

RYERSON INDEX INCOPORATED Inc. 9890325

**Minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting
held on Monday 5 November 2018 at 11.30 am
SKYPE**

The Meeting was opened at 11.59 am

Present:

John Graham: President

Peter Kettle : Vice President

Pauline Kettle : Secretary

Therese Delanty : Treasurer

Maxine Honczar : Training Co-ordinator. Committee Member

Bob Atkins – Special Assignments - Committee Member

Dawn Montgomery – Ryerson Member

John Nance – Ryerson Member

Apologies - Alan Nancarrow – Back Indexing Co-Ordinator

Apologies from Members:

Sharyn Walsh; Margaret Boots; Megan Domanski; Valerie Thornton; Shirley Bishop; Jean Williams; Judith Hansen; Michel Bruce; Judith Hill; Sue Suttle; Marie Hoffman; Kay Brooks; Sandra Bales; David Bales; Bill Shute; Monica Jones; Robyn Golby; Maggie Heffernam; Noel Hanrahan; Bev Fryer; Shari Lei-McLean; Patricia Hayward; Annet Latham.

Minutes of the last AGM held on 6 November 2017

The Minutes were taken as read.

Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed : Robert Atkins

Seconded : John Nance

There were no matters arising from these Minutes.

President's Report

Welcome everyone to our tenth AGM as an incorporated organisation, held again at Baulkham Hills, thanks to the hospitality of Peter and Pauline. Welcome especially to those attending by Skype.

This year marks the retirement of one of our long-serving committee members. Alan Nancarrow is not standing for re-election, having served on the committee since our incorporation in 2008 in various positions, most recently as the Back-Indexing Coordinator. We sincerely thank Alan for his service to Ryerson, particularly the many hours spent scanning Joyce's original notices to form what eventually evolved into the RNR.

I'd also like to acknowledge the passing of Sybil Jones, our first indexer. At the DPS meeting on 10 Oct 1998, Sybil was the first person to put her hand up when I called for indexers, and she (with husband Peter as proof-reader) indexed the Daily Telegraph for the next 18 years. Sybil now has her own entry in Ryerson – from the Daily Telegraph, of course!

While last year was our best year ever on many fronts, this year has been one of consolidation. We added 486,966 records to Ryerson during the year which, while down on the past few years, is still a very impressive achievement.

Our new software continued to perform even better than we had hoped. It has saved a considerable amount of time by reducing the time taken for both the daily database update and the weekly website update. Rex and I produced a new version of the software in July this year, incorporating some enhancements which we had identified as necessary while running the software for nine months following its introduction, and after some months of testing, this version is now our production version.

Our corporate sponsorship list continues to grow, with Perpetual joining during the year. That brings to eight the number of corporate sponsors, and their contributions each year assist significantly in our ability to keep Ryerson in the forefront of the Australian genealogical community.

This is also helped by our regular attendance at various conferences and fairs. Bob Atkins has now taken on the responsibility of representing Ryerson at many events, particularly in Sydney and southern NSW, in areas too far away from Toowoomba for me to attend easily or economically.

A by-product of Bob's attendance at one of these fairs was the formation of an indexing group at Maitland, which is now well into back-indexing the Maitland Mercury. Another indexing group is in the pipeline for the Milton-Ulladulla area, and having Bob available to roll out this process to interested societies is a real plus for Ryerson. Our website continues to be one of the most reliable in the genealogical world. During the past year we had a total of 107 minutes of known outages, which represents 99.98% availability. It is a real tribute to the excellent support provided by Rob McDonnell. In addition, our Facebook page has now passed 4,000 Likes.

Our financial position continues to be very sound. I will leave Therese to provide the dollar details in the Treasurer's report.

The excellent committee overseeing Ryerson deserves a vote of thanks for keeping everything running smoothly. As I mentioned earlier, Alan is not standing for re-election, but all other committee members are and I urge you to support them with your vote.

Aside from the formal committee positions, we have two non-committee members who carry out a huge amount of work behind the scenes. Bill Shute acts as mentor to new indexers, making sure they start out on the right track, and he makes my job infinitely easier by identifying and fixing problems before they become big problems.

Dawn Montgomery oversees the indexing of most of the Queensland papers, particularly the Courier Mail, performing a similar role to Bill in ensuring the quality of the Queensland indexing is as good as it can be.

Our project to catch up with the SMH Funeral Notices (which were left unindexed on our original pass through the SMH) continues, as it will for some time yet, with Peter Kettle and Roy Vickers making inroads into the missing notices.

So, on behalf of the Committee, I thank all of you – indexers, gatherers and lookers-uppers for your efforts during the past year, and feel confident in saying that the current year will see another milestone, as we pass seven million records.

Proposed : Peter Kettle, Seconded : Maxine Honczar
Accepted

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report

General correspondence received from local history groups, enquiries about Ryerson, Applications to index, donations.

Peter and Pauline Kettle represented Ryerson at the 15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, held in Sydney in March which ran over 4 days. Robert Atkins kindly assisted us on Friday which was the open day for the public. The Ryerson table was busy although whilst many who visited us used the site it was found that a large number were not conversant with the new search facilities.

Proposed : John Graham
Seconded : Therese Delanty
Accepted

Treasurer's Report

Balance as at 30 June 2018 - \$27,097.69

- The full report for the financial year 2017-2018 is tabled on "Resources for Indexers".

Proposed : John Nance
Seconded : John Graham
Accepted

Back Indexing Coordinator's Report

Alan Nancarrow submitted the following –

Work on the back indexing of The Age is proceeding at a good pace. The indexing has now reached back into Trove, with the last allocation of 1949 to Kathy Conroy.

Craige Hicks continues to scan The Age and has now reached back to 1962.

The two years (1991/92) of The Age microfilm I had has now been sent to Colleen Yuke who found a place to scan and copy the film. That project is in most capable hands.

Comments from the floor regarding back indexing -

Having taken over this back indexing from Alan, Peter Kettle commented that emphasis will be placed on indexing notices published over the past 30 years which will cover the non-availability of official records.

Therese Delanty enquired how the Melbourne Herald Sun and The Age were progressing. The general situation was summarized by Peter Kettle as follows –

Herald Sun and The Age are being indexed but there are still many gaps to fill in.

Sydney Morning Herald is well covered.

Adelaide Advertiser is slowly progressing but still has many gaps

The West Australian is proving difficult due to access back issues.

Courier Mail is running smoothly.

Proposed : John Nance

Seconded : Dawn Montgomery

Accepted

Training Coordinator's Report

Maxine Honczar submitted the following for 2017/18

13 enquiries
5 completed
1 with 1 attempt
7 No attempts

Proposed : Peter Kettle
Seconded : John Graham

Accepted.

Election of Committee

In accordance with the Constitution nominations forms were circulated to all registered Ryerson members. Nomination forms were received by Peter Kettle.

The President John Graham thanked the retiring committee for their contribution during the year and Bill Shute who has been assisting behind the scenes with indexed submissions.

All members of the Committee stood down.

Nominations received to serve as committee members -

John Graham
Peter Kettle
Pauline Kettle
Therese Delanty
Maxine Honczar
Robert Atkins

Resignation was received from Alan Nancarrow.

No additional nominations to stand as officers were received.

The committee elected for 2018/2019

John Graham - President
Peter Kettle - Vice President
Pauline Kettle - Secretary
Therese Delanty - Treasurer
Maxine Honczar - Committee Member & Training Coordinator
Bob Atkins – Special Assignments & Committee Member

It was noted by John Graham that only 6 places had been filled, but the remaining Committee Member required would be filled at a later date. Our constitution allows the Committee to fill a vacancy by appointment.

General Business.

There was no further business raised.

The meeting closed at 12.25 pm