

THE N/NEWS

NO. 78 January 2006

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

I wish each and every member a Happy New Year and a prosperous 2006.

With January well under way the Scots amongst us turn our thoughts turn to Burns celebrations, commemorating the life and works of the Scottish Bard, Robert Burns born 25th January 1759. A number of associations (celtic, gaelic, Caledonian, Scottish, St Andrews and Robert Burns associations) hold Robert Burns Suppers (or similar). Perhaps it might be worth a try for something a little different?

For others there are a number of Highland Gatherings happening throughout Australia and New Zealand (see page 7). Glen Hollebhone recently took advantage of Scottish Week in Sydney – and had a great time.

Glen was unable to source any N/N information at the clan tents and was advised that “they must be very secretive”. I don’t know about “secretive”, perhaps just small – and your assistance in attending to both of these is encouraged; tell people (relatives, interested third parties, those of the name.) about the N/N Society, take an active role in the Society and support the activities and functions by participative membership. During this, our 20th year, we aim to see growth in membership – details of activities will be forthcoming.

In the meantime Melbourne is currently the focus of tennis and, shortly, the Commonwealth Games. So I guess that there is no shortage of extracurricular activities for (Victorian) N/N’s.

Chairman & Editor



NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

<i>Feb</i>	<i>N/N Exec Meeting</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>N/NEWS # 79</i>
<i>May 13</i>	<i>N/N Society Gathering, Kilmarnock, Scotland</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>N/NEWS # 80</i>

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



MEM-BOAR-SHIP

Changes of details have been noted for:

- Pippa & Tony Letch, now resident in Stirling, WA.
- Yvonne Elliott, now resident in Charlestown, NSW.

Our homepage continues to supply a stream of expressions of interest in joining our society, now at about 120 on-line applications. Unfortunately not all result in commitment to financial membership. Several recent submissions are currently being processed – so anticipate details in the next N/News.

The recent mail out of Annual Subscriptions for 2005/06 has indicated that a number of members had forgotten to advise of change of addresses, e-mail addresses and presumably other snippets, all of which we would be glad to receive so that we do not lose contact. Changes can be submitted via our homepage or by mail to our secretary. Thanks to members who have responded promptly to the 2005/06 Annual subscriptions and the NZ members who have responded to the NZ administrator, John Nesbit. Any notices, snippets, items or queries can also be forwarded via our regional contact officers (details on back page of N/News).



(NES)-BITS & PIECES

The following items are extracts from articles in the Nesbitt/Nisbet UK Society Newsletter Volume XXII No 3, Autumn 2005 (with page numbers in bracketed italics).

Nisbet Tower Eyemouth Opening (*pages 4 – 6*)

N/News 70 page 2 featured an article on Gunsgreen House and the proposed restoration works to be undertaken. Graham & Alice Nisbet attended the opening of Nisbet Tower at Gunsgreen House, Eyemouth on Sunday 18th September 2005 at the invitation of the Friends of Gunsgreen House. They were given a tour and an update on the tower conversion.

‘The tower has now been completed and has been turned into a self catering accommodation for 2 people The transformation into accommodation is amazing & will be available for let by a holiday home/cottage company from April 2006, I hope to publish these details in our next (UK) newsletter.’

The following notes are from the report by the Gunsgreen House Trust

The restoration of the tower

In tackling this small and near-derelict building, the Trust has had to meet two sets of requirements: the historic fabric of the building had to be conserved and put in a sound condition and an appropriate use had to be found for the tower that would give it a living future and permit the property to contribute to the income of the Trust. For these reasons, the work on the tower has had to be conducted on two distinct levels (i) careful architectural conservation as far as regards the exterior and (ii) a total redevelopment of the interior to provide modern living accommodation in the form of a small two-storey cottage. The impact of the redevelopment of the interior on the outside has been limited to the creation of three new windows. Two are traditional sash windows: one is to light the bedroom on the ground floor and has been placed directly below the line of the window put in during the nineteenth century which had later been cut down; the second is placed above the carriage arch, facing back towards the town and harbour. The third new window is a long line of modern lights placed immediately under an overhanging roof. The long window gives light to the kitchen, dining and sitting areas on the upper floor of the building and provides a view, from the tower towards the hillside and links. On the west side, facing the town, a small round window has been opened in the circular recess at the top of the crossed arrow slit. This provides a glimpse down towards the town from the side of the short staircase that rises directly into the upper room.

Bob’s N/N Snippets by Bob Nesbitt of Perth, Scotland (*page 10*)

On 25th September I went to Strathallen School, open as part of the ‘doors open day’ scheme. This has been a school since 1920 but was previously known as Freeland House, owned by the Ruthven family.

It was owned by James, third Lord Ruthven, and was rebuilt and altered in 1733 by the architect, John Douglas. Apparently this was done for his wife Janet Nisbet, daughter of William Nisbet of Dirleton. She was also the sister of Wilhelmina Nisbet, who in 1747 married David Leslie, who subsequently became Earl of Leven.

Unfortunately the house was partially burnt down in 1750 and was rebuilt to the design of the architects William Burn and Edward Blore (the architect of Buckingham Palace).

DNA Revealed by Graham G Nisbet (pages 16 & 17)

Graham had the 37 marker DNA test carried out to assist with the building of the N/N database, hoping to identify possible links to other members. The results tabulated below indicate the following:

- Graham has connections to some of the American N/N's, but not as close as amongst themselves.
- The extra detail that may be gleaned from the 37 marker test over the 12 & 25 marker tests.

Marker Test 12	Distance	Related	Marker Test 25	Distance	Related	Marker Test 37	Distance	Related
Roy Tom Nesbitt	1	Possibly Related	William D Nisbet	1	Related	Thomas R Nesbitt	3	Related
Jack Nesbitt	1	Possibly Related	Thomas R Nesbitt	1	Related	William D Nisbet	4	Possibly Related
Chuck L Nesbit	1	Possibly Related	Glenn Nesbit	1	Related	Glenn Nesbit	4	Possibly Related
E Charles Nesbitt	1	Possibly Related	Clark Scott Nesbit	1	Related	Roy Tom Nesbitt	5	Possibly Related
William D Nisbet	1	Possibly Related	Roy Tom Nesbitt	2	Possibly Related	Brian Nesbit	5	Possibly Related
Thomas R Nesbitt	1	Possibly Related	Chuck L Nesbit	2	Possibly Related	Jack Nesbitt	6	
Brian Nesbit	1	Possibly Related	E Charles Nesbitt	2	Possibly Related	E Charles Nesbitt	6	
Glenn Nesbit	1	Possibly Related	Brian Nesbit	2	Possibly Related	Chuck L Nesbit	7	
Clark Scott Nesbit	1	Possibly Related	Jack Nesbitt	3		Reginald Keith Nesbitt	9	
Charles D Nesbit	1		William L Nesbitt	3		Patrick Tdelc -Nisbett	14	
Michael Nesbitt	2		Stuart Nisbet	4		Robert Mark Nesbitt	15	
Robert G Nesbitt	2		Reginald Keith Nesbitt	4		John Stirling Nisbet	15	
William L Nesbitt	2		Scott A Nesbitt	7		Jerry Nisbet	16	
Marion David Nesbitt	2		Marion David Nesbitt	7		Harold L Nesbitt	18	
Antony Charles Nisbett	2		Robert Mark Nesbitt	8		Scott A Nesbitt	19	
Edward Nisbet	2		Robert G Nesbitt	8		Craig E Nesbit	?	
Scott A Nesbitt	3		William O Nisbet	8				
William O Nisbet	3		Jerry Nisbet	8				
Jerry Nisbet	3		Patrick Tdelc -Nisbett	8				
Patrick Tdelc -Nisbett	3		John Stirling Nisbet	8				
Jeff Nisbet	3		Harold L Nesbitt	9				
John Stirling Nisbet	3		Michael Nesbitt	9				
Stuart Nisbet	4		Kenyon G Nesbitt	9				
Carl Scott Nisbet	4		Ken D Nesbitt	11				
Alexander Nesbitt	4		Steve M Nesbit	12				
Reginald Keith Nesbitt	4		George R Nesbitt	16				
Harold L Nesbitt	5		Craig E Nesbit	?				
Robert Mark Nesbitt	5							
Kenyon G Nesbit	5							
John B Nesbitt	5							
Steve M Nesbit	6							
Ken D Nesbitt	6							
George R Nesbitt	10							
Craig E Nesbit	?							

Australian members interested in considering this technology and wishing to also assist in expanding the N/N DNA database can contact Tom Nesbitt – see N/News 71 pages 3 -5.

Conflict at Nesbit (1355) an extract from John of Fordun's chronicle of the Scottish Nation, ed W.F. Skeane (page 11)

The same year (1355) in the month of August, the Earl of March and William Lord of Douglas, finding it hard to brook the depreciations which had lately been committed by the English on the aforesaid Earl's lands, sent a valiant man of tried prowess – the Lord William of Ramsay, knight – with great many men, to the marches, to plunder the town of Norham & the whole of the outlying lands, and the dwellers therein. This was accordingly done. When hard pressed by the enemy, he held his ground for a while, as best he could; but he soon made a feint of fleeing, and purposely draw them on, as had been planned to a certain place called Nesbit, where he well knew that the aforesaid Lord of Douglas was lurking with his Scots and Frenchmen, and waiting to see how things would turn out. Then, quickly putting a spur of a hill between him and the enemy, he came to the Scots, and brought them good news of the coming of the English. The Scots rose from their seats, and hastened merrily to meet them. But the English, thunderstruck at the sight of them thus unexpectedly, and knowing full well the aforesaid lord's ensigns and banners, could not now, with honour, flee; so they staked their lives upon their own prowess, and manfully fought it out with the Scots. Since, however, even the strong must needs be overcome by stronger, and the weaker side be tripped up, the Scots, thank God! prevailed against them, and they were all subdued and overthrown. A few, indeed, were slain, and the remainder, except a few who fled, were led away scathless into captivity, and kept closely guarded in divers places. These were afterwards ransomed for much gold and silver and other substances. On the day, there fell, on the side of the Scots, John of Haliburton, a brave and warlike man, who had always given the English trouble. But on the other side were taken the Lord Thomas Gray, a noble knight, with Thomas, his son and heir; and a brave and famous squire, named James Darres, with a great many other gallant English noble.

N/N Connections with Nelson's Trafalgar (pages 20 & 21)

In past editions of *The N/News* the N/N connection to Lord Horatio Nelson (of Trafalgar fame) was Frances (Fanny) Nisbet. However our clan chief, Mark Nesbitt and UK Newsletter Editor, Graham G Nisbet have identified several other N/N's involved in the Battle of Trafalgar.

This information was found at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.au/trafalgarancestors/>

The details are:

Peter **Nesbitt** aged 36, born Stirling, Scotland was part of Admiral Nelson's Division aboard HMS Britannia.

Rank/Rating: Landsman

Ship's pay book number: (SB 349)

Catalogue reference: [ADM36/15996](#)

John **Nisbett** aged 26, born Sunderland, Durham, England was part of another Division captained by Vice Admiral Collingwood aboard HMS Royal Sovereign.

Rank/Rating: Caulker

Ship's pay book number: (SB 330)

Catalogue reference: [ADM 36/15755](#)

Below is a message from the N/N Society –UK homepage guestbook from the owner of the baronial title "Baron of Dirleton" as was reported as being available for purchase in N/News 76 page 3.

Thursday 07/14/2005 (14-July-2005)

Name: The Baron of Dirleton

Subject: The Nisbet HomePage

Congratulations on a beautiful and refined site.

May the Clan Nisbet continue from success to success.

Camilo Agasim-Pereira of Fulwood and Dirleton, The Baron of Dirleton



John Nisbet - jockey

John Nisbet (pictured above) retired as a jockey in July 2004. He began as an apprentice in Sydney in the 1980's and won the Sydney apprentices premiership

in the 1983/84 season with 38.5 winners. John has been based in Canberra since 1991, and his crowning achievement came in 2001/2002 when he won the Canberra premiership with 32 winners among a total of 64 for the season. In 2002 he also recorded his personal best of five winners in a day at a Canberra meeting. John, who had also ridden successfully in New Zealand and Mauritius, retired with more than 700 career wins to his credit. He is now a horse trainer.

*The personal notice (below) was spotted in the **Herald Sun** of 22 September 2005.*

TAKE NOTICE that RICHARD NISBET ELLIS, the Executor named in the Will dated 24th November, 1995, of MARGUERITE MILLICENT ELLIS, deceased, late of 5 Berenice Terrace, Toorak, 3142 Widow, will 14 days after the date of publication of this advertisement apply to the Supreme Court of Victoria for a Grant of Probate of that Will. JESSOP & KOMESAROFF PTY., Solicitors of 19 Horne Street, Elsternwick, 3185.



NETWORKED N/N's

Any N/N's with a connection to the Orkneys will be interested in this site, being "Orkney related links" and is found at: <http://www.orknet.co.uk/links.htm> with some of the genealogies holding many N/N entries.



N/N's IN THE NEWS

Victorian VCE articles

A few N/N's undertaking VCE studies appeared in supplements in both the *Herald Sun* & *The AGE* during December & January. Wednesday December 14 included listings of "high achievers", where the N/N's reported were:

James Nesbit from St Kevin's College Toorak
Lauren Nisbet from Ringwood Secondary College

The *Herald Sun* of Monday, January 16, 2006 p.5 carried the following article.

High hopes but an anxious wait

Milanda Rout

THE nail-biting wait for these VCE graduates is almost over.

The six friends from Ringwood Secondary College are among thousands who will tonight find out whether they got into their chosen university or TAFE courses.

Year 12 graduate Lauren Nisbet is anxious to find out if she will get into her first preference to study medicine at Monash University.

"I love helping people and I love learning," she said of her career choice to be a GP.

Lauren said she was pleased with her interview for the course and is hoping her 98.25 ENTER score will get her a spot.

The 17-year-old is planning to spend today trying not to think about tertiary offers. "I am going to the Australian Open with friends so that should take my mind off it," she said.

Classmate Trevor Barkla, 18, said he was quietly confident he would get into his chosen course.

His ENTER ranking was above the score needed to get into a double degree in maths and computer science.

Stephanie Briscoe also has a nervous wait ahead of her.

The 18-year-old wants to study architecture at Melbourne University.



High hopes: Lauren Nisbet, Jackie Holland, David Salisbury, Stephanie Briscoe, Nabil Seery and Trevor Barkla.

Picture: Ron Wells

"I loved it (architecture) since I was little and we had an extension at our house," she said. Stephanie said she would pick up a copy of the newspaper on the way home from work today.

"I like looking it up by myself because it is a bit nerve-racking when other people are around," she said.

Finally, late on Monday, January 16, 2006 the first round of tertiary offers were listed, where the N/N's reported were:

S E Nesbitt of Frankston who was offered Education-Primary at Melbourne University
L C Nisbet of Croydon who was offered Medicine/Surgery at Monash University

Congratulations to those noted above and best wishes for every success with their studies into the future.



SOCIAL NEWS

Christmas Gathering held December 10, 2005: Some 23 members and associates most heartily enjoyed the opportunity to congregate at 'St Abbs', Balwyn North. We were once again blessed to hear Mr Bill Walker on the bagpipes, Mr Ray Sharp on the piano and listen to the wonderful voice of Mr Robert Dugdale, a gifted tenor, who is training under Ms Margaret Nisbett. Lauren Nisbet presented a clarinet piece and Travis Nisbet presented several flute pieces, accompanied on the piano by Lauren Nisbet. A sumptuous banquet was then enjoyed by all, interspersed with a grand monster raffle.

On behalf of all members I would take this opportunity to once again thank the members of the Social Committee for arranging the gathering and Ian & Joy Nisbet for hosting the gathering. Your support for the raffle is also appreciated (\$201), allowing further development of the Society and its activities.

The N/N Society – UK Gathering 2006

The N/N Society - UK is to hold their bi-annual gathering in the Royal Burgh of Kilmarnock, Scotland on 13th May 2006.



FOUND

Ian Clarke recently came across this item.

In the book by John A.O'Neill titled 'THE CHURCH ON THE HILL - Presbyterianism in Kew, 1874-1974', reference is made on page 29 to a **Rev. T. Nisbet** -

"At a Board meeting in October 1898 Mr. Campbell reported that the ladies had collected the amount of 32 pounds, to be allotted as follows -

14 pounds, 14 shillings for Minister's Gown

7 pounds for presentation to the Rev. G.H. Balfour, and

*3 pounds for presentation to the **Rev. T. Nisbet** - Moderators during the vacancy.*

The balance to cover expenses of the Conversazione to welcome Mr. Barnaby."

("Conversazione" is a social gathering for discussion of the arts and literature)

And on page 36 headed 'Chapter Notes' -

"Rev. Thomas Nisbet, D.D. Born in Glasgow and educated in Edinburgh. First settled at Presbyterian Church, Orange, N.S.W., 1883-1890, then Hawthorn, Melbourne, 1890-1898, and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Brisbane until 1904, when he was called to the First Presbyterian Church at Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, the largest Church in Australasia at that time. There he died in 1920."



THE WANTED LIST

The following entries are taken from the N/N Society – Australia homepage guestbook and so can/should be responded to from within the guestbook. Should you not have access to the internet but wish to contact any of the authors please direct your request for contact details to our secretary.

On Monday, 17-Oct-2005

Stella E.Hull nee Nisbett - from Dicky Beach. Caloundra.Qld 4551 wrote:

Have just stumbled across the web-site. Great!!My family comes from Glasgow originally.

Can't get much info. gr-parents were Robert Nisbet & Elizabeth Stirling McLelland. Married

June 1906 in Uddingston Lanarkshire. Will be keeping in touch with things now. Once again a

"Great Site".

On Sunday, 25-Dec-2005

Russell Nisbet *nisbets@westnet.com.au*) - from Perth, Western Australia wrote:

Wishing all the clan a merry xmas & happy new year. Born in Dunedin 1943, moved to Australia about 35 years ago. Great site. Cheers

Correspondence with Russell since indicates that he is keen to hear from anyone in Dunedin, NZ and will respond to all replies.

On Monday, 26-Dec-2005

Susan Reakes nee Nisbet - from Gippsland, Vic wrote:

I am originally from Deniliquin NSW. As my g grandparents who emigrated from Ayrshire in Scotland had at least 9 children there are a lot of Nisbet descendants in that area. Is there anyone who might be related to me?

And again

Saturday 01/07/2006 (07-January-2006)

Name: Susan Reakes (nee Nisbet)

Subject: Mauchline Nisbets

E-Mail: susie_54@hotmail.com

I have just joined the Australian Nesbit/Nisbet Society. My g. grandparents William and Jane came from Mauchline, Ayr, Scotland and emigrated to Australia circa 1861. They settled in Deniliquin NSW and started a sheep farm which remained in the Nisbet family until a few years ago.

Sunday 01/01/2006 (01-January-2006)

Name: Matthew Nisbet

Subject: Inquiry

E-Mail: mrspuss@ihug.co.nz

I am interested in the name 'Carrick' that runs in our family. It may be of additional interest that 'Lloyd Carrick Nisbet' served in the RNZN as a MTL Commander in WW2, laying the buoys to guide the D Day Fleet, operating Omaha Beach and being Harbour Master for the Mulberry Wharf at the same location. There was talk of a VC nomination, however a small publication by the NZ Military records his memories. Is there any record of Nisbet Military & Naval history?



FAMILY SNIPPETS

Anne & George Udvardy advised of a busy year (2005) of retirement – “Retirement is wonderful”. They have been travelled overseas as well as trekking interstate to play some golf. They are looking forward to a little quieter 2006.

Margaret Curtis advised that her son, Craig received his PhD during the year.

Chairman & Newsletter Editor, Gary Nisbet, recently took a break and walked the Overland Track in Tasmania (Cradle Mountain to Lake St. Claire).



OBITUARY

We have been advised of the passing of Mrs Marguerite (Rita) Ellis, nee Nisbet died at the age of 99 years 4 months in late 2005. She was the last Nisbet link of her generation in this line of Nisbets.

Our belated condolences to her family.



STOP PRESS

The upcoming major events are:

- Feb 11 Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo, Paeroa Domain, NZ.
- Feb 12 20th Annual Berwick Highland Games, Akoonah Park, Berwick, Vic.
- Feb 26 4th Annual Scottish Pipe & Drum Competition, Moss Vale Showgrounds, Moss Vale, NSW.
- Mar 5 2006 Ringwood Highland Games, Maroondah Secondary College, Croydon, Vic.
- Mar 19 Geelong Highland Gathering, Queens Park, Newtown, Geelong, Vic.

The Scottish Resource Centre is now open and can be found at "THE CELTIC CLUB",
Level 2, 316-320 Queen Street, Melbourne
Office Hours: 10:00am – 3:00 pm Monday to Friday
Phone: 9670 6766 (O/H) or 9787 5961 (A/H)

N/News articles wanted

Your assistance in providing articles for future editions of The N/News is always appreciated by both the editor and other members of the Society. Please forward them to the editor or via the homepage.

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

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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>