Guide to Trove Newspaper Searching

The National Library of Australia's database Trove has a section devoted to digitised newspapers, featuring hundreds of newspaper titles that have been digitised to cover periods from the early 1800s through to the 1950s. The newspaper database can be found here - https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/?q=

The best way to find articles about the offender is to enter their full name in the search function within quotation marks, e.g. "William King", then refine the results returned by the options provided at the left-hand side of the screen.

The first step to refining results is by selecting colony or state in which the offender's convictions occurred under the 'Place' filter, e.g. Victoria. This means that only newspapers that were published in Victoria will be searched.

If a large number of results are still being returned, the next filter to be applied should be 'Category', with 'Article' selected. This will filter out anything that the computer thinks is not a newspaper article, such as advertisements.

Note that there is an option under the 'Category' filter that is labelled 'Law, Courts, And Crime'. Using this filter is NOT recommended, as it only detects a very small proportion of the digitised articles that actually relate to crime.

If a large number of results are still showing, the next filter to apply is the Decade filter, selecting the decade that the individual was convicted within. Once this has been done, it is possible to filter down further, to the precise year and month of conviction. Only news articles published in that year and month will be shown.

Note that if the prison record indicated that the prisoner was known by aliases, then these additional names may also need to be searched on separately.