

# Pressing need for old newspapers

**M**uch of Australia's history is only recorded in its newspapers, yet many early, small or local papers have not survived in our libraries, or only a handful of issues exist.

For example, only four issues of *The English and Chinese Advertiser* are known to have survived. This fascinating newspaper was printed during the early gold rushes in Ballarat. There might be

State Libraries and of the National Library of Australia.

The State Library of South Australia, representing the Council of Australian State Libraries, is co-ordinating the plan in co-operation with the National Preservation Office of the National Library. The goals of the plan are to locate, acquire, preserve and make accessible all newspapers ever published in Australia.

Each state library is assuming primary responsibility for the newspapers published in that state. The support of other libraries and of the community is being sought to find missing issues of Australian newspapers.

A recent survey of state libraries revealed gaps in at least 164 newspapers printed in Australia. Most gaps date from the 1800s but some are as recent as 1956.

## The strategies

State libraries are giving priority to identifying, locating and collecting missing issues of newspapers.

Since newsprint is fragile, these libraries also have programs in microfilm newspapers to ensure their content is preserved and to enable copies to be made without

damaging the originals.

The record of Australia's newspapers on the national bibliographic database is surprisingly incomplete. NPLAN aims to catalogue all newspapers onto the Australian bibliographic Network, thus making access to newspapers available through an integrated online database widely available nationally.

Family and local historians and other researchers will be able to

use the database to find a wider range of newspaper sources, some hitherto unknown.

## Community support

Missing newspapers may be stored in private homes, community organisations, newspaper offices and local authorities. Libraries are especially keen to locate newspapers reflecting Australia's cultural diversity, written in English or other languages.

Contact your state library if you think you know where to find unrecorded titles or missing issues of newspapers.

If you have an issue of a newspaper your state or territory library is seeking and you donate it to the library's collection, the library will give you a copy of the original if you wish.

If you want to retain your original newspaper, the library would be grateful for the opportunity to make a copy to add to its collection.

These are some of the newspapers for which state libraries would like to find missing issues.

*Bendigo Advertiser* 1853–1856 (Vic)

*Bulong Bulleting and Mining Register* 1890s (WA)

*Catholic Standard* (Hobart) 1937–1940 (Tas)

*Daily Commercial Advertiser and Shipping List* 1891 (NSW)

*The English and Chinese Advertiser*, Ballarat 1856–1858 (Vic)

*Huon Times* 1913–1916 (Tas)

*Illustrated Adelaide Post* Any after 1874 (SA)

*Nord Australische Zeitung* 1875–1939 (Qld)

*Northern Standard* 1934 (NT)

*Palmer Chronicle* 1870s (Qld)

*Swan River Guardian* 1836 (WA)

*Truth* (Adelaide Edition) Any before 1941 (SA)

*Uralla Times* 1880, 1901–1903, 1907–1956 (NSW)

For more information about the newspaper plan, or to discuss newspapers you have, contact NPLAN Convener Elizabeth Ho at the State Library of South Australia on (08) 207 7347 or fax (08) 207 7351, or the representative at your state library. ■



News from the past that has been saved for our future

other unrecorded issues out in the community.

Australia's libraries are working to find newspapers like this that may be missing from their collections. You may have information that could lead to the discovery of some of these newspapers.

The National Plan for Australian Newspapers aims to give all Australians access to the nation's rich newspaper heritage. It is a co-operative initiative of all seven