



Clan Forsyth

SYDNEY BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA – SYDNEY BRANCH
PO BOX 396, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069 **March 2013 #1**

Notice of
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 10th March 2013, from 12.30pm



Chiquita Café

Next to the car park in Oakville Street
Willoughby, corner of Penshurst Street
Chiquita Café's phone number: 9958 0833
The AGM will be held during lunch.

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

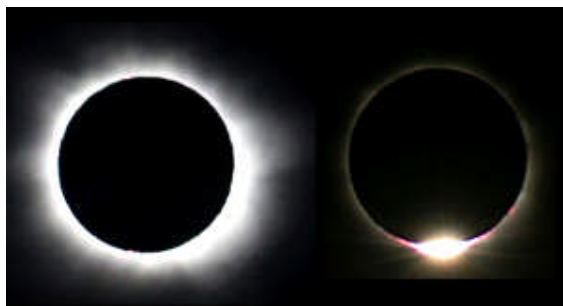
New Members:

A very big welcome to **Reginald and Ivy Forsyth** of Mt Waverley in Victoria and to **Sue Burk** of Castlecrag in Sydney.



Congratulations to David Forsyth AM

He was awarded an **Australia Medal** in the Australia Day Honours for 2013 for services to aviation. David retired about 9 years ago as Head of Operations for Qantas but still retains his interests in aviation. He is a past-president of the Sydney branch of Clan Forsyth and is the son of the late Ray Forsyth, also a past-president of the clan.



One of David's many interests is travelling to watch Total Eclipses of the Sun.

On 14th November 2012 he was present in far North Queensland when this amazing event occurred at 6.38am EST. Here are two photos taken by David.

Sad Passing



Patricia Ann Lovell (nee Parr) passed away on 27th January 2013 aged 83. Patricia was known for 15 years to thousands of Australian children as Miss Pat in the ABC TV show *Mr Squiggle and Friends*. Later she produced a variety of Australian films including *Picnic at Hanging Rock* and *Gallipoli*. In 1964 she joined the panel of Channel Seven's *Beauty and the Beast* and in 1969 she became co-presenter with Bruce Webster on Channel Seven's show *Sydney Today*. She later became a lecturer in film production at The Australian Film and TV School. Patricia was awarded an MBE in 1978 and an AM in 1986. **Patricia's mother's maiden name was Leticia Forsyth.**

Memories of My Childhood

By Denise, a Committee Member of the clan's Sydney Branch



Thank you for your comments and input to this little column on the halcyon days of my childhood.

The 40's and 50's in retrospect and with the continuing changes occurring around us seem almost medieval. There were however many advantages and enjoyments experienced and in this column I am recollecting the changes and customs of the family dining table.

The menu consisted of the meat and three-vegetable variety, roasted, grilled or stewed, never stir fried followed with a dessert usually with custard or junket and sometimes blancmange, stewed fruit, jelly or prunes. As a treat there was toad-in-the-hole or other steamed pudding with custard.

Definitely our meals are much tastier and healthier now, but as this was all we knew and everyone was hungry when they came to the table mealtimes were a pleasant experience.

Food styling was unknown and the food was arranged around the plate, to be fancy a bit of parsley would be on the side of the plate. However the table would be set always with a tablecloth, starched damask for Sundays or special occasions. Cutlery would be set from the outside in and arranged in the order of use. Serviettes, (napkins were for babies) arranged on the bread and butter plate or in the serviette rings. Freshly picked flowers arranged in a small vase in the centre of the table, not too high to impede conversation. On ordinary days often uncut bread on a breadboard with a serrated knife and butter in little fancy pats or a butter dish, cheese in a cheese dish and sometimes homemade jams. Setting the table was my chore for pocket money and I still appreciate a well laid table.

Table manners were very important and I still notice and observe the courtesies, even if it does date me! Gentlemen always came to the table in jacket and tie or dress uniform, the story is still told of an aunt's suitor who presented himself with an open necked shirt! They, the gentlemen held the ladies chairs and remained standing until the ladies sat, carved when appropriate.

The ladies freshened up changing to their afternoon clothes and did their hair and face, so even if they had been flat out in the kitchen they appeared relaxed and refreshed everything had to seem effortless.

Children washed their hands and combed their hair and had to sit still with no fidgeting or swinging on their chairs.

It was fortunate in our Forsyth household that I was encouraged from a very early age to have an opinion and to discuss the issues raised and listen to others points of view. A custom I have encouraged in my children and grandchildren. The table was where we came together to respect one another and enjoy our food.

We had to stay seated until the last person had finished their meal and ask to be excused to leave the table. Gobbling was a mark of disrespect and eating slowly was encouraged so meals took quite some time.

The advent of the TV and the TV dinner was the catalyst of change where we learned to eat from our laps off segmented plastic plates with splayds. I remember this as great fun not knowing it was the beginning of the end of the integrated family.

Frank Forsyth came home one evening from work to find his wife very upset. He asked her why and she replied, "I have been trying to kill these five annoying flies buzzing around the kitchen and I can't seem to do it." Frank said, "let me have a go."

A few minutes later he proudly announced he had swatted the three male and two female flies. His wife enquired, "how did you know which were the male flies and which were the females?"

Frank grinned, "the three males were on the beer can and the two females were on the phone."

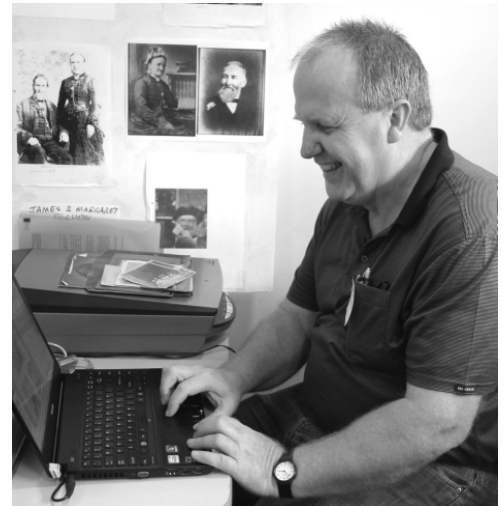
The Sydney Clan Website Update

By Tim Crossley, Webmaster and Clan Treasurer

The Clan website <http://www.clanforsythaustralia.org/> now has 13 Family Trees posted; 1 from Queensland, 2 from Victoria covering the Forsyths from Bright and Hamilton, and 10 from New South Wales including James Forsyth's Tannery families, Archibald Forsyth's Ropemaker Dymock families, the Inverall Forsyths, the Riverina Forsyths, James Imlay Forsyth, Enos Forsyth and Jean Nairn family, Robert Forsyth and Isabella Chisholm's family, Thomas Forsyth, Blacksmith of Parramatta, Jean Mailer Forsyth's family and Thomas Forsyth, Gold Commissioner of Braidwood.

We continually update the Family Trees on the website. The most recent additions have been made to the family of Robert Forsyth and Stephanna adding photos (thanks to Denise Park and Sue Burk for your contributions) and various newspaper reports; and to the family of James Imlay Forsyth. Remember to regularly check the website to see what has been added to your Family Tree.

If you have information of photos to add to your Family Tree and share with other family members, or you wish to add your Family Tree to the Clan website, please contact the Webmaster by email: clanforsythaustralia@hotmail.com



Margaret Moran's Christmas Pudding

My Grandmother's Recipe by Margaret Snodgrass, Clan Committee Member

113 g flour
113 g breadcrumbs (day old bread)
Pinch salt
227 g butter
227 g brown sugar
454 g raisins
227 g sultanas
113 g dates
113 g almonds (blanched and chopped)
1 grated carrot
5 eggs
6 tblspns brandy
1 tblspn golden syrup
½ tspn nutmeg
1 tspn mixed spice
½ tspn bi-carb soda

Clean and prepare fruit, blanch and chop almonds. Cream butter and sugar, add well beaten eggs and brandy.*

Cook in basin, or tie up in pudding cloth (eg unbleached calico) allowing room for pudding to swell.

Place in boiling water and cook for 6 hours. Keep boiling water continuous and topped up.

Heat through the day it is to be used.

* I soak the fruit in brandy for a few days beforehand.

Hard (Brandy) Sauce

84 g butter
140 g icing sugar
3 tspns brandy (or to taste)

Cream butter and icing sugar thoroughly. Fold in brandy. Spoon into a serving dish. Refrigerate until ready to serve with Christmas Pudding. Ground almonds may be substituted for some of the icing sugar.

Christmas is only 9 months from March. Puddings taste better if made early to mature. Start NOW!

Cooking Temperate Guide and Metric Conversion Table

Supplied by Margaret Snodgrass

Imperial to Metric

1 oz = 28.3 grams
1lb = 454 grams
1 fl oz = 28.4 ml
1 pint = 568 ml
1 gallon = 4.55 litres

Metric to Imperial

1 gram = 0.0353 oz
1 kilogram = 2.20 lb
1 ml = 0.0352 fl oz
1 litre = 1.76 pints

Temperature Comparisons

Degree Fahrenheit to nearest degree Celsius

Electricity

Slow	300° F (149°C) – 350° F (177°C)
Moderate	350° F (177°C) – 400° F (204°C)
Mod. Hot	400° F (204°C) – 450° F (232°C)
Very Hot	450° F (232°C) – 500° F (260°C)

Gas

Slow	250° F (121°C) – 325° F (163°C)
Moderate	325° F (163°C) – 400° F (204°C)
Hot	400° F (204°C) – 500° F (260°C)

Measures

1 breakfast cupful of liquid = 284 ml. 4 level cups (medium size) flour = 2 heaped large cupfuls (454 g)
1 quart flour sifted = 454 g 2 large cups sugar, granulated = 454 g 2 large cups butter (solid) = 454 g
2 ½ large cups powdered sugar = 454 g 1 tablespoon flour = 14.2 g 1 tablespoon butter = 28.3 g
Butter size of eggs = 56.6 g 2 tablespoons liquid = 28.3 g
Sugar, flour, butter, lard, dripping, currants, raisins, sultanas, rice and cornflour are measured by **rounded** spoonful.
Salt, pepper and spices are measured by **level** spoonful.



A new Lachlan Macquarie statue

Unveiled on Thursday 31st January 2013 the location is in Hyde Park north at the top of Macquarie Street looking north. Across the road is the Hyde Park Barracks and St James' Church, both buildings having been commissioned by Macquarie.

The Statue was commissioned by the NSW Premier's office at the behest of the NSW Governor Professor Marie Bashir who unveiled the statue with NSW Premier The Honourable Barry O'Farrell and the Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore in attendance.

The statue was created by Terrance Plowright <http://www.plowright.com.au/>
It is bronze cast with particular attention paid to the accuracy of Macquarie's attire.

The statue is 3 metres tall on a 1.4 metre granite plinth and weighs 750 kgs.

Subscriptions Due

Enclosed with this clan newsletter is the Subscription Form for completion. When you return your payment we also request you provide a **current email address**, as we plan to email future newsletters to members. Those members who do not have an email address will still get their printed newsletters by post.

Forthcoming Events for your Diary

- Brigadoon at Bundanoon Highland Games. Saturday 6th April 2013
- Castle Hill Highland Games. Sunday 3rd November 2013
- Clan Forsyth Open Day, Sunday 10th November 2013 from 2 to 5pm in the Forsyth Room, Willoughby Uniting Church, Clanwilliam Street in Willoughby. More details to come. Watch the website!

Newsletter/Website Contributions

Please email your articles, anecdotes, photos and paintings as an attachment to the Newsletter Editor, Chris Lee: cwlee@optusnet.com.au

Flodden

By Alistair C. W. Forsyth of that Ilk, Chief of the Clan Forsyth

On 24th June 2014 Scotland will celebrate the 700th anniversary of the battle of Bannockburn, a resounding defeat of English King Edward II's army which ensured the independence of Scotland. Before this event is celebrated, however, a sad chapter in the history of the Scots nation will have to be remembered, the crushing defeat of the Scots on Branxton Moor in Northumberland, the battle known as "Flodden" after the village near the battlefield. There had been a long association between the French and the Scots forged partly by their mutual fear and dislike of the English so when King Francis I of France was beleaguered by the English army under Henry VIII following the English military successes in defending their French possessions in Normandy he turned to his cousin James IV of Scotland for help. It was hoped that a diversionary invasion of England by the Scots would cause King Henry to leave France with a large part of his army, thus relieving pressure on the French.

James IV, who happened to be married to Henry VIII's sister Margaret Tudor in a previous political alliance, was more than happy to oblige and so he summoned the Scots army to join him in a muster on the Borough Muir of Edinburgh by the ancient method of sending runners to every part of the land carrying "The Firey Cross" whilst Heralds and their messengers delivered personal requests to the Barons and Nobles, these being obliged under the terms of tenure of their lands to obey the King.

The army duly assembled on 17th August 1513, its members being required to bring sufficient food for 30 days and carry arms provided by themselves. The Gentry were mounted with swords and in armour, the men who were the tenantry armed themselves with pikes and swords. There were about 100 archers who did not, however, have the longbows with which their enemies would be armed but smaller weapons of shorter range. James IV had prided himself on his artillery which consisted of guns obtained from France as well as some he had cast in Scotland. These massive pieces were mounted on wooden carriages drawn by oxen. This host consisted not only of the Lowland inhabitants but also many Clan Chiefs with their following and it is estimated that some 20,000 men set off on 19th August to march South. At the same time the Border Chiefs assembled in Duns, Berwickshire with 10,000 men and awaited the arrival of the King.

Rules of Chivalry were still respected by the combatants and so agreement was reached that the Scots would meet the English army under the Earl of Surrey at Flodden on 9th September for the battle. The Scots army made steady progress despite frequent rain showers and finally crossed the border of England in time for the battle. King James was in good heart as he drew up his forces on the brow of Branxton Hill overlooking the English army below. By this time, however, many men in the Scots army having only provided themselves with sufficient food for 30 days and begun their journey from the Highlands, were suffering from hunger. Tired, wet and hungry was not the best way to begin a battle but on the orders of King James they ranged themselves along the hill top on the morning of the 9th September when battle commenced.

The Earl of Surrey seeing the Scots position on the hill called up his 300 Welsh archers to protect his army and ordered them to commence picking off the Scots one by one. The Scottish response was to load their canons with which they hoped to devastate their opponents.. It was only then that they discovered that the gunners had brought canon balls that were too small so that when they fired the shot only went a few yards and fell well short of the English position. King James realised there was only one thing to do so he ordered his army to advance down the hill to close with the English thus relinquishing what they had perceived to be the best position. As the Scots advanced the Welsh archers withdrew and it was not long before the two armies clashed in battle, a typical medieval conflict of hacking, slashing and thrusting at their opponents. This conflict lasted for perhaps two or three hours with neither side gaining advantage whilst the casualties for all on the field mounted alarmingly.

As the English had superior numbers King James realised that something had to be done so gathering his personal household, including David Forsyth of Dykes who was a King's Esquire, together with his personal body guard made a determined and successful thrust into the English lines towards where the Earl of Surrey stood directing his troops. The plan had been to capture or kill Surrey whereupon the Scots would have won the day.

It is said that King James' furious attack brought him within a spears length of Surreys retinue when he was struck down and killed following the fate of many of his household who had supported him in this plan including David Forsyth of Dykes, who in the citation of his bravery was said "to have died under the King's standard". Seeing the death of their King the Scots army began to fall back and retreated up the slope of Branxton hill followed by the English, however, the English Army had been so decimated and exhausted that they soon gave up the chase allowing the Scots, or what was left of them to escape back across the border into Scotland. There is a story told that members of the Clan Hume arrived late to the battle where their Chief, Lord Hume was already engaged as a commander of one of the Scots formations and sat on Branxton hill watching the fight and as soon as King James had been killed together with their Chief they returned home without joining the fray, it is also said that had they attacked as reinforcements they might have turned the battle in Scotlands favour. Once in Scotland the army became an assembly of stragglers and where men exhausted by their wounds were on the point of collapse they were taken in by the cottagers who either cared for them until they died or nursed them back to health to enable them to return home. Such were the Scots casualties that almost every family in the land lost a husband or son, certainly David Forsyth of Dykes, whilst Alexander Forsyth of Nydie as Deputy Sheriff of Fife, together with his great friend George Leslie, 2nd Earl of Rothes, who was Sheriff of Fife and who were fighting in the formation commanded by Earl Crawford



of Balcarres were also killed whilst many Forsyths from other areas, the Borders and North East of Scotland would have fallen. Such were the casualties that the Queen, Mary Tudor wife of James IV and sister of King Henry VIII of England, decreed that no rents would be charged for three years on properties where the man of the family had been killed.

David's son was a minor and the Queen granted him a pension and placed him under the care of Arthur Hamilton, Provost of Hamilton until he reached the age when he could take control of the Dykes Estate, Alexander's son had also been too young to accompany his father but there is no indication of similar benefit, perhaps because David had been a personal member of the Royal Household. It was to commemorate this military tragedy that the pipe tune "Flowers of the Forest" was composed and ever since that time this lament has been played at funerals and to commemorate tragedies and Wars, the words written to the tune were not contemporary with 1513, but was a 19th Century composition.

A detailed account is to be found on the internet, but the information given does not exactly fit that of the sources referred to. The Roll given is only those of the principle nobility who died but other sources clearly name Forsyths. To mark the 500th Anniversary of the battle a commemoration service is to be held in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh on 9th September 2013 at which the Forsyths will be represented.

Sources: Exchequer Rolls of Scotland (multiple volumes), Rothes Papers at Scottish Records Office, Acta Dominorum Concillii 1501-1514, and Scottish History Society

Genealogical Collections Concerning Families Of Scotland, Walter MacFarlane 1750-1751 Vol 2. Page 537. Publication of the Scottish History Society Vol34, published 1900. (Alexander of Nydie Deputy Sheriff)

Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, Vol XIV pages 627 and Appendix To Preface CLXII No II - Published by Authority of The Lords Commissioners of H. M. Treasury under the direction of The Deputy Clerk Register of Scotland 1899. (David who died at Flodden).

The Scottish Antiquary: Or, Northern Notes & Queries, Volumes 13-14 By Arthur Washington Cornelius Hallen, John Horne Stevenson page 108 and 169 Published Edinburgh George P. Johnson 33 George Street 1899 (deaths of Alexander and David at Flodden)

A letter written by John Rosewall Forsyth to his grandson, Arthur Edward Forsyth.

Rosewall, Ryde, October 1926.

Dear Arthur,

Yours of the 17th to hand I heard from your Mother when I was at Sunnyside on the date of the funeral of my Eldest Brothers Wife. That you had overdone your work at your Home and was not well from over exertion. Don't do it. If you attack new muscular labour. You need to make haste slowly and will accomplish your object sooner, that rushing a job you are not used to. by moderate Physical Labour you Benefit your body in all its functions and Energise by slow processes, you who have so much Mental work and sitting at that, require muscular excise. To Benefit your digestive organs. And further cultivate the Artistic side of your Nature. By the pleasure of seeing your Nest Growing into a Home of Beauty so that yo and your Partner may look on the results of your united Labours, with satisfaction and Delight. Life is often what we make it. It reminds me of a Mrs Blaxland saying to Mr George Lovell who had a splendid orchard and vineyard. The said Mr Lovell you ought to be thankful to God for giving you such a Beautiful place. He said. I am Thankful to God Giving me and my Sons health and strength to make this place as it is. If we had not put so much Labour into it we would not have had it God helps those who try to help them selves. So it is Trust in God and do what's right. Nuff Sed (??) I am glad your Business is Brisk Life is Brisk or stagnant. There no such thing as standing still. Give my kindest regards to Will Geess (??) when you see him and hope his Wife has improved in health and things. Re your Query about writing a story of my Life. I wrote the Early History of the Municipality of Ryde at the request of the Balmain paper which appeared in the Local paper it appeared every week for a full 6 months. Tom Jones saw the Proprietors in Balmain about paying me for my Labours they were quite insulting to him so I gave it up at an Interesting part. Just when I was Chairman of Committee before I was Mayor – Re my Early History. I could fill a book. I who went to work at 8 years of age @ 8d a week. 13 hours away from Home. I had no Childhood no play with other Children. At 1848 Christmas. my Father Gave me a Bible Just before he left Home. Not to see him again till February 14th 1863 when we came here. I just turned 21 years of age – I was always fond of reading. And never knew when I learned to read. I recollect that when I wen to the Bermondsey Parochial School my Brother Thomas who was 2 years and 2 months older than I. Was put in a class 5 classes below me, I always had a desire to Learn. When I was 10 years of age I went to work in a Tannery to nail coloured skins on frames at a week I had 1 hour to Breakfast. Half an to Lunch. 1 hour to dinner half an hour for Tea. To improve my mind I took my Fathers Bible with me to read in my meal times. The Earl of Shaftsbury started night and Sunday Ragged Schools. Besides Book Black Shoe Brigades etc to Benefit the rising Generations. I went to the Schools of my own accord and any money I could Get as I grew up I spent on Cassells books and books of Biography and History. And Every week read about the Crimean War and after of the Indian Mutiny by Russell the War Correspondent so I Kept improving my mind I may say. I still have my Fathers Bible when I dyed coloured skins at Aldersons in Sydney I had a Tom Courtieth to re Bind the Book with the leather I had dyed – I gave the Ryde School of Arts 11 Books of the History of Some (??) I had Bought at Home. I wish to detail a Lesson I learnt as a Boy. I was sent by my Employer to Take some coloured skins to a Jew (??) aboutmiles. he asked me to sign the Bill I said I could not write. He said if you can write when you come again I will give you sixpence. When I went again I could write. But he did not give me the sixpence. I was to proud to ask him and never forgot it you cannot tell my disappointment all the long way Home. I taught me to never make a promise I could not fulfil. And to keep faith to Children in the Remissness I remember Going to Sunday School I could not have been 5 years of Age when I learnt. I think when I read theStory of old when Jesus was hear amongst men how called Little Children as lambs to his fold. I should like to have been with him then etc. But still to his footstool..... in M.... I may go and ask for a share of his Love etc. I recollect after I went to work that I thought Mother taught me to say my prayers. And am I too old now. And from that day to this. I have always sought Gods Guidance in all my ways I do not want to appear as a Saint. I have had my weaknesses and many short comings But Thank my Heavenly Father & Saviour forwas her has brought me through all the of Life. And sustained me throughdifficulties. I could write about family affairs. But can say My Mother had a struggle to keep ... children while her Husband was roaming throughout the world free from Father care or responsibility I am Glad your Wife and you are Happy & contented in your New Home.

Wishing you and Her every Blessing.

Your loving Grandfather

John Forsyth.