

THE N/NEWS

NO. 35 APRIL 1995

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS: As mentioned in 'Starting Point' in the last 'N/News', members have been supplying plenty of material for inclusion in the newsletter. On one hand, this makes the editorial task easy - I don't have to think of too many things to write. On the other hand, it also makes things difficult - sometimes submitted material has to be left out due to space limitations. I thank all those members who provide materials for publication and hope they do not become disheartened if their material is (occasionally) held over.

At this time I must make particular mention of material provided by Marie Foley regarding her grandfather, George Nisbet. Together with supplementary material from Ian M. Nisbet and Gary Nisbet, I intend to incorporate this into the first article in our 'N/N Heroes' series, to appear in the next newsletter. In the meantime, can I ask members to think again about their own family heroes who could be included in the series?

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

W. D. NISBET - ENGINEER: In the book, "Rockhampton A History of City and District" by Lorna McDonald, first published by University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, Queensland in 1981, the name W. D. Nisbet appears on pages 82, 83 and 96.

W. D. Nisbet was Engineer of Harbours and Rivers in Queensland, and in 1875 he made a survey of the Fitzroy River. It was as a result of this survey that training walls were installed at Upper Flats, up-river from where the Fitzroy River enters the sea at Kepple Bay.

The Fitzroy River was considered by civil engineer C. Napier Bell as one of the most important rivers in Australia. Although superficial observers might have thought it a hopeless and discouraging task to improve 'this long and crooked river, blocked by shoals and sandbanks', he saw no reason why Rockhampton should not become one of the most important ports in Queensland.

Article by A. Bruce Nesbit, on the basis of material provided by another regular N/N contributor (who prefers to remain anonymous).

N/NS IN THE NEWS

This section is for newspaper cuttings relating to or featuring N/Ns. Now they will not only be in the news - they will be in the N/News! Please send any suitable cuttings you may come across to the editor.

When Toni Nesbit received a fax in the Sydney legal aid office where she worked, she thought it was a client's claim.

But then the words 'sorry' and 'retrenched' leaped out at her and suddenly the single mother of four realised she had lost her job.

Toni, 51, had worked there for 15 years, but there had been no warning. Her life was turned upside down and she faced the struggle of raising a family on the dole.

"I went from a working woman to someone facing unemployment in a few seconds, and that's an awful feeling," Toni says. "I went into such severe shock and panic that I had to spend a few days at a local convent, trying to work out how I was going to survive financially and emotionally.

"I kept trying to tell myself that something would come up and things would work themselves out, but I knew it wasn't going to be easy, especially at my age. The newspapers were full of stories about young people who couldn't find a job and I thought, 'What chance do I have then?'"

Now, five years later, Toni is a champion harness racer and trainer, making double the money she used to make as a senior legal aid administrator.

She received an Achievement Award from Bathurst Harness Racing Club after her first year of racing and took the Benchmark Cup at her first competition.

The 1993 Trotter's Cup, one of harness racing's most prestigious trophies, is also part of her collection. But Toni says that it was only the jolt of being retrenched that led her to consider a new career.

"I had a friend who was a legend in Australian harness racing and I told him I wanted to take over where he left off," Toni laughs.


"My kids told me, 'Get real!' But once I've set my heart on something, that's it. Now I just wonder why I didn't get into this business sooner.

"The only regret I have is that I've wasted so many years in an office. Now I can sleep at night, I'm my own boss and I love every aspect of my job. That fax was the start of a new life for me."

NEW IDEA

DECEMBER 17, 1994

DUNS



Nisbet Stables, Duns, Berwickshire.
An outstanding five bedroomed refurbished stone and slate house. Walled courtyard with attractive gardens. Lofted stables annexe suitable for conversion. Bothy and former coach house with exceptional development potential. About 1.6 acres.

FOR SALE AS A WHOLE OR IN TWO LOTS.
Sale & Partners,
18 - 20 Glendale Road,
Wooler.
Tel : 0668 81611

Borders Property Guide
26 February 1993
(just a little out of date
but still of interest to N/Ns)

Herald Sun, Thursday, March 30, 1995



Kick in: Magpie Craig Kelly with Aaron Murphy, John Nisbet and Blues assistant coach Ken Judge.

Footy cup of cheer

WHEN Carlton and Collingwood run on to the MCG on Sunday they will be kicking goals for cancer sufferers.

At the third annual Peter MacCallum Cup clash between the arch-rivals, 300 Naval recruits from HMAS Cerberus will be among the crowd.

They are allowed to collect cash inside the ground once each season, at the

first Carlton-Collingwood clash, to raise money for cancer treatment.

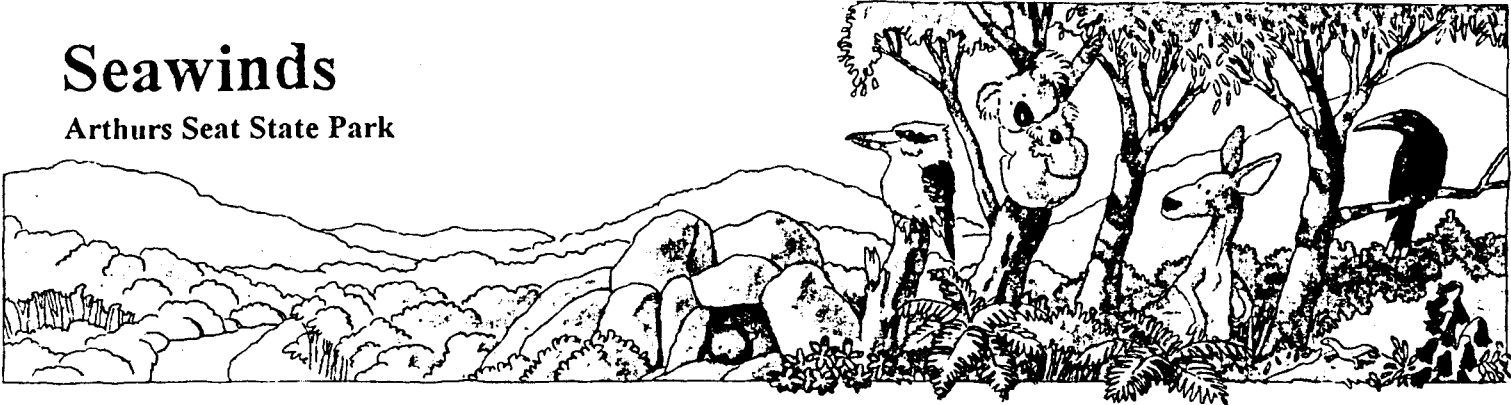
As eight-year-old Pies supporter and cancer survivor Aaron Murphy knows, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute's facilities are among the world's finest.

The Peter MacCallum Cup was won by Collingwood in 1993 and Carlton in 1994.

SOCIETY NEWS

Seawinds

Arthurs Seat State Park



COUNTRY GATHERING: SEAWINDS, ARTHURS SEAT STATE PARK, March 18, 1995.

Some 20 dedicated N/N's ventured to SEAWINDS situated in the Arthurs Seat State Park, Dromana. This is truly a magnificent site and the weather though uncertain at the commencement of proceedings (and even poorer during the trip down) held up. Recent publications, a copy of Nisbet of that ilk, and Scottish BDM's were available for viewing over lunch. A gathering photograph was taken and then into the 'Boar N' Games' of gumboot throwing, horse shoe throwing, "skittles" and "nearest the pin" after resounding disapproval to the "Sea to Seat Scramble" or the "Great Chairlift Chase" was displayed. The results found John Nesbit oft mentioned, surpassed only by Elyse Classon who also took the "Sports Boar of the Year Award" (for consistency) and Ian G Nisbet who then also took home the "Alexander Nisbet Peperual Trophy" (for a second time), plus the mandatory cake of soap. I don't think any participant left without some recognition for their efforts and certainly not without a laugh or two at the unique skills displayed by many of our members. A grand day was enjoyed by all.

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. One line is all we need!

- * Doug Green (N/N member 186) is recovering at home after a period in hospital following a heart attack in March. We all wish him a swift and full recovery.
- * Karen Nisbet recently announced her engagement, with a wedding date set for 23 September.
- * Bill Nisbet (N/N member 008) is a grandfather again after his daughter Kathryn, delivered a baby girl, Tess.
- * Evelyn Clark has provided a price list and samples of Nisbet tartans from Peter Anderson of Scotland. Clothing items can be ordered directly from the manufacturer. Anyone who is interested in seeing the samples or obtaining a copy of the price list should contact the Editor.

FEATURE ARTICLE

The last newsletter carried a short article about Otis B Nesbit. Bruce Nesbit, who is preparing the 'Nesbitology' series for publication, was inspired to put together some additional information on Otis.

SOME SNIPPETS ABOUT OTIS BURGESS NESBIT

Gleaned from his publication "Nesbitology" and the
"Biographical Dictionary" produced by the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Australia.

I was prompted to look further when preparing part of Otis B Nesbit's tree based on information in the N/N Society biographical index. I noted that his only grandchild was the child of his daughter, Beatrice Templar Nesbit and husband Alexander Oppenheim; and she was not named.

In a letter from Jo Nesbit (long time secretary/treasurer of the North America Branch) to Ian M Nisbet, President of the Australian Branch, (copy supplied by Ian M N) it was mentioned that a US member Oroma Nwandi was a gr. grand-daughter of Otis B Nesbit. Another descendant of Otis B Nesbit is Kathryn Inman who supplied Mark Nesbitt, UK Publications Officer, with two missing pages from his Nesbitology Family Letter number 3. Kathryn Inman does not appear on a recent UK members' list and I do not know her direct relationship with Otis B. Nesbit.

After perusing "Nesbitology" I came up with the following information. It is highly probable that Oroma Nwandi is descended from Judith, the only daughter of Beatrice Templar Nesbit Oppenheim, who, at that time, 1935, was aged 32 years.

Nesbitology (present title "Nesbitology" Nine Family Letters) has been prepared as a complete book, of 161 pages, and is being proof-read by Ian G Nisbet. When completed its future will be considered. Having worked on the project for many weeks I like it, and the people who see the draft, I'm sure will jump at the opportunity of having one for their library.

Otis Burgess Nesbit MD (1871-1952) was Director of the Medical and Dental Department of Public Schools, Gary, Indiana, USA. In Nesbitology on page 55 paragraph two "*I developed some arthritis, so we had something to complain about in December [1936] but kept going as we had our usual immunization vaccination program on at school.*"

He was born at Severance, USA on 31st Jan. 1871, married 22nd Jun. 1895 Valparaiso, Indiana, USA, Alice Vincent, born 22nd Jun. 1872, Luke County, Indiana; he died 18th Mar. 1952. They had two daughters: Allegra Mary Nesbit and Beatrice Templar Nesbit.

1. Allegra Mary Nesbit was born USA 2nd Jun. 1900, died 28th Feb. 1896 age 81 (Bio. Dict. p. 6). There is no evidence that Allegra married. She graduated BSMA at the University of Chicago, was a school teacher at the Lew Wallace School, Gary, Indiana [1935] and probably spent her working life in that pursuit. (Nesbitology p. 2.)

2. Beatrice Templar Nesbit, born USA 6th Dec. 1903, married 5th May 1930 Alexander Oppenheim, born 4th Feb. 1902 Manchester, County York, England. (Bio. Dict. p. 68)

"Mrs. Beatrice Nesbit Oppenheim our youngest daughter came home from Singapore via Switzerland and England for a visit, leaving her husband Alexander, in England visiting his parents at Manchester. He had been in Zurich and Cambridge Universities. He is a Professor of Mathematics at Raffles College, Singapore and on ten months leave.

He arrived June 1st. He had a fine visit and enjoyed them very much. Beatrice and Alexander are at the University of Chicago for the summer. Will return to Singapore in late summer. Beatrice has been away four and a half years; in Edinburgh, Scotland and three years in Singapore with vacation trips to Japan, China and places near them. They have many things to relate which they do in a very entertaining way. Beatrice did not get into Scotland and did not bring the tartans. Professor Oppenheim was at Bayler College, Oxford for seven years and received his Doctors from Chicago after being there three years. [ca 1935]. (Nesbitology p. 28)

"We spent many days during July and August in Chicago as the Oppenheims took an apartment near the Chicago Campus, while the doctor did some research work at the University of Chicago. The announcement August seventeenth (1935) of the arrival of the first grand child was one more added pleasure of the year. We had Beatrice and the dark-haired blue eyed little doll, as our friends call her, in our home for six weeks before leaving. Dr. Oppenheim left for Singapore the first of September to be at Raffles College for the beginning of another year.

"The family decided I should see Beatrice and Judith off for Singapore (and take a lot of pictures of Judith by, and show and talk about the baby too. Effie brot (sic) a bag of Mary Templer Nesbit's pictures and everybody had to see them. (I guess Alice got even with her. O.B.N.). I wish we could have had a picture of us four as we entered the North Western Station the morning of October 29th en route for Vancouver, over the Canadian Pacific R.R. The porter remarked there was plenty of room in the apartment if we had not so much baggage. Judith enjoyed the trip and cooed and smiled.

(Grandma says not a cry on the trip. Believe it or not. O.B.N.). I was glad to see the beautiful Canadian Rockies in their garb, with the pine with their long white gloves of snow, as Beatrice spoke of them. My first view of the Canadian Rockies was six years ago in their Autumn colours. We met lovely people en route, many of them going on the 'Empress of Canada' with Beatrice. The morning of November 2nd, after looking over the 'Empress of Canada' and saying farewell to the children, I entered the 'Princess Alice' bound for Seattle, and at four o'clock saw the 'Empress of Canada' at Victoria (on Vancouver Island), sail away, on its long voyage to Hong Kong via Honolulu. (Nesbitology p.36, 37)

"Gyp, the Persian cat has not yet made up with Judith. He tolerates, but does not accept her.

"Beatrice did not find Singapore as good for her health as upon her previous visit, and her husband, Doctor Alexander Oppenheim, Professor of mathematics at Raffles College, brought her and their child Judith back. They flew to Chicago from San Francisco arriving November 18th. The trip was beneficial to Beatrice and she has steadily improved since returning. Missed only one meal, no, I mean, lost only one meal on the aeroplane. Dr. Oppenheim hurried back catching a Japanese boat from Seattle Dec. 5, and would be back about on schedule being on a sixty day leave.

"Grandmother Alice (wife of Otis B. Nesbit) has been quite busy getting and keeping a maid. I picked the nurse and she stays, and is a good one. The only serious trouble is keeping the grandmother and mother in the background. They insist on spoiling a very nice baby. Beatrice is assisting in the preparation of this number. Don't think we will let her go back to that island for some time". (Nesbitology p. 55-56.)

Bruce Nesbit
(Publications Officer)

THE WANTED LIST

New member Janet Stone of Warrnambool is searching for information on several of her N/N ancestors:

1. **Rev James Nesbitt/Nisbet** of Lecanlahane or Liskumlane, Ireland; married ? Newman; possibly parents of Frances (below).
2. **Frances Nesbitt/Nisbet**, married Rev John Stone in Rathkeal, Tipperary ca 1755-1775.
3. **William Nesbitt/Nisbet**, married ? Patterson; possibly parents of Joanna (below).
4. **Joanna/Johanna Nesbitt/Nisbet**, d 1812; married 1. Frederick Garforth 2. Rev Meade Nesbitt/Nisbet Stone (son of Frances, above, and John Stone; b 1779 Co Kilkenny; TCD 1795). Their son was also called Meade N/N Stone.

Please contact Janet Stone, 24 Manuka Drive, Warrnambool, Vic 3280, Australia.

Janet wonders if there is any connection between the N/N and Meade families - is anyone able to shed any light on this issue?

FOUND

THOMAS FORBES NISBET: N/News no. 33 carried a 'Wanted' listing from Gail Mowbray regarding information on Thomas Forbes Nisbet. Although he is not listed in the Biographical Dictionary, some information has come to light. He was born ?1839 at Neith (?Leith) in Scotland and died 23.7.1926 (Sale #11732). His wife was Annie Maria Shingles, and his parents were Robert Forbes Nisbet and Barbara Thompson. His name appeared on the roll of Victorian voters at the Federal referendum of 1899, as Thomas Nisbet, Bootmaker, of Maffra. Gail has found an entry on Thomas in an article entitled 'Maffra's Knitting Factory & its Workers - 1920s' published by the Maffra & District Historical Society Inc/Stratford & District Historical Society Inc. This article will be published in a future newsletter.

JOHN NISBET: Ian M Nisbet recently received copies of the extracts of Marriages and Births in Scotland pre 1885 from the UK N/N Society and has been able to find out further information about his emigrant ancestor, John. The information has been passed on to other N/N members who are also John's descendents and will be included in the next newsletter. This success shows the value of Mark Nesbitt's efforts in putting together the 'Nesbitt/Nisbet Families in Scotland pre-1855' series (see N/News 34).

OBITUARY

IAN GRAHAM O'BRIEN: It is with great regret that we note the untimely death of Ian O'Brien on 11.3.95. Ian was an active member of the N/N Society - attending many functions (despite being Canberra-based), serving on the General Committee and being a very productive newsletter correspondent. His oboe playing will be remembered as one of the highlights of our Christmas celebrations. Our sympathy goes out to Lorna and family. Overpage is a reprint from 'Monitor' describing Ian's life and achievements - his loss will be widely mourned.

Ian Graham O'Brien

Ian was born in Bendigo, July 20, 1936. His boyhood, in a large family, relates to the Eaglehawk district in happy but difficult circumstances.

During his schooldays Ian developed a great fondness of music, the visual arts and the sciences.

Completion of a diploma in Applied Chemistry in Bendigo led to further studies in chemical engineering. Ian then enrolled at the Technical Teachers' College, Melbourne, where he trained as a teacher.

As a part-time student and full-time teacher from 1962 to 1967 he completed his Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University, taking out First Class Honours in Chemistry.

Ian migrated to Canberra as an ANU Postgraduate Scholar in 1968, to complete doctoral studies at the John Curtin School of Medical Research.

He returned to teaching in Melbourne as senior lecturer and deputy head of the Chemistry Department at the Secondary Teachers' College, before serving at the Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education as Principal Lecturer and Head of the Faculty of Applied Science for four years.

Ian returned to Canberra in 1975 as a Research Fellow with the ANU Research School of Chemistry. During this time he also played oboe in the Canberra Symphony Orchestra.

Ian took up appointment at the Canberra College of Advanced Education in 1978 as Principal Lecturer in Chemistry and Health Studies, with responsibility for the Medical Technology, Chemistry and Nursing programs. Following establishment of the University of Canberra, he was appointed Associate Professor in Chemistry and Toxicology. For five years (1990-1994), he served as Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science.

Those who remember Ian's arrival at this campus will recall the enormous enthusiasm, energy and liveliness of mind which he immediately applied to represent science in the community. He led the development of a unique Medical Laboratory Science course.

In 1981, as President of the Canberra Branch of the RACI, he established the Chemical Education Group. He joined advisory panels for the National Technology Education Project and assisted in writing the National Science Education Statement.

He advised ACT schools and the Department of Education and Training regarding chemical hazards in schools and took a leading role in the improvement of laboratory practice, the safe teaching of science and the storage and disposal of school chemicals.

On campus, Ian took a major role



OBITUARY

in the introduction of the Health Education program during the mid 1980s. He inaugurated the Faculty Courses and Awards Committee in 1985 and served as a member of the University Courses and Awards Committee.

For a number of years, Ian chaired the course development and advisory committees for the Cultural Heritage and Management program. He has also chaired the Faculty marketing committee, the Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee and a similar committee for human experimentation.

During 1993 he guided the development of a proposal to introduce a Masters degree in Sports Medicine and he was co-founder of the Centre for Environmental/Analytical Chemistry which has acquired international recognition.

It is difficult to suggest that Ian could have been even more committed to University life, but he has always given high priority to teaching, consistently taking up more than the expected teaching load. He taught and convened, at different times, every chemistry and biochemistry unit offered by the Faculty, with the exception of materials chemistry. Ian was also recipient of a University innovative teaching award.

Simultaneously, Ian kept alive his research interests, leading to co-supervision of the University's first PhD graduate, as well as a range of consultancies.

He was successful in attracting funding of nearly \$75,000 from the Grain Research and Development Corporation, leading to patents for new fumigants in the joint names of the CSIRO and the University of Canberra.

Ian possessed not only a fertile imagination but a profound sense of compassion for others. Nothing was ever too much trouble if he saw someone, usually a student, in need of advice. He treated students as equals.

Ian had the rare ability of putting aside what he was doing, relating to the problem quickly and then providing pertinent counsel. For this reason amongst many, he will be remembered with great affection.

Ian died on Saturday 11 March as the consequence of a heart attack. A memorial concert by the Canberra Community Orchestra, of which he was a member, is planned for May on a date to be announced. His colleagues, his students and his many friends share the sorrow of Lorna and their family.

■ TERRY BIRTLES

NOTICE BOARD

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar for 1995)

29 April	'Fireside chat' at the home of Ian M and Joy Nisbet
3 June	Genealogical night
29 July	Games night and Dinner
16 September	Annual General Meeting
November	Tennis day at the home of Gavin Nisbet
9 December	Christmas Party

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, 102/442 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne, Vic 3004, Aust.
BOARD: Bruce Nesbit, Gavin M Nisbet, Graeme Nisbet, Lyndell Watson,
 Karen Nisbet, Robert K Nisbet.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

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

PUBLICATION OFFICER: Bruce Nesbit, 6 Kent Crt, Bundoora, Vic 3083, Aust.

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.

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 Gall Jones, 321 Dixon Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216, USA.
UK: Peter W W Nisbet, 7 Stafford Pl, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS23 2QZ.



The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society