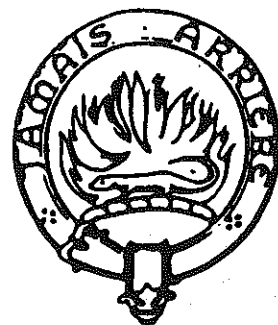


# Clan Douglas Association of Australia

## NEWSLETTER



**NO: 30**

Print Post No. 438598/00007

**AUG. 94**

### OFFICE BEARERS

<b>PATRON:</b>	<b>SIR SHOLTO DOUGLAS</b>
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<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</b>	<b>MRS JAN SHAW</b>
<b>GENEALOGICAL EDITOR:</b>	<b>MRS MARY SMITH</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:</b>	<b>MR IAN DOUGLAS</b>

**COMMITTEE:** **MRS DELL ARMSTRONG**  
**MRS JEAN RIDDELL**  
**MRS ESME TAYLOR**  
**MRS JAN WALLER**

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

BELL, BLACKLOCK, BLACKSTOCK, BLACKWOOD, BROWN, BROWNLEE, CAVERS, DICKEY, DOUGLASS,  
DRYSDALE, FOREST, FORREST, FORRESTER, FOSTER, GILPATRICK, GLENDINNING, INGLIS, INGLES,  
KILGORE, KILPATRICK, KIRKLAND, KIRKPATRICK, LOCKERBY, MACGUFFEY, MACGUFFOCK,  
MCKITTRICK, MORTON, SANDILANDS, SANDLIN, SIMMS, SOULE, STERRITT, SYMINGTON, 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 Association 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.

# President's Message



Welcome to Newsletter No 30, with winter weather starting to recede in our area of Queensland. In most areas there has not been any rain and the drought is well and truly upon us, affecting the economy very severely. I know many of you are affected and I can only hope that when the drought breaks, there will be some light at the end of the tunnel for everyone concerned.

Last quarter I wrote about a family reunion of the Douglass and Bear family, and since then the convenor, Mrs Joan McArthur, dropped me a line describing the occasion. I would like to outline some of the highlights of her report:

"This was our first such occasion, planned along the lines of a 'bring your own everything' informal picnic, the only formal organisation being a Permit from the City of Melbourne Parks and Gardens to use a rather grand edifice known as the Old Bandstand. This was ideal to set up a display of charts and registration point, and of course the 'teddy bear' toys which also came to our picnic.

The Matriach of our particular family, Isabella Douglass, the daughter of James and Mary Douglass, married William Christmas Bear, hence the Bear family reunion. The great majority however, are very much aware of our Scottish roots and there are no less than 25, over many generations, who have Douglass as their second given names.

Apart from the obvious genealogical research carried out by many of our family, we are also compiling a REGISTER OF DESCENDANTS of William and Isabella Bear, our latest figure being some 480. There are already seven of the seventh (Australian born) generation. Keeping in the mind the 8th and 9th generations claimed by descendants of the First Fleet, we are nevertheless rather proud of our Victorian based heritage.

Our reunion was a huge success and many relationships were either renewed or acknowledged for the first time. The over-riding feeling was one of FAMILY. A booklet titled William and Isabella was also distributed, being a collection of essays contributed by many people and concerning their families and lifestyles in times gone by. They were not worried about literary expertise, but 'put thoughts on paper' and the result is a wonderful collection of memories.

The common thread is the realisation that right from the mid 1800s, our family has had to work hard for their achievements; nothing was handed to any of us 'on a plate'. Very few escaped the Depression unscathed; most have bitter memories of those times and the effects on their own particular family groups. Without exception, the contributors have claimed that writing their various chapters had been 'a profound experience' for them and that their present day lives have been enriched as a result."

It was most enlightening to have the results of this family reunion, and I know it is only one of the many that are celebrated across the country these days, so that the links of the past can be salvaged for the future benefit of those to come. On behalf of Clan Douglas - our congratulations!

That's all until next quarter,

Regards,



After the last newsletter went to press, I received the following information re Earl of Morton families. I have taken this opportunity to publish an up to date (1990) version of the family tree taken from Debrett's Peerage & Baronetage, London, 1990, pp.875-876; and Burke's Peerage, Baronetage & Knightage, London, 1967, pp.1774-1778.

B.(i)1 Sholto John Douglas, seventeenth Earl of Morton, b. 13 Apr 1818, Berlin; lieutenant 11th Hussars 1843-44; lieutenant-colonel of the Midlothian Yeomanry Cavalry 1844-53, and colonel-commandant 1853-72; sat as a Representative Peer from 1859 till his death 24 Dec 1884; m. (1) 24 Jan 1844, Helen (d. 17 Dec. 1850), dau. of James Watson of Saughton; m. (2) 7 Jul 1853, Lady Alice Anne Caroline (b.16 Apr 1831; d.s.p.15 Jan 1907), 6th dau. of John George Lambton, first Earl of Durham. By his first wife, the earl had

B.(i)1.1 Sholto George Watson Douglas, eighteenth Earl of Morton, b. 5 Nov 1844; Representative Peer from 1866 till his death in 1935; m. 25 Jul 1877, Hon. Helen Geraldine Maria (b.12 Dec 1852; d. 5 Jan 1949), fourth dau. of Charles Frederick Ashley Cooper Ponsonby, second Baron de Mauley of Canford. Their children

B.(i)1.1.1 Sholto Charles Douglas, Lord Aberdour, captain Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry; b. 4 Dec 1878; d.29 Sep 1911; m. 5 Jun 1905, Minnie Christina Brenda (d.27 Aug 1954), dau. of Admiral of the Fleet Lord John Hay, G.C.B.; had issue

B.(i)1.1.1.1 Sholto Charles John Hay Douglas, b. 7 Apr 1907; d.s.p. 1976; nineteenth Earl of Morton.

B.(i)1.1.1.2 Joanna Douglas, b. 28 April 1909; d. 24 Aug 1965; m. 16 Oct 1934, Major Hubert Trench Crane, Royal Norfolk Regt. only son of late Hubert William Crane. Issue.

B.(i)1.1.2 Charles William Sholto Douglas, b. 19 Jul 1881; Lieut. R.N.V.R. late lieutenant 4th Battalion Oxfordshire Light Infantry; served World War 1 1914-18; d. 1960; m. (1) 11 Dec 1920 Alice Agnes (d.19 Jan 1924) only dau. of Lt.Col. William Augustus Lane Fox-Pitt of Presaddfed, Anglesey and had issue

B.(i)1.1.2.1 Thomas William Douglas, The Black Watch, attached to Scottish Paratroop Regt., served in World War 11, b. 10 Jan 1924; K. in action Dec 1943.

B.(i) 1.1.2.2 Helen Alice Douglas, b. 7 Oct 1921; m. (1) 20 Oct 1947, Lt.Col. Brian Leslie Lynch Abdy Collins, O.B.E., M.C., R.E., only son of late Bernard Abdy Collins, C.I.E., I.C.S.(ret.).d.22 Dec. 1952. Had issue.

B.(i)1.1.2.2.1 Thomas Abdy Collins, b. 1948; m. 1982, Anna Mary, elder dau. of Col. I.R.Critchley, O.B.E. of Altina. Had issue-

B.(i)1.1.2.2.1.1 Alice Susanna Abdy Collins, b. 1983

B.(i)1.1.2.2.1.2 Eleanor Katherine Abdy Collins, b. 1986.

B.(i)1.1.2.2.1.3 Phoebe Helen Abdy Collins, b. 1988.

B.(i)1.1.2.2.2 Brian James Douglas Collins, b. 1952; m. 1976 (m.diss.by div.1988) Philippa Martha Gausel, dau. of Sir Rowland John Rathbone Whitehead, 5th Bt. Had issue -

B.(i)1.1.2.2.2.1 Henry James Abdy Collins, b. 1980.

8.(i)1.1.2.2.2.2 Rosie Alice Louise Collins,

b. 1978.

8.(i)1.1.2.2 Helen Alice Douglas m.(2) 16 Nov.1954, 6th Baron de Mauley, M.A.

8.(i)1.1.2 Charles William Sholto Douglas m.(2) 15 Apr 1926, Florence (d.1985), elder dau. of late Major Henry Thomas Timson, of Stydd House Lyndhurst, and d. 10 Oct 1960 Their issue -

8.(i)1.1.2.3 John Charles Sholto Douglas, twentieth Earl of Morton, b. 19 Mar 1927; s. 1976; Man Dir of Dalmahoy Country Club, Scottish Dir Bristol & W Building Soc, Ptnr Dalmahoy farms, Chm Edinburgh Polo Club; a DL of W Lothian; m. 20 Sep 1949, Mary Sheila, only dau. of late Rev. Canon John Stanley Gibbs, M.C., Rector of Badmington and Shipton Moynes. Issue -

8.(i)1.1.2.3.1 John Stewart Sholto Douglas, Lord Aberdour, b. 17 Jan 1952; Ptnr Dalmahoy Farms; m. 1985, Amanda K. yr dau of David J.M. Mitchell. Has issue

8.(i)1.1.2.3.1.1 Hon. John David Douglas, Master of Aberdour, b. 28 May 1986.

8.(i)1.1.2.3.2 Hon. Charles James Sholto Douglas, b. 14 Oct 1954; Ptnr Dalmahoy Farms; m. 1981, Anne, dau. of late William Gordon Morgan of Neapuke, Waikato, New Zealand. Has issue

8.(i)1.1.2.3.2.1 Rebecca Katherine Douglas, b. 1982.

8.(i)1.1.2.3.3 Lady Mary Pamela Douglas, b. 12 Nov 1950; m. 1973, Richard Callander of Saughland House, Pathhead, Midlothian. Has issue -

8.(i)1.1.2.3.3.1 James Edward Callander, b. 1979.

8.(i)1.1.2.3.3.2 Sarah Mary Callander, b. 1977.

8.(i)1.1.2.3.3.3 Emma Louise Callander, b. 1981.

8.(i)1.1.3 Archibald Roderick Sholto Douglas, Lieut. R.N.V.R., late Lieut. Leicestershire Imp. Yeo. and 1st Lovat Scouts, served in World War 1 1914-18 and in World War 11 as Staff Capt. Scot. Cmd., in charge Lothian's Border Dist. (Army Agric); b. 11 Sep 1883; m. 22 Oct 1907, Winona Constance de Maraisville, dau. of Colonel Walter Ancell Peake, D.S.O., of Borough-on-the-Hill, Melton Mowbray; Had issue.

8.(i)1.1.4 William Sholto Douglas, Lieut. R.N.V.R. served in World War 1 1914-18; b. 11 Jun 1886; m. 26 Nov 1914, Hon. Ethel Georgiana Frances Somerset, dau. of 3rd Baron Raglan; d. 16 Nov 1932. Had issue .

8.(i)1.1.5 Ronald John Sholto Douglas, O.B.E.(1919), Lieut.R.N.V.R., served in World War 1 1914-18; b. 22 Apr 1890; d. 31 Jan 1922; m. 28 Jun 1920, Alexandra Alberta Jean , dau. of late Adm. Sir Frederick Tower Hamilton, G.C.V.O., K.C.B. Had issue.

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## RESEARCH QUERIES

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IF YOU REQUIRE HELP TO COMPLETE YOUR FAMILY TREE AND WISH TO INSERT A NOTICE ON THIS PAGE, PLEASE WRITE TO MARY SMITH, GENEALOGICAL CO-ORDINATOR OR JANET SHAW, NEWSLETTER EDITOR OF THE CLAN DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, WITH YOUR RESEARCH QUERY.

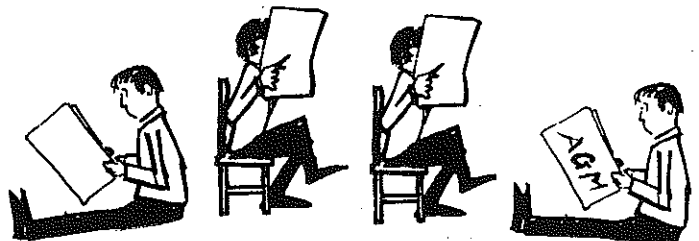
**Genealogical  
Co-ordinator:**  
Mrs. M. Smith,  
"Carbeenia Park",  
P.O. Box 29,  
Bowenville. Q. 4404  
T. (076) 63 7146

Jan Shaw, 116 Strong Avenue, Graceville Qld 4075

DOUGLAS: Mrs Rhonda Oberg, PO Box 188, Muswellbrook, N.S.W. would like to contact descendants of Sholto Douglas & Mary Bruce of Ladybank, Fifeshire, Scotland. Rhonda is descended from David Douglas & his wife Lillias Bruce through their son William Johnstone Douglas (1851-1887) and his wife Jean Downie Angus (1850-1932). If anyone can help, please would they contact her.



## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY



The Clan Douglas Association of Australia wishes to thank the following members for presenting the organisation with items for the Heritage Library.

The Hon. John Douglas by Dr Robert A. Douglas AM, of Townsville, Q'd.

The House of Douglas, Glenbervie by Mr Robert G. Douglas of Whangarei, New Zealand.



## MEMBER'S PROFILE PAGE

The following letter comes from Mrs. E.E. Skimming of Wellington, New Zealand. I think this is a great idea and hope many members will send in some information to introduce themselves, do it in your own words and every one will be different, but perhaps use the following guidelines.

Name, Address and Photos Age (need not be specific but you may put in - in the 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s or 80s bracket). If you are agreeable to members contacting you when they travel to your area you may like to include your phone number. Perhaps a shared cup of coffee and some tips and advice about 'What to See and Do' in your home town could prove helpful. Add some information about your family, job or retirement village, local area, hobbies, interests, family history research and how you found C.D.A.A.

In the past we have refrained from printing addresses and phone numbers of members in respect of their privacy and we will continue to do this unless members send 'Profiles' and names address and phone numbers for publication.

In reply to Mrs. Skimming, we have 15 C.D.A.A. members in N.Z., several in U.K., U.S.A. and the Netherlands and others from all over Australia.

Mary Smith has already put several families sharing the same ancestors in touch with each other, and hopefully through the Members' Profile Page many more long lost cousins may be found.

Dear Mrs Shaw,

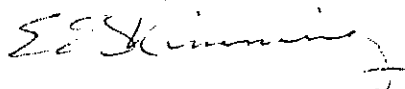
Thank you for my copy of the May '94 Newsletter which I received a couple of days' ago. I would like to respond to your request for suggestions on how members can become more involved.

I am sure there are members like myself who would like to 'get to know' some of the other members. Especially those of us who are not able to attend meetings and functions due to our geographical location. So why not invite members to send in a brief introductory letter about themselves, purely voluntarily of course. A number of these could be printed in each Newsletter on, say, a "Members Profile Page" The letters could include such information as the area where they live, their hobbies or interests and why they joined the CDAA.

I would also be interested to know how many members there are who live in my area, Wellington, NZ. If there are enough perhaps we could organize our own occasional informal get-together, meeting or whatever.

I do hope that you receive lots of ideas/suggestions from other members as I realize that to keep our association alive and well it requires interest and participation from more of us.

Yours sincerely,



E.E. SKIMMING (Mrs) memb #156

P O BOX 11-716  
Manners St  
Wellington, NZ  
21 June 1994

To start the ball rolling I shall begin.

## MEMBER'S PROFILE PAGE

I am Jan Shaw (nee Janet Douglas). I am your Newsletter Editor and Co-Convenor of the C.D.A.A. I am in the 50s bracket and have just moved house to 115 Strong Avenue, Graceville, Brisbane 4075. I grew up in the country in the Mitchell District, near where my great-grandfather had originally settled in 1875. (My ancestors were of the Angus line and Douglas of Glenbervie).

I was lucky to have had my youth in a wonderful country environment, I love Australian land, trees, plants, birds and animals (especially horses). My early education was by primary correspondence school (because the nearest school was 60 miles away). I love travel and am interested in people and cultures from all over the world. I am non-racist and included amongst my friends are people of many races colour and creed. I am interested in History (am the co-author, with Mary Smith of a Family History book, A Douglas! A Douglas!), Art (studied art at the Julian Ashton School, Sydney), taught art and have been a guide at the Queensland Art Gallery for 12 years. I was also a kindergarten/pre-school teacher for 11 years.

I have 2 married daughters and one son and 3 grandsons. My husband and I are now living separate lives but meet for family occasions. I do several part-time jobs i.e. travel guide for specific groups with Agtour Australia, co-ordinate and teach English Conversation to Japanese University and High School students. I have just enrolled in an E.S.L. course (English Second Language) at Griffith University and so plan to continue with this teaching. I strongly believe that one is never too old to learn something new. I would be happy to meet and share a cup of tea with any C.D.A.A. members coming to Brisbane and suggest the Queensland Art Gallery or South Bank as a good meeting place. My phone number is (07) 379 6357.

JAN SHAW - Editor



This wee poem comes from Mrs. E. Skimming of Wellington, N.Z.

### CUDDLE DOON

The bairnies cuddle doon at nicht  
Wi' muckle faught an' din;  
"Oh try and sleep, ye waukrife rogues,  
Your faither's comin' in."  
They never heed a word I speak;  
I try to gie a froon,  
But aye I hap them up and cry,  
"Oh, bairnies, cuddle doon."

Wee Jamie wi' the curly heid —  
He aye sleeps next the wa',  
Bangs up and cries, "I want a piece" —  
The rascal starts them a'.  
I rin an' fetch them pieces, drinks,  
They stop awee the soun',  
Then draw the blankets up an' cry,  
"Noo, weanies, cuddle doon."

But ere five minutes gang, wee Rab  
Cries out, frae 'neath the claes,  
"Mither, mak' Tam gie ower at ance,  
He's kittlin' wi' his taes."  
The mischief's in that Tam for tricks,  
He'd bother half the toon;  
But aye I hap them up and cry,  
"Oh, bairnies, cuddle doon."

At length they hear their faither's fit,  
An' as he steeks the door,  
They turn their faces to the wa',  
While Tam pretends to snore.  
"Hae a' the weans been gude?" he asks,  
As he pits aff his shoon;  
"The bairnies, John, are in their beds,  
An' lang since cuddled doon."

An' just afore we bed oursel's,  
We look at our wee lambs,  
Tam has his airm roun' wee Rab's neck,  
And Rab his airm roun' Tam's.  
I lift wee Jamie up the bed,  
An' as I straik each croon,  
I whisper, till my heart fills up,  
Oh, bairnies, cuddle doon!

The bairnies cuddle doon at nicht  
Wi' mirth that's dear to me;  
But soon the big warl's cark and care  
Will quaten doon their glee.  
Yet, come what will to ilka ane,  
May He who rules aboon  
Aye whisper, though their pows be bald,  
"Oh, bairnies, cuddle doon."



Stephen Douglass of Winthrop W.A. has sent the following article (from 1926) about his prolific great-great Aunt, Mrs. Jane Douglass.

### GREAT RECORD

Eldest son John, of Mrs Jane has nine children of his own and two grandchildren.

Ten of great granny Douglas's babies have their own children, and Robert, who has only one child, is only 25, while 23 year old Norman has not yet added to the magnificent score

## MRS. DOUGLAS A PROUD MOTHER SHE CLAIMS SIXTY GRANDCHILDREN

CLAIMING 16 children, 60 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren, Mrs. Jane Douglas, of Napoleon Street, Sunnyside, latest entrant in "The Guardian's" big family competition, may well ask, "Can it be beaten?"

Sixty-eight years of age, Mrs. Douglas has 13 of her children still living, the eldest born in 1875, and the youngest in 1903.

Her wonderful vitality has been handed down to her eldest daughter, Ellen, born in 1875, and her son, William, born in 1879, each of whom have 11 children. Ellen has even her four grandchildren to show to Great-Grandmother Jane.

### GREAT RECORD

Eldest son, John, of Mrs. Jane has nine children of his own and two grandchildren.

Ten of Great Granny Douglas's babies have their own children, and Robert, who has only one child, is only 25, while 23 year old Norman has not yet added to the magnificent score.

Here are the statistics of the other children:

George, born 1880; 7 children.  
Sophie, born 1882; 4 children and 2 grandchildren.  
May, born 1884; 1 child and 1 grandchild.  
Henry, born 1881; 3 children.  
Margaret, born 1883; 6 children.  
James, born 1887; 4 children.

NORMAN DOUGLAS

W.W. 2



JAMES DOUGLAS

W.W. 2





Norrie's Notes No. 39

*Spott House*



Formerly the home of the Douglasses of Spott. 3 miles south of Dunbar in East Lothian. Now owned by a Mr. Lawrie, farmer, who also owns 3 farms at Kinross. (Photographed April 1974)

Mrs. Elizabeth Douglas, C.D.A.A. member from Warrnambool, Victoria sends the following article of interest.

William Alexander Watt 1871 - 1946, was Premier of Victoria and Acting Prime Minister of Australia for 16 months. His mother was Jane Douglas b. County Armagh, N.Ireland. Jane Douglas came to Australia in the 'Reliance' in 1850. (Our C.D.A.A. member is descended from Jane Douglas' father.) In this issue (No.30) we will print a notable son of a Douglas. (Behind every great and distinguished man is a woman, be it wife or mother).

WATT, WILLIAM ALEXANDER (1871-1946), premier and acting prime minister, was born on 23 November 1871 at Barfold, near Kyneton, Victoria, eleventh and youngest child of James Michie Watt, a farmer who had migrated from Scotland about 1843, and his Methodist wife Jane, née Douglas, from Ireland. After James's death in 1872, the family moved to Phillip Island and some six years later settled in North Melbourne. Billy attended the Errol Street State School and was a newsboy. He joined an ironmongery, then a tannery, as a clerk, and, after ten years supporting his mother and a sister, became accountant and eventually a partner in a hay and corn store, Barwise & Co. On 21 December 1894 he married Florence Carrighan at the Presbyterian Church, Parkville; she was to die after childbirth in 1896.

'A precocious boy, a smart lad, and a clever young man', Watt had ambitions of becoming 'the complete orator', but learned to fight in Royal Park and a lasting rumour associated him with a local 'push'. He read voraciously, frequenting the Public Library, and from 1888 undertook night studies at the Working Men's College in accountancy, grammar, logic, mental philosophy and elocution. By 1893 he was secretary of the North Melbourne Debating Club. W. S. Robinson recalled his brother (Sir) Arthur [qq.v.11] and Watt at the Parkville Literary and Debating Society addressing 'the assembled multitude, chiefly in the form of my solitary self, on political issues'. Watt also gathered friends for weekly discussions of topical questions.

He joined the Australian Natives' Association, probably before 1890. The North Melbourne team, with Watt winding up, won the metropolitan debating competition three times in the mid-1890s. A delegate (1895-1901) to annual conferences and a president of the metropolitan committee, he was famous for his recitation of 'The Man from Snowy River' at smoke-nights. From 1894 he was an executive member of the A.N.A.-inspired Australasian Federation League of Victoria and campaigned vigorously for the

'holy cause' in 1898, especially at the crucial A.N.A. conference in March at Bendigo.

In October 1897 Watt had been elected to the Legislative Assembly for Melbourne North over the fiery Labor member George Prendergast [q.v.11]. The Age and conservative voters backed Watt in a turbulent campaign; always combative, he enjoyed the cut and thrust. Although anti-socialist, he stood for radical liberal reform of 'a social order, where the few sit on the shoulders of the many'. He was soon identified with other A.N.A. members known as the 'Young Australia' group who, indignant first with Premier Turner's [q.v.] equivocation over the Federal bill, later criticized the government's cautious land, taxation and factories legislation. In October 1899 Watt was boldly sceptical about the wisdom of sending a contingent to the South African War, but later became conventionally bellicose.

The 'Young Australia' group helped to dismiss Turner in November and Allan McLean [q.v.10] invited Watt to become postmaster-general: he was the only city member in cabinet and, at 28, reportedly the youngest cabinet minister in the Empire; he survived a desperately hard-fought ministerial election. A capable minister who tried hard to bring about the penny post and the Pacific cable connexion, he was sometimes accused of autocracy and egotism. The realities of office tempered his radicalism but, having isolated himself from the Turner-Labor alliance, he lost his seat at the November 1900 election.

Watt stood unsuccessfully for the first Commonwealth Senate as a Protectionist, and was twice more defeated for the assembly, but helped his idol Alfred Deakin [q.v.8] to build a national Liberal organization. Having opened an estate agency and moved to Moonee Ponds, he was returned to the assembly for Melbourne East in October 1902 and for Essendon in June 1904. He was a supporter in principle of his friend (Sir) William Irvine [q.v.9], but concentrated on establishing an independent position; seeing Labor as the chief enemy, he determined to bring about a two-party alignment. He still staunchly supported reform of the Legislative Council, the female franchise, further factory legislation and protection of the weak. With his friend J. A. Boyd [q.v.7], he sniped at Premier Bent [q.v.3]. According to (Sir) Frederic Eggleston [q.v.8], 'The history of the Bent Ministry is a duel between Bent and Watt; for a long time Bent was invulnerable, but ... he gradually succumbed'. John Murray [q.v.10] resigned from the ministry in August 1906 and allied himself with Watt. They eventually brought down Bent on 3 December 1908 and won the following election.

After Murray became premier on 8 Jan-

uary 1909 in a composite ministry, largely of countrymen, Watt was treasurer almost uninterruptedly until June 1914. He was the government's driving force, even before acting as premier for six months in 1911 and before the tiring Murray passed the premiership to him in May 1912. W. L. Baillieu, J. D. Brown and George Graham [qq.v.7,9] were leading colleagues. An expanding economy supported rural development policies, decentralization, lavish government spending and further instalments of 'state socialism'. The government swept to victory at the November 1911 election.

As always the Legislative Council obstructed. In 1909-10 it rejected compulsory land acquisition, radical land taxation and optional preferential voting; but it tolerated the establishment of state secondary education (Watt had vigorously supported Frank Tate [q.v.]) and in 1911 gave way on land taxation and preferential voting. Guided by Elwood Mead [q.v.10] in the purchase of irrigable lands, the government furthered close settlement which it linked with railway construction and assisted immigration. In 1912 it undertook a massive legislative programme, involving wholesale reorganization of public services. The Country Roads Board was established, the Melbourne Harbor Trust reorganized and electrification of suburban railways was accepted. Hospitals and charities, workers' compensation and Greater Melbourne legislation had to be delayed. Watt significantly developed 'state socialism' in Victoria—'anything the State can do for the State better than others, let the State do'—and especially the use of the statutory corporation.

Absent from February to July 1913, Watt impressively negotiated a large conversion loan in England. In 1912 many of his nominal supporters had begun to caucus as a 'country party'. Hoping to force reconstruction of the ministry, in July 1913 Donald McLeod [q.v.10] moved a want of confidence motion and attacked in particular the transfer of government functions to 'irresponsible boards'. Watt replied with harsh invective and the countrymen withdrew. In December, however, he introduced redistribution legislation, re-valuing a metropolitan vote merely from 50 to 60 per cent of a non-metropolitan vote. Enough countrymen voted with Labor to defeat the government, whereupon Watt resigned and the Labor leader George Elmslie [q.v.8] was commissioned. Master of the situation, Watt brought his followers to heel: Labor was defeated after one week in office and he reconstructed his ministry with additional radical Liberals. He then enacted workers' compensation legislation, but postponed redistribution, Greater Melbourne, and hospitals and charities regulation.



## Watt

Watt developed his unrivalled reputation as a financier during the long negotiations between Commonwealth and States for adjustments after the initial ten-year financial agreement. His proposals at the 1914 premiers' conference concerning State debts and a national borrowing policy were far-sighted, if premature: Watt looked to unification in the distant future. Meanwhile, he fervently opposed the Fisher [q.v.8] Labor government's attempts in 1911 and 1913 to transfer major powers by referendum, in the belief that the States must continue to control developmental policies. At the 1912 premiers' conference he took the lead in formulating proposals by the States to transfer powers voluntarily. He resisted the new Commonwealth Bank's encroachment on the State banks' activities. In 1913-14 he contributed crucially to the final difficult settlement of the Murray Waters Agreement.

Eggleston studs his account of Watt with superlatives—the dominant force in Victorian politics, a man who tackled the hard problems, a great parliamentarian, orator and debater—but Watt could be rash and sometimes lapsed into intolerance and scorching sarcasm. Roy Bridges [q.v.7], the *Age* journalist, became Watt's close friend and regarded him as 'a great Australian, generous, sympathetic, democratic, unpretentious'.

It was widely believed that Deakin regarded Watt as his successor. His oration at Deakin's funeral was to be generally regarded as superb. Just before the outbreak of World War I, 'after 48 hours self-searching', Watt yielded to party blandishments and, as an obvious potential prime minister, resigned the premiership in order to contest Balaclava and campaign for (Sir) Joseph Cook's [q.v.8] government; he comfortably defeated John Curtin and thanked Herbert Brookes [q.v.7] for the 'part you played in dragging me across'.

Labor's victory in September 1914 was a setback to Watt who must have expected a ministry. He threw himself into support for the war effort and, apprehensive of divisiveness, muted his criticisms of the government's war measures. His negotiations late in 1915 with (Sir) Alexander Peacock [q.v.11] avoided a referendum by securing an offer from the premiers to transfer limited powers for the duration of the war. From July 1915 Watt was a member of the parliamentary war committee. He was already convinced that the government should introduce conscription and his fiery patriotic speeches made him the darling of the powerful Australian Women's National League. Yet his attack on Frank Brennan [q.v.7] for 'pigeon-livered' pacifist tendencies led to Brennan challenging him to meet at a recruiting office; Watt avoided the issue.

The failure of the conscription plebiscite and the Labor split in November 1916 led Watt, Irvine and J. N. H. Hume Cook [q.v.8] to work for a national government. The non-party National Referendum Council (of which Watt had been joint secretary) was a useful basis for a 'Win-the-War' party. The process took ten weeks. Sir John Forrest [q.v.8], Irvine and Cook all claimed leadership: Watt knew it had to be Hughes, and threatened Cook with the secession of Victorians from the Liberal Party. The National Federation was launched in Melbourne on 9 January 1917; the Liberal Party was finally coerced on 8 February and the National ministry was formed on 17 February. Watt had been chief architect and drafter of policy.

Hughes preferred Watt as treasurer, but was obliged to give Forrest the post: Watt had to be content with works and railways, and saw the transcontinental railway through its final stages. He supported Hughes in holding the second conscription plebiscite and in the fiasco of charging T. J. Ryan [q.v.11] with conspiracy. When Hughes kept his pledge to resign, Watt advised Governor-General Munro Ferguson [q.v.10] not to commission Forrest with whom he had repeatedly clashed in cabinet. After Hughes resumed office, he and Watt conspired to make Forrest a lord: once Forrest resigned, Watt at last became treasurer on 27 March 1918, having acted for a month. In April Hughes and Cook sailed for London. Watt was acting prime minister eventually for sixteen months.

Almost his first action was to introduce formal agenda for and minutes of cabinet meetings. In order to ensure (Viscount) S. M. Bruce's [q.v.7] success at the Flinders by-election in May, in return for the withdrawal of the Farmers' candidate he promised and later carried out introduction of preferential voting. Cabinet accepted General Sir William Birdwood's [q.v.7] recommendation of (Sir) John Monash [q.v.10] as commander of the Australian Corps. Late in the year Watt abruptly gazetted Jens Jensen [q.v.9] out of the ministry after an adverse royal commission report on defence expenditure. He quickly pulled the Nationalist politicians together and conciliated Labor by modifying coercion to stimulate voluntary recruitment. Leading a weak and weary ministry while in precarious health, he brought comparative calm to government, but told Hughes several times that he hoped he would soon return to relieve him.

Watt had found both the Treasury and the Prime Minister's Office in confusion. War finance was in a parlous state and a huge debt was mounting for Britain's maintenance of Australian troops. In July he insisted that the premiers stop borrowing and reduce public works. His austere budget heavily increased

taxation; he introduced a bill, abandoned with the peace, that required subscription to war loans according to means. Fearful for the future, he continued austerity during 1919. His concern for State rights was now subordinated to the needs of the nation.

Hughes, in England, had often taken initiatives without consultation. Watt, however, was also tactless and inconsiderate, and their acerbic exchanges in hundreds of often delayed ciphered cables inevitably led to friction, especially over extension of the wool agreement with the British government and wheat sales. After the Armistice innumerable issues of external policy arose which the government had not discussed before Hughes's departure. Watt and the cabinet became increasingly concerned about the prime minister keeping them uninformed and about his public confrontations with the Imperial government. They backed him when Lloyd George accepted President Wilson's Fourteen Points without consulting the Dominions, but, sensitive to Imperial ties, resisted his assertion of particular Australian interests and his campaign for separate Dominion representation at the peace conference: Hughes took no notice. Watt established a Pacific branch of the Prime Minister's Department under E. L. Piesse [q.v.11], without consulting the prime minister. Hughes began selling Commonwealth ships, without notifying Watt. Cabinet joined Hughes in opposition to Wilson's insistence on League of Nations control of German colonies, but preferred Imperial annexation and Australian administration to Hughes's demand for Australian annexation. In response to Hughes's offensive attitude to Japan, Watt issued a statement of admiration for Japan's conduct as a British ally. Hughes and Watt had developed a deep antagonism. After Hughes returned in August 1919, Watt had to be persuaded to continue in the government beyond the December election.

A supercilious Munro Ferguson at first was restive about Watt's casual methods, his limited appreciation of the governor-general's constitutional role and his disinclination to take the award of honours entirely seriously. He eventually came to admire Watt's broad-mindedness and his 'grasp of the financial and commercial situation . . . he is extremely reasonable and a very pleasant man to discuss business with. He can see both sides of a case and his judgement can be relied on'. It was doubtful if even Hughes had rendered better war service.

In April 1920 Watt sailed for England for vital financial negotiations. Meanwhile Hughes pursued negotiations on wool, without informing him. In June Watt resigned as treasurer, in a distraught state: 'I was credentialled to London as a Minister Plenipo-

## Watt

tentiary, but upon my arrival had no greater powers than a messenger boy'. On his tardy return in October, he delivered a detailed self-defence in parliament, charging Hughes with deliberately setting out to destroy a rival, but was generally disregarded. Watt had married Emily Helena Seismann at Essendon on 24 April 1907 and had five young children for whom he was anxious to provide. He had refused a knighthood, partly because he considered he had inadequate means to live up to it, but had delighted in his appointment as privy counsellor in 1920; he was also made commander of the Légion d'honneur.

Though seeming to be, almost inevitably, the next prime minister, Watt had muffed the chance. Over the next two years he veered between deciding to leave politics for a business career and making a last throw for high office. In 1918-19 he had been incapacitated for weeks with heart trouble and nervous tension. His health now improved. A lone wolf, he attacked Hughes's wool policy, and Cook's and Bruce's budgets, and rarely attended party meetings. He lost all credibility with Nationalist politicians who looked to (Sir) Walter Massy-Greene [q.v.10] as Hughes's likely replacement. Watt was behind much Victorian criticism within the party in 1922, but publicly remained aloof from the anti-Hughes Liberal Union. He often conferred, however, with (Sir) Earle Page [q.v.11], an admirer who saw him as a possible leading colleague in the future.

When Hughes was deposed early in 1923 in favour of Bruce and Page, Watt was feared as too much of a danger to leave free on the back-benches; he was offered and accepted the speakership for one term. By this stage Watt was essentially a conservative Imperialist who opposed equal status of the Dominions with Britain. The radical Victorian Deakinite strain disappeared as an influence in Commonwealth politics. He was a very successful Speaker, quick, decisive and popular; his weekly afternoon teas helped to promote 'fruitful social intercourse between the parties'. In 1926 he resumed sniping against the government, yet his stature was such that his party endorsement was renewed. He was active in debate in 1927 over the Financial Agreement with the States which he eventually accepted; in 1944, in his preface to Deakin's *The Federal story*, he finally declared himself a unificationist. After parliament moved to Canberra, he attended less than half the sitting-days and spoke rarely. On medical advice, he resigned his seat in July 1929.

From 1922 Watt had been chairman of Australian Farms Ltd which aimed to attract migrants with capital; it was liquidated in 1925. As chairman, he saw Dunlop-Perdriau [q.v.11] Rubber Co. successfully through the Depression, but declined a governing

directorship. From his base in Collins House, he was also chairman of the Aeolian Co. (Aust) Ltd, British Dominion Film Ltd, Jalan Kebun Rubber Co., Taranaki Oil Fields Ltd, Rolfe & Co. Ltd and of the local boards of Silverton Tramway Co. Ltd and Zinc Corporation Ltd, and a director of QANTAS Empire Airways Ltd and other companies. During the Depression he was notably sympathetic to the unemployed and workers suffering wage-cuts. A member of the Imperial Federation League, he was first Victorian president of the English-Speaking Union and revered King George V and Queen Mary. He was never happier than when watching Test cricket as chairman of the Melbourne ground trustees.

With deep-set eyes, Watt had a broad, pug-nacious face and was clean-shaven. Known in middle age as William, Will or Willy (never as Bill), he began to compensate for his early teetotalism and remained a pipe-smoker. His manner was breezy, his humour witty though mordant, his aplomb marred by fits of temper; his intimates included W. S. Robinson (to whom he was 'always a wonderful friend and helper'), W. L. Baillieu and W. A. Holman [q.v.9], and he had many Jewish friends. A fine player of bridge, he was a convivial member of the Yorick, Athenaeum, West Brighton and Victoria Golf clubs; he disliked pomp, formality and attending Government House. He was a masterful parent. A stroke in 1937 partly disabled him. An agnostic, he died at his Toorak home on 13 September 1946 and was cremated; his wife, two sons and three daughters survived him. His estate was sworn for probate at £37 256. Portraits by Phillips Fox and Longstaff [qq.v.8,10] are held in the Savage Club, Melbourne, and in Parliament House, Canberra.

E. H. Sugden and F. W. Eggleston, *George Swinburne* (Syd, 1931); R. Bridges, *That yesterday was home* (Syd, 1948); E. C. G. Page, *Truant surgeon*, A. Mozley ed (Syd, 1963); W. S. Robinson, *If I remember rightly*, G. Blainey ed (Melb, 1967); F. C. Green, *Servant of the House* (Melb, 1969); L. F. Fitzhardinge, *The little digger* (Syd, 1979); P. G. Edwards, *Prime ministers and diplomats* (Melb, 1983); *Punch* (Melb), 26 July 1906, 29 July 1909, 23 May 1912; *Table Talk*, 1 Nov 1928; *Argus*, 25 May 1912; *Age*, 9 Apr 1938; J. S. Anderson, W. A. Watt: a political biography (M.A. thesis, Univ NSW, 1972); J. Hume Cook, *Recollections and reflections. The story of my life, ts, 1935 and Brookes and Deakin and Groom and Makin and Novar papers* (NL); family information.

JOHN ANDERSON  
GEOFFREY SERLE

## Notable Septs

Are any C.D.A.A. members descendants of our notable Sept JOHN DONALD MACKENZIE BROWNLEE, DAVID GORDON KIRKPATRICK (Slim Dusty) or HENRY GRATTON DOUGLASS?

### BROWNLEE, John Donald Mackenzie

*A handsome baritone of international renown and protege of Melba*

(1900-1969) Born Geelong, Victoria, he decided on accountancy as a career. After winning first prize in the baritone section of South Street Competitions, Ballarat, he took lessons from Ivor Boustead. Melba heard him in Handel's *Messiah* and urged him to study overseas. Arrived in London in 1923 and Dinh Gilly took him to Paris for further study. Again, Melba heard him, this time at his operatic debut at the Trianon-Lyrique in 1926 and engaged him to sing with her at her farewell performance of *La Boheme* at Covent Garden. Other European contracts followed. Sang at the Grand Opera

House, Paris, 1927-36, and Glyndebourne Festival Opera, 1934-39. In 1937 he replaced Lawrence Tibbett at short notice at the Metropolitan Opera, New York. By 1945 he had mastered 35 operatic roles. He was noted also for his acting ability. In 1956 appointed director of the Manhattan School of Music.



### DOUGLASS, Henry Gratton

*Outspoken and controversial colonial surgeon, magistrate and public servant*

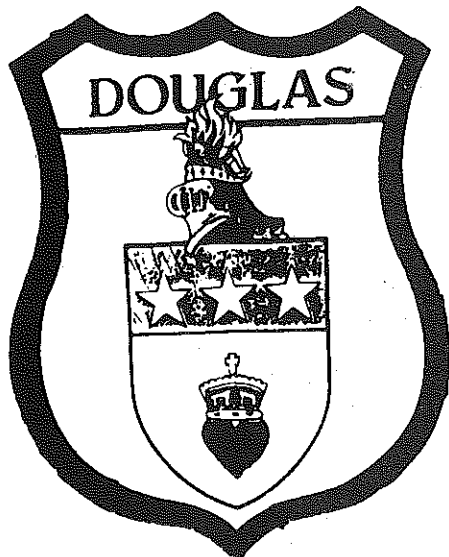
(1791-1865) Gained experience as a surgeon in the Peninsular War and West Indies. Invalided in 1812, he completed his degrees at Trinity College, Dublin. In 1821, without notifying authorities, he impulsively sailed for Sydney with his family. Governor Macquarie appointed him to the General Hospital at Parramatta. His outspoken concern for the health of convicts and needy in the colony incurred the wrath of the influential parson, Samuel Marsden. This conflict was heightened by his firm friendship with the scientifically-minded Governor Brisbane. In 1822 Douglass was charged with allegedly behaving improperly with a convict girl in his employ, but was exonerated. From then on he was engaged in a series of litigations, often with Marsden as antagonist. In 1825 he was appointed commissioner of Court of Requests and worked for and achieved the abolition of public hanging. After blunt words at a public dinner he was suspended by Governor Darling as being 'too mischievous for public office.' While in England in 1828 on behalf of the emancipists, his land grants were forfeited. Worked in France and returned to Sydney in 1848. He helped found the University of Sydney and was appointed a member of its medical faculty in 1853. He remained on the senate until his death.



### DUSTY, Slim

*A legend in his own lifetime as a singer and recording artist of country songs and ballads*

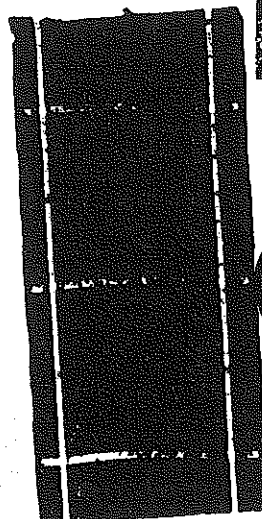
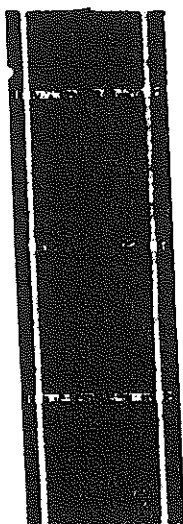
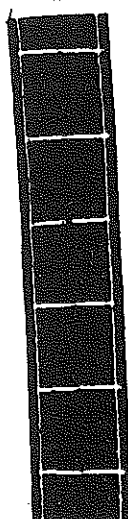
(1928- ) Born David Gordon Kirkpatrick, he spent his childhood at Nulla Nulla Creek, near Bellbrook in New South Wales, where his father had a farm. He played the guitar at local dances and concerts and at 15 went into radio broadcasting at station 2KM Kempsey and later for stations at Grafton and Lismore. His ambition was to make records but he failed at his first attempt with EMI. Then he made some recordings of his own and sent them to radio stations; soon he was in the top bracket of country singers. 1946 was a turning point in his career when his song 'When the Rain Tumbles Down in July' was released and won an immense response from country listeners. He was invited to record his own songs for EMI and he moved to Sydney where he married Joy McKean, who became his singing and writing partner. In 1953 he made one of his biggest hits with 'Rusty It's Goodbye.' About this time he and his wife organised a travelling show of country acts which took off as *The Slim Dusty Show*, and they have been touring ever since, presenting some of the greatest names in country music. In 1957 he recorded 'The Pub with no Beer,' which became Australia's best-selling record. His albums include 'Slim Dusty Live at Tamworth,' 'Cattle Camp Corner' and 'Songs in the Saddle.' Successful sales have given him more than 20 'gold' records and he has won many awards for his country music. In 1970 he was awarded the AM for his services to entertainment.



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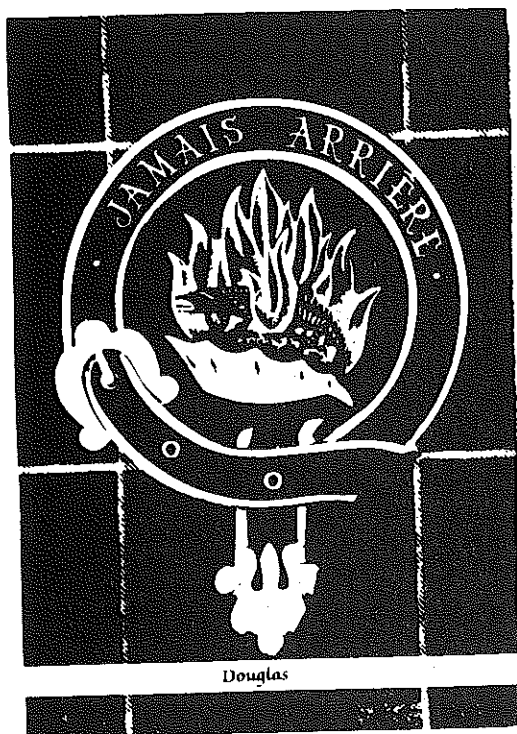
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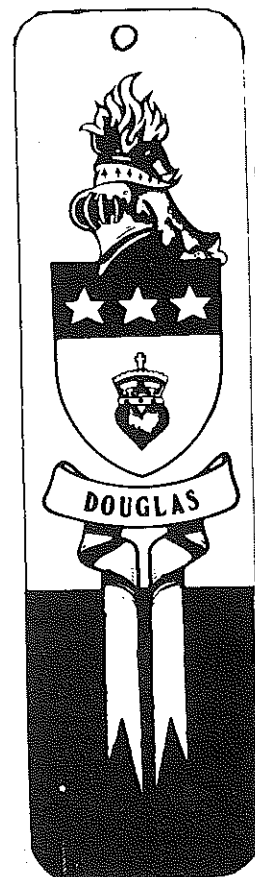
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### NOTICE BOARD

#### A.G.M.

The A.G.M. of Clan Douglas Association of Australia

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Members and Friends  
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Phone Secretary Shirley Douglas  
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For More Information

Please note: The Secretary, Shirley Douglas, has changed her address.  
New address is: 45 Simla Ave., Geebung, 4034.

**Subscriptions are due on 1st October**

Please post to Mrs. J. Roseby, 27 Heinrich St., Mt. Warren Park 4207

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN on Sunday 27 November 1994 at 9 a.m.  
at St Bridgid's Catholic Church, Red Hill, Brisbane

A B.Y.O. Basket Picnic for CDAA members and friends is being  
arranged. We will advise you of the venue in the November  
newsletter. This is a wonderful Scottish occasion so don  
your tartan and please come!

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# "The Pursuit of Happiness"

There are some fine distinctions to be found in the now immortal phrase, "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Life is an eternal fact; liberty, an inalienable right. But with happiness - we are offered only the right to pursue it! We can give a man his liberty. He may not use it well or keep it long, but we can give it to him. But not so his happiness. We can help, but ultimately he has to help himself to happiness. But this all men have in common: we are all looking for it. No one wants to be unhappy; no one deliberately sets out to try to make a muddle of his life. But some of us may be so hotly in pursuit of some counterfeit kind that the real thing isn't recognized. Some of us may be looking for the right thing in the wrong way.

Among the many misconceptions concerning this thing so much pursued are these: (One) That money makes happiness. False. It may help or it may hinder. Some men have sold their happiness, but no one was ever able to buy it. (Two) That pleasure is the same as happiness. False. You can wear yourself ragged in pursuit of pleasure - and still wake up in dull despair. (Three) That fame brings happiness. False. The record eloquently indicates otherwise. (Four) That happiness must be found in far places. False again. We carry it with us - or we don't have it. And sometimes after we have pursued it in far places we find that we have left our happiness behind.

There is a long list of things that have helped to make men happy, from which we mention these: A quiet conscience; useful work well and willingly done; an awareness of being needed and wanted; an earnest appreciation of other people; conformity to the laws of honour and honesty, to the laws of the land and the laws of God. If there were no reasonable chance of finding happiness, we had just as well ring down the curtain on time and eternity, for happiness is properly the chief business and ultimate aim of life. "Men are, that they might have joy." But there is no point in pursuing it where it never was and never will be found. No one ever overtook anything - including happiness - by pursuing it on the wrong road. If we want it, we had better look for it where it is.

*From Richard L. Evans Book "Thoughts...for one hundred days" (Salt Lake City Publishers Press 1966. Copyright by Ateons. Used by permission.)*



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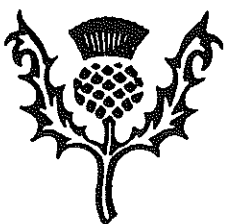
## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to those members who sent in contributions for printing in the Newsletter. Sharing your items of interest with other readers of our Newsletter is always worthwhile. One of our New Zealand members, Mrs. E. Skimming of Wellington, has a great idea, because our members are so widespread it can be difficult to meet each other. She suggests members send in a profile (and perhaps a photo) of themselves for a Member's Profile page so that we may all get to know each other through the Newsletter - (and if we travel perhaps we can make contact with members in their own area). I shall look forward to more follow up from this idea and to start the ball rolling, give you my own profile. (How can I ask others to do what I could be too shy to do myself?)

Jan Shaw - Editor

Address your newsletter contributions to:

The Editor - Clan Douglas Association Newsletter  
116 Strong Ave  
Graceville Qld 4075



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