

CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY – AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

October 2012 Newsletter



Once again we had a wonderful day for our Annual Picnic. Everyone was having such a good time with the Disc Bowls that we did run late with the A.G.M. and we would like to apologise to those who had to go home before the meeting. The winners of the Disc Bowls were Mark Hodder and Shala Ashton (*below right*) who just pipped out Carol Forsyth and Rob Kerkin. Sue Forsyth organised some great races for our younger members (sack and three legged). They had a wonderful time. The raffle winners of fruit and



vegie trays were won by Tulliah Kerkin, Geoff Forsyth, Claire Guymer, Sue Forsyth and Beth Forsyth. Hope they all enjoyed them, they looked delicious. The youngest at the picnic was Leah-Marie Forsyth, aged 8mths (*pictured at left with her parents Gary and Leonora*) and once again the oldest was Bethel Gordon at 95. It was lovely to see her there.

At our meeting Chris Forsyth spoke about our reunion to be held at Cania Gorge (Monto) in November. Hope all those intending to go have booked their accommodation. If not it is not too late (Ph: 07 4167 8188) It sounds like a great weekend. Also at the meeting Margaret Webb spoke about the rededication at Toowong Cemetery for her ancestor George Given Forsyth (see article on page 3)

We had a planting ceremony of our sixth tree in the park (a replacement for one that had died). Sue Forsyth and family did the honours.

On the morning of the picnic Ken Gamlin had an altercation with a horse. The horse won and Ken had to miss the picnic. Our thoughts were with you and we hope you are fully recovered.

At the A.G.M we welcomed Geoff in as our new President, his daughter Nicole to our committee and also Glenys back on the committee.



President's Report 2012

I was fortunate to have the support and be re-elected as president at the AGM last year. It has been a full year yet again with the highs and lows. The picnic was held in the Peak Crossing Hall due to the wet weather leading up to the day. The great work of the contributors and helpers of the bring and buy stall made it a success as always. The disc bowls were won by the team of Graham King and Keegan Bullock, well done to all who participated.

It was a sad occasion when Victor & I travelled to Sydney to represent our Clan to attend the very Scottish funeral of our Clan Forsyth of Australia Commissioner Mr Jim Forsyth after his passing on 17th September 2011. Our thoughts and prayers were with his lovely wife Judy. Geoff & Judy Forsyth represented our Clan when he attended the funeral of Wally Forsyth at Childers later in the year.

Our annual Clan camp was held at Donnybrook in October and it was a great weekend. We enjoyed the hospitality of the Donnybrook Bowls Club and they allowed our Clan Forsyth Scottish Country Dancers to demonstrate their dancing skills. As always the patrons and clan members joined in on the action. Vic & Val opened their home to all with fun and laughter and the usual disc bowls comp took place.

Bev Kerkin is in the process of compiling a scrapbook of our events and functions throughout the years for the Clan. Beth Forsyth also has a collection of scrapbooks and genealogy books made available at our functions also.

The theme for the annual Clan Forsyth Dinner was with the theme for the 2012 year and was "Year of the Farmer". A great display of memorabilia was evident in the hall and table decorations. As always our committee did an outstanding job, Geoff Forsyth took on the role as emcee and everyone had a great time. Our Scottish Country dancers put on their usual display however, we need more dancers to get involved if we are to be able to continue with this tradition. If you are interested please let our secretary know, training will be provided.

In May our activities day was held at Ashton's Hall at Amberley. The weather was perfect and there was the usual fun and games, the jumping castle was well used and the annual talent show had guest judges. It's a great day just to catch up with friends and family, you can come for morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea or stay all day, it's up to you.

In closing I would like to thank my committee for all of their support throughout the year. Also our thanks to our husbands, partners and family for the support and assistance they give at our functions and events. I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy coming year.

I wish to notify that I have decided to stand down as President of Clan Forsyth Qld branch so that I can focus on my travel plans with Victor. I have thoroughly enjoyed the role as President for the 3 year period I have held the position. I would like to thank all those who have supported me and made the duties of President so enjoyable. I have enjoyed the interaction with the members immensely. I wish the new President and committee the very best for the next 12 months.

Val Ashton

George Given Forsyth, 5th Qld Imperial Bushmen

George came from the Big Mountain district, and aged 21 years sailed with the regiment to South Africa on the 6th March 1901. He was a highly regarded soldier, popular with his fellows. On the return voyage to Brisbane he got measles and on arrival 30th April 1902 he was taken to the Brisbane General Hospital where he died on 2nd May. Sadly his parents who lived in Ipswich were only able to reach him just before he died. He was buried with full military honours on 5th May 1902. These were provided by the Artillery units ie guncarriage, Band, rifle volley. Men of the 5th QIB were the pall bearers (it was the day the 5th were disbanded). He was another sad loss to family and Queensland.

On the 23rd September 2012 The Boar War Memorial Association carried out a rededication ceremony for two soldiers from the Boar War, Lt Lachlan Caskey and George Forsyth. Members of George's family and our Clan attended. As part of the ceremony a plaque was unveiled, our President Geoff was given the honour of reading the Ode and wreaths were laid.



New Clan President's Vision for 2012 - 2013

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To all Clan Forsyth Society families

I wish to firstly thank the Clan and the members present at the 2012 AGM for the honour of being elected President.

Clan Forsyth is not only made up of the Forsyths, but of many, more great families of which most of you know, for example, The Bonds, The Mc Dougalls, The Phillips, The Mc Ivors, The Ashtons, The Wheelers, The Andersons, The Dunns, The Winks, The Fitzgeralds, The Footes, The Holleys, The Gordons, The Smiths, The Kings, The Kerkins, The Soppas, The Noes, and I could continue for many more pages.

For the Clan Forsyth Society (QLD), all our families, unite us as one. We have over many generations, over 100's of years and to this day, been involved in great things; great discoveries, designed new ways to do things and worked hard on the land. Our men and women have served this country in uniform just as their forebears did around the world, including service in every conflict since 1890's, both at home and abroad with some paying the ultimate sacrifice. In recent times our family members have served in East Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan. All of these are proud traditions which should and must be collectively celebrated, now and into the future for many generations to come.

So, as your new President, I have put my vision for the Clan into words. This vision is not a road map, but ideas of where I see the Clan could expand and progress. Growing up, my Father, Stuart Wheeler Forsyth, instilled in me to work hard and to value the outcomes. The Australia Regular Army provide me with over 20 years of valuable and enjoyable hard work and that every person has something to contribute no matter how small, along with abiding sense of loyalty and to protect and look after family and your mates. These values I will always commit to this position.

Please also remember, that the Clan Committee is there to undertake the directions of the Society members, so if you have a point to make, an idea, a suggestion, please contact myself or a member of the committee so your comment and input can be included on the committee agenda for discussion and feedback.

I would ask you all to have a read, Make a comment, Make suggestion, provide additional ideas, and give me a phone to discuss any point or send an email. Please forward this document to any family you know that has a connection to the Forsyth name. I look forward to your feedback and your vision for the future.

Kindest regards to you all
Geoffrey Forsyth

New Clan President's Vision for 2012 - 2013

1. To increase financial membership of the Society by a minimum of 30 members in the coming year and encourage the younger generation to join and become involved.
2. To increase/encourage the young members of the clan to become more involved and for the Society to provide them with the means by which they can communicate and interact with each other, for example:
 - a. Multi-media,
 - b. Face Book,
 - c. Email networks,
 - d. Web Site/s,
 - e. Provide new activities where they can get together with their families, ie: weekend camps, and
 - f. To establish a Young Clan sub-committee.
3. To connect to all branches of the family throughout Queensland, through additional activities, including, email contact, greater spread of the Society newsletter by electronic means.
4. To review the governance of Clan Forsyth Society QLD and to develop process and procedures in line with the authorized "Rules" of the Society, along with written hand over documents for the Executives of the committee, ie: President, Vice President, Secretary / Public Officer and Treasurer.

This review could also include a committee archive register and storage of current and past committee information for future generations.
5. To enhance the Society and committee outcomes by:
 - a. Assistance within the committee of the appointment of:
 - i. Assistant Secretary
 - ii. Assistant Treasurer
 - iii. Clan activity Planning Organizer
 - b. From outside the committee, willing members to assist and undertake rolls, such as:
 - i. Clan photographer (the person when available) would be responsible for the taking of photographs at Clan activities, the enhancement and storage of all photographs. All photos would be stored and made available to clan

members. They would also provide a historical record of those clan activities.

- ii. A person to locate and collect historical documents, photos of the family and the wider family connections ie: the Smith's of Harrisville, Uncle Roy and Uncle Stan's WWI exploits. After which, put to written form so they are accessible by all members and the wider Forsyth connected families, in particular the young generations. All this information would be stored electronically and secured for the future. This activity would also assist our Genealogist Beth Forsyth, as there could be some vital information which would assist Beth's work. This activity would link with Item 2.
 - iii. Assistance in marketing of the Clan Society, ie: review documentation used by the committee and in advertising material of the Society.
6. To programme additional Society activities, such as:
- a. Clan Society golf day (men must wear Kilts if available).
 - b. Young members camp (say at Lake Moogerah) with their family.
 - c. A Cania Gorge (near Monto) Young members camp.
 - d. For the Clan to gain younger members ideas and suggestions.
7. Look at the linkages with other Clan Organizations, such as Clan Congress and other Clans in QLD in the view of joint activities.
8. A suggested theme for the 2013 dinner could be our ancestors and we could dress in the era. This suggestion was given to me at the end of the AGM by a younger member.

Please provide me with your feedback via email, phone or letter. All of your comments will be acted upon and replied to.

**Many Thanks
Geoff Forsyth**

ANNUAL FEES

If you have not paid your fees for this year please forward membership payment to the Treasurer. Jill Soppa, 25 Harding Street, Raceview Qld 4305. Single membership is \$10.00 with membership for a couple \$15.00. Payment may be paid at any of our regular events. Please make cheques payable to Clan Forsyth Society

In the last newsletter we gave an excerpt from a book on the Forsyth name. Here is a bit more information.

FOR SCOTLAND'S CAUSE

The origin of the name of Forsyth has never been determined with certainty, but at least three possible sources have been identified. Whatever the origins, however, what is beyond doubt is that bearers of the name have flourished in Scotland since at least the twelfth century

One tradition holds that the progenitor, or 'name-father' of the Forsyth was one of the wild and sea-roving Norsemen, by the name of Forsach, who eventually settled in present-day France, in the region of Aquitaine. One of his descendants, the Viscomte de Fronsac, is recorded at the court of England's Henry II between 1156 and 1166. His family were granted lands in the north of England, and are believed to have later settled in the Scottish Borders. From here, they gradually spread throughout Scotland, particularly in Lanarkshire, Stirling and Fife. A David Forsyth, who was in possession of lands in the Strathaven area of Lanarkshire as early as the mid to late fifteenth century, proudly and adamantly claimed a descent from the Viscomte de Fronsac, while the family castle at Dykes dominated the local landscape until it was finally demolished in 1828. One intriguing mystery concerning the name Forsyth is that early records designate some bearers as 'de Forsyth' (of Forsyth), indicating that the name may have its origins as a territorial or 'location' name. A Thomas Forsyth is recorded in Glasgow in the latter decades of the fifteenth century, while a William de Forsyth is recorded in Edinburgh in the sixteenth century. No actual 'Forsyth' place name, however, has ever been identified. Another possible source of the name is from the Scottish Gaelic 'fear sìthe', meaning 'man of peace', while some authorities speculate that rather than indicating 'man of peace', the name may indicate 'place of peace'. It would be rather ironical if the origin of the name is indeed from 'man of peace', or 'place of peace', considering the bloody lives and times of generations of Forsyths who distinguished themselves as brave defenders of Scotland's freedom and independence and doughty defenders of their religious ideals. A William de Fersith was one of the reluctant signatories in 1296 to a humiliating treaty of fealty to the conquering Edward I of England, who is known as 'the Hammer of the Scots'. Signed by 1,500 earls, bishops and burgesses, the parchment is known as the Ragman Roll because of the ribbons that dangle from the seals of the signatories. This humiliation was avenged in May of the following year, however, when William Wallace raised the banner of revolt against the English occupation of Scotland. Proving an expert in tactics of guerrilla warfare, Wallace and his hardened band of freedom fighters inflicted stunning defeats on the English garrisons. This culminated in the liberation of practically all of Scotland following the battle of Stirling Bridge, on September 11, 1297. Despite having a force of only 36 cavalry and 8000 foot soldiers, compared to an army under the Earl of Surrey that boasted no less 200 knights and 10,000 foot soldiers, the Scots held strategic advantage that they exploited to the full. Positioning their forces on the heights of the Abbey Craig, on the outskirts of Stirling, and where the imposing Wallace Monument stands, Wallace and his commanders waited patiently as Surrey's force slowly made its way across a narrow wooden bridge that spanned the waters of the Forth. As the bulk of the English army crossed onto the marshy ground at the foot of the Abbey Craig, the piercing blast of a hunting horn signalled a ferocious charge down the hillside of massed ranks of Scottish spearmen. Trapped on the boggy ground, the English were incapable of putting up any effective resistance. They were hacked to death in their hundreds, while many others drowned in the fast flowing waters of the Forth in their heavy armour as they attempted to make their way back across the narrow bridge. Defeated at the battle of Falkirk on July 22, 1298, after earlier being appointed Guardian of Scotland, Sir William Wallace was eventually betrayed and captured in August of 1305, and, on August 23, he was brutally executed in London on the orders of a vengeful Edward I. The beacon of freedom was soon reignited under the inspired leadership of Robert the Bruce, however, who was enthroned as King of Scots in an ancient ceremony at Scone Abbey in March of the following year. One of his earliest supporters appears to have been Osbert Forsyth, because it is only a short time after 1306 that Bruce granted him lands at Sauchie, in Stirlingshire. Forsyth also fought with distinction at the side of the great warrior king at Bannockburn in June of 1314, when a 20,000 strong English army under

Edward 11 was defeated by a Scots army less than half this strength. By midsummer of 1313 the mighty fortress of Stirling Castle was occupied by an English garrison under the command of Sir Philip Mowbray. Bruce's brother, Edward, agreed to a pledge by Mowbray that if the castle was not relieved by battle by midsummer of the following year, then he would surrender. This made battle inevitable, and by June 23 of 1314 the two armies faced one another at Bannockburn, in sight of the castle. It was on this day that Bruce slew the English knight Sir Henry de Bohun in single combat, but the battle proper was not fought until the following day, shortly after the rise of the midsummer sun. The English cavalry launched a desperate but futile charge on the densely packed ranks of Scottish spearmen known as schiltrons, and by the time the sun had sunk slowly in the west the English army had been totally routed, with Edward himself only narrowly managing to make his escape from the carnage of the battlefield. Scotland's independence had been secured, to the glory of Bruce and loyal supporters such as Osbert Forsyth, who was rewarded in 1320 with confirmation of the grant of his lands.

Dates to Remember

10th – 11th November 2012 – Reunion at Cania Gorge.

29th January 2013 - Brisbane, QLD - Celtic Thunder Australian Tour

Back by popular demand! Celtic Thunder is comprised of five diverse performers who are each a powerhouse in both their solo and ensemble songs. The group is backed by the dynamic Celtic Thunder Band with their eye-catching choreography and dramatic lighting, staged within a setting that mimics ancient depictions of Celtic lore at Brisbane Entertainment Centre. Tickets & information:

www.ticketek.com.au or 132 849.

23rd March 2013 – Clan Forsyth (Qld Branch) Annual Dinner at Harrisville

6th April 2013 - Bundanoon, NSW - 36th Annual Brigadoon-Bundanoon Highland Gathering

Australia's largest Scottish gathering with a full day of entertainment and activities including pipe bands, Scottish dancing, Clan village, stalls and much more-a great Scottish day out. Info:

www.brigadoon.net.au.

2nd – 5th May 2013 - Glen Innes, NSW - Australian Celtic Festival

Celebrating the year of Scotland at the Australian Standing Stones. A full weekend of Celtic fun and entertainment in the heart of Celtic country. Info: (02) 6730 2400 or www.australiancelticfestival.com.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mum is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap.

Listed below are your committee members.

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Below is a little blessing I have borrowed from the Irish.

May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

