

# THE N/NEWS

NO. 80 July 2006

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY  
AUSTRALIA



## STARTING POINT

*The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society - Australia was held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1986 and since then the society has grown and matured. In mid-August the Society "notches up" 20 years of existence in Australia & New Zealand.*

*When we first met at the home of Bruce and Helen Nesbit on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1986 little did any of us know where such an interest group might lead. That the Australian Branch has been so successful is a tribute to the foresight and energy of our convenors, Bruce and Helen Nesbit, in the first instance, then by the proficient development by the initial steering committee (Bruce Nesbit, Ian M Nisbet, Gavin Nisbet, Ian G Nisbet, Ian T Nisbet & Lyn McFarland) and since then by the various general committees.*

*Whilst N/N's are a very small proportion of the population they are spread the breadth and length of Australia and New Zealand. The aims of the Society have been well serviced over the years and this has enabled members to experience kinship with others who generally share nothing more than a surname of variant spelling/s.*

*Our current membership is below our peak, but interest in the society continues, as is evidenced by new memberships and submissions received via the homepage. A number of the inaugural officers continue to serve. As we embark on the next twenty years of the N/N Society I strongly urge all members to consider nominating for office or volunteering to assist.*

*Whilst we wish otherwise, the general committee do not personally know all of our members, your situation, skills or interests and so we are not readily able to approach individuals on the basis of matching roles, capabilities and availability. I look forward to hearing from you, and through your service, getting to know you at least a little.*

*Our plans for a 20<sup>th</sup> celebration gathering have been moved out to early 2007 as we concentrate on several other projects.*

*Chairman & Editor*



## CONTENTS

THE N/NEWS

No. 80 July 2006

STARTING POINT.....	1
MEM-BOAR-SHIP.....	1
NOTICE BOAR-D.....	2
(NES)-BITS & PIECES.....	2
The 1853 Bendigo Goldfields Petition.....	2
Alexander Nisbet Paterson 1862 - 1947.....	2
John Nisbet.....	3
Stuart M. Nisbet.....	3
N/N's IN THE NEWS.....	3
Belinda Nisbet.....	3
PC Paul Nesbit-Bell.....	4
Neil Nesbit.....	4
Sandra & Ted Nesbitt.....	5
Alexander Nisbet.....	5
Lieutenant Tom Nesbitt (Tom Nisbet).....	5
SOCIAL NEWS.....	7
Nesbitt/Nisbet Society, UK Gathering 2006.....	7
NETWORKED N/N's.....	7
Internet site - Glasgow -City of Sculpture.....	7
WANTED.....	7
Lionel Andrew Nisbet.....	7
STOP PRESS.....	7
Biographical Dictionary - update.....	7
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY CONTACTS.....	8



## MEM-BOAR-SHIP

We are happy to welcome the following new members to the Society:

- Susan Reakes of Devon North, Vic
- Gary Nisbet, Glasgow, Scotland – as a "correspondent"
- Adrian Nisbet of Mudgee, NSW
- Tracy Henderson of Opaheke, Papakura, New Zealand.

## NOTICE BOARD

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

Oct	N/NEWS # 81
Oct 29	20 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, details TBA
Jan	N/NEWS # 82

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



## (NES)-BITS & PIECES

### The 1853 Bendigo Goldfields Petition

*In October 1851 gold was discovered at Bendigo. By mid 1853 there were about 23,000 diggers and their families at Bendigo. In June 1853 an Anti-Gold-Licence Association was formed at Bendigo to air their many grievances about conditions and the 30 shillings monthly licence fee they had to pay. The three leaders of the Association, G.E Thomson, Dr. Jones and "Captain" Edward Brown drafted a petition, which was signed by diggers at Bendigo, Ballarat, Castlemaine, McIvor (Heathcote), Mount Alexander (Stawell) and other diggings. Claimed to have collected 30,000 signatures the petition only carried 5,000 to 6,000 signatures, with those from McIvor lost in a gold escort robbery. The petition was presented to Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe in Melbourne on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1853. Most of the demands were rejected. Eventually their grievances erupted in the events at Ballarat, culminating in the Eureka uprising on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1854.*

*On the 1853 Bendigo Goldfields Petition, several N/N signatures can be found, being those of:*

<i>NISBET</i>	<i>Mitchell</i>
<i>NISBETT</i>	<i>[A.]</i>

*The petition is 13 metres in length, bound in green silk and in remarkably fine condition, although many of the signatures were near illegible.*

*The above details were extracted from the following site, where the list of the signatories may be viewed and searched. The site is:*

<http://www.statelibrary.vic.gov.au/slv/exhibitions/goldfields>

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*The following were taken, with permission of the author, Gary Nisbet from the site*

<http://www.glasgowsculpture.com>

### Alexander Nisbet Paterson 1862 - 1947



#### Short Biography:

Born at Berkley Terrace, Glasgow, the son of cotton manufacturer and merchant, Andrew Paterson.

He studied at Glasgow University and with Jean Louis Pascal at the École des Beaux Arts, Paris, 1883-6.

On returning, he became an assistant to **J J Burnet**, then completed his training in the London offices of Robert W Edis (architect of the Conservative Club, Wellington Street (1888, dem. c.1970s), and Aston Webb, for whom he worked on the drawings for the Victoria and Albert Museum, and who influenced his taste for Edwardian Baroque. Widely travelled, he toured the USA after winning the Godwin Bursary in 1896. He established his own practice in 1891, producing designs for the Kelvingrove Art Gallery Competition (1891, unbuilt); the Carnegie Aquarium, Edinburgh Zoo; Golfhill Primary School, 1-11 Circus Drive (1902-3, dem. 1996); Robert Maclehoose' Printing Works, Foulis Street, later the University Press (1903-6, dem. c. 1996); the former National (now Royal) Bank of Scotland, 22-24 St. Enoch Square (1906-7); and several houses in Helensburgh.



Elstow, 5 Victoria Circus (1899) is perhaps his finest Glasgow house.

In 1903, he entered into partnership with Campbell Douglas until 1910, and later partnered D M Stoddart, from 1919.

After World War I, he designed the Helensburgh War Memorial (1923) and the Glasgow Academy War Memorial (1924).

Elected President of **RIAS**, 1906, and **ARSA**, 1911, he regularly exhibited architectural designs and watercolours, and was joint assessor in the competitions for Langside Library, 1913, and the Trongate Reconstruction Scheme, 1914.

He settled in Helensburgh in 1897 and married the painter Maggie Hamilton in 1897, and lived and died at Long Croft, Helensburgh, which he had designed in 1901.

His practice continued as Watson, Salmond & Gray.

\*\*\*

### John Nisbet

*Under the entry for Frank Burnet is a brief mention of a John Nisbet:*

He (*Frank Burnet*) set up on his own as an architect and property valuator in 1879, at 65 West Regent Street and, in 1890, he was joined by William James Boston (1861-1937), as Burnet & Boston.



They later assumed their former apprentice, James Carruthers (b. 1872), as a third partner in 1901, and trained the future tenement architect, **John Nisbet**.

The firm produced 540 tenements from 1883-1906, and were responsible for St. George's Mansions 10-28 Woodlands Road and 63-89 St. George's Road (1900-2), and the tenements at 231-287 High Street (1900), both for the City Improvement Trust, and the Dalnair Street tenements in Yorkhill for the Overnewton Building Company (1906-9).

\*\*\*

### Stuart M. Nisbet

*Listed in the Bibliography to the site is the following entry:*

- May, Jim and Stuart M. Nisbet. (1993) *Greenbank Garden*, Edinburgh.

\*\*\*

*Are any further details of these gentlemen known to N/N members?  
Please provide details.*



## N/N's IN THE NEWS

### Belinda Nisbet

*Ian Clarke spotted a reference to MS Belinda Nisbet in the Monash University publication, **MONASH MAGAZINE**, Issue 17, Autumn/Winter 2006 in an article on pages 25 & 26 entitled **TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY**. The article reports on a future leaders program for select Monash University students, the Vice-Chancellor's *Ancora Imparo* Program. (*Ancora Imparo* being the University's motto, meaning "I am still learning"). Page 26 is a picture of five of the 40 inaugural participants attending a retreat at Portsea. One of the five is MS Belinda Nisbet.*

*Presumably we can expect to hear further of Belinda as her studies and opportunities such as those afforded her through this program develop.*

\*\*\*

PC Paul Nesbit-Bell

The following article was spotted in the publication *MX* of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2006, page 9.



## Police officers learn to speak dog

British police officers are learning to speak Dutch after recruiting three dogs from Holland that refuse to respond to commands in English. PC Paul Nesbit-Bell uses his phrase book to communicate with dog, Dutch, at Bower Ashton in Bristol.

Picture: AP

\*\*\*

Neil Nesbit

The following article was spotted in the *HERALD SUN*, Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2006, page 13.

# Sea takes family trio

## Wild waves sink boat



Fishing tragedy: Sen-Constable Damien Bidgood and an ambulance officer help survivors. Picture: LEIGH WINBURN

Anne Mather

THREE men from one family died yesterday after their fishing boat was pounded by two freak waves and sank off the coast of Tasmania.

The three were among a group of five, aged between 16 and 70, who were part of a weekend tuna-fishing competition in Tasmania's southeast.

Two men survived the tragedy after drifting for three hours in the chilly Southern Ocean.

The three men who died were from the one well-respected Nubeena family, which has a long association with fishing.

The tragedy has rocked the region, which this week marks the 10th anniversary of the Port Arthur massacre.

Nubeena Churches of Christ Pastor Neil Nesbit said the community would pull together and come to terms with the grief, as it had in the past.

"This is yet another tragedy," he said.

Pastor Nesbit was among the family and friends of the deceased who gathered at the Eaglehawk Neck jetty yesterday afternoon.

Police said the 6m boat



Neil Nesbit

was struck by freak waves crashing over the stern.

"This has caused the boat to submerge and it subsequently sank," Tasmania police spokesman Andrew Fogarty said.

"Certainly the weather was rough down around that area," he said.

"It's actually quite a dangerous area."

It is believed four of the five in the boat were professional fishermen. All wore life jackets.

The fishermen clung to the submerged boat until it sank after 1pm.

The three men are believed to have died of hypothermia.

Insp George Piechowiak said another boat involved in the fishing competition saw the drifting men and hauled

them to safety at the Eaglehawk Neck jetty.

"Two survivors were rescued and the deceased were also taken on board," he said.

"The survivors were very lucky to be spotted."

They were seen when five men aboard the Black Pearl leisure boat cruised nearby.

The skipper who made the discovery did not at first realise there were bodies in the water, Tuna Club of Tasmania treasurer Craig Johnstone said.

"He told me, 'We were just going along fishing when we came across what looked like buoys bobbing up and down in the water,'" he said.

"But when we got closer we could see the arms waving."

The rescuers performed CPR on the men as they rusted back towards the jetty.

The men were taken to Royal Hobart Hospital.

The men were fishing 4 to 5 nautical miles off Cape Pillar in the Southern Ocean when they were struck by the waves.

Their boat became submerged and the men drifted about 12km towards Hippolyte Rocks.

Insp Piechowiak said the water was about 12C.

## Sandra & Ted Nesbitt

The item to the right, entitled "SHORT BREAKS" was spotted in *THE SUNDAY MAIL*, Escape of 19<sup>th</sup> February 2006, page 14 by Shirley Nesbitt.

\*\*\*

## Alexander Nisbet

The following obituary was spotted in the *HERALD SUN* of Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2006.

**NISBET.** — Alexander.  
Dad, I will forever cherish our friendship and loving memories you leave with us. With love  
— Your son Rod, Reeny, Brendan, Lucas and Beck.  
Love you Dad always

\*\*\*

## Lieutenant Tom Nesbitt (Tom Nisbet)

The picture below was spotted in *THE AGE*, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2006, page 1 in an article entitled "At last, Australia honours its Timorese comrades" by Lindsay Murdoch. A related article from *THE AGE*, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2006 appears on page 6 of this newsletter.

Rufino Alves Correia, along with two other East Timorese gentlemen, was brought to Australia to march in the Anzac Day march in Melbourne.

The officer is in fact Lieutenant Tom Nisbet, later Brigadier Thomas Grainger Nisbet, who was an NN Society Australia founding member and father of our Secretary Ian G Nisbet.

\*\*\*

Below (from left): Lieutenant Tom Nesbitt, Rufino Alves Correia, a man known as Evaresto, and Captain Laidlaw.



## SHORT BREAKS

ALISON COLES

**W**E WERE off to play landed gentry at Boonara Homestead, near Goomeri, built by David Jones of retail fame in 1862.

Why, you might ask, would a Sydney merchant build a substantial mansion so far from anywhere that it took three weeks just to get to Maryborough?

There are several explanations, but the one I like is that the family founder wanted to get his two renegade sons away from the temptations of Sydney, and so shipped them to Queensland under a kind of internal remittance man contract. They and their descendants managed to keep the property until 1967, when it changed hands and eventually was bought and renovated in 2004 by Sandra and Ted Nesbitt.

They've done a splendid job with it, making it liveable for modern sybarites but keeping its original features like the ironbark floors and cedar walls, ceilings and doors.

Surrounding the building are two enormous verandas, where the family lived during the day, as all country families did, retreating inside only when night came. Sandra's famous Canadian breakfasts (expect lots of bacon, of course) are served on the side veranda, but there's also a formal dining room for evening meals, with a genuine lord-of-the-manor atmosphere — except that Sandra and Ted are as egalitarian as it's possible to be.

The house is decorated with unexpected treasures, including bits and pieces they've brought back from their long sojourns in Africa and the Middle East, so graceful Ethiopian carvings

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## SOCIAL NEWS

### **Nesbitt/Nisbet Society, UK Gathering 2006**

The 2006 gathering took place in and around Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, in a new two-day format on 13/14 May. More than 40 N/Ns came, many from North America. The day included important updates on the N/N DNA project and a possible reprint of Murdoch Nisbet's translation of the New Testament into Scots, visits to churches with Nisbet connections in Galston and Newmilns and, on Sunday, unveiling of a memorial plaque to Murdoch Nisbet in Newmilns Church.

For some pictures visit the N/N Society – UK Homepage (<http://www.nesbittnisbet.org.uk>) and for more pictures visit Mark Nesbitt's site via the link.



## NETWORKED N/N's

### **Internet site – Glasgow –City of Sculpture**

*This site is a database of photographs of sculpture, architecture and related research, full of detail and is complete with bibliography. The site has been co-produced by Gary Nisbet and Tim Gardner. Gary is the historian and Tim is the webmaster. On page 1 of this newsletter we welcomed Gary as a "correspondent" to our membership and thank him for making the material on pages 2 & 3 available for use. The site is found at:*

**<http://www.glasgowsculpture.com>**

Gary Nisbet was born in Glasgow in 1960 and studied Tourism and Supervisory Management. A freelance researcher and photographer of Glasgow's architecture and sculpture, he contributed to the City of Culture celebrations with the Scots Magazine article "Glasgow – City of Sculpture" in August, 1990.

As well as co-producing "Glasgow – City of Sculpture" website, he is currently working on surveys of sculpture in Paisley and Glasgow's cemeteries. He currently works for the National Trust for Scotland.



## WANTED

### **Lionel Andrew Nisbet**

I am originally from Taranaki, New Zealand, born in a small place called Kaponga. My reason for getting involved with this web site is that I would like to do a family tree for my dad's birthday; his name is Lionel Andrew Nisbet and was born in Dargaville Hospital, Northland. I'm sorry as I do not know anything about his family as his mother died having him back in 1939 and he and his brother Allen were put into an orphanage. If anyone has some information or is able to help to get a family tree it would be fantastic.

Cheers Mark Nisbet [manisbet@optusnet.com.au](mailto:manisbet@optusnet.com.au)



## STOP PRESS

### **Biographical Dictionary - update**

The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – Australia published "A Biographical Dictionary" in 1994 and it has since proved an invaluable genealogical tool. Since 1994 many new members have joined and potentially expanded the lineages within the dictionary.

The Society wishes to update the Biographical Dictionary and to this purpose, accompanying the last edition of *THE N/NEWS* was a Biographical Information Sheet. The sheet may be copied and provided to non-members (relatives generally) of an N/N lineage. This sheet is also available as an electronic file, to be printed or downloaded, from the members' section of the homepage.

So, if you are not in the 1994 edition of the Biographical Dictionary, or have additional information to supply then please do so and return the completed sheet to the address shown. Alternatively, any information could be supplied via the homepage.

## **NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY CONTACTS**

### **GENERAL COMMITTEE:**

PRESIDENT: Ian M Nisbet, 26 Walnut Rd, North Balwyn, Vic 3104, Aust.  
CHAIRMAN & EDITOR: Gary Nisbet, 37 Neuparth Rd, Croydon North, Vic 3136, Aust.  
SECRETARY & TREASURER: Ian G Nisbet, 1 St Johns Pde, Kew 3101, Aust.  
ASSISTANT TREASURER: Heather Ames, 7 Plant St, Malvern, Vic 3144, Aust.  
ARCHIVIST: John Barth, Unit 1/4 Nelson Rd, Camberwell, Vic 3124, Aust.  
BOARD: Bruce Nesbit, Effie Todd, Gavin Nisbet, Lyndell Nisbet, Karen Nisbet.

### **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:**

Gary Nisbet, Ian G Nisbet, Karen Nisbet, Glen Hollebone.

### **PUBLICATION OFFICER:**

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

### **EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE:**

Ian G Nisbet, Gavin Nisbet, Shane Allan.

### **SOCIAL COMMITTEE:**

Joy Nisbet, Heather Ames, Lyndell Nisbet, Merryn Nisbet, Lesley Nisbet, Elyse Classon  
Jan Nisbet, Barbara Leslie, Helen Nesbit, Michie Jensen, Heather Clarke.

### **NSW REGIONAL GROUP:**

CHAIRMAN: Vacant  
SECRETARY: Glen Hollebone, 28 Derna Road, Wattle Grove, NSW 2173, Aust.  
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COMMITTEE: Frank Nesbit.  
GENEALOGY CONSULTANT: James E Nisbet.

### **ACT REGIONAL OFFICER:**

Brian S Nesbitt, 14 Davitt Cl, Isaacs, ACT 2607, Aust.

### **WA REGIONAL OFFICER:**

Pippa Letch, 40 Honeymyrtle Turn, Stirling, WA 6021, Aust.

### **NZ REGIONAL OFFICERS:**

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### **OVERSEAS CONTACTS:**

North America: Diana Hawkins, 4625 Settles Point Road, Suwanee, GA 30024, USA.  
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>**