

## **Prime Minister opens our archive de triumph**

### ***n100 YEARS OF HERALD PHOTOGRAPHY***

*Tony Stephens*

THERE are 16 million photographic negatives in the Fairfax archives, dating back to 1908, when the cameras were made of wood and the negatives made on glass plates.

From these negatives came photographs such as the poignant 1926 shot of hatted women farewelling the Japanese ship *Tango Maru*, which carried passengers between Australia and Japan. In 1944, the *Tango Maru*, with 3500 Javanese labourers and Allied prisoners of war on board, was sunk by a US submarine, killing 3000.

There is Fred Halmarick's picture of the Duke of York, who was to become King George VI, visiting Australia with his duchess in 1927, and Halmarick's photo of the great arch of Sydney Harbour Bridge coming together in 1930.

There are pictures of Frank Sinatra drinking tea at Mascot in 1961, of helicopters and Australian soldiers on patrol in Vietnam in 1965, of the last man to hang in Australia, Ronald Ryan, being led to court in 1966.

There is Steve and Mark Waugh as twin teenagers in 1985. There are pictures from the war in Iraq in 2003 and from the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami in Banda Aceh.

There are pictures of the Great White Fleet, sent to Sydney in 1908 by US President Teddy Roosevelt. And there is a 1912 picture by Herbert Fishwick, the man who introduced the long lens to sports photography, of a man riding an ostrich outside Temora. The negative for the ostrich picture yields no further details but, as Herald photographer Mike Bowers says, "the image stands on its own for its simple absurdity".

These and many more photos appear in *Century Of Pictures: 100 Years Of Herald Photography*, edited by Bowers and launched by the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, at the new Berkelouw Books store in Newtown yesterday.

Mr Rudd said it was a tumultuous day for those in the Fairfax family and a tumultuous year for newspapers. He said it was important in these challenging times to be reminded of the necessity for diversity in the media, to keep governments and public institutions accountable and to service the Australian public.

Mr Rudd noted that the dotcom technological revolution had brought forecasts that newspapers, books, booksellers and even cinemas would die. Rather, Australians were buying more books and the internet was changing media businesses.

Bowers pointed out that, in its first 75 years, the Herald did not publish a single photograph. It remained unconvinced that photography would be part of its future until Roosevelt sent the fleet, attracting the biggest gathering of people in the history of the colonies and of the federated nation.

Mr Rudd said he had sent copies of the Herald photos to President George Bush, and they hang in the White House and the Pentagon.

Some photos in the book are well known. Others have not been sighted since the day they were taken. The discoveries include a short film of Donald Bradman batting.

*Century Of Pictures* (RRP \$59.95) or \$40 direct\* from The Sydney Morning Herald. Phone 1300 656 059 or see [smhshop.com.au/books](http://smhshop.com.au/books). \*Postage and handling fees apply.

***Classification:***  
*Culture/Photography*