

THE N/NEWS

NO. 49 OCTOBER 1998

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

Yet another year gone by. Accompanying this issue you will find the reports of the 12th Annual General Meeting of the N/N Society Australia, associated membership list, subscription form etc. I commend them to your reading and consideration.

On reflection, we have again welcomed a number of new members and encourage their participation. We shared anxiety over health problems of several members and wish them improved health and their company for much longer. We have seen the departure of our Chairman and Editor to the USA and very recently the resignation of the Treasurer. Dr Ian T Nisbet has settled in to life in Boston (when he's actually there) where he continues to take an interest in the Society - "from afar". Peter Watson is to be thanked for his years as treasurer whilst we welcome the return of our inaugural treasurer Gavin Nisbet to this post.

The NSW region continues to grow in numbers and experience, we wish them continued success, and would encourage the development of other regional groups.

We have had several "largish" projects underway for the past twelve months, having previewed several in the N/News, but have not managed to finalise any during that period. However the committee will be striving to make the coming year a "bumper" year for innovative development and growth potential as we approach the new millennium.

Note: The announcement/launch of the first project is not far away!

Editor

On looking back through N/News issues 45 to 48 I note that a certain article had been repeated, I apologise for this, but I have been and still am working from two files of submitted articles since inheriting Dr Ian T Nisbet's file.

Editor

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

NISBET PLANTATION BEACH CLUB - NEVIS: *The following excerpt is from an unidentified travel brochure.*

"The Nisbet Plantation Beach Club offers a rare blend of old-world elegance, modern comfort, and an absolutely fascinating history. It is based on an original 18th century Great House which was the former home of Frances Nisbet, the young bride of Lord Nelson. Lord Nelson tired of Frances' attentions as he fell in love with Lady Hamilton and Frances died a bitter woman. Named in Frances' honour, the Inn is set amidst 30 acres of stately coconut palms and is fringed by a mile-long stretch of white coral sand beach."

Nevis is one of the Leeward Islands of the Lesser Antilles of the West Indies in the Carribbean Sea. It sounds like a good, but unlikely spot for our next gathering!

DAME NELLIE MELBA: The following item was lifted from the Internet under "Mitchell inquiry".

Dame Nellie Melba was born Helen MITCHELL on May 19, 1861, in Richmond (an inner suburb of Melbourne). She married Charles Nesbitt ARMSTRONG in 1882. She did not study singing until after her marriage. She made her operatic debut in 1887 under the name of MELBA, derived from that of the city of Melbourne. Her marriage was dissolved in 1900. She was created a Dame of the British Empire in 1918 ("lifted" from Britannica Enc.). Dame Nellie's father was an architect (I think) and designed or built the Melbourne Exhibition Building can somebody else jump in here???

NISBETS IN NEW ZEALAND: The present day Bagnalls in New Zealand always thought that George and Martha were the first members of the Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) family to come to N.Z. However, in 1988, I received a letter from Mrs Margaret Kennedy (nee Nisbet) Box 216, Kensington, P.E.I. enclosing a copy of a very interesting cutting from a P.E.I. newspaper about the death of Alexander Nisbet in Kaeo, New Zealand.

"On Tuesday evening August 4th 1903 a very old resident, Mr. Alexander Nisbet passed away in his 74th year at Kaeo, Auckland N.Z. All the members of the deceased's family were present although several had to come long journeys over very bad roads. One daughter had to come from Port Chalmers and one son from New Plymouth.

The deceased gentleman was born in New Glasgow, Prince Edward Island, Canada, in the year 1829, and was the second son of the late Andrew Nisbet. He came to New Zealand in 1849 arriving at Kaeo the same year and was one of its earliest pioneers."

N.B. Martha Bagnall's mother was Margaret Stevenson (nee Nisbet) daughter of Andrew Nisbet and Catherine Guild. Margaret had a brother, Andrew Nisbet, whose son, Alexander, also came to N.Z.

After spending three years in the Australian goldfields Alexander returned to Kaeo in 1853, remaining there for the rest of his life. In 1854 he married Miss M.A. Spickman, daughter of Mr Wm. Spickman. He always took a great interest in affairs relating to the advancement of the district, filling many important posts over the years, including School Committee Chairman, and J.P. , advancing to Senior Justice in the Whangaroa County. He was associated with Oddfellows and Orangemen, and was a Free Mason for nearly 20 years.

When he died, Alexander left his wife and a grown up family of six sons and four daughters:
Janet Anne, wife of Mr. James Halliday, living north of Awanui
Gertrude Mabel, wife of Mr. Richard Gibbs, Captain of the Salvation Army, Port Chalmers
Emily Martha, wife of Mr. Wm. Gibbs, farmer, Kaipara
Ida Marion, living at home with her mother
Mr. Louis Nisbet, Northern Wairoa
Mr Alexander Nisbet, New Plymouth
Messrs. Charles, Alfred and Allen Nisbet had the firm of Nisbet Bros., bush contractors
Mr. Arthur Nisbet, blacksmith.
(The sons with exception of two resided in Kaeo.)

Some present day descendants are:

Ron & June Nisbet, Bucklands Beach, Auckland
Charles Nisbet, Whatitiri, Whangarei
(brothers and grandsons of Charles Nisbet)
Mrs. Bertha Clarke, Pt. Chevalier (daughter of Alexander Nisbet Jnr.)
Mrs. Jean Dawson (nee Gibbs), Hamilton
Mrs. Dorothea Stewart (nee Gibbs), Maori Hill, Dunedin
Mr. Walter & Mrs. Shirley Gibbs, Birkdale, Auckland
Mrs. Irene Dickinson (nee Gibbs), Northcote, Auckland
Mr. Graham Gibbs, Torbay, Auckland
(the last three being brothers and sister)
Mrs. Morelle Flavell, Waiuku
Mrs. Dorothy J. Cooper, Kaeo (granddaughter of Allen Nisbet)
Mrs. Sandra Godare, Pukekohe (two sisters of her great grandfather, Daniel Daly Hayes, both married Nisbet boys:
 Agnes Daly Hayes married Charles Nisbet in 1885
 Sarah Jane Hayes married Albert Nisbet in 1886

I'm not sure where Albert comes into it, is this Alfred? - Editor

A granddaughter of Alexander Nisbet's son, Charles, wrote a very interesting book about her great-grandfather, Wm. Spikeman an early pioneer.

"The Reluctant Pioneer. Story of William Spikeman, his Life and Times", by R. M. Prokhovnik.

N.B. In the Prince Edward Island newspaper obituary, the name was given as "Spickman".

Information supplied by Dorothy Bagnall

SOCIETY NEWS

JULY 25 EVENTS: Both Melbourne and Sydney ran events on the evening of July 25.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY: Sydney successfully celebrated "Christmas in July" gathering at the home of Keith & Mary Nisbet. They had seventeen in total including a few new faces. Apparently a digital camera also attended.

ITALIAN DINNER: Melbourne members gathered at the home of Ian M & Joy Nisbet for a dinner party. Some 15 members partook of an Italian dinner (catered for by *Ave* restaurant) and Bingo afterwards, the last departing about 1:15am.

NSW REGION SUNDAY LUNCH ON SEPTEMBER 27: The following account was submitted:

"Sunday was an absolutely fabulous day. We went to a site in western Sydney where model engineers go to play. There was a lake with large model ships, radio controlled type, all sailing or motoring around. There was an outdoor track where model cars were doing 100 and more kilometres an hour. There was an indoor slot car track (my son clocked up 91 laps in 15 minutes). There were radio controlled aeroplanes doing dog fights on the hill. And the most impressive bit of all was the model railway.

When I say model, the trains were real working scaled down models of real ones. They towed carriages that you sat on and went toot tooting around the track. One of our members, Eddie Harper, owns one of the engines. He gave us all a free ride around. The kids and adults alike thought it was a real hoot! The sun shone, in fact it was very hot. We barbequed and supped on the odd beer or cool wine. One or two even nodded off for a brief afternoon nap in the shade. Ideal venue, weather and, of course, company. The only pity was that it clashed with the Sydney Rugby League final and was the first weekend of the local school holidays (we didn't think of them, but then the place is only open on the last Sunday of the month, so choices were limited). All of this led to a limited number of members coming along. All up we had 11 adults and 5 kids. Nevertheless, all thought it a great venue and day out and we will no doubt do another day there next year.

Graham Nisbet

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The AGM held on October 24th at the home of Ian M & Joy Nisbet saw some 16 members congregate to receive the committee's report read by the president due to lack of voice on behalf of Chairman, Effie Todd. You too can read same as posted with this N/News. Karen Nisbet presented a painting of Nisbet House on behalf of David Nisbet (UK Branch). Devonshire tea was partaken by all with much healthy conversation. We were also more formally introduced to recent members Bob & Marion Johnston (Bob being attired in kilt and associated accessories).

The following article was submitted by Brian Nesbitt from The Sunday Telegraph of 31 May 1998. N.B. coincidentally Brian was also born and raised in Kurri Kurri.



Duncan Nisbet cuddles his "gorgeous" daughter Nadia. Picture: Michael Perrini

Dad's message

By CAMERON BELL

DUNCAN Nisbet glances across to the corner of the room where his baby daughter Nadia is crawling around the floor... a smile sweeps across his face.

"I've turned into a bloke I never thought I would become," he said — with more than a hint of irony.

"I never thought I was going to be one of those blokes who produced photos of their kids but everywhere I go I find I'm showing somebody Nadia's photo.

"She's gorgeous — she's everything."

Duncan never thought he would become a gushing father figure.

But, when he was a teenager, he probably never thought he would be spending the rest of his life in a wheelchair either.

Now 27, Duncan is a paraplegic because of a car accident seven years ago.

An accident in which his mate was killed after both fell asleep coming home from a soccer match.

It is an accident which bears out campaigns by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority advocating their "Stop, Revive Survive" message for drivers.

Duncan has re-built his life in what is an inspiring story but the horrors of that day seven years ago will never be far from his mind.

Duncan is the public face of a joint RTA and Motor Accident's Authority program

launched to coincide with the June holiday weekend next weekend.

In your paper today is a scratchcard, giving you the chance to win prizes while encouraging travellers to be aware of driver fatigue — one of the biggest contributors to road deaths in NSW every year.

Duncan — albeit in a wheelchair — is one of the lucky ones. He's one of the survivors.

"I was in a fatigue related smash," the aspiring paralympian said.

"We went to watch a mate play soccer at Nelson Bay and were 30 minutes into the trip on the way home when we both fell asleep.

"The car hit a pole... it was only 4.30pm in the afternoon and it wasn't late and it wasn't as if we'd been driving for hours. And it wasn't drink or drugs related.

"We'd had plenty of rest the night before but somehow we were both tired — the message is to pull over if you're feeling tired."

Duncan grew up in Kurri Kurri and was a local soccer star — making the Hunter representative team.

He had also completed an apprenticeship as an electrician.

But on that fateful day, his life was to change forever.

"My mate died in the crash... although I wasn't told this until a few weeks later which was probably good from a medical point of view," he said.

"My parents actually live next door to his grandparents so whenever I go home I know that it's hard for them — they see me in a wheelchair and that's a graphic reminder of the accident... it must bring everything back for them."

Tragic Duncan's new vow

He completed courses in management, sports administration and human movement and worked for the Spine Safe organisation educating people about spinal awareness.

He moved into a house at Gladesville with partner Rita — a tower of strength throughout his ordeal — and joined a wheelchair basketball team.

But the crowning glory came seven months ago when Rita gave birth to the couple's first child — Nadia.

Duncan has now set his sights on representing Australia at the 2000 Paralympics as a member of our gold medal winning wheelchair basketball team.

The following obituary was extracted from the Herald Sun of Wednesday October 14, 1998.

DOUGLAS NISBET

Helped locally, overseas

Community leader, returned serviceman

Born: November 3, 1924
Died: August 26, 1998

ALTHOUGH he recorded many achievements in his 73 years, one of the most tangible reminders of Douglas Nisbet's good deeds is the Langwarrin Football Clubrooms that bear his name.

As the first captain, coach and life member of the club, he worked hard over eight years to raise funds for the clubrooms.

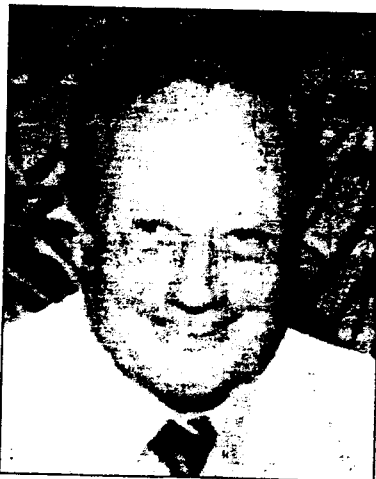
During his time in Langwarrin, Mr Nisbet wholeheartedly threw himself into the task of giving as much to his community as possible.

He was, among other things, a member of the local CFA, Langwarrin Progress Association, Langwarrin Rotary, community radio station 3RPP, Frankston RSL and Legacy and was editor of the community paper.

Born in 1924 in Port Melbourne, Mr Nisbet left school at 15 to become an apprentice toolmaker.

But barely six months into his apprenticeship he was beckoned by the call of World War II and forged his mother's signature to enter the army.

He served his country for five years, three of which were spent in Borneo and New Zealand,



Wicked sense of humor: Douglas Nisbet

and stayed behind after the war finished to guard Japanese soldiers.

During one home leave in 1944, he met Brunswick girl Doris Skinner at a Servicemen's Dance and courted her for two years until they were married in 1947.

In 1950 the newlyweds

moved to Langwarrin and Mr Nisbet joined the Cranbourne Shire as a by-laws officer.

Seeing the opportunity to advance his career, he enrolled in a health surveyor's course and at its completion was made Chief Health Surveyor for the Cranbourne Shire, a position he held until 1990.

During his time at the Shire he made many friends, and he won the Australian Citizen of the Year for the shire in 1990.

As well as serving the local community, Mr Nisbet also was committed to the welfare of overseas communities through his work with the International Red Cross.

He spent time in the aftermath of Pol Pot in Cambodia and also worked in Tonga and Ethiopia.

There he set up camps for refugees, building feeding centres, water supplies and helped restore sanitation services for hospitals and outpost areas.

In 1995, he received an International Red Cross citation award for his work.

But Mr Nisbet's life was not entirely full of selfless hard work.

He had a wicked sense of humor, and was known to go shopping with his daughter, Sue, and at the supermarket set all the alarm clocks to go off in three minutes.

He would then walk away to a safe distance and observe the resulting mayhem.

Doug Nisbet is survived by his wife, two children and five grandchildren.

N/NONSENSE

Work This one Out!

Many, many years ago
When I was twenty three,
I got married to a widow,
Pretty as could be.

This widow had a grown up daughter
With flowing hair of red.
My father fell in love with her,
And soon the two were wed.

This made my dad my son-in-law
And changed my very life.
Now my daughter was my mother,
For she was my father's wife.

To complicate the matters worse,
Although it brought me joy.
I soon became the father
Of a bouncing baby boy.

My little baby then became
A brother-in-law to dad.
And so became my uncle,
Though it made me very sad.

For if he was my uncle,
Then that also made him brother
To the widow's grown up daughter
Who, of course, was my step-mother.

Father's wife then had a son,
Who kept them on the run.
And he became my grandson,
For he was my daughter's son.

My wife is now my mother's mother
and it makes me blue.
Because, although she is my wife,
She's my grandma too.

If my wife is my grandmother,
Then I am her grandchild.
And every time I think of it,
It simply drives me wild.

For now I have become
The strangest case you ever saw.
As the husband of my grandmother,
I am my own Grandpa!

FOUND

President Ian M Nisbet, noted a query in the NA newsletter of July 1998 as below:

EQ#33; Elizabeth WAUGH (1740-1789) married John NISBET. However, he was not her husband for long as she subsequently married James HAY of Galashiels and descendants of this line came to Australia. Elizabeth and James are buried with her parents in St Michael at Gordon, Berwickshire. We know nothing of what happened to John NISBET. Did John and Elizabeth have any children together? e-mail: cgaden@northnet.com.au (Caroline Gaden)

Ian checked our copies of scottish records of Nesbit/Nisbet families in Scotland pre-1855 found the following entry:

JOHN NISBET/ELIZABETH WAUGH, m.1762 Jan 31, Polwarth, Berwick, JOHN NISBET c 1763 Jun 9

Thus it would appear that John and Elizabeth did have a child and that there well may be a Nisbet line. This information he has forwarded to Caroline Gaden. Can anybody add to this detail? - Editor

THE WANTED LIST

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES: The society would like to compile a listing of e-mail contacts and thus invite all members with e-mail addresses to advise the society secretary so that we might consider electronic options and developments in the near future.

Another entry from the NA newsletter of July 1998:

My client is hoping to publish her genealogy and to make it complete she would like to locate a missing NISBETT, first name unknown. The details are;

Margaret A. Rye, b. Watford 1939, married ??? NISBETT at Watford, 1958. Can anyone help locate this couple? We have no access to Electoral Rolls or telephone books.

Sue Chylek (for Mrs. Helen Murphy)
EVAGEAN Publishing
Perth
Western Australia
Australia
e-mail: chylek@space.net.au

OBITUARY

We note the passing of Tim Nesbitt, the NA Society's webmaster, 38 years of age he had been battling cancer for some time. He established the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society web page, which helped a lot of members trace their ancestors and brought many new members to the society.

FAMILY SNIPPETS

* Mark & Robyn Nisbet formerly of Eltham have recently taken up residence in West Melbourne.

STOP PRESS

N/N Society Homepage: It is anticipated that the homepage will be up and available by year's end 1998 at the following address:

nnsoc.org.au

Don't forget the "First Families 2001" project whilst you are surfing the net (or if not yet computerised refer to article on page 7 of N/News 47).

The Council of Clans advise of the following events:

22 November - St Andrew's Day remembrance ceremony at the shrine, 1:45pm.
5 December - Daylesford Highland Gathering.

NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar for 1998)

Dec 5	Christmas Party at 26 Walnut Rd, Nth Balwyn 8:00pm
Dec 12	<i>Christmas lunch picnic (poolside) possibly Dence Park, Epping</i>
Jan	N/News No. 50

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

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GENEALOGY CONSULTANT: James E Nisbet.

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The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society