

A black and white portrait of an elderly man with white hair, wearing glasses, a white striped shirt, a dark tie, and a dark suit jacket. He is looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. The background is dark.

100 *V. Fairfax* years

SIR VINCENT FAIRFAX
COMMEMORATIVE BOOK 2009
VINCENT FAIRFAX FAMILY FOUNDATION





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The life blood of a democracy is provided by voluntary institutions and individuals acting on their own initiative, without consideration of financial gain, and for the good of the community to which they belong.”

V. Fairfax

OPENING OF VOLUNTEER WEEK, MARTIN PLACE, SYDNEY, 19 MARCH 1982.

Introduction

It is my pleasure to provide an introduction to the book that has been prepared to celebrate the 100th birthday of the founder of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, the late Sir Vincent Fairfax.

This commemorative book provides some background to Sir Vincent’s life, his family and the work of the Foundation he created.

Three people have shaped the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF) since it was established in 1962. Other family and non-family members have played important supporting roles but to these three individuals we owe the legacy of the Foundation today some 100 years after the birth of Sir Vincent.

Sir Vincent ensured the objectives of the Foundation were clear in the formal legal documents. He also wrote to the family as a father about them. For almost 30 years as the Chairman of the VFFF, he showed by example the type of work he wanted to support and the values which he thought the organisation should hold precious. His own life was absolutely consistent with his expectations for the VFFF.

Lady Fairfax was deeply involved in those years, but it was in the decade of the nineties, through her chairmanship of the VFFF, that she ensured a seamless transition by steadfastly maintaining the course set by her husband. Her generous legacy, in 2007, for the Foundation, has very substantially increased the size of its assets.

In the early 1990’s Sir Vincent asked Geoffrey White to accept the role of the executive leading the Foundation, a role which he continues today almost 20 years later. Geoffrey epitomizes, in every sense, the values and the priorities of the founder.

He has maintained Sir Vincent’s legacy through the projects the VFFF has funded and through the way the VFFF has operated. He has built on the work of the first 30 years and set the highest standards for the organisation. During his term as Chief Executive Officer, the Foundation has blossomed into a major Australian family foundation owing partly to its size but equally to the quality of its work. Geoffrey’s skills in philanthropy are widely recognised; his dedication to the VFFF is legendary and I am sure that his “stamp” on the organisation would have our founder join the directors in saying “well done.”

The directors of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, its members and all the family recognise, and are extremely grateful to, these three people for all they have done for the Foundation. We know the hundreds of organisations who have been supported by the VFFF and the thousands they in turn assist join us in saying a quiet, but deeply felt, “thank you” to them.

GEOFFREY KELLS
CHAIRMAN

AUTHOR’S NOTE

The preparation of this book has benefited from the input of family members and other valued contributors. I am particularly grateful to board member, Joy Yeo and educator Michael Collins Persse for their advice on grammar; to Sally White, board member and daughter of Vincent Fairfax for the selection of photographs; and Fiona Higgins, Emily Fuller and Sue Goudie for their help with the preparation and co-ordination.

GEOFFREY WHITE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



‘RAWBELLE’, EARLY 1980’S.

1909

Vincent Fairfax born 26 December 1909 to parents, Hubert and Ruth at the family property 'Marinya', Cambooya, Queensland.



1930

Oxford University, Brasenose College, 'Head of the River'.



1939

Wedding of Vincent Fairfax and Nancy Heald, St George's Church, Hanover Square, London, 15 February 1939.



1941

Royal Australian Artillery, war service 10 June 1941 to 29 November 1945.

1946

Appointed Director of John Fairfax & Sons Pty Ltd.

1962

Established the family Charitable Trust which was renamed Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation in 1988.



1966

Appointed Chairman of the Australian Mutual Provident (AMP) Society.

1969

President of the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS).
Appointed as Chief Scout Commissioner of Australia.



1970

The Queen opening Royal Easter Show, April 1970, with Vincent Fairfax, President RAS.
Father of the Year.



1971

Received knighthood, September 1971, Buckingham Palace.



1987

Family Gathering, Christmas 1987, four children and twelve grandchildren.

1993

April 12, 1993 Sir Vincent Fairfax died, aged 83.

2009

The VCF Grandchildren's Fund was established.



Today

The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation remains one of Australia's larger family foundations which over the years has distributed nearly \$90 million for public charitable purposes.

A special celebration

2009 Centenary Year of Sir Vincent Fairfax's birth



THE EARLY YEARS

This year marks a special year for the Fairfax family and the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation. In December, we are commemorating the Centenary of Vincent Fairfax's birth. The only child of Hubert and Ruth Fairfax was born on 26 December 1909 near the township of Cambooya on Queensland's Darling Downs and died on April 12 1993, aged 83. Born in the homestead at the family property 'Marinya,' he liked to tell his children in later years that he was born on the kitchen table.

'Marinya' was a pastoral property of 1,400 acres (566 hectares) operating a Corriedale sheep stud and an Ayrshire cattle stud. The Toowoomba Chronicle circa 1919 described 'Marinya' as "*a model Downs establishment*." It was successful at a number of agricultural shows with its Ayrshire cattle and was one of the few studs with Corriedale sheep in Queensland.

Hubert Fairfax was at various times, President of the Ayrshire Association of Queensland; President of the Australian Corriedale Association; and President of the NSW Sheep Breeders Association.

A poem written by a member of the family in 1920 included the following line: "*But the black soil of the Cambooya plain clings to our hearts and calls to us again.*"



TOP: 'MARINYA' HOMESTEAD AND HUBERT'S AYRSHIRE CATTLE, CIRCA 1910.
ABOVE: HUBERT AND RUTH FAIRFAX ON STEPS AT 'MARINYA'.
RIGHT: VINCENT WITH HIS GRANDFATHER, CIRCA 1916.



HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH, DUKE OF EDINBURGH, PRINCE CHARLES AND PRINCESS ANNE ESCORTED BY VINCENT FAIRFAX, ROYAL EASTER SHOW, SYDNEY APRIL 1970.

A DEDICATION TO THE LAND AND ENVIRONMENT

These early years on a Queensland property made an indelible impression on the young Vincent Fairfax which never left him throughout his life. In addition to his own properties in Queensland and New South Wales, he was a key figure in the establishment of Australian Mutual Provident Society's (AMP) Stanbroke Pastoral Company which at its height was Australia's largest beef-cattle producer with a range of landholdings in Queensland and Northern Territory. He was also a long-term supporter of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, serving as President from 1969-1979.

Vincent Fairfax recognised the importance of Australia balancing the demands between city and country and understood that the 'man on the land' is more exposed to economic vicissitudes than most sectors of the community as well as climate variations. He was also conscious in later years that in many rural communities status and morale had been damaged and that the farmer in some ways had become the poor relation politically.

At the same time he understood the importance of the environment. At the opening of the 1970 Royal Easter Show in Sydney, where the guest of honour was the Queen, he said "*agricultural societies have special responsibilities to create an awareness of the critical balance of plant and animal life in a world dominated by man in whose hands have been placed so many powers. If more men grew and cared for plants or husbanded animals there would be less risk of ignoring the natural laws on which we ultimately depend.*"



VINCENT FAIRFAX ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM AMP. FAREWELL PRESENTATION, 1982.

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Vincent Fairfax was a leading member of the business community, holding numerous directorships and official positions with some of Australia’s major financial firms and organisations, with interests in rural Australia and the Anglican Church. He was a Chairman of the AMP Society for 16 years, a Director of the Bank of New South Wales and a Director of John Fairfax Limited, publishers of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and other newspapers.

He believed that wealth and position brought responsibility and an obligation to serve the community, as epitomised by the oft-quoted verse in Luke 12:48:

“When a man has been given much, much will be expected of him; and the more a man has had entrusted to him, the more he will be required to repay.”

Vincent Fairfax’s wife, Nancy, believed that he was always keenly aware of this particular responsibility.

He was a committed Christian. This was reflected in his activities and support of the Anglican Church, principally in the Sydney Diocese. He regularly attended his parish church at St Mark’s, Darling Point and was Rector’s Warden for 23 years.

Throughout his life he was involved in the Boy Scout movement, spending many weekends at camps or gatherings. He became Chief Scout Commissioner of Australia in 1969, and in the following year was named Father of the Year by the Australia Day Council.

He was made a Companion of The Order of St Michael and St George in January 1960 and was knighted in 1971 in recognition of service to youth, finance and the press. Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather before him, Vincent Fairfax also supported The Boys’ Brigade (known now as the Girls & Boys Brigade).



AS BOY SCOUTS’ COMMISSIONER OF NSW, GREETING GOVERNOR GENERAL LORD SLIM, CIRCA 1959.



PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Throughout his life, Vincent Fairfax maintained a cherished belief in the importance of his family’s association with *The Sydney Morning Herald*, which extended back to 1841. *The Herald*, which celebrated its sesquicentenary in April 1981, was privately owned by the Fairfax family until becoming a public company in 1956.

Vincent Fairfax’s great-grandfather, John Fairfax, was the first member of the family to head the newspaper. His grandfather, Sir James Reading Fairfax, was also a long-time proprietor, and his father, J. Hubert Fairfax, performed the role of director. No other newspaper in the world had been under one family’s control for so long.

Vincent Fairfax himself was involved with the newspaper for many years. He was Advertising Manager in 1936 and was London Manager before World War II. He took his father’s place as director after the war and, with the exception of a three-year period, served on the Board of John Fairfax Limited until the takeover of the company in 1987. This was a sad time for the family and company employees, many of whom had devoted their lives to building the company over its 150-year history.

He would have gained immense satisfaction had he been able to know that, early in 2007, Rural Press merged with Fairfax Media, giving Marinya a 14% interest in that company with John and his son, Nick Fairfax, occupying two seats on the Board.

When the National Portrait Gallery exhibited portraits of prominent Fairfax family members in 2003, the notation on the portrait of Vincent Fairfax stated that he was one of the directors of *The Sydney Morning Herald* in 1946, alongside his cousins, Warwick and John Fitzgerald Fairfax. The text recorded that they were known as the company’s “*head, hands and heart*”, with Vincent Fairfax being the “*heart*” as he embodied the conservative values historically pursued by the newspaper.

A special celebration



SARAH, WIFE OF JOHN FAIRFAX.

A TRADITION OF FAMILY PHILANTHROPY

While Vincent Fairfax was the first of the Fairfax family in Australia to set up a Charitable Trust, he was the inheritor of a long family philanthropic tradition in Australia going back to his great-grandfather, John Fairfax. The latter came from a humble home in Warwickshire in England, having left school at the age of twelve, to work for a local book seller/librarian printer, William Perry, under whose apprenticeship he continued his education. He emigrated with his wife, Sarah, in 1838. After working as a journalist he accepted an offer to be the Librarian of what is today the State Library of NSW. Two years later, with friend and journalist Charles Kemp, they decided to purchase the ten-year-old *Sydney Herald* from Frederick Stokes. After friends helped finance the initial payment, John Fairfax and Charles Kemp became co-proprietors in 1831. In 1852 John Fairfax bought Kemp's share of the newspaper and he and his family became sole proprietors of what is today Australia's oldest newspaper.

John Fairfax was engaged in a range of philanthropic work. He was one of the founders of the Sydney City Mission and the YMCA and was a supporter of the non-sectarian 'ragged schools' in Sydney which taught and fed impoverished students in the inner city. He was a pillar of the Congregational Church in Sydney.

His son James was, like his father, a leading member of the Congregational Church and followed his father in supporting a number of philanthropic organisations.

He was President of the YMCA and was a member of the Council of the Sydney City Mission for nine years. He was also a member of the 'Board of Advice' of the YWCA. He was the oldest member of the Society of NSW which was established in 1868 and Chairman of 'The Ragged Schools'. He was one of the founders of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and for many years was on the board of the hospital. He was one of the founders of the Boys' Brigade and was actively involved in a number of other charitable organisations. He was also a significant benefactor of the Hawkesbury Agricultural College at Richmond. In addition, he was Chairman of Perpetual Trustee Company Limited from 1886-1889.

In his turn, one of James' sons, Hubert, father of Vincent Fairfax, was also active in philanthropy, supporting a number of organisations including the YMCA and Boys' Brigade and as Trustee of the Walter & Eliza Hall Trust.

His wife, Ruth, Vincent Fairfax's mother, was active in rural matters, becoming founding President of the Queensland Country Women's Association. In Sydney she was also involved in many charitable works including those related to St Luke's Hospital in Darlinghurst. In a speech at St Luke's Hospital on 8 October 1986, Vincent Fairfax said *"my mother was closely associated with St Luke's from its foundation when she was appointed Honorary Secretary. She was a member of the Board for 17 years until she died here in 1948. I understand her cheerful spirit, faith and good humour during her last illness inspired the enthusiasm of the nurses in supporting the Board's decision in the naming of the Ruth Fairfax Chapel."*



ABOVE: HUBERT FAIRFAX, FATHER OF VINCENT.
FAR RIGHT: SIR JAMES READING FAIRFAX, VINCENT'S GRANDFATHER ABOARD 'MAGIC'.
RIGHT: JOHN FAIRFAX, VINCENT'S GREAT GRANDFATHER.





ABOVE AND RIGHT:
'ELAINE' HOUSE AND GARDEN.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST

In June 1962, Vincent Fairfax established a Charitable Trust which he saw as a family one. It was his intention to encourage his four children, as well as his wife, to be involved in its work. At the time of its establishment, his four children, Sally, John, Tim and Ruth, were all under the age of 22 and it was his intention to have them continue the family philanthropic tradition. He wrote that *“this action was taken on the basis that my children are well provided for, and hopefully will contribute in their turn further assets to this family pool of gratitude for all the benefits we have received since landing in Australia in 1838.”*

The Trust was one of the earlier Charitable Trusts established in New South Wales and for the greater part of the 1960s and 1970s, when Vincent Fairfax was the Chairman, its distributions were modest, in accordance with the size of the asset base at the time. The focus of the distributions reflected the basic principles of the common law of charity, namely the relief of poverty, the advancement of education, the advancement of religion and other purposes beneficial to the community.



It was not until April 1985 that a distribution of \$100,000 was made, in that case for the Sydney Anglican Diocese’s ‘Vision for Growth’ Program in Western Sydney.

In the Trust’s formative years to 1991 when Geoffrey White became the first staff appointment, the work load in running the Trust (which was renamed as a Foundation in 1988) was largely carried out by Sir Vincent Fairfax himself. He was assisted by his accountant and fellow Trustee, Peter Fisher, his personal secretary and his wife and family, especially his son John, who became a Trustee in 1973. In a quiet and undemonstrative way the Foundation was able to build up its capacity to respond to the needs of the community, particularly in New South Wales.

This period coincided with the relative lack of public interest in family philanthropic organisations in New South Wales in contrast to the present growth of a large number of family and corporate charitable institutions.

The situation changed after the takeover of John Fairfax Limited which resulted in a substantial increase in the assets and the capacity of the Foundation to make larger distributions.

FAMILY PORTRAIT TAKEN AT 'ELAINE', DOUBLE BAY NSW.
LEFT TO RIGHT: SALLY, NANCY, RUTH, TIM, JOHN, VINCENT 1959.

A special celebration



THE OPENING OF THE ROPES COURSE,
OUTWARD BOUND BASE, THARWA,
8 FEBRUARY 1988.

LADY FAIRFAX

Nancy Fairfax was a dedicated supporter of the Foundation, being one of the four original Trustees. She remained a Trustee until 2001 and was Chairman of the Foundation 1993-2001, serving as Patron of the Foundation from 2001 until her death in July 2007. She was made an OBE for her work with Kindergarten-level education and the University of New South Wales bestowed an Honorary Doctorate of Letters in 2004. In 2008, she was appointed AO posthumously in the Australia Day Honours List.

In her support of early childhood organisations in New South Wales and nationally she was active in both the Australian Pre-School Association (APA) of which she was President from 1967-77, retiring after 10 years of service to the Association and its successor the Australian Early Childhood Association (AECA). She was an advocate and lobbyist to governments for the needs and rights of young children, and a promoter of the value of early childhood education.

Nancy Fairfax joined the Board of Rachel Forster Hospital in 1960, where she held the position of Vice-President. She also held the position of Honorary Editor of the Countrywoman Journal between 1947-57.

Her death on 7 July 2007 marked the end of an era for the Foundation. Nancy Fairfax was the last of the founding Trustees. Her period of service as a Trustee spanned a period of nearly forty years.

The Board of the Foundation formally acknowledged her generous bequest to the Foundation as follows:

"Directors of the VFFF acknowledge with deep gratitude the very generous bequest to the Foundation from the estate of our late Patron, Lady Fairfax, who died 7th July 2007. This magnificent bequest will help to ensure and enhance the Foundation's ability to contribute to the betterment of the Australian community over many years."



TURNING THE FIRST SOD AT ALZHEIMER'S
AUSTRALIA'S, VINCENT FAIRFAX FAMILY
RESOURCE CENTRE, RYDE, 14 FEBRUARY 1994.

A special celebration



ABOVE: AT THE OAKHURST CHURCH SITE DEDICATION WITH REV. LINDSAY STODDART, 31 MAY 1987. RIGHT: ANGLICAN YOUTH WORKS, PORT HACKING.

MAJOR DISTRIBUTIONS OF SIR VINCENT’S FAIRFAX’S TIME

The Foundation made significant distributions to Sydney City Mission (now Mission Australia). In November 1987, the Foundation supported the Mission to enable it to purchase premises in Summer Hill to provide crisis accommodation for families with children. This block of flats operated until 2009 when the operation was relocated to Oxley Park in Western Sydney with the financial support of the Foundation.

In May 1989, the Foundation provided the funds to enable the Mission to purchase Knights Hill farm at Robertson and renovate some buildings to help rehabilitate at-risk Sydney youth. This was the start of the Triple Care youth development program.

In 1989 the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation made a distribution of \$250,000 to the State Library, the first of a number of distributions over the years, in this case for the Preservation Department.

This enabled the Library to restore some early Australian oil paintings as well as the conservation of several historic textiles, Lachlan Macquarie’s journal and a number of other rare books in the library collection.

In February 1990 the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation made its first distributions of \$1m, one to Alzheimer’s Australia and the other to St Luke’s Hospital, Darlinghurst. The distribution to Alzheimer’s Australia for the Family Resource Centre at North Ryde, was officially opened on 7 November 1994 by the Governor of New South Wales, Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair.



TOP: ‘TRIPLE CARE FARM’, ROBERTSON. ABOVE: OPENING OF ST MARKS, OAKHURST 1990.

The Family Resource Centre, utilising dementia specific design and an extensive purpose-built dementia garden, was the first such centre for a State Alzheimer’s Association in Australia. The centre was designed to be home-like and welcoming where family and carers can come for counselling, use the library or attend a training program, while their person with dementia is cared for in the family visiting area and dementia garden.

The distribution to St Luke’s Hospital was for new avenues of medical endeavour and the refurbishment of the kitchens.

In April 1990, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation made a distribution of \$500,000 to the Art Gallery of NSW Foundation and in May 1991, a distribution of \$250,000 for the construction and landscaping of the Fernery of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney.

FUNDRAISING TENNIS DAY FOR ST LUKE’S HOSPITAL AT ‘ELAINE’, OCTOBER 1992.



In December 1992 the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation made a distribution of \$1m to the University of Western Sydney for the establishment of the Vincent Fairfax Chair in Farming Systems at the Hawkesbury Campus. It was subsequently renamed the Vincent Fairfax Chair in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. This was the first time the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation had endowed a Chair at an Australian University.

During Vincent Fairfax’s period as Chairman, the Foundation made a number of community distributions with a Christian focus, especially to the Sydney Diocese for the ‘Vision for Growth’ Program, Anglican Youth Works, Anglican Retirement Villages and the St Andrew’s Cathedral School.

The concept behind the ‘Vision for Growth’ program, launched by the Sydney Anglican Diocese in 1984, was to establish ministries in West and South-West Sydney, where there had been a rapid population growth. An early distribution from the Foundation to this program was for the Oakhurst Church project, and in a letter to Archbishop Robinson, Vincent Fairfax wrote; “*we were particularly interested in the project because the size of the block allows for the development of community facilities over and above providing a place of worship.*”

Vincent Fairfax took a key role in helping the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust to establish a Supplementary Trust to enable small donations to be made to people in urgent need of help as identified by social workers.

Vincent and Nancy Fairfax were strong supporters of organisations which encouraged volunteering. There were many organisations in which he served in a voluntary capacity. He believed strongly in the volunteer spirit, and encouraged it in others. In a note to his family in 1985 of a possible project, he wrote that “*my own mind runs along the lines of benefiting those who seek to give volunteering service in its many forms.*”

The Foundation made a number of distributions to a leading organisation in New South Wales at the time, for the promotion of volunteerism, then known as the Volunteer Centre.

Under his leadership the Foundation was an early supporter of the environment and several distributions were made to the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation for community projects, such as walkways and signs in Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

Vincent Fairfax was keen to try and make sure that the Foundation’s distributions take the recipient organisation “*over the hump.*”

As the assets built up, he was interested in launching a large project and he asked that research be undertaken to try and set up a program to develop good leadership in the young. This was consistent with his support for organisations like the Scouts movement, Anglican Youth Works and Outward Bound. Vincent Fairfax died before this idea was implemented, but investigations eventually resulted in the implementation of the Ethics in Leadership Program – which had its origin in St James Church, King Street, Sydney and was launched in 1994 with the St James Ethics Centre being the manager of the program.

Mission & Funding Principles

MISSION OF THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation's website provides relevant information on the organisation and on the processes for making applications for support. It also incorporates the Mission Statement which is set out below.

"To harness the generosity of the Vincent Fairfax family, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation makes distributions to charitable organisations with a particular focus on New South Wales and north-eastern Australia. The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation will also seek out organisations at the national level which are engaged in work for the benefit of and care for our country and which are consistent with the guidelines."

The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation makes distributions to organisations which seek to address the general needs in the community with an emphasis on those which are unable to rely on high-profile fundraising from the corporate sector and the general public.

The future of children and young people is of particular interest to the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, as are the special needs of Australians living beyond the major metropolitan centres particularly in rural and outback Australia.

In its work, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation is concerned about the spiritual health of the nation and the relevance of Christian faith in action.

The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation seeks to promote the long-term wellbeing of indigenous Australians through support for innovative and practical educational and health programs.

In accordance with specific criteria and subject to the availability of funds, proposals are considered under the following themes:

- Children and Young People
- Rural and Regional Australia
- Christianity
- Community.

FUNDING PRINCIPLES

In seeking to make the greatest impact with its limited resources, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation aims to provide funding to programs and organisations which:

- are preventative in focus
- are catalytic in nature
- serve to enhance the long-term viability of charitable organisations and the communities they serve.



LONDON LAKES, TASMANIA –
FLY FISHING, A FAVOURITE PASTIME.



RIGHT: GUEST SPEAKER AT AMP CONFERENCE DINNER.

Today & Tomorrow...

THE FOUNDATION TODAY AND TOMORROW

The seed sown by Vincent Fairfax nearly 50 years ago has grown. The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation today is one of Australia's larger family foundations which has, over the years, distributed nearly \$90 million for public charitable purposes.

Today the Foundation is providing support for a rich diversity of projects. In the current calendar year these include support for the inaugural School for Social Entrepreneurs in Sydney; the Royal Botanic Gardens 'Youth Community Greening' Program; Mirabel Foundation, for its work with children now in kinship care as a result of being orphaned or abandoned due to parental illicit drug use; educational work in the Arts sector including Bell Shakespeare and Musica Viva; the Indigenous Affairs Research Program at the Centre for Independent Studies; Kairos Prison Ministries and Shine for Kids' work with children affected by parental imprisonment.

Other organisations supported in the year include Pathways Foundation, for its Rural and Regional Harm Prevention Project, the Walter and Eliza Hall Supplementary Trust which assists people with small grants in necessitous circumstances; Kormilda College, Darwin, for their Vocational Training and Education Centre; a range of Fellowships and secondary school Scholarships administered by eleven organisations, including the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Charles Sturt University, the University of New England and scholarships for Indigenous Australians operated by the Yalari Foundation and St Andrew's Cathedral School.

The Vincent Fairfax Ethics in Leadership Program, administered to date by the St James Ethics Centre, has now been running for fifteen years, with the number of graduated Fellows at 189.

In the environmental area, the Foundation's major distribution to date was in November 2006, to Bush Heritage Australia, to assist with the purchase of an environmentally significant rural property, 'Scottsdale' at Bredbo, New South Wales.

This family foundation has from the start recognised the importance of having a mixture of family and non-family members on the board, as well as the important Finance and Investment Committee.

Non-family members have brought new perceptions and dimensions to discussions as well as assisting on governance matters. As the Foundation and the family celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Vincent Fairfax, one recalls his comment, made in November 1990, that he *"hoped the Foundation would some day become a mighty fund for distribution and influence."* It will be for the stewards of today and tomorrow who will no doubt keep this in mind in the years ahead as the Foundation strives to play a constructive role for the benefit of the Australian community.

RIGHT: 'SCOTTSDALE', BREDBO NSW. PHOTO: STUART COHEN.



TOP: BELL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY.
ABOVE: THE SYDNEY FERNERY,
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, SYDNEY.





Commemorative Distributions

A point I would like to make is that you do not need to be a big movement or a huge organisation to produce lasting beneficial effects on mankind.”

VINCENT FAIRFAX'S SPEECH AT THE 105TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE, 9 JUNE 1987.

LEFT: BOYS' BRIGADE,
402 RILEY STREET, SURRY HILLS
CIRCA 1920.

Scouts

DISTRIBUTIONS

To mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the founder, Sir Vincent Fairfax, 26 December 2009, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation has made nine distributions, totalling \$6,848,000. In selecting these organisations, Directors* had in mind the founder’s involvement and personal interest in them.

VINCENT FAIRFAX FAMILY FOUNDATION 2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CEO.
SEATED LEFT TO RIGHT: TIM FAIRFAX, GEOFF KELLS, SALLY WHITE.
STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT: JAMES MILLAR, NICK FAIRFAX, ANNABEL DULHUNTY, JAMES SHUTTLEWORTH, ROBERT CARTWRIGHT, GEOFFREY WHITE AND JOY YEO.



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA: \$855,000 TOWARDS TRAINING RESOURCES FOR SCOUT LEADERS

Scouts Australia regards itself as the largest youth development organisation in Australia with around 60,000 members. It aims to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual development of young people (aged 6 to 26) so they can reach their full potential. Scouts of all ages enjoy fun, adventurous and challenging programs with a focus on leadership and teamwork.

The Scouting movement occupied a special place amongst Vincent Fairfax’s wide-ranging charitable interests. He was Chief Commissioner of the Scout Association of NSW in the years 1958-68, Chief Commissioner of Australia between 1969-73, and elected National President in 1977. In 1982 he became a Baden Powell Fellow of the World Scout Federation in Geneva.

In providing this significant boost towards the development and delivery of professional training resources for Scout leaders nationally, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation seeks to honour Vincent Fairfax’s personal association with Scouting as well as to mark the centenary of the Scouting movement globally in 2007.



LEFT: SCOUTS CENTENARY EXPO VICTORIA, 2007.
TOP: SCOUTS STAMP RELEASE, FEBRUARY 2008.

“The easy way is not always the best way. The mind and the body need to exercise their inbuilt qualities if their owner is to grow into a citizen of any consequence.”

VINCENT FAIRFAX, WRITING IN ‘ALONG THE SCOUTING TRAIL’ IN THE SCOUTING IN NEW SOUTH WALES NEWSLETTER, MAY 1967.

* The term “Trustee” was substituted with “Director” as a consequence of incorporation in 2004.



2 National Library



ABOVE: JOHN FAIRFAX.
LEFT: 'SYDNEY HERALD' ARCHIVE.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA: \$1,000,000 FOR THE DIGITISATION OF *THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD*, 1831-1954.

The National Library of Australia is Australia's largest reference library. It seeks to ensure that documentary resources of national significance relating to Australia and the Australian people, as well as significant non-Australian library materials, are collected, preserved and made accessible either through the Library itself or through collaborative arrangements with other libraries and information providers.

By offering a strong national focus, the Library contributes to the continuing vitality of Australia's culture and heritage.

The National Library's Australian Newspaper Digitisation Program, involving collaboration with State and Territory libraries, is building a database containing content from the first Australian newspaper issue published in 1803 through to the copyright cut-off date (1954). The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation is supporting the National Library in part of the project with funding earmarked for the re-microfilming and digitisation of hardcopy editions of *The Sydney Morning Herald* from the newspaper's inception to the introduction of copyright (1831-1954).

This special distribution represents the first time the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation has supported Australia's National Library in Canberra.

The Director-General of the National Library, Jan Fullerton, noted in a letter to the Foundation that "*it is a happy coincidence that the project to digitise The Sydney Morning Herald would be undertaken with such close proximity to the birth of Vincent Fairfax.*"

John Fairfax bought control of the *Sydney Herald* in 1841, beginning his family's 149-year long control of the paper that he later renamed *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

3 St Andrew's Cathedral School



STUDENT YEARS K-2.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL SCHOOL: \$300,000 OVER THREE YEARS FOR THE GAWURA CAMPUS

St Andrew's Cathedral School's vision for Gawura is "to provide a quality Kindergarten to Year 6 education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in a caring, Christian environment emphasising standards of literacy, numeracy and social skills that are foundations for life."

Vincent Fairfax was a long-time supporter of St Andrew's Cathedral School, which was founded in 1885 to supply choristers to the Cathedral. From the late 1960s, Vincent Fairfax made personal financial contributions to building appeals and gave several speeches at the school. In one address in 1978, he said:

"The Cathedral School provides a unique link between City, Church, State and people... I am convinced that the cultural life of this great city is incomplete without a world-class Cathedral Choir. It is just as significant as a University, an Art Gallery, an Opera House or a Symphony Orchestra."

The Foundation has also supported the school on a number of occasions since 1987, often for infrastructure and building appeals. Through this special centenary distribution, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation funds will assist urban indigenous children from the Redfern and Waterloo areas to attend primary school at the purpose-built Gawura campus of the school. Gawura was established in 2007, designed to deliver positive educational experiences for indigenous children within a high-quality and structured school environment.

Subsequent to this special distribution, the Foundation has supported the provision of two secondary scholarships for Gawura graduates to continue their education in their high school years at the Cathedral School.

Sir Vincent would have been impressed with the successes to date of the Gawura Campus and the commitment of the St Andrew's school community in providing educational opportunities for indigenous children. The efforts that the school is making for the transition to the senior school for graduating students have been encouraging.



ABOVE: SMOKING CEREMONY AT GAWURA OPENING, 22 NOVEMBER 2007.
RIGHT: GAWURA STUDENTS.



"If you are going to be successful and happy you cannot leave it to chance, you must decide who you are and what you are, you must decide how God made you and what He wants you to be. You must see yourself in some sort of shape..."

VINCENT FAIRFAX'S ADDRESS AT ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL SCHOOL ANNUAL SPEECH NIGHT, 12 OCTOBER 1980.

“Pride of ownership and the care and proper use of material benefits are part of our stewardship on earth. God wants us to use money and possessions for His purposes as well as our own, just as much as He grants us our skills and abilities on trust to use them for the help of others.”

FAIRFAX HOUSE, OXLEY PARK, 2009.

VINCENT FAIRFAX WRITING IN 'ALONG THE SCOUTING TRAIL' IN SCOUTING IN NEW SOUTH WALES NEWSLETTER, MARCH 1962.



4 Mission Australia

**MISSION AUSTRALIA: \$3,000,000
OVER TWO YEARS FOR FAIRFAX HOUSE**

Mission Australia is “an empowering and compassionate community service organisation, helping to transform the lives of Australians in need for 150 years. Arising historically from various City Missions, including Sydney City Mission, their founding purpose is to meet human need and to give expression to the love of God. They are committed to eliminating disadvantage and creating a fairer Australia.”

The Foundation has provided support to Mission Australia over many years for disadvantaged clients, particularly at Triple Care Farm and Fairfax House.

The original Fairfax House was opened in 1987 by Sir Vincent Fairfax at Summer Hill following a distribution from the Foundation of \$200,000 to enable the purchase of a three-storey, nine-unit building. In 2008 Mission Australia sought the assistance of the Foundation to relocate Fairfax House to a purpose-modified site in Oxley Park in Western Sydney. As part of the centenary celebrations, the Foundation made a distribution of \$3 million to support the relocation which has now been completed.

Over its 20 years of operation, Fairfax House at Summer Hill has offered a safe environment to mothers, fathers and their children who require short-term accommodation and support. The new location at Oxley Park combines crisis accommodation with increased medium-term exit options and an array of support services available at the nearby Penrith centre, including case management, transitional support to long-term accommodation, family services and early intervention programs.

The long-standing and intensive nature of the partnership between the Foundation and Mission Australia is reflected in the scale of support given over the years.

“The Fairfax name has been synonymous with the Sydney City Mission since its inception in 1862 when Benjamin Short, the AMP Society’s first full-time insurance representative became aware of the great poverty and need in Sydney.

With the help of businessmen like David Jones, the Hon. John Fairfax, M.L.C., other members of Parliament and the clergy, the operation of the Sydney City Mission began as a non-denominational Christian welfare agency.

My grandfather, Sir James Reading Fairfax, son of John Fairfax, was a member of the Council from 1892 and maintained his interest in the Mission until his death at the age of 84 in 1919. He played a major part in the opening of the Paddington District for the City Mission work.

This interest has been continued down the years through the support of other Fairfax family members and the firm of John Fairfax Limited.

It is now a privilege for me and my family to continue this interest. May this key be a symbol to open the doors of happiness to you and many other families.”

VINCENT FAIRFAX, OPENING OF FAIRFAX HOUSE, SUMMER HILL
– SYDNEY CITY MISSION, 2 NOVEMBER 1987.

5 Walter & Eliza Hall

WALTER & ELIZA HALL SUPPLEMENTARY TRUST: \$200,000 SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT ITS SMALL-GRANTS PROGRAM

The Walter and Eliza Hall Trust was established in 1912 by Eliza Hall with a gift of £1 million for specified causes in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria where her late husband, Walter Hall, had been active in his life. Almost 100 years later, the Supplementary Trust (established in 1986) provides much-needed crisis support for individuals and families in necessitous circumstances. Most of the grants given by the Trust are made on a ‘once-off’ basis, after all other possible recourses have been exhausted.

The Fairfax family has enjoyed long-term links with the Trust, its trustees and administrators since 1932. J.H. (Hubert) Fairfax, father of Vincent Fairfax, was a Trustee from 1932 to 1950 and Vincent Fairfax a Trustee from 1953 to 1992 and with his son, John B. Fairfax, served as the representative of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation on the Supplementary Committee from 1987 to 1992; and Geoffrey White has served on this Committee since 1992.

“We are pleased with the work of the Supplementary Trust and the need it fulfils in the community and we will be happy to renew our contribution from time to time in the years ahead.”

LETTER FROM VINCENT FAIRFAX TO THE WALTER & ELIZA HALL
SUPPLEMENTARY TRUST, DECEMBER 1988.



...Throughout his long period (of service) he gave unstintingly of his time to the affairs of the Trust and served as Acting Chairman on several occasions...

...He gave encouragement and support to the concept ...of establishing a Supplementary Trust and was one of those appointed as a founding Trustee when the Deed establishing it was settled on September 22, 1986.

His concern for the needs of others, especially those in disadvantaged circumstances or suffering from long term illness or disabilities, found practical expression through generous benefactions to the Supplementary Trust and grants from the “Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation” section of that Trust will continue to be a reminder of his generosity and his concern to assist meet the needs of the disadvantaged.”

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTE OF APPRECIATION OF SIR VINCENT FAIRFAX – WALTER AND ELIZA HALL TRUST,
9 FEBRUARY 1993, FOLLOWING HIS RESIGNATION AFTER NEARLY 40 YEARS SERVICE AS A TRUSTEE.



ABOVE: OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
CAMP 1998.
TOP RIGHT: ACTIVITIES 1964.
RIGHT: VISIT TO THE NEWSPAPER,
CIRCA 1960'S.



CHILDREN OUTSIDE THE
CENTRE TODAY.

6 Girls & Boys Brigade

THE GIRLS AND BOYS BRIGADE (FORMERLY THE BOYS' BRIGADE): \$50,000 SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION FOR THE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PROGRAM

The Fairfax family has been long associated with the Girls and Boys Brigade since it was established in 1882 by Sir James Reading Fairfax, grandfather of Vincent Fairfax. Appropriately, the Brigade's original purpose of supporting newspaper boys has evolved to now providing a stimulating and secure environment for the recreation, education and development of less fortunate and at-risk school aged children in the inner-city area of Sydney. In 2009, the family's links continue through the service of Ruth Armytage, daughter of Vincent Fairfax, as a director and John B. Fairfax, one of his sons, as its President.

The support provided by the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation in this centenary year will help The Girls and Boys Brigade Centre in Riley Street, Surry Hills to continue providing its successful Children's Activity Program, incorporating the Homework Club, Saturday Centre activities, and After School and Holiday activities. These programs cater for the often complex needs and diverse socio-cultural backgrounds of children in their primary school years (aged 5-12).

“...there are still large areas of social deprivation affecting young people. To improve the physical conditions of life is only part of the task; the ideal goal is that every boy and girl should have the opportunity to fulfil their full potential. Frustrated or misdirected energy affects adversely and sometimes violently the whole of society.”

VINCENT FAIRFAX ADDRESS AT THE 94TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE, 3 DECEMBER 1976.

State Library

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW: \$1,143,000 OVER FOUR YEARS FOR THE MITCHELL LIBRARY'S 'EXPLORATION' AND 'RELIGION, CHURCH AND MISSIONS' COMPONENTS OF THE 'ATMITCHELL.COM' DIGITISATION PROJECT.

The State Library's mission is "to strengthen the community by being the trusted provider of quality information services by:

- providing equitable access to contemporary and historical knowledge
- collecting and preserving Australia's heritage
- promoting our role as a cultural destination
- collaborating with the NSW public library network."

It traces its origins to 1826, with the opening of the Australian Subscription Library. In 1869, the New South Wales Government took over responsibility for the Library and created the Sydney Free Public Library. In 1895 it was renamed the Public Library of New South Wales, and in 1975 it became the State Library of New South Wales.

Today, the State Library, consisting of the Mitchell Library (containing the Mitchell and Dixon Collections) and the State Reference Library, houses over five million items. In addition to its extensive collections of Australian and international research material and exhibitions, it conducts talks and tours in pursuit of its primary purpose to collect, preserve and make accessible the documentary heritage of New South Wales.

One of the State Library's more innovative initiatives in recent years has been the 'atmitchell.com' project, which aims to digitise and present online its most important holdings.

The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation has made distributions totalling \$1,143,000 over four years to enable the development of two online 'sections' of this initiative, namely 'Exploration' and 'Religion, Churches and Mission'.

'The Exploration: Trailblazing – the Australian Interior' web-based archive provides a definitive record of European exploration and discovery in Australia and the Pacific. The State Library's collection includes the original journals of Abel Tasman, James Cook and Matthew Flinders.

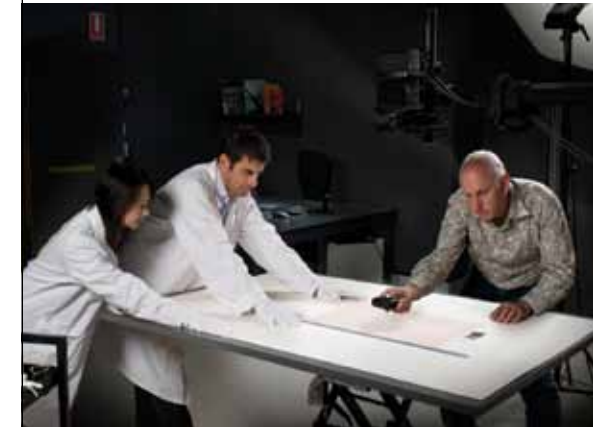
In supporting the development of the 'Religion, Churches and Mission' section as part of the centenary celebrations, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation recognises the collection's historical significance, as well as its relevance to researchers, students and all those interested in better understanding Australia's religious history. The library's collection includes early diaries and correspondence of missionaries and religious leaders. The distribution takes a special place amongst the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation's ongoing support for Christian-related initiatives in 21st-century Australia.

The Fairfax family's links with the State Library stretch back to John Fairfax, the first family proprietor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, who in February 1839 assumed the role of librarian in charge at the then Australian Subscription Library (established 1826). In his book, *The Story of John Fairfax* (1941), J.F. Fairfax, a cousin of Vincent Fairfax, wrote of John Fairfax's association with the State Library: "The library, with John as librarian, was not a backwater where a few solitary figures drowsed over dusty volumes. He met and entertained there many of the prominent figures of the day."

"The most powerful human characteristic is the thirst of man's soul for God. There are no people however primitive without religion, or magic. The instinct for the supernatural is inseparable from man."

VINCENT FAIRFAX'S ADDRESS TO THE QUEENSLAND COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AT THE OPENING OF THEIR SUMMER LEADERSHIP SCHOOL, WARWICK, QUEENSLAND, 10 JANUARY 1954.

RIGHT: STATE LIBRARY STAFF AT WORK ON THE DIGITISATION PROCESS.
BELOW: MITCHELL LIBRARY WING, STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.





GRAND PARADE OF LIFESTOCK
AND SHEEP JUDGING.



8

Royal Agricultural Society Foundation



MAIN ARENA, SYDNEY SHOWGROUND.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION: \$200,000 SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION

The Vincent Fairfax family has had a long association with the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS), which was founded in 1822 to promote agricultural excellence and the development of *“the agricultural, pastoral, dairying, farmyard, viticultural, horticultural, mineral and industrial resources of the State.”*

Vincent Fairfax was on the Council of the RAS from 1950, and President from 1969 to 1979, while Nancy Fairfax was a member of the Library and Archive Committee of the Society. Vincent's father, J.H. Fairfax, was also a Councillor (from 1931) and Vice-President of the Society. One of Vincent Fairfax's sons, John, has been a member of the Council since 1990, serving as Senior Vice-President since 2005. He is also a current Trustee of the newly-established Royal Agricultural Society Foundation (RASf), which was founded in 2007, and he has fulfilled the role of Chairman since 2008.

The RASf exists to encourage educational excellence and foster sustainable rural and regional communities in New South Wales, by supporting quality community programs which help young people to help themselves.

Vincent Fairfax was a great supporter of country shows, attending numerous shows in regional New South Wales and Queensland throughout his lifetime. His speeches at show openings underline the importance he and his family attached to the work of show societies in rural Australia.

In honour of the family's multi-generational links with the RAS and appreciation of the agricultural show movement generally, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation included the RASf within its portfolio of centenary distributions. This untied funding of \$200,000 was given to the RASf to pursue its mission to support rural and regional communities, and particularly young people, in New South Wales.

“... it will always be important for Australians to balance the demands between city and country.”

VINCENT FAIRFAX OPENING REMARKS AT THE 1972 ROYAL EASTER SHOW

“Rural industry has enabled us Australians to achieve one of the world's highest standards, at least in terms of material wealth. All this has been hard-won by hard work. In these days of changing social values it is imperative that we preserve and further a sense of national pride in achievement in whatever field of endeavour it is to be found. We can indeed be proud of the productivity and efficiency of the Australian farmer.”

VINCENT FAIRFAX ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE TOOWOOMBA SHOW,
2 APRIL 1981.

9 Beyond Empathy

BEYOND EMPATHY: \$100,000 SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION FOR THE BOWRAVILLE 'CONVERSION' PROJECT

Beyond Empathy's mission is to use the arts to influence change in the lives of individuals and communities experiencing recurring hardship.

The title of the project, 'conversion', underscores the long-term and comprehensive nature of the intervention envisaged in Bowraville, northern New South Wales. Through targeted measures to address individual and family wellbeing – encompassing health and welfare, economic participation and educational engagement – Beyond Empathy aims to alter permanently the cycle of violence and disadvantage in the rural community of Bowraville.

Typically, the communities in which Beyond Empathy works have high indigenous representation, high unemployment, high drug and alcohol abuse and violence levels, poor school attendance and educational outcomes by children, and low prospects/vision for a better future for individuals and families.

Engaging the Younger Generation

For some time efforts have been made to engage the grandchildren of Vincent Fairfax's family in the Foundation's philanthropic work. Two of his grandchildren are currently on the board of the Foundation and two are members of the Foundation's Finance and Investment Committee.

In 2009 it was decided to encourage the grandchildren to set up a sub-committee consisting of younger members of the Vincent Fairfax family. This sub-committee, known as the VCF Grandchildren's Fund, was asked to come up with a proposal for a project for support by the Foundation. Subsequently this sub-committee researched a number of organisations for possible support, with a view to honouring the spirit and legacy of their grandfather.

They agreed to work towards:

- improving capacity and community welfare in regional and rural Australia
- enhancing education and training of children and young people
- offering longer term, measurable, sustainable solutions to community need.

The VCF Grandchildren's Fund selected Beyond Empathy's 'conversion' initiative in Bowraville, as its centenary project of choice.



BEYOND EMPATHY ARTWORKS.

In approving the VCF Grandchildren's Fund's submission, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation recognised the high indigenous representation and scale of disadvantage in Bowraville. It also acknowledged Beyond Empathy's demonstrably effective methodology in using the arts to catalyse change in relation to self-esteem, drug and alcohol abuse, violence and harm levels, poor school attendance and educational outcomes.

This centenary distribution marks the first occasion in the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation's history that non-Board member representatives of the younger generation have been asked to take an active role in selecting a project for support by the Foundation.

SITE VISIT TO BOWRAVILLE BY VCF GRANDCHILDREN'S FUND MEMBERS, 18 SEPTEMBER 2009.



Here is where we, as individuals, can lead. As counsellors we can be a “little” leader, and let us remember that the power and wealth of a democracy is measured not only by the number and quality of its eminent leaders but by thousands of “little” leaders who provide its real strength.”

VINCENT FAIRFAX ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE BIRTHRIGHT CONFERENCE, 8 OCTOBER 1983.

VISIT TO A STANBROKE PASTORAL PROPERTY.
LEFT TO RIGHT: JOHN O'SHEA – MANAGER STANBROKE STATION; BILL HUGHES – PASTORAL INSPECTOR; EDDIE ALLEN – MANAGER ARDMORE STATION; NANCY FAIRFAX;
VINCENT FAIRFAX – CHAIRMAN, STANBROKE PASTORAL COMPANY; JAMES BALDERSTONE – MANAGING DIRECTOR, STANBROKE PASTORAL COMPANY; GILES LODER – PILOT.
CLONCURRY DISTRICT, 1978.



'ELAINE' MARCH 1986.