



Clan Forsyth

SYDNEY BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA – SYDNEY BRANCH
PO BOX 396, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069

AUGUST 2007

Sydney Branch's Church Service and Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 22nd April



The day commenced with the annual church service, this year held at Scots Presbyterian Church in Sydney. Shown are the Clan's Australian Commissioner, Jim Forsyth and his wife Judy, Rev. David Hawkins, Sydney Branch President, David Forsyth and his wife Sue.

The AGM was held afterwards at the Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel in The Rocks of Sydney, followed by lunch with the brewery's exclusive ales and pilsners.

The 2007 election results for office bearers and committee:

President: David Forsyth, Secretary: Keith Forsyth, Treasurer: Tim Crossley,
Membership: Barbara Forsyth, Archivist: Judy Forsyth, Newsletter Editor: Chris Lee.

Committee: Ray Forsyth, Karen Forsyth, Denise Park, Margaret Snodgrass,
Marilyn Stoneham, Suzette Fairjones, Ruth Wheat, Bill Forsyth, Judith Neenan.

Three old Scotsmen are out walking. One man says, "Windy, isn't it?" The second man says, "No, it's Thursday." The third man says, "So am I. Let's go get a beer!"

A Scotsman was digging peat at his croft when a passing Australian tourist asks, "How much land do you have here?" "About two acres," the Scotsman replies. "Back home it takes me a day to drive around MY property," boasts the Australian. Says the Scotsman, "Aye, I once had a car like that."

The Clan at the Glen Innes Highland Gathering



Members of Clan Forsyth attended the Glen Innes highland gathering last May.

Left: Australian Commissioner, Jim Forsyth, holds the clan banner during the march past.

Below: a wider shot of the march past.

More to come in the next newsletter about the Glen Innes highland gathering



Old Photos and Memorabilia

Being a clan with a close-knit history, many Forsyths in Australia have common ancestry.

The Clan Forsyth would very much like you to search around for any Forsyth ancestor photos and Forsyth memorabilia (such as portraits, trophies, plaques etc.) to share with other members of the clan, who may also have a connection with your ancestors.

Bill Forsyth, one of the clan committee, is able to scan and copy very high resolution images of your old photos. He can also photograph any memorabilia you may have.

We hope, *with your permission*, to share these images with other clan members through emails and photo reproductions. The photos maybe also printed in future clan newsletters.

Of course, we will take very good care of any original photos when they are scanned, and certainly look after memorabilia on loan to be photographed. Please contact the clan on if you would like us to arrange to copy old photos or photograph other memorabilia for you.

You may, however, prefer to retain the originals and instead email photos or post a CD of memorabilia images to the clan. Please ensure details like names of the ancestors, photographic dates and other information are included PLUS your details so the material can be returned.

Postal address: **Clan Forsyth, PO Box 396 Roseville NSW 2069**

Email Bill Forsyth: **billforsyth@bigpond.com**

Phone Judy Forsyth (Archivist): **(02) 9809-1562**

Also, the Clan is hoping to set up a Clan Forsyth Sydney Branch website... so we can post information and where you can download newsletters etc. Is there anyone who would like to create the website for the clan? Please let us know if you are interested.

Coming events for your diary

Sunday 13th October: Wollongong Highland Games at Dapto Showground

Sunday 4th November: Annual Highland Games at Castle Hill Showground

Scottish Week: from Friday 23rd November to Sunday 2nd December – many activities

Saturday 5th April 2008: 'Brigadoon at Bundanoon' highland gathering at the Bundanoon oval in the Southern Highlands. Website: www.highlandsnsw.com.au/brigadoon



Massed pipe bands on the Bundanoon oval. Newsletter Editor, Chris Lee's granddaughter, Lily Clarke with a piper

BRIGADOON AT BUNDANOON

Held on 28th April 2007 this largest Scottish gathering in the Southern Hemisphere was attended by members of Clan Forsyth. Using the clan tent as a base (*this year the tent was very useful because of the rain*) Forsyths enjoyed watching massed pipe bands, caber and hay bale tossing, the lifting of the Bundanoon stones and visiting dozens of craft and food stalls.

**MAKE A DATE TO JOIN THE CLAN AT
"BRIDGADOON" ON SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 2008**

President's Message

Greetings to all Forsyth Clan members,

In this Newsletter, you will see reports of our AGM and the Church service at Scots Church Sydney. Scots Church made us all feel particularly welcome with one of their assistants dressed up in a kilt, the Clan participating in the service, and the minister making a number of references to the Clan. They even chose the bible passage from which the Clan Motto derives for one of the readings.

The AGM and lunch was held at the Lord Nelson Hotel in the rocks, and a fine venue it was. Lunch was superb...I particularly enjoyed the gourmet pies.

A week later our Clan attended the annual Highland gathering at Bundanoon. I was told that it had not rained on the Highland Gathering at Bundanoon for many years. Well this year it did and it was the first time for a long time that I can remember the feel of boots treading on really mushy wet ground. Nonetheless it was a great day, and very like normal weather conditions in bonny Scotland.

Since then of course, the heavens have opened over Sydney and much of the NSW coastal area, but I think the Highland games started it off. Many thanks again to Chris and Monica for erecting and manning the Forsyth Clan tent for the day.

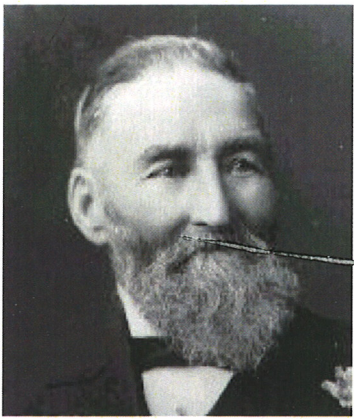
We are in the process of sending a letter to as many Forsyths as we can find in Sydney, to entice them into joining our Clan. If you know any Forsyths, especially those who do not now use the Forsyth name, please let one of us know so that we can contact them, or better still, encourage them to join.

David Forsyth

After discovering they had won \$1million in the lottery Mr & Mrs Forsyth sat down to discuss their future. Mrs Forsyth announced, "After 20 years of washing other people's stairs I can now throw away my old scrubbing brush." Her husband agreed, "Of course you can darling. We can now easily afford to buy you a new

A Scottish boy came home from school to tell his mother that he had been given a part in the school play. "Wonderfull!" said his mother. "What part is it?" The boy replied, "I play the part of a Scottish husband." The mother scowled and said, "Go back and tell your teacher you want a speaking part."

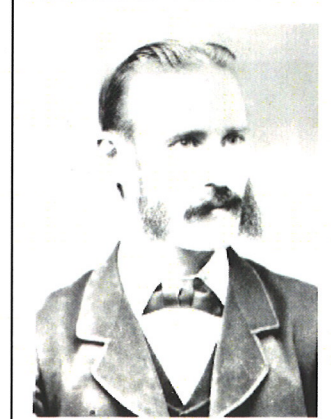
Forsyths & the St Leonards Bowling Club



James Forsyth, 1818 - 1907



Thomas T. Forsyth, 1839 - 1921



Robert Forsyth, 1848-1917

The late **Les Forsyth**, an Australian Clan Commissioner, researched some stories of his ancestors and found out some interesting history of the North Sydney Bowling Club, originally called the St Leonards Bowling Club.

Formed on 25th April 1888 the club had, as one of the committee, **James Forsyth**, who arrived in Sydney in 1852. He subsequently found gold on the Turon River near Sofala.

In 1870 he set up the first industry in Willoughby, a tannery, where the bus depot now stands. He became an alderman on the Willoughby council and mayor in 1875. He retired in 1883 and went to live in North Sydney. The site of North Sydney railway station was once called "grandfather's paddock." He was a neighbour of Bernard Holterman, famous for being one of the owners of a mine at Hill End where the giant gold 'Holterman' nugget was found.

James was a vigorous seventy when he was involved in the formation of the bowling club.

Thomas Todd Forsyth, son of 'Old Jimmy' was born in Leeds in November 1839, coming to in Sydney in February 1863 and then to Willoughby in 1870 with his brother Robert.

Thomas took over his father's place on the council in 1876 until 1903. During his time as mayor he attended the inaugural meeting of the bowling club. His son then became an alderman on the council.

In 1891 Thomas won the 'Old Buffers' trophy, and in 1894 the 'Jersey Trophy' Then in 1897 at 98 years he won both matches for the President's Trophy and in 1900 again won the Jersey trophy.

Robert (Bob) Forsyth was born in London in 1848, came to Sydney in 1863 and settled in Willoughby in 1870. He was also an inaugural member of the bowling club and like his brother Tom, travelled from Willoughby by horse and buggy to play bowls at the club.

Bob continued bowling until his death in 1917. He participated in many inter-club and inter-city matches. Bob's other interests included growing chrysanthemums, for which he won first prize from the Horticultural Society. He was a board member of the North Shore Cottage Hospital on Willoughby Road. The hospital subsequently became the Royal North Shore Hospital.



Members of the St Leonards Bowling Club
outside the clubhouse, circa 1888

If you aren't yet a member of Clan Forsyth we welcome you to join us.
Just contact us at our postal address and we'll send you membership details.