

Ryerson Index Inc

President's Report

Presented to the AGM on 8th September 2014

Welcome everyone to our sixth AGM, held at Baulkham Hills, thanks to the hospitality of Peter and Pauline. Welcome especially to those attending by Skype. This is a new initiative, to enable those who cannot physically attend because of distance to still "attend".

The year just ended has been a major advance for Ryerson. As well as adding more than half a million records, we have improved the website with the addition of both Soundex and location searches, plus the state filter, and we have also added validation of lookup requests. The site is now working almost as we'd like it, thanks to Rob's excellent work.

Looking at the figures for the number of records indexed over the past few years, we have:

Date	Total	Increase
30 June 2008	1,750,286	
30 June 2009	2,091,363	341,077
30 June 2010	2,503,696	412,333
30 June 2011	3,066,875	563,179
30 June 2012	3,559,727	492,852
30 June 2013	3,990,376	430,649
30 June 2014	4,500,200	509,824

2014 was our second year where we have added over half a million records in the year, a really tremendous effort.

We have not added many new papers this year (only 14, increasing from 222 to 236), but many dedicated indexers have made great progress in back-indexing their paper of choice. The SMH now has only 18 years left to complete, and we have indexers working on each of these years. Lismore's *Northern Star* has now progressed back into the 19th century, and shows every sign of becoming our second completed paper during the coming year.

Turning now to our financial position, I can report that we have lost one corporate sponsor and gained another, so our net financial position remains sound. I will leave Therese to provide the dollar details in her Treasurer's report, along with the details of our budget for 2014-15.

Our website has survived the past year with a total of 11hr 34min of outages, which represents 99.87% availability – an excellent performance by any standard. Our search for a new host and support structure for the website has not been successful, and the committee has decided to remain with the status quo, with both John and Peter taking a more active role in managing the website.

Ryerson was again represented at a number of Family History fairs during the year. I attended the NSW FHS State Conference at Canberra (our major event for the year), and

was very pleased with the positive comments received in regard to both the increasing content and the reliability of the website.

Our Facebook page has now passed 1,000 Likes, and continues to be an effective method of disseminating information, particularly in relation to the weekly update, and also in relation to website outages. It also provides us with a public forum for announcements, and allows public responses to be made to questions from users who may not completely understand how to get the best from the website.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the outgoing committee for their hard work during the year. All committee members are offering themselves for re-election, and I hope you will support them all with your vote.

So, on behalf of the Committee, I thank you all for your efforts during the past year, and feel confident in saying that we can all look forward to another highly successful year.

John Graham
President