



Staff of the *Murray Pioneer*, Renmark, photographed ca 1909-1910: **Standing** (from left): Bob Noonan (linotype operator), Bill McKenzie (jobbing comp., stonehand), Bert Riedel (book binder, guillotine and printing machinist), Arnold Gravestock (jobbing, hand compositor), Harry S. Taylor (proprietor, editor), Horace Woods (secretary), Jack Edwards (reporter, director), Charlie Laycock (hand comp., jobbing), Jack Lock sen. (linotype operator), Clive South (roving reporter). **Sitting** (from left): Pete Henderson (general hand), Bert Jury (single cylinder Wharfedale machinist, linotype operator), Jack Lock jun. (printer's devil), Henry Ellis (machinist).

Harry Samuel Taylor, the central figure (standing) in the above image, was the editor from 1905 to 1932 and sole proprietor for the first 16 of those 27 years. The Taylor family still owns and manages the *Murray Pioneer* today. Also see ANHG 110.4.1 below.

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Compiled for the Australian Newspaper History Group by Rod Kirkpatrick, U 337, 55 Linkwood Drive, Ferny Hills, Qld, 4055. Ph. +61-7-3351 6175. Email: rodk99anhg@gmail.com

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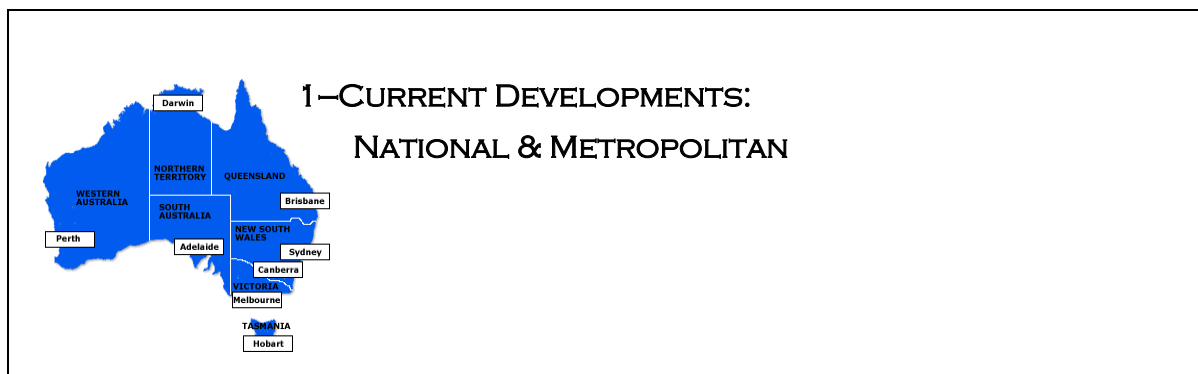
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Subscription details appear at end of *Newsletter*. [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]

Ten issues had appeared by December 2000; the *Newsletter* has appeared five times a year since 2001.



110.1.1 CEO of Nine Entertainment resigns

Hugh Marks resigned on 14 November as the chief executive officer of Nine Entertainment, which owns (principally) the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Age*, the Nine TV network and Macquarie Broadcasting (*Canberra Times*, 15 November 2020, p.9; *Age*, 16 November 2020, pp.26-27; and *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 November 2020, pp.12-13). In the wake of the resignation, Nine Entertainment's board faced serious questions after asking investors to back a \$2 million long-term bonus for Marks – two days before he resigned after his romantic relationship with a recently resigned workplace colleague became public, reports the *Australian's* Cliona O'Dowd. Marks walked away from a potential \$5 million payday, approved at the company's annual general meeting on 12 November.

His impending departure was not mentioned at the Thursday meeting, but he resigned a day after he confirmed to the *Sydney Morning Herald* that he was in a relationship with the company's former commercial managing director Alexi Baker, who departed the company in October.

On 17 November the *Australian* carried on Pages 1 and 6 Caroline Overington's report based on an interview with Alexi Baker. "I'm not a victim," Baker told Overington. The article was headed "The truth about Hollywood Hugh, working at Nine and me".

110.1.2 SAS soldier's defamation case date set

A defamation case brought against three newspapers by decorated former soldier Ben Roberts-Smith will go to trial on 7 June 2021 and is expected to last six to eight weeks. Roberts-Smith, 41, is suing the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age* and *Canberra Times* over a series of reports published in 2018 that he says are defamatory because they portray him as someone who "broke the moral and legal rules of military engagement" and committed murder (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 September 2020, p.12).

The Federal Court on 11 November ordered Roberts-Smith to hand over the preliminary findings made by a war crimes inquiry into his conduct in Afghanistan to lawyers acting for the media companies he is suing for defamation (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 November 2020, pp.1, 6).

110.1.3 Reporting from China (1): 'No comment—and don't report that'

Yvonne Preston, the *Sydney Morning Herald's* China correspondent, 1975-78, has written about how difficult it was to report anything worthwhile from that country at the time. Her article (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 September 2020, p.23) followed the swift exit from China in September of two Australian journalists, Bill Birtles and Michael Smith. Preston wrote of what she experienced in China: "We had a single number we could ring outside the diplomatic compound for the ill-named Information Department of the Foreign Ministry. Our requests for help, permission to travel, facts, were almost invariably met with a blank 'I will take note of your question'; 'I think you know the answer to that question'. My ABC colleague was told: 'We have no comment and you may not say that we have no comment.'"

"For a journalist to make sense of a country of 800 million, without access to a single useful official, without permission to speak to ordinary Chinese unless with an official minder in tow, without freedom of movement, with never a press conference or briefing, and with just two main sources of

written news—the *People's Daily* and the New China Newsagency, both rich in gobbledygook—it was a labour of mounting desperation.”

In *Company of Herald*s (1980), p.474, Gavin Souter wrote: “During Preston’s two years in Perking, Chou En-lai and Mao Tse-tung died, northern China suffered the world’s worst earthquake for twelve years, the Gang of Four was overthrown, the Cultural Revolution was nullified, and China opened its doors just wide enough for the outside world to be given a glimpse of what things might really be like in that extraordinary country.”

See 110.1.5 below and also articles by Eryk Bagshaw and Tony Wright in 110.5.2 below

110.1.4 Reporting from China (2): Singapore bureau for *SMH* and *Age*

The *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age* will open a Singapore bureau in 2021 to serve as the base for a North Asia correspondent and a South-East Asia correspondent. The Singapore postings will replace those to Beijing and Jakarta, where the papers’ former China and South-East Asia correspondents were based. China correspondent Eryk Bagshaw, who has remained in Canberra since the start of his posting late in 2019 because of vis and safety issues, will move to Singapore in February to be North Asia correspondent. *Telum Media Alert* reported (2 December 2020) that Chris Barrett, currently chief sports reporter at the *Sydney Morning Herald*, will be the South-East Asia correspondent for the *SMH* and *Age*.

The *Herald* opened the Beijing bureau in 1973. It had been the base for 12 correspondents over that period, including Yvonne Preston, John Garnaut and Kirsty Needham (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 October 2020, p.5).

110.1.5 AAP needs strong fund-raising arm

The main challenge that Australian Associated Press’s new chief executive Emma Cowdroy is facing is the need to develop a strong fundraising arm (*Australian*, 5 October 2020). Cowdroy says her “No 1 priority is to diversify our revenue streams”, as the coronavirus pandemic continues to hammer the media industry. AAP secured a \$5m lifeline from the Morrison government in September with Communications Minister Paul Fletcher declaring the newswire was key for maintaining media diversity. “The impact of COVID-19 has meant our runway was not as long as we thought, but that grant has greatly increased it,” Cowdroy said.

She says it will need to access a reliable funding stream through the news media bargaining code, which if legislated will force Google and Facebook to pay news outlets for content. AAP has lodged a submission with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, making the case for why it should be covered by the code which will go before parliament at the end of the year. Other media outlets, including News Corp, have also lobbied for the code to be legislated.

According to documents filed with the corporate regulator, AAP lost \$10 million in the year before it was sold in an eleventh-hour rescue deal (*Age*, 2 November 2020, p.26).

110.1.6 People

Prue Clarke, who helped establish the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas, has departed the institute after 18 months as senior executive officer (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 October 2020, p.4).

Harold Evans, former crusading *Sunday Times*, London, editor and author of books on editing and design, has died in New York, aged 92 (*Herald Sun*, 26 September 2020, p.28).

Greg Hywood, a former CEO of Fairfax Media, is the new chairman of Free TV, the peak body of the nation’s commercial television broadcasters.

Matthew Knott, US correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*, fell five storeys from a New York rooftop in mid-June and survived. He writes about his experiences in the *Good Weekend*, 23 October 2020 (see ANHG 110.5.2 below).

Grant McArthur, health editor of the *Herald Sun* and *Sunday Herald Sun*, has won the Keith Murdoch Award for journalist of the year at News Corp Australia for his coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic in Victoria (*Australian*, 30 October 2020, p.2).

Kevin Rudd, a former prime minister, has launched a petition calling for a royal commission into Rupert Murdoch's media empire (*Sunday Age*, 11 October 2020, p.15).

Annika Smethurst, the journalist whose Canberra home was raided by the Australian Federal Police, has left News Corp Australia and joined the Nine newspaper, the *Age*, as its new Victorian state political editor. Smethurst had worked for eight years covering Federal Parliament. She was most recently the political editor for News Corp's *Sunday Herald Sun* and *Sunday Telegraph* (*Telum Media Alert*, 4 December 2020).

Mark Willacy and the ABC Investigations-Four Corners Team have won Australian journalism's highest honour, the Gold Walkley, for their six-month-long investigation "Killing Field". The program, which also won the Walkley for investigative journalism, exposed alleged war crimes by Australian special forces in Afghanistan (*Mediaweek*, 21 November 2020).

Jock Zonfrillo, celebrity chef, has launched Federal Court defamation proceedings against the *Australian* over an article and Facebook post he says accuse him of pretending to support an Indigenous community to win an award (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 September 2020, p.3).

110.1.7 Magazine ceases printing

Men's luxury magazine *GQ Australia* appeared in print for the final time in November-December 2020. It is now a digital only publication (*Age*, 15 October 2020, p.4).

110.1.8 Rich List: The 200 wealthiest Australians

The 2020 version of Fairfax Media's annual Rich List was published in the *Australian Financial Review Magazine*, supplement to the *AFR* on 30 October 2020. The 2020 Rich List, the 38th in the series, is available online at AFR.Com/ In a year dominated by the economic impact of COVID-19, some may be surprised that the overall value of the Rich List's worth increased by a substantial amount, from \$342 billion in 2019 to \$424 billion. This increase was largely driven by iron ore and the information technology sector with Gina Rinehart topping the list; her \$28.89 billion was an increase of 109% on her 2019 valuation.

The 2020 list included a number with media investments or interests:

- ❖ Kerry Stokes (No. 10), valued at \$6.26 billion
- ❖ Lachlan Murdoch (No. 22), resident in Los Angeles but counted as an Australian, valued at \$3.76 billion
- ❖ Prudence MacLeod (No. 36), Rupert Murdoch's first-born, involved in philanthropy and currently resident in Britain, valued at \$2.24 billion
- ❖ Judith Neilson (No. 69) has investments in financial services. She set up the Judith Neilson Institute to encourage independent, quality journalism by providing education and grants, valued at \$1.44 billion

The first Rich List was published in 1983 as a supplement to Fairfax's *Business Review Weekly* (12 November 1983). Initially it listed the 100 Richest People in Australia and was later expanded to 200 Richest People, and when the *Business Review Weekly* folded, the annual Rich List became a supplement to the *Australian Financial Review*.

Back in 1983, the leading entrants in the foundation Rich List, their "\$100 Million Club", was dominated by individuals or families with media or publishing investments. Rupert Murdoch (then regarded as an Australian citizen) and his family was top of the list with an estimated net worth of \$250 million. Kerry Packer, whose publications included the *Bulletin* and the (monthly) *Australian Women's Weekly* was estimated to be worth \$100 million, and the Fairfax family, represented by James Fairfax, Sir Warwick Fairfax, Sir Vincent Fairfax and John B Fairfax were estimated to have a minimum net worth of \$175 million.

110.1.9 Deaths

Field, Michele: D. October 2020 in London, aged 78; born in Kansas City in 1942; grew up in Minnesota; lived Mexico, Ireland, England, Denmark before eventually becoming literary editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* for five years in the 1980s; contributed articles to the *Good Weekend* in later years; in the mid '80s Michele and daughter Ophelia moved to London where Michele

worked as a correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, wrote a column for the *Times Literary Supplement* and another for Barry Oakley at the *Weekend Australian* book pages and interviewed numerous celebrities and politicians, both for the press and on ABC radio. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 November 2020).

Growden, Greg: D. 14 November 2020 in Sydney, aged 60; rugby writer and author; joined *Sydney Morning Herald* as a cadet journalist in early 1978; was the *Herald's* chief rugby correspondent, 1987-2012; Australia rugby correspondent for ESPN for six years; author of 15 books, including an acclaimed biography of the gifted but tortured wrist spinner, Chuck Fleetwood Smith, and a biography of Jack Fingleton, Test cricketer and journalist; most recent book, *Major Thomas*, was a look at the lawyer who defended Breaker Morant in 1901 at the end of the Boer War (*Australian* and *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 November 2020).

Ramsey, Alan Graham: D. 24 November 2020 on NSW South Coast, aged 82; became copy boy on *Sydney Daily Telegraph* at age 15; scored cadetship on *Mount Isa Mail* at age 16; joined *Northern Territory News*; became a graded journalist on *Sydney Sun*; joined AAP and was posted to Port Moresby for 18 months before a London posting, 1960-64; posted to South Vietnam for war coverage; joined the *Australian* at end of 1965 under Adrian Deamer's editorship and became chief political correspondent; to Sydney as deputy editor, 1969-71; in March 1971 (back in Canberra) reported that the head of Army, Sir Thomas Daly, in a conversation with Prime Minister John Gorton had accused Defence Minister Malcolm Fraser of extreme disloyalty to the Army and its minister, Andrew Peacock; Ramsey had put the story to Gorton before publication and it had not been denied; within days there was a crisis between Gorton and Fraser — Fraser resigned and Gorton eventually fell as PM; during the showdown on the floor of parliament an angry Ramsey interjected, from the press gallery above, on Gorton, shouting "you liar" before a startled House; in 1973, Ramsey was forced out of the *Australian* as it changed its political orientation; freelanced and then became media adviser to Bill Hayden as Leader of the Opposition, 1978-83; wrote a well-read column on politics for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1987-2008, and a smaller column on Wednesdays for part of that period; his columns were deeply researched and provided significant context for the day-to-day political dramas; saw himself as "a reporter with a point of view"; in 2017 was admitted to the Australian Media Hall of Fame; colleague Paul Kelly, who wrote Ramsey's Media Hall of Fame entry, said that, Ramsey, after his retirement, lunched with Fraser in Melbourne and told him the source of his shattering 1971 story: Susan Peacock, in whom General Daly had confided (*Australian*, 25 November 2020; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 November 2020, pp.14 and 42).

110.1.10 News Corp ekes out profit

News Corp eked out a \$US47 million (\$64.5 million) profit in the latest quarter as growth in its real estate division offset declines in print advertising and falling revenue from Foxtel subscribers (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 November 2020). Sales fell 10 per cent to \$US2.12 million in the three months to 30 September, largely because of a \$US200 million impact from the sale of News America Marketing and a \$US35 million hit related to the closure of suburban and regional print newspapers in Australia, the media group said in a statement on 6 November.

News Corp Australia announced in May it would axe hundreds of jobs and stop the print editions of more than 100 suburban and regional mastheads in Australia as part of a major restructure. Excluding these factors, total revenue fell 3 per cent. News Corp also made less money from subscribers of subscription television services such as Foxtel, Kayo Sports and its newly launched entertainment streaming service Binge, with revenue from subscribers falling by \$US18 million to \$US496 million due to the absence of commercial subscribers such as pubs and clubs and residential subscribers tightening their belts.

110.1.11 Selling the primary news pages

Just as the *Australian* has been prepared to sell Pages 2 and 3 to advertisers on occasions in recent months (e.g. 4 September 2020), so the *Sydney Morning Herald* has done that on occasions lately (e.g. 18, 21 September and 1, 2 and 5, 8, 12 and 13 October 2020), as well as selling its back page on those days.

The advertiser in the *Australian* has been Clive Palmer and in the *SMH*, Harvey Norman. The *Age*, Melbourne, had a four-page McDonald's wraparound on 14 October, with the front page of the wraparound announcing, "Sorry there is no front page today... we're at Macca's. The focus was McDonald's new chicken menu.

110.1.12 Australian business news desk launched

News Corp Australia launched on 1 December a centralised business news desk as part of a move to restructure the company's national business journalism. The Australian Business Network, run by the *Australian*, shares print and digital content across News Corp's metropolitan newspapers, including the *Australian*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Courier-Mail*, *Herald Sun* and *Advertiser*. The metropolitan business reporters already on duty joined the new national team on 1 December. The *Australian's* business editor, Eric Johnston, leads the network team (*Telum Media Alert*, 23 November 2020).

110.1.13 Some contempt charges dropped in Pell case

Prosecutors have withdrawn 13 of the 100 contempt charges against Australian media companies and journalists over the way they reported George Pell's conviction. Twelve news outlets and 18 individual journalists faced trial in early November in the Supreme Court, accused of breaching a court-imposed suppression order and other rules related to Cardinal George Pell's initial conviction on child sex abuse charges in December 2018. The media outlets are defending the contempt charges (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 November 2020, p.17).

110.1.14 Op-ed pages change at the Oz

The *Australian* has changed the format and presentation its op-ed pages. Previously, the paper presented a number of articles contributed by commentators on the left before the editorial, cartoon and letters page on the facing right-hand page. Both were headed "Commentary". From Monday, 30 November, the *Australian* has begun its op-ed section with a left-hand page devoted to editorials and letters; it has featured a small reproduction of part of the previous issue's Page 1 as the pictorial element for the page. The right-hand page, headed "Commentary", is for the opinion articles presented by commentators and features the cartoon, often by Johannes Leak. The typography for the two pages is different, but not dramatically so. The names of the cartoonist and commentators are featured in red caps above their contributions.

110.1.15 Cathy Wilcox wins cartoonist of year award

The Museum of Australian Democracy has named Cathy Wilcox, of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, as the political cartoonist of the year. She won the prize also in 2009 and 2016. Nobel Prize-winning immunologist Professor Petery Doherty, one of the external judges for this year's award, said there were parallels between his work and that of cartoonists, in that they "do their best to tell the truth". He said, "I've always had the sense that part of the job of the cartoonist in an open democracy is to provoke us, and maybe to make us a bit angry, so we suddenly have doubts about some entrenched position, some dogmatic idea of how things are or should be." (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 November 2020, p.5).

110.1.16 Rupert Murdoch and climate change

Rupert Murdoch has made his first public comments about the abrupt resignation of son James from News Corp's board, rejecting assertions the company denied climate change or that he did not consider his son's point of view. News Corp was criticised by James Murdoch and his wife, Kathryn Hufschmid in January for promoting climate denialism after the global media empire's coverage of Australian bushfire crisis gained global attention and scrutiny. James decided in August to quite the board of directors after years of unease about editorial direction (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 November 2020, p.27).



110.2.1 News Corp fights tech giants

News Corp executive chairman Rupert Murdoch says the media company’s long-running push to have technology giants such as Google and Facebook pay for news that they use on their platforms is starting to pay off (*Australian*, 7 October 2020). News Corp has been leading the global charge to force technology players to pay for news content for more than a decade. “Our long battle against the big tech platforms – for years a solitary struggle – has finally helped lead to legislative and legal scrutiny of their monopolistic and algorithmic abuses, with some finally providing payment to publishers for premium content,” Murdoch said in News Corp’s 2020 annual report. “The fate of a free and unfettered press hangs in the balance of this debate, and I am cautiously optimistic that we will see even more material benefit from this effort in the years ahead.”

Chief executive Robert Thomson said the changed terms of business with digital platforms is already having an “appreciable impact” on the company’s earnings. “It is fair to say that the ecosystem has absolutely begun to evolve,” Thomson wrote in the annual report. “For News Corp, which has been pursuing this issue for well over a decade, this favourable outcome would simply not have been possible without the leadership of Rupert and Lachlan Murdoch, and the support of a board which backed advocacy, even when News Corp often stood alone in pursuit of the principle of a premium for premium content.”

Thomson said the coronavirus had irrevocably changed many things, including News Corp’s operations and accelerating pre-existing digital trends. “Without a doubt, digitisation has accelerated and all of our businesses have responded with customary ingenuity”, he said, adding that nearly all of News’ mastheads had record audiences during the 2020 financial year.

See also: Fergus Hunter, Tim Biggs and Zoe Samios, “Why tech giants oppose news code”, *Age*, 26 October 2020, p.21; and Zoe Samios, “Tech giants lobby for rules change”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 November 2020, p.28.

Google has been inserting full-page ads in the *Australian* in various issues, such as on 23 October, 18 November and 4-5 December (headed, for instance, “Helping over 1.3 million Aussie businesses connect with customers”).

Analysis of financial results by the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age* earlier in 2020 showed that Google and Facebook together scooped up almost \$400 million more in Australian advertising revenue than five major domestic media outlets combined in the 2019 calendar year (*Age*, 23 November 2020, p.30).

110.2.2 News Corp and the new digital daily news services

Through its community news divisions in different states, News Corp Australia has been progressively launching digital news sites in the regions.

- **Ballarat:** The *Herald Sun* and Leader Community News launched a daily online news site, theballaratnews.com.au, on 24 August. Tess Ikonomou, formerly of the *Townsville Bulletin*, is the journalist (*Herald Sun*, 24 August 2020, p.14).
- **Albury-Wodonga:** The *Herald Sun* and Leader Community News launched a daily online news site, thealburywodonganews.com.au, in September. Cassandra Glover, formerly of the *Toowoomba Chronicle*, is the journalist (*Herald Sun*, 21 September 2020, p.14).
- **Mildura:** The *Herald Sun* and Leader Community News launched a daily online news site, themilduranews.com.au, for Mildura in September. Michael Difabrizio, who has spent

five years as a newspaper journalist in Mildura, is the journalist for the digital new service (*Herald Sun*, 13 September 2020, p.18).

- **Bass Coast:** The *Herald Sun* and Leader Community News launched a daily online news site, thebasscoastnews.com.au, for the region from Phillip Island to Inverloch in September. Brooke Grebert-Craig, who has visited the Bass Coast for years on holidays, is the journalist for the digital new service (*Herald Sun*, 13 September 2020, p.18).
- **Melbourne City:** The *Herald Sun* and Leader Community News launched a daily online news site, themelbournecitynews.com.au, for Melbourne City in September. Grace McKinnon, previously a breaking-news reporter for the *Herald Sun*, is the journalist for the digital new service (*Herald Sun*, 13 September 2020, p.18).

110.2.3 SMH redesigns home page

The *Sydney Morning Herald* has unveiled a new look homepage, intended to help readers identify more easily the site's top content. Key changes include more articles at the top of the page, some stories are now grouped according to context, and photography and illustrations are better showcased (*Telum Media Alert*, 30 November 2020).

110.2.4 Weekly good-news newsletter introduced

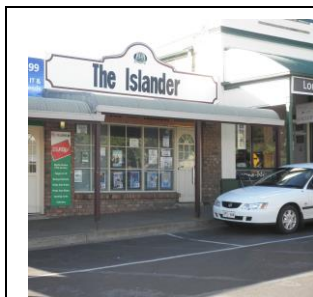
The *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age*, *WAtoday* and *Brisbane Times* have introduced *Greater Good*, a weekly newsletter featuring positive news stories. The newsletter is emailed to readers each Friday at midday. Content is selected from “good news” stories published across the four metro titles—two of which are both digital and print and the other two simply digital. The newsletter also features a variety of tailored content, including the Great Minds section, featuring Q&A with an expert on a topic supplied by readers. Riley Wilson, desk editor at the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age*, is editor/writer of the newsletter. National newsletter editor, Mex Cooper, oversees its production (*Telum Media Alert*, 4 December 2020).

110.2.5 Biggest audience

In the September 2020 emma report, the *Sydney Morning Herald* continued as the most-read newspaper with a cross-platform readership of 9,242,000. This was a slight decrease from the June report. Melbourne's *Age* has the second largest audience: 5,387,000 and the *Australian* is third: 4,566,000 (*Telum Media Alert*, 30 November 2020).

110.2.6 Network of daily news podcasts

News Corp Australia has launched News Feed, a network of daily news podcasts for each state-based masthead. The *Daily Telegraph*, *Herald Sun*, *Courier-Mail* and *Advertiser* now have individual News Feed podcasts which deliver local and national news headlines that have been published in their newspapers. News Feed is a co-production between News Corp's podcasting arm, NewsCast, and NOVA Entertainment. The publisher's state-based newsrooms supply the copy for each update with NOVA newsreaders presenting each episode (*Telum Media Alert*, 4 December 2020).



3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

110.3.1 Goulburn Post at 150: it's older than it thinks

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The *Goulburn Post* has published its 150th anniversary feature while still confused about when it really began publishing. It is nine months older than its claims to be,

as this article will show. The first thing to note is that at different times over the years the *Post* has been known officially at times as the *Goulburn Evening Penny Post*, the *Goulburn Evening Post* and, of course, more recently as simply the *Goulburn Post*.

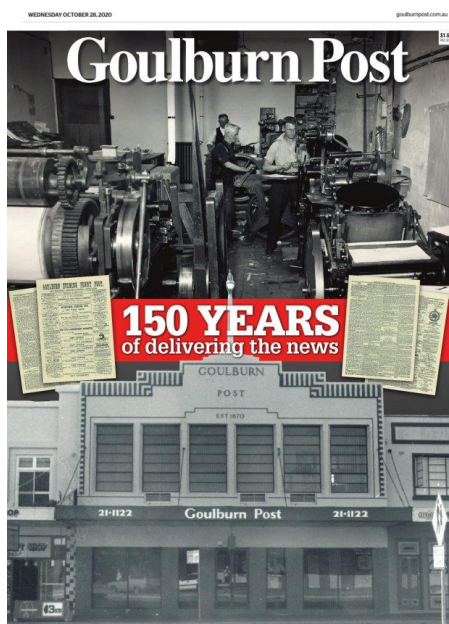
The *Post* presented an article on 21 October that says it “this month celebrates 150 years of reporting in the city”. A week later in its 150-year feature (28 October) it said it made its first appearance on 6 October 1870. In the same article, it says the *Goulburn Evening Post* began life as John Lancashire Harris’s “cheap, lively, local tri-weekly” that ran for just a few months until August 1870 before financial trouble hit. The *Post* attributes this information to former *Post* journalist Ian Frazer who wrote about the *Post* in his 1993 university thesis. Frazer said Thomas Daniel and George Gray bought the plant and machinery of the first *Post* and started the *Goulburn Evening Penny Post* in October and made it “a popular family journal of a moral tone”.

When the *Post* began it was called the *Goulburn Evening Penny Post*, and not the *Goulburn Evening Post*, as the above paragraph may suggest. This is clear from the extracts that other newspapers published from the *Post* in the first half of 1870—yes, some months before the *Post* says it began. My evidence shows that the *Post* began in January 1870—I am simply not sure on which date. Normally a paper would publish its first issue at the beginning of a quarter (e.g. beginning of January) because much advertising was sold on a quarterly rate.

The *Post* began as a tri-weekly (published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings) and the earliest dated extract I have located is from the *Goulburn Evening Penny Post* of 27 January 1870. This extract appeared in the *Kiama Independent* of 3 February 1870, page 4. I believe the *Post* probably began on Tuesday, 4 January, or maybe a week later.

By 1 February 1870, the reading room of the Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts held copies of the *Goulburn Evening Penny Post* (N.B., not the *Goulburn Evening Post*). I would be surprised if the *Post* began after mid-January 1870.

When the *Post* began, two other general newspapers were being published in Goulburn: the *Goulburn Herald & Chronicle* (estab. 1848 as the *Goulburn Herald*) and the *Southern Argus* (1864). In the first six months of 1870, the *Goulburn Herald & Chronicle* received £25 9s. 6d in government advertising and the *Post* received £25 4s. 6d (*News, Shoalhaven & Southern Coast Districts Advertiser*, 3 September 1870, p.4).



John Lancashire Harris was the founding proprietor of the *Goulburn Evening Penny Post* and John Joseph Henniker Heaton became the editor three weeks before the libel case that brought down the newspaper. Harris was giving Heaton a trial as editor. The paper published a report on 30 June 1870 that announced the “failure of the great firm of George Forsyth and Co. [of Wagga Wagga]”. The *Post* said the “liabilities are said to be very large”. George Forsyth, the mayor of Wagga Wagga, sued Heaton for publishing “a false, scandalous and malicious libel”. In court, proprietor Harris tried to “make it appear by his evidence against [Heaton] that he (Harris) was not to blame”. Forsyth & Co. did not accept this and, ultimately, neither did the Attorney-General. He declined to prosecute Heaton (*Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 13 August 1870, p.2).

Harris and Heaton parted ways, but Heaton went on to have a proud career as a postal reformer, mainly in England (see the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*).

The *Post* failed to appear on 20 August 1870 because of losses proprietor Harris said he had incurred in running a “former paper in Goulburn and directly from the unfortunate predicament” of the libel case (*Goulburn Herald & Chronicle*, 24 and 27 August 1870). The plant of the *Post* was

offered for sale by tender (*Goulburn Herald & Chronicle*, 27 August 1870). It was bought for £350 (\$700) by Messrs. Daniels and Gray, who had been employees of the *Herald & Chronicle*. They announced they would revive the *Penny Post* (*Southern Argus*, 10 September 1870, p. 3).

Thomas Daniel and George Gray did this on 6 October 1870, the date which many Goulburn historians have declared as the commencement date for the *Goulburn Evening Penny Post*. The newspaper issued on that date, however, did not state on its front page that it was Vol. 1, No. 1.

110.3.2 Ray Martin fronts ‘Save Our Voices’

Communities beyond Australia’s big metropolitan capitals are in danger of “losing their soul” unless drastic and swift action is taken, according to prominent Australian journalist Ray Martin (*Newcastle Herald*, 13 October 2020). The celebrated television journalist and five-times Gold Logie winner is the face of Save Our Voices 2020, a campaign by the regional media industry to highlight the value of local journalism and the urgent need for federal politicians to legislate to protect its future. The campaign is a collaboration between Australia’s largest regional media news organisations, WIN Network, Prime Media Group, Southern Cross Austereo and ACM, the publisher of this website. As part of the campaign, Martin interviews news gatherers, newsroom leaders and regional media bosses from around the country about the importance of journalism that covers regional Australia.

Speaking in Wollongong where the campaign began filming, Martin said he was driven to join the initiative because he’d been “a journalist for 55 years and I love the business”. Martin said, “I lament the towns and regions that have lost newspapers, television and radio stations. As a storyteller, newspapers and television, honestly, give a town soul. “They allow not just politicians and mayors and businessmen and women to have an identity, but they give ordinary people an identity. A lady who turns 100, someone who has worked 40 years in a women’s shelter or done volunteer work for 40 years. We recognise, thank them and acknowledge them. Those stories make people feel good about living in Gunnedah or Wagga or somewhere. I think newspapers and television news programs give places identity.”

The Save Our Voices ads have been appearing in many editions of ACM newspapers such as the daily *Newcastle Herald*. Apart from the Ray Martin spiel, the ads tell readers what they “can do now to support the journalism you trust”.

1. Contact your federal member and ask what they are doing to ensure the sustainability of trusted local journalism.
2. Buy a print or digital subscription to your local newspaper.
3. Advertise your business to our highly engaged local audiences.
4. Buy something you saw advertised and tell them where you saw it.

110.3.3 Burdekin: Newspaper launched

The *Burdekin Local News*, Ayr, Queensland, was launched at the beginning of October. It says it is the region’s only locally owned and independent newspaper. It is distributed in Bowen and the Townsville CBD, as well as across the Burdekin. The editorial team is: Scott Morrison, publisher; Hayden Menso, journalist; and Marina Trajkovich, journalist. The team updates its news website daily (*Telum Media Alert*, 9 October 2020).

110.3.4 Di Morrissey and her Manning newspaper

Megan Lehmann wrote about novelist and newspaper publisher Di Morrissey in “Tales of the riverside queen”, *Weekend Australian Magazine* 24-25 October 2020, pp.10-14. This item is based on what Lehmann wrote about Morrissey’s newspaper connections and her newspaper. Morrissey, who was born in Wingham (about 12km inland from Taree, NSW) and now lives not far away at Mondrook, runs single-handedly a fiercely independent local newspaper called the *Manning Community News*. Morrissey began her working life as a copy girl on the *Australian Women’s Weekly* and completed a four-year cadetship there before heading to London to work on Fleet Street. She later spent eight years as a reporter on Channel 10’s *Good Morning Australia*.

She describes herself as a news junkie and says the importance of newspapers was instilled in her early. Her return to journalism was fuelled by a frustration with local community politics and the

region's "generic zombie papers". In 2012, power company TransGrid planned a \$262 million project to build a string of transmission towers. "All across there, along the top of the hills," she says, pointing north-east to the river. "And they were not needed: the population was going off the grid and the demand was actually going down." A community-action group, formed over morning tea in her sunroom, lobbied Canberra and put a halt to the development. The ABC's *Australian Story* covered the victory but from the *Manning River Times* and the *Wingham Chronicle* (both now part of the Australian Community Media group): silence. "Everyone then said, 'This is terrible, we need an alternative local paper. Why don't you do it?'"

The *Manning Community News*, established in 2015, costs Morrissey money to produce: it's more community service than commercial enterprise. The free monthly paper has a print run of 8000 and is distributed to a readership of "about 30,000 or 40,000" by a team of loyal retirees after being trucked up from the Sydney printers to her front door. [Partner Boris] Janjic organises distribution.

Her paper, one imagines, is a reassuring physical presence for the valley's older demographic. "Country people are not too savvy online; they want to read their 'proper' newspaper," she says. "I mean, it's stressful, it's taking time, it's costing me money but people just panic at the idea I'm not going to be there. They now know there's a voice and if something goes wrong, they say, 'Oh, just call Di Morrissey'."

She has a small stable of volunteer columnists, including the owner of a Taree antique shop who writes about antiques and the landscaping manager at Bunnings who, unexpectedly, "writes my beauty column". Otherwise, she writes the paper herself, sources the stories, makes the calls, knocks on doors. "READ MY NEWSPAPER!" her Facebook page shouts in all caps. "I'm it, yes," she says. Locals occasionally bail her up in the supermarket, but more often they email tips or drop letters in her mailbox. "The whistleblowers come in the back door," she winks.

110.3.5 Newcastle edition of *Daily Telegraph*

The *Daily Telegraph* launched on 23 November a Newcastle regional edition. It has an "experienced local team of journalists on the ground" in Newcastle. This is a reminder of how the *Daily Telegraph* competed with the *Newcastle Herald* in 2002 when Fairfax launched the daily *Central Coast Herald* to try to grab a significant share of the Central Coast market held by News Corp's *Express Advocate* (a free bi-weekly, which responded by becoming a daily). The *Daily Telegraph* introduced a "Central Coast Extra" wraparound on the Central Coast.

110.3.6 Parramatta: 2 new print titles

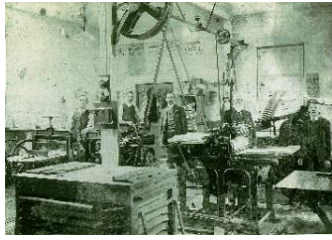
A weekly print title, *Parra News*, was launched in western Sydney on 3 November. The print title appears on Tuesdays and there's a weekly digital version, too. There's also a daily update online. Troy Dodds is the managing editor and Nicola Barton is the senior journalist (*Telum Media Alert*, 28 October 2020). The first issue was 40 pages American tabloid, issued by the Western Sydney Publishing Group notes Ken Sanz.

The *Parra News* was launched two months after the launch of the monthly *Parramatta Times* which first appeared in September 2020. The *Times* is 32 pages full tabloid. Editor is Michael Walls; Features editor: Di Bartok.www.parramattatimes.com.au. Monthly.

Both the *News* and the *Times* have only pick-up points The *News* has places in both Cumberland City and Parramatta City, but not at Auburn. The *News* has guillotined pages and staples.

110.3.7 North Sydney: Monthly newspaper launched

Decisive Publishing will launch on 10 December a new title, the *North Sydney Sun*, a monthly newspaper to serve the local government area of North Sydney (such suburbs as Crows Nest, Waverton, Milsons Point and Kirribilli). Grahame Lynch is the editor (*Telum Media Alert*, 30 November 2020).



4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

110.4.1 Handwritten journal origin of *Murray Pioneer*

This item relates to the cover image in this issue. It is taken from *Cowans*, Vol. XII, No. 48, October 1927, p.44 (extracted from *News*, Adelaide, 8 August 1927):

Mr A.P. Corrie, of Wynnum, Queensland writes: “A character sketch by Rev J.G. Jenkin, of Pirie Street Methodist Church, Adelaide, which appeared in the *News* recently, stated that Mr A.P. Corrie started the *Murray Pioneer* in Renmark. I left the *Illawarra Mercury* (New South Wales) and started the *Renmark Pioneer* early in 1892. It was for 10 months a manuscript weekly. Chromograph (gelatine and copying ink printed the reading matter, also admirable ‘skit’ cartoons by Mr Jenkin, whose first caricature in print appeared not in the first but in the second or third issue of the paper). It ridiculed a long-promised loan which never came to light. Those topical ‘skits’ were a great ‘draw’. Advertisements in the paper were reproduced each week by a cyclostyle which used waxed paper and printer’s ink.

“When the fonts of type and archaic Albion press from Cowan’s, Adelaide, arrived in Renmark early in 1893 Mr S. Browne saw me making ‘pye’. He came to the rescue and taught me ‘comping’.”

Mr Corrie left Renmark in those dismal days when Chaffey Bros. went into liquidation. Mr Browne continued with the *Renmark Pioneer* until 1906 when it was sold to Mr H.S. Taylor (present editor and part-proprietor), who to increase its scope, changed the name of the paper to the *Murray Pioneer*.

See also the South Australia chapter in Rod Kirkpatrick, *A Short History of the Australian Country Press* (2013).

110.4.2 Advertiser staff almost doubles in 18 years

Advertiser, Adelaide, 27 February 1947, p.6: Advertiser Newspapers Annual Meeting: In 1929, the company’s total staff comprised 290, including 243 adult males; today it provides employment for 555, including 437 adult males, and the average earning of the adult males was £9 8s. 10d a week, the chairman and managing director of Advertiser Newspapers Limited, Sir Lloyd Dumas, said at the annual meeting of shareholders yesterday. Allowing three dependants for each adult male, the company provided a direct livelihood for more than 1,800 people, who, through their spending, helped to maintain, in turn, scores of tradespeople and their dependants and employees.

Moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet. Sir Lloyd Dumas said: “You have before you the accounts for the first complete postwar year; but it would be rash to assume from the satisfactory results achieved in that period, that we have emerged from all the troublous consequences of war and can again plan confidently ahead. The aftermath of a great war must remain with the world for several years. Our expectation is that the year upon which we are now entering will be much more difficult than that from which we have emerged. Our costs, in directions which are outside our control, have mounted and are mounting steeply. We are now paying more than £41 a ton for Canadian newsprint which cost us £17 5s. before the war and approximately £33 at this time last year. As our consumption is in the neighbourhood of seven thousand tons a year, this is a very heavy increase to carry. The added load has not all been placed upon us since the end of 1946.

“There were two separate increases last year; and part of the higher cost under our averaging system, was absorbed in the figures before you. Our newsprint costs this year, however, will be substantially higher than in 1946. Industrial and other costs are rising also. To offset these costs,

our revenue from news sales and from advertising continues to grow, and, if industrial conditions were stable and goods were flowing freely into the normal trade channels, the directors are confident that the volume of advertising would, at some stage this year, bring our profits into equilibrium again. Our business, like all other businesses, depends upon the production of goods for consumption. If goods, which constitute wealth, are produced, we shall have general prosperity, if production is arrested, the streams of trade will dry up, and newspapers, like the manufacturing industries' themselves, will suffer.

Relations with staff

“In such an event, shareholders and employees alike will be the losers. Our company seeks to be regarded by its employees as a good employer, and we think it holds the respect of those who work for it. In addition to a subsidised insurance plan, towards which the company pays £4,000 a year, the company has at all times been ready to assist employees with monetary loans to help in times of temporary difficulty, or to assist in the purchase of a home. Where these loans are sought to meet abnormal liabilities arising from sickness in the family, no interest is charged. A welfare committee also exists, on which the employees are represented, and cases of particular hardship are met by grants from the company on the recommendation of the committee.

“During the war, besides maintaining insurance payments, the company paid out more than £29,000 to make up to employees the difference between their military pay and what they would have received had they remained at work. There has been no report of a Government body doing this, though the practice has been common with large companies. Representatives of all sections have continuous and ready access to the management on all questions affecting the conditions of their employment. Shareholders, we think, will approve of the policy of the directors in their regard for the employees. But it seems that an occasion like this justifies some reference to the rights and claims of the shareholders also.”

110.4.3 An important crossroads, 1953

Mercury, Hobart, 28 August 1953, p.2:

SYDNEY Thurs.: There were sensational moves in the newspaper industry in Sydney today. This morning, the *Daily Telegraph* announced that Consolidated Press Ltd, publishers of the *Daily Telegraph*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *Australian Women's Weekly* and *A.M.*, had made an offer to shareholders of Associated Newspapers Ltd., publishers of the *Sydney Sun*, *Sunday Sun*, *Woman*, *Pix* and other periodicals, to buy their ordinary shares for £1 (\$2) per share. There are 1,071,326 ordinary shares. Yesterday afternoon, Associated Newspapers' ordinary shares were quoted on the stock exchange at 16/3d (\$1.62). Today, they closed at 19/9d (\$1.98) with no sellers. Sellers sought 21/- (\$2.10), but no business was transacted. This afternoon, Sir John Butters, chairman of Associated Newspapers, announced that John Fairfax and Sons Pty. Ltd., proprietors of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Sunday Herald*, had agreed to purchase the whole of the unissued ordinary shares in Associated Newspapers at par. There are 678,674 unissued ordinary shares in Associated Newspapers.

Mr Warwick Fairfax, governing director of John Fairfax and Sons Pty. Ltd., also issued a statement in which he confirmed the announcement by Sir John Butters. He said that his company was prepared to offer £1 per share unconditionally to any shareholder who wished to dispose of his holding in Associated Newspapers. The Consolidated Press offer to shareholders stipulated they required 90 per cent (or such smaller percentage as they may determine) before any offer was valid. Both Sir John and Mr. Fairfax advised shareholders not to dispose of their holding in Associated Newspapers.

The following statement was made today by the chairman of Associated Newspapers Ltd. (Sir John Butters) : “Negotiations have been proceeding for some time with John Fairfax and Sons Pty Ltd., proprietors of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, with a view to the integration of the whole of their individual facilities, and I am glad to announce to shareholders that these negotiations have been completed and, subject to capital issues consent, John Fairfax and Sons Pty. Ltd. have agreed to purchase the whole of the unissued ordinary shares in Associated Newspapers Ltd. at par.”

The following statement was made today by the governing director of John Fairfax and Sons Pty. Ltd. (Mr. Warwick Fairfax): “Negotiations were already in progress between ourselves and Associated Newspapers. Now that these are satisfactorily concluded, we believe that co-operation, and the pooling of resources of the two companies, will result in very great benefit to Associated Newspapers as an organisation, and in better services to the public from both companies.”

110.4.4 Queensland papers slower to change

Rod Kirkpatrick, *Sworn to No Master*, pp.268-269: “Queensland provincial newspapers were probably slower in general to change [to putting the major news on Page 1] than their New South Wales and Victorian counterparts. The Queensland papers profited through distance and distinctive or differing environments, in the judgement of Eric Lingard, editor of the *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 1950-1970, and son of W.E. Lingard, who managed the *Wide Bay News*, Maryborough, from 1913 until its closure six years later. Eric Lingard says that, to his mind, modernity or efficiency, so-called, in country newspaper presentation was more evident in the southern States, even in the 1930s. The ‘southern’ newspapers, closer together geographically, probably influenced one another in presentation standards, Lingard continues. [E.K. Lingard, letter to Rod Kirkpatrick, 26 October 1979.]

110.4.5 Nurse Egan, quarantine and the Spanish ‘flu, 1918

Sun, Sydney, 6 December 1918, p.4: GUNNEDAH—A meeting of about 30 of the leading Catholics was held last night to discuss Nurse Egan’s death at quarantine. Nurse Egan was a daughter of Mr. William Egan, landholder at Emerald Hill, who has now retired to private life in Sydney, and was widely known and respected in this district. The following resolution was carried: “This meeting deeply deplores the tragic action of the Commonwealth authorities in refusing to allow a Catholic priest to attend and administer in the quarantine area the last rites of the church to Nurse Annie Egan, a member of this parish, and bitterly resents the fact that the repeated dying request of one who freely offered her young life for her people was persistently refused. A copy of the resolution was forwarded to Archbishop Kelly and to Mr. Webster, with the request that the latter would cause an inquiry to be made to ascertain and make known to the public who was responsible for this action.

Under a headline, “Spanish ‘Flu”, the *Armidale Express* published the following on 10 December 1918, p.2: Nurse Egan was buried in the quarantine cemetery, on Thursday with full military honours. The service was conducted by Nurse Williams, at the special request of the relatives of deceased. A firing party was provided by the troops in quarantine.

Special Constables: In the event of pneumonic influenza breaking through quarantine the Chief Secretary has approved of the appointment of a number of special constables for quarantine duty in the city and suburbs. These men will be utilised to prevent communication between the general public and persons isolated on quarantine premises.

Deaths in Fiji: The deaths from influenza in Suva number 255, all but five being natives.

The Scourge in India: A message from Bombay states that ravages of influenza in India are terrible. Eight hundred people are dying daily at Delhi. There have been 15,000 deaths at Bombay and 250,000 in the Punjab. If the death rate is proportionately heavy throughout India, it means, a death roll of 3,000,000. [With thanks to *Australian Story*, ABC-TV, 1 June 2020, for triggering this research.]

110.4.6 *Monaro Post*, a history

Independent newspapers are scattered throughout the country press landscape in Australia. Here is the history of one such paper, as presented on its website (downloaded 31 May 2020):

The *Monaro Post* newspaper came into being on 17 August 2006, with the formation of the Monaro Media Group Pty Ltd. It was established by four local people, all with extensive experience in the newspaper industry. The first edition was published on 13 September 2006. This weekly, local, independent newspaper quickly grew from an original 24-page publication to today’s version, which averages 56 to 64 pages and a print run of 2700 copies each week. The *Monaro Post* is audited

by the CAB Sydney twice a year. The *Monaro Post* has three offices located throughout the Snowy Monaro Region. These can be found at Cooma, Bombala and Jindabyne.

The newspaper is owned by five local people, three of whom are directors of the company and work in the newspaper. In September 2016, the *Monaro Post* celebrated its 10th birthday. Throughout our 10-year run, we have clocked up several milestones and achievements. The business was named the Best Small Business of the Year in the Small Business Awards of 2008. It was a state finalist in those awards in 2007 and 2009. A regular competitor in the NSW Country Press Awards, the *Monaro Post* has won awards for its technical excellence, its presentation, news content and special features. Its sister publication, the *Snowpost*, has also won NSW Country Press Award accolades.

The *Monaro Post* also won the award for Excellence in Small Business 11-19 employees at the Snowy Monaro Business awards held in May 2018. Editor, Gail Eastaway, is also an award-winning journalist, picking up an E C Sommerlad Award for journalism in 1983 and for news photography in 1984. Since its beginnings, the business has employed local staff, giving a number of young people their first taste of employment after school. These young people include Alistair Wharton, Nick Chapman, Mark Salvestro, Sarah Kleven and Jack Needham who completed traineeships before moving on to tertiary studies. In production Ben Smith, Libby Goggin, Jess Plumridge and Kylie Hinton have been given apprenticeships in prepress graphic arts.

Our current employees consist of editor Gail Eastaway; journalists Elle Thompson, Sam Tonks, Richard Wilkins and Trista Parker; sales team Tracy Frazer and Naomi Bruce; creative production team James Hanna, Jen Stockl and Breanna Arnold; accounts department manager Louise Platts; and weekly columnist Lisa Ashurst.

110.4.7 Link to *Australian Women's Weekly* covers

Tim Sherratt, historian, hacker and Trove expert, writes: “With the recent update to Trove, the *Australian Women's Weekly* cover browser was decommissioned. As a low-tech alternative, I've downloaded all the covers (there are 2,566 from 1933 to 1982) and compiled them into PDFs for easy browsing. Each cover is linked to the issue in Trove.” The details are at: <https://updates.timsherratt.org/2020/07/27/with-the-recent.html>

110.4.8 Printer's devils in Brisbane

Brisbane Courier, 25 October 1911, p.4: Two huge stone figures with sardonic grins on their hard faces were swung into position on the top of the third story of the additions to the Government Printing Office yesterday. From their giddy height they look down on to the traffic below. On the shields which they clasp in their hands is inscribed: “G.P.”—Government Printer. These symbolise that mythical individual supposed to form part of a printing establishment—the printer's devil. The Government Printer is to have a double supply—hence two figures have been carved out and placed in position. Yesterday they were the subject of much curiosity, and speculation. The only thing wanting to complete the symbol is a plentiful supply of printers' ink to the faces, and a couple of aprons of the colour of coal!

[This article was one of those highlighted at a lunchtime talk for the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, “Stone & Ink' in Designs, Devils, Details: the Queensland Government Printing Office”, on 14 October 2020. The speakers were the John Oxley Library Fellows for 2019, historian Matthew Wengert and writer Louise Martin-Chew.]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfSkDF8_CcE

110.4.9 Saving history at Box Hill, Vic.

The Box Hill *Reporter* was the first and, for many years, only local newspaper in the district. Founded by Samuel Clumpston and managed by Thomas Clubb Bright and his brother George, its first edition appeared on 26 June 1889. It covered a broad suburban area, including Hawthorn, Camberwell, Doncaster, Blackburn, Burwood, Nunawading, Mitcham and Vermont. Issues of the paper from its beginning to 1918 have been digitised by the National Library and can be viewed at Trover's digitised newspapers. The paper changed its name from the *Reporter* from April 1925 to

the *Box Hill Reporter*. Trove has digitised the paper to 1930 (*Burwood Bulletin*, September–November 2019, p.13).

110.4.10 30 years (1): ‘A pre-emptive rationalisation’ in the afternoon

Sydney Morning Herald, October 4, 1990 (republished 5 October 2020, to mark the 30th anniversary of two 24-hour papers): One of the more engaging stories told about the *Daily Mirror* involves Mr Steve Dunleavy and how he slashed his father’s car tyres in the Blue Mountains. Mr Dunleavy sen, also Steve, was a photographer on the rival evening newspaper, the *Sun*, and had taken potential front-page pictures in the 1950s of hikers who had been lost. Young Steve, a reporter on the *Mirror*, did not think twice. The *Mirror* had to be first with the story and the pictures. He slashed his old man’s tyres.

The story makes two points about the *Mirror*: It had a certain raffish character, probably in keeping with the city that read it. And it is hard to think of the *Mirror* without thinking of *The Sun*. The two papers fought a series of fascinating battles for circulation until the *Sun* closed in 1988. Then the *Mirror* urged advertisers: “The *Sun* has set... now watch the *Mirror* sales really rise”

Well, the sales rose for a while with old *Sun* readers, then slumped in keeping with the sales for the few remaining evening newspapers in the world. A city that was supporting two evening newspapers just a few years ago will have, from Monday, about half an evening paper. It might be unfair to describe the *Mirror* as dead. Mr Mark Day, a former editor, said yesterday: “It’s a pre-emptive rationalisation rather than a death.”

110.4.11 30 years (2): *Herald Sun* and secret takeoff

Melbourne’s *Herald Sun* was 30 years old on 8 October 2020. *Herald* editor Bruce Baskett was given the task in August 1990 of preparing to launch the paper that resulted from the merger of the *Herald* (estab. 1840) and the *Sun News-Pictorial* (1922). He was not allowed to tell anyone about it—not even his wife. “I was locked down in an apartment at the top end of Exhibition Street next to the old Rockman’s Regency Hotel, now the Marriott, with a crude computer, a lot of blank paper and eventually a few other hands to help,” he said. “Amazingly the secret plan held right up to the announcement in the reporters’ room on the Wednesday before takeoff.” Baskett said the new title sold 860,000 copies on the first Monday—“on Saturday Collingwood won the flag and on Sunday Kerry Packer died for a few minutes after a polo game”. It was a record for daily newspaper sales in Australia, Baskett said (*Herald Sun*, 7 October 2020, p.21).

At the beginning the masthead was hyphenated (*Herald-Sun*) but the hyphen was dropped on 3 May 1993 (*Herald Sun*).

The *Herald Sun* published a 12-page souvenir on 8 October 2020 to kick off 30 days of “special coverage, celebrating all that makes Melbourne and Victoria so great”. A Mark Knight cartoon covered the front and back pages of the souvenir publication.

110.4.12 Of devils and saints in the tropical press

Empire, Sydney, 2 May 1868, p.5: The *Peak Downs Telegram* contains the following apology for making its appearance on the 7th April in half a sheet: “There are to our knowledge but three printers in the district. One of these is prostrate with fever, another is almost blind with sandy blight, and the third is at his post—editor, compositor, pressman, and we know not what beside. We have telegraphed for aid, and in the meantime must do the best we can and crave the indulgence of our supporters. Conducting a newspaper in the remote bush in a tropical climate is not child’s play, especially when the “devil” gets sick and fails to become a “saint”.

110.4.13 The MCG and 1956

Nick Richardson writes (in his book, *1956*, pp.169-170): [On 15 September 1956] the MCG faced its own trial when the VFL Grand Final between Melbourne and Collingwood was held on what was about to become the home of the Olympics. With the ground awaiting final touches, it was about to be tested by what would turn out to be a record crowd... Bruce Howard was there to photograph the Grand Final for the *Herald*, and it became one of the greatest spectacles he ever

saw. The ground heaved with people, pushing to the edges of the boundary line, between the fence and the field of play. Fans scrambled to the top of the stairwells of the new Northern stand. Health department officials became so alarmed that they ordered the gates of the ground to be closed an hour before the match started. But those locked out became agitated; they knocked their way through the gates and found spots to sit or stand. Some perched in tree branches that overlooked the oval, and others used ladders to climb into the ground.

Ambulance officers treated 157 people during the game. A further six fans were taken to hospital—one had had a heart attack, another had collapsed, and four others had broken limbs. One estimate put the number locked out at 25,000. The total attendance was 115,802. It was a massive unpredictable crowd. And it forced the Olympic officials to wonder how they were going to cope in November.

The early diagnosis of the problem was that the old MCG stands were not the main issue—it was the new stand, where spectators had forced their way in to find a vantage point. Others recalled that the Olympic officials had promised everyone—locally and overseas—that the reconfigured ground could hold 120,000 people. On the evidence of the Grand Final, that was bunkum. [Officials became worried about what chaos could arise at the Games opening.]

A meeting was called in the last week of September to discuss possible solutions. Booking seats for VFL Grand Finals would be considered, as would limiting the MCG's capacity and investigating whether the building regulations needed to be changed to accommodate such large attendances. The meeting involved police, the Health Commission and representatives of the MCG Trustees. No Olympic officials took part.

110.4.14 Telegrams via underground pneumatic tube

A multi-million-dollar tunnel allowing easy access to Victoria's Parliament House was being planned in 2001. **Erica Cervini** wrote an article ("Tunnel visions, buried treasure", *Sunday Age*, 11 February 2001) in which she told of subterranean activities long forgotten. The article began: "On Friday nights in the early part of the 20th century, shoppers would disappear into a subterranean walkway under Smith Street in Collingwood where a small orchestra would entertain them. The musical gesture was part of the classy service at the multi-storey Foy and Gibson department store, Melbourne's premier emporium of the day."

Later in the article, Cervini reported: "Meanwhile, telegrams used to be sent along an underground pneumatic tube from the GPO in three directions—to the *Age*, the *Argus* and the *Herald* newspapers—as late as the 1950s. 'The newspapers all had stringers in every country town in Victoria. The stringer would send a telegram to the *Age* about something happening in Colac and that would go to the GPO and it would be placed in a pneumatic tube,' says Dr Bernard Barrett, a former state historian."

110.4.15 Apathy about millions of images from Australian history

Former chairman of Cricket Australia Wally Edwards cradles a coffee-table book of Australian women's history and marvels at the story of a lost photographic collection, his two aunts, an Arkansas conman serving time in an American prison and an air-conditioned LA warehouse which holds millions of unique images from Australian history (*Australian*, 23 November 2020, p.3). Edwards, a director on the Bradman Foundation, helped finance the purchase of about 40,000 of the photographs by the Bradman Museum two years ago. Cricket was the first and only sport to show any interest in repatriating the incredible images despite an ongoing and essentially futile effort by an American gallery owner to get Australia to engage with its own history.

The story began in 2012 when a larger-than-life Arkansas memorabilia agent convinced the Fairfax organisation that he would digitalise their collection, pay them money for it and in return keep the prints which would be scanned and then catalogued in the US and India. Within months of the pictures being shipped to the States the FBI had raided his warehouse in Little Rock and charged the man, John Rogers, with fraud. The photographs became the subject of protracted legal battles and eventually ended up the property of a local bank which was threatening to use many of them for land fill.

Enter Daniel Miller, owner of a high-end LA photographic gallery and a man who sees value where others see cost. He purchased the photographs and made numerous trips to Australia, at first believing a museum or library or government institution would show some interest in the whole collection, but was stunned to find no takers. Having tried the National Library and Archives and state institutions he even turned to business people, sporting organisations and small towns to see if anybody would bite. “It was an entire country I had here,” Miller said. “I’m not Australian, I had no particular interest in your country, I had never visited, I had no interest in cricket, but to me it was insane that this collection had even left Australia. I was just trying to repatriate it. I don’t understand how Fairfax let it go or why they didn’t want to get it back, but it’s remarkable they lost control of it. I reached out to government ministers, to the National Library, all kinds of people in Canberra asking for help and everyone said ‘no’. My biggest disappointment is there is not a single Australian who stood up. They were idiots, stone cold idiots for letting this go.”

Rogers, who did the deal with Fairfax, was sentenced to 12 years in federal prison for his role in a \$25m investment scam. At one point a hasty divorce saw the collection notionally owned by his wife, Angelica. Fairfax has always maintained it was happy with the deal. Miller says the collection includes the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, horse racing, rugby union, rugby league, tennis, swimming and the like. He believes there are 96,000 photographs of horses and 16,000 portraits of jockeys alone.

The American built a temperature-controlled warehouse and employed a team of people to work on the archive while in Bowral the Bradman Museum has had three volunteers working for 18 months doing the same and is only halfway though what is only 1 per cent of the wider collection.

Foundation executive director Rina Hore says the collection is extraordinary, particularly the rare early women’s cricket photographs. A player herself, she has found pictures of her as a teenager in the NSW side. Edwards has also subsidised the publication of *Clearing the Boundaries* by Fiona Bullen, which is a coffee-table history of women’s cricket in this country that relies heavily on the material.

See also: ANHG 73.4.1 (July 2013) and 83.1.1 (July 2015).

110.4.16 No newspaper for 14 days

Sydney Morning Herald, 23 August 1860, p.5: KLANDRA—No mail from Sydney; storms are bad things here but it is bad enough to receive no newspaper from Sydney for fourteen days. I do trust we will have an extra mail soon.

110.4.17 Press Challenge Cup for rowing revived in 1929

In 1929 in Melbourne the Press Challenge Cup for rowing was revived after 33 years. The old cup was presented in 1893 by the *Evening Standard* for competition among crews from the daily papers and the Government Printing Office. The *Argus* won the first race and the Government Printing Office the next two. The printing office held the trophy in safekeeping when the decision was made to revive the competition. And the Government Printing Office retained the trophy on 16 March 1929 when the race was rowed over the last half-mile of the Henley course. Also rowing were the *Herald*, *Sun News-Pictorial*, *Truth* and *Argus*. The managing director of the *Herald* and Weekly Timed Ltd, Keith Murdoch, presented the trophy to the winning crew (*Australasian*, 2 March 1929, p.31; and *Argus*, 18 March 1929, p.5).

The Press Challenge Cup was revived again in the 1960s but has not been rowed since, says Peter Gill.

110.4.18 ANHG editor honoured

The editor of this newsletter, Rod Kirkpatrick, was made a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland at its annual general meeting on 25 November. The award was made for his “significant scholarly achievements in Australian newspaper history and the community”. Rod has been a member of the RHSQ since 1979.



5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

110.5.1 Books

Brotherton, Rob, *Bad News: Why We Fall for Fake News*, Bloomsbury, \$29.99. [Reviewed, *Age*, 10 October 2020, p.12.]

Dewhirst, Catherine, and **Scully**, Richard (eds.), *The Transnational Voices of Australia's Migrant and Minority Press*, Palgrave Macmillan. Hardcover ISBN: 978-3-030-43638-4. Also, ebook. This edited collection invites the reader to enter the diverse worlds of Australia's migrant and minority communities through the latest research on the contemporary printed press, spanning the mid-nineteenth century to now. With a focus on the rare, radical and foreign-language print culture of multiple and frequently concurrent minority groups' newspaper ventures, this volume has two overarching aims: firstly to demonstrate how the local experiences and narratives of such communities are always forged and negotiated within a context of globalising forces – the global within the local; and secondly to enrich an understanding of the complexity of Australian “voices” through this medium not only as a means for appreciating how the cultural heritage of such communities were sustained, but also for exploring their contributions to the wider society.

Tame, Adam, *The Awful Truth: My Adventures with Australia's Most Notorious Tabloid*, Simon & Schuster, \$32.99. [Reviewed, *Age*, 10 October 2020, p.12.]

Tidey, John, *Ryan's Luck: A life of Peter Ryan MM*, Arcadia, Melbourne, 2020. Peter Ryan was Director of Melbourne University Press for 26 years. He was the author of nine books.

110.5.2 Articles

Bagshaw, Eryk, “End of an era: charting the rise of China”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 September 2020, p.10. After 47 years the Chinese Communist Party has withdrawn its welcome to Australian journalists.

Bolt, Andrew, “Dummy spit is utter Krudd”, *Herald Sun*, 19 November 2020, p.51. See also Rudd, Samios, Seccombe and Switzer in this section (110.5.2).

Bright, Jim, “Don't let journalism go the way of the cassette”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5-6 September 2020. It's time we support media jobs in Australia and make social media pay their due. The author is professor of career education at ACU and owns Bright and Associates, a career management consultancy.

Evans, Steve, “Tech giants face off against papers”, *Canberra Times*, 5 September 2020, p.25. This is a fight that shouldn't be about choosing between social and local media. It's about ensuring the survival of both.

Knott, Matthew, “‘I was howling in pain’: how falling five storeys from a New York rooftop changed my life”, *Good Weekend*, 23 October 2020. Knott is US correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*.

McDonald, Barbara, “No easy answers on protecting privacy”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 November 2020, p.33. The author is a professor of law at the University of Sydney.

Morgan, Shana, “Our local news is crucial: Haines”, *Newcastle Herald*, 29 October 2020, p.13. (Haines is independent MP Helen Haines.)

Oriel, Jennifer, “Tech giants still making headlines with others' news”, *Australian*, 12 October 2020, p.10. Australia leads the charge to make online leviathans honest and keep them so.

Penberthy, David, “Kev and me: the PM, the editor and beers with the Tele boys”, *Weekend Australian*, 28-29 November 2020, pp. 1, 6. Penberthy was editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, No 110, December 2020— 19

Sydney, when Rudd became Opposition Leader and was seeking the prime ministership in 2007. See also Bolt, Rudd, Samios, Seccombe, Shields and Switzer in this section (110.5.2).

Perkins, Cathy, “Poet, writer, daughter”, *InsideStory.org.au*, 7 December 2020. An article on April Hersey, the journalist daughter of the author’s biography subject Zora Cross.

Rowland, Michelle, “We’re dealing away our media diversity”, *Newcastle Herald*, 20 October 2020, p.14.

Rudd, Kevin, “Murdoch’s sway on politics wants royal commission”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 October 2020, p.24. A former Labor Prime Minister argues that case for a royal commission into News Corp Australia. See also Bolt, Samios, Seccombe, Shields and Switzer in this section (110.5.2).

Samios, Zoe, “Murdoch media: myths and truths”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 October 2020, p.25. Former prime minister Kevin Rudd (see article above) is convinced News Corp has too much influence. How much of the media does News Corp own in Australia? How much sway does it really have?

Seccombe, Mike, “How do you cure a cancer like Rupert Murdoch?”, *Saturday Paper*, 14-20 November 2020, pp.7-8. See also Bolt, Rudd, Samios, Shields and Switzer in this section (110.5.2).

Shields, Bevan, “Rudd courted Murdoch when it was convenient: ex-News chief”, *Age*, 23 November 2020, p.31. See also Bolt, Rudd, Samios, Seccombe and Switzer in this section (110.5.2).

Silva, Melanie, “Fair news code is vital for regional Australia”, *Newcastle Herald*, 29 October 2020, p.13. The author is the managing director of Google Australia.

Smith, Aaron, “Out of my depth”, *Weekend Australian Magazine*, 5-6 December 2020, pp.24-26. The author recalls his first real job—as Australia’s most northerly newspaper editor. An edited extract from *The Rock* by Aaron Smith (Transit Lounge, 2020).

Switzer, Tom, “We need to talk about Kevin, Malcolm and this Murdoch obsession”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14-15 November 2020, pp.28-29. A discussion of the relevance of the Kevin Rudd call for a royal commission into News Corp Australia and its “dominance” of the Australian media. See also Rudd, Samios and Seccombe in this section (110.5.2).

Willis, Ian, “Local Newspapers and a Regional Setting in New South Wales”, *Media History*, DOI: 10.1080/13688804.2020.1833710. The three NSW market towns of Campbelltown, Camden and Picton made up the Macarthur region where several local town-based newspapers emerged in the 1880s. Local newspapers used local history to enable their readers to reflect on their past by storytelling and creating an understanding of their cultural heritage. The local press lionised the historical legacy of John Macarthur and contributed to the construction of a regional identity bearing his name through the creation of regional newspaper mastheads. The key actors in this narrative were newspaper owner-editors, their mastheads and the historical figure of Macarthur. This article uses a qualitative approach to chart the growth and changes of newspaper mastheads, their owner-editors and Macarthur mythmaking and regionalism.

Wright, Tony, “The merry prankster who tarried too long in China”, *Age*, 19 September 2020, p.25. The flight from China of Australian journalists Bill Birtles and Mike Smith, prompts “thoughts of a magnificent ratbag from another age”, Francis James.

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Electronic: No fee. Email your request to Rod Kirkpatrick at rod99anhg@gmail.com/

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