

THE N/NEWS

NO. 91 April 2009

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

A few days after N/News 90 was distributed Victoria was the subject of horrific bushfires and areas of Queensland were hit with major flooding as part of some cyclonic conditions. Shortly after Queensland had further rains and quite recently northern New South Wales has been hit by cyclonic weather also with some extensive flooding, along the coast. The Victorian fires certainly received world-wide attention along with prayers and support from many Australians, from all states, as well as from New Zealand and many other countries. Even though I am unaware of any N/N's being directly impacted, many of us, through work, social groups family know of folk who were, and continue to be affected. Please be mindful that whilst the initial effects may have now been addressed, continued prayers and support will be appreciated.

Recently southern Victoria has had a little rain, and the eucalypts, tree ferns and native grasses are trying, where possible, to re-shoot. So too, a number of devastated communities are now starting to re-generate; we wish them strength and every success. The urbanisation of fringe (semi-rural) areas has been cited as part of the reason that so many communities, families and individuals were threatened and why so many deaths occurred. Thinking of our forebears settling remote areas of a reasonably inhospitable land – what challenges and threats they must have endured, suffered and risen from. It is evident that a similar strength of character and community continues.

As for my plea last newsletter for volunteers – it would seem to have fallen on deaf ears. The remnant committee will continue to try and re-generate what we humanly can. The occasional “spark” – a new member, an account of a member's success with family research, a complimentary note and the likes are rejuvenating, but infrequent. I ask that you please assist in rejuvenating our N/N community – utilise the Newsletter and the Homepage to share and commune with your fellow N/N's. I know that many, if not most, are total strangers, and that is what they will remain unless we are able to transition to an alternative model which takes advantage of the variety of communication methods available to us. The initial twenty years of our existence, especially for the Victorian and, to a lesser extent, the New South Wales and Western Australian members we were fortunate enough to be able to enjoy a truly social side to the Society in a variety of reasonably regular social occasions and gatherings. With John Nesbit adopting an active NZ Regional Officer role, it is little surprise that the NZ contingent currently appear the more active and supportive membership. Your ideas and opinions are welcomed.

I challenge you to get on the Society homepage, login to the member's section, select members list and write or e-mail a fellow N/N chosen at random.

Chairman & Editor



MEM-BOAR-SHIP

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

Laura & Ross Russell (nee Nesbitt) of Erina,
NSW

Linda & Henry Alwert (nee Nesbitt) of
Shellharbour, NSW

Noting that I have included Laura's Guestbook entry in the WANTED section (p.6). and that Linda has expressed interest in the Nesbitt DNA Project – and as such her Nesbitt line would be only the second Australian family in the DNA Project. I welcome them both (along with their spouses) and wish them every success with their research.

We have noted change of address for:
Glynys & Trevor Ralls from Trafalgar to
Traralgon, Vic

Yvonne Elliott from Charlestown to Kurri
Kurri, NSW

Lynette Howick still in Baulkham Hills,
NSW

We have also noted change of e-mail
address for:

James & Yvonne Nisbet
John & Shirley Nesbitt
Colin & Vy Nisbet

The annual subscription notice for the year September 2008 to August 2009 was issued with N/News 90. If you have not already done so, it would be most appreciated if you were to promptly complete and return your annual subscription with payment and/or donation as this will spare our few committee members from having to chase outstanding dues. Your on-going support for your Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is appreciated by all members.



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NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

June 26-28	2009 - North American Gathering, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada
July 25-26	2009 - International Gathering of the Clans, Edinburgh, Scotland
Jul	N/NEWS # 92
Oct	N/NEWS # 93

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



(NES)-BITS & PIECES

Nisbet Family Trust Act 1927 – Tasmania

On Tuesday, 14-Apr-2009

[Sarena Nisbet](#) - from Australia wrote:

I was just wondering if anyone out there knows anything about the Nisbet Family Trust Act 1927 in Tasmania?

Scrambling for the internet and “Googling” same retrieved only a reference to the Act within

the Decimal Currency Act 1965 indicating that it is unaffected by the latter.

Hence Sarena's very “open” query. Tasmania's on-line legislation site does not seem to hold historic documents. I look forward to advice and assistance from members to assist with progressing this query.

N/N's IN THE NEWS

Patrick Nisbet

When scanning the **Herald Sun** records for a classified announcement, I noted an entry for a **Patrick Nisbet** dated 13 July, 2008 regarding an article in the **Mercury** (Tasmania) announcing that:

“Patrick Nisbet was to launch his social networking site Cathspace at World Youth Day in Sydney today”. “Based loosely on popular websites such as Facebook and Myspace, Mr Nisbet wants his version to provide...”.

I have not been able to retrieve a complete copy of the article.

Cathspace can be found at:
<http://www.cathspace.com/>

and under ‘Featured members’ the fourth (right hand thumbnail) is Patrick, and his profile can be viewed by selecting the thumbnail.

We wish Patrick every success with this approach.

N/N's – Herald Sun/CityLink RUN for the KIDS

The Herald Sun supplement of Tuesday, April 17, 2009 pp41-72 listing the “RUN for the KIDS” fun run course finishers included some N/N's, as follows (name, finishing position & time):

14.1 km course

Nisbet, David, 9081, 1:24:46

5.7 km course

Nesbit, Kirsten, 6994, 1:00:36

Nesbit, Laura, 1248, 0:31:46

Nisbet, John, 7215, 1:01:41

Nisbet, Joy, 7214, 1:01:41

Nisbet, Lauren, 5271, 0:48:39

Congratulations, well done – and happy to see the N/N's represented in such a worthwhile exercise (excuse the pun).

Daniel Nisbet – amateur golfer

Ian M Nisbet spotted an article on Daniel Nisbet on the [iseekgolf.com](http://www.iseekgolf.com) website entitled “Daniel Nisbet: Ready for the Challenge” by Anthony Powter, dated 20 Jan 2009.

A précis of Daniel's achievements to date and a direct excerpt (quote) from the article follows:

Daniel Nisbet, an 18-year old amateur golfer from Queensland, was to move to Victoria in late January, to be based out of the Victoria Golf Club and be part of the AIS squad. Daniel is the 2008 Australian Junior and is a dual Queensland Junior Champion.

Daniel Nisbet has to date mainly focused upon playing junior golf since picking up a club when twelve. The list of junior achievements is reflective of his prodigious talent: numerous junior championship wins including the 2008 Australian Junior Championship, the Gary Player Classic, Jack Newton International, Tasmanian Junior, the Aaron Baddeley World Final in China and twice winner of the Australian Junior Order of Merit, are just a few of his achievements; and for the last three years, Daniel has qualified for the Australian Open.

“As a junior, Daniel won just about everything that there is to win,” says Peter Knight, Director of National Elite Development.

“You would expect that a player of that calibre will carry that over into the main amateur ranks.”

Knight attributes Nisbet's success to many factors, in particular Nisbet's ability to play the right shot when required.

“Daniel has what I refer to as the “x” factor,” says Knight.

“He's got the ability to work the ball around a course and to win in a tight situation by playing the right shot. That will see him develop as a player and become highly competitive in the main amateur ranks.”

The complete article can be found at:

<http://www.iseekgolf.com/news/37085-daniel-nisbet-ready-for-the-challenge>

We wish Daniel every success in his move to Melbourne, his AIS training and his golfing career – we anticipate hearing much more of him into the future. Up until now, only snippets of information had filtered so far south from Queensland.

Richard Nisbett – professor of psychology

Dr Ian T Nisbet spotted an article in *The New York Times* of April 16, 2009 by Nicholas D. Kristof (Op-Ed Columnist) entitled “**How to Raise our I.Q.**” in which a number of references to Professor Richard Nisbett were noted. An excerpt (introductory paragraphs) from the article appears below:

April 16, 2009

OP-ED COLUMNIST

How to Raise Our I.Q.

By [NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF](#)

Poor people have I.Q.’s significantly lower than those of rich people, and the awkward conventional wisdom has been that this is in large part a function of genetics.

After all, a series of studies seemed to indicate that I.Q. is largely inherited. Identical twins raised apart, for example, have I.Q.’s that are remarkably similar. They are even closer on average than those of fraternal twins who grow up together.

If intelligence were deeply encoded in our genes, that would lead to the depressing conclusion that neither schooling nor antipoverty programs can accomplish much. Yet while this view of I.Q. as overwhelmingly inherited has been widely held, the evidence is growing that it is, at a practical level, profoundly wrong. Richard Nisbett, a professor of psychology at the University of Michigan, has just demolished this view in a superb new book, “Intelligence and How to Get It,” which also offers terrific advice for addressing poverty and inequality in America.

Professor Nisbett provides suggestions for transforming your own urchins into geniuses — praise effort more than achievement, teach delayed gratification, limit reprimands and use praise to stimulate curiosity — but focuses on how to raise America’s collective I.Q. That’s important, because while I.Q. doesn’t measure pure intellect — we’re not certain exactly what it does measure — differences do matter, and a higher I.Q. correlates to greater success in life.

Intelligence does seem to be highly inherited in middle-class households, and

The complete article can be found at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/16/opinion/16kristof.html?_r=1

Nisbet – Van Deventer – marriage

The following article was found in the *Herald Sun* classifieds of February 7, 2009.

NISBET, Van DEVENTER.

Terry & Shirley Nisbet are proud to announce the marriage of their daughter Elizabeth to Ben on Feb. 7, 2009

Elizabeth ‘Liz’ Nisbet – a wedding day to remember

Whilst in my editorial I advised that I was unaware of any N/N’s being directly impacted by the Victorian bushfires of “Black Saturday”, 7th February 2009, the article in *The Age* of Friday, February 13, 2009 p.9 reports on how close one particular N/N (along with her wedding party and guests) in fact were to being directly and devastatingly impacted. The photograph accompanying the article shows the wedding party in the foreground with the crests of the hills behind ablaze.

I daresay that all involved with this wedding, not just the bride & groom, will remember this day! Our congratulations to Liz & Ben.

John (Jack) Nisbet - obituary

Spotted in the *Herald Sun*, of Thursday, February 19, 2009 p.74 was the following notice:

NISBET. — John (Jack).

Dearly loved father of Douglas, loved father-in-law of Sheryle. Much loved Grandpa of Darren, Andrew and Tamara. Your integrity, inner strength and determination inspired all who were privileged to know you. Our deep love for and pride in you will always remain in our hearts. Forever in our hearts.



FOUND

Mr J R Nisbet – motorcycle enthusiast

In response to the article in N/News 90 supplied by Alan Ames, our motorcycle enthusiast, Steve Nesbitt, presumably a New Zealand motor cycle enthusiast supplied several articles, not specifically about J R Nisbet, but about winners of the Nisbet Trophy.

The sources are unknown and excerpts, covering the N/N aspect follow. The first is about the 1922 Isle of Man TT and Stanley Woods riding a Blackburne Cotton (picture from p.16 and text from p.17). The irony being that the J R Nisbet trophy was not actually awarded that year.



In the race, Stanley's performance amazed everyone. A staggering first lap 4th place behind Bert le Vack on a new ohc JAP/New Imperial caused excited comment. His first ride in the Island on what was virtually an unknown machine looked like being destined for greatness.

Then tragedy!

As Stanley came in to refuel at the end of his second lap, his engine still running while refuelling (as was then allowed!) petrol splashed on to the hot exhaust pipe and burst into flame. Instantly both the machine and Stanley were engulfed. Dropping the bike he half ran, half staggered across the road desperately beating his naming clothing with bare hands. Fortunately the fire-fighters from the Pyrene company quickly had things under control, though both rider and machine were burnt and scorched.

Waving away the hands of sympathetic officials Stanley picked up the Cotton to find it in reasonable condition. Wiping the foam from himself and the bike he kicked it into life and got on with the job of racing, probably while still in a state of shock.

He was 6th on the third lap but in difficulties. The back

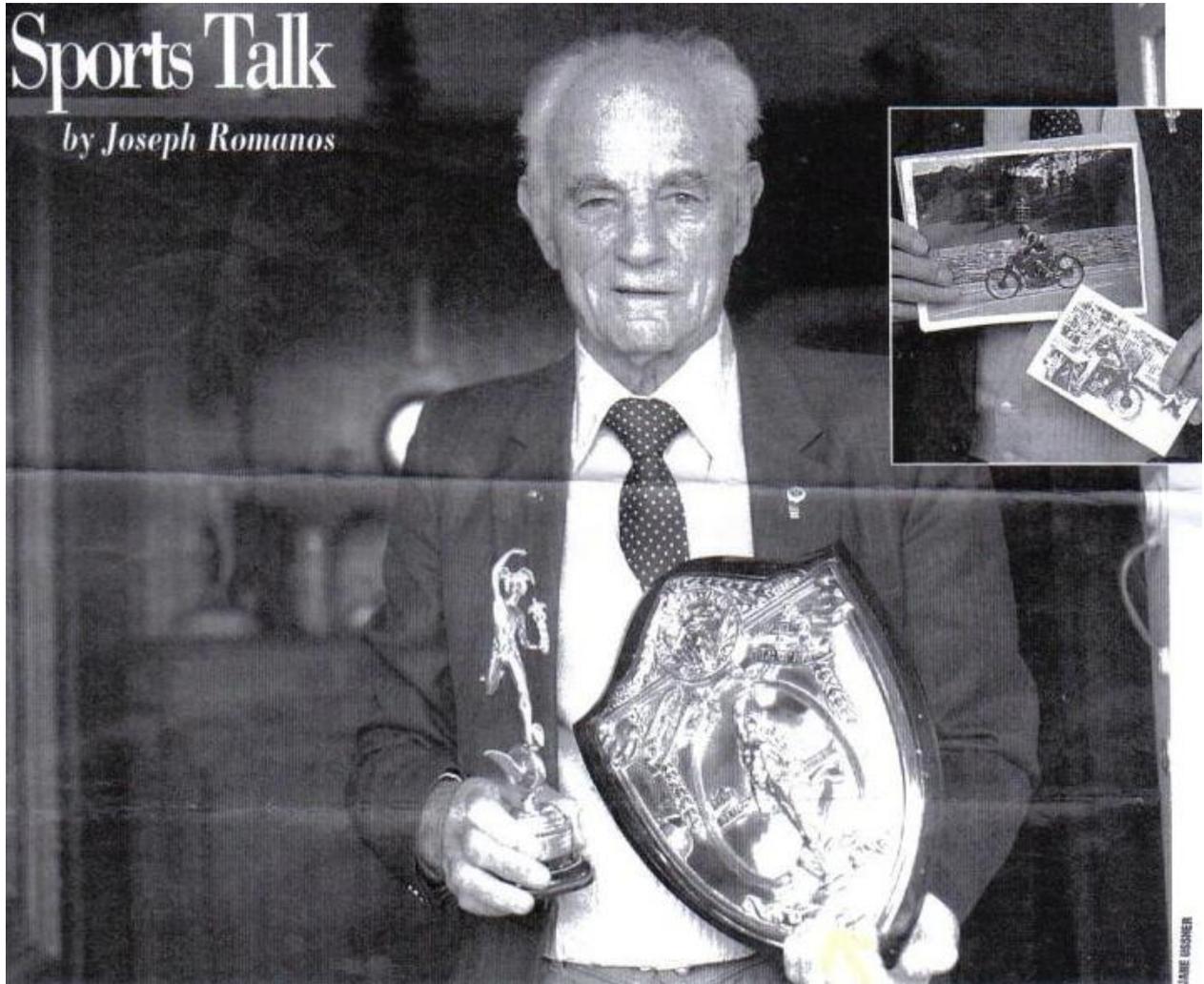
brake was failing badly due to oil from the leaking oil tank getting onto the linings; a seam on the petrol tank was also leaking (the soldered joint began to melt from the effects of the fire). At Governors Bridge he smashed into the wall. To slow down, Stanley resorted to sticking both heels into the dirt — roads were not surfaced in those days. He struggled on for the remaining lap, to finish 5th behind Tom Sheard.

An amazing performance.

The Nisbet prize, previously awarded only twice " to the rider or riders who exhibit such pluck and endurance or such capacity to triumph over difficulties as to deserve special recognition" was surely Stanley's. But it was not awarded in 1922.

The sports writer of the Clarion put things quite succinctly: "The winner of the Nisbet trophy was S. Woods, Cotton. The award was not made but I insist that Woods won it and he won it more than did either, of the previous winners. I have seen many TT races but I have never seen a pluckier ride, have never seen a greater capacity to triumph over difficulties than that of the heroic Woods. The A.C.U. has hung justice on a misshapen peg of discretion."

The second is about the 1933 Isle of Man TT (picture [this page] is from p.60 and an excerpt from text [next page] is from p.61). This was the last year (according to the article) that the J R Nisbet trophy was awarded.



Man o Man

One motorcycle event means so much more than the rest.

It is Isle of Man week, when the world motorcycling community converges on a tiny island in the Irish Sea for what is described as the Olympic Games of motorcycling. In the practice days leading up to the races, the 900 riders try to commit to memory as much of the 60km course and its 200 corners as possible. But there's more to the week than that. Information is shared about who's riding well, latest bike designs, new angles on sponsorship and promotion. After all, besides the 70,000 spectators, the world's leading factory teams are there, and so are agents, sponsors and promoters.

New Zealand has a record 16 riders competing this year over the seven-lap 420km races: brilliant Wellingtonian Robert Holden is leading a team of nine, on Yamaha 600cc machines, attempting to win the Maudes Trophy, awarded to manufacturers or teams of riders who produce meritorious performances; several New Zealanders are involved in the crack Britten team, fresh from a victory at Daytona; and a scholarship awarded jointly by the Isle of Man Tourist Board and Motorcycling New Zealand has enabled John Hepburn of Timaru, the national champion, to contest the historic event.

New Zealand has built a notable record in the Isle of Man TT since it began in 1904. Rod Coleman of Wanganui won the 350cc section in 1954, and Graeme Crosby, our most recent world champion, won the senior section in 1980. Noel McCutcheon of Dunedin captained New Zealand to the team prize in 1957 and 1958. Holdens name figures prominently by dint of a

Isle of Man motorcycle hero Sid Moses with his prized Nisbet trophy and replica of the winner's trophy. Inset: photographs of Moses competing at the 1933 Isle of Man TT.

119mph (191.5km/h) lap he did a few years ago — still among the 10 fastest on record.

Most New Zealanders racing this year would be pleased to perform as well as a 25-year-old Aucklander named Sid Moses did in 1933, when he finished 13th in the junior section and came away with the rarely awarded Nisbet Trophy for pluck and endurance as to warrant special recognition.

Now 86 and a Wellington resident, Moses recalls clearly the excitement of being involved in the world's most famous motorcycle race. Although he didn't ride motorcycles until 1928, and for some time restricted himself to riding weekends around Auckland province, he must have had unusual ability.

With his enthusiasm fired by magazine accounts of the Isle of Man TT, he entered the first New Zealand TT championship,

About a week before the race, Moses slid on loose shingle on an outside curve at Keppel Gate and injured his left arm and hip. I tore my arm open. The doctor cleaned it up, and put nine stitches in it. He told me I wouldn't be able to race. I said I hadn't come 12,000 miles to sit and watch.

On race day Moses was determined to ride, so the doctor strapped his arm, but Moses was unable to do more than rest his fingers on the handlebar. After the race, he was so stiff he had to be lifted from the machine. I rode about as well as I could. I couldn't grip the bike with my left hand and had to operate the throttle and steer with my right hand.

In the 1930s, the Isle of Man race categories were junior (350cc), lightweight (250cc) and senior (500cc). Since then a further division for bigger engines has been added.

Moses's 13th place (on a Velocette) meant he was the first New Zealander to finish an Isle of Man TT race. His average speed was 112km/h, which earned him a replica of the winner's trophy — awarded to all riders who finish within an eighth again of the winner's time. The winner his year averaged 129km/h.

These days, with vastly superior road conditions, a smoothed-out course and better bikes, the riders regularly average more than 180km/h.

Moses's gutsy ride earned him tremendous praise in the motorcycle columns of the day; to be awarded the Nisbet Trophy was a particular honour. The trophy was only awarded five times. Moses could be said to have retired it, for it was not awarded again after 1933. Hence, it sits proudly in his Karori home.

Back in Auckland, Moses won the New Zealand title in 1934, then, honouring a promise to his mother, gave away competitive motorcycling.



WANTED

The following are entries taken from the Homepage Guestbook. It is wonderful to see members making progress with their genealogical research and hear of successes.

Are you able to assist these members, or share information with them?

John Grant Nisbet – antecedents

On Sunday, 15-Mar-2009

[Rob Nisbet](#) - from Canberra

Australia wrote:

Hi all Nisbets. Just an update to my Family tree work. It has been very exhausting but rewarding to the point that I have had emails from cousins I never knew of. I found out my poppa, John Grant Nisbet came to Australia in 1925 at the age of 21 on the Orama. His grandparents were from Bo'ness. We're still adding more detail so if you think you might be related send me an email.

Adam Nesbitt - antecedents

On Saturday, 28-Mar-2009

[Laura Russell](#) - from Erina NSW wrote:

I am Laura Russell nee Nesbitt. Just a little background. My Father Adam Nesbitt 1929 Glasgow Scotland was in the RAF. His father Adam 1904 - 1944(Glasgow) was married to Mary Kay. Grandfather was Hugh Nesbitt married to Annie (Ann Jane) King. Hugh was born in Rich Hill co Armagh 1864 - 1938.

His father was Adam Nesbitt c1840 married to Eliza Jane McFadden (1840-1874). Adam went on to marry Mary Ann Bambrick in Rich Hill Armagh {after Eliza died in childbirth} and have another 12 children.

Adam's Father was Thomas. I have also recently heard that Adam may actually have been named Thomas Adam after his father but called Adam. I did find his marriage but he was just called Adam on that.

So whether that was a myth or not - but there was a grandson who died in WW1 who was Thomas Adam.

I was sent a copy of Marriages and births of Nesbitt's in Rich Hill Armagh which I will forward to Ian Nisbet or anyone who may be interested.

After years of trying to find my Nesbitt line I have finally started chipping away at my brickwall with this line.



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.

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: Angus Nisbet, 7 Trent Avenue, London, W5 4TL, UK.

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INTERNET SITE:

<http://www.nnsoc.asn.au>