

CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY – AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

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Who got their picture in the paper?

ANSWER:- Nearly everyone who attended the Annual Picnic at Peak Crossing. We had a visit from the Queensland Times (QT) newspaper that ran a story about the day and took a few photos. These appeared in the QT and the advertiser Tuesday September 1st. Thanks to all who attended this year. We had a few people away but it was a beautiful day and the weather was kind. As usual our Bring and Buy stall (see picture below) was well supported and our great thanks to Rhonda and Joyce for all their hard work, baking and selling, on the stall and also to everyone who not only donated goods, but made purchases. Thanks to Bev Kerkin, our Clan shop convenor, who always makes an appealing display. A Big Thanks goes to Geoff Forsyth for organising the Disc Bowls. He made the competition a laugh a minute with his commentary and umpiring prowess eg checking for ball tampering and the like. It was great fun and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. The eventual winners were Graham King and Glenys Ashton with Bev Kerkin and Glenys Brown the runners up. Bev Kerkin presented the shields donated by the late Perla Forsyth. Raffle prizes were drawn and the winner of the Qld tartan handmade rug was Carmel Powell. Prizes for consecutive 2nd-6th prizes of fruit or vegetable trays were Carmel Powell (2nd prize also), 3rd Jean Forsyth, 4th Keith & Peg Forsyth, 5th Les & Joyce Forsyth and 6th Norm & Isabel King. Thanks must go to Heather Forsyth for the donation of the Qld tartan rug it was a very kind gesture and well appreciated. Thanks to all the volunteers on the day, with a special thanks to Rob Kerkin & Keith Noe who made life easier with their help setting up and pulling everything down at the end of the day. The eldest member who attended the picnic was 92-year-old Bethel Gordon and the youngest was Loch and Sue Forsyth's granddaughter Louisa Greenwood who was 14 months old. Loch and Sue Forsyth travelled the longest distance from Lismore. Thanks to Loch Forsyth who took the chair at the A.G.M. for the election of the new committee, which is as follows.



President – Val Ashton

Vice President – Geoff Forsyth

Secretary – Heather Forsyth

Treasurer – Glenys Ashton

Committee members – Claire, Guymer, Rhonda Noe, Lucia Forsyth-McKee, Jill Soppa and Don Forsyth

Forsyth reunion celebrates old family land purchase

MELANIE MARSELEE

FOR almost three decades the Forsyth clan have been gathering at the same place at the same time every year to celebrate their family history.

This year was no different. But one aspect that was different was Geoff Forsyth, a descendant from the original Forsyth pioneers, was celebrating a special acquisition of land in Peak Crossing that once belonged to his ancestors.

"I didn't even know that the property I had just purchased with my wife was originally owned by a Forsyth family until the day of settlement," Mr Forsyth said. And the only reason Mr Forsyth found out his family were the original settlers of the property was because a young man handling the settlement discovered the names were identical when going through the property file and gave him an envelope full of the property's Forsyth history.

"It was pretty amazing because we never knew that before then," he said.

"It just shows how far our family history in the area dates back."

More than 200 Forsyths gathered at the Peak Crossing Park on Sunday to remember the origins of their family history.

The Forsyth family are descended from five brothers of Scottish descent who came to Australia from Ireland in the mid 1800s.

Reunion co-ordinator Lucia Forsyth-McKee said the Forsyths were related to families bearing the names Eaton, Winks and Nutley. "The brothers travelled to Peak Crossing and settled, so there are a lot of Forsyths in the Peak Crossing and Boreen areas. The family even spread throughout Queensland and New South Wales," Mrs Forsyth-McKee said. "There are so many families now in Boreen, Harrieville and Peak Crossing who are related."



FAMILY AFFAIR: The Forsyth family reunion at Peak Crossing Park.

Photos: Damien Domingo AU300909



LEFT: At the Forsyth reunion are (back from left) Clonny Ashton, Val Ashton, Rhonda Noe with (front left) Bev Kerkin and Joyce Forsyth.

ABOVE: Bethel Gordon, Carmel Powell and Rose Stokan.

AU300909

The following is the Presidents Report which was presented at the A.G.M.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AT PEAK CROSSING

30TH AUGUST 2009

My fellow Clansmen, it gives me great pleasure to present the my Presidents report for the 29th Annual General Meeting at Peak Crossing.

At the 28th Annual General Meeting the bring and buy stall was once again very successful, as this is our main form of funding it is very gratifying to see it so well supported.

In November the family camp at Esk was poorly attended, but those who did attend had an enjoyable time.

The Annual Dinner in March at Harrisville, was well attended and was an enjoyable evening with a live band and a full programme, ably compared by Glenys. Thankyou to the ladies and committee who worked very hard to make this happen.

The Downs connection to our family, (descendants of the Brother Robert Henry, from Greenmount). The McPhails descendants of Archarbald Mc Phail & Elizabeth Edith Forsyth, had a reunion at Mt Sibley in April to which we were invited. Myself, Beth, Bev & Rob Kerkin, Rhonda & Keith Noe represented our Clan and family. An excellent day was had, and many new relations met. I congratulate Lyndell Hill for a wonderful job well done.

As we started travelling in the end of April, the May Family Activity day was run by the committee, I believe it was and enjoyable day for all who attended.

As next year will be our 30th Year it is hoped that something special will be attempted.

As this is my last report as your President, I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank you to my committee, both present and past, and to everyone else who has given me the help and support I need to do the job to your satisfaction.

Wish the new President and His/Her committee all the best for the coming year and look forward to supporting them when we return from our travels

.Don Forsyth

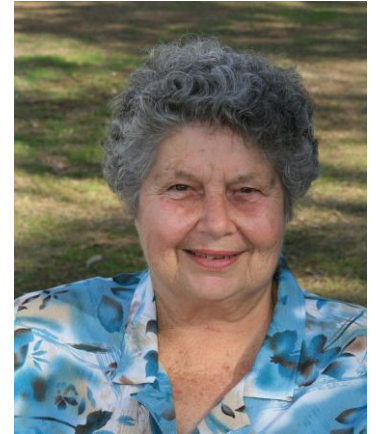
Our out going President

We would like to thank Don for all the work he has done as our President for the last 12 years. He and wife Beth have been travelling round Australia since May this year. They started by heading north and crossing over the top of Australia and down the west coast. They spent quite a lot of time over in W.A.(particularly checking out all the wild flowers). Last we heard they had crossed the Nullabor and were exploring the Yorke Peninsular. We wish them safe travelling for the rest of their trip. Don will join us as a committee member when he gets back.

INTRODUCING YOUR PRESIDENT

VAL ASHTON

Val Ashton is the eldest daughter of Basil & Perla Forsyth who lived on what used to be old dolomite road Harrisville (now Forsyth's Road, presently owned by Rhonda (Val's sister) & Keith Noe). Val has been a keen supporter of the Clan Forsyth of Aust Qld Branch since it's inception. Val attended picnics and gatherings before the official forming of the Clan. Each year she has attended the annual dinner since the inaugural dinner in 1980 and recalls when the Chief from Scotland visited. Val provides displays (tea towels and props) for the annual dinner as well as organising the quiz each year for the dinner. She has always been a keen advocate of the Forsyth clan and is always active in her quest to involve others to join in the activities of the clan. Her mission has always been to involve the younger generation to keep the Clan progressing. Val has been a member of the committee for 8 years serving 6 years as Vice President.



Val is no stranger to committees and has been involved heavily in different organizations over the years. She has been an office bearer or committee member for the QCWA in various branches for 49 years now and remains an active member. She was a keen organiser of Youth Group in the Amberley region, involved with Church union cricket, past Secretary of the Jersey Dairy Cattle Association and has been affiliated with fellowship of the congregational church, Harrisville pony club, Illawarra Dairy cattle association, International day and ANZAC day ceremonies annually associated with QCWA at various primary schools and presents her own bursary to students of Amberley State School.

Val and her husband Vic Managed and operated a dairy farm at Amberley and became partners of the business. The challenge of life on the land taught Val many valuable lessons. They were involved in dairying together for almost 50 years before the defence force extensions to the Amberley RAAF hastened their journey into retirement. Vic & Val reside at Donnybrook on the North Coast and enjoy playing cards with the locals and visiting their local bowls club. Val enjoys sewing and enjoys helping her family. Vic & Val hope to enjoy more time travelling around in their motor home. Val has had to endure a great deal of ill health throughout her life but with Vic always by her side has dealt with it and recovered every time with great strength and support.

Annual Dinner 2010

Set aside the 27th of March 2010. We will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of our Clan Society here in Queensland with the theme of looking into our family history. Please find enclosed with this newsletter family tree forms. We would love for you to fill them out and send them back to Heather so we can complete out family genealogy.

Workshop

We are having a workshop day on the 13th Nov 2009 at Ashton Hall, Southern Amberley Road, Amberley to gather information. Anybody interested in attending and assisting, your help would be greatly appreciated.

60th Wedding Anniversary

Our life members Keith & Peg Forsyth celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on the 29th Nov 2009. We send our congratulations and best wishes for this momentous occasion. Well Done!!!!!!



Esk Family Camp

Due to illness our Esk Family Camp last weekend was not very well attended, but those who did go had a really great time. Our heartfelt wishes go out to all who have been unwell as we hear there are quite a few on the sick list. Hope you are all feeling much better soon.

Highland Gathering

If you are travelling down Sydney way, you may like to drop into the Combined Scottish Societies of NSW Highland Gathering being held on the 1st Nov. 2009 at the Castle Hill Showgrounds. There will be Scottish dancing, pipe bands, games, memorabilia, food and fun. Entry fee applies.

Scottish News: Clan gathering draws 30,000: 26 July 2009

THEY came in their tens of thousands, from the old world and the new, a tide of tartan marching down the Royal Mile to Edinburgh's Holyrood Park. Scotland's clans and lowland families last mustered like this when novelist Sir Walter Scott coaxed King George IV north of the Border in 1822. But yesterday's gathering of more than 30,000 people was far bigger than its 19th century predecessor. By last night fully 124 clans and families were said to be represented in the Park for a Highland Games that preceded an 8,000-strong clansmen's evening march back up the Royal Mile to the castle. The Homecoming Year Gathering, launched by Prince Charles at Holyrood Palace, attracted visitors, as the Scottish Government had hoped, from across the world. Pouroto Ngaropo, a 40-year-old of Scots and Maori descent, travelled to the events from Whakatane, Bay of Plenty, in New Zealand. "Maoris and the Scots are very similar people – we have a clan system, too," said Ngaropo, who has a traditional moko, or tattoo, across his face. "I lead a hapu, or sub-tribe, of 841 people and we have many similar rituals, including long wakes." As the clans gathered in the tented village in Holyrood Park, the parliament hosted a Diaspora Forum. The lead speaker, Scottish historian Professor Tom Devine, bemoaned what he called a "national education scandal", arguing that Scots knew far too little about their past. He was speaking after the Culture Minister Mike Russell had welcomed delegates from all over world and told them of the Scottish Government's efforts to maximise the benefits from developing the relationship between Scotland and the 40 million expats across the world

A Bit of Humour

"Don't take your trouble to bed with you," was the doctor's advice to a very nervous Scotsman. "But doctor," he replied, "my wife won't sleep alone."

ANNUAL FEES

If you have not paid your fees for this year please forward membership payment to the Treasurer. Glenys Ashton 2461a Cunningham Highway Yamanto Q 4305 Single membership is \$10.00 per person 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

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