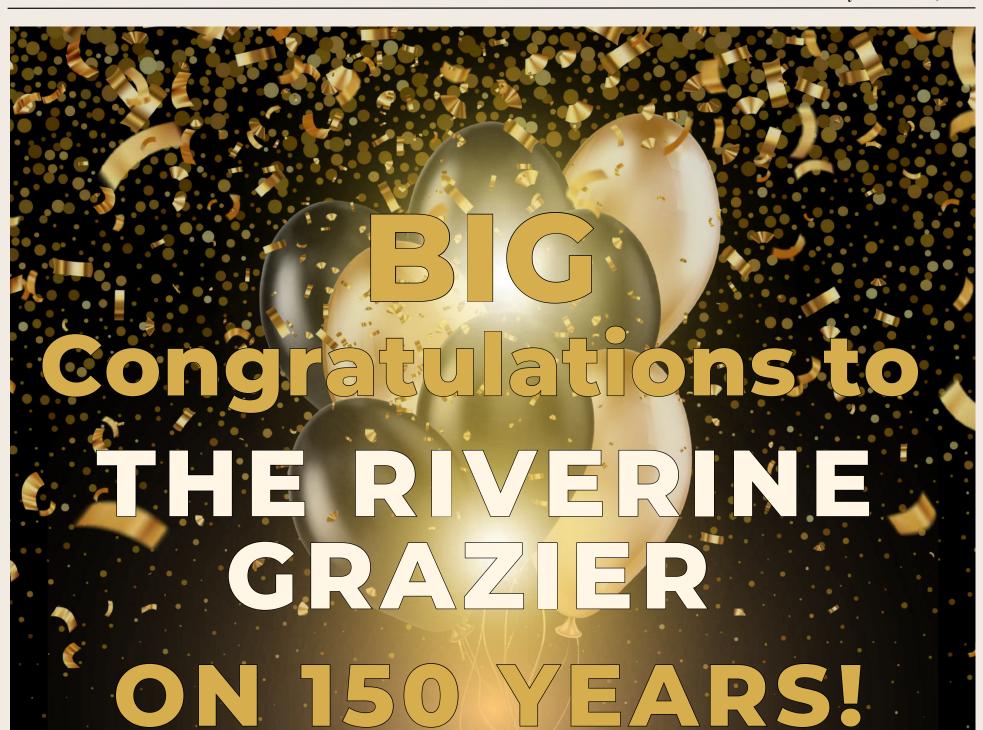




ommemorative Edition

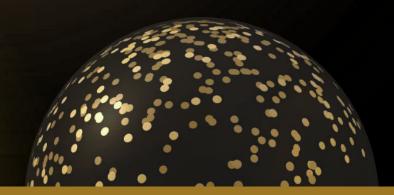


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## A history of pride, commitment and people

By Tertia Butcher

Welcome to our special celebration to mark 150 years of The Riverine Grazier.

War, drought, floods, more drought and COVID have not stopped The Grazier from hitting the streets each week – with the exception of one single edition in 2012 when Hay was told by SES officials that the town would be cut off due to flooding.

"Nothing will come over that bridge", we were told, and the difficult decision was made to cancel the following week's Grazier.

Taking up the reins in 1995 following the death of Gavin Johnston was easy. Three gener-

#### Only 5 editors in 150 years

In its long history, The Riverine Grazier has only had five editors; all of them with a financial interest in the business – we're here for the long haul!

The Grazier was first published in 1873, with John Andrew recorded as its first editor until 1888.

Enter the Johnston dynasty which lasted 107 years: John Johnston OBE until 1939 (51 years), Gavin Senior to 1975 (36 years) and Gavin junior until his untimely death in 1995 (20 years).

The incumbent, Tertia Butcher took over as editor in 1995 (28 years) after joining The Grazier team as journalist in 1991.

In 1902 the Grazier absorbed the Riverina Times, Hay Standard and Journal of Water Conservation.

Back in 1873 the Grazier was located in Lachlan Street, published on a Wednesday and "contained agricultural information, news and advertisements for goods and services in the area". Source: Trove.

Little has changed ... just add sport, photos and the increase in annual subscription from one pound to \$158.

ations of the Johnston family spanning more than a century ensured The Grazier was a firm fixture in the lives of the Hay community.

My very first introduction to this paper was when visiting Hay in 1990 and overhearing someone in the supermarket queue commenting on how busy the street was.

The cashier casualty responded, "It's Grazier day". This was a Tuesday afternoon, and I was left confused. I always thought graziers and farmer have their 'day in town' on a Friday.

It was not until joining the team a few months later that I realised Grazier Day was when the papers arrived from the printers; at that stage on a Tuesday afternoon.

In my time we have moved from black and white photos to colour, from hours spent in the dark room developing and printing images to digital photography and from 'cut and paste' to digital layouts.

We are said to be the first Australian newspaper to electronically send our files to the

printers. This was achieved thanks to Sharon Hicks who worked tirelessly on a solution getting the pages to Shepparton to be printed, and back to Hay in a short turnaround.

Our staff have been our biggest asset.

Our readers, our advertisers and our contributors have ensured Hay has its own newspaper week in, week out for 150 years.

For that, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart; knowing that some of you will still be around when The Riverine Grazier turns 200.



Pictured are the current staff of the Riverine Grazier: Chris McClelland, Cheyenne Hurst, Krista Schade, Kimberly Grabham, Tertia Butcher, and Margie McClelland. Image: The Riverine Grazier.



CONGRATULATIONS 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

regional

## History of The Riverine Grazier was tablished the Rivering Times. Hav Standard and 1995 Tertia took over the role as Managing Ed. Novadays this area is still used for con-

The first issue of The Riverine Grazier was on 29 October 1873. The paper was published every Wednesday and could be subscribed to for £1 per year. It contained agricultural information, news and advertisements for goods and services in the area.

Its founder was John Andrew; it was purchased in 1888 by James Ashton M.L.C. (previously a compositor with the Hay Standard then a clerk with Cramsie, Bowden and Co.) and John Johnston O.B.E. (ca.1864 – 29 October 1939) who was previously an accountant with Cobb and Co. then branch manager for the Equitable Assurance Company, of New Zealand.

In 1902 it moved to new premises opposite Tattersall's Hotel, Hay, and shortly afterwards purchased and incorporated the Riverina Times (previously the Hay Standard).

The incumbent editor Tertia Butcher is just the fifth editor of The Riverine Grazier in its 150 years and the newspaper's first woman to hold the title.

Founder John Andrew held the position between 1883 and 1888. John Johnston OBE began the long association of the Grazier with the Johnston family in 1888, before handing the reins to son Gavin Johnston Snr in 1935. Gavin Johnston Jnr stepped into the role in 1975 and served the paper faithfully until his death in 1995, when Tertia became editor.

Tertia celebrated 32 years at the helm in April this year. John Andrew was a nineteenth century newspaper journalist and proprietor. He was the manager of the Pastoral Times in Deniliquin for many years before moving to Hay to work on David Griffith Jones's Hay Standard. Shortly after his arrival in Hay he became proprietor of The Riverine Grazier. Andrew sold The Grazier and settled into retirement. Some twelve months prior to his death, however, he purchased the Hay Standard (which then ceased publication) and es-

tablished the Riverina Times, Hay Standard and Journal of Water Conservation.

The Riverine Grazier began in competition with the already established Hay Standard. The Grazier 'outgrew its rival and in due course incorporated both the Hay Standard and the Riverine Times, which had a comparatively short-lived career', according to an article in 'Seventy Years: Hay's Municipal Anniversary.' Narrandera Argus and Riverina Advertiser (25 August 1942):

John Johnston and the Honourable James Ashton purchased The Grazier in 1888, also taking ownership of "The Argus" in Narrandera.

The short-lived partnership dissolved when Ashton left the district to enter into politics, however John Johnston remained, commencing a century of the Johnston family legacy.

John Johnston led as editor for 51 years, until his death in 1939. His younger son Gavin Senior joined the firm in 1930 and became a partner in 1937, when the business traded as John Johnston and Son. Gavin Senior took the role of editor upon his father's death changing the name of the company to John Johnston and Son Pty Ltd in 1962.

Sons Gavin Junior and Michael joined the business in 1955 and 1969 respectively, and the company name changed to The Riverine Grazier Pty Ltd. Gavin Junior became editor upon the retirement of Gavin Senior in 1975.

Tertia moved to The Grazier from The Pastoral Times in Deniliquin in 1991, initially in a sales role when Michael Johnston left, before she moved into journalism the following year to write news stories alongside Gavin.

During this time The Grazier partnered with Perrots Solicitors and Peter Gardner to open a shared office in Balranald; and Balranald Bylines was launched.

Following the tragic death of Gavin in May

1995, Tertia took over the role as Managing Editor for four years until she became a partner in the business alongside Peter (Parra) Montgomery and Rod McCully.

Rod assumed the role of Managing Director with Tertia continuing as Editor and Parra in charge of sport and administration and was treasured as the Grazier's jovial 'meet and greet' icon.

In 2021 Rod McCully retired after 22 years and his share of the company was purchased by Krista Schade, who manages the business, in partnership with Editor Tertia Butcher.

#### Premises

The first office of The Grazier was located in Bank Street, back before the Tyson family built their gracious home, now The Convent.

The Grazier then moved into Lachlan Street, possibly into premises where The Hay Pizza Bar now stands. From there The Grazier moved to Lachlan Chambers on the corner of Lachlan and Moss Streets in 1901. This building was purpose built by Mrs Emily Woods, for leasing to Mr John Johnston for the Grazier office. The premises was shared with agent Mr George Hidgecock and were described in the paper as being "palatial" in design.

In 1981 The Grazier was forced to seek alternate premises when Lachlan Chambers was demolished to make way for a new building, now occupied by Hay Aboriginal Medical Service.

A former bakery building in Moore Street became The Grazier's new home, after renovations to accommodate the new, modern offset printing presses. The building has since been demolished and replaced with residential units.

The Grazier moved to its current offices at 95 Lachlan Street in 2000. Formerly a stock and station agency, the large space at the rear of the building was ideal for the factory space needed, when the Grazier still undertook commercial printing in-house.

Nowadays this area is still used for commercial work.

14 Jun 1901 - LACHLAN CHAMBERS. -Trove (nla.gov.au).

The first edition of The Riverine Grazier appeared without much fanfare. It consisted of four pages, however page four was given over completely to a fictional story.

The front page covered a variety of topics; foot and mouth disease, the difficulties of blasting out stumps, public dinner table decorations and artificial grasses.

Page two was equally informative, listing the wool report, paddle steamer arrival and departure timetables and the schedule of the telegraph office. There were warnings about pneumonia, instructions of importing stock from New Zealand and details of copper found at Mount Hope.

There was also this "note on ourselves":

"It is due to the public as well as ourselves that the principles which shall guide us in conducting The Riverine Grazier should be clear and definitely understood. The journal is published with the view of furnishing our readers with all the information available collected and collated from all parts of the world on pastoral and agricultural matters.

We shall present our readers with the views and experiences of those who have made such subjects their study, and who are, therefore, entitled to speak authoritatively and as we have made arrangements with persons who are au fait on those matters, we can confidently promise that our pages will supply valuable and extensive information".

Interesting facts - During the Second World War Gavin Johnston Snr printed a weekly letter of Hay news, which was included in Comfort Fund parcels and dispatched to men in the armed services

Continues next page





## **History of The Riverine Grazier**

From page 4.

The Citizens' Band held a significant position in the life of the local community. At election time, it played outside The Riverine Grazier newspaper office, while crowds waited for the election results to be posted on the windows outside.

In 1914, after a torchlight procession through the streets, the band played a farewell to troops off to the Great War (SLNSW). In Alan Davies, At Work & Play, 1989.

As of 1997, Isabel Johnston was Principal of the Grazier, and in charge of Administration, Allan Japp was director, Tertia Butcher Managing Editor, Jenni Grimm Accounts Manager, Alix McFarland Cadet Journalist, Monique Caslick Advertising Manager, Karen Dowling Compositor, Rob Walker Printer, Susan Johnston worked in the Darkroom, Robert Rayner was Office Manager of Balranald, Jen Scandolera was Darkroom Collator and Chrissie Huntly the Ivanhoe Correspondent.

(Published Nov 26, 1997).

The tireless efforts and long association with the Grazier of local historian Carolyn Merrylees must be recognised.

Mrs Merrylees is a constant and viable source of knowledge which the staff of The Riverine Grazier call on frequently.

Whether you are seeking a former place of abode of a distant relative or studying the history of a popular local event, Mrs Merrylees is bound to be able to put you on the right track to gaining the information you require.

She compiles the Hay 100 Years ago column enjoyed by a number of our readers, and played a vital part in the production of The Riverine Grazier Centenary Edition, published in 1988.

She carried out the entire editorial research for the publication.

Mrs Merrylees is currently part of a team which is sorting and cataloguing the negatives of photographs taken by Mr Gavin Johnston.

This task is being undertaken voluntarily by Hay Historical Society and around 71000 negatives have been stored to date.

As both a member of NSW Country Press Association and the Victorian Country Press Association, The Grazier has been the recipient of some of the most recognised awards in country

1979 - EC Summerlad Memorial Award for Journalism – Newspaper staffed by one journalist (NSWCPA).

Riverine Grazier staff in 1972. Back: Gavin Johnston Snr, John Ray, Gary Kulhavy, Michael Johnston, Gordon Hurst. Front: Mrs Helen Johnston, Ann Christensen (Perry) Peter Hill and Gavin Johnston Junior. Image: Supplied.

1981 - EC Summerlad Memorial Award for Journalism - Newspaper staffed by one journal-

Best locally produced advertisement – advertisement under one page Mono (NSWCPA).

1982 - EC Summerlad Memorial Award for Journalism – Newspaper staffed by one journalist (NSWCPA).

1984 - Best locally produced advertisement -Mono advertisement under one (NSWCPA).

1985 - EC Summerlad Memorial Award for Journalism – Newspaper staffed by one journalist (NSWCPA).

1986 - EC Summerlad Memorial Award for Journalism - Newspaper staffed by one journalist (NSWCPA).

Best locally produced advertisement -Mono advertisement under one page (NSWCPA).

1987 - 88 EC Summerlad Memorial Award for Journalism - Newspaper staffed by one journalist (NSWCPA).

1990 - 91 EC Summerlad Memorial Award for Journalism - Newspaper staffed by one journalist (NSWCPA).

1995 - Highly commended for Editorial Writing (VCPA)

1996 - Feature Supplement Award (VCPA), Highly commended for column writing (VCPA).

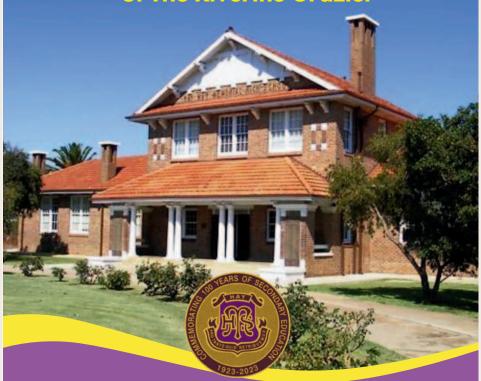
1998 - Westpac Award for Journalism, up to 3000 circulation (VCPA). The following quotations are taken from an ar-

ticle written by former editor, the late Gavin Johnston Jnr outlining the history of the news-\*The Grazier was born at a time when the

town of Hay had 'grown up'. It had experienced local government for 16 years, at the time of the introduction of the Johnston family into its in-

\*The Johnston family came into the newspaper at a time when print was the only news media, half a century before radio and well before television had ever been heard of.





Hay War Memorial High School proudly congratulates The Riverine Grazier for their remarkable dedication to journalism and the continuous publication of their newspaper since 1873!

For 150 years, The Riverine Grazier has been the beacon of information, knowledge, and inspiration in Hay and surrounding areas. Through every era, it has remained a trusted source of news, connecting us all.

We are honoured to have played a meaningful part in this incredible journey. Over the decades, our school has been a witness to the newspaper's evolution. Together, we have celebrated triumphs, faced challenges, and embraced

May The Riverine Grazier continue to shine brightly for generations to come, lighting the way with stories that inform, entertain, and unite us all.

From all of us at Hay War Memorial High School, congratulations on 150 years of excellence, and here's to the next 150!

#### Tros Tyriusve mihi nullo discrimine agetur

Trojan or Tyrian, it shall make no difference to me (i.e., I treat all the same) (Virgil)

The early editions of The Riverine Grazier included a Latin phrase, used as a motto for the publication.

It first appeared in print on November 12,

The motto "Tros Tyriusve mihi nullo discrimine agetur" is attributed to Roman poet Virgil, and translates as "Whether Trojan or Tyrian shall make no difference to me."

In terms of The Grazier, we take it to mean that reports shall be given equally and justly, and when reporting the news or recording our town's history, we strive to do so fairly.

The motto seems to have disappeared from our pages in the mid-1950s. but its intent has remained.



Independent... Important as ever.

Congratulations and thank you to the Riverine Grazier for telling this region's story.



## nne Perry's recollections of Grazier days

answered an advertisement for a position as clerk at The Riverine Grazier.

And so began her 15-year long association with The Grazier in the days of the Gestetner and Roneo machines, adding machine with pulldown handle and a young 'boy' melting led on a small fire in the backyard for the led type moulds used for printing the paper.

'Paper boys' on their bikes delivered the Grazier after school and films were developed and photos printed in the darkroom at Gavin's house.

The Grazier office was situated between the former Younghusband Stock and Station Agents and Waradgery Shire offices and opposite the big old Tattersalls Hotel.

"On my first morning, the retired and longtime staffer, Mr Bean showed me how to fold left-over papers for sale into pigeon holes on the left end of the front counter," Anne remembers.

"Gavin Johnston senior was the editor, linotype operator, insurance rep, Justice of the Peace, coroner and served on many committees.

"His eldest son, Gavin Anthony was the reporter and mostly collected news for the People and Places segment, birth forms from the Maternity Hospital in Lachlan Street, photographer, volunteer ambulance driver and served on many committees. He was the High School boyfriend of my cousin, Isabel Taylor.

"Cocky (Gordon) Hurst was linotype operator. Peter Hill and Russ Murphy also operated the hand type printer. Later Tommy Docherty, Gary Kulhay and John Ray also joined the printing

"The boys would turn on the huge Warfdale press to print the broadsheets."

Anne was the only female staff member until some years later Mrs Johnston senior came in part-time to help out.

Her duties each morning included sweeping the two front offices and footpath, regularly pol-

It was August 1959 when Anne Christensen ishing the insurance sign on the wall with Brasso, collecting the mail and picking up the papers from Becker's Paper Shop (now Robertson's Hot Bread Kitchen).

> On production day she helped with the proofreading and typed addresses on the wrappers to

> At the end of the month left-over papers were filed away, with a copy of each issue in a separate file to be sent away to be bound. This practice continues today.

> The print room was kept busy in the days before desktop publishing with wedding and birthday invitations, Christmas cards, job sheets and letterheads.

> Anne noted all these in a ledger and later typed up the accounts.

> Month-end they were folded into envelopes and bulk-posted. Business accounts were deliv-

> In two huge Subscriber Ledgers the charges were updated and typed into accounts. Anne did the banking, using an adding machine with pulldown handle, the wages, took advertisements from people and sometimes wrote the copy for

> She helped collate the race book, show schedule and the Hay War Memorial High School magazine, The Waradgery which used to be printed at The Grazier.

> Anne encountered some amazing experiences in her time at The Grazier.

> "Once, after work and getting ready to ride my bike over the bridge to Mungadal where we lived, our office cleaners, Mrs Biggs and her daughter Ivy said they had never crossed the bridge," she recalls.

> "Mr Biggs had, as he was the postman on a

"Now writing this, I realised not everyone would have had reason to go over the bridge.

"In another incident, a lady brought in tiny



Pictured is Anne Perry, nee Christensen, hard at work in the printing room. Image: supplied.

photos for Gavin to photograph and enlarge. They were of her and a man beside a caravan, and he in a shroud in a coffin. They were the only photos she had of her husband.

"I remember in October 1973 we celebrated the centenary of Johnston ownership of The Grazier with a special edition. In the evening there was a celebration dinner at the Motel Hay Restaurant in South Hay.

"In March 1974 I trained my replacement, Kim Gregory, daughter of Eddie and on Friday the 29th I left the Grazier with a cheque for long service leave and a reference from Mr Johnston, which I still have.

"I had tea with my brother John, Irene and their children Melinda and Peter and a few hours later left Hay to live at Murray Bridge in South

"I was so lucky to have worked for the Johns-

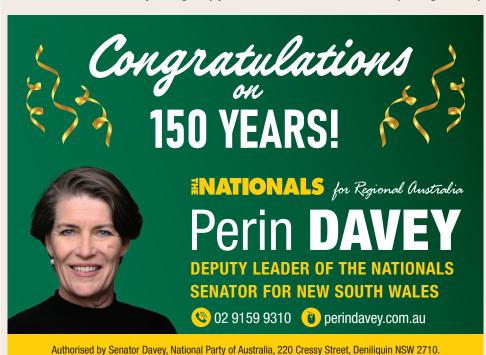
tons who treated us all like family.

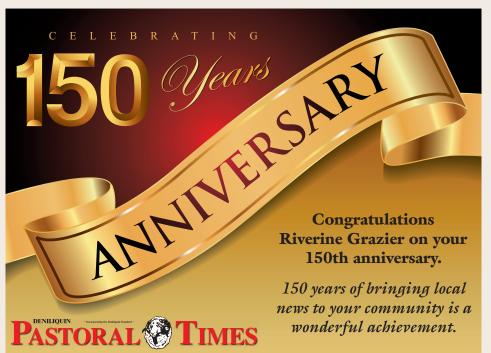
"Sometimes when raining, Mrs Johnston drove me home to Mungadal, saying she hoped someone would do the same for her daughter,

"One Saturday morning in rain Mr Johnston took me home, and years later while living in an Edward Street flat, Mike picked me up in heavy rain and dropped me off in Moss Street beside Younghusband as there was a trench along Lachlan Street which served as gutter for the front offices."

Eighty-one-year-old Anne (now Perry) lives in Griffith and returned to Hay four years ago for the Hay Public School celebrations.

Mrs Perry was invited to our 150-year celebration as a special guest, but due to health problems was unable to attend and instead wrote to us about her years at The Grazier.









#### The great Riverine Grazier currency scandal - by Ian Wade

During its long 150-year history, our local newspaper, The Riverine Grazier, like all newspapers, has been, and still is exposed to the scrutiny of abiding to Code of Conduct laws

This task generally falls to the Editor, who, in most small towns, is also one of the owners.

However, The Grazier, was involved in a major controversy during the Second World War; unintentionally involved in a scandalous illegal affair, by breaching a federal law.

During the Second World War in 1940, under Winston Churchill's government, a policy targeting residents living in London, from an Austrian German background was established, citing them as enemy aliens or spies who posed a potential security risk to the War effort.

Most of these men were of German-Jewish origin, who had purposely escaped Right Wing Nazi Germany themselves, fearing the same fate as the atrocities committed in the Holocaust.

Incorrectly arrested, these so-called enemy aliens, after a request to the Australian Government, were transferred half way round the world on the infamous HMT Dunera, in deplorable conditions

Upon arrival, some were despatched in Melbourne, the rest in Sydney. The Sydney group were loaded onto waiting trains for a 30-hour trip to what felt like the desert. Hay was chosen for its isolation and in railway terms, was 'the end of the line'.

At Hay, almost overnight, three Internment Camps were constructed within two kilometres north of the town, each holding around 1000 inmates and named Camps 6, 7 and 8.

Some internees were middle aged, but most were young men, all taken from their families. Some were from wealthy families, or wealthy themselves, some had an excellent education, some from high profile jobs, a few were excellent musicians, even dramatically artistic.

Yet, upon arrival in Australia, and in POW Camps, they were all equal, treated the same and well respected by the Australians.

Their lives changed to what they were accustomed, yet all having needs and wants, just like we do, but they needed money.

Initially, it was forbidden to have currency within the camps at Hay, using a coupon system. However, Camp 7 decided to formulate their own currency system, as they were given a salary for their work on the Camp farms. Camps had a civilian run canteen, requiring money to purchase goods such as cigarettes, razors, toothpaste, books, magazines, some clothing and sweets.

Coupons weren't working properly, so a committee sought permission, and was approved by the camps legal officer, Major McNeill Simpson to print their own 'toy' currency. This would be for their wages, and could purchase canteen goods

Designed in Camp 7 by Georg Teltscher, an Austrian illustrator and graphic designer, who was born in Vienna, Austria in 1904. Prior to leaving Austria, Georg had designed some 1934 Austrian banknotes.

After defecting to London Teltscher changed

his name to George Adams, to avoid any possible persecution, by taking his mother's maiden name of Adams and adding an "e" to his christian name. Whilst at Camp 7 in Hay, George designed this camp currency, but with a coded, even humorous twist, hiding words within the notes, usually missed by the naked eye. A veritable work of art, there are many interesting details microscopically at times, woven into the design of the note.

It is estimated that 9,000 notes were printed, consisting of 3,000 of the sixpence (blue), 4,000 of the one shilling (green), and 2,000 of the two shillings (red).

Soon after printing these, a photo of the notes was printed in a Sydney newspaper, alerting Government Authorities, who then sent detectives from the Attorney Generals Department in Sydney, to Hay.

April 1941, they questioned the late Gavin Johnson Snr, the then proprietor of the Grazier, together with Major McNeill Simpson about their involvement.

Authorities objected to 'Legal Australian Currency' on the front of the notes, a major breach of the Currency Act law, despite the proviso wording on the back of the notes, adding that the notes were very convincing and risked being used outside the camps.

The engraved plates and original artwork were seized from the Grazier office and destroyed.

Most of the notes were confiscated from the camp canteen and internees, and either destroyed or cancelled by stamping them with red ink, however some inmates, guards and canteen staff kept them as souvenirs, unaware of the future value of these rare military notes, as the fascination is obvious considering the stories that these notes have to tell.

Within three months, these notes were printed and then most of them destroyed.

These are now much sought after by coin and note collectors worldwide with a Rarity Index of 95/100 as any military money is now highly sought after.

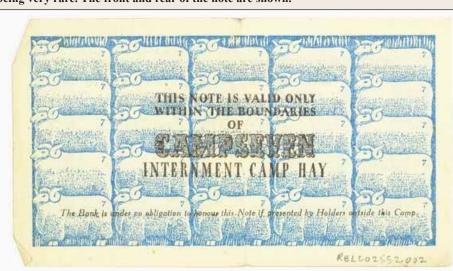
After this, the Government realised there was a definite need for money for use at the Hay Internment Camps, so after seeking official approval under the Australian Currency Act, the Department of Army designed five tokens (all with a hole in the centre), in different denominations for use at Hay's Internment Camps, incorporating the words Internment Camps on the reverse side. Minted by R Arandsen & Sons, in Malvern & KG Luke & Co. in Fitzroy, Victoria then distributed to all POW camps in Australia and New Zealand, they are extremely rare. So, not only was our local newspaper involved in illegally printing money, it also changed the course of camp currency being made available to internees, not only in Hay, but nationwide and in New Zealand.

The Grazier's involvement was unique, as the technique of creating lead plates in 1941 would have taken considerable hours to construct, normally been a task for the Commonwealth Note Printing Works, not our local black and white newspaper. An amazing part of our local newspaper's 150-year history.

"Not only was our local newspaper involved in illegally printing money, it also changed the course of camp currency being made available to internees, not only in Hay, but nationwide and in New Zealand."



Pictured above and below is the six pence note designed by Georg Teltscher, and printed by the Riverine Grazier. Most of this currency was seized and destroyed, with remaining notes being very rare. The front and rear of the note are shown.





After the scandal involving The Riverine Grazier and the rouge internment camps currency notes, the government recognised the need for money and created a series of tokens, under the official Australian Currency Act.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RIVERINE GRAZIER

on 150 years connecting the community.



#### **Around the world in 1873** The first issue of The Riverine Grazier was

on 29 October 1873. Published every Wednesday, it could be subscribed to for £1 per year. It featured agricultural information, news

and ads for goods and services in the area.

Although we in Hay would consider the first issue of the Grazier the most important occurrence of 1873, there were actually many pivotal events happening around the world in 1873.

Jules Verne was publishing First Editions

March 22, it was Emancipation Day for Puerto Rico, with slaves being freed (with a few excep-

- July 19 saw Surveyor William Gosse name "Ayers Rock" after the Premier of South Australia Henry Ayers (was later changed back to its Indigenous name, Uluru).
- · In December Elizabeth Woolcock was hanged at the Adelaide Gaol. She was the only

- Australian cricketer Monte Noble was born on January 28, with Australian artist Fred Leist was also born in 1873.
- · April 1, tragedy strikes when British White Star Steamship Atlantic sinks off Nova Scotia,
- May 20 Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis start something big with the patent for the first blue jeans with copper rivets.
- May 24 Alexandra Palace entertainment hall opens on Queen Victoria's 54th birthday with a grand celebration including concerts, recitals and fireworks. On Jun 9 it sadly burns down, after being open for only 16 days.
- Jun 2 Construction begins on Clay St (San Francisco) for world's 1st cable railroad.

- Jun 18 Suffragette Susan B. Anthony fined \$100 (\$2,200) for voting for US President in Rochester, New York. She refused to pay and no further action against her was taken.
- · Jesse James and James Younger gang's commit their first train robbery in Adair, Iowa.
- P. T. Barnum's circus, "Greatest Show on Earth," debuts in New York City.
- · November 20 Rival cities of Buda and Pest unite to form the capital of Hungary.
- · An Illinois farmer, Joseph Glidden submitted a patent for barbed wire.
- Japan adopted the Gregorian Calendar. \
- February 20 British naval officer John Moresby discovers the site of Port Moresby, and claims the land for Britain.

### Grazier's place in hist

years, we look at our local newspaper's place in history.

- · The Grazier was around before Australia was declared a nation.
- · Australia became a nation on 1 January 1901 when six British colonies—New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania—united to form the Commonwealth of Australia.
- When The Grazier emerged in October 1873, it was published in the town of Hay, in the British colony of New South Wales, so officially The Grazier is older than Australia.
- The Riverine Grazier is also older than the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Company) which was founded in 1932, older than the Big Banana which was built in 1964, and older than Sydney Opera House, which was completed in 1973.
- The Grazier is older than Tim Tams (1964), sliced bread which was invented in 1928, and predates the construction of the first Ford car in Australia, which was March 31, 1925.
- Our newspaper is older than colour television in Australia which first switched on on October 7, 1974.
  - It is older than the Iced VoVo biscuit which

& Co

Accountants

- · The Grazier was around before the Tasmanian Tiger became extinct in 1936.
- · Grazier is older than the Australian thong, which Dunlop began making in 1960.
- · The Riverine Grazier has covered two World Wars, and been around during the election, resignation, death or sacking of every one of Australia's 31 Prime Ministers.
- · The Riverine Grazier most likely reported on the death of Ned Kelly, who was hanged seven years after the Grazier was born.
- · It could possibly have also published or reported on Dorothea Mackellar's love for a "sunburnt country" which was written in 1904.
- Grazier is a year older than the underwater torpedo, invented in 1894 by Australian Louis
- The Grazier also came before the Australian Women's Suffragette Movement, also founded in 1894.
- · It was in publication in time to report on the Federation Drought, beginning in 1895, the worst since European Settlement.
- The NSW branch of the Country Press Association is the oldest industry group in Australia, but it was founded in 1900, 27 years after The Riverine Grazier.



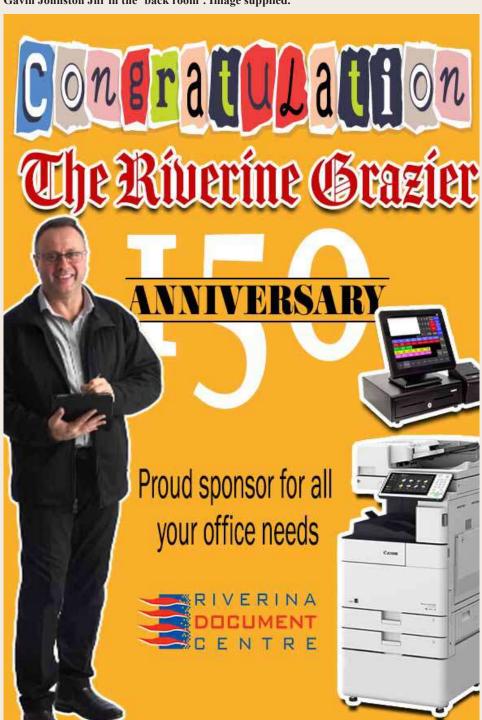
Detail, time and a keen eye were needed to operate the machines before the digital age. Gavin Johnston Jnr in the 'back room'. Image supplied.





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www.brianmccleary.com.au



## **Each week at The Grazier**

By Kimberly Grabham.

The Riverine Grazier has been a constant in the life of Hay; the always relied upon Wednesday editions never stopping, apart from a short Christmas break.

Although it is always on the shelves at various business houses in Hay every Wednesday, few of us would actually know exactly the time and effort that is poured into every edition. Here is a somewhat compact run down of our week at the

Mondays turn us into busy worker ants, with Tertia, Krista and Kimberly collating the stories and reports from various sources, sourcing correct spellings of names and painstakingly formatting the paper as it appears on the page to the reader on Wednesdays.

Each page is then carefully proof-read by

Cheyenne is busily putting the last finishing magic touches on all of her personally created advertisements, and often glitzing a page that just won't go together right.

Grazier gets her finishing touches from our Editor, Tertia on Tuesday.

It is then, transformed into PDF form by Margie or Kimberly, and rechecked to ensure that it has maintained its readability once in PDF for-

It is then transferred to Newsprinters Wodonga by FTP file transfer via the Newsprinters Shepparton server.

Files arrive at Wodonga Print Centre electronically, and within a matter of seconds.

Each page is viewed by the Prepress operator, scanning for inaccuracies in headings, or for a picture that may have failed, resulting in a blank hole where it should be.

Once a pre-check has been done, files are

moved into another folder which will then auto- ered to Hay. matically move these page PDF files into the Print centres Agfa page pairing software.

printing plate to suit the layout of the Goss Ur- van. banite Printing Press.

The Prepress operator will preview the plate a production line. for errors once again, such as defaulted fonts, or fonts that have come across unreadable.

They also check to ensure images are all of posted out all over the country. reasonable quality.

Low resolution pictures do not print well at all. they will default. If they look good, plates will fice. be sent to the imager for outputting on either of the two Krause Imagers or through the third line, tion, the the team gets down to planning the next

Each set of pages are separated into the four

the Agfa Imager.

The four inks used are Cyan (blue), Magenta, ing revenue for that week. Yellow and Black.

From these four inks all colours can be created to give the colour we see in the newspaper today. These plates, once processed, then move on to

be hole punched in register with each other. They are bent and clamped onto the plate cyl-

inder of the press.

Now the Press operator prints The Grazier, which only takes a matter of minutes to com-

The printed papers come off the press and attached to clamps which carry each copy to the other side of the factory to the publishing department where each paper will be detached from the clamps.

A stacker counts the number of papers per bundle before the bundles are strapped.

Once strapped, each bundle is ejected onto another conveyor from where an operator stacks them on a pallet, ready for despatch to be deliv-

On Wednesday, Grazier hitches a ride to Deniliquin with other newspapers and from there There, each page is assigned its position on the shares space with the bread in Justin Polhill's

Arriving around 7.30am, the office turns into

Catalogues are inserted by all staff, and mailouts are placed into their plastic sleeves to be

Tertia delivers the Grazier to Haydays.

Margie takes the physical newspapers that are Fonts all need to be imbedded at the stage or mailed out across the country over to the Post Of-

> After Wednesday's Grazier is out for circulaweek's Grazier.

The number of pages allocated for the followcoloured inks used to print four colour printing. ing week's paper is determined by the advertisThe more you pay, the more we say!

Feature and news articles are then worked on for the next edition, with trips around Hay often undertaken to talk to various sources.

On Thursday, Margie devotes her day to various stages of advertisements, Tertia continues with news creation, and Kimberly will focus on feature writing.

Fridays Krista escapes into the past to carry back stories to feature on the Blast from the Past page, while Cheyenne designs modern advertisements, and social media posts.

Krista also sorts out the accounts side of the business, undertakes banking, and finalises inserts. On weekends Margie can be found faithfully creating art through the images of local events, with sports stories being scribed by Krista and our volunteer contributors.

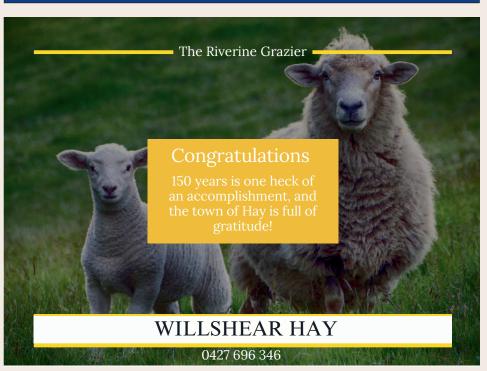
It beggars belief all of the steps it takes to deliver the Grazier to our faithful readers.











## The Riverine Grazier -150 years of service



Michael Johnston and Gavin Johnston Snr working at the c1910 Wharfedale printing press in 1975. Image: Supplied.

The Riverine Grazier is, as its masthead proudly says: "The heartbeat of Hay" – and its been beating non-stop for 150 years.

Nothing encapsulates a local town and district more effectively and efficiently than its own newspaper and for me it's a source of immense personal pride that our family, the Johnstons, played such an important role in the history of The Grazier.

Our family published The Grazier from 1888 for over a hundred and ten years and in that period there were three Johnston generations of editors - John Johnston OBE, (1888 -1939), his son Gavin Johnston (1939-1975) and his son Gavin A Johnston (1975 – 1995).

I enjoyed 23 years as a partner in the commercial side of the business alongside my father and brother.

My father once told me he believed that when being responsible for publishing a newspaper in a remote town such as Hay, it was more important to be a good mechanic, to keep the machines (printing press and linotypes) going than it was to be a good journalist. Fortunately, Dad was very good at both. He passed on his love of the town and its people to his children. My brother Gavin was a wonderful journalist and editor winning the NSW Country Press Association annual award for a newspaper staffed by one journalist on many occasions.

"Gave" was also an exceptional photographer, never missing an opportunity to capture the occasion with a picture.

My other brother David often counted the number of different faces in the paper and the record was 287 one week.

Only recently on 13th September he did a head count thinking it could be a new record but there were only 250. Still a wonderful pictorial record for a small town.

Gavin liked to be close to the action when taking football photos and on one occasion was ordered off the field by an umpire at the Hay Park for being too close to the sideline (although it might have had something to do with the advice Gavin was giving at the same time to the man in white). Gavin never missed recording a birth, wedding or an obituary and Hay averaged 50

births and 50 deaths a year. He loved Hay and the community, and it showed in his reporting.

We were always very fortunate to have "publicity officers" who contributed to the weekly news columns.

Without their support and contributions, The Grazier wouldn't be as informative. Mick Beckwith with his thoughts and suggestions on civic matters and Peter Montgomery with his sporting knowledge were weekly contributors of high quality copy.

My own contribution to the newspaper was selling advertising but I started as a paper boy in the 50s riding my bike around town delivering the paper to subscribers in shops and homes – often with my best mate and back-up Dave Beckwith.

In those days we published twice weekly on our own hot metal press but in 1975 we switched to off-set and became a weekly paper with printing being carried out at Griffith. The print run then was over 2000 copies in a town of 3500 - an incredibly high per capita circulation.

Advertising is what keeps a local newspaper viable. We were fortunate to have up to four grocery businesses in town and all advertising weekly specials.

The four stock and station agencies and car dealers were regular advertisers while the classified advertisements could run into two or three pages on occasions.

As the person selling advertising, I encountered many "local rag knockers".

"It's not worth the paper it's printed on," they'd say. "Well, don't buy it." I'd reply. "There's nothing in it. You can throw it into the air and read it on the way down," they'd say. "Let's see you do that," I'd reply. "It costs more than the Herald Sun," they'd say. "There's no Hay news in the Herald Sun," I'd reply.

Local newspapers, especially The Grazier, are generally read cover-to-cover and quite often

coverage is not always welcome, particularly when it comes to reporting on cases from the local courthouse.

My father and brother had a strict editorial policy that if a matter went to court it was also covered by the newspaper.

Despite many requests and external pressures, there were no exceptions – not even for me when I blew .06 at an RBT station and had to face the local magistrate!

Of course, this type of embarrassment is minor when in-house errors made the newspaper itself look foolish including the time when an 'i' was substituted for an 'o' in a front page story about a man who sh\_t himself in the main street of Hay. According to my father, not too many papers were printed before he called "Stop The Press".

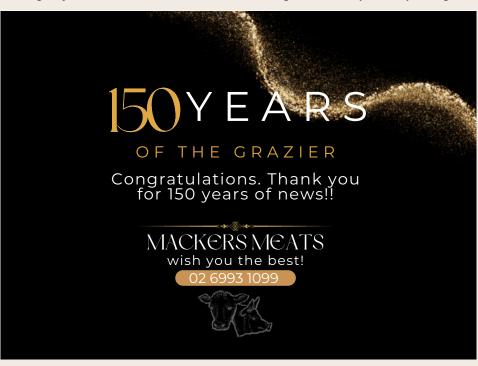
Another unfortunate caption was printed over the top of a breeder holding his prized pigeon over this shoulder. It simply said "CHAMPION COCK ANY VARITY OF THE SHOW".

Final thoughts: A record of 150 years of unbroken publishing in a country town is almost unheard of today and this mark leaves in its wake BHP, Myer, Bushells, Bundaberg Rum and the Commonwealth Bank – all of which are younger companies.

While my family has played a very significant role in the history of The Riverine Grazier, I know my forebears, especially my late brother, would be thrilled to know that this grand publication lives on – thanks to the current very committed and hands-on owners who are displaying not only an excellent standard of publishing but also their care for the community and prosperity of the town.

The Hay community is lucky to have them, and their efforts are deeply and most sincerely appreciated - keep up the great work.

Michael Johnston, The Riverine Grazier Partner (1969 -1991).









Dear folks

I didn't work for The Grazier as such, but I wrote the Haywire column for nine years until the material sort of dried up and I got the bullet.

I really enjoyed that period as it kept me on my toes all the time, looking for snippets always.

I used to wear a pen around my neck all the time, looking for a new person in town.

I even took it to Mass on the weekends, hoping someone would have relatives visiting so I could include them in my column.

#### **Commemorative mailbag from our scribes**

I also wrote a column called 'Tourist Tidbits' and enjoyed that column very much.

It was about once a fortnight.

Before that I wrote the basketball notes for several years and the Council happenings when Gavin was away.

Mick Johnston asked me to do it and I enjoyed that part. It only happened a few times a year but it was fun.

Regards, Mick Beckwith.

o the team

Congratulations to all at The Riverine Grazier for the service it has provided over its 150-year history.

In 2024 the Hay community will have the opportunity to celebrate 150 shows.

The Riverine Grazier has been integral to the research of the history of the Hay Show and continues to this day.

Over the years I have been fortunate to be given space to share the stories of the Hay Youth Group, Hay Pre-School Kindergarten, Hay Mobile Resource Unit, Hay Lions and Hay Netball and Hay Show as well as a short stint of employment.

I once again congratulate The Riverine Grazier on reaching this milestone and look forward to 'reading the Grazier' for many more years to come.

Kind regards, Jill Chapman.

#### A good team makes for a good product

News is anything that makes a reader say "Gee Whiz!".... News is whatever a good editor chooses to print." Arthur MacEwen

By Peter (Parra) Montgomery – written after his retirement from The Grazier.

It was another case of being in the right place at the right time.

One afternoon, sitting alone in the bar of the Highway Inn Hotel, I had a visit from Rod McCully asking me if I was interested in going into a partnership to buy The Riverine Grazier.

Isabel Johnston was looking to sell, and move to Melbourne to be married to Alex Abbott, and if we didn't buy it, the paper would be sold to outside interests and a valuable Hay commodity would be lost to the town.

The Company was to involve me, Rod and Tertia Butcher – who had been carrying out the duties of Editor for the paper for a number of years.

I was definitely interested. Writing for The Riverine Grazier was a hobby I had been involved with for almost forty years, and I knew that I would need another wage to supplement my income as the hotel could not produce an income to support two families.

Pat and I had a discussion and decided, yes, together we could handle the load.

We had a good system at the pub, where Kevin and Ann worked two weeks then had two weeks off, to be replaced by Pat and I.

I had worked two jobs for most of my time in Hay anyway so the workload was not going to be any different to what I had become used to.

Pat worked the pub during the day, and I would come up after work at the paper and relieve her, while she would have a break, cook tea and come back and work until closing time. I would do the weekend shifts when it was our time 'on'.

I had contributed sporting articles, particularly on Rugby League and Cricket over long period (from as early as 1967) and the Johnston family had been very good to me, allowing me to make contributions as I saw fit.

Pat knew I loved writing and I loved the paper, so again we decided on another change of direction.

We became shareholders in one of the town's most successful and long-standing businesses.

The writing part was fine. I could write until it came out of my ears.

But the production part of a newspaper was new to me.

Alix McFarland – a Cadet Journalist at the paper - was a great assistance when we started.

Alix, after a couple of months, decided to move on. She headed to Wagga where she worked her way up to be Editor of the Southern Weekly.

Tertia had passed on a lot of her skills to Alix – and Alix obviously was a very good learner.

She is a great writer and her appointment was a fitting reward to her many talents

When we were able to entice a great mate, Donna Whitehead on board – well, for me that just made it. I am indebted to Donna for all the skills she has passed onto me about life.

When I get stressed, Donna has the ability to talk me through things. I could confide in her in confidence. She sees things so clearly. She has a relaxing effect on me

I had worked with Donna in the Lands Department, she had worked for us at the pub, and I knew how loyal, efficient and unflappable she is. There is not a lot she can't do. She is so organised in her own life, and her pleasant nature made her a great asset to the team.

The loss of Alix was devastating, but we were lucky enough to pick up Mardi Short who had just completed a Bachelor of Arts (Media) at University in Coffs Harbour, and she wanted to return home.

Mardi had experience with a Coffs Harbour newspaper, and what we got was a person well versed in Quark newspaper program – a good eye for preparing advertising – as well as covering news stories.

How lucky we were to have such a talent join the staff.

Mardi's capacity for work was simply amazing. I wrote in a reference I did for her when she moved to the Wagga Daily Advertiser, that a talent like Mardi comes along "once in a lifetime, and to miss out on securing her services would be something an employer would come to regret".

Mardi was able to pass on some of her skills onto Donna. They became very good friends and got on well together.

When Donna arrived, she concentrated on the advertising, and page placements and sending the paper off for printing.

She was not required for any 'writing' of stories, but I have no doubt she would be capable of that if given the opportunity.

Donna has the same organisational ability as Mardi and we were fortunate to have her on staff.

Donna's loyalty and dedication came to the fore when we had a few breakdowns in the production

One paper for some reason we got really be-

hind. We did not finish the paper until 1.30 am on a Tuesday morning.

Donna, without a quibble, stayed with us right through until the paper was sent off for printing. That, to me, is service beyond the call of duty.

I have never forgotten that dedication - but I already knew that was her work ethic.

She has that excellent rare commodity – 'Pride in Workmanship'.

We had some great students some to the office.

We had some great students come to the office for work experience. Katie Parker came in for a week when she was just 15.

In a week under my supervision, she convinced me that she was a very special talent.

At the conclusion of her week, I said to Tertia, "Katie is so good. She has adapted to this work very well and I don't think we should let her slip through our hands".

We offered Kate a cadetship, which she accepted, and we had three loyal years out of her before she moved on.

She has a great capacity for work, and in my opinion, has the ability to succeed at any work she puts her mind to.

Kate was very pleasant in the office and she has been a great little mate for me.

I am following her career with interest.

My daughter Sharni came back to Hay after several years with the Sydney Morning Herald. Her return came at a time when I was undergoing eight weeks of radiation treatment earlier in 2007.

Sharni's "Good Life" pages were popular and added a new social dimension to the paper.

Margie McClelland adapts to anything in the office. She is not afraid to put her hand to any task. Her real value though is in her photography. She has a brilliant eye, and she has raised

awareness of Hay through her fabulous photos, and connections to the top photographers.

Editor Tertia Butcher is incredible. She is a be-

liever in the star signs – and often says "I am organised because I am an Aquarian".

She is also one of the strongest women I know, mentally.

This article by Dr Harold Phillips sums up Tertia:

"There is the strength of the wind that sways the mighty oak, and

There is the strength of the oak that withstands the power of the wind. There is strength of the locomotive that pulls

the heavy train across the bridge and
There is the strength of the bridge that holds

up the weight of the train.

One is active strength, the other is passive

trength.

One is the power to keep going, the other is

the power to keep still

One is the strength by which we overcome, the other is the strength to which we endure."

Tertia possesses the strength to both endure

and overcome.

Her work with the paper is fantastic. She has

a sympathetic 'ear' but is not afraid to tackle the tough issues.

Her work for Women About Hay has been sen-

sational, and she is recognised throughout NSW as one of leaders of Rural Women.

Tertia's stories about the 'Forgotten Australians' were very moving and brought to a head the

disgraceful treatment that allegedly went on at the Hay Children's Institution in the early sixties. Tertia really found her niche in life with the

addition of Travelscene.

Tertia is a world traveller, and her experience

makes her an ideal tour guide.

Managing Director Rod McCully has an

amazing work ethic. First to arrive at the office, he certainly puts in the big hours. He enjoys work.

It was Rod who came up with the slogan "The

Heartbeat of Hay". It is appropriate because that is what the 'rag'

has been for over a century.

People will bag it, refer to it as "One minutes silence" but those same people are the first ones

to line up for the next issue.

We had a great partnership at the paper, and it

was a pleasure to work with my fellow Directors and friends for just over eight years.

