

## **Searching for *Hungappa*: the collation and digitisation of a student magazine**

by Toby Mobbs

The Australian university student magazine *Hungappa* began publication in 1989 as a replacement for *Barph* magazine by Charles Sturt University Rivcoll Union Inc. on the Wagga Wagga Campus. *Hungappa* is an Aboriginal term meaning 'to spread the word' in the Wiradjuri language. The magazine provides the university with a unique student voice and remains in print today by the Rivcoll Student Representative Committee (SRC). This report will discuss the collation and digitisation of *Hungappa* which began in 2014.

The project involved two main aspects, the location of missing issues and the digitisation of the entire collection. As legal deposit (the legal process of providing published material to a national or state government collecting institution) for the publication ceased within the Australian National Library and the State Library of New South Wales in 1997 and 1998 respectively, and the Charles Sturt University Regional Archives in 2007, a complete collection of *Hungappa* by a single institution did not exist. Further to this, several issues were found to be missing within this legal deposit period.



*Hungappa* collections from the National Library of Australia and State Library of NSW

Issues were located in a number of ways after assessing copies from all three collecting institutions. A personal collection from 2010 to 2012 with minimal missing issues was able to be used and was the instigation of the project. Three local printeries of *Hungappa* both past and present were then contacted. Two were able to salvage a handful of physical copies that were used as reference material and a small collection was still held after changing ownership. This ownership change unfortunately meant there had been a purge of all previous files, including any possible digital copies. The location of older issues through this method was made impossible due to the lack of physical copies kept, and no digital copies having been used in the printing methods at the time. CSU Rivcoll SRC members were contacted, resulting in the location of digital copies from various hard drives and email correspondence, along with the downloading of a small public online collection from Issuu. On-campus CSU staff and students were able to provide personal collections for loan and donation. An expression of interest was also publicised online and through radio for past staff and students that may have collections to fill gaps. A list of past *Hungappa* editors and Rivcoll presidents were contacted early in the project. Some were able to provide, over a period of time, a substantial amount of personal digital copies.

The digitisation process was the second stage in the project and was undertaken on and off over a period of months at CSU Regional Archives. Physical collections of *Hungappa* were scanned into digital format and kept along with born-digital originals. This enabled loaned collections to be returned and an offer to provide those that made donations and loans to be given a digital copy upon the project's completion. Due to the various sizes of the magazine through the years, a standardised scanning process could not be maintained. These size variations occurred throughout the publication's history; initially created as an A3 spread, the magazine changed to an A4 size, spent a small number of years as an A5, and then went back to the current A4 format. Maintaining the order of *Hungappa* issues while scanning was at times difficult due to publication errors of issue and page numbers. A point of interest was noted in the differences between the born-digital issues and the printed issues. The printed issues were produced using ink of only one colour, meaning most readers of the magazine never saw the true colour content and pictures.

The process of digitising physical *Hungappa*, while time consuming, encountered few problems. When difficulties did arise, these were often associated with the location of issues. A key problem encountered was the inability to identify if a missing copy was in fact published. This was due to the three collecting institutions holding incomplete sets of *Hungappa*. Due to the issues having been printed a decade or two ago, there were no records or available first-hand accounts to consult. While a missed week/fortnight/month was sometimes mentioned in the following release, this was not always the case and numbering errors added to the problem. Due to this, some issues that are currently believed to be missing may have not been published at all. A second difficulty involved tracking down past editors and presidents of *Hungappa* to consult and seek both physical and digital copies. Contact details from editors and presidents could be sourced within approximately the last 15 years, however anything past this became increasingly difficult.

The importance of this project was one of collating a complete collection in a medium that could be accessible to past, present, and future students, as well as members of the wider community and to capture the university's unique student voice. This principal was of great importance after discovering regular deposits of *Hungappa* had ceased at the three primary collecting institutions with the result that many issues could not be accounted for. From a personal perspective, the project gave a glimpse into the history of the University and the student social life. I also found the process rewarding by locating issues in obscure ways and tracking down potentially helpful people and businesses.

This project of collation and digitisation of the *Hungappa* student magazine had two goals. The first was to not only source and digitise the full 25 years' worth of *Hungappa*, but to make them available online to view. The second is to reinstate legal deposit to the three collecting institutions of CSU Regional Archives, the State Library of New South Wales, and the National Library of Australia. Once both these goals are completed, the project will have enabled the preservation of *Hungappa's* insight into the unique rural student perspective.



**Source: Fiona Halloran**

<http://news.csu.edu.au/latest-news/arts-and-culture/csu-puts-hungappa-on-the-record#.VBjzBkuI3nZ>

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The National Library of Australia

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