

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

NewsCentral update

Colleagues,

Today I can announce the dates for two major editorial production moves for Cumberland Courier.

As you may be aware, we have been working on a project to integrate production of our Courier mastheads with News Ltd editorial systems.

Cyber training for staff now using Saxotech will begin on March 10.

The Five Dock office is scheduled to cut over to Cyber in the week starting March 17, and the Alexandria office in the week starting March 24.

The project allows for a further six weeks for production to settle in and Courier staff to become fluent on Cyber.

Confirmation of those dates means I can today announce a target date for all of our mastheads beyond Manly Daily and North Shore Times to be subbed within NewsCentral.

That date is May 17.

These decisions open the way for the Company to immediately schedule discussions with each sub-editor about your personal arrangements for moving in to Holt St.

Cumberland Courier Head of News Trevor Seymour and Human Resources Manager Jody Masina will meet each of you to work through your pay increase and changes to your working conditions. We will be in touch later today and tomorrow to set times with each of you for these discussions.

There will also be the opportunity for you to meet NewsCentral Managing Editor Anne Fussell and Production Editor Chris Topp and work through any queries you may have about NewsCentral operations.

While pay and grading are specific to each individual, we can give you some information about common issues.

There is no change of employer for any sub-editor. Each of you is now employed by Nationwide News through the business unit of Cumberland Courier. Once you move to Holt St, you will continue to be employed by Nationwide News, through the business unit of NewsCentral NSW.

Each of you will receive a letter confirming your pay and conditions, confirming that your entitlements such as annual leave and long service leave will carry forward, and welcoming you to NewsCentral.

There's been concern from a few people about gradings. This will be addressed with each of you in your individual discussion, however the Company is also working towards setting up a review for each of you after an initial period of probably six months, to ensure that the terms and conditions for you are fair and appropriate for both parties.

We are also very aware of the concern for our sub-editors at Gosford. We are working very hard to seek a solution to what is a very complex situation, and will advise the staff concerned as soon as we can.

NewsCentral is being established as a centre of excellence for producing News Ltd products. All NewsCentral staff will work on a blend of all of these products. This blend will evolve over a period of time. Career development opportunities will be available to all staff.

Staff seeking additional information are encouraged to speak to me, Trevor Seymour or Jody Masina.

I am excited at what NewsCentral can offer you in your career, and look forward to working with you to make the most of this opportunity.

BOB OSBURN,
Editor-in-Chief.