



John Lamont Dow (right) and his eldest son, David McKenzie Dow, edit copy in the agricultural editor's room at the *Age* and *Leader* office, Melbourne. J.L. Dow (1837-1923), born at Kilmarnock, Scotland, migrated to the Geelong district in 1848 with his parents and siblings. He joined the *Age* in 1873, after working on the land and in mining for about 20 years. He became agricultural editor of the weekly *Leader* about 1876 and served in that role until 1886 and again from 1892-1915. David McKenzie Dow (1870-1953) was official secretary for Australia in America in 1924-31, and acting commissioner-general, 1931-38. His portrait is in the National Portrait Gallery collection. J.L. Dow's brother, Thomas Kirkland Dow (1848-1918), taught in a state school near Ballarat, 1870-77, before joining the *Leader* as an agricultural journalist. He worked for the *Australasian*, 1881-90. See ANHG 116.4.1 below.

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Compiled for the Australian Newspaper History Group by Rod Kirkpatrick, F. R. Hist. S. Q., of U 337, 55 Linkwood Drive, Ferny Hills, Qld, 4055. Ph. +61-7-3351 6175. Email: rkhistory3@bigpond.com/

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



116.1.1 Farrelly and the *Herald*

High-profile columnist Elizabeth Farrelly has been sacked by the *Sydney Morning Herald* after failing to declare she had registered as a candidate for the Labor Party in the NSW local government elections. Farrelly, who worked for the *Herald* for 30 years and is well-known as a vocal architecture and environment advocate, revealed the “termination” on Facebook late on 12 December. In an article published on 19 December, the publication explained the decision was made by incoming editor Bevan Shields “after Farrelly failed to disclose that she had registered as a candidate for the Labor Party in the Strathfield local government elections when she wrote a piece criticising Liberal and independent councillors in the electorate”, which was published on 4 December, the day of the elections.

An editor’s note explaining her registration was added to the piece on 19 December, but Farrelly had already decided not to run for election. Shields – who was in the UK – telephoned Farrelly to terminate her employment.

116.1.2 Besotted with letters

The *Sydney Morning Herald* published in November 2021 a series of letters from readers who set out to explain why they wrote letters to the editor.

Con Vaitas, of Ashbury, wrote: I admit I’m a serial letter writer. However, my original motive for writing was to bring important issues to the pages that were being ignored. I also realised there was hardly any ethnic diversity within those having letters published so thought I would continue jotting down and sending my opinions. Today, going into my fifth decade of writing to the editor, the letters are from a variety of people many with unpronounceable names, which reflects our diverse multicultural nation. There is an art to letter writing but in my case I reckon I’ve just been lucky so will continue until it runs out.

Bea Hodgson, of Gerringong, wrote: My dad always begins with readings the letters to the *Herald*. They are as varied as our wide land. They make me think, learn, laugh and sometimes change my mind. It would be wonderful to meet all of you as you seem to be friends already. I am besotted with letters.

Joy Cooksey, of Harrington, wrote: I have found that being published in the Letters page has renewed old friendships, started new ones, and even resulted in a visit from a film-making crew.

116.1.3 Seven West Media completes acquisition of Prime

Seven West Media has completed its \$133.88 million acquisition of Prime Media Group’s business and assets, placing the Kerry Stokes-controlled network in a much stronger position as it moves into 2022 (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 January 2022). Shareholders approved the deal to merge the two long-time business partners at an extraordinary meeting on December 23. Under the deal, Prime shareholders will receive 36¢ per share including a special fully franked dividend of 26¢. Prime shareholders received a distribution on 22 January. Prime told the ASX on 31 December that it intended to proceed with a winding-up or other dealing with the shell company following the payment of the distribution in January or February. It expected its shares to be suspended

from trade from 25 January. Seven West Media owns the *West Australian* and *Sunday Times* and many of the regional newspapers in Western Australia.

116.1.4 Australia Day honours to two

Two Australians connected with the print media received awards in the 2022 Australia Day honours. They are John Hartigan and Tony Walker. The details are:

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO): John Kenneth Hartigan – For distinguished service to the media industry, to Indigenous welfare, and to sport.

Member of the Order of Australia (AM): Antony Howard Walker – For significant service to the media as a journalist, and to the community.

Hartigan: Began career as 16-year-old copy boy in 1964; rose through reporting ranks in Australia, the UK and the US in the 1970s; founding editor of *Daily Sun*, Brisbane, 1982; editor and editor-in-chief of Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph* from mid 1980s to mid-1990s; held senior executive roles at News Ltd until 2011, including chief executive from 2000 and chairman, also, from 2005; chairman of Prime Media 2014 to 2019 ("A ball every day": Harto reflects on wild media ride", *Australian*, 26 January 2022, p.16).

Walker: Began career as an ABC specialist trainee (effectively a cadet) in 1971 after graduating BA in 1968 in politics and international relations from the Australian National University; at the ABC, worked for the overseas broadcaster, Radio Australia, making programs and broadcasting from its Melbourne headquarters before re-locating to Canberra where he served as Radio Australia's first Canberra correspondent and diplomatic correspondent for the ABC; transferred to the *Age* in 1976 and served in various posts, including defence and foreign affairs correspondent and chief of staff before being posted to China in 1979 for Fairfax newspapers; there began a long career as a foreign correspondent for both Fairfax and the *Financial Times* of London; this included, Beijing (1979-1983); Cairo (1984-1993); Beijing again (1993-1998); and New York (1998-1999); returned to Australia as political editor for *Australian Financial Review* (2000-2004) before being posted to Washington as the *AFR*'s North American editor; returned to Australia in 2010 as the *AFR*'s international editor; took advantage of redundancies offered in 2016 with an understanding he could return as a columnist for the *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* (<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/about/management/organisation/senior/vc-fellow-tony-walker>).



116.1.5 PEOPLE

Paul Ashenden is the new editor of the *Saturday Advertiser* and the *Sunday Mail*, Adelaide. He has been a journalist with the *Advertiser* for more than 10 years, having filled the roles of deputy editor, executive sports editor and, most recently, editor of *SA Weekend* (*Telum Media Alert*, 28 January 2022).

Jonathan Barrett has started as deputy editor at Australian Associated Press, based in its Sydney office. He was previously deputy bureau chief (Australia and New Zealand) at Reuters (*Telum Media Alert*, 12 January 2022).

Lisa Davies, until October 2021 the editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, is the new chief executive officer of Australian Associated Press. She started on 14 February, replacing Emma Cowdroy, who has stepped down because of family commitments. She continues in a senior executive position (*Telum Media Alert*, 21 January 2022).

Jennifer Duke will leave the *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* as economics correspondent in March. She will join WWF Australia as government partnerships manager. WWF calls itself Australia's most trusted conservation organisation (*Telum Media Alert*, 28 January 2022).

Cas Garvey is now the deputy head of digital across News Corp Australia's national, regional and community network. She was most recently the digital editor of Hobart's *Mercury* and before that deputy editor and digital editor of the *Townsville Bulletin* (*Telum Media Alert*, 24 January 2022).

Craig Herbert has been appointed editor of the *Townsville Bulletin*. He was most recently night editor at the *Herald Sun*, Melbourne. He has been a journalist for 35 years (*Telum Media Alert*, 14 January 2022).

Jack Hudson is the new editor of the *Plains Producer*, Balaklava, South Australia. He replaces Michelle Wilksch. Hudson joined the *Plains Producer* in January as a sports journalist (*Telum Media Alert*, 9 February 2022).

Sam Jones, a journalist at the *Broome Advertiser*, has been appointed editor across Seven West Media's northern newspapers, in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions. These include the *Broome Advertiser*, *Pilbara News*, *Kimberley Echo* and the *North West Telegraph*. He remains based in Broome (*Telum Media Alert*, 7 February 2022).

Sam McClure, a journalist with the *Age*, has been stripped of the 2020 Quill award for sports reporting by the Melbourne Press Club (*Australian*, 14 February 2022). The award was annulled after the *Age* apologised in print and online for inaccuracies in the article, "The camp that shattered a football club" (*Age*, 5 July 2020). The article has been removed from all of Nine Entertainment's news websites, including the *Age*. The article made serious allegations relating to what Adelaide Crows footballers were put through at the camp. The *Age* has asked the Melbourne Press Club to reconsider its decision to annul the award. It is doing so.

Gregor Mactaggart, the editor of the *Latrobe Valley Express*, Morwell, for two years, is now also the editor of the *Gippsland Times*, Sale. The two papers belong to the Elliott Newspaper Group, the *Express* appearing in print on Wednesdays and the *Times* on Tuesdays and Fridays (*Telum Media Alert*, 21 January 2022).

Samantha Maiden, political editor of news.com.au, won the Gold Walkley at the 2021 Walkley Awards on 25 February 2022. She received the award for her scoop, "Open secret: The Brittany Higgins story". **George Negus**, 79, was honoured for an outstanding contribution to journalism. For more on the Walkleys, visit www.walkleys.com/news/

Michael Owen-Brown has begun a new role at the *Adelaide Advertiser* as head of digital audience growth and engagement. He had been the digital editor since 2012 (*Telum Media Alert*, 21 January 2022).

Clive Palmer, unvaccinated mining billionaire, says the United Australia Party will run the most expensive political campaign in Australian history at the next federal election. It will exceed the \$80 million the party spent in 2019 (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 January 2022, p.16).

James Robertson, formerly the editor of the *Samoa Observer*, has joined thenewdaily.com.au as political editor. Earlier in his career, he covered state and federal politics for the *Sydney Morning Herald*. He has also written for a variety of international publications, such as Nikkei Asia and the *Financial Times* (*Telum Media Alert*, 2 February 2022).

Jo Schulz has become digital editor at the *Adelaide Advertiser*. She was previously manager, SA content-led growth and insights for the paper, providing analysis to the newsroom to enhance its coverage (*Telum Media Alert*, 21 January 2022).

Craig Thomson has relocated to Queensland to become editor (South East Queensland) for Australian Community Media (ACM). He oversees the *Redland City Bulletin*, the *Jimboomba Times* and the *Beaudesert Times*. Thomson was formerly group editor (Southern Sydney) for ACM as well as editor of *St George & Sutherland Shire Leader*, *Camden-Narellan Advertiser*, *Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser*, *Fairfield City Champion*, *Liverpool City Champion* and the *Wollondilly Advertiser* (*Telum Media Alert*, 31 January 2022).

Greg Thomson, formerly general manager of the *NT News*, Darwin, has been appointed managing editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, and news.com.au (*Telum Media Alert*, 28 January 2022).

Mark Wallace is the new editor of the *Southern Highlands Express*, Mittagong. He has worked in journalism for 45 years, and has been the editor of the *Highlands Post*, *Canberra Chronicle* and *Hornsby Advocate*. He spent more than 20 years reporting for the *Canberra Times* (*Telum Media Alert*, 14 February 2022).

Tom Zaunmayr is the new editor of the *National Indigenous Times*. He joined the paper after serving as editor across Seven West Media's north-west local newspapers, the *Broome Advertiser*, *Pilbara News*, *Kimberley Echo* and *North West Telegraph* (*Telum Media Alert*, 16 February 2022).

116.1.6 *Business Insider* to cease

Business Insider Australia will cease operating in March following changes to its licensing arrangement with global publisher, Insider Inc. Under the changes, there will no longer be a dedicated *Business Insider* website or team. Coverage of the region's business markets will be led by Insider's Asia-Pacific bureau, based in Singapore (*Telum Media Alert*, 31 January 2022).

116.1.7 Newsprint hits supply chain problems

Newsprint supply issues are affecting media companies both domestically and internationally, with outlets battling to obtain ample stock (*Australian*, 24 January 2022). Global supply chain problems have caused significant shipping delays of products across the world, pushing some newsprint deliveries out by weeks and in some cases months. Domestic industry sources told the *Australian* that newsprint and specialty paper supplies used for magazines are down, with some publishers having just one week's supply readily accessible instead of typically having at least one month's or more in reserve. In the second half of 2021, newsprint prices continued to climb internationally because paper mills were hit with higher energy, transport and fibre costs and some companies have implemented surcharges on stock. In Australia and New Zealand, the only local manufacturer of newsprint, Norwegian-owned Norske Skog, closed two paper mills in recent years—in Albury, NSW, and its Tasman mill in NZ. Now operators are relying on their remaining paper mill at Boyer in Tasmania for supply.

116.1.8 Whiskey Au Go Go: 49 years on

The *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, has recently successfully fought a suppression order in relation to the 1973 Whiskey Au Go Go nightclub inferno in which 15 people died. As a result, a report kept secret by top police has disclosed allegations that suspects in the deadly inferno were “protected from prosecution” and that investigators failed to act on information implicating offenders. Detective Sergeant Virginia Gray revealed in court that she was forced to remove 27 pages from her report prepared for an inquest on the 1972 fire—including criticism of the early police case—saying her boss told her to leave those conclusions for “journalists and police haters”. The contents of the redacted pages of Sergeant Gray's report were reported in the *Courier-Mail* in January (e.g., see “New Whiskey bombshell *Courier-Mail*, 25 January 2022, pp.10-11).

Among the details included in the redacted pages are concerns about the “effectiveness and credibility of the original investigation” and concerns that police did not act on information implicating others. Days after the 1973 inferno in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley, John Andrew Stuart and James Finch were charged with the arson and murder arising from the nightclub fire and were later convicted at trial. Despite significant evidence that the pair did not act alone, nobody else has ever been charged over the fire-bombing.

116.1.9 Deaths

Banks, Arthur David: D. 22 February 2022 in Northumberland, England, aged 74; part of Rupert Murdoch's “Fleet Street to Wapping” new technology revolution in the mid-1980s; filled senior roles on Murdoch papers in New York and London in first half of 1980s; deputy editor, *Australian*, 1987; editor, *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, 1988-92; returned to UK 1992 to become editor of the *Mirror*, and in 1994 became editorial director of the Mirror Group and consultant editor of the *Sunday Mirror*; later became a radio broadcaster (*Weekend Australian*, 26-27 February 2022).

Brearley, David: D. 24 December 2021 in Sydney, aged 57; born at Stockport, UK; emigrated with parents and sister to Newcastle, NSW, at age six; became boarder at St Joseph's College, Sydney, for secondary schooling; began university studies in arts and law but left to become copy boy at News Limited; worked as journalist at the *Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, and the *Townsville Bulletin*; wrote for music publications including *On The Street* and *RAM*; at *GQ*, he turned his deadpan erudition to the subject of cheese; toiled as a sub-editor at the *Australian Women's Weekly*, *Australian Financial Review* and, fruitfully, alongside his mates Jack Marx and

Paul Toohey at the *Picture*; joined the *Australian*, where he worked in production roles, served as deputy editor of the *Weekend Australian Magazine*, and wrote with power, insight and originality; even as his life grew top heavy with the reality of cancer, he kept writing the “Last Word” column in *Review*, miniature masterpieces that proved — again — that “when it came to the profound and the piss funny, Brearley was ambidextrous” (*Weekend Australian*, 1-2 January 2022; see also Stephen Romei, “The Last Word”, *Review* section of same issue).

Evans, David: D. 11 January 2022 in Sydney, aged 86; born at Llantwit, Wales; worked as a journalist on the London *Sun* before its purchase by News Ltd; arrived in Canberra from Fleet Street at invitation of Rupert Murdoch in February 1966 to join staff of *Australian*; became a core member of the founding editorial team that transformed the Murdoch vision for a national publication into a lasting reality; excelled as a quality writer, sub-editor and page designer; the paper was soon headquartered in Sydney after technology enabled completed phototype pages to be transmitted interstate by facsimile, with a window of transmission time booked with Telecom (later Telstra), to be printed on presses in other capital cities; this could be achieved only by stringent adherence to deadlines, otherwise editions would be lost; it was a large part of his role to manage editorial production to ensure this did not happen; became the features editor and later a long-term deputy editor (*Australian*, 13 January 2022).



Craig McGregor

McGregor, Craig Rob Roy: D. 22 January 2022 in Sydney, aged 88; born at Kiama and spent early childhood years at Jamberoo, south coast, NSW; family moved to Sydney where he won a scholarship to Cranbrook School; won a *Sydney Morning Herald* cadetship in 1950 and completed a university arts degree at night; interviewed Bob Dylan during 1966 Australian tour and later edited the book, *Bob Dylan: A retrospective* (1972); awarded a two-year Harkness Fellowship to live in New York and witnessed an intense time in America’s cultural history; wrote for the *New York Times*, including profiles on Lillian Roxon, Kris Kristofferson, Frank Zappa and commentary on American music, politics and popular culture; on return to Sydney, continued writing for *Herald* and later wrote for the *National Times*; shone as a writer of profiles—see his pieces on Paul Keating, Bob Hawke, Clive James, Peter Brock and Jill Wran; lectured at Sydney College of the Arts and taught creative writing at Lismore CAE in the early 1980s; became an innovative head of visual communications at the University of Technology Sydney; wrote 25 books, often on class, politics and popular culture in Australia; smashed the boundaries between traditional journalism and non-fiction; wrote fiction that was often true and non-fiction that employed the creative devices of fiction; wrote from a man’s point of view and a woman’s;

wrote one-word sentences and sentences with hundreds of words, ne’er a comma in sight; wrote chapters with titles such as “watching the mirror, watching you, in lower case, please” and he would regularly summon intellectual support ranging from Plato to Dylan; lived at Byron Bay from 2000; suffered a debilitating stroke in 2018 (<https://www.echo.net.au/2022/01/vale-craig-mcgregor-1933-2022/>, accessed 31 January 2022; and *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 February 2022).

116.1.10 Journalist-in-residence for JNI

The Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas (JNI) has appointed Bill Grueskin as its first international journalist-in-residence. Grueskin, the professor of professional practice at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism in New York, has held such senior editorial positions as executive editor at Bloomberg and deputy managing editor of the *Wall Street Journal*.

During his time at JNI, he is researching the impact of the News Media Bargaining Code and engage with journalists and educators to share training and development programs being used at Columbia. He is also learning about Australian media techniques that can be brought back to the

US. Grueskin is working from JN headquarters in Sydney. His tenure will end in mid-March (*Telum Media Alert*, 31 January 2022).

116.1.11 Murdoch editor accused of degrading women

In a working life that has stretched from Dubbo's *Daily Liberal* to the *New York Post* and that encompassed allegations of wrecking Australian prime ministers and eating burgers with Donald Trump in the Oval office, former News Corp editor Col Allan has scaled the heights of tabloid infamy (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 January 2022, p.5). However, the career of the former editor of the *New York Post* soured in late January as he faced allegations of sexual harassment in a law suit filed by a former female colleague. Michelle Gotthelf, editor-in-chief of the *Post's* website until mid-January, said in her law suit that Allan—who edited Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* before taking over the *Post* in 2001—had resigned from the *Post* in 2016 after she alerted executives he was a bully who propositioned her for sex. Gotthelf's suit, filed in the US District Court, names News Corporation, NYP Holdings, Allan and current *Post* editor Keith Poole. She said Allan's harassment of her "peaked" in the autumn of 2015 when she was metro editor. The two were having drinks after an editors' dinner meeting when Allan said that "we should sleep together", she said in the law suit.

116.1.12 Media inquiry split over final proposal

A proposal for a royal commission-style investigation into Australia's media ownership has split a Senate inquiry (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 December 2022, p.11). The recommendation is the key finding of a year-long Senate inquiry into media diversity, led by Greens senator Sarah Hanson-Young, which focused on the influence of Rupert Murdoch's media empire in Australia. In a majority report backed by Labor senators, the Senate's communications committee concluded that a judicial inquiry with royal commission powers was needed to "determine whether the existing system of media regulation is fit-for-purpose and to investigate the concentration of media ownership in Australia". Liberal senator Andrew Bragg, the deputy chair of the inquiry, savaged the findings in a dissenting report. He said the inquiry had been "a stunt conducted at taxpayers' expense". See also: "Don't hold your breath" (editorial), *Saturday Paper*, 11-17 December 2021, p.14.

116.1.13 Editor Shields introduces himself to SMH readers

The new editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Bevan Shields, introduced himself to his readers by email on 4 February. He said, in part:

When I think of myself, I think of the *Herald*. I love working here and can't really imagine doing anything else. Unlike many colleagues, though, I didn't start my career in this newsroom. I spent three years at the *Central Western Daily*, a newspaper in my hometown of Orange, followed by nearly two years at the *Illawarra Mercury* in Wollongong. I joined the *Herald* in 2014 and for five years was the federal editor and Canberra bureau chief. I've spent the past two years as Europe correspondent for the *Herald* and the *Age* and have just moved back to Sydney from London.

This has been a frustrating summer for many of you. Our newsroom understands the challenges as well. The vast majority of our reporters, editors, photographers, designers and production staff are still working from home, and like you have spent many hours waiting in lines for PCR tests or driving around Sydney in search of hard-to-find RATs. I'm tremendously proud of their resilience but very much looking forward to their return to the office. I also want to acknowledge [Cosima Marriner](#), who has been an exceptional acting editor before my arrival and will be a terrific deputy editor.

In really exciting news, the *Herald* is this week conducting interviews for five trainee journalists—our first intake since 2018. I've been so impressed by the candidates' vision and determination to join our masthead. They really want to be part of the *Herald* but the truth is the *Herald* needs them, too. I want their ideas, their energy, their hunger and their creativity. We have had hundreds of applicants for five roles, so the process is incredibly competitive. I know this well, given I was knocked back for a cadetship in 2010!

This new intake is a great sign of confidence in the future of journalism. Many of the cadets who joined in more recent rounds—such as North Asia correspondent Eryk Bagshaw, *Spectrum* editor Melanie Kembrey, senior writer Michael Koziol, sports reporter Tom Decent and our education reporter, the 2021 Kennedys Young Journalist of the Year Natassia Chrysanthos—now power the newsroom. Some of our most experienced reporters also started as cadets, including economics editor Ross Gittins (the winner of the Outstanding Contribution to Journalism Award at the 2020 Walkleys), columnist and senior writer Jacqueline Maley, and political editor and international editor Peter Hartcher, who will this month celebrate an extraordinary 40 years with the *Herald*.



116.1.14 How the *West* was lost

The messy end to Mark McGowan’s prolonged honeymoon has been big business for West Australian Newspapers (*Australian*, 21 February 2022). The tide turned quickly and dramatically at McGowan’s late-night press conference on 20 January (see images of front pages above).

The WA Premier’s unexpected decision to backtrack on his plan to reopen the state’s borders on 5 February not only angered a patient public that was looking forward to the possibility of interstate travel and family reunions, but it also shifted the editorial position of West Australian Newspapers, which had previously been supportive of McGowan’s leadership and his approach to the Covid crisis.

“McGowan just pulled the rug from underneath the state, and we just didn’t think the explanation was there,” said Anthony De Ceglie, editor-in-chief of West Australian Newspapers. “That was the moment when we definitely started putting some of the heat on the government about some of its decision-making around Covid.” In the month after McGowan’s late night press conference, the *West Australian* lampooned the Premier with a series of front-page caricatures, including one that showed him still gripped by indecision about his hard border policy in 2052.

The fierce scrutiny – by the *West Australian* and its sister website PerthNow – on McGowan’s indecision, drew “stratospheric” online traffic, De Ceglie said. The front-page story that depicted the WA Premier as an old man attracted five million combined views on the Facebook pages of the *West* and PerthNow – more than 10 times the average daily number.

In the month from 20 January, the average number of daily digital subscriptions for WAN titles doubled, the number of daily users visiting the *West*’s website increased by more than 60 per cent, and on 3 February, the WAN websites had more daily page views combined than any other news website in Australia. “I think it would be easy to say that it’s all the ‘McGowan-haters’ but I think it’s more the confusion surrounding the government’s policies,” De Ceglie said. On 18 February, McGowan announced that WA’s hard border would be dismantled on 3 March.

116.1.15 Apology to judge

Several media outlets including the *Australian* have issued apologies to an experienced Federal Court judge after articles were published which wrongly linked his judicial appointment to his brother's political donations (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 February 2022). Justice David Thomas was appointed a Federal Court judge in 2017 after an almost four-decade legal career, including working as a senior partner at prominent law firm Minter Ellison and being elevated to the Queensland Supreme Court in 2013. Justice Thomas, who has been praised for his experience in dispute resolution and administration, also served as president of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and has held board positions including with Queensland Ballet. His eminent career came under the microscope in January after the *Australian* published two stories which incorrectly implied his appointments as a Federal Court judge and president of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal were linked to a political donation made one day earlier by his brother, businessman Geoffrey Thomas.

116.1.16 New faces on MEAA federal council

The federal council of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) has announced a suite of new delegates and senior leadership changes after the union's elections. Forty-three new members have been elected to the 95-member federal council, including 17 from the Media section. The results of the main leadership elections are: federal president, Simon Collins, has been re-elected unopposed (he is from the music industry); Karen Percy has been elected federal president of the Media section (she is a freelance journalist and former ABC reporter), replacing Marcus Strom who stepped down after two terms; the federal vice-presidents are freelance writer Erin Delahunty and ABC features editor Leigh Tonkin (*Telum Media Alert*, 9 February 2022).

116.1.17 Mercury moves downstairs

Hobart's *Mercury* has moved to new offices after 10 years as an anchor tenant of the high-profile 2 Salamanca Square premises at Battery Point. The News Corp Australia publication occupied the entire first floor and had 150 workstations when it relocated to Salamanca from its previous home of more than 160 years. Ten years on, the significantly reduced workforce found itself as one of three tenants in the same floorspace, now wedged between a government call centre and the University of Tasmania's Media School. On Tuesday, 15 February 2022, the *Mercury* staff relocated to a ground floor office at the same address.

116.1.18 Rafa's 1.30am edition

The *Herald Sun* issued a 1.30am edition on 31 January to report that Spain's Rafael Nadal had won the Australian Open in five sets overnight. The win brought to 21 the number of Grand Slam tennis tournaments Nadal had won. Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic have both won 20.



116.2.1 News Corp and Google unite to train digital journalists

News Corp Australia and Google have worked together to establish a digital news training initiative to develop and enhance journalists' online skills (*Australian*, 31 January 2022). In the world's first partnership between Google and a media company, the Digital News Academy provides field reporters, editors and publishers with the latest tools, techniques and insights into online news gathering and multimedia storytelling. The program also includes specific tutorials on data journalism, detailed online research reports, effective operation of social media channels, podcasting, and targeting specific audience segments.

The University of Melbourne's Graduate School of Business and Economics, the Melbourne Business School, will deliver the academy's curriculum. The nine-month course will be open to journalists from News Corp, as well as journalists from major regional publisher, Australian Community Media, and some small media partners. It is expected that other media organisations may enrol in the academy within the next few months.

The program welcomes the first cohort of 50 journalists in March, and it is expected that 750 media professionals will complete the course in the first three years. Participants will have access to a panel of 11 experts from the Academy, including Jerry Baker, editor-in-chief of the *Wall Street Journal*, and Hedley Thomas, the *Australian's* national correspondent.

116.2.2 Bundaberg: 'Good news' from the council

Bundaberg's mayor Jack Dempsey says a ratepayer-funded news website that runs only positive stories about local government doesn't breach any industry code of ethics because it "does not purport" to be a legitimate media outlet (*Australian*, 20 December 2021). The Bundaberg Regional Council faced criticism in the final months of 2021 over the Bundaberg Now website, which uses an online news template and "stories" written, produced and moderated by council staff. In December, federal Communications Minister Paul Fletcher publicly expressed "serious concerns" about the website and the misleading impression it might convey to some of the tens of thousands of ratepayers in the region that it was a proper source of news.

116.2.3 From Betoota to the Junkee trail

The man behind the popular satirical *Betoota Advocate* website has become the publisher of youth news publication *Junkee* after it was sold to independent digital and production company, RACAT Group (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 December 2021). Billboard company oOh!Media was the owner of *Junkee*. It publishes *Australian Geographic* and produces programs such as *Hardball*. RACAT, which is run by former Nine chairman David Haslingden, has hired media entrepreneur Piers Grove as publisher of three websites.

116.2.4 Facebook and Sir Isaac Isaacs

ANHG reported (114.2.5): Millions of Australians with Facebook or other social media pages could be taken to court or forced to pay damages to third parties if defamatory comments are posted on their sites even without their knowledge or consent.

We have since received a clipping from the *Age*, 8 September 2021, p.19, in which barrister Dr Matt Collins wrote (in part): "Australia has produced few jurists of Sir Isaac Isaacs' ilk. He was born in Melbourne in 1855, and became attorney-general of both Victoria and the newly federated Commonwealth of Australia. Then appointed to the High Court, he became its Chief Justice from 1931 to 1936 and later the nation's first Australian-born governor-general. But Isaacs could hardly have foreseen the advent of the internet, its implications for legacy media as a source of news and information, or the perils of social media. Yesterday [7 September 2021] the High Court of Australia had the opportunity to reconsider the application of age-old principles of defamation law in the online era. Instead, it affirmed a pronouncement by Sir Isaacs in a 1928 case about a defamatory circular concerning litigation over mice-damaged wheat, and applied it to users of Facebook.

"Dylan Voller, a young Aboriginal man whose treatment in youth detention in the Northern Territory had attracted media attention, is suing Fairfax Media... Nationwide News... and Australian News Channel... in relation to comments by the public posted in response to stories these outlets published on their Facebook pages. The outlets use Facebook as a vehicle for promoting their content to reach the 16 million or so Australians who are active users of the social media network." The outlets argued they are not responsible for third-party comments posted in response to their stories (fuller details in 114.2.5). By a majority of 5-2, the High Court upheld decisions of lower courts in Voller's favour. Chief Justice Kiefel and Justices Keane and Gleeson held that a publisher's exposure to liability in defamation law "does not depend upon their knowledge of the defamatory matter which is being communicated or their intention to

communicate it”. Justices Gageler and Gordon agreed, holding that exposure to liability arises “irrespective of knowledge or intention on the part of the participant as to the defamatory content of the matter being published”. “In short,” said Collins, “the majority judges held that, because the media outlets had chosen to establish a presence on social media, knowing comments could be posted to their stories, it was consistent with ancient principle to treat them as if they had written the comments themselves.”

See also: Michaela Whitbourn, “Defamation and the rise of social media lawsuits”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1-2 January 2022, p.19. Peter Dutton was awarded relatively low damages in his defamation case over a tweet. Whitbourn asks: Will this discourage other politicians from suing?

116.2.5 Major Australia media company hacked

Chinese state-affiliated hackers have targeted a major Australian media company, stealing passwords and data using a publicised vulnerability within hours of the software flaw being revealed (*Australian*, 9 February 2022). The nation’s biggest cybersecurity company, CyberCX, said the attackers moved swiftly to exploit the Log4j vulnerability in December 2021, gaining access to the company’s IT systems before it had a chance to patch the affected software. CyberCX said those responsible for the attack used “tradecraft consistent with Chinese state-sponsored actors” to gain access to the company’s mobile devices management software. The company – which was not News Corp and understood not to be Nine Entertainment – was initially notified of the security breach by the Australian Cyber Security Centre. The attack occurred on 10 December – the same day the Log4j vulnerability was publicised, sparking a rush by users around the world to close the potential backdoor. CyberCX chief strategy officer Alastair MacGibbon, a former ACSC head, said the company’s investigators were confident in attributing the attack to China. “They used what we call customised web shells. We know the Chinese state uses a lot of these web shells,” MacGibbon said.

The hacking incident predated a cyber-attack on News Corp identified on 20 January and linked to Chinese espionage activities that affected the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Post*, and Britain’s the *Times* and the *Sun*.

116.2.6 Australian aims for young readers online

Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp Australia is preparing to launch a youth-focused, online-only offshoot of the *Australian* in a bid to attract younger readers to the masthead (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 February 2022). Known as The Oz, the soon-to-be launched outlet will be led by the masthead’s social media editor, Elyse Popplewell, who has spent more than two years building out the *Australian*’s presence on platforms such as TikTok, Instagram and LinkedIn. The Oz team will also include the *Sydney Morning Herald*’s former life and style editor, Jenna Clarke, who will work across The Oz and the *Australian*. The imminent expansion comes as many quality newspapers, which have in recent years adopted hard paywalls, grapple with ways to attract younger readers. Australia’s 2021 *Digital News Report* said more than 50 per cent of people in the Gen Y and Gen Z generations are “light” news consumers, figures which are well below older generations. The report also said 54 per cent of Gen Z labelled social media their main source of news.

116.2.7 Google signs multi-year deals with local outlets

Google says it has signed multi-year deals with 170 Australian local news outlets (*Age*, 14 February 2022, p.26). But industry sources who requested anonymity said that talks with some small independent news publications have stalled or stopped altogether because Google or Facebook don’t believe they fit within the definition of public-interest journalism.



3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

116.3.1 Regional newspapers under threat

A massive increase in newsprint prices expected this year will threaten the viability of many Australian newspapers, Australian Community Media has told a federal parliamentary inquiry (*Canberra Times*, 8 February 2022). “It is perhaps the single biggest threat to the viability of our publishing business, after COVID and its economic effects,” ACM managing director Tony Kendall says in the company’s submission to federal parliament’s inquiry into regional newspapers. “We are confronting extra costs for paper alone that are equivalent to the salaries of 50 journalists. These increases will likely cause the closure of titles that are teetering on the edge of profitability and will put even our biggest publications under significant cost pressure.”

In a sobering outline of the crisis facing hundreds of local newspapers serving the 36 per cent of Australians living outside the major metropolitan cities, ACM, Australia’s largest independently owned publishing business, has painted a stark picture of an industry at “breaking point” and in need of urgent government attention and assistance.

ACM told the inquiry committee, chaired by Victorian Nationals MP Dr Anne Webster and made up of Liberal, Labor and Nationals MPs, that the company would have stopped trading without the federal government’s timely support through JobKeeper and the Public Interest News Gathering fund. Emergency funding granted under the \$50 million 12-month PING program had enabled ACM to return more than 100 mastheads to print or digital publishing through the pandemic—more than was originally foreshadowed in its 2020 grant application.

The publisher’s 5000-word submission to the inquiry also reveals:

- Sharp declines in advertising revenue forced it to stop printing 50 small papers not covered by PING and to switch 20 titles from printing twice or three times a week to publishing a weekly edition.
- The viability of 20-30 per cent of the company’s remaining mastheads is at risk.
- Between 2016 and 2021 total print revenue fell by almost 45 per cent.
- An April 2020 NSW government decision to allow local councils to bury notices about their activities and decisions on their own websites rather than display them in the local newspaper had stripped out more than \$2 million in annual revenue.
- Content deals with Google and Facebook underpinned by the News Media Bargaining Code amounted to less than 5 per cent of ACM’s total annual revenue and were “not enough to save regional publications that are already at the margin of profitability”.

The ACM network, which includes 14 daily newspapers such as the *Canberra Times* and *Newcastle Herald*, reaches 6.4 million regional Australians every month online and/or in print and has more than 110,000 digital subscribers across more than 40 mastheads.

The company, which employs more than 1300 people around the country including 600 journalists, says it has “made every effort through the COVID disaster to maintain as many of our local mastheads as possible and employ as many regional journalists as possible”.

Of the 50 publications that had not returned to printing through the pandemic, more than 20 retained a digital presence and 20 others were free titles circulated in areas already covered by another ACM newspaper. “In cases where we have been forced to make changes to titles,

communities have felt let down and abandoned. We understand this completely,” Kendall says in the submission.

116.3.2 Biloela: Monthly magazine fills printed news gap—for a year

View of the Valleys was published in Biloela, central Queensland, for a year, helping fill the gap left by the end of the printed edition of the *Central Telegraph* newspaper. *View* was a glossy colour magazine, generally between 32 and 40 pages, A4 size. It was published from November 2020 to October 2021. Jen Gourley, editor, and Julie Robertson, designer, ran the magazine. “Each month we broke even but there was very little left over,” said Gourley. She worked herself to a frazzle, judging from her final Facebook post. Gourley had received a redundancy package when she was laid off after nearly 20 years of working on regional newspapers.

116.3.3 Moreton Bay, Qld: ‘Daily’ launched fortnightly

The *Moreton Daily News* was launched on 8 December 2021 in the Redcliffe area, north of Brisbane, and appears fortnightly. It is delivered to 50,000 households. Here’s what the paper says about itself: “*Moreton Daily News* is published under the umbrella of Moreton Bay Regional Industry and Tourism’s Moreton Daily news service, which provides local news from across the Moreton Bay Region every day. It’s your daily dose of good news, written by experienced journalists, with a passion for community news. Visit moretondaily.com.au to read breaking news, lifestyle news, community news, sporting news, information about events and the digital; edition of *Moreton Daily News*.”

Different editions of the newspaper are produced for the northern and eastern areas of Moreton Bay region. The editorial team comprises Kylie Knight, Jodie Powell, Nick Crockford and Ashleigh Howarth.

116.3.4 Manning Valley, NSW: Di Morrissey book and newspaper



Caroline Overington, literary editor, *Australian*, writes (*Weekend Australian*, 18-19 December 2021): “Going over the list of the authors published by [Cate] Paterson, I noticed **Di Morrissey** hasn’t got a book out this year [2021]. What is going on? I tracked her down to the bucolic property in the Manning Valley, from where she told me she had a tiny pin-prick skin cancer removed, and, yes, it’s all okay.

“She’s going to be fine but she’s also running a newspaper. There will be a book next year [2022], she says.”

Morrissey, pictured left, has written 27 best-selling novels. She edits and publishes the monthly *Manning Community News*. You can visit her newspaper’s website at manningcommunitynews.com/

116.3.5 Albany, WA: Weekend paper closes

Paige Taylor wrote about the end of the *Great Southern Weekender*, Albany, WA, in the *Australian* on 3 January 2022 (ANHG reported the impending closure in 115.3.5). Here’s an extract: “An audacious idea to start a newspaper in a country shed became an unlikely golden goose for shareholders, and one of Australia’s last independent newspapers just keeps on giving even in death. At the tender age of 28, Albany’s *Great Southern Weekender* is being euthanised by the small-town businessmen who gave it life on Western Australia’s south coast. Newer shareholders could also see that winding up meant a windfall while pushing on meant uncertainty and probably more losses. The vote to kill off the *Weekender* was unanimous at the annual general meeting on November 4. Hard-charging journalist Howard Gaskin established the *Weekender* in 1993 after appealing to local businesspeople who wanted an alternative to the only newspaper in town at the time, the *Albany Advertiser*.”

NB: The first country newspaper in WA was published at Albany in 1868, It was the *King George's Sound Observer*, which Charles George Allen published four times from 27 August to 10 October 1868. See more in Rod Kirkpatrick's *A Short History of the Australian Country Press*.

116.3.6 Hills District, Brisbane: *Echo* at 30

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: The *Hills Echo*, a printed monthly news magazine serving the Hills District of Brisbane's north-west (Ferny Hills, Arana Hills, Everton Hills, Ferny Grove, Keperra, Upper Kedron, Bunya and Samford Village), celebrated its 30th birthday in January 2022. It turned 25 shortly after I moved to Ferny Hills after I had spent eight years in Mackay (ANHG 91.3.7). When the *Hills Echo* began, it was 24 pages and had a print run of 3500. It is now 48 pages with full colour throughout and the print run has reached 14,500. Katie Maclean of MAC Publications is the owner of the *Echo*. It appears digitally at www.echo-news.com.au. There are three sibling publications: the *Everton Echo*, *Eatons Echo*, and *Acreage Living*, a lifestyle magazine.

116.3.7 Regional Tasmania: Font acquires *Northern Midland Courier*

Font Publishing has expanded its portfolio of Tasmanian regional newspapers by acquiring the *Northern Midlands Courier*, a fortnightly that circulates from Ross in the south to Avoca in the east, Bracknell in the west and Launceston in the north. Alison Andrews continues as editor.

Font Publishing is Tasmania's largest independent, locally-owned media organisation. It prints over one million newspapers a year, reaching nearly 100,000 people per quarter across mainly rural and regional Tasmania. The acquisition of the *Northern Midlands Courier* takes Font Publishing's stable of newspapers to eight: *Tasmanian Country*, *Derwent Valley Gazette*, *Sorell Times*, *Tasman Gazette*, *East Coast View*, *King Island Courier*, *Northern Midlands Courier*, and *Tasmanian Business Reporter* (under licence from TCCI).

116.3.8 Smithton and Stanley, Tas.: *Chronicle* sold

The *Circular Head Chronicle*, the weekly that serves Smithton, Stanley and the Circular Head district of north-western Tasmania, has been sold by Craig and Amanda Saward after 23 years. The new owner is Robert "Bob" Yeates, who owns papers in the Huon Valley, Tasmania, and East Gippsland, Victoria. The Sawards bought the *Circular Head Chronicle* in December 1998.

Yeates Media, established by Bob's great-grandfather James in 1897, has a strong and vibrant history. Born in Franklin in the state's south-east and now based in Bairnsdale, Victoria, Bob Yeates travels to Tasmania often to manage the *Huon News* and *Kingborough Chronicle*. In Victoria, he manages the *Bairnsdale Advertiser*, *Lakes Post*, *Snowy River Mail* and *East Gippsland News*.

116.3.9 Wagga Wagga, NSW: Daily for sale

The *Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga, is for sale. Australian Community Media is selling both the Wagga Wagga and Bendigo dailies "in order to comply with an outdated media diversity requirement pursuant to the Broadcasting Act 1992" (*Canberra Times*, 27 November 2021, advertisement). The *Wagga Wagga Advertiser* began publication on 10 October 1868 and became a daily on 3 January 1911. ANHG 115.3.8 reported that the *Bendigo Advertiser* had been placed on the market.

116.3.10 Eyre Peninsula, SA: Return of print

An important part of the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia, has a printed weekly newspaper again. The *West Coast Sentinel and Eyre Peninsula Tribune* ceased printing after the issue of 2 April 2020. The new print publication, the *Eyre Peninsula Advocate*, first appeared on 30 September 2021. The paper services both eastern and western Eyre Peninsula, from Cleve to Ceduna, but not the southern parts around Port Lincoln.

The owner of the new publication is Andrew Manuel whose late father, Roger Manuel, bought the *Plains Producer* in Balaklava in the mid-1980s to save it from closure. Andrew Manuel has continued the family legacy, now publishing the *Plains Producer*, *Two Wells*

Echo, *Eyre Peninsula Advocate* and Valley and Flinders magazines. He's also a co-owner of the *Border Watch*, Mount Gambier. Manuel said the *Eyre Peninsula Advocate* wouldn't have happened without the vision of the District Council of Cleve and in particular Meisha Quinn and Melanie Cummins (*Plains Producer*, 13 October 2021, and *Eyre Advocate* website).

116.3.11 What's happened to your local newspaper?

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: ABC Radio National program *Life Matters* broadcast a half-hour discussion on 9 February about what has been happening to local newspapers over the past two years. It can be found at:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/talkback-whats-happened-to-your-local-newspaper/13746066>

The guest on the program was the chief executive officer of the Public Interest Journalism Initiative (PIJI), Anna Draffin. PIJI has made a submission to a Federal Parliamentary Committee inquiring into the decline in regional newspapers. The committee accepted submissions until 11 February. Draffin said there were 34 Local Government Areas throughout Australia that now had no newspaper coverage. She said local newspapers had lost 80 per cent of their pre-Covid advertising revenue.

The program also featured listeners phoning in to make comments about their local newspaper situation. A listener from Portland, Vic., said her local paper, the *Portland Observer*, started in 1842 and was still run by the same family. This is incorrect. The *Portland Guardian*, which started on 20 August 1842, was Victoria's second country paper. It had various owners over the years and closed in 1964. The *Portland Observer*, which started in 1890, is still published today. Edwin Davis was a partner at the beginning and the Davis family later became sole owners. The Davis family sold the paper in 1967 to the Hamilton Spectator Partnership, and took an interest in the partnership. Part of the Davis family interest is held by Joy Davis, who is now in her nineties (see Rod Kirkpatrick, "Portland – an area with a rich newspaper history", *PANPA Bulletin*, September-October 2003, pp.33-34).

Listeners called in to *Life Matters* from Warren, Eugowra, Casino, Bowral and Scone. The Scone listener spoke of the disappearance of the print edition of the *Scone Advocate* and the emergence of a mining-backed *Hunter River Times*, which allegedly tended to censor material adverse to the mining industry. The listener said, "I miss the *Scone Advocate* immensely."

116.3.12 ACM announces cohort of editorial trainees

Australian Community Media has named the 10 people who will form its 2022 cohort of editorial trainees (*Telum Media Alert*, 7 February 2022). The trainees will spend the next 12 months working across 10 ACM mastheads, coordinated by the company's national editorial trainer, Saffron Howden. The trainees are: Angus Thomson (*Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga); Caroline Tung (*Border Mail*, Albury-Wodonga); Ellie Mitchell (*Courier*, Ballarat); Eva Baxter (*Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth); Paige Busher (*Newcastle Herald*); Petula Bowa (*Bendigo Advertiser*), Rebecca Pridham (*Examiner*, Launceston), Rosie Bensley (*Illawarra Mercury*, Wollongong), Soofia Tariq (*Canberra Times*), and William Huynh (*Standard*, Warrnambool).

116.3.13 Newcastle: *Herald* office closed because of Covid

The *Newcastle Herald* office closed in mid-December 2021 "due to the recent outbreak of Covid-19 in Newcastle" and was still closed at 26 February 2022.



4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

116.4.1 'I raise my hat to the cow and to J.L. Dow'

The cover picture of **John Lamont Dow** and son **David McKenzie Dow** in the agricultural editor's room at the *Age* and *Leader*, Melbourne, opens up a fascinating story of various branches of a family involved in Australian journalism, mainly agricultural journalism. After David Hill Dow and wife Agnes migrated from Scotland to the Geelong district in 1848, he became a station overseer and a Barrabool shire councillor. Son John grew up as a rugged young stockman and claimed to have shorn in one season "a daily average of 98 big wethers, not bare-bellied ewes". In 1862, two years after the Burke and Wills expedition from south to north ended in disaster, John Dow joined a group sponsored by a pastoral company to explore the Gulf of Carpentaria country, was among the founders of Burketown and became an early pastoralist on the Herbert River tableland. Returning to Victoria in 1868, he worked on the land and as a miner. He joined the *Age* in 1873 and within about three years became agricultural editor of the weekly *Leader*, a post he held until 1886 and again 1892-1915. He was 78 when he retired.

His brother, **Thomas Kirkland Dow**, born in 1848, taught in a State school near Ballarat, 1870-77, before he joined the *Leader* as an agricultural journalist. He worked for the *Australasian*, 1881-90. In 1883, Thomas and brother John were both in the United States, reporting on agricultural matters for their opposing weeklies in Victoria (see Elizabeth Morrison, *David Syme: Man of The Age*, pp.164-165). Thomas served on the first Council of Agricultural Education in 1884-90, was principal of Longerenong Agricultural College in 1890-96 and went overseas for the *Age* in 1898.

John Dow was a pioneering agriculturalist and took that bold spirit into politics. In 1877 he helped bring the "selector" vote behind Graham Berry in the defeat of the James McCulloch government. Dow held the seat of Kara Kara, 1877-1893 when he was forced to resign because of his bankruptcy. In the 1886-90 Gillies-Deakin coalition government Dow was minister for lands, agriculture and mines, but soon relinquished the mines portfolio because of claims that mining and agriculture were antagonistic. Dow's most significant effect on Victoria, however, was as minister for agriculture: in 1888 he sponsored large government bonuses to encourage agricultural, dairying, fruit and wine development. The bonus scheme led to the establishment of co-operative butter factories with an export worth £1 million by 1895 and made dairying a major Victorian industry. His political opponent Thomas Bent once said, "Whenever I visit a dairying district, I raise my hat to the cow and to J. L. Dow."

David McKenzie Dow (1870-1953) studied at Dookie Agricultural College and worked briefly with the Department of Agriculture. In the 1890s, David contested several elections in the seat of Kara Kara (St. Arnaud, Victoria). Based in Melbourne, he followed a career in journalism and travelled to the United States as an agricultural journalist (1907). Moving into public service, David worked as Commonwealth publicity officer for the Prime Minister's department (1920-1924). He held the position of official secretary for Australia in the United States (1927-1931), and then continued as acting commissioner general until March 1938. A portrait of David Dow is held by the National Portrait Gallery.

The information for this article has come largely from an *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entry on John Lamont Dow, written by a grandson, **Hume Dow**. Hume Dow is also the source of the Dow manuscript collection held by the Deakin University Library. The collection features personal and professional correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, certificates and other personal papers. Also in the collection are miscellaneous publications collected by the Dow family including books, pamphlets and programs. A number of other miscellaneous items such as notes,

radio transcripts, business cards and theatre tickets, etc., are also found in the collection. Manuscript material has been divided into a numbered series and further divided into specific folders. The collection consists of four boxes.

116.4.2 Historians denied access to war crimes report

Australia's official military history unit has been denied access to the unredacted final report of the Brereton war crimes inquiry, potentially compromising its ability to record a complete and accurate account of the nation's longest war (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 November 2021, p.11). The historians with the unit are researching Australia's military commitment in conflicts in East Timor and the Middle East as part of a project launched in 2016. It is funded by the federal government and backed by the Australian War Memorial.

116.4.3 Newspaper competition: *Argus* express boat swamped

Peter Stone mentions in his *Encyclopedia of Australian Shipwrecks* (2006) an accident with an *Argus* express boat in 1855. He cites the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 December 1855, p.3. The ANHG has gone to that source and obtained this report from the *Herald's* Melbourne correspondent:

We have had a sad accident in the bay, one of the consequences of the keen newspaper competition which at present rules in Victoria. The *Argus'* express boat was swamped in endeavouring to board the *Invincible* on Tuesday night, in the middle of Port Phillip Bay, a gale of wind blowing at the time, and the sea running very high. The bay reporter of the *Argus*, Mr Cooper, and four of his crew were picked up by the express boat of the *Herald*, and one immediately lowered from the *Invincible*. One poor fellow was lost. The survivors were fifteen minutes in the water and were so exhausted by successive immersions when taken off their boat, that it was evident to their gallant rescuers that they were but just in time. Competition has, in my opinion, exceeded its proper limits in the case of the Melbourne journals. Nothing can warrant the hazarding, night after night, of the lives of some twenty individuals, when a few hours would bring the ship to an anchor, and render the boarding of her a matter of comparative security. I hope the proprietors will take measures to restrain the zeal of their employees within the limits of Hobson's Bay. Nothing is gained in point of time by scouring the inland sea between Melbourne and the Heads, and there is plenty of room in Hobson's Bay proper for the display of skill and as in the race for later dates, and in the endeavour to cater for the public.

An extensive follow-up report appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 26 December 1855, p.4.

116.4.4 Hot news for Lord Howe Island

Daily Telegraph, Sydney, 16 March 1935, p.1: When the Australian-Oriental liner *Changte* called at Lord Howe Island on her cruise, the islanders had one of the most prompt and complete newspaper deliveries in their history. The *Changte* returned to Sydney yesterday. She left Sydney last week with over 90 passengers, and carried bundles of the latest issues of the *Telegraph* and *Woman*. The papers reached the islanders just over 33 hours after leaving Sydney, and there were sufficient for each islander. The purser was almost mobbed when he landed with the bundles from a lifeboat.

[Lord Howe Island's first newspaper, the *Signal*, started in 1955. It was published for 25 years and resumed in 1985. It is still published.]

116.4.5 Ignatius Feigl, of *Sportsman*, dies on railway

Ignatius Moritz Feigl, 64, formerly one of the proprietors of Melbourne's *Evening Herald*, was a part proprietor of the *Sportsman*, when he was killed by a train on the Sandringham line on 6 April 1892. A native of Austria, he was described in the *Sportsman* as a "man without guile who never made an enemy and whose greatest pleasure was to unostentatiously do good and held those in distress". He was buried at Kew Cemetery on 9 April 1892 (*Table Talk*, 8 April 1892, p.4; *Sportsman*, 12 April 1892, p.1). Feigl was listed as the printer and publisher of the *Illustrated Weekly Herald* when it was first published on 7 December 1872. The *Sportsman* was first published on 1 March 1881 and last published on 22 November 1924 after it was acquired by the proprietors of the *Sporting Life*.

116.4.6 *Times* ‘teemed with activity’

In H.S. Cross’s novel, *Grievous*, at page 322, one of the characters is travelling by train in England in the Great Depression and finds a copy of the *Times*, of London, left by a previous passenger. “It simply teemed with activity: marriages, deaths, situations wanted, bungalows for rent, automobiles of 1932; cycling results, boxing results, rugby football club and school (Dulwich beat Merchant Taylors’ by a goal and a try to nothing); cinema news, literature news, opera news, theatre news (*Salome* at the Savoy, *The Good Companions* at His Majesty’s, *Jane Eyre* at the Kingsway); air-mail schedules, shipping schedules, national radio schedules, *Ovaltine Builds-up Brain, Nerve and Body*; and Sanatogen.”

116.4.7 Rush to Spring Creek, 1868, and two newspapers start

Gold rushes in Victoria in the second half of the 19th century often led to short-lived newspapers. Two newspapers started at Spring Creek (later, Graytown), about 29 km east of Heathcote, in December 1868 and had closed by the end of 1869. Here’s how a correspondent for the *Alexandra Times* (24 December 1868, p.2) wrote from Spring Creek at the beginning of the rush:

The cry is “still they come”. From morning till night coaches, wagons, drays, and vehicles of every description arrive loaded with passengers. The main street is now nearly two miles in length, and the rapidity with which stores, shanties, &c., are being erected is almost incredible. The houses are principally built of corrugated iron and bark, and such is the demand for the latter article that every tree within a radius of five miles has been barked. Streets have been marked out by surveyors, and as much as 20s. (\$2) and 30s. (\$3) per foot paid for business sites.

The same correspondent reported in that issue on the emergence of the settlement’s first newspapers:

The first issue of the *Spring Creek Advertiser*, a journal printed at Mclvor, distant 20 miles, made its appearance here on Saturday week [12 December 1868], but it certainly did not contain much local news. What we want is a local paper, one published on the spot, and that want will shortly be supplied by the publication of the *Leader*, the plant of which is already on the ground. On Saturday night the dance houses and other places of amusement were densely crowded, it being almost impossible to get either out or in, but I saw very little of the circulating medium.

The *Spring Creek Leader* began publication at the close of December (*Argus*, Melbourne, 1 January 1869). It was published until 3 December 1869 during which period it became the *Graytown Leader*. The *Advertiser* closed with issue no. 45 on 16 October 1869. The parent newspaper, the *McIvor Times and Rodney Advertiser*, Heathcote, had reported on 3 September 1869: “The Spring Creek rush is a thing of the past...”

George William Robinson, proprietor of the *McIvor Times* during the Spring Creek rush, wrote a reminiscence of “Graytown (Spring Creek)”, in the paper (29 July 1915, p.2) and made special mention of the district’s newspapers during the gold rush period.

The *Spring Creek Advertiser*, Corbett-street, proprietors, Messrs. C. J. and G. W. Robinson, also proprietors of the *McIvor Times*; editor of both papers, the late Mr Henry Thomas. The first number of the *Advertiser* which was published weekly was issued on Saturday, 12 December 1868, and the last number on Saturday, 16 October, 1869, when Mr C. J. Robinson went to Rushworth and started the *Waranga Chronicle* there (afterwards the *Rushworth Chronicle*). He also subsequently started the *Murchison Advertiser*, his brother continuing the *McIvor Times*. Mr C. J. Robinson started the *Waranga Chronicle* in the office where Mr William Crimp had his *Waranga Echo*, but then discontinued. The building was owned by Mr George Phillips, proprietor of the Criterion Hotel. Mr C. J. Robinson subsequently erected a substantial and commodious brick office and residence. Previous to starting the *Waranga Echo*, Mr Crimp printed and published for a time, for the proprietors, the *McIvor News*, and was for a time proprietor, with Mr Henry Furze, who was previously and afterwards sole proprietor, till it became incorporated with the *McIvor Times*. The original proprietors of the *McIvor News* were Messrs. Casey and Henderson, who started the paper in about 1857 [September 1858]. Mr Crimp was also printer and publisher for the proprietors of the *McIvor Times* during the first three months of its establishment. The *Rushworth Chronicle*, and *Murchison Advertiser* now belong to Mr E. H. Muhlhan; Mr C. J. Robinson having retired some years ago. The *Spring Creek Leader*, High-street, proprietors, Messrs. A. W. Hogg and Co., published bi-weekly (Tuesday and Friday) subsequently became the Graytown Leader. The proprietor was afterwards Mr R. W. M. Kerr.

For parts of the reminiscence, Robinson had drawn on issues of the *Spring Creek Advertiser* during its 10 months of publication and on “a few numbers of the *Spring Creek Leader* from April 20 to December 3, 1869”.

NB: State Library Victoria holds issues of the *Spring Creek Advertiser*, but not of the *Spring Creek Leader*.

116.4.8 George Romeril: from Jersey to Melbourne

The Stonnington History Centre, Melbourne, holds photographic copies of a short-lived local four-page newspaper, the *Advertising Times*, published in the Prahran district in 1862. The paper probably began in 1861 (No. 76 was dated 18 October 1862.) The two issues held are dated 13 September (no. 71) and 27 September 1862. Original copies are held by descendants of the publisher, George Romeril. It is believed this is the same George Romeril who was the proprietor in 1847 of a French-language newspaper, *Jersey Miroir*, a weekly published for Jersey in the Channel Islands. The paper was first issued on 1 January 1840. It circulated “generally throughout the Island of Jersey, and partially in France and Switzerland, as well as many parts of Great Britain and the Colonies, passing through the post upon the same footing as the journals of England” (*Newspaper Press Directory*, 1847, p.271). Romeril died at the age of 66 at his home in Lang Street, South Yarra, on 31 December 1895 (*Age*, 3 January 1896, p.1). He had been an employee of the printing firm, McCarron, Bird and Co. for 19 years. (Thanks to **Peter T. Gill**, of Ashburton, for the information and research.)

116.4.9 Novel approach to typography

Nick Gadd has written a novel, set mainly in Melbourne, about the unusual death of a local printer—found dead in his workshop, his body in the shape of an X. In *Death of a Typographer*, we meet Martin Kern who has a special sensitivity to fonts, a skill that he uses to solve typographical crimes. Martin and his co-investigator, journalist Lucy Tan, are drawn into a mystery that is stranger than anything they have encountered before. Someone is leaving typographical clues at the scenes of a series of murders.

All the trails lead back to Pieter van Flookstraten, a Dutch design genius who disappeared without trace in the 1970s, and who has since been engaged in a mystical scheme to create the world’s “most perfect” font, which is concealed in locations around the globe. But is he really the killer, and how are the crimes connected to his secret font? In solving the mystery, Martin and Lucy may have to expose Martin’s hero as a psychopath.

The main plot of the novel unfolds in Melbourne, while interleaved chapters, set variously in a Tibetan monastery, on the plains of Peru, in London, Naples and Amsterdam, gradually reveal the story of Flookstraten in flashback. Other characters include a noir-style private font investigator, a typographical monk from the Renaissance, a Dutch prog rock group named “I Am A Dolphin”, and a collective of Italian typo-terrorists. This novel takes the reader into the arcane world of typographers and their typefaces, of symbols, swashes and glyphs, where the difference between a serif and sans serif could mean life and death.

The cover of *Death of a Typographer*, designed by Stephen Banham, was a joint winner of The Designers’ Choice Cover of the Year 2020 at the 68th Australian Book Design Awards.

116.4.10 ‘Tomorrow’s technology now redundant’

Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen, *The Library: A Fragile History* (London, 2021), p.399:

Libraries need to move with the times, but too confident a step in the wrong direction can lead to calamity. A famous, notorious example was the decision of leading libraries to first film, then jettison, their collections of historic newspapers. The advantage was obvious, as newspapers take up enormous space and tend to degrade; but the chosen rescue technology, microfiche, proved equally transitional. Within a few decades the microfiches were functionally unusable, and the newspapers long gone. Eventually, the microfiche readers were themselves removed from the reading rooms, tomorrow’s technology now redundant.

116.4.11 Flashback 100 (6): Declining afternoon sales

- This is the sixth in a series of flashbacks to items in the *ANHG Newsletter* 100 issues ago (20 years ago). This extract is from *ANHG* No. 16, February 2002.

News Ltd has discontinued publication of the afternoon editions of its Sydney and Melbourne dailies, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Herald Sun*, because circulation figures show that fewer

people are buying the editions. A News executive said afternoon editions accounted for only 15 per cent of the *Telegraph's* 420,000 daily sales. The final afternoon editions appeared on 21 December 2001 (*Herald Sun*) and 25 January 2002 (*Daily Telegraph*). The 24-hour papers resulted from Rupert Murdoch's decision to close his Sydney and Melbourne afternooners in October 1990: the *Daily Mirror* and the *Herald*, respectively. The titles were incorporated in the morning mastheads, initially the *Daily Telegraph-Mirror* and the *Herald-Sun* (*Australian*, 22-23 December 2001, p.6, and Media liftout, 3 January 2002, p.6).



5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

116.5.1 Articles

Ergas, Henry, “Here’s to fight for truth, and a little consideration”, *Weekend Australian*, 24-26 December 2021, p.11. An historical perspective on the role of opinion columnists and the importance of truth—and consideration.

Knott, Matthew, “States of madness and sadness”, *Sun-Herald*, 19 December 2021, pp.22-23. The author reflects on his three and a half years as the US correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*.

Miller, Nick, “Drawing on life to illustrate power of pen”, *Age*, 31 January 2022, p.13. Discussion of differing cartooning styles as Badiucio and Megan Herbert, two new political cartoonists at the *Age*, are introduced to readers.

Mitchell, Chris, “Why good Covid news is unreported”, *Australian*, 31 January 2022, p.18.

Oriel, Jennifer, “Social media brings down trust in media across board”, *Australian*, 1 February 2022, p.11. Discusses the erosion of trust in media, news media especially.

Wallace, Chris, “Still a man’s world in the nation’s media”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 November 2021, p.25. Journalism academic and former journalist Wallace discusses gender imbalance in the nation’s news media.

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