



A Restorer of Ruins

CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY– AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Secretary: Heather Forsyth, 18 Luckie Cres, Tivoli, 4305

Ph: (07) 3281 7553

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2013

Welcome to another year. Hope that everyone endured the floods and rain without too much damage and stress.

I have a few announcements and reminders. Firstly our Annual Dinner is coming up on the 23rd March 2013. See the flyer enclosed for all the details. It is always a great night, so we hope to see you there in Harrisville at the School of Arts.

This year we are trying something new. A new Newsletter format, new articles on “Family History Located”, “Youth Corner” and “New Additions to the Family” so if you any news on these topics, please contact me.

Two new events: ,On the 14th April 2013 we are having a Bare Foot Bowls Day at the Harrisville Bowls Club. For all those who have ever thought of having a go at lawn bowls this is a great opportunity. No need to have bowls of your own. We even have bowls for the kids. The day will start at 9am and will be followed by a sausage sizzle at the club. See details enclosed.

Our second new event we are trying is a golf day on the 23rd of June 2013 at the Rosewood Golf Club. This day will also start at 9am followed by a sausage sizzle. So all those who think that the clan is just for the oldies get out there and see that we can all join together and participate in these events no matter what age you are. See details enclosed.

The following is an article written by Gordon Forsyth about the Monto Reunion

Cania Gorge Reunion Trip, Monto, Qld – 10th – 11th November 2012

On the weekend of 10th and 11th of November, we held a Reunion at the magnificent facility of the Big4 Holiday Park at Cania Gorge, 30km from Monto. The event was attended by over eighty people from as far away as the Gold Coast and Townsville as well as many places in between.

As we all know, the Queensland Branch consists mainly of the Descendants of six Forsyth brothers (Samuel, John, James, Robert, William and Francis) who immigrated to the Brisbane area from Donegal, Ireland in the mid 1800s. These brothers were of course descendants of the ancient Clan Forsyth in Scotland that had, centuries before, escaped to Ireland to avoid the fighting between the English and the Scots. They were all farmers and most settled in the Harrisville and Peak Crossing areas.

The Monto connection was established in 1932 when Stan (Grandson of James) and Ethel Forsyth moved from their farm at Rosewood and settled on a farm in the Monto area at Tellebang. They raised a family of seven children (May, Jim, Wally, George, Bill, Don and Gordon). Until the 1960s all of the family had settled in the Monto area and were establishing their own families. By the 1980s the extended family numbered over one hundred and by then some had moved to other areas, but always called Monto home. The surviving extended family of Stan and Ethel now number more than one hundred and sixty

Consequently the majority of the people attending this Reunion were from the Stan and Ethel family, but as always, the Clan is well represented at the Clan functions, with eleven ‘Clan cousins’ Val and Vic Ashton, Rhonda and Keith Noe, Bev and Rob Kerkin, Beth and Don Forsyth, Leonora, Gary and Leah-Marie Forsyth were there to celebrate the get together and renew kinship.

As usual there are always some problems in life that get in the way of good fun and this time our new President Geoff and his lovely wife Judith had problems with their cattle with a dead cow having given birth as well as a couple more new calves. Jill Soppa was another when her sister Judith had a heart problem and had to be admitted to Hospital in Toowoomba for tests and possible operation. Maurice Holley from Rockhampton was suffering from the side effects from new medication. Maurice has only recently had a kidney removed as well as suddenly losing his partner Betty recently. We are sorry that they were not able to be there as it was a very relaxing and enjoyable couple of days.



Back: Gordon Forsyth (Oxenford) Second Row: Bill Forsyth (Seaforth), Jeff Forsyth (Childers), Gary Forsyth (Townsville) Third Row: Anna (Bill's wife), George Forsyth (Monto), Valda (Gary's wife), Rhonda Noe (nee Forsyth - Peak Crossing) Front: Beryl (George's wife), Edna (Wally's wife - Childers), Val Ashton (nee Forsyth - Donnybrook)

The highlight of the weekend was the dinner on Saturday night which everyone thoroughly enjoyed with lots of laughter and good cheer. Val Ashton as Vice President welcomed everyone and invited a member of each of the families to introduce their individual families which was a great idea.

We were fortunate (some ladies thought UN-fortunate) to have a late visit by an 'old' long lost cousin from Ireland by the name Daryl McHolley. It was great to meet him and have a chat about our Irish and Scottish heritage. He really endeared himself to all the ladies with his friendly nature and good looks. One of the ladies in particular took a liking to him as I am sure that she tried to kiss him but suddenly changed her mind. You have to watch that drool Daryl when sidling up to the ladies. It is a wonder she did not take out a baby wipe and clean you up as she happens to be a Registered Nurse that does that as a daily routine. (Please refer to the photo for the evidence).

Thanks Daryl (Holley) for a very entertaining half hour as it must have been getting a bit warm in your latex hood while cuddling all the ladies.
(Kim Hoefling (nee Forsyth & Daryl Holley))



Beth Forsyth, our Qld Clan genealogist, had a tremendous display of the genealogy of the Forsyth brothers and their descendants as well as photo albums and newspaper articles. We can only surmise about the amount of time that you put into obtaining and producing your display.

It was also great to see the display by Carol Forsyth which complemented the one by Beth. Carol's display included a collection of family photographs of, Samuel and Isabella (nee Smith) Forsyth 'Ashwood Grove' Peak Crossing, Stan and Ethel (nee Caswell) Forsyth, Caswell family from Murgon,

Smith family from 'Greenwood' Harrisville. Of great interest were the 'Descendant Books' produced by Carol after a lot of hours of dedication. These books provide detailed reports of the family tree, stories and photographs of: the six brothers from Ireland, Samuel and Isabella and their descendants to the present time, Isabella's 'Smith' family and Ethel's 'Caswell' family.

These books have been produced for sale with the profits going to the Clan Forsyth to help finance worthy projects. Also on helping to raise revenue was Bev Kerkin with the Clan Forsyth Store which also set the scene in the Convention room





Thanks go to Jill and Peter of the Big4 for hosting the dinner and for the use of the Convention room for the Clan Forsyth display. Big thanks also go to Christine Forsyth (wife of Drew Forsyth) for the time and effort that she put into organising the arrangements with the Big4.



Gordon Forsyth (Oxenford), Don & Beth Forsyth (Blacksoil), Bev & Rob Kerkin (Boonah)



Cousins – Gary, Beryl, George, Val, Leonora & Baby Leah-Marie



Anna's New Friend

A Great Camp

Family History Located

In the past few months a range of family items have been located and passed on to me. These historical items are of great significance to the direct families. I encourage all to have a look in the shed or wherever, also look through old boxes passed down to you and see if there are any further items which need to be handed back to the direct families. If you send (PO Box 101, Harrisville, QLD 4307) any items to me with a brief of their origins I will ensure they are documented and passed on to the direct family or phone me on 0400 120 542 and I will connect them.

Many Thanks Geoff Forsyth

Below are just three items which have been recently located.

1. Correspondence from Gordon and Carol Forsyth - January 2013

Hi Geoff

Thanks to you I now have the New Testament book that my father, Stan Forsyth carried with him in France during World War 1. There is an inscription in the front which reads:

***'To Stanley,
Wishing you every success and a safe return
from Mrs Verrell Martha and Daisy
Dec 1st 1916,***

He was given this book before his embarkation by Mrs Verrall and her two daughters Martha and Daisy. On one of the back pages he has entered his details and the address for a D I Verrell whom Carol has identified as Daisy Isabella, a few years younger and obviously good friends. Could it be that he was sweet on Daisy and had her address so that he could write??? One wonders what could have been.

He obviously treasured and guarded that document as the condition of the external leather jacket is very frail, but I must admit that the pages within did not get a lot of attention.

The fact that it was carried through some horrific conditions including being captured along with about 20 of his mates in his Machine Gun Company during a full scale assault by the Germans. He was extremely lucky not to have been killed. (Details of this battle and the circumstances of his capture are included in the 'Samuel and Isabella Forsyth Descendants Book')

Maybe the fact that he carried this **'book'** had something to do with his luck. I also suspect that he was carrying this book in his uniform pockets as it is most likely they would have lost all their kit at the time of capture. He was held as a prisoner of war behind German lines in Belgium for 7 months.

I am very proud of my father for what he went through and it is a real treasure to have his New Testament to put beside his photo in our display cabinet.

Hope that this is what you had in mind as it will be good to see in the Newsletter. I will take another close up of the book tomorrow so that you can see the worn condition. The light is not good now.

Thanks again
Cheers
Gordon



2. William (Bill) John Lucas Married Euphemia (Teenie) Forsyth - 6 August 1902

In early January 2013, I received a parcel which its contents were items of Uncle Bill Lucas' from his service in the Boer War. The items were his pistol holster, his Boer War medal in a leather wallet. I did know that Uncle Bill serviced in the Boer War, but so surprising was that the leather wallet which contained his medal, I made when in year 6 at Primary School at Mt Gravatt. I do not know how he ended up with it.

Uncle Bill serviced with the "Fifth Queensland Imperial Bushmen Contingent". Remarkably this is the same contingent which George Given Forsyth also serviced in during the Boer War, you will remember George Given Forsyth as Clan members attended his grave re-dedication in September 2012 (in last newsletter).

Uncle Bill saw action in the Transvaal, Orange Free State and Cape Colony. Three months and six days after returning to Brisbane, he married Teenie Forsyth (The youngest daughter of James and Catherine Forsyth born 8th December 1879

5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen

The Fifth Queensland Imperial Bushmen Contingent Sailed on 6 March 1901 by the transport ship 'Templemore' taking 22 Officers, 479 other ranks and 450 horses. A detachment followed a few days later by transport ship 'Chicago' consisting of 1 Officer, 25 other ranks and 26 horses.

First detachment arrived in Capetown South Africa on the 31st March 1901.

These men were specially selected. No man was to be above 177 cm or below 167 cm, they were also chosen for their ability as good bush horsemen and able to shot their rifles from horse back.

On 27 March 1902 they embarked from South Africa by the transport ship "St Andrew" arriving in Brisbane on 30 April 1902, having called at Albany WA and Melbourne VIC.

The Unit was disbanded on 5 May 1902.

Their Pay Rates were:

Private: 5 shillings (50¢) per day from date of embarkation plus 1 shilling (10¢) per day extra being 'Colonial Allowance'.

I remember both Aunty Teenie and Uncle Bill very well as my Mum and Dad and family visited them regularly at Shafston Ave, where they had a shop just across from the old Picture Theatre and later the Ice Skating Rink. Uncle Bill made great milk shakes in the shop, he always said the milk had to at least three days old before he could use it, they were the best. In their back yard there was a big mango tree which my brothers and I used to raid and fill several boxes of mangos to take home. Both Uncle Bill and Aunty Teenie are well remembered. Geoff Forsyth

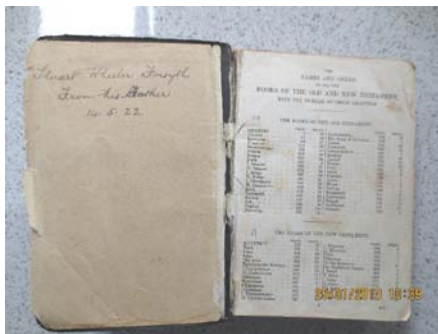


3. Stuart Wheeler Forsyth

In the same parcel as Uncle Stan's Bible was another Bible (Books of the Old and New Testament) which was given to My Father, Stuart by his Father, Samuel on the 14th May 1922, Dad would have been 11 and a half years at that date.

This Bible will be proudly held within our family and we will use it on as many occasions as possible in the future.

Geoff Forsyth



New Family Descendant Books Available

Over the past several months Carol and Gordon Forsyth have been working on a series of books on our families. At present they have produced three (3) which cover:

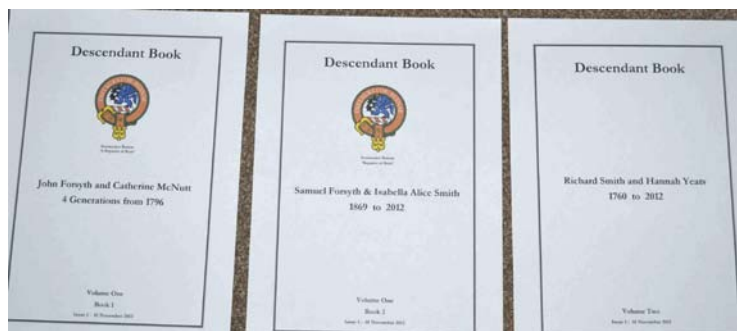
Book 1 – John Forsyth and Catherine M^cNutt from 1796

Book 2 - Samuel Forsyth and Isabella Alice Smith from 1869 to 2012

Book 3 - Richard Smith and Hannah Yeats from 1760 to 2012

The books are very well presented and great reading, with lots of photos and provides an insight to the vastness of our family across the generations. They also make a superb gift, especially for our younger family members. In producing these books Carol and Gordon are giving a portion of the sales to the Clan Branch, which is most appreciated.

The books are available by phoning Carol and Gordon Forsyth on 07-5502 3070.



There are a number of books on the production line and both Carol and Beth Forsyth are working others to come, we look forward to their production.

New Clan Activities

1. Bare Foot Bowls Day

Location: Harrisville Bowls Club

Address: Wienholt Rd, Harrisville

Date: Sunday 14th April 2013 commencing at 10 am

Start Time: 9:30 to 10 am

Cost: \$5.00 per player – bowls included (Children's bowls available)

Dress: Near casual, shoes – flat sole shoes, thongs or bare feet

Drinks: Bowls Club bar open (Please NO BYO) – Stubbies \$3 – soft drinks - \$2 – all other drinks available, wine etc

Lunch: Sausage Sizzle - \$2

Contact: Geoff Forsyth (0400 120 542) email Forsande@bigpond.com

2. Clan Golf Day

Location: Rosewood Golf Club

Address: Karrabin Rosewood Rd, Rosewood

Date: Sunday 23rd June 2013 commencing at 9 am

Start Time: 9:30 to 10 am

Cost: \$12.00 per player green fees plus hire of clubs if needed (Children are must be supervised)

Dress: Near casual, shoes – flat sole shoes

Drinks: At Golf Club bar (Please NO BYO)– all other drinks available, wine etc

Lunch: Sausage Sizzle - \$2

Organizing Team: Jill Soppa (07-32888249) and Heather Forsyth (07-3281 7553)

Heather's Email: heatherandianfor@hotmail.com

Further information will appear in future Newsletters

Stop The Presses - Great News

Some great news after talking to Isabel King this morning.

Isabel was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent an operation in early February 2013. Isabel received the result from her operation (Tuesday 12th February 2013) and great news, is that doctors removed all the cancer and no further radiation treatment is required. Fabulous news, Isabel. Look forward to seeing yourself, Norm and family at the Clan Dinner in March.

Youth Corner

Well Done Ashleigh

Ashleigh Kerkin (grand daughter of our shop convenor, Bev Kerkin) was selected to play vigaro for Fassifern under 13's at the Queensland State Titles held in Mackay on 7th – 9th January 2013. Fassifern played six games over the three days and were runners up in the carnival.





Looking to the Future.

The South Queensland Representative Cricket teams met in Charters Towers, North Queensland in December 2012 for a 5 day 50 over match competition.

Our congratulations go to Byrn Llewellyn (Keith and Rhonda Noe's Grand Son) and Brendon Ashton (Glenys and Gary Ashton's son) for their sportsmanship and great efforts.. The boys played other teams, over 5 days in 40 degree temperatures, that is a 50 over match every day.

They had plenty of supporters on the side line, with Glenys, Gary, Rhonda and Keith and also other family members.

Again, well done boys for your commitment to the game.

Congratulations On Your Hard Work

Stacey Ing is the Great Grand Daughter of Wally and Edna Forsyth of Childers. Stacey studied at St Anthony's High School, just north of Townsville. In the 2012 Awards, Stacey won a Bursary from James Cook University where she will soon commence studies in a Veterinary Science Degree taking some 5 years to complete. We know all the family congratulates you on your award and your upcoming studies. All the best

Photo:

Renae Ing, Stacey Ing, Lynda O'Brien - 3 generations



New Members

We wish to welcome new members to the Clan Society who have joined in the last few months, they are:

Michael Soppa of Ipswich
Christine Forsyth and partner Matt Tinski of Brisbane
Bill and Anna Forsyth of Seaforth
Brad and Connie Forsyth of Monto
Jeffery and Robyn Forsyth of Childers
Kim, Steven Hoefling and Family of Ipswich
Richard and Judy Forsyth of Boonah
Shane Forsyth of Kippa Ring

New Additions to the Family

Congratulations to Colette Forsyth and Alan Kim on the birth of MiCha Forsyth Kim a beautiful daughter born on the 3rd January 2013.

Congratulations to Nerida and Luke Forsyth on the birth of Evelyn Thea Forsyth a beautiful daughter born on the 7rd February 2013.

A Hardy Congratulations

Congratulations goes to Val Ashton on receiving City of Ipswich Medallion

After joining the Queensland Country Women's Association in 1961, Val has devoted many hours to assisting members of her branch and our community in any way possible. Throughout the last 61 years, Val has held memberships at the One Mile and Amberley branches and, today, is the Vice President of the Rosewood association.

Australia Day, Division 10 Medallion Recipients 2013, presented by Mayor Paul Pisasale and Cr David Pahlke. The medallion recipients also received the Community Group of the year medallion. They are an amazing Rosewood Organisation - There is about 250 Volunteering years amongst this group. Sarah Embrey received the overall Community Award for the Rosewood CWA.



Val with Mayor Paul Pisasale and Cr David Pahlke.

Dates to Remember

23rd March – Annual Dinner – Harrisville School of Arts Hall

23rd April – Bare Foot Bowls – Harrisville Bowls Club

26th May – Activities Day – Ashton Hall, Amberley

23rd June – Golf Day – Rosewood Golf Club

28th August – Clan Picnic – Peak Crossing

Something to think about. – a quote by Letty Cottin Pogrebin

If the family were a fruit, it would be an orange, a circle of sections, held together but separable – each segment distinct

That about sums it up, don't you think?



Your Newsletter Contributions

Please, if you have any article or information you wish to place in your newsletter, send it to either Heather at heatherandianfor@hotmail.com or to Geoff at Forsande@bigpond.com

CLAN FORSYTH OF AUSTRALIA QUEENSLAND BRANCH



A Restorer of Ruins

ANNUAL DINNER

You are cordially invited to attend the Clan Forsyth Annual Dinner

To be held on Saturday 23th March 2013

At 6.00pm for 6.30pm start

Doors open 5.30pm

At Harrisville Hall

Cnr Queen & Hall Sts, Harrisville

Dinner Theme for this year is: "Our Ancestors"

We are encouraging Fancy Dress in the period

Entertainment for all the family will be provided by



- Lucky Door Prize
- Piping of the Haggis
- Live music
- Fun and treats for the Childs
- Dancing, Old time and Modern
- Scottish Dancing
- Raffle

The very reasonable cost of Twenty five Dollars (\$25) Adults and (\$8) Child 6 to 12 Years
Under 6 Years Free.

Bring your friends, make a party, book a table.

Soft Drinks on sale \$1 B.Y.O. Alcohol

R.S.V.P. Wednesday 14th March, 2013

(All payments to be received by this date, See Treasurer's Details and Direct Debit Bank
Details on Booking Form) Bank Details:

If you are going to take up this option don't forget to give a reference (like your initials,
don't just put Forsyth) and include this same reference on your form when you send it to
Jill.



CLAN FORSYTH OF AUSTRALIA QUEENSLAND BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER BOOKING FORM



NAME. _____

ADDRESS. _____

PH. NO. _____

By Cheque to:-

The Treasurer
Clan Forsyth Society of Australia
Queensland Branch
Jill Soppa
25 Harding Street
RACEVIEW QLD 4305
Ph: 07-32 888249

Direct Debit Bank Details:-

Commonwealth Bank BSB:- 064 117
Account No:- 00905178
Account Name:- Clan Forsyth Queensland
Ref:- Example (GR Forsyth)
Please Email Booking Confirmation to:
The Secretary Heather Forsyth at:-
heatherandianfor@hotmail.com

I wish to attend the Clan Forsyth Annual Dinner to be held at the Harrisville Hall on 23th March, 2013

Cost: Adult (\$25) Child 6 TO 12 Years (\$8) Child under 6 FREE

R.S.V.P. Wednesday 14th March 2013, money paid with reply by cheque. If you choose to Direct Credit into our account, please put a reference number or name. (see Bank details)

I wish to book a table in the Name of _____ for _____ people

Name tags to be collected at the door

The names of myself and my guests are.

SURNAME

GIVEN NAME

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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