

CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY – AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

February 2008



Monto Reunion 9th & 10th Nov 2007

After some discussion with Christine Forsyth from Monto, a reunion of Forsyth's from around that area was arranged. Christine and Jenny Forsyth handled the arrangements from that end and Beth did the arranging from the Brisbane end. The weather had been wet, so it was arranged that we would all meet at the Community Hall next to the Caravan Park, which was nice and handy as quite a lot of us from Brisbane were staying in the Park. Each family was to bring along photos of their immediate family, this would make it easier to recognise just who you were all talking about.



Beth took along the whole "Forsyth" tree, along with photos of Basil and Perla's family. Carol Forsyth from the Gold Coast also took along what she had in the way of family tree. She had some very good photos of the Monto side of the family.

The hall was set up with the family trees, and the photos of as many Forsyths as we could get. It was very interesting, and very well done. Bev Kerkin had made some new things for the shop and she set it up in the hall as well. I had my computer set up and it was wonderful to be able to put the new information straight into the computer.

About 10am everyone started arriving. It was wonderful to see how many 'Forsyths' came. At least 50 people attended, coming from as far as Rockhampton, the Gold Coast and about 14 from the Brisbane area (mostly Committee members). Not a bad turn out.

The morning tea was wonderful with a huge variety of food. All home made. Country people sure know how to entertain. This was followed by lunch, once again, very well provided for by Jenny who had done a wonderful job with the catering.

By 4pm everyone was talked out, and it was time to go back to our lodgings and have a rest and get ready for dinner at 6pm at the R.S.L. club.

This was another very good meal, and a very pleasant time with everyone. Don presented Christine and Jenny with a small token of appreciation for all their hard work in bringing this wonderful day together. Don was then asked to make a small speech about the 'Forsyth Clan'. Where it came from and how it was commenced in Brisbane and Australia. The night was finished beautifully by a piper (who was at a function in the next room), who came in and played a few Scottish tunes for us.

It was agreed that a wonderful time was had by all and that there will be another reunion in the coming

future. This will be organised by Carol & Gordon Forsyth from the Gold Coast. It will be up to them when and where it will be. So keep reading our Newsletter for more information as it comes to hand.

This was a lovely weekend, and though there was nothing arranged for Sunday, it was enjoyed by all who participated. It is hoped that the next one will include a Sunday program and make the weekend even more enjoyable

Written by Beth Forsyth – Clan Genealogist



Annual Dinner Saturday 29th March 2008

Once again our Annual Dinner is approaching and this year we have an Australiana theme. Please note that we have a change of venue due to expanding numbers. The Harrisville Hall is larger and the catering facilities are more suitable for our demands. The evening will start with drinks and savouries from 6pm, followed by the address to the Haggis at 6.30pm. Entrée will follow with light entertainment for your enjoyment. Soft drinks will be available for sale on the evening. After dinner there will be a variety of dancing, which you may wish to participate in, or just sit back and watch while catching up with family and friends. The usual raffle will be run with three prizes on offer. Val will be there with her annual quiz. Get the thinking caps on. For more information see flyer enclosed. If you wish to pay your annual fees you can do so at the dinner.

Committee Meeting

The Committee met on Sunday 20th January at Don & Beth Forsyth's home where the main topic of discussion was the clan dinner and the working bee at the Harrisville Cemetery which is now scheduled on the **9th March 2008** at 8am. Bring your own food, drinks, tools and enthusiasm. For more information contact a committee member. We also discussed changes to the rules of our Clan Forsyth Society Queensland and have deferred making changes until further consultation.

Val turns 70

Our Vice President Val Ashton celebrated her 70th birthday on January 13th. Val's husband Victor also celebrated his 70th birthday in November. Congratulations to the both of you. May you have many, many more.



Traditional Scottish Recipes - Corned Beef Soufflé

Combining corned beef and eggs creates a nourishing, low-cost dish. The quantities below are sufficient for two people

Ingredients:

6oz/175g lean corned beef
1 large onion, sliced
2 tablespoons tomato juice

Small can of tomatoes, drained
2 eggs, beaten
Pinch of mixed herbs

Method:

Slice the corned beef and layer onions and tomatoes, sprinkled with tomato juice and herbs as you go. End with tomatoes. Pour the beaten eggs over the top and bake in a moderate oven for 20 minutes. Serve with a salad.

A Bit of History – Did you ever wonder where the *Griffin* came from?



FORSYTH – THE MEN OF THE GRIFFIN RACE

The symbol of Forsite, Forsate, Forsath, Forsyth, as it is variably spelled, was the griffin, a fabulous creature, winged, with a head of an eagle and the body of a lion. The symbol of the griffin denotes vigilance and strength. The race whose badge was the griffin controlled the areas later known as Friesland and Denmark.

In Scottish history, one of the royal races that came from Scandinavia into Scotland bore the griffin as its symbol.

Between 1246 and 1250 Osbert de Forsyth's relatives in the female line, who had held the castle and the Fonsac estates in the South of France for several generations, had divided the estates so that Osbert inherited very little. This led Osbert to leave France and go to Scotland, sailing from Bordeaux. They landed at Dover, and after a short stay in England, Osbert then crossed over to Armondale in Scotland. Osbert bore the shield with the emblems of Fronsac and Angoulene beneath the demi-griffin crest of the Forsyths. In Scotland Osbert had a son whose name was Wilhelm, who is recognised in the Chronicles of Scotland history as a feudal lord of Country Peebles. The first documented presence of the Forsyth name in Scotland was the signing of the 'Ragman Roll' in Berwick on 28th August 1296 by a William de Fersith. This was the document by which all the nobles, in Scotland were compelled to subscribe allegiance to Edward 1 of England after the failure of King John to defeat the English.

SCOTTISH HUMOUR

A man left his bagpipes in the back seat of his car with the window rolled down. After leaving his vehicle and walking only a few blocks, he suddenly realized his mistake and hurried back - but it was too late! Someone had ALREADY left another set of bagpipes next to the first.

DATES TO REMEMBER

9th March – Harrisville Cemetery Working Bee

29th March – Annual Dinner

Positive thought to finish with.

"The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it."