



Clan Forsyth

SYDNEY BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

CLAN FORSYTH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA – SYDNEY BRANCH

PO BOX 396, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069

MAY 2017 #1

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<http://www.clanforythaustralia.org/>



Sad Loss

Donald Basil Forsyth passed away on 21st April 2016.

Don was an integral member of the Clan since its inception. His wife, Beth, has been a genealogist and Clan historian for many years. Don was a Past President of the Queensland Branch. He will be sadly missed by his wife, Beth, his son Lester, stepsons Stephen Glenn and Shane Scott and as Poppy to his grandchildren.

Australian Members greatly appreciate all the work Don has done for Clan.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE

Included with this email or printed newsletter is the Clan's Sydney Branch Membership Subscription Form for 2017.

As soon as possible please complete this form and include your membership payment – either by post or electronically. Many Thanks.

CLAN OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2017-2018

They were elected at the Annual General Meeting and Lunch held on Sunday 2nd April 2017.

- President: Bill Forsyth
- Vice President: Denise Park
- Treasurer: Tim Crossley
- Secretary: David Forsyth AM
(Clan Commissioner)
- Welfare: Margaret Snodgrass
- Membership Liason: Barbara Forsyth
- Genealogy: Judy Forsyth & Tim Crossley
- Publicity & Newsletter Editor: Chris Lee
- Web Master: Tim Crossley



FORSYTH PARK AT VAUCLUSE

Forsyth Park was established in June 1913 when Lots 47-48 of the Tivoli Estate were scheduled to form a public open space. The park was named after Adam Forsyth, Mayor of Vaucluse in 1913. Like other parks from the same era in Vaucluse, Forsyth Park was established because of its spectacular views of Sydney harbour.

The park is located at the corner of Bayview Hill Road and New South Head Road adjacent to Rose Bay Convent. The park

consists of a steep embankment running parallel to Bayview Hill Rd, and a grassed observation area off New South head Rd. It covers an area of 960 sq. metres. The park is Crown Land controlled by Council.

The park is used predominantly by tourists for harbour viewing. It can also be viewed from the harbour and contributes to the overall aesthetics of the harbour foreshore area. Facilities provided for users include a grassed viewing area, seating, lookout plaque and shaded sitting area. Street lighting is the only current illumination at night.

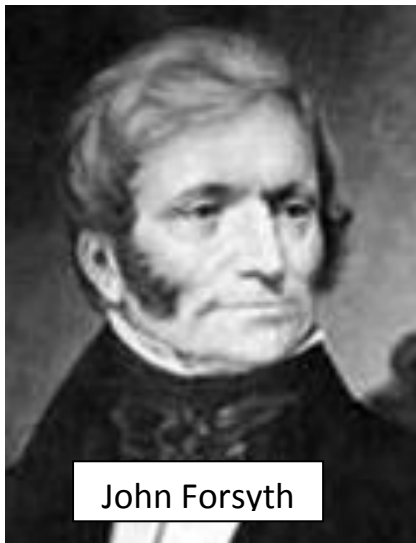
The park was upgraded in 1989 to cater for the large numbers of tourists arriving to experience the unique view of Sydney Harbour. (Compiled by David Forsyth).

RIVERINA FORSYTHS

Constance Forsyth of Wagga Wagga liked to be known as 'Con'. She was the widow of Archibald, and organised and ran the Wagga Spring Festival Committee. Constance was also involved in a welfare work with Save the Children, the Blind Society, the Quota Club, the Business and Professional Women's Association, the National Trust and the Association of Riverina Cultural Clubs. She also authored books about Wagga High School, Currawarra and Wagga Legacy, and Pencil Studies of Wagga.

George Forsyth (1817-1887) was the first Mayor of Wagga Wagga in 1870. George was a storekeeper and stock and station agent, born at South Shields in England near Newcastle on Tyne. He arrived in Sydney in the early 1840s, and became superintendent of a station on the Murrumbidgee. George and his brother Thomas established a store east of Wagga. He married Margaret Gordon in 1851. In 1855, they bought a store in Wagga, and the business George Forsyth & Co grew with the town and became a provider of a wide range of goods and services. George was also prominent in the mechanics Institute, the National School, the Presbyterian Church and was a founding director of the Wagga Bridge Co which built the toll bridge across the Murrumbidgee. He served in local government for over 20 years.

A SAVVY US SECRETARY OF STATE – John Forsyth of Georgia



John Forsyth

Between 1834 and 1841, during the times of US Presidents Andrew Jackson and Martin van Buren, the 13th Secretary of State was John Forsyth. Born in Virginia in 1780, Forsyth had moved to Georgia when a young boy. Studying law at New Jersey College (now Princeton University), he graduated in 1799, was admitted to the Georgia bar in 1802, and became Georgia's Attorney General in 1808. Forsyth moved into politics, and was elected to the US House of Representatives from 1813 to 1818, and then moved to the Senate between 1818 and 1819.

President James Monroe appointed Forsyth to the post of Minister (ambassador) to Spain where he served until 1823. This was an important post. Georgians had experienced problems with raids by the Spanish and Indians from the south in what is now Florida. As a member of Congress, Forsyth had argued for the purchase of Florida from the Spanish because southern Georgia would not be developed until it was safe from the regular raids. Florida was also seen to be important because it gave access to the Gulf of Mexico, enabling extra sea trade

links. However it was not until 1818 when General Andrew Jackson invaded Florida, defeating the Seminole Indians and capturing Pensacola, the western Florida capital, that the purchase of Florida from Spain was seriously considered.

Forsyth's mission while in Madrid was to negotiate with Ferdinand VII for the purchase of Florida. He sailed for Spain knowing that the Spanish empire was declining and Ferdinand probably needed money. He was also aware that there were few other buyers for the Florida land. In his later life, Forsyth was described as the ultimate horse trader, most likely based on the trade deal he secured with Ferdinand to buy Florida for \$5 million, the biggest property deal made by the US other than the purchase of Louisiana from the French in 1803.

After returning to the US, Forsyth again served in the House of Representatives between 1823 and 1827. He then became Governor of Georgia for two years before returning to the Senate until 1834. Georgia honoured Forsyth by proclaiming Forsyth County in 1832, and naming Forsyth Park in the centre of the historic City of Savannah.

In the Senate, Forsyth was renowned as a powerful orator, but was also politically savvy, backing President Andrew Jackson (yes the General who had invaded Florida) in the States rights show down with South Carolina in 1832.

President Jackson appointed Forsyth Secretary of State. Together, they finally concluded the long-standing controversy over the damages inflicted by France upon US foreign commerce during the Napoleonic Wars. Forsyth also worked with President Jackson on the recognition of the independent Republic of Texas in 1837.

Under President Van Buren, Forsyth supported the President's decision against annexing Texas, and backed Van Buren's calm approach to the dispute with Great Britain over the US-Canadian border.

John Forsyth died in Washington in 1841, and is buried in the Congressional Cemetery on the banks of the Potomac River. (*The article is from The Griffin, USA Clan Forsyth newsletter*).



Clan Forsyth Day

Sunday 5th November 2017

from 1pm to 5pm

Uniting Church, Clanwilliam Street, Willoughby

This is the day to bring along your Forsyth photos, literature, artworks.... anything related to this year's theme of...

“Forsyth Properties.”

It may be a house you lived in, your Forsyth Ancestors did or a well-known Forsyth landmark in your suburb or town.

The day also gives you a chance to meet other clan members and to have refreshments including tea, coffee, delicious sandwiches and cakes. Members of other clans are welcome!

Place this date in your diary!

We need NEW Members!

If you know of any NSW Forsyths who are not members, please ask them to make contact with us so can welcome them into the Sydney Branch:

clanforythaustralia@hotmail.com

Also post or email your articles, photos and anecdotes for inclusion on our website.

Another option is to send contributions to the Newsletter Editor's email address:

cwlee@optusnet.com.au

We are also looking for someone to become the Clan Secretary.

Please email us if you are interested.

