

# THE N/NEWS

NO. 93 October 2009

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY  
AUSTRALIA



## STARTING POINT

One again I find myself having to apologise for late production and delivery of the newsletter. Yet here I am perhaps even too late now to wish you a joyous Christmas with kith & kin. But I can and do wish you every success in the New Year.

A point of clarification arising from N/News 92; please note:

- The Drum is a private residence and so, like Nisbet House, the owners' privacy and property MUST be respected.

A few developments since N/News 92:

- I have been able to undertake some research into my own family tree and find, would you believe, that apart from being a fictitious character, Rab C. Nesbitt could in fact almost be a relative. It would appear that my emigrant ancestor hailed from Gorbals and was listed as a spirit merchant – a short (very short) distance from Govan and both with a distinct liking of alcohol.
- In response to Jean Skar's open invitation, especially to those in DNA Group 3, I identified an N/N member, Beryl Elsley as appearing in Jean Skar's family tree, so I forwarded a brief note to Beryl with N/News 92 and to my surprise received a telephone call from Beryl's cousin Jim Nisbet (also an N/N member) and had a fair chat re: where, how and at which generation we might be related. With numerous James, Johns, Thomas and Williams through the generations I wonder whether we'll ever really know, but at least we have a very good idea of

the area/s of Scotland ie. Glasgow and environs from which our lines originate. I will continue to work on developing my lineage while Jim is busy updating his. By all accounts Jim and Jean hold and have researched a vast amount of material over the years between them.

I trust that you will enjoy this edition of the N/News. As always articles, snippets and genealogical material for publication in future newsletters is welcomed.

Chairman & Editor



## MEM-BOAR-SHIP

We have noted change of address for:  
Malcolm Caldwell from Camberwell to  
Surrey Hills  
Brenda & Graham Nisbett from Aberfoyle  
Park to Goolwa North

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*Please remember to advise us of any changes to your e-mail or postal addresses and contact details so that we can keep our records current.*

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## Dues are Due

Accompanying this newsletter is the Annual Subscription Notice for your attention and payment. The rates remain the same as last year ie. \$15AUS or \$20NZ per family. *Would NZ members again forward their payments to John Nesbit if payment is being made in \$NZ.*



## NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

Jan N/NEWS # 94  
Apr N/NEWS # 95

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



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### (NES)-BITS & PIECES

#### Jock & Amy Nisbet – reunion

As advised in N/News 89 & 90 the descendants of John Grant Nisbet were invited to attend a family reunion at Port Lincoln over the weekend of 10-13 April 2009. Some seventy-two relatives attended what was, by all reports, a very successful and enjoyable weekend. My sincere apologies to Colin & Vylean Nisbet and Anne Udvardy for not including their reports in N/News 92. The first report is from Colin – the organiser and host. The second is a brief report from Anne Udvardy (widow of the late Robert Nisbet, who attended and caught up with her “in laws”.

*I am very proud of the effort that everyone put into making the Nisbet Reunion in Port Lincoln the success it was. The relations travelled from Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria, A C T and other areas of S.A. The reunion was held over three days*

*of Easter; Friday night we had registration with drinks and nibbles; Saturday night a dinner with a piper and had the Haggis piped in. Sunday a family picnic in one of the local parks, at each event there were over seventy Nisbet's. The eldest being myself (69 years) and the youngest was eight weeks old.*

*About two years ago I was talking to my sister in law Anne Udvardy; she said to me her two boys (my nephews) don't know too many of their cousins and asked if I could arrange a gathering, so it all started from there. The reason we selected Port Lincoln; I have a sister Wilma and brother in law Ian and family and quite a number of nieces and nephews from my deceased brothers living there too. Port Lincoln has a lot to offer the tourist. Ian being a member of the Port Lincoln Rotary Club has a lot of contacts in the town; Ian with the help of nieces and nephews did a lot of the ground work for the reunion.*

*It was about two years ago the planning started, giving folk plenty of time to organise holidays, etc, etc; I did contact relations in Scotland but unfortunately no one came; a couple did show interest but it didn't materialise. One cousin got to Sydney from Scotland, he has family there and intended to surprise us but unfortunately he took sick and wasn't able to make it*

*Best regards*

*Vylean and Colin Nisbet*

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I have sent you a few pics of the Nisbet Clan at the Easter Reunion held in Port Lincoln. The organisation was wonderful. The Nisbet relatives in Port Lincoln excelled. We had a **meet and greet** on Easter Friday followed by a **formal dinner** on the Saturday night and then **The Highland Gathering** on the Sunday. Nisbet's travelled from Queensland, Canberra, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. The photo with the two eldest Nisbet members (Colin Nisbet and his sister Wilma Ward and the two youngest (Georgie Nisbet and Kai Nisbet ) is amongst the pictures. Regards

Anne Udvardy

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*Colin Nisbet who organised the reunion (and the good weather) forwarded a placemat and menu from the dinner, some photographs and clippings from the local papers the **Port Lincoln Times** and the **West Coast Sentinel** (the latter follows).*



## Former Thevenard family holds reunion

Members of the Nisbet family, descendants of Jock and Amy Nisbet late of Thevenard, met in Port Lincoln over the Easter weekend for a family reunion.

Seventy-two relatives (*pictured above*) were present, some of whom had travelled from North Queensland, Canberra, Geelong, Busselton and Perth to attend.

The Nisbet family have had a strong connection to Thevenard since Jock left

Scotland in 1925 and arrived in Thevenard in 1927.

In 1931 he married Amy Spry, a local girl, and they had five children, John (Scotchie), Robert (Bob), Allan (Tuffy) (all deceased), Colin (Buster) and Wilma.

A Nisbet clan dinner was held at the Ravendale Sports Complex on the Saturday night with the two surviving children, Colin and Wilma, carrying in the haggis accompanied by the piper, Ron Ross from Louth Bay.

A great night was had by all, followed by a family barbecue and mini Highland games at Flinders Park on the Sunday.

The purpose of the gathering was to reunite the family and to provide a social network for the younger members, some of whom had never met.

It also provided them with a better understanding of their heritage and their connection with the Far West Coast.

It is hoped that another reunion will take place at some time in the future.

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### Thomas Nisbet- artist

*Ian G Nisbet advised of the following after having perused a recent N/N Society – UK Newsletter and a N/N Society UK Publication.*

Thanks for the newsletter. Fortuitously it has a picture of a wood engraving done by T Nisbet c1887 on page 21.

The same T Nisbet is referred to in the N/N (UK) publication, **N/N Artists** (Rolinson) 2008 and is my ggfather, Thomas Nisbet. The Wellcome Trust holds another work which is also attributed to him.

Ian G

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## Thomas Nisbet – inquest

*Submitted by Brenda Halcrow, NZ N/N member and was found in the Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle, Volume XXX32, Issue 14, 15 February 1873, Page 4*

### ACCIDENTS AND OCCURRENCES INQUEST ON THE LATE FIRE IN GROVE STREET.

On Wednesday, an inquest was held by Lowther Broad, Esq., R.M, upon the fire which occurred on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst, in the house of Mr. Nisbet, in the Wood.

James Lipscombe, the first witness, deposed to having seen smoke issuing from the roof of the house when passing it between twelve and one o'clock on the above named day.

Thomas Harris had his attention called to the smoke by Lipscombe, and going to the house found the door locked, which he then burst open. There was no fire in the front room, but on opening the door of the bedroom the flames burst out. The flames were issuing from a heap of some kind of clothing on the floor. He felt his way to the bedstead and pulled off a mattress, with which he smothered the flames until water was brought and they were extinguished. He and Mr. Edwards examined the heap, from which the fire ascended. And found it too consisted of bits of blankets and sheeting, and on the floor was some bulrush. There was no fireplace in the room. He removed a box, but did not notice what it was.

G. Edwards and G. Capper corroborated the evidence of Harris.

Thomas Nisbet a carpenter, and owner of the house, deposed that he left home on Monday a little after nine o'clock in the morning, his wife and children remaining in the house. He did not return until after he received notice of the fire. He was up at the Maitai playing in the band at the Odd Fellows' fete. He was in the bedroom just before he left the house. There was no heap of anything on the floor then.

He left some boxes in the room, in one of which was money. It was in a little box inside a big one. When he came home after notice of the fire, he found the big box burned outside. There was a lid but no fastening to it. When his wife came home about ten minutes afterwards, he

examined the money box. He lifted off the Lid, which had been fastened on with nails, with his hands. The money was gone. He had been putting money in it for two years to pay off the mortgage of his house, and there might have been £80 in it. His wife knew of the box but he did not think anyone else did. He had not examined the box for a week before the fire. He had never offered to pay anything off. The house is insured for £80. He owed Mr. Wright £80, secured on the property. Mr. Wright had offered to take payment in instalments. The small money box was fastened by a nail to the bottom of the large box. He was to pay Wright when he liked during five years. The time would be up next month; he was reckoning he should have about half the money.

Jane Nisbet, wife of the former witness, said; her husband went away before half-past nine, and she remained behind with two of her children, but went out about half- past eleven o'clock, having locked both doors of the house. The windows were not fastened. She went into the bedroom just before she went out. There was nothing on the floor then. Two of the beds are made of bulrushes. She saw the money box that morning when she took the children's clothes out of the big box. The children knew there was a money box there. The three eldest went out with their father. She had no fire since half past seven in the morning. She had never seen the money box opened.

William Wright corroborated Nisbet's statement as to the mortgage of the house.

The jury returned an open verdict, to the effect that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated.

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## Richard E Nisbett– social psychologist

*I have just finished reading a book entitled "The BRAIN That CHANGES ITSELF" by Norman Doidge, MD in which Richard E Nesbitt, University of Michigan social psychologist, and some of his experiments and studies are cited in Appendix 1 (pages 300-303) looking at how cultural factors affect learning and ways of learning.*

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## Mr J R Nisbet – motorcycle enthusiast continued

Following are details received from Steve Nesbitt providing further information regarding some clippings included in N/News 91 regarding a Nisbet Trophy, so I'll let Steve explain – in his own words and style.

Sorry for my tardiness. I was over in Melbourne in late March/early April to visit family and to attend the F1GP. I have been busy since returning home and only now have I managed to corral the information you sought.

(1) 'When S. Woods' etc' ... came from an article in Classic & Vintage Motorcycles, a magazine published by Page Publications Pty. Ltd. and printed by Rotary Colourprint Co. Pty. Ltd., both of Butt and Clisdell Streets, Surry Hills, NSW 2010. (Distributed by Gordon & Gotch Ltd). The magazine does not carry a dateline or any advertising, making it difficult to age. As the cover price is \$1 and the setting appears to be in hot metal I would guess it was printed in the 1970s.

(2) 'Man o Man' ... the New Zealand Listener is as stated on its cover "NZ's best-selling current affairs magazine". It provides weekly TV and radio listings; music, theatre, dance, book, film reviews; columns on health, nutrition, sport, the economy, ecology, food, wine, travel, as well as features on the latest things to get worried about. Its target market seems to be middle-class, middle-aged members of the third sex (teachers, social workers, educated housewives & househusbands, public servants). It is an APN publication.

Although you are not a motorsport fan you may have heard of Achille Varzi, a contemporary of Tazio Nuvolari? No? ... too young I guess. Anyway, Varzi also won the Nisbet Shield/Trophy as evidenced by the fifth paragraph of the following link:

<http://www.nivola.org/varzi-e.asp>

This may go right over the heads of non-motorsport people (by the way there was a Nesbitt competing in one of the support events at the Albert Park F1GP this year) but Achillille Varzi was a big, big name in motorsport, on both two and four wheels in the years between WWI and WWII.

I hope this information is of help to you and that it has not arrived too late if you wished to use it in the next newsletter.

While I am trying to find out more about the origins of the Nisbet Trophy I am not succeeding at the moment. If I do find out more I will let you know.

Kind regards from another Nesbitt/Nisbet,  
Steve.

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Oh darn,

Just received April newsletter with the Nisbet Trophy articles.

Will still send more information if I find any.

Steve.

*Having watched **The World's Fastest Indian** recently – I know why I am not a motorcycle enthusiast, but I am keen to receive more articles as I know that several other N/N's are 'of that ilk' (forgive the pun) and I am sure that Steve will come up with some interesting material.*

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## Holman Niblett

*The following obituary was found in **The Age**, Saturday, August 1, 2009, page 8 of the Business section. Whilst perhaps not strictly a recognised variation of the surname it takes me back to primary school days when 'Niblet' was a frequent derivation/mispronunciation.*



**NIBLETT**  
**Holman Duff (Nib)**  
30.07.2009  
Aged 79 Years  
Late of Forster NSW,  
formerly of  
Melbourne Vic.

Loving husband of  
Beverley (dec).  
Dearly loved father  
of Debbi and Jenni,  
father-in-law of  
Terry.

*At Peace*

Nib's Funeral Service  
will be held on  
THURSDAY (August  
6, 2009) at the  
Manning Great  
Lakes Memorial  
Gardens Crematorium  
Taree NSW,  
commencing at  
11:00 am.

In the caring hands of  
**Tranquillity Funerals**  
**(02) 6555 3500**

## Nola Nisbet

The following obituary was found in the *Herald Sun*, Monday May 18, 2009, page 56.

**NISBET** (nee Wyatt). —  
Nola Dawn  
Passed away on  
Saturday May 16, 2009  
Dearly loved wife of William.  
Loved mother of Lee-anne and  
Edward. Loved mother-in-law of  
Robert and Lynne. Devoted and  
loving Grandmother of Lachlan,  
Mitchell and Luke.

Gone are the days we used to  
share but in our hearts you will  
always be there.

You will be sadly missed  
— Edward, Lynne, Mitchell and  
Luke.



## NETWORKED N/N's

### off the wall links

A few off the wall links to Nesbitt/Nisbet items:

<http://www.backroadsofamericanmusic.com/archive/2007/10/04/jerry-lee-lewis-home-nesbitt-mississippi.aspx>

<http://stats.allblacks.com/asp/profile.asp?ABID=651>

<http://www.executedtoday.com/tag/1917/http://books.google.co.nz/books?id=jZOGZpiBfWsC&pg=RA1-PA221&lpg=RA1-PA221&dq=Sgt+Nesbitt+m>

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## N/N's IN THE NEWS

### Rab C Nesbitt – the Govan philosopher

I was taken by an entry in the N/N Society UK Newsletter reporting on the 2009 Gathering at Holyrood; a couple of excerpts follow:

On the Saturday afternoon we had a visitor from the press arrive in our tent looking for an angle like they do, his opening comment was I suppose Rab C Nesbitt is your most famous Nesbitt. It was pointed out to him acting wise James Nesbitt the Irish actor was a real actor not fictional as Rab C; and the only R C Nesbitt (Robert Chancellor) wrote the book Nisbet of that Ilk in 1941. The reporter's angle on the clans was headed "Tribal Warfare". In his article he also stated that "Also in the village, chieftain Mark Nesbitt of that Ilk confirmed that he would welcome Rab C Nesbitt as a head of the Govan sept of the clan, although James Nesbitt the actor from Northern Ireland, seems a hotter TV property these days."

As the UK editor points out – if Rab C Nesbitt were to submit to a DNA profile it would be found that he is actually a Fisher ie. Gregor Fisher. Considering my roots – as described in the Starting Point – I'm now thinking that we should seriously consider a Govan sept, or at least a Govan branch of the N/N Society – sounds like a very social and sociable fun group!

Nisbet link to the Elgin Marbles:

<http://for-the-love-of-books.blogspot.com/2008/04/mistress-of-elgin-marbles.html>



## SOCIETY NEWS

### N/N Society – North America

The N/N Society – North America office bearers are:

President:	Steve Nesbitt
Vice President:	Guy Nisbet III
Secretary/Treasurer:	Nick Nesbitt
News Editor:	Kathy Wells
DNA Project Coordinator:	Tom Nesbitt
Genealogy Consultant:	Irene Hall
Webmaster:	Steven Nesbit
Canadian Rep:	Tom Nisbet
Northeast Rep:	Charles Nesbitt
Southeast Rep:	Jeff T. Nisbet
Midwest Rep:	vacant
Western Rep:	Hal Nesbitt
Board Member:	Bob Nesbitt

David Harvey IV retired as President and Diana Hawkins as Secretary & Treasurer at the AGM.

We wish them every success with their efforts. Steve with his many ideas as President, Nick in his dual role (to be assisted by Jennifer, his wife, who has moved from the role of Newsletter Editor) and Kathy with the Newsletter/s – the lifeblood of our Society.

## Gary Nisbet – more than a co-worker

The following story was reported in both the *Herald Sun* and *The Age*, to differing extents, but was also supplied to me as a cutting from an English *Hello* magazine. Strangely enough no mention of the real N/N's, nor the Joubert's.



It was a summer day in the town of Waldoboro, Maine, when 35-year-old Gary Nisbet and his new co-worker, Randy Joubert, 36, made the rounds as deliverymen for local retailer Dow Furniture. At their last stop, the customer asked the lookalike movers if they were brothers.

The question wasn't exactly a surprise, as the similarities between the two were undeniable. In fact, since Randy had started working at the company in July, the question had cropped up regularly. Their own colleagues had begun to joke about the resemblance: how the two had the same glasses and stocky builds, their similarly round faces, chins covered by goatees.

"The first day working I noticed he kind of looked like me," Randy said in a TV interview. "I didn't think anything of it." But on this day, thanks to luck and intuition, they'd find out they had more in common than they'd ever imagined.

It all started back in January, when Maine passed a law making it easier for adoptees to gain access to their records. Randy was one of these adoptees – just eight months earlier he'd gone on a search for his biological family. He'd managed to get hold of his birth certificate, and with further sleuthing discovered that his parents, Wilfred and Joan Pomroy, had passed away – but they'd had another son, born on 10 June 1974.

His colleague, Gary, meanwhile, had been a furniture mover for Dow for seven years. He, too, had been brought up in an adoptive family.

And he, too, had been investigating his roots.

On that fateful day, as they went from delivery to delivery, said Randy: "Something clicked."

He suddenly turned to the co-worker he'd met just a month before and said, "Gary, don't take this personal. I'm not trying to offend you – but were you adopted?" When the answer came in the affirmative, he nervously pressed on, asking Gary's birth parents' names and the day he was born: 10 June, 1974. "As soon as he said his birthday," Randy told a local newspaper, "I knew." He dropped the bombshell news. "Your parents

**'I noticed he looked like me, but I didn't think anything of it... I've been riding around with him for a month and a half – and he's my brother'**

are on my birth certificate, too. Do you understand what I'm telling you? We're brothers."

At that moment, a stunned and confused Gary was "blown away". While Randy had known he had siblings somewhere, his long-lost little brother had had no clue. "I went home, my mind was frazzled," he said. "Knowing my mum and dad had passed away, I didn't think I had anybody else. I have more than my foster family. I have real blood." The two boys had been given

up for adoption as babies 35 years ago; their birth parents couldn't properly care for them, so they were removed and adopted by different families. Still, unknowingly, they'd spent over three decades on parallel paths, living on the coast of Maine, going to the same sporting events, attending rival schools – and finally being hired by the same company.

"I've been riding around with this guy for a month and a half – and he's my full-blooded brother?" Randy said on a local news programme. "What was that moment like? Phenomenal."

Their families have also reacted to the revelation with equal parts shock and joy. Their mother Joan's brother has emerged, providing his new nephews with photos and details about their mum. Randy's adoptive mother, too, is "through the roof". "She's going nuts," he says. "She's happy."

There's been even more incredible news: more long-lost relatives – two half-sisters, Joan's daughters, who also had no idea about each other, or their brothers – have since been found as well. "I think we're all dumbfounded," Randy said. "But we can start getting to know each other now."

To top off the incredible story, there's a fascinating footnote: the owner of Dow Furniture, Dana Dow, had until recently been a Maine state senator – and had voted in favour of the adoption bill that would lead to his sibling employees finding each other at last.

## **NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY CONTACTS**

### **GENERAL COMMITTEE:**

PRESIDENT: Ian M Nisbet, 26 Walnut Rd, North Balwyn, Vic 3104, Aust.  
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ARCHIVIST: Vacant  
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### **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.

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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>**