



AAP TODAY

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A bridge to China

AAP has launched a new service which aims to act as an information bridge for western businesses dealing with China.

Under a five-year agreement signed by chief executive Lee Casey, the company is distributing a wide range of official information from the People's Republic.

The agreement provides the company with exclusive international marketing rights to information and news from a variety of official sources.

The China Information Service has been under development throughout the year and survived even the internal turmoil of 1989: the demonstrations in April and May, the Tiananmen Square massacre in June, the crushing of the pro-democracy movement and the subsequent political crackdowns.

Consultant Jennifer Grant, hired by the company because of her expertise in Chinese affairs, believes this is largely because it concentrates on

AAP seals five year deal

economic rather than political news.

"It's a commercial service so we haven't had to worry about that. We don't have political news," she said.

"Chinese politics is already thoroughly covered in the daily media.

"This is an alternative news source, providing commercial news that people don't normally get.

"I think that's why they (the Chinese) have continued the service.



David Lindley with Chinese representatives outside the Guangming Daily publishing house.

"Shortly after the events of June the 4th, news didn't appear for about one week but the transmissions then resumed.

"Australian businesses are still interested in Chinese news, they still have operations in China, trade is continuing.

"People with investments in China haven't been suddenly dropping them."

The China bulletin is being offered as both current and archival news feeds to clients such as banks, legal firms, accountants, investors, com-

modity traders and importers.

Chief executive Lee Casey said: "After further evaluation we will be discussing international distribution with venture partners.

"Coverage is initially concentrating on trade and economic matters including new ventures and trade deals in industry, mining and agriculture, technological breakthroughs in electronics and communications, tenders details, general economic indicators and government policy changes.

"The service presents us with an exciting addition to our wide range of news and information products."

Product development manager David Lindley visited China earlier this year to help establish the service, and said he tried to stress to the Chinese the seriousness of AAP's intentions.

"They place a high importance on face to face contact," David said, "and my visit was really just the first step.

"But the process is underway. They believe the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and things take a while. The relationship must develop over time.

From the Chief Executive

I would like to express my personal thanks to all staff for their efforts during the year in assisting the group to consolidate its diverse interests and expand into new territories.

These efforts have provided the opportunity for the group to further develop during the 1990s as Australia's major information and communications company. The last decade has been one of dramatic growth for AAP.

Since 1980 staff numbers have risen from about 250 to 680 and our turnover during the same period increased from \$7.2m to \$123.3m.

The challenge of the nineties will be no less demanding as Australians understand the important role that AAP plays in keeping the nation informed of world and national events, thoroughbred racing details, sports, financial information and, in recent years,

as a communications supplier.

If we are to maintain our pre-eminent position in the news, information and communications industry we must continue to deliver products and services of a consistently high quality.

Every minute of every day those living in Australia rely on information and communications provided by AAP.

AAP staff must continue not only to take the credit but also the responsibility for this critical role.

Thank you again for all your efforts and I look forward to continuing to work with you.



Lee Casey

BYE BYE BRISBANE ... THE GANG'S ALL HERE FOR GARRY

A NIGHT on the town. Brisbane staff enjoying an evening out, from left, back row: Tony Reading, Con Constantinou, Mark Hurst, Wayne Slattery, Mick Dillon, Kathy Healey, Clark Chappel, Scott James, Craig Reading. Middle row: Alison Cridland, Judy Keable, Christine Steptoe, Julie Reading, Noel Schadendorf, Ann Thoburn, Ross Gilligan. Front row: Garry Keable, Joy Speakman, Rick Fisher, Wendy Doolan, Merlinda Huston, Bob Gould, Rita Galea, Paul Reid. They were farewelling Garry Keable before his transfer to Melbourne. Photograph: Verity Thurbon.



Satellite network expands to NZ

THE company's satellite network has expanded internationally with the introduction of services to New Zealand.

An agreement signed with Aussat enables COMCO to sell services between Australia and New Zealand using the Aussat satellite, and to carry those services through its own earth stations.

Under the agreement, COMCO uses its own earth stations in Australia, and the Aussat earth station in Auckland.

Aussat, on the other hand, has agreed to use the COMCO earth station in Melbourne.

"The agreement represents a significant expansion of our network internationally," said Bill Egan, manager of COMCO's

communications division.

"It's historic in that we have become the first Australian private company to be involved in international communications."

He explained that AAP customers would sign contracts with Aussat, as the official carrier.

COMCO would receive part of the fee for providing the use of earth stations and for providing communications between earth stations and customers' premises.

The services carry data and voice transmissions, with the likelihood that video conferencing could become a third area for rapid expansion.

A typical customer using the service for data transmission across the Tasman would be a company with a head office in Sydney or Melbourne and a branch office in Auckland.

The satellite link could provide an efficient, economical computer-to-computer hook-up between the offices.

The voice service can link telephone tie-lines between PABXs on either side of the Tasman, and would be an economic proposition for any company using a sufficient volume of telephone traffic.

Hard-urned Ashes

CRICKET writer John Coomber had covered his beloved sport on and off for 15 years on four continents, without a solitary series win for the Australians while on the job.

Victory tasted so much sweeter, then, when he reported this year's tour by Allan Border's men, who became the first in 55 years to regain the Ashes on English soil.

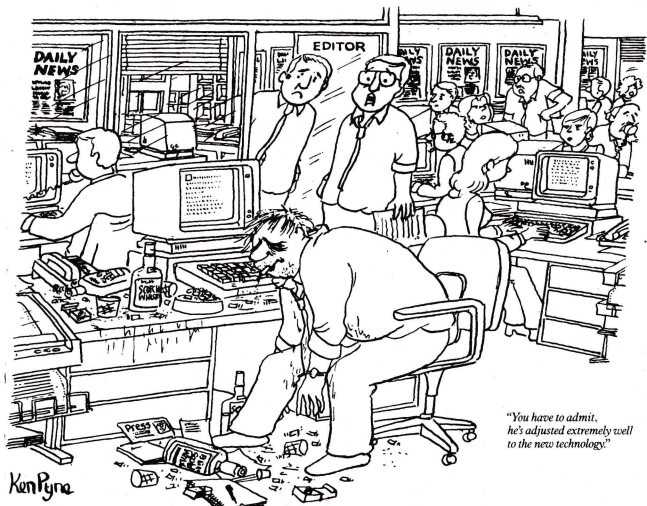
Colleagues in Sydney, mindful of the 1882 notice in The Sporting Times which gave rise to cricket's most famous trophy, sent this message to John after the series-clinching fourth Test:

"In affectionate remembrance of the AAP cricket correspondent's reputation for covering losers, which died at Old Trafford on 1st August 1989.

"Deeply appreciated by a large circle of smiling reporters and sub-editors. "R.I.P.

"N.B. - The body will be cremated, and the ashes taken to the Sydney sports desk."

MONEY finds money. The Sydney social golf club's footy doubles competition, a regular weekly fund-raiser during the rugby league season, carried double prize money on grand final day. Winner of the \$250 bonanza was Colleen Watson of Accounts.



The caption says: 'You have to admit he's adapted extremely well to the new technology'... Has Punch been doing some clandestine research at AAP?

Our man in Wellington

Our series on AAP foreign correspondents crosses the Tasman this month to feature Malcolm McIntyre, who took up a posting to Wellington in 1987. Malcolm had spent two previous stints living in New Zealand, and is well qualified to give hints on such mysteries as the delicate art of All Black diplomacy. But he is also on a learning curve himself...

Alone, but it's not All Black in NZ

THIS foreign correspondent business has been an education from day one and I'm still learning. It's straightforward enough in some ways, but there are pitfalls as well.

One big advantage of a single-person office for a reporter is room to spread with minimal fear of disruption, or consigning to an impenetrable void some suddenly necessary piece of reference material.

The flipside is there is none else to point the finger at. Sole responsibility can produce only self-blame.

Then there is the isolation. You realise how much fun – and how productive – it is to be able to kick ideas around with others.

Being your own boss confers a large amount of freedom, but working out how to best use it is not easy.

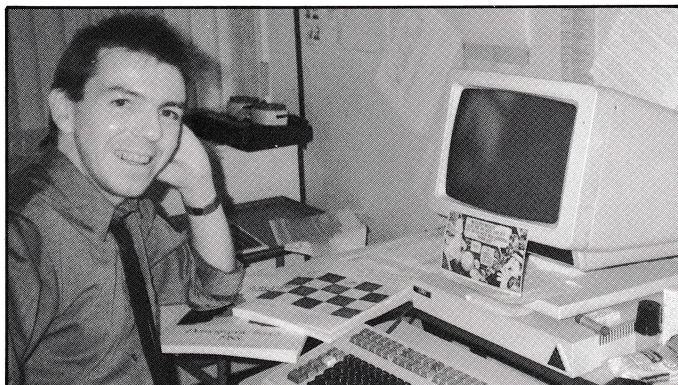
My on-the-job discoveries so far include: news about airlines is in, shipping and the waterfront are not, political interest is restricted to post-event coverage, and any hint of complexity is a turn-off.

But perhaps the most important realisation hit home in a recent poll.

Four out of five Australians couldn't name the New Zealand Prime Minister (Geoffrey Palmer, not David Lange). Fewer than half knew the capital (Wellington, not Auckland). And 18 in the 1,000 person sample didn't even know whether they'd been here.

If Australians see New Zealand as being fairly similar only less sophisticated, they may be indulging in a generalisation that misses as much as it captures.

The other side of the coin is a sense of community that allows some hope for the locals



The Wellington office, a home away from home.

to keep their environment safe and clean, and avoid some of the crimes being committed elsewhere in the name of big-city progress.

Even Auckland, New Zealand's offering to citizens with a taste for big city life, is undergoing a clean-up as Maoris assert their Treaty of Waitangi claim to a clean environment.

Here in Wellington, geography has limited spread in the immediate city area. The bulk of the population lives in the satellite cities of Hutt Valley and Porirua.

For Wellington residents, this arrangement translates into a city with a 10-minute driving radius outside peak periods, which are mercifully short.

For me, it also means living five minutes' walk from work in the central city, five minutes from the council tennis courts (no charge) and five minutes from the harbour.

Sydney was never like this.

Almost 50,000 Australians have voted with their feet and settled in the Land of the Long White Cloud, although they're not anywhere as near identifiable as the Kiwi coterie in Perth or Sydney's eastern suburbs formed by the 300,000 New Zealanders who've headed in the other direction.

Generally the expats here cope with the traditional trans-Tasman rivalry without too much trouble, but the usual slings and arrows become more outrageous when the rugby season arrives.

The formula for success consists simply of praising the All Blacks as the best team in the world, taking bets only if many points start is offered, and working off any losses when the two countries meet at rugby league.

Eighteen months in Wellington this time round after two other stays of a year or more puts me in the classification of a trans-Tasman citizen, and cultural differences have become blurred.

This is a secure position encompassing the best of both worlds: backing the All Blacks with Australians and punting on the Kangaroos with New Zealanders.

It could be said that I have the best of both worlds as a reporter too. I have spot news to handle quickly, but I also have time available for feature writing that many journalists at home would give their right arm for.

Like all jobs, the Wellington posting has its pros and cons. The pros win by a country mile.

IT'S THE FIZZ QUIZ!

1 – "Tuesday 14: nothing." Which monarch wrote this brief diary entry and, remarkably, on what date?

2 – "Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We shall remember them." Who penned these oft-spoken lines and from what work do they come?

3 – Complete the two missing names in this sequence: Kosciusko, Elbrus, Everest, Kilimanjaro, McKinley...

4 – What was the occupation of Orville and Wilbur Wright during the time of their early experiments with flight?

5 – For which movie did Gregory Peck win his only Oscar?

6 – What are made from the metal of cannons captured by the British in the Crimean War?

7 – Who was Australia's first astronaut?

8 – What illness struck D.H. Lawrence at the age of 17 and affected him for the rest of his life?

9 – What is David Gordon Kirkpatrick's stage name?

10 – David Gower this year became the first England cricket captain to surrender the Ashes at home since who?

The first correct entry drawn wins two bottles of champagne. Entries should be sent to The Champagne Quiz, AAP Today, 364 Sussex Street, Sydney.

The correct answers to the last quiz were:

1 – Fit to print. 2 – The message. 3 – An exaggeration. 4 – Fourth estate. 5 – When a man bits a dog that is news. 6 – Television. 7 – Commercial television. 8 – To see that the chaff is printed. 9 – Advertisements. 10 – Newspeak. 11 – Literature. 12 – Global village.

A bridge to China

• From Page 1

"I also had to impress upon them the importance of timely news delivery.

"They operate in a different journalistic culture, and for them to understand our methods and needs is at least as difficult as it is for us to understand theirs.

"I was there to resolve various production and communications difficulties, and we now have something that works.

"I was also able to research the information requirements of western businesses operating with China, and to investigate what sort of Chinese information sources may be useful to us in the future."

Jennifer Grant completed a degree at ANU in Chinese language, east Asian history and political science.

She won scholarships which enabled her to live and work in the country for three years, and is completing a PhD focusing on the Chinese domestic media.

She says that by scanning Chinese publications and other news sources herself, she is able to monitor what AAP is receiving and spell out firmly what it wants.

And by using the company's traditional overseas sources, the international newsagencies such as Reuters, the AP and AFP, she can evaluate where there may be conflicting versions of a story.

"The Chinese may claim a joint venture project is going ahead, for example, while western sources may say otherwise.

"Or an American company may deny something that the Chinese have said.

"In such cases we can either verify the stories, or present both versions."

The contract for the China bulletin was signed by Mr Casey and John Haigh, managing director of Shivaro Pty Ltd.

It is linked to agreements between Shivaro and the Guangming Daily Publishing House of Beijing and the Institute of Industrial Economics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Mr Haigh said the service was aimed at providing for the world market an authoritative and reliable source of information about modern China.

Coming to te

THOSE who have already enlarged their workplace vocabulary by learning the meaning of terms such as dish, dram and glasshouse, can now embark on a further voyage of discovery as we continue our A to Z Guide to AAP.

Macquarie – Dictionary, arbiter of AAP spelling, except when a journalist thinks it's wrong.

Matcher – Our version of a story which another news organisation has first. Another theoretical term.

MDS – Multipoint Distribution System. See Wires.

Microwave – Discreet greeting. Also an electro-magnetic wave of extremely high frequency. Microwave transmissions form an important part of AAP's data network.

Minilink – A communications link covering the few kilometres between AAP's head office in Sussex Street, Sydney, and its communications centre at Glebe. Mini considering it is part of a system that extends to outer space and back, but maxi considering its capacity is two megabits, or two million bits. This means it can carry 250,000 characters per second. See Bit.

Modem – Piece of equipment which allows computers to talk over phone lines, for example Dialup.

MQT – Multi Quote Terminal.

Neddybank – Nickname for data base of AAP's Formguide horse racing service.

Newsfan – Round-the-clock

Part 2 of our A to Z guide

news service transmitted on hotel TV sets and at airport lounges. Known to the journalists as Brainscan.

Nightlead – Definitive version of a running story for tomorrow morning's newspapers. Dayleads are for evening papers.

Outside Your Jurisdiction – Coyote's on-screen instruction to users with ideas beyond their station.

QAMQAY – Explained in part one of this series. Forgotten already?

ROMS – A ROM is a Read Only Memory. When video display screens are being downloaded, a message should appear saying: "Your ROMS are good." Some users have sensational ROMS.

SGS – A computer system dubbed Second Generation Slave.

Slug – Old-timer's jargon for the name or catchword of a story. Now it's called a keyword.

SMICS – Share Market Information Capture System.

Spectrum Analyser – Test equipment used to monitor radio fre-



AAP technician pictured at his

quencies. Technicians know it as a rectum paralysar.

System Control – The communications command centre on the second floor news room at Sussex Street. Also known as System Out Of Control.

Tech – Technician, one of a band of dedicated people keeping subscribers and AAP systems operating 24 hours a day seven days a week. Often seen wandering corridors wearing white lab coats.

SQUASHED!

STAFF sporting activities have branched into yet another field – squash. An AAP Reuters team took part in the 12-week City Business Houses tournament, finishing third in the B grade competition against The Reserve Bank, the Commonwealth Bank and the AMP Society.

Team members included Pitt Street sales executives Paul Spencer and Michael Blake, national sales manager Dave Stewart and Craig McIvor of product development.

New AMQ financ

AAP Market Quotes (AMQ), the company's latest real-time financial service, is making inroads into rural Australia.

A number of stockbrokers have signed up to take the AMQ service, including Jarden Morgan, which plans to use it throughout its network of Queensland provincial offices.

Jarden Morgan trialled the service at its Ballina office in northern New South Wales and is extending it to its branch

offices at Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Bundaberg and Toowoomba.

Others taking the AMQ service are the Toowoomba office of Henderson Park Earnshaw and Petfield, and the Gold Coast office of Lance Jones and Co.

It is also being tested at Nevitts Ltd Buderim office on the Sunshine coast.

AMQ is delivered by satellite and microwave, independent of Telecom lines, to 1.8 metre dishes and is received on personal

irms with AAP



daytime job?

Some say they are actually VFL goal umpires moonlighting in second jobs.

Tks and Rgds – Traditional sign-off at the end of news agency service messages. Often means almost anything except thanks and regards.

Upgrading – A promotion for a journalist.

VAMP – Value Added Monitor Processor.

VDT – Video display terminal.

VITAC – The name of AAP's previous video editing system. Few can actually remember what it stands for.

Wires – As in news wires, wire service. So called because wires no longer play a major role. AAP is more wireless than ever. Wave is now more appropriate, as in micro. "Get this story on the waves now," the editor bellowed.

Y – The Baudrunner command

to call up the system dictionary.

Zeus – Process overseer that monitors and creates most processes within AAP video editing system.

Z – Command that signs a user off a Coyote terminal, and therefore the last letter every sensible user types before finishing work and going home. Failure to do so enables helpful colleagues to assume free rein over their identity with impunity.

e service gaining ground

computer.

The base service contains constantly updated live quotes on all stocks listed on the Australian stock exchanges.

Subscribers have the option to add data from the Sydney Futures exchange, and gain access to equities news, commodities news, finance news or company announcements.

Brisbane sales executive Clark Chappel said the big selling points of the service were the convenience of communica-

tions and cost savings.

"The Jarden Morgan office at Ballina, for example, previously was using a dial-up system to get the information it wanted, and was paying STD costs to Brisbane every time it needed access.

"Now with a satellite dish on the roof of their building they are making a big saving in communications costs.

"Depending on usage, I would say their communications bill would be halved.

"Companies using the service also have fixed communications costs which they can budget for, and delivery of the service involves no terrestrial lines, which can be expensive. "It is also tremendously reliable."

AMQ is delivered by satellite direct to customers' premises outside the main capital cities.

Microwave transmission is used in the capitals where the subscriber's office is in line of sight of the transmission point.

'DOCTOR' BACK AS A LOCUM

BRISBANE journalist Alfred "The Doctor" Sasako became a local media celebrity when he returned to his old stamping ground, Port Moresby, on assignment for AAP.

He went back to cover the news, and ended up in it, being featured in a "local boy makes good" story in the daily Post-Courier newspaper, his former employer.

Columnist Wally Hiambohn explained that Alfred was dubbed "The Doctor" because he was always hitting the headlines with his relentless coverage of health issues.

"The Doctor has been missing from these pages for four years, but he is still in the profession ... only now at an international level," he wrote.

Alfred now was "doing the same work in the highly competitive and professional game in Australia".

Alfred, a Solomon Islander who worked in Papua New Guinea en route to the big smoke of AAP, was back in Port Moresby as a locum tenens.

He was there to cover the abortive no-confidence vote in the Namaliu government, filling in while regular correspondent Ian Vallance was covering the rebellion on Bougainville.

Recalling his early days at AAP headquarters in Sydney, he told the Post-Courier: "It was so huge, and they had several different news sections covering finance, sport, world and other news areas.

"I spent about a week training on computers, by the end of which I was loaded with computer jargon."

Alfred has little interest in working for a television station or a tabloid newspaper, if other comments in the interview are anything to go by.

He described TV journalists as a "really bad lot" with a bad attitude.

And he said there was merit in the view that PNG got a lot of bad publicity in Australia, particularly in its tabloid newspapers.

A Cook's tour to Oz

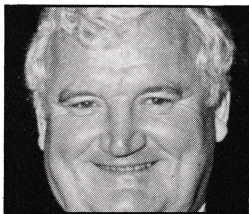
BRITISH entertainer Peter Cook will be the celebrity guest teeing up in the fourth annual AAP Financial Markets charity golf tournament – an ambitious event that aims to raise half a million dollars.

The TV and film star, comic and satirist will line up in the 250-strong field when the tournament returns to Sydney's Pennant Hills course in February.

He is well qualified for the role. The co-star with Dudley Moore in the TV series *Not Only But Also* in the 1960s and 70s is, like many an entertainer, a golf fanatic.

He lists his main leisure interests in *Who's Who* as the three Gs: gambling, gossip and golf.

There will be five beneficiaries of the event this time.



Len Evans, MC.

They will again include the St Vincents Hospital bone marrow transplant research unit, the Smith Family and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

But added to the list are the Children's Hospital at Camperdown in Sydney, and the Life Education Centre for drug awareness and rehabilitation.

If the fund-raising target is achieved, it will push to over

Pete's no dud when it comes to charity

one million dollars the total raised since the event began in 1986.

Each hole at Pennant Hills again will receive corporate sponsorship of \$7,500 for the day, amassing \$135,000 for the charity coffers.

It is planned to raise an additional \$70,000 from playing fees and from the tournament dinner at the Regent Hotel.

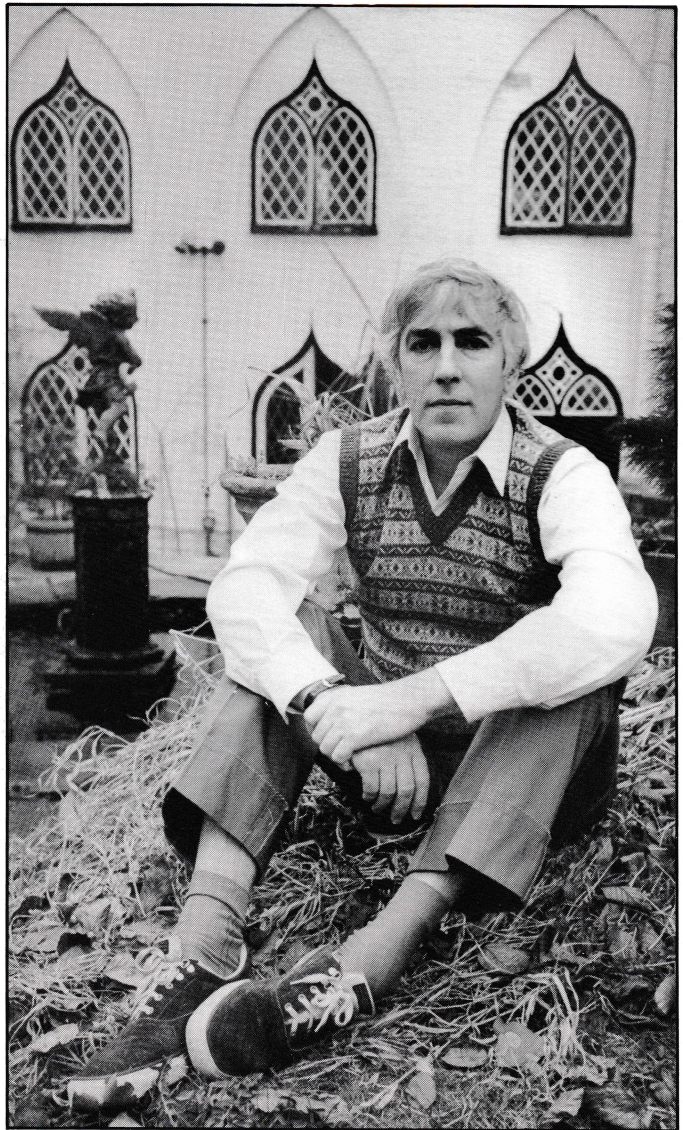
A further target of \$100,000 has been set for an art union draw offering a 1990 Jaguar Sovereign as first prize.

Other prizes include \$30,000 worth of diamond jewellery, a Yamaha golf buggy and a set of Dunlop Slazenger golf clubs.

The biggest fund-raiser, however, is expected to be the traditional charity auction, hoped this time to fetch \$200,000.

Master of ceremonies and auctioneer Len Evans will put another vast array of items under the hammer including:

- A trip for two to Wimbledon;
- A trip for two to the US Open golf;
- A trip for two to France,



Peter Cook – a comic who takes his golf seriously.

staying at villas in the champagne and cognac areas with a trip on the Orient Express from Paris to Vienna;

- A putter with a solid gold head and solid silver shaft;

- A pre-Federation red post box donated by Australia Post;
- A sapphire-studded, gold-rimmed Polaroid camera designed by Cartier, one of only six made;
- A visit by executive jet to the Argyle diamond mine in Western Australia to select a diamond;
- "The world's largest collection of beer".

Beer bonanza . . . be a winner

THE "world's largest collection of beers" will be up for auction at the charity golf tournament dinner – and AAP staff can be among the winners.

The company has contacted some 500 breweries around the world seeking samples of their produce to form part of a massive international package.

The successful bidder on the night will also get a trip for two to visit breweries in Europe and the UK. The beer package will contain one sample of as many brands as can be amassed.

Many breweries have been more benevo-

lent that that, however, sending more than one sample. The extras will be up for grabs by staff – not for money, just for ideas.

All you have to do is come up with suggestions for items that can be auctioned at one of the annual AAP charity golf tournaments.

The items must be unusual, attractive enough to stimulate keen bidding, and not normally available for purchase.

Any proposals accepted will win a package of a dozen international beers – entries to Beer Barrel, AAP TODAY, 2nd floor, 364 Sussex Street, Sydney.

THEM's the breaks.
Extract from a Sydney editorial roster:
"ASSIGNMENTS:
B. Walenkamp – Soviet Union. I. Telford – Dubbo." Bronwyn was heading to Moscow under an exchange program with Tass. Ian pulled duty at the rugby match between the British Lions and a New South Wales B team.

MARKSMAN SPENCER AN ACE INDOORS ...



Winners are grinners, from left, back row: Craig McIvor, Bill Aylmer, Paul Spencer, Mike Gooch. Front: Roger Manu, Brett Higgins.

AAP RES sales staff retained their mantle of indoor soccer champs by sweeping all before them in an expanded Sydney inter-office competition.

The Pitt Streeters successfully defended their title by finishing equal top of the league table, then defeating COMCO 7-4 in the play-off to decide the tournament.

Captain Paul Spencer bagged 23 of the winning side's total of 35 goals, but said it was very much a team effort.

"The secret was not trying to do too much with the ball and to shoot at every opportunity," he said.

"We relied on good, quick passing and a sense of when to shoot and who was in the best position. There is so little time to make a decision in the game you almost have to rely on instinct."

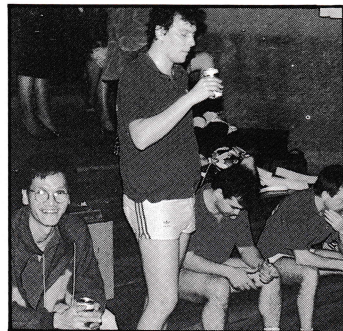
The winning team comprised Paul Spencer, Billy Aylmer, Michael Gooch, Dave Stewart, Craig McIvor, Roger Manu, Brett Higgins, Mike Blake and Mike Tarlinton.

Michael Link, captain of the beaten finalists COMCO, said: "We weren't really able to reproduce in the final the form we displayed in the earlier rounds.

Final Standings:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
AAP RES Sales	5	4	0	1	28	17	+11	8
Comco	5	4	0	1	28	17	+11	8
Tech Operations	5	3	1	1	19	14	+5	7
Tech Development	5	1	2	2	20	25	-5	4
Journalists	5	0	2	3	16	23	-7	2
Reuters Aust	5	0	1	4	6	21	-15	1

IT'S ANOTHER CLEARANCE FOR SALES



Mike Link and his Comco team, dejected in defeat.

"We weren't playing our normal game. Once they raced to a 3-1 lead we were playing catch-up football for the rest of the match.

"We all enjoyed the tournament though, and are looking forward to the next one."

In the play-off for third place,

Operations defeated Development 2-0.

Development captain Vince Dichiarra said: "We felt we improved during the tournament - I think all teams did.

"If I was forced to pick a standout player in our team it would be Nick Hughes, who was our top scorer."

A team of red-shirted Sussex Street journalists finished second from bottom of the table but wrested the wooden spoon by drawing 3-3 with Reuters in a play-off before contriving to lose a penalty shoot-out 3-2.

Reg Gratton knocked in a swag of goals for the Red Eds. So did Doug Conway - some of them for his own team.

Hugo Uribe was always prepared to take on opponents, often while in possession of the ball, and there were robust contributions from Mike Osborne, Greg Truman, Mike Koslowski and Mick Cook.

Goal-saving acrobatics were the specialty of Steve Dettre, and Barry Wheeler and Mike Driscoll stood out simply by looking like they had played before.

Smokeless capital ...

CANBERRA has become the third major AAP newsroom to ban smoking.

Following the lead of the two biggest bureaus, Melbourne and Sydney, journalists in the new Parliament House office decided to join them and become smoke-free.

In grand political tradition they decided to implement the ban via "consensus" rather than putting it to a formal vote.

Like Melbourne and Sydney, smokers have an area set aside where they can light up - a small room previously known (but little used) as the interview room.

An initial staff report said the ban was holding well - although it was yet to be tested in the face of a top breaking story.



Howzat, Hugo?

THEY don't play much cricket in Santiago, which probably explains how Sydney journalist Hugo Uribe came to win a bat autographed by Allan Border's Ashes-winning team.

Hugo won a competition organised by Sydney's Daily Telegraph inviting readers to send hero-grams to the Aussie cricketers in England.

His entry, judged the pick of the bunch, was: "Chile born. Took years and great pain to learn cricket. You made it all worth it. Thanks. Feels good to be Aussie."



Light shed on shadow

A PREVIOUS AAP TODAY praised the meticulous attention to detail shown by the Adelaide correspondent who once reported: "Police said the man they were searching for had a swarthy complexion and a five o'clock CST (0530 AEST) shadow."

But our correspondent wasn't meticulous enough, according to Sydney journalist John Coomber.

"As any East German female sprinter could tell you," John argues, "the converted time should not have been 0530 AEST but 1730 AEST."

Do overnight staff agree?

WINNING WAYS OF A RACING SERVICES SECRETARY

MICHELE Cullen leads a double working life whose halves have one distinctly common four-legged thread. But there the similarity ends.

In her first life she is employed by a top Sydney trainer, in her second by AAP. In one she risks life and limb; the other is comparatively sedate.

Michele, secretary to AAP racing services manager Ken Boman, is also a long-serving track rider for Neville Begg.

Given the choice of a lounge chair or a saddle, she would take the saddle any day of the week. In fact she does just that, every day of the week except Sunday.

Michele lives at Randwick – where else? – a few minutes' drive from the racecourse.

Her day starts at 4.30am, when she gets up to ride track work for two hours. Then it's home for a shower and breakfast before heading off to work for AAP in the COMCO offices at Glebe.

"It's no great drama getting up that early," she says. "Plenty of people get up at that time to go for a jog or a walk, and go to work feeling refreshed.

"I get the same start to my day by riding horses."

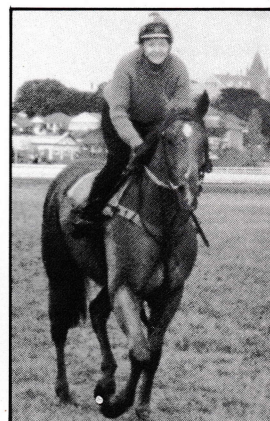
Michele seems to have been born to ride. Her father played polo and represented New Zealand at the Olympics as an equestrian competitor.

Before she could walk she was riding a Shetland pony on the family farm near Hastings in the Hawke's Bay area of New Zealand.

She came to Australia nine years ago and, apart from travels in Europe for a year, has been based here ever since.



Michele grooming Tried And True, a full brother to 1986 Caulfield Cup winner Mr. Lomondy.



Michele riding Ciao Bello in track work.

The daily double life of Michele



Michele

She initially rode track work for Bart Cummings, when her charges included Hyperno and Ming Dynasty.

During her overseas jaunt, she worked at Newmarket, riding for top European trainer Michael Sproule.

Since returning to Australia

she has ridden all of Neville Begg's top horses, including Heat Of The Moment, and has a great deal of respect for the man she calls "uncle Neville".

"He's a real gent," she says, "and a very hard worker himself.

"He never misses a day, unless he's crook, and knows everyone's name no matter how great or small."

One Begg-trained horse she looks forward to riding is the Biscay-Tommasina Fiesco offspring bought for \$1.7 million in Bart Cummings' "fire sale" in September.

Michele admits that riding racehorses is a high-risk endeavour, but is dismissive of the danger.

The most she will say is: "Thoroughbreds are highly tuned animals, and you have to be 100 per cent awake all the

time or something could go wrong."

One morning she arrived for work at Glebe mentioning that she had had some trouble at the track, but not saying too much about it.

Colleagues eventually elicited from her the news that she had been riding the Dominic Beirne-owned Eire when the horse took fright at a delivery truck and threw her onto the truck's bonnet.

"She's pretty tough all right," says her AAP boss Ken Boman.

"She's also very efficient, and it's a real asset having someone who is so familiar with horses.

"Besides that she's a good sleuth to have at Randwick and can come up with good tips for winners."

Michele is also full of tips for winners. After a hectic week full of the sport of kings, she spends her Saturday afternoons relaxing – by going to the races and having a flutter.

A new touch of Class

AAP's Racing Services division has produced the sixth volume of its annual book *Class Racehorses*, featuring an introduction by world famous owner Robert Sangster.

Volume six, a complete record of the 1988 – 89 Australasian racing season, also has a range of special articles including *A Trainer's View* by leading Sydney trainer Brian Mayfield-Smith.

All group one winners are covered with in-depth analysis, plus tabulated pedigree to five generations.

The cover photo this year is of Sydney-trained mare Research winning the VRC Oaks at Flemington.

Class Racehorses is available to staff at a discounted price.

CLASS
RACEHORSES
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



1988-1989

THE new racing newspaper *Winning Post* has backed a winner by taking the AAP racing service. Using a selector code on the RNS provincial circuit, *Winning Post* takes fields, betting details and copy on gallops, trots and dogs meetings.