

# AAP TODAY

Number 21

February 1991

## Our man in the Gulf



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## PUMPING IRON ...

Picture  
special  
P4, 5



## Bart backs us



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**RADIO CONTRACT RETAINED: P2**

**& MUCH MORE!**

Substantially cheaper long distance communications are being offered in a major new AAP service for Australian business.

The joint venture between AAP Communications Pty Ltd and the American giant MCI will allow Australian companies to link their operations nationally and internationally through special switching centres in each state.

This will give each user a "virtual" private network (VPN) for making voice, fax, data and video transmissions.

VPNs were pioneered in the United States, where the market is worth an estimated \$A2.5 billion a year.

Later they spread to Europe, and now are going public in Australia through the new service, called AccessPlus.

Advantages include substantial discounts over current long-distance charges, itemised billing, extra capacity on demand, regular traffic analysis reports and user authorisation controls.

"AccessPlus is already providing business customers with enhanced voice services operating on Telecom and Aussat bulk capacity," said AAP chief executive Lee Casey.

"Later in 1991 we will be adding many of the features of the world's most sophisticated

# New service for business

VPN service, operated by MCI, taking telecommunications in Australia into a new competitive era."

AccessPlus customers will be connected either by microwave or through a Telecom channel to a local AAP communications centre, where AAP's computerised switching takes over.

Calls between a company's offices around Australia get special treatment, such as abbreviated trunk dialling and interstate trunk connections at lower charges.

An employee phone in Perth, for example, can be assigned a four digit number which can be called from Brisbane, or even from overseas, for less than using the public telephone network.

The service also offers customers management reports every month

These reports can analyse a

company's telephone traffic and show exactly which departments are efficient and which are wasting money.

They can show times when the company's system is not coping, or is under utilised, so it can be tailored to suit its requirements.

"For the first time Australian business can now enjoy the benefit of a private communications network without the heavy capital and running costs," said Barry Wheeler, managing director of AAP Communications Pty Ltd, which will manage the joint venture.

"Itemised billing, two levels of back-up, detailed traffic analysis and the flexibility to add circuits - they're all standard features.

"Add all these benefits to the reduced cost of phoning interstate, and dialling plans tailored to each client, and you

can see why VPNs are a key element in the development of economic and efficient corporate strategies."

"It works equally well for data and voice transmissions, even for overseas dialling, but most of all it takes the headache out of operating your own private network.

"Our aim is to provide medium and large scale users of trunk telecommunications the opportunity to get a better grip on a large cost area of business.

"The greater the flow of information, the more incentive for better management."

AccessPlus initially will concentrate on capital cities.

MCI Communications Corporation of the United States owns and operates the world's second largest telecommunications network, with 1989 revenue of \$US6.4 billion (\$A8.3 billion).

# Slim pickings for prince of poker

THE world's best poker player, Amarillo Slim, has spent his life hustling people at games of skill.

But he met his match when national correspondent John Coomber challenged him to a game of pitch-and-toss at a Sydney press conference.

The 61-year-old card sharp had offered to bet anyone in Australia any amount of money that he could beat them at tossing a coin into one of his snakeskin cowboy boots.

Coomber, who polished his pitch-and-toss technique during breaks for rain while covering cricket matches in England, set the stakes at one dollar.

Amarillo placed his boot on a card table four metres away, but missed with all five shots. Coomber made it with his fifth and now has a personally autographed US dollar bill as a souvenir of the day he out-hustled Amarillo Slim.

"What's more I told him he'd been stung twice," Coomber said. "The dollar I'd put up was worth only 83 cents of his dollar."



Amarillo Slim waves goodbye to his Yankee dollar

# Radio contract retained

EDITOR in chief Peter Brown has assured Australia's commercial radio stations of continuing high standards of news coverage after the stations decided unanimously to retain AAP as their supplier.

"We value our relationship with commercial radio very highly," he said.

"We are particularly pleased we have won renewed confidence from the industry in the quality and reliability of our news services.

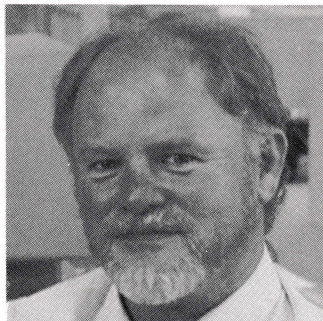
"We can assure commercial radio stations of continued high standards of news coverage as well as stepped up commitment to customer services."

AAP fought off a bid by the ABC to take over the contract to supply news to the 147 stations represented by the Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters (FARB).

FARB decided at its annual convention in Melbourne to continue its long-standing links with AAP, renewing the multi-million dollar contract for a further three years.

It was the first time the commercial radio news service had been put to tender, and thus the first time AAP had been challenged for it.

The challenge came without warning when FARB advised that the ABC had been asked to tender.



Peter Brown

Written proposals were required within a month, with a decision to be made in two months.

FARB made it clear its main objective was to cut costs. "Cost is king," one senior radio executive told AAP, saying radio station managers would be influenced more by the bottom line than by the quality and content of the news services.



Ian Lane, Geoff Want and Robin Strathdee put on a brave face on the eve of the FARB convention vote.

It was clear a major selling job lay ahead.

The two weeks before the conference were set aside for an intensive lobbying campaign.

Members of the AAP team met the chief executives, station managers and news directors of all metropolitan radio stations.

One insider said the ABC had been clear favourite because of its low cost. Even as delegates gathered in Melbourne for the convention weekend our chances were put at no better than 40-60.

By Saturday night, following 30-minute presentations by both sides to the 10-member FARB federal council, the odds were beginning to move in AAP's favor. The lobbying continued.

On Sunday the major networks called meetings to vote

on their preferred supplier. That night it seemed AAP's campaign had paid off.

Final details of the agreement were thrashed out between courses at the convention dinner and at a meeting the next morning.

On the Monday afternoon incoming FARB president Nigel Milan announced the decision to stay with AAP had been unanimous.

"Both proposals were of an exemplary standard and represented a tremendous amount of hard work," he said.

"A substantial number of country broadcasters, however, had philosophical difficulties in accepting the ABC, one of their prime competitors, as a provider of commercial news services."

AAP's chief negotiator Geoff Want said: "A lot of people were involved, and all had important roles to play in our success.

"The final few days at the FARB convention were hell. We learned some valuable lessons for future dealings with our clients."

Others involved in the AAP campaign included media services manager Les Murphy, Advertising Services Network manager Ian Lane, state managers Robin Strathdee, Ross Gilligan and Bill Bowen, business services manager Tino Fenech and Sydney journalist Malcolm McIntyre.

# VICAR is laid to rest

STAFF at AAP Communications headquarters raised a glass or two to mark the passing of two computer systems which have played a prominent role in the company's development.

The first to be decommissioned was the Burroughs System which for 11 years supported our horse racing data base, known to old-timers as Nedibank.

Staff spent months transferring all Nedibank data to a Tandem system which uses the same sort of hardware as the Baudrunner editorial set-up.

Also lamented by a circle of sorrowing friends and acquaintances was VICAR (video information capture and retrieval) which reformatted data from the Sydney Futures Exchange for display on AAP Reuters Monitor pages.

The system co-ordinator, Len Cuthbert, likened its history to that of the Voyager space craft.

"After more than 10 years of 'flight', the first computer to report the futures market in Australia has been allowed to land," he said.

"Since it was launched VICAR has been involved in many changes to the way in which futures are traded.

"Among them were the introduction in 1985 of options - more onboard luggage - and in 1989 overnight trading - no more stopovers.

"In its twilight years VICAR developed some annoying habits.

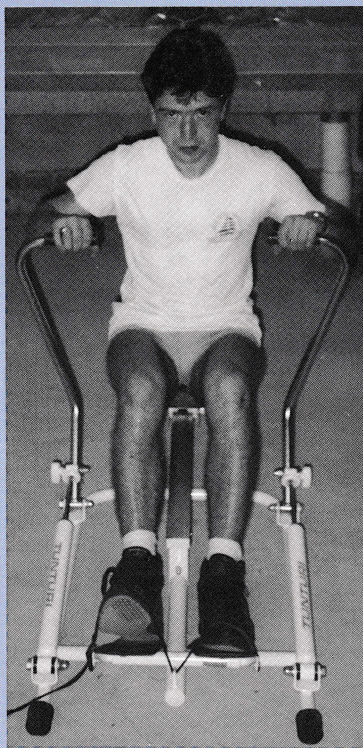
"There was the infamous double crash, when the backup system would go out in sympathy when the primary crashed.

"But considering its vintage it served AAP very well."

Production manager Garry Anderson said programming languages had become much more sophisticated since the early days of VICAR.

"While older systems are disappearing, they are being replaced by smaller and more powerful platforms.

"These will give us the flexibility to move with changes in the requirements of our customers, thus ensuring AAP's market dominance for the future."



Eoghan O'Connor in the waterless, bottomless boat.

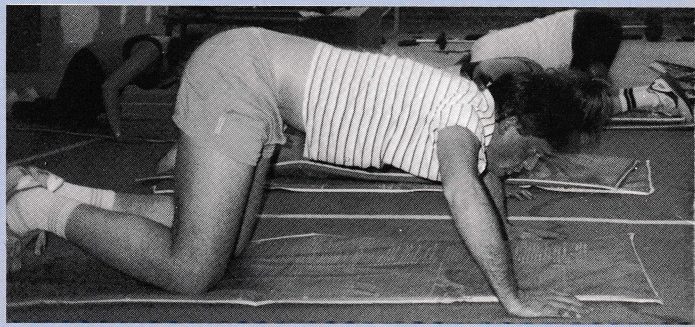


Joanne Toomey on the mat.

# Sweatsh



Brendan Harvey, iron man.



OUR base in Moscow was the Hotel Ukraine, a gothic skyscraper reminiscent of the apartment building in the film Ghostbusters.

There was no need to move beyond its doors to learn about queues, black market roubles, food shortages and the reasons behind the Soviet government's anti-alcohol program.

Each morning we joined the queue of people fighting for the last sour cream dumpling or slice of smoked sausage. The rattle of the trolley coming from the kitchen would cause a stampede.

It was in the dining room that our extremely drunk waiter had insisted we pay for our meal in American dollars, not roubles.

But when it came time to receive our change he told us it

# Lesley and Terry

THERE are three suitcase essentials for the traveller in the Soviet Union - toilet paper, Eno and a parachute. The toilet paper is like fine grade sandpaper, the vodka can rot the gut, and Aeroflot lives up to every horror story you've ever heard, says Sydney journalist Lesley Parker. Lesley, the central newsdesk copy taster, visited the Soviet Union with Canberra desk editor Terry Friel on the annual exchange trip with the official news agency Tass. This is her report of their trip from Moscow, through the far-flung Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan and back through Leningrad.

was "not possible" to give us dollars, only roubles.

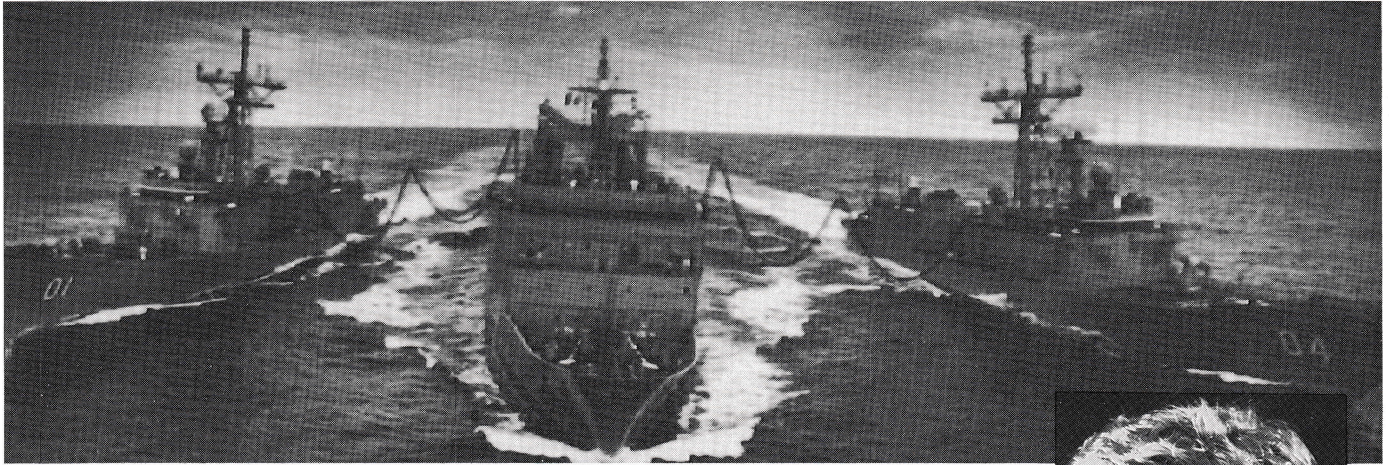
He gave us back about three times as many roubles as the meal cost in the first place.

The only problem with a wallet full of roubles is that there are very few places for a tourist to spend them.

We tried eating our way through them, but a four-course lunch for two took only 20 of the 100 we had gained.

If you look like a foreigner then almost everyone, particularly taxi drivers, wants you to pay in "hard currency", the American dollars or British

## BOUND FOR THE PERSIAN GULF ... FULL BORE AHEAD



**HMAS Success, centre, refuels the frigates HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Darwin in the Indian Ocean on the way to the Gulf.**

THERE'S an old saying that war is 90 per cent boredom and 10 per cent sheer terror.

With the Gulf task force it was 90 per cent boredom and 10 per cent mild excitement.

After seven weeks aboard the ships I felt as if I knew as much about Navy life as any sailor. I felt as if I knew every one of the 700 sailors aboard. I also felt as bored as I have ever been.

Life on a Navy ship, especially as an outsider, is incredibly dull.

In the Gulf of Oman where the ships patrolled there is nothing to see.

It's the same hazy horizon every day, the same jobs to do, the same people to see, the same places to go, the same food to eat, the same conversations to hear, the same week-old newspapers and magazines to read.

You have to admire the sailors for staying sane.

They have amazing patience, and an incredible ability to keep themselves amused.

Some of the extra crew aboard were also suffering after a month with little to do.

The doctor on the frigate Adelaide, for example, was busy getting his helmsman's certificate (10 hours at the wheel of a ship to qualify).

He was also preparing to learn navigation, and had every intention of working a stint in the engine room – anything to keep himself occupied.

I brought a business French course ("Bonjour madame, je voudrais prendre rendez-vous avec M. Smith"), and tried to join the SH3ITGATERS club (Success Hash House Harriers

# O'Connor's Navy blues

**WHEN three Australian warships headed for the Persian Gulf in August to join the multinational blockade of Iraq following that country's invasion of Kuwait, one reporter went with them. Terry O'Connor, AAP's Canberra-based defence correspondent, sailed with the frigates Adelaide and Darwin, and the supply ship Success, as the sole accredited pool correspondent for the Australian media. Here he describes life behind the scenes – in a word, boring.**

International Tourists Gulf Action Thousanders – people who run 1,000 times around the 250m flight deck).

I also learnt semaphore, a wonderful skill of waving your arms at people to pass messages and totally useless except on a Navy ship.

I was lucky that the crews were so approachable and friendly.

They often came up with good human interest stories about themselves or their friends, and if I wanted to see something or go somewhere they organised it with little fuss.

They were also helpful in explaining little things, such as why you can't just kick your shoes off onto the floor before you crawl into your bunk.

You have to either put them in a cupboard or tie them down. It seems stupid at first until a sailor explains it's done to stop things sliding around in big seas, and to stop them caus-

ing injuries if the ship is hit by a missile!

Suddenly it becomes important to tie everything down.

A chemical weapons lecture we had was frightening, and not just to me.

We didn't know what to expect so the Navy prepared us for the worst just in case. Having the effects of chemical weapons explained to you in a matter-of-fact, this-could-happen-to-you lecture has a chilling effect.

I was based on the supply ship HMAS Success, joining it at the Navy's Western Australian base south of Fremantle.

The three ships carried out exercises off the coast for a day before turning north for the Cocos islands where RAAF bombers carried out mock attacks.

The first week was terrific – lots of stories, new things to see and learn, and a new way of life to adapt to.

From Cocos we headed to



**Terry O'Connor**

Diego Garcia, a British territory with a huge American base, in the middle of the Indian Ocean, to pick up new supplies before turning north again to the Gulf of Oman.

We arrived in early September, providing another flood of stories as the ships carried out their first interrogation of a merchant ship, had their first suspicious contact, and finally fired their first shots.

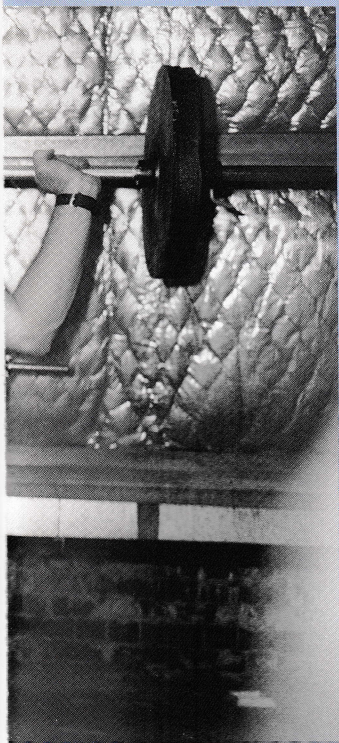
I was lucky to be on the Darwin when it headed off to stop the Iraqi merchant ship the Al Fao. I had decided only that morning to join the Darwin and actually held it up while I was transferred across by small boat.

There were many exciting moments like that, in small boats, exploring the coastline of the Gulf in an outboard powered inflatable, riding at 10 metres altitude at high speed in a helicopter across the waves – they kept me going for a long time between the periods of boredom.

But after seven weeks I felt drained of story ideas and couldn't think of anything to write.

I gladly came home, but I would go back if the action hotted up or the ships were doing something different.

# Top workers!



**PUMPING** iron and pounding the boards have become part of everyday working life at the AAP group communications headquarters.

Dozens of staff are taking advantage of the exercise area and gymnasium set up on the second floor of the sprawling Glebe office in Sydney.

The body-conscious work out whenever they can – during lunch breaks, at organised classes, after work or, in the case of shift workers, in the middle of the night.

A professional instructor takes three aerobics classes a week, as well as circuit classes, or combinations of the two. He also gives personal weight training programs and weight loss advice.

Aerobics classes are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but the gym area is open 24 hours a day.

“We only got six or seven people to the first class, but as the word got around the numbers grew,” said Brendan Harvey of third party maintenance, who helped get the classes going.

“We average around 18 or 20 a class now, and there would be over 40 regular users.

“It was amazing how numbers grew, too, when word spread that we were taking some photos for the staff magazine.”

“At first people can be a bit self-conscious, but after a while the baggy track suits disappear. After all, we’re all there for the same reason.”

The equipment includes an exercise bike, rowing machine, sit-up table, bench presses, bars and weights.

“There’s practically nothing you can’t do,” said Brendan, “but we are hoping that the \$3 a head charge for each session will help us to get some more equipment.”

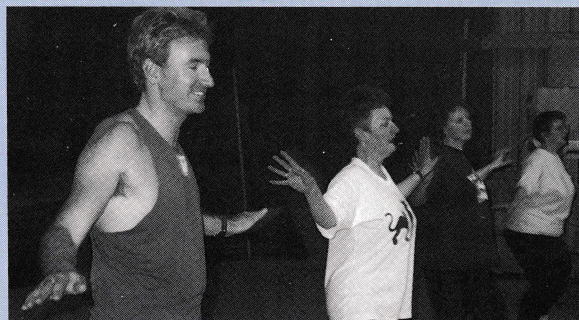


But it's not meant to be fun. Rosie Mobbs.

**LEFT:** If all else fails, try prayer ... Maurice Maneschi.

**FAR RIGHT:** Martin Finnus and the art of the self-levitation.

**RIGHT:** Flat out. Kate Humpheries.



## ry ... back in the USSR

pounds that allow Russians to purchase goods such as cigarettes, whisky and make-up.

These goods are in extremely short supply in the everyday department stores where most Russians shop, but are easily found in the “beriozkas” or hard currency shops usually found in hotels.

The queues are horrendous. But nine out of ten lines we saw in Moscow and Leningrad were for “tabak”, or cigarettes – not food. Muscovites will queue for hours for the throat-burning local cigarettes. They’ll kill for a pack of western-made Marlboro.

Uzbekistan, a four-hour flight away, was the Garden of Eden in comparison. Ancient irrigation systems feed collective farms growing grapes, peaches and mountains of watermelon.

The antagonism towards the Russians struck us, with Uzbeks forcibly turning us away from their restaurants until they learned we were Australians.

Uzbekistan borders Afghanistan and the local people have much more in common with that country than with Russia (which ordered local soldiers to join the invasion of Afghanistan in 1980). The republic is one of those seek-

ing greater independence from Moscow.

We visited the capital Tashkent, and the ancient and holy cities of Bukhara and Samarkand.

The latter was the mid-point of the Great Silk Way, the ancient trading route from China and India to the Middle East.

Leningrad is the real tourist city in the Soviet Union. Hundreds of red Intourist buses ferry groups from Finland and the United States to the Hermitage and its classic collection of Impressionists, to Peter the Great’s country palace, and the

awe-inspiring St Issak’s cathedral.

It’s a very European city, reminiscent of Rome or Paris – except that the hot water disappeared for three days and the electricity supply could not be guaranteed.

Back in Moscow, our last day was spent visiting the only golf club in the Soviet Union – a symbol of the changes taking place as the communist state struggles to learn about capitalism.

The club is run by a former Swedish ice hockey champion, and membership costs US\$30,000 a year.

The management’s only problem now is how to convince the people living in the tatty state apartment block across the road that the land that used to be their park is now “private property”.

# Developing role for pic library

AAP is developing what is planned to become its own full scale commercial photo library.

Already the library contains more than 10,000 colour transparencies of world events dating back to 1975.

Since last year the mammoth task of categorising, cataloguing and updating the stock has been underway.

All photos are being sorted according to subject matter, with all offerings being recorded on a computer data base.

The main source of the material so far has been the Associated Press world colour photo service, but photo library manager Susie Carr has ambitious plans for expansion.

"I want to drastically increase the amount of Australian material we're holding, as well as increase our number of sources," she said.

"I'm looking for as much Australian content as possible, and that means I'm on the look out for photographers who can contribute, such as newspaper and magazine photographers.

"I'm also looking for reputable overseas photo agencies who we may be able to represent here on a commission basis.

"Ultimately the aim is to become a full scale commercial photo library."

For many years the company has supplied TV stations with colour transparencies for use as news and current affairs stills.

The new-look library now is looking for business among the likes of magazines, publishers and advertising agencies.

"Pop magazines, for example, are going to photo libraries every day of the week for material," Susie said.

The library's existing stock



Susie Carr examines a batch of transparencies

already covers a vast range of material.

It includes a comprehensive folio of black and white file photos of world political figures and identities.

The ever-expanding colour section has world personalities classified according to name and profession, such as politician, musician, businessmen and the like.

Sporting figures are classified separately, along with photographs of the actual sports.

A disasters section includes shots of earthquakes, storms, hurricanes, floods, droughts,

fires and specific incidents such as Chernobyl.

There is a separate file on shipping disasters such as the Titanic.

A weather file includes material on lightning and tornadoes, and a defence section shots of military bases, personnel and weaponry.

Other categories include religion, space, law and order, pollution, the arts, commodities, gambling, finance, food and drink.

There is even a file for graffiti and, as if some categories aren't odd enough, a separate section for "silly pictures".

## Salute to Duncan Hooper, OBE

FORMER general manager Duncan Hooper, who died in Geelong aged 78, has been saluted as an accomplished foreign correspondent who became a leader in the newsgathering revolution in Australia.

Chief executive Lee Casey said Mr Hooper supervised AAP's growth towards a national news and communications company.

"Duncan Hooper's drive and enthusiasm contributed greatly to the development of agency journalism in Australia and in building the foundations for the AAP of today," he said.

Chairman Lyle Turnbull said Mr Hooper, as managing editor then general manager between 1956 and his retirement in 1977, played a key role in the company's reconstruc-

tion and expansion.

"His strong leadership as editor and chief executive of AAP in the 60s and 70s made possible the beginnings of the process that transformed the organisation from a small, narrowly-based editorial service to its present status as Australia's largest private communications company," Mr Turnbull said.

Mr Hooper's contemporaries recalled him as a journalist of the "old school" who scored his share of exclusive stories before carrying his enthusiasm into management where he was known as a tough, often gruff, boss and negotiator.

Duncan Percy Hooper joined Reuters as a telephonist in 1938, but soon showed a flair for writing rather than "copytaking" other reporters' stories.

By 1943 he was reporting to Reuters from beleaguered Moscow during World War II, making a number of visits to the front lines where the Russian army was turning back Hitler's Wehrmacht.

When Russian troops entered Berlin in May, 1945, the by-then chief Moscow correspondent was with them.

Most of the world welcomed peace in 1945 but Mr Hooper found himself transferred to another trouble spot: India, where he reported the stormy years before independence and partition.

In 1948 he was seconded to AAP in Melbourne. The plan was for him to impart some Reuters expertise to AAP.

Eventually he was offered the job as AAP editor, and went on to lead the company's expansion into a national news

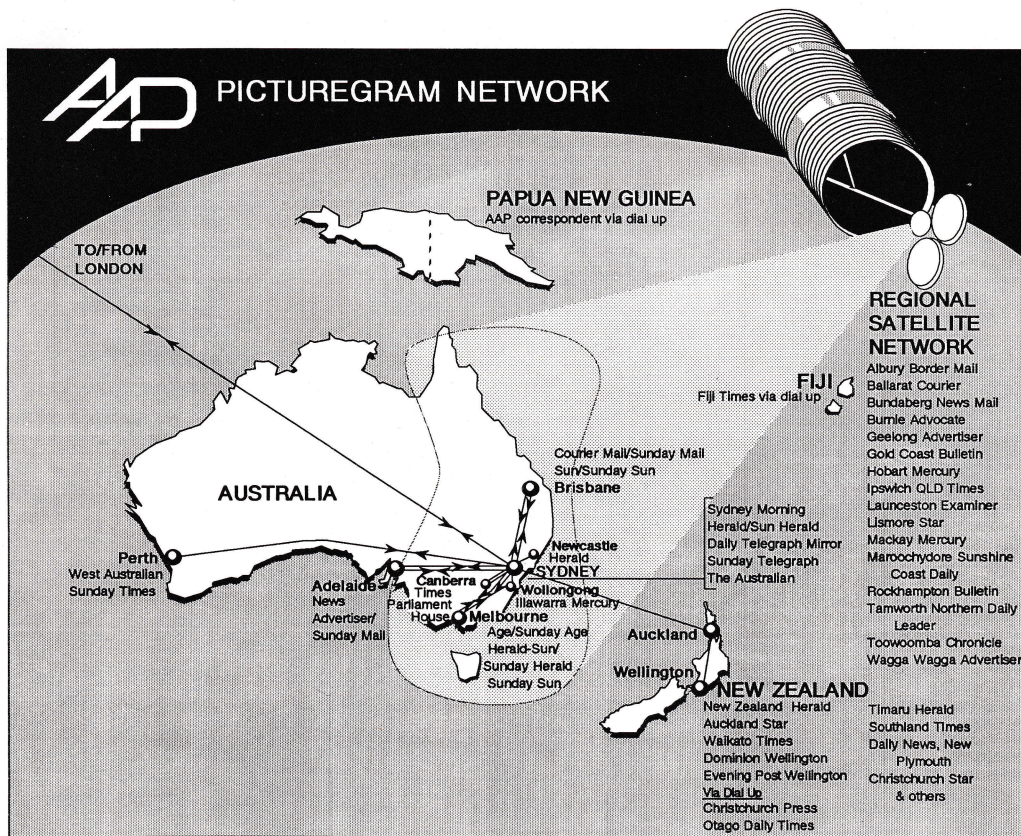
agency with its own offices in all capitals.

Before he "moved upstairs" he was involved in reporting a number of big stories, among them Britain's first atomic bomb test in 1952 off Montebello Island and the 1954 defection of Soviet diplomat Vladimir Petrov.

Just as momentous for AAP under Mr Hooper were developments in communications, from shortwave radio circuits to radio-teletype, the Compac cable which led to AAP's headquarters move from Melbourne to Sydney in 1964, and on towards the satellite and microwave services of today.

Mr Hooper received an OBE for services to journalism in 1968.

He is survived by his wife Elsie and two children.



**Solve the quiz and win fizz!**

**THE winner of the last quiz was Sydney journalist Catriona Bonfiglioli with eight correct. Answers were: 1-Samuel Beckett. 2-Six, in 1962, 67, 70, 74, 77 and 80. 3-Milton Obote. 4-Eight. 5-Winston Churchill. 6-Sicily. 7-PT 73. 8-Appomattox court house, Virginia. 9-Burke and Wills. 10-Tax evasion.**

1-In which 1942 movie did Bing Crosby sing White Christmas?

2-Name the three wise men who paid homage to the infant baby Jesus.

3-Name the only Australian to have been commemorated in Westminster Abbey's Poet's Corner.

4-During the Spanish civil war which of Francisco Franco's leaders coined the term fifth column, which refers to undercover agents operating within enemy ranks?

5-"I shall hear in heaven" were reported to be the last words of which famous European?

6-Which famous New Zealander was originally scheduled to provide the in-flight commentary on the ill-fated Air NZ jet which crashed into Mount Erebus in Antarctica, and ended up marrying the widow of the man who filed in for him?

7-Who in 1984 became the first Australians to climb Mt Everest?

8-What horse won the 1985 Melbourne Cup?

9-Located in far western New South Wales, or in suburban Melbourne, or written by Sir Walter Scott?

10-Name three US Presidents whose surnames start with the letter C.

Entries to: The Champagne Quiz, AAP TODAY, 364 Sussex Street, Sydney. The winner receives some fine French Champagne.

# Leafdesk puts future in focus

PICTURE transmission has been taken into the 21st century at AAP with the installation of a computer network which is the first of its type in the world.

The US-designed Leafdesk is being installed in over 900 newspapers in America.

Single units have been in use, but AAP's is the first network with a massive 900 picture storage capacity holding the past week's domestic and international photos.

The system enables searches for keywords on the pictures and can bring them into view within seconds.

All pictures carrying the keyword "tennis", for example, can be grouped and the desired image edited before transmission.

Operators can tone, crop, caption and enhance pictures, touch-up and repair transmission faults such as line breaks; call up pictures in colour and make adjustments, and select and queue pictures for transmission.

Twelve ports, six in and six out, provide a constant flow of

picturegrams to nearly 50 newspapers on full-time lines and many more via dialup.

The Leafdesk also has three ports available for remote portable transmitters and for future technology.

An interface direct to AAP's graphic artists' computers provides a high quality graphic service.

The hub of the picture network is a switching unit designed and built by AAP. The matrix switch controls 50 ports in and another 50 ports out to various subscriber lines and equipment.

Software within the switching unit controls the flow of pictures, deciding which newspaper receives which pictures. It also performs accounting functions to simplify billing.

The portable version of the Leafdesk, the Leafax, can be used on assignment and taken as hand luggage.

It replaces bulky darkroom and photographic print transmitters, as it scans directly from a photo negative.

The time from photographing a subject to transmission to every subscribing picture

editor's desk can be as low as 30 minutes, as proved by AAP at the Auckland Commonwealth Games.

The Games opening was photographed in colour, rushed to the media centre, developed into negative form, then edited and loaded in the Leafax.

A final publishable quality picture was on editors' desks within half an hour of the event taking place.

The AAP picturegram network incorporates the Aussat satellite transponder, leased Telecom and OTC lines and dialup facilities to transmit photographs and graphics to the media throughout Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

The company employs seven picturegram operators, two graphic artists, a picture supervisor and a photo librarian to provide its visual services.

The Associated Press files on average 100 pictures per day on the best news, sports and feature stories from around the world.

Papers also receive a daily service of up to 20 graphics.



It takes more than a barrier to put Canberra newshound Jane Robinson off the trail of her quarry.

As our photo shows, Jane found a novel way around, or at least over, the government's new measure to protect MPs arriving at Parliament from the marauding media.

She strapped her hand-held tape recorder to a golf club so she could reach interviewees, such as Foreign

## Skipping the rope

Minister Gareth Evans, shown here.

Combining business with pleasure, Jane also managed to practise her swing while waiting for the next victim. The man who initiated the rope, House of Representatives speaker Leo

McLeay, said it put "a little bit more civilisation" into the process of doorstep interviews.

For the record, Jane used the office three-iron for this shot.

Our golf correspondent, notes, however, that this was the wrong club.

Taking into account the distance to the target, angle of elevation, wind, the uphill lie and open stance, she should, in fact, have opted for a five iron.

# AAP's White knight

By BRUCE HEWITT\*

DR WARREN White, who died in Melbourne recently as a leading psychiatrist, is also well remembered for his earlier career as one of the first AAP-Reuter foreign correspondents in Asia.

For nearly a decade he covered the Asian post-war trouble spots.

In 1949 he wrote a prophecy from Korea that made his name and gave needed recognition to the budding AAP-Reuter Pacific News Service.

His widely-used story said that if the American army withdrew from South Korea, the communist armies in the north would immediately invade the south.

It happened, and White had to be hurried back from another troubled area, Indonesia, to report the invasion.

He had learned about war as a 20-year-old bomb aimer in the RAF's famous 617 Dambuster squadron over Europe, attacking heavily-guarded targets with 10-ton "earthquake" bombs, the RAF's biggest.

He emerged from Korea battle-scarred but with enough in the bank to begin studying medicine at Melbourne University in 1957.

During university holidays over the next six years he became a familiar figure at AAP, always good to have on the news desks and a frequent help in medical troubles.

Much later, and from his own experience and friendship, chief executive Lee Casey was to say that no-one could know or repay what Warren White had gladly done for AAP even when he was gravely ill himself.

Mr Casey represented the AAP group at Dr White's funeral in Melbourne.

Former general manager Duncan Hooper, who recruited Warren White from The Age and appointed him to Asia, delivered a eulogy on his career and remarkable character.

\*Bruce Hewitt, now retired after 20 years with AAP, was a colleague and lifelong friend of Dr White.

# Racing certainty

THE seventh volume of AAP's glossy racing annual *Class Racehorses*, on sale now, has received the nod of approval from the Prime Minister and the "Cups King".

Bob Hawke, an avid racegoer, has written the introduction, and top trainer Bart Cummings has endorsed the book for advertising purposes.

Both already have all volumes of *Class Racehorses* in their libraries.

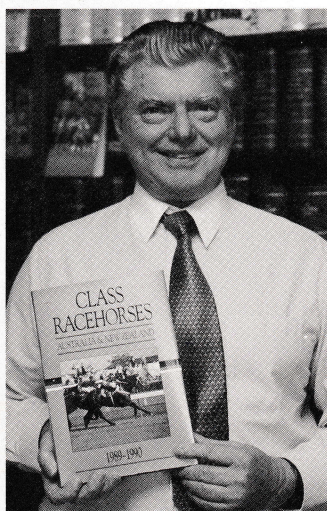
"Every owner and successful professional horseman needs *Class Racehorses*," said Bart.

"It's a top class book and has proven an invaluable reference."

"Australia has waited a long time for an annual racing publication of this quality," said the Prime Minister.

"I am sure it will continue to be an indispensable part of racing literature."

*Class Racehorses* is already well established in Australia



Bart picks a winner

and New Zealand but its reputation is spreading to other corners of the world.

Recently Angus Gold, a UK-based thoroughbred expert, purchased a complete set on behalf of his famous client Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, one of the world's biggest and most successful owners.

He was so keen to obtain *Class Racehorses* that all volumes of the book were rushed by air express - the cost of delivery was almost double the price of the books.

*Class Racehorses* is also sold in Ireland, Norway, France, USA, Japan, Singapore, Switzerland and South Africa.

As always, volume seven provides a complete record of the noteworthy performances of the season, from the Melbourne Cup triumph of Tarrific and his tearful rider Shane Dye to Horlicks' epic victory in the Japan Cup, the first ever by a southern hemisphere horse.

All group one races in Australia and New Zealand are detailed, with in-depth analyses by a team of specialist writers plus full season's form and records for each group one winner.

Volume seven's price has been retained at \$85 but a special discount price is available to AAP staff.