

MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc TAREE

Issue 174 May 2025

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.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



What a time it has been.

Devastating flooding the psychological effects far into the future.

People and business's that will not recover.

Bridges out forcing people to seek other options for purchasing.

History lost—whole personal and business records.

The recovery phase will be long and lengthy.

Our members who have been badly affected how can we help?

Immediate help has been great but months into the future what will happen.

Houses will be declared inhabitable, government assistance will take time, there is no magical bank account to draw money from

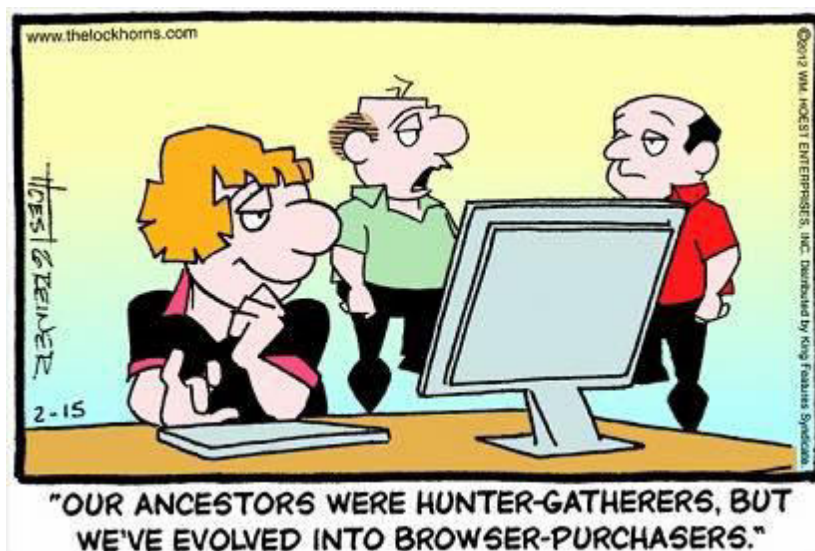
It is a pity that people when donating clothing and bedding don't check the suitability of what they donate eg; stains etc.

We are up and running and heading to the future looking into the past.

Regards

Ken Beeton

President.



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.

Researching My Family History

or

Recording for my Generation

I first started researching my family history after finding an old letter written by a great aunt to the then Honorary Secretary of Society of Australian Genealogists - Mr. E. Mc C.S Hill in 1934, who had been a pharmacist and business man in Wingham, Its surprising what one finds when given a box to sort out, to keep a young inquisitive teenager quiet.

She gave clues for me to follow, which over the years proved very helpful.

I joined Manning Wallamba Family History Society in 1985 giving me access to genealogical records and ideas how to research and use the resources, the limited resources that the Society had purchased, attend workshops and spend many hours writing letters and buying International Reply Paid coupons. and hoping for a reply .

In latter years the world wide web online resources have made researching easier. Facebook is also helpful and, of course, an overseas researcher can be consulted, to confirm that final little bit of information that is required . All information must be checked for accuracy, brick walls still occur. Often you never find information, records have been lost others too fragile to copy, again frustrating to the researcher.

Trove has helped to make the story of my family interesting .

I don't know if my great-great grandfather - David Irvine, born 1796, "Skellarts" Daviot Aberdeen Shire, Scotland and his brothers would be happy with me researching our family history and exposing the odd secret along the way.

I have now completed the task I set out to do, I have met people who I would otherwise have never met- new cousins.

It will be up to future generations to record the continuing history of this family.



Barbara Waters.
Member No 298

FAMILY TRAGEDY

As reported in the Maitland Mercury on 1st March 1859

DISTRICT NEWS

(From our own correspondents)

DUNGOG

Contributed by

George Sawyer Member No.533

(John Sawyer was my Great-Great Grandfather)

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT-I give you a hurried account of a sad affair that took place in this neighbourhood last evening, between eight and nine o'clock. John Sawyer, a settler, on the opposite side of the Williams, from this town, had been in with a load of shingles, and was on his way home at the time named, with his wife and three children in the dray. When, within about twenty rods of Abbott's Ford, the rear wheel of his dray struck against the butt end of a large tree lying on the ground, causing the dray to upset at once, Sawyer, his wife and youngest child falling under it. The bullocks continued on their course, with the dray upside down, and with Sawyer, after having been dragged some four rods, was left on the road with his neck dislocated and his skull completely broken-in. Of course instant death was the result. Mrs. Sawyer was dragged some two rods further when she became extricated, with the youngest child in her arms, comparatively little injured herself, though the dear child had his left leg broken, with other bruises. Dr. Ashenheim was, with his usual promptness, instantly in attendance, but Sawyer's case was instantaneous death. The doctor recommended the child's case a hopeless one, amputation would have to take place to give any chance of recovery. This morning, at daybreak, he was again in attendance. He then called in Dr. Street, and both pronounced the child fast sinking. Now, at half past nine, Dr. Ashenheim is of the same opinion. The other two children, it would appear, were thrown clear of the dray, and escaped with but little injury. It is remarkable that the log Sawyer struck against was laid there by the flood of 1857. An inquest will be held this day, when I shall be able to give you a fuller account.

Further to the above tragedy I now furnish further details of the event by way of various newspaper reports etc.

Sydney Morning Herald March 8 1859:

THE LATE DRAY ACCIDENT - Writing on the 2nd instant, our Dungog correspondent says:- The youngest child of the late John Sawyer, although given up by Drs. Ashenheim and Street, at its father's inquest on Friday last, is up to the time we write still living, although mortification will, in all probability, soon set in, and complete its deadly work. The prolonged existence of the ill-fated sufferer makes it evident that the child was not injured further than the shattered limb, and that had amputation been at once decided upon there is reason to suppose from the strength of the child's constitution, that its life might have been spared. The little sufferer is still at Mrs. Abbott's,

Continued../

FAMILY TRAGEDY (Continued)

to whose house it was removed after the accident. I am not surprised that doctors are reluctant to operate, for, in this colony, patients generally sink under their instruments, but it would be well for the public if practitioners had more confidence in that important branch of their profession. In alluding to surgery, it may be remembered that the late Mr. Liston, of Edinburgh, hardly ever failed in cases of amputation because he had great nerve, and having confidence in himself, never hesitated to remove a limb, which he could do in one minute without the usual parade of preparation and the presence of the faculty. The deceased man has been 20 years in this district.



DEATHS:

Near Dungog, on the 24th February, by the accidental upsetting of a dray, John Sawyer, aged forty years, leaving a wife and three children to lament their loss. Also, on the 5th instant, William Sawyer, aged one year and seven months, by the same accident.

TO - T. ABBOTT, Esq, Violet Hill Dungog 7th March, 1859

MY DEAR SIR- We take the earliest opportunity to convey to you our appreciation of the attention and humanity as evidenced by Mrs. Abbott and your amiable family during their attendance on the deceased William Sawyer.

Our united professional experience cannot recall a more touching aspect than a family voluntarily abandoning their ordinary pursuits and domestic comfort for the sole purpose of assuaging the dying sufferings of a fellow creature. We hope that you will all be spared for the exercise of similar acts of humanity. We have pleasure in subscribing ourselves yours faithfully,

CHARLES ASHENHEIM M.D.

REPLY: Violet Hill Dungog, 8th March, 1859.

GENTLEMEN—I am in receipt of your's of yesterday's date, conveying to me the appreciation of Mrs. Abbott and family's kind attention to the late William Sawyer.

I return you my sincere thanks for your public recognition of my family's humble efforts in the lamentable disaster; and beg to state that we have done nothing more than what the feelings of humanity dictated to us, and shall always feel happy in doing good for any fellow creature in distress.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

THOMAS ABBOTT, Surgeon.

FAMILY TRAGEDY SEQUEL: Continued

DISTRICT NEWS - DUNGOG

In my hurried account of the 23rd ultimo, relative to the death of John Sawyer, I promised you a more full detail of the melancholy accident. I did do so, but my letter appears not to have reached you, as it did not appear in your paper on Saturday the 24th. His remains were followed to their resting place by over 200 people, comprised of gigs and horsemen. The unfortunate man had many well-wishes in the district, and on all cases of emergency he was first to render assistance. His child lingered on till last Saturday, closely attended by Drs. Ashenheim and Street. The poor creature never sufficiently rallied to undergo the operation of amputation. The mother, naturally feeling anxious for her baby, sent for Dr. Park, but that gentleman not being at home the messenger followed on to Maitland and at about four o'clock on Saturday returned with Dr. Bolton, who meeting the other two doctors in the sick room, held a private consultation and a difference of opinion the result. Dr. Ashenheim maintained that the child could not stand the operation and in that opinion was supported by Dr. Street. Dr. Bolton maintained that there was a shadow of hope of recovery and that he would amputate the shattered limb. Both doctors, in strongest terms, protested against such being done. However, Dr. Bolton was immovable in his determination and at half past five o'clock removed the lower limb, first using chloroform. The child was some time before it rallied and lingered on for four hours and a half, when death put an end of its sufferings. On Sunday an inquest was held by the coroner of the district and a jury of seven finding death was caused by the accidental upsetting of a dray. I should have mentioned that both doctors stopped and witnessed the operation. On Sunday it was laid to rest in the one grave with its father, accompanied by over one hundred persons. As the late Mr. Sawyer was well known by many parties now residing on the Manning and elsewhere, you would do a favour to all by making the melancholy circumstances known.

DUNGOG March 7 1859

(We may add that Dr. Ashenheim (from whom Dr. Street emanated a written protest which will be found in our advertising columns) informs us that Dr. Mallon also agreed in their treatment, that gentleman having been consulted on a casual visit to Dungog—Eds. MM)

To the Editors of the Maitland Mercury

Gentlemen—It had not been my intention to have published the details of the Protest which I handed in to your office this morning., from an erroneous report, however, which appeared in the Morning Herald. I now request you to insert the entire Protest in whatever form you please.

From the time of the accident until the death of the patient, the well-known laws of surgery were against amputation.,

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
CHARLES ASHENHEIM, M.D. Surgeon

FAMILY TRAGEDY SEQUEL: Continued

MAITLAND 17TH March 1859.

"The conjoined Protest of Charles Ashenheim, Esq. MD Surgeon and that of Francis Gale Street, Esq. Surgeon, against an operation performed upon the infant William Sawyer, about eighteen months old, on Saturday evening the 5th instant.

"This protest is based upon the undermentioned facts. Dr. Ashenheim was called to the scene of a frightful accident on the night of 24th ultimo, and one of the results of such accident was an extensive laceration and compound fracture of the tibia and fibula; and, in addition to other fatal injuries of a surgical nature, there existed urgent symptoms of concussion unrelieved by treatment. Dr. Ashenheim immediately pronounced the case as an utterly hopeless one, and that nothing dare be attempted but a stimulant and palliative line of treatment. At daybreak he summoned Dr. Street to consultation and the latter gentleman fully coincided with Dr. Ashenheim, both discarding the idea of amputation as worse than useless, being opposed to all the laws of surgery. Although no doubt could exist as to the nature of the case, Dr. Ashenheim took advantage of Dr. Mallon's presence in Dungog, who also pronounced the case as beyond surgical skill. A few days afterwards it was suggested to Ashenheim by an individual that a further opinion should be taken, upon which he immediately dispatched a messenger to Dr. Park, a practitioner on the Paterson. Dr. Park did not come to this useless consultation, and the messenger returned with Dr. Bolton of Maitland. Dr. Bolton adopted the suggestion of amputation. Drs. Ashenheim and Street declined to operate. Dr. Bolton then undertook upon himself the sole responsibility of the operation. Drs. Ashenheim and Street immediately entered a solemn protest against this unsurgical proceeding, warning Dr. Bolton that the child might die before or immediately after the dissipation of the chloroform. The operation was performed by Dr. Bolton at the middle of the thigh, and the chloroform had barely passed off when the moribund symptoms quickly set in and death closed the scene. The patient never rallied from the shock occasioned by the accident. The capsular muscles and the cotyloid ligaments of the hip joint were rent asunder; there was strong circumstantial evidence in favour of internal pelvic laceration and other fatal injuries.

Drs. Ashenheim and Street, while awarding every credit to Dr. Bolton for zeal and the very best intention, consider it, at the same time, as their duty to protest against such an unsurgical proceeding; but above all, and in conclusion, the undersigned are strongly of the opinion that the practice of surgery cannot be safely carried on if capital operations, even under the most favorable circumstances, are permitted to be performed at the instance of one individual against such a mass of surgical evidence, and such personal testimony.

Protested at Dungog on Saturday evening the 5th March 1859
Charles Ashenheim., MD
F. Gale S. Street.

FAMILY TRAGEDY - Conclusion

Esther Sawyer was carrying my Great-Great Grandfather “in utero” at the time of the accident and when he was born was named John .

Esther eventually moved to the Manning where John had purchased land at Dooley’s Flat near Wingham and not far from her “Walker” family. The area became known as “Dolly’s Flat”.

Esther had another child James Dugan, father undisclosed, but rumoured to be a bank manager she was housekeeping.

Esther married Henry Gore a widower on 11 April 1877, and her two sons John and James later married Henry Gore’s two daughters Martha and Alice.

Esther died aged 46 at Tinonee on 31 August 1882 and is buried at Wingham Cemetery.

CHILDREN: Susannah, Mary Jane, John, James Dugan and William.

John and William are buried in an unmarked grave at Anley’s Flat near Dungog.

John had been deported to Australia as a convict and made good here.

He and his brother William were both to be deported and were imprisoned on the hulk “Fortitude” on the River Thames. William died on board before transportation.



Esther Weathereld <i>Walker</i> Gore	
BIRTH	unknown
DEATH	1882
BURIAL	Wingham General Cemetery Wingham, Mid-Coast Council, New South Wales, Australia
MEMORIAL ID	49108451 · View Source



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
Public Officer—Lyn Haynes			
Isolated & Unmarked Graves Graeme & Pam Jarman			

FINDING EARLY NSW RECORDS:

The Society has some valuable resources with references to early NSW residents. The majority of these have been sourced from the NSW State Records. Some are copies of actual records or books while others are indexes of records held at the Western Sydney Records (Kingwood). Look at the CD cover or NSW Records website for further details (www.records.nsw.gov.au) of availability and publishers.

Numbers shown (eg LD008) are Society Accession Numbers

OLD REGISTERS 1-9 PEO 351

The Old Registers are a collection of documents where everyday legal transactions were recorded from 1794- the earliest days of the Colony of New South Wales. They are officially known as the Registers of Assignments and Other Legal Instruments.

The nine registers represent a unique social record of the period from 22 January 1794 to 15 May 1824. The documents are an extremely rare and a valuable record of the early colonial settlement of New South Wales. The register was the first place that people of the new colony were able to officially record their legal transactions.

The Old Registers contain

- land transactions
- domestic legal matters such as affidavits, bills of sale and bonds
- whaling and shipping agreements
- a variety of deeds
- letters of power of attorney
- listing of names of early colonists
- place names within Sydney and the colony.

USING THE SOCIETY'S RECORDS TO FIND EARLY RECORDS

INDEX TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY'S PAPERS 1788-1825

PEO 118

The Papers include:

- petitions by convicts for mitigation of their sentences;
- requests for permission to marry;
- applications for land grants or leases;
- reports on official visits;
- information about court cases and lists of assigned servants
- anything to do with the colonial administration of the day.

Also available on the NSW State Records website memorials attesting to the worthy character

REGISTERS OF AURIFEROUS (GOLD) LEASES, 1874-1928

Gold leases for most NSW Districts. LD 009—023

The index records name of the lease holder, lease number, date of application, location, remarks, series number, reel/item number, and surveyor's name. It should be noted that in certain cases the registers do not show any further information than recorded in the index.

FIRST TITLE HOLDERS OF LAND

LD 006

...in the Parishes of Camden, Cook, Hunter, Durham & Gloucester.

The data for the lists is taken from parish maps purchased from the Department of Land Sydney.

In addition to the lists of titleholders to private land, supplementary lists have been compiled containing, Churches, Schools, Cemeteries, Historical Features, Registered Grants, Recreation Grounds and Public Parks and Reserves dated pre 1900.

PASTORAL POSSESSIONS NSWLD 026

William Hanson 1889 (archives CD Books)

William Hanson: *The Pastoral Possessions of New South Wales* Printed 1889

The volume is alphabetically arranged within each of the Eastern, Central and Western Divisions, with the names of the pastoral holders of the Crown, the Land District and County in which each holding is situated, the area in acres, the annual rent and license fee, the rate per acre and per section for each leasehold and resumed area respectively.

Part I Eastern Division pp. 1-165

Part II Central Division pp. 169-397

Part III Western Division pp. 401-507

The New South Wales Government Gazette published lists of "persons [who] have demanded Leases of the several Runs of Crown Land, particularly in connection with their respective names". These lists have been extracted from the Government Gazette and published here. They were published between May and October 1848. In addition there is a list of "Crown Lands Claims Approved within the Settled Districts"

REGISTERS OF AURIFEROUS (GOLD) LEASES, 1874-1928**Gold leases for most NSW Districts. LD 009—023**

The index records name of the lease holder, lease number, date of application, location, remarks, series number, reel/item number, and surveyor's name. It should be noted that in certain cases the registers do not show any further information than recorded in the index.

YEWEN'S DIRECTORY OF THE LANDHOLDERS OF NSW 1900 LD 008

This was the "first broad attempt at publishing a complete directory of landowners in New South Wales. The directory is divided into approximately 1900 postal localities grouped under 87 larger districts. There is an introduction and summary to each district.

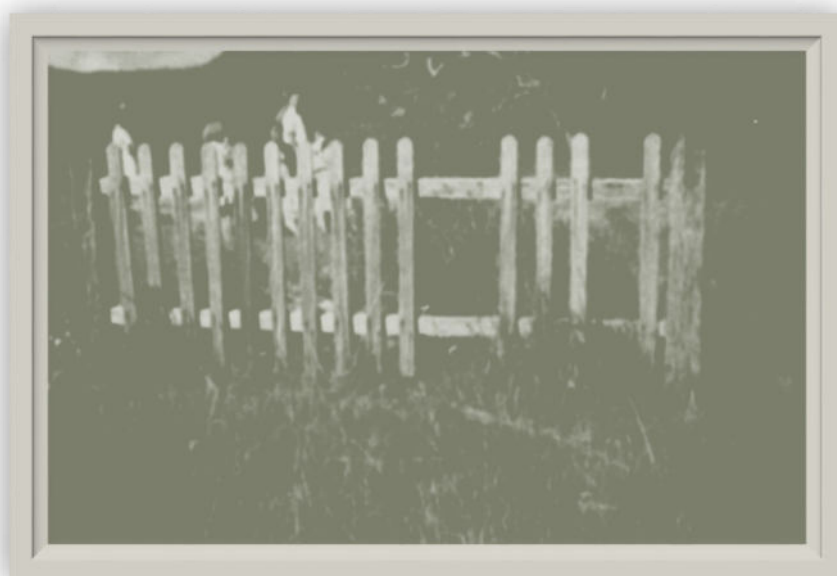
It indicates for each landholder whether they are dairy farmers, graziers or agriculturalists and what crops are under cultivation in the following categories - wheat, maize, barley, oats, potatoes, tobacco, sugar, other crops, grapes and orchard fruits.



**THE GRAVES OF ISABELLA GREEN (MILLS)
WHO DIED 10TH MAY 1910 IN CHILDBIRTH**

**THE UNNAMED BABE, AND HER SON LEONARD
ACCIDENTALLY KILLED 1923 BY A FALLING
BURNING TREE. THE BABY WAS HER 13TH CHILD.
PHOTO TAKEN AROUND 1940-50 AT KNORRIT FLAT
IN THE UPPER MANNING**

**THE WOODEN SURROUND NO LONGER EXISTS, GONE WITH
THE RAVAGES OF TIME.
THESE ARE THE GRAVES WE WISH TO RECORD SO THAT
THEY ARE NOT LOST FOREVER**



New online Index on Museums of History NSW Website

The latest MH NSW Collections eNews has some exciting news for those researching records relating to nineteenth-century immigration to NSW. Museums of History NSW, in partnership with Ancestry.com, has added a new index to its website –

'Selected Immigration Records'

which links to digital copies of the records.

The following records are included:

- NRS-5244 Register of applications for assisted passages to NSW, 1884–87
- NRS-5268 Remittance list refunds, 1855–68
- NRS-5277 Payments from employers to Colonial Treasurer, 1854–55
- NRS-5324 Persons authorised to import migrants, 1838–42
- NRS-5269 Papers re persons proceeding to the colony under remittance regulations 1856–58

We understand that additional series will be progressively added to the index. These records can provide additional information about immigrant arrivals. The Remittance list refunds, 1855–68 for example can help answer the question – 'but whatever happened to?'. It 'lists of persons towards whose passage or outfit contributions have been paid under the Remittance Regulation but who for the reasons annexed have not proceeded to the Colony'. The 'Remarks' column provides the reasons for not emigrating – 'Declines to immigrate'; 'Gone to America' and 'Married...'.

You can search the index by first name, last name, ship or date. This is the link to the Index:

<https://mhnsw.au/indexes/immigration-and-shipping/selected-immigration-records/>

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
Columbarium's 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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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: _____ 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.