



Clan Forsyth

SYDNEY BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA - SYDNEY BRANCH
PO BOX 396. ROSEVILLE NSW 2069 **MARCH 2006**

Notice of the Clan's Annual General Meeting

All members are invited to come to this event, meet the other members of your clan, introduce yourself to the new Committee and enjoy a great day.

Sunday, 2nd April, 2006.

Uniting Church, Clan William Street, Willoughby.

Join us, if you like, at 10am for the morning church service.

THE AGM WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE AT 11AM IN THE CHURCH HALL.



At about 1.30pm we all meet at Forsyth's Coffee & Tea Café,
284 Willoughby Road, Naremburn for a very enjoyable lunch.

Phone 9437 5916

Bundanoon Highland Gathering

Probably the best, most spectacular "Scottish" event held each year in Australia. The "Brigadoon at Bundanoon" highland gathering includes pipe bands, highland dancers, grand parade, caber tossing, Bundanoon Stones, events & games for children, dozens of stalls offering food, craft and bargains.

Saturday 8th April, 2006

Bundanoon Oval, in the Southern Highlands

Clan Forsyth will be there!

We have a tent in the Clan Area where you can sit and relax between watching events and shopping at stalls. Make day of it with your family and friends. It's a perfect opportunity to wear your kilt (if you have one).

A GOOD SUGGESTION. Brigadoon is very popular, so to obtain a good car parking space we recommend you arrive early - around 8.30am. It may mean an early start from your home, but there's nothing nicer than a drive through the morning mist of the Southern Highlands.

If you want more details here's the website:

www.highlands.com.au/brigadoon



**Sydney Branch Office Bearers.
Up to 2nd April 2006:**

President: Jim Forsyth ☎ 9809 1562
Secretary: Keith Forsyth ☎ 9489 0697
Treasurer: Karen Forsyth ☎ 9809 1562
Membership: Barbara Forsyth ☎ 9560 9759
Genealogy: Judy Forsyth ☎ 9809 1562

Do not hesitate to contact the Committee at any time.

Postal Address:
PO Box 396 Roseville NSW 2069

Create this Scottish Treat....

CLOOTIE DUMPLING

Serves 8-10

INGREDIENTS:

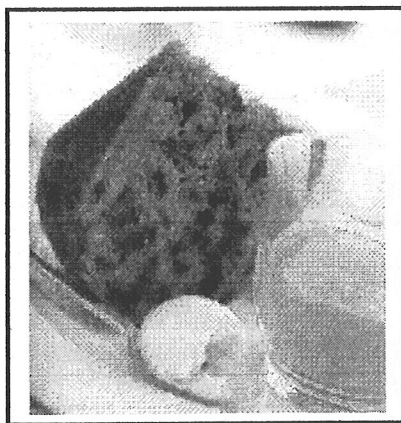
113g (4 oz) wholemeal flour
170g (6 oz) fine brown breadcrumbs
113g (4 oz) beef suet, finely chopped (butter may be substituted)
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 teaspoon ground cumin
113g (4 oz) sultanas
113g (4 oz) currants
2 tablespoons black treacle
2 eggs
1 large cooking apple
Juice and zest of one lemon
Fresh orange juice to mix
A square of cotton or linen cloth, about 55 cm square,

DIRECTIONS

Boil the cloth for a few minutes and then spread it out on a table (use tongs etc. to prevent burning yourself). quickly sprinkle with about a tablespoonful of wholemeal flour and toss the flour to coat the main centre of the cloth quite thickly. Stir the treacle into the eggs and then place into a bowl with all the other ingredients and mix to a stiff consistency with a little water. Place in the centre of the cloth. Bring up the edges and tie with a string, leaving a little space for expansion due to the inclusion of the baking powder. Hold the tied ends and pat the cloth into a round shape. Place the pudding into a pot of boiling water, which should come halfway up the side. Cover and simmer gently for 4 hours. Occasionally check and top up the water if necessary. Once the pudding is cooked plunge it into cold water for about one minute to release it from the cloth. Remove the pudding to a bowl and untie, cover with a plate and reverse it. Peel off the cloth and place the pudding into a hot oven to dry off the skin. Serve hot with any accompaniment to like (custard, brandy butter etc.). Any left-over Cloutie dumpling may be sliced and fried, alternatively wrap in foil and re-heat in an oven (if re-heating in a microwave oven do not wrap in foil).

FORSYTHS:

Branches of the Forsyths were established from early days in most areas of Scotland. In 1296 Robert de Fauside signed the "Ragman Roll" by which the nobles and landowners of Scotland, after military defeat, were made to swear allegiance to Edward I of England. Subsequently, his descendants supporting King Robert the Bruce fought against the English to regain independence were rewarded with lands in Stirlingshire, and became members of the Scottish Royal Household. A later Robert was appointed Constable of the Royal Castle of Stirling in 1368. As with other clans, ancient records were lost during transportation to England as spoils of war in the mid 17th century and the then chief failed to re-register his claim to the name and Armorial bearings when Charles II instituted a Public Register of Clans in 1672. However on St. Andrew's Day 1978, the Lord Lyon King of Arms once again recognized the Clan Forsyth as one of the old clans of Scotland and Alastair Forsyth of that ilk as its Chief.



President's Report:

Greetings Clan Folk,

In this our first newsletter for 2006 I send greetings not only to our loyal Australian Clan members, but also to those who receive our newsletter in New Zealand, Canada, United States of America and Scotland. I trust this year will be a healthy and prosperous one for you all.

Our Sydney Branch Committee has commenced its meetings for this year and as usual the main consideration is the upcoming Annual General Meeting, which is anticipated to take place in early April.

Following that our next activity is on April 8th at Bundanoon where our tent will again be erected by Chris & Monica. We expect as usual there will be plenty to do and see with large crowds in attendance. This Scottish day is one not to miss and the Committee hopes to see you there. Thank you Chris & Monica, and we would love to see all our members who are attending at our Clan tent to say "hello".

On thinking about the Annual General Meeting makes me realise that it is 26 years since I first became treasurer and when our aims and objects for the future of the Clan were formulated. I also know that for the Clan to progress into the future it needs fresh new and younger ideas. Therefore, I will not be standing for any executive position on the Committee.

I trust there will be those who are prepared to give their time and effort into maintaining our heritage.

Jim Forsyth

COMING "SCOTTISH" EVENTS IN 2006

- **BUNDANOON IS BRIGADOON:** 8th April, 2006 (*See details on front Page*)
- **GLEN INNES CELTIC GATHERING:** 27 – 30th April, 2006.
- **TARTAN DAY @ LANE COVE:** 17th June, 2006.
- **SCOTTISH DAY AT "LINNWOOD":** 25 Byron Road, Guildford. 13TH August, 2006
(*See article on Linnwood in this issue*)
- **TOUKLEY SCOTTISH GATHERING:** 26th August, 2006.
- **ANNUAL HIGHLAND GATHERING @ CASTLE HILL SHOWGROUND:** 29TH October, 2006
- **SCOTTISH WEEK – SYDNEY:** 24 – 30th November, 2006.

MEMBERS' NEWS

We were sad to learn of the passing away of Cecily Mary Newman, at 95 years, on 23rd October, 2005. At her passing she was probably our oldest member. Her grandparents were Robert & Stephana Forsyth and her parents Robert & Bertha Forsyth.

Cecily was a Foundation Member in 1979, and resided at Collaroy, before moving to Hallidays Point in her final years. She was the wife of the Late Geoffrey Maxwell Newman. Cecily is survived by three children, Douglas, Cherilyn Leckner and Colin, plus 8 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

The story of 'Linnwood' at 25 Byron Road, Guildford



George McCredie was born in Sydney in 1859 the 2nd son of a family of 10 children to Thomas & Jessie McCredie. After attending Fort St. Model Public School, he studied engineering by night while serving his apprenticeship with the Australasian Steam Navigation Company at their Pyrmont Shipyards. By the time he was 21 George had entered into a partnership with his brother Arthur McCredie who was an architect. Soon after, George married Susan Faulds Blackwood, daughter of the engineering supplies company family, James Blackwood & Son. Some examples of the buildings George and Arthur were involved with are "Montana" in Glebe, the Burns Philp Building in Bridge St. Sydney and the Mark Foys Building. The firm was also responsible for the construction of the underground telephone cable tunnels in the Sydney CBD - still in use today.

In 1889, George and Susan purchased part of the Orchardleigh Estate at Guildford and set about designing and building a residence for their family. The house, named "Linnwood" was completed in April, 1891. George and Susan were to have 9 children altogether, but unfortunately, the eldest son, James, was to die at the age of 13 in 1895.

George entered into local politics, being elected to the Council of Prospect and Sherwood (now Holroyd) in March of 1891. In 1892 he was elected as Mayor, a position he held for 3 terms. In 1894, George stood for election in the NSW Legislative Assembly and won the seat of Central Cumberland as an independent free trader and an advocate of female suffrage.

He lost his seat the following year and returned to work, but in 1900, the State Government called upon him to help clean up the City of Sydney when there was an outbreak of the Bubonic Plague. In gratitude for his work, the people of Sydney presented George with a shield that is now held in the Powerhouse Museum.

Unfortunately, in 1903, whilst on holiday with his family, George became ill and died of gastritis- and it is believed that this illness was a result of the work he had done in the plague conditions. His funeral was a huge event in the area, many people walking behind the hearse from 'Linnwood' to Rookwood Cemetery as a mark of respect for this well loved and respected man of the community. George McCredie was only 43 when he died and left a wife and 8 young children.



The house "Linnwood" was an innovation for its time- generating its own electricity and having the first telephone in the district. A newspaper article of the 1890's describes 'Linnwood' as "being one of the most perfectly finished domestic establishments in the Southern Hemisphere- a home that is just a dream of every convenience and comfort." A summerhouse and a small hall were erected on the site and the first Presbyterian Church Services in the area were held on the property. Services continued there until a new church was built after George's death on Guildford Road and named in honour of George McCredie.

After George's death Susan and her children remained at 'Linnwood' until 1917 when the property was advertised for lease. The Education Dept. then leased 11 acres of the property to use as a Boys Truant School. The lease included a clause that the dept. could purchase the property during the currency of the lease. This they did in 1921 for the sum of 5 thousand pounds. The Dept. purchased the remaining acre of land in 1930.

Linnwood was now known as the Guildford Truant School for Boys. In 1923, approval was given to build new dormitories and extra outbuildings including a laundry and shower block. Around 1930 the number of boys being sent to the school was dwindling and by 1936 conversion from a Truant School to a residential girls school for State Wards aged 14yrs and up was completed.

Linnwood continued to be used in this way for the next few decades and by 1966 was seen as a Special Training School for Home Science for girls from deprived backgrounds. It was not strictly an orphanage, but used for girls who, for various reasons, could not live in their own homes. The girls were taught housekeeping, cooking and needlework as well as being schooled on site in Linnwood's own schoolroom. With changes in the welfare system, homes like Linnwood gradually became superfluous to the Dept. and by 1999 all homes on the estate were virtually empty.

The Friends of Linnwood formed to help 'preserve and protect' Linnwood and it is our aim to help the Heritage Office with much needed restoration works on the house. Membership to the 'Friends' is open to anyone with an interest in helping to preserve this important part of our history and only costs \$5 per year ordinary membership and \$2 concession. **Scottish Day @ Linnwood: 13th August 2006**