

CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY – AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

May 2008



Greetings to all heading into autumn. We recently enjoyed our annual Clan Forsyth dinner with an Australian theme, which was held for the first time at the new venue of Harrisville School of Arts. We would like to applaud the organising committee and all those who helped to make this evening a success. Thanks to Des Phillips who lent a hand as usual and is always a great assistance to the other workers who helped out with setting up on the morning of the event. The decorations of both the hall and the tables were extraordinary. The theme of Australian with still keeping with the Scottish tradition even the table decorations included the scotch thistle amongst the eucalyptus leaves to make a nice effect.

There was a good response with final count of 107 Adults and 13 children attending the evening. Thanks to Betty Wilson our caterer again for a wonderful buffet. There was Highland dancing performed by Lily Donald, Belinda & Alarna Leonard plus Scottish Country dancing, where we had our youngest recruit in Monique Ashton aged 7yrs and our oldest member in Heather Preston who retired this year. She will be greatly missed, so now we are on the hunt for a replacement, age is no barrier and it's loads of fun. We also had Ballroom and modern dancing as well as activities for the adults and the children and there was also time for a chat and catch up. There was a lucky table where I want to sit next year as two out of the three raffle prizes were won here. Karl Kleinboeck won first prize of the gift- boxed bottle of scotch, 2nd prize of Clan Forsyth wine glasses was won by Keith Forsyth with third prize of embroidered face and hand towel awarded to Karl Kleinboeck. The raffle was well supported as usual, thanks to all and better luck next year. Lucky door prize won by Lucia McKee. Val's quiz was won by Claire Guymer. The children's lucky door prize was won by Ashleigh Kerkin.



Stacey & Glenys Ashton, Heather Forsyth & Monique Ashton with raffle prizes

The DJ for the evening would like to apologise to the ballroom dancers amongst us for the technical glitches, which took place during this bracket. We seem to be cursed in this area with similar problems in previous years. The CD was checked several times prior to that evening without fault yet on the evening every dance out of four the CD stopped. We will be looking at purchasing a ballroom dancing CD with the favourites like the Barn dance, the Gypsy Tap, the Pride of Erin and the Evening Three Step to name a few. If you have any suggestions please contact a committee member or make a note on the survey with this newsletter.



Our Scottish Country Dancers in action

SURVEY

We have enclosed a survey with this newsletter to gain feedback from the annual dinner to aid us in gauging what you would like at your annual dinner. Most of the survey is just circling a rating from 1-5 with a section for feedback should you wish to provide this also but this is optional. I would encourage you all to complete the survey so we can better gauge your needs and desires for the dinner. Included is an addressed envelope to return your survey in so we would appreciate it if you would complete the survey, place it in the provided envelope place a stamp on the envelope and post it off. Alternatively you may bring it with you to the activities day if you are attending. Feel free to copy this survey and give to

your visiting friends who attended our dinner also. If you are unable to copy the survey but require extra copies please contact us on the telephone numbers listed on the survey.

ACTIVITIES DAY

Our next event will be an activities day on 25th May at Ashton's Hall on Southern Amberley Road, Amberley beginning at 10am. This will be a time to come together for a great family day with activities for the children and adults alike. There will be disc bowls, many games of cards, board games like Pictionary, Sale of the Century, Who wants to be a Millionaire, Sequence just to name a few. BYO lunch, snacks etc and if you're still keen we may have an old fashioned slide show evening so BYO dinner or grab some takeaway and kick on into the evening. Soft drinks will be for sale on the day. I know there are many who want to relive the slide show days, you may have some to share. We anticipate that the day will start at 10am and run into the early evening so come and go as you please. There are toilet facilities and coffee and tea making facilities available on the day so no need to pack the thermos.

AUSTRALIAN CELTIC FESTIVAL – Standing Stones – Glen Innes

Australian Celtic Festival was held at Glen Innes on the 1st to 4th May 2008. Every year they celebrate one of the Celtic nations, which include Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Mann & Brittany. This year it was the Cornish Society.



On the Friday afternoon at the opening ceremony our Commissioner, James Davidson Forsyth, was presented with his Cromach. This is a long hooked stick much like a shepherds crook, which is part of the outfit that the Commissioner is recognised by.

On the Saturday there was a very colourful parade with eight Pipe bands, a brass band and led by the Cornish Society in their yellow and black. There were Roman soldiers, North and South USA soldiers and marchers from all six Celtic nations.



On the Sunday there was a Kirkin of the Tartan which was followed by a ceremony to proclaim James Forsyth as our Commissioner. Our Queensland President, Don Forsyth, served as Herald at the ceremony, reading out the proclamation from the Chief.



GENEALOGY– As you may or may not be aware our historian Beth Forsyth is compiling a family tree history of the Forsyth's with the hope of making it into a book. Tracing the history of the 6 six brothers who settled at Peak Crossing and their family history. She would like any information to be forwarded either by post to Beth Forsyth, Mc Innes Rd Blacksoil. Qld 4306 or email at elzbthfo@ozemail.com.au Also she is interested in learning more about the Forsyth's at war so if you can help please get in touch.

CONDOLENCES

We would like to pass on our condolences to Claire & Bob Guymer with the passing of their son in law Mike and Claire's brother Warren. Our prayers go out to them at this very sad time.

HISTORY – CLAN FORSYTH RECOGNITION

By the 16th century there was a recognised Clan with its own Chief, however, in around 1650 the Clan Forsyth entered darkness when the ships of Oliver Cromwell carrying the records of all the Clans as spoils of war, sank off Berwick upon Tweed. The then Chief failed to re-establish his claim to the name and his Armorial bearings when Charles 11 instituted a public register of the Clans in 1672. Interest in reviving the Clan began in the early years of the 20th century with the formation of a Forsyth Family association in Glasgow. So for 300 years there was no Chief and no Clan, but on St Andrew's Day in 1978 Lord Lyon, King of Arms, once again recognised the Clan Forsyth as one of the old Clans of Scotland and Alistair Forsyth of that Ilk as its chief. Alistair received the nomination because his family can be traced back fifteen generations to a Fife laird, Andrew Forsyth, who lived near Falkland, where it is known that in the 16th century Forsyths were courtiers of the Scottish Kings at Falkland Palace. It is therefore appropriate that the formal inauguration of the new Chief should have taken place at a service held in Falkland Palace. Clan Forsyth is an active Clan, with members throughout the world.

KIRKIN OF THE TARTAN

29th June is the Annual Kirkin of the Tartan, St Paul's Presbyterian Church, 43 St Paul's Terrace Spring Hill, 9.30AM service. Enquiries 07 3300 1031 or seeker@powerup.com.au.



The Australian Scottish Community in Brisbane, Queensland are organising their Tartan Day parade on 6th July 2008. There is a full programme of massed pipe bands in the grounds at the Cultural Forecourt, Southbank in Brisbane. Entertainment includes Scottish Country Dancers, Scotch on the Rocks Band, Gaelic Dream Dancers, Highland cattle, Scottie dogs, Celtic display, Scottish genealogy, Scottish cars and a "Find Your Tartan" stall.

BANNOCKBURN DINNER

The Bannockburn Dinner is being held on Saturday 21st June 2008 at the Irish Club - 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. It will feature the Thistle Highland Dancers; Irish Dancers; Kathleen Proctor-Moore singing and the band is Murphy's Pigs.

SCOTTISH HUMOUR

Fishy Story: Sandy McPherson was bragging about a 15-pound salmon he had landed. "Fifteen pounds!" exclaimed his friend Donald. "Did you have witnesses?" "Sure did. Otherwise it would have weighed twenty-five pounds."

SPECIAL EVENTS

We are also calling for submissions from our members to have special events mentioned in our newsletter eg birthdays, anniversaries etc. Please feel free to let us know of these so we can all celebrate. Also if you have any suggestions of how we could improve our newsletter let us know.

DATES TO REMEMBER

25th May 2008 – Activities Day

21st June – Bannockburn Dinner

29th June – Kirkin of the Tartan

6th July – Tartan Day

31st August 2008 – Annual AGM & Picnic

Traditional Scottish Recipes

- Brandy Wafers

The close historical relationship between Scotland and France meant that brandy was a well known alcoholic drink in the home of whisky. It was only after the Union of the Parliaments in 1707 that Portuguese port became more widely known.

Ingredients:

2 ounces golden syrup
2 ounces butter
2 ounces flour
2 ounces caster sugar
Half teaspoon brandy
Half teaspoon ground ginger

Method:

Preheat the oven to 450F/250C/Gas Mark 8 and grease a baking sheet. Melt the butter, syrup and sugar over a gentle heat and then stir in the flour, ginger and brandy. Keep stirring for about five minutes. Drop small teaspoonsful onto the baking sheet, keeping them well apart. Bake for five minutes or until they are a pale golden brown. Using the greased handle of a large wooden spoon, roll the wafers round the handle while they are still hot - take care not to burn yourself! Allow to cool before use. They are excellent on their own or sticking out of ice cream

Scottish Wordsearch

O	F	L	T	L	O	C	H	N	E	S	S	M	O	N	S	T	E	R
E	G	E	F	Z	N	K	B	N	Y	M	H	C	D	E	I	E	U	T
Z	D	Z	S	T	O	N	E	H	A	V	E	N	H	D	L	I	P	B
A	G	I	U	I	J	M	F	E	T	B	X	A	C	L	O	Q	P	B
S	T	R	N	H	S	G	O	C	E	D	G	L	K	L	M	N	T	A
C	R	E	N	B	C	T	A	A	B	G	D	L	S	C	U	N	R	G
O	G	F	Y	T	O	N	W	D	I	Q	P	H	T	V	N	K	K	P
T	Y	A	D	F	T	R	E	S	N	A	P	O	A	Q	T	N	S	I
L	B	B	X	V	C	W	O	Q	C	R	J	O	N	R	T	M	T	P
A	W	E	V	C	H	U	T	U	S	S	T	S	D	G	M	J	L	E
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F	H	S	T	F	I	L	L	A	N	S	P	K	J	B	F	E	D	L

SCOTLAND
SCOTCH THISTLE
HAGGIS

EDINBOROUGH
LOCH NESS MONSTER
BAGPIPES



GLENCOE
GLASGOW
STONEHAVEN

ABERDEEN
ST ANDREWS
ST FILLANS