

THE N/NEWS

NO. 82 January 2007

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

Early in December an e-mail was received from Wallace Nesbitt from Canada who advises that they (presumably he and his wife) will be in Australia from late January through to late March and would be keen to meet up with some Australian N/N's. We are not sure of their itinerary, but if you would be interested in making their acquaintance, should they visit your part of Australia, please contact our secretary promptly and we shall provide some contact details.

Our thoughts go out to all those affected by the extensive bushfires that have raged for many weeks in various parts of Australia, particularly in Victoria – perhaps the hardest hit. We especially think of any N/N's (& relatives) involved and/or directly affected by the fires. One of the articles in this newsletter involves a firefighter by the name of Colin Nesbitt, so read on. Thanks are also due to volunteer firefighters from overseas, notably New Zealand and Canada.

After an end of year flurry we are able to distribute the 2006 Annual Report, advise of our office bearers for 2007 as well as report on another very successful N/N Christmas Gathering. As you will glean from the report and this newsletter our office bearers remain as they were. Whilst we are blessed that they are willing to continue, I take this opportunity to point out that a number of them are inaugural office bearers and several fill more than one role. In the interest of the Society into the future a managed and steady changeover would be of most benefit to all, and needs to begin now. So I ask once again, please consider volunteering to serve the Society or at least assist current office bearers.

As January draws to a rapid close, I offer my best wishes to all members for an interesting and rewarding 2007. Enjoy your Australia Day on January 26th and for those of Scottish descent, a happy Burns Night on January 25th.

Chairman & Editor



NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

April	N/NEWS # 83
Jul	N/NEWS # 84
Aug	2007 N/N - North America Gathering, possibly Detroit, Michigan
Oct	N/NEWS # 85

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



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MEM-BOARD-SHIP

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

- Brenda Halcrow of Richmond, Nelson, New Zealand
- Barry & Janet Nesbitt of Crows Nest, NSW.

We also note a change of address for:

- James E Nisbet to Bathurst, NSW
- Hazel Nesbitt to Gundaroo, ACT.



NETWORKED N/N's

SVCG Newsletter - SCOTTISH VOICE

SCOTTISH VOICE is the newsletter of the SCOTS OF VICTORIA COORDINATING GROUP and details can be found at the SVCG website www.scotsofaus.org.au

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

Nesbit - fact or fiction? - VALE 'Nesbit'

Generally, the N/News is a factual report of snippets of N/N's lives both past and present. However, during the compilation of this newsletter, I have read the first two volumes of Christopher Paolini's "Inheritance" trilogy, 'Eragon' and 'Eldest'. 'Eragon' having recently been released as a movie by the same title. In volume two, 'Eldest' on page 404 mention (extremely brief) is made of a character by the name of 'Nesbit', as per the excerpt below:

"Other hardships took their toll. A sudden storm trapped them on a bare pass high above the timberline. Three people froze in the snow: Hilda, Brenna, and **Nesbit**, all of whom were quite old. That night was the first time Roran was convinced that the whole village would die because they had followed him. Soon after, a boy

VALE - *Nesbit*, though aged, a fleeting and arguably meteoric rise to insignificance.

Beryl Hardy Nisbett - of Clan Farquharson

We note that the Australian High Commissioner of Clan Farquharson, **Beryl Hardy Nisbett**, died on Friday 20th October, 2006.

A service for Beryl Dola Hardy Nisbett was held in the Naval Memorial Chapel of HMAS Watson, on Thursday October 26, 2006, with the Governess of NSW in attendance. Beryl was an enthusiast for Scottish and Farquharson cause for many years.

Whilst undertaking an internet search for details of the preceding item the following notice was also found.

Douglas Nisbet

NISBET, Douglas Clive. 10-2-1930 - 1-4-2006
Late of Earlwood.



SOCIETY NEWS

20TH AGM – 12th November 2006

The 20TH Annual General Meeting of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – Australia was held on the 12th November 2006 at the home of our secretary & treasurer, Ian G Nisbet, in Kew. Thanks to Ian and Lesley for their hospitality. A number of apologies were received. The meeting received reports and undertook election of office bearers for 2007. New to the report was an entry from our New Zealand Regional Officer, John Nesbit. Copies of the report are available from the members section of the homepage and/or accompany this newsletter in hardcopy format. Essentially, all office bearers were returned, willing to make themselves available for another term, and I thank them very much on behalf of all members.

NA Society – *from their newsletter*

The N/N Society – NA included a report from Gail Nesbitt Jones confirming that the DNA Project is working! On the basis of DNA results Gail traveled from Pittsburgh, PA to an 85th Nesbitt Reunion in Akron, Ohio to determine whether or not the branches were related. Whilst her father had known of these Nesbitts he had not thought that there was a connection, but on perusal of family photographs, and comparing stories, notes, etc. the relationship was confirmed.

In a separate article Faith Nesbitt O'Connell reported on a DNA exhibit at the Irish Fest held in Milwaukee where Ancestry.com had also provided them with access for the weekend. Their four computers were in constant use, with lines of people out the door. To quote Faith, "It looked as if we were giving money away!!"

Christmas Gathering – 9th December, 2006

Still, even after 20 years, what a way to end the year! Some 30 plus N/N's and friends gathered at the home of Ian M & Joy Nisbet in Balwyn North to enjoy hearty N/N fellowship and Christmas spirit. New to the ranks this year was Barbara Gosewinckel. John Lidgerwood, accompanied by pianist, Jodi Lockyer firstly led us in some carol singing but then also presented a wide variety of songs from throughout John's career, joined also on several pieces by Margaret Nisbett. By request a solo from John Lawrence Cairns Smith Barth singing "Stille Nacht" was also greatly appreciated. Ian M Nisbet was presented with a (very overdue) Honorary Membership to the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – Australia in thanks and recognition of all of his (& Joy's) efforts both past and present. As was stated in the presentation speech whilst the name on the certificate says "Ian M Nisbet" recognition of Joy's efforts and support of Ian M and the Society was also noted and applauded. A sumptuous supper, monster Christmas Raffle and generous amounts of hearty and healthy fellowship was partaken well into the evening. All present enjoyed themselves immensely, were happy to have had the opportunity to catch up with other members, were in no rush to depart and were very thankful for the hospitality of Ian M & Joy Nisbet.

UK Society – *from their newsletter*

The N/N Society – UK president, David Nisbet, advises that refurbishment of Gunsgreen House is now going ahead and will hopefully be completed in time for the UK 25th Anniversary Gathering on 10th May 2008 and that Nisbet Tower is now operating as self catering accommodation.



THE WANTED LIST

Biographical Dictionary – updates requested

The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – Australia published "A Biographical Dictionary" in 1994 and it has since proved an invaluable genealogical tool. Since 1994 we have had many new members and expanded the lineages within the dictionary either by association or by the addition of another generation. Accompanying *THE N/NEWS* 79 was a Biographical Information Sheet. The sheet may be copied and provided to non-members. A copy of the sheet is also available from the members' section of the homepage.

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 (e-mail) presented in a suitable format.

FOUND

Nisbet Memorial Prize – University of WA

Nisbet Memorial Prize in French (FREN3307/3308), Jane and Annie

1. The Jane and Annie Nisbet Memorial Prize in French consists of books chosen by the prize winner, with the approval of the Head of the School of Humanities, to the value of the annual income of £100 presented by pupils and friends of the late Misses Nisbet.
2. The prize is awarded by the Board of Examiners in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, on the recommendation of the Head of the School of Humanities, to the student in any faculty who has the highest aggregate mark in FREN3307 French Advanced III and FREN3308 French Advanced IV taken in the same calendar year.

Found on the University of Western Australia internet site.

Can anyone shed any light on this prize, its history and its benefactors, Jane & Annie Nisbet. Considering that the prize is stipulated in pounds through the University of Western Australia, one can only assume that the Nisbet Memorial Prize in French was set up pre-decimal currency ie. before February 1966, or alternatively, is from a UK source.

Snuff box M. Nisbet – Powerhouse Museum exhibit

A3056 Snuff box with inscription 'M. Nisbet', tortoiseshell, maker unknown, before 1937 (*picture available on internet site of the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney*)

Description: Tortoiseshell snuff box (SB). ...circular, incised 'M Nisbet', 1937 (OF).

Registration number:	A3056	Width:	65 mm
Height:	30 mm	Depth	70 mm

Can anyone shed any light on M. Nisbet or the history of the snuff box?



N/N's IN THE NEWS

2006 VCE – Top Scorers

In the 2006 VCE “Top Scorers” listings, published in both the *Herald Sun* and *The Age* the following young N/N's were found:

Rebecca Nisbet from Holmesglen Institute of TAFE, Moorabbin Campus

James Nesbit from St Kevins College, Toorak

Noting that James was in last year's listings as reported in N/News 78. We wish them both well with future studies.

Daniel Nisbet – Qld golf

Daniel Nisbet joined the Australian Junior Order of Merit in 2006, having won the 2006 Queensland Junior Championship, 2006 Tasmanian Junior Masters and equal 3rd in the 2006 Australian Amateur Championship, as a 15/16 year old golfer playing off scratch based with the Caboolture Golf Club.

Colin Nesbitt – Tolmie firefighter

Read with interest in the HERALD SUN, December 10, 2006, page 4 amongst the many pages of reports on the numerous bushfires across Victoria and interstate – the story of Colin Nesbitt, a volunteer firefighter from the small township of Tolmie in north eastern Victoria. Note that some five weeks later Tolmie is once again under direct threat from yet another front.

Courage in the face of an inferno

THE HEROES

CARLY CRAWFORD

IF COURAGE had a face, it would be that of Colin Nesbitt — the firefighter who is staring down Victoria's inferno with only one arm.

Many stirring tales of bravery, mateship and endurance have emerged from the state's devastating fire front.

Firefighters have told of the stifling conditions on the front line where they are sacrificing wages, time with families and their health to protect the state from what could be the worst fires on record.

But none sum up the spirit better than gutsy Country Fire Authority volunteer Colin Nesbitt, who lost his arm in a workplace accident.

But the impairment is not enough to stop the stonemason joining his mates from the Tolmie brigade battling the blazes threatening their town.

"You just do it because the town needs you to do it," he said.

In a further show of Aussie spirit in Mansfield, three hotels rallied to help firefighters by cooking meals and providing free soft drinks for them yesterday.

Mansfield Hotel publican Sue Crow said she had to offer something because the firefighters were all volunteers.

"It's so hot. At least they know they can grab a can of drink here," she said.

The hotel was asked to cook 370 meals for the firefighters by the Red Cross.

"We should manage to get 100 out at first and



Mates together: One-armed firefighter Colin Nesbitt with other Tolmie firefighters Peter Andrijweskyj and Adrian McGregor. Picture: ELLEN SMITH

then another 100 later, but we can't manage the whole 370," she said.

"We are cooking them roast pork and spaghetti bolognese to give them some energy."

Also cooking meals and serving cool drinks for

the firefighters were the Delatite Hotel and the Commercial Hotel — which was even providing beer. And many of the firefighters have left homes that they know may not be standing when they return.

One nurse told how she also decided to leave her home unprotected so she could go to work and care for the sick.

Volunteer Chris Walker, from Braxholme near Portland, left a young family at home to

Sunday Herald Sun

SEND A MESSAGE TO OUR FIREFIGHTERS

news.com.au/sundayheraldsun

help his local brigade. Faith in his mates helped the young father brave the danger.

"We've melted handles of trucks and it gets very intense," he said. "You do think twice, but when you know the people you go away with, you know that if you get in trouble, you've got them behind you.

"Trust is everything — you don't get a second chance with this stuff."

The self-employed maintenance worker, who has no income while he puts his life on the line, said the physical and psychological toll was immense.

"No matter where you stay, your rooms are full of smoke," he said.

"You smell it when you wake up and when you go to bed and you are never comfortable because you don't know what's going to happen the next day."

Two volunteers working in the Tolmie area were hospitalised with dehydration this week.

The goodwill has also crossed state borders.

Among the "foreigners", NSW Rural Fire Service volunteer fleet mechanic John McGrath took holidays to make the trip across the border to Whitfield and to help over the weekend.

"There is an incredible camaraderie," the tip truck driver from Sydney's northern beaches said.

Lesley Nisbet & daus – “horsing around”

Spotted in the **HERALD SUN**, Wednesday November 8, 2006, page 9, amongst a number of pages devoted to the Melbourne Cup and the Spring Racing Carnival a “mob” of Nisbet fillies, from Adelaide graced our pages. Below is a picture and an excerpt.



Wedding party-goers: Lesley Nisbet and daughters ham it up at Flemington.

Then came the brides. Lesley Nisbet, from Adelaide, was head bride along with daughters Samantha, Eleanor, Melanie and son Troy.

Various friends hovered around in a froth of white.

“We have been meeting here at the finishing line every year on Cup Day since 1997,” said Ms Nisbet. “We have a different theme to dress up each year ... royalty, princesses, fairies ... this year it’s brides.

“We all get together, make a lot of noise, have a lot of fun.”

The Nisbets will be back again next year having fun. But the Cup will no longer be our backyard picnic; rather, a fiercely fought international contest out there on the turf track.

A long, long way from the first Melbourne Cup of 1861, originally proposed by Capt Freddie Standish, the policeman who pursued a hometown bush-ranger called Ned Kelly.

So what will their 2007 Melbourne Cup theme be? If you are related or acquainted with this branch of N/N’s please drop us a line.

N/N UK Gathering – extract from the *Extra*

N/N – Australia member, Jim Nisbet dropped us a line regarding a newspaper (*Extra*) clipping reporting the N/N UK Gathering.

My cousin Bobby Nisbet who lives in Ayr Scotland, sent me this clip from a paper, thought you may be interested to see it.

The image would not reproduce sufficiently well, so I have re-typed the article as supplied.

NESBITTS and Nisbets from all over the world met in Kilmarnock last weekend to celebrate their clan’s rich history.

The Nesbitt-Nisbet Society gathered at the Palace Theatre’s Pillared Hall on Saturday, and travelled to Newmilns on Sunday, to visit the old haunts of some famous ancestors.

Well-known Ayrshire Nisbets include Murdoch Nisbet of Hardhill, who translated the New Testament into Scots by hand in 1530. To do this he had to go into hiding in Germany, and later risked his life by smuggling the translation back into Scotland.

Another famous Nisbet was his great grandson John, also of Hardhill. He was a covenanter who refused to recognise the king as head of the Scottish church. He fought in the battles of Drumclog and Bothwell Bridge before being executed in Kilmarnock in 1683.

Tributes to John Nisbet can be found outside Loudoun Church in Newmilns and on a plaque gracing the floor of Kilmarnock’s Burns Mall, so the Nisbet clan has a significant Ayrshire connection.

The society invited anyone with Nisbet or Nesbitt family connections to the event, which drew visitors from the United States and Europe.

The weekend event included talks on Murdoch Nisbet and his family DNA plus a ‘martyrs trail’ touring Nisbet family memorials in the Irvine Valley.

On Sunday, members attended a memorial service for Murdoch Nisbet at Loudoun Church and had the honour of unveiling a plaque in his memory at the newly built Murdoch Nisbet Court housing complex in Newmilns.

Robert Tarbet Nisbet, formerly of Darvel, was at the memorial service. He told the *Extra*: “Hume and Nisbet are septes of the Douglas clan and James Douglas was the best general of Robert the Bruce”.

FAMILY SNIPPETS

Camille Ames' wedding

Camille Ames and Andrew Russell are to be married on February 24th 2007. *Our best wishes on the official (Australian) wedding with Camille's family – N/News 74 p.6 reported their London marriage.*



STOP PRESS

Irish Biographical Directory - update

In response to notification that the Biographical Dictionary 1994 was to be updated and the subsequent request/s for update material Stanley Oliver Nesbitt of Drumnabreeze has supplied an updated version of his "Irish Biographical Directory" first published in 1996. The Directory has been expanded and updated as information has been made available to Stanley and he anticipates continued effort and development.

On behalf of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – Australia and especially those of Irish descent I applaud Stanley's efforts, firstly in producing the initial Directory, secondly in completing an update and thirdly in his willingness and dedication to continue with this on-going (& endless) task – ensuring ease of access to a wealth of N/N material for posterity – a very practical and manifest display of the aims of the Society.

Nisbet Tunnel – will the name stick?

The Brisbane office of ABC 614 reports a story of the 24th August 2006, where the presenter has been using 'nesbit' as an acronym for the proposed North South Bypass Tunnel in Brisbane which is currently commencing construction. A guest advised that 'nisbet' may be more appropriate as the fourth "engineer for Harbours & Rivers" in the late 1800's was in fact William David Nisbet. A full account of the story can be found at <http://www.abc.net.au/brisbane/stories/s1722741.htm> and it will be interesting to see what the tunnel is named – will the acronym stick? Will we see the 'Nisbet Tunnel' in Brisbane?

Upcoming Events – of general interest

- Jan 26** North Sydney, NSW - Celtic Australia Day Festival - Bradfield Park, North Sydney
- Jan 27** Turakina, NZ - Turakina Highland Games at Turakina Domain
- Feb 10** Paeroa, NZ - 14th Annual Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo at Paeroa Domain
- Feb 11** Berwick, Vic - 21st Annual Berwick Highland Games at Akoonah Park, Berwick.
- Feb 18** Richmond, TAS - Highland Gathering on the Village Green in the historic township of Richmond.
- Feb 25** Parc Menai, Sutherland, NSW - Celtic festival of Scottish, Irish, Welsh, Cornish, Manx & Breton music, dance, song & stalls.
- Mar 17** Sydney, NSW - Scotland the Brave 2007 at the Sydney Opera House
- Mar 18** Geelong, Vic - 150th Anniversary Geelong Highland Gathering at Queens Park, Geelong.
- Mar 24-25** Gin Gin, QLD - Wild Scotchman Capture Festival & Clan MacPherson Gathering, at the Gin Gin Showgrounds.
- Mar 25** Ringwood, Vic - 2007 Ringwood Highland Games at Jubilee Park, Ringwood.
- Apr 28** Bundanoon, NSW - 30th Anniversary Bundanoon is Brigadoon.
- Apr 28** Auckland, NZ - Scotland the Brave at the Aotea Centre, The Edge.
- May 5-6** Glen Innes, NSW - Australian Celtic Festival at the Australian Standing Stones.

Annual Subscriptions 2006/2007 - reminder

Our annual subscriptions remain at the very low rate of \$15 (Aus) for an individual/family membership and came due on 1st September 2006. These subscriptions fund the Newsletter and homepage which allows us to continue to provide the services and level of communication necessary for our Society to remain operative. If you have not re-subscribed for some reason please complete your membership renewal and submit your payment (plus any optional donation) as a matter of priority. Thank you for your continued support of the N/N Society.

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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>