

JAPS OFFER TO MAKE PEACE SEEK TO KEEP THE EMPEROR

JAPAN has offered to surrender on one condition—that she keeps her Emperor. This dramatic news burst on the world last night in a Tokio broadcast.

ABOVE: The *Courier-Mail's* Page 1 headline on 11 August 1945 (by courtesy of Trove). In Mackay, the *Daily Mercury's* editor believed he had stolen a march on other Australian papers with news of the Pacific war's end. Had he? See story on Harry Moore, 80.4.1, below.

AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

ISSN 1443-4962

No. 80

December 2014

Publication details

Compiled for the Australian Newspaper History Group by Rod Kirkpatrick, PO Box 8294 Mount Pleasant Qld 4740.

Ph. +61-7-4942 7005. Email: rkhistory3@bigpond.com/

Contributing editor and founder: Victor Isaacs, of Canberra.

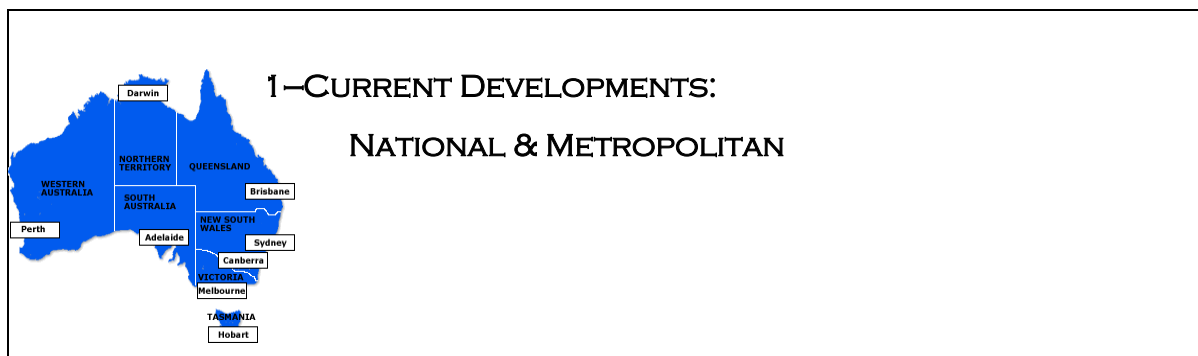
Back copies of the *Newsletter* and some ANHG publications can be viewed online at:

<http://www.amhd.info/anhg/index.php>

Deadline for the next *Newsletter*: 26 February 2015.

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

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



80.1.1 Fairfax: Whish-Wilson on Corbett

A former chief executive of Fairfax Media’s metropolitan division, Lloyd Whish-Wilson says it is time for the current chairman Roger Corbett to leave the company (*Australian*, Media section, 6 October 2014). Whish-Wilson, who spent more than 20 years in senior executive roles with Rural Press Ltd and Fairfax Media before retiring in 2011, says a lack of newspaper experience on the Fairfax board has been a major factor in the problems besieging its newspapers. He said the *Sydney Morning Herald* and other Fairfax papers were now riddled with errors as a result of inexperienced journalists and fewer sub-editors. “The prevalence of literals in the printed editions — perhaps partly as a result of untrained journalists, perhaps partly as a result of remote sub-editing — is now a party joke,” he says. “When I was starting out I had sub-editors who saved me time after time after time. Who is saving the young journalists starting out now? In the end it goes right back to the senior management and the board. Rubbish journalism shouldn’t be tolerated for two minutes. I understand everyone has to make money, but you can make more money by establishing a level of quality.”

Whish-Wilson is not confident current directors would understand the “direct link” between journalistic quality, advertising revenue and circulation. The recent decision to change the *Herald* and the *Age* from broadsheet to tabloid size had affected reader perceptions of quality along with advertising revenue. “Every day’s publication has to have name columnists and writers with whom readers connect but many of the best went with the redundancy programs and those who didn’t get redundancy got busy looking for alternative employment, their confidence destroyed,” he said. “It appears to me that decisions putting these things in place were only about survival, rather than a strategy to maintain strengths while reducing costs.”

80.1.2 Sunday papers

The cover prices of News Corp Sunday newspapers were increased by 20c or 30c from 2 November. Their former prices were \$2.50.

On 23 and 30 November and 6 December the *Sunday Telegraph* published special retrospective features to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

80.1.3 Maori paper in the mainstream

New Zealand’s first Maori paper to collaborate with mainstream media has been launched in partnership with the *Rotorua Daily Post* (TheNewspaperWorks, 30 October 2014). Two journalists, Kereama Wright and Maris Balle, have spearheaded the launch of *Māngai Nui* – literally “big mouth” but with a closer meaning to “great storyteller” – which has been three years in the making. The editors were motivated by their love of storytelling and pride in their Maori heritage, and a desire to give mainstream New Zealand an insight into the Te Arawa community through stories being told by passionate Te Arawa writers. “For far too long have our stories been told and misconstrued by those who don’t really understand the true essence of Māori,” the paper’s mission statement reads. The paper’s launch on 30 October was attended by a diverse range of iwi as well as the local MP and minister for Maori development, Te Ururoa Flavell. NZME general manager for Bay of Plenty & Waikato David Mackenzie said he was excited about the opportunity to provide Te Arawa with a voice within the *Rotorua Daily Post*. The first edition, on November 3, was available inside the *Post*. It has begun as a monthly publication with plans to shift it to weekly.

80.1.4 New national paper starts as a fortnightly

A new national newspaper, *Australian National Review*, was inaugurated on Saturday, 1 November 2014. It is being published fortnightly. The first edition was 36 tabloid pages. It costs \$3.50. Like the other new weekly newspaper, the *Saturday Paper*, launched on 1 March 2014, it is a newspaper in the sense of appearing regularly and being printed on newsprint. But they are not newspapers in the sense of offering immediate news or information of immediate use. Both are much more in the nature of weekly magazine-type reviews – particularly of politics. Articles in the first edition of *Australian National Review* seemed to have a particular bias towards promoting conspiracy theory explanations plus some business articles. The advertisements were all from little known firms, possibly linked to the publisher. The editor is Kritika Seksaria. It is published by 21st Century Media, a publisher of various business magazines, based in Melbourne.

Article also at <http://mumbrella.com.au/new-national-newspaper-vows-provide-content-free-business-political-agenda-mainstream-media-259800>

80.1.5 Recent chronology

80.5.1 Events

21 October 2014: This death warrants being remembered as an event: Benjamin Crowninshield (Ben) Bradlee, executive editor of the *Washington Post*, 1965-1991, which included the Watergate and Pentagon Papers periods (*Courier-Mail*, 23 October 2014, p.54).

80.1.5.2 Deaths

Armit, Michael Willoughby: D. 10 June 2014, aged 83. Began as a cadet with the *Argus* in Melbourne in 1950 and moved to the *Sun News-Pictorial* in 1957 after the *Argus* closed; worked for Federal Immigration Department publicity from 1960 until 1996; in retirement, he edited and partly wrote *The Waves That Made Australia*, a history of immigration to Australia. Michael's father was E.N. (Ted) Armit, who was an associate editor of the *Age*. His grandfather ran a country newspaper in New Zealand.

Carney, John James (Jim) D. in Auckland, aged 91; was a New Zealand newspaperman well known in Australia; a reporter who moved into management, he became a senior executive at (the former) INL in Wellington and later worked in Fiji. Engaging and invariably enthusiastic, he wrote *A Man of Principle* a biography of NZ newspaper figure Henry Neil Blundell, published as a monograph in 2011.

Godbee, Laretta: D. 22 September 2014 at Grafton, aged 77; joined *Daily Examiner*, Grafton, in 1954, after becoming dux of Grafton High School; her father, Jim McNab, was a reporter on the paper, and remained on it until his death in 1974; it was then that Laretta's husband, Max, joined the paper as a sports reporter; they had married in 1958; she worked at the *Daily Examiner* throughout her career and was highly regarded by her community ("She was the lifeblood of the DEX", *Daily Examiner*, 4 October 2014, p.6).

80.1.6 Top political cartoons take aim at big issues

The power to provoke, stir, enlighten, amuse or simply provide a different perspective in a single picture is unique to cartoonists, who have a range of weapons photographers do not, writes David Weber. But the editor of a collection of the top Australian political cartoons for 2014 has warned the art form's influence is facing an inevitable decline. "The editorial cartoon appeared as a newspaper phenomenon, it's a creation of newspapers so I guess as newspapers decline this particular form of political satire will decline," *Best Australian Political Cartoons* editor Russ Radcliffe said. "I can't see any way around that." Radcliffe said it was an open question as to whether political cartoons generally have a huge impact anymore. George Orwell said every joke or every cartoon is a minor revolution, that might have been true in a more deferential age," he said. "I don't think it's true these days. I mean the fact that you show Tony Abbott in budgie smugglers isn't

really a great political statement. I don't think newspapers are as committed to [political cartoons] as they used to be, I don't think they realise the value of them as much as they used to.

http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-26/budgets-refugees-and-palmer-power-among-top-political-cartoons/5920092?WT.mc_id=Corp_News-Nov2014%7CNews-Nov2014_FBP%7Cabcnews

80.1.7 Trusted news sources

Traditional media such as newspapers and television remain the most trusted news sources, trusted by twice as many people who trust blogs and social networks, according to a new study. (*Australian*, 27 November 2014). Four in five (79 per cent) of people trust both newspapers and television news bulletins, closely followed by radio news (78 per cent), according to the study, commissioned by public relations firm Crossman Communications. The study found six in ten trust online news sources not associated with newspapers, and just four in ten trust blogs and social networks. Meanwhile, four in ten do not trust social networks (45 per cent) or blogs (41 per cent) as a source of news and current affairs. That does not prevent people from reading them, however: one in three Australians source news online at least once a day from social networks, blogs or independent websites.

Crossman managing director Jackie Crossman said she commissioned the study to gain an understanding of whether having stories picked up by traditional media should still be considered more valuable by public relations professionals and their clients than if they ran just online on independent sites, or on social media. "It's very easy to walk away from traditional media, especially with the move to digital advertising and the whole gravitational spend to social media," Crossman said. "But it still has a very important role to play. Despite the advance of mobile and social changing how and what we read, watch and listen to, the research shows that it has not fundamentally changed who we trust," she said. "It also suggests the popularity of an online site does not necessarily mean credibility."

80.1.8 London: *Times* financial performance improving

Times Newspapers, London, which owns both the *Times* and the *Sunday Times*, has delivered a profit for the first time in more than a decade. The News Corp-owned company posted an operating profit of £1.7 million (\$A3.1m) for the year ended 30 June. It was driven by a larger share of print sales and growth in digital subscriptions. The growth is being seen as a further sign that consumers will pay for quality journalism after Rupert Murdoch pioneered a new way for newspapers to prosper in the digital era with the introduction of a digital subscription model at the *Times* in 2011.

The company had been in the red at operating level since 2001, culminating in a loss of £72m in 2009. But the *Times* has outperformed the UK broadsheet newspaper market, with a rise in both print and digital sales. Print sales rose 1 per cent to 393,000 copies, according to the latest ABC circulation figures for October, while the number of digital subscribers rose 8 per cent year-on-year to 152,000. Combining the two measurements, the *Times* increased total paid sales by 3 per cent on weekdays to 545,000. Subscriptions to the digital editions of the *Sunday Times* rose by 12 per cent to 154,000.

The *Australian* has 66,000 subscriptions, adding 17 per cent in the recent third quarter, according to the ABC in Australia.

80.1.9 Williams and the *Oz* (1): Evan Williams writes final review

Evan Williams wrote some 1500 reviews and more than three million words on film for the *Australian*. His final article (with a short review embedded in it) appeared in the *Weekend Australian* on 6-7 December 2014 on Page 3 of the Review section. Williams wrote: "After 33 years of watching movies and writing about them, I've decided, with mixed feelings of relief, pain and nostalgia, that this is the moment to move on and spend more time (as they say) with my family." His first film review appeared in 1954 in the *Voice*, which was an independent journal of opinion founded by "one of Sydney's bold radical spirits", Harold Levien. Williams said: "With childhood

forays to the cinema thrown in, plus my 33 years at the *Australian*, I reckon I've seen about 6000 films and spent about 12,000 hours of my life sitting in darkened rooms."

Review editor Tim Douglas wrote about Williams on Page 2 of Review, 6-7 December. Williams' replacement has not yet been named.

80.1.10 Williams and the Oz (2): Pamela Williams to join paper

The award-winning investigative journalist Pamela Williams will join the *Australian* early in 2015. She worked for the *Australian Financial Review* for more than 25 years and was executive producer of the ABC's *7.30 Report, NSW*, 1992-1994. Williams has won a stack of journalism awards, including a Gold Walkley. She is the author of the 1997 political campaign book, *The Victory*, and the 2013 book, *Killing Fairfax: Packer, Murdoch and the Ultimate Revenge* (*Weekend Australian*, 6-7 December 2014, p.2).

80.1.11 Age and the election

On Monday 1 December, the first weekday after the Victorian state election, the *Age* – hitherto proud of its comprehensive reporting – did not even provide lists of seat-by-seat results. This is probably the first time since 1854 that this has not been provided. (The *Herald Sun* and the *Australian* both provided seat-by-seat election results.)

80.1.12 In the ACT domain of real estate, *allhomes* rules

Victor Isaacs writes: In the online property business in Australia *realestate.com.au* owned by News Corp is dominant, beating Fairfax Media's online company *domain.com.au*. Everywhere that is except in the Canberra market. There, a company sponsored by local real estate agents called *allhomes* is dominant. In October Fairfax purchased *allhomes.com.au*.

Now, instead of changing the name of *allhomes* to be the same as their newspaper's *Domain*, they have changed their newspaper offering to be the same as the online presence. Thus, the *Canberra Times* has taken a small step away from the increasing standardisation of the Fairfax newspapers. Fairfax clearly intends to maintain its dominance in the Canberra real estate market.

80.1.13 Walkley Awards

At the Walkley Awards presentation on 3 December, Paul Maley and Greg Bearup, of the *Australian*, won the prestigious category of news report of the year for their confronting exclusive coverage of Australian men travelling to Syria to commit atrocities for terror group Islamic State.

A joint investigation by the *Australian's* John Lyons and the ABC's *Four Corners* took out the category of all media investigative journalism for "Stone Cold Justice". Adele Ferguson and the *Four Corners* team won the top award, the Gold Walkley, for their work in exposing unethical business dealings in Australia's biggest banks. "Banking bad" was a two-year investigation by Ferguson into the risky bank advice given to consumers and the broad failure of the corporate regulator, the Australian Securities & Investments Commission.

The most poignant moment during the ceremony in Sydney came with recognition for Australian journalist Peter Greste, detained by Egyptian authorities since his arrest last December. Greste was awarded the Walkley for Outstanding Contribution to Journalism for his reporting for Qatar-owned news channel Al Jazeera and his personal fight for a free press and open democracy. A full list of winners appears at:

<http://resources.news.com.au/files/2014/12/04/1227145/354797-2014-walkley-award-winners.pdf>

including the Wagga *Daily Advertiser* and the Griffith *Area News*, saying it is unrealistic and will lead to the quality of the regional outlets declining dramatically. “The basic addition of caption writing and headline creation adds time to a journalist’s day,” MEAA director Paul Murphy wrote in a letter to management. “At an average of five stories a day, for the ease of maths taking about 10 minutes for these new tasks, that adds up to an additional 50 minutes work per shift. Members feel the current proposal does not adequately take into account the reality that once journalists are outside the city boundaries, 3G/4G reception disappears, often making it difficult to phone a story through to the office, let alone upload a full story and photographs from locations outside the city limits.” The new editorial systems and new skills training will be rolled out across Fairfax Media’s regional publishing business, Australian Community Media, affecting newspapers and websites over the next 18 months.

80.3.2 Queanbeyan: Centenarian Woods wins award

Jim Woods, now aged 100, has been awarded the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award in the Queanbeyan Business Excellence Awards for his role in editing and developing the *Queanbeyan Age*, 1958 to 1994, and his involvement in the Queanbeyan Printing Museum, the Queanbeyan Sporting Gallery and other community groups (Georgina Connery, “Woods recognised for community work”, *Canberra Chronicle*, 28 October 2014, p.9).

80.3.3 Armidale: Final issue of *Independent*

The final issue of the *Armidale Independent* appeared on 5 November. The Pakenham-based Star News Group decided to close the paper, one of 22 in the stable of the family owned and independent media company. Star acquired the *Independent* in March 2013 when it was under the threat of closure. Declining advertising revenue and a difficult local market led to the decision to close the paper.

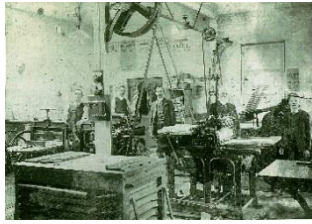
80.3.4 Mackay: New editor appointed

Meredith Papavasiliou became the editor of Mackay’s *Daily Mercury* on 10 November 2014. Papavasiliou, who was born and grew up in Mackay, started as a reporter in the APN Rockhampton and Mackay newsrooms. She operated her own consultancy business at one stage and edited the *North West Star*, Mount Isa. In 2009 she became the editor of the Gladstone *Observer*, leading her team to win two PANPA Newspaper of the Year awards and an APN Newspaper of the Year award. She was named APN’s editor of the year in 2010. In 2012, she was appointed APN’s regional editor-in-chief (north) and most recently she was appointed group content and special publications editor. Papavasiliou took over at Mackay from Jon Ortlieb, who has returned to his home state of South Australia for family reasons. Former editor Jennifer Spilsbury has decided not to return from maternity leave (*Daily Mercury*, 10 November 2014).

80.3.5 Warwick: Digital trial of personalised newspapers

A recent trial to print a personalised edition of the *Warwick Daily News* is the first step in a broader push by APN’s Australian Regional Media arm to see how it can personalise its print product (reports TheNewspaperWorks, 12 November 2014). On 26 October the regional daily, which is based on the southern Darling Downs, sent 700 subscribers a version of the Sunday newspaper, which had the subscriber’s name on the front page, as well as a unique entry code to a competition the newspaper was running that week. *Daily News* general manager Bruce Partridge said the paper was chosen for the trial as it was relatively small for a daily newspaper and could supply its core subscriber base without a major print run.

The outside four pages were printed on a digital press at Gold-Coast based DK Group and freighted to APN’s Sunshine Coast print site at Yandina to be collated with the main paper. The newspaper used variable data to customise the digital covers for particular subscribers and then measured the response from readers with and without personalised newspapers to a competition the *Daily News* ran on the day. The results indicated a higher level of engagement from readers with personalised newspapers, as 21 per cent of these subscribers took direct action and entered the competition, compared with 5 per cent of retail customers that entered.



4-NEWSPAPER HISTORY

80.4.1 Henry Amos Moore (1903-1998): wartime editor

Rod Kirkpatrick writes:

Harry Moore's career resumé at 25 did not suggest what lay ahead for him over the next two decades. He had worked as a journalist in Sydney on the *Lone Hand*, *Fair Play*, *Daily Mail* and *Labor Daily*, and in Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane on *Truth*. He had not had even a whiff of a country newspaper. Yet for much of the time from age 25 to 45 he edited Mackay's *Daily Mercury*, he ran a pub for two years and worked on the team that planned Sydney's *Daily Mirror*.

At 25 he was, to use the jargon of a later age, "head-hunted" by the secretary of the Queensland Country Press Association on behalf of the ailing 64-year-old owner of the *Daily Mercury*. William Joseph Manning had edited the *Mercury* for 19 years and had been the principal shareholder for 12 years. His health had deteriorated and he wanted to employ an editor. But once Country Press's Albert Joseph had arranged for Manning to meet Moore, Manning was unwilling to release fully the editorial reins, and so Moore went to Mackay as associate editor. He married Mary Ellen (Molly) Sloane, of Rosewood, near Ipswich, on 16 February 1929, and started at the *Mercury* after a week-long honeymoon.

Born in industrial Balmain in Sydney on 17 June 1903, Henry Amos (Harry) Moore was the son of a seaman who was generally at sea five days a week. Harry attended Eastwood Public School and Ashfield High School. He worked on a newspaper run throughout high school and at either an iron foundry or Arnott's biscuit factory during school holidays. The extra pennies were vital to the household. Harry's ambition was to become a patternmaker at the Meadowbank steelworks, but his mathematics ability failed him at the interview. Instead, his English ability won him a cadetship in journalism with the *Lone Hand*, started in 1907 by the legendary J.F. Archibald, and *Fair Play*.

There was no grand entry to writing major news stories. Harry worked as copy holder one year and proof reader the next until the *Lone Hand* closed in February 1921. At the office, Moore had regularly greeted the poet Henry Lawson. In a letter to the *Sydney Morning Herald* in the early



HARRY MOORE

1980s, Moore defended Lawson's drinking habits, and said Lawson had had a pen in his hand more often than a glass. Moore continued his cadetship on the *Daily Mail*, launched in Sydney in January 1922. Journalists on police rounds often ate their dinner with ambulance-men and even travelled to fires on one of the tenders, clinging to a rail down the middle of it.

Difficulties in the ownership structure of the *Daily Mail* led to its closure in January 1924 and Moore became a rounds journalist at the *Labor Daily* for about six to eight months. Unhappy at the Labor paper, where the editorial staff faced constant conflict with union officials, he left Sydney "with a few pounds in his pocket" to try his luck in Melbourne, submitting news reports on a casual basis to both the *Sun News-Pictorial* and *Truth*. *Truth* offered him full-time work some months later, only days ahead of the *Sun*. He became a junior sub-editor and feature writer for *Truth* and *Sportsman*.

In February 1926 *Truth* sent him to the Warburton Ranges when devastating bushfires broke out. The coroner travelled on the same train as Moore who found the rear freight coach was loaded with

coffins. More than 30 people died in the fires. *Truth* posted him to Adelaide and Brisbane after his Melbourne work and it was while in Brisbane that he was offered the job in Mackay.

Moore was 25 years old when he joined the *Daily Mercury*, which had been the lone daily in the small sugar town for 10 years (there had been two other dailies in Mackay in earlier years). He brought new vigour to a newspaper accustomed to the editorial direction of someone nearly 40 years older, but he looked so young that the printer objected to having to “take orders from a schoolboy”. Moore was associate editor—editor in all but name and pay packet—for eight years, which included the Great Depression. He admired Manning for not laying off any workers during those tough years or even reducing their wages. “He had a far-sighted idea of making staff members a part of the community,” Moore said when I interviewed him in 1979. “They’d borrow money from him at low interest. He also bought several homes around Mackay and rented them cheaply to workers in his employ.”

After nearly eight years in Mackay, Moore became the publican of a hotel, while continuing his newspaper duties. Moore agreed to a request from close friend, solicitor Bill Amiet, and another businessman to ensure that Fred McGarry did not lose his hotel licence after becoming “unwittingly” involved in a turf war between senior Mackay police over certain sly-grog activities. McGarry’s Hotel had been raided one Sunday afternoon and McGarry was charged with selling liquor during prohibited hours. The magistrate agreed to transfer the licence to Moore, and McGarry took a world tour while the air cleared.

But Moore, as the senior day-to-day editor on duty at the *Mercury*, knew he now had a conflict of interest that could not be allowed to continue. Manning did not ask Moore to resign, but Moore did resign in February 1937 to manage the “very profitable hotel”. The *Mercury*’s staff presented him with an engraved silver mounted inkstand. He held the hotel licence for a little over two years before leaving Mackay in late 1939 for Brisbane and Sydney. He rejoined *Truth* in Sydney and helped plan the launch of the *Daily Mirror*, which was going to challenge the evening *Sun*. An ageing and ill W.J. Manning recalled Moore to Mackay by April 1941, six weeks before the *Mirror* emerged.

Manning died in April 1943, and Moore edited the *Mercury* with skill and poise, 1941-49, and editorialised with authority whether expressing views on local or international affairs. Solicitor William Albert (Bill) Amiet, a profound scholar in literature and astronomy, contributed Saturday editorial reflections that could have graced any metropolitan daily.

The day after a US Flying Fortress crashed at Baker’s Creek, near Mackay, on 14 June 1943, killing 40 of the 41 American servicemen on board, Moore published a sensitively written editorial, “We share their grief”. Strict censorship prevented the paper reporting the disaster, but, under a heading, “Ambulance attention”, a 27-word par told of a “visiting service man” being taken to “the District Hospital from Baker’s Creek by ambulance suffering from internal injuries”. Word of mouth carried the news around Mackay that he was the lone survivor of the plane crash, Foye Kenneth Roberts.

Two months later, during an 11-day Australian visit, Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the US President, called at Mackay—on 12-13 September—to spend time with US servicemen on R & R leave and Red Cross personnel. The First Lady, an educator and journalist, wrote about her Australian visit daily in “My Day” columns for various Australian newspapers.

In his unpublished memoirs, Moore claimed the *Mercury* published on 11 August 1945, news of the overall end of World War II a few days before other Australian newspapers. Evidence, however, does not support this assertion. The *Mercury*’s headlines on 11 August declared: “JAPAN SURRENDERS. Potsdam peace terms accepted provided Emperor is unharmed.”

On the same day, various Australian dailies carried fairly similar headlines, such as: “THE SURRENDER OF JAPAN” (*Examiner*, Launceston); “JAPAN OFFERS COMPLETE SURRENDER” (*West Australian*); and “JAPS OFFER TO SURRENDER” (*Argus*, Melbourne). The *Morning Bulletin*, the *Courier-Mail* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* had similar headlines and stories.

In 1949 Moore was offered the editorship of the *Australian Sugar Journal*, at double his Mackay pay. He joined the monthly, produced from Brisbane, at the beginning of 1950 after recommending

that Clarrie Manning, grandson of W.J. Manning, be appointed editor of the *Daily Mercury*. Moore edited the *Sugar Journal* for 22 years and later described it as “the softest job in Christendom”. He died on 20 April 1998.

Since 1978, Tony Moore (b. 1961), a grandson of Harry Moore, has been on the *Mercury*'s production staff. Another grandson, Nicholas Moore (b. 1970), was a *Mercury* journalist, 1993-98, before working on dailies in Darwin, Albury, Melbourne and Brisbane. He now runs his own online newspaper for the north-eastern suburbs of Brisbane, northernlife.com.au/, and is married to former *Daily Mercury* journalist Felicity Shea.

80.4.2 Fitz the unbeatable—by a whisker

Dungog Chronicle, 6 April 1937, p.5: “Without doubt, Fred. Fitzpatrick is the soul of Wingham,” remarks the *Dubbo Liberal*. “In his eyes, nothing is better. Wingham leads, the world follows, is his motto, and when Fitz. spikes his last slip of copy this side of the Styx and signs on in the haven beyond the blue, where all good journalists go, the Manning River district will lose No. 1 in its grade A champions. Whilst it has long been admitted that Wingham can grow anything in the universe — it must, Fitz. swears so — friends and foes have still to find his limits. Last week, the cables recorded some speedy shaving by a barber in Hungary — a clean and painless shave in 24-secs. The bewhiskered fraternity sat up and gasped. Not so Fitz. He calmly recorded the ‘fact’. Then quietly added that the chap was “nearly as fast” as Freddy Mitchell, of Wingham, a tonsorial artist now past his prime. As he penned the par, there may have been a smile, or smiles, in anticipation of the ‘bite’, or ‘bites’, in reply, but the proclamation stands. Fitz. had remained true to tradition!”

80.4.3 Sydney Gazette office in 1828

An ANHG subscriber happened upon the following 1828 description of the Sydney Gazette office in Trove:

VALUABLE OFFER TO A TENANT OR PURCHASER IN THE MERCANTILE LINE.

THE PROPRIETOR of the spacious, elegant, and eligibly situated PREMISES, in Charlotte-place and George street, Sydney, well known as the GAZETTE OFFICE, having determined on the Erection of a New Bunding in George street for a Printing Office, upon a more compact and convenient Scale, and which will be much better adapted to the purposes of an increasing Business, begs leave to offer his Premises to LET to a respectable Tenant, or respectable Tenants, as they can be easily divided into two or three distinct Dwellings and Warehouses, for the Term of not less than three, and not exceeding five Years.

Any Gentleman, however, that may be settling in the Colony, and who may be desirous of embarking in the Mercantile Line, may become a Purchaser on such Terms as will, upon Examination, be pronounced advantageous. The Property is freehold, the Building is so constructed as to last forages—and the Situation, without exception, may be considered the first in Town for Business. To a Merchant, with a Family, from the frontage to Charlotte-place, it possesses every advantage as a genteel private Residence; and from its also fronting and lining George-street, it commands a pre-eminent Stand for Public Business. From the general and intimate Knowledge the Public have of these Premises, further Comment would be superfluous) but the Proprietor wishes it to be explicitly understood, that he would not be disposed to let, much less to sell so increasingly valuable a Property, were he not desirous of removing his Office to a more convenient Edifice.

As the Building intended for the New Gazette Office will not be completed before the end of the present Year, Possession of the Premises, now advertised to be Let or Sold, could not be given prior to January next.

[Hand] Further Particulars may be known, on Application to BODENHAM, Estate and Land Agent, George-street.

* Classified Advertising. (1828, April 30). *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* (NSW: 1803-1842), p. 3. Retrieved 17 October 2014, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2190321>

80.4.4 Samuel Cook: printer, reporter, editor, manager

Samuel Cook (1830-1910) earned a four-line entry in the “Biographical Notes” in Gavin Souter’s *Company of Herald*s (p.605)—plus other mentions. The ANHG came across the extensive *Sydney Morning Herald* obituary for Cook (Monday, 4 July 1910, p.9), who was general manager of the *Herald* and the *Sydney Mail*, 1887-1907. Edited extracts appear below:

Samuel Cook, who for nearly twenty years was manager of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Sydney Mail*, died at his home at Marrickville on [2 July]. He was 80 years of age; but, with the exception of an illness which overtook him during a visit to England towards the end of 1906, he had enjoyed perfect health until the last few months of his life. It was not till six months ago that the weight of his years began to tell and his health failed him. His great delight had always been in gardening—he had made a special study of native trees—and until a few weeks before his death he was still able to spend part of the day in the large garden around his home, “Frankfort”, at Marrickville. Cook, who was twice married, leaves a family of five sons and four daughters [one of whom, Alan Bourne Cook is a member of the staff of the *Herald*].

In the *Herald* of 19 June 1854, in a list of passengers arrived from England by ship the day before is the name of Samuel Cook. He was a young compositor, who had come out from London under a three years’ engagement as compositor to John Fairfax, proprietor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Fifty years later—when some 250 of his colleagues, compositors, machinists, reporters, leader writers, sub-editors, and editors, with one of the junior members of the firm, and the senior member, by whose side Cook had entered the firm, and side by side with whom he had grown up in a strong and enduring friendship, gathered together to meet him on the anniversary of his entry to the office as compositor—it was a leader in the office they congratulated. In the interval he had risen through every grade—reporter, chief of the gallery staff, chief of the reporting staff, associate editor, and night editor of the *Herald*, and editor of the *Sydney Mail* and *Echo*, to be manager of the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Samuel Cook was born at Leicester, England, in March 1830, and was apprenticed at 14 to W. H. Burton, a general printer in the town. As soon as his apprenticeship was over, he came up to London, and was given a place in the office of Clowes, the Government Printer. A little later he entered the office of the *London Morning Herald*. He had only been there a few months when he accepted an engagement to join the *Sydney Morning Herald* as a compositor.

At the time when Cook joined the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Kemp, one of the original proprietors, had lately retired, and John Fairfax had been left as the sole proprietor. His son, Charles Fairfax, was shortly after taken into the firm as a partner. The present senior member of the firm, Sir James Fairfax, was then an apprentice boy working at case or at one of the old-fashioned printing machines then in use; and when in 1856 he also was made a partner the firm of “John Fairfax and Sons” was first brought into existence. So that Cook actually saw the birth of the firm which for over 54 years he served.

It was as a compositor that Cook came out. But it happened that, as a boy in Leicester, he had learned Pitman’s system of shorthand. He had learned it, as he said, 50 years later, “as a matter of pastime and of intellectual pleasure.” But as it turned out it gave him the chance of his life. At the time when he arrived in Australia one member of the *Herald* staff, [Charles] De Boos, had already practised shorthand; but it appears that with this one exception Cook was the first man in Australia to write the system of shorthand which is now almost invariably used by journalists. He had not been many days in the composing room before John Fairfax discovered his

accomplishment. Within a week or two of his arrival he began to be taken from the frame every now and then to do reporting work, and very soon was placed permanently on to the reporting staff.

He was sent almost at once into the gallery of Parliament. It was before the days of the present Constitution of the State. “The gallery” then meant the gallery of the old Legislative Council, in which only two-thirds of the members were elected by the people—the other third being nominated. “I had a large share in reporting the proceedings of the first Parliament under the new Constitution of 1856,” he said many years afterwards, “and I count it an honour to have taken part in reporting the speeches of the gifted men who at that time made the halls of legislature ring with their eloquence.” Cook so outlived the generation that played its part on the political stage during the years he served in the gallery that there are none in political life today with whom he was associated at any time of his long career as a Parliamentary reporter.

He knew William Charles Wentworth as a power in the land, and saw Henry Parkes, as a young man, win his way into the House and rise to a commanding position there. There were giants in those days. Of Sir Edward Deas-Thomson, Sir Stuart Donaldson, Sir Charles Cowper, of Sir James Martin and William Bede Dalley, of John Hubert Plunkett and Sir Terence Aubrey Murray, of John Bayley, Darvall and William Forster, William Arnold, Daniel Henry Deniehy, Sir William Montague Manning and Robert Campbell, Cook often spoke. Those were the days of set speeches, when members sought by apt quotation, often from the poets, to give point and polish to their carefully-prepared utterances. Both the men and the manners of those Parliaments have passed away.

Cook was at that time looked on as the fastest shorthand writer in Australia; and his shorthand was so beautifully clear that some time, when he had been taking an important speech in Parliament, and the report was wanted immediately, his notes would actually be divided up and given to the other reporters to transcribe. Cook very soon rose to be leader of the gallery staff of the *Herald*.

There were only seven or eight men on the *Herald* staff when Cook joined it. Sylvester was chief of the staff. Charles St. Julian was chief law reporter (his reports are still referred to in the courts. He had a great part in preparing the Municipal Act of 1868, and he afterwards became Chief Justice of Fiji under King Cacobau). Amongst Cook’s other colleagues were Charles De Boos (author of the “Conjewoi” papers); Stephen Hayes (who afterwards reported in the Senate of the United States); W. H. Cooper, who later on went to the Bar, and became member for East Macquarie; Roderick Flanagan (author of a work on Constitutional Government in New South Wales); Charles Robinson, who became chief Parliamentary reporter for the *Herald* and afterwards accepted an appointment as chief of the *Hansard* staff, which he still holds; Charles Lyne, J.C. Haddon, George Eld. Raynor, who became a champion rifle shot and many other able men. One of the best known contributors in his time was Richard Roe (“Peter Possum”).

When Sylvester retired from the leadership of the reporting staff Cook took his place. He became associate editor of the *Herald* with Rev. John West; night editor of the *Herald*, and later editor of the *Echo*—an evening paper, published by John Fairfax and Sons until 1893, when, shortly after the price of the *Herald* was reduced to a penny, the *Echo* was discontinued to allow of attention being entirely concentrated on the *Herald*.

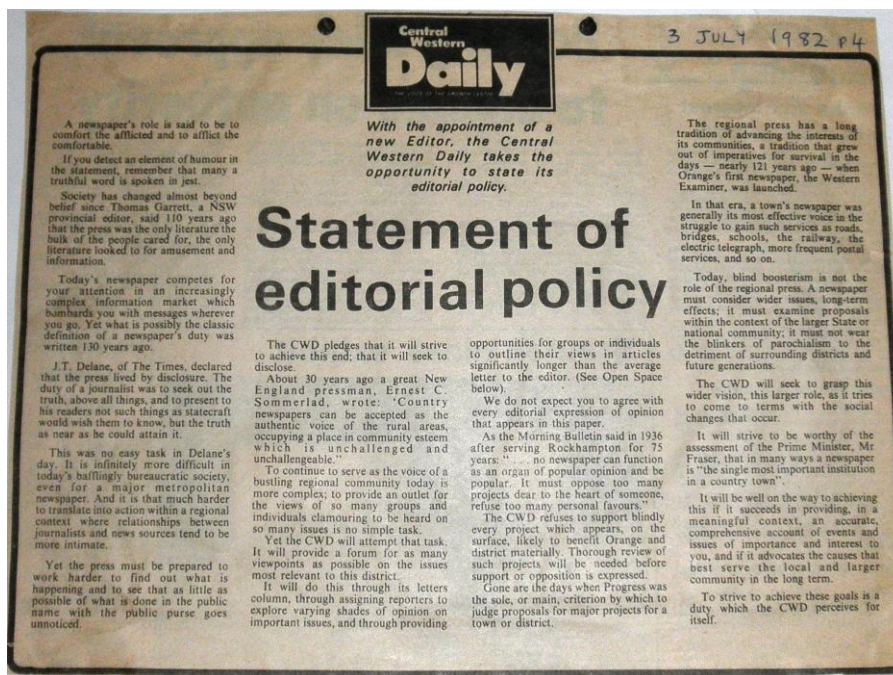
In [September] 1888 Cook was appointed general manager of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Sydney Mail*, and that position he held until his retirement in 1907. Very shortly after he became manager the Federal number was published—an issue of which he was always particularly proud. “I remember with pride,” he said afterwards, “our achievement of May 6, 1888, when we printed 273,000 sixteen-page *Heralds* and distributed them all on the same day.” First and last, the history of his stewardship was never better summed up than in his own words just before he left the office on a last holiday to the old world. “All my relations with the firm of John Fairfax and Sons for more than half a century,” he said, “have been agreeable. All my relations with the literary staff have been without discord. All my relations with the mechanical department have been

generally satisfactory to both. I have tried to administer my office with courtesy as well as firmness; and it is pleasing to me to know that my administration has been successful.”

And, indeed, for all his public activities [the obituary mentions many], it was with the service of the Fairfax firm and the task of helping to build that journal that Cook was heart and soul bound up. He saw the *Herald* hand-set, and he saw it machine-set. He saw it turned out by the little clattering presses of 50 years ago, and by the monstrous, roaring engines of today. He watched the reporters’ engagement book creep from a little diary that he could slip into a breast pocket to the huge tomes that a man can carry with difficulty. And he would have asked no better epitaph than this—that he lived an upright loyal journalist.

80.4.5 Time flies (8)

Rod Kirkpatrick continues his career reminiscences: When I joined the *Central Western Daily*, Orange, as editor on 21 June 1982, it was a drab, lifeless paper. Journalists produced the paper according to their news values, and they did the minimum. It was all surface stuff; no depth, no background, no opinion, no humour. It was an assembly line, a sausage machine; no choice cuts here. The paper lacked order: you were just as likely to find national or international news on Page 20 as on page 2 or 5 or 15, filling a hole here or another there. Filling was important, more important than providing depth or insight. The paper lacked an editorial voice; it lacked the insightful journalistic voice often provided by feature articles; and because very few letters to the editor were published, it lacked, at the most basic level, a community voice.



I wanted to resuscitate the paper, get its heart pumping, get the community involved. In the course of my historical research, I had studied the files of many country newspapers and I knew that an editor had the chance to produce a paper whose columns were alive or a paper whose columns seemed to be barely breathing. When I arrived in Orange, I told the general manager, Clem Martin, I wanted Pages 3 and 4 to be free

of advertisements each day so that I could establish a distinctive style to the early pages of the *Daily*. The national news would be published in a series of double-column briefs down the left-hand side of Page 3 each day. (A “World briefs” column was introduced later in the paper, too, so that people knew where to look for such news.) The rest of Page 3 would be local news.

Page 4 became the opinion page, the letters page, the community page, the page for creative contributors. This was where I wanted to say to the readers: we want to hear from you; this is your outlet to express a view; this is your creative outlet; the community will be richer for your input. I wrote an editorial generally only twice a week, and I called it “Our Say” and included my byline: “By Rod Kirkpatrick, Editor”. I began inserting filler items on Page 4, inviting letters to the editor, which I called “Your Say”—a label which, although common in the 21st century, I had not seen in

the early 1980s. From the people who requested my time as editor, I soon had weekly columns contributed by a Health Department officer, the Orange tourism office, a librarian, an historian and the Ministers' Fraternal (a different minister each week). The deadline for Page 4 articles, poems and letters was midday two days before publication.

I published a statement of editorial policy in the Saturday paper at the end of my second week at the *Daily*. I pledged that the newspaper would strive to "disclose"; it would try to ensure that whatever was done in the public name with the public purse was made known. I promised we would strive to be a voice for the bustling regional community of Orange. The *Daily* would provide a forum for as many viewpoints as possible on the issues most relevant to the district.

It will do this through its letters column, through assigning reporters to explore varying shades of opinion on important issues and through providing opportunities for groups or individuals to outline their views in articles significantly longer than the average letter to the editor.

I said the *Daily* would refuse to support blindly every project which appeared, on the surface, to benefit Orange and district materially. 'Thorough review of such projects will be needed before support or opposition is expressed.'

Before things fell into place for Page 4, in particular, I published a statement of my editorial policy

My policy had three major prongs: access, accountability and credibility.

1. Access: I intended to open up the pages of the *Daily* to community contributions. I wanted to provide access to the paper for small groups and individuals, to demystify the media, to overcome the feeling that you have to be big to win media space. I wanted to produce pages of interest to the wider community, not just pages and pages of inverted-pyramid style news stories. I did this, in particular, through the approach I took to Page 4, mentioned earlier. It was largely from "People Out There" rather than "Journalists In Here". One issue in February 1984 carried a full page of letters to the editor.
2. Accountability: I intended, in line with wider community trends, to establish an ethic of accountability to readers. How? By explaining coverage that came under heavy criticism so that readers better understood the constraints of journalism and the professional principles we were seeking to apply. For example, I wrote articles that explained our coverage of the 1983 Federal election and our coverage of a court case in which a local police sergeant was charged with sex crimes involving local women. In addition, I made myself available to talk to community groups about the newspaper and its role. One September morning in 1982, a dozen TAFE students preparing for apprenticeships in carpentry visited my office to question me about newspapers and news; how we gathered news; why we published what we did; the decisions and judgments leading up to the final newspaper. Their communications teacher had seen the changes at the *Daily* and wanted to demystify the media for her students.
3. Credibility: I intended to correct our published mistakes and significant distortions. My aim was to achieve a situation where readers found our news coverage credible and understood the principles by which we operated.

Of course, shifting the *Daily* from a paper that had been publishing virtually no feature articles and few letters to the editor—and one that certainly lacked a designated page for such material—to one that suddenly had six ad-free Page 4s a week to fill was a challenging task. The recurring initial need was to remind and convince the readers, especially those with views to express or a creative bent, that Page 4 was "open for business". We really did want to hear from them.

Orange and district includes lots of small towns, such as Molong, Millthorpe, Cudal, Borenore, Lucknow and Stuart Town. Three weeks after I became the editor, I announced that the *Daily* wanted to introduce an occasional series, entitled "My Town". I invited readers to contribute articles of up to 800 words on their town and its people. Soon the articles came tumbling in and a couple of the writers became regular contributors, even paid columnists (such as Berna Hansen and Joan Brown). One article that stays in the memory was contributed by the senior citizens'

group at Molong, with coordinator Karen Brown, piecing together their memories of their town. I sent the *Daily* photographer to Molong to take photographs of buildings in the town and we ran 14 photographs with the article. Leila Amos wrote a fascinating article about her home town, Millthorpe, where both her maternal and paternal grandparents had settled after sailing from Britain. Bruce Auld wrote about Borenore and its unofficial “mayor”, the local storekeeper.

One day I had a hole on Page 4 and I wrote a filler that said:

This little hole has bobbed up at the foot of the page, and so I thought I would use it to invite writers of articles and writers of verse and writers of letters to contribute ideas and thoughts and humour and provocation to the *Central Western Daily* so that little holes like this don't need to be filled by ramblings from entrenched writers who have plenty of opportunity to have their say.

It was as a result of such invitations that soon there were people queuing up to have their contributions aired on Page 4. Joan Brown became an established columnist on Fridays, with a lightly humorous take on everyday activities. And Berna Hansen, an out-of-towner with what seemed like scores of children, became a Saturday columnist with a great propensity to provoke laughter. Poets came out of the woodwork, and some were very good, such as Ron Basford, of Forest Reefs, and Amy Harrison, when on target. Another, who called himself ‘Edley, had a wonderful style that evoked C.J. Dennis. Neville Smith wrote wonderfully humorous poems, and the cartoonist, “Thor”, would illustrate them. A local school-teacher became our restaurant reviewer under the byline, “Phantom Diner”. I did not even tell my wife who he was, and now I cannot recall his name, but his column was avidly read.

How did people respond to the different style of newspaper? And how soon did they notice the changes? Within three weeks of the statement of editorial policy being published, people were starting to comment favourably on the changes. They did this face to face, by phone or through reporters. One reader phoned on 31 July 1982 to say how much he liked “the new paper”. Town Clerk Bill Marshall asked our civic reporter Kathie Ryan to tell me he liked what I was doing with the paper. The medical superintendent of Orange Base Hospital, Dr Jann Hunt, rang on 11 August to say my editorial on the ambulance service was “terrific” and that I had placed things in just the right perspective. She liked the new approach to things at the *CWD* and it had been the subject of wide approval by those attending the ABC concert the previous night. The principal of Canobolas High School, Fred Dobbin, who was also the chair of the Council of Mitchell College of Advanced Education, Bathurst, rang on 24 August 1982 to say: “I do greatly appreciate what you are trying to do down there at the *CWD*. You are trying to make it a much more meaningful paper and I hope you succeed.”

Keith Mazoudier, the owner of the Bowen Terrace apartments, told me he had been receiving the *Daily* for twelve years and was enjoying it now for the first time. Marie Hammond, an ALP member who worked at MLC, said that for the first time in 15 years she was looking forward to reading the *Daily*. An advertising salesman for the local TV channel, CBN-8, said: “You’ve taken the paper by the scruff of the neck and given it a good shake.” Two of the poetic contributors, Joyce Bell and Amy Harrison, were moved to verse by the changes in the paper. Harrison said, in part: “You have made us feel you know we’re here/ and to speak out as we ought, / Not let our views and feelings rot / in smouldering wasted thought.”

Even though I was the editor, I sometimes undertook reporting assignments. Some were one-offs, such as interviewing the new director of nursing at Wontama Homes, or covering the opening of the Clover Hill residential estate, Bob Hawke’s only visit to Orange as the very new Labor leader during the 1983 Federal election campaign or the opening of the machinery demonstration centre at Orange Agricultural College. In 1985-86, however, I became involved in a major issue—the plans by the Federal Government to acquire compulsorily 70,000 hectares of farmland in the Bathurst-Orange region for an infantry and artillery base. Initially, the region had been one of three much larger sites under consideration for the base, but the Government decided to order an

environmental impact statement on a 70,000-hectare site in the Bathurst-Orange region. I welcomed the announcement editorially, naively believing the decision would help resolve many of the issues being tossed around by opponents and supporters of the base.

The turning point for me came one Sunday when I joined a public bus tour of the farms affected by the Army base proposal. A six-part series of feature articles resulted. By the end of 1985 I was writing, ‘The more we find out about the Army base issue, the less we know about why it has proceeded as far as it has.’ The Central Tablelands No Base Association, with the help of the Australian Democrats, won a Senate inquiry into the army training facilities project. Suddenly, there was an abundance of documentation of why it was crazy to choose Bathurst-Orange as the site. I wrote about 25,000 words in several major series of features about the Army base and editorialised strongly against Bathurst-Orange being the site for it. My editorial on 8 February 1986 raised nine major questions about the plan. The Government abandoned the project in April 1986. My series of articles led *Canberra Times* editor Jack Waterford to nominate me for the Australian Journalist of the Year Award.



80.4.6 Adelong and Bowral: Some ‘unknown’ NSW country newspapers

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: I have stumbled on two NSW country newspapers that appear to be unknown to the State Library of NSW. They are the *Adelong Miner* (estab. 1884) and the *Intelligence*, Bowral (1884). I have been unable to locate these titles on the State Library catalogue, and also in a list of “dead” newspapers that I obtained from the State Library in the late 1990s.

Last month I was sorting through my NSW country press files and began reviewing the “Adelong” details. I still did not have a precise starting date for the *Adelong Argus* “in late July 1884”. So I turned to Trove and gradually worked out that the paper started on Tuesday, 29 July 1884. Spencer Groves, proprietor of the *Tumut Times* (in an adjoining town), introduced it to try to cut the legs from under a Mr McMasters who was about to launch the *Adelong Miner*. The *Miner* still began publication, on 9 August 1884. I have not yet discovered when it ceased publication, but it was still being published in October 1885 (*Cootamundra Herald*, 30 July 1884, pp.2 and 4; *Bowral Free Press*, 2 August 1884, p.2; *Goulburn Evening Penny Post*, 7 August 1884, p.4).

In doing the above searches, I stumbled on news that William and Daniel L. Beer, the proprietors of the *Bowral Free Press*, had started another paper, *Intelligence*, also in Bowral, in October 1884. It was published each Wednesday. [The Beers had owned the *Free Press* since 29 February 1884, having bought it from the founder, William Webb & Co.] They had originally planned to launch the *Intelligence* in July 1884 [*Bowral Free Press*, 26 July 1884], but Daniel Beer had suffered a “serious attack” in a long-continuing illness. [Leah Day mentioned the *Intelligence* in some notes she sent me from Bowral 15 years ago, but I had not come across any mention of it in my own research or any extract until now.]

When the first issue of the *Intelligence* did appear on 8 October 1884, the *Campbelltown Herald* remarked: “Every man knows his own business, but we fancy if they put the extra matter in Saturday’s *Free Press* it would be better for all parties. However, the proprietors are plucky and persevering men, and we wish them every success.” The Beers published the “greetings” of 10 exchanges which had received a copy of the *Intelligence* (*Bowral Free Press*, 18 October 1884, p.2).

Daniel Beer died in November 1891, aged 28, and older brother, William, died at Mount Gibraltar, Bowral, in May 1920, aged 65. The *Bowral Free Press* was renamed the *Wollondilly Press* from 31 March 1906. The final issue appeared at the close of June 1914. It was replaced by the *Southern Mail*.

80.4.7 Queanbeyan Red Cross

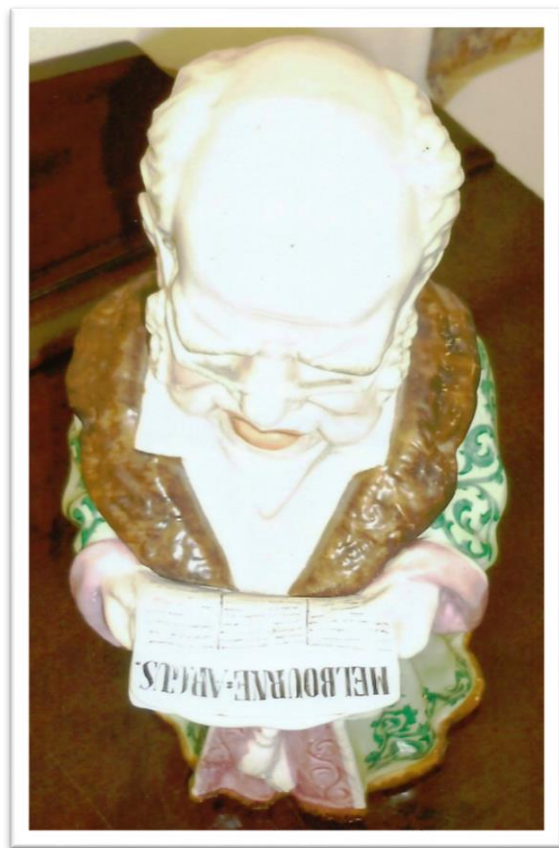
Country newspapers are valuable tools in many types of research. During this centenary of the beginning of World War 1, **Sandra Young**, of Queanbeyan, writes: Over the past few years I have spent a great deal of time researching regional Red Cross groups, especially Queanbeyan and Yass in World War I. So some of my researched documents are about the first 95 years of Queanbeyan Red Cross, where I found their initial meeting, some people involved, etc., a Red Cross poem, a cartoon about Queanbeyan Red Cross, photos of many Red Cross members, etc., and I tried to trace the president, secretary, treasurer, etc., from 1914 until 2009, the 95th anniversary of both Australian and Queanbeyan Red Cross, an article about a 1920 Red Cross banquet for the regional WW1 veterans, each veteran received an inscribed commemorative medal, an article tracing Queanbeyan Red Cross war years (WW1 and WW2), and I included letters of appreciation that were sent to Queanbeyan Red Cross also.

Another document I produced was about WW1 Yass Red Cross, most of which is online on the Monaro Pioneers' website. I produced searchable pdf documents for each of the above, as well as copies of regional Boer War Letters and WW1 regional veteran Letters from the Front and a document about the 7th Australian War Loan (at the end of WW1) and its commemorative flag, etc.

80.4.8 Media Hall of Fame widens horizons

The Melbourne Press Club has announced plans to expand the Victorian Media Hall of Fame into a national honour roll. The new Australian Media Hall of Fame will be formed as soon as possible with the support of industry leaders in other states and territories. The decision was announced at the third and final foundation dinner of the Victorian Hall of Fame in Melbourne on Friday 10 October, when another 31 journalists were inducted.

The Melbourne Press Club is seeking a suitable national sponsor to support the expanded project. Club President Michael Rowland said the national move was a logical next step after the enthusiastic response to the creation of the Victorian Hall over the past three years. He said many of the 81 foundation inductees – while they had been born in Victoria or made their mark in the state – had equally strong links to other parts of Australia and all would sit comfortably in the Australian Media Hall of Fame. They include proprietors Sir Keith and Rupert Murdoch, editors Creighton Burns and Rohan Rivett, cartoonists Bruce Petty and Will Dyson, television greats Laurie Oakes and Jana Wendt and broadcasters Neil Mitchell and Ron Casey.



THE MELBOURNE ARGUS JUG IS PART OF A PERMANENT DISPLAY AT MOORABOOL ANTIQUE GALLERIES, GEELONG. (IT IS NOT FOR SALE.) THE TITLE, *MELBOURNE ARGUS*, WAS USED ONLY FROM 2 JUNE 1846 TO 12 SEPTEMBER 1848, ALTHOUGH IT IS LIKELY THE JUG WAS MADE MANY YEARS LATER. —PICTURE BY PETER GILL.

The Hall of Fame also already embraces some of Australia's greatest war correspondents including Alan Moorehead, Chester Wilmot, Denis Warner and Phillip Schuler.

See ANHG 80.5.1, Smith and Baker, below.

80.4.9 Muswellbrook's first newspaper

Muswellbrook Chronicle, 27 June 1933: Mr Robert Nicol, one of Muswellbrook's oldest residents, has supplied us with some interesting information concerning Muswellbrook's first newspaper, which he says was styled the *Monitor*. Mr Nicol, now his 77th year, states the *Chronicle* was never printed in a building in Sydney-street known as Conroy's Hotel, as stated in a recent issue of this paper. It was in 1868*, he tells us, that a Mr William Logan came from Kiama to Muswellbrook and established the first newspaper, the *Monitor*, which was published in a red shed situated between Conroy's Hotel and the present Family Hotel.

The proprietor's two employees were Phillip Hyndes and Steve Dorney, who took over the business early in 1869. Mr Nicol also served under Mr. Logan until the latter sold out, and then continued with the new proprietors until 18 April 1870. Early in 1869 the plant was shifted to premises in Bridge-street, now occupied by Mr. P. J. Woodbry. A man named Edwards carried on a saddlery business in one of the front rooms, and the *Monitor* was published in another part of the building. Mr. Nicol says he cannot recollect who succeeded Hyndes and Dorney as proprietors of the *Monitor* or when that paper ceased publication.

[*The *Muscle Brook Monitor* was published 7 May 1869 to March 1871.—*Maitland Mercury*, 6 May 1869 and 23 March 1871.]

80.4.10 Cairns: *Sunday Australian* and when it finished

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: Alan Hudson, editor of the *Cairns Post*, 1974-1991, wrote to me on 1 December 2014 about the *Sunday Australian*, Cairns. He said in his email: "I am making a rather lethargic attempt to write my own biography, and I have recalled the first time that I had an article published was in the late 1950s when I was working as a salesman for the Cairns branch of the NQ wholesale merchant, Cummins & Campbell, and contributed a sports column under the byline of "Sideliner" in the *Sunday Australian*, which was edited and published in Cairns by George and Spencer Groom. My dealings were always with Spencer Groom in the Abbott Street premises of the paper and, after a fairly short time as a contributor, he offered me a job, which I accepted, to work on Saturday, collating all the sports results for the next day's paper. However, he telephoned me early in the following week to say that their paper would no longer be published as they felt it could not compete with the Brisbane papers, the *Sunday Mail* and *Sunday Sun*, which, from the following Sunday, would become available in Cairns early in the morning instead of the early afternoon availability previously."

Hudson asked me to check on the closing date of the *Sunday Australian*, because I had stated in an article about George Groom that the paper had closed on 4 April 1952. If it had closed when I said it had, Hudson wrote, it must have resumed publication later. I checked the handwritten notes that I made when I visited James Cook University Library, Townsville, in 1980. My notes said: "The issue of 4 April 1952 carried a notice: *Sunday Australian*, closed today. Published for 12 years. High costs 'killed' it." Thirty-four years on, I looked at Trove: The *Townsville Daily Bulletin* of 7 April 1952 reported the closure of the *Sunday Australian*, as did the *Northern Miner* of 8 April. I checked the catalogue of the State Library of Queensland and it provided confirmation of what Hudson was saying: The holdings resumed on 4 August 1957 and publication ceased, finally, on 8 December 1957.

80.4.11 'Reprehensible journalism' condemned—and imitated

Gloucester Advocate, 24 April 1912, p.4: "The *Dungog Chronicle* is nothing if it is not funny. Ever since the establishment of the *Advocate*, it has ruthlessly pirated our matter without acknowledgement of any kind. Before now it has taken whole articles, running into two or three columns, without any mention of the source whence they were taken. And not only has it made free and unacknowledged use of our paragraphs, but it has frequently hashed them up for reproduction

under the heading of ‘Gloucester, from our correspondent’, in the most unblushing way. In reprisal, we admit, we have adopted its own system of ‘reprehensible journalism’— and until now, without protest. We shall continue, too, to do so as long as it continues the reprehensible practice which he charges against us. The *Dungog Chronicle* as long as we have known it, has never been a model of journalistic civility — but it should be remembered that those who live in glass houses should never throw stones, for fear that in retaliation it should have brickbats hurled back at them.”



5—RECENTLY PUBLISHED

80.5.1 Books

Bryans, Dennis, *A Survey of Australian Typefounders’ Specimens*, Golden Point Press, Melbourne, 2014. \$50 plus postage. Illustrated in colour and black and white; 96pp; 185 x 240 mm. Available from publisher: PO Box 2168, Blackburn South, Vic., 3130.

This book shows previously unrecognised specimens of typographic designs preserved by the State Archives of South Australia. Specimens first mentioned in the New South Wales press more than 150 years ago. The skills and workmanship exhibited by Australia’s pioneer typefounders in these specimens present a vital source of information for future print historians, and offer insights into our printing past for the general reader. Background information and additional specimens from other collections is included to give context to the newly discovered items.

Types for bookwork and job printing were also cast by the local typefounders, often mimicking the designs to English and American foundries. However, a unique feature of Australian-made fonts was type suitable for recording the brands required by the governments of the colonies of New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia by which horses, cattle and sheep could be identified. These original and often curious designs are notable for their raw utility.

Griffen-Foley, Bridget, *A Companion to the Australian Media*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2014, 543pp. \$79.95. [Australian Scholarly Publishing, PO Box 299, Kew, Vic., 3101.] See. ANHG 79.4.2.

Lewis, Steve, *Stand and Deliver: Celebrating 50 Years of the National Press*, Club, Black Inc., hardback, 320pp., illustrations, \$29.95 plus \$15 postage from the National Press Club, Canberra. This book highlights many of the most notable speeches and occasions at the National Press Club.

Rule, Andrew, *Kerry Stokes: The Boy from Nowhere, A Great Australian Journey*, Harper Collins, 520pp., hardback, illustrations, \$34.50. Traces Kerry Stokes’ career from absolute poverty to becoming one of Australia’s most successful businessmen. It includes details of his ownership in the past of the *Canberra Times* and now of the *West Australian*. Various encounters with Fairfax and News Limited along the way are also recounted.

Smith, Michael, and Baker, Mark (eds.) *Media Legends: Journalists who helped shape Australia*, Wilkinson Publishing/Melbourne Press Club, Melbourne, 2014. \$44.95. Includes chapters on each of the 81 journalists inducted into the Hall of Fame over three years, 2012-14.

Review by Victor Isaacs:

Media Legends offers biographies of the 81 media personalities who have been inducted into the Melbourne Press Club's Hall of Fame. In so doing, it provides a brief introduction to the newspaper history of Melbourne and also, to some extent, of Australia. Newspaper people who are commemorated include proprietors, editors, journalists, war correspondents and photographers. Early entries are all of newspaper people. Later entries also include people of achievement in other news media. They are presented in chronological order of their greatest achievements. Later entries include many people who are still active in the news media. Personalities honoured range from John Pascoe Fawkner (*Melbourne Advertiser* 1839) and James Harrison (*Geelong Advertiser* 1840) to Caroline Wilson (current *Age* football writer) and Robert Thomson (News Corp CEO). Each entry is brief – usually four pages of writing and pictures - and written in a lively style. There are two family sets over two generations: Caroline Isaacson (*Leader* and *Age*) and Peter Isaacson (suburban newspapers and the *Sunday Observer*), and Sir Keith Murdoch (Herald and Weekly Times) and Rupert Murdoch (News Corp). This collection of people of achievement in the media includes not only those whose careers were mainly in Melbourne, but others of Melbourne birth, but whose main achievements were elsewhere, for example Jules Archibald (*Bulletin*) and “Chinese” Morrison (*Times*) or nationwide, for example Duncan Hooper (Australian Associated Press). *Media Legends* provides a very worthwhile contribution to Australian media history.

80.5.2 Recent articles

Age, “True legends of the media game honoured by their fellows”, *Age*, 11 October 2014, pp.28-29.

Coulthart, Ross, “No place for truth”, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 81, October-November 2014, pp.41-42. How much will we be allowed to know about what is really happening in the Middle East? Even less than we knew about Gallipoli, says the author of this article. [Coulthart's new book, *Charles Bean—If People Really Knew*, is now available.]

Hall, Keith, “A perfect machine”, *Old Machinery Magazine*, October-November 2014, pp.25-28. About linotypes and the Print Shop at the Dardanup Heritage Park, south of Perth.

Harris, Rob, “Why a desperate region jumped ship”, *Weekly Times*, 3 December 2014, third page of Victorian election results wraparound. Discusses the influence of Ross McPherson and the McPherson Media Group – as well as many other reasons – for the very unexpected victory by an independent candidate in the hitherto strongly National Party seat of Shepparton.

Henningham, John, ‘Journalism schools need practical focus’, *Weekend Australian*, 18-19 October 2014, p.18. The basics of the craft are often not taught in university journalism courses Australia's first journalism professor argues. See also Ricketson below.

Kirkpatrick, Rod, “Print mirror of change”, *GXpress*, November 2014, p.36. The Willson dynasty and newspapers in Whyalla and the changes in printing arrangements.

Money, Lawrence, “True legends of the media game honoured by their fellows”, *Age*, Saturday 11 October 2014, pages 28-29. Thirty-one distinguished Melbourne media people were added to the Hall of Fame at the Melbourne Press Club on 10 October 2014.

Murdoch, Lachlan, “We must resist censorship of every kind”, *Australian*, 24 October p.14. Transcript of Lachlan Murdoch's Sir Keith Murdoch Oration delivered on 23 October.

Ricketson, Matthew, “Media students gain critical skills at uni”, *Australian*, 24 October 2014, p.14. In democracies, newspapers as well as governments should be made accountable. See also Henningham above.

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