down at the bacon factory. So he said I'll see if Mr Eadie will speak to you now.

Mr Eadie agreed to see me then and he told me they were intending to put a Dictaphone operator on permanently because they'd had some trouble with illnesses and the reporters were doing the Dictaphone work. Some were off sick and they were in a bit of a jam and they'd decided to put one on permanently and he wanted to know if I'd be interested in the job. I had never seen a Dictaphone; I didn't even know what they were. I said all right, I could be interested in it. He said I'll let you know if you're the successful applicant.



BILL RENDALL, 1984

I found out afterwards that I was the only one that he was considering.

He knew that I was a typist because I had been working at Howard Smith's shipping office for six years and seven months and I did all the typing down there. I had had some engine-driving questions and answers that I wanted to type out, and I asked Mr Dunn if I could use the typewriter [at the *Chronicle*]. I went in there several days and typed out all the questions and answers and they knew about that. I decided [to accept the *Chronicle* job after a bit of practice of the Dictaphones during the day in my own time.

I started on 9 March 1936, at six o'clock at night. I was told that I would be working under the Federated Clerks Union award and that I would be working Monday to Friday and that I would have weekends free. That is Sunday night free. But it wasn't long before they put me on Sunday nights and I worked from 6 to 2 sometimes, sometimes till half-past one.

I was supposed to be a Dictaphone operator/typewriter mechanic and I had to service the Dictaphones as well. If anything went wrong with it, I had to take the part out, leave it in the office downstairs at night, ask the girls to send it by plane in the morning to Brisbane, they would return it in the afternoon and I would go back in the afternoon and install it in the machine. Then at one stage they were going to take the messages on the Dictaphone at three o'clock in the afternoon so I worked from two till nine with an hour off for tea. That went on for a little while, then they reverted to the six o'clock [start] and I did that for 13 years.

We had a recording unit, two transcribers and one shaving machine. At the end of the night I would shave the records—rake a very thin skim of wax off the records, so they were clean for the next day. A record would take about eight minutes to turn through to take the message down and we could get about 800 words on it and if the reader [in Brisbane] hastened his speech, we could get about a thousand words on it. It would take a half an hour to transcribe the record—perhaps a little longer.

The *Chronicle* was in Adelaide Street, upstairs (1936). We had an editor, a sub-editor and four journalists. I worked five days a week [when I became a journalist], sometimes at night, some day. There were six Linotype operators and two stonehands—the foreman and his offsider. There was a chief printer and his offsider. The chief printer was Charlie Clarke and Jack Shannon was his offsider, and he eventually became the chief printer. When we went over to the new place in Bazaar Street, Jack Shannon was working there and he went to the war, later on, and a chap called Jack

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Jones came in and he was a motor mechanic but he seemed to run the press all right. He was there when I left [1974].

On typewriters: George Wilson [editor] had his own and I think there were about another two typewriters. Anybody could use them. It was a case of you got the typewriter when you wanted it because they weren't all occupied at the one time. There'd be somebody at the court all day; well, he'd have to come back and type it out. During his absence there'd be somebody typing out the stuff he'd picked up [as a reporter] during the day. The two typewriters were adequate at the time.

85.4.11 Thomas Revel Johnson: correction

Loraine Johnson has written to ANHG about the ANHG item 66.4.11, which said:

The Sunday Times (estab. 1849) appears to be the first designed Sunday newspaper in Australia. The Sydney Gazette had, of course, appeared on Sundays for some years early in the piece. The Colonial Times, Hobart, reported 6 July 1849, p.2, that a new weekly journal, called the Sunday Times, had been started at Sydney on 17 June. It had professed —independence, and appeared to be published by a company. It promised it would invariably be published on a Saturday evening (South Australian Register, 28 July 1849). R.B. Walker, The Newspaper Press in New South Wales, 1803-1920, p.115, says the publisher was Thomas Revel Johnson, —a somewhat disreputable solicitor who had been sentenced to two years' jail in 1843 for criminally libelling James Martin. Johnson had launched *Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer* (estab. 1845), but ceased to be connected with it in mid-1848.

Loraine says: "I've come across the R.B. Walker comment before, and knew it was wrong, but there seemed to be little I could do, so I let it go. But seeing it quoted again reminded me that inaccuracies should never be ignored. While I know you can't rewrite R.B. Walker's work, at least I can bring to light Walker's inaccurate reporting.

"Thomas Revel Johnson was not a solicitor. Thomas Revel Johnson was a surgeon (member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London). He was born in Ireland and arrived in Australia in 1841. Like many of the well-educated Irish of his day he loved literature, poetry, sports, riding fine horses, drinking brandy, and smoking cigars. He had a wicked sense of humour, which he let loose when he was confronted by the low morals he encountered in Sydney upon his arrival, and his disgust for the double standards evident among some of the elite. He established several newspapers during his life, but it was the first, the *Satirist*, that was at the centre of his notoriety. He used the paper to raise awareness of the low morals and double standards. His method was to poke fun at the ones with the double-standards, in this case the elite.

"Unfortunately for him, his attack on one of them came at the same time in history that the elite were beginning to get their act together. In other words, to put a stop to their personal foibles being made public. Up until then, poking fun at the elite was a common past-time in England and in NSW. But things were changing, and Dr Thomas Revel Johnson was to be a scapegoat. For his troubles he was sentenced to Newcastle jail for two years.

"He was young and brave, or foolish, depending on one's point of view. He didn't foresee the impending change in the law, and so he was caught up in it. Nevertheless, after this unfortunate event, from all accounts his life was moral and he gained a very good reputation among the majority of people in Sydney and its surrounds. Not surprisingly, as Walker's comment suggests, it seems that some in positions of power remained wary and unmoved." [Loraine supplied various sources for her correction, including the obituary for T.R. Johnson, *Bell's Life in Sydney*, 1 August 1863, an advertisement in the same publication, 7 September 1861, and Medical Board minutes for 3 April 1848.]



MASTHEADS OF THE *DAILY MERCURY*, MACKAY, DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS ARE FEATURED IN A BOOKLET OF NEWSPAPER PAGES, *150 YEARS OF NEWS*, TO MARK THE **150**OTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PAPER. IT BEGAN AS THE *MACKAY MERCURY* ON 4 APRIL **1866.** IT BECAME THE *DAILY MERCURY* IN **1906**.

85.4.12 New at the National Library

The National Library of Australia announces: The following new resources are accessible directly via their URLs where shown, otherwise within the Library to all users, and remotely to registered National Library users via our eResources portal.

Sydney Morning Herald and the Age Library editions

http://www.nla.gov.au/app/eresources/item/4616 [Complete digital editions of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age* newspapers. Coverage is from 1 January 2006 to date. Keyword searchable, or browse day by day.]

85.4.15 In search of 'Falcon'

Dr Martin Woods, curator of maps at the National Library of Australia, who is at mwoods@nla.gov.au, has written to ANHG as follows:

"I am trying to track down the identity of a journalist whose column, under the byline "Falcon", appeared regularly in the *Newcastle Morning Herald* from the early 1900s to about end of 1927. To date, I have no luck. There is no obit or notice I can find in the paper after the column, titled "Pen-notes and pencillings" ceased in the late 1920s, and nothing online doing the usual searches. I've also contacted the local historical society but they could add nothing.

"Was it perhaps Paterson Saunders? Nothing to connect him with Falcon in the SMH obit of Sept 13, 1934. If you have a lead I might follow its greatly appreciated. The column was topical, sometimes provocative, and always accompanied by a cartoon. A couple of examples appear below."

http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article140091739 http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article138584051

85.4.13 Journalism lecturers celebrate 40 years

About 80 journalism lecturers, present and past, converged on Bathurst, NSW, to attend the 40th anniversary conference of what is now the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia. It was founded in December 1975 with David Potts, who was teaching at Mitchell College of Advanced Education, Bathurst, providing the impetus. Thirteen journalism lecturers attended that first meeting in Bathurst. Initially, the organisation called itself the Australian Association for Tertiary Education in Journalism. Later it became the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia, and the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia. Your ANHG editor took part in the "plenary retrospective" panel discussion on Tuesday, 1 December 2015, when three founding members—David Potts, Don Woolford and Rod Kirkpatrick—looked back to the beginnings and two former presidents—Lynette Sheridan-Burns and Roger Patching—and the current president, Matthew Ricketson discussed

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some of the issues that confronted them. A 40th birthday cake was cut. The conference ran for three days, 30 November and 1 and 2 December at what is now Charles Sturt University's Bathurst campus. [See picture next page.]



PICTURED AT THE CONFERENCE IN BATHURST THAT MARKED **40** YEARS OF THE JOURNALISM EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA ARE (FROM LEFT): MARK PEARSON, STEPHEN TANNER, ROGER PATCHING, LYNETTE-SHERIDAN BURNS, DON WOOLFORD, ROD KIRKPATRICK, MATTHEW RICKETSON, DAVID POTTS AND PENNY O'DONNELL (AND THE **40**TH BIRTHDAY CAKE).

85.4.14 Technology, Rockhampton 1975

When many regional papers were changing to methods of printing, typesetting and block making in the mid-1970s, **W.E. Crane**, the circulation manager of the *Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, wrote to Kenneth Sanz (7 March 1975):

"Thank you for your letter in connection with our new process. We certainly appreciate your interest, based as it is on an obvious knowledge of the printing trade. Now to answer your questions. Yes, the *Longreach Leader* uses a somewhat similar system but based on an A.P.R. method. We agree with you that we are having some difficulty with inks. It is obvious that there is an incompatibility between the hot metal plates and the existing plastic plates. At the moment, industrial chemists are working on this problem. The type of paper too is being looked into.

"We use the full Compster photo process to the stage of producing the negs, and from there they go to the Letterflex machine. I have included a sample of the plate used which I know will be of interested to you.

"In answer to your question re Stereo Department: We are still using one stereo for isolated plate making, for not all Agencies are yet fully aware of the advantages of not having to send mats, but these are becoming less and less as the weeks pass. The pulled copies are used for paste-up on the pages. All the curved Stereo plates are now a thing of the past, with the Letterflex plate after trimming going straight on to the Rotary. The time elapsed between the last plate on the floor and the press rolling is five minutes.

"You were quite right in saying that we are the first press in Australia to use the system right through to the final printing. This could be construed as a doubtful honour as we therefore had no guidelines to go upon. However, we are making progress, probably not as fast as we would hope for, but each day sees an improvement."



5-RECENTLY PUBLISHED

85.5.1 Book

Roberts, Tom D.C., *Before Rupert: Keith Murdoch and the Birth of a Dynasty*, University of Queensland Press, 2015, 390 pages, paperback, \$34.95.

85.5.2 Articles

- **Bennett, Lachlan,** "To pay or not to pay", *Bulletin*, TheNewspaperWorks, November 2015, p.11 Digital subscriptions have been hailed as a success in buttressing publishers against falling print revenues, but now there is growing support for a free model.
- Chapman, Jane, The Aussie 1918–1931: Cartoons, digger remembrance and First World War identity, Journalism Studies, September 2015 http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2015.1074866
- **O'Donnell, P. & Van Heekeren, M.**. "JERAA@40: towards a history of the professional association of Australian journalism academics", *Australian Journalism Review*, 37(2), 2015, pp.5-22. The professional association representing Australian journalism educators was established in 1975. This article, on the occasion of the association's 40th anniversary, traces the history and evaluates the role of the Australian Association for Tertiary Education in Journalism (AATEJ) and its successors, the Journalism Education Association (JEA) and the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia (JERAA).
- Sweetman, Kim, "History captured in newspaper ink", Sunday Mail, Brisbane, 15 November 2015, p.77. Discusses the rich heritage in the newspaper files of the Moreton Bay Courier and its descendants.
- Van Onselen, Peter, "How to tame the media beast", *Weekend Australian*, 31 October-1 November 2015, p.18. Malcolm Turnbull must learn from his predecessors what not to do in communicating with the news media.

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