In this edition

Special Features

The Battle of Bannockburn - Part 2
Clan Douglas Cèilidh
Douglas Reunion at Yungeba and Launch of "Never Behind"

Regular Features

President's Message
Know your Roots
- The Descendants of the Earl of Angus
Song and Dance
Notice Board

Kid'space (New!)
- Pet Pie Competition
Clan Douglas Association of Australia

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COMMITTEE: MRS DELL ARMSTRONG
MISS DAWN DOUGLAS
MRS JAN SHAW

Those eligible to join the Douglas Association of Australia, upon application are:
Anyone descended from, connected by marriage, adopted by a Douglas or a Sept of Douglas.

The Septs affiliated with Douglas are:

BELL, BLACKLOCK, BLACKSTOCK, BLACKWOOD, BROWN, BROWNLEE, CÄVERS, DICKEY, DOUGLASS, DRYSDALE, FOREST, FORREST, FORRESTER, FOSTER, GILPATRICK, GLENDINNING, INGLIS, INGLES, KILGORE, KILPATRICK, KIRKLAND, KIRKLAND, KIRKPATRICK, LOCKERBY, MACGUFEY, MACGUFOCK, MCKITTRICK, MORTON, SANDILANDS, SANDLIN, SIMMS, SOULE, STERRITT, SYMINTON, SYME, YOUNG.

On the list of sept families there are some who are recognised as belonging to other clans. It is therefore necessary to know your lineage in order to prove association. Clan Douglas of Australia cannot guarantee that your particular family is eligible to be a sept, but the Association would be happy to accept your membership until proven differently.

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President’s Message

Welcome to Newsletter No. 50, with winter well and truly upon us. I would like to elaborate on the circular described lower down the page, for the benefit of members who were not sent one. Approximately 30 circulars were sent out to members in the south-east Queensland region, who we felt were close enough to attend our forthcoming meeting on June 13th. As these reports are always written some time before the meetings, it is uncertain what response we will achieve for the meeting night. Naturally you will receive your newsletter after the committee meeting and if you were not able to attend, perhaps you could give your consideration to attending the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, October 14th, to voice your opinions and recommendations. The following paragraphs explain our dilemma.

“This is a special appeal to all of our members residing in the south-east Queensland zone.

Since the inception of our Society in 1986 there have been very few changes in the make-up of the organising committee, even though all members have been welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting for the purpose of being selected as office bearers. The result being the existing office bearers have been committed to hold their positions for the sake of the continuation of the society.

Due to the passage of time, age and ill health have finally caught up with most committee members and they have indicated their inability to stand again at the next election. This is a serious dilemma which has been looming for some time, and the time has come to appeal to ALL members to attend our next committee meeting on June 13th at the Taringa Soccer Club at 7.30 pm.

Your attendance at this meeting is imperative so we can listen to your suggestions on how we can continue the Society that we formed back in 1986.

This letter is a serious cry for help, and the success of this meeting will have some bearing on the outcome of the AGM on October 14, 200.”

On a lighter note, the Douglas Family group are to be congratulated on the very successful function held recently. This is some of the expertise needed to inject enthusiasm into our current Clan Douglas Association.

Yours Aye,
Welcome New Members

624 Mr. Colin James Cameron Douglas of Raglan, Waikato, NZ

VALE Mr. Norman Douglas of Dundarrach, Life Member, died July 3rd, 2000
VALE Mr. Henry Douglas, Father of member, Kate Douglas of Toowoomba

A.G.M
and Luncheon
August 17th, 2000
Taringa Soccer Club
Fairly St., Indooroopilly
Brisbane
12:30
R.S.V.P Luncheon - to the Secretary

Join Clan Douglas Members at the
Kirkin O' the Tartan
July 02, 2000
Scot's Prebyterian Church
Bellview Tce., Clayfield

Tartan Rugs  Would you like to own a pure wool, genuine hand loomed "Douglas" traditional blue/green tartan rug? Sandy MacPherson, the weaver of the lovely rugs raffled in the past, advises he can supply rugs costing $100 Aust (including Air Mail Postage). Should you be interested, please write to Secretary Shirley Douglas. Address: 45 Simla Ave, Geebung, Q. 4034, or phone (07) 3265-4316. Perhaps you are planning a trip to Scotland. Sandy's place is situated 1 1/4 miles north of Tarbet on the A82 (Loch Lomond, Dumbartonshire). Visit him and say the Clan Douglas Australia sent you. He will be pleased to see you.

RAFFLE 2000
Ancient Douglas Tartan
Pure wool rug
Kindly Donated by
Norman Douglas
(Raffle Tickets included with this notice of sale)
VALE NORMAN DOUGLAS OF DUNDARRACH

We have been advised of the death of Norman Douglas of Dundarrach on July 3rd, 2000. For many years NORRIE has been a prolific writer of Douglas history for our quarterly newsletter, articles that have been of huge interest to our members. We will indeed miss his contributions.

Laterly Norman has generously gifted Douglas tartan rugs to us which we have been able to raffle among our members enabling us to boost our funds in preparation for establishing the association on the internet.

Norman was not only a Life Member, he was a great friend.

SONG

The End of the Road

Ev'ry road thro' life is a long, long road, Fill'd with joys and sorrows too,
As you journey on how your heart will yearn
For the things most dear to you. With wealth and love 'tis so,
But onward we must go.

Chorus:
Keep right on to the end of the road, Keep right on to the end,
Tho' the way be long, let your heart be strong,
Keep right on round the bend. Tho' you're tired and weary still journey on,
Till you come to your happy abode, Where all the love you've been dreaming of
Will be there at the end of the road.

With a big stout heart to a long steep hill, We may get there with a smile,
With a good kind thought and an end in view,
We may cut short many a mile. So let courage ev'ry day
Be your guiding star alway.

Chorus: Keep right on etc.
(The End of the Road)

This inspiring song is probably the most popular of all the songs, written and sung by Sir Harry Lauder both at home and in the countries he toured abroad.
Douglas Re-union and Book Launch of “Never Behind”
(Update to A Douglas! A Douglas!)

On Saturday June 3rd, 2000, descendents of Robert Douglas of Kangaroo Point gathered at “Yungaba”, on the banks of the Brisbane River to launch Never Behind, the update to the family history book, A Douglas! A Douglas!

About 100 people attended the reunion, and many of the different families were represented. At 92 years of age, the oldest was great-grandmother of five, Betty Douglas, (wife of Robert Douglas of Rowallan, mother of Jan Shaw and Jock Douglas), and the youngest was 5 month old Hayley Smith, daughter of David and Karen Smith; granddaughter of Doug and Mary Smith.

Ross Douglas kindly accepted the role of M.C for the day, and the book was launched with a speech by Jock Douglas of Wyoming, Roma. Memorabilia was on display, including a display by Bob Magee of the works of Robert Austin, explorer and surveyor of Western Australia.

The weather was perfect for a b.y.o picnic lunch on the lawn followed by a round of Tug O’ War between the descendent of the male lines. The William Archibald Douglasses being blue and the Mt. Maria Douglasses being Red, with support from the Austins and the Harpurs. The blue team proved too strong for the reds winning all three tugs. (Was this to be a precursor for the State of Origin?)

The reunion was the first official one since the first which was held nearly 14 years ago to launch A Douglas! A Douglas.

Co-authors Jan Shaw and Mary Smith got together again to produce an update which includes all the additions, losses, and changes to the family since 1986.


Yungaba was built to serve as the immigration depot for the Queensland Government and is currently used for government functions. It was chosen for the location of the reunion as the land was owned by Robert Douglas and was the site of his soap works for more than 20 years. It adjoined his home, “The Willows” which was washed away in the 1893 floods. Robert Douglas sold the land to the government in 1884.
Nearly a year after its conception and months of planning and publicity, the Clan Douglas Ceilidh was held on the 3rd of June, 2000. Guests numbered 280, well above expectations, and by all accounts a great time was had by all.

The evening began with a welcome speech by M.C., Patron, Archie Douglas, followed by an informative and interesting speech about the Clan Douglas history by our genealogical coordinator, Mary Smith.

After the main course, our President Ron Douglas made a thank you speech and introduced the dancers, led by Ronda and Peter Ovenden. The dancers, from the SDC, arrived in full costume, and demonstrated several popular ceilidh dances. After the demonstrations the guests were invited to join in the dancing while Peter called the steps. Judging by the smiles on the faces, much fun was had by all despite the lack of dancing skill!

The band, a popular local band known as “Hot Toddy”, led by Alton Twine, played many scottish favourites including Scotland the Brave, Loch Lomond, Flower of Scotland etc., as well as the contemporary “500 miles” by Scottish band, The Proclaimers.

After the traditional scottish country dancing, the guests continued with regular dancing and the night ended with everyone joining hands for Auld Lang Syne.

We would like to thank all those who attended the evening. It is hoped that the Clan Douglas Ceilidh will be held every two years and become one of Brisbane’s premier Scottish events.


**Dating the Costume**
As a general rule, having one's photo taken in the nineteenth century was a special occasion. 'Best Clothes' were worn and if they were not suitable, someone was found who would lend more appropriate ones. This applied to men as well as to women and children. Great care was taken with the toilette so as to appear as fashionable and as well presented as it was possible to be. White (particularly brides or women dressed in pale colours) presented technical problems for the early photographers, so it was advisable to wear darker hues (but not black with patterns) and a plainer mode if possible. Many women could dressmake and tailor men's old suits to be more fashionable for a family wedding, christening or funeral. This involved making coat lapels smaller, shortening a frock coat, narrowing trousers or sewing a new waist-coat for the occasion or even just adding a fashionable accessory to an old ensemble. A new dress in the wardrobe may prompt the owner to seek out a photographer or perhaps a visit to the nearest town or local agricultural show was enough to warrant having a photograph taken. It is of interest that the influx of other nationalities into Australia, such as the Germans or Chinese, did not really have any impact on clothing fashions generally, as the majority of citizens were of British origin.

**Men 1850–1859**
Generally, men wore quite a wide variety of coat styles including frock coats, suit coats, pea jackets, morning coats, reefer jackets, riding jackets, dress or tail coats.

The **frock coat** was very popular and was worn by many professional men. It can be distinguished by the waist seam which was shortened c. 1855 and the skirts lengthened.

The two buttons at centre back were indicative of the **dress or tail coat** and served the purpose of keeping the tails away from the legs when riding. In the early 1850’s, the coat was square-cut across the front at the natural waist line. This was shortened c. 1855, the deep roll collar may have been notched, have bound edges or be velvet bound.

The **morning coat** had curved front edges which sloped away at the sides in order to keep the rider’s knee from flapping coat fronts. This coat was usually single-breasted and had bound edges and flapped pockets at the waist seam.
As is suggested by the name, the **pea jacket** or **pilot coat** had a nautical background and had been worn since the 1830's. It was short, double-breasted, square cut, and loose fitting.

**Waistcoats** were rather long-waisted, cut straight across with a notch at the centre front waist line. They had a rolled lapel, could be single or double breasted and were often made in a loud checked or patterned fabric or silk brocade. From 1853, double-breasted waistcoats were popular for morning wear with a single breasted frockcoat or vice versa.

A **Collar** with open points and covering the jaw and worn with a cravat was worn until the 1850's when a upstanding circular stiff collar became the fashion. It had a narrow tie or bow around the neck. Other modes included a silk cravat tied into a thick bow or an Ascot tie and tie-pin. Another idea was to place a wide soft tie over the neck of the shirt, turn the narrow collar over and then pass the tie through a ring instead of being knotted.

**Trousers** were well tailored, of moderate width and sometimes strapped under the instep. Leg bottoms were wide enough to cover part of the instep and the back of the shoe. Towards the end of the 1850's, they were rather fuller in the legs and tapered towards the ankles but seldom strapped under the foot. The fabric could be checked, striped, or of a rougher material then the coat. Peg-topped trousers were very popular and often had the side seam decorated with a broad stripe.

**Hair** could be worn parted on the side or in the middle and was generally oiled. Moustaches were neatly trimmed, thick in the centre and tapering towards the ends which could be waxed in a straight or upward direction. Sideburns could be long or short, usually narrow and sometimes grown low on the cheeks with the sides of the cheekbones shaved. Goatees were fashionable.

Everyone wore **top hats** in the 19th century particularly in the early part. The 1850's hats featured a tall crown with sides curving inwards, and the brim was almost flat.

Both men and women wore the 'wide-awake' and was a low crowned, broad brimmed hat trimmed with a green veil for protection against the sun and flies.

In Australia during this era, the predominant footwear was **top-boots** which were worn under trousers. They had shallow square toes, high toe-spring, and a half-inch wedge heel.

The most important **accessory** was the watch-chain passed through a button-hole with watch in the right-hand pocket.

To be continued.


**DID YOU KNOW?**

*A pea jacket is a short, heavy wool coat, typically worn by seamen. It is not pea green, and it has nothing to do with peas. Our expression comes from Dutch, where the garment is a pijker, with pij being the kind of cloth, and jekker meaning jacket, derived from our own word.

Some sources say the English word jacket arose through reference to French peasants, who wore short, heavy tunics. A common nickname for these peasants was "Jacques."

Other sources cite the Arabic sakk (a mailcoat or breastplate).
Descendents of the Earl of Angus

Archibald Douglas, 6th Earl of Angus, eldest son of the Master of Angus, succeeded his grandfather, the 5th Earl about December 1513. Archibald was the eldest son of George and Elizabeth Douglas née Drummond and was born about 1489. He married (1) 1509 Margaret/Mary Hepburn, daughter of Patrick, 1st Earl of Bothwell and Lady Janet Douglas, by whom he had no surviving issue. She died in 1513 in childbirth.

Angus married (2) at Kinnoult, Perthshire, Queen Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII and Queen Elizabeth of England and sister of King Henry VIII, widow of King James IV of Scotland who was killed at the Battle of Flodden in 1513. There was nothing but strife while Angus was married to Queen Margaret. A series of intrigues relating to the government of Scotland and the young son of Queen Margaret by her first husband, King James IV of Scotland eventuated. After the Duke of Albany landed from France to act as Regent, it was not long before friction arose between him, the Queen and Angus. The Queen decided to journey to England and at Harbottle on October 7, 1515, a daughter Margaret Douglas was born.

The Queen did not return to Scotland until 1517. However, Angus seemed to be continually at logger heads with either the Earl of Arran or the Duke of Albany and in 1522, he disappeared from Scotland and turned up in France where he remained until 1524. That year, he went to London, England eventually returning to Scotland where, to all outward appearances, he was reconciled with Queen and secured his former rights as Earl and Councillor. King James V was still a minor and in 1526, the Scottish Parliament appointed a certain number of Lords to have custody of the King. Angus was given the first three months of guardianship, but the intrigues of the Queen forced him to keep the King in his own hands for safety and for the next two years Angus was practically the ruler of Scotland. However, the marriage between him and Queen Margaret went from bad to worse and in 1528, she divorced Angus and married Henry Stewart, Lord Methven.

Midway through 1528, young King James made his escape and Angus, his brother George, and uncle Archibald of Kilsindie were banished from the royal presence and their lands forfeited. Many attempts were made at reconciliation, but in the end, Angus retired to England where he stayed until after the King’s death in 1542. Angus returned to Scotland and he had his brothers were restored to their former lands and possessions. Angus steadfastly supported the numerous treaties made with England over the years, but resisted the various invasions made by English forces on Scottish soil until peace was made in 1550 between Scotland, England and France.

The Earl’s later years were more peaceful and he died from an attack of erysipelas at his castle of Tantallon in 1556, his remains being buried at Abernathy. He had no surviving legitimate male issue and was succeeded by his nephew, David Douglas who was the son of Sir George Douglas of Pittendriche.
By the Earl’s second marriage to Queen Margaret Tudor, he had a daughter (a) Margaret, born Harbottle Castle, Northumberland, October 8, 1515; died Tower of London, March 7, 1577; buried Westminster Abbey in a vault with her son Charles. In 1516, she was living at the Palace of Greenwich, London, with her cousin, the future Queen Mary. She moved back and forth to Scotland, France, Northumberland, Berwick and by 1531, she was at Beaulieu with Princess Mary. She married (1) in 1537, Thomas Howard, son and heir of the Duke of Norfolk. By June, she and her husband were imprisoned in the Tower of London for treason. He died on October 27 and she was brought to the Abbey of Sion. Margaret returned to court as a lady-in-waiting to Anna of Cleve and Catherine Howard, wives of King Henry VIII. By 1541, she was again in disgrace with King Henry and banished to Sion Abbey. At the time of her second marriage, King Henry excluded her from the succession to the throne because of her Roman Catholic leanings. She married (2) St James Palace, London, July 6, 1544, Matthew Stuart, 4th Earl of Lennox. Their children -
(a) 1 Henry Stewart, Lord Darnly, married Mary, Queen of Scots.
(b) 2 Charles Stewart, 5th Earl of Lennox; married 1574. Lady Elizabeth Cavendish

There were 2 other sons and 4 daughters.

Archibald, Earl of Angus married (3) Margaret Maxwell, daughter of Robert, Lord Maxwell and Janet Douglas. Margaret divorced Angus in 1527 and she married (2) Sir William Baillie of Lamington and had issue dying in 1593. By his third wife Angus had a son
(b) James who died in infancy.

According to The History of the family of Douglas by Percy Douglas -
the sixth Earl of Angus had a natural son
(c) Thomas, declared legitimate in 1552.
(d) George who was Commendator of Arbroath and is said to have played a leading part in the murder of David Riccio, the friend of Mary, Queen of Scots. George Douglas was chosen the Bishop of Moray in 1573 and held this office until his death about 1590.
(e) Elizabeth, declared legitimate 1526
(f) Janet married Patrick, Lord Ruthven.


The different images of Mum
4 years of age: My mum can do anything!
8 years of age: My mum knows a lot!
12 years of age: My mother doesn’t know quite everything.
14 years of age: Naturally, Mum doesn’t know that either.
16 years of age: Mum? She’s hopelessly old-fashioned.
18 years of age: That old woman? She’s way out of date.
25 years of age: Well, Mum might know a little bit about it.
35 years of age: Before we decide, let’s get Mum’s opinion.
55 years of age: Wonder what Mum would’ve thought?
65 years of age: Wish I could talk it over with Mum.
The Battle of Bannockburn - Part 2

compiled by Penny Shaw from "Alex's Military History Homepage"
http://www.geocities.com/Broadway/Alley/5443/ with kind permission from the author
and http://www.braveheart.co.uk/macbrave/history/bruce/bannock.htm.

There had also been some skirmishing on the battle front, where The Bruce's division were in position. These skirmishes had been sparked by an incident which was undoubtedly the tensest moment of the entire campaign for The Bruce's men, but with which any Scot with a knowledge of the King remembers with pride.

**Encounter of Bruce and De Bohun**

The main bulk of the English van had crossed the Bannock Burn and taken up position facing The Bruce's division. A young English Knight, one Henry De Bohun, spotted a lone figure riding back and forth along the Scots lines. Moving closer, he noticed that the man carried no crest upon his helmet, but a crown. Seeing that it was none other than King Robert himself, Bohun realised in his quest for glory, that he could end the battle in one go.

Moving from the English lines De Bohun, fully armoured and riding a heavy cavalry horse urged his beast to a gallop, and lowering his lance he aimed straight for the King. Robert, armed only with a battle axe and on a smaller horse, held his ground however until the last second. Just before De Bohun hit him, Robert quickly moved his horse aside and in one blow split open both the young knight's with his battle axe.

The Scots gave a sigh of relief, many shouting about how senseless Robert had been in endangering not only his own life but the future of their cause. The King however replied only with a complaint to the fact that he had broken the shaft of his favourite axe, which rather annoyed him.

This incident obviously could have had horrific consequences if The Bruce had been killed. It would have left the Scots both leaderless and Kingless on the eve of battle, probably putting to an end their long struggle. Luckily Robert remained entirely unscathed to the great relief of his men.

That night, after further small skirmishes along the front line, the English retired and made camp upon the carse, some distance from the Scots lines. For Robert, it was a time to make some very important decisions. From past experience, he knew that because of the small size of his army, to beat the English he needed to fight them at his chosen location, preferably a place where they were confined to a small front. Robert had originally intended this to be between the forest of Gillies Hill and the Bannock Burn gorge. Now that Edward's army had camped upon the carse, the battle would inevitably have to take place on the flat field that stretched down from the road towards it. This meant that the battle front was to be much larger than Robert would have liked. The only benefit to this site was the small gorge that lay between the carse and the field. Although it was not particularly deep, it's sides were steep and it would be a slow process for the large English army to cross safely.
Robert knew that if he could attack the English as they were still crossing, he might be able to drive them back upon their own men still trying each division in turn, and asked their opinions. For him, unlike many commanders of the time, the thoughts of his men to cross the gorge. This would cause confusion and disorganisation among them, exactly what he needed.

Later that evening a young Scottish Knight, deserting the English side, rode into Robert’s camp and asked to speak to the King, telling him he wanted to change his allegiance. The King, always happy for new recruits, especially from his enemy, accepted and let the man pay homage. With him the knight also brought news, apparently the English had been very demoralised by the events of the day and many were unhappy with young King Edward’s command. For Robert, this was the final factor in his decision. He spent the evening discussing the matter with were as important as his own. And to the main question, would they follow him and fight, he was given a resounding “yes”.

**Main Battle - 24th June 1314**

At first light the Scots were already in position. Looking down towards the carse they could see the English hurriedly preparing for battle, with the first of their cavalry making it’s way across the gorge. Robert gave one final address to his troops before they were given their church blessing. Edward, watching the Scots kneeling in prayer, laughed aloud believing they begged for his mercy. A wiser man then told him; yes, they did beg, but not to him.
Soon the main bulk of the English van had crossed the gorge and had formed up in preparation for the charge. Robert then ordered his troops to move out from the trees, and gathering into their schiltroms, they took up position to face the onslaught. Within the English cavalry their was confusion however, with two commanders arguing over who was to lead the charge. One called for an advance and rode forward, but was only followed by a few, the rest of the cavalry, momentarily confused struggled to follow.

The impact as the English horse hit the schiltroms was tremendous, but the Scots held. Many of the English knights, charging unorganised, were killed outright on the Scottish pikes, others fell or were dragged from their horses to be crushed by their own men or killed by the Scots. The lack of English organisation was now becoming horribly apparent to them. Most of their archers were now across the gorge and in a panic someone had given the order to fire. Unfortunately for them, not only were they hitting the Scots but much of their own retreating cavalry. The archers were bad news for the Scots, who no longer had the cover of the trees, but Robert had planned for this. As soon as he gave the signal, Keith the Marischal of Scotland, commanding some 500 mounted infantry charged out of the woods and routed the archers from the field. With the cavalry retreating, and the archers scattered, there was huge confusion among the English ranks. The Scots, seeing this lifted their pikes and slowly advanced, in perfect formation, driving their struggling enemy back towards the gorge. What remained of the English cavalry continued to retreat and charge, each time being beaten back by the wall of Scottish spikes. With the Scots forcing those who had reached the field further and further back towards the gorge, and at the same time the main bulk of the English infantry still trying to cross, those who were retreating were blocking those advancing. The English army’s fate was sealed.

The schiltroms pressed on, pushing more and more men into the horrific crush the gorge had become. Horses and men tumbled down the sides tripping over each other until, as one witness described it: “bodies lay so thick a man could cross the burn dry-shod”.

Soon almost all of the English, most not even given a chance to fight, were scattering. Many drowned as they tried to cross the Forth, others were killed or crushed by their own companions in the mad race to escape. Those still left fighting on the battlefield were few and Robert, seeing the victory was theirs gave the order to break up and give chase.

Sir James Douglas, spotting the escape of Edward was given permission by Robert to follow. The young King quickly reached the gates of Stirling but no matter how much he pleaded, the governor Philip Mowbray refused to let him in. Mowbray argued that he must hold his part of the pact as the Scots had been true to theirs. With Douglas on his tail, Edward had little time to argue so gave up and set off south. After many days of hard riding, made worse by Douglas happily picking off any stragglers of the Kings party, he eventually made it to Dunbar Castle. From there a ship took the English king, thoroughly beaten and humiliated, back south to England.

For the Scots, the battle was undeniably one of the greatest in history. Their King, who for 18 years had fought for a cause once thought impossible, had led them to victory. Edward may have had the military might of all England behind him, but in the end it was no match for an army of freedom fighters distinctly lacking in blue blood.
CALLING ALL KIDS!
PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS,
UNCLES, AUNTS, and COUSINS

Do you have a pet, or know someone else with a pet that you think is the cutest in the world, or at least possibly, the whole of the Clan Douglas? Well, we'd love to see a picture of it. Send in a drawing, painting, or even a photo, and you could win a great prize.

Every entrant will receive a free Clan Douglas sticker. Results will be published along with all the pictures (reduced in size) in the November 2000 Newsletter and one drawing will be picked to be on the cover.

Please send your pictures, with your name and age with a stamped self-addressed envelope to The Editor, 12 Chanter St. Graceville, 4075,

Make sure you enter the
THE CLAN DOUGLAS
PET PIC COMPETITION!!
A Note From The Editor

Isn’t it rather cold this year? Brisbane’s winter is usually so short and mild, I feel it should be called the period of ‘preparing for Spring’. I have been doing just that - planting petunias and pansies, and tending to my rose bushes, and was thus inspired to create the picture on the front cover. The next front cover will be, I hope, a lovely drawing of someone’s pet, (see pg. 15). So make sure to get your children, grandchildren, whoever, to send in their pictures. I am really looking forward to getting them.

The ceilidh was a great success. We always knew it would be. Thank you to all who attended the evening and congratulations to the committee. Sam Douglas is overseas now, and I believe Doug Waller will be going soon too.

We were very sad to hear of the passing of Norman Douglas. Although I had not met him personally, I knew of the great amount of work he put into the research of the Douglas family and am very appreciative of that which he gave to us. My sympathies extend to all of his family.

Little Bo is growing rapidly. He recently went on his first international flight, when we went to Japan for week to visit his Dad, relatives, and friends. He also got to ride on a bullet-train, a commuter train (though fortunately not at rush-hour), and in a Tokyo Taxi. So he has collected quite a lot of experiences for a 6-month old.

CELTIC ART

How to draw a Knotwork

1. Draw a rectangle in light pencil. It doesn’t matter what units you use. The one above is 10cm by 6cm. Divide each side into equal units. It is very important to start half a unit from each corner, in this case 1cm as we are using 2cm units.

2. Draw diagonal lines in light pencil to connect each of the markings around the edge, then draw curves on the outside of your rectangle to connect each mark with the next one. Note how the corners are done.

3. Now draw lines in heavy pencil parallel to each of the diagonals and curves to create a thicker line. The resulting pattern looks a bit like a colourless tartan.

4. Carefully rub out the lines of the rectangle and the central diagonal lines. This allows you to see what the finished band will look like. Once you are more sure about knotworks you will be able to skip this stage.

5. This is the tricky bit. Start at the top left hand corner, in order to create an interlacing effect, follow the broad band along with your finger then as you go erase the first two lines which cross your path. Skip the next two, then erase the next and so on. Think of the broad band as going over and under itself. Finally, draw the lines

6. This is the knotwork coloured in. This knotwork is made up of two interlacing ribbons. Experiment with different numbers of units for the sides of your rectangle. This knotwork is 4 units (plus two halves) by 2 units (plus two halves). If you use units with no common factor (eg. 3 by 5) plus halves at the corners you can make a knotwork with one continuous line.