



The *Kingaroy Herald* building ca 1913. (State Library of Queensland, Neg. 63983). The paper appeared first on 5 July 1906. It was incorporated in the *South Burnett Times* on 6 October 1971. The *Herald* continued its printing business, but the *South Burnett Times* discontinued its printing business. The *South Burnett Times* began life in Wondai in 1910 and moved to Kingaroy in 1961.

When the chairman of the Nanango News Pty Ltd, D.F. Walters, offered to sell the *Nanango News* to the *Kingaroy Herald* as a going concern in April 1936, he asked £1,350 for land, buildings, plant, office equipment and stock. Arthur Frederick Johnson, managing editor of the *Herald*, said the best he could offer was £1,050 cash and stock at value. A valuation was conducted, but with the owner not wanting the staff to know what was happening. The major item of expenditure was the Linotype, which had cost £342 three years earlier, but was now valued at £275. The *South Burnett Times* ceased printing in June 2020. It is now digital only.

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



GOOGLE, FACEBOOK AND THE NEWS—SEE 111.2.1

111.1.1 The 1986-87 HWT takeover and two bribes

“Chanticleer” has reported “sensational details of attempted bribery and corruption” involving two of the richest and most powerful businessmen of the 1980s, Kerry Packer and Alan Bond (*Australian Financial Review*, 23-28 December 2020, pp.52, 29). John Dahlsen, who was a leading Melbourne businessman, says Packer and Bond separately tried to bribe him when he was chairman of the Herald & Weekly Times Ltd (HWT). Dahlsen’s revelations about bribery and corruption are included in a 50,000-word document he wrote as part of his contribution to a documentary being made about the Murdoch family. It is believed the Murdoch investigation has involved interviews with about 150 people. It is expected to be released in 2022.

Dahlsen is a Murdoch expert. He was chairman of HWT when Murdoch took it over in 1987 and, before that, worked in the media for 20 years. While Dahlsen was HWT chairman, he discovered a non-executive director of HWT, Laurie Muir, had leaked information to Murdoch. The catalyst for the leak was an HWT board meeting a day after the Melbourne Cup in November 1986. The board had received a letter that day from Murdoch saying a marriage of News Corp and HWT would be in the interests of shareholders in both companies.

111.1.2 News rejects offer for Foxtel

News Corp has rejected an offer from a US “blank cheque” company to invest in Foxtel in a move that could have provided the debt-ridden company with some financial relief. Industry sources briefed on the talks could not speak publicly for confidentiality reasons, but they said a special purpose acquisition investment company (SPAC) approached News Corp with an offer to invest in Foxtel in the middle of the year. Under the terms of the deal, the SPAC would have acquired a major stake in Foxtel and paid off a large amount of the pay TV company’s \$2.1 billion debt pile. The sources said News Corp would have kept a substantial holding in Foxtel under the proposal, which was not successful (*Age*, 30 November 2020, p.26).

111.1.3 Pell contempt charges against media

Whittled down: Most of the contempt charges remain against Australian media companies and their journalists over the way they initially reported George Pell’s conviction on child sex abuse charges, after a judge dismissed most of the media’s arguments that they had no case to answer. In the Victorian Supreme Court, Justice John Dixon found on 4 December that four media companies and four individual journalists each had no case to answer on one charge but dismissed the rest of the media’s applications and found in favour of prosecutors. Those companies and journalists still face other contempt charges (*Age*, 5 December 2020, p.3). See ANHG 110.1.13.

Trial: The news editor of the *Australian Financial Review*, Mark Coultan, has cast doubt on a key prosecutorial argument that Australian media committed contempt of court in reporting the Cardinal George Pell trial by directing audiences to overseas media sources not covered by the Australian suppression order (*Weekend Australian*, 30-31 January 2021, p.7). Many Australian news outlets and journalists are facing 79 charges of breaching the suppression order and contempt of court following Cardinal Pell’s conviction on child sex-abuse charges in December 2018. Coultan

told the Victorian Supreme Court on 29 January the newspaper's business model wanted people to go to the *AFR* website and not search for news on other websites. He said the *AFR*'s report detailing other outlets' coverage and the trial judge's anger over the reports was a balanced piece about media and justice. He said County Court chief judge Peter Kidd's comments were "very newsworthy" and raised issues about the efficacy of suppression orders in the digital age and whether other media reports were provocative.

Coultan is not charged over the *AFR*'s articles on national and international reports of Cardinal Pell's guilty verdict but gave evidence on 29 January on the newspaper's editorial system. *AFR* journalist Patrick Durkin and editor-in-chief Michael Stutchbury are among the individuals charged by the Victorian Director of Public Prosecutions. Coultan said Stutchbury was a "hands-on editor" and the pair relied on legal advice regarding decisions on whether to publish certain stories. He said the paper's in-house lawyers had a "much better knowledge" of the law than journalists and advised how to publish stories involving suppression orders.

The former editor of the *Age*, Alex Lavelle, told the court a report published in the *Age*'s print edition two days after the verdict was intended to tell readers why the paper couldn't report the case. He denied the intent of the report, which didn't name Cardinal Pell, was to pique readers' interest so they would go online and search for more information. However, he conceded it was "possible, but I wouldn't say likely". Justice John Dixon questioned Lavelle about whether he understood the suppression order included the publication of information derived from Cardinal Pell's trial, including information passed on by court reporters. Lavelle said he was focused on the suppression covering Cardinal Pell's identity and the nature of the charges, and he trusted his experienced media lawyers.

Plea deal: Major Australian media outlets may be fined millions after pleading guilty to breaching a suppression order in relation to Cardinal George Pell's trial on historical child sex abuse offences, in a deal with the Victorian Director of Public Prosecutions (*Australian*, 2 February 2021). News entities and individuals were facing 72 charges of breaching a suppression order and sub judice contempt over their reporting following the jury's guilty verdict in December 2018. The corporations behind outlets including the *Daily Telegraph*, *Courier-Mail*, 2GB, the *Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Australian Financial Review* will plead guilty to breaching the suppression order.

Cardinal Pell was convicted on charges relating to alleged sexual assaults on choir boys at St Patrick's Cathedral when Cardinal Pell was the Archbishop of Melbourne. The suppression order was in place ahead of a planned second trial of historical child sex abuse offences, known as the "swimmers' trial". However the charges were withdrawn and the trial did not proceed. Cardinal Pell's conviction was overturned by the High Court.

Barrister Lisa De Ferrari SC, acting for the DPP, said *sub judice* contempt charges against corporations including Fairfax, News Life Media, Mamamia.com.au and the company behind Channel 9's *Today* show will be discontinued as part of the agreement. She said charges against the individual journalists and editors would be withdrawn, including Michael Bachelard, Alex Lavelle, Michael Stutchbury, Ben English, Christine Ahern and Deborah Knight. "[The] Director has determined that it is in the public interest to withdraw the remaining charges," she said. She said the corporations had agreed to pay the DPP's costs.

111.1.4 Cameron Stewart says goodbye to Washington

Cameron Stewart has returned to Australia after four years as the *Australian's* Washington correspondent. He is now an associate editor, combining investigative reporting with feature writing for the *Weekend Australian Magazine*. His replacement in Washington is Adam Creighton, formerly the economics editor. Stewart's term as Washington correspondent coincided with the Trump presidency. He wrote about the experience as his term was ending (*Weekend Australian*, 16-17 January 2021, pp. 13, 16). Following is an extract:

As I watched the jaw-dropping sight of Donald Trump's supporters smashing their way into congress last week, I tried to recall the last time that America felt normal. Was there a single day in the past four years when the world was not fixated by this out-of-the-box president? Was there a fleeting moment when I did not have a major, if not a global, news story to cover as the *Australian's* Washington correspondent?

As the Trump era draws to a close this week, he leaves behind such a blizzard of news that just a single word or two triggers unshakeable memories: Comey. Russia. Little Rocket Man. Fire and Fury. Crooked Hillary. Turnbull phone call. Border wall. Scaramucci. Mueller. Kavanaugh. Ukraine. Impeachment. Hunter laptop. Fake News. Trade war. George Floyd. China virus. Face mask. Kamala. Sleepy Joe. Rigged election. Capitol siege.

All of this was still ahead of me when I arrived in Washington to take up the post in January 2017 and found myself, by accident, moving into the former home of the new vice-president Mike Pence. That experience gave me my first glimpse into how bitterly divided Americans were about their new president.

It was a cold winter day and I had shivered as I watched Donald Trump raise his right hand outside the Capitol building to become America's 45th president and Pence his new vice-president.

I was looking for a house to rent for myself, my wife and our then seven-year-old son and I asked a real estate agent to show me a pretty white house in the leafy suburb of Chevy Chase, about 15 minutes north of the White House. As we arrived outside, the agent said "welcome to the vice-president's home". "Pardon?" I replied.

It turned out that Pence had rented the house to live in for the months leading up to the inauguration. The sudden arrival in Washington of this conservative, pro-life, anti-same-sex marriage running mate of Trump caused my staunchly pro-Democrat neighbourhood to revolt. Rainbow flags hung in protest from every house in the street — except the Pence home.

On the day I visited, Pence was moving out to his new vice-presidential home, so the Secret Service agents let me in to inspect the property with Pence's furniture still inside.

We rented the house and moved in but after about 10 days it became obvious that something was wrong. Americans are a welcoming people, yet not a single neighbour knocked on our door. My wife guessed that they may think we were Republicans who were somehow still linked to Pence and the Trump White House so she placed an Australian flag in our front window.

It took only minutes for the first person to knock on our door, bearing cupcakes and declaring: "Welcome to the neighbourhood, we thought that you were Trump supporters." Within the hour another neighbour knocked, bearing a bottle of wine and a similar anti-Trump message. Then another. Then another. And then yet another. It was an example of the passionate political divide that I would see over and over again for four years as I crisscrossed the country to cover this unique, mercurial and deeply polarising president. ...

The sun is now setting on the Trump era. But it was the greatest news story in the world. It has been a wild ride and an exhilarating one to chronicle from the front row of history.

- Cameron Stewart was the *Australian's* New York correspondent, 1996-99, covering Bill Clinton's election victory, the Monica Lewinsky affair and the first spate of mass school shootings.

111.1.5 Deaths

Bowman, David Noel: D. 21 January 2021 in Sydney, aged 90; born in Adelaide; educated at Pulteney Grammar and Norwood High; won South Australian schoolboy chess championship in 1945 and open title in 1947, 1948 and 1951; became a junior draftsman with the South Australian Highways Department in late 1940s while studying engineering part-time; contributing chess reports to the Adelaide *News* led to the offer of a copy boy's job; at 19, became a cadet journalist; headed for London and worked on the *Junior Mirror*; back in Adelaide his career prospered under editorship of Rohan Rivett, who sent him to Canberra in a relieving role in 1957 and in 1960 as political correspondent; became assistant editor of Sydney's *Sunday Mirror*; in 1962 became editor of *Canberra Times*; Dobbyn says Bowman "applied stamina, resourcefulness and infinite attention to detail in lifting the quality and horizons of a thinly staffed paper still shaking off the provincialism of Canberra's bush capital days"; worked 14 to 16 hour days; stayed as editor when Fairfax bought the paper in 1964 and appointed John Pringle as managing editor over him, pouring in staff and resources to fight off Rupert Murdoch's new Canberra-based daily, the *Australian*; Pringle departed to edit the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1965 and Bowman followed him there in 1968 as executive assistant; Bowman became news editor in 1970 when Pringle left; in 1973 filled newly created post, executive editor, responsible for content of all Fairfax Sydney papers except editorials in the *Herald*, *Financial Review* and *National Times*; it was not a job he sought, believing editors should not look over the shoulders of other editors; notable conflict arose with Vic Carroll and Max Suich; in 1977, became editor-in-chief of the *Herald* and made widespread changes, giving new prominence to finance and the arts, more than doubled the space for readers' letters and enlarged the Saturday magazine; with authority over editorials for first time, he turned back the rigid conservatism that often marked the traditional *Herald* and sought to revive even-

handedness, reflecting liberal political and social attitudes; circulation remained stagnant, however, and began to slide again after a price rise in 1980; in a move worthy of Bowman's beloved chess, Suich became chief editorial executive in July 1980 and in a few months had delivered to Bowman the board's abrupt notice of dismissal (after Bowman had refused a seat on the Fairfax board); Carroll succeeded Bowman; and from the outside, Bowman was to watch ruefully, and with some admiration, as Carroll, with a staff increased by half, made spectacular changes; on leaving the *Herald* he chose permanent exile; did not respond to a subsequent overture from Fairfax; embraced a new career as an essayist and commentator, writing press criticism for *Australian Society*, *Adelaide Review*, *Sydney Review*, and *24 Hours*, the ABC's radio magazine; at London *Daily Telegraph*, his Australian obituaries were much admired; his spare, eloquent style used irony and wit in what was often powerful political writing of a kind seldom seen or welcomed in the Australian mainstream (Alan Dobbyn, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 January 2021).

Cochrane, Peter John: D. 9 January 2020 in Hobart, aged 65; born at Gunnedah, NSW; grew up on small farm; worked on *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth; to Sydney and worked in music industry promotions; moved back to Tamworth, married, returned to Sydney to sub-edit on the *Land*; to *Sydney Morning Herald* as a sub-editor in October 1982; became arts editor; was even-handed in ensuring the widest possible coverage across the arts spectrum, from rock to opera and the myriad points between; became deputy foreign editor in 2005 and foreign editor in November 2006; after a long separation from his first wife Kaylene, he fell in love with the *Herald's* night editor Miranda Harman and married her in Beaconsfield, Tasmania; they moved to Hobart at the end of 2008, where Miranda already had a job offer from the University of Tasmania; after time as a house husband, Peter, too, worked for the university in the communications office; remembered as a lovely personality (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 January 2021).

Hunter, Valma (née Lock): D. 20 December 2020 in Brisbane, aged 100; at age 14, awarded membership of the Royal Academy of Dancing during first visit to Australia by an RAD examiner; founding member of Queensland branch of the Queensland branch of the Australian Society of Operatic Dancing (1937), forerunner of Queensland Ballet Society (1954) and Ballet Theatre of Queensland (1962); married Colin Hunter; Colin and she owned and operated Press Clippings Australia, Queensland's premier newspaper clipping service, in the 1970s and 1980s; she was a member of the Queensland Division of the Military Historical Society of Australia (*Courier-Mail*, 23 December 2020).

MacCallum, Mungo Wentworth: D. 9 December 2020 at Ocean Shores, near Byron Bay, aged 78; his father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather were also Mungo MacCallum; political journalist for more than 55 years; educated at the Cranbrook School, Sydney, where he obtained a brilliant pass at the 1958 Leaving Certificate, and at Sydney University; temperamentally unsuited to the academic life favoured by his predecessors, he became a print journalist—at first with the *Australian*; moonlighted by contributing his choicest scuttlebutt to the *Oz Newsletter*; when Richard Walsh was seeking a Canberra correspondent for *Nation Review*, the lively weekly that Gordon Barton bankrolled, he [Walsh] asked Mungo to join them because it was clear Mungo's days were numbered at the *Australian*; also worked on *National Times* and *Sydney Morning Herald*, covering federal politics; frequently wrote for the magazine, the *Monthly*, and contributed political commentary to Australia's Community Radio Network, wrote columns for the *Byron Shire Echo* and the *Northern Star*, Lismore; at one stage he wrote cricket for the *Australian Financial Review*; prepared a weekly cryptic crossword for the *Saturday Paper*; during final quarter of his life, wrote 11 books and two *Quarterly Essays*; wrote *Run, Johnny, Run*, after the 2004 federal election; his autobiographical narrative of the Australian political scene, *Mungo: The Man who laughs*, has been reprinted four times (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 December 2020; *Age*, 22 December 2020, p.33; see editorial, *Saturday Paper*, 12-18 December 2020, p.14; two letters to the editor, *Saturday Paper*, 19 December 2020-22 January 2021, p.16).

Malone, Paul: D. 9 February 2021 in Brisbane, aged 59; began journalism career at the *Australian* in 1978; became a top sports writer at the *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane; with his own rich blend of hard news gathering and shrewd analysis, he covered more than 100 State of Origins, Kangaroo tours in rugby league, the birth of the Broncos and wrote books with Brent Tate and Allan Langer, who greatly admired his work; his broad brush included three Olympics, countless Australian Opens in tennis, and even the Rugby World Cup in 2003 where hard-marking tournament winning English

coach Sir Clive Woodward took him aside in a stairwell to praise his description of his England side as the best he had read; in 2001, after two non-stop weeks chronicling Lleyton Hewitt's US Open triumph in New York, he had enjoyed just a one day break when the 9-11 terrorist attack rocked the city; he switched gears immediately to cover shattered lives and the carnage unfolding just blocks away from his hotel; in mid-2019, was injured in a hospital fall and became a quadriplegic (*Courier-Mail*, 10 February 2021).

Wood, Alan: D. 27 December 2020 in Melbourne, aged 76; his mother died when he was six; educated at Randwick primary school and Sydney Boys High; became a copy boy and then a cadet journalist on the *Australian Financial Review*; Fairfax put him through ANU where he studied arts, majoring in economics; was one of a batch of new finance journalists (such as Max Walsh, Ken Davidson and Jules Zanetti) employed by Max Newton as editor of *Australian Financial Review* and later of *Australian*; Alan Howe says "they changed Australians' perceptions of economics reporting and, along the way, educated us about finance and trade policy, which, we discovered, were indivisible from politics"; after leaving the *AFR*, ran a respected independent economic consultancy, Syntec; wrote leading articles for *Sydney Morning Herald*; became long-term economics commentator for the *Australian*; covered more than 40 federal budgets and 50 state ones (*Australian*, 6 January 2021, obituary and editorial; *Australian Financial Review*, 5 January 2021).

111.1.6 *New Daily's* funding investigated

The prudential regulator is investigating online publication the *New Daily's* commercial relationships with superannuation funds as part of a review of how members' money is being spent by the industry. A senate motion has been passed to demand the ABC provide more details of its content-sharing agreement with the *New Daily*, which is worth less than \$50,000. But details of how the *New Daily* is funded and its advertising arrangements with superannuation funds are also being scrutinised by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority as part of an investigation into how trustee money is spent by the sector. This investigation should have preliminary findings by March (*Age*, 14 January 2021, p.22).

111.1.7 Vietnam press vet recognised at last

A war reporter's two-year campaign for recognition of service in Vietnam has finally been resolved with the Australian Army admitting it got it wrong (*Canberra Times*, 20 December 2020, p.2). David Brown will receive the Army Combat Badge in 2021 following two rejections and a public fight to have the decision overturned. Brown was a cadet journalist at the *Canberra Times* when he was conscripted to serve as a public relations officer in Vietnam. From 1964, he was one of 34 who recorded and reported the Vietnam War until Australia withdrew its forces in 1972.

Defence previously rejected the public relations officer's applications for the Army Combat Badge citing that personnel must have been assigned to a combat team for 90 days or deployed to their location. In mid-December Defence said the decision to overturn the rejection was based on the provision of additional evidence, as well as further analysis of Australian Army doctrine. Defence did not say what the additional information was. Asked whether the two-year battle could have been avoided and whether Defence acknowledged the application process was convoluted, Defence said no.

"The onus for the provision of evidence always rests with the applicant," the spokesperson said. "Army retains confidence in its policy for the Army Combat Badge." Now living in Thailand, Brown said it was never about the right to show off the medal, it was about rightly writing history. It corrects what I believe was a historical inaccuracy," he said.

111.1.8 Oh Matilda! Novel team project

The *Australian* published a serialised novel from the end of December until the end of February, with each chapter written by a different author, many of them journalists or former journalists. The novel was called *Oh Matilda! Who Bloody Killed Her?* The serial began on 28 December and chapters were published on Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Saturday. The chapters can be accessed at OhMatilda.com.au/ Twenty-five writers were involved. They were Caroline Overington, Gideon Haigh, Trent Dalton, Dan Box, Emma Harcourt, Fiona Harari, Marlee Silva, Gary Jubelin,

Peter Lalor, Greg Bearup, Joe Hildebrand, Shankjari Chandran, Gail Bell, William McInnes, Charles Wooley, Carl Findlay, Stan Grant, Paige Taylor, Damien Woolnough, Claire Harvey, Tim Ayliffe, Siobhan McKenna, Meg Keneally, Nikki Gemmell, and Tom Keneally. Keneally's finale appeared in the *Weekend Australian* on 27-28 February.

111.1.9 Age creates year's report for readers

The *Age*, Melbourne, has created a report for readers that looks at some of the biggest stories of 2020 and their impact on the community. A series on the alleged war crimes of Special Air Service Regiment soldiers. An investigation into Crown Resorts and revelations of sexual harassment by High Court judge Dyson Heydon were among the biggest stories to instigate change. There were also the revelations of branch stacking within Victorian Labor, the national sports rorts scandal and the failure of Victoria's hotel quarantine program (*Age*, 18 December 2020, p.2).

111.1.10 Science newsletter launched

The *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* launched *Examine*, a weekly science newsletter in late January. Written and edited by national science reporter, Liam Mannix, the newsletter provides evidence-based health and science news and analysis (*Telum Media Alert*, 8 January 2021).

111.1.11 Award recognises indigenous affairs reporting

The Melbourne Press Club has announced a new award for indigenous reporting. It will become part of Victoria's annual Quill awards (*Telum Media Alert*, 22 January 2021). The award will be The Quill for Recognising Excellence in Indigenous Affairs Reporting. It will celebrate the reporting of indigenous voices, particularly stories which encourage societal debate, visibility and pride in Victorian indigenous culture and policy change. Both indigenous and non-indigenous journalists may contest the award.

111.1.12 Communist Party and Australian media

At least four Chinese-language media companies operating in Australia have financial links to the Chinese Communist Party and at least 17 are connected to Beijing's overseas influence arm, according to new research that also highlights the role of WeChat in controlling media outlets (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 December 2020, p.8). The research was conducted by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

111.1.13 Protecting press freedom

Law enforcement agencies will need a warrant from a Supreme or Federal Court judge before raiding journalists under a range of press freedom reforms agreed to by the Morrison government (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 December 2020, p.14). Attorney-General Christian Porter said the government would adopt all 16 recommendations made by Parliament's intelligence and security committee, following its inquiry into the impact of law enforcement powers on the freedom of the press.

111.1.14 Businesswoman wins suit against columnist

In the Federal Court, Justice Michael Lee has ruled Rear Window columns by Joe Aston at the heart of a libel action by businesswoman Elaine Stead against the *Australian Financial Review* convey four defamatory imputations, including that Dr Stead is a "cretin" and "rashly destroyed the capital of business ventures with which she was associated" (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 December 2020, pp.14-15). The trial of the action finished on 11 December.

27 January 2021: Former Blue Sky director Elaine Stead has been awarded \$280,000 in damages in her defamation case against *Financial Review* columnist Joe Aston, who she argued, had made her out to be "reckless" and "stupid" (*Australian*, 27 January 2021). In a lengthy judgment delivered on 27 January, Justice Michael Lee awarded Dr Stead \$280,000 in ordinary and aggravated damages against Aston and his employer Nine Entertainment Co. relating to two columns and a tweet penned by Aston in 2019. In a statement, Nine said it was "disappointed by the court's decision", and the amount of damages was dwarfed by legal fees racked up by both sides in the case, "which exceed \$2 million".

8 February: Nine Entertainment will pay out more than \$2.5 million after Elaine Stead was awarded most of her costs in her defamation case against *AFR* columnist Joe Aston. In the Federal Court on 8 February, Judge Michael Lee awarded Dr Stead “indemnity costs” in the matter, from 22 April 2020 when St Stead offered to settle for a \$190,000 payout (*Australian*, 9 February 2021, p.3).

111.1.15 Newspaper fluctuations in NSW in 2020

Brendan Somes, of the State Library of NSW, has kindly supplied a list of NSW-based newspapers affected by suspensions of printing and closures from 2020 and a list of “new starts”.

Titles no longer in print:

Seventy-five NSW newspapers **ceased publication** in 2020; 43 of these also ceased to have a digital presence. The 75 to cease printing were:

Lakes Times Advertiser (26 February); *Armidale Express* (14 August; now digital only); *Armidale Express Extra* (March); *Australian Panorama Arabic News* (digital only from March); *Ballina Shire Advocate* (24 June); *Barraba Gazette* (8 April); *Bellingen Shire Courier-Sun* (8 April); *Blacktown Advocate* (8 April); *Bombala Times* (12 August); *Border News* (30 March); *Braidwood Times* (1 April); *Canterbury Bankstown Express* (8 April); *Central Coast Express Advocate* (8 April); *Coastal Views* (26 June); *Coffs Coast Advocate* (27 June); *Cootamundra Herald* (August); *Crookwell Gazette* (9 April); *Daily Examiner*, Grafton (28 June); *Dungog Chronicle* (8 April); *Eastern Riverina Chronicle* (8 April); *Eurobodalla Shire Independent* (9 April); *Manning-Great Lakes Extra* (2 April); *Fairfield Advance* (2 April); *Guardian News*, Nambucca (12 August); *Guyra Argus* (16 April); *Harden-Murrumburrah Express* (9 April); *Highlands Post*, Bowral (9 April); *Hills Shire Times* (8 April); *Horizon = Gorizont*, Sydney (26 March); *Hornsby Advocate* (8 April); *Hunter Valley News*, Muswellbrook (8 April); *Inner West Courier* (8 April); *Inner West Times* (28 October); *Kiama Independent* (1 April); *Lakes Mail* (9 April); *Leader*, Wagga Wagga (8 April); *Lismore Echo* (ca June); *Liverpool Leader* (8 April); *Macarthur Chronicle*, Camden and Wollondilly eds. (1 April); *Macarthur Chronicle*, Campbelltown ed. (8 April); *Maitland and Lower Hunter Star* (April); *Manly Daily* (11 April); *Manning Community News* (2020); *Moruya Examiner* (17 April); *Muswellbrook Chronicle* (17 April); *Namoi Valley Independent*, Gunnedah (13 August); *Narromine News* (8 April); *Nichigo Press*, Sydney (monthly; 30 April); *North West Magazine* (10 August); *Northern District Times* (8 April); *Northern Star*, Lismore (28 June); *Nyngan Observer* (8 April); *Oberon Review* (2020); *Observer*, Collyer Point (8 April); *Parramatta Advertiser* (8 April); *Penrith Press* (8 April); *Port Macquarie Express* (12 August); *Post Weekly* (9 April); *Queanbeyan Age* (7 April); *Richmond River Express Examiner* (June); *Rural Weekly* (26 June); *Scone Advocate* (9 April); *Southern Courier*, Sydney (April); *Southern Cross*, June (9 April); *Star*, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie (8 April); *Thai Press* (2020); *Town & Country Magazine*, Goulburn (11 August); *Tweed Daily News* (28 June); *Walcha News* (16 April); *Wauchope Gazette* (9 April); *Wellington Times* (8 April); *Wingham Chronicle* (12 August); *Wollondilly Advertiser* (24 March); *Yass Tribune* (8 April).

New titles:

The following new **weekly** titles appeared in areas normally served by country or suburban newspapers: *Coast Community Chronicle* (print & digital, or p&d), *Coast Community Pelican Post* (print), *News of the Area: Coffs Coast* (first print issue, 18 September 2020), *News of the Area: Myall Coast* (print: 16 July), *News of the Area: Port Stephens* (print: 16 July), *Northern River Times* (p&d; first issue: August), *Parra News* (p&d; first issue 3 November), *Southern Highlands express* (p&d; first issue 2020); *Regional Independent*, Bungendore (2020); *Richmond River Independent* (2020);

New **monthly** titles in 2020: *Hornsby Kuring-Gai Post* (p&d; began October), *North Sydney Sun* (p&d; monthly; first issue: 10 December), *Parramatta Times* (p&d; first issue September). Online only is the *Hunter River Times* (began 2020).

111.1.16 People

Simon Benson has been appointed political editor of the *Australian*. He was formerly the national affairs editor. **Dennis Shanahan** is now the national editor for the paper, covering federal and state politics as well as public policy. He has been a member of the *Australian's* political team since

1989. **Geoff Chambers** is now the paper's chief political correspondent (*Telum Media Alert*, 15 February 2021).

Ticky Fullerton has been appointed business editor at large for the *Australian* (*Weekend Australian*, 23-24 January 2021, p.2). Widely respected at the highest levels of corporate Australia, Fullerton will write broadly on the most important issues facing business operators and investors as the nation emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Her appointment comes as News Corp sets up the Australian Business Network to provide expanded business journalism across its metropolitan mastheads in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

James Morrow, formerly opinion editor at the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, has been appointed federal political editor. He is dividing his time between Canberra and Sydney (*Telum Media Alert*, 10 February 2021).

Paul Starick, formerly chief reporter for the *Adelaide Advertiser* and *Sunday Mail*, is now the editor at large for the *Advertiser*. Starick has worked as a journalist for nearly 30 years and has worked in Adelaide, Canberra and New York. He reports directly to the editor, Matt Deighton and now helps oversee a new-look state political reporting team (*Telum Media Alert*, 19 February 2021).

111.1.17 Media landscape: 'diversity, not monopoly'

News Corp Australasia executive chairman Michael Miller has told a Senate inquiry into media diversity that the industry is a "picture of diversity, not monopoly" (*Weekend Australian*, 20-21 February 2021). Miller told the hearing on 19 February that Australians accessed their information from a range of sources on different mediums. "The old habits of reading just one newspaper, choosing one radio or TV station, are being replaced by a world embracing unlimited information," he said. "Diversity is not just about ownership. It's about the diversity of views and diversity of sources. And, importantly, the incredible diversity in the way people now access news and information. Australians are smart people who make up their own minds about what media they consume, who they back politically."

Royal commission won't proceed: The federal government has formally advised the Governor-General that Kevin Rudd's campaign for a royal commission into media diversity has failed (*Australian*, 22 February 2021).

111.1.18 Photographic display at State Library of NSW

The annual Photos1440 exhibition is open at the State Library of NSW until 25 April. The exhibition looks back over the past decade of key events and moments as seen through the lenses of *Sydney Morning Herald* photographers. Some of the images have already become iconic, such as the shot of two firefighters racing for safety as the Green Wattle Creek fire exploded from bushland in a cloud of sparks; the memorable photo of a Sydney Boys High School student and his grandmother touching their hands on opposite sides of a window during COVID isolation; the pic of a young Indigenous woman wearing an "I Can't Breathe" T-shirt taking a moment for quiet reflection during a Black Lives Matter march. Admission to the exhibition is free.

111.1.19 Reporter and shield laws

A secret court case before Queensland's Court of Appeal that could affirm the right of the corruption watchdog to compel journalists to reveal confidential sources has prompted renewed calls for the Palaszczuk government to establish shield laws to protect journalists and whistleblowers (*Australian*, 22 February 2021). A Brisbane television journalist fighting the Crime and Corruption Commission's attempts to force him to reveal the identity of a police source came before the court in Brisbane on 19 February, when reporters wishing to cover the landmark case were made to wait outside the courtroom for a majority of the hearing. Unusually, the matter was not included on the publicly released court list.

If the journalist, dubbed Witness F, fails in his appeal bid, he could be forced back before the CCC star chamber and threatened with a \$26,690 fine or five years in prison if he refuses to answer questions. The secretive hearing on 19 February prompted the media union to launch a renewed call for the Palaszczuk government to follow through on an election commitment to investigate

protections offered to journalists in other states and consider whether similar laws could be introduced in Queensland.

111.1.20 Journalist, photographer mistakenly arrested

Victoria Police has apologised after a journalist and photographer were arrested while reporting on an anti-vaccination protest in Melbourne on 20 February (*news.com.au*, 21 February 2021). *Herald Sun* reporter Olivia Jenkins and senior photographer Jake Nowakowski were led away in handcuffs by police as anti-vax demonstrators clashed with officers at Fawkner Park. In a statement on Sunday afternoon, a police spokeswoman said the force was “very sorry” the two were caught up in the incident and confirmed they would not be fined. Police were unsure whether they really were members of the media or people posing as media members.



111.2.1 Google, Facebook and the news

* **Google** is burying links from traditional media outlets in some of its search results as its dramatically escalates its ongoing dispute with mainstream publishers (*Australian*, 14 January 2021, p.1). The company said in a statement that the move was part of a “short-term experiment”. It means that, for some users, news stories from commercial news outlets are being hidden by Google’s algorithms.

* **Journalist** Adam Creighton writes (*Australian*, 14 January 2021, p.2) about being part of the Google experiment. Nick Tabakoff wrote similarly in his column, “The Diary”, in the Media section of the *Australian*, 1 February 2021, p.20.

* **Australian** tech luminary Scott Farquhar has waded into the increasingly bitter fight between news publishers and Google, after Treasurer Josh Frydenberg criticised Google for blocking news links for some Australian users and declared the tech giants should focus on paying for news, rather than burying it (*Australian*, 14 January 2021). Speaking at a press conference on 14 January, Frydenberg, who has helped steer the government’s handling of the tech giants, said he wouldn’t be deterred from pursuing world-first media bargaining legislation that would force Google and Facebook to pay for news. “Google, Facebook and other digital giants should focus not on blocking users in Australian accessing domestic content, they should focus on paying for it. The digital giants should focus on paying for original content, not blocking it. That’s my message to those digital giants,” he said.

“We have introduced legislation, that’s now before a Senate committee, to put in place a world leading mandatory code to see those digital giants pay traditional news media businesses a fair sum of money for those news media businesses generating original content. That is a world leading scheme we are putting in place, it has been acknowledged not just by regulatory agencies but by other governments around the world. It is going to have a final arbitration model in place, and it is going to be a very significant advancement for our domestic media businesses.”

In a dramatic escalation of an ongoing dispute between mainstream publishers and the tech giant, Google said on 13 January it was burying links from traditional media outlets in some of its search results. If world-first media bargaining legislation passes, Google and Facebook would be forced into mediation with publishers over the value of their news, and face fines of up to \$10m if they fail to comply.

Scott Farquhar, the billionaire co-founder of Australian tech giant Atlassian, said Google was being backed into a corner and would likely be forced to exit Australia. “The precedent of charging for links and snippets is a fundamental threat to the open internet, not just Google,” he told the *Australian*. “The way the legislation is currently drafted is crazily restrictive; the media industry and the government are backing Google into an impossible corner. “The way we look at it, the only rational move is for Google to exit Australia. And that is massively damaging to our country; it damages our GDP, our business communities, our education systems, and almost every part of our lives.”

* **Google Australia** boss Melanie Silva has claimed newly proposed laws to make the tech giant pay news outlets for use of content would “break” the search engine and change the experience for its users (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 December 2020, p.21). Silva has rejected a final version of the federal government’s news media bargaining code, which was tabled in parliament in mid-December. She argues it remains unworkable and fails to understand how search engines operate.

* **Google** has backflipped on plans to halt the local launch of its news product in an attempt to prove to the federal government it is a better way of paying media companies than newly proposed laws (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 January 2021). The change of heart by the \$US1.8 trillion (\$2.3 trillion) search advertising giant to roll out Google News Showcase as early as February comes as competition tsar Rod Sims said the tech giant only did deals with news outlets in France after intervention from the regulator.

***Competition watchdog** chief Rod Sims has flagged potential court action against Google, as the country’s major media organisations backed the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission’s push to check the technology giant’s market power. The ACCC issued an interim report from its digital advertising services inquiry on 28 January, accusing Google of abusing its dominance of the \$3.4 billion sector, leading to a lack of competition and transparency.

***The US government’s** trade office has been urged to retract its objections to the mandatory news media bargaining code in Australia, amid accusations that its public stance against the Morrison government’s legislation was a threat to high-quality journalism and stained America’s global reputation (*Australian*, 1 February 2021, p.19).

* **The global** news media industry is at a “pivotal moment” in its history, as governments move to rein in the unchecked market power and dysfunction of the digital platforms, News Corp chief executive Robert Thomson has declared (*Weekend Australian*, 6-7 February 2021, pp.21-22). Handing down the media major’s second quarter results, Thomson warned of the creeping growth of the tech titans in the sector, and spoke of the worldwide push to regulate them, including through Canberra’s news media bargaining code.

Seattle-based Microsoft said in the first week of February it would back the media bargaining code, which requires digital platforms to pay news media organisations for the use of their content. Both Google and Facebook have held talks with the Morrison government but are yet to endorse the code. Thomson’s comments came as News Corp more than doubled its December quarter net profit to \$A343.4m, helped by a better-than-expected jump in revenue, as the media major saw a surge in subscriptions and advertising across its digital platforms.

* **Tech giants Google** and Facebook will have to pay an agreed annual lump sum to publishers for their news content, rather than per click or snippet, as part of a handful of minor changes to the government’s mandatory media bargaining code (*Australian*, 17 February 2021). The government will also simplify the requirements for Google and Facebook to give notice of algorithm changes, which had been a key sticking point of the tech giants over the code. As Google continues crunch talks with a raft of publishers, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Communications Minister Paul Fletcher said the government would by 19 February introduce five “technical” amendments to the landmark code.

* **Millions of Australians** who rely on Facebook for information on public health, disability services and emergency warnings were dangerously cut adrift by the social media giant on 18 February when it blocked access to a range of its online pages, in a botched protest over the federal government’s proposed news media laws (*Australian*, 19 February 2021). The blackout — intended to erase the presence of legitimate Australian news content on local Facebook feeds, due to the

digital platform's ongoing refusal to pay for it — left the US-owned company with “significant” reputational damage, as the ban engulfed community groups with no links to news organisations. The main health department sites in NSW, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT, all of which publish critical information about the coronavirus pandemic, were inaccessible via Facebook for several hours on 18 February, as were the nation's most authoritative online resources on bowel cancer and dementia.

* **Ticky Fullerton** writes: In his blunt action to delete news from the Facebook platform, Mark Zuckerberg has demonstrated beyond doubt that Facebook is a publisher (*Australian*, 19 February 2021). By choosing the pages it wants to display for the public, Facebook's behaviour goes to the heart of what it is to be a publisher—curation.

* **Facebook** was quickly becoming a “misinformation nightmare” on 19 February, with new data showing cat memes, satire and conspiracy theories were replacing genuine news content (*Weekend Australian*, 20-21 February 2021). Nine of the 10 most popular links shared on Facebook on 19 February were from satire websites.

* **Vaccine ads pulled:** A major advertising campaign to ease public concerns around coronavirus vaccinations has been pulled from Facebook amid the widening fallout over the government's battle with the social media giant (*Australian*, 22 February 2021). Health Minister Greg Hunt revealed on 21 February his department would no longer use paid Facebook posts to give its vaccination program greater prominence in users' feeds, relying instead on other platforms and traditional media.

* **Google News Showcase grows:** Seven West Media was the first of a string of more than 50 Australian media companies to sign up with Google to feature their news content on the News Showcase product after weeks of negotiation. The publications will be able to control which of their stories are made available to News Showcase readers and how those stories are presented (*theguardian.com/media*, 15 February 2021; *Telum Media Alert*, 22 February 2021). See ANHG 111.3.1 below.

* **Facebook “re-friends Australia”:** Facebook has overturned its ban on Australian news content after breakthrough discussions between Josh Frydenberg and Mark Zuckerberg that have paved the way for the tech titan to strike media deals with companies (*Australian*, 24 February 2021). Treasurer Frydenberg said, “Facebook has re-friended Australia.” He spoke to Facebook founder Zuckerberg six times in the 36 hours before the announcement on 23 February, convincing him to overturn his company's blackout on Australian news content, and brokering minor amendments to the federal government's news media bargaining code that lured Facebook back to the negotiating table.

The amended legislation passed through the Senate on 24 February. It will become law if passed against by the House of Representatives.

111.2.2 Facebook page for funerals

In response to the end of printing by their local daily newspaper, the people of Mackay, Queensland, have set up a Facebook page to keep them up to date with deaths and funerals. The link is: <https://mackayfuneralnotices.com.au/> At 21 January, 1281 liked this page and 1510 people followed it.

111.2.3 Manly and Bendigo: New news outlets

Manly: A former newspaper editor, media all-rounder and public relations officer, Kim Smee, has launched a hyperlocal online news outlet for Manly, NSW. The *Manly Observer* is covering general news, as well as health, food and lifestyle topics in suburbs around Manly. Nutritionist and freelance editor/writer Faye James is the lifestyle editor alongside freelancer, Wendy Kay (*Telum Media Alert*, 22 January 2021).

Bendigo: A digital news platform, the *Bendigo News*, launched on 1 February. This site is part of New Corp's Leader group of local news outlets across Victoria. Zizi Averill is the publication's sole journalist and covers all major stories in the greater Bendigo region, with a particular focus on

breaking news, court, crime, local government and business. Averill was formerly with the *Daily Mercury*, Mackay (*Telum Media Alert*, 29 January 2021).



3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

111.3.1 ACM seals Google Showcase deal

Regional media company ACM, the owner of this masthead, has joined other Australian independent publishers in the launch of a curated news experience to reach Google users (*Canberra Times*, 6 February 2021, p.43). Google News Showcase, announced last year as part of the internet giant's \$US1billion global investment in news partnerships, went live on 5 February across a number of Australian news brands, including ACM's *Canberra Times*, *Newcastle Herald* and *Illawarra Mercury*. The new digital product allows publishers to control when and how their news content is presented to readers rather than relying solely on Google's algorithm to surface their articles. Content published in Google News Showcase is curated in "panels", which carry the publication's branding and are designed to engage mobile users and make it easier for them to find, browse and access articles. Google says it has signed News Showcase deals with seven Australian publishers with 25 titles, including the *Saturday Paper*, the *Conversation* and the *New Daily*.

ACM started using the tool to post content from three of its most popular news websites, including the latest local headlines curated for morning audiences in Canberra, Newcastle and Wollongong. The approach was gradually extended to all 14 of the company's daily mastheads over the following weeks, including the *Examiner* in Tasmania and *Bendigo Advertiser* in Victoria.

111.3.2 King Island paper closes

The *King Island Courier* ceased publication on 11 November 2020. The editor, Kathleen Hunter, did not blame COVID-19. She said she simply could not find someone to continue the publication. "I have produced the *King Island Courier* for nearly 17 years and now, with nobody to hand the 'pen' to, I have made the decision to close the newspaper," she said. "It has been an honour to support the island's community groups in their passions and projects for the last two decades." The weekly newspaper was published for 37 years.



At the time of the 2016 census there were almost 1,600 people living on King Island. King Island mayor Julie Arnold said the newspaper had been the main source of communication for the island during the COVID-19 pandemic. "It was such a huge emotional support for our community — we've lost a major asset," she said (ABC online news, 13 November 2020).

Rod Kirkpatrick wrote in *A Short History of the Australian Country Press*: "On King Island, part of Tasmania, there have been two newspapers since the beginning of the 20th century: the *King Island News*, 1912-1986, and the *King Island Courier* since 1984."

111.3.3 *Galah* a 'love letter to regional Australia'

Writer Annabelle Hickson launched a country magazine with a month left of 2020 without even making plans for publishing advertising. Her magazine, *Galah*, focuses on people and businesses

that keep regional Australia running. The website promotes *Galah* as a “love letter to regional Australia”. Hickson is a former Sydney journalist who married a pecan farmer and moved to a farm 80 km west of Tenterfield in northern NSW. She said, “You read so much about regional Australia through a sort of lens of disadvantage—the terrible drought... you can’t find work, it’s hard to get access to medical stuff, it’s all hardship. But my own experience has been one of enormous advantage. I want to reflect all the amazing, smart, interesting people I would see when I looked around me but I also want it to be a bridge between the country and the city, to educate city people that these are not second-rate lives.

During 2020 News Corp Australia and Australian Community Media, the biggest two newspaper publishers in regional areas, slashed costs dramatically by closing print editions or reducing their frequency of publication because of sharp falls in advertising revenue. Australia’s magazine industry was on its knees, too.

Galah, with more than 140 pages, will appear three times a year. Contributors to issue 1 include Trisha Dixon, Jayne Cuddihy, Tim Ross, Sophie Hansen, Michelle Crawford, Claire Takacs and Annabelle Hickson herself. Theme for the issue is “Limitations” (*Age*, 7 December 2020, p.26).

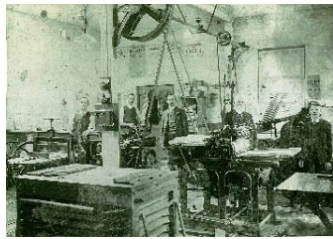
111.3.4 Hyperlocal magazines focus on postcode areas

Local magazine publisher, Neighbourhood Media, is expanding its list of hyperlocal titles throughout Sydney (*Telum Media Alert*, 27 January 2021). The publisher produces quarterly magazines for communities, each named after the area’s specific postcode. Titles aim to share community news, profiles and features, as well as highlighting local features and attractions, with 5000 hard copies distributed per issue, as well as an e-magazine. Founder and publisher, Georgina Pengelly, has had more than eight years in media sales and has worked for media outlets, including Pedestrian TV, the *Brag Magazine*, and the *Music and Fashion Journal*. In late January Neighbourhood Media was publishing four magazines: *2042* (Newtown), *2074* (Turrumurra), *2075* (St Ives) and *2066* (Lane Cove). It planned to launch three new titles in February: *2010* (Surry Hills), *2037* (Glebe), and *2099* (Dee Why).

111.3.5 Loddon: *Herald* fills gap left by *Times*

The *Loddon Herald* began publication on 28 January as a free weekly. The *Herald* is circulating throughout communities of the Loddon Shire in central-northern Victoria and is also available online. These communities had been without a newspaper since closure of the Elliott group’s *Loddon Times* when COVID restrictions hit in March 2020. The first edition of 12 pages was printed by Shepparton-based Newsprinters at its Wodonga press site.

Managing editor and owner/publisher of the *Loddon Herald* is Chris Earl. He started his career as a cadet with the *Bendigo Advertiser* in the late 1970s before editing the *Ararat Advertiser*, then a tri-weekly, for seven years. He became a sub-editor on the Melbourne *Sun* and later the *Bendigo Advertiser*, and served as an advisor to Coalition MPs and filled the media and communications assignments.



4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

111.4.1 First reporter on *Goulburn Herald*

Janette Pelosi, of Sydney, supplied the following from the *Goulburn Herald and Chronicle*, 17 July 1867, p.2:

FATAL ACCIDENT. —We have to record the death of Mr J. G. McNeilly, by accident. The particulars of this melancholy occurrence are as follows: — Mr McNeilly, who we may add was family tutor to Mr Kiley, of Spring Creek, set out from home to visit Tumut on Wednesday last, and having completed his business started on his return. He stopped at the Bomboleee inn on Wednesday night, and resumed his journey on Thursday morning (having indulged pretty freely in drink), in company with Maurice Kiley, and after riding a short distance the deceased galloped on, Kiley following at a slower pace. Some few minutes later Kiley arrived at a tree, near the foot of which Mr McNeilly lay just breathing his last. The young man then came back to the inn to obtain assistance, and had deceased brought there. Mr McNeilly was fifty-seven years of age. In his pockets were found three £1 notes, a letter from his father, and some minor articles. Deceased was one of the early colonial parliamentary reporters, but for many years past had pursued the vocation of tutor. His relatives reside at Hobart-town, and are retired from business. —*Tumut Times*. — [Mr McNeilly was the first reporter employed on the staff of the *Goulburn Herald*.]

Janette Pelosi says: The NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages 8028/1867 records that his name was John G. McNeilly (Deaths 8028/1867), his father was Samuel and he died at Tumut. From Suesrels (<https://suesrels.wordpress.com/tumut-cemetery/>) John G. McNeilly was buried in Tumut Cemetery, age 57.

111.4.2 Interruption (1): War

Portland Guardian, 16 April 1942, p.1: Because of war conditions the *Casterton News* will be published only once a week, the first interruption that this paper has had over a period of 67 years. One of the papers published in the Gippsland district for many years past has ceased publication, and several other provincial newspapers in Victoria have considerably reduced the size of their publications. Further drastic cuts in the present consumption of newsprint can be expected.

111.4.3 Interruption (2): Cable communication

Brisbane Courier, 24 January 1894, p.4: Owing to an interruption on the Port Darwin telegraph line between Daly Waters and Katherine, no cable messages have yet come to hand. The Western Australian lines have also been interrupted since the recent heavy gales in the northern portion of that colony, so that the alternative cable from Java to Roebuck Bay is for the present useless, and until one or other of the land lines is again in working order cable communication is entirely out off. As the report of the Weather Bureau shows that very stormy and unsettled weather still prevails in the Northern Territory, and is likely to continue, it may possibly be some little time before communication is again restored.

111.4.4 Interruption (3): Printers strike

Advocate, Burnie, 9 October 1944, p.5: SYDNEY, Sunday. - Through an industrial dispute, Sydney has been without Saturday and Sunday newspapers. Late tonight arrangements were being made by the proprietors to issue a skeleton four-page joint issue of all the Sydney daily papers tomorrow. They decided that a paper bearing the name of the *Sydney Sun*, *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Sydney Morning Herald* be issued from the office of the *Herald*. Members of the *Sydney Morning Herald* P.I.E.U. chapel at a meeting late today decided they would not handle the publication and ceased work.

A skeleton staff has been formed to handle the 4-page paper. The dispute originated in the office of the Sydney *Sun* over the unionists' demand for improved conditions. The *Sun* has not published since Friday afternoon. The Industrial Commission will be asked tomorrow morning to deal with the dispute as an urgent measure. It is the first time in the history of Sydney newspapers that a strike has interrupted publication. At a meeting of the board of management of the P.I.E.U. on Wednesday the *Sun* chapel submitted a motion the effect of which was to negotiate for cancellation of the present award between the union and the newspapers, and obtain a new one containing a 40-hour week and four weeks' annual holiday. Despite opposition from some union officials, the motion was carried, and the *Sun* chapel immediately sought and was refused a conference with the *Sun* management.

When an ultimatum was issued to the management by the chapel, the matter was referred to the Industrial Commission. The president of the commission (Mr Justice Taylor) suggested a conference between the parties on the matter at issue, the result to be reported to the commission within a week. The *Sun* management and employees' representatives met at 9am yesterday, and it was mutually agreed to adjourn until tomorrow morning. An hour later, as the morning edition was about to go to press, P.I.E.U. members sought deletion of one paragraph of an abbreviated report of Friday's proceedings before the commission which the *Sun* intended to publish, but the request was not met. The members ceased work, and members of the two other unions joined them. The *Daily Mirror's* morning edition was published fully, and the first afternoon edition published appeared carrying a front-page heading that it was published as a combined edition of the *Sun* and *Daily Mirror*.

A few thousand copies of this paper were distributed before the attention of the *Daily Mirror* chapel members was drawn to the position, and they too ceased work. *Sunday Telegraph* employees stopped work when they were asked to produce a joint issue of the *Sunday Telegraph* and *Truth*. *Sydney Morning Herald* members of the P.I.E.U. declined to work after they had been asked to produce the *Sunday Sun*. The N.S.W. district of the A.J.A. tonight decided to instruct all its members to carry out their normal duties for their own newspapers, but not to work for the proposed four-page skeleton paper.

111.4.5 New at ADB website

The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* has recently added to its website a new batch of entries for subjects who died in 1996. A full list may be found at: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biographies/search/?sortBy=search>

Some entries that may be of interest to newspaper researchers include:

- Blunden, Godfrey Verge (Geof) (1906-1996) journalist, war correspondent and author.
- Davidson, Francis Joseph (Frank) (1904-1996) journalist and newspaper editor.
- Drain, Dorothy Simpson (Dot) (1909-1996) journalist and magazine editor.
- Green, Evan Clifford (1930-1996) rally driver, journalist, broadcaster and author.
- Lillye, Albert John (Bert) (1919-1996) sports journalist and racing administrator.

The ADB website now includes an entry on Chu Van Hop (1946-1995), newspaper proprietor:

111.4.6 Victor Dumas and Mount Barker: 100 years ago

The *Australasian Journalist* introduced a "Biographies in Brief" series in 1921. Victor Dumas was featured in the issue of 15 March 1921 (p.63), 100 years ago next month. C.R. Wilton wrote:

The first issue of that very successful South Australian provincial paper, the *Mount Barker Courier*, was published on October 1, 1880. About a week earlier I was at an hotel at Palmer, a small town on the Murray flats, when the landlord said to me: "There's a new paper to be published at Mount Barker, and the editor has asked me to send something for the first number. Nothing ever happens at Palmer, and I don't know what to do. I wish you would give me a tip. What shall I write about?" I asked. "Oh, any old thing," he replied, and I followed his specification. So a contribution of mine appeared in the first number of the *Courier*.

At that time I had no thought of journalism as a profession, but I was appointed editor exactly a year afterwards, and I have been associated with the paper, either in that capacity or as city correspondent for 39 years. The paper has had on its staff men who have since made good in journalism, including Mr C.F. Taylor and Mr G.F. Harrison, now of the *Sun*, Sydney. I knew Mr Harrison as a very young but promising junior. His father, who lived in Mount Barker for some years, was a cultured man, a brilliant writer and a good linguist. He wrote a book which became

quite celebrated. I saw a guinea given for a second-hand copy at the dispersal sale, 30 years ago, of the library of Mr J.W. Tyas, Registrar of the Adelaide University.

The first editor of the *Courier* was that fine scholar and gentleman, Victor Dumas, father of the founder and grandfather of Mr Lloyd Dumas, of the *Argus*, Melbourne. He was the descendant of a noble French family, who were driven from Paris by the great Revolution, and he certainly looked the part. He once told me that when Blucher came to London, after the battle of Waterloo, he was with his father at a reception, when Blucher picked him up in his arms and spoke to him of the defeat of Napoleon, and the better prospect opened for the Royalists. Victor Dumas was educated at the celebrated Merchant Taylors School in London, and there is hanging in the *Courier* office an engraving of the old schoolroom, showing a table on which the name "Victor Dumas", cut deeply with a knife, appears among those of his contemporaries and predecessors. I helped to carry him to his grave in the cemetery at St James' Church, Blakiston, the oldest country church in South Australia.

111.4.7 Flashback 100 (1): New papers hit Melbourne tracks

This is the first of a series of flashbacks to items in the *ANHG Newsletter* 100 issues ago (20 years ago). This extract is from *ANHG* No. 11.

News Ltd announced its first, but John Fairfax published its first: a commuter newspaper for Melbourne. Fairfax launched their *Melbourne Express* on the morning of 5 February [2001], and News Ltd their *MX* on the afternoon of the same day. Both companies distributed about 60,000 copies of the 32-page tabloid papers. News Ltd's *MX*, a full-colour production, is aimed at the 18 to 39 year old audience; Fairfax's *Express* is aimed at a slightly older audience. News has secured exclusive distribution rights at rail platforms and will eventually provide the papers to commuters in bins; Fairfax said it would continue to employ people to hand out the *Express* outside train stations and elsewhere. According to *MX*'s rate card, a full page ad costs \$4,500; in the *Express* it costs \$4,256.

On 26 January the *Age* had reported the impending News Ltd commuter paper. John Fairfax Holdings had planned a similar paper called *Express* in Melbourne and Sydney in May 2000, but abandoned the idea once News threatened to launch a rival publication. On 25 January Julian Clarke, managing director of the Herald and Weekly Times, confirmed the company's plan to launch a commuter newspaper. In the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Elizabeth Knight commented that the last thing John Fairfax and News Ltd needed was a newspaper war. She argued against Fairfax entering the fray if News Ltd did start a commuter paper.

Fairfax CEO Fred Hilmer said the decision to launch the morning giveaway was to avoid a head-to-head battle, not to hurt the *Herald Sun*. "There are two goals here: one is to build a new market and the second is to do it in a way that complements the position we have with the *Age*," he said. "There's no goal of damaging the *Herald Sun*. That's fruitless. We are in a position of building markets." Text Media boss Eric Beecher said the issue was not about what any paid-for newspaper might lose in the short term. The war on the freebie front could signal a much more fundamental shift for regular newspapers. "The issue is not individual titles," Beecher said. "To me, the issue is, are they creating a new currency, and if that currency catches on, will that new currency in a generic sense start to replace the old currency?"

(References to note: *Age*, 26 January, 2, 5, 7 and 10 February; "Extra, extra, read all about it!" *SMH*, 27 January 01, p.29; "Blood on the tracks" by Mark Day, *Australian*, Media liftout, 1 February 01, pp.6-7; *Herald Sun*, 5 February, p.2; "Extra, extra, read all about the paper war", *Australian*, 6 February 2001, p.5; *Australian Financial Review*, 6 February, p.43; and "Commuters in the firing line in tabloid war", *Age* 'News Extra', 10 February, p.3.)

* The *Central Coast Express Advocate* ceased appearing on 8 April 2020, both in print and digitally.

111.4.8 Paper boys and paper girls

Melbourne Punch, 25 November 1886, p.6: The results of our Education system are rapidly being evolved. In a report on the condition of street children in Melbourne, furnished to the Chief Secretary by Senior-Constable McHugh, it is stated that during the past twelve months 317

juvenile offenders have been lodged in the city watchhouse, 129 of whom were arrested as neglected children and 59 for larceny.

It is a question whether, as suggested, the prohibition of children from selling newspapers in the public streets would affect this return very much. The typical *Herald* boy is a cleanly [sic], orderly and shrewd little fellow, without much trace of the “neglected one” either in his dress or his features. We would strongly recommend that the attention of the police authorities, and the humane in general, be drawn to that blot upon our streets—the newspaper girl. It is a degradation to permit the existence of such a system and should be abolished at once by aid of the law, which should also apply to the newspaper women, who carry their infant offspring with them in all weathers in order to attract customers through the medium of their sympathy.



5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

111.5.1 Books

CORRECTION (the following entry appeared in 110.5.1 with author referred to as Adam Tame when he is Adrian Tame):

Tame, Adrian, *The Awful Truth: My Adventures with Australia’s Most Notorious Tabloid*, Simon & Schuster, \$32.99. [Reviewed, *Age*, 10 October 2020, p.12.] It has since been reviewed also in *Weekend Australian*, 19-20 December 2020, Review, p.16.

111.5.2 Articles

Albrechtsen, Janet, “Time to treat Twitter & co as publishers under law”, *Australian*, 13 January 2021, p.9. Discusses the closure by Twitter of the Donald Trump and Team Trump Twitter accounts, and freedom of speech.

Albrechtsen, Janet, “Fighting for the right to speak”, *Weekend Australian*, 23-24 January 2021, p.14. A prominent constitutional lawyer finds no succour among his fellow liberal democrats because he thinks free speech should be for everyone, even presidents called Trump.

Cater, Nick, “A columnist’s lot in 2020: learning to roll with the comments”, *Australian*, 28 December 2020, p.9.

Clarke, Patricia, “In the days of print: Four women journalists in World War II”, *Australian Journal of Biography and History* No. 4, 2020, pp.3-28. Early in 1943 at a critical point in the Pacific campaign in World War II, the Australian Government arranged a tour for selected women journalists to operational bases in eastern Australia stretching from Wagga Wagga and Uranquinty in south-western New South Wales to Cairns and Mareeba in north Queensland. The purpose of the tour was to gain publicity for the women’s services with the aim of increasing enlistments to release servicemen to fight in New Guinea. The four women selected were Constance Robertson (*Sydney Morning Herald*) and Patricia Knox (Melbourne *Argus*), Iris Dexter (*Woman*), and Lt Caroline (Lynka) Isaacson (AWAS Public Relations), who had been a senior journalist on the weekly *Leader* and at the beginning of the war was foreign editor of the *Age*.

Douglas, Tim, “Paper giants”, *Weekend Australian*, 16-17 January 2021, Review section, pp.8-9. A \$3 million renovation will put the largest collection of cartoons in the southern hemisphere on the national cultural map.

Elliott, Tim, “So you want to start a newspaper in the middle of a pandemic...”, *Good Weekend*, 6-7 February 2021. What’s a former professional tennis player turned Seattle financier to do when he gets stuck in a rural Australian town during the pandemic? Start the presses rolling, of course. The article discusses the emergence of a new paper in the South

Australian town of Naracoorte to replace the suspended long-time paper in the town. And then what happens when the old paper returns. Following is an extract:

According to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Digital Platforms Inquiry, 106 local and regional newspapers closed between 2008 and 2018. Those that survived have shed staff and pared back their operations. As more papers close, whole districts become what are known as "news deserts". Outside media might pay attention now and again, but it can't do the job of a good local newspaper, whether that be reporting on local sports or sitting in on council meetings.

Hywood, Greg, "Google is facing a battle it will lose", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 February 2021, p.27.

Kelly, Paul, "The great face-off against Big Tech", *Weekend Australian*, 20-21 February 2021, pp. 13, 16. The world is watching the nation's fight with Facebook.

Leak, Johannes, "Where do you draw the line?", *Australian*, 27 January 2021, p.10. Poking fun during a pandemic is like walking a tightrope in clown's shoes, as the *Australian's* cartoonist explains. The article includes 16 of Leak's cartoons during the pandemic.

Madden, James, "Readers never tire of the write stuff: Gotty", *Australian*, 1 February 2021, p.19. Robert Gottliebseisen wakes up at 5.30am each weekday with business on his mind and turning 80 (on 4 February) won't change his routine, he said before the event. He writes each weekday an 800-word column on business for the *Australian*. He was business editor for the *Sydney Morning Herald* at age 21. He is the founder and original author of the legendary Chanticleer column in the *Australian Financial Review*, which still appears 50 years later. In the 1980s he launched *Business Review Weekly* and later *Personal Investment*, which were the biggest industry magazines of the decade, notwithstanding Kerry Packer's repeated attempts to steal their market share.

Mitchell, Chris, "COVID chicken littles in politics, and media lack a sense of proportion", *Australian*, 25 January 2021, p.19. Reporting of COVID-19 shows how de-skilling of newsrooms has diminished the checks and balances that used to be applied to news stories before they appeared in print or on broadcast media.

Mitchell, Chris, "Media and politicians misread the public mood by relying on social media", *Australian*, 1 February 2021, p.20. Discussion of the issue of the date of Australia Day and the annual hullabaloo over it. The author blames it on the silly season of news reporting and many journalists still being away on holidays.

Overington, Caroline, "This is not a sex scandal", *Weekend Australian*, 20-21 February 2021, p.17. Brittany Higgins, who alleges she was raped in Parliament House, Canberra, by another minister staffer, has experienced the barbarous side of power. The author says this incident is a "monstrous criminal scandal" that is depressingly commonplace.

Rollings, Barry, "Nifty gadget for journos on the go", *Canberra Times*, 6 February 2021, p.11. A former journalist for the *Canberra Times* writes about an NEC (Nippon Electrical Company) portable device that enabled journalists to send stories to the sub-editors from external locations, such as a sportsground. Rollings had kept one of the devices for the past three decades.

Savva, Niki, "Plain speaking is never out of style", *Australian*, 28 December 2020, p.9. The author discusses journalistic style and how some style has changed (such as "passed away" instead of "died"). There was strong letter-to-the-editor feedback to the article.

Shields, Bevan, "Don't go into journalism if you just want to be liked', says Moore", *Age*, 7 December 2020, p.27. After a wild year, the Orwell Prize-winning journalist Suzanne Moore could be forgiven for abandoning the keyboard for good, but she has no intention of staying silent. Discusses, especially, attitudes to trans-gender issues in newsrooms; also Twitter's impact on what papers publish.

Thomas, Hedley, "How we exposed a damning cover-up", *Weekend Australian*, 9-10 January 2021, p.7. The author explains what led to the *Australian's* investigative reports about the operation of Wivenhoe Dam during the flood rains in Brisbane in January 2011 and how

the reports helped lead to an extension of the royal commission into the dam's operation. The commissioner was Catherine Holmes, now the Chief Justice of Queensland. The *Australian* reported in 2012: "It is now official—the final report of the floods inquiry has found there was a serious cover-up over the devastating floods last year. It involved collusion, dishonesty and lying. The inquiry found three engineers presented false evidence after the event in an attempt to protect their professional reputations." For contemporary accounts, see ANHG 66.1.3 and 70.1.6.

Wright, Tony, "Half-angels fighting half-devils", *Age*, 19 December 2020, p.44. Canberra has had its fair share of Le Carré moments. Example: relates to Australian-Chinese relations in 1995. Extract: "The [*Sydney Morning Herald's*] lawyers fought the suppression order for five weeks. Eventually the ABC ran the story while [David] Lague, the *Herald's* Canberra bureau chief Geoff Kitney and I (then the paper's political correspondent) were holed up in the darkroom, lest the Commonwealth attempt to hit us with a new injunction. Our lawyers went to the NSW Supreme Court 90 minutes after the ABC story was aired, it agreed to lift parts of the suppression order and no one, mercifully, hammered down our door."

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