

# Ron Boland Newspaper Reading Area Exhibition



**STATE LIBRARY**  
South Australia

## A life in print Primary School



Government  
of South Australia



The Ronald Boland Newspaper Reading Area exhibition and website can be studied and used to support many aspects of the curriculum, particularly in the learning areas of Society and Environment, English, Media and Design and Technology.

### Themes and Topics

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Technological change<br/>Social change<br/>Hand scribes and illumination<br/>Development of printing<br/>Making of a newspaper<br/>Careers in journalism<br/>Key stories of the 20<sup>th</sup> century</p> | <p>Communication<br/>Critical literacy<br/>Media in context<br/>Students develop a sense of identity and connectedness with others<br/>Analysing points of view in text<br/>Researching to extract information<br/>Advertising<br/>Personal viewpoints</p> |
|--|--|

There is a series of pre and post visit activities for primary school classes visiting the exhibition, an exhibition worksheet and library activity.

The exhibition comprises two sections:

1. *A life in print* celebrates Ron Boland's career in the newspaper industry.
2. *The news in print* focuses on the making of a newspaper and events recounted by newspapers.

## *A life in print* exhibition/website

### Fast Facts

#### Ronald Raymond Boland

- Ron Boland was born 13 September 1911.
- His father was EJ (Ted) Boland, early sporting editor of *The Register*, later *The Mail*, who wrote under the pseudonym "Trafalgar".
- 1917 Attends Unley Central School.
- 1924 Enrols at Pulteney Grammar School.
- 1926 Leaves school.
- 1927 Starts career as a cadet reporter at *The News*.
- 1939 Marries Thelma Jean Warren; later has two children Richard and Warren.
- 1951 Appointed Editor of *The Mail*.
- 1960 Managing Editor of *The News*.
- 1968 Managing Director of *The News*.
- 1977 Retires.
- 1980 Awarded Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to journalism.
- 16 April 2000 Dies in hospital after a brief illness, aged 88.

#### The portable typewriter revolutionise journalist work.

- The Remington portable typewriter, revolutionised the way you could type. Back in 1922 an advertisement in Austin Seven instruction book says:

"On your travels wherever you go, wherever you stay, take with you a Remington portable typewriter."

"Easily stowed in the smallest available space."

- The cash price of the Remington portable in 1922 was £12/10/-.

Beeching, Wilfrid. *A Century of the typewriter*. London: Heinemann, 1974.

Ron Boland's career in journalism made the progression from cadet reporter to Managing Director.

---

## Journalism terms used in the exhibition

- **Cadet reporter**  
Cadetship is basically a three-year apprenticeship in journalism. Until a decade ago it was the main method of becoming a journalist; now there are university courses.
- **Reporter**  
The reporter's job is to research and write the news. Sometimes this involves making telephone calls and visits to regular sources of news. The job also involves responding to late breaking news stories as they happen.
- **Sports reporter**  
Reporters can specialise in a particular section of news. Some of the other areas include special features or different kinds of reporting such as crime, social and politics.
- **News Editor**  
News editor, or sub editor, takes completed stories through to the stage of finished page ready for production.
- **Editor**  
Editors are the head of the journalistic team. The editor determines the direction of the newspaper, its look, style, flavour and content. They have to decide if the newspaper will take a stand on an important community issue.
- **Managing Editor**  
Larger newspapers have managing editors, which is the next step up from editor. They determine the direction of the newspaper, undertake the recruitment of staff and represent the newspaper in the community.
- **Managing Director**  
Newspapers are operated and owned by companies, and the most senior job is to be the "boss" of the company that owns the newspaper.

Pearson, Mark and Johnston, Jan. *Breaking into Journalism: a guide to a career in Journalism in Australia and New Zealand*. Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 1998.

## Back in the classroom

### Activity 1

For class discussion

- What is a journalist?
- What training do journalists need?
- What types of journalists are there? (Newspaper, television, radio, photo-journalist)
- How has journalism changed in the media in Australia in the last 100 years?

## Fast Facts

More Journalistic terms used in the exhibition

- **Scoop**  
Being the first media outlet to break news on a particular story.
- **Late breaking news**  
The ability to respond to stories later in the day, by having reporters available to gather information about the news story. There is a morning newspaper in South Australia called *The Advertiser* but before 1992 there was also an afternoon newspaper called *The News*, which provided the opportunity to cover late breaking stories.
- **Human interest stories**  
Stories which cover the lives of the "ordinary" people from their life struggles to their happy events. Human interest stories usually appeal to human emotions.

Newspaper terms used in the exhibition

- **Tabloid**  
The smaller format of the newspaper, twice the page size of an A4 sheet.
- **Broadsheet**  
The larger format newspaper, twice the page size of a tabloid.
- **Byline**  
The credit given to a journalist for having reported the story.
- **Captions**  
Text explaining a photograph, usually presented beneath it.
- **Editorial column**  
Also known as a "leader". Usually written by the editor or news editor, it comments on one of the major news stories of the day.
- **Feature**  
An in-depth, educational or entertaining piece of writing used in magazines and newspapers, usually longer than a news story, on a variety of subjects.

- **Lead**

The main story appearing in the front page of a newspaper. A "lead" can also refer to the first sentence of a news story.

### Activity 2

For class discussion

As a class study a newspaper of your choice and decide if the newspaper is broadsheet or tabloid.

Look through the newspaper and locate:

- Lead
- Byline
- Caption
- Editorial column
- Feature

### Activity 3

Design your own class newspaper with headlines, photographs, written text, bylines and captions.

Make your own classroom newspaper lesson plan.

[http://pd.l2l.org/success/lessons/field/mla18\\_1.htm](http://pd.l2l.org/success/lessons/field/mla18_1.htm)

### Activity 4

Ron Boland identified the following events as some of the outstanding stories of his career:

- Earthquake in Adelaide (Monday 1 March 1954 headline)
- Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy (Saturday 23 November 1963 headline)
- The Moon landing (Monday 1 July 1969 headline)
- Cyclone Tracy (Friday 27 December 1974 headline)

Find out more about these events from information on this website or by researching the events in the library.

---

## Learning activities in the exhibition

### Worksheet

Start at *A life in print* exhibition

Imagine you are a journalist. Your task is to find out:

- What year was Ron Boland born?
- Where was he born?
- What school(s) did he attend?
- What was his occupation?
- Name a country he visited.

Ron Boland had a long career.

He started as a cadet reporter and reached the position of Managing Director.

List two other jobs he had.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Move to *The News in print* exhibition

Ron Boland identified that the following events as the most outstanding news stories of his career. Find the front pages of these events in the exhibition and give the day, date and year the headline appeared.

Earthquake in Adelaide

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

The Moon landing

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Cyclone Tracy

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Which news story above did you find most interesting?

\_\_\_\_\_

Look at the exhibition. News headlines or "leads" are divided into World and Australian events.

Name one World event headline.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name one Australian event headline.

\_\_\_\_\_



---

Name the printing press on display I \_ \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ E

When was this type of printing press invented?

---

Have a close look at the newspaper front pages timeline for the 20<sup>th</sup> Century - how has the newspaper changed?

List some similarities and differences

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

Worksheet answers

Start at *A life in print* exhibition

Imagine you are a journalist. Your task is to find out:

- What year was Ron Boland born? **1911**
- Where was he born? **Adelaide**
- What school(s) did he attend? **Unley and Pulteney Grammar**
- What was his occupation? **Journalist**
- Name a country he visited. **China**

Ron Boland had a long career.

He started as a cadet reporter and reached the position of Managing Director.

List two other jobs he had.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
- reporter, sports reporter, news editor, editor, managing editor**

Move to *The News in print* exhibition

Ron Boland identified that the following events as the most outstanding news stories of his career. Find the front pages of these events in the exhibition and give the day, date and year the headline appeared.

Earthquake in Adelaide

Day **Monday** Date **1 March** Year **1954**

Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Day **Saturday** Date **23 November** Year **1963**

The Moon landing

Day **Monday** Date **21 July** Year **1969**

Cyclone Tracy

Day **Friday** Date **27 December** Year **1974**

Which news story above did you find most interesting?

\_\_\_\_\_

Look at the exhibition. News headlines or "leads" are divided into World and Australian events.

Name one World event headline.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name one Australian event headline.

\_\_\_\_\_



---

Name the printing press on display  
**INTERTYPE**

I \_ \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ E

When was this type of printing press invented?

**1911**

---

Have a close look at the newspaper front pages timeline for the 20<sup>th</sup> Century - how has the newspaper changed?

List some similarities and differences

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Hint:

Photojournalism - black and white to colour photography

Modern newspapers attract their audience by a large photograph and an attention grabbing headline.

Early newspapers generally had large amounts of small text, and often didn't have a photograph.

Newspapers before the Second World War didn't have a lead or headline.