

# MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc TAREE

Issue 171 Aug/Sept 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

It has been a successful year with membership staying stable after the losses that occurred during Covid. I give a heartfelt thanks to our Committee who have managed our organization in a very efficient manner.

A big thank you to the Mid-Coast Library and Staff, Taree for the support provided, the purchase and installation of the new reader and most helpful assistance.

It is welcoming to have some new faces attending our meetings. We have purchased new material for research which is available through our Society Library.

Training and information days have been held to help you with your research and these will carry on in the coming year, so if there is an area you wish to explore, let someone on the Committee know and we will do what we can to help.

Our Treasurer Lorraine after many years has moved to a new location which, while sad, it is great for Lorraine. Thanks for a most efficient role you have played in our organization with your stalwart Bill. Graeme Jarman has taken on the role of Treasurer and has proved to be an ideal follow on from Lorraine.

Pam has provided some very great social occasions, which helps our community to get to know one another better and share some interesting discussions. Thanks Pam.

I tried to steer away from individual mentions, but to bring to light our activities and position moves it was necessary.

A great thank you to our most efficient Secretary and all other members on the Committee. May our next year be fruitful and the information keeps flowing.

Good luck in your research.

Ken Beeton  
President.



### **Regional Australia Bank Community Partnership Program**

Our Secretary and Treasurer recently attended the presentation night for the  
**Regional Australia Bank Community Partnership Program.**

Our Society received a certificate and a donation of \$125.94 as part of this program. \$82,000 was donated to a wide variety of volunteer organisations in the Tuncurry, Wingham and Taree areas.

Our Society receives .7% of our average annual balance and 1% of the average annual balance for each RAB customer who has nominated to support us.

Therefore, if any of you, our members, have an account with the Regional Australia Bank, or you are contemplating doing so - keep our Society in mind. All money earned goes towards resources

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024-2025**

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
Librarian & Publications	Sue Robinson	Treasurer	Graeme Jarman
Minutes Secretary	Joan Irvine	Social Committee	Graeme & Pam Jarman
	Isolated & Unmarked Graves	Graeme & Pam Jarman	
	Duty Roster - Vicki Fletcher		
	Public Officer—Lyn Haynes		

## **ANOTHER RESOURCE YOU MAY FIND HELPFUL**

The Colonial Secretary was the pre-eminent figure in public life in much of the 19th century.

The papers from this office are some of the most valuable sources of information on all aspects of the history of NSW after 1788—from convicts and immigration to applications for burials, lists of First Nations people in particular areas and admissions of children in and out of orphan schools and industrial and training schools. This unique index to the letters received by the Colonial Secretary between 1826 and 1896 was compiled by Joan Reese, Linda Bowman and Aileen Trinder.

The 37 minute webinar explores how to search the Index and what you may find and how to access the records -

<https://mhnsw.au/webinars/colonial-secretary-letters-received-1826-1896/>

NSW State Archives is now called the Museum of History NSW. The Colonial Secretaries Papers are in two indexes:

- 1) 1788-1825                      2) 1826-1896**

As it says it contains every written letter between the public and the Government of that time. If you have an ancestor who lived in NSW during that time you can learn a surprising amount about them by searching for their communication with the Government. It maybe tedious to search but you never know.

## 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.

## HELP NEEDED !!!

### Research Help

Chris Elford is seeking information and photos about a shipyard at Coopernook. Sullivan family shipbuilders were John Sullivan Snr (1813?-1865?) and sons Denis Sullivan (1842?-1916) and John Sullivan (Jnr) (1844?-1918). Denis Sullivan owned the shipyard at Coopernook.

Replies to [cjelford@bigpond.com](mailto:cjelford@bigpond.com) or Pam Jarman 0417 288 005

### Harrington Cemetery.

The original public cemetery planned for Harrington was along the foreshore near the Discovery Park in Harrington. This cemetery is now covered by rainforest. Prior to its inundation by sea water 4 children were buried there, resulting in the closure of the cemetery. I am seeking information, family history and knowledge about these children.

Jessie Burless born and died 12 September 1898

Pereira baby – stillborn

Unicomb baby – stillborn

May Elizabeth Fallowfield died 26 March 1901, age 2 years, 2 months.

Replies to [gpiarman@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gpiarman@optusnet.com.au) or Pam Jarman 0417 288 005

Thanks

Pam

The name TAREE is derived from “tareebit”, a Biripi word meaning tree by the river, or more specifically, the Sandpaper Fig (*Ficus coronate*).



## THE REVELATIONS OF UNCLE CLEM'S DIARIES

### A PRODIGIOUS LIFE

Submitted by Nancy Dixon

My father's 'Uncle Clem', Coleman Clemisson Howell, was born on a farm near Warrenton, 60 miles from St Louis, Missouri, USA on February 13, 1867 to Thomas Warren Howell - ('TW' born 1842 Warrenton) and (Rhoda Ann (Doss) Howell born 1848 in Kentucky, both from pioneering families.

The first of eight children, Clem was small and slightly built like his father, but did not shirk from hard labour, however he did suffer from stress and anxiety ailments much of his long life. A batchelor, Clem was able to live a different life to many men in an era that encompassed many social, cultural, political and economic changes.

His strong sense of family responsibility and pedantic attention to detail led him to keep diaries of his daily life, apparently from his mid 30's up to his last days, and comprehensive account books of his income and expenditure for many years, down to each 5c. The diaries may have begun in 1902 when he was 35, with smudged pencilled entries, then soon moved onto ink from his trusty fountain pens, most with beautiful penmanship. Diaries are unfortunately missing at crucial times between 1903 to 1905, 1914 to 1918, then to 5 year to a page diaries until the end of his life in October 1943—just before I was born. It is not known what happened to these missing diaries, Clem could not foresee the challenges he would face, the technological advances and world-wide dramatic events that would be the background, as his life unfolded.



Clem was eight years old when his parents, three other siblings (Edwin 'Big Ed', sisters Dollie and Marcia) and paternal grandparents, lumbered across the prairies in wagon trains to the San Joaquin Valley in Tulare County, California, in 1875. (See his father's story in Figtree Issue 166 - June 2023). It was there they laid claim to parcels of land in the Poplar district at \$2.50 per acre and established homesteads that steadily grew more productive as the area became more settled. Clem worked on the farm as four more children were born -

(my grandfather Thomas 'Wilburn', Alvin, Everett and Olin 26 years later) .

He was a conscientious student at the local Rockford Country School, graduating in 1887 at 20 years old.

## THE REVELATIONS OF UNCLE CLEM'S DIARIES - A PRODIGIOUS LIFE (Continued)

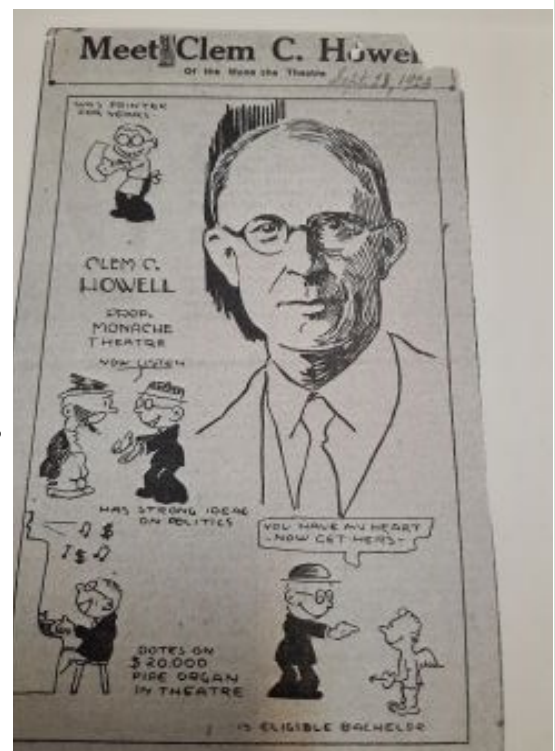
He went on to work as a teacher for a term in one of the mountain schools, which was common due to the shortage of teachers. He was intelligent, well read, articulate and enjoyed debating—traits that served him well in his future endeavours and helped him win \$10 as 3rd prize in an essay competition - a considerable sum in those days.

In the late 1880's the Populist Party gained support among western farmers as the 1896 US Presidential election approached. Clem, or 'C.C.Howell' as he was known in public, began writing long complex articles to political candidates via local newspapers about the issues and debating the basis of the monetary system - gold vs silver- and the role of Treasury.

One article refers to him as “the brilliant and able young Populist of Tulare County”. As the election drew closer, Clem became better known and narrowly missed becoming the County Clerk.

The Poplar Club, part of the Populist Party held a huge rally and picnic in May 1895 in the local park. After opening remarks by Clem and many long speeches, there were recitations, songs and instrumental music. One newspaper reported:

*“The best effort made on the ground was by a lady and she never opened her mouth. Miss Marcia Howell gave a recitation in the deaf and dumb alphabet. Every move was graceful, uniform, complete and perfect. Her whole bearing and manner shows culture, refinement, taste, grace and dignity, and for once during the day it could be said that perfect order and quiet reigned supreme, absolute stillness and almost breathless silence covered the whole ground within seeing distance of the platform. It is simply marvellous what those institutions can do for the unfortunate. ”*



Marcia also signed as her aunt Della B Howell recited “Ode to My Son”. Marcia, the younger of Clem’s two sisters, was deaf and dumb and attended the California School for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind at Berkeley. She married another student, John Connolly who trained as a cabinet maker. The Populist Party candidate lost to William McKinley and the party faded into oblivion, but Clem had developed a taste for politics and the wider world outside his small community. He voraciously read newspapers every day of his adult life initially the only means of information, then passing them on to others. Late night editions were only half price (5c).

Continued../

## **THE REVELATIONS OF UNCLE CLEM'S DIARIES - A PRODIGIOUS LIFE (Continued)**

Clem moved into Porterville from the farm and lived at the home of his favourite aunt Laurena—'Aunt Rena'- Howell, so he could work at several local newspapers, where he grew proficient as a compositor, printer and book binder, then journalist and reported local happenings, proudly pasting his first article—a 'scrap'- in his scrapbook. In 1892, after more than a year there, Clem and his parents made a visit to Washington state to visit relatives and while there he accepted a position at the Dayton Courier in the south east corner of the state. His work was highly regarded there for two months, until recalled home by the serious illness of his grandmother (Lucinda Stewart Howell, she died 5 February 1898) and was for some time helpful in caring for her property. administering to their business affairs and taxes. The purchase of a typewriter about this time was crucial in giving Clem skills to write copious letters to and on behalf of family, friends and acquaintances and improve his employability.

January 23rd 1902 was a fateful day that began one of the most interesting chapters of Clem's life, when he saw an advertisement and sent for a set of free Wizard fortune telling cards from a 'B Velaro' in New York City. The spiritualist era was a world-wide phenomenon for several decades around the turn of the century and Clem, aged 25, was immersed in it with his inquiring mind. B Velaro turned out to be Mrs. Edith Velaro, with whom he became infatuated and enamoured of to the point of undermining his physical and mental health. Progressively referred to as 'Mrs Velaro', 'Mrs V', 'EV', 'Edith', 'Edie', and 'Aleena' (her professional physic's name), she dominates his daily life and diaries for many years. Across the miles, in long letters they read, discuss and exchange magazines and books, and explore many philosophies of the occult and metaphysical realm, practice magnetism, Mesmerism, automatic writing, etc. Clem takes mail order lessons in palmistry and has a session of phrenology. Until they are together in Denver, they practice energy and thought transference over the miles that he mistakes for a romantic attachment, that Edie does not reciprocate, as she is nearly ten years older and at least once divorced. He often becomes 'sapped', 'pulled down', 'vamped' or 'over-charged and blue'. He longs for her letters but when she writes he immediately writes a 4-6 page one back to her and posts it, often in the middle of the night, three or four more times a week. She eventually demands a 'friendship agreement' that sends him into despair; he constantly imagines a closer relationship. Edith often praises him then berates him over his ideas and attitudes which sends his emotions up and down even further. Clem always apologizes for his 'blunders and lack of harmony'.





## **THE REVELATIONS OF UNCLE CLEM'S DIARIES - A PRODIGIOUS LIFE (Continued)**

1906 sees Clem in San Francisco, this is his second trip and follows one in 1902—1904 but the crucial diaries are missing to give us more insight. He works at the Stewart Hotel (now The Handlery Hotel) as a bookkeeper and night porter and becomes a trusted employee and friend of manageress Mrs Turesdell. He keeps in touch with her and she leaves him a set of classic literature books after her death in 1913.

Once again fate intervenes on the night of April 18 1906 as a massive earthquake destroys much of San Francisco, as Clem relates;

### **April 18, 1906 Wednesday: 'Á day of terror and excitement'**

*"An unprecedented shock of earthquake at 5.15 am awakened me, and I surely thought the house was being shaken to pieces and would fall in upon me. Then what a feeling of terror went thro me after the quaking had ceased. "hastily dressing and going down I found chimneys down and the streets full of debris. Soon I found that buildings everywhere were terribly damaged and many had collapsed entirely, entombing scores to their death. Fires broke out in the wholesale district and south of Market and in Hayes Valley., No business was done at the Stewart and I made frequent trips to view the progress of the fires. By night all south of Market had been divested and up to Montgomery St. Pencilled a few lines to add to E's letter written last night, but no chance to send".*

To be Continued in the Next Issue.

**NOTE:** How many of us wish we had such a detailed and interesting written history of the day to day life of one of our ancestors not to mention a detailed account of the aftermath of the San Francisco Earthquake. Watch this space.

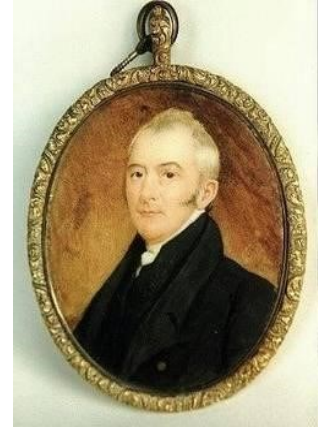


## **SIR HENRY BROWNE HAYES (1762-1832)**

My 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather

Submitted by Joan Irvine

Sir Henry was born in Cork, Ireland in 1762 and was often described as a “convict adventurer”. He was the son of Attiwell Hayes a reputable citizen of Cork. Henry was a captain in the South Cork militia, and on the 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 1782 at the age of 21, Henry was made a Freeman of Cork City presumably because of his family connections.



By 1790, Henry was elected as a Sheriff of Cork City, again with his father's help and family connections. As one of the two Sheriffs, Henry was asked to welcome the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Westmorland who at that time was making a tour of Southern

Ireland. The position of the Lord Lieutenant in Ireland was equivalent to that of a Viceroy, a position second only to the king in the country. (Maybe this is why he was knighted?)

However, in 1797 by which time he was a widower with a number of children (both legitimate and illegitimate); he kidnapped a Quaker, Mary Pike who was heiress to a fortune of £20,000, forcing her into a spurious marriage at his home at Mount Vernon. However, she was rescued shortly after the marriage. It is reported she never remarried and had a mental breakdown as a result of the kidnapping and subsequent shame. (Not sure if this is true or just a good story..)

Sir Henry was outlawed and went into hiding and about two years later he handed himself in believing all would be forgiven. However, he was sent to trial and sentenced to death, this was later commuted to transportation for life and he arrived in NSW on 6 July 1802 aboard the Atlas. He paid for a privileged passage, which was apparently fortunate as this particular voyage was reputed to be one of the worst in history.

His time in NSW was noteworthy, particularly for his war against authority. He was suspected of an active part in the Castle Hill uprising in 1804 and this together with his association with various intransigents, it seems to have earned him time in Van Diemen's Land. After his return to Sydney it is reported that because of his sympathy with the deposed Governor William Bligh, he was sent to Newcastle coal mines for about eight months in 1809.

His first noted and perhaps positive contribution to the colony was his attempt in 1803 to found a Masonic Lodge for which he incurred the displeasure of Governor King and his meeting on the 14 May 1803 is regarded as the foundation day of Freemasonry in Australia.

**Sir Henry Browne Hayes continued:**

*Extract from—Devotion Newsletter Content Masonic History and Things Historic*

*Freemasonry Beginnings in Australia*

*...“1803 the earliest recorded Masonic meeting was held by 'several officers of his Majesty's Ships, together with some respectable inhabitants of Sydney'. This was against the orders of the Governor, Captain King, and some of the members were arrested, though subsequently released. The instigator, Bro Brown Hayes, was ordered to Van Diemen's Land..”*

“Respectable inhabitants” Maybe not all !!

His second contribution was Vaucluse House, the home he built near South Head in Sydney. He lived there in between his “forced stays” away from Sydney and it is reputed he lived in a “style and freedom” not normal for a convict of that time. You can only presume that he paid for the privilege. The house passed to John Piper after Henry was granted a pardon and he returned to Ireland. Then in 1829 it passed onto William Charles Wentworth, who considerably extended it. The house was bought in 1910 by the NSW Government for preservation as a memorial to Wentworth. (Why couldn't Henry have kept it and passed it down to his descendants!!)

On his return to Ireland in December 1812 Sir Henry was shipwrecked at the Falkland Islands, survived and following his rescue returned Cork where he lived in retirement until his death in 1832.



VAUCLUSE HOUSE AS W. C. WENTWORTH LEFT IT.  
The portion in front incorporates the cottage erected by Sir. H. B. Hayes. The battlements and portion at rear were erected by W. C. Wentworth.

## A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR

I'm the best pal that I ever had  
I like to be with me;  
I like to sit and tell myself  
Things confidentially.

I often sit and ask me  
If I shouldn't or I should.  
And I find that my advice to me  
Is always pretty good.

I never got acquainted with  
Myself till here of late.  
And I find myself a bully chum,  
I treat me simply great.

I talk with me and walk with me  
And show me right and wrong,  
I never knew how well myself  
And me could get along.

I never try to cheat me  
I'm as truthful as can be;  
No matter what may come or go.  
I'm on the square with me.

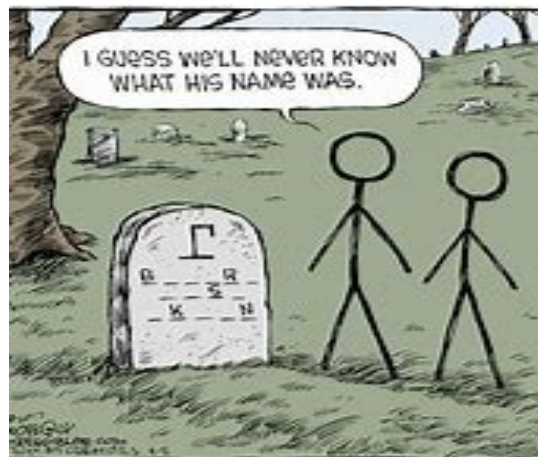
It's great to know yourself and have  
A pal that's all your own;  
To be such company for yourself  
You're never left alone.

You'll try to dodge the masses,  
And you'll find a crowd's a joke,  
If you only treat yourself as well  
As you treat other folk.

I've made a study of myself,  
Compared with me the lot,  
And I've finally concluded  
I'm the best friend I've got.

Just get together with yourself  
And trust yourself with you,  
And you'll be surprised how well yourself  
Will like you if you do.

Author Unknown.



## 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
Cooperbrook, 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
Krambach	\$15.00
Dawson 1 - Methodist Section	\$15.00
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
Columbariums in Church grounds, Graves on private property, Norwood	\$15.00
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 C/o MidCoast Library Taree, 242 Victoria Street, Taree, 2430.***

***Website: <http://www.manningwallambafhs.com.au>  
Email: [secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au](mailto:secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au)***

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE**

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

Free 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

Renewal	New members	
1 July – 30 June	1 July – 30 June	1 Jan – 30 June
Single \$25.00	\$30.00	\$17.50
Family \$33.00	\$38.00	\$21.50

**MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.**

C/o MidCoast Library Taree, 242 Victoria Street, Taree, 2430.

Email: [secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au](mailto:secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au)

Web site: [www.manningwallambafhs.com.au](http://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.