

# THE N/NEWS

NO. 76 July 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY  
AUSTRALIA



## STARTING POINT

*During the compilation of this edition of the N/News the world was once again rocked by another act of terrorism, this time in London (Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2005). Many Australians have kin and friends abroad and the disruptions that were experienced led to some anxious hours awaiting SMS messages, e-mail or telephone calls.*

*On behalf of the Australian Branch I pass on thoughts and best wishes for our UK Society members and their families and friends at this time of hurt and uncertainty.*

*“Dues are Due” invoices for annual subscriptions for the year 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2005 were issued with N/News 75. Your prompt attention to their payment is appreciated and will ensure that reminders are unnecessary. Please ensure that your contact details are current, correct and supply an e-mail address wherever possible.*

*Contributions for future editions of the N/News are sought and can be logged at our homepage at:*

**<http://www.nnsoc.asn.au>**

*Ed*

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## NOTICE BOARD

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

July 23	Fireside Chat, 8:00pm, St Abbs, 26 Walnut Road, Balwyn North
Oct 9	AGM, 3:00pm, St Abbs, 26 Walnut Road, Balwyn North
Oct	N/NEWS # 77
Dec 10	Christmas Gathering, 8:00pm, St Abbs, 26 Walnut Road, Balwyn North
Jan	N/NEWS # 78

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

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## Kilmarnock 2006

*Legend has it that Kilmarnock derived its name from the early Christian missionary St. Marnock. ‘Kil’ being short for ‘cell’ or ‘church’. Settlements have existed since the Bronze Age but the town only started to expand in 1592 when it received a Royal Charter. This is the site of the 2006 Nesbitt/Nisbet Society UK gathering – further details will be forthcoming.*

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## MEM-BOAR-SHIP

- Gem Symon of Bundaberg, Qld., who was also our 100<sup>th</sup> on-line applicant. Gem’s search entries can be found in this edition’s WANTED section.

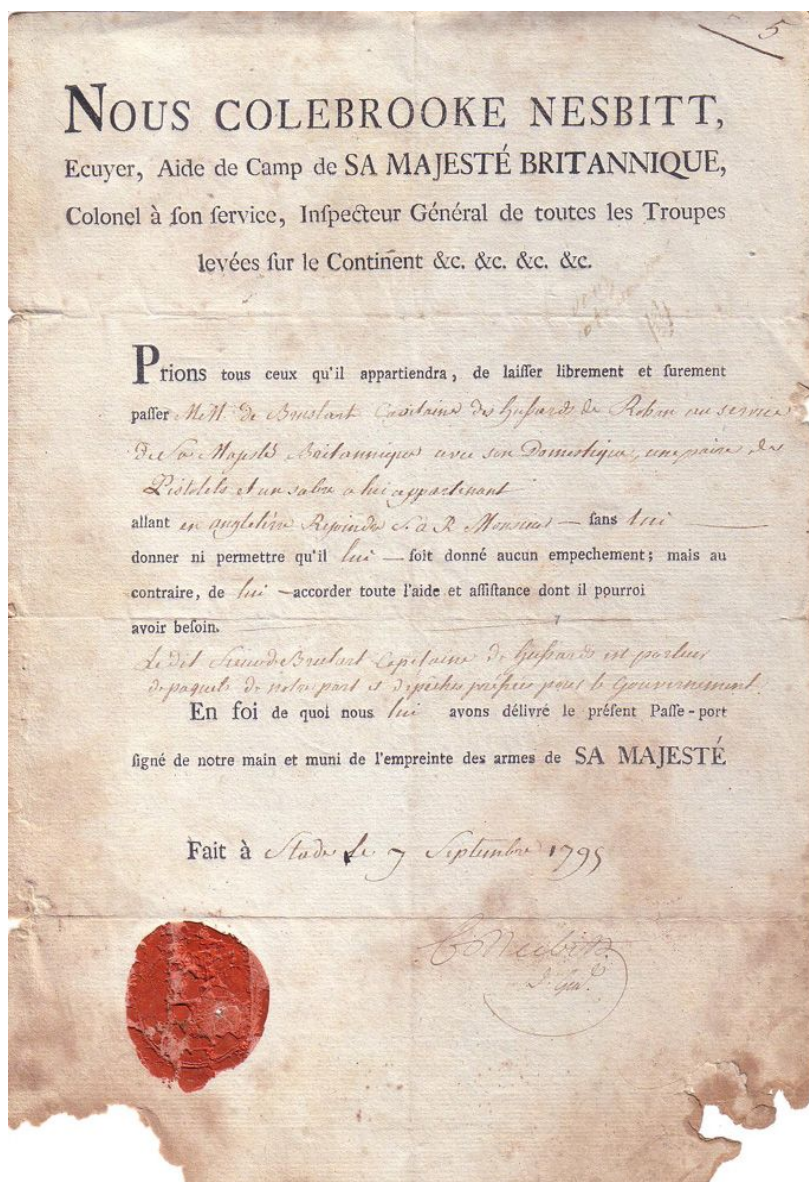
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## (NES)-BITS & PIECES

The following report on the induction of Brenda Nisbett as Chief of the Naracoorte Caledonian Society was recently received.

Members of the Naracoorte Caledonian Society, friends, visitors & visiting chiefs almost filled the Naracoorte Town Hall on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The Naracoorte Caledonian Cabaret started with Naracoorte Highland Pipe Band playing a selection of tunes to entertain guests & visitors. The band Tamarisque played for the dancing which all enjoyed. During the evening Chief-elect, Brenda Nisbett was piped in by piper & Past Chief, Don Patterson. She was installed as new worthy Chief of the Society by another Past Chief, Peter Grieve. At the end of the ceremony the hall lights were dimmed while piper, Don Patterson played "Highland Cathedral", at the special request of the new chief. In the long history of the Naracoorte Society, established in 1897, Brenda is only the second woman to hold the position of Chief. It was a great night; the Chief proudly wore a Nisbet tartan sash & her husband, Graham, a Nisbet tartan tie!!

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Jerome Lantz of Paris supplied the image above of a laissez-passer from the British and French Royalist war against the French revolutionaries to Mark Nesbitt of the UK Society. It was signed in 1795 by Colebrooke Nesbitt, as Inspector-General of British forces on the Continent. Little is known about Colebrooke Nesbitt except that he was a natural son of the well-known merchant Arnold Nesbitt (whose family is documented in the "History of the family of Nesbitt or Nisbet", and came from Lismore, Co. Cavan). Colebrooke Nesbitt's will was proved in 1798 and is available online from The National Archives, and some of his letters to General Don are in the British Library.

**Barony of Dirleton** - this historic Feudal Barony is for sale through Barony Titles (<http://www.baronytitles.com/>), a respected agent for these ancient Scottish titles. The Barony is in East Lothian and was the seat of the Nisbets of Dirleton from 1663 to the 1950s. Details of the Barony are online (at [http://www.baronyoffulwood.com/disposition Dirleton.htm](http://www.baronyoffulwood.com/disposition_Dirleton.htm)). Your chance to own a piece of Scottish history!



Dirleton Castle

*What is a Barony?* (extracted from [http://www.baronyoffulwood.com/disposition Dirleton.htm](http://www.baronyoffulwood.com/disposition_Dirleton.htm))

On 28th November 2004 Scotland's feudal system came to an end. On that day the Abolition of Feudal Tenure etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 came into full force and effect. Note that this was not a reform Act; it was an abolition Act. However the Scottish Parliament, under Section 63(1) of the Act, preserves the dignity of baron and the heraldic rights of barons. You may continue to purchase barony titles, sell them, leave them in your will to whomever you wish, or, gift them in your own lifetime. In the event that you die intestate they will pass under the pre-1964 laws of succession; that is to say that your eldest male child will inherit. Barony titles are separated from the land that they formerly belonged to and become personal titles and as such are no longer recordable in the public land registers.

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

*The following article was taken from the Nesbitt/Nisbet UK Society Newsletter, Volume XXII No.2 pp.12 & 13.*

### **Old Bailey Records - Ann Nesbitt** offences against the king: coining, 09 Jan 1811.

#### **Trial Summary:**

- Crime(s): offences against the king : coining,
- Punishment Type: death,
- Verdict: Guilty,

#### **Original Text:**

**104. ANN NESBITT** was indicted for that she, at the general sessions of our Lord the King for the County of Middlesex, holden at the sessions-house Clerkenwell for the said county, on Monday the 18th of September, in the 49th year of his present Majesty's reign, she was in due form of law tried and convicted for that she, on the 19th of August in the 49th year of his Majesty's reign, one piece of false counterfeited money made to the likeness and similitude of good and lawful current money of this realm called a six-pence, as and for a good sixpence unlawfully did utter to Mary the wife of William Thomas, she well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit, and was thereupon ordered to be imprisoned in New Prison, Clerkenwell, one year and to find " sureties for her good behaviour for two years more; that she, having been convicted as a common utterer, afterwards, on the 15th of December, one-piece of false and counterfeit money made to the likeness and similitude of good and lawful current money of this realm called a shilling, unlawfully did utter to Mary the wife of John Clarke, she well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit.

JOSHUA GILL SEWELL. Q. I believe you are clerk to the solicitor of the mint - A. I am; I produce a copy of the record of the conviction of the prisoner, I got it from the clerk of the peace's office Clerkenwell; I examined that copy with the original, it is a true copy.

WILLIAM BEEBY. Q. You are a clerk to Mr. Newport, keeper of the New Prison, Clerkenwell - A. I am.

Q. Do you know the prisoner, Ann Nesbitt - A. Yes, I was present when she was tried and convicted in September session 1809, she was ordered to be imprisoned in New Prison, Clerkenwell, one year and at the expiration of that time to find sureties for her good behaviour for two years more; she staid in the prison that time and found sureties and was discharged; I am positive she is the person, I know her very well.

JOHN COBHAM. Q. You are a potatoe merchant - A. Yes, I live in David-street, Berkley-square. On Saturday the 15 of December about a quarter past five in the evening the prisoner asked me if I had any kidney potatoes, I told her I had, she desired two pound of the best, I weighed her two pound and there were rather more, she said never mind make it three, they came to three pence, she gave me a bad shilling, this is the shilling, I returned it to her instantly, it is a crooked shilling; I stated to her it was a bad one, I expostulated to her on putting off bad money at that time of the night, because it was an hour we often take bad money at our shop; she was about a minute and a half searching her pocket, at last she produced a sixpence very much battered saying very likely you may not approve of this, I have no other silver except a dollar which I do not like to change; which dollar afterwards upon searching her I never found.

Q. You afterwards searched her and found that shilling upon her - A. Yes, about a quarter of an hour after I searched her in Mr. Clarke's shop and found this shilling in her hand, that she had offered to me with three others; I found another bad shilling and a sixpence in her pocket. I did not approve of the battered sixpence, I returned it her; she then left my shop desiring me to leave the potatoes in the scale she would return for them. I followed her at a distance, I saw her cross over to a public house and look in at the window, she did not go in there, I then followed her to Mr. Clarke's a butcher in Grovesnor-market, she took up a piece of meat smelled it and put it down again, she then went to Mr. Clarke's shop; I crossed opposite, it is very narrow there, I could see her, I heard Mr. Clarke ring a shilling upon a block, it sounded bad, I saw her come out of the shop and as she came out I went in, I asked Mr. Clarke if she had given him a bad shilling, she was not within hearing, Mr. Clarke went after her and brought her back, Mrs. Clarke returned the shilling to her, I seized her wrist instantly and took four shillings out of her hand, her hand was clenched, three of the shillings were wet; I asked her where is the shilling that you gave me, she said where; I said at the potatoe warehouse; she then begged for mercy, she said she was an unfortunate woman, she would give me any thing to let her go. I took her to the watch house, she got behind a chair, rather in the dark, she untied her pockets, I picked them up and examined them, I found five shillings and ten pence three farthings in copper, a penny bread cake, a penny plum bun, two tarts, two skains of thread, a box of salve, and this terner's cerat, I then took her to Marlborough-street. This is the money that was taken out of her hand, and this is the money that was found in her pocket.

RICHARD FRANKLIN. Q. You are one of the moniers of the Mint - A. I am.

Q. Look at the shilling tendered to Cobham - A. That is a counterfeit.

Q. Look at the three other shillings - A. They are the same, and the crooked one, and the sixpence is bad.

Q. The crooked one is the one uttered - A. And the one shilling and six pence out of her pocket is bad.

JOHN CLARKE. I am a butcher in Grovesnor-market. On the 15th of December in the afternoon about half after five, the prisoner came to my shop, she picked out several bits of meat which came to eleven pence, she gave me a shilling, I gave her a penny, I looked at it, I thought it was not a good one, I called my wife to look at it, she said it was not a good one; I went out to the door and left her with my wife, I saw Mr. Cobham run in and speak to my wife, in consequence of what my wife said I pursued after the prisoner and brought her back again, she offered my wife a crooked shilling instead of that she had given her, Mr. Cobham caught hold of her by the hand and he said he had got three shilling more and a crooked one.

MARY CLARKE. Q. You are the wife of John Clarke A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember the prisoner coming to your house - A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember your husband giving you a shilling which you found to be a bad one - A. Yes, I returned that to the prisoner and then she gave me a crooked shilling for the bad one and then went out of the shop, I put the shilling in my pocket and thought it was a good one; I had only one other shilling in my pocket which was a flat one; she went out of the shop, Mr. Cobham came in immediately after the prisoner was gone, I shewed him the same shilling that I received of the prisoner, he said it was a bad one; I am sure it is the crooked shilling that the prisoner gave to me that I shewed to Mr. Cobham, I had no other crooked shilling, I believe that to be the shilling.

Q. Did you hear her beg to Cobham for mercy - A. Yes, I did, and I begged for her upon account of her saying she had a family.

Q. Did you see this shilling taken out of her hand - A. Yes, with the other shillings. It was one of the four shillings that was taken out of her hand.

Prisoner's Defence. I leave myself to the mercy of the Judge and the Jury, I have three fatherless children, I did it to get a bit of bread for them; I hope you will shew me mercy; I shall in duty be bound ever to pray for the Judge and the Jury. I will never do such a thing any more.

GUILTY - DEATH, aged 42.

First Middlesex Jury, before Lord Chief Baron.

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## SOCIAL NEWS

*As noted in the "Starting Point" of N/News 75, the biennial gathering of the N/N Society NA Branch was held in Charleston, South Carolina on April 23, 2005 with some 58 members (including 3 UK members) in attendance, and by all accounts was a great success. The AGM held with the gathering saw the retirement of Stu Nisbet from the role of President of the North American branch of the N/N Society, after some 20 years of service. Stu was presented with a hand-carved Clan Nisbet staff, made by a Charleston craftsman especially for the occasion. He was also presented with a pewter Nisbet clan plate, inscribed on the back with "Stuart Nisbet, NN Society President 1985-2005. Thank you for your service."*

The new line-up of the North American committee is:

*President:* David Nesbitt Harvey IV  
*Vice President:* Dorothy Nesbitt  
*Secretary/Treasurer:* Diana Hawkins  
*News Editor:* Tom Nesbitt  
*Webmaster:* Kandas Nesbitt-Rodarte

Assisted by regional representatives:

*Canadian Rep:* Allan Cowan  
*Northeast Rep:* Shirley Sakey  
*Southeast Rep:* Jeff T. Nisbet  
*Midwest Rep:* Steve A. Nesbitt  
*Western Rep:* Hal Nesbitt

*The N/N Society – Australia wish David and his committee every success in their efforts.*

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*Mark Nesbitt of that Ilk, Chief of the Clan Nisbet and President of the N/N Society – UK Branch, submitted greetings to the gathering from the UK, as follows:*

*Greetings to all assembled here today,*

*In this day and age of global dispersal a Clan association, such as the Nesbitt-Nisbet Society, plays a vital role in linking together those who share ancestry in this ancient family. Although newsletters and websites are vitally important, there is no substitute for regular gatherings, at which we can exchange ideas and information, visit the historic homesteads of our kith and kin, form new bonds of friendship.*

*New technologies such as DNA testing make this an exciting time for genealogy, particularly for members of Scottish clans, which have well documented early histories, but widely dispersed descendants. I am proud to have participated in the Society's DNA program, so ably coordinated by Tom Nesbitt, and encourage all clan members to join the DNA project.*

*The DNA program, the gathering, the newsletters so ably edited by Dorothy Nesbitt, and the information-rich website are all signs of a flourishing Society. In the year that Stuart Nisbet retires as President, he can be proud of the progress of the North American branch he has done so much to nurture.*

*This meeting in Charleston, rich in Nesbitt-Nisbet heritage, is the second in what I hope will be a long line of regular gatherings in North America. Sadly I can't be with you this year, but I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the 2006 gathering in Scotland.*

*With best wishes for a splendid meeting, and many thanks to David and Sue Nisbet for bearing this message and acting as global ambassadors for the UK Society.*

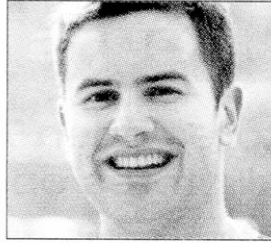
*Mark Nesbitt of that Ilk*

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## N/N's IN THE NEWS

*The Herald Sun* of 30 May 2005 p.18 in its **VOX POP** segment posed the question “Do you support the ban on cattle grazing in the Alpine National Park?” One of the five reported interviewees was Billy Nesbitt of Armadale (see right).



**BILLY NESBITT**  
27, Armadale

No, there are too many livelihoods at stake. Farmers have a hard enough time of it as it is.

*In The Age of Friday* June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 pp. 8 & 9 was a two-page advertisement by ANZ thanking staff and promoting them as “Staff of the year.” in recognition of ANZ being Bank of the Year for the sixth time in a row and listing their very special staff in Victoria.

Amongst these were  
**J. Nesbitt and R. Nisbet.**

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## FOUND

The following item was spotted by Ian Clarke in the “*Journal of the Northumberland & Durham Family History Society*”, Spring 2005, Volume 30 No. 1, pp. 12 -14. In an article entitled “THE HEATON COLLIERY DISASTER 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1815” by Phil Thirkell.

“On the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1815 a flood in the Heaton Colliery trapped 41 men and 34 boys underground. Their bodies were not recovered until February 1816, when it was found that many had survived drowning, only to succumb to the foul air in the upper parts of the pit, where they sought refuge and from which there was no escape”. – *These are the opening lines on the memorial plaque at High Heaton.*

In the article the author states, “The Durham Mining Museum website gives a list of the casualties of the Heaton Colliery disaster. The table below gives the details recorded in the parish burial registers for St Peter’s, Wallsend and St Bartholomew’s, Longbenton. It should be pointed out that there are some differences in the detail:”

Within the table is the following entry:

Surname	Forename	Age (yrs)	Date of Burial	Place of Burial
Nesbitt	John	37	20 Feb 1816	Wallsend

The Durham Mining Museum website can be found at: [www.dmm.org.uk](http://www.dmm.org.uk)

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## THE WANTED LIST

The following three items were spotted by Ian Clarke in the “*Journal of the Northumberland & Durham Family History Society*”, Spring 2005, Volume 30 No. 1, pp. 22 - 24. In the “MEMBERS’ INTERESTS AND QUERIES” section.

**4551 ELIZABETH McMURDY**, 13 Willow Street Kippa-Ring Queensland 4021, Australia  
(email: [mcmurdy@petrie.hotkey.net.au](mailto:mcmurdy@petrie.hotkey.net.au))

Elizabeth Ann **HENDERSON** was born Winlaton 1833, her father Matthew was an agent. Does anyone know anything about his family? Elizabeth married Thomas Friend **BENNETT** (born 1852) at All Saints, Newcastle in 1851. They had eight children: Sarah Jane born 1852, Theodosia and Matthew 1856, Thomas Friend 1858 (who married Johanna **HURST** in 1877), Joseph Hannington 1860, Richard Alexander 1862, John 1866 and Lionel 1862. What is the family connection with the **HANNINGTON** family? Also trying to get information on Thomas **NESBIT**, a policeman, who married Sarah Jane Bennett at Tynemouth in 1896. They had a son Thomas Bennett Nesbit born 1900. Does anyone know anything about this policeman?

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**7103 Mr BILL WRIGHT**, 4 Doxford Avenue, Hetton-le-Hole, Tyne & Wear DH5 9PX  
(email: [wfwright@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:wfwright@tiscali.co.uk))

My 4x great grandfather was Alexander **NESBIT** born c.1754, married Frances **CARR** at Edmundbyers in 1794, and had the following children: Alexander 1798 born at Edmundbyers; Mary 1800; Ann 1803; John 1807; Frances 1810 (all baptised at Bywell); Henry 1813; Margaret 1815; Hannah 1818 (all born at Shadwell House, Corbridge). Frances nee Carr (mother) 1828, Margaret 1819, Frances (daughter) 1827 all died at Shadwell House, Corbridge. Alexander the father died in Hexham 1841. Frances was the daughter of James Carr of Whitley Chapel. Ann married Robert **WITHERSPOON** of Chester-le-Street in 1840. Also I would like to hear from any descendants of the **NEAL** and Witherspoon families of Washington, Wingate and Seaham areas.

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**10741 DAPHNE LEYBURN**, 36 Kensington Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2HP

Seeking: 1) Parents of Robert **HANDYSIDE**, born Woodhorn 1818, died 1888 Beadnell, a fisherman who married Jane **HALL**, born Beadnell or Bedlington 1824, died 1894. 2) Marriage of John Hall, publican and fisherman, born 1800 Beadnell area, and Catherine **BLAINE**, born Lowick 1798, died 1873 Beadnell. Who were her parents? Was she a widow when she married? Associated names: **CLOUGH, CUTHBERTSON, DOUGLAS, FAWCUS, HENRY, MARKWELL, MOYES, NESBIT, ROCHESTER, SHORT, SIMPSON, STEVENSON, SUMMERS, TWEDDLE** and **TULLY** in the Northumberland area. Also seeking: 3) Parents of Robert **MIDDLEMASS**, born 1743 Lonhghoughton area, died 1822 and the parents of his wife Margaret **LIDDLE** who he married at Ss Peter and Paul, Longhoughton. Interested in John Middlemass' descendants, their fifth child, born 1776, died 1858. Associated names: **KNOX, LAMB** (Howdon) **SANDERSON** and **GREY** (Longhoughton).

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**On Sunday, 26-Jun-2005**

**Gem Stewart Symon (nee Nisbet) - from Bundaberg Q Aust wrote:**

Has anyone found any trace of a James Stewart Nisbet born Stromness 1870 and believed to have lived in NSW between then and 1899 before moving to Qld. I can find no reference to him so far. Help would be appreciated.

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**On Sunday, 26-Jun-2005**

**Gem Stewart Symon (nee Nisbet) - from Bundaberg, Q, Aust wrote:**

I would like to trace descendents of Florence Gordon Nisbet (Stromness 1872) or Harriet Steven Nisbet (Edinburgh 1880). They are sister and half sister of my Grandfather, James Stewart Nisbet (Stromness 1870) who came to Australia about 1877.

*Note: these requests have already drawn much attention from our Secretary who has forwarded genealogical advice & detail and provided contact details for N/N members and N/N's in the Deniliquin area. It would appear that some connection/s have been established, but we await confirmation and further developments.*

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## **FAMILY SNIPPETS**

The Ames family report that Camille and Andrew Russell and Holly Ames, all resident in the UK, are well, with Andrew having a 3 hour walk home from central London as a result of the recent bombings.

*Some surprise that Andrew found his was commented on – obviously some doubts about his geographical skills exist. Whilst their stay in England continues we trust they continue safe, in good health and spirits.*

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Dr Ian T. & Gwenda Nisbet have moved yet again – to Ivanhoe. Some 3 weeks after the initial move Ian has finally got to see his shed – still full of boxes, yet to be unpacked.

*We wish them well in their new abode.*

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GENERAL COMMITTEE:

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Vacant.

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Jan Nisbet, Barbara Leslie, Helen Nesbit, Michie Jensen, Heather Clarke.

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UK: Peter W W Nisbet, 7 Stafford Place, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset, BS23 2SQ, UK.

**The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society Australia is a member of the Council of Clans**

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

INTERNET SITE:

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