

THE N/NEWS

NO. 41 OCTOBER 1996

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

INTO THE SECOND DECADE - Well, the celebrations are over. It was a great tenth year, culminating in the 10th Anniversary Dinner extravaganza, but now it is time to get down to more mundane things - namely the eleventh year! Ten years is a great achievement however, in the overall context of N/N history, ten years is nothing. We now need to work out ways to maintain interest, enthusiasm and vitality. Any organisation which rests on its laurels is doomed.

Unfortunately, our eleventh year didn't get off to a great start. The Annual General Meeting was poorly attended (see inside for full details). Hopefully this reflected a timing issue (AFL Grand Final day, school holidays and illness) rather than a general lack of interest. Certainly previous AGMs were much better attended and it's hard to see that the enthusiasm generated by the 10th Anniversary Dinner could have worn off so quickly. Because of the small numbers there was not any real discussion on the changes in structure foreshadowed in N/News 40. This will now happen at the first Committee meeting for the new N/N year. Details will be published in the next N/News.

In the meantime, if any members have suggestions as to how we can modify, improve, extend or enliven our operations, please write to or call any of the members of the Committee. This invitation is especially directed towards our non-Melbourne members. We'd love to hear how we can better meet your needs and interests.

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

ALEXANDER NESBITT PRE-DATED! The article in N/News 40 about Alexander Nesbitt, our earliest emigrant ancestor (or so we thought), prompted the following letter from HJ Nesbitt of Tarago, NSW:

"I read with interest the N/News upon its arrival, always trying to find a little information to fill in the gaps in my own family tree.

"After reading about Alexander Nesbitt who arrived in 1837, I felt compelled to write to you to advise that an ancestor of mine, George Nisbet, arrived in van Diemen's Land in 1821, 16 years prior to Alexander Nesbitt.

"My ancestor George Nisbet was born on 25/7/1800 at North Berwick, Scotland. He arrived in van Diemen's Land on 27/7/1821 on the ship Countess of Harcourt (1). The ship departed Portsmouth 19/4/1821 and took 99 days to arrive under the ship's captain George Bunn.

"George Nisbet married Mary Bond on 24th November 1834 at New Norfolk, van Diemen's Land. Mary Bond arrived on 13th August 1834 on the ship Strathfieldsay along with another 283 free women from England.

"George and Mary had 11 children:

Janet	Christened 26/9/1835
Emma	" 22/2/1837
Benjamin	" 14/2/1839
George	" 1840
James	
Elizabeth	
John Richard	DOB 7/10/1848
Henry	" 12/5/1851
Mary Jane	" 21/3/1854
William Robert	" 4/12/1856
Kate Elizabeth	" 21/9/1859

"George died on Christmas Day 1861 and is buried at New Norfolk, Tasmania. Mary moved to Victoria in the late 1860s with her family and lived to 99 years old, dying on 27/5/1914 at Northcote, Victoria.

"I, the writer of this letter, am a direct descendent of Henry Nisbet, son of George and Mary.

"I have a heap of information relating to George and his convict days and I would like to contact any other descendant of George and Mary to try and fill in a few blanks.

"...I wrote this letter for two reasons, just to advise of George Nisbet's arrival in the early days and also to seek assistance with any known relatives.

"If you, or any person interested, wishes further information I would be pleased to supply them with same (and I would like to) hear from any persons tracing the same or similar family tree."

Please contact: HJ Nesbitt, The Loaded Dog Hotel, Tarago, NSW 2580 (Phone 048 494499).

With this new information, the association between N/Ns and Australia has been extended by 21 years over that which most of us were previously aware! Is anyone able to claim an earlier date? I suspect that the Committee will opt to stay with the 'Alexander Nesbitt Trophy' for the annual gathering, but something new will have to be created to recognise the memory of George Nisbet. By the way it's interesting to note that, somewhere in the last hundred years or so of this family line, the spelling has changed from Nisbet to Nesbitt - could this be the basis of another article from HJ Nesbitt? Any new connections should be followed up directly with our correspondent. However, don't forget to drop a note to the Editor so we can keep everyone informed.

N/NS IN THE NEWS

This section is for newspaper cuttings related 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.

Obituaries

Robert Nisbet; Sociologist, Leading Conservative Thinker

By MYRNA OLIVER
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Robert A. Nisbet, sociologist, educator and author who was a leader of conservative thought, has died at the age of 82.

Nisbet, a native of Los Angeles, died Monday of prostate cancer at his home in Washington.

The son of a lumberyard worker, Nisbet credited his development as a thinker and scholar to growing up in the dreary San Joaquin Valley town of Maricopa.

"Its ugliness and hostile challenge to the human spirit," he later said, "drove me straight to books."

Nisbet worked his way through three degrees at UC Berkeley and, after serving in the Army during World War II, began his teaching career at Berkeley. In 1953, he moved to UC Riverside, where he was a dean until 1972. He also taught for two years at the University of Arizona.

He held the Albert Schweitzer chair of the humanities at Columbia University from 1974 until 1982, when he retired from teaching and became resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

Throughout his classroom career, Nisbet also delved into the history of ideas and transformed his careful thinking into a spate of books. He set high values on family, community, loyalty and freedom. He disparaged liberalism, judicial activism, popular opinion and permissiveness.

Nisbet never rooted himself so firmly in the political right, however, that he would not eagerly and fairly debate any premise with liberals.

"Always, author Nisbet comes to his point, historically, politically, engagingly," the late Times book editor Art Seidenbaum noted in reviewing Nisbet's 1982 book, "Prejudices—A Philosophical Dictionary." Fellow scholarly conservative William F. Buckley Jr. called the dictionary simply "a bloody wonderful book."

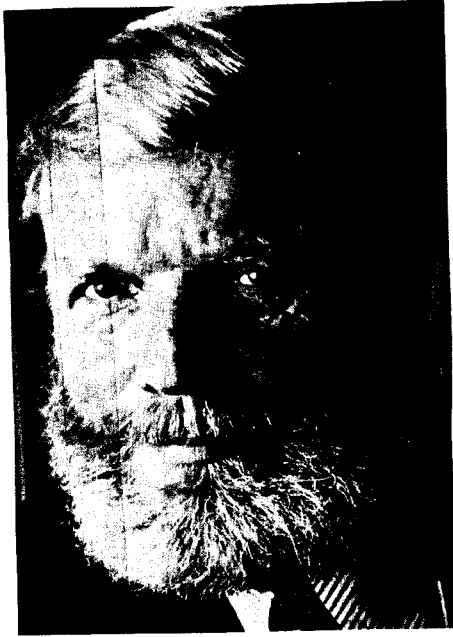
Nisbet reveled in complexity of thought, prompting Seidenbaum to accuse him of "ivory ivy towering bias." Another Times reviewer evaluating Nisbet's 1968 book "The Present Age: Progress and Anarchy in Modern America" began: "This book isn't always easy to follow."

The sociologist's first book was "The Quest for Community" in 1953, followed three years later by "Human Relations in Administration." Other titles reflecting his diverse intellectual exploration include "Social Change and History," "Twilight of Authority," "Sociology as an Art Form," "History of the Idea of Progress," and "Conservatism: Dream vs. Reality."

Nisbet was also a prolific contributor to other sociology books and to professional and general interest journals.

He is survived by his wife, Caroline; two daughters from a previous marriage, Martha Rehrman and Constance Field, and a stepdaughter, Annie Nash.

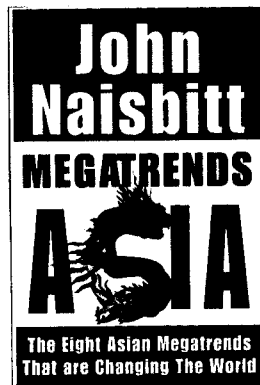
From the 'Los Angeles Times', 13.9.96. Ian M Nisbet came across this article when he was recently in the US. He noted "His (Robert Nisbet's) 1953 'Quest for Community' is still well read and is relevant."



About John Naisbitt

John Naisbitt is one of the world's foremost futurists and is a much sought after speaker and adviser to many of the world's leading corporations and heads of state. He is the bestselling author of *Megatrends*, which sold a staggering 8 million copies worldwide and accurately predicted 10 major patterns of change which would shape the world in the 1980s. He is also the author of *Megatrends 2000*, *Reinventing the Corporation*, *Global Paradox*, and of the just-published *Megatrends Asia*.

John Naisbitt has 40 years of business experience as an executive with IBM and Eastman Kodak and as a successful entrepreneur. He pursued studies in political science at Utah, Harvard and Cornell Universities, has been a visiting fellow at Harvard, a visiting professor at Moscow State University, and is Distinguished International Fellow of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) in Malaysia. It is ten years since he last visited Australia.



John Naisbitt was recently in Australia – the above article is from a circular from 'The Economist Conferences' publicising two seminars involving John. He is described as 'one of the world's leading futurists'.

SOCIETY NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: As described in 'Starting Point' the attendance at this year's AGM was a little disappointing. Members who were unable to attend will have already received by mail copies of the Annual Report and the President's Address to the meeting, so there is no need to go through the details here. One thing to note, however, is the creation of the position of Chairman. This position was created to relieve some of the workload being undertaken by Ian M Nisbet. N/N members will be pleased to note that Ian will remain as President and continue to provide the guidance and statemanship which we all appreciate. However, some of the more 'organisational' activities will be taken up by Ian T as Chairman. More details on the organisational arrangements will be provided in the next edition of N/News.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE: Inserted with this newsletter you will find a list and order form for N/N publications. These are monographs, booklets, etc which have previously been provided or made available to members. A limited amount of residual stock is being held by Bruce Nesbit which may be of interest to members who, for whatever reason, missed out the first time around or who have somehow misplaced their old copies.

In addition to these 'old listings', Bruce has also prepared a small number of copies of the 'Second Five Years of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Australia in Newsletters'. This is a bound version of newsletters 21 - 40, containing in excess of 190 pages of N/N information. This will be an excellent companion volume to the 'First Five Years' and may be of particular interest to newer members who missed out on earlier newsletters. Both hard and soft bound versions are available but, as stocks are very limited, anyone who is interested in obtaining a copy should contact Bruce as soon as possible.

N/Ns ON THE NET: Consistent with modern trends in information technology, a number of N/Ns are now communicating via the internet. Members who have access to the appropriate technology may be interested in the following e-mail addresses:

UK branch (via Mark Nesbitt)	tcfa270@ucl.ac.uk
North American branch (via Tim Nesbitt)	jornes@sccoast.net
Australian branch (via Ian M Nisbet)	inismet@tpgi.com.au

The UK branch has a homepage on the internet (<http://free.websight.com/Nesbitt/>) which has been prepared by Mark Nesbitt. The North American branch has a website under development. It looks like we need to move along a bit in Australia to keep up with our northern cousins - who knows, one day we may all be communicating on the intern/net!

AN INVITATION TO N/N VISITORS TO MELBOURNE: One of the issues which has occupied the attention of the General Committee for some time is how to more actively involve non-Melbourne N/N members. A small number of country and interstate members have been able to make it to some of the major functions but, in general, non-Melbourne members are unable to be involved in the social aspects of the Society. One way that the Committee has suggested to try and overcome this problem is to offer an open invitation to members to contact the Society (in the first instance, Ian M) whenever they plan to be in Melbourne. Small social functions can then be organised to fit in with visitors' schedules and interests. Of course, the same invitation is open to N/Ns from overseas, but this is something that has been happening for some time anyway (see below for the latest such instance). We simply would like to be able to show the same hospitality on a regular basis to interstate and country members.

AFTERNOON TEA FOR STUART AND NANCY NISBET: We were fortunate to be able to host Stu (President of North American N/N branch) and his wife, Nancy during a quick visit to Melbourne. Stu and Nancy were in the middle of an Australian holiday and their schedule only allowed two days in Melbourne. After some brief sightseeing they were the guests of honour at an afternoon tea at the home of Ian M and Joy on Sunday 3 November. Around 20 N/Ns took the opportunity to meet Stu and Nancy, who greeted all as long lost cousins. Stu held the floor with jokes and stories (some N/N-related, some not), demonstrating how he has been successful in his chosen profession, namely acting. Out of interest, overpage is reproduced a photo of Stu along with a resume. Elder N/Ns may recognise him as the bartender in 'The Virginian', a role he played for nine seasons.



STUART NISBET

SAG / AFTRA / AEA

MOTION PICTURES

Representative Sample

FILM AND DIRECTOR

THE GRADUATE - MIKE NICHOLS
 IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT - NORMAN JEWISON
 LUCKY LADY - STANLEY DONEN
 THE STING - GEORGE ROY HILL
 THE GREAT WALDO PEPPER - GEORGE ROY HILL
 OH, GOD - CARL REINER
 SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT - HAL NEEDHAM
 YOURS, MINE AND OURS - MEL SHAVELSON
 THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS - STEVE KLOVER
 THUNDERBOLT AND LIGHTFOOT - MICHAEL CIMINO
 FALL FROM GRACE - KAREN ARTHUR
 THE MARCUS-NELSON MURDERS - JOE SARGENT
 THE SILENT GUN - MICHAEL CAFFEY
 MURDEROUS VISION - GARY SHERMAN
 MURDER IN THE FIRST - MARK ROCCO
 SUGARLAND EXPRESS - STEVEN SPIELBERG

FILM AND DIRECTOR

CASINO - MARTIN SCORSESE
 THE EIGER SANCTION - CLINT EASTWOOD
 AIRPORT - GEORGE SEATON
 SLITHER - HOWARD ZEIFF
 MIDWAY - JACK SMIGHT
 EARTHQUAKE - MARK ROBSON
 WINNING - JAMES GOLDSTONE
 THE DREAM RIDERS - ROBERT ALTMAN
 ANGEL IN MY POCKET - ALAN RAKIN
 GRAY LADY DOWN - DAVID GREENE
 GABLE AND LOMBARD - SIDNEY FURIE
 YOUR THREE MINUTES ARE UP - DOUG SCHWARZ
 THE LONERS - SUTTON ROLEY
 OUTRAGE - RICHARD HEFFRON
 HOT RODS TO HELL - JOHN BRAHM
 THE BIRDCAGE - MIKE NICHOLS

TELEVISION

Representative Sample of Starring or Costarring Roles

LOIS AND CLARK
 MURDER, SHE WROTE
 EMPTY NEST
 FRESH PRINCE OF BEL AIR
 DESIGNING WOMEN
 L. A. LAW
 GOLDEN GIRLS
 MAMA'S FAMILY
 BABY M
 MAFIA PRINCESS
 COLUMBO
 TWILIGHT ZONE
 T. J. HOOKER

THE CLIENT
 THE VIRGINIAN (9 SEASONS)
 LADY MOBSTER
 DAYS OF OUR LIVES
 THE BILL COSBY SHOW
 MISSILES OF OCTOBER
 LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE
 FATHER MURPHY
 HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN
 TO HEAL A NATION
 RHYTHM AND BLUES
 ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS
 FANTASY ISLAND

PROJECT U F O
 HOUSE CALLS (REGULAR)
 THE ROAD WEST (REGULAR)
 PROFILES IN COURAGE
 DIVORCE COURT (REGULAR)
 CAPTAINS AND THE KINGS
 RICH MAN, POOR MAN
 POLICE STORY
 HAPPY DAYS
 KOJAK
 DUKES OF HAZZARD
 THREE'S COMPANY
 LOVE BOAT

THEATRICAL REPRESENTATION

COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION

Dade/Schultz Associates
 Talent Agency
 11846 VENTURA BLVD. SUITE 201 STUDIO CITY, CA 91604

gti
 6300 Wilshire Blvd. #2110
 Los Angeles, California 90048
 talent group inc. (310) 852-9550

(To bring the picture up to date, Stu is currently without moustache.)

The following day Stu and Nancy were off to Alice Springs and then on to Cairns. We all hope their trip was most enjoyable and that it's not too long before they venture back downunder.

(Astute readers will note that the date of the afternoon tea is after the publication date of this newsletter. The reason for this is that the Editor was overseas during October and, as he was running late anyway, decided to delay a little further so as to be able to include the above story!)

FEATURE ARTICLE (not)

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC: Unfortunately space limitations precluded a feature article in this newsletter, however there is enough room for a follow up on the feature article in N/News 40 regarding Nisbet teddy bears. In response to that article there is some interest in an N/N bear and doll get together. Joy Nisbet has some Peggy Nisbet dolls so, between her dolls and Ian T's (actually Gwenda's) bears, there is the basis for a teddy and doll social function. Any members who may be able to contribute to such a function are asked to contact either Joy or Ian T so that they can begin to establish a 'roll call'. Further information will be published as it becomes available.

THE WANTED LIST

BARTHOLOMEW ALEXANDER NESBIT SR: Bartholomew Alexander Nesbit Sr, who was born in 1884 at Middleborough, Yorkshire, UK and married Mary Amelia Stuart, emigrated to Perth, Western Australia in 1911. It is known that he had brothers and sisters.

Any information about Bartholomew Alexander Nesbit, his brothers and sisters and his forebears would be welcome and appreciated.

Contact: Donna Nesbit, Unit 34/30 Peninsula Road, Maylands 6051, Western Australia.

FOUND

Ian Clarke (an uncle of Ian M) has come across the following snippets of information on N/Ns:

1. 'Liber Melburniensis 1858 - 1914' (A history of the Church of England Grammar School, Melbourne 1914) notes in the School Roll 'Entrances 1903' - Nisbet, William Thomson, son of WT Nisbet, b 1892, left 1903 (ie only attended for one year).
2. Grave in (old) Alice Springs Cemetery - John DP Nisbet, 1901 - 1957, Edinburgh and Singapore, 'In Loving Memory'. A red gravestone with red stone surroundings (nothing else recorded on grave).
3. On passing through Winton, Queensland, Ian noted a 'Nisbit St'.

Can any of our members claim or shed light on these N/Ns?

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!

- * Jan and Gavin Nisbet were pleased to announce the engagement of their youngest daughter, Anne to Sean Carter, on Friday 18 October.
- * Blain Todd, husband of Assistant Secretary Effie Todd, has been seriously ill lately. This did not stop him from turning up at the afternoon tea for Stu and Nancy Nisbet, walking stick in hand. Keep up the good spirits Blain!
- * Gwenda Moss, wife of Editor Ian T, returned from a five week trip to Switzerland, England, Wales, Scotland and Singapore recently. One important stop along the way was Galashiels to pick up some Nisbet tartan. Unable to find the 'Peter Anderson' mill she enquired at 'Lochcarron', only to find that they were one and the same - Lochcarron is the new name. Gwenda reports that there was a good supply of N/N ties, both ancient and modern colours, thanks to regular orders from N/N members.

NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar for 1996/97)

November	Tennis day - date to be advised
7 December	Christmas Party
January	Newsletter 42
Feb/March	Annual Gathering - date yet to be set
April	Newsletter 43

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT: Ian M Nisbet, 26 Walnut Rd, Nth Balwyn, Vic 3104, Aust.
CHAIRMAN: Ian T Nisbet, 3/208 Alexandra Pde E, Clifton Hill Vic 3068, 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, 3/208 Alexandra Pde E, Clifton Hill, Vic 3068, Aust.
ASS ED: Ian G Nisbet, 1 St Johns Pde, Kew, Vic 3101, Aust.
ARCHIVIST: John Barth, 43 Newry St, Prahran, Vic 3101, Aust.
BOARD: Bruce Nesbit, Gavin M Nisbet, Lyndell Watson, Karen Nisbet,
 Gary R Nisbet.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

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

PUBLICATION OFFICER:

Bruce Nesbit, 6 Kent Crt, Bundoora, Vic 3083, Aust.

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT OFFICER:

Lyndell Watson, 30 Mitchell Rd, Box Hill North, Vic 3129, Aust.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE:

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, Michie Jensen.

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 Gail 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