



CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA QUEENSLAND BRANCH (Est 1979)

Clan Journal – May 2016

A message from Val Ashton – President Clan Forsyth Qld

Our Forsyth Clan Banner has been flying high at recent events.

ANZAC Day is always an occasion to reflect and remember the sacrifices made for our free and democratic country, and I was proud to represent the Clan at the local **ANZAC Day service at Donnybrook**.



A hearty **Thank You** to all those who supported the recent Clan Dinner at Harrisville. As always, it was a mix of Scottish traditions, great country hospitality and friendship and lots of fun. The article below, thanks to Kay Martin of the Moreton Border News captures the evening to perfection – Thanks Kay for your support. Particular thanks go to local Councillor, Duncan McInnes, who presented the Life Memberships (see the photo below); thanks to Jacinta Ashton for her courageous flute solo of the National Anthem, to Wade Lewellyn for the Courtesy Bus, Margaret Lewellyn for preparing the Quiz and to all the Committee for their unstinting efforts - especially to Glenys Ashton for her mastery as MC. We would love to see you and your families at the 2017 Dinner on 22 April next year. Please mark this in your diary so you are part of the fun.

We look forward to seeing you at The Activities Day on Sunday 29th May at Ashton Hall Amberley from 10am, or at the Clydesdale Spectacular at Boonah on Sat 11 June. Details below.

Val

Strengthening family links to clan and country

FOUR foundation members were honoured at the Forsyth Clan of Queensland dinner at Harrisville on Saturday night.

Sisters Val Ashton, Bev Kerkin and Rhonda Noe and their sister-in-law Joyce Forsyth were all presented with Life Membership of the 37-year-old Queensland Branch.

Vice President Glenys Ashton said the Life Memberships were a fitting way to recognise the hard working foursome.

"These ladies are dedicated to our growth and are hard workers who always put in more than 100 percent to any event or activity we have.



Beverley and Rob Kerkin, Les Forsyth, Keith and Rhonda Noe and Vic and Val Ashton at the Forsyth Clan dinner held at Harrisville.



Roadvale's Jacinta Ashton played the National Anthem.

"Not only are they long standing and active members but they have brought the youth of our families on board and that is important to our branch strength and longevity."

She added that the ladies have also collected many local stories and histories to help build the Branch archives.

"Their founding vision, long standing membership and continuing support of the Clan through almost four decades has been a mainstay of the Branch."

Talking about the annual dinner, Val Ashton, who is also the Queensland Branch President, said the get together was an important part of keeping family links strong.

"Knowing where we come from and passing that information down through the generations is a major part of what we do."

Val recalled how the family gathered in Queen's Park in Ipswich before the Clan formalised their branch in 1979.

The sisters' links to the local region began as children, when they grew up on a property at Limestone Ridges, just outside Peak Crossing.

Their hard work ethic was born as they assisted their parents run a market garden and sold produce throughout the district.

Val, who was diagnosed with a rare heart condition when she was 18, has never let her health stop her involvement and commitment to the Clan.

"Mum once asked for a leave pass from hospital so she could attend a Clan Forsyth event which is fairly typical of the dedication of these ladies," Glenys said.

Between them the ladies have held numerous positions in the Branch and are always at the fore of organising any events.

Val has held the role of President, Vice President and Committee Member.

□ continued page 5



Piper Alwyn Clarke pipes in the Haggis carried by Beverley Kerkin with Val Ashton following.

□ continued from page 4

Bev was Clan shop convenor for many years and provided many of her own beautifully crafted items. Bev and her sister-in-law, Beth, were also responsible for the decorative effects at events.

An addition to Clan gatherings was disc bowls, with Bev's husband Rob crafting the discs and organising the games and took pride in organising their bring and buy stalls

Rhonda like her sisters is an integral part of the Clan 'organisers and doers' and is often the first to arrive and last to leave.

She has held the role of Treasurer and committee member over the years.

Rhonda will bake for many hours prior to an event to provide a selection of goodies for tables or the bring and buy stall.

Joyce Forsyth is the fourth of that hard working group.

Her claim to fame, other than as a hard worker and willing set of hands, is the bring and buy stall.

Joyce is known for her delicious baked goodies, that always sell out quickly.

Unfortunately due to ill health Joyce was unable to attend the dinner and receive her Life Membership, but was represented by her husband, Les.

The ladies say they have witnessed huge growth in the Clan gatherings over the past 37 years.

"There was originally a small group who gathered but now we cater for around 150 at our annual dinner," Val said.

Other events held by the Clan include dedications of family members at various cemeteries, an activity day at Ashton's Hall, a lawn bowls day, a picnic day and the Clan Camp.

Last Saturday there was live entertainment, a quiz and plenty of time to catch up over dinner.



Tradition is followed during the Address to the Haggis as Ian McDonald cuts the haggis.



Max and Jean Forsyth with their daughters Annette Cowan and Lucia McKee.



Peak Crossing's Ann Gamlen with son Scott and his partner Jade Martin.



Aureila Martinenko with her great grandson Cooper Bolton.



Rhonda Noe and Julie Lee.



Scenic Rim Councillor Duncan McInnes, who has a link to the Forsyth Clan through his wife, Maureen, is pictured with Val and Vic Ashton.



Ken and Ann Gamlen of Peak Crossing at the Forsyth Clan gathering last Saturday evening at the Harrisville School of Arts.



Entertainment included a traditional dance demonstration by Monique Ashton, Brendan Ashton, Jacinta Ashton, Glenys Ashton, Heather Forsyth and Rhonda Noe.



The younger generation of the Forsyth Clan – Brendan Ashton, Aaron Jack, Monique Ashton and Stacey Ashton with her partner Jack Brain.

Life Memberships:

Life Memberships were presented to foundation members Val Ashton, Bev Kerkin, Rhonda Noe and Joyce Forsyth (accepted by her husband Les)....wonderful women who gave the impetus for the formation of the Branch and who have given unselfish service to the Clan in Qld since its inception in 1979. The Clan Thanks you very much!



■ Sisters Rhonda Noe, Val Ashton and Beverley Kerkin received life membership in the Forsyth Clan Queensland Branch.

Photo KAYE MARTIN

Strengthening family links to clan and country

by KAYE MARTIN

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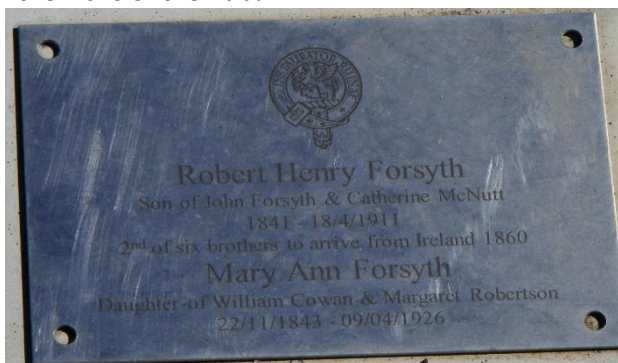
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Greenmount Dedication

Another recent successful event was the Dedication of the Robert Henry Forsyth and Mary Ann Cowan grave plaque at East Greenmount Cemetery on Friday 13th May. Thanks to Murray Hill and Michael Teudt for setting up for the simple, but dignified ceremony for the 15 members on the day. Thanks go to the previous Committee members who had the plaques made for the Harrisville Cemetery Project, and especially to former Genealogist, Beth Forsyth, who has spent so much time and effort over many years in providing the Fassifern Forsyth family Tree and History. Val spoke about the Clan, Lyndall spoke about the family of Robert and Mary Ann, and Marilyn Woodcock spoke about her childhood memories of the Forsyths at Nobby. The lunch afterwards at Rudd's Pub in Nobby saw cousins previously strangers connect over a delicious meal...lots of talk and food make great companions! Even had family photos on the walls of the Pub!



Descendants of Robert Henry Forsyth and Mary Ann Cowan, along with Committee members gathered at East Greenmount Cemetery for the Graveside Plaque dedication.



President Val Ashton, Treasurer Rhonda Noe unveil the Plaque and Marilyn Woodcock shared the family history and childhood memories of the Nobby connections.



Important – You're invited!

Get in early for these activities which will get your feet tapping or tartans twirling!

- . **Activities Day** – Ashton Hall – Southern Amberley Rd. **Sunday 29th May** – calling families to bring along the kids and enjoy the fun and conversation chat over the day. Both adult and children of all ages are catered for with cards, board games, both indoor and outdoor games. Starts at 10 am with Morning Tea – BYO lunch.
- . **Clydesdale Spectacular** – Boonah Showgrounds – **Sat June 11th and Sunday June 12th**. Any Forsyth Clan Member who would like to march behind the Banner being piped in to the arena on Sat morning, Clydesdale horse proudly beside, then please come along. If you can't make it on the Sat, there are lots of activities on both days to enjoy....see below

Scenic Rim Sat 11th & Sun 12th June 2016
Clydesdale Spectacular

CALLING THE CLANS.....!!!

clydesdale & clan class

To be held:
Saturday 11th June

ENTRIES OUT SOON !!!

Event Enquiries:
Phone: 0407 960 029
clydiespectacular@hotmail.com

- . **Bowls Day** – Harrisville Bowls Club – **Sun 17 July** – 9am for a 9.30 Morning Tea start; 10.30 Bowls teams, majority are amateurs showing their skills; Sausage Sizzle/Burger Lunch provided – only \$10 for all that fun! Please let Rhonda know numbers for catering – 07 54672200

. Scots in the Bush – Boondooma Station – August 19, 20 and 21st August 2016

– book it in to your calendar now

Gathering Event Outline

- Pipe Bands; Performers Parade + Calling of the Clans
- Piping & Highland Dancing
- Scottish Cuisine & Workshops
- Highland Games
- Boondooma Station tours
- Displays and stalls
- Ceilidh - Scottish Dinner & Dance
- Over 300 motorhomes, campers and caravans joined in the fun in this lovely peaceful location

This will be an excellent opportunity for Forsyths from all over to gather and share with other clans in a beautiful part of the country near Preston/Murgon/Kingaroy/Monto. This could be your chance to visit this bit of Queensland. Accommodation for huge numbers of motor homes, caravans and campers is available at Boondooma Station itself, or Boondooma Lake a few kilometres down the road has some cabin accommodation as well as camping spots.

Boondooma Station hosts this event and there are loads of activities to do and friends to be made. **Let's make it a big Clan gathering** – especially for those living closer to that area who can't make it to Harrisville for the Clan Dinner, or the Annual Picnic/AGM. Check out the websites at www.boondoomahomestead.com.au or www.lakeboondooma.com.au for more information and for bookings. We already have a few people going along.

. Picnic – AGM – Along with the fun and friendship all our activities give to so many, is the chance for you to become a helper to keep the Clan alive and thriving! Please come along to the Annual Picnic on **Sunday 28th August at Peak Crossing Park**. Bring and Buy Stall, BYO picnic lunch, Disk Bowls, Displays, and the AGM where we need to find a few new committee members to take the place of those not in a position to give another year. This could be you! More details re this later.

. Deb Ball – Expression of Interest from young Forsyth members both male and female who might be interested in a Rainbow themed Formal evening – please ring Val on 07 54292395

Don't forget to catch up on the happenings on the Clan on the website: www.clanforythqueensland.com our thanks to Len Forsyth for keeping charge of this wonderful site.

Historian/Genealogist

If you go across the sea to Ireland – Scots-Irish journeys

Lyndall and Murray Hill's recent trip saw many opportunities for family history research and finding hidden gems of information. If you are thinking of a trip to Ireland in search of those Scottish Ancestors who made the short crossing to Ireland, here are a few handy places to get your research underway:-

In Dublin:

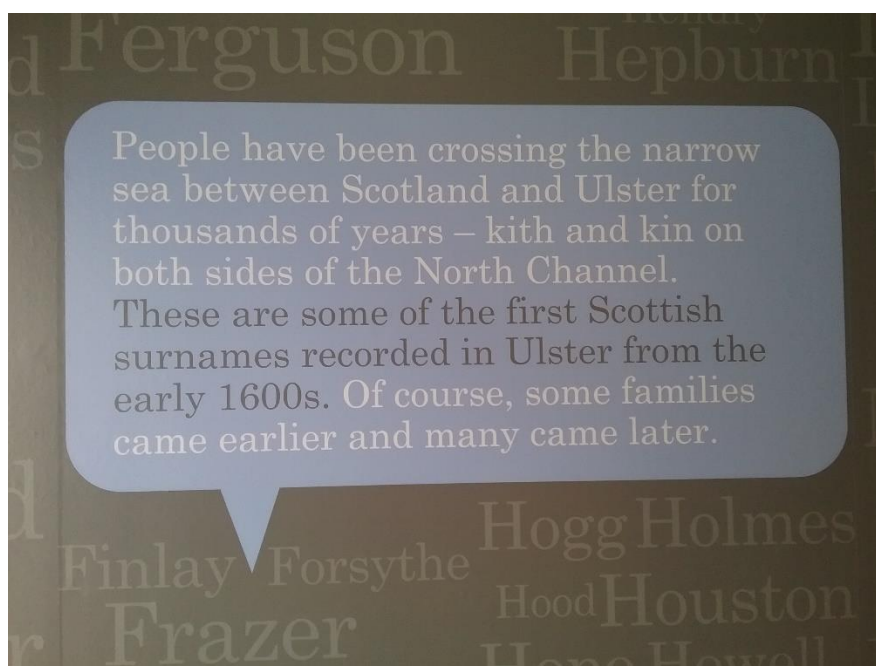
- National Library – free genealogy service to point you in the right direction – www.nli.ie
- National Archives – www.nationalarchives.ie
- Registry of Deeds – www.prai.ie/registry-of-deeds (see photo below)



Best to check all opening days and hours before you go.

In Belfast for some of the Ulster/Down records:

- PRONI – Public Records Office of Northern Ireland – right next to the fantastic Titanic Museum – <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni>
- Scots-Ulster Centre – a fabulous centre with loads of helpful staff, free access to computer records and maps and historical material for free. Lyndall has great information to sift through and share in later newsletters. www.ulster-scots.com It was uplifting to walk in and see the Forsyth name so prominently displayed.



If your Scottish or Scots-Irish ancestors are teasing you with brick walls etc, the best source for getting to the heart of records etc is *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* by John Grenham, *Scotlands People* – www.scotlandspeople.com or Trove newspaper Australia – www.trove.nla.gov.au/. If you would like some help, please contact Lyndall on 07 46837283.



Editor's Note on Young Members Profiles:

If there is a special young person that you'd like to let us know about, please drop us a line with their details, so that we can not only share our past but also being to celebrate our future generations. Please email – youthnews@clanforysthqueensland.com

Big Congratulations go to the following Young Achiever Jacinta Ashton – Roadvale SS Leader 2016:



■ Roadvale State School's student leaders for 2016 are pictured with Beaudesert MP Jon Krause and teacher Karen Keidige following a special ceremony at the school. The student leaders are, from left, Lachlan Schumacher, Jacinta Ashton and Steven Harvey. Photo PETER TRUER

Keep your fellow Clan members informed of the events that matter to you...

Life Events ...

If you have news to share with your fellow Clan and family members of any of life events (i.e. births, sporting, scholastic or community achievement awards, graduations, marriages and anniversaries etc.) please forward details and photographs (if possible) for future publications to:

- By post: C\ - Acting Secretary Clan Forsyth Qld, 643 Mt Tully Rd, Stanthorpe, 4380
 - By Phone: Lyndall Hill – 07 46837283
 - By email: news@clanforysthqueensland.com
-

Membership: Anyone considering membership to our fold. Please check out the website and the archived journals to get a feel for your place in the Clan. Please share with other members of your family as well. Check with Rhonda below for your Membership type and very small fee.

- <http://www.clanforythqueensland.com/wp-content/uploads/2015-Renewal-Form.pdf>

Payment: Either by Direct Debit or Cheque

Direct Deposit Details:

Commonwealth Bank

BSB: 064-117 Account No: 00905178

Account Name: Clan Forsyth Society (Qld Branch)

Please add reference: e.g. your name (*Fred Forsyth*)

Please email the above Booking Form Details to:

treasurer@clanforythqueensland.com

Alternate payment arrangements may be made, if required by contacting either:

-**Rhonda Noe** (*Treasurer*) on **07 5467 2200**

-or **Val Ashton** (President) on **07 54292395**

By Cheque:

Please make cheques payable to **Clan Forsyth Society (Qld)** and post to:

Treasurer

Clan Forsyth Society of Australia (Qld)

71 Forsyth's Rd

MS 124, Kalbar 4309

Together with the attached membership Form

Clan Forsyth Australia – (Queensland Branch) Committee Contact List

Position	Name	Postal Details	Phone	Email
President	Val Ashton	9 Amy Street Donnybrook Qld 4601	07 54292395	Nil
Vice-President	Glenys Ashton	76 Southern Amberley Road Amberley 4306	07 54673338	sunnyside.amb@bigpond.com
Website/Data Sources Manager	Len Forsyth	124 Blackheath Road Redbank Plains 4301	07 38142418 0412 366 054	len@westerndata.com.au
Treasurer	Rhonda Noe	71 Forsyth's Rd MS21, Kalbar 4309	07 5467 2200	keithnoe@bigpond.com
Committee	Lucia McKee	2/13 John Stains Crescent, Raymond's Hill 4305	07 2813 0686	luciamckee1@bigpond.com
Committee	Victor Ashton	9 Amy Street Donnybrook Qld 4601	07 54292395	Nil
Committee	Annie-Rose Forsyth	124 Blackheath Road Redbank Plains 4301	07 38142418	len@westerndata.com.au
Acting Secretary/Clan Historian	Lyndall Hill	543 Mt Tully Road Stanthorpe 4308	07 4683 7283	lymubeka@bluemaxx.com.au
Clan Shop Conveyer	Heather Forsyth	18 Lukie Crescent Tivoli Qld 4305	07 3281 7553	heatherandianfor@hotmail.com

Contact and Contributions may be either be directed to Newsletter Editor care of the Clan Secretary at the above mailing address or alternatively emailed directly to journal@clanforythqueensland.com

