



FORSYTH CLAN SOCIETY (QUEENSLAND)

NEWS LETTER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

MARCH, 1981

As I make this report, I am deeply aware that there is a lot still to be done with regard to the Forsyth Clan in Queensland.

In the last year, we have learned a lot - at times learned by our mistakes. We beg forgiveness for those mistakes.

The existence of this Clan Society owes very much to the Re-unions of the Forsyths from Peak Crossing, which have been taking place in August of each year for some years now. It is absolutely vital that these re-unions continue. The bulk of the Forsyths in Queensland have descended from the Forsyth brothers who settled at Peak Crossing more than 100 years ago. One of the main purposes of the Clan Society is to enable these "descendents" to discover their heritage and keep in contact with their relatives.

Of course, the Clan Society is not limited just to this one group. Meeting Forsyths who are not related in any way is a rewarding experience.

It is my intention that, apart from the picnic in August this year to be held back at Peak Crossing, we should hold one formal function each year, such as we are enjoying to-night. Other events may be held if you wish, so let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions. Towards the end of last year we had a picnic at Caboolture which was not a great success although those who were there enjoyed themselves.

In closing, I must thank all our committee for their assistance during the year. Particularly, I must thank Mrs. Gwyn Gartshore for the great job she has done throughout the past year. Without her, we could not operate.

Phos Forsyth

It is now over a year since the Clan Forsyth Society (Queensland Branch) was inaugurated and the 2nd Annual Meeting has been held.

This took place as part of the function held at the Crest Hotel - Saturday, 7th March, 1981, when ninety (90) people gathered together and enjoyed an evening of Fellowship and reminiscing - Good Food and Music - provided by Ross Forsyth - Laura Forsyth - Daphne Forsyth and Katherine Pittman with Scotch Country Dancing led by Jim South and his troupe of Scotch Country Dancers.

The Committee's personal thanks go to these people and others who helped to make the evening a success.

It was noted that many enjoyed participating in the Dancing, while others enjoyed looking on.

As there were a few octogenarians present it was very satisfying to the organising committee to see that they enjoyed the whole evening and it was generally voted that another such function should be held next year when we hope more will attend and really get to know each other.

It was gratifying that new members were enrolled and we welcome all newcomers and hope more will join us. We are getting to know one another now.

ELECTED MEMBERS FOR 1981 - 1982

Re-elected President:	ROSS FORSYTH 2/15 Erskine Str., KEDRON. 4031	Ph. 57 2538
Vice-President:	KEITH FORSYTH 27 Mulgowie Str., SUNNYBANK.	Ph. 345 7056
Secretary/Treasurer:	Mrs. Gwen Gartshore 113 Delville Av., MOOROOKA. 4105	Ph. 48 3180
Asst. Sec./Treasurer:	Gordon Perry Tarampa. Via LOWOOD. 4311	Ph. (073)86 1208

COMMITTEE:

Dr. Robin Forsyth
1191 Mt. Gravatt Rd.,
BURBANK. 4123
Ph. 44 3539

Don Forsyth
23 George Str.,
Newtown, IPSWICH. 4305
Ph. 281 0574

George Forsyth
P.S. 1406
CABOOLTURE. 4510
Ph. (071)95 2058

Mrs. Joy Farrell,
60 Kneale Str.,
HOLLAND PARK HEIGHTS. 4121
Ph. 349 5974

Des. Phillips
25 McAllister Str.,

We hope you will feel free to be in touch with any of the elected members or Committee, if you should wish to.

Subscriptions for 1981 - 1982 were discussed at the meeting. It was decided to leave them as in the previous year - that is - \$2.00 to \$20.00 as you wish to donate as during the year the expenses incurred were mostly Printing, Stationery and Postage and we hope to operate on much the same basis this year.

The committee has met since the Annual Meeting and discussed plans for the future. Any ideas you may have, lets hear from you.

oo00oo

"GATHERING OF THE CLANS"

"YEAR OF THE SCOT"

Taking place this year in Edinburgh in May.

There is a party of 22 Forsyth Clan Members from Australia. (5 of them from the Queensland Branch).

I am sure they will have an interesting time by the programme of arrangements made by the Scottish Forsyths, as well as meeting up with all the other Clans.

There will be a day at Ethie Castle with Chief Allistair and his wife, Ann and Family, so maybe some good photographs and slides will be on the programme at some future function.

oo00oo

The next gathering will be the picnic on Sunday, 30th August, 1981 to be held this year at the park opposite the Peak Crossing School - Fassifern Valley, where, as most of you know, a shelter and later, a Bar B-Que was erected in memory of Forsyths, who settled in that area in the latter half of the 19th century.

We would like to welcome ALL Forsyths and their descendents to this spot this year and so cement the tie of all who recognise the name Forsyth as part of their heritage.

Bring food to be put on the tables, chairs to sit on, beach umbrella, if you have them, from 11.00am and we will be endeavouring to make the day an enjoyable one.

We, the committee, would like to encourage all or any of you to offer help in compiling Family Trees and anecdotes of earlier days.

We offer you a couple of anecdotes in this newsletter - reported to the Secretary in conversation. These are the things we want to mention:- Names, Dates and Places - although these things may seem "trivial" and perhaps not all that exciting, they could reflect on the happenings of the times, which are fast fading into the back-ground, if we don't collect

A lot of our earliest contacts have now passed on but we have a few older people who are only too happy to talk of old times, so if you have a story to tell and no one to record it let Secretary Gwen know and she will be only too pleased to visit with you.

Now for the stories - as told to and by Gwen.

Does anyone remember Uncle Johnny Forsyth, (I can hear the chorus) who lived on his own up near Limestone Quarry (Flinders Lane, I believe).

Flo. McDermott (hello, Flo.) told me that Johnny was often asked why he never got married and his answer was always that he didn't want to have "anyone bossing him about". (Could this be a Forsyth trait).

Many of us remember "Old Johnny" who spent most of his time sitting on his verandah just surveying the country where a lot of the Forsyths settled from 1862.

Gordon Perry recalls as a lad visiting his great Uncle Johnny, that he was allowed to eat as many grapes as he liked - in season - as long as he didn't climb the trellis they grew on. One day Johnny disappeared for a bit and Gordon saw his chance - but he was soon told in a loud Scotch flavoured voice "Come down out of that or I'll give you a 'clip with the cork'". I believe it was an old game played with corks that the allusion to the cork had to do with.

Anyone know anything about the game with the corks?????

Another of Flo's reminiscences:-

Flo's mother was Margaret Forsyth - before she became Mrs. Crawford, and was born on Pelton Station on the Darling Downs, before the family moved to Peak Crossing.

She was the daughter of James, one of the original six brothers, who came to Australia from 1860 on.

The story goes that John came out first to have a look at Australia (and what would he see in 1860). He left his girl friend Catherine, to be looked after by James, but, these things happened even in those days, James married Catherine and had 2 children by the time they came out in 1862 - and what a family tree they started!!!! and poor John remained a batchelor - but it is also noted that this did not alienate any of the six brothers.

By the way, Gwen takes no responsibility for any of the contents of the stories but will verify them as far as is possible.

So keep them coming.....

Here-under is our Clan Forsyth Society subscription form. Any one wishing to become a member of the Clan Society, please fill in the form and, attaching your donation, return to Secretary, Gwen.

CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY (QUEENSLAND)

SUBSCRIPTION:

* 1981/1982 MEMBERSHIP:

ENCLOSED IS MEMBERSHIP FEE AS INDICATED:

NAME: MR/MRS/MISS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS: _____

ALSO ENCLOSED IS A DONATION OF \$ _____ TOTAL: \$ _____