



CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Newsletter – February 2014

Happy New Year everyone and may 2014 be a prosperous year with good health, happiness and many more new members.

In the Beginning

In May 1977 the Clan Forsyth Society in Scotland was reconstituted and a Clan Chief inaugurated. The purpose of the Society was to restore recognition and dignity to the name of Forsyth.

Following a visit by the Clan Chief to Sydney in November 1978, some interested Australian Forsyths formed the Clan Forsyth Australia Society. This Society has continued to flourish. Following this success in Sydney it was decided to involve the Melbourne Forsyths, and a preliminary meeting was held at Bill Forsyth's home in Essendon on 8 June 1979. Some 30 interested people attended and elected a Steering Committee which was given the purpose of publicising the Clan Forsyth Australia Society (Melbourne region) with the aim of seeking more widespread support.

The day set aside for the forming of the Clan Forsyth Society (Queensland) was Sunday, 16 March, 1980 and some fifty members of Forsyth families gathered together to attend a Church Service at Knox Uniting Church, Moorooka. Some members took part in the Service, which was followed by lunch, and a meeting at which election of officers took place and a Constitution adopted.

The Steering Committee which had arranged the function retired, but offered themselves for nomination.

The first Office Bearers elected to Clan Forsyth (Qld) were:

President:	Ross Forsyth
Vice President:	John Forsyth
Secretary/Treasurer:	Gwen Gartshore (nee Dunn)
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer:	Gordon Perry
Committee:	Des Phillips, Don Forsyth, Keith Forsyth, George Forsyth & Dr Robin Forsyth

The first Ipswich gathering since the formation of the Official Clan Association was held on 7 September 1980. It was at the previous gathering 12 months prior, at Ipswich that the initial movement began which has resulted in the formation of the Clan Association. It was decided then to have the Forsyth Gathering back at Peak Crossing.

The existence of this Clan Society owes very much to the Reunions of the Forsyths from Peak Crossing, which have been taking place in August of each year since 1974. It is absolutely vital that these reunions continue. The bulk of the Forsyths in Queensland have descended from the six Forsyth brothers who settled at Peak Crossing more than 140 years ago. One of the main purposes of the Clan Society is to enable these "Descendants" to discover their heritage and keep in contact with their relatives.

The Clan Society is not limited just to this one 'Tree'. Meeting Forsyths who are not related in any way is a rewarding experience.

President: Gordon D Forsyth
20 Leander Circuit, Oxenford Qld 4210
Ph: (07) 5502 3070
Mobile: 0429 056 014
Email: gordonforsyth@bigpond.com

Secretary: Carol D Forsyth
20 Leander Circuit, Oxenford Qld 4210
Ph: (07) 5502 3070
Mobile: 0427 056 014
Email: carolforsyth@bigpond.com

Peak Mountain View Park

Peak Mountain View Park Memorial Shelter and BBQ were erected prior to March 1981 in memory of the 6 Forsyth Brothers who settled in the area in the 1800's.

The money to erect these 2 structures was collected as donations from the members of the Society.

After the building of the shelter and BBQ, \$105.59 was surplus and placed in a bank account to reap the benefits of interest until another project was adopted.

At a Committee meeting in February 1983 and then at the Reunion, it was suggested that some funds which had been collected be put to seating arrangement, of log construction, be erected around the existing Memorial Shelter and BBQ. Timber was offered by Gordon Perry and Don Forsyth – to come from Forsyth Property.

Gordon Perry approached the Council for permission, which was granted and the seating erected.

By November 1983, led by Don Forsyth a Committee Member, some impressive split-log seats were constructed around the barbeque and picnic area previously installed.

Don and his brother Les, helped by Gwen & Ivan Gartshore, Ian Forsyth, Joy Farrell, Daphne Forsyth and Keith & Peg Forsyth put the split logs in place and stained them ready for the picnic in August.



Our President and youngest daughter Christine resting on the timber seats around the BBQ area.



A couple of our original Clan members Keith & Peg Forsyth with their daughter in law Sue Forsyth taking advantage of the timber seating

At the picnic Ann MacNish (nee Forsyth), unveiled a plaque dedicating the whole area to the memory of the Forsyth Pioneers of the district. Three trees were then planted, one by Les Forsyth from Sydney, the incoming Clan Commissioner in Australia. The other two trees were planted by the oldest members present, Mrs. Anne Burrow (nee McIvor) (1893-1987) and Cyril Forsyth (1898-1984). The trees were donated by John and Fay Forsyth. John, the nephew of Les Forsyth who was the founding Vice-President of our Society.

Present Day

As you have just read, one of the aims of our Branch here in Queensland, from the beginning, was to retain our presence in the Peak Crossing and Harrisville District by donating or providing some facilities for public use as well as for our Clan.

In recent years the Committee and other members have put a lot of effort into fund raising to the point where we have a reasonable bank balance. The current Committee is considering any worthy projects where the Clan can work with the local area authorities and groups to improve public facilities.

Our first project, which is currently in progress, is to provide a Drinking Water Fountain in the park at Peak Crossing which gets a lot of use from local residents and their children being directly opposite the Primary School where a lot of our ancestors attended in the last 100 years. We also hold our annual picnic and AGM at the park.

We have had the Fountain manufactured from marine grade stainless steel to our specifications with a quality Water Bubbler Cock for a total cost of \$665. The Scenic Rim Council Works Manager has agreed to do the installation which should happen in the next month or so.



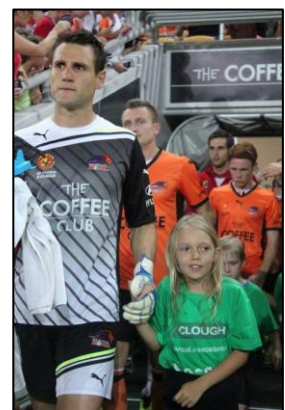
The other projects that we are considering and discussing with the Local Authorities and Groups are:

1. The replacement of our old picnic shelter at the park with a larger shelter. The Scenic Rim Council has allocated money for the replacement of a shelter this year but if we contribute then we will have a say in the size, position and time frame for the shelter.
2. Assistance with the provision of a toilet facility at the Harrisville Cemetery. This is an historic cemetery where a lot of our ancestors are buried. It is managed by a Trust and supported by the Harrisville Lions Club. It is being well maintained by the Trust but has no toilet facilities for mourners, visitors or workers.

All members are invited to make suggestions for projects to be reviewed by the Committee.

Proud Moment

Brooke Kerkin, Granddaughter of our Vice President, Bev and Committee Member Rob, was elected to run on with Marcho Theo of the Brisbane Roar soccer team in November 2013. It was a very proud moment for her.



Lillian Donald, Dux of Gympie State School 2013

Lillian Donald, aged 12 year old granddaughter of Beth & Don Forsyth, was Dux of Gympie State School for 2013, we are very proud of her achievements, she will be attending the James Nash High School in 2014 and we know she will do very well in her studies.



80th Birthday Celebrations

One of our longest running members of Clan Forsyth Society (Qld) will celebrate his 80th Birthday on 26th February.

Donald Basil Forsyth, born 26 February 1934 at Harrisville to parents Basil Raymond Forsyth and Irene Perla Nutley.



Don was a member of the Committee from the very beginning, he has performed in a number of positions on the committee, as a committee member, as Vice President, and for 16 Years President, he is still a working member of the present committee.

Don has had interests in Army, having done his National Service when he was Eighteen, he continued to be in the C.M.F. in a number of roles, including Guns, Tanks, First Aid, and instructing for another 18 Years. After he left the Army he went into Scouting as a Senior Scout Leader, Venturer Leader, and Area Training Commissioner where he worked and instructed with young people from 14 – 18 years, and in later years instructed First Aid to Adult leaders.

Don worked in the Queensland Railway, for 46 Years and for 45 of those years he instructed in First Aid, after he retired in 1966 he still volunteered with the Railway First Aid Corp instructing First Aid.

Get Well Wishes

A recent visit to the Doctor resulted in our President, Gordon, requiring a 4cm stent placed in one of his heart arteries. Being told he had the physical age of a 67 year old at the 'stress test', he was shocked when told he would require follow up medical testing. This resulted in a 3 day stay in our local private hospital with excellent care. He is now home and back enjoying himself in his new 'Man Shed' with a watchful eye over him for the next few weeks.



Eileen Faulkner, sister of Joyce Forsyth (wife of Les), passed away on 1 February 2014. Eileen resided at Flinders for many years, and entertained the residents at Lauriston Home with her Church group from Flinders. She leaves a son and a daughter to mourn her death.

Clan Forsyth Annual Dinner

A Special Guest

Our President has invited David Forsyth AM, Commissioner for the Clan Forsyth of Australia, to attend our dinner this year. We appreciate that the Commissioner is very busy with his commitments, and this was his reply:

"Thank you for the invitation to attend the Annual Dinner. I would very much like to attend.

However at the moment I am involved in review of aviation safety regulations for the Federal Government, and the 3rd May falls right in the



middle of the final two weeks of our review. Given two of our panel are from overseas, I expect we will be working weekends at that point.

Nonetheless I would like to attend if at all possible. Therefore what I suggest is to plan for me to be there on 3rd May, but in the knowledge that there is a chance I might have to pull out if the Government review requires me to be in Canberra at that time.

Sorry that the situation is not clear cut, but that is the best I can promise in the circumstances.

Regards

David"

A Reminder

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Annual Clan Dinner will be held on 3 May this year. Cost of the dinner will be the same as previous years at \$25.00 per adult and \$8.00 for children 6 to 12 years. Children 5 and under, no cost. The dinner booking form is attached. If you would like to help with the setting up of the tables etc could you please contact the Secretary or a member of the Committee by phone or email.

One advantage of holding the event a little later this year, the weather should be a little kinder to us than the 40° heat of last year. The Dinner, held in March from conception, was in the air conditioned Caledonian Club, Moorooka, when they also held the AGM. The tradition continued from there but moving to Ipswich and then Harrisville where there is greater heat and no air conditioning.



To ease the work on the Committee on the day of the Dinner and/or Picnic, as they too would like time to enjoy the occasion, annual subscriptions for membership will no longer be collected at the door or at the park. Payments can be made at time of payment for the dinner either by post or electronic transfer.

Your Attention Please

As Clan Forsyth Queensland is the envy of all other Australian Clan Forsyth Societies, we are endeavouring to keep our membership numbers climbing as it has done this past 18 months.

We are also attempting to broaden our entertainment at the Annual Clan Dinner and would like to engage Irish / Scottish Dancers and possibly the Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band.

To achieve this, we the Committee, are concerned with the viability of such an engagement unless we have the numbers, especially if the Commissioner honours us with a visit.

Could you please complete the attached form (Your Attention Please) and return it in the stamped, self-addressed envelope by 1 March 2014 so a decision can be made on the entertainment.

Also enclosed is our Dinner Invitation and Booking Form to be completed and returned to the Secretary on or before 21 April 2014. Don't forget to pay at the same time.

"A Little Town"

Somebody decided one day to move with the hope to fulfil life's dreams to a little town.

Everybody took care to be on their best behaviour so as to impress



Somebody in order to obtain Somebody's favour for personal gain in the little town.

Somebody became quickly aware that Everybody's motives may not be entirely pure until one day, Somebody noticed that Nobody was quietly sitting in the park by themselves in the little town.

Somebody asked Nobody if they were related to Everybody to which Nobody replied to the best of their knowledge, they were not related to Everybody in the little town.

At that time, Somebody asked Nobody of their experiences with Everybody in the little town.

Nobody explained that if they trusted Everybody, that they would likely be overlooked or taken advantage of by Everybody in the little town.

Somebody resolved that rather than trying to impress and please Everybody that life in the little town would be more pleasant and the prospect of dreams fulfilled more likely if they approached life like Nobody rather than like Everybody in the little town.

The Moral of the Story:

In order to be Somebody, it is better to be liked by Nobody than to be liked by Everybody.

David L Forsythe, Esq

This article was inserted in Volume 38 Issue 1 of 'The Griffin', Clan Forsyth USA

The 'Griffin' is available for members on request.

Genealogy News

Beth Forsyth, our Clan Genealogist has offered to collate your family history, photos and stories that may be stored in a cardboard box hidden in the garage or someplace similar and produce a Family Tree with stories and photos in a bound book that can be handed down from generation to generation.

She has just recently completed 3 books for Max and Jean Forsyth – 1 on his family, Hector Arnold and Isabella Caroline Russell and from there was able to produce the Russell / Fullerton Family and the Dohring/Stein Family.

Should you be interest, please contact Beth on 07 3201 6889 or email elzbthfo@ozemail.com.au.

You can tell her the Secretary sent you!



Annual Subscription Renewals



All Society membership renewals will now be due 1 July of each year. If you haven't already paid your subs for 2013-2014 could you please do so as we find we cannot cover the cost of running the Society without your 'donation'.



Newsletter Articles

We are always interested in your story, life's events, birthdays, graduations, etc for placement in your newsletter. If you have something to say please send it to the Secretary for insertion in the next issue.

Dates to Remember

Smith / Dunn Reunion 13 April 2014 (for related members)
Annual Clan Dinner 3 May 2014 at Harrisville School of Arts Hall
Activities Day 25 May 2014 at Ashton's Hall, Southern Amberley Road, Amberley

From the Archives



*Gwen Gartshore's Investiture as Commissioner
of Clan Forsyth Australia April 1990*



A reminder to all Forsyth's related to the Smith & Dunn Families

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:

Ron Smith	r.smith01@bigpond.com	0409 345 166
Raylee Elliott Burns	rayleebob@bigpond.com	0435 583 325
Carol Forsyth	carolforsyth@bigpond.com	0427 056 014
Greg Smith	gctsmith@hotmail.com	(07) 5444 1428

"Greenwood"
1916 "Granny Smith's House"