

MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc TAREE

Issue 169 February 2024

THE FIG TREE



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Every effort has been made to ensure that The FigTree is free from errors or omissions. Should these occur we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2024 is here and time to get back to finding that extra information gained over the Christmas break.

Hopefully more family secrets were abundant at the Christmas table

The Library has installed a new fiche reader and it is ready to go.

Hopefully all are well, for those that are not - our best wishes.

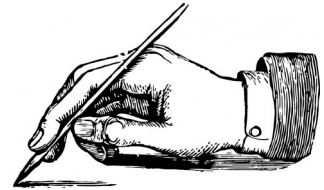
Your Committee are working on the year ahead and there are some changes coming.

We are sad that our Treasurer Lorraine Martin will be departing from our organization all the best Lorraine and Bill.

Graeme Jarman will take on the roll of Treasurer with some adjustments to the way we operate. Thanks Graeme much appreciated and know you will excel.

Keep the Committee informed of any requirements you have.

A 2024 callout for more duty members as we get older sometimes things aren't working like they should, so those people need a backup



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK..

Welcome to the first edition of The FigTree for 2024 and a very big thank you to all those members, who contributions during 2023, were very much appreciated.

Since I am someone who didn't grow up in or around the Manning, in fact, I am Sydney born and bred, I love reading the articles the form part of this Journal. It makes you realise how different life is in a Regional Centre to that of a City—so much more personal and connected. So keep those stories coming, I am sure I am not the only one who reads and appreciates them.

In fact for this edition and since the time for its publication “crept up on me” I decided to go back in time and republish some of the very early articles that were published in The FigTree. Remembering that there were no computers and correcting a mistake was not a simple exercise **and** no spell checker, you can't help but take your hat off to those members.

Back to the present—I have also included three “posters” we recently received from fellow Societies, outlining upcoming events that you may be interested in.

“Digging Deeper into Family History” - Genealogical Society of Queensland

Society of Australian Genealogists” - Details of In Person Tours

2024 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition—Courtesy of Family History Tasmania

Joan Irvine, Figtree Editor

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023-2024

President	Ken Beeton	Research Officer	Kay Brooke
Vice Presidents	Graeme Rose	Publicity Officer	Vicki Fletcher
	George Sawyer	Newsletter Editor	Joan Irvine
Secretary	Barbara Waters	Membership Secretary	Vicki Fletcher
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Asst Librarian	Kay Brooke	Assistant.Treasurer	Graeme Jarman
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		Duty Roster	Vicki Fletcher
Isolated & Unmarked Graves - Graeme & Pam Jarman			
Public Officer—Lyn Haynes			



RESEARCH SERVICE

Research Forms can be downloaded from Society Website

<http://manningwallambafhs.com.au/>

Initial Research Enquiry

\$20.00 including up to 2 hours research and limited photocopying, to the value of \$5.00

Extra microfilm copying \$1.00 per page. Additional

Research \$10 per hour



HAVE YOU HIT A BRICKWALL?

The FigTree is issued 4 times a year, so please feel free to send in any query you may have and it will be included in the next issue.

Our Journal is not only distributed to you, our members, but to other Societies throughout Australia and Overseas.

We also receive exchange Journals from a very large number of Societies electronically, if you would like to receive any of these, please let our Secretary know and you will be added to the distribution list,



GENEALOGY VOLUNTEERS WANTED.

Being a volunteer with Manning Wallamba Family History Society Inc. is exciting. No two days are alike. No two enquiries are alike.

No one knows everything.

You will be rostered on with a more experienced volunteer who will help to familiarise you with the library resources.

Working hands on with someone else is the best way to learn, and instruction sessions are held on a regular basis.

GEORGE GARLICK GODWIN

First Settler of Forster

George Garlick Godwin was born around 1803 in Wiltshire, England. He was given a life sentence for pig stealing and transported to Australia on the convict ship 'Burrell' in 1830. He received his ticket-of-leave in 1839 after completing a nine year assignment to a young Scottish immigrant George Mosman at Williams River.

In 1846 George was transferred to Gosford where he received a conditional pardon. He worked as a carrier and bullock driver in and around Kincumber and in 1852 he married Mary Ann Jones.

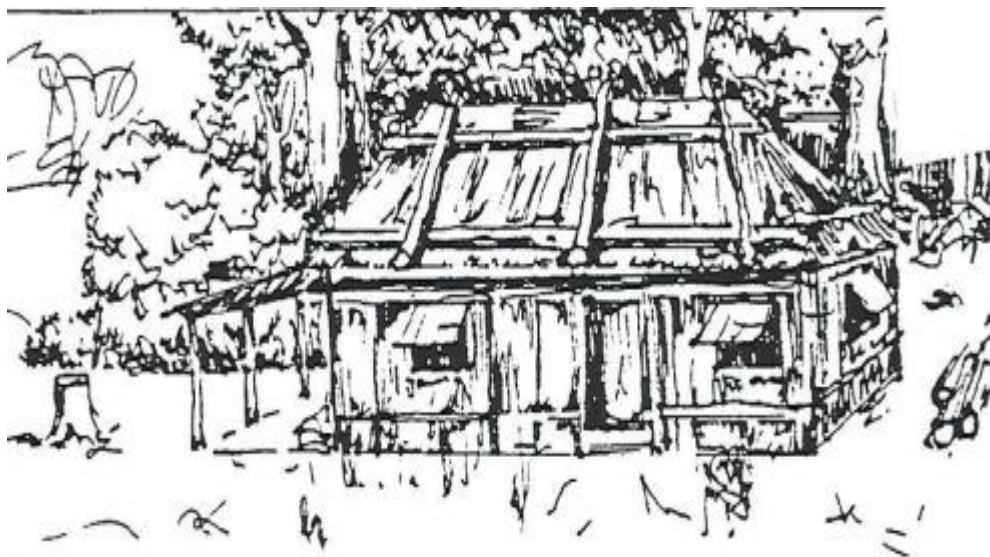
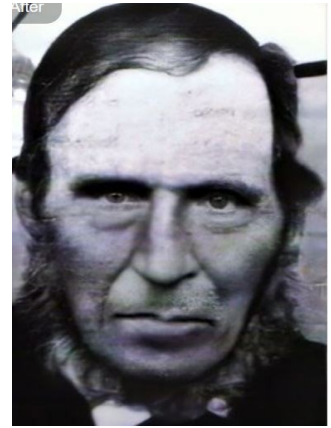
George Garlick Godwin and family were living in the Kincumber area when their 5th child—George Price was born in 1861.

In 1863, their 6th child, Harriet Cape was the first white child born in the Forster area, so sometime between the arrival of these two children, George Garlick had moved with his wife and five children to Forster.

Their belongings packed onto a bullock dray drawn by six bullocks, two saddle horses, five cows and a calf born on the trip, they took several months to travel from the Hawkesbury to Forster, where he became the first settler of that area.

A house and garden would have been his first priority as he had a growing family to care for.

Records show that on 9th July 1864 40 acres of land was taken up in the name of George Garlick Godwin, under the conditional purchase plan, and already at that time other settlers had arrived in the area.



Continued../

GEORGE GARLICK GODWIN First Settler of Forster Continued

He appeared to have a good relationship with the native people, as according to stories handed down through the family they called him "Cobham" meaning "good fellow". It is known George was a man of few words and each morning as he commenced his daily toil, he spoke the words "God speed the plough". The stories do not tell if he was a shy man or if he just preferred the solitude of the bush, but as Forster became more settled, George became more unsettled and one day (as the story goes) while chatting with John Breckenridge, he is supposed to have said —"A good bit of land you have here George", to which George replied "A man might give it up for a good pair of boots". To wit John Breckenridge took off his good leather boots and handed them to George Godwin. George then set about moving his family to "Wam Warra" at the head of Smiths Lake.

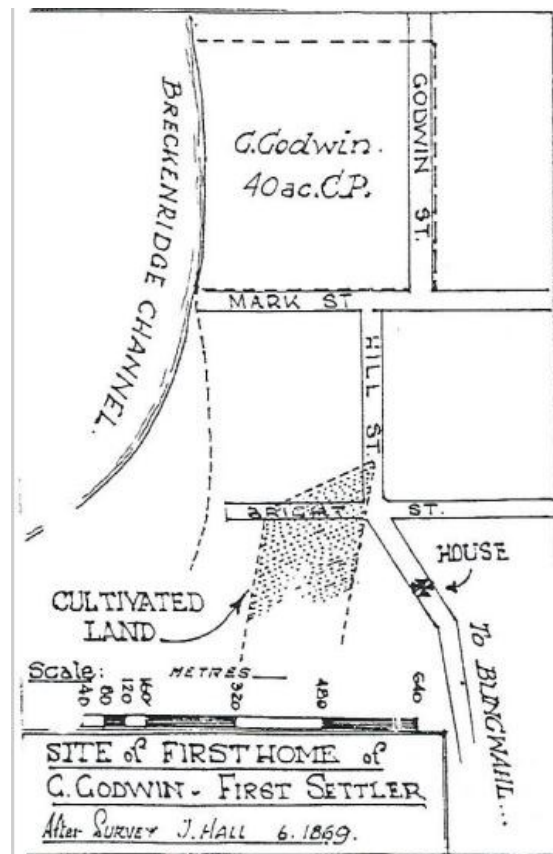
Stories aside, it seems that the 40 acre conditional purchase was never paid for and that occupancy lapsed and the lands board sold the land to J.W.P. Breckenridge and that the boots were given by John Breckenridge as a good will gesture for relinquishment of any title to the land.

George Garlick Godwin spent his life farming the land and caring for his family, he died on 19th August 1890 at Bungwahl Flat at the age of 87 years. He is buried in Narani cemetery, Bungwahl Flat, his wife Mary Anne is buried beside him.



Mary Anne Godwin (nee Jones)

Born abt 1832 Died 1 Aug 1886



I would like to acknowledge the research work done by previous members of our Society who first published an article in Issue 7 April 1987 on George Garlick Godwin.

EMIGRANT SHIP MAITLAND

EXTRACTS FROM SHIPS LOG—28 NOVEMBER 1838.

SHIP—MAITLAND - Departed GRAVESENT, England, 24th June 1838

Arrived SYDNEY AUSTRALIA 6th November 1838

SURGEON'S REPORT:

"Soon after leaving Gravesend, as will appear by the date of the first case 26th June, the Scarlet Fever presented itself, and continued to the 20th August, when the last case appeared. Sixty four children out of one hundred and twenty seven sickened, and one man suffered from its visitation.

To prevent the dissemination of the disease I met with much opposition, the parents resisting all my endeavours to remove the children into the hospital, thus affording the only chance of arresting the disease promptly. To effect this purpose, I was under the necessity of causing them in some measure to a compliance. This I think had in a great degree the desired effect, so few children having suffered from the disease out of so large a number.

As respects the origin of the disease, I am quite of the opinion that it must have been conveyed into the ship in a latent state, in the person who was the subject of the first case, probably in the second and third case also.

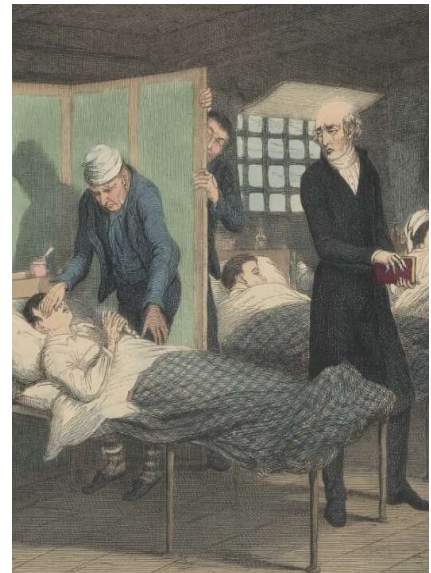
The Infantile Fever or Marasmus was the next great cause of the mortality. It began to manifest itself at an early period, and the oil being applied to the flame without intermission, it continued up to the period of their debarkation. The great existing cause of this was the overfeeding of the children with common rations instead of the Arrowroot and Sago, food more suitable for their digestive powers. These articles of food I had much difficulty in compelling the parents to administer to their children.

Among the women, particularly the unmarried, hysterical disease was increasing and among the married there were many cases of bowel complaints which I attribute to the same cause, namely an excess of unaccustomed food.

Among the men there was no disease until we reached the high southern latitudes, when pulmonary and febrile diseases appeared in a few, the effect of mould and wet.

Dropsies of different kinds. Water in the head, bowel complaints and infantile fever were the sequels of the Scarlet Fever—many of which proved fatal.

It is my opinion that, but for the Scarlet Fever having appeared so early, the mortality would have been very small.



Continued../

EMIGRANT SHIP MAITLAND

EXTRACTS FROM SHIPS LOG—28 NOVEMBER 1838. - Continued

The parents of the sick suffered much from the nursing, in many instances whole families except the heads themselves having been all suffering from the disease together.

I had much difficulty in having cleanliness observed more particularly in the men, they were very resisting in this as also in the airing of their bedding.

In regard to the fittings of the ship, the berths were rather confined, they being made only for two adults in each. In several instances at the request of the parties, I allowed two berths to be put into one; by this there was a freer ventilation and more room to repose.

Laziness prevailed to such a degree among the men, that I had much difficulty in keeping the decks sufficiently clean, and there being no coke for the swinging stoves I could not prevail on them to attend to the latter, to produce the combustion of the coal which was the only substitute.

As respects their general demeanour, when left to themselves they were peaceable, but when compelled to do that, which in their opinion they had no right to do, some were extremely insolent and intemperate. In two instances of married women, their conduct was extremely bad. They abandoned themselves to vicious habits.

In regard to the dieting, there appeared to me to be an excess of food of both bread and tea. The oatmeal they refused at the onset and on my assembling all the heads of families and directing such as were in favour of its use to show hands, there were only four who manifested a desire for it, to those I directed it to be issued.

JOHN SMITH, SURGEON SUPERINTENDENT.

P.S. I ought to add, having omitted it in its proper place that the remedies resorted to for preventing the dissemination of the Scarlet Fever were cleaning with caustic lime and chloride of lime all the berths, decks and other fittings once a week and sanitising often, also sprinkling the bedding and other articles frequently with chloride of lime.

From the book "A GIANT FOR JESUS" the emigrants were placed under canvas (in quarantine) except those actually sick, for whom a temporary wooden hospital was erected. They were released from quarantine on 3rd January 1839. In all 29 children and 5 adults died on the trip, but not all from Scarlet Fever. There were 286 cases of disease recorded in the Surgeon's Book and two adults and two children died after arrival. Margaret Gill, aged 3, died on the voyage.

Employment—There was no employment for the people, they being too lazy and insubordinate to do useful work. Schools were established under the Chief Superintendent of one very able and Christian Teacher, John Vidler; whereby the children, in general, received some instruction and where from they derived some advantage, the greater number having been at the time of embarkation, perfectly illiterate, not having the most distant knowledge of the rudiments of the English language. **JOHN SMITH**

This article first appeared in The Figtree Issue 9 , August 1987.

FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN THE MANNING REGION

Incorporation of a Municipality of Taree was gazetted on Thursday March 26, 1885. Thirty years earlier in December 1854 Henry Flett held an auction of lots of land to form a proposed village of Taree.

Flett had named the streets Victoria and Albert after the then Queen and her Prince consort. Wynter after his father-in-law, Macquarie after Governor Macquarie, Pultney after a suburb in his home town in Caithness, also Commerce and Manning.

From 100 lots, he sold a total of 40, at an average price of 20 pounds per half acre block.

The proclamation for the foundation of the Taree council was issued by His Excellency The Right Honourable Lord Augustus William Frederick Spencer Loftus.

The gazettal was contained in a supplement to the NSW Government Gazette in 1885 and proclaimed an area of 296 acres to be set aside for the Municipality.

The leading spirits saw that a council was essential for its progress and that the town would ultimately become the leader of the district.

The first returning officer was appointed and instructed by the Government to conduct a poll of ratepayers of the Taree Municipal District, for the election of six aldermen, to constitute the first council of the Municipality of Taree.

The returning officer appointed was Mr. Charles Boyce, co-founder of the Manning River Times. The election was held in the Agricultural Hall, then situated on the old site now occupied by the Mayo Private Hospital..

COUNCIL GUIDED DESTINY:

Aldermen elected were Henry W. Flett, Thomas West Dugdale, John Belford, William Wootton, John Robinson and George Saxby.

The first meeting of council was held in the Agricultural Hall on May 28, 1885, under the chairmanship of the returning officer Mr. Boyce until the election of a Mayor.

Aldermen H.W. Flett defeated Ald. Dugdale by four votes to two—but Ald. Dugdale succeeded him in the office in the years 1886 to 1890.

Ald. Flett was a son of Henry Flett, who took over the grant of Taree from William Wynter. Keenly interested in local affairs and advancement of the district, he was undoubtedly a great pioneer. Ald. Dugdale, the second Mayor of Taree, had a general store in Victoria Street where Peel's store now stands.

Old Duggie, as he was affectionately called, was a good townsman. His wife was drowned in a collision between the Barrabool and the Bonny Dunbdee, when proceeding from Sydney to Taree. Her body was found near Seal Rocks.

Continued../

FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN THE MANNING REGION Continued

Ald. Belford was a butcher whose business stood on the site of Rose's Café. His slaughter house was on the river bank below Macquarie Street. He was afterwards a successful farmer at Taree Estate and was a pioneer committeeman of Taree Agricultural and Horticultural Association. He retired to Willoughby and died in 1934 aged 91.

Ald. Wootton, father of famed Dick Wootton trainer, horse owner and station proprietor, was a bootmaker who lived opposite Fotheringham Park. He later moved to the corner of Victoria and Commerce Streets and built the Ship Inn. Later he built the Steam Packet Hotel, subsequently taken over by Mr. W.O. McMahon.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Wootton had as his apprentice the late Mr. Steve Whitbread, the ex-Town Clerk, also a notable figure.

Ald. Robinson was a retired farmer living in Victoria Street. His home was built by Captain Benaud, master of the Diamantina, a paddle wheel steamer which traded on the Manning. He was superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School.

Ald. George Saxby who established the cordial works now known as Saxby and Coleman, was a quiet, but a keen businessman. He was the fourth and ninth mayor of Taree. Ald. Saxby established the Independent newspaper in Commerce Street, Taree in the 1890's. A sculptor and mason his work can be seen at the Taree Court House and Wingham School.

At the second meeting of the council on June 10 1885 applications were called for the joint position of town clerk, inspector of nuisances and baliff.

On June 17 1885 the late Horace Beeton was selected from four applications to fill the position. He was paid £100 a year subject to the provision of a bond of £200 for the "due and diligent performance of his duties".

The unsuccessful applicants for the position were Messrs George Ochs, C. McIntyre and Charles Dyball.

At the same meeting Messrs G. Ochs, a surveyor living at Tinonee, and R. Howell, were appointed valuers at an annual fee of three guineas.

The late Mr. Horace Beeton retained his position until March 13, 1886 when he resigned and was succeeded by a former applicant Mr. Ochs.



First published in the Manning River Times 1986 and Issue 4, Sept 1986 of The Figtree.



**Tuesday
11 June 2024
@ 10:00 AM
for 3 weeks**



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Course over 3 weeks – Tuesday 11, 18, 25 June 2024 @ 10:00 AM – via Zoom.



Did you know that SAG is organising some in-person tours?

State Library of NSW Photography Exhibition

22 February 2024, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Free for SAG members!



Edina Estate

10 March 2024, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
17 March 2024, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
SAG members: \$30
Non-members: \$40



Rookwood Cemetery

26 March 2024, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
14 April 2024, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
SAG members: \$20
Guests of SAG members: \$30



www.sag.org.au/events



The Society of Australian Genealogists relies on the generosity of current and former members to maintain the activities and our collection of family history research materials. If you are able to **donate today** or can provide a gift in your will, please see: www.sag.org.au/gift

***Every family has a story –
write yours now!***

2024 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition

The Award is named in honour of Society Fellow Eunice Fletcher

- 1500 to 2000 words on a family history theme.
- Prizes of \$1,000 for best short story, \$500 for runner up (sponsored by UTAS), and a bonus \$100 prize for FHACT members.
- Open to individuals over 18 years.
- Entry fee of \$20.00 for FHACT members and \$30.00 for non-members.
- No limit on the number of entries.
- Terms & Conditions and Entry Form available at familyhistoryact.org.au or by email from writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au



Competition closes 15th July 2024

2024 Judges	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associate Professor Emmett Stinson: Emmett is Head of the School of Humanities in the College of Arts, Law and Education at the University of Tasmania. He is a literary scholar, a creative writer, and an expert on the global publishing industry.• Therese Lynch: Therese is a retired senior public servant who now works as a professional genealogist. Therese is a FHACT member and Education Officer for the Association of Professional Genealogists (Australia and New Zealand Chapter).• Beverley Richardson: Beverley's love of writing commenced at an early age and was a major focus of her former career as an English teacher. A member of FHACT, Beverley was shortlisted in the 2021 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition and took out the award in 2022.	<p>Contact Details</p> <p>Family History ACT 41 Templeton Street, Cook, ACT PO Box 152, Jamison Centre ACT 2614</p> <p>Website: familyhistoryact.org.au</p> <p>Telephone: 02 6251 7004 secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au</p> <p>Writing Competition Committee writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au</p>



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PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Price List for Burial Books available through our Society

Prices include postage & handling within Australia MWFHS members receive 10% discount on all
Burial Books

Oxley Island, Mitchells Island, Scotts Creek - 2007 edition Book or CD	\$15.00
Gilwarra, Taree Estate, Woola - 2023 Edition Book	\$15.00
Tinonee, Bo-Bo, Bight, Murray Hills, Easton, Dunvegan	\$15.00
Cooperook, Moorland, Harrington	\$15.00
Lansdowne	\$15.00
Wingham Anglican [Old Section]	\$15.00
Wingham - All other Denominations	\$15.00
Wingham Beams	\$10.00
Killabakh, Marlee, Woodside	\$15.00
Redbank 2008 edition Book or CD	\$15.00
Failford, Willow Point	\$15.00
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Dawson 2 - Anglican A - L	\$15.00
Dawson 3 - Anglican M - Z	\$15.00
Dawson 4 - Roman Catholic Section	\$15.00
Dawson 5 - Presbyterian & other Sections	\$15.00
Dawson 6 - Columbarium, Rose Gardens & Burials from Undertakers Records & other sources. No Grave Numbers	\$15.00
Dawson 7 - Lawn Section A - L	\$15.00
Dawson 8 - Lawn Section M - Z	\$15.00
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Index, includes Map showing locations of all Greater Taree Council Cemeteries and Name entries from all above books & their cemetery location	\$15.00
Forster & Bungwahl Cemetery Transcriptions	\$13.00
Tuncurry & Coolongolook Cemetery Transcriptions	\$15.00

No members' discounts on these books

Pre 1860 Pioneer Register - Book 1 \$32.50 + \$12.50 p&p

Pre 1860 Pioneer Register – Book 2 \$32.50 + \$12.50 p&p

Orders to Secretary PO BOX 48 Taree NSW 2430

Website: <http://www.manningwallambafhs.com.au>

Email: secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

P.O. Box 48, Taree, NSW 2430

Email: secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

Web site: www.manningwallambafhs.com.au

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Single: \$25.00

Family \$33.00

Please print clearly

NAME: _____ Membership No: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Age range: 1) Under 18 yrs-50 yrs: 51-70 yrs: 71-85 yrs+) (For Insurance Purposes only)

2) Under 18 yrs-50 yrs: 51-70 yrs: 71-85 yrs+)

Direct Deposit Details:

Banks: Regional Bank of Australia—BSB 932000 - Account No. 500029297

(If paying by direct debit please forward receipt number & details to Secretary)

To make a cash payment please contact our Treasurer via the above email.

FOR OFFICE USE:

DATE _____ RECEIPT No: _____ CARD GIVEN.....Yes.....No..

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE

Family Membership \$33.50

Single Membership \$25.00

The Membership Renewal Form is following or is available from our room at Taree Library during our normal operating times -

Monday-Saturday 10.00am to 12 noon or alternatively can be downloaded from the Society's web page

<http://manningwallambafhs.com.au/>

Members are entitled to

Use the Society's Resources during opening hours

Attend meetings and workshops, and vote at meetings

Three copies of the Fig Tree by mail or download

Free Research Enquiries in "Fig Tree"

18 free entries per year each membership/family in Society's Members' Interest Directory

2 hours free research per membership year, for out-of-area members, on receipt of a business sized, self-addressed envelope