

NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER NO. 16.

JULY 1990

STARTING POINT

(Latest News and Views from the Editorial Staff)

MISSPELLING OF THE FAMILY NAME: Many members will by now have read the intriguing family history described in Robert V. Nisbett's monograph. One interesting aspect was the circumstances surrounding the additional 't' being added to the surname of his family line. As addressed in previous newsletters, the various spellings and misspellings of the N/N surnames are part of the rich N/N family heritage. I was reminded of this heritage (yet again) when my family and I recently applied for Australian passports for an upcoming overseas trip. Despite us carefully filling in all the forms and providing birth certificates, the Passport Office still managed to muck things up. When the passports arrived, my wife and daughters were listed as 'Nisbet' whilst I was listed as 'Nisbett'.

Some things never change!

Dr. Ian T. Nisbet.

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

(Snippets of General Interest from the Editorial Staff)

CONVICT DATA BASE: The Port Arthur Historic Site Authority in Tasmania has developed a data base listing the names of 60,000 convicts transported to Australia. This corresponds to almost a third of the total number of convicts transported. Most of the listings were a gift to Australia from the Irish Government for the 1988 bicentennial (see N/L No. 10). A further 20,000 names were provided by Steven Nicholas, author of 'The Convict Worker'. The listings detail the crimes and sentences of the transported men and women, together with a personal description. Visitors to Port Arthur are able to see the data base for personal research; the charge being included in the \$7.50 entry fee to the Port Arthur site. What a truly awe-inspiring environment in which to carry out family history research!

Article adapted from 'The Melbourne Sun' May 11, 1990.

Dr. Ian T. Nisbet.

* * *

OUR FIRST MONOGRAPH: From all reports - and we've received many - our first monograph by Robert V. Nisbett, was well received. Robert wrote that he was very pleased with the way it was presented and complimented the editorial staff, especially Gary Nisbet, who edited the material.

It was our first venture into the field of publishing such a booklet and we hope to improve as we go along. Our next, with a naval background, should be in the hands of our members by September at the latest. We are sure it will be well received.

* * *

EVELYN NESBIT, U.S. MODEL & SHOWGIRL EARLY 1900'S: Evelyn Nesbit was a New York showgirl circa 1900-1910. In 1901, at the age of 16 and while performing

in the Ziegfield Flora Dora chorus, Evelyn met Stanford White. White, a leading architect, had already built the Century, Players and Metropolitan clubs in New York, as well as Madison Square Garden.

Stanford White seduced the young (and even younger looking) Evelyn Nesbit. Harry Thaw, a millionaire who was jealous of White on various other grounds, also admired Evelyn and eventually married her in 1905. Thaw's resentment of White grew and he eventually shot White dead 14 months later in the Madison Square Gardens Restaurant. The story was later enacted in the film, "The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing".

Note: Andy Wahol's Diaries, April 16, 1980 quotes from an interview with Nastassja Kinski who had been offered "the best movie role" by Milos Forman --- that of Evelyn Nesbit coming down the stairs naked in 'Ragtime'. Wahol did not have the heart to tell Nastassja that this was Milos's "line". Edited from material by Evelyn Clark (Nesbit), Eden Hills, South Australia, from:

"The World's Greatest Eccentrics" by Jay Robert Nash.

The Dictionary of America's Biography.

Andy Wahol Diaries as carried by Australian Woman's Day.

Gary R. Nisbet.

SOCIETY NEWS

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SAMX TROPER: Ed. is still reeling from the SAMX festivities which was enjoyed by 25 N/N members on Saturday June 23 at the home of Ian and Joy Nisbet, with 18 apologies noted.

The warmth of the open fire set the atmosphere for the festivities which began with a drink or two, some hor d'ouvres and savouries. A SAMX nob-nob ensured that the battle to lose those extra kilos of SAMX alter ego (XMAS) weight would continue to be a year round effort. The prize offered (a box of liquer chocolates) was won and readily accepted by Peter Watson.

A raffle with a twist was then set in motion. It was stressed that 112 tickets had the chance to share in a prize pool potentially in excess of \$750,000. President Ian M. Nisbet confused all with his oration of the rules, which he was promptly requested, not only to repeat, but also clarify. Upon appointment of various officials, the draw began.

The last 30 numbers to be drawn formed the basis for the OTTOLSTTAT draw. Confusion reigned.

The prizes were:

13th ticket drawn	- a bottle of Scotch	Helen Nesbit
25th " "	- wreath of dried flowers	Catherine Nisbet
50th " "	- basket with dried flowers	Holly Ames
75th " "	- \$250,000 scratch ticket	Betty Dimattina
91st " "	- \$250,000 scratch ticket	Merryn Nisbet
111th " "	- \$250,000 scratch ticket	Elyse Classon
112th ticket drawn	- Standard Camelia	Helen Nesbit

The Ottolsttat prize of \$24 was shared by four; each person having selected three numbers. They were Alan Ames, Gwenda Nisbet, Lyndell Watson and Mary Cameron.

A superb SAMX supper complete with SAMX pudding, again so beautifully prepared and presented by the Social Committee, was partaken.

Proceeds of the evening (\$181), are to be principally directed to the monograph publishing fund.

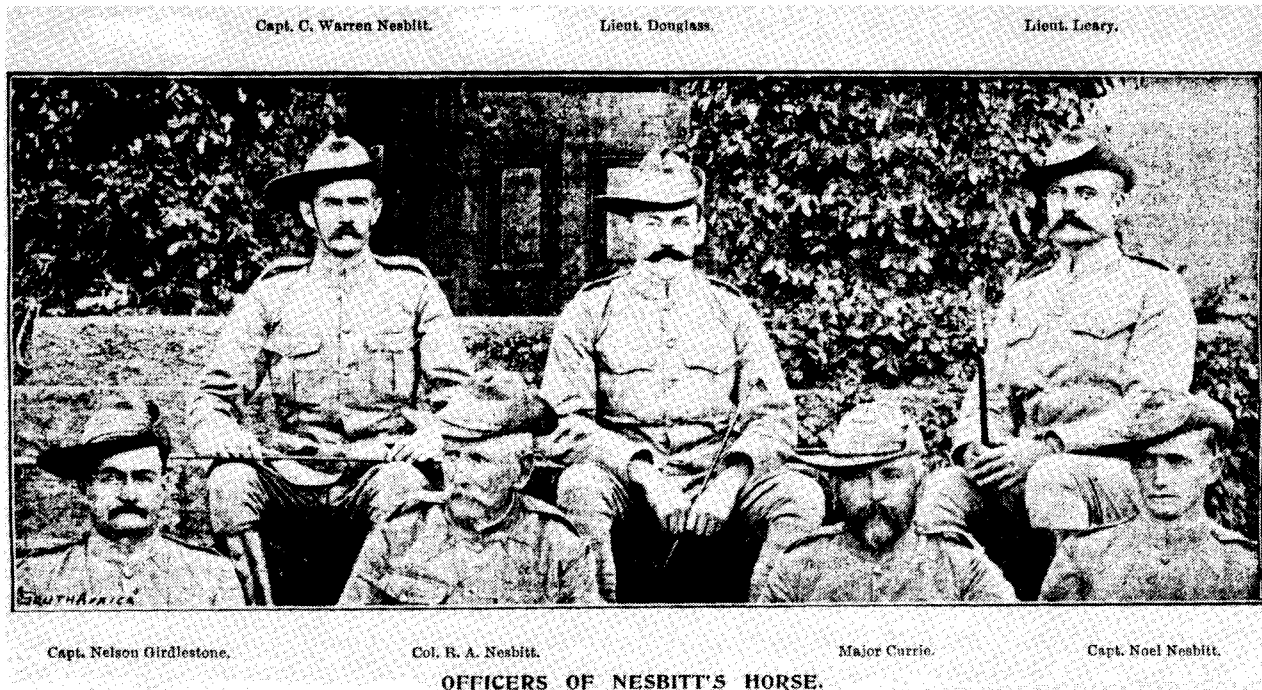
The evening is definitely not to be missed should the silliest of seasons again come around. John Classon will be pleased to note that blue raffle tickets WILL be used next time (Note gender of prize winners).

Gary R. Nisbet.

FEATURE ARTICLE

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

BOARS OF THE BOER



The above photograph of the officers of Nesbitt's Horse was amongst papers belonging to the father of Elyse Classon (nee Nesbit) and was passed on to our editor, who contacted the Australian Archives. On their advice he wrote to the South African National Museum of Military History. They courteously supplied information from various sources, not only relating directly to members of Nesbitt's Horse, but also to other Nesbitts which happen to be descendants of several officers in the photograph. The following is a compilation of that information. Unfortunately the sources differ in point on several instances, as indicated by asterisks.

NESBITT'S LIGHT HORSE: Two European contingents raised by Lt. Col. R.A.N. Nesbitt (*), the date of acceptance for the first was October 24, 1880. The second was raised in the Midlands of the Cape in March 1881. The quality of many of the recruits in the second contingent was very indifferent. Strength 366.

(*) a) Major, later Lt. Col. and eventually Colonel.

b) Also described as Richard Athol Nesbitt and Charles Alexander Nesbitt. The Dictionary of S.A. Biography Vol. V., Who's Who 1914 and Nisbet of that ilk refer to Major C.A. Nesbitt whilst all other references refer to Major R.A.(N) Nesbitt. It would appear by given details, personal history and offspring that they are in fact the same person.

NESBITT'S IRREGULAR HORSE: This corps was raised by Lt. Col. Nesbitt for the Basutoland Rebellion of 1880. Date of acceptance for service was January 20, 1881. Strength of 32 coloured men.

NESBITT'S HORSE: This corps was raised in the Eastern Province of the cape in 1889 with a strength of 400 (***) by Lt. Col. Nesbitt. They served with the Colonial Division in practically all theatres of the South African War, except Natal. The flash was oblong, black and gold and the initials were worn on hat and epaulettes.

(***) Also described as a corps of about 300, raised in the eastern portion of Cape Colony in December 1899 by Colonel Nesbitt.

The strength of this corps varied throughout the course of the campaign, being a maximum of about 5 squadrons and little more than a squadron when peace came.

Part of the corps accompanied Lord Roberts in the great fighting march from Modder River to Bloemfontein as part of the 2nd Brigade of Mounted Infantry, and were generally attached to the 7th Division under General Tucker. The strength on arrival at Bloemfontein was officially stated as 8 officers, 119 men and 136 horses. Very few corps were so well supplied with horses.

Nesbitt's Horse then did scouting for the 7th Division on the advance from Bloemfontein to Pretoria which was at times hard, continuous and responsible work, including several encounters of sharp fighting. They later served in the south of the Orange River Colony.

Among the troops employed on the Lower Orange and Prieska was one squadron of Nesbitt's Horse which executed much hard patrol work for over one year.

During the second phase of the war, Nesbitt's Horse was employed in Cape Colony. For a great part of 1901 a portion of the corps was in the western district where their fine scouting often prevented loss. Another portion worked in the central district of the colony and the corps remained in the field to the end.

Members of Nesbitt's Horse mentioned in Lord Robert's despatches were:

Lt. Col. R.A. Nesbitt C.B.	Major Currie C.M.G.
Capt. C.W. Nesbitt D.S.O.	Trooper F. Hill.
Trooper Hiscock D.C.M.	Trooper L.F. Brown.

INFORMATION BEYOND NESBITT'S HORSE:

Colonel Richard Athol Nesbitt C.B. (b. circa 1838).

At the age of 14 he was a survivor of the wreck of the steamer HMS Birkenhead which was shipwrecked at Danger Point in 1852 en route to Algoa Bay. His mother was shown as Mrs Nisbett on the list of survivors. Both he and his brother were aboard (presumably accounted for amongst the 13 children indicated as survivors).

Capt. Charles Warren Nesbitt D.S.O. (b. 1866).

Son of Lt. Col. Nesbitt. Served with Nesbitt's Horse in South Africa during the second Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902 (receiving D.S.O. in 1900). Later served in the European War in 1914 with the 1st Kimberley Regiment; German South West Africa to June 1915; Transport and Remount 1916; transferred to S.A.N.L. Corps, France to 1918 and transferred to E.A.S Corps 1918-Sept. 1919.

He married Josephine Niewhout and between active service was compound manager at Jagersfontein diamond mine.

Colonel Nesbitt was a veteran African campaigner, formerly of the Frontier Armed and Mounted Police and Cape Mounted Riflemen. He served in the Basutoland, 1881-1882 (severely wounded) and South Africa, 1900-1901 (receiving C.B. in 1900). In 1861 he married Fanny Amelia, the daughter of J.M. Thornhill.

Major Randolph Cosby Nesbitt V.C. (1867-1956)

He was the fourth son of Major Nesbitt (later Col. Nesbitt). He was a trooper with the Cape Mounted Riflemen 1885-1889, then with the British South Africa Police 1890-1893 (serving with the Pioneer Column in Mashonaland with 7 other Nesbitts). He served with the Mashonaland Police 1893-1899, earning the V.C. for bravery in 1896. He served briefly in the second Boer War (1899-1902) as a commander of a British South African Police Squadron and resigned from the police in 1909 to become a Native Commissioner with the South Rhodesian Civil Service.

He was married to Mary Susan Sanders in Rhodesia and later Ellen Doherty of Northern Ireland.

His awards included; V.C., B.S.A. Company Medal and Queens South Africa Medal (clasps for Rhodesia, Mafeking and Transvaal).

Capt. Noel Nesbitt.

Served with Nesbitt's Horse and was severely wounded on 9th August 1900 at Mafaisburg.

Major Murrough De Burgh Nesbitt (1898-1959)

Son of Capt. C.W. Nesbitt. He was an author and a pioneer of cripple rehabilitation, having lost both legs at the age of 13 when he fell under a moving truck at the Jagersfontein diamond mine. An account of his self rehabilitation, 'The Road to Avalon' established a South African printing record. He was involved in setting up several centres for the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. He married Frida Anna Rothmann and they had a daughter Margaret Ann Nesbitt.

Assuming Major/Lt. Col./Col. R.A. Nesbitt and C.A. Nesbitt to be the same person, then Capt. Charles Warren Nesbitt D.S.O. and Major Randolph Cosby Nesbitt V.C. were in fact brothers as stated in Nisbet of That Ilk.

SOURCES:

The Armed Forces of South Africa	Major G. Tylden
The Colonials in South Africa	John Stirling
The Story of the Birkenhead	A.C. Addison
For Valour (The History of South African V.C. Heroes)	Ian S. Uys
Dictionary of South African Biography, Vols IV & V	
Who's Who 1914	
Who's Who 1928	
Who Was Who 1897-1916	
Nisbet of That Ilk	R.C. Nesbitt Gary R. Nisbet.

Editorial note:

Many thanks to Lt. Col. William Nesbitt (U.K. Newsletter Editor) whose letter containing additional information arrived in time for Gary Nisbet to rework this article.

WANTED

(Members' Searches)

375A

NESBIT Pre 1780, Lecanlahane, Tipperary, Ireland.

Contact: J. Stone, 24 Manuka Dr., Warrnambool, Vic. 3280, Australia.

NESBIT Circa 1800, County Down, Ireland.

Contact: Miss R. Draper, 2/6 Vista Crt., Greenwich, N.S.W. 2065, Australia.

NESBIT 1840's, Muirkirk, Ayr, Scotland.

Contact: Ms B. Thomsen, 5/8 Cumming St., West Brunswick, Vic. 3055, Australia.

NESBIT 1800, Gateshead, County Durham, England.

1800, Newcastle, Northumberland, England.

Circa 1700, Harbottle, Alwinton, & Elsdon, Northumberland, England.

Contact: Mr A.B. Nesbit, 6 Kent Crt., Bundoora, Vic. 3083, Australia.

NESBITT 1850+, Albany, Western Australia.

Contact: Mr K. Uhe, 27 Kimberley Way, Parkwood, W.A. 6155, Australia.

NESBITT All dates, Andelusia, Spain.

Contact: Mrs S. Walker, 50 Binalong Rd., Toongabbie, N.S.W. 2164, Australia.

NESBITT Pre 1800, Mullyash, Monaghan, Ireland.

Contact: Mrs M. Hamilton, 6 Garnet Ave., Hamilton, New Zealand.

NESBITT 1820-1840, Maynooth, Dublin, Ireland.

Contact: Mrs J. Cockbill, Kirribilli Rd., New Gisborne, Vic. 3438, Australia.

NESBITT Pre 1840, Loudon, Ayr, Scotland.

Contact: Miss B. Lemon, 28 Bega St., Tathra, N.S.W. 2550, Australia.

NESBITT: 1840+, Brantford, Ontario, Canada.

Contact: Mr A. McDonnell, 2101 44 Ave., Vernon, BC V1T 3L9, Canada.

NESBITT: Pre 1850, County Down, Ireland.

Contact: Mrs M. Wallace, RR2, Mount Hope, Ontario, LOR 1W0, Canada.

NISBET: All dates, Shetland, Scotland.

Contact: Mrs I. Hall, 22122 Pickford, Detroit, MI 48219 USA.

NISBET 1868+, South Australia, Western Australia & Tasmania.

Contact: Mrs P. Letch, P.O. Box 296, Busselton, W.A. 6280, Australia.

NISBET 1800+, Ayr, Scotland.

Contact: Ms L. Hawkins, 60 Wonga Roo Rd., Gulgong, N.S.W. 2852, Australia.

NISBET Pre 1872, Lasswade, Mid Lothian, Scotland.

Contact: Mrs J. Hugo, 52 Lightfoot St., Cessnock, N.S.W. 2325, Australia.

NISBET Circa 1762, Kilsyth, Stirling, Scotland.

Contact: Miss J Clarke, P.O. Box 25-144, St Heliers. Auckland 5, New Zealand.

NISBETT 1865, Monoghan, Scotland.

Contact: Mrs A. Gayton, 14 Elm Gr., Richmond, Vic. 3121, Australia.

From the Genealogical Research Directory, National & International (1990)
by Keith A. Johnson and Malcom R. Sainty, 17 Mitchell St., P.O. Box 795, Nth
Sydney, N.S.W. 2060, Australia.

FOUND

WHOSE ANCESTOR: NISBET(T) John, (jockey). From the Cairns Post, Friday July 14, 1989. "The President of the A.C.T. Racing Club, Dougal Stewart, along with trainers Frank Cleary and John Morrissy, jockey John Nisbett, race caller Tony Campbell and many others will be jetting into town for the Cairns Cup.

John Nesbit, well known for his riding ability in N.S.W. and the A.C.T. will be a handy acquisition for any galloper."

Material by Bruce M. Nesbit, Marti Street, Bayview Heights, Cairns, Qld.

Bruce, who is a computer programmer with the Far North Queensland Electricity Board (FNQEB) is a regular contributor of articles for our newsletter and is also a bit of a skite. Enclosed with the cutting quoted above was one from a Brisbane newspaper which gives the FNQEB a plug. Briefly it says that the Board, with a staff of 450 and 60,000 customers, services an area six times the size of Victoria. No mean feat!

The FNQEB began the installation of a \$4,000,000 Unisys computer system in October last. For those who are into computers, it comprises a Unisys 7000/50 computer with 16 megabytes of main memory, 3 gigabytes of disk storage, 83 PW2500/12 personal computers, 24 UVT terminals and 7 Apollo workstations (And hopefully no virus).

* * *

N/N ENTRIES IN THE MARRIAGE REGISTER OF ST PAULS, BENDIGO, VICTORIA:

Thomas Mayer m. 30 Mar. 1877, Annie Nesbitt (aged 20) daughter of Archibald Nesbitt & Johanna Mueller.

James Newell m. 20 Apr. 1881, Mary Nesbit Hall Barr, daughter of Andrew Barr & Mary Nesbit.

Andrew Seimers m. 12 Mar. 1884, Mary McQuade, daughter of Peter McQuade & Jane Nesbit.

Thomas Canning (aged 32) engine driver, Victorian Railways, b. Bendigo, son of John Moore Canning & Esther Mabel Nisbett, m. 13 Apr. 1893, Esther Theresa Hanna. (This may not be correct).

William Whitney m. 27 Apr. 1898, Jane Edge, daughter of Thomas Edge & Anne Nesbit.

Material supplied by Eric Tetlow of 4 Kent Court, Bundoora, Victoria.

* * *

GALLIPOLI - THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HONOUR ROLL

TELL EL KEBIR WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY

2736 Pte. NISBET, James
Majorca, Victoria.

58th Battalion,

LONE PINE CEMETERY, HELLES

2495 Pte. NESBITT, Thomas John 24th Battalion, Riddells Creek, Victoria.

LONE PINE MEMORIAL, GALLIPOLI

26 Sgt. NESBITT, Thomas Hudson 5th Battalion.

ISMAILIA WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY

2916 Pte. NESBITT, R.W.T. 16th Battalion. (A W.A. Battalion ?)

A search of the "Honour Roll" published in the Melbourne Age of April 20, 1990 under the heading "Gallipoli * The 75th Anniversary" revealed the brief particulars of the N/N's listed above.

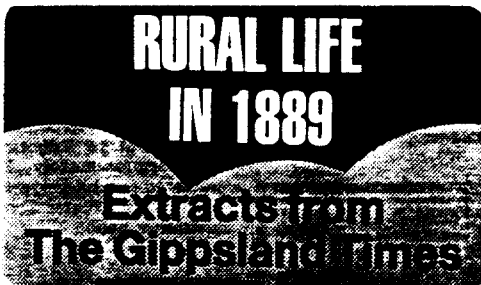
We are pleased to have found a link between Private James Nisbet of the 58th Btn. with two N/N Society members; Mr. Kim F. Nisbet of Marsden, Queensland and Kim's mother, Mrs. Lynnette M. Nisbet (nee Ferguson) of Sandringham, Victoria. Private James Nisbet was born in 1889 at Majorca, a small township to the south east of Maryborough, Victoria. He was the uncle of Lynnette's late husband, Charles Nisbet.

A search of the N.S.W. index shows a Thomas H. Nesbitt, b. 1879, (cert no. 2619) parents Thomas and Jane Nesbitt; but whether or not he is Thomas Hudson Nesbitt of the 5th Btn., we do not know.

No entry of birth was found for Thomas John Nesbitt 24th Btn of Riddells Creek, Victoria or R.W.T. Nesbitt of the 16th Btn.

A purpose of the society is to preserve for posterity this type of memorabilia. So please, if members are able to assist further, please send your informtion to the Editor/ Archivist.

* * *



HAWKER'S licences have been granted at the Sale Court to Arthur Nesbit and James Chinnin.

Humble beginnings no doubt, but who is to know how those ventures fared. I recall, as a young man, my parents saying that Myer in Bourke Street, Melbourne, with branches in all states and in most suburban shopping complexes (Melbourne particularly) had started from such a beginning. As I remember the facts which have been verified by Colin Nesbit (another Bendigonian) the man who started what is now the Myer Emporium, pushed a barrow around the streets of Bendigo in the early days of this century and the first Myer store was opened in Bendigo.

Australia was certainly a 'Land of opportunity'!
Material by Glenys Ralls of Trafalgar, Victoria.

Editor.

BIRTH

Congratulations to Peter and Gail Nesbit (Rawson) who proudly announce the safe arrival of Nicole Justine. Nicole arrived on April 6, and with Christopher, makes a pigeon pair and the sixth grandchild of Colin and Dot Nesbit.

BIRTHDAY

Miss Gertrude (Gertie) Nesbitt, Hon. society member, whose 107th birthday was reported in N/L 12, July 1989, celebrated her 108th birthday on July 3rd.

Staff at the Nursing Home, said "despite never having married and having virtually no family in Australia, Gertie is never without friends". When asked the loyliest memory of her childhood, she replied "my parents, they were good parents", and "there's no secret to a long life, it's God's will".

The society was represented by President Ian M. Nisbet, his wife Joy and, Bruce and Helen Nesbit.

STOP PRESS

HIRSEL GATHERING SATURDAY MAY 26: In a letter which accompanied the U.K. Newsletter, Vol. VII No. 2. Spring 1990, Peter Nisbet (U.K. Treasurer) said that a report of the gathering was not, at that time prepared. He then went on to say "we had Raymond Nisbet Rolinson with us, with his wife Joan. They come from New Zealand, although I believe they are members of your society in Australia. They are very nice people and I'm sure they enjoyed themselves too!"

Editorial note: Ray Rolinson, a member from Mosman, N.S.W. who recently moved to England, is now living in London. He wrote to his friend, James E. Nisbet of Cremorne, N.S.W. and said that Lord Home was an excellent host. The participants received true royal treatment and the speakers were all first rate. James then quotes Ray Rolinson, "to sum up Jim, a great day. Met some fine folks and everyone was friendly".

.....NOTICEBOARD.....

(Upcoming Events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

1990 Aug.	Theatre Night. (Date & venue to be advised).
" Aug.30	Executive Meeting. (At residence of the president).
" Oct. 6	Annual General Meeting, with Guest Speaker.
" Oct.	Newsletter No. 17.
" Dec.	Christmas Gathering.
1991 Jan.	Newsletter No. 18.
" Mar/Apr	Country Gathering. (Possible site, Daylesford, Vic.).
" Apr.	Newsletter No. 19.

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, Graeme Nisbet,
 Lyndell Watson, 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, Catherine Nisbet.

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Brian S. Nesbitt	14 Davitt Close, Isaacs, 2607, A.C.T., Aust.
James E. Nisbet	53 Yeo Street, Cremorne, 2090, N.S.W., Aust.

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The Nesbitt Society is a Worldwide Clan Society