

# THE N/NEWS

NO. 88 July 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY  
AUSTRALIA



## STARTING POINT

Since the last edition of *The N/News* I have received advice from Tom Nesbitt, the Nisbet DNA Project Co-ordinator, confirming that my DNA results are aligned with DNA Group 3 in the Nisbet DNA Project. Group 3 is one of the larger groupings and includes members from Scotland, England, United States and (now) Australia. I have contacted several of the members who would appear most closely related (DNA-wise) ie. at minimum 5 or so generations ago. Unfortunately, none of them have managed to definitively trace their pedigree, let alone developed family trees and the various branches. Whilst it has not provided me with instant results and a direct link to an existing (& exhaustive) family tree I am confident that it will provide some guidance as to where I should now focus my efforts, as well as developing a closer relationship with other Group 3 members as they too continue their research. We may yet be able to share some information. Meanwhile FamilyTree DNA continue to supply updates as more "matches" (at various levels), outside of the Nisbet DNA Project, are identified – which may yet be of value.

With the Australian dollar as near as par with the American dollar it may perhaps be time to think about joining the Nisbet DNA Project also and add some more Australian content to this world-wide project.

As you will see from articles in this newsletter, both the North America and British Isles branches have undergone, or are undergoing, transitions in their committees and office bearers. This is simply part of the natural cycle of any society. So once again I earnestly call for members to fill current vacancies and committee positions or offer to assist - again I ask that you take an active role in your Society.

I anticipate hearing from you before *N/News* 89 and our Annual General Meeting.

In the meantime, enjoy your reading, submit articles and make a point of contacting a few N/N members, even if simply to introduce yourself and pass on greetings.

Chairman & Editor



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## NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

Sept 27	2008 Gathering will be held at Gunsgreen House, Eyemouth, Scotland
Sept/Oct	Annual General Meeting – details TBA
Oct	N/NEWS # 89
July 25-26	2009 - International Gathering of the Clans, Edinburgh, Scotland

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



## (NES)-BITS & PIECES

### John Grant Nisbet – Family Reunion

The descendants of John Grant Nisbet formerly of 74 Damside Street, Dunfermline, Scotland are called to a family reunion in Port Lincoln, South Australia on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

For further details see the WANTED section of this newsletter.

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### Nisbet Bible– translation

In the most recent issue of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – North America Newsletter, April 2008 an appeal to members was made regarding level of interest in the printing/production of Murdoch Nisbet's "the New Testament in Scots" if you wish to know more then contact Steve Nesbitt at [snisbitt@ibydeit.org](mailto:snisbitt@ibydeit.org)

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### Nesbitt & Nisbet Artists

Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – British Isles has published a booklet by Raymond Nisbet Rolinson entitled "Nesbitt & Nisbet Artists". We intend obtaining a master copy from which we can print copies for distribution to Australian and New Zealand members. Quoting from the UK Newsletter:

*"The book presents a great deal of learning, lightly worn. Readers may not know that it represents the synthesis of a vast file (literally) including many art libraries and art galleries, living artists, owners of pictures as far away as New Zealand and Norway, and the families and descendants of artists. Using online sources – particularly census records – it has been possible to round out many of the biographies. As a thank you to the many libraries that assisted, the Society has sent copies of the book to about forty, where they will be permanently accessible to researchers in the future."*

### Victorian Tartan - official

*Presumably, as Nesbitt/Nisbets we are entitled to don the Nisbet tartan (whichever variant takes your fancy); and for those of Scottish descent, presumably we able to don the Royal Stewart or Blackwatch. Well now, for those of us fortunate enough to be Victorian I presume that we can add the Victorian Tartan to our wardrobe. The Victorian premier Mr Brumby is seen below modeling the Victorian tartan. Clipping is from the **Herald Sun**, Friday, June 13, 2008 page 21.*



Tartan up the state: Premier John Brumby models the state's new tartan. Picture: DARREN McNAMARA

### State clan is clad in plaid

THREADS of blue, white, green and pink are Victoria's first official state tartan. The tartan is designed to recognise one of Victoria's first migrant communities, the Scottish. Premier John Brumby this week launched the tartan and said it recognised the contributions of the state's migrant communities. He said more than 32,000 Victorians were Scottish-born and 163,000 identified with a Scottish heritage. "I am one of those Victorians," he said. "I am almost half-Scottish — with the saltire featuring on my paternal and maternal family tree. "My mum comes from a long line of Adams and Arnolds — and my dad's grand-mother was a Grant a id, I'm told, pure Scot." The Victorian tartan is registered on the Scottish Tartans World Register. It has blue for the colours on the coat of arms and the Burenka flag, five white lines for the stars of the Southern Cross, green denoting the olive branch on the coat of arms and pink for the floral emblem, the common heath. — Geraldine Mitchell

*A search on the internet for details regarding availability proved fruitless. However, it would appear that Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and maybe New South Wales already have a state (district) tartan. It was also noted that Canberra (city) has a tartan (restricted use/availability).*

*Information Victoria advised me to contact "The House of Tartans" in the ACT – I currently await their response regarding availability of any/all state tartans.*

## Och, it's our own tartan

THE Premier admitted it himself. "I'm not one for improvisation," John Brumby said, as he draped a scarf made from the new Victorian state tartan around his neck rather than his hips, as the photographer had hoped.

Victoria this week joined a group of almost 4000 entities to have a unique tartan.

The new state tartan incorporates the blue of the Victorian coat of arms and the Eureka Stockade flag; five white lines representing the Southern Cross; green for the olive branch on the coat of arms and pink to represent the Common Heath, the state's floral emblem.

NSW resident Betty Johnston,



Mr Brumby models the state tartan.

who designed the NSW state tartan and is working on designs for Western Australia and South Australia, said she was paid "not a cracker" for this 10-year labor of love.

The tartan will be available for ceremonial occasions but there is no requirement that it be used.

MIKI PERKINS

The clipping above is from *The Age*, Friday, June 13, 2008.

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### Nisbet House – B&B, Leitholm, Berwickshire

In the most recent issue of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – British Isles (Volume XXV No 2, Summer 2008) a new member, Mrs Sheila Pile was welcomed. Sheila's N/N connection is that she owns and runs Nisbet B&B in Leitholm in the Borders. Nisbet House is described as *a charming 18<sup>th</sup> century bed & breakfast with spacious, tastefully furnished rooms and comforting log fires.* It was formerly Southview, the home of Peggy Nisbet, the dollmaker; and is certified four-stars by the Scottish Tourist Board.



[www.nisbethehouse.co.uk](http://www.nisbethehouse.co.uk)

### National Tartan Day - USA

On April 4, 2008, President George W Bush signed a document proclaiming April 6, 2008, as National Tartan Day!

Since the passing of Senate Resolution 155 in 1998 and House Resolution 41 in 2005, The Scottish Coalition and others have been actively asking the American-Scottish community to request that the president of the United States sign a proclamation proclaiming April 6, in perpetuity, as National Tartan Day.

The presidential proclamation makes National Tartan Day a national holiday observance on every April 6, similar to Flag Day, thus placing National Tartan Day on the official United States of America calendar.

*Tartan Day is held on April 6, being the anniversary of the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was created in 1320 (being effectively a declaration of Scottish independence).*

*And yes there is a United States tartan, which is, naturally, made up of red, white and blue (two tones).*

*In the rest of the world, Tartan Day is held on July 1, being the day of the Repeal in 1792 of the Act of Proscription of 12 August 1747, forbidding Scots to wear the Tartan.*

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### Nesbitt/Nisbet Compilation Table

Hal L Nesbitt, a member of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – North America branch has captured references to N/N's from numerous sources into a WORD document table "**Nesbitt/Nisbet Compilation Table**".

Hal describes this effort as follows: *"This all started out, innocently enough, as a winter project. I decide to trace the DNA groups back to their source."*

*We have obtained a reference copy for the Australia & New Zealand branch of the Society and will now consider how to make it available to members.*

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### **N/N Society – British Isles**

In the most recent issue of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – British Isles (Volume XXV No 2 , Summer 2008) both David Nisbet, the UK President and Peter W W Nisbet, the UK Treasurer and Secretary have announced their intention to retire from office at the Society's General Meeting being held in conjunction with this year's gathering at Gungreen House, Eyemouth in September.

They will continue as active members of the Society. David and Sue have been involved with the Society since its first meeting in Glasgow in August 1983. Peter is the inaugural Treasurer, having now filled that role for 25 years come September, and of more recent times he has also been the Society's secretary.

Both have contributed immensely to the Society, having seen it form, grow, and stabilise. The N/N Society – Australia was formed in 1986 and has benefited from their efforts, albeit perhaps indirectly. We have been privileged to have been able to welcome David & Sue to several of our social functions when they were visiting Australia.

*First of all I would take this opportunity to thank David (& Sue) and Peter for their commendable efforts on behalf of N/N members worldwide. Secondly I would wish them a long and prosperous retirement from office. Thirdly, issue an open invitation to our hospitality should they find themselves in Australia or New Zealand. Finally, I wish the UK Branch every success in recruiting replacement office bearers.*

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### **Peter Nisbet – China**

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in China, Red Symons interviewed a Peter Nisbet, aged 28 living in China, on Melbourne ABC radio774 on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at about 6:40 am.

*I have not been able to track down further detail, however I think that Peter Nisbet may be in China as part of the "Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Program", currently working in China.*

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### **N/N Society – North America**

The most recent issue of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – North America Newsletter, April 2008 introduced their new Newsletter Editor – Jennifer Nesbitt.

Following are a few snippets from her introduction to members.

*"I was Nesbitt-ed in June 2005 when I married Nick, my high school sweetheart. Steve and the rest of the N/N board were persuaded to put their faith in me as newsletter editor because of my background in journalism. I have degrees in journalism and political science from Penn State. Nick and I got involved in the society last summer, when Nick was doing research on the Nesbitt name and stumbled across the society's web page."*

*I wish Jennifer every success with the production of the Newsletters – a vital aspect of the Society.*

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## **FOUND**

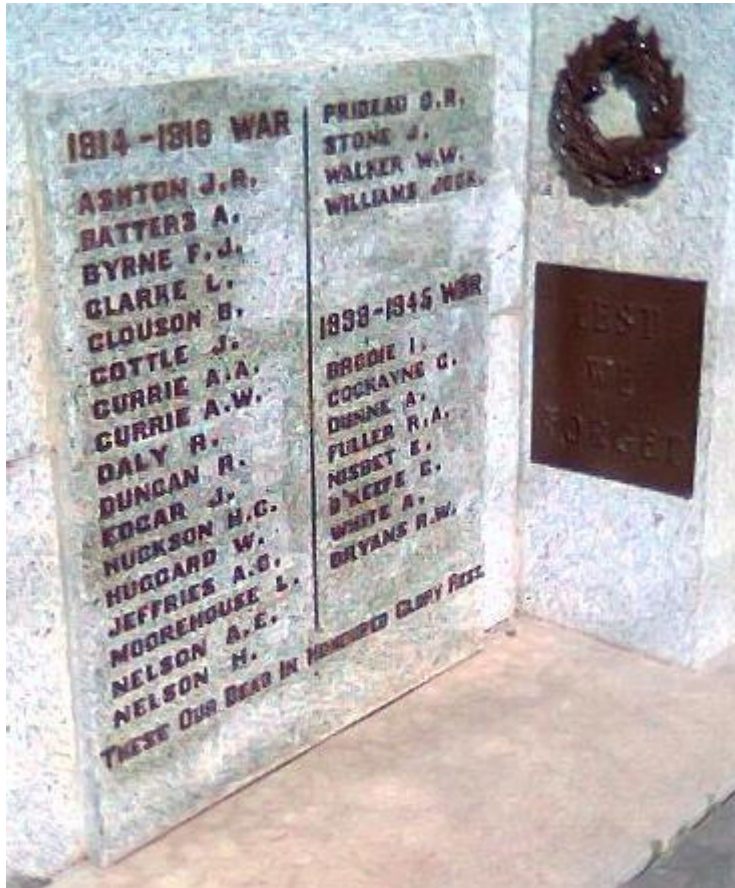
### **Thomas Nebbitt – land owner**

*I was recently undertaking a search of land survey information in the vicinity of CA 67A, Parish of Devon, County of Buln Buln, Victoria (currently Tara Valley Road, Devon North) when I noticed that the name of the owner of CA 67A on the plan (OP21800) was T Nebbitt (Thomas Nebbitt on the accompanying computation sheet). Not having come across a Nebbitt before and with no such entries currently showing in the white pages I just wonder whether this is not in fact a spelling error and that a Thomas Nesbitt was indeed the grantee of CA67A, Parish of Devon.*

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## E Nisbet – Tocumwal

*The following picture of the Tocumwal war memorial – listing an E Nisbet in the 1939-1945 War was taken by Alan & Heather Ames.*



## Nisbet clock

On a recent trip to south Gippsland, during a chance visit to an antiques shop, I came upon a mantle clock labelled “Nisbet clock”. On further investigation it was noted that the clock bore a maker’s/vendor’s label – which read:

*A C Nisbet  
Watchmaker  
Unley*

Upon which a date had been hand written (circa 1923). The rear of the clock bore notes on the clock mechanisms, setting, adjustment and maintenance – indicating that the mechanics were from either New York or Glasgow. The antique dealer provided little further detail apart from a passing comment that he had seen several Nisbet clocks and thought them “beautiful without being ornate”.

*Presumably, A C Nisbet was a watchmaker in Unley, South Australia circa 1923 who would import clock mechanisms to be mounted in cases of his design. A search on the internet has not revealed any detail regarding A C Nisbet, watchmaker. Can any N/N member provide any detail regarding A C Nisbet, watchmaker or Nisbet clocks in general?*

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## Matthew Flinders’ chronometer – Nisbet connection

*When undertaking internet research for the Nisbet clock above I stumbled across the following N/N reference on the web site for the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, Australia. Below is an excerpt from the web site.*

### **Matthew Flinders Marine Chronometer, 1790**

When Matthew Flinders set out in 1801 to circumnavigate Australia, he took with him a collection of five chronometers. The only one to survive the journey was this one. It was made in London by Thomas Earnshaw in early 1801. The escapement and compensating balance wheel which were invented by Earnshaw are incorporated into this chronometer and reflect his skill and precision in workmanship. Flinders expressed his enthusiasm for E520 in his book 'A Voyage to Terra Australis' where he referred to it as "this excellent timekeeper".

The E520 was with Flinders when, on his return passage to England, he was taken prisoner-of-war by the French in Mauritius. In 1805 Captain Aken, the master of the 'Investigator' who had been travelling with Flinders, was released by the French and allowed to return England. He arrived there with the chronometer in December 1805, and the Astronomer Royal, Neville Maskelyne, reported to the Board of Longitude on December 12, that E520 had been delivered to the Greenwich Observatory.

No more was heard of E520 until 1937 when the records of the then Sydney Technical Museum show that it was purchased from **Mr. J. Nisbet** of Double Bay.

But what of **Mr. N. J. Nisbet**, who once owned E520? At first all attempts to trace him failed. Then in 1979, with the valuable assistance of Caroline Jones of ABC Radio in Sydney, the family of **Mr. Norman John Nisbet** was located. Unfortunately, **Mr. Nisbet** died in 1943 and little is now known of E520's connection with his family. **Mr. Nisbet** was, however, a collector of clocks and watches and may have acquired the chronometer during a visit to England.

Whatever the history of E520 from 1805 to 1937 it is extremely fortunate that this historic old timekeeper which played so important a part in our early history, found its way back to Australia.

#### References:

Thomas Tooth, transcript from 'The Earnshaw Chronometer' a monograph originally published by the Powerhouse Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, 1981

*Further detail and picture/s can be found at:*

*<http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/?irn=237881>*

*Can any N/N member/s provide any further detail on either Mr Norman John Nisbet or chronometer E520?*



### N/N's IN THE NEWS

#### **Nesbit** – Premier's Active Families Challenge

*The Nesbit family of Deidre, Jim, Lauren & Paula of Echuca, Victoria participated in the Premier's Active Families Challenge as found listed in the insert in the **Herald Sun**, Wednesday, May 28, 2008 page 46. The challenge – between 9 March and 20 April families got to their feet for at least 30 minutes of physical activity each day. Some 28,538 Victorians constituting 8,483 families took part. The next and perhaps biggest part of the challenge is keeping it up.*

*Congratulations to the Nesbit family.*

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#### **Trent Cotchin** – “rising star”

Trent Cotchin made a late start to the 2008 AFL season after fracturing his ankle in late 2007 achilles inflammation and soreness then prevented him from participating until round 8. Since then Trent has been a stunning and consistent player in a rejuvenated Richmond, kicking a goal with his first kick in an AFL match; to the extent that he is currently touted as one of the favourites for the AFL's “Rising Star” award in 2008. Trent credits his parents Peter and Kath (nee **Nisbet**) with “*keeping his feet on the ground*”.

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#### **Barbara Nisbet**

*The following notice was found in the **Herald Sun** Wednesday, 28 April, 2008, page 86.*

**NISBET.** —  
Barbara Christie (Ara)  
11.06.1923 - 17.06.2008  
Loved mother of David, Valerie and Diane. Mother-in-law to John and Joan. Much loved Granny to Adrian, Tammy, Rowan, James, Evan and Christopher. Granny-in-law to Kara and Chris.  
At rest with Dad

#### **Joan Nisbet**

**NISBET** (Brown). — Joan Mary.  
Nov. 6, 1918 - Apr. 26, 2008

Loved wife of Jim (dec.) and Mick (dec.).

Most loved mother and mother-in-law of Heather and Ray, Barbara and Jim, Jimmy and Maureen (dec.).

Devoted twin sister of Joyce (dec.).

Cherished Nana of Gary and Wendy, Raelene and Michael, Debra and Dave, Alan, Stuart and Judy, David and Tina. Great Nana of Kayne, Ashley and Lauren, Sarah and Ty, Amy, Kylie and Lachy, Emily, Chris. Great Great Nana of Bailey, Taylor, Jordan, Mavrick, Corey, Hayden.

When tomorrow starts without her, please try to understand that an Angel came and took her by the hand, and said Joan's place was ready far above, that she will have to leave behind all those she dearly loved. So when tomorrow starts without her, don't think she's far apart, for every time you think of Joan, know she's in your heart.

#### *Forever Loved*

*The notice above was found in the **Herald Sun** Monday, 18 June, 2008.*



## THE WANTED LIST

### John Grant Nisbet - descendants

Family re-union to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 in Port Lincoln, South Australia. Colin & Vy Nisbet provided the following background information:

“I am researching my father **John Grant Nisbet**; we are having a re-union for his family in Port Lincoln, south Australia on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009. He came to Australia in 1925, on the passenger ship the “Orama”; having departed from London on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 1925; disembarking in Melbourne (date not known). On the passenger list there were two **J Nisbet**:

1. My father:  
**John Grant Nisbet**  
74 Damside Street  
Dunfermline, Scotland  
“A Butcher”
2. And the other:  
**J Nisbet**  
14 Antague Street  
Greenock, NB  
“A Draper”

To my knowledge they were not related in any way.

My father, John Grant the butcher went to Wonthaggi to work for William Inglis as a butcher for some time, when hard times came he got a job with Hume Steel in Thevenard, South Australia; there he stayed until his death in 1970.

He married a local lass, Amy Spry, and they had five children. I am wondering if anyone in the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society would have any knowledge of the other **J Nisbet**, the Draper, if so I would be pleased to hear from them.

Regards  
Colin Nisbet

*Colin can be contacted at 3 Tyler Street, Henley Beach South, South Australia 5022.*

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### SKYPE – your contact details

*If you're an internet savvy N/N using Skype we would appreciate receiving your contact details and also some comments on how you are using and finding Skype as a means of communication – does it have a role in the N/N Society and furthering our communications, re-directing how we communicate and the types of communication we can provide and enjoy? Please let us know – but as always, play it safe with any personal details you provide – ensure that the mode of communication selected and the details provided are compatible.*



## OBITUARY

### John Classon

*It is with great sadness that I advise members of the death of John Charles Michael Classon, husband of Elyse (nee Nesbit), both active members of the Society since its founding. John died suddenly on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2008, aged 86. Our condolences to Elyse and family. John's eye for detail and quirky questions on our balance sheets will be missed.*

John Charles Michael Classon



9<sup>th</sup> February 1922 ~ 11<sup>th</sup> May 2008

## SUCCESS

**P Jean Skar** – link found

The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – North America recently welcomed P Jean Skar from Norway into membership. Jean was raised in Canada, but married a Norwegian. Her mother was a **Nisbet** and her mother's father, **James Nisbet** was born in Scotland, emigrating to Canada when he was young. Last year Jean was supplied additional information from a distant cousin, **J E Nisbet** (a member of the N/N Society - Australia). He had written an article on Nisbets of Chapelton, but was missing Jean's branch and she was also missing his. James also had copies of letters written approximately 1840 to 1860 of family members.

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## **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: Vacant  
BOARD: Bruce Nesbit, Effie Todd, Gavin Nisbet, Lyndell Nisbet, Karen Nisbet.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

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

### PUBLICATION OFFICER:

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

### EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE:

Ian G Nisbet, Gavin Nisbet.

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

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

### NSW REGIONAL GROUP:

SECRETARY: Glen Hollebhone, 28 Derna Road, Wattle Grove, NSW 2173, Aust.  
CORRESPONDENTS: Mary & Keith Nisbet, 4/125 Cardinal Ave, West Pennant Hills, NSW 2125, Aust.  
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 OFFICER:

John Nesbit, 64a Somerfield Street, Christchurch 2, NZ.

### OVERSEAS CONTACTS:

North America: Diana Hawkins, 5930 Creekside Lane, Hoschton, GA 30548, 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>**