RYERSON INDEX INC COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 16th October 2019 at 7pm

SKYPE

The Meeting opened at 7pm

Present:
John Graham – President
Peter Kettle – Vice President
Pauline Kettle – Secretary
Therese Delanty - Treasurer
Robert Atkins - Committee Member & Special Assignments

Apologies:
Bill Shute
Kathy Conroy (unable to connect)

Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 18th April 2019 were taken as read and adopted.

Adoption of the Minutes
Proposed : John Graham
Seconded : Robert Atkins

There were no matters arising from these Minutes.

President's Report (John Graham)

Indexing has increased from about 8,000 to 10,000 per week due in part to back indexing.

The new program software for indexers from Rob McDonell will to be introduced in the coming weeks.

Proposed : Peter Kettle
Seconded : Therese Delanty

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report (Pauline Kettle)

Fewer applications to index are being received by the Secretary as Robert Atkins' family history group indexing program was performing well. From April 2019 the following indexing applications were received by the Secretary –

3 passed trial indexing
3 applicants supplied with indexing instructions and did not undertake the trial
1 volunteer to gather papers for our records

The paperwork regarding internet banking with Kathy Conroy, Assistant Treasurer, has been finalised.

Proposed : Peter Kettle
Seconded : Robert Atkins

A request was made by the Secretary for office expenses amounting to $24.75 for Financial Year 2018-2019.

Proposed : Therese Delanty
Seconded : John Graham

Treasurer's Report (Therese Delanty)

1 April 2019 – 30 September 2019 Balance $24,611.55

Proposed : John Graham
Seconded : Peter Kettle

There were no matters arising from the Treasurer's report.

Admin Report (Peter Kettle)

Very similar to past reports, since the April report 16 typos have been reported and 15 user problems. As usual many typos related to indistinct notices. What is different is the number of people having difficulty in finding notices. 3 were due to Google News having them as the first page of the next issue and there is nothing we can do about that.

Some did not understand the use of Event Type and Notice Type particularly deaths in funeral notices. Perhaps we should expand the 'Interpreting the Results' to cover this.

Back indexing is progressing slowly but surely. 2012 and 2013 of the Advertiser have been completed and the early 1960s of the Age are looking better. However there a major gaps in The Age 70s, 80s and 90s. Part of the problem is that there are 2 sources that have been used; Ancestry and Google News and we don't know which source has been used for the year indexed. Shari is checking both sources to see if there are gaps that can be filled. Significant progress has been made with 2000 to 2002 by the Maitland Mercury team. SMH funerals are being done by Robyn and Roy but this is a long-term project.

Proposed : John Graham
Seconded : Robert Atkins

Special Assignments (Bob Atkins).

The full report was circulated prior to the meeting and is included with the Annual General Meeting Minutes.

Proposed : John Graham
Seconded : Therese Delanty

Extra Assignment - Current Indexing Program (Dawn Montgomery)

The spreadsheet is running smoothly.
Only a few glitches with foreign files being added.
Indexers who appear to have ceased indexing were contacted. Only two non-responses.

John Graham commented that 40+ papers are now no longer available through the usual channels on the web – mainly Fairfax stable.

General Business.

The following was raised by John Graham -

Ryerson consider taking out a digital subscription to the Canberra Times at a cost of

(a) $200pa if 2-year subscription is placed, or

(b) $229pa for 1-year subscription

The Canberra Times, being one of the major daily papers, is now no longer available to index either from the web or hard copy. The regular indexer is unable to continue and responses to requests for another indexer has not been forthcoming. John Graham opened for discussion the two options above for the Committee to consider in order that Ryerson maintains the continuance of this major paper.

1. The Committee was asked to consider if Ryerson required that paper. The Committee agreed that it was essential to maintain the Canberra Times on our site.

2. One month or 12 months?

A trial of one month was agreed at a cost of $30. According to the availability or not of other months through the one month's subscription, a longer period will be considered.

Proposed : John Graham
Seconded : Peter Kettle

John Graham wished to extend appreciation and thanks to Bill Shute and Maxine Honczar who had both retired an wished them well.

The meeting closed at 8pm