

THE N/NEWS

NO. 31 APRIL 1994

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

FAMILY HEROES: One of the initiatives proposed at the last AGM was the idea of a publication based upon N/N family heroes. Each of our families must contain members who we look upon as heroes; family members who through their thoughts, words or deeds should be lauded and remembered. Each of our families must also have characters who, while not really fitting the label 'hero', are the subject of many interesting stories. These are the N/N heroes that we would like members to write about. They don't have to be long articles - just a few paragraphs will do fine. In the next newsletter we hope to include an example. Unfortunately, space limitations prevented us from including one this time.

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

GEORGE NESBIT: During a search of claims and leases at the Laverton PRO, Victoria, member Colin Nesbit noted that a George Nesbit successfully applied for a lease of land for a gold mine at Inglewood, Victoria, on 19 March 1860. The lease was to work the claim off the main road on 70 ft Hill, "...to work day and night with my partners Charles Watt, Patrick Lennon and Charles Smith."

Colin Nesbit, who was born at Inglewood, said that 70 ft Hill is out on the Old Inglewood Road and he had always known it as Jersey Hill. The George Nesbit for whom Colin was searching was aged 5 years at the time, and so was obviously not this George Nesbit.

Material supplied by Colin Nesbit of Ascot Vale, Victoria.

ALEX NESBITT: An ever alert member discovered Alex Nesbitt in the book 'Remember that Heavenly Ginger Beer?' by David Sharpe, a descendent of the founder of Sharpe Brothers, the company that manufactured the product. The company was founded in Dunedin, New Zealand, in 1903 and there were branches in many Australian cities.

Alex Nesbitt appears in the photograph overpage as the driver (with manager Hall) at a Mother's Day procession in Sydney in 1924. He had, in 1921, become manager of the Goulburn, NSW, branch and still held that position in 1924. His name appears briefly on several pages and, in one instance, it is stated that at the time he was manager at Goulburn he was probably ex Sydney.

The book, which was first published in 1992, can be obtained from the author, David Sharpe, PO Box 10, Carlton North, Victoria 3054.



FAMILY NEWS

BENDIGO COUNTRY GATHERING, SATURDAY 5TH MARCH, 1994: Some 35 or so N/Ns eventually gathered at White Hills Botanical Gardens, Bendigo, to enjoy another year's fun, games and fellowship at our annual country gathering. The punctual amongst us partook a leisurely, extended lunch. Many (myself included), for a variety of reasons, were tardy gatherers.

The picturesque backdrop afforded by the gardens, complemented by the perfect picnic weather, were used to full advantage by our many photographers.

The games found many armchair highland olympians on day release, quite a few wishing for more attempts than were either planned or permitted. We finished with a demonstration sport borrowed from the indigenous clans of Australia - boomerang throwing. Due to our amateur attempts to have the boomerangs return, we were unable to demonstrate catching, but it was still well received.

Between the games and lotteries, most participants took a prize of some description, the big winner being Gavin Nisbet who holds the Alexander Nisbet Perpetual Trophy for the next 12 months. See you next year Gavin! Speaking of which, this year's gathering unfortunately saw few new faces. It was thus short on introductions, but still allowed many re-acquaintances, old friendships to be rekindled, and our 'larger family' kinship to reach ever greater strength. See you all there (where?) next year!

Article by Gary R Nisbet. Ian M Nisbet had a few extra words to add:

"You will have no doubt had a report on the Gathering in Bendigo. I have had some good feedback from people who attended as to how much they enjoyed themselves.

"A couple of points of interest which may not have been reported, was that Joy was attacked by an amorous duck. Cassie (Bruce and Helen's dog) was inclined to defend, but was restrained.

"The local content of the 'Boar N' Games was increased by the inclusion of boomerang throwing, but to the chagrin of the indigenous people, the prize was awarded to a New Zealander, much to Fred's amazement."

**Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Gathering
White Hills Botanical Gardens, Bendigo
5 March 1994**



Back row: Peter Watson, Bruce Nesbit, Robert Hull, Dot Nesbit, Philip Nisbet, Blain Todd (partly obscured), Graeme and Catherine Nisbet, Gavin Nisbet, Fred Jensen, Tom Nisbet and Frank Batterham.

Second row: Ian and Lorna O'Brien, Leeanne Nesbit, Michie Jensen, Effie Todd, Stan and Pearl Nesbit, Merryn and Gary Nisbet.

Third row: Lyndell Watson, Helen Nesbit, Prudence Hull, Joy Nisbet, John and Elyse Classon, Hazel Batterham, Pearl Nisbet and Ian M Nisbet.

Front row: Thomas Nisbet, Travis and Lauren Nisbet.

Note - Thomas is the son of Ian G and Lesley Nisbet, Travis and Lauren are the offspring of Gary and Merryn Nisbet. Colin Nesbit took this photograph and Ian G was also busy with his camera, which explains their non-appearance in the group.

UK N/N GATHERING, SATURDAY 28TH MAY 1994, EDINBURGH CASTLE: Registration forms for the UK gathering are available for any Australian N/Ns who may be planning to be in Britain around the end of May. Please contact the President, Secretary, Editor or Publications Officer if you would like a registration form. The following information is reproduced from the form for members' interest.

"We are fortunate indeed in being granted the use of this historic venue, made possible through President David's close association with the castle. The cost (*28 pounds*) includes your being well fed and watered; and after our meeting, a conducted tour of some of the castle's inner precincts. I have already received some registrations from members and if I can hear from you as soon as possible, it does considerably help the Scottish Committee with the arrangements."

Registration form and payments to be sent to :
Peter Nisbet, 7 Stafford Place, Weston-Super-Mare, Avon BS23 2QZ.
Telephone: 0934 625137 or 0934 628600.

The Wedderburn and Inglewood Express — Wednesday, February 2, 1994 — PAGE 7

A Year John Won't Forget!



BIOWORLD TODAY
March 18, 1994

Nisbet Wins European Award

AMSTERDAM — Louis Nisbet, founder and chief executive officer of Xenova Plc., a United Kingdom drug discovery company, was named Wednesday as winner of the European Biotechnology Award. It was presented at the second European Biotechnology Partnering event held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Nisbet was deemed to have made the most entrepreneurial achievement in biotechnology in Europe during the past year. In addition to pioneering creative approaches to drug discovery, Nisbet helped Xenova raise \$32.3 million in its latest round of financing. It was the largest financing ever completed in the U.S. by a European biotechnology company.



• John Nisbet receives from John Rollinson, M.H.R., Marnoo Primary School's award for community service. Among the gathering at Friday's presentation were school staff members Liz Crothers (principal), Margaret Wood and Wendy Larcombe, pupils of the school, and parents and friends.

Better known in the Donald District Cricket Association for his bowling than for his batting, Marnoo's John Nisbet confounded the critics with a half-century in the first round after harvest.

The fact that it took four hours to complete was immaterial. It was his first 50 in "A" grade cricket, it was made the hard way, as an opener, and it suddenly catapulted him into the status of all-rounder.

At that point John was prepared to echo the immortal words of the Bush Tucker Man: "It doesn't get any better than this."

But sometimes it does — particularly if you've given to your community the kind of service and consideration John Nisbet has contributed at Marnoo.

At the Marnoo Primary School on Friday, John was presented with the Michael Rollinson Prize for Community Service.

This school award, given by Mr Rollinson, M.H.R., Federal Member for Ballarat, was introduced in 1992, when it was won as a group by the Marnoo school's Parents and Friends Association.

For 1993, however, the School Council decided that the name of John Nisbet should be engraved on the handsome shield in acknowledgment of his outstanding contribution to his

community, and in particular to the young people of the district.

The John Nisbet file reveals that since coming to Marnoo in the late 'eighties he has coached the Marnoo junior cricket team for four years. Last year that team won the Dunmunkle junior premiership for the first time in 12 years. John has completed a level 1 coaching course.

He is a member of Marnoo's "A" grade cricket side, and has taken on the role of club secretary/treasurer.

In addition to being a committeeman of the Marnoo Football Club he looks after the watering of the Marnoo oval.

He has been a member of the school committee, and tournament secretary at the Wallaloo Golf Club.

Born in Wedderburn, John moved with his family at an early age to Korong Vale. Later in life with the ANZ Bank, he was at Caulfield, Foster and Warragul in Gippsland, and then Marnoo, where he and his wife Joy conduct a café and post office. Altogether he has played 26 years of cricket, and would agree that he's still in his prime.

A popular player in the Donald District Cricket Association, John supports the game at all levels. He's a very open, easy-to-meet character, the only mystery about him being how he came by the nickname of "Noisy".

Accepting the award from Mr Rollinson, John acknowledged the contributions made by others such as Derek Cameron and Dwain Duxson in the moulding of Marnoo's up-and-coming cricketers, with a view to the future of the sport in their area.

Then he was off, even before afternoon tea was served. "What's the hurry?" he was asked.

"I've got things to do," he said, "before I head for the Adelaide cricket Test on Sunday morning."

We might have known!

FEATURE ARTICLE

In this edition of the N/News we feature an interesting article from new member, **Finola Chamberlain** (Wellington, New Zealand), who describes her experiences in tracing her family history in Ireland:

A WINDOW TO THE PAST

While doing the grand tour of the UK and Europe in 1992/93 my husband and I visited Northern Ireland in an attempt to trace my father's family. He had immigrated to NZ in 1921 as a 16 year old with his mother and sister. Although attempting to do as much research as possible before leaving NZ, we set off with a few confirmed details: the name of a town here; a house somewhere; a person there; a few family names; the memories of an 88 year old who insisted he could remember it all "as if it were yesterday"; and tantalising bits of information from fellow genealogists, including the mention of a Nesbitt window in a church at Keady, County Armagh.

In Belfast we organised a rental car and set off to visit Keady, where we knew father had lived as a boy on a farm. It was not hard to find, nor was the church which the family had attended. Finding the church locked, we searched the headstones in the grounds. The one that really took our fancy read "This stone represents three graves. One on each side". We found numerous 'Nesbitt' graves but none we could identify for sure as our family. So if anyone would like photographs of Nesbitt graves at St Matthew's Church of Ireland in Keady, we think we have them all!

Then came the answer to a genealogist's prayer. The church warden arrived to clean the church and so we were able to enter the church and find a real treasure - the window. One of only two stained glass windows in the church, it commemorates the lives of Allen and Elizabeth Jane Nesbitt of Tievenamara, my paternal great-grandparents. It had been installed in 1945 by one of their sons, Alexander, and his wife Edith, of 'Milestone House' (but more of the house later).

The church warden was most interested in the reason for our visit, but had little knowledge of Nesbitts in the district. However, inspired by this find we ventured out into the countryside to try and find the

farm at Tievenamara, although we realised the land had long since passed out of the family's hands.



St Matthew's Church of Ireland, Keady.

Inscription reads:

"To the Glory of God and in memory of Allen and Elizabeth Jane Nesbitt of Tievenamara. This window is the gift of Alexander & Edith Nesbitt, Milestone House, Keady. 6th May 1945".

Another piece of good fortune! Not knowing just where to find the farm, we stopped to ask the way and found an elderly couple who knew the exact location, having known Alexander in the 1940s and earlier. A very courteous gentleman offered to show us where to go, as the farm was off the beaten track a little.

So there we were, looking at the farm where father had been raised as boy in

the early 1900s. The house is no longer habitable, but we learned later still recognisable by father, even to the point that the thatch had been replaced and a porch added on.

However, back to County Armagh. We were next shown the school and the house/Post Office where Alexander met Edith and 'Milestone House', where they lived after selling the farm. It was so called after the historic milestone there. However, the locals refused to call the house 'Milestone' as they insisted Alexander had shifted the stone across the road in order to so name his house!

The next day we returned to Keady to see if we could gain some more information from the Rector of the church (or more accurately, from the parish registers he held). The rectory was very large, very cold and very dark. Sitting in the study was a real experience; no heating and no lights, peering at registers, some over 200 years old. The books are quite large and when you realise that each entry may take only one or two lines per page, a register for deaths (for example) in a small parish may take several hundred years to fill.

Still, we were astounded to find that books of such age are still kept at the rectory. They appear never to have been transcribed or copied, and had obviously been damp at some stage. We were allowed to look at some registers ourselves, but the Rector looked through others he thought parishioners would not like mere mortals to peruse! As he read through them, at great speed, they were dropped to the floor with a resounding thud. This system is apparently repeated all over Ireland and is the genealogist's nightmare, as access to the records (not to mention their maintenance) depends on the inclination and understanding of the Rector. We understand in some places genealogy societies are buying new registers for the church on the understanding that the old ones are placed in a reputable records office.

However, we had some luck and were able to find quite a number of family members and get back one more generation. But we still could not find when the Nesbitts

arrived at Tievenamara, nor where they came from before that. We did discover that there must have been two Nesbitt families in the Keady area, apparently unrelated, or with a distant relationship that no one knows about and that is not obviously recorded in parish records. We left after paying our 10 pound fee, but itching to have the time and the opportunity to undertake a proper search of all that wonderful material. Our time was limited by the interest level of the Rector, obviously not a genealogist!

Our last place to search had only been identified as 'The Temple' by father. We discovered this was the Presbyterian Church out in the country, built in the 1700s when churches other than the Catholic or Church of Ireland were actively discouraged. We thought family members connected with this area had emigrated to Canada.

However, a venturesome husband was willing to knock on a few doors and, lo and behold - an 86 year old cousin of father! Their mothers were sisters. The connection took a little time to establish, thanks to our kiwi pronunciation of 'Allen'. The result was confusion with the feminine name 'Ellen', but an attempt at Irish brogue and 'Arilin' brought recognition flooding in.

We then met the next generation (our generation), son and family. "Aha", said son, "you are the New Zealand relatives we've been expecting"! It seems a letter I had written some 18 months previously to the Rector at the church, and had thought had come to nought, had circulated around the district and been well discussed. "Great", they had thought, "relatives on their way", but had given no thought to responding to the letter so we knew they were there!

It turned out to be a great meeting and, although they have no old photographs, records, or information on any other family members, we have been able to establish contact with at least one line of the present-day family. During the one evening we were able to spend with them, we received a phone call from another Nesbitt who had heard we were in the district (they have a great local network!)

and confirmed the presence of this other Nesbitt lineage. We now have contact with one family member who didn't emigrate to Canada (another member did, with yet another going to Australia) and have an open invitation to stay next time we manage to get across to that part of the

world. So if there are any Nesbitts out there who come from the lineage of Allen and Elizabeth Jane (Campbell) of Tievenamara, Keady, I'd not only love to hear from you, but have some photos to share.

*For contact with Finola: FP & HE Chamberlain
19 Dominica Crescent
Grenada Village
Wellington 4
New Zealand
Phone: (04) 478 282*

THE WANTED LIST

ERIC ARTHUR NISBET: was born at Dunedin, ca. 1910. He lived all his life and died there, ca. 1954. He was a painter and decorator, as was his father who was renowned for his painting of the ceiling of the Bank of New Zealand in Dunedin. Eric had a brother, Stanley Nisbet. Fay Burk, who was eight years old when her father (Eric) died, would like to learn of his antecedents and relatives.

Contact: Fay Burk, 44 Boson Ave, East Malvern, Victoria 3145.

FAMILY SNIPPETS

This section is for brief snippets of news to keep members informed on the comings and goings of our extended family. Send snippets direct to the Editor, or scribble a note on your membership renewal form and Peter or Lyndell Watson will send it on. One line is all we need!

- * Robert, Leeanne and Prudence Hull will be moving to Manila in the Philippines for three years. Robert, an accountant, has been transferred by his employer. Robert leaves in May, with Leeanne and Prudence to follow in June. They will be missed by their family, particularly Bruce and Helen Nesbit (Leeanne's parents), and by their N/N kin.
- * Welcome to our newest N/N members, Finola and Howard Chamberlain. Finola has already made a great contribution to the Society with her article in this newsletter!
- * Colin and Dot Nesbit recently had a family gathering in Castlemaine, attended by two sons, one daughter and six grandchildren.
- * An article in 'The Weekly Times' of 23.2.94 included a photograph of N/N member Marie Foley.
- * Kirsty Nisbet, daughter of Ian (Editor) and Gwenda, celebrated her eighteenth birthday in March.

NOTICE BOARD

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar for 1994)

<p>30 28 April 28 May 4 June 30 July July 10 September October November 10 December</p>	<p>Clan gathering UK N/N gathering, Edinburgh Castle (see p3) Speaker - Mrs Frances Brown (State Library of Victoria) Clan gathering Newsletter 32 A.G.M. Newsletter 33 Tennis day (Date to be advised) Christmas party</p>
---	---

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT: Ian M Nisbet, 26 Walnut Rd, Nth Balwyn, Vic 3104, Aust.
SECRETARY: Ian G Nisbet, 1 St Johns Pde, Kew, Vic 3101, Aust.
ASS SEC: Effie Todd, 18 Hillview Ave, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149, Aust.
TREASURER: Peter Watson, 30 Mitchell Rd, Box Hill North, Vic 3129, Aust.
EDITOR: Ian T Nisbet, 17 Palpera Tce, Greensborough, Vic 3088, Aust.
ASS ED: Ian G Nisbet, 1 St Johns Pde, Kew, Vic 3101, Aust.
ARCHIVIST: John Barth, 15 Duke St, Ashburton, Vic 3147, Aust.
BOARD: Bruce Nesbit, Gavin M Nisbet, Graeme Nisbet, Lyndell Watson,
 Ian G O'Brien, Karen Nisbet, Robert K Nisbet.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Ian T Nisbet, Ian G Nisbet, Gary Nisbet, Graeme Nisbet, Karen Nisbet.

PUBLICATION OFFICER: Bruce Nesbit

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT OFFICER: Lyndell Watson

DISTRIBUTION OFFICER: Andrew Nisbet

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE:

Graeme Nisbet, Ian G Nisbet, Gavin Nisbet

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

Joy Nisbet, Heather Ames, Lyndell Watson, Merryn Nisbet, Lesley Nisbet,
 Elyse Classon, Jan Nisbet, Barbara Leslie, Helen Nesbit, Catherine Nisbet,
 Michie Jensen, Anne Nisbet, Ray Caldwell.

REGIONAL OFFICERS:

George Nesbitt, 110 Ardross St, Ardross, WA 6153, Aust.
 Brian S Nesbitt, 14 Davitt Cl, Isaacs, ACT 2607, Aust.
 James E Nisbet, 53 Yeo St, Cremorne, NSW 2090, Aust.

OVERSEAS CONTACTS:

USA: Mrs R J Nisbet, 545 Hartnell Pl, Sacramento, CA 95825.
UK: Peter W W Nisbet, 7 Stafford Pl, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS23 2QZ.



The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society