

RYERSON INDEX INC COMMITTEE MEETING

27 January 2016 at 11am

Skype

The Meeting opened at 11am.

Present –

John Graham, President
Peter Kettle, Vice President
Pauline Kettle, Secretary
Alan Nancarrow – Back Indexing Coordinator
Bill Shute –Mentor for new indexers
Bob Atkins – Special Assignment – by invitation

Apologies:

Maxine Honczar - Training Coordinator.

Minutes:

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 4th November 2015 were taken as read.

Proposed John Graham, seconded Bill Shute

Matters Arising:

None

President's Report:

- Successful 3 months, since last meeting
- Approximately 8,000 entries per week – now slowing down since the completion of the SMH back indexing.
- 307 papers now being indexed.
- Re article for SMH as mentioned at the last meeting – no contact has been made by them to date.
- World Vital Records – supply of Ryerson files to them has been cancelled. No contact has been made by them to continue.
- Digital subscription to The Age and Sydney Morning Herald is not necessary now as it is now available through The National Library facility back to 2006.
- News Corp – see discussion in General Business.
- A new corporate sponsor – Geelong Grammar. They have taken two years of data and are using it for the Alumni.

Proposed Bill Shute, seconded Therese Delanty.

Matters Arising from the President's Report:

Bill Shute enquired about the size of the new WA papers being indexed from Press Display. John commented that they were small papers.

Secretary's Report:

Incoming/Outgoing Mail:

- Taree Family History Fair 6 March. Megan Domanski will be representing Ryerson.
- Botany Bay Family History Society 2016 Heritage Fair, 7 May, 10am-4pm. The fair will include crafts, merchandise sales, research/information tables. Cost of table will be way of a donation for the raffle. Bob Atkins said he would be happy to attend and can take his laptop and wifi. Therese Delanty also volunteered to attend. It was agreed that a table would be booked.
- Gippsland ABC requested a spokesman from Ryerson to appear on their breakfast show. John Graham was able to assist resulting in a broadcast on 12 December 2015.
- A request from a Warrnambool resident asking why we were not indexing their local paper.
- Request to place a message on our site when new/specific names appear after our update.
- Enquiry regarding the Merredin (WA) paper - an offer was made to get notices for us when visiting the town. A suggestion was made for us to contact the funeral director there for their records. [Note – this was discussed but comment was made that the records may not reflect all the notices published in the paper]
- Request from genealogy site <http://linage.tilbury.net.au> to receive our data regarding the name of Tilbury. John replied to that request.
- Request from Geelong Grammar for our data. John replied.
- Marketsoft have forwarded their donation for our data.
- Peter Kettle remarked that there were about 8 queries about our outage. 4 emails relating to correction required.
- The secretary remarked that the new system of addresses for Secretary, Administration and Training is working well.

Proposed Bill Shute, seconded Alan Nancarrow.

Treasurer's Report –

The financial position at 26 Jan 2016 is:

ANZ Cheque a/c	\$1,207.90
ANZ Term Deposit #9702	\$5,551.50 Matures July
ANZ Term Deposit #9985	\$5,631.18 Matures May
ING	\$20,542.60
TOTAL	\$32,933.18

It was decided to put \$10,000 into ING Term Deposit.

Proposed Bill Shute, seconded John Graham.

Back Indexing Coordinator's Report – Alan Nancarrow:

- Missing dates from The Age 2014 are being addressed.
- Toowoomba Chronicle current indexing is being done by Alan Nancarrow and back indexing for 2015 being indexed from Press Display.

Proposed Therese Delanty, seconded Peter Kettle.

Training Coordinator's Report - Maxine Honczar:

From the date of the last meeting, the current situation was emailed by Maxine Honzcar for the meeting
8 enquiries
2 completed
4 no attempts
1 with only 1 attempt
1 change of mind.

Proposed John Graham, seconded Bill Shute

Mentor for New Indexers – Bill Shute:

A few enquiries have been made regarding indexing which were easily resolved.

Proposed Pauline Kettle, seconded Therese Delanty.

Special Assignment – Bob Atkins

A report was presented to the Committee for comment. The report is attached to the Minutes.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Corporate Sponsor update (John Graham)

emails were sent out to 5 existing sponsors on 9 Jan.

Experian (was Pacific Micro) response Jan 19 – “I am arranging the next payment now.”

MarketSoft paid

Veda response Jan 10 – “I will organise payment ASAP”

NSW T&G response Jan 11 – “I have forwarded your email to the

Executive for approval, and I believe that they are amenable to continuing the association between NSW Trustee and Guardian and the Ryerson Index. We have found the data to be immensely useful.”

Sydney Uni no response (maybe on hols?)

Geelong Grammar (new sponsor) paid

Follow up emails to go out with the update of 6 Feb for those still unpaid.

Progress with new software (John Graham)

Rex Toomey delivered a testing version of the daily update process just before Christmas, and I have been running each day's data through it to identify any problems. Nine issues identified and reported so far.

Newscorp and PressDisplay (John Graham)

News from Stephanie Ryan (SLQ) is that something called ANZ Newsstand is coming “any day now”. Nothing to do with ANZ bank, but she thinks it's similar to PD. Maybe News Corp is moving over to ANZ? If so, it's a stupid move to cut off the old before the new is ready.

We are stymied for Hobart (major), Cairns (minor) and Mossman (piddly) papers at the moment, but I think we're struggling through with the remainder.

One good thing which came out of the whole exercise – I went through PD checking the newspapers, and found all the WAN papers which had been added in the second half of last year.

Website Instability (John Graham)

Ryerson went through a period of almost daily failures about two weeks ago, which Rob McDonnell is blaming on our host. He has a plan to solve the underlying problem, and I've told him to do it. He has also set up a webpage whereby I can get in and run the database repair without having to refer to him.

Business Cards

It was proposed by Bill Shute that Ryerson has business cards, one set with printed with John Graham–President and one plain set for general distribution at fairs and expos. An updated logo will be designed and sent to the suppliers.

DVDs

Alan Nancarrow has scanned a set of 6 DVDs that contain notices of the Northern Star. These will be sent to the local FH Societies.

Scans of the Central Western Daily, Penrith Post and McArthur Advertiser that appeared on the Ryerson site have now been removed.

The next meeting will be in May.

The meeting closed at 12.40.

Special Assignment - Report from Bob Atkins 25 January 2015

THE BRIEF.....

To establish a database of all newspapers produced in Australia both current and old editions.

To endeavour to match them to our existing coverage in the Index

To determine what papers could be followed up with Family History groups and the like to endeavour to recruit new volunteer indexers.

PROGRESS.....

I first downloaded a list of all Australian newspapers from Wikipedia and was astonished at how many had been produced just for NSW alone – in excess of 1900.

Accordingly, I decided to concentrate on NSW data and then endeavoured to match those papers we are currently indexing.

I also have meshed in to the newly emerging database the papers which are available from Trove.

I discovered in my researching of our own records that there are several databases and code lists both on our website and also in a file on Barracuda and Drop Box. More about this later.

I have tried to match these up with the new data from Wikipedia.

The result so far, is as per the attached file “Working copy of list of NSW newspapers as at 21 January 2016.xls”

I am thus submitting this file for your initial review and comments.

I have other files which I am using as resource material and these may be of value when we start to review the next step i.e to decide which papers/towns or cities are worth following up with family history groups.

Remember, this is and will be a long research project but the outcome I believe will be worthwhile.

An explanation about the colour coding in the spreadsheet.....

In column A...the blue represents a match to our existing data

In column D...I have sorted the file into CURRENT in yellow and defunct in black....These status items were included by Wikipedia.

In column G....Attempted matching entries from Trove

In column H...In yellow....matching titles to the blue in column A...initially, I started with a list from Drop Box File but only a few days ago discovered the list from Barracuda file.