



Restorer of Ruin

CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND BRANCH (Est 1979)

Newsletter – December 2013



From the 2013-2014 Clan Forsyth Committee
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Claire Jill Rob Val

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A New Commissioner to Clan Forsyth Society of Australia

(Details taken from Clan Forsyth (Sydney Branch) Newsletter – September 2013)

David Forsyth AM was invested as our new Commissioner for the Clan Forsyth in Australia, on 10 November 2013. The ceremony was held on the Sydney Branch's Open Day at Willoughby Uniting Church, Clanwilliam Street, Willoughby.

David was awarded an Australia Medal in the 2013 Australia Day Honours list. He is a past-president of the Sydney Branch of the Clan. His father, the late Ray Forsyth, was also a past-president.

David Forsyth AM, BE(Aero) Grad Dip FRAeS MILT



David is a direct descendant of Willoughby pioneer tanner James Forsyth who first came to Australia in the 1850's. David was born in Sydney not far from the original tannery site. He has lived most of his life in the Willoughby area, excepting his first 10 years of schooling in Melbourne. David married Susan in 1978 and they have two grown up sons, James and John.

David has had a 40 year career in the airline industry, joining Qantas as an engineering cadet, and working as a professional engineer before moving into management, where he headed a number of Engineering Divisions. In 1997 became the General Manager Regional Airlines and in 1999 Executive General

Manager Aircraft Operations, responsible for all Qantas Flight Operations, Engineering, and Maintenance.

Since leaving Qantas, David has worked as an independent consultant and served on a number of Boards, including as Chairman of Airservices Australia, Chairman of Safeski's Conferences, Vice President of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (SE Section) and President of the Royal Aeronautical Society Australian Division. He is currently a visiting lecturer at the UNSW School of Aviation and is Chairman of the Industry Advisory Panel. In 2013 he became a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the aviation industry.

David has always loved the Australian bush, from his childhood days as a scout, and is a regular bushwalker and 4WD traveller to the most remote parts of Australia's deserts. He also enjoys quiet kayak paddles around Sydney's Middle Harbour. He has recently become a volunteer guide for the National Parks & Wildlife Service.



A sad day saw the passing of a much loved member of the Clan in August of this year.



Bethal Gordon, born 16 May 1917 to Hector Arnold Forsyth and Isabella Caroline Russell was 96 years young. Bethal was a fine lady and will be sadly missed by the Clan.

Our deepest condolences to Bethal's family.

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Happy Birthday to the following Clan Members:

November: Graham J King – 3/11
 Miriam J King – 4/11
 Lyndall K Hill- 5/11
 Victor W Ashton –7/11
 Judith E Forsyth – 7/11
 Christine A Forsyth (Monto) – 19/11
 Mackenzie Bowdern – 23/11
 Trinity Bowdern – 23/11



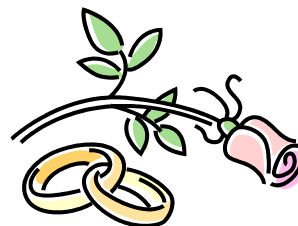
December: Connie M Forsyth – 9/12
 Catherine M Nash – 10/12
 Tess Forsyth – 10/12
 Gordon D Forsyth – 13/12
 Isabel F King – 28/12



January: Steven W Hoefling – 2/1
 Jeffery A Forsyth – 5/1
 Christopher T Soppa – 5/1
 Bronwyn J Collins – 10/1
 Valma I Ashton – 13/1
 Karleigh B E Soppa – 15/1
 Anna E Forsyth – 22/1
 Beryl J Forsyth – 30/1

Congratulations and a Happy Anniversary to the following Clan Members:

November: Alexander R & Judith E Forsyth – 42 years 6/11
 Lochlan J & Sue M Forsyth – 39 years 9/11
 Gary J & Leah Forsyth – 1 year 17/11
 Victor & Valma Ashton – 52 years 18/11
 Robert J & Dorothy G Somerville – 48 years 20/11
 Luke & Nerida Forsyth – 2 years 23/11
 Gordon & Carol Forsyth – 35 years 25/11



December: Robert H & Beverley M Kerkin – 49 years 12/12
 Murray L & Lyndall K Hill – 29 years 15/12
 Douglas E & Terry M Forsyth – 42 years 18/12
 Trevor A & Tess Forsyth – 16 years 20/12
 Jack F & Mary Guy – 61 years 27/12
 James A & Christine A Forsyth – 40 years 29/12



January: There are no reported anniversaries

Remember: If your details are not up-to-date on our records we will not be aware of your celebrations.



Harrisville's 150th Anniversary Saturday 2 November 2013

The town of Harrisville almost became a City on Saturday 2nd November as people flocked to the small town from places near and far to celebrate the 150 years since the founding fathers named the small centre of business as Harrisville.

For those members of our Clan who may not be aware, Harrisville is significant, not only in being the nearest town to Peak Crossing, (the Forsyth Clan Qld Centre) but was established on land provided by Robert Dunn who was known as the "Father of Harrisville". Robert and Sarah Dunn's eldest daughter Margaret was given the honour of naming Harrisville after the Harris Brothers, who also contributed greatly to the town.

Margaret married Luke Wheeler Smith whose eldest daughter Isabella married Samuel Forsyth. This union as we know has produced quite a long line of current members of our Clan here in Queensland.

The planning committee for the Celebration have to be congratulated on the preparation and organisation.

The parade along Queen Street was the commencement of events. School age children led the procession and were grouped in periods depicting the change in dress over the years.



The Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band were next and provided the perfect inspiration, mood and support to all in the procession and to the public lining the full length of Queen Street from the Royal Hotel to the School of Arts Hall.

Our contingent of Clan Members followed the Band and were led by Monique and Jacinta Ashton who proudly carried our Clan Banner. It would have been nice to have had a few more members in our group but for those that were there I feel must have felt proud to have represented our Clan and our forefathers who were very much a big part in settling and developing the Harrisville District.

I know that for myself it was a stirring moment when we passed the newly upgraded Harrisville War Memorial now containing the names of our fathers, uncles and cousins that served in WWI and WWII, some of whom paid the supreme sacrifice.

Behind our group a number of vintage cars in the procession provided comfortable transport for those not

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able to march in the procession but still wanted to be included. The oldest vehicle providing this mode of transport was an old grey mare pulling a four wheeled carriage.

A long line of floats followed which were entered by local clubs, groups and organisations. The 'Women's Shed' float in particular stood out and actually won first prize for a float. Their group gets together to knit, sew and probably tell as many yarns as in the 'Men's Sheds'.



The vintage cars, car clubs and restored trucks came from everywhere. A restored WWII Blitz truck was driven from Darwin to be in the parade.



As a fitting end to the procession the Light Horse Infantry group in their WWI dress could have been from a time back in the early 1900's.

Soon afterwards the Queensland Governor Ms Penelope Wensley arrived to official open the Celebrations. For our Clan the highlight of her attendance was her meeting with Daneka Soppa, the Granddaughter of Jill Soppa (nee McDougall), after Daneka had re-enacted the 'Naming of the Cotton Gin'.

Daneka being a direct descendant of Margaret Dunn and at the same age for the time, had the privilege and honour of performing this ceremony. It was a proud moment for her and her family. She did us all proud and looked and acted beautifully.

Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the get together with all our extended relations as well as Clan members.

Article written by Gordon Forsyth

The Brisbane Courier (Qld : 1864 – 1933) Monday 21 February 1870

OPENING OF MESSES J AND G HARRIS' COTTON GIN ON THE IPSWICH AGRICULTURAL RESERVE

The above firm having completed extensive buildings on this reserve for the ginning of cotton, determined, with their usual liberality, to 'warm' the same by a public banquet on Wednesday last. At an early hour of the evening the inhabitants of the district began to assemble, and there was also a fair attendance of Ipswich people. Previous to the entertainment the engine was put in motion, when Miss Dunn, having been handed a bottle of wine by the manager of the firm, with much grace and dignity christened the establishment "The Harrisville Cotton Gin," amidst the cheers of all present.

*Three of our outstanding Clan Members
in fine costume –
Gordon Forsyth, Des Phillips and Don Forsyth.*





Proud Grandparents

by Gordon & Carol Forsyth



It has been said once or twice that Grandparents are some of the proudest people when it comes to their grandchildren.

On 22 October our youngest Granddaughter, Dakota Hoeftling, youngest child of Steve and Kim, gained 'Honours' in her first Classical Ballet Examination at the age of 7 years.

It only seems yesterday that her mother went through the nervous times of exams and then we enjoyed with pride while we watched her dance in ballet concerts in Lae, Papua New Guinea.

Dakota, looking like a professional ballerina, poses for a studio photo.

Congratulations Dakota, we are very proud of you.

Just in Time for Christmas - Traditional Scottish Caramel Shortbread

Caramel Shortcake is often called "Millionaires' Shortbread" – presumably because it is so rich.

Ingredients (Biscuit Base):

200g or 2 cups plain flour

150g butter or margarine

75g or ½ cup caster sugar

Ingredients (Filling):

25g butter or margarine

25g or between ¼ and ½ cup soft brown sugar

A large tin of condensed milk

Ingredients (Topping):

200g or 1 cup milk chocolate



Method:

Rub the margarine and flour together in a bowl until you have a mix which is similar to breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar. Spread the mixture evenly into a 23cm square tin which has been lined with baking paper. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 170c or 160c if fan forced for approximately 35 minutes until it is golden brown. Allow the base to cool.

Heat the filling ingredients together in a pot, making sure that you stir it constantly (otherwise it will stick!) until it begins to simmer. Continue stirring until it thickens (which it should do in a few minutes). Spread the filling evenly over the base and again allow to cool.

Melt the chocolate so that you can spread it over the filling.

When it has cooled and you are ready to eat it, cut up into squares or rectangles with a sharp knife.

Enjoy!

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Your Committee for the year 2013-2014

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President's Report

As they say "onwards and upwards".

Apart from a number of changes in the structure of our Committee, we have made the following changes to the way in which we do things.

1. Memberships

- Life membership will now include the spouse or partner. Usually to reach this level of commitment it can only be achieved by the support of the "Boss".
- Future subscriptions will all be due on 30th June of each year to simplify the control of the list of financial members.

Any that are due before the 1st January will pay the normal annual fee. After that a half fee will apply. We encourage members to pay by 'netbank' or cheques.

You will receive a reminder by email or letter prior to the due date and will include a "New Member Application / Renewal Form" in order to advise the Secretary of any changes to your family or contact details.

2. Accounting

- The Clan now has it's own appropriate software program to control our accounting and membership data. This program is expected to provide simple and concise reports available to any or all Committee members that have a computer. The data input however can only be carried out on the program operated by the Treasurer.

3. Clan Membership

- As you can see we are attempting to raise more interest in the Clan in order to hold and gain more members. We invite all members to contribute articles that may be of interest to other family members. So don't be shy, write some interesting articles, provide photos etc, email or post to our hard working Secretary, Carol.

At the last meeting we also discussed some projects that we considered worthy of involvement by the Clan.

1. Water Bubbler at the Peak Mountain View Park at Peak Crossing.
2. Toilet facility at the Harrisville Cemetery. Contact has been made with the Scenic Rim Regional Council to discuss these two projects.
3. The old area of the Harrisville Cemetery which is the burial site for a number of the original Forsyth families contains some graves without a proper plaque.

It was passed at the meeting to provide and instal the appropriate plaques.

Should any member of the Clan be interested in participating in any of these projects or have suggestions for other worthy projects, please contact any Committee Member.

Yours sincerely

Gordon D Forsyth

President



Remembrance Day

11 November 2013



Do You Have an Exciting Activity to Share?

Our Committee is always looking for new and different activities for our young and young at heart members. We find the present Clan members are ageing and unless we can encourage the younger generations to enjoy the activities within the Clan Society, the Queensland branch of Clan Forsyth will eventually fall away.

Do you know a Forsyth Descendant that is not a Clan Member?

We would welcome them in the Queensland Branch of Clan Forsyth. Please contact the Secretary on phone or email so we can invite them to join us or alternatively ask them to contact us.

Letters to the Editor

If you have something to say, a family celebration, academic achievements, photo or an article of interest, please forward to the Secretary for insertion in the next Clan Newsletter.

Dates to Remember

Committee Annual Christmas Dinner and Break-Up – 19 November 2013

Next Newsletter – February 2014

Annual Clan Dinner at Harrisville School of Arts Hall - 5 April 2014

Descendants of Smith / Dunn Family, Reunion at Harrisville School of Arts Hall – 13 April 2014

Easter Good Friday – 20 April 2014

Appendix

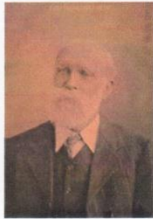
Smith Family Gathering for Descendants of Luke Wheeler Smith and Margaret Dunn.

For Clan members who are not aware, descendants of Samuel Forsyth & Isabella Alice Smith are direct descendants of Luke Wheeler Smith and Margaret Dunn. Margaret is the daughter of Robert Dunn, "Father of Harrisville".

Smith Family Gathering

Sunday 13 April 2014

Luke Smith



Descendants of:



Luke Wheeler Smith

*Luke Smith (1827-1879 and Martha Wheeler (1829-1888)
Luke Wheeler Smith (1852-1911) and Margaret Dunn (1853-1940)*

Don't forget
your camera

are invited to gather from 10am at the
Harrisville School of Arts
49 Queen Street Harrisville, Queensland



Granny Smith

*Descendants are invited to provide copies of photos,
family stories and documents for inclusion in the Smith, Dunn & Forsyth
Descendant Books.*

*Family Tree Input forms can be obtained from,
and returned to Carol Forsyth before
20 December 2013*

*Artefacts of interest are also welcome to be
displayed on the day*

**BYO Picnic Lunch
& Folding chairs
Hot water, tea & coffee available**

For further information about the gathering, please contact:

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*"Greenwood"
1916 "Granny Smith's House"*