



Fairfax

**ANDREW JASPAN
APPOINTED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *THE AGE***

MELBOURNE, July 22, 2004 – Andrew Jaspán, the founder and editor of the *Sunday Herald* in Scotland since 1999, has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of *The Age*. Mr Jaspán has previously served as Editor of *The Observer*, Editor of *The Scotsman*, and Editor of *Scotland on Sunday*.

Mr Fred Hilmer, Chief Executive Officer of Fairfax, publisher of *The Age*, said, “We have appointed a world class editor for a world class newspaper. Andrew has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence in journalism and executive leadership. He brings an outstanding record of achievement that will serve *The Age* and Melbourne exceptionally well.

“*The Age* has grown and improved significantly under Michael Gawenda. He has brought a period of stability to the paper when it was needed, restoring a sense of balance and integrity to the paper. He implemented an improved design and layout to attract new readers and played a critical role in the transition to the new printing plant at Tullamarine. During Michael’s time as editor, *The Age* has received numerous awards for quality journalism and he has personally received recognition for his strong and courageous decision-making in the role.

“At 150 years young, and with the next editor-in-chief now appointed, I am confident that *The Age*’s best years are yet ahead.”

Mr Mark Scott, Editor-in-Chief, Metropolitan Newspapers, said, “Andrew is a proven leader who has demonstrated skill in building great newspapers through agenda-setting journalism, innovation and creativity. He shares Fairfax’s commitment to quality journalism of the highest integrity.”

Mr Hilmer said he intended to meet regularly with Mr Jaspán who will join Fairfax’s Executive Management Team (EMT).

Mr Jaspan said:

"I met Michael Gawenda in Melbourne and we get on well. I am impressed with both his professionalism and the paper he edits with such distinction. We discussed a broad range of issues and he extended to me his commitment to continue playing a leading role for *The Age* in Washington at an immensely important time. He also agreed to my request to help and advise me on editorial matters across the board. I know we will work well together.

"I am looking forward to meeting the senior team and the staff and working with them to develop the papers further. I am honoured to be offered this opportunity to lead *The Age*. The secret to the continued success of the paper lies in all of us working together as a team. Our goal is to deliver the best possible paper to our readers.

"I have met with other members of Fairfax's executive team. Their commitment to quality journalism and to strive for the highest standards in every aspect of the newspapers impressed me enormously.

"I am delighted that Fred Hilmer has invited me to join the EMT, and to participate with the company's other most senior executives in overall corporate issues.

"It's an enormous opportunity and I can't wait to come out with my family to start."

Michael Gawenda, who will formally step down as Editor-in-Chief later this year, said, "I wish Andrew every success. *The Age* is a great newspaper and a great newspaper to edit."

Mr Jaspan will formally join the paper in October. In the interim, as Managing Editor, Simon Mann will assume day-to-day responsibility for the paper.

Career Background

Editor:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| The Sunday Herald | 1999 to date |
| The Big Issue, Publisher and MD | 1996-98 |
| The Observer | 1995-96 |
| The Scotsman | 1994-95 |

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Scotland on Sunday | 1989-94 |
| Sunday Times Scotland | 1988-89 |

The *Sunday Herald* is currently Sunday Newspaper of the Year in Scotland and also the overall Newspaper of the Year. In the recent UK Newspaper Industry Awards (2004) the *Sunday Herald* was runner-up to the *Sunday Times* as Sunday newspaper of the year.

-- ENDS --

Contact

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Mark Scott | 02 9282 3855 |
| Bruce Wolpe | 02 9282 3640 |