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35.1 COPY DEADLINE AND WEBSITE ADDRESS

Deadline for next *Newsletter*: 15 February 2006. Subscription details appear at end of Newsletter. [Number 1 appeared October 1999.]

The *Newsletter* is online through the "Publications" link of the University of Queensland's School of Journalism & Communication Website at www.uq.edu.au/journ-comm/ and through the ePrint Archives at the University of Queensland at http://eprint.uq.edu.au/)

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: METROPOLITAN

35.2 JOURNALISTS CHALLENGE CHARGES IN SUPREME COURT

Gerard McManus and Michael Harvey, of the Melbourne *Herald Sun,* charged with contempt of court, have challenged the charges in the Victorian Supreme Court. The counter-claim by the two political journalists questions the authority of the chief judge of the Victorian County Court, who ordered them to give evidence in a government-initiated trial against a senior public servant. Chief Judge Michael Rozenes has rejected the argument of the Commonwealth Solicitor-General David Bennett QC to dismiss the charges against Harvey and McManus. The Commonwealth argued that the Government would soon amend Commonwealth legislation giving journalists' sources a right to confidentiality. Bennett's call for the charges to be dismissed was in direct opposition to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecution's insistence that the two journalists be called as witnesses at the Supreme Court trial of public servant Desmond Patrick Kelly on 23 January. Judge Rozenes adjourned the case to a date to be fixed, pending the outcome of McManus and Harvey's counter-claim in the Supreme Court (*Australian*, 11 November 2005, p.3).

35.3 FAIRFAX (1): EXCHANGE OF EXECUTIVES

David Kirk, the former chief executive of magazine publisher PMP Ltd, brought forward his departure date so that his replacement, Brian Evans, chief operating officer of newspaper publisher John Fairfax Holdings Ltd, could slip into his chair more quickly. Kirk went to Fairfax, and Evans, after only six months as 2IC at Fairfax, jumped ship to PMP (*Australian*, 11 October 2005, p.19, and Media section, 13 October 2005, pp.15 and 16).

Former Fairfax CEO Fred Hilmer will become the next vice-chancellor of the University of NSW. He will take up the position next June (*Australian*, 17 October 2005, p.3).

See 35.59.5 for various articles about Fairfax and the CEO changeover from Hilmer to Kirk. On 4 November Fairfax provided new information on the terms of Kirk's incentive package after some fund managers demanded more detail before the Fairfax annual meeting on 18 November (*Weekend Australian*, 5-6 November 2005, p.35). Similar pressure was being felt

at PMP over the salary package awarded to incoming CEO Brian Evans (*Australian*, 9 November 2005, p.42).

See: John Lehmann, "Fairfax boss's bitter farewell", *Australian*, Media section, 24 November 2005, p.13, and Errol Simper's "A Certain Scribe" column in the same issue, p.18.

New Fairfax CEO David Kirk has talked of diversifying into radio and of the appeal of extending the Fairfax "footprint" by buying West Australian Newspapers Holdings if it were available at the right price (*Australian*, 12 December 2005, p.27).

35.4 FAIRFAX (2): FRAY TO EDIT *SUNDAY AGE*

Peter Fray has been appointed editor of the *Sunday Age*, Melbourne, replacing Alan Oakley, who is the new editor of the Sydney Morning Herald. Fray is currently deputy editor of the *Sun-Herald* in Melbourne. Fray has a journalistic career spanning 20 years, including correspondent positions with the *Bulletin* in Canberra and the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* in London (ABC online news, 8 December 2005).

35.5 FAIRFAX (3): JOURNALISTS STRIKE OVER JOB CUTS

About 200 editorial staff at the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Sun-Herald* went on strike overnight on 27 October to protest against plans to axe up to 68 jobs at Fairfax newspapers. The journalists voted on 28 October to return to work, but said they had no confidence in the new CEO, David Kirk, to devise a competitive business plan for the company's newspapers and online business (*Australian*, 26, 27 and 28 October 2005, pp.3, 15 and 5, respectively, and *Weekend Australian*, 29-20 October p.4).

About 100 members of the editorial sections of the *SMH* and the *Age* applied for the redundancies on offer. Fairfax accepted 71 of the applications (35 at the *SMH* and 36 at the *Age*), reports the *Australian*, 12 December 2005, p.4.

It was a doubly dark occasion for John Fairfax Holdings on 18 November when a former owner of the group, the Canadian Conrad Black, was charged in Chicago with criminal fraud, and the lights went out on a new chairman and a new chief executive as they were being publicly attacked by their own journalists at the Fairfax annual meeting. The new CEO David Kirk forecast flat earnings in the first half of 2005-06 (*Australian*, 19-20 November 2005, pp.1-2, and 37).

35.6 FAIRFAX (4): TABLOID CONSIDERATION

Melbourne fund manager Portfolio Partners, which has acquired a 5.1 per cent stake in John Fairfax Holdings, says the media group should consider converting some of its broadsheet newspapers to tabloid formats. Portfolio Partners deputy head of equities Nick Pashias said that while Fairfax had managed its costs tightly in recent years, it needed to aggressively develop new products. "Product innovation is important and moving to a compact size is something that should be looked at," he said. The move to tabloid has gathered pace in recent years with English broadsheets such as the *Times* and the *Independent* leading the charge to the smaller formats. Executives at Queensland's *Courier-Mail* discussed the possibility of changing its format with News Corporation chairman Rupert Murdoch during his visit to Brisbane this week. Portfolio Partners, which has $6 billion under management, has informed the market that it now holds 47,144,759 Fairfax shares, worth almost $188 million at the market close of $3.98 on 24 November. It has bought up almost half of its stake in the past four months," he said (*Australian*, 25 November 2005).

35.7 THE DISMISSAL, AND THE DRIVER, 30 YEARS ON

On 17 October 1975, the *Australian* reported the threat of a national strike in response to the constitutional crisis developing in Canberra. This was just one step in the unfolding saga that led to the dismissal of the Whitlam government on 11 November 1975 – the most dramatic day in Australia's political history. From 17 October 2005, the *Australian* began publishing on Page 2 edited reports recalling the news stories, commentary and analysis of the events leading to the dismissal 30 years earlier. Among the articles were those appearing on the following dates: 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22-23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29-30 and 31 October; and 1, 4, 5-6 (p.6), 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 November. The *Australian* also published editorials on issues related to the dismissal on 1 Nov. (p.13), 11 Nov. (p.17) and 12-13 Nov. (p.18), as well as letters to the editor (e.g. see the seven letters on 11 Nov., p.17) and major features and comment pieces (see Mike Steketee and David Smith, 1-6 Nov., pp.24 and 25, respectively, and Lindsay Tanner and Stephen Loosley, 11 Nov., both p.16).

On 31 October, Mike Steketee reported on Page 1 in the *Australian* that Malcolm Fraser's driver on 11 November 1975 arrived early at Government House "because of a mix-up over times". Driver Harry Rundle says he parked the car on the side of the house where he could see Gough Whitlam arrive. The car was from the Commonwealth car pool and was not hidden. This destroys a myth that had survived 30 years: that Fraser ordered his driver to hide his car around the back of Government House because he did not want Whitlam to know he was in the building. The *Australian* editorialised on the issue on 1 November, p.13.

The *Bulletin* magazine of 8 November 2005 was a "special anniversary issue", focussing on "1975, the year that changed Australia". In one of the articles (pp.26-27), Laurie Oakes, then the Canberra bureau chief for the Melbourne *Sun*, recalled the drama and intrigue of the day Gough Whitlam was "betrayed".

35.8 ATTARD TO FRONT *MEDIA WATCH*

Senior ABC journalist and former foreign correspondent, Monica Attard, will replace Liz Jackson as the host of *Media Watch* during the coming year. Attard, the winner of five Walkley Awards, has most recently been the host of the in-depth interview program, *Sunday Profile*, on ABC Local Radio (*Australian*, 7 December 2005, p.3).

35.9 WALKLEY AWARDS

Tim Palmer, of the ABC, won the Gold Walkley at this year's Walkley Awards for his coverage of Indonesian affairs, and especially the Boxing Day tsunami in Aceh. See metropolitan daily newspapers of 3-4 December 2005 for their accounts of how well they did at the Walkleys.

35.10 CARSALES.COM AND REALESTATE.COM AND MOOTER

Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd (PBL) has emerged as the dominant force in internet automotive classifieds by acquiring control of **carsales.com.au** in a prelude to stock-market listing of the business next year. In grabbing a 41 per cent stake in carsales, PBL's executive chairman James Packer has beaten classifieds rival Fairfax to the punch in the internet battle again (*Australian*, 4 October 2005, p.19).

News Limited won clear control of **realestate.com.au**, Australia's most popular online property-listing business, only days before the internet group was expected to launch a $20 million push into Britain (*Australian*, 1 November 2005, p.27).

Rupert Murdoch is aiming to build Britain's leading online real estate classifieds business after snapping up the third-biggest market player in a deal involving newly acquired **realestate.com.au** (*Australian*, 3 November 2005, p.23).

John Fairfax Holdings has snapped up a strategic stake in internet advertising company, Mooter Media. It paid $4.1 million for 6.35 million shares, or 19.9 per cent, of Mooter, which is a developer of business-to-business advertising targeting and intelligence clustering tools (*Australian*, 6 December 2005, p.20).

35.11 SUPER PANORAMA POSTERS

Fairfax has published the first in a series of super panorama posters. The super panorama is a four-broadsheet-page poster printed using the latest technology from Japan. Under a two-year exclusive deal, the equipment has been installed at the *Age's* Melbourne print centre, making it the first plant in Australia to offer the super panorama to readers and advertisers. Only 10 press sites worldwide have access to the technology (mainly in China and Japan). The image area of the super panorama is 1596mm (wide) by 550mm (deep). First to use the poster was Mitsubishi as part of the mediaedge:cia launch campaign for the 380 sedan (*Mediaweek*, 17 October 2005, p.2).

35.12 CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS

23 August 2005	Death: **David English**, in Brisbane aged 56; journalist for *South Pacific Post*, Port Moresby; *Courier-Mail*, Brisbane; *Age*, Melbourne; *Advertiser*, Adelaide; *New Zealand Herald*; Channel 10 in Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane; *Terry Willesee's Tonight* at Channel 7, Sydney; ABC-TV; *Today Tonight*, Brisbane; and the *Sunday Mail*, Brisbane (*Age*, 12 September 2005, p.10; *Courier-Mail*, 6 October 2005, p.26).
20 September 2005	Death: **Tony Curtis**, on Gold Coast aged 69; newspaper and wire-agency correspondent for most of his life; worked for *Daily Mirror* and later *Daily Telegraph* in Sydney for 22 years until retirement in 2003 (*Australian*, 7 October 2005, p.11).
30 September 2005	Death: **Ian Miller**, in Perth aged 58; began as copy boy on with *Australian* in Canberra in 1966 and was awarded a cadetship; transferred to *Australian's* Brisbane bureau in 1968; joined Brisbane *Telegraph* in 1971 as its political reporter; became *Telegraph's* chief features writer, deputy chief of staff and news editor; after stint in TV journalism, joined *Courier-Mail* as chief of staff and then became political reporter and analyst on *Sunday Mail*; later rejoined *Telegraph* and, after it closed, joined the *Sunday Times*, Perth (*Courier-Mail*, 13 October 2005, p.30).
1-2 October 2005	First issue of *Qweekend*, the weekly colour magazine that appears each Saturday with the *Courier-Mail*. First two issues were 48 pages. *Courier-Mail* weekend edition cover price rose from $1.60 to $1.80 on 22-23 October.
7 October 2005	First issue of *Wish* magazine, a lifestyle magazine that appears on the first Friday of each month with the *Australian*; 88 pages.
8 October 2005	The 150th birthday of the *Illawarra Mercury*, Wollongong's daily (see 35.59.8).
16 October 2005	Messenger Community Newspapers launches Sunday suburban newspaper in Adelaide, the *Northern Weekly* (*Mediaweek*, 10 October 2005, pp.1, 7).
6 December 2005	Death: **Michael Davie**, the Englishman who edited *The Age* from 1979-1981, in the UK at 81; an Oxford graduate who spent most of his professional life on the staff of the *Observer* in London was summed up in one obituary as " a charming, urbane Englishman with a passion for good writing, editorial independence and cricket." (*Age*, 9 December 2005.)

35.13 PUBLISHERS' CIRCULATION FIGURES

The circulation figures based on publishers' statements for the six months to 30 September (not the fully audited figures as issued for the six months to 30 June and 31 December)

confirm some interesting trends. Sales of the *Australian* continue to grow consistently (up 2.95 per cent to 136,917, a total figure that is still 61,000 behind a moderate capital-city daily such as Adelaide's *Advertiser* and 420,000 behind the biggest-selling daily, the *Herald-Sun)*. The top three in the weekday, Saturday and Sunday sales charts are:

WEEKDAY: *Herald Sun* (557,000); *Daily Telegraph* (399,799); and *Courier-Mail* (211,483).
SATURDAY: *Herald Sun* (520,000); *West Australian* (376,825); and *Sydney Morning Herald* (353,852).
SUNDAY: *Sunday Telegraph* (706,253); *Sunday Herald Sun* (621,000); and *Sunday Mail*, Brisbane (616,448).

Mediaweek, 17 October 2005, p.6, published the full metropolitan and regional daily figures, noting that 14 of the 36 audited regional dailies gained in circulation. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* had the biggest rise (3.68pc) and Bathurst's *Western Advocate* had the biggest fall (7.84pc). The *Queensland Times*, Ipswich, fell 5.7pc.

John Fairfax's director of marketing and sales, Robert Whitehead, has merged the marketing and circulation departments (*Australian*, Media section, 20 October 2005, p.16).

35.14 WAN (1): CEO IAN LAW TO JOIN ACP

Ian Law, the managing director and chief executive officer of West Australian Newspapers, has resigned to join the Packer media stable. Law will become the chief executive officer of the Packer-owned, Australian Consolidated Press (the magazines division of Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd). WA Newspapers says Law has made a significant contribution in the four years as managing director and the company is now looking for his replacement (*Australian*, 29 November 2005, p.19; also see ANHG 16.8, 18.7 and 25.17).

Natalie O'Brien, formerly of the *West Australian*, wrote a profile of Law in the *Australian*, Media section, 1 December 2005, p.13. Law leaves in May 2006. See also *West Australian*, 12 December 2005, for Cathy Bolt's article, "Specialist not crucial for WANH: chairman".

35.15 WAN (2): PROFITS AND PRESSES

First-quarter profit at West Australian Newspapers (WAN) fell by 19 per cent as the company paid for job cuts and wrote down the value of its printing presses, which it plans to replace. WAN plans to spend about $190 million on new presses, publishing systems and buildings in the next four years. The cost includes payments for 220 workers who will lose their jobs (*Australian*, 7 October 2005, p.23).

35.16 NEWS CORP (1): *ADVERTISER'S* NEW HOME

The new Adelaide home of News Corporation is a showpiece for the city and a sign of the company's commitment to Australia, chairman and chief executive Rupert Murdoch says. Opening the $60 million building, home to the *Advertiser*, *Sunday Mail* and the *Australian*, Murdoch said the stunning glass structure was part of a four-year, $500 million capital investment plan for Australia. He said the move of the company's headquarters to the US did not diminish its future in Australia. The opening of Keith Murdoch House, at 31 Waymouth Street, marked the end of the *Advertiser's* 136-year history at 121 King William Street. The foyer of the new building bears a picture of Sir Keith, chosen by Rupert Murdoch's sister, Janet Calvert-Jones, and his daughter, Prudence McLeod. It bears the following 1946 quote from Sir Keith: "The press must be more than merely free. It must be fact-finding, truth-telling, truth-seeking to the limit of human capacity and enterprise." (*Advertiser*, 17 November 2005, online; *PANPA Bulletin*, November/December 2005, p.17.)

35.17 NEWS CORP (2): MURDOCH AND PILLS

News Corporation did not want to poison its continuing friendly discussions with investor John Malone by putting takeover defences to shareholders for approval, News chairman and chief executive Rupert Murdoch said. He was speaking in New York at the first annual meeting the company has held outside of Adelaide (*Australian*, 24 October 2005, p.27; see also "How Murdoch won the test", *Australian Financial Review*, 24 October 2005, pp.64, 11).

Rupert Murdoch flew to Adelaide to report to Australian shareholders, in the absence of a real AGM in Adelaide for the first time. He conceded that News Corp's share price was "rotten", but insisted it failed to reflect the group's financial strength and growth prospects (*Australian*, 17 November 2005, p.21).

35.18 NEWS CORP (3): PRISTEL EDITS *SUNDAY HERALD SUN*

Simon Pristel has replaced Alan Howe as the editor of the *Sunday Herald Sun*, Melbourne. Since its emergence in April 1991 through the merger of the *Sunday Herald* and the *Sunday Sun*, the *Sunday Herald Sun* has nearly doubled its circulation lead over the *Sunday Age*, which was launched in August 1989 (*Australian*, Media section, 3 November 2005, pp.15, 18). Annie Lawson (*Age*, 31 October 2005) says Howe – "said to be devastated" – has become executive editor of Herald & Weekly Times publications.

35.19 NEWS CORP (4): COMPANY AWARDS

The inaugural News Awards ceremony has been held – with Rupert Murdoch and his mother, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, attending – and the gongs have been taken home, after some problems with airport security in Adelaide. Hedley Thomas, of the *Courier-Mail*, won the Sir Keith Murdoch Award for his investigation of the Dr Death scandal in Queensland. The *Australian* was named the News "Newspaper of the Year". See the *Advertiser*, Adelaide, 16 November 2005, for a full list of the awards. See Mark Day's comments, *Australian*, Media section, 17 November 2005, p.18.

35.20 NEWS CORP (5): SKY'S THE LIMIT

From Monday, 28 November, the *Australian* joined forces with Sky News to deliver business news on pay television. The *Australian's* business team, led by Jane Schulze, provides news and commentary on the day's top business stories on the nightly business program, *Sky Business Report*, hosted by Karen Tso (at 8.30pm and 11.30pm). The *Australian's* reports are broadcast from a new studio in the paper's Sydney headquarters (*Weekend Australian*, 26-27 November 2005, p.33).

35.21 PANPA APPOINTS NEW CEO

The Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association (PANPA) has appointed Michael Richards as its new chief executive officer. Richards, who replaces Alan Armsden, has a strong commercial newspaper background. He has most recently been CEO and publisher of the independent *Fiji Sun* group of newspapers. He took up his new position on 7 November (*PANPA Bulletin*, October 2005, p.5; see also 35.59.13). His first column as CEO appears in the November-December issue of *PANPA Bulletin*, p.5.

35.22 ADVERTISING IN MAIN MEDIA

Fifteen new magazine launches since January and the continued strong growth of the internet will push main media advertising above $1 billion by next year, according to Fusion Strategy (*Australian*, 15 November 2005, p.26).

For comparative figures on advertising spending in main media for January-June 2000 to 2005, see *Mediaweek*, 19 September 2005, p.4. The table includes a breakdown of spending in the various main media.

35.23 KEY PEOPLE RESIGN AT THE *WEEKLY*

Founding editor Alex Kennedy and chairman Ian Meikle have resigned from the *Independent Weekly*, Adelaide. Kennedy stepped down from the editorship in July and resigned from the paper on 31 October, apparently over an apology the paper published about a story she had written. Meikle's resignation as chairman is said to be unrelated to Kennedy's departure. Meikle remains a significant shareholder (*Australian*, Media section, 3 November 2005, p.18). Meikle rejected suggestions that he quit the post because he was not living in South Australia. He cited a growing lack of confidence in management's ability to take the newspaper forward as the main reason he had quit. He said also that he had sympathy for the position of Kennedy (*Australian*, Media section, 17 November 2005, p.14). See 35.24.

35.24 IAN MEIKLE MOVES ON

Canberra's 11-year old, giveaway, glossy, fortnightly, *City News*, has been acquired by Macquarie Publishing, a joint venture between founder and current owner Michael Hawke and Ian Meikle. This follows Meikle's resignation as chairman of Adelaide's *Independent Weekly* (see 35.23). Hawke has management experience with News' former Brisbane *Sunday Sun* and *Daily Sun*. Meikle has edited the *Advertiser* (Adelaide) and, the *Australian* and been managing director of the *Canberra Times* and Pacific Publications. The pair said that they intend to improve the *City News* and develop new niche publishing opportunities for Macquarie Publishing (see the *City News*, Canberra, 1 December 2005, p.30).

35.25 *AUSTRALIAN JEWISH NEWS* CELEBRATES 110th BIRTHDAY

Dan Goldberg, national editor of the *Australian Jewish News*, may have one of the trickiest newspaper jobs of all. The 100,000-strong Jewish community in Australia keeps a keen eye on developments in the Middle East and is often divided on the best course for peace in the region. The heated debates are played out on the letters page of the *AJN* every week, writes Amanda Meade (*Australian*, Media section, 17 November 2005, p.15). The independent, privately owned paper celebrated its 110th birthday with a souvenir edition and an exhibition of famous front covers that opened at the Jewish Museum of Australia in Melbourne in the second week of November. The exhibition opened at the Central Synagogue in Sydney on 20 November.

35.26 HANNAN VERSUS PACKER IN MAGAZINE WAR

Michael Hannan's IPMG has launched a weekly celebrity magazine, *Star Enquirer*, and seems ready to take on ACP Magazines. For details of the Hannan family's expansion plans, see Neil Shoebridge, "Hannan hits Packer in magazine war", *Australian Financial Review*, 28 November 2005, pp.1, 49.

35.27 COFFEE AND THE NEWS

Barry Blair in the air: "At Sydney Airport on 10 November I noticed at Starbuck's Coffee outlet that the *Sydney Morning Herald* or the *Sun-Herald* is 50c a copy with any Starbuck's coffee purchase. Picked up a copy of *MX* at Wynyard and noticed at both Town Hall and Central railway stations that passengers boarded with copy in hand. Quick head count guesstimate that about 50 per cent of passengers were 'engrossed' with their copy of *MX*."

35.28 AMT CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA

The University of Canberra's Division of Communication and Education combined with Old Parliament House to present the fourth Australian Media Traditions conference on 24-25 November at Old Parliament House, Canberra. There were some excellent papers. For details, visit the following website: www.ce.canberra.edu.au/amt/LevelTwo/AMT2005details.htm

35.29 SPECIAL ISSUE OF *AUSTRALIAN STUDIES IN JOURNALISM*

Journalism history in Australia and the history of journalism education are themes for a special issue of *Australian Studies in Journalism*, to be issued in mid-2006. The issue will be part of the celebration of 85 years of journalism studies at the University of Queensland. The journal, which appears twice a year (as of 2005), is published by the School of Journalism and Communication. Deadline for subtracts for the special issue is 15 January 2006 and the final articles must be received by 28 February 2006. E-mail Rod Kirkpatrick, editor of *ASJ*, on r.kirkpatrick@uq.edu.au

35.30 CHANGES TO LAWS BACK FREE SPEECH

Australia's sedition laws will contain a new "public interest" defence to reflect the concerns of media outlets and Coalition MPs that the provisions could harm free speech, writes Samantha Maiden (*Australian*, 1 December 2005, p.5). A special meeting of the Coalition party room approved on 30 November further changes to the planned anti-terror legislation after marathon negotiations. Under the changes, terror suspects who are under 18 will secure greater protections, the Commonwealth Ombudsman will secure a greater role and protocols will be developed over new stop, search and question powers. The legislation will prohibit a reliance on hearsay evidence to extend control orders that allow terror suspects to be held without charge for up to 12 months. The definition of a seditious intention will also be tightened to ensure there is a direct relationship with the intention to encourage the use of force or violence. (See also Philip Ruddock, *Australian*, Media section, 8 December 2005, p.17, and Sheena MacLean's article, p.19; and Warren Beeby's comments, *Courier-Mail*, 9 December 2005, p.5.)

35.31 TURBULENT *TIMES* IN CANBERRA

From Canberra, **Victor Isaacs** writes: A huge storm moved across south-east Australia on Friday afternoon, 2 December 2005. Canberra was the worst affected centre, and within Canberra, the suburb of Fyshwick, where the *Canberra Times*, is located, was the worst affected suburb. At about 4.45 pm, just as production was about to commence on the biggest edition of the week, a tornado tore the roof off the *Canberra Times'* new $17 million extension to its press hall, opened only on 9 August (see ANHG 34.22). Two 600 kg roof sections were hurled 50 metres, one crashing through the roof of another section of the *Times* building. Rain poured in as staff ran for cover. Rain fell on the new press units. Canberra Times staff, the builders of the extension and ACT Emergency Services worked on emergency repairs. Staff mopped up water around the presses and repaired damage to electrical components before they could resume printing. Saturday's Canberra Times ran one and a half hours late, and the classified advertising sections could not be sectionalised in the normal way. In the circumstances, this was an amazing effort. (See the *Canberra Times*, Saturday, 3 December 2005, p.2, and *Sunday Canberra Times*, 4 December, p.3).

(This is reminiscent of the Ballarat *Courier's* presses being completely flooded early on Saturday morning, 10 December 1988, just as printing was starting on its biggest edition of the year. That day, the *Courier* appeared about 2 pm).

35.32 IS THE "WEST" BEST? by Victor Isaacs

The *West Australian* on 19 November 2005 carried a boastful, but very interesting advertisement. It starts: "Your daily newspaper now out-sells most of the big boys in the East. The *West Australian* how has higher daily sales than the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Australian*, the Melbourne *Age*, the Brisbane *Courier-Mail* and the Adelaide *Advertiser*. Over six days, Monday to Saturday, *The West Australian* now sells 1,419,987 copies while *The West's* Saturday edition with sales of 380,417 copies out-sells all other Saturday newspapers with the exception of Melbourne's Herald Sun."

The main interest is in the table, which is:

Circulation figures six months ending June 2005. Total Sales Monday to Saturday.

Newspaper	Circulation	Population	Sales per Capita
Herald-Sun, Vic.	3,281,000	5,002,300	1:1.5
Daily Telegraph, NSW	2,332,296	6,760,000	1:2.9
West Australian, WA	1,419,987	1,998,400	1:1.4
Sydney Morning Herald, NSW	1,413,160	6,760,000	1:4.8
Courier-Mail, Qld	1,390,305	3,919,500	1:2.8
Advertiser, SA	1,280,524	1,537,900	1:1.2
Age, Vic.	1,265,000	5,002,300	1:4.0
Australian, national	961,526	20,229,800	1:21.0
Australian Financial Review, national	518,015	20,229,800	1:39.1
Mercury, Tas.	312,301	484,000	1:1.5
Canberra Times, ACT	252,518	324,000	1:1.3

The idea of totalling the figures for Monday to Saturday, rather than Monday to Friday, is interesting. This enables the *West Australian* to claim that it is now the third highest circulating newspaper in Australia. (If the Monday to Friday figures are used, the *Courier-Mail* is the third highest). Either way, the dominance of the *Herald-Sun* is very striking.

More interesting, is their idea of showing Sales per Capita. This is a very rough method of showing comparisons. Nevertheless, it shows some revealing information:
o   The best performing newspaper on the Sales per Capita measure is the *Advertiser*.
o   The second-best performing newspaper on this measure is the *Canberra Times* – despite its steady decline in absolute numbers in recent audits.
o   States with strong regional newspaper markets, NSW and Queensland, perform more poorly. The Sales per Capita figure, in fact, might be as much a reflection of the dispersal of population as of sales success.
o   Despite having a much smaller circulation in absolute terms, the *Age* on a Sales per Capita basis performs much better than the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

No doubt, other conclusions are also possible.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS: PROVINCIAL

35.33 NEW PAPER (1): ROCKHAMPTON

Rockhampton, served by newspapers since the *Morning Bulletin* began as the *Rockhampton Bulletin* in 1861, has a new paper, a free weekly called the *Weekend Choice*. It was launched

on 26-27 November by former APN cartoonist Tim O'Bree. *Mediaweek* says (28 November 2005, pp.1, 7) that O'Bree has not gone into the venture alone and may well have Fairfax backing. "It's being printed by a Fairfax-owned company," says O'Bree, "and there is more Fairfax involvement than that, but I'm hush-hush about it at the moment." Distribution is 30,000 – about 11,500 greater than the circulation of the *Morning Bulletin*, Rockhamprton's daily. O'Bree says the publication takes into account especially the growing number of readers from the AB demographics. "Our paper will reflect and cater to the growing sophistication of Rockhampton, but it's not just limited to here. We are looking at other markets where the local newspapers aren't doing anything to cater for this level." The Sunshine Coast was a possible location. **Rod Kirkpatrick** notes: APN News & Media Ltd owns 10 dailies in Queensland, including those serving Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Bundaberg, the Fraser Coast and the Sunshine Coast. News Ltd has coastal dailies at Cairns, Townsville and the Gold Coast.

35.34 NEW PAPER (2): BROKEN HILL

Broken Hill will get a new paper with an old name on 16 December. The new paper will be the *Barrier Miner*, the same title as the daily afternoon paper that closed in 1974. Managing director Peter Jinks says it will be a free colour magazine appearing each Friday and will have a print run of 10,000. It will be printed in Mildura. It will be delivered to every home in Broken Hill and to Tibooburra, White Cliffs, Wilcannia and Menindee (ABC online news, 1 December 2005; *Australian*, Media section, 8 December 2005, p.19).

35.35 COASTAL NEWSPAPER BATTLE ENDS

Greg Wane writes: A mini battle between two weekly newspapers has been fought and won in Ocean Grove (Vic.). The papers: *Ocean Grove Voice* and *Ocean Grove -Barwon Heads Times*, launched within weeks of each other in March this year, has ended with the *Times* ceasing publication in late October. *Ocean Grove Times* editor John Stoward is also a director of the publishing company Suva Press. According to the rival weekly the *Bellarine Peninsula Independent*, Melbourne insolvency firm Cole Downey & Co. has begun administering Suva Press. It is understood Stoward's other publishing venture the weekly *Surf Coast Times* (Torquay Vic.) was sold to property developer Mark Casey of Massey Pty Ltd two days before Suva Press went into administration.

35.36 ON THE ROAD

Barry Blair has sent packages of newspapers recently from South Australia. One includes a three-in-one tabloid newspaper (printed on 70gsm paper), with the four-page *Peterborough Times* on the outside, and a 12-page paper inside, comprising eight pages of the *Burra Broadcaster* and four pages of the *Eudunda Observer*. The paper is printed at Burra, one of Australia's oldest and best preserved mining towns (copper). Until 17 January 2001, the *Broadcaster* was published in newspaper format on A4 pages.

35.37 THE *SWANSEA PELICAN ITCH*

The ANHG has received a copy of the *Swansea Pelican Itch*, a community newsletter published monthly for the Pelican, Swansea, Blacksmiths, Caves Beach and Catherine Hill Bay area (south of Newcastle, NSW). The September 2005 issue is a 56-page A5 publication with no colour. (Email is pelicanitch@ozemail.com.au). It has a high advertising content.

35.38 NAME GAME ON WANE

At Maldon, Victoria, the *Tarrangower Times* editor Wayne Gregson lamented in his "Bush Whacked" column in September about how local readers could not get his name right.

"What's so hard to remember about Wayne," wailed the former *Bendigo Advertiser* editor. It seems everyone wanted to call him Greg or Grant. Wayne decided all this frustration was too much and he booked a two-week break to New Zealand in late September and called on a colleague to sit in as editor at the *Times*. Filling the editor's chair for a fortnight was Greg Wane, who complained the local readers kept calling him "Wane".

35.39 NEW PRESS AT PORT MACQUARIE

Rural Press Ltd's new Port Macquarie Print Centre was officially opened on 11 November. At its present location in Milton Circuit since 1982, the print centre has been continually improving and is now capable of producing 335,000 papers each week. Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile and Rural Press chairman John Fairfax officially opened the new centre. The new updates consist of a Man Roland six colour press, MBO Folding Machine and an Osaka Stitch and Trim Line. The print centre prints 30 mastheads, or publications, a week, including the *Port Macquarie News* (*Port Macquarie News*, 14 Nov 2005)

35.40 PRIME MINISTER OPENS CONFERENCE

John Howard has become the first Prime Minister to open a conference of the Country Press Association of NSW. In his address to the 105th conference of the association Howard explained to delegates it would be "unthinkable" these days not to have your local country paper on a media schedule and acknowledged that readership of country newspapers is now up to six times more than readership of the metropolitan paper in some regional communities. At the association's annual general meeting, Alan Pont, general manager, special projects, for Rural Press Ltd, was elected unopposed as the new president of Country Press NSW (*Tenterfield Star*, 28 October 2005).

35.41 RUDDICK LEAVES *LEADER*

Gary Ruddick retired in October as the local government reporter of the *Northern Daily Leader*, Tamworth. He had spent about 50 years "on and off" in the journalism and publishing worlds, including several years as the *Leader's* senior and local government reporter (*Northern Daily Leader*, 24 November 2005).

35.42 THE ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENT

The *Northern Daily Leader* has decided that it has an untapped resource of reportage overseas and has invited its overseas-based online readers to contribute items about where they are living and why. The *NDL* says: Please send your articles (up to 500 words) to: mail.ndl@ruralpress.com with "expat" clearly written in the subject line." (*Northern Daily Leader*, 15 November 2005).

35.43 CLASSIES INSPIRE STORIES

Regional readers are again taking up an offer to "meet the great people in the marvellous community" of classified advertising. After an absence of a few years, "Classie Corner", an editorial column by Tasmanian-born journalist John Rumney, has resumed in south-east Queensland, promising again to unveil "the soapies behind the phone numbers". The latest season of "Classie Corner" is in the Rural Press paper, *Bayside Bulletin*, which services Moreton Bay's Redlands district. John started "Classie Corner" in 1980 for the then independently owned *Mid-Coast Observer* in Kempsey, NSW. In the 1990s, he wrote columns for the *Sunshine Coast Daily* and *Sunshine Coast Sunday*, before providing weekly columns for APN papers from Coffs Harbour to Rockhampton in 2001 and 2002.

The column stemmed from John's use of the classifieds for story leads throughout his career with metropolitan, regional and community media. "I always found it rather sad that reporters would harvest a wealth of ideas from the classies but rarely acknowledge the source as part of their own newspaper 'family'," he said. "It has been heart-warming to see a wider use of similar editorial columns over the years drawing on the classies' human interest. The relationship between reporting and classified advertising is long and deep and runs past matters of great public importance and into the cultural fabric.

One of the best examples I have experienced was in the early 1980s in the ABC Brisbane newsroom when one Saturday I had a few minutes between 'major' stories of the day. I scanned the *Courier-Mail* classies and saw a positions-vacant ad for the rare trade of gilder. A few minutes later I had filed three or four pars. The story received a 'used nationally' stamp, which was like a badge of honour, while the national editors ignored my 'important' stories."

In 1997, the *PANPA Bulletin* said: "Of all the many great ideas that emerged out of PANPA's CAMS97 seminar, none was more enthusiastically received than the use of a daily editorial 'column' in the *Sunshine Coast Daily...*" The first Redland column on 22 November 2005, emphasised that John does not intend to chase anyone over the back fence but rather looks for smiles not frowns. He plans to post a PDF on the internet soon to mark the 25th anniversary of "Classie Corner". The collection comprising mainly the humorous columns will be free on the download section of www.BayJournal.com.au, which hosts John's online publishing venture, *Welcome Magazine*. John Rumney is at <fourjays@bigpond.com.au>

35.44 *WAGIN ARGUS* CELEBRATES CENTENARY

The *Wagin Argus*, a weekly in Western Australia, celebrated its centenary this year and published a 13-page historical feature on 13 October. The paper began on 5 April 1905 as the *Southern Argus and Wagin-Arthur Express*. It became the *Wagin Argus and Arthur, Dumbleyung, Lake Grace Express* from 2 January 1925. The Absolon-Davies family ran the *Argus* for 88 years until Rural Press Ltd bought it in 1993. The paper is now printed on the Rural Press state-of-the-art press at Mandurah. The editor is Veanna Scott, who has been with the *Argus* for 22 years (*Rural Press News*, December 2005, p.4; State Library of Western Australia catalogue).

NEWSPAPER HISTORY

35.45 NLA (1): NEW-LOOK NEWSPAPER READING ROOM

Ian Morris, manager of the newspaper/microform reading room at the National Library of Australia, writes: The Newspaper/Microform Reading Room at the National Library of Australia was refurbished this year. The work involved a general upgrading of facilities, and the replacement of nine-year-old microform reader/printers. There are now 24 microform digital readers/scanners – 23 Canon 300 machines and one Canon 800 (for A3 viewing). Each machine is linked to a networked printer and a computer which enables the reader to access the Library's catalogue, indexes and databases, the Internet and Microsoft Office programs. Each machine has a multi-function carrier for microfilm and microfiche. Images from the film or fiche can be scanned and downloaded to the computer to be saved to a USB stick, disk or to the hard drive to send as an e-mail attachment. Alternatively the image can be printed either from the scanned image or directly from the reader. There is no charge for scanning; printing costs 15 cents per A4 page.

There are also two microfilm readers, three microfiche readers and one microprint reader that are not networked to computers or printers. There are 10 other PCs in the reading room which also have access to the catalogue, indexes, databases and the Internet. Electronic newspaper

resources such as *Factiva* and *The Times digital archive* and various newspaper indexes are accessible on all the PCs.

The layout of the room has been changed so as to give readers access to natural light and garden views. Current capital city daily newspapers and a selection of overseas newspapers are on display as well as previous issues which are removed to stacks when the microfilm is received. Other newspaper titles are in closed access stacks and are retrieved by staff as requested.

The Library's collection of newspapers continues to grow – we receive currently over 450 Australian titles on legal deposit, with the total number of titles in hardcopy just over 1700. We also have current microfilm subscriptions for 22 Australian newspapers in addition to purchasing backsets on microfilm, either of titles we do not already hold or to fill gaps in holdings of titles already in the collection. More than 150 newspapers from overseas are received on current subscriptions, some hardcopy and some on microfilm. We also hold the microfilm set of Early English Newspapers, well over 5000 reels. All the newspapers in the collection are catalogued – see the Library's catalogue accessible through the website at http://www.nla.gov.au.

In addition to newspapers, the Newspaper/Microform Reading Room has a large collection of family history resources on microfilm, microfiche and electronic. Much of this material is on open access (self-service) in the reading room – see the list at http://www.nla.gov.au/pathways/jnls/newsite/view/826.html. Hundreds of research collections on microform are also accessed through this reading room as well as journals, government papers, manuscripts and Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) microfilm.

The Newspaper/Microfilm Reading Room is open 9.00am to 9.00pm, Monday to Thursday and 9.00am to 5.00pm Friday and Saturday – shorter opening hours are in operation in December and January. A reference service is available – see the Ask Us webpage http://www.nla.gov.au/infoserv/askus.html. Copies of articles or photographs may be ordered through Copies Direct, see http://www.nla.gov.au/copiesdirect/index.html, or copies and loans can be arranged at your local library through the interlibrary loan system. For further information about the newspaper collection and links to related Library services, see the website http://www.nla.gov.au/find/news.html and for information on resources for family history researchers, see http://www.nla.gov.au/infoserv/family.html.

The National Library is involved with other institutions in some new developments in providing electronic access to newspapers and their contents. "Hot off the press" news is that the online *Argus index 1870-1879* became available on 8 December– see http://www.nla.gov.au/argus. In addition, the Library is investigating the feasibility of digitising some 19th century to early 20th century Australian newspapers: watch for news of this exciting development.

35.46 NLA (2): VJ DAY REVISITED

Ian Morris has followed up the ANHG item (34.42) on the *Age* article of 13 August 2005, to determine which major Australian newspapers were published the day after VJ (Victory over Japan) Day in World War II. These are his findings:

In conjunction with the 60th anniversary celebrations of the end of the Second World War in August 1945, it was discovered that some newspapers did not publish on some dates in August 1945. The dates checked were Wednesday 15 August to Saturday 18 August.

Melbourne: As already reported, there was no issue of the *Age, Argus, Sun* or *Herald* published on Thursday, 16 August 1945.

Sydney: *Sydney Morning Herald:* published 15, 16, 17 August; the edition of 16 August included a 12-page Pacific Victory supplement. *Daily Telegraph:* published 15, 16, 17 August. *Daily Mirror.* No. 1318, Wednesday 15 August; no. 1319, Friday 17 August. Therefore not published on 16 August. *Sun.* No. 11,097, Wednesday 15 August; no. 11,098, Friday 17 August. Therefore not published on 16 August.

Brisbane: *Courier-Mail:* published 15,16, 17 August. *Telegraph:* published 15, 16, 17 August.

Canberra: *Canberra Times:* published 15, 16, 17 August

Hobart: *Mercury:* published 15 August; vol. CLX11 no. 23,307, Thursday 16 August, including a 20 page Peace supplement. Vol.CLX11 no. 23,308 was published on 18 August. Therefore not published on 17 August.

Adelaide: *Advertiser:* Vol. 88 no. 27,103, Wednesday 15 August; vol. 88 no. 27,104, Friday 17 August. Therefore not published on 16 August. *News*: Vol.45 no. 6877, Wednesday 15 August; Vol.45, no. 6878, Friday 17 August. Therefore not published on 16 August.

Perth: *West Australian:* two editions dated 15 August, vol. 61, no. 18437, and an Extraordinary edition, Vol.61, no. 18438, dated 16 August. *Daily News:* published 15, 16 and 17 August.

Summary:
Wednesday August 15: All newspapers published, with the *West Australian* published two editions.
Thursday August 16: *The Age, Argus, Herald, Sun (Melbourne), Daily Mirror, Sun (Sydney), Advertiser, News (Adelaide)* were not published that day. All others published.
Friday August 17: *Mercury* was not published that day. All others published.

35.47 NLA (3): *ARGUS* INDEX, 1870-1879, ONLINE

Ian Morris writes: An online index to the *Argus* newspaper for the decade 1870-1879 has just been published on the National Library of Australia's website. The details are:

    Geraldine Suter (chief indexer) and John Hirst (editor-in-chief)
    The Argus Index 1870-1879
    National Library of Australia, 2005
       http://www.nla.gov.au/argus/ <http://www.nla.gov.au/argus/>

The *Argus* was a major Australian metropolitan daily, published in Melbourne from 1846 to 1957. It is the primary resource for data on 19th century Australia and is widely recognised as the general Australian newspaper of record for this period. The *Argus Index 1870-1879* was created as part of the Argus Index Project based at La Trobe University. The decade of the 1870s is the first index to the *Argus* to be made available in this form. As further decades are completed they will be made available online, as will the 1860s which so far has been issued only in hard copy.

35.48 TROLLEY-LOADS MARCHED OUT OF FAIRFAX LIBRARY

Susan Wyndham writes, in her "Undercover" column in the Spectrum liftout, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8-9 October 2005: " … The Fairfax library used by generations of *Herald* journalists is disappearing. Trolley-loads of books have been marched out of the building to be stored in the archives or sent to book heaven. Apart from a small research library, we now rely on the internet and loans from other libraries, and our librarians have been reinvented as

researchers attached to newsdesks. This is the trend in the world's major newspapers, distressing to those of us who like the company of books."

35.49 GOLF COLUMN FOR *SYDNEY MAIL*

John Ruffles is seeking information, descendants and/or private papers of E.D. Hoben, who wrote a golf column for the *Sydney Mail* (ca 1890s) as well as other articles. He co-founded the Royal Sydney Golf Club. In 1914 he wrote lyrics for some popular songs. John Ruffles is at PO Box 111, Randwick, NSW, 2031.

35.50 WARRNAMBOOL AND AN EDITOR WITH AN INTEREST IN HISTORY

Bruce Morris edited Warrnambool's daily *Standard*, from 1946 to 1968 and later wrote many articles on the town's history for the paper. At History House, Warrnambool, the local historical society has indexed more than 300 of his articles by title. "They are," says the *Warrnambool & District Historical Society Newsletter*, November 2005, "notable for their research and for their recording of aspects of our history that hitherto no one had noticed or bothered to write about." Excerpts from three of the articles are reproduced (pp.2-4).

35.51 THE *OED* AND THE ADJECTIVE 'NEWSPAPERISH'

What does "newspaperish" mean? It was the *OED* Online "word of the day a few months ago, and here's what the esteemed dictionary says of the usage of such an adjective:

> Somewhat characteristic of or like a newspaper; having a style associated with newspapers; journalistic.
>
> **1825,** M. Wilmot, Let., 26 Sept (1935) 225: And so ends my story, which is a stupid newspaperish sort of thing, tho' it was exceedingly interesting and amusing and pretty to look at at the time.
>
> **1873,** *Appletons' Journal*, 8 Mar. 348/2: If we were criticising only its literary merits we should find fault with the somewhat "newspaperish" style in which much of it is written.
>
> **1892,** *Academy*, 10 Feb. 120/1: Some of these essays are a little too newspaperish.
>
> **1929,** A. Noyes, *Return of Scare-crow*, iv. 54: I know that it's all very noble and distinguished and broad-minded and generally newspaperish.
>
> **1980,** *Washington Post* (Nexis), 5 June C1: His version of the very best … like all things newspaperish has either mellowed by now or wound up in the bottom of a parakeet cage.
>
> **2001,** *Computing* (Nexis), 8 Mar. 50: We wanted to differentiate the site from eBookers, which is very newspaperish.

35.52 BIOGRAPHIES OF NEWSPAPER PEOPLE AND LISTS OF NEWSPAPERS

Sue Hughes writes: I recently acquired some CDs from Archive CD Books (government gazettes and directories). Included in the package was a free copy of the *Australian Dictionary of Dates and Men of the Time*, containing the history of Australasia from 1542 to May 1879 by J.H. Heaton, printed in 1879. It contains a searchable pdf file. In it I found biographies of newspapermen and lists of newspapers. The web page is at www.archivecdbooks.com.au

35.53 ST ARNAUD CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

The *North Central News*, St Arnaud, Victoria, published a 32-page supplement, "Between the Headlines, 1855-2005", with its issue of 28 September to mark the 150th anniversary of the town. The supplement devotes Pages 31 and 32 to articles and photographs related to the

history of newspapers in St Arnaud and Charlton. There is a magnificent picture of the staff outside the office of the *St Arnaud Mercury* in the early years of the 20ᵗʰ century. The picture was supplied by Dora Lewis, a grand-daughter of Charles Ferris Lewis, who bought the *Mercury* in 1868. The Lewis family owned the paper for 61 years. The current editor of the *North Central News*, Ella Ebery, will turn 90 on 23 December (see ANHG 11.20, 11.46.10, 12.14, 12.15, 16.60.2, and 24.26). Greg Wane sent the ANHG a copy of the 150-years special issue.

35.54 MAYBE TYPE'S AN OBSESSION WITH ME

Rod Kirkpatrick writes: When the *A.I.F. News* began publication on 15 March 1940, it was published in Palestine and appeared as a three-page sheet turned out on a duplicating machine. From 25 March 1940 it was printed in newspaper format, in Tel Aviv. Later, the headquarters of the paper shifted to Jerusalem. It was there on 8 March 1941 that the *Jerusalem Post*, which printed the *A.I.F. News*, ran an advertisement in the military paper for its printery. The advertisement, which included an etching of a printer handsetting type, was headed, "I'm an Old Man – I guess!'

It said: "Fifty years in the printing business and still going strong … Maybe type's an obsession with me. Look at 'em there now, like a lot of crisp little soldiers. They'll make a pretty picture, when, on dress parade, they show their faces to the world. Then they'll be words, eloquent words, thoughtful words. The story they're to tell will be greater than me or my printshop, maybe, but I can say, 'I held them, each and every one, in my hands before the press kissed them and gave them life and recognition.' Many's the grand word that has been set by these old hands! … The clicking of these little lead nuggets in thousands of printshops through the years has been the rhythm to which the world has moved. They can sing out the truth with clarion clearness, and, oh, they can lie so beautifully …

"When I set these little fellows up in lines – every line that same length – and I make them up in a page that is square and true, and pull a proof that is clean and white, another perfect pattern will go into that tapestry in my mind, the tapestry that represents my career as a printer … Type has form and meaning. Its clean touch lends clarity and order to many things in a world which is often sordid and chaotic. Type has shaped my life. Any wonder that I seem to caress these bits of lead?"
     [For Quality Printing Consult Wilson who prints at The Jerusalem Press Limited.]

35.55 AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP: A POTTED HISTORY

This item sets out to record a little of the history of this newsletter, the means of keeping informed people interested in newspaper history, current and long since past, and helping these people form networks amongst themselves. Canberra's Victor Isaacs, the founder of the ANHG, edited the first four newsletters, and then Brisbane's Rod Kirkpatrick became the editor. He has edited and distributed all issues since, except that Isaacs edited Issue No. 30 when Kirkpatrick was on long service leave from his employment. Isaacs remains a significant contributor. In addition, Barry Blair, of Tamworth, has been a significant contributor for several years. The Newsletter became a five-times-a-year publication in 2001, after 10 issues had appeared between October 1999 and December 2000 period. The ANHG has also published six books (see below) and run a conference (the March 2003 event to mark 200 years of newspaper publication in Australia).

Basic publication details of the Newsletter:
    1999: No. 1, October (4pp); No. 2, November (4pp).
    2000: No. 3, January (8pp); No. 4, February (10pp); No. 5, April (6pp); No. 6, May (9pp); No. 7, June (12pp); No. 8, August (18pp); No. 9, October (14pp); No. 10, December (15pp).

2001: No. 11, March (22pp); No. 12, May (19pp); No. 13, July (20pp); No. 14, September (20pp); No. 15, November (20pp).
2002: No. 16, February 2002 (20pp); No. 17, April 2002 (20pp); No. 18, July 2002 (20pp); No. 19, September 2002 (18pp); No. 20, December 2002 (20pp).
2003: No. 21, February (15pp); No. 22, May (20pp); No. 23, July (20pp); No. 24, October (18pp); No. 25, December (19pp).
2004: No. 26, February (20pp); No. 27, May (20pp); No. 28, July (18pp); No. 29, September (20pp); No. 30, December (20pp).
2005: No. 31, February (20pp); No. 32, May (20pp); No. 33, July (20pp); No. 34, September (20pp); No. 35, December (20pp).

That is a total of 589 pages, with the average issue size being 16.82 pp. The total wordage is about 310,000. The normal size has long been 20 pages, as the details above show. The Newsletter is displayed in the magazine rack in the Newspaper Reading Room of the National Library of Australia.

The ANHG has also published the following books. Each, apart from the first title, is still available. Prices on request to r.kirkpatrick@uq.edu.au:

Two Hundred Years of Sydney Newspapers: A Short History by Victor Isaacs and Rod Kirkpatrick (2003).
The Australian Press: A Bicentennial Retrospect edited by Victor Isaacs and Rod Kirkpatrick (2003); ISBN 0-9751552-0-2.
The ANHG Index: Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter Numbers 1 to 25 (1999-2003) compiled by Karen Gillen and edited by Rod Kirkpatrick (2004). ISBN 0-9751552-2-9.
Australian Newspaper History: A Bibliography compiled by Victor Isaacs, John Russell and Rod Kirkpatrick (2004). ISBN 0-9751552-1-0
Bibliographical Notes for Henry Mayer's The Press in Australia transcribed by John C. Russell (2005). ISBN 0-9751552-3-7. [Only two copies remain.]
Early Printers of Melbourne: An Index compiled by John C. Russell (2005). ISBN 0-9751552-4-5. [Only four copies remain.]

35.56 REGISTER OF HISTORIC PRINTING MACHINERY

Peter Marsh writes: In researching the history of the Government Printing Office in Melbourne (VGPO), which spanned 145 years from 1850, I am establishing a register of historic printing machinery and related artefacts in an effort to document the introduction of new technology to Australia. Recent research into the existence of a Bell & Valentine rotary newspaper press that began life at *The Age* newspaper in 1930, suggests it found its way to H. Godfrey & Company in Northcote, Melbourne. It was offered to the then Science Museum of Victoria, subject to an offer of the press to the *Newcastle Morning Herald*, who accepted the machine. The Museum wrote to the *Herald* advising it of its interest and asked to be informed when the press became surplus to their needs. The Museum's Curator of Technology made the following comment in February 1973: ─

> I consider that the Museum should accept this item despite its size, [6 - 10 Tons] as it is the smallest variation of a continuous rotary press made and in principle it represents an important advance in printing technology; also it used curved plate type plates and is possibly the only existing machine made in Australia of the type.

There is no further notice of the matter in Museum archives. There is an image on the State Library of Victoria web site that may be the press in question, but this is assumption. (See www.slv.vic.gov.au/pictoria/a/4/6/doc/a46085.shtml)

I would like to know what happened to the press. In 1977 the Museum accepted a Cottrell Magazine Rotary Web Perfector from the Victorian Government Printing Office, which had been installed by the Commonwealth in 1915. The acquisition of this press may have precluded any further interest in the Bell & Valentine, which is a pity, as the machine was home grown and more than likely an engineering rarity.

I would be grateful to hear from anyone who has knowledge of the machine or can point me towards any archival material that may help. Bell & Valentine at South Melbourne made a number of items for the VGPO but only a Ticket Printer survives at the Museum of Victoria. Contact me (Peter Marsh) at PO Box 571, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205, or e-mail: plmarsh@bigpond.com

35.57 WHEN JOURNALISM IS THE ONLY OPTION

Andrew Marr, *My Trade: A Short History of British Journalism* (London: Macmillan, 2004), p.xvi:

> I didn't decide to become a journalist. I stumbled into journalism. I'd done the requisite English degree, played politics, drawn cartoons and learned how to smoke sixty cigarettes a day without being sick. I'd started a PhD, washed dishes and been turned down for a job in a second-hand bookshop. Despite having a first-class degree and having read an unfeasibly large number of books, it began to dawn on me that I couldn't actually *do* anything. I couldn't sing, act, tell jokes, play any musical instrument, hit, kick or catch a ball, run for more than a few yards without panting, speak another language, or assemble things without them falling apart immediately. I was a scientifically illiterate innocent with the entrepreneurial instincts of a thirteenth-century peasant and the determination of a butterfly. Journalism seemed the only option.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

35.58 BOOK

35.58.1 DO NOT DISTURB: IS THE MEDIA FAILING AUSTRALIA? Edited by Robert Manne, Black Inc. 232pp. RRP $29.95. Paul Malone reviewed this book in the *Canberra Times*, 10 September 2005, Panorama, p.16, and Sylvia Lawson reviewed it in *Australian Book Review*, October 2005, pp.28-29.

35.58.2 MEMOIRS OF A REBEL JOURNALIST: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF WILFRED BURCHETT edited by George Burchett and Nick Shimmin. UNSW Press, 2005. 860pp. $59.95. Filled with extraordinary events and insights, this autobiography of Australian war journalist Wilfred Burchett invites readers to witness and participate in the greatest moments of 20th century history.

35.58.3 THE MARK KNIGHT COLLECTION – A LIFETIME OF CARTOONS AND DRAWINGS. A book devoted to the *Herald-Sun's* main cartoonist. Herald-Sun Shop, $45 or $39 with readers' special offer, plus $6 postage.

35.58.4 MEDIA MONITORS AUSTRALIA 1904-2004; THE FASCINATING 100 YEAR HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST PRESS CLIPPING AND BROADCAST MONITORING SERVICE edited by Peter Allen Media Monitors, 2004, $20.

35.58.5 THE BIG PICTURE: DIARY OF A NATION edited by Max Prisk, Tony Stephens and Michael Bowers. Published by the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Large, lavishly illustrated book dealing with Australia in the 20th century. Nearly 400pp. $70.

35.59 ARTICLES

35.59.1 SMALL BUT PERFECTLY INFORMED by Sheena MacLean, *Australian*, Media section, 6 October 2005, p.16. In a fast-paced world, readers are returning to [free] community newspapers for news and advertising. Many readers trust the local paper more than other media.

35.59.2 NEED FOR NEW RULES HAS A DEFINITE RING by Gerard Goggin, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 October 2005, p.13 Media law reform is being left in the wake of mobile technology, says Dr Goggin, an Australian Research Council research fellow at the University of Queensland.

35.59.3 SECRET SOCIETY by Tom Richardson and Verity Edwards, *Australian*, 17 October 2005, p.10. A deeply embedded inferiority complex has caused the police, judiciary and government to keep South Australians in the dark. SA's judiciary has the highest suppression rate in the country.

35.59.4 A SALE WHERE SOMETIMES YOU PAY, AND SOMETIMES YOU DON'T by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, October 2005, pp.48-49. A potted history of newspapers in Sale and surrounding Gippsland towns.

35.59.5 FREDDY & THE DREAMERS by Alan Deans and Nick Tabakoff, *Bulletin*, 1 November 2005, pp.49-52. The bold new world for Fairfax envisioned by Fred Hilmer, when he was CEO, did not eventuate. The new team must start from scratch. MASTHEAD & COMMANDER by Max Walsh, *Bulletin*, 1 November 2005, pp.53-54. If new boss David Kirk wants to stop the Fairfax circulation slide, he needs to get its newspapers on the right page of history. ONLINE GROWTH VITAL, SAYS FAIRFAX CHIEF by Neil Shoebridge, *Australian Financial Review*, 24 October 2005, p.11. New boss David Kirk wants an internet focus and isn't expecting a merger frenzy. FAIRFAX CHIEF'S WOBBLY KICK-OFF by Mark ay, *Australian*, Media section, 8 December 2005, pp.117-18, and Day's column, p.22.

35.59. 6 THE STRAIGHT SHOOTERS by John Swainston, *Walkley Magazine*, Issue 35, October-November 2005, p.7. Before 1969, photographers didn't get their bylines in newspapers. This article traces the growing recognition of the press photographer's craft.

35.59.7 IT'S IN THE BLOOD, *About the House,* November 2005, p.46. Pen picture of Canberra Times parliamentary bureau chief, Andrew Fraser, son of former Labor MP, Jim Fraser.

35.59.8 THE MERCURY 150 YEARS, *Illawarra Mercury*, "Celebrating 150 Years" magazine (112pp), 8 October 2005, pp.9-16. Snapshots of 150 years of publication of the *Illawarra Mercury*, Wollongong's daily newspaper. [Copies available, for cost of postage: contact Victor Isaacs at E-mail: abvi@webone.com.au.]

35.59.9 STOP PRESS: NEWSPAPERS' DOG DAYS by Leonie Wood, *Age*, 5 November 2005, Business & Money section p. 1. As revenue stalls and costs rise, newspapers are shedding staff, but publishers may be missing their moment in new media.

35.59.10 BORING BUT IMPORTANT … by Jeremy Moore, *Honi Soit*, 13 September 2005, p.3. An editorial on News Limited's Sydney commuter title, *mX*, discussing issues of competition, cross-media ownership and journalistic ideals.

35.59.11 THE TERROR BEAT, OR WHY LAW GRADUATES DON'T ALWAYS MAKE GOOD JOURNALISTS, *Australian*, 10 November 2005, p.13. The editorialist discusses the pressures of reporting the news on terrorism issues.

35.59.12 THEY'RE FREE, BUT THEY ALSO GET LANCED by Mark Juddery, *Australian*, Media section, 17 November 2005, p.14. Freelancing may sound like a cosy alternative to the daily grind of journalism, but it often involves insecurity and low pay.

35.59.13 PRINT SHOULD FIGHT BACK by Brian Moore, *Australian Printer*, November 2005, pp.24-25. A profile of departing Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association CEO Alan Armsden.

35.59.14 THE RESPONSIBLE REPORTER by Chris McLeod, *Australian Press Council News*, Vol. 17, No. 4, November 2005, pp.1-2, 11. A member of the Australian Press Council examines the legal concept of "reasonableness", its application to defamation law and how it is affecting journalists' defences.

35.59.15 CONCILIATING COMPLAINTS by Helen Edwards, John Fleetwood and Rex Jory, *Australian Press Council News*, Vol. 17, No. 4, November 2005, pp.7, 12. Three Press Council members examine the use of conciliation in settling complaints to the Council.

35.59.16 PLETHORA OF PAPERS AND PULCHRITUDE IN NOOSA by Peter Isaacson, *PANPA Bulletin*, November/December 2005, p.69. Semi-retired publisher Isaacson takes a look at newspaper competition on the Sunshine Coast while holidaying in Noosa.

35.59.17 UNRAVELLING THE REAL BIRTH OF THE NORTHERN MINER by Rod Kirkpatrick, *PANPA Bulletin*, November/December 2005, pp.70-71. A potted history of the *Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, including an explanation of when it really began.

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