



# CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

## QUEENSLAND BRANCH

### Newsletter – May 2014

#### Annual Dinner

The evening started off 'bright and breezy' with Bruce Mitchell on accordion and Brian Bissett vocal. Tables were decorated with bright coloured table clothes, polka dot centre pieces and brightly coloured helium balloons. It was a pleasure to have a cooler night than last year when we melted in 40° plus.

The Haggis was piped in by Alwyn Clark followed by Don Forsyth carrying the haggis, Gordon Forsyth & Bruce Mitchell who delivered the Address to the Haggis. The Selkirk Grace was read by Brian Bissett in his broad Scottish accent which only added authenticity to the event.



Our special guest, Clan Forsyth Society Commissioner for Australia, was unable to attend the dinner and sent the following apology:

*"Dear Gordon*

*I hope you are all well up there in the Sunshine State and that the difficulties from earlier in the year have eased.*

*I am sorry to have to tell you that I will be in Canberra for the next 2 to 3 weeks, including working weekends. We have to have our draft report to the Government ready earlier than we had planned.*

*That means I will NOT be able to attend your Annual Dinner on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, so please present my apologies.*

*I will endeavour to visit Queensland Branch in the next 6 months once my Canberra commitments are finished.*

*Again my apologies*

*Best wishes*

*David Forsyth"*

Next on the program was our second guest, Donna Manning's Academy of Dance Highland Dancers to entertain us and what a great talent these young ladies displayed. Performing 9 dancers, Broadsword, Seann Trwibhas (Trews), Reel of Tulloch, Johnnie, Blue Bonnets, Jig, Cake Walk, Highland Fling (photo right) and the 9<sup>th</sup> dance, a solo from the youngest of the group, performing a sword dance.



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

More wonderfully bright music was played by the band for those of us daring to show our lack of dance talent, while others began enjoying yet another over indulging smorgasbord by Betty Wilson. Then onto the all important speeches by the President who presented Life Membership badges to the long suffering wives of life members of our Society. Peg Forsyth, accepted by daughter-in-law Sue Forsyth; Dot Phillips, accepted by Christine Forsyth; and Beth Forsyth who has endured many years of Clan Forsyth with husband Don.



More music, dancing and eating was followed by the Quiz, won by Kim Hoefling or was it her daughter Dakota? Keith Noe won the 'Lucky Door' prize; Lyn Flynn, Freda Dray and Rhonda Noe the 'Raffle' draw. Congratulations to all.



*Left: Val presenting Kim & Dakota with the Quiz prize*



*Above: Lyn Flynn receiving her bottle of Chivas*



*Left: Rhonda Noe, Brooke Kerkin who drew the lucky number for Rhonda with Gordon*

*Right: Gordon & Carol strutting out 'Gay Gordon'*







Young and the young at heart enjoyed the 'Chicken Dance' and all too soon the evening came to an end when the band struck up 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Thank you to our hard working committee for the 'Bright & Breezy' decorations, planning and execution of a very pleasant evening. A special thank you to family members who helped setup and clean up the hall. Well done!

### Smith / Dunn Reunion

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April was the big day for the Luke Wheeler Smith & Margaret Dunn Family Reunion. Family members who travelled from Home Hill, Toowoomba and Newcastle and all stops in between gathered at the Harrisville School of Arts Hall to meet, greet and exchange memorabilia and old and new tales.

Speeches were made by Cr Duncan McInnes and Mayor John Brent, Bob Smith and Gordon Forsyth.



*It does not matter whether you are a descendant of Samuel Forsyth & Isabella (nee Smith) or any other one of the 6 Forsyth brothers, every one of us know Isabel King. She is pictured here with her Smith cousins Bob Smith & Maisie Gray.*

One cousin summed the occasion up to me as follows:

*"Yes it was truly wonderful to meet so many relatives after so long, and wondering about them for so many years. I had thought that we may be the only ones not known to everyone else, but that was not the case and it was great to see so many meeting at last. The day was over too soon. The time went so quickly that I managed to jot down only a few names and addresses and try to commit faces and relationships to memory, so your marvellous books might be dog-eared in no time!"*

Gordon & Carol Forsyth presented a set of 2 Smith, 2 Dunn & 2 Forsyth Descendant books to Mary McInnes, Treasurer of the Harrisville & District Historical Museum.





*"Cousins"*

### Donation Toward the New Shelter

Alex Burrow has given the Clan Forsyth Qld a very generous donation toward the new and larger shelter to be erected at the Peak Mountain View Park. He requested the amount be withheld. Thank you Alex!



### Dates to Remember

Activities Day - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – Location: Ashton's Hall, Southern Amberley Road, Amberley, commence at 10:00 am, lunch 11:30am to 12:30 pm, finish 3:30 pm. For further details please contact Val Ashton on (07) 5429 2395.

Scottish Clans Congress of Qld – Scotland in the Park, Logan Garden, Logan City – Sunday 20 July 2014. Scottish Bands, Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing, Genealogy & Family History, Scottish Wares, Scotty Dogs & Scottish Re-enactors. - FREE

Our Annual Picnic and AGM at Peak Mountain View Park, Peak Crossing – Sunday 31 August 2014 commencing 10:00am. Bring along something to sell in our stall and buy something else of value – plants, beanies, gloves, aprons, cakes, jams, jellies, biscuits, just about anything you would like to bring 'n buy.

### The Bagpiper

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life. As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.



And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothing like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

### Committee Member Contacts

President/Treasurer:	Gordon Forsyth	0429 056 014	<a href="mailto:gordonforsyth@bigpond.com">gordonforsyth@bigpond.com</a>
Vice President:	Bev Kerkin	0422 372 555	<a href="mailto:bevkerkin@hotmail.com">bevkerkin@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary:	Carol Forsyth	0427 056 014	<a href="mailto:carolforsyth@bigpond.com">carolforsyth@bigpond.com</a>
Committee:	Rob Kerkin	0422 372 555	<a href="mailto:bevkerkin@hotmail.com">bevkerkin@hotmail.com</a>
	Beth Forsyth	0409 262 044	<a href="mailto:elzbthfo@ozemail.com.au">elzbthfo@ozemail.com.au</a>
	Claire Guymer	(07) 3281 7787	
	Val Ashton	(07) 5429 2395	

### Cost of Postage and Printing

The cost of printing in colour is \$0.15 / page for the Newsletter (6 pages for \$0.90). Envelopes and postage add a further \$0.75 each. A total cost of \$1.65 x 33 members on the postage mailing list for a total cost of \$54.45. This is just one Newsletter and we try to provide four per year. This cost of course does not include all the other correspondence. We have 32 Members on email and the cost is zero to provide all documents including forms that need to be returned to the Secretary.

We therefore request that if you have an email address or you have changed your email address, **please advise on the Renewal Form when returning to the Secretary so that we can keep our list up to date.**

### Annual Subscriptions

In light of the Clan's increasing General Expenditure, the Committee is reviewing the possibility of increasing the Annual Subscriptions. Members may be aware that our Branch of the Clan have taken out a 'Broadform Public and Products Liability Insurance Policy' last year which costs \$650 per year. Considering the activities and projects in which we participate, this policy is necessary to provide the protection we need for our Office Bearers. This amount accounts for around 50% of our annual subs before we cover any other expenses. As you will therefore be aware we need to seriously consider an increase in the subs. The Committee welcomes any input from Members in this regard.

### Presidents Report

6 May 2014

Hi Everyone

As you have just read, our Annual Dinner at the Harrisville Historic School of Arts Hall was a resounding success despite a lower attendance than last year. We are still waiting on a couple of Bills to come in but it would appear that we will go very close to breaking even. However having said that we may have to consider an increase in door charge to ensure that we do a little better than break even if we are to be able to fund any worthwhile projects.

### Update on Current Projects mentioned in the February Newsletter:

**Water Fountain (Bubbler) at Peak Mountain View Park at Peak Crossing.** The Scenic Rim Regional Council has received the Fountain and is scheduling the installation in their current works program.

Hugh Dunne (Manager Property & Operations) is hopeful of having it installed within the next few weeks.

**Picnic Shelter at Peak Crossing.** The Council have approved the replacement of the old shelter that our Clan built back in the 1980s as it is now a little worse for wear. The Clan Committee has offered a donation of \$1000 plus the very kind donation from Alex Burrow to increase the size of the shelter. In an attempt to get the Council to complete this project in time for our AGM, we have offered a further \$1000 provided it meets that time requirement. Mind you the price quoted by the Council for the shelter was \$10,000 to \$15,000. We will ensure that the plaque that was set at the old shelter will remain to indicate that this is a shelter provided with the assistance of the Clan Forsyth Society Qld.

**Toilet Facility at the Harrisville Historic Cemetery.** A lot of time and effort has been put into this project to determine the most cost effective method to comply with all Council and handicap access requirements. We have submitted an application to the Scenic Rim Regional Council on behalf of the Harrisville Cemetery Trust for a \$3,500 grant to help fund this project. The overall cost of material will be in the vicinity of \$6,000 with the work done by volunteers from our Clan and the Harrisville Lions Club. The Lions Club maintain the Cemetery and they have offered to provide the material and construct the concrete slab for the 2.6x3.4m Colorbond Shed to house the Dry Composting Toilet and storage room. The Committee has already donated a Water Fountain to be installed in the vicinity of the Toilet Facility.

Our Committee has agreed to help fund the project with \$1,000 and the Smith/Dunn Reunion Committee have donated \$750 raised at their recent reunion in Harrisville. We could still do with some further donations especially if we do not get the full grant from the Council. It would be a pity to see this project fail as most of our original founding Fathers are resting in this Cemetery.

If any Members are interested in helping please contact any one of our Committee Members.

Depending on the outcome of the application for the grant our next much smaller project is to do some restoration work on the headstones, plaques and grave sites of our kin buried there.

### **Membership Subscriptions**

Just a gentle reminder that under our new system, membership fees are due by the end of June. As you are all probably aware this was so we could identify the status of all Members before the day of the AGM. Please fill out your current details on the Renewal Form attached to this Newsletter and email or post to the Secretary when paying your dues. These details often change and we cannot update our records. Please pay your dues by Net bank or bank direct deposit if possible.

### **Annual General Meeting**

Well it is almost that time again. It is amazing how time flies when you are having fun????

You will find a 'Nomination Form for Office Bearers and Committee' with this Newsletter. Please give serious thought as to whether you feel you meet the criteria that we have identified or you would like to nominate someone else that you consider would be a suitable contender. Especially we would like all Committee Members to be accessible via email. Should you wish to nominate someone else, please check with them first before submitting to find out first of all if they accept the nomination or if they have already been nominated.

Once nominations are received and vetted by the Committee the requirements and method of voting shall be determined so that all financial Members have a vote or appoint a proxy. The Committee shall ensure that the voting system is properly and adequately audited.

Yours sincerely  
Gordon D Forsyth  
President