



Penrith MUSEUM of PRINTING

NEWS: August 2019

New additions to the museum:

The Columbian:



The Columbian donated by Fairfax was repainted and positioned in a pride of place. The machine was invented in 1816 and considered a major breakthrough and in fact the SMH was printed on this type of press some 140 years ago. This particular model, number 937 was manufactured in England in 1841.

Delivered by ship to Sydney then transported by Bullock cart across the Blue mountains in 1872 where it commenced printing the Carcoar Chronicle until 1939 when the publication ceased. It sat rusting in the backyard until bought by John Fairfax and Sons Ltd in 1973.

The machine was restored by engineering apprentices of the company to perfect working order and on display at Fairfax HQ until recently. This press will now be the oldest piece of operating equipment in our fine museum. We will have it operating as part of our tours alongside the Albion 1864 model.

Bexley printing house:



We have also acquired an Intertype, a Pearl, a Heidelberg platen, which will all be taking key positions, plus some racks of hand set in wooden cases which will add to our existing hand set type. We plan to have the composing room redesigned to enable visitors to get up close and personal to this fine art and actually have a chance to learn a skill which will be terrific for the various classes the Museums runs.

This equipment came from Bexley, a Commercial printer which closed in 2005/6 and sat exactly as it was since, the machines were simply just turned off, we expect to have this kit running shortly.

There are many thanks to members who helped with the transition of this kit, and also the truck driver Peter and George who moved the equipment, it was quite a task.

One point of note from Bexley was that a member of the Family donating the gear from the 1800's worked for the Carcoar Chronicle which was where our Columbian Press came from originally!!