

## Report to the Ryerson Index Inc Annual General Meeting – 13 November 2019

The Financial Year reporting period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 has been a mixed bag.

### **July 4<sup>th</sup> East Gosford Probus Club.**

I was invited to this group which just happens to meet in my Retirement Village. There were 40 persons present and I was surprised by the interest shown in my talk as there were only 3 people present who are doing their family history. The questions which flowed showed that people could be interested in using the index just simply to find out who might have passed away etc, just for personal reasons. There is no likelihood of any further follow up.

### **August 24 Blue Mountains FHS Seminar Day – Springwood**

I was one of 4 guest speakers and an attendance by registration of 50 persons.

This was a well organised day and a great deal of interest was shown in our activities.

The President and I discussed the possibility of a follow up in 2020. He is keen for his Society to take on the Blue Mountains papers as a project.

### **October 5 Campbelltown Family History Group**

40 attendees.... 1.00 pm Saturday afternoon meeting

This event was engineered by Shari McLean, a resident of the district and a frequent user of the Campbelltown Library facilities. She has good contacts there and this was evidenced by the response when she gave in her 10 minute presentation of how she became involved with Ryerson, how she functions as an indexer and her vision to head up a team of volunteers to back index the papers of the Campbelltown and Macarthur districts to the 1800's.

She has the support of the President of the Group, Robert Palmer.

We had a good discussion with him as to the possibility of a combined workshop with Camden and Picton Groups in 2020.

### **October 11-13 NSWACT AFHS Annual Conference at Knox Grammar School.**

This was a most successful event from our perspective

The venue was excellent, the organisation by the local Ku-ring-gai Society was well done as most of the load fell on the shoulders of 2 people.

The display area (58 tables) and the free lectures were all conducted in the Great Hall which is the size of 3 basketball courts. The highly polished floor was covered by carpet for the occasion.

It is understood that the number of day visitors was less than expected.

Shari McLean assisted on the open day on Friday.

Her contributions are appreciated and are most valuable.

During the period of the Conference contacts were made.....

1. A potential new indexer from the Wollongong area came with a USB stick wishing to set up her Macintosh computer. After providing her with a Mac version of the indexing software, I spent time with her explaining what is expected of her. I gave her the Indexing test program etc to get her going. She wished to work on the defunct paper, The South Coast Times-Wollongong Argus. She is a member of the Illawarra FH Group from Wollongong and knows our indexer, Judith Hansen. Unfortunately, I have never heard from her since.
2. I had discussions with several different FH Group Presidents resulting in agreement with the following to proceed to research and hold talks or workshops in 2020.
  - a. **Camden** President, Tony Jackson is excited to team up with Camden and Picton at Camden.
  - b. **Nepean and Colo Shire Groups** would like to hold a workshop and hope to be able to arrange for other nearby Societies to join, also for 2020. To be held at Emu plains
  - c. **Botany Bay FH Group** wanted us back for their Annual Fair on 2nd May 2020. They also have a new President and Secretary. who have proposed a return visit for a talk at a future monthly meeting. The date to be confirmed.

They have a considerable number of new members since my last talk in November 2016. They also want to hear about our latest innovations.

**3. Canberra – HAGSOC**

Then Vice President, Jenny Higgins, discussed with me what we need, and she offered to see how they can help with the Canberra Times.... A separate report was sent to our Committee. Nothing has eventuated to date.

**4. Young FH group....** A member of this group spent some time with me and as I progressed an information session with her, she took photos of my screen so that she can talk to her Committee about our Index. She sees merit in combining with other nearby groups e.g. **Boorowa, Grenfell, and others**

I have sent her an amount of material and have offered to work with her if something emerges from her efforts.

**5. SMH back copies**

Jo Harris from the Ku-ring-gai Society approached me as she had carried on after Joyce Ryerson's death in saving SMH notices. Subsequently I have visited her home and seen the collection she has from 2006 to date.

As previously reported to the Committee I have completed scans of 2 years and currently have another 2 years of copies awaiting my attention. Whilst there are a few odd days missing we will eventually fill the missing gaps in the RNR.

There were no more FHS visits for the remainder of 2019 and none in 2020.

The period between October 2019 and 31 January 2020 was spent in setting up appointments when visits were planned for the first 5 months from January to May and hopefully the State Conference in September.

I had visits booked for Camden, Nepean, Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest, Botany Bay and Lake Macquarie/Toronto and was negotiating with Canberra, and Blue Mountains.

Expressions of interest were also received at the Conference from Central Coast and Wyong Societies.

We now wait to see what will happen when the FH groups get back into their stride.

**Apple/Macintosh computers** ..... We now have a Mac version of version 7 of the indexing program working well.

**Bob Atkins  
Special Projects**

**11 November 2020**

**RNR report**

November 2018	190 Gb	14,548 folders	229,096 files
15 October 2019	243 Gb	19,000 plus folders	318,000 plus files
11 November 2020	285 Gb	22,120 folders	347,587 files