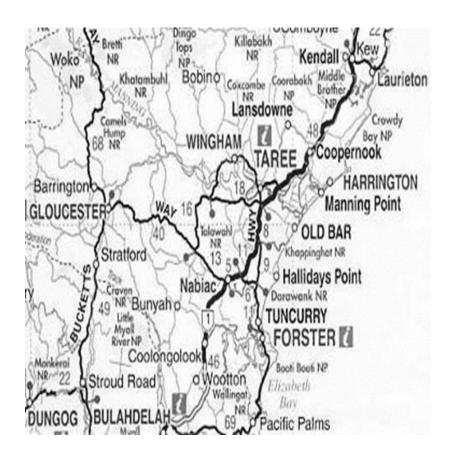
MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc TAREE

Issue 172 December 2024

THE FIG TREE



Operating Since 1985 in Partnership with

Mid Coast Libraries

ISSN 2208-3243

Postal Address:

Manning Wallamba FHS, Ground Floor, 242 Victoria Street, Taree, 2430.

Website: www.manningwallambafhs.com.au



Inside this Issue		
President's Message	2	
Editors Note	2	
Committee Members Xmas Lunch photo	3	
Research Service	4	
Subsidised School Dingo At Dingo Creek	5-7	
Uncle Clem's Diaries cont'd	8-11	
Pampoolah School	12-13	
Publications for Sale	14	
Membership Fees	15	

Disclaimer: MWFHS Inc does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of articles published in The FigTree.

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.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



What a year we have had Membership steady

Great workshops and discussions

Hard working committee to achieve a solid organization

Treasurer getting on top of changes to—Not for Profit tax reporting

My best of wishes to all for the season and the new year.

NOTICE WORKSHOPS 2025 NO SUPPORT WON'T HAPPEN

We wish to provide workshops that you require including general discussion about research, HLRV, DNA and more.

Support is needed for this to happen the responsibility is you

LET'S MAKE 2025 OUR BEST YEAR YET.

Welcome to 2025

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I can't finish the year without thanking all who have contributed such a wide variety of stories, newspaper articles, poems and we mustn't forget the cartoons - it doesn't matter how big or small. Without your help this publications would not happen.

One thing is for certain we have covered not just this century but centuries past, and travelled across the continents.

Keep up the good work and make our Fig Tree even bigger and better next year.

Wishing you and your families all the very best for Christmas and may 2025 be filled with love, happiness and good health and I hope Santa is good to you!



Joan irvine

Editor

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





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.

SUBSIDISED SCHOOL AT LITTLE DINGO CREEK

Barbara Waters Membership No 298

Today few people would know what a Subsidised School was, these schools operated between 1903-1989.

It was a school for localities where the minimum attendance required for even the smallest type of government school could not be obtained. The Department paid a subsidy for each pupil and parents were totally responsible for providing the school building and the teacher. In some areas existing government school buildings could be used.

Subsidised schools were not government schools and are not included in the Schools Data Base.

Under the subsidy scheme the isolated families, providing that there were at least two families involved, could obtain financial assistance to employ a private teacher. The subsidy was five pound per child per annum.

In 1902 at the Conference of Inspectors and Departmental Officers, the difficulty in providing education to children in sparsely populated districts was addressed. The Minister of Public Education, John Perry put forward a proposal that isolated families could be subsidised to enable them to employ Private teachers.

In 1903 a subsidy scheme was introduced.

These schools had a average of nine students enrolled per school providing minimal education whilst avoiding the expenses of establishing a government school.

In 1907 there were 281 subsidised schools in existence.

Many family wanted their children to learn to read and write, few families could afford a governess or tutor for their children. Children were required to help on farms leaving school at fourteen years of age or younger.



Irvine Homestead Dingo Creek

SUBSIDISED SCHOOL AT LITTLE DINGO CREEK (Continued)

The subsidised school was established at "Wombateena" Dingo Creek the home of Thomas Irvine and his family, this was a big home, there was the school room and a semi closed in verandah, as well as accommodation for the teacher, with families providing desks or tables that children could work on, and other items that would be required. Up to twenty children attended.

Teachers included Miss Edna Tetsel, who's parents lived at Ashlea, Miss Alice Martin from Wherrol Flat, who taught for some months while waiting for a Department of Education appointment, Miss Ellen Richardson (later Mrs George McCulloch), Miss Lex Davy (later Mrs Ray Duff), the last teacher was Miss Elsie Lattimore.

Miss Richardson was the teacher when my father sat for the Qualifying Certificate as the High School entrance examination was called, she had no formal training but considerable ability as a teacher. Miss Richardson was a popular teacher, who taught at the school for three years, a farewell afternoon tea was held for her with about twenty children attending, who were all presented with a book and their teacher with a miniature set, as a token of esteem from parents and pupils.

He recalled slates and pencils, and learning popular songs of the time, playing cricket as well as rounders.

The children participated in raising money for the Children's Ten Thousand Fund for relief of the children of Belgium. Every public school was encouraged to have students raise one shilling each on Empire Day 1915.

The school closed in 1919 due to lack of pupils.

Following the death of my grandmother in 1918 my grandfather purchased land in Taree where he built his home "Riverview" on Old Wingham Road, his children then continued their education in Taree.



SCHOOL PHOTO WOMBATEENA" DINGO CREEK, NSW



Teacher: Miss Alice Martin

Front Row David irvine, Robert Irvine, Norman McPherson

Middle Row: ?, Viola Warmsley, Linda Warmsley; Lily Irvine, Ian McPherson

Back Row: Two Blanch Boys, Roy Warmsley; John irvine.

References:

Education in Rural Australia Vol. 3(1)

The Travelling Schools in NSW 1908-1946

Ashley Freeman School of Information Studies

Charles Stuart University, Riverina

Irvine Archive Collection

The Wingham Chronicle and Manning River

Observer December 1919 page 2

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

You may recall that the first pat of "The Revelations of Uncle "Clem's Diaries" was in the previous issue of the FigTree. If you didn't get a chance to read it you can find the previous issue on our WebSite— www.ManningWallambaFamilyHistorySociety.

1906 sees Clem in San Francisco and working at the Stewart Hotel when a massive earthquake destroys much of San Francisco. In his diary on April 18, 1906 he refers to A Day of Terror and Excitement.

Diary Entry.....

"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".

April 19, 19096 Thursday: "A day of fine weather'

Up all last night. The Fire still raged and at about 7.30 we abandoned The Stewart, taking with us a lot of luggage and some provisions and by easy stages moved them to 2511 Clay Street, which we reached about 10 00pm. The Stewart burned at about 8.00am. Sent my trunk out on a wagon last night to 3332 Calif Street. In afternoon made out the Payroll and paid off several of the girls who have come with us and the boys. I then went over to see if my trunk would be safe where it was. All afternoon the fires burned fiercely, a last stand being made at Van Ness by the firemen. At one point it got across to Franklin and for a time it seemed as if we would have to keep on fleeing. But by effective use of dynamite the fire was turned back and we were saved".

April 20 1907 Friday: Hot and Sultry.

"Fires were still raging in northern part of the city and continued to burn there all day. Went down with the boys to view remains of The Stewart and take a look at the ruins generally. Met a carrier collecting mail on Market Street and gave him E's letter I had carried unsealed since Wednesday morning, after adding a few words to say I was safe. Then finding when I got to the Post Office that I could get a message into the mail there and I made a postal card out of the side of a paster-board box and wrote to Mama my first message home.

....Continued

THE REVELATIONS OF UNCLE CLEM'S DIARIES -

A PRODIGIOUS LIFE—Part 2 Continued

Clem continued to visit the Stewart Hotel ruins daily attempting to retrieve residents' trunks and valuables. He wrote up accounts for residents and businesses, trying to locate them for collection or payment. He hired a horse and buggy to take Mrs Truesdell around sight-seeing and house hunting, but he walked and took street cars out to the homes of his siblings Dollie, Marcia, Olin and cousin Mollie where he took meals and often stayed at night. There were almost daily aftershocks in the ruins for weeks, as Clem witnessed the terrible loss of smoldering buildings and businesses he knew so well, and the refugee camps for the destitute and homeless. Since there was no suitable work for Clem in the destroyed city, other than attempting to sell proposed pictorial books on the destruction of San Francisco, he wrote emphatically "I do not want to go home".

He formulated a plan to take the train to Denver, then one of the thriving cities of the west, to be with Edith, who had relocated from New York with her mother. After failing to get a free rail ticket from the Refugee Council, Aunt Rena sent him a Money Order for \$30 which helped him get a 2nd class ticket in a "Chair Car" for \$35. he wrote "tickled to death to be on the way at last" After a three day scenic trip through the Sierras and across the desert, he arrived in Denver on Friday May 11, 1906 to a handshake from Edith and a hug from her mother. Thus began the six and half year daily relationship with Edith and her mother, Mrs Lydia (Hacket) Sherburne.

Eventually, over the months and years, Clem realizes that marriage will never be and resigns himself to friendship, but it took a heavy toll on is health and wellbeing. Edith, 'Ma" and Clem, living in a room (\$9 per month) on the floor below their suite of rooms, live a close daily life in Denver, most evenings for years, sharing meals, birthday and holiday celebrations, reading to each other, practicing automatic writing with their guardian, playing solitaire, visiting the library, evenings out at plays, lectures, the weekly psychic "Circle", concerts or silent movies or playing with or walking with the women's various 'doggies'. Clem loved the cultural life of the city, new ideas and friendships. He often supplied the food itemising in his diary the cost of these items. - Chicken (\$1.00), Vegetables .85cents—for Sunday dinners. Turkey \$2.00 for Thanksgiving and Christmas and often treats like watermelon 45 cents, grapes 15 cents, strawberries, candy, chocolate and nuts with occasionally beer 15 cents or root beer and ice cream in summer. It seems Edith often cooked soups and stews in the winter and supplied these to Clem, otherwise he ate at the Elk's Club or cafes and restaurants nearby. Edith and Clem regularly ate out and again itemised these in his diaries (\$1.00 incl tip) and had refreshments after plays and concerts, including popcorn (5c) and ice cream soda (65 cents) Papa was a teetotaller so Clem enjoyed his freedom to drink alcohol in Denver.!!

Continued../

THE REVELATIONS OF UNCLE CLEM'S DIARIES -

A PRODIGIOUS LIFE—Part 2 Continued

Clem reports in June 1906 regarding dinner at a restaurant - excellent veal cutlets with soup, bread, butter, potatoes and ice cream, all for 20c. Edith paid her way too and their reciprocal arrangement gave them both respectable participation in society!!

With the advent of the automobile taking over from horse-drawn vehicles and bicycles, Clem soon found work as a bookkeeper (\$18 week) in Mr. E. R. Cumbe's franchised Automotive "hire" business and associated Tire company, renting Rambler and Mitchell vehicles which Clem called 'machines'. He worked there for several years, albeit the relationship was somewhat strained at times. Mr. Cumbe did not like Clem reading the newspapers at work and gave him an ultimatum with Clem handing in his resignation two weeks later. The time came and went with no action taken by either party. Clem worked long hours at his duties, including mornings on Sundays and holidays. Mr. Cumbe gave him a glowing recommendation when he left two years later, but Clem returned several times in later years and tutored his replacement. In the course of his duties, he was often driven about town in various Rambler models and enjoyed the change from walking or street cars.

Always interested in physical wellbeing and seeing a means of secure self-employment, on Friday 9 October 1908 Clem travelled by train to Davenport, Iowa, to undertake chiropractic training with the developing Palmer School of Chiropractic, Graduating with 13 students including three couples. He then began treating clients in the local area, living in a bare cold basement room at the school, but the income was insufficient. December 5th 1908 he packed his well travelled trunk and took the train to nearby Grandview, Iowa where he treated clients by word of mouth, living with one of the families in exchange for treatments. However, dispirited at his limited prospects, on the 24th December 1908 Clem took the train back to Denver. He continued to treat many clients in the evenings and weekends when Edith was seeing her own clients for Wizard or Bacon card readings. Clem gave adjustments for many years to clients, family and friends in Denver and after returning home to Porterville, received adjustments himself until he died.,

When Clem's employment with Cumbe's Tire and Auto Rental business ended, he searched tirelessly for jobs but was largely unsuccessful, apart from short term work as a printer, bookkeeper and inventory taker for various businessmen. Eventually he worked for several months for his landlord's cement company, initially canvassing businesses for sidewalk and gutter contracts in front of their property, then as foreman, organizing men and equipment to carry out the construction. This was arduous work demanding long hours in the cold winter.

As there was a great interest in the new fashion of photography following daguerreotypes, Clem, like many others, had his photo taken periodically and sent copies to his family.

Clem talks of 'smoking Ma's ears' many evenings before retiring to his room, which was initially confusion as there was scant mention of buying tobacco in his diaries or account books. It appears that ma Sherburne supplied the cigars "ears" from their rolled appearance—in exchange for Clem providing her with regular quarts or flagons of wine...

Continued/....

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

Edith gave Clem many of his diaries as Christmas presents and usually wrote comments in them beforehand for 1st of January, his birthday 13th February, her own birthday 7 June and at Christmas. These comments give us a view of her feelings towards him and her personality:

- **1906** Clem's BD 13 Feb. "May the happiest year of your whole life now commence" On 31 December Clem wrote "Goodbye 1906 and no regrets".
- 1907 1 January "Expectation is the mother of Miracles".
- 1908 1 January "May this be the happiest year of your life".,
 - 13 February "Keep your mind golden with gratitude, redolent with love and don't forget little Edie".
- 1909 Frontispiece—To C.C. Howell from Loving Edith 12/25/08.
 - 1 January "The sincerely grateful man is always blessed!"
 - 25 December "Time for Edie' Pedie to buy another diary!"
 - Edith wrote her own address in the back—"Mrs Edith Marie Raymond, 302 22nd St. Denver, Colour."
- 1910 1 January "May this year bring you your heart's desire, Edith"
 - 13 February "This is the date where you begin to forget your birthday" Clem aged 43.
 - 7 June "I trust you are still in Denver to help me celebrate".
 - 31 December "Don't forget EMR as the best friend you every had!"
- **1911** 1 January "To Luca with much love from Edie" "Clem's psychic name?) "This must be the Best Year of your Life cos you know more"
 - 13 February "Many Happy Returns" (Clem aged 44)
 - 7 June 'I positively refuse to know my age, so you too must forget it?" Edie Aged 54
 - 31 December "Shall we go down town for the 3rd midnight? If not, believe me it's for the best. Lovingly Ever, Edie".

Note: They previously went downtown Dec 31 in 1909 and 1910 for oysters and wine, as many others did, to see out the year.

1912 1 January "May this book bear the record of great happiness with financial success Edie Marjorie". (Her middle name is actually Marie.)

1913 Clem leaves Denver on 9 February on the train and arrives home at Porterville on his birthday the 13th. The final entry from Edith is on her birthday, 7 June: "Dinna forget yr. true friend".

The final section to be continued in the next edition of The Figtree. A very big thank you to our member Nancy Howell for sharing this wonderful diary and true story of her ancestor.

PAMPOOLAH PUBLIC SCHOOL—A BRIEF HISTORY

I recently came across a small booklet celebrating the 1952 centenary celebrations of Pampoolah Public School, which was situation on the bank of the South Passage of the Manning River. I started reading it, as you do, and decided that a brief history of the school was well worth including in the Fig Tree....

In the "FORWARD" of this booklet, written by the Hon. R. J. Heffron M.L.A. and Deputy Premier and Minister for Education in 1952 the opening lines are as follows -

Congratulations to Pampoolah upon completing 100 years of public school education.



"On the 1st September, 1852, the school was transferred to the control of the Board of National Education as Public School Redbank and was the first Manning River school to be controlled by this Board and indeed remained the only one until a school was established at Purfleet on February 1st 1857.

(Formerly it was a Presbyterian Denominational School which opened in either late 1850 or early 1851).

The original school was a two room structure of bark, which comprised the school room and teacher's residence. When taken over by the Board a new school was constructed. About 1879 the site was deemed unsatisfactory and the school was moved to a position on the river bank. A new school and residence were constructed and these were added to during the years.

The first teacher was Mr. William Small who was born in Ireland in 1813 and married Margaret Newton in Ireland in 1849. Twelve months later he sailed to Australia and went to live with relatives near Maitland, later he received his appointment to what was at that time the Redbank Presbyterian School and walked from Maitland, via Stroud, to the Manning (carrying his luggage!!). His wife arrived a few months later—you would like to think by carriage...

In 1852 Redbank was taken over by the NSW Government and became the first National School on the Manning River with Mr. Small as the first teacher. In 1891, because of the number of places called Redbank, which led to some confusion, the name of the school was changed to Pampoolah.

PAMPOOLAH PUBLIC SCHOOL—A BRIEF HISTORY Continued:

A report written on the occasion of the school's centenary celebrations in 1952 stated that "Mr. Small continued as teacher of Redbank National School and received a favourable report on his teaching at the school's initial official inspection on 11th August 1855. This inspection was carried out by Mr. William Wilkins, the first Inspector of Schools appointed in Australia and founder of the then education system. It is hard to imagine the difficulties that Mr. Small had to endure during his time at the school, not the least of which would have been isolation and loneliness.

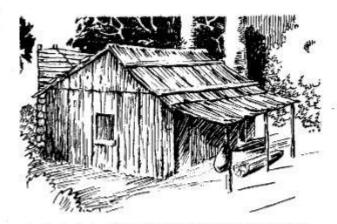
As far as can be ascertained, the teachers prior to 1882 were Mr. Black, Mr. Morley and lastly Mr. Hugh McKinnon, who it has been reported was an outstanding figure on the Manning and Wallamba Rivers. He entered Parliament and was President of the first Manning Shire Council..

Mr. Edward Collins followed Mr. McKinnon and next came Mr. Henderson, Mr. Debenham and in 1905 Mr. G. B. Morris became the teach in charge. His Inspector's report states "The Government is kind, mild and persuasive. There is an absence of harsh treatment. Teacher and pupils are evidently on good terms with one another".

1908 saw Mr. C Jones as teacher and Mr. Donald Frazer's, Inspections Report stated "The atmosphere of this school is one of cheerfulness and activity".

In 1913 we go the full circle when Mr. Oliver Murray became teacher in Charge. For Mr. Murray was an ex-pupil of the old school and taught there for 12 years.

Another interesting point I have found doing research on the school for this article was that when Mr. William Small was the teacher at Pampoolah he held night school for those who could not attend in daytime, presumably due to work commitments. I image that many of the adults during that period had never had the opportunity to obtain an education. Imagine teaching at a one teacher school during the day and backing it up with adults in the evening.



Redbank Presbyterian Denominational School 1850 or '51. Drawn by Mr. Frank Saxby of Taree.

Reference: Pampoolah Public School Centenary Souvenir Booklet

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
Coopernook, 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 \$32.5\$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

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,

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.

Ground Floor, 242 Victoria Street, Taree, 2430.

Phone 02 7955 7752 Between 10.00am-12 noon

Email: secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

Web site: www.manningwallambafhs.com.au

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Single: \$25.00 Family \$33.00

Please print clearly

NAME:		M	embership No:
ADDRESS:			
EMAIL ADDRESS:			
TELEPHONE:			
Age range: 1) Under	· 18 yrs-50 yrs: 51-7	70 yrs: 71-85 yrs+) (For Insurance Purposes only)
2) Unde	r 18 yrs-50 yrs: 51-7	70 yrs: 71-85 yrs+)
Direct Deposit Details:			
Banks: Regional Bank of Aus	tralia—BSB 932000 - Acco	ount 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.