



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

FACULTY OF ARTS

Adelaide Summer Research Scholarship 2020-2021

Filling the Vacuum: Start-up Media in the Local News Landscape

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The pace of change in the local news media landscape in Australia has been rapidly accelerated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. A sharp drop in advertising, along with other factors, has contributed to newspaper closures and shifts to online-only publishing, most recently by News Corp Australia. However, some of the gaps in the news landscape are being filled by local start-up media, in some cases run by journalists and in others by people with no media background, but with an interest in local news and community-building.

As the pace of newspaper closure has accelerated during COVID-19, so too has the growth of such online-only outlets.

This summer scholarship project will explore the growing numbers and diversity of these publications – identifying examples of such outlets nationally, compiling a database of outlets and analysing key points of difference and similarity between them. It will also include development of a scholarly article which the student will co-author for submission to a high-quality peer-reviewed journal.

The student will gain the following research skills and experience;

- review literature in the area of local news publishing
- gather and collate data from a range of sources
- compile a database
- analyse key differences between outlet types and outputs.

The student will bring all of these skills together in the process of co-authoring a journal article.