

# THE N/NEWS

NO. 59 APRIL 2001

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY  
AUSTRALIA



## STARTING POINT

*I take this opportunity to welcome Graham Nisbet as Editor of the UK Newsletter and I am very impressed by his first newsletter. Graham takes over from William Nesbitt, who has produced numerous informative newsletters since 1988 when he "temporarily took on the role for 3 months". I wish William well in his "retirement" and thank him on behalf of the N/N's "down-under" for his effort in this voluntary position. I thank him also for the support he has provided on several occasions, supplying detail in response to queries or articles and in supplying some Boars Head ties. I wish him well on future projects.*

*Graham intends to continue to lift some articles from our newsletter/s so please keep those articles, "wanted" queries and items of general interest coming. I am sure that if they have a UK connection Graham will ensure that they are included within the UK newsletter; just as I regularly peruse the UK and NA newsletters and web-sites for anything with an Australian or New Zealand flavour.*

*Please note that the next edition is our 60<sup>th</sup> - that's right - 15 years! As always your articles and snippets are besought and I ask members to submit reflections/retrospectives on our society and our branch in particular.*

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## NOTICE BOARD-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

May	Social Evening, 26 Walnut Rd, Balwyn North
May 19	UK Gathering, Blair Atholl, Scotland
May 27	NSW Picnic Lunch, Model Engineers Park, Luddenham
July	N/NEWS # 60
July 29	NSW Christmas in July, West Pennant Hills
Oct	N/NEWS # 61
Oct 21	NSW N/N Picnic, Stuart Park, North Wollongong
Nov 18	NSW Annual Gathering of the Clans, Drummoyne Park, Drummoyne

Note: the social calendar can be viewed on the homepage.

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**UK Gathering 2001** The UK gathering is to be held at Blair Atholl on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2001 and will include a visit to Blair Castle. Contact: UK Secretary, June Nisbet, address listed on the last page of this newsletter or at [june@rozzie.demon.co.uk](mailto:june@rozzie.demon.co.uk) .

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### (NES)-BITS & PIECES

The Society received an e-mail regarding the publication of "New book on Nisbets", as below:

Dear Ian,

My name is Edwin Nisbet Moore, and I have just completed a book entitled Our Covenant Heritage, which is published by Christian Focus Publications Ltd. of Scotland. It contains the memoirs of James Nisbet, the son of John Nisbet of Hardhill, the famous Covenanter. It tells of the religious struggles of that day through the eyes of John and his son James. In the process, seven other John Nisbets of that era are encountered. It is now available in the USA and in Great Britain, and is endorsed by several leading Presbyterian Ministers (e.g. Dr. D. James Kennedy).

You can find out more about the book at my web site:  
<http://www.covenanters.com/> or at  
<http://www.christianfocus.com/>  
under general titles.

Please link my web site. Those interested can purchase the book from me directly (\$17.50 for one; \$15 each for 2-5 copies, and \$13 each for more than 5 copies) by

sending me an mail with their address to:

[enm0012@groupz.net](mailto:enm0012@groupz.net)

or via mail to Ed Moore; 3962 Wood Valley Drive; Aiken, SC 29803.

A shipping and handling fee of \$2.50 applies for US shipments. Postage overseas is at cost. It is also beginning to become available on Christian book web sites and in Christian book stores, but this is a slow process.

If you would like, I could send you a brochure about the book.

Please let me know how best to get this book into the hands of Nisbets or Nesbitts who may be interested.

Another source who may have the book is Christian Focus Publications distributor in Australia at the following address:

Family Reading  
1 College Street  
WENDOUREE  
Victoria 3355

Tel: 53 395118  
Fax: 53 381999

Sincerely,

Ed Moore

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Many Scottish emigrants to Australia chose to settle in Victoria. In 1900, six out of ten Victorians were Scots or were of Scottish descent.

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## N/Ns IN THE NEWS

The following article regarding one Mr. Thomas Nisbet, Master of Works, has been lifted from the UK Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Newsletter, Vol XVIII No.1, Easter 2001, pp18-20 and was originally published in "The Baillie", Vol. LVII. No. 1475, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1901.

The Baillie, Vol. LVII. No. 1475. 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1901.



MR THOMAS NISBET, C.E.,  
Master of Works for the City

# The Bailie.

## "MY CONSCIENCE!"

*No. 1475. Glasgow, Wednesday, January 23rd, 1901. Price 1d.*

### MEN YOU KNOW—NO. 1475.

ONE of the most onerous of all the posts held under the Corporation of the city is that of Master of Works. This official has charge of our streets, our roadways, and our houses. Before a building can be erected within our municipal boundaries he must be furnished with plans of its outward elevations and its different sections, together with all details regarding its height and width, the size of its rooms, and its entrances and exits. And in like manner everything concerning the drainage of houses and tenements, concerning public gas and water pipes, and concerning the opening and the up-keep of the streets, must be carried out under his personal and immediate cognisance. Up till the death of Mr. John Carrick, in 1890, the post of Master of Works was associated with that of City Architect. At Mr. Carrick's death, however, the two offices were disjoined, Mr. M'Donald, who had long been Mr. Carrick's confidential assistant, having been appointed City Engineer and Architect, and Mr. John Whyte, who had been in the Works Department for a generation, becoming Master of Works. Mr. Whyte having retired the other day, after over half-a-century passed in the service of the Corporation, a successor has been found to him in his assistant, Mr. THOMAS NISBET. And in the opinion of those best qualified to speak, the Town Council were fully warranted in not going outwith their own circle of employees when selecting a successor to Mr. Whyte. Mr. NISBET, indeed, possesses every needful qualification for the post. He has spent his life, since his boyhood, in engineering work. The local knowledge he possesses is both accurate and extensive. Moreover, he is not only tactful, but he is energetic as well. His conduct of the work of his office shows

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that he possesses a firm grasp over its different ramifications. In the Dean of Guild Court, where he is naturally a prevailing influence, he generally succeeds in carrying his own way, but this way is usually admitted to be eminently satisfactory, and to have a due regard to all the interests affected by a Dean of Guild decision. Mr. NISBET was educated with a special view to his following the profession of a civil engineer. After spending three years studying mathematics, natural philosophy, and engineering and mechanics, in the University on Gilmorehill, he entered the office of Messrs. Martin and Dunlop, engineers and architects, where he remained seven years, five of these being passed as an apprentice and two as an assistant. And while in the employment of Messrs. Martin and Dunlop, he joined the department of applied mechanics in the Technical College, in the first place as a student, and latterly as one of the assistants to the teacher, Professor Rowden. His second situation, as regards actual work, was in the office of the Chief Engineer of the Caledonian Railway, where he remained some fifteen months. He left this office to become engineer to Messrs. James Watson & Son, a firm who, while he was in their service, were engaged in the construction of various railway lines connected with the Caledonian system. After spending some three years with the Messrs. Watson, he entered the employment of Messrs. Hugh Kennedy & Sons as engineer in charge of the Gourrock Railway and Pier. Then, about 1888, he joined the Corporation staff, originally, as the BAILIE has said, as Assistant Master of Works, which office has been followed by that of Master of Works proper. The standing grievance of the city, always apart, of course, from the constantly increasing weight of taxation, is provided by the opening of

streets without, as a good many of the citizens believe, either rhyme or reason. The MAGISTRATE hopes that Mr. NISBET will see to this matter, and remove the grievance so far as it rests within his power. And this is really the only objection that is even mooted to the department of Corporation activity over which our friend now presides. In other words, the Office of Works has been carried on successfully in the past, and there is every prospect that it will be carried on with an equal measure of success in the future. Mr. NISBET, who is a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, is a pleasant, unassuming gentleman. His only hobby is cycling, and his company on a cycling tour is much prized by his associates, to whom he delights to act as guide, philosopher, and friend. Corporation servants are proverbially long-lived, and the certainty of his friends is that Mr. NISBET will be found acting as Master of Works well into the forties of the new century.

#### The House-Factor of the Future.

THE MAGISTRATE rubbed his spectacles after reading certain remarks by Mr. Harrison, chairman of the Glasgow Landlords' Association, the other day. The supply of houses in the city, according to that gentleman, is so abundant, and "the competition for tenants is so keen," that the unhappy landlords see ruin staring them in the face. The ordinary citizen, who has hitherto regarded landlords and house-factors as his natural enemies, may be disposed to regard this utterance as the herald of a happier era. Perchance the day approaches when, instead of the factor's imperative demand, about this time of year, for the return of that hardy annual, the "missive," within forty-eight hours, this is the sort of thing with which the householder may expect to be favoured:—

My dear Sir,—I trust you will pardon the liberty I take in requesting to know whether it is your pleasure to remain in your house for another year. Should you kindly decide to do so, I need hardly say it will afford me inexpressible satisfaction. As regards the question of rent, I have pleasure in leaving that entirely in your own hands. I shall be more than pleased to accept whatever sum you may consider reasonable, and payment can be made at any time that suits your convenience. I shall, of course, have the house re-papered and painted throughout, and if there are any other repairs or improvements which you think might add to your comfort and happiness, it will be my pleasing duty to have them instantly carried out.—Most respectfully soliciting a continuance of past favours, I am, &c.

*Bauldy*—Your remarks always remind me of a football.

*Peter*—And why of a football, pray?

*Bauldy*—Because there's never any point in them.

KIRKER GREER'S is the Cream of Old Irish Whiskies; it has obtained Seven Gold Medals.

#### The 25th.

O H, let the Januar' tempest blaw,  
We'll merry be here seated;  
'Tis Robin's natal day—hurrah!—  
An' warmly we will greet it.  
Auld Scotia's heart is prood, I wat—  
This nicht wi' pride 'tis throbbin';  
She'll ne'er forget the gift she gat  
When she was banded Robin.

Nae life was his o' wealth an' ease,  
O'er terraced lawns to wander;  
He drove the plough on daisied leas,  
For this he sung the grander.  
He sung o' rustic toil, in strains  
That thrilled the world to hear him;  
He sung the joys o' Scottish swains,  
An' o' the cares that steer them.

His loof richt weel the gossip read  
When on her lap he creepit;  
She told what cares wad o'er his head  
In after years be heapit.  
An', well-a-day! his cares were rife,  
His lot aft could an' cheerless;  
Alas! that want should blight a life  
That sung sae sweet, sae peerless.

Then, pass the bowl—Here's to the name  
That warms us when we hear it;  
Beyond the sea, as weel's at hame,  
This nicht fond hearts revere it.  
While Scotia's mountains tower on high,  
Her streams gang seaward sobbin',  
She'll never let the memory die  
O' her ain minstrel—Robin.

#### The Dog and Cat Show.

DEAR BAILIE,—“Our Dogs” and “Our Cats” were “at home” at the Drill Hall in Hill Street on Wednesday, and their visitors turned out in crowds. When I got there I had to wait my turn at the door as if it were the pit entrance to a pantomime.

What a din of barking and yelping there was upstairs to be sure. From the “deep-mouthed” bay of the St. Bernards and the Newfoundlanders to the snappy high notes of the terriers and the whining of the still smaller animals at the far end, there was one incessant interchange of “how-d'ye-do's.”

I was told that every competitor was satisfied except one who had previously had everything his own way, so it seems to have been pretty much a case of all prizes and no blanks.

A glance at the catalogue told how current events are reflected even in a dog show. There was not a single statesman mentioned, but the names of brave generals and heroes of the battlefield stood out on every page. In one class “Lord Roberts” took first prize, with “Lord Kitchener” and “Hector Macdonald” in the running.

I saw some bulldogs which I thought very like old Kruger, but none of the competitors had had the courage to adopt the name. De Wet, however, and General Joubert were recognised, the former as a puppy pug, and the latter as a respectable looking collie.

Literature was represented by “Silas Marner” (bulldog), “Mighty Atom” (breed not specified), and “Glory Quayle” (an Irish terrier); and the drama by “Florodora” (black and tan puppy).

Among the cats there were “Mark Antony,” “Lord Roberts” (several), “General White,” “Hector,” “Hector Macdonald,” “Lady White,” “Ladysmith,” and so on.

Yours, etc.,

Bob.

METHUSELAH WHISKY.—Oldest and Best. The Favourite Brand at late Exhibition. R. Hillcoat & Sons, Proprietors.

## SOCIETY NEWS

New South Wales: Nil activities to report but note the coming events in the Notice Board on page 1.

Victoria: Addendum to last report: Mr Greg Jones entertained the Christmas gathering with his magic.

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### NETWORKED N/N's

Ian Nisbet was notified of the launch of a new genealogy site on Radio 3AK (1116 AM – Melbourne), the presenter having been heavily involved with the First Families 2001 website over the past 4 years:

[www.familytree-online.com](http://www.familytree-online.com)

Try these few sites:

- Aussie freebies  
<http://www.piratepete.tv>
- Certified kid safe games and education  
<http://www.coolkid.ws>

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### THE WANTED LIST

N/N member, Nola Matuschka (nee Nesbitt), is searching for information on Benjamin Charles Nesbitt and writes:

"Mr Ken Fitzgerald of Coleraine is compiling a brief biography of those service personnel who failed to return from the First and Second World Wars.

Charles Nesbitt is one of the personnel listed as being killed in action at Poziers, France on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 1916, age 31 years.

I have not been successful in obtaining any history on Benjamin Charles Nesbitt and this is possibly the reason why.

The information I have is as follows:

George Nesbitt

Convicted to life imprisonment in Edinborough Court and sent to Sydney on the 'Countess Harcourt', arrived 1821. In Sydney for 5 years before being sent to New Norfolk in 1826. Married Mary Ann Bond in New Norfolk on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 1834. George died on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1860.

John Richard Nesbitt, third son of George and Mary Ann, born 7<sup>th</sup> October 1848, New Norfolk, died 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1882. Married Jessie/Janet Worley/Worbey nee Walker, died 1893.

Issue:

1. John George Nesbitt
2. William Henry Nesbitt
3. Benjamin Charles Nesbitt

William Henry Nesbitt was my grandfather and the brother of Benjamin Charles Nesbitt.

If anyone in the Society can help with information or photographs could you please let me know. I will then pass on this information to Mr. Fitzgerald in Coleraine."

*Please contact the secretary who will forward information or put you in direct contact with Nola.*

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Date: January 15, 2001 Time: 7:04 pm  
Name: Lynette Campbell Email Address: nettycam@extra.co.nz  
Subject: Nisbet ancestors

I am from New Zealand and am searching for James Nisbet who married Christian Brown on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1823 in Lasswade, Midlothian. James was born about 1793 but his parents are not known. Christian Brown was born about 1797 parents also not known. Their children were John b. 1824 - James b. 1827 - Janet b. 1831 - Mary b. 1832 - James b. 1825 - Margaret b. 1834. Janet married Robert Todd. I descend from James b. 1827. This site is great, I have seen several of my ancestors mentioned in Alexander Nisbet's pages and wish to know more - can anyone help me?

## OBITUARIES

The Society is saddened to be informed of the death of Ian R. Nesbit in February. Ian was an N/N member from Queensland and brother of Victorian member, Elyse Classon and brother-in-law of John.

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Our condolences to Judy & Peter Todd and family on the recent death of Judy's Father, John Pescott.

## FAMILY SNIPPETS

Congratulations to Heather Ames who celebrated a special birthday as the last newsletter went to print.

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Joy Nisbet is currently recuperating from surgery, we wish her a speedy return to full mobility.

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Congratulations in advance to Chairman, Effie Todd who celebrates a special birthday in May.

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## SCOTS OF VICTORIA COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The SVCC has been successful in procuring a place for an entry for the Scottish Community of Victoria in the Centenary of Federation 'Our Nation on Parade'. The contingent is made up of representatives from some 19 groups (100 people) associated with the SVCC. The parade is to be held on Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001 through the City of Melbourne.

Other events on the calendar are:

July 1	Kirkin' o' the Tartan	Scots Church, Collins Street, Melbourne
Nov 18	St Andrew's Day Remembrance Service	Shrine of Remembrance
Nov 24-25	Gippsland Celtic Festival	Logan Park, Warragul
Dec 1	Daylesford Highland Gathering	Daylesford

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## STOP PRESS

**2001 Federation Ringwood Highland Games:** According to reports in local newspapers this event, held over the Easter weekend, was a huge success with thousands attending over the two days. Several of the sponsors associated with the games I thought may be of some interest:

Scottish Clan & Tartan Shop

NSW: Shop 18A Birkenhead Shopping Centre, Drummoyne

Vic: 79 Princes Highway, Pakenham

[www.scottishtartan.citysearch.com.au](http://www.scottishtartan.citysearch.com.au)

Anderson's Kilt Hire

[www.kilthire.com.au](http://www.kilthire.com.au)

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**BOARS HEAD TIES:** The Newsletter Editor still has several Boars Head Ties (Navy blue with white boars head pattern embossed) in stock available at \$22:50 (AUD). Please contact the Newsletter Editor to arrange delivery and payment. Be quick though to avoid possible disappointment. With the present exchange rate these ties will never again be offered at this price!

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT: Ian M Nisbet, 26 Walnut Rd, North Balwyn, Vic 3104, Aust.  
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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.

NSW REGIONAL GROUP:

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GENEALOGY CONSULTANT: James E Nisbet.

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NZ REGIONAL OFFICERS:

Margaret Vickers, Kartigi, RD2 Palmerston 9061, Otago, NZ.  
Dorothy Bagnall, 45 Beulah Avenue, Rothesay Bay, Auckland 10, NZ.

OVERSEAS CONTACTS:

North America: R. Thomas Nesbitt, 39351A Sunset Drive, Oconomowoc, WI 53066, USA.  
UK: June Nisbet, 6 Dunvegan Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, DD5 3HP.

**The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society**

INTERNET SITE:

<http://www.nnsoc.org.au>