

NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER NO. 13.

OCTOBER 1989.

STARTING POINT

(Latest News and Views from the Editorial Staff)

As our Australian Branch of the N/N Society turns another year older, it is a fitting time to look back over our achievements over some three and a bit years since conception; if only to serve as an inspiration for the years to come.

In this time we have developed from a scattered unrelated section of Australian society into a cohesive, co-operative if still somewhat unrelated clan.

We have, over those years, serviced some 215 members/member families, with our membership growing from 103 in our 1st year to 124 this past year.

Gatherings have generally been well attended, with the committee striving to provide a greater range of service and availability - for example, our recent country gathering at Castlemaine, Victoria.

Our newsletter remains our vital link and by all accounts is well received. We see interest in our N.S.W. region gaining momentum. We have had representatives attend overseas gatherings. Australian N/N's have been well received overseas and eagerly reciprocate.

Genealogically, we have met with many successes and now are even better poised to assist budding genealogists with requests by drawing on members and our archival material.

We are very much a developing society, poised for further achievements, but only with your continued assistance.

Gary R. Nisbet.

(NES)-BITS AND PIECES

(Snippets of General Interest from the Editorial Staff)

IT'S A SMALL WORLD: I recently sent an 'upgrade' of our Nesbit tree to my nephew, Bruce M. Nesbit of Cairns, far northern Queensland, approximately 3200km to the north of Melbourne.

Among the several additions, Bruce noticed Lorraine (nee Nesbit) her husband Ian Hardwick and their children, Emily, Simon and Penelope.

He went on to say, "I noticed some additions to the tree starting at Ian E. Hardwick. Well, the people living in the street behind us are named Hardwick; Roy and his wife. Their elder son Tony, is married to Leanne, who also works at the Far Northern Queensland Electricity Board. Not expecting to find a link I asked Leanne if Tony had relatives living in Victoria. She told me they had relatives in Bendigo and Geelong. When I showed her our tree she recognized the children and their mother Lorraine. She'd heard of them - actually Lorraine is Tony's aunty and Lorraine and Ian were to come up the following week for Tony's sister's wedding.

We are both thrilled to discover the link, although I still find it hard to believe. To think we have lived here for thirteen years and knew nothing of the connection. I think Roy Hardwick is Ian's brother and the only one who didn't stay in Victoria.

Tony has his family tree too, so maybe we can swap some information. What a small world it is!

You also mention Hazel (nee Nesbit) and her husband Frank Batterham. They would be Lorraine's aunty and uncle; also, that Lorraine and Ian are coming to Cairns shortly for a wedding. It's amazing, isn't it?

I hope to contact Lorraine and Ian when they arrive. If my reckoning is correct, Lorraine and I are fourth cousins".

Material by Bruce Maxwell Nesbit, Marti Street, Bayview Heights, Cairns, Queensland.

Editor.

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OUR FIRST NEW MEMBERS FOR 1989/90: Our membership is still growing. We are delighted to welcome the following to the clan. Ron and Lynette Gane and Mrs. Laurie Rands, A.C.T. and Louise O'Brien, Mt. Eliza, Vic.

* * *

FROM U.K. NEWSLETTER VOL. VI NO. 2: Daily Telegraph, Saturday 25th February, 1989. (United Airline Boeing 747, flight 811, from Honolulu).

Beverley Nisbet, 50, of Hastings, New Zealand, who was returning after a trip to Britain and Hawaii, thought of the Lockerbie bomb and felt that her flight was doomed too. "Debris was everywhere. My initial reaction was, this is it, I am not going home. I thought it might be a bomb and I was waiting for a second one to finish us off". She said that everyone was instructed to put on lifejackets.

We are all very thankful to hear that she escaped serious injury.

Editorial note: Allegedly cabin pressure was lost due to the malfunction of a cabin door resulting in fatalities.

* * *

Graeme and Catherine Nisbet of Mitcham, Victoria left on 1st August for a four months European tour and will return on 23rd November.

When I spoke to Graeme prior to their departure he said they were flying to London, and after two days were to fly to Copenhagen, and then by train and car visit Oslo, Amsterdam, Brussels and Ypres. The car would be dropped off at Amsterdam and they would take a plane to Paris and spend one week taking in the sights.

They would then return to London and join a conducted 32 day tour of Europe which would include Holland, Germany, Italy, Greece and Switzerland - virtually those places not visited on their train and car tour.

Once back in London they would complete their holiday by touring for six weeks, visiting selected places of interest in England, Scotland and Wales. Of special interest whilst in Scotland will be Roxburghshire in The Borders.

Editor.

* * *

VISIT BY MRS. SUE NISBET: Sue, whose husband is Major David Nisbet, U.K. Chairman, visited Australia in July.

After spending three weeks with her sister at Calbar west of Brisbane, Queensland, Sue flew the 1,600 km south to Melbourne on Saturday, July 29 to spend several days with Australian Branch President Ian Nisbet and his wife Joy. The afternoon was spent on a tour of Melbourne with Ian as driver/guide.

Joy arranged a social evening at her home in North Balwyn when Sue was able to meet some Australian N/N's. She was kept busy answering questions on the history of Nisbet House, the 'Ancestral Home' and The Borders. I'm sure those present who left for home at around 12 midnight came away enriched by the experience.

Elyse Classon of East Kew, Melbourne, in particular had a rewarding experience. She had taken along a photo album containing old photographs of among other things, cottages of the tenant farmers of Paxton House, Paxton, Berwick-upon-Tweed which Sue was able to identify. Nothing had apparently changed to any great extent since they were taken circa 1900. Elyse's great uncle had been a tenant farmer on the estate.

Sue and David are very interested in family history and in 1983 owned the Black Bull Hotel in Duns. They had access to Nisbet House and were able to show visitors around. Duns is only 15 miles from Berwick-upon-Tweed which is reached after a four hours train journey from London.

After her stay in Melbourne Sue returned to Calbar, Queensland, for a further two weeks, then left to rejoin her husband who is with the Military Garrison in the Sultanate of Oman which is separated from Iran by the Straits of Homuz.

It certainly is a small world: As the plane was approaching Brisbane, Sue and her neighbour made themselves known to each other. Her travelling companion was none other than society member, Mona Mountier of Wynnum, Queensland. On learning that Sue was a Nisbet, Mona mentioned the N/N Society and discovered Sue's identity. Mona will now have her 'Green Umbrella' returned. She had attended the Naval Club Evening in London on May 14, 1987 and left her umbrella there. It will be returned in a few months when Sue's daughter will visit Australia. It had apparently ended up in Sue's car.

* * *

DONATION: Colin Nesbit of Pascoe Vale, Victoria has made a donation to the society of a Canon microfiche reader, and on behalf of the executive and members I thank Colin for his generosity. Members are no doubt quite familiar with the names of Dot and Colin whose numerous contributions to the newsletter have appeared from time to time. Maybe there are other generous persons out there who would consider a donation of, say, the BDM indexes of Victoria, N.S.W., S.A., Tas. or W.A.? We have the convict and BDM indexes for Queensland and rely on members for searches in other states. **Editor.**

SOCIETY NEWS

NOTICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 27th October, 1989, at 26 Walnut Road, North Balwyn, Victoria, commencing at 8 p.m.

The business will include:

- * A report from the Executive.
- * The Financial Report for the Year Ended 31st August, 1989.
- * Election of Office Bearers.
- * Fixation of the Annual Subscription for 1990.
(The Executive recommends that the Annual Subscription continue at \$12)
- * Guest Speaker: Wing Commander Franklin-Jones (retired) will talk on 'Introduction of Heraldry' with slides to illustrate presentation.

Members who are unable to attend are invited to send relevant comments or suggestions regarding the society to the executive.

R.S.V.P. 23/10/1989 Joy Nisbet 857 5498
Lesley Nisbet 862 2258.

Ian M. Nisbet.

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THE FIRST COUNTRY GATHERING
AT
THE CASTLEMAINE BOTANIC GARDENS
September 30 - October 1, 1989



Front row, L - R: Mary and Lynette Gane, Louise O'Brien, Merryn & Lauren Nisbet, Thomas, Anna & Lesley Nisbet, Gary Nisbet.
Rear Group, L - R: Ian & Lorna O'Brien, Ronald Gane, Ian M. Nisbet, Bruce Nesbit, Hazel Batterham, Marie Foley, Frank Batterham, Janice Nesbit, Jack Foley, Beryl Nesbitt, Peter Nesbitt. Pearl Nisbet, Eric Nesbitt, Jean Nesbitt, John E. Nesbit, Philip Nisbet, Peggy Shannon & Ian G. Nisbet. Pearl & Stan Nesbit from Castlemaine unfortunately were not present for the photograph.

Despite competition from the Victorian Football League Grand Final, and the fact that the event coincided with school holidays, thirty N/N's from N.S.W., the A.C.T. and Victoria began arriving at the gardens from about 10 a.m. Saturday to receive a welcoming cup of tea, coffee or champagne with/without orange juice. Forty three members sent their apologies. Many from interstate.

Following a roll call and a welcoming address by the president, the youngest, oldest and farthest travelled received a prize of 'Castlemaine Rock', a locally made and famous confection. Members mingled and got to know each other.

After a picnic lunch and a group photograph, winners in the BOAR'N Games were awarded for their efforts in gumboot throwing, quoits and the potato relay race, with the gold of 'Castlemaine Rock'.

The afternoon finished with the presentation of the Alexander Nesbitt Memorial Trophy, named in honour of the first (as far as we can determine) emigrant ancestor of an N/N Society member to grace the shores of this fair country. The plaque was awarded to the member whose I.D. was drawn from a hat. A little about Alexander:

Alexander Nesbitt was a baker's boy from Maynooth, Ireland, about 20 km west of Dublin. He was charged with soap stealing (unable to make a clean getaway) and was tried on 14 July 1836. No doubt he used the family motto 'I Byd (Buyed) It' in defence of the charge.

However, he hadn't and so was convicted and sentenced to 7 years transportation. Thus, at the age of just 15 years, Alexander arrived in NSW in 1837 aboard the ship John II. (Three of our members are descendants of Alexander).

The trophy consists of two parts; the perpetual part, a plaque with the inscription 'Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Australia' above the centrally located logo; underneath, the inscription 'Alexander Nesbitt Memorial Trophy', 'Arrived N.S.W. 1837 aboard John II'. The non perpetual part, a cake of soap with the N/N logo which can be used at the discretion of the winner, however the perpetual part must be given pride-of-place in the home and then brought (or sent) to the next gathering for presentation.

The inevitable raffle was conducted; Frank Batterham won the Johnny Walker Whisky and Merryn Nisbet the Pewter Potpourri.

Seventeen N/N's dined that night at the Ellimatta restaurant and had the choice of French or Australian cuisine. And for those who were still energetic there was a bus tour on Sunday morning of historic Castlemaine and its bygone era as a gold mining town, conducted by the Castlemaine Historical Society.

In all an enjoyable and hectic first country gathering. Well done Ian M., Gary and Bruce.

Ian G. Nisbet & Dr. Ian T. Nisbet

Note: Ian G. Nisbet forgot to tell who won the Trophy - he was the lucky one!

Editor.

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FIRESIDE CHAT: A small group of members gathered at the home of Ian and Joy Nisbet on Saturday, August 19 for a Fireside Chat. Copious quantities of coffee and chatter continued to flow until after midnight. Amongst those present was Robert Linford, who had made the trip from our National Capital, Canberra, A.C.T.

The warmth of the fire was matched only by the clan fellowship.

FEATURE ARTICLE

(This section is reserved for full length articles of general interest)

NESBIT, (EDWARD) PARIS(S) 1852-1927:

The following is from the Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol. II. We are sure you will find this brief biography of a truly talented man interesting.

Edward Paris(s) Nesbit, was born on the 8th of August 1852 at Angaston, South Australia, second son of Edward Planta Nesbit, schoolmaster, author and land agent, and his first wife Ann (d. 1854), nee Pariss. Edward Pariss Nesbit received the name of his deceased elder brother; in 1896 he changed it to Paris. Edith Nesbit, the English writer of children's books, was a cousin.

A prodigy, Nesbit mastered German, French and Latin, and read Shakespeare and the major poets by the age of 10. By then he had translated Goethe and Schiller into English (eventually published as 'Translations from German Poets, 1911)', and studied music under Carl Linger. Educated at Rev. G. Rechner's school at Light's Pass and M.P.F. Basedow's Grammar School, Tanunda. At 13 Nesbit topped the colony's scholarship examinations. He worked briefly in a bank.

In 1868 he was articled to Rupert Ingleby (senior) Q.C. With C.C. Kingston, Nesbit formed the Articled Clerk's (later Law Student's) Debating Society; he was active in Rev. James Jefferis's North Adelaide Young Men's Society, whose journals, 'Electic' and 'Young Men's Magazine', he edited. He was athletic, developed progressive ideas for social reform and, an Anglican,

became disillusioned with Christian conservatism.

Nesbit was admitted to the Bar in 1873 and proved a witty, versatile, and skilled counsel in both civil and criminal jurisdictions. He constantly took snuff in court. He drafted many complex parliamentary laws, including the Succession Duties Act (1885), Real Property Act (1886) and the Insolvency Act (1886), later incorporated in the Federal Bankruptcy Act. He prepared amendments to the Crown Lands Act while in Parkside Lunatic Asylum in 1898. In 1903 he had been appointed Q.C. and for thirty years, with Sir Josiah Symon was widely acknowledged as joint leader of the Bar. On 9 December 1874 at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Adelaide, Nesbit had married Ellen Logue; three sons survived infancy.

In 1884 Nesbit campaigned unsuccessfully for election to the House of Assembly seat of East Adelaide. He was well versed in, though not fully convinced by the land nationalization theories of Henry George; and he became a proponent of Federation. He was a free-thinker and belonged to the Dual Club, the Adelaide Philosophical Society, the Adelaide Democratic Club, the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Australian Natives' Association of which he was Adelaide president in 1892.

At 33 the first lunacy scandal erupted. In Melbourne in 1885 he was arrested for wilful trespass after harassing a lady he loved. He was in Melbourne Gaol for a week, certified as a lunatic, and sent to Kew Lunatic Asylum Melbourne. Released after several months and put on a steamer for Adelaide, Nesbit jumped overboard, swam back to Melbourne and the lady, and was again committed.

Adelaide gossiped about this 'absinthe-drinking, woman-loving, tobacco-enslaved... Prince of Bohemia'. His estranged wife was the daughter of a substantial local brewer and the scandal precluded a political career. In his pamphlet, 'Lunacy Laws and Procedure in Victoria (1896)' Nesbit commented: 'to a mad doctor I was mad in 1885, and, thank God, am mad still'.

In 1896 he was again confined, in the Adelaide Lunatic Asylum, emerging determined to gain parliamentary office and amend the lunacy laws. He campaigned unsuccessfully for Barossa that year and in 1905, once urging voters to 'thrust Kingston's great, fat, unwieldy, despotic carcass' onto the Opposition benches.

Nesbit, who thought himself 'patient and long-suffering', was belligerent when depressed. He was again certified in 1898 and was in Parkside Lunatic Asylum for most of January-July. His efforts to secure release were thwarted by the Kingston government's illegal detention order. Eventually the Supreme Court overruled the government and freed him. That year he published 'The Beaten Side', a repudiation of Darwinism that saw four editions.

In August 1900 Nesbit launched, and initially edited, a weekly newspaper, 'Morning', which proved very popular. It defamed Kingston and publicized Nesbit's views favouring social reform, divorce law reform, legal aid for the poor, decriminalization of drunkenness, equal employment opportunity, and other far-sighted changes. In 1902 a successor, 'Morning Star', featured erotic verses, allegedly by anonymous poetesses, addressed 'to Paris'; he was handsome, exceptionally tall, with leonine hair and a grandiloquent, charming manner.

In 1906 Nesbit narrowly failed to gain United Labour Party preselection to enter Federal parliament. He resigned from the U.L.P. and helped to lead the Liberal and Democratic Union into the Amalgamated Liberal Union; however the party's conservatism alienated him and in 1910 he stood, again unsuccessfully, as an Independent for a Federal seat.

At 63 he was again certified, and briefly incarcerated, after offending public sexual decency. As usual, he issued writs and prosecutions against doctors and police who had restrained him, claiming that 'the administration of the Lunacy Act is a seething mass of filthy stinking corruption'.

Nesbit's emotional instability prevented him from realizing his full promise. After his wife's death on 16 February 1921, he married, on 22nd February, a divorcee, actress and his 'wife' of many years, Cecilia Elizabeth

Hughes. He suffered increasingly from melancholia and died of a perforated duodenal ulcer on 31 March 1927. He was cremated and his estate was sworn for probate at 400 pounds. The Art Gallery of South Australia holds a portrait by John Longstaff and another by Septimus Power is held privately. (For more on Paris Nesbitt K.C. please see Newsletter No. 11 page 6).

WANTED

(Members' Searches)

NESBITT, John b. c1840 near Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, son of William and Catherine Nesbitt (nee Farrell). Emig. to Victoria, m. at Carisbrook 1865, Mary, daughter of Thomas and Bridget Sexton (nee Egan) from Co. Clare, d. 1904. Miner at Majorca and Maryborough, Victoria. Son, John Michael Nesbitt, b. 1867, married Anna Sophia Maria Zinnecker, Victoria, 1891. It is believed that John Nesbitt was related to Patrick Nesbitt convict, sentenced at Cork, Ireland, 1798 and arrived at N.S.W. on 30 October 1802 on 'Atlas'. Contact Jack Nesbitt, 4 Government Rd., Paynesville, Victoria, 3880.

Editorial note: We wish Jack the best of luck with his search. Should he be successful the society will then provide another trophy.

FOUND

Jean Nesbitt, who died 26/7/1892 at Bookham, N.S.W.

Mathew Armour, b. 9/9/1801, Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland (parents, Alexander Armour and Allison Fauls) arrived in Sydney, N.S.W. Australia 28/8/1841 on H.M.S. Percy, d. 17/8/1880, "Talmo", Bookham, N.S.W.

Mathew Armour m. Jean Nesbitt c1823 at Fenwick, Scotland. She died at Bookham, N.S.W. on 26/7/1892.

From the book: "Pioneers of The Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and County King, pre 1860" by Young & District Family History Group Inc.

Maybe a member in the U.K. branch will find a 'link'.

Material supplied by Dot and Colin Nesbit of Pascoe Vale, Victoria, Australia.

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While recently researching Victorian BDM's for Smiths (nee Nisbet) I came across the following entries.

DEATHS:

1862 No 00786 SMITH Ann, parents - Nesbitt Joseph, unkn. Eliz. 30, Derr.

1867 No 04269 SMITH James, parents - William, Nesbett Ann, 7, Cast.

Would anybody like to claim them? Please let us know so we can gauge our indirect assistance by your feedback.

Gary R. Nisbet.

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Mr. Nesbitt was an early Neerim resident and a successful breeder of greyhounds. In World War 1 Mr. and Mrs. Nesbitt had four sons in the army and the youngest Teale (Teele) was killed aged 16 years.

The children: John, Ronald, Albert, Evelyn, Lance, Adelaide, Mark and Teale.

From the book 'The History of Neerim' by Dorothy Hunt; material supplied by Dot and Colin Nesbit.

Editorial note: The full names of the parents do not appear in the book but on consulting our N/N BDMs the births of all but Albert were located and an additional birth, George Alexander b. 1910 was found. The parents were William Robert Nesbitt and Adelaide Matilda Elizabeth Willis Teele.

* * *

Mrs. Dot Nesbit of Pascoe Vale, Victoria came across a brief reference to a Mrs. Rachael Nesbitt in the book "A History of Neerim" by Dorothy Hunt. It is possible that this scant information may help a member complete a link with an ancestor.

Mrs. Rachael Burnside of Neerim, Victoria, was the granddaughter of Mrs. Rachael Nesbitt, maiden name not known. The period, mid 1800s.

TRIVIA

JAPANESE PIPE BAND: The Tokyo Pipe Band, which was formed in 1975 and now has a membership of fifty with some fifteen playing pipers, competed in the 1989 Hong Kong Pipe Band Championships and gained first place. From the Australasian Highlander - June 1989 and carried in The Scots Link. P.O. Box 135, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205.

.....NOTICEBOARD.....		
(Upcoming Events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)		
1989	Oct.27	Annual General Meeting.
"	Nov. 9	Executive Meeting.
"	Dec. 2	Christmas Gathering.
1990	Jan.	Newsletter No. 14.
"	Feb.	Family Gathering.
"	Apr.	Newsletter No. 15.
"	Aug.	Social Function.

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT Ian M. Nisbet, A.M., 26 Walnut Road, Nth. Balwyn, 3104, Vic., Aust.
SECRETARY Ian G. Nisbet, 1 St. Johns Parade, Kew, 3101, Vic., Aust.
TREASURER Peter Watson, 30 Mitchell Road, Box Hill North, 3129, Vic., Aust.
EDITOR/ARCHIVIST Bruce Nesbit, P.O. Box 84 Bundoora, 3083, Vic., Aust.
BOARD MEMBERS Dr. Ian T. Nisbet, Gavin M. Nisbet, Lyndell Watson, Gary R. Nisbet, Karen Nisbet.

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Bruce Nesbit, Dr. Ian T. Nisbet, Gary R. Nisbet, Karen E. Nisbet.

EDUCATION/INFORMATION COMMITTEE:

Heather Ames, Ian G. Nisbet, Gary R. Nisbet.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

Joy Nisbet, Gwen Marsham, Heather Ames, Lyndell Watson, Merryn Nisbet, Lesley Nisbet, Elyse Classon, Diana Dimattina, Barbara Leslie, Helen Nesbit.

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The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society