

THE N/NEWS

NO. 89 October 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

This edition's Starting Point begins ironically with an ending. It is with great sadness that I advise N/N members of the death of our Convenor, A. Bruce Nesbit. In essence Bruce founded the Australian Branch of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society and was the inaugural Editor of the society's newsletter, regular correspondent with overseas contacts and Publications Officer. Bruce's efforts, interest and energies on behalf of the society under the governance of society president, Ian M Nisbet, ensured a rapid growth and sound base for our on-going activities. The Australian Branch of the N/N Society is very much a legacy of A. Bruce Nesbit. Further details can be found in the newsletter.

Bruce's passing further raises the issue of on-going support and commitment to the Australian Branch of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society as our current (somewhat diminished) committee contemplates our 2008 AGM. Volunteers MUST be forthcoming if this legacy is to be continued.

Chairman & Editor

CONTENTS

THE N/NEWS

No. 89 October 2008

STARTING POINT.....	1
NOTICE BOARD.....	1
MEM-BOAR-SHIP.....	2
(NES)-BITS & PIECES.....	2
Homecoming Scotland 2009.....	2
The Scots in Australia.....	2
John Grant Nisbet – Family Reunion.....	3
Victoria State Tartan – supplier details.....	3
FOUND.....	3
Nisbet clock - continued.....	3
William Peel Nesbitt – Mayor of Burra, SA.....	3
N/N's IN THE NEWS.....	4
Dr Paul Nesbit.....	4
Clifford Thomas Nesbitt.....	5
SOCIETY NEWS.....	5
2008 Gathering – Gungahlin House.....	5
THE WANTED LIST.....	5
William Nisbet – antecedents wanted.....	5
Alexander Nisbet – antecedents wanted.....	5
Samuel Nisbet – antecedents wanted.....	6
Adrian Nesbitt – antecedents wanted.....	6
OBITUARY.....	6
Arthur Bruce Nesbit.....	6
Adrian Frederick Jensen.....	7
Major William E Hughes, MBE.....	7
STOP PRESS.....	7
Annual Subscriptions – please return promptly.....	7
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY CONTACTS.....	8

NOTICE BOARD-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

Nov	Annual General Meeting – details TBA
Dec	Christmas Gathering – details TBA
Jan	N/NEWS # 90
Apr	N/NEWS # 91
July 25-26	2009 - International Gathering of the Clans, Edinburgh, Scotland

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

MEM-BOAR-SHIP

A change of e-mail address has been received for Bruce Nesbit of Queensland.
A change of address has been received for Brenda Halcrow of Stoke, Nelson, NZ.



(NES)-BITS & PIECES

Homecoming Scotland 2009

The article below was spotted in *The Age* Sunday, October 19, 2008 page 8 of Prime, an advertising feature.



HOMECOMING SCOTLAND 2009

Homecoming Scotland 2009 celebrates the 250th anniversary of the birth of poet Robert Burns and features more than 100 events including the five-day gathering, the largest clan gathering in recent times for Scots and lovers of all things Scottish, being held in Edinburgh on July 25 and 26, 2009. For more information visit www.clanathering.org

Homecoming includes Scotland's first (and only) Genealogy Festival, being held in Glasgow from July 21 to 23, where visitors can find out about family records in Scotland and overseas (www.strath.ac.uk/homecomingscotland), and the Scotlands People Centre will provide easy access to digital images of the key Scottish family history resources, including over 60 million birth, marriage and death records, wills, testaments, census records and Coats of Arms (www.scotlandspeoplehub.gov.uk)

For more information visit www.homecomingscotland2009.com, www.visitscotland.com

The Scots in Australia

The article below was spotted in *The Age* as a book review.

The Scots in Australia

Malcolm Prentis
UNSW Press, \$39.95



PRENTIS HAS NOT only set himself what he calls the "impossible" task of tracing the arrival, growth and contribution of the Scots in Australia, but has also taken on something of a historical rescue mission. In short, the Scots have been neglected and hard done by, and it's about time the country got wise. "Left-wing Whig" versions of our history helped push them aside, the Scots often being depicted as mostly Presbyterian and unfairly labelled as politically conservative. The third-largest immigrant group in the country sat in the wings while, in the second half of the 20th century, the European and Mediterranean contribution was emphasised. He acknowledges historical accounts from Margaret Kiddle to Don Watson's acclaimed *Caledonia Australis*, then gives us chapter and verse on the "forgotten people". And hoot, man, it is impressive: from Macquarie and Menzies to Dr McKenzie's Menthoids!

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 9th April 2009.

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

Victoria State Tartan – supplier details

Continuing from the article in N/News 88 regarding the Victoria State Tartan - I have received information from The House of Tartans.

The House of Tartans operates out of the Australian Capital Territory. They are importers and stockists of tartan products, specialising in accessories and the traditional designing of State, Corporate and District Tartans for Australia. They stock tartans for approximately 185 clans, including Nisbet in "ancient", "modern" and "weathered" colours as well as "dress" and "hunting" varieties (if applicable). They stock a range of tartan products, such as shawls, kilt hose, scarves, tams, ties, kilts and fabric.

They are the designers of the official New South Wales, Victoria State and the Australian National Tartans.

Contact details are:

*The House of Tartans
(Telephone) (02) 6226 8123
(Facsimile) (02) 6226 8126
Email bradston@iprimus.com.au*



FOUND

Nisbet clock - continued

Further to the article in N/News 88 regarding a "Nisbet clock" – I can report that it now graces my mantel piece (pictured right). The maker's vendor's label reads:

**A. C. NISBET
WATCHMAKER
JEWELLER AND OPTICIAN
184 UNLEY RD**

**opp. Savings Bank
(Late Foreman with Stevenson Bros)**

I have still not found any details regarding A C Nisbet.

William Peel Nesbitt – Mayor of Burra, SA

*The following was found at
<http://www.burrahistory.info/BurraNotables.htm>*

Our information is a combination of obituaries that have been summarised from the local paper (the **Burra Record** which was known as the **Northern Mail** from 1876 to 1878), plus some additional information taken from various sources.

NESBITT, William Peel
(Mayor of Burra)

Burra Record, 16 May 1894 Obituary

Dr William Peel Nesbitt died at Salisbury on 12 May, aged 44. He was the son of Dr Pearce R. Nesbitt and was born at Northampton on 3 June 1849. He was educated at Bruce castle near London, Guy's Hospital and Edinburgh University, during which time the disease which has now claimed him first appeared. He was a Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery. He visited South Africa, America and New Zealand before coming to Burra in 1875 and stayed here five years.

In his time here he was a Warden of St Mary's, President of the Institute, Member of the School Board of Advice and Mayor for a year. With Dr Brummitt he worked to establish the Burra Hospital and was one of its first two medical officers. He left Burra in 1880 for a North Adelaide practice and was given an address and silver plate in appreciation when he left. He was an Honorary Medical Officer at the Children's Hospital and for a time a Resident Medical Officer there. He later became Medical Officer for Yatala Labour Prison, but had to retire due to illness 6-8 months ago. For the last 18-19 years he lived with his sister, Miss Nesbitt.



Dr Paul Nesbit

The following article was found in *THE AGE* of Saturday, October 11, 2008 on page 8 of the MyCareer section.

Leaders learn to let go

Delegating frees managers for more crucial tasks, advises **Ann-Maree Moodie**.

ISN'T it funny that when we're finally in a job where we have the right to tell people what to do, we end up doing it all our selves? And it's not because our requests are ignored. Many of us just find delegating hard to do.

Regina Liza Marica writes in *Harvard Business Review*: "When you've worked your way up through the ranks, it's often tough to hand responsibility to others. There's always a temptation to perform the tasks you're supposed to be overseeing."

Delegation is part of being a manager. In fact, being a good delegator is the hallmark of successful managers and leaders.

Paul Nesbit, of the Graduate School of Management at Macquarie University in Sydney, says: "Being able to delegate is essential if managers want to be effective. From a time management perspective, delegating helps a manager deal with the increasing demands on their time and their ability to perform well. Just as important, delegating is evidence of trust in one's own management style and a sign of commitment to the development of your staff."

Dr Nesbit says being able to delegate also reflects the emphasis in today's workplace on teamwork and the development of the individuals who make up those teams.

Delegation means assigning authority to another person to carry out a specific task. It means the employee or team member has authority to make decisions about that particular assignment. A lack of understanding about what it means to transfer authority is why many managers find it hard to delegate.

"As a manager rises in the organisation from technical roles — where he or she performed the tasks themselves — to positions in management, it's often harder to let go of the area in which you're competent and



Paul Nesbit of the Macquarie Graduate School of Management

PICTURE: PETER BRAY

maybe even an expert," Dr Nesbit says. "It's much less comfortable letting go of the things you're good at to do something new."

It's generally agreed that good delegators exhibit five common behaviours. They clarify the assignment, specify the team

performance. Lastly, a good delegator has excellent communication skills."

Just as the team member is accountable, so too is the manager responsible for ensuring the success of the project. Failure in delegated authority should first

instead pass off as a delegated task is creating failure.

An effective delegator also tolerates mistakes. "An additional reason for difficulty in delegating well is that many people are more comfortable working alone and autonomously," Dr Nesbit says. "The autonomous worker who rises to management because they were successful in a lower technical role can often find that being a manager doesn't suit them."

Delegation, if executed properly, is an opportunity to develop staff. It also allows the manager to do their job, which is more about implementing strategy than performing everyday tasks.

Many managers feel their job is all about fighting fires. And, in fact, a white collar job is more like fire fighting than many realise.

Former fire chief Carl Holmes says: "We created a work environment in which there was mutual support, trust and genuine lines of communication. With those, you can get people to operate to their utmost capacity. At that point, leaders should get the hell out of the way and let people do their jobs."

Steps in effective delegation:

- Determine what is to be delegated and to whom.
- Set parameters for the team member's discretion to make decisions.
- Hold the team member accountable for the successful management and completion of the task.
- Keep open channels of communication.
- Provide regular feedback.
- Set dates for reporting on progress.

member's range of discretion, hold the team member accountable, tell others in the team that this person has the authority for the task, and ensure open communication so the team member's performance can be monitored and support provided.

"Effective delegators assign tasks and responsibilities that are realistic in terms of the skills and knowledge, and resources available to the team member,"

Dr Nesbit says. "Good delegators review and evaluate the person's

be seen as a problem of the manager assigning the task. The reasons are commonly a poor communication of the expectations of the task, poor follow-up and unrealistic expectations of success.

"Other reasons for failure are if the manager regularly assigns tasks that are undesirable and that don't offer the team member the opportunity to learn and to develop."

Handing over work that the manager doesn't want to do and

Clifford Thomas Nesbitt

The notice below was found in the *Herald Sun*, of Monday, October 13, 2008 on page 89.

NESBITT. — Clifford Thomas. At Glenview Nursing Home, Rutherglen on Oct. 11, 2008 aged 91 years. Beloved husband of Mary (dec.). Loving father and father-in-law of Frances and Kevin, Eileen and Les, Kathleen and Don. Peter and Marie. Grandfather of 18 and Great Grandfather of 42 and Great Great Grandfather of 3.

SOCIETY NEWS

2008 Gathering – Gungreen House

The UK Branch of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society held their 2008 Gathering at Gungreen House, Eyemouth, Scotland on 27th September. A report from the *Berwickshire News* can be found at <http://www.berwickshire-news.co.uk/news/Nisbet-Society-celebrates-its-25th.4547647.jp>

Some 20 N/N's celebrated the Society's 25th anniversary, including two from Germany. At the associated AGM both the President, Major David Nisbet and Treasurer & Secretary, Peter W W Nisbet retired from office. Details of the new committee are yet to be received.

THE WANTED LIST

William Nisbet – antecedents wanted

Sarena Nisbet
from Tasmania, Australia wrote:

I'm trying to find out more about my family history. Here are some facts that I have already found out from my family.

My family first came out to Tasmania (Australia) in 1857 on a ship called the *Great Tasmania*. Unfortunately I do not know their names; however, I do know they had a son, my great, great grandfather, William Nisbet, who was about 3 when he came to Tasmania. In 1901, William Nisbet married a french lady called Franny de Feure. I also found out that William had something to do with the Anglican Church here in Tasmania and maybe in Scotland as well.

Anyway if anyone can help me or, even better, have any information, I will be very grateful.

Hey, umm I've just found out that Mary Nisbet, Countess of Elgin, is actually an antecedent of mine. I've also found out that my family (William Nisbet aged about 3 and his parents who are unknown at this point) did come to Tasmania but on the *Great Tasmania*, and not in 1857 but would have had to come to "Tassie" in the early 1800's.

Alexander Nisbet – antecedents wanted

Peter Robert Nisbet
from Kempton Park, South Africa wrote:

I have recently returned to look over this Nisbet website again and have enjoyed reading the various remarks with family particulars, left in the Guestbook. My Great Grandfather (George Nisbet - Born approx 1859 to 1867 in Scotland) came to South Africa from Edinburgh, Scotland in about 1890/91. I have unfortunately not as yet, managed to find any connection with him in Scotland, as his death notice in South Africa (28th of Feb, 1922 at Pretoria) only states his father's name (Alexander Nisbet). The given dates on his headstone and various documents in my possession have not assisted in tracing his family connections in Scotland, due to conflicting dates and the lack of his mother's name. These are popular names and make it very difficult to be sure of information available on the Internet. I shall be visiting this site again.

Samuel Nisbet – antecedents wanted

Ian Robertson Nisbet
from Stockton on Tees, Cleveland wrote:

My father's uncle emigrated to Australia around 1920 and was supposedly involved in sheep farming in Australia. The family came from Cowdenbeath, Fifeshire. I joined up in the British Armed Forces in 1962. It would be great if anyone reading this recognised the family name. My great uncle was called Samuel Nisbet, and I believe that my father was named after him.

Adrian Nesbitt – antecedents wanted

Melissa Nesbitt
from Macleay Island, Qld wrote:

Hello to all. I was born in NZ and have lived in OZ over 20 years. Would love to learn more about my granddad's family who lived Nelson NZ way. He had up to 18 brothers and sisters. His name was Adrian Cedric Vain Nesbitt, born 31 May 1921. My mother's name Karen Joy Nesbitt with her siblings Lynette, Lyle, John and Brenda. Hope to hear from anyone who may be related.



OBITUARY

Arthur Bruce Nesbit

It is with great sadness that I advise members of the death of Arthur Bruce Nesbit, on 27th August 2008, aged 88. Our condolences to Helen, Leeanne, Deborah and families.

In Loving Memory of
Arthur Bruce Nesbit

Bruce was educated at Prince's Hill State School and Brunswick Technical College. He served in WW2 in Field Artillery and Light Anti-Aircraft unit from 1939 to 1946, seeing active service in New Guinea and was discharged with the rank of sergeant.



29th September 1919 – 27th August 2008

Born **ARTHUR BRUCE NESBIT** at Bendigo, Victoria 29th September, 1919. The son of John Herman Nesbit, by his first wife Isla (Eila) Apes Carter.



Bruce married Helen Shields, daughter of James Robert Shields by his wife Mary McGinty, in Melbourne, Victoria on 4th October, 1947.

Bruce worked with the PMG's Department (later Telecom) as a technician, senior technician, draftsman and senior draftsman (involved in the circuit design of message switching systems).

Bruce is survived by Helen, daughters, Leeanne and Deborah and their respective families (8 grandchildren & 11 great-grandchildren).

Bruce was the founder of the Australian Branch of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society, Inaugural Newsletter Editor from 1986 to July 1992, Publications Officer and Convenor. It was

through Bruce's efforts that the inaugural meeting was held on 27th June 1986, at he and Helen's home in Bundoora. Out of this meeting a Steering Committee was formed and the Inaugural AGM of the Australian Branch was held on 14th August 1986.

Vale Arthur Bruce Nesbit.

The Australian Branch of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is very much a legacy of and testimony to the initial efforts of Bruce and thereafter his ongoing interest in the Society focused on activities such as the Newsletter, monographs and country gatherings which set such high standards and were of such interest to members.

Adrian Frederick Jensen

It is with great sadness that I advise members of the death of Adrian Frederick Jensen, aged 48 on 22nd September 2008. Adrian was the son of N/N members Michie (nee Nesbitt) and Fred Jensen. Our condolences to Michie & Fred and Adrian's family.

Major William E Hughes, MBE

It is with sadness that I advise members of the death of Major William "Bill" Edward Hughes, MBE of Toowoomba, Qld. Beloved husband of Joan (dec'd). William passed away on 19th March 2008, aged 84 years having been a long-standing member of the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society – Australian Branch. Our condolences to his family.

The recollections of Eric Grace, a friend, can be found on the website of the Royal Australian Signals Association message board, at: <http://members5.boardhost.com/RASIGS/msg/1206510379.html>

From Eric's account, Bill served as a rifleman in New Guinea for two years before he was found to have enlisted under age, by which time he was 18. After World War 2 he re-signed, being placed in the Royal Australian Signals Corps. He was awarded an MBE for service in Singapore as a Warrant Officer. He served in Vietnam as a Lieutenant. His promotion/s to rank of Major is not described.



STOP PRESS

Annual Subscriptions – please return promptly

The annual subscription forms for 2008/09 will be issued shortly. It would be greatly appreciated by the committee if you would please submit your payment and completed form promptly, with current contact details for our records. Your active participation in the society is sought and your continued financial support is requisite for the on-going efforts and success of the society. Should you know of relatives and/or unrelated N/N's that may be interested in joining the N/N Society please copy the subscription form and forward to them and/or direct them to our 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: Vacant
BOARD: Effie Todd, Gavin Nisbet, Lyndell Nisbet, Karen Nisbet.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

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

PUBLICATION OFFICER:

Vacant

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.

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

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

NZ REGIONAL OFFICER:

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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>