

Ryerson Index Inc

President's Report

Presented to the AGM on 16th October 2019

Welcome everyone to our eleventh AGM as an incorporated organisation. This meeting marks a very special occasion, as 6 days ago we celebrated our 21st birthday. Ryerson has finally come of age!

Thank you once again to Peter and Pauline for hosting the AGM, and a warm welcome to those far-flung members attending by Skype.

For the second consecutive year, we note the retirement of a long-serving committee member, this time in Maxine Honczar. Maxine has looked after the training of new indexers since before our incorporation, and the Committee thanks Maxine for her dedicated service. Another Committee member, Bill Shute, is also not standing for re-election due to health reasons, and we hope that Bill soon overcomes his problems.

This year we added 466,405 records to Ryerson, and passed a major milestone – on 25 April 2019, we added our seven millionth record. It is fair to say that such a number was not even thought of by those members of the Sydney DPS when we made the decision to commence indexing the SMH and the Telegraph 21 years ago. We really have come a long way, thanks mainly to the tremendous support from our team of indexers.

Our major change to the way we index this year was the formal inclusion of birthdates. The percentage of notices which include a birthdate is increasing rapidly, and we decided that recording this information would provide a valuable service to our users. We already have 58,000 records which show birth details, and that number grows every day.

We continue to invest in our software, with v7 of the Ryerson Indexer shortly to be released. All our indexing has been carried out on v6 since February 2012, but with recent changes (particularly the inclusion of birthdate), we decided the time was right to update the software. V7 has been tested by a small group of indexers over a period of a few months, and Rob is now putting the finishing touches to v7 by incorporating their feedback.

Our corporate sponsorship list reduced somewhat this year, with three of last year's sponsors (Experian, Perpetual, and Westmead Cancer Clinic) not renewing for 2019. We are most grateful to our continuing sponsors for their support. Their financial contributions are an important part of our annual budget.

Bob Atkins continues to represent Ryerson at events in Sydney and surrounds, and has had considerable success in organising indexing groups within family history

societies. Bob has just returned from the NSW state conference, and will be reporting on his activities shortly.

Our website continues to be one of the most reliable in the genealogical world. During the past year we had a single known outage, duration 6hrs 10mins, caused by a problem at our hosting site. Our availability during the year was 99.93%, an excellent figure. Our Facebook page has now passed 4,600 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, Maxine and Bill are not standing for re-election, but we have two excellent nominations to fill the vacancies, and I urge you to support them with your vote.

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 Robyn Golby 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 I look forward to another successful year for Ryerson.

John Graham
President

Appendix A – Year-on-Year Figures

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

Date	Records	Increase
30-Jun-08	1,750,286	
30-Jun-09	2,091,363	341,077
30-Jun-10	2,503,696	412,333
30-Jun-11	3,066,875	563,179
30-Jun-12	3,559,727	492,852
30-Jun-13	3,990,376	430,649
30-Jun-14	4,500,200	509,824
30-Jun-15	5,033,716	533,516
30-Jun-16	5,563,788	530,062
30-Jun-17	6,133,046	569,258
30-Jun-18	6,610,628	486,966