



There's an item in this newsletter (at 121.4.8) about the *Camperdown Herald*, for which the extant files are very limited ("imperfect", as they used to say). The images above relate to Camperdown newspapers, but not to the *Herald*.

ABOVE LEFT: William John Hesketh photographed inside the *Camperdown Chronicle* offices in Victoria's western districts in December 2001. He had worked for the emerging Western District Newspapers Pty Ltd for 53 years until the end of the 1990s. The *Camperdown Chronicle* began publication on 1 October 1874. It was the third paper to start in the town. The first was the *Western Press* (29 June 1866) and the second, the *Hampden Guardian* (4 January 1870).—Photo Rod Kirkpatrick.

ABOVE RIGHT: *Camperdown Chronicle* front page, 18 June 1940.

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

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



ANHG and the future

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: Most subscribers (a couple of hundred) receive this newsletter in digital format, but eight pay to receive a printed issue. After serious thought and some consultation, triggered by my coming 80th birthday (5 August 2023), I have decided to cease producing a printed newsletter from the end of 2023 (issue 125) so that no money will be owed to subscribers if I were to be unable suddenly in the next few years to ensure continued production and circulation of the newsletter. There will be no printed edition of the *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter* after the end of 2023. From next year the digital edition will appear only three times a year (February, June and October). I hope to be able to have an index prepared for issues 101 to 125. Finances will be the major determinant. Indexes have been produced for each 25 issues from 1 to 100.

121.1.1 Gunn becomes first female editor-in-chief of *Australian*

Michelle Gunn, editor of the *Australian* since May 2020, has been appointed the first female editor-in-chief of the paper (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 January 2023; ANHG, 108.1.1). The appointment has led to some bureaucratic reconstruction. Her role is now being overseen by a new editorial board created for only that paper. The chair of the board is Sky News chief executive Paul Whittaker, a former editor-in-chief of the broadsheet. Chris Dore, who preceded Gunn as editor-in-chief, resigned last November after he had made “lewd comments” to a woman at an event in America (ANHG, 120.1.7). Dore had chaired News Corp’s national editorial board. That role is now performed by Mick Carroll, News Corp’s national weekend editor and editor of the weekend editions of Sydney’s *Daily Telegraph*.

Kelvin Healey, the editor of News Corp’s Brisbane weekend tabloids, has replaced Gunn as editor of the *Australian*. *Vogue Australia* editorial director Edwina McCann, who also oversees a host of Conde Nast titles in Australia, has expanded her remit to become editorial director of the *Weekend Australian Magazine* and the paper’s other premium magazines.

121.1.2 PM’s Literary Awards under fire

The editor of the *Australian Book Review*, Peter Rose, has launched a blistering attack on the integrity of the Prime Minister’s Literary Awards. Rose has accused the awards of being Sydney-centric, badly organised and in thrall to News Corp Australia. A former judge himself, Rose attacked the awards in his editorial for the December edition of the magazine. He noted that eight of the 10 judges on the fiction/poetry and non-fiction/Australian history panels were based in NSW, including all five of the latter panel. Six of the 10 judges had close associations with the *Australian* (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 December 2022, p.20).

121.1.3 Nine extends contract with AAP

Nine has extended its contract with Australian Associated Press, subscribing to the newswire for another two years. Content from AAP will continue to appear in Nine’s newspapers (print and digital), such as the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age* and *Australian Financial Review*, and its digital-only mastheads, such as *WAtoday* and *nine.com.au* (*Telum Media Alert*, 19 December 2022).

121.1.4 Participants chosen for leadership program

The Walkley Foundation has selected 18 participants for its 2022 leadership program, supported by the Australian Graduate School of Management at the UNSW Business School, the Google News Initiative and the William Buckland Foundation. Australian journalists on a management track and with at least five years' career experience were invited to apply for the program aimed at equipping them with practical leadership capabilities. The successful applicants are:

- Rebecca Baillie, SBS
- Jarni Blakkarly, CHOICE
- Craig Butt, Nine
- Bethany Chismark, Seven West Media
- Matt Connellan, SBS
- Katina Curtis, Seven West Media
- Ashleigh Gleeson, *Herald Sun*
- Robyn Grace, *Age*
- Jessie Gretener, CNN International
- Caitlyn Gribbin, ABC
- Rachael Houlihan, *Warrnambool Standard*
- Maram Ismail, SBS
- Eliza Kavanagh, *Seven West Media*
- Sashka Koloff, ABC
- Krista Schade, *Riverine Grazier*, Hay, NSW
- Martin Silk, Australian Associated Press
- Chad Van Estrop, *Geelong Advertiser*
- Michael Vincent, ABC 7.30

(*Telum Media Alert*, 19 December 2022).

121.1.5 News Corp executive becomes chair of Australia Post

Top News Corp executive Siobhan McKenna has been appointed chair of the Australia Post board, stepping into the role on 15 December after Lucio Di Bartolomeo left late in November 2022 when his term ended (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 December 2022). McKenna's appointment follows a tumultuous period for the postal service, which included the Cartier watch scandal and controversial departure of chief Christine Holgate. Holgate received a \$1 million payout but no apology from Australia Post following her downfall after she disclosed four senior employees received \$20,000 Cartier watches as bonuses in 2018. Earlier this year, Di Bartolomeo defended rewarding senior staff, with bonuses averaging \$170,000 in 2020-21, saying it was part of contractual arrangements.



121.1.6 PEOPLE

Jordy Atkinson has become the news director of Melbourne's *Herald Sun*. Her previous position was digital reporter across the *Port Phillip Leader* and the *Caulfield Glen Eira Leader* (*Telum Media Alert*, 20 January 2023).

Paul Bresca has become the news director of the *Townsville Bulletin*. He was previously with NewsLocal in NSW where he had been a news editor for central Sydney and a reporter covering south-west Sydney (*Telum Media Alert*, 16 December 2022).

Fiona Buffini is the new editor of the *Australian Financial Review*. She succeeds Paul Bailey who finished as editor on 9 December 2022 after 11 years in the role. Buffini joined the paper 25 years ago and was most recently deputy editor (digital), working across the publication's digital assets (*Telum Media Alert*, 7 December 2022).

Anna Caldwell has been appointed editor of the *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, and the *Sunday Mail*. She was formerly deputy editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney (*Telum Media Alert*, 6 February 2023).

Christine Centenera has been appointed editor-in-chief of *Vogue Australia*. She has worked for the magazine since 2012, most recently as fashion director. She remains based between Australia, London and the United States. In addition, *Vogue Australia*'s deputy editor Jessica Montague has been promoted to executive editor (*Telum Media Alert*, 21 December 2022).

Mat Dunkley and **Orietta Guerrera** have both been appointed deputy of the *Age*, Melbourne. Dunkley spent the past several months as acting deputy editor and was previously the digital editor and earlier the national business editor of the *Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. Guerrera has held various editorial roles at the *Age*, including deputy news editor and federal politics editor. She was most recently reader editor for Nine's various metro publications (*Telum Media Alert*, 6 February 2023).

Patrick Elligett is the new editor of the Melbourne *Age*. He was promoted in 2020 from world editor to news director. Elligett became the editor on 30 January, replacing Gay Alcorn who stepped down in December. He is a former editor of the *New Daily* (*Telum Media Alert*, 20 January 2023).

Jessica Gardner and **Kylar Loussikian** are two new deputy editors of the *Australian Financial Review*. Gardner, deputy editor (news), is working from the paper's Parliament House bureau in Canberra. Before becoming news director in 2020, she was the *AFR*'s companies and markets director. Loussikian, deputy editor (business), will bolster and enhance the paper's coverage of companies, markets and property. She is a former CBD columnist at the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age* and was most recently the *Australian*'s business editor (*Telum Media Alert* 19 December 2022).

Chris Gilmore, former editor of the *Sunny Coast Times*, has been appointed editor of *sunshinecoastnews.com.au* (*Telum Media Alert*, 11 January 2023).

Peter Gleeson has "ended his roles" with the *Courier-Mail* and Sky News after plagiarising sections of several of his tabloid newspaper columns. Gleeson, had worked for News Corp for 34 years, including stints as editor of the *Sunday Mail* (Brisbane), *Gold Coast Bulletin* and *Townsville Bulletin*. Most recently, he had a roaming brief for the company in Queensland (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 November 2022).

Daisy Huntly has been appointed deputy editor of the *Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga. She was previously the digital specialist for the paper as well as the South-West NSW digital journalist for various titles under Australian Community Media (*Telum Media Alert*, 22 February 2023).

Peter Law has joined Mineral Resources Limited as media manager after two decades in journalism. He left his position as state political editor for the *West Australian* after previously serving as chief of staff for the *West Australian* and *Sunday Times* (*Telum Media Alert*, 19 December 2022).

Graham Lloyd has been named associate editor of the *Australian*. He continues to write on energy and environmental politics and is a regular commentator on Sky News (*Telum Media Alert*, 6 February 2023).

Rupert Murdoch, 91, was photographed in baggy swimming costume, emerging from the water on Barbados, holding the hand of Ann-Lesley Smith, 25 years his junior and dressed in a yellow two-piece. She was mentioned by the London *Telegraph* as being possibly a future fifth wife for the media titan (*Telegraph*, London, 16 January 2023; also *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 January 2023, p.18).

Julie Naughton has been appointed head of "Life" for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age*, *Brisbane Times* and *WAtoday*. She is overseeing a plan to digitally elevate Travel, Lifestyle and Culture content across Nine's metro mastheads. She is managing and building the publications' Lifestyle and Culture offerings while working closely with the commercial and subscription teams (*Telum Media Alert*, 21 December 2022).

Sonali Paul has begun duties as an editor with Reuters' global news desk where she handles company news and commodities and energy stories. She remains based in Melbourne. She joined Reuters in Washington DC and has been in Melbourne since 1997 (*Telum Media Alert*, 15 February 2023).

Andrew Pearson has been appointed editor of the *Daily Advertiser*, Wagga Wagga. He had been deputy editor since 2019 (*Telum Media Alert*, 9 December 2022).

Heidi Petith, a journalist with the *Daily Mercury*, Mackay, for two years, has become the editor (*Telum Media Alert*, 14 December 2022). The publication appears weekly in print.

Kate Racovolis, a former magazine editor, has been appointed editor of “The Growth Agenda” for the *Australian*. “The Growth Agenda”, in partnership with Advertising Council Australia, has appeared each Monday in the *Australian* since 13 February, alongside the Media section. Its digital version is updated during the week with a dedicated section on the website (*Telum Media Alert*, 10 February 2023).

Cameron Stewart is now the chief international correspondent for the *Australian*. He continues as a feature writer for the *Weekend Australian Magazine* (*Telum Media Alert*, 6 February 2023).

James Thomson has been promoted to senior Chanticleer columnist at the *Australian Financial Review*. He fills the role that was held by Tony Boyd, the longest serving Chanticleer columnist to date. He decided to retire (*Telum Media Alert*, 20 January 2023).

Geoff Vivian has become the editor of the *Esperance Weekend*. He joined from Ngaarda Media in the Pilbara where he was a producer and news editor (*Telum Media Alert*, 16 December 2022).

Perry Williams has been appointed business editor of the *Australian*. In this role he is leading the business reporters at that paper and across News Corp Australia’s metropolitan and regional outlets through the Australian Business Network (*Telum Media Alert*, 6 February 2023).

Georgina Windsor has been promoted to deputy editor of the *Australian* where she will lead the newsroom alongside fellow deputy editor Petrina Rees. Windsor had been the “Inquirer” editor for five years (*Telum Media Alert*, 20 February 2023).

Josh Zimmerman has replaced Peter Law as state political editor of the *West Australian*. He had been with Seven West Media since 2017, starting as a reporter for *PerthNow* and the *Sunday Times* before becoming a political reporter for the *West Australian* and the *Sunday Times* (*Telum Media Alert*, 12 December 2022).

121.1.7 Letter writers in the *Australian* and the *SMH*

Writers of letters to the editor of the *Australian* found cause in December 2022 to comment on the difference between letters in that paper and those in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Here are the letters:

12 December 2022, p.10—Ross McDonald, of Gordon, NSW: One of my pleasures in life is reading the letters in my wife’s Saturday edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. To say they are different to those in the *Australian* is an understatement. A recent example, sublimely exquisite, was the indignation and anguish by an overwhelming majority of writers over Dom Perrotet’s justified reaction to the jailing of the serial climate protester for illegally blocking the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

13 December 2022, p.10—Kate Foot, of Concord, NSW: I was relieved to read Ross McDonald’s comment (Last Post 12/12) comparing letters to the *Sydney Morning Herald* versus the *Australian*. I thought perhaps it was my imagination. I subscribe to both newspapers and whenever a political matter generates keen interest, one could be forgiven for thinking the two sets of readers are living on different planets, such is the contrast of attitudes.

14 December 2022, p.12—Geoff Ellis, of Smithfield (near Cairns): To remove any doubt for both Ross McDonald (Last Post, 12/12) and Kate Foot (Last Post, 13/12) who have noted the wide divergence of letter writers to the *SMH* and the *Australian*, anyone in Sydney is truly on another planet. And then there is planet Melbourne. Believe me, as one looking on from the outer regions.

14 December 2022, p.12—Geoff Phillips, of The Falls, Qld, writes: Do letter writers espouse the views of their newspaper? Or is the opposite true; that their views determine their choice of newspaper?

121.1.8 *Herald's* 'Yours Sincerely' section begins

Pat Stringa, letters editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, wrote (SMH, 25 February 2023): This week, we welcomed the first edition of *Yours.Sincerely*, our new regular dive into letters and comments on the most talked about topic of the week. Every Friday morning on the *Herald* website, you will find a selection of thoughtful, clever and funny insights on what Sydney is keyed-up about. It'll be another opportunity for correspondents to have their letters to the editor published, and to continue growing our community in print and online.

This week, the must-hit-send issue has been the "censoring" of Roald Dahl's classic children's books. Correspondents discussed whether it was a matter of keeping classics relevant or if the Ministry of Truth from *Nineteen Eighty-Four* had taken over. Gabrielle Merten of Bondi Beach described the "whole exercise" as an example of "priggish stupidity" and Mark Porter of New Lambton voiced the concerns of many by suggesting "if we keep rewriting books and removing plaques soon we won't know who we were. Then we won't know who we are."

Chris Roylance of Paddington (QLD) wondered if the "sensitivity police were to re-write George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, would we finally reach the nadir of human stupidity?"

But not all agreed. Bernard Bradney of Kurraba Point suggested some "over-heated correspondents on the 'Great Roald Dahl Rewrite Controversy' should take a Bex and have a good lie down. It's hardly unprecedented to modify works to suit the times. And, we are talking about books for children. We have an absolute right and duty to monitor what they read."

We look forward to you continuing the conversation, and hope you enjoy *Yours.Sincerely*.

121.1.9 A long-time letter writer to the *Courier-Mail* signs off

Emma Davis, of Graceville, Brisbane, wrote to the *Courier-Mail*, 19 December 2022, p.20, thus:

A final letter to the editor, on behalf of my dad, John McKeon, of Sinnamon Park. We often joked to Dad that his name was blacklisted on the wall at the *Courier-Mail*, given his love for reading and writing to the editor. Well, if you do, you can today take that down, as this is his final note.

Your loyalist reader sadly passed on Tuesday night (13 December), and I could think of no better way to pay tribute to him than I write you a letter. He read the *Courier-Mail* every day of his life—the letters, the crosswords, form guide, sports and also the funeral notices, circling every person who made it to 100, his biggest wish. Sadly he came 17 years too short but in his funeral notice he will always be 100 in our eyes. Dad knew all of the "regular" letter writers, and agreed and disagreed in equal measure.

If his *Courier-Mail* delivery was not on the driveway by the time he got up each day, he would be ringing the newsagent chasing it up. He believed in the basics of good spelling and grammar, I think part of his pseudo friendship with the editor. He believed in the truth and doing the right thing, he believed in speaking up and expressing opinions, and listening to others. He was a good old-fashioned bloke.

I even made his 80th birthday speech "A letter to the editor", which he loved. He lived a wonderful and colourful life with many amazing stories, and the paper was a constant in his life—a true reader. You have lost a good one—my darling dad, John.

See ANHG 68.1.6 re Judi Cox for another long-time letter writer.

121.1.10 Insight into a cartoonist

Brett Lethbridge, artist/cartoonist for the Brisbane *Courier-Mail*, presented "a comical salute to the remarkable challenging year that was" on the front and back pages of the newspaper on 31 December 2022.

On the inside pages of the four-page wraparound, entitled "Hooroo '22", were Lethbridge's top 12 cartoons of the year—and a small article in which he provided insights into how he develops his cartoon ideas. Here's what he wrote:

As the cartoonist for the *Courier-Mail* and the *Sunday Mail* I'm often asked how do I come up with a cartoon idea every day. As you would expect it's not something that can be forced, so I follow the same routine. First, I immerse myself in the day's news, reading the paper, watching TV, chatting with people. Sometimes I will do something mundane, like take a drive or have a shower, but at some point my brain will offer up a little gem, usually a setting or a form of words that is the seed of a good cartoon.

It really is a flash of inspiration and it's quite a lovely feeling, not only because it means the hard part of my day is over and I can start drawing—but this a-ha moments feels really good. My preference for something funny, but sometimes meaningful or insightful is also satisfying. From an ideological point of view, I strive to be independent of left and right. I'm a commentator on the game rather than an advocate for a cause and I try to focus on the underlying truth of a situation and how that's affected by hypocrisy, cant and absurdity, of which there is no shortage in the political world.

This creative process would be described as classic right-brain activity and it does come at a cost. I have no idea where anything is in the house and what appointments I have during the day. Still, it's a pleasure to create something every day and have it published and also to contribute to the story of this state, the contest of ideas and for the readers' enjoyment.

121.1.11 Columnist signs off with a reminiscence

Katrina Grace Kelly has written her final column for the *Australian* (*Weekend Australian*, 31 December 2022-1 January 2023, p.21). In it, she tells of spending her earliest years in Papua New Guinea where she confesses she was deeply scared of the dark. Later, she tells of beginning her first job in darkness and how it all led one day to becoming a columnist. She writes:

Delivering the *Australian* newspaper to households in regional Victoria is where all this began. At 13 and legally employable, the first job available was a paper round. I was the only girl and by far the smallest worker. Still, the boss allocated me the longest route – it took 1½ hours and required the earliest start. The first day was an adventure of sorts. It was winter and icy cold. I rode alone to the newsagent, quaking, in the dark. The bike was small, and there were so many papers, rolled and stuffed in the hessian sack that lay over the carrier that it couldn't be held upright. The two biggest boys kindly helped out. One held the bike, for mounting, then they both held the handles and ran alongside until I got going.

After the bike was let go, I wobbled off down the road, with the precious cargo; pages of words. The aim was to place copy neatly into letterboxes, but instead there was wild flinging into damp gardens, desperate grabbing of front fences and gates for support and dodging of barking dogs. This was all done while carefully watching out for lurking murderers, who might have followed me back from PNG.

A love of the written word, newspapers, specifically this newspaper, and what it brings to us was instilled in me in that job. The boss, a kindly man, explained what the *Australian* meant to our customers, how they read it in the early hours before they went about their daily lives, how it started their day, and how it shaped their knowledge, understanding and experience of life. The understanding of the importance of this newspaper, and how it must be brought to the reader, helped me overcome fear, rise early and ride down scary streets in the dark and the cold.

Once, I forgot a household and received a note telling me that I had ruined Mr and Mrs such-and-such's entire day because their copy wasn't there when they needed it. Reading this note was a scarifying experience – the feeling of letting someone down was devastating. The next morning, the family's copy was delivered neatly bundled with a note of apology. I left that job at 15 to work in a supermarket, but my love for the *Australian* endured.

Many years later, as a reader and subscriber, it seemed the federal Labor Party's industrial relations policies, which it intended to take to the 2007 election, were not being adequately discussed. So concerned was I that I rang the number listed as "head office", and was put through to Janet Albrechtsen. After listening politely, Janet suggested I should write something and send it in. Aghast and in fear of rejection, I gasped: "I'm not a writer." However, I wrote something and sent it in anyway. The column was printed, and the rest is history. Once again, this paper helped me overcome fear. And here I am now, a writer, after all.

It is a difficult column to write, the last. The words have been agonised over in the imagination, and put down in a flurry of emotion. Sorrow, pride, and everything between, but all underscored by overwhelming gratitude. It has been an honour and a privilege to write for you, dear reader. Thank you to all; to Janet for her outrageous suggestion, to the *Australian* for publishing me, and to you for reading me. Happy new year and all the best for 2023.

Katrina Grace Kelly was a regular columnist with the *Australian*. Her early years were spent in the Labour movement, before she started her own industrial relations consulting business. She has written for other publications including the *Australian Financial Review*, and contributed specialist chapters to several books. Katrina was previously known as Grace Collier.

121.1.12 Deaths

Fisher, Diana Beresford: D. 26 January 2023 in Sydney, aged 91; media person, socialite; society columnist and editor for various Australian newspapers and magazines; covered royal tours; social editor of *Australian Women's Weekly* for nine months under Ita Buttrose and later *Woman's Day*; nicknamed "Bubbles" because of her liking for champagne and her effusive personality (Age, 28 January 2023).

Thomas, Ian Herbert: D. 11 January 2023 in Melbourne, aged 88; born 9 October 1934 and educated at Pakenham State School 1357 and Dandenong High School; joined staff of the family's newspaper, the *Pakenham Gazette*, in 1951 when his father's only employee was an apprentice; worked on the Linotypes initially and later tried his hand at journalism and selling advertisements; added news photography to his skills and retained an enthusiasm for photojournalism over 40 years. When Herb Thomas died on 13 July 1979, after an illness of only five days, Ian became the third-generation Thomas proprietor of the newspaper his grandfather, Albert Edward Thomas, had founded in 1909; Ian changed from letterpress printing to web offset in the early 1970s and photo-typesetters replaced the Linotypes. From 1973, the *Pakenham-Berwick Gazette* was printed by the *Latrobe Valley Express*, Morwell. Ian served on the Victorian Country Press Association executive for 21 years and as president in 1989-90; retired as managing director of the family business in December 1999 after 49 years of active involvement in the newspaper industry; was a life committeeman of the Pakenham and District Agricultural and Horticultural Society and served as president in 1997-98; was a prominent member of the Pakenham Chamber of Commerce for 20 years, served on the Cardinia Shire Youth Taskforce; was patron of the Berwick Pakenham Historical Society and a member of the PB Ronald Memorial Trust committee. The Thomas family newspaper business has expanded to become the Star News Group, with a chain of more than 30 community newspapers in Victoria, South Australia and Queensland. See 121.3.1 below. (Main source: Rod Kirkpatrick, *The Bold Type*, pp.234-238.)

121.1.13 News Corp aims to slash \$20m costs in Australia

Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation will slash \$20 million in costs from the business that owns the *Australian*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Herald Sun* over the next two years, in a bid to make the newsrooms financially viable over the long term (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 February 2023). The project, which staff are referring to as "Audience 25", is the latest move by the Murdoch-controlled media company to find efficiencies against the backdrop of rising inflation and broader global economic pressures. Media sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the project is confidential, said senior executives are in the process of identifying where to reduce costs.

The sources said the program was being led by national community masthead network editor, John McGourty, and Rowan Hunnam, head of digital, national regional and community network. News Corp declined to comment.

News Corp owns a range of local assets, including the *Australian* as well as cable TV operator Foxtel and streaming services Kayo and Binge. It is one of many media companies locally and globally that is facing financial pressure from rising costs. A weak and increasingly volatile advertising market has also exacerbated these pressures, and the publishing industry is also facing major increases in the cost of paper, caused by soaring electricity prices and shipping costs.

121.1.14 Rudd and Murdoch

Kevin Rudd decided in January to step down as chair of the lobby group he founded – Australians for a Murdoch Royal Commission – because he viewed the position as "incompatible" with his future role as Australia's ambassador to the US (*Australian*, 20 January 2023). The former prime minister established the group in October 2020. It campaigned for a "news media free from commercial monopolies". The group argues that "only a royal commission would have the powers and independence to investigate threats to media diversity, and recommend policies to ensure optimal diversity across all platforms to help guarantee our nation's democratic future". Rudd was the public face of the campaign from its launch.

121.1.15 Indigenous newspaper extends reach

The *National Indigenous Times* has officially launched distribution of its print edition in every state and territory capital as part of its 20th anniversary celebrations (*National Indigenous Times*, November 2022, p.7). The launch of the paper's national syndication is facilitated by agreements with News Corporation, Australian Community Media and Seven West Media. The national syndication follows the relaunch of the *National Indigenous Times* website and expansion of the team, of journalists nationally, including its recruitment of a deputy editor. *NIT* co-owner and managing director Clinton Wolf said one of *NIT*'s goals is to shed light on all indigenous issues in Australia.

121.1.16 Murdoch ditches merger efforts

Rupert Murdoch has called off his effort to merge the two parts of his media empire, News Corp and Fox Corp, saying the transaction “is not optimal” for shareholders of the companies at this time. He proposed reuniting News and Fox last northern autumn, almost a decade after they had split apart (*Australian*, 26 January 2023).

121.1.17 Robo-debt and killing the messenger

High-profile former Liberal media adviser Rachelle Miller has told the robo-debt royal commission of how she planned to push stories about dole bludgers and welfare integrity with more sympathetic “right-wing” outlets – including the News Corp tabloids and 2GB radio station, a stablemate of the *Herald* – to combat the “crisis in left-wing media” (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 February 2023). While Miller thought the robo-debt scheme was “a really good story” when she first heard about the program, she told the commission there was firm pressure from her former boss, then human services minister Alan Tudge, to “shut this story down” after negative coverage blew up in early 2017. [Tudge announced his resignation from Parliament on 9 February.]

“The media strategy we developed was to run a counter narrative in the more friendly media such as the *Australian* and the tabloids, which we knew were interested in running stories about welfare system integrity and the supposed ‘dole-bludgers’,” a statement of Miller’s, shown to the commission, said. Miller said the Department of Human Services’ former chief legal officer Annette Musolino cleared the use of specific details of welfare recipients who spoke out in the media.

The commission was told that Tudge was “adamant” the government should correct the record regarding incorrect information in news stories, which resulted in further media reports about the government releasing personal information. Asked what the result of that tactic was, Miller said fewer people were prepared to speak out in the media “which was the intention”. Tudge at one point threatened jail time to people the government deemed to be owing money. “We’ll find you, we’ll track you down and you will have to repay those debts and you may end up in prison,” he said during an interview with *A Current Affair* in 2016. A Federal Court judge found in 2019 that income averaging – the method used to calculate debts of thousands of vulnerable people – was unlawful, a conclusion that had already been reached in legal advice seen by both the departments of human services and social services several years before.

The scheme used Tax Office annual income data and averaged it over 26 fortnights, presuming income was the same across each, and put the onus on welfare recipients to prove they didn’t owe the government money. The Coalition settled a class action lawsuit over the scheme for \$1.8 billion in 2020.

121.1.18 Volume of stories in *SMH*

Bevan Shields, writes, in a “Note from the Editor” (email), *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 February 2023: “One of the challenges of working in a newsroom is keeping up with the sheer volume of stories we publish. Last year, the *Herald* published 42,501 written articles from our reporters and contributors – an average of about 817 per week, or 116 per day.”

121.1.19 ‘Supported by’: Philanthropy and journalism

Every so often the *Guardian*’s local news website will add two words to the top of a story that on the surface mean very little – “supported by” (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 February 2023). But in fact the support it signals is significant. “Supported by” is used by the London-based news giant to explain to readers that *Guardian Australia* was given money by a third party – usually a think tank or philanthropist – to push a particular cause that relates to the article. At the same time, *Guardian Australia* says the article in question is “editorially independent content”. Like many news organisations, *Guardian Australia* gains most of its revenue from advertising (more recently it rolled out a paywall, too). But more importantly, it is arguably the highest-profile mainstream media beneficiary of donor-driven journalism, a concept that involves taking money from foundations to fund particular projects or news coverage.

This concept is fairly new to the Australian market but is common among publishers in other parts of the world such as the US. On the surface, donor-backed journalism looks like an easy way to

keep the lights on and invest in journalism that otherwise may not take place due to financial constraints. But using the money of Australia's richest to prop up journalism also raises an important question: can it hurt independence? In 2016, Lenore Taylor, a relatively new editor of *Guardian Australia*, was ambitious about the company's growth plans. The local digital news website had been slowly building an audience and was relying on audience donations to pay its journalists. But it was financially constrained. That was until Taylor and managing director Ian McClelland, convinced two philanthropic funds to invest in the business.

On 18 March 2018, Taylor announced the first deals: one from the Balnaves Foundation, for "balanced reporting of Indigenous issues", and another from the Susan McKinnon Foundation, granted for reporting on "government transparency and political accountability". "I really wanted to grow more quickly," Taylor says. "We saw it as a way of bringing forward journalism that we wanted to do, but we weren't going to be able to afford to do for a while." Getting the money wasn't easy. *Guardian Australia* needed the Australian Tax Office to allow prospective donors to claim a deduction, but also needed to set editorial guidelines to ensure the reputation of the brand would not be damaged by funding. And finding the right people to donate was hard. 'It took a while to kind of find the right partners, not because philanthropies wanted to interfere, but because they were used to being hands-on," Taylor says.

Anna Draffin, chief executive of the Public Interest Journalism Institute – an independent think tank researching a future for public interest journalism in Australia – says donors are typically motivated by three things: a concern that a reduction in news undermines a healthy democracy; wanting to help a local community's identity and resilience; and a desire for more debate and discussion on social issues such as climate change, the housing crisis or youth at risk. In *Guardian Australia*'s case, it has always appeared as discussion on social issues. This appears harmless. But for outlets that preach independence, it can raise concerns of bias. Taylor disagrees. In the case of the Balnaves Foundation, for example, Taylor says its supportive views on *The Voice* have "no bearing whatsoever" on coverage.

121.1.20 Editors join forces to write to Queensland premier

Courier-Mail, Brisbane, 21 February 2023, p.1 (under a heading: Dear Premier/Enough is enough): The Palaszczuk government's 10-point youth justice plan has been dismissed as a political stunt that will do little to address the core issues—and so today every daily newspaper in Queensland joins forces to demand that more be done.

Courier-Mail, Brisbane, 21 February 2023, p.5: A message from the editors. **Chris Jones**, *Courier-Mail*. **Anna Caldwell**, *Sunday Mail*. **Tyla Harrington**, *Cairns Post*. **Craig Herbert**, *Townsville Bulletin*. **Ryan Keen**, *Gold Coast Bulletin*. **Jordan Philip**, *Toowoomba Chronicle*. [None of the titles after this point publishes a daily printed issue.] **Heidi Petith**, *Mackay Daily Mercury*, *Whitsunday Times*. **Melanie Plane**, *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin*, *Gladstone Observer*, *CQ News*. **Scott Sawyer**, *Sunshine Coast Daily*. **Shelley Strachan**, *Gympie Times*, *Bundaberg NewsMail*, *Fraser Coast Chronicle*.

QUOTE: As the editors of your state's daily newspaper, we joined forces today to say to our political leaders on behalf of our communities that this is not the Queensland we want—a state where the youth crime epidemic is now so widespread that all our readers share the same fear: that it could be their car, their home, or their life that is taken next. UNQUOTE [And so it continued for several hundred words.

121.1.21 Backpay 'comes up short'

Staff of Nine's major publications, such as the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age*, *Australian Financial Review* and the *BrisbaneTimes.com*, have lodged complaints that the promised reimbursement for underpaid wages over six years is inadequate. The Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance has told members that the backpay for some is inadequate and other employees have been entirely overlooked. Nine says it is working to resolve the issues (*Australian*, 19 December 2022).



121.2.1 Taking news into a digital future

Emma Ruben’s journalism career was just nine months old at the end of 2022, but the 24-year-old already has a clear idea about where the future of the industry lies (*Australian*, 19 December 2022, p.20). Perth-based Ruben, who works for the *National Indigenous Times*, says media outlets will be quickly left behind if they fail to engage and communicate with younger generations on their terms. “Plenty of my friends get their news completely through social media, and I don’t necessarily think that’s a bad thing,” she says. “Going forward, people are going to need the news to come to them (through their social media accounts), rather than them going to the news.”

Ruben, who started with the *NIT* in March this year, believes that most members of Gen Z (18-27s) feel disconnected from traditional media but when, and if, they do engage with mainstream news, it is usually via Instagram or TikTok — and once they’re reached, they are keen to be immersed in the issues of the day. “I think there’s still this misconception that news is only for older established adults who’ve got their life together, or that true journalism is perhaps only in written form, be that in print or in digital.

“But I think that idea needs to go out the window. News should be video storytelling, vertical storytelling, it should be all over social media, especially on TikTok. Being Gen Z, it’s something I’m really passionate about. “Newsrooms should embrace the idea that TikTok and Instagram are ways of sharing news — the more that people discount those platforms, the less of an audience they are going to reach. If you’re not doing your very best to garner the largest audience possible, you’re doing something wrong.”

Ruben, who is keen to specialise in fashion and entertainment reporting, was selected in 2022 to be among the first cohort of journalists to be enrolled at the Digital News Academy — a world-first joint training initiative established in January by News Corp Australia and Google. The program, which is run by the Melbourne Business School (the University of Melbourne’s graduate school in business and economics), includes specific tutorials in data journalism, in-depth online investigative reporting, the effective operation of social media channels, podcasting and the targeting of specific audience segments.

Ruben says the DNA is “filling a gap in the journalism industry”, insofar as it is equipping modern newsrooms and media professionals with the tools they need to deliver their work to the widest-possible audience. “We’re all learning new things. It’s been refreshing to see journos who have been in the industry for 10, 20 or 30 years and they’re like, ‘oh wow, I didn’t know that, I didn’t know you could do that’,” she said.

The *NIT* sent Ruben to Europe and New York last year to report on Indigenous fashion designers who were presenting their collections on the world stage. In New York, with *NIT* colleagues, Ruben helped create a TikTok video, which has attracted more than 100,000 views to date (19/12/22), while one of her Instagram reels from the same assignment amassed more than 10,000 views. “And *NIT* now has created a space for itself in the TikTok sphere, and on Instagram reels as well,” she said.

The *NIT*, which is independently owned by Indigenous businessman Wayne Bergmann and co-owned by Clinton Wolf, publishes online every day and produces print editions on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of each month. The print version of the *NIT* appears as an insert in News Corp’s state-based metro titles on the Wednesday, and in the *West Australian* on the Tuesday.

The DNA currently has 230 journalists from 27 different news organisations across Australia participating in the program. It's expected that 750 journalists will have completed the course by the end of 2024, according to DNA director Sonja Heydeman.

121.2.2 Cyberattack affects *GuardianAustralia*

Online news website *GuardianAustralia* asked its staff to work from home until mid-January as it dealt with the fallout of a cyberattack that hit its parent company, Guardian Media Group, just days before Christmas (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 December 2022). The publisher asked the skeleton group of staff, who planned to continue working over the holiday period, to stay at home until 9 January as a precautionary measure, as the Guardian Media Group continues to grapple with the aftermath of what it says is a ransomware attack. Guardian Media Group chief executive Anna Bateson and editor-in-chief Katherine Viner told staff on December 22 that publishing would continue despite the attack.

The hack knocked out large chunks of the *Guardian's* technology infrastructure, some of which is used by the Australian news team. But people familiar with the breach say hackers do not appear to have accessed customer data and the incident has had a minimal impact on the Australian market. *GuardianAustralia* could still publish articles online.

121.2.3 Zara and Sam and *The Daily Aus*

Among the newsmakers featured in "52 News Makers 2022", a *Good Weekend* article, on 26 November 2022, were Zara Seidler and Sam Koslowski, co-founders of *The Daily Aus*. Here's what the *Good Weekend* said of them:

In the busy world of social media, getting a young person's attention can be hard. That gets more difficult when you're trying to engage with them on political issues. *The Daily Aus* founders, Zara Seidler and Sam Koslowski managed to do this in the 2022 federal election by using their social media-first publication to connect with young voters. The pair who began an Instagram account in 2017, has spent the past five years trying to break down major news for young audiences and this year ran two public forums in the lead-up to the May election to discuss policy issues and engage with voters. The events each attracted 300-odd people. *The Daily Aus's* Instagram account now has 406,000 followers, its TikTok account 27,000, but they are also growing through podcasts and a daily newsletter. This year they managed to gain the support of former Nine boss David Gyngell and a range of investors in a \$1.2 million capital raise, hoping to drive an expansion to the United Kingdom. Their biggest challenge still lies in making money, which predominantly comes from advertisements. A slowing economy and rising costs could make that difficult next year, but the pair appear up to the challenge.

See also ANHG 120.1.17 for item about Annabelle Hickson.

121.2.4 *OZ* becomes social-media only play

The *Australian* is scaling down its youth publisher, the *OZ*, after less than a year in operation, making it a social media-only play, News Corp reported in mid-January. It had not published any new stories on the *OZ's* dedicated section of the *Australian's* website to 19 January but continued to put posts online via social media sites such as Instagram in what appears to be a model for its future. "The *OZ* brand will continue its strong presence on social media and its important role attracting new audiences to the *Australian's* digital platform," a spokesman for the *Australian* said. "We will retain the *OZ's* innovative approach to digital journalism, social media and design."

The move winds back the *Australian's* hopes of capturing a new, younger audience via the youth outlet. Reporters at the *OZ*, which launched in April last year and had produced original stories aimed at a younger audience than the primary *Australian* broadsheet, will be redeployed within the broader business. The shake-up is one of the first under the tenure of new editor-in-chief Michelle Gunn and is a departure from her predecessor Chris Dore, who was widely seen as a champion of the *OZ* before his departure from the company late last year.

121.2.5 Bid to curb misinformation

The federal government will give the media regulator new legislative powers in an attempt to reduce the spread of misinformation and disinformation on global technology platforms such as Twitter, YouTube and Facebook (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 January 2023). Communications Minister Michelle Rowland is planning to introduce laws that will give Australia's media watchdog

the ability to retract information from the world's most powerful tech companies if they fail to meet standards of a voluntary misinformation and disinformation code of practice.

121.2.6 Libel case against Crikey expanded

The chairman and CEO of Australian publisher Crikey have been dragged into a high-profile defamation suit by Lachlan Murdoch who argues they interfered with their journalists (*PerthNow.com.au*, 30 January 2023). On 30 January, Federal Court Justice Michael Wigney allowed the Fox Corporation CEO to expand his case against Crikey publisher Private Media by also suing chairman Eric Beecher and CEO Will Hayward. Murdoch's barrister Sue Chrysanthou SC argued the case could be amended to include Beecher and Hayward as the "guiding minds" of Crikey. When the lawsuit was initially filed in August last year, Murdoch did not contemplate the two Crikey heads would interfere as much as they did in the editorial process, Chrysanthou said.

The son of Rupert Murdoch has sued the organisation behind the Crikey masthead over an allegedly defamatory 29 June 2023 opinion piece by political editor Bernard Keane, that was taken down and then posted back online on 15 August. Lachlan Murdoch alleges the article titled "Trump is a confirmed unhinged traitor. And Murdoch is his unindicted co-conspirator" conveyed a meaning that he illegally conspired with former president Donald Trump to "incite a mob with murderous intent to march on the Capitol" in Washington DC on 6 January 2021. Crikey denies the article is defamatory and has raised a public interest defence.



3—CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNITY & PROVINCIAL

121.3.1 ACM sells 14 regional titles

Australian Community Media has sold 14 of its regional newspapers in South Australia and Queensland to Star News Group (ABC News online, 23 December 2022). The sale included 11 SA titles, the *Border Chronicle*, *Naracoorte Herald*, *Port Lincoln Times*, *Islander* (Kangaroo Island), *Murray Valley Standard* (Murray Bridge), *Recorder* (Port Pirie), *Victor Harbor Times*, *Transcontinental* (Port Augusta) and *Whyalla News*, and digital-only titles, the *Coastal Leader* and *Flinders Times*. The three Queensland titles are the *Beaudesert Times* and *Goondiwindi Argus* and the digital-only Mount Isa title, the *North West Star*. Star News Group managing director Paul Thomas said he wanted to see the papers expand.

"We really want to breathe new life into those historic titles, provide a really great product in local communities and get more people buying the paper," he said. "It's very early days but now we'll be offering jobs to all of the staff that are currently working for ACM. He said the company needed more staff. Our goal is to grow content in each of the markets. We will put a very strong local focus on that content, which we do in other markets," he said. Thomas said there would likely be an increase in the cover price for those newspapers.

In a statement, ACM managing director Tony Kendall said the sale meant the company could focus on its "core titles". "Our focus has always been on keeping our business sustainable so if we're approached about titles outside of our key markets we would of course look at what's best for those mastheads, their communities and how any potential transaction might help support and strengthen ACM in its key markets," he said. Thomas said local newspapers provided an invaluable service to their communities which couldn't be copied by social media.

ACM staff at the sold mastheads are being consulted about the change, with the sale expected to be finalised in February 2023.

121.3.2 Of droughts and flooding rains

The editors of several regional newspapers in NSW have collaborated in producing an article to highlight for federal politicians the problems their regions are facing because of weather extremes producing drought and floods. The *Canberra Times* published the article (19 November 2022, p.14), “An open letter to the decision makers in Canberra from the newspaper editors of the Central West”, written by: Nick McGrath, editor, *Central Western Daily*, Orange; Jacinta Carroll, editor, *Western Advocate* (a daily), Bathurst; Lynn Rayner, editor, *Daily Liberal*, Dubbo; and Andrew Fisher, regional editor, ACM’s Western NSW non-dailies (including the *Cowra Guardian*, *Forbes Advocate* and *Parkes Champion-Post*).

The editors highlighted how “unprepared”: the regions are to deal with the climate extremes, which are expected to become more prevalent. “There is a pressing need for a transparent conversation about what can and should be done now to protect our communities from the ravages of these weather extremes,” the editors declared.

121.3.3 Three more ACM cadets

Australian Community Media (ACM) has announced the final three cadet journalists to join the 2023 regional cadetship program. They began work on 20 February. The appointees are:

- Rachel Clark, *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth.
- Layton Holley, *Border Mail*, Albury-Wodonga.
- Aaron Smith, *Standard*, Warrnambool.

121.3.4 Free paper for Mackay and the Whitsundays

The ANHG has received a copy of two newspapers in one: it’s the *Mackay Life*, if you open it at one end, and the *Whitsunday Life*, if you turn it upside down and open it at the other end. It’s a free newspaper and it’s online at mackayandwhitsundaylife.com/



4—NEWSPAPER HISTORY

121.4.1 Clara Seekamp, female editor, 1855

Age, Melbourne, 20 January 2023: Clara Seekamp (nee Lodge) is believed to have been Australia’s first female newspaper editor, and was notable for her connections to Ballarat’s Eureka uprising. Historian Celestina Sagazio, with extensive knowledge of Melbourne General Cemetery graves, says that by the time Seekamp was buried there in 1908, aged 89, she had led an extraordinarily rich life – yet her death certificate recorded her as “housewife” and her grave is unmarked. Seekamp’s descendants are believed to be keen to redress this, says Sagazio, who suspects there may have once been a monument on the grave. “I personally don’t think it’s particularly important that it is an unmarked grave as she led a remarkable life and she is interred in a cemetery full of significant people.”

Clara arrived in Australia in 1847, without her husband (George William Du Val, a dancing master) but with two of their three children. She became a language teacher and headed a theatrical company, performing mostly in Ballarat but sometimes Melbourne. The *Ballarat Times* editor, Henry Seekamp, was infatuated with the young Clara. When her first husband died, she took Seekamp’s name (as his de-facto) around 1854.

Sagazio describes Clara as a well-educated and forcible character who took over the editorship and kept the newspaper afloat when Henry was jailed. Police raided the *Times* office on the morning of the Eureka rebellion. The *Times* had become a mouthpiece for the diggers. Clara continued to fire

off blistering editorials. When Henry was released the next year, they sold the newspaper, and separated: Henry went north, Clara settled in Melbourne until her death.

At the cemetery, Clara Seekamp's grave is near those of many other Eureka-related characters – all men – such as Governor Sir Charles Hotham, the autocrat who sparked the Eureka Stockade Rebellion in 1854, Sir Redmond Barry, who presided at Eureka trials and Peter Lalor, leader of the miners, who eventually became Speaker of the Victorian Parliament.

[ANHG note: Clara filled the editorship role only when husband Henry was in jail. Also see *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entry for Henry and Clara Seekamp.]

121.4.2 Female journalist returns from England

West Australian, 25 December 1925, p.8: Miss Winifred Scott, writer on women's topics for the *Adelaide Register*, who has been on a six months' holiday trip to England, returned to Australia by the *R.M.S. Mooltan* and disembarked at Fremantle en route for South Australia via the Great Western express. Miss Scott has retained very vivid impressions of England and Scotland, of which she speaks most interestingly. London crowds fascinated her, and the unmistakable good feeling between, the British public and the police was observed with pleasure. London policemen were the true protectors of the people, and men, women and children were unreservedly grateful for their unfailing kindness, civility and tactfulness.

"Among my memories of London," said Miss Scott when interviewed, "one I shall never forget is the music of the bells of St. Pancras' Church. Their chiming, their tuneful melody when hymns were played each morning, and the crashing crescendo of their pealing, were wonderful. I greatly enjoyed a lecture by John Galsworthy on "Expression", and an experience I like to recall was hearing Maude Koyden preach. She is a woman of. un usual personality and her sermons make people think. I could. not help being struck with the large number of young people in the congregation, especially girls, apparently shop and office workers.

"I was disappointed, at not hearing more good music, and the behaviour of the people at high-class entertainments amazed me. They smoke till one can hardly see the performers, and talk incessantly. All through the gloriously, revealing overture at a wonderful performance of *Hiawatha* with realistic Indian, setting, at the Albert Hall, the music was drowned in chatter. Fortunately, an unwritten law prevails that during any individual item no one shall strike a match. I saw every art exhibition I could, and all the principal galleries. Modern artists seem to be struggling to express individuality.

"At one of the exhibitions I saw the much discussed 'hairpin lady' — a portrait of a haughty dame delineated not in paint, but by means of unusual objects stuck on a highly enamelled surface. An inverted hairpin forms the nose, horizontally placed hairpins represent eyes and well arched eyebrows. Four pink wax matches constitute a petulant mouth. More matches — boxes of them— make hair that looks real. Gold coins are arranged around the throat to look like a string of beads, and two large coins are used for the earrings. This sounds ridiculous, but the lady attracted you in spite of yourself — and the hair pins.

"Australia and Australians are popular in England. Australian products are being asked for, and to say one comes from Australia is to receive instantly the glad hand of friendship. But one certainly hears complaints about the inferior packing and grading of Australian foodstuffs, especially preserved fruits. Uniform quality and size of fruit — whether it is top grade, middle grade, or low grade — is demanded and must be assured to the purchasers of tinned peaches, pears, apricots, etc."

121.4.3 Amalgamation: (1) Glen Innes, 1924

Casino and Kyogle Courier and North Coast Advertiser, 12 December 1923, p.2: Registration has been granted of a limited liability company which is to consolidate newspaper interests in the Glen Innes district by amalgamation of the *Examiner* and the *Guardian*. The company is to be known as the Glen Innes Examiner Ltd. And the amalgamation will date from 1 January 1924. The Glen Inness Examiner Ltd. has a capital of £10,000, though only £7500 has been called up. The majority of the business and professional people of the town and those holding public positions are

shareholders, and will thus have an opportunity in shaping the destiny of what is hoped will come to be generally recognized as “the people’s paper”. The paper will be known as the *Examiner* and will be issued from the present *Examiner* office.

121.4.4 Amalgamation: (2) Goulburn, 1927

Western Age, Dubbo, 1 July 1927, p.3: Two newspaper proprietors at Goulburn, Daniel Bros., who own the *Evening Penny Post*, and the Southern Morning Herald Newspaper Co., owners of the *Goulburn Daily Herald*, will have amalgamated from today. The *Goulburn Daily Herald* ceases publication, and the *Evening Penny Post* will be published as a daily instead of three days a week, as at present. The *Herald* was established in 1848, and the *Penny Post* in 1870.

121.4.6 Tony Wright, the Southern Ocean and the emerging internet

Tony Wright, “Fear AI? The answer, my friend, might be embrace it”, *Age*, 3 February 2023 (an extract): Long ago, between Boxing Day 1996 and the first weeks of 1997, I discovered that online technology could become useful in the most surprising ways. By happy accident, I learned that the



The rescue of Tony Bullimore, 10 January 1997.—*Sydney Morning Herald*

only Fairfax computer linked to the internet in the Canberra press gallery at the time could give me access to the Paris headquarters of the Vendee Globe round-the-world yacht race. It would plug me into the centre of the world’s biggest story of those weeks, and almost no one – including me – figured out quite how I did it.

As Australian rescue authorities tried to find a series of yachtsmen shipwrecked and lost in the storm-blown Southern Ocean, I was astounded to discover I had instant, magical access to the imperilled yachties’

tortured distress messages, starting with those of Frenchman Raphael Dinelli as his craft was thrashed by a fearful gale and upended by huge seas. Dinelli’s satellite messages to race headquarters in Paris were accompanied by transcripts of even more dramatic “telex” transmissions (HQ didn’t use the word email) from fellow yachtsman Pete Goss, an Englishman who put his own life at great risk to sail to Dinelli’s deliverance. This would have been treasure at any time, but it was beyond price during the otherwise dead news time from Boxing Day into January.

Amazingly, I had stumbled on a trove of “exclusives” delivered by the internet from deep in the Southern Ocean. Truth was, only a piddling 4 per cent of Australian households had access to the internet in 1996, and few journalists knew how to use it, or had access at work. And so, after a photo was taken from a RAAF search plane of Dinelli standing knee-deep in freezing water on his sinking yacht amid giant seas 2220 km south-west of Perth, I was able to reel in readers by reporting Dinelli’s struggle to survive, and those of his rescuer, Goss, in their own words, though I would never meet either of them face-to-face.

My story accompanying the photo called Dinelli “the loneliest man on Earth”. He was also the luckiest. A life raft was dropped to him 10 minutes before his yacht sank, and Goss found him 12 hours later. Here was Dinelli’s “telex” message to race headquarters three days before he was found: “The wind blows over 60 knots and with terrible gusts at 70 knots. The boat was knocked down twice for a few minutes. In the boat the damages are important, there is a big mess but the mast is still there. I’m fine apart from a big shock on my right leg. The sea is really rough, smoke [the wind tearing the top of waves] is coming out from it, it’s not fun.”

Goss, alerted by Paris that Dinelli had subsequently activated three distress beacons followed by silence, sent several “telexes” as he altered course for Dinelli’s last known position, getting smashed by the sea. “Sorry to be so quiet, it has been survival all night,” Goss messaged. “I’m knocked down every half an hour with big breaking seas on the beam. The wind has eased a bit now but I have a lot of damage. The best I can do at present is five knots ... I’m working on the boat as fast as I can and I hope to speed up in a couple of hours.”

Dinelli was in much worse trouble. His yacht was sinking beneath him, he had lost all his food and drinking water and he could do nothing but stand in freezing water and wait for a miracle. “I started to think about death, but with a strong determination I decided to fight,” he messaged after being rescued. When the miracle materialised and Dinelli was finally safe aboard Goss’ half-wrecked yacht, Goss sent a triumphant message: “I have just had the best Christmas present ever. Raphael is on board, he is very cold and happy, he had no injuries. I’ve just given him a cup of tea.”

Dinelli followed up with a telex to Paris giving a vivid account of the end of his race. He told of his yacht reaching terrifying speed down huge waves, even though he had streamed two sea anchors. “The boat went surfing, it was an exceptional wave with a very high speed. I couldn’t stop watching the speedo and in a few seconds it showed 26 knots,” he wrote. “The boat, at the bottom level of the wave, was completely capsized with an amazing strength. In a few seconds I was upside down ... I was crashed up to the ceiling that was now the floor. It was the beginning of the apocalypse.”

I maintained my secret line into race headquarters as even more famous events occurred in the Southern Ocean over the next 10 days, culminating in the rescues of Thierry Dubois and finally, the most celebrated of all, Tony Bullimore.

121.4.7 Kate Legge and Greg Hywood

Three decades into her marriage, journalist Kate Legge discovered that her husband, the Maserati-driving media executive Greg Hywood, was cheating on her (*Australian*, 20 February 2023). That was bad, but it gets worse. Hywood – for many years chief executive at Fairfax, publisher of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Age*, and now the chairman of Free TV – admitted when confronted that he had been cheating on and off, with different women, pretty much since the wedding. One of the mistresses was one of Legge’s close friends, a fellow parent at her son’s school. She found out only because the other woman’s husband was threatening to blow the whistle.

Legge, 66, a writer, who for many years worked at the *Weekend Australian Magazine*, has now published a book about her experience. It’s called *Infidelity and Other Affairs* (Thames and Hudson) and it is not fiction. The book is about Hywood’s infidelity, and how mortified, and shame-filled, and bonkers, his adultery made his wife feel. The *Australian* sought a response from Hywood. “Kate passed on your request to talk to me, I am reluctant to do so out of concern that it will end up a ‘he said, she said’ story of our marriage. Kate’s book should stand alone as her perspective ... I have supported her in this endeavour at every stage. As a journalist, editor and media executive my career has been devoted to the stories of people’s lives: the good, the bad, the ugly. I could hardly object merely because for a change I was the subject.”

It seems that the former couple has developed a warm, and in some ways remarkable, friendship. “It was intensely painful, but even as I was going through it, I wondered if I’d one day write about it,” says Legge. “At first, I thought I’d do it as fiction, and I do remember when I first told (Greg) that I was thinking of writing the whole truth. He was standing on the porch, and there was a very, very, very long and awkward pause. I knew it wouldn’t be easy for him. He hurt me, and he feels guilty about that. But he has been so supportive. And writing the truth has actually kept me honest, because there’s never just one side. There’s my side, and his side, and the actual truth.

* See Kate Legge, “ ‘I couldn’t ignore this house of cards’: A husband’s affair was just the beginning”, *Good Weekend*, 18 February 2023. This provides a glimpse of what her book covers.

121.4.8 Camperdown newspaper: missing, now found

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: I tumbled out of bed in Brisbane at 3.15am on Monday 10 December 2001 for the first of three major newspaper-history research visits I would make to Victoria. Colac was my first point of call that day, and Camperdown the second. At Camperdown, I interviewed

William John Hesketh, who had worked for the emerging Western District Newspapers Pty Ltd for 53 years until the end of the 1990s. Somehow, the existence of the *Camperdown Herald*, 1903-39, escaped mention and escaped my attention in *The Bold Type*, my history of the Victorian country press. I offer thanks now to Peter T. Gill, of Melbourne, for sending me the following obituary which helps fill the gap. Trove carries digitised files of the *Camperdown Chronicle*, 1875-1954, and of the *Camperdown Herald*, 1914-1918. When the *Camperdown Chronicle* began publication on 1 October 1874, it was the third paper to start in the town.

Camperdown Chronicle, Vic., Tuesday 14 March 1939, p.2: Mr. Samuel William Scott, proprietor of the *Camperdown Herald*, and an esteemed resident of the town for nearly half a century, passed away suddenly at his residence, Walls Street, Camperdown, at an early hour on Sunday morning. The late Mr. Scott was born at Gympie, Queensland, and commenced his newspaper career on the staff of the *Gympie Times*. At the age of 22 years he migrated south, and was located in Melbourne for a brief period, where he married.

About 47 years ago he transferred to the Western District. He served for seven and a half years on the *Cobden Times*, and for a further seven years on the staff of the *Chronicle* at Camperdown. He then entered in to business on his own account as proprietor of the *Herald*, which he had conducted up to the time of his death. He served the Camperdown Pastoral and Agricultural Society for a period of about 35 years, relinquishing that office in July 1936, when he was succeeded by the present secretary (Mr. A. G. Gunner). In the early days he also acted as honorary secretary of the Camperdown Mechanics' Institute and the Camperdown Horticultural Society at different times.

A man of an unassuming nature, and of a genial and friendly disposition, the late Mr. Scott was as well-known as he was widely esteemed, and his sudden death has come as a severe blow to his surviving relatives, and to the many friends privileged to have known him. He is survived by his wife and a family of four sons and three daughters and 13 grand-children, to all of whom the deepest sympathy will be extended. [He was aged 69.]

The surviving sons are: Mr. Leslie Scott, who is assistant town clerk at Moonee Ponds; Mr. Lindsay Scott, who is attached to the railway staff and is stationed at Maffra; Mr. Walter Scott, who is a member of the Australian navy, and is stationed at the Flinders Naval Base; and Mr. Pat Scott, of Camperdown. The surviving daughters are Mrs. F. Grayland and Mrs. M. Murnane (Terang) and Mrs. C. Bateman (Bostock's Creek).

The interment took place at the Camperdown cemetery yesterday afternoon, where Mr. M. A. Tremewan conducted the last rites. Coffin-bearers were: Messrs. P. Scott and W. Scott (sons), M. Murnane, F. Grayland, C. Bateman (sons-in-law) and S. Grayland (grandson); and the pall was carried by Messrs. A. G. Gunner, N. C. Podger, D. Cuthbert, Patrick McMahon, C. Lock, G. Cowley, A. Hateley and Peter McMahon. Messrs. Collie and Brennan conducted the funeral arrangements.

[N.B. The *Camperdown Herald* began publication on 10 June 1903 and ceased in 1939 with the death, above, of Samuel William Scott, proprietor.]



5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

121.5.1 Book

Campbell, Alistair, *Banjo Paterson: A Life in Pictures and Words*, Picador, 280pp. \$49.99 (HB). Compiled from material sourced and approved by Banjo's great-grandson, Alistair Campbell. From the Banjo Paterson family archive.

121.5.2 Articles

Ackland, Richard, "How Cardinal George Pell seduced News Corp", *Saturday Paper*, 21-27 January 2023, pp.1, 4. George Pell spent decades cultivating the Murdoch press,

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duchessing editors and senior journalists. The impacts of that political manoeuvring are clear in the coverage since his death, the author alleges.

Brown, Malcolm, “Balibo Five journalist’s wife fought for the truth”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 January 2023, p.44. Obituary for Shirley Shackleton, 1931-2023.

Clarke, Jenna, “Beyond the byline”, *Weekend Australian Magazine*, 18-19 February 2023, pp.28-32. A profile of investigative print journalist and TV presenter Sharri Markson.

Doherty, Megan, “A true trailblazer of the bold type”, *Canberra Times*, 26 November 2022, “Panorama”, p.10. A profile of Dr Patricia Clarke, author of *Bold Types: How Australia’s First Women Journalists Blazed a Trail* (2022). Dr Clarke, 96, is an ANHG subscriber.

Evans, Gareth, “Remembering Bruce Grant: An advocate of Australian self-reliant defence capability”, *Pearls and Irritations: John Menadue’s Public Policy Journal*, 7 December 2022. The author was a Cabinet Minister throughout the Hawke-Keating Governments of 1983-96. He was subsequently president of the International Crisis Group (2000-09) and Chancellor of the Australian National University (2010-19).

Flux, Elizabeth, “A critical colour blindness”, *Sunday Age*, 29 January 2023, p.27. Does a critic have to be of the same colour as the cast? We think not. See also Mark Knight item below.

Fox, Catherine, “Barely a third of experts quoted by media are women”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 February 2023, p.23.

Gruber, Fiona, “Running for her life”:, *InsideStory.org.au*, 16 December 2022. Journalist Jill Jolliffe’s work took her around the world, but her commitment to East Timorese independence endured. Extract: “Journalists’ lives are often peripatetic, and few more so than foreign correspondent Jill Jolliffe, whose career included covering war in Angola, investigating secret Nazi gold in Portugal and documenting the sex-slave trade in Europe. She wrote for newspapers and news agencies across the world on a wide variety of subjects but will always be associated most strongly with Timor-Leste and its struggle for independence from Indonesia.”

Kirkman, Noreen, “F.C. Minkin: A Queensland Chinese Australian photographer”, *Queensland History Journal*, Vol. 25, No. 4, February 2023, pp.341-351. Minkin, while working in Geraldton/Innisfail, Queensland, in the first dozen or so years of the 20th century, had photographs published in such newspapers as the *North Queensland Register*.

Knight, Mark, “Pitfalls of cartooning in an offended world”, *Herald Sun*, 2 February 2023, p.57. See also Elizabeth Flux item above.

Muroi, Millie, “Still room for humans despite AI rewriting media landscape”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 February 2023, p.27. AI can already write articles, present news and determine the price you pay.

Sterling, Rick, “Three extraordinary Australian journalists: Burchett, Pilger and Assange”, *Pearls & Irritations: John Menadue’s Public Policy Journal*, 26 January 2023. johnmenadue.com/ Reflections on the journalistic careers of Australians Wilfred Burchett, John Pilger and Julian Assange.

Wright, Tony, “Fear AI? The answer, my friend, might be embrace it”, *Age*, 3 February 2023. See extract about emerging internet at ANHG 121.4.8 above

121.5.3 Book reviews

(1) Josie Vine, *Larrikins, Rebels and Journalistic Freedom in Australia*, Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN 9783030618551.. Reviewed by **Chris Harte**:

Remembering the years I worked for Australian newspapers, Josie Vine’s first comment in her blurb says something I soon found to be fairly true. She says: “*Larrikins, Rebels and Journalistic Freedom* is a cultural history of Australian journalism. In a democratic nation where a free news media is not guaranteed, Australian journalism has inherited what could be described as a ‘larrikin’ tradition to protect its independence.”

From my experience, editors and newsrooms were sane places compared to the group mentality of specialist journalists, be they political, sporting, crime, financial or even fashion. On my second day within one of these groups I was taken to one side and told that “we all share stories together so don’t go off writing exclusives.” I immediately became a ‘larrikin.’

Vine has dealt expertly with this form of mateship and has looked closely at the various cultures which have developed over the years as Australia has moved from a colony to a (sort of) independent nation. Journalists pushing boundaries have to put up with criticism, vilification and, eventually, pure hatred. Wilfrid Burchett, for instance, is a prime example of a journalist who told the truth only to be exiled from his country of birth.

This book mines Australian journalism’s rebelliousness, humour and distinct disrespect for authority in various contexts. To emphasise this point, Brian Hansen’s book *The Awful Truth* would be an excellent companion volume. As Vine says: “The book highlights the audacious, iconoclastic and determined figure of the larrikin journalist, forever pushing boundaries to protect democracy’s cornerstone: freedom of the news media.”

(2) Carole O’Reilly and Josie Vine, *Newspaper Building Design and Journalism Cultures in Australia and the UK: 1855-2010*, Routledge, 2023. ISBN 9780367419929. Reviewed by **Chris Harte**:

This book is a joint venture between two authors—one British, one Australian—in which they look at the design of newspaper buildings and the effect they had on journalists. From the superb buildings of the past in London’s Fleet Street through to the iconic structures in Australian cities this work looks at the changes over the years 1855 to 2010.

When newspapers were at the height of their circulations and salaries were high; expenses even higher and public houses within easy staggering distance, journalists and editors formed themselves into clusters to produce a culture which is weakening as the years pass.

Truly great newspaper offices such as the *Daily Express*, *Times*, *Telegraph* and *Guardian* in England, and the *Age*, *Argus*, *Advertiser* and *Sydney Morning Herald* in Australia, were places to revere. To enter some of these buildings and see to journalists at work in their own offices was a height I wanted to reach in my early London days. Then came modernisation where editorial rooms were loud, crowded and the concept of hot-desking came into force. My last two Australian newspapers (*Adelaide News* and the *Australian*) had working conditions not fit for purpose.

O’Reilly looks at nineteenth and twentieth-century British newspaper buildings while Vine’s chapters concentrate on Melbourne newsrooms and an excellent chapter titled ‘Murdoch and Myth’.

This is a very well researched book with references and bibliographical details showing a high standard of work. If anything, I yearned for more, especially further anecdotes from journalists of years long gone. Fortunately, both countries have had numerous scribes who have noted down their lives and working conditions in the scribbling profession. Maybe an anthology of their experiences could be contemplated?

(3) Leggatt, Johanna, “Tales of Hustling: Memoirs of an indefatigable editor”, *Australian Book Review*, January-February 2023, pp.48-49 (Michael Cannon, *Cannon Fire: A Life in Print*).

(4) Griffen-Foley, Bridget, “Blazing trail: a transnational study of journalism”, *Australian Book Review*, January-February 2023, pp.54-55 (Patricia Clarke, *Bold Types: Australia’s first women journalists blazed a trail*).

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