

NEWSLETTER



JANUARY, 1982

PRESIDENT: Ross Forsyth

SECRETARY: Gwen Gartshore Ph. 48-3180

Happy New Year everyone and may 1982 be a prosperous year with Good Health and Happiness for all.

I intended to have this letter out before Xmas, but it wasn't to be, so, all I can say is that we hope you all had a Merry Xmas.

I will begin with the very successful re-union at Peak Crossing Sunday, 30th August, 1981 (136) were present, the eldest (Lillian Forsyth of Boonah) who is 92 and the youngest, a baby 4 weeks old. It was voted by many as the best yet, I think it was because you are all getting to know one another more and I heard mention that they enjoyed the few stories of early days in the area.

Do come to the next one, last Sunday in August, 1982, (29th), the Park at Peak Crossing is nice now - our Memorial Shelter and the barbeque much used and a new toilet block has improved the facilities. The area is flat with plenty of trees for shade and cars can be parked in the area.

Had a flying visit from Chief Alistair and his wife in November. He was on a business visit and then to Sydney, where he was able to represent the Clan Forsyth during Scotch Week. I have a Sydney Newsletter with news of the doings and will try to get copies done and pass on to you.

Ivan and I were able to meet with Alistair and Ann and they leave their greetings to you all and promise to reserve more time for the Queenslanders next November and we will arrange a 'get to-gether'.

A couple of months ago, I received notification from Scotland that a Victoria Cross - won by a New Zealand Forsyth in World War 1, was to be auctioned at Sothebys in London, Chief Alistair and the Scottish Clan opened an appeal to attempt to buy it. Time was short and apart from a small donation, we did not have time to do much. Your Committee discussed it. Chief Alistair was able to tell me more and I pass on the story.

It was near the end of the war, when a N.Z. Forsyth showed such bravery that he was presented, posthumously, with the V.C. As he had married an Irish girl overseas, she eventually went back to Belfast. When she died, a nephew on her side of the family, found the medal amongst his Aunts' belongings and promptly sold it. The N.Z. Forsyths made representation for the recovery of the medal but as it had gone to U.S.A. and was in the hand of collector or dealer, the price was high. Chief Alistair had been in touch about it some years ago.

However, it came to light again recently and the price gained at Sothebys was #17,000 Australian, and it was bought by an Australian collector or dealer. The family could not meet this and the collections among Forsyths could not match it.

Although, sometimes, in a case like this one wonders why these things are being sold outside the family, there is always a story behind it. When one wanders through all or any of the museums or collections preserved in many places, it seems a pity that a "Forsyth" Victoria Cross will not be there.

Those of us who were in Scotland in 1981, to the gathering of the Clans, will always remember the treasures preserved in Stirling Castle, which included a superb Collection of Trophies and Awards, won by many a Scotsman over many, many years. I suggest, if the chance comes your way, have a look inside Stirling Castle.

On the 30th November, 1981, we arranged a Presentation of a Book "The Wild Australia" to the Peak Crossing School, in memory of all Forsyths - many of whom attended the school. We had the book at the

re-union, but that was a Sunday and the Headmaster suggested that it would be more fitting for the Book to be presented during a School Day.

Ross and I gathered up (6) Ectogenarians - (5) had attended the school - the earliest in 1897.

The Students and Teachers all assembled to welcome us and Anne MacNish (Nee Forsyth), who had been a school teacher most of her life, talked to the children about early days at Peak Crossing.

The children soon re-acted and it was interesting to hear the names of early students, still represented by their Grandchildren. The few related to the Forsyth Clan, who are present students, were eager to present themselves.

Present were: Ann - Lila and Prudence, - Lott~~e~~ - Bill (Morrow) Ann, husband Harold with Ross and Phyliss~~e~~ I to help with transport.

The older girls served Morning Tea and the students lined up to wave us good-bye.

Sorry we could not include you all, but I think the episode will remain on the minds of the (86) children present.

We have had visits from Arthur Forsyth of Sydney - who is the Commissioner for Australia. He is standing down at the end of this year and a new Commissioner will be appointed.

Nominations are asked for the position. Arthur will be nominating Les. Forsyth of Sydney. For those of us who know Les., know that he would be a worthy successor.

He has written a very good history of the N.S.W. Forsyths. At present, he is doing a history of the Willoughby Shire in Sydney, which is the area where many Forsyths settled. He definately has the Forsyths at heart and Ross and I would agree to nominate him.

However, the way is open for other nominations and I pass this on to you.

Your Committee is arranging our Annual Function, Saturday, 13th March, at the Caledonian Club, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane. The Annual Meeting takes place here, too - we make it short - so any nominations for the position on the Committee, will be welcome.

Hope to see you on the 13th March, or write me anytime.

We have about (100) families on our mailing list, so keep up the interest and we'll all enjoy the Clan feeling.

Regards,

Gwen::

INVITATION



All Members of the Forsyth Families and their friends are invited to attend the Clan Gathering and Dinner Dance to be held at the "CALEDONIAN CLUB", Cnr. Shafston Avenue and O'Connell Street, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, on SATURDAY, 13th March, 1982 from 5.00p.m.

A short Annual Meeting will take place, and Nominations for Office Bearers for the 1982-1983 Committee will be accepted.

The Rooms will be open at 5.00p.m., and we suggest you gather for reminiscences and a chat.

The function will begin officially at 6.00p.m.

There is plenty of room for parking - enter from O'Connell Street -

DIRECTIONS: (1) Coming South from Story Bridge - just on left soon after leaving Bridge

(2) Coming from East Brisbane along Shafston Avenue - turn right before reaching Main Street, Kangaroo Point.

R.S.V.P. - 1st March, 1982 please

<u>SUBSCRIPTION:</u>	ADULTS	\$12-00
	CHILDREN UNDER 12 years	\$ 6-00

BUY YOUR OWN DRINKS

We hope the Families will make it a date, as we want the young people to come - we are arranging a programme for all ages.

We have come a long way since we have been meeting together, and have had some happy times -

LET'S MAKE THIS ANOTHER ONE !!!

ACCEPTANCES TO SECRETARY - Mrs. G. Gartshore,  
113 Delville Avenue,  
MOOROOKA Q 4105

Phone: 48-3180

ADULTS:

NAMES

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Cheques and Money  
Orders with Acceptan  
please - cheques to  
made payable to  
FORSYTH CLAN SOCIETY  
QLD.

CHILDREN

NAMES  
&  
AGES

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FORSYTH CLAN SOCIETY (QUEENSLAND)

NEWS LETTER



APRIL, 1982

It is with pleasure that I write this news letter following our third Annual meeting, which was held on 13th March, 1982 at the Caledonian Club, Brisbane.

The Committee was disappointed that only 60 were present. Those 60 had a lovely time, but we missed a lot of others whom we have seen on other occasions. Could you let us know what kept you away? It will help us on other occasions.

President Ross' Report is enclosed and we hope to see you all at the Picnic Reunion on Sunday 29th August, '82 from 11 a.m.

Your Committee for the year 1982-1983:

CHAIRMAN

Ross Forsyth, 2/15 Erskine St. Kedron  
Ph. 57 2538

VICE PRESIDENT

Keith Forsyth, 27 Mulgowie St,  
Sunnybank. Ph. 345 7056

SECRETARY-TREASURER (Mrs) Gwen Gartshore, 113 Delville Av.

Mooroooka. Ph. 48 3180

ASST. SEC.-TREAS.

Gordon Perry, Tarampa, Via Lowood  
Ph. (075) 86 1208

COMMITTEE

- (1) (Mrs) Joy Farrell, 60 Kneale St. Holland Park.  
Ph. 349 5974
- (2) Don Forsyth, 23 George St. Newtown. Ipswich.  
Ph. 281 0574
- (3) Dr. Robin Forsyth, 1191 Mt. Gravatt & Capalala Rd.  
Burbank. Ph. 343 1776
- (4) George Forsyth P/S 1406, Caboolture. Ph. (071) 952058

The committee would like you to be in touch with any of them if you so wish.

The function as planned on the 13th. was more formal but we would like to remind you to keep Sunday 29th August free and come along to the Picnic at Peak Mountain Park - opposite Peak Crossing school.

We suggest you bring some photos along and we'll try and make a display. Suggest you set them up and mark them clearly so that we may know who the early family members are.

Any other suggestions to stimulate interest will be most welcome.

Bring food for the tables - a chair to sit on and we will try to make it a big family luncheon party.

My regards to you all and I look forward to another interesting year as your secretary.

GIVEN.

Hon. Sec.

NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR NEW MEMBERS

I would like to join the CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY (QUEENSLAND)

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

.....Post Code .....

PHONE: .....

Family Members' Names

Enclosed is membership fee payment \$ .....

yearly Subscriptions. \$2.00 to \$20.00 as you please  
1982-83. due

Please mail to Secretary: Mrs. G. Gartshore  
113 Delville Avenue,  
MOOROOKA Q 4105

Phone: 48-3180

13th March 1982.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

I would like to preface my report by stating that I feel the past year has been a year of progress and achievement.

The first item in my report must be the most significant event of the year, namely the picnic at Peak Crossing in August. It is abundantly clear that the Peak Crossing Park is the place, that most of our members believe should be our meeting place. In the week before our picnic, the Council completed a new amenities block in the Park and renovated and painted all the tables and playground equipment. The Council have assured us they will continue to care for those items we have placed in the Park. The grass is also well cared for.

Approximately 150 'Forsyths' were present on the day and I was given the impression that they all rated it a great day. Let's see if we can top that number on 29th August this year.

Toward the end of last year, a book, which would have been seen by many of you at the picnic was placed in the Library of the Peak Crossing school. A group of our members spent a most pleasant morning at the school and our thanks must go to Ann McNish, who addressed the school children telling them what the school was like when she began attending there 76 years before. The school children were obviously most appreciative and they lined up in the school driveway to wave as we left.

Early in January, I spent a most pleasant afternoon and evening with our Australian Commissioner, Arthur Forsyth, in Sydney. Arthur will have completed his 3 year appointment as Commissioner at the end of this year, and will not be extending the appointment. Arthur has seen a great deal achieved throughout Australia during his appointment and we must extend to him our deepest gratitude and wish him well for the future.

1981 was the Year of the Scot and the Gathering of the Clans was one of its main features. 5 of our Queensland members joined a group from all over Australia who toured Scotland. This was the first time in approx. 400 years that the Forsyth clan have taken their place, officially, at such a Gathering.

In November, 1981, Alistair Forsyth, our Clan Chieftan, visited Australia and quietly slipped into Brisbane for a couple of days. He told us of his plans to return to Brisbane in November this year. He has promised to notify us of his visit in plenty of time to allow us to arrange functions in his honour, while he is here. Please keep this mind and join us all when we meet Alistair again in November.

Looking toward the future of the Clan Society, the success of the picnic at Peak Crossing, does give the Committee a lot of encouragement. It is our concern that the Society be meaningful and fulfil the wishes of its members. I would like to see the Society set a goal in terms of a project for the future. We have a sum of money \$105.59 which is the remainder of the money donated in the past years, to allow the barbeque at Peak Crossing to be built. This money is to be placed in a Special Project Fund, where a reasonable rate of interest will be paid. We are seeking your advice and ideas as to what project we should adopt. Naturally your donations to the fund will be sought.

In closing, I wish to thank the Committee for their eagerness and loyalty during the past year. They are your representatives so please do not hesitate to contact any committee member, if there is any matter concerning you or if you have any suggestions to make. It is your organisation and we want to operate in the way most of benefit to you. I thank you all for your generosity and interest over the past year. I hope 1982 will be a year of continued expansion.

ROSS FORSYTH: