

**Special Assignments Report to the Ryerson Index Inc.  
Committee Meeting and the AGM Meeting 28 November 2023  
UPDATE ON the 2022 report what has happened in 2023.**

**1. Lake Macquarie FHS Group commenced in April 2022**

Two members, a husband and wife team (Karen and Robert Eldridge) both members of the LMFHS Committee have been gathering back copies for the period commencing with 1958 and moving forward. They have now completed the years from 1958 to 1986. A wonderful effort. They plan to complete the gathering of the remaining years of the NH in 2024.

Five lady members started indexing in 2022. Two of them have passed away. The others have ceased indexing. So we are in need of new indexers.

The Eldridge's and I are planning for my return visit to the LMFHS next year (2024) with the view to finding new indexers.

**2. Annual Visit to Botany Bay FHS Heritage Day on 22 April 2023**

Shari Maclean joined me again this year. We were kept busy with many enquiries during the day. In 2022 Margaret Heaton, a local member of Botany Bay FHS took on the role of gatherer of The St. George Leader paper. She is a consistently good gatherer. This year she has taken on the additional role of indexer after Julie Ashford's retirement following many years of service.

**3. Illawarra FHS Group at Wollongong on 20 August 2022.**

Ros Adams came on board as a gatherer in 2022 of the Illawarra Mercury. She settled into the role and is a consistent gatherer of hard copy using the films from the Wollongong Library. Ros continues in the role of gatherer in 2023 for this paper. She is going well and is endeavouring to find a couple of members to help her.

**4. Cape Banks FHS at Little Bay on 10 September 2022.**

That was an interesting visit but did not produce any recruits.

## **Visitation program for 2023**

**Nepean FHS Group at Emu plains..... 1 April 2023**

This presentation was to 35 members and much interest was shown by those present. On the day 6 members had a further discussion with me and 2 of them have now come into our fold as gatherers with potential for indexing. As Shari was resident in the Penrith area at the time and had hoped to join me in the presentation, she agreed to do the initial induction and training for gathering. I am now taking them under my wing as Shari will shortly be relocating to the South Coast.

**NSW/ACT State Conference at Toukley -Open Day in September 2023**

I did not attend this year's Conference or Open Day

**Manly Daily Group formed in 2023**

Following the 2022 AGM, Shari volunteered to do a trial run through her social media outlets to seek potential volunteers.

She struck oil within the first week which has resulted in the formation of a group of 3 ladies who have come on board as gatherers. One of them who is also the Coordinator, a former resident of the Manly Peninsula, will be doing most of the indexing initially although the other 2 have expressed an interest in undertaking training for indexing.

## Central Coast Family History Society – 1 June 2023

This presentation was well attended with more than 40 members present. A spirited discussion took place with a group of potential gatherers/indexers and resulted in a couple of in house meetings with me since. Progress is being made to set up a Ryerson group within this Society early in 2024. They have a new retired professional librarian on their Committee who is currently working with members to rearrange their vast collection of resources. Because of their program and my forced withdrawal over recent weeks we had to defer the establish of this group. Much should emerge from this Society in 2024 and beyond. It is my local FHS although I am not an official member at this stage.

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### **RNR and RYERSON GATHERING PROGRAM.**

This activity continues to grow with many contributors since we expanded our gathering to include Funeral Directors.

Also, since acquiring the responsibility for all back-indexing I find that I now have a more complete overview of our various sources & members who gather, index & so on.

Currently we have teams of gatherers and/or indexers working on the gathering and back indexing of the following papers.

The Age we are complete back to 1943.

The Newcastle Herald

The Manly Daily

Maitland Mercury

Penrith Press

Blue Mountains Gazette

We desperately need more indexers to complete the back indexing of The Age from Trove records.

In addition we still have a large number of members who continue to faithfully gather and index papers and funeral Directors records.

My appreciation is extended to all of our contributors.

### **The SMH**

Judith Chivers has continued reviewing the SMH as there are many, many gaps in the RNR, although the paper has been fully indexed. She is working towards a finish date soon.

To achieve our success with tracing copies of both The Age and The SMH, our continued paid subscription to Newspapers.com has been invaluable.

**Bob Atkins**

**Vice President etc**