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Friday, April 17, 2015



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Community comes first



**Pine Mountain
Water Cress
Olive Festival**
Sunday April 19 — 10am
53 Bryces Rd

The annual gathering of the Clan Forsyth



A toast to the Haggis by Bruce Mitchell, Val Ashton, Rhonda Noe and Alwyn Clarke.

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The annual gathering of the Clan Forsyth

by KAYE MARTIN

CLAN Forsyth colours were in evidence during the weekend as more than 100 members of the family gathered in Harrisville for their annual Clan dinner.

President of the Clan Forsyth of Australia Queensland Branch, Val Ashton said the evening was much anticipated by members.

"It is about reconnecting with each other and making sure the youngest members of the Clan recognise the importance of keeping tradition alive."

Part of that tradition was the Address to a Haggis, a solemn moment when the haggis is piped into the room.



The Gamlens can count five generations who have attended the local school, Ken and Ann with son Scott and nephew Jason and his daughter Bronte.

Bruce Mitchell was chosen to make the Robert Burns Address, his accent bringing the poem written by Burns to life.

This year the Clan had chosen to theme the night to the Forsyth Anzac Legacy, in recognition of the number of Forsyth men who gave their lives in war and the Anzac Centenary.

As part of this they chose to say the Anzac Grace rather than the more traditional Selkirk Grace.

The evening included traditional

Scottish dancing and much loved songs from the homeland along with an Anzac display and quizzes.

During the evening, one of the older members of the Clan, Jean Forsyth, was surprised when she was asked to cut a cake recognising her 80th birthday.

Locally the Forsyth's have their roots at Peak Crossing when six brothers migrated from Scotland to Ireland and from there to Peak Crossing more than 150 years ago.



Max Forsyth, aged 84, remembers his brother Leonard who was killed in PNG in 1942 as the Forsyth Clan recognised those who fought and lost their lives during their annual dinner.

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Piper Alwyn Clarke leads the way as the Haggis is carried in by Val Ashton and followed by Bruce Mitchell and Rhonda Noe.



Bruce Mitchell and Brian Bissett chat during the Forsyth Clan dinner.



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The annual gathering of the Clan Forsyth



Happy Birthday to Jean Forsyth, seen here with her children Len Forsyth, Lucia McKee and Annette Cowan.



President of the Forsyth Clan of Queensland Val Ashton and husband Victor.



The Ashtons - Victor and Val, Glenys, Allan, Stewart, Jacinta, Brendan and Monique.



Heather Forsyth and Rhonda Noe and Glenys Ashton and her niece Jacinta Ashton during a display of Scottish dance.

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see also
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Hailing the Haggis

FOR those who do not know what a traditional Haggis is - it is a savory pudding containing sheep heart, liver and lungs, minced onion, oatmeal, suet, spices and salt and mixed with stock. It is traditionally encased in a casing made from the sheep's stomach and boiled. Today, an artificial casing is usually substituted for the sheep's stomach.

Those who eat Haggis say the Scots' delicacy has a nutty texture and delicious savoury flavour.

The Haggis is traditionally piped into a room as it is carried on a silver platter at the beginning of proceedings.

The Robert Burns poem 'Address to a Haggis' is then recited during which the Haggis is cut with a ceremonial knife.

A toast, with whiskey, is then made to the Haggis.

Burns wrote the poem in 1787, to celebrate his appreciation of the Haggis.

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o the puddin'-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye worthy o' a grace
As lang's my arm.*

Translation

*Fair and full is your honest, jolly face,
Great chieftain of the sausage race!
Above them all you take your place,
Stomach, tripe, or intestines:
Well are you worthy of a grace
As long as my arm.*

— from *Address to a Haggis* by Robert Burns



The Haggis is traditionally presented on a silver tray and cut with a ceremonial knife.



Cutting the Haggis during the Address to a Haggis.

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timetable

Rosewood, Saturday 9th May 2015 from 8.30am - 4.30pm
Beaudesert, Saturday 16th May 2015 from 8.30am - 4.30pm
Laddley, Saturday 30th May 2015 from 8.30am - 4.30pm
Esk, Saturday 6th June 2015 from 8.30am - 4.30pm
Boonah, Saturday 13th June 2015 from 8.30am - 4.30pm

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Address to a Haggis by Bruce Mitchell.