

# THE N/NEWS

NO. 99 April 2011

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY  
AUSTRALIA



## STARTING POINT

*Already this year Victoria and Queensland have suffered massive flooding; we have been advised of the passing of Adrian Nisbet; our NZ brethren were rocked by a devastating earthquake centred on Lyttelton, near Christchurch, followed by aftershocks and on-going tremors; and now we have been advised of the sudden death of Gavin Nisbet. As N/N's the clan motto "I byd it" comes to mind – for those requiring strength and fortitude to endure – the rest of us are thinking of you and praying for you, as each is wont to do.*

*"Aloha" – my excuse for this edition being late – a vacation in Hawaii. Whilst I was in the capable hands of a well trained pilot using sophisticated electronic equipment and guidance systems; protected from the elements for some 14 hours or so; watching the endless sea horizon of blue searching for a small group of small islands in the middle of nowhere it really commands an appreciation of those before; the Polynesians who found their way unaided in open vessels and the somewhat better equipped explorers and first settlers to far off lands such as the Hawaiian Islands and Australia.*

*I was much saddened to learn on my return of the sudden death of Gavin Nisbet, a foundation member of the Society and its inaugural Treasurer. Our thoughts and sincere condolences go out to Jan, Karen, Debbie, Rebecca & Anne & families, as well as Barbara & family. Gavin's good humour and jovial laugh will be missed.*

*With Gavin's passing it also means another vacancy on our already depleted committee. Please consider what you are able to do for your Society to again see it flourish.*

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*The Australian – New Zealand Branch are in dire need of "new blood" and a webmaster – our website whilst still functional requires rejuvenation and subsequent support – if we have a "nerdy". N/N amongst us (and I mean that in the nicest possible way) I would very much appreciate hearing from you – even if only to volunteer some advice.*

Chairman & Editor



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**NOTICE BOAR-D**  
(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar)

July	N/NEWS # 100
October	N/NEWS # 101

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



**MEM-BOAR-SHIP**

We have pleasure in welcoming the following new members to the Society:  
John Hewison of Paddington, Qld,  
Stefanie & Alister Nesbitt of Qld and Christina & Dennis Gifford of Carshalton, England.



**OBITUARY**

**Gavin Mattingley Nisbet**

*It is with much sadness that I advise of the passing of Gavin Nisbet, a foundation member and our inaugural Society Treasurer.*

*Our condolences to Jan and daughters, Karen, Debbie, Rebecca and Anne and their families. Also to Gavin's sister, Barbara Leslie & family all of whom have been involved with the Society. Gavin, Jan and family have been active members hosting several of our early social gatherings at their home and participating in all of our activities, as well as in the office of Treasurer. Karen Nisbet, like her father, has also been an active member of the Society and has served on committee.*

*Gavin died suddenly at home on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2011, aged 74. He was, until recent years, principal of Gavin Nisbet & Associates – Accountants and Auditors. Gavin was also active within Rotary International, having celebrated 33 years of membership with Malvern Rotary in March 2010.*

*Gavin's mother Gwen Nisbet was an accomplished musician, which is still recognised today through an annual music scholarship. So it is no wonder that Gavin learnt piano as a boy, later taking up the cello; with Gavin being listed amongst the Australian Youth Orchestra's 1954 National Music Camp participants as a cellist; so it was quite fitting that at Gavin's funeral we were privileged to hear several J S Bach solos for cello played beautifully by Ruben Palma, the winner of the Gwen Nisbet Music Scholarship in 2010 – providing a time of personal reflection and serenity. A lone piper farewelled Gavin.*

*As was commented a number of times, Gavin's humour, his laugh, his generosity and personability will be missed by all who knew him. With Gavin's passing another Nisbet male line also come to an end.*

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**Adrian Home Nisbet**

*It is with sadness that I advise of the passing of N/N Society member, Adrian Nisbet. Guy Nisbet from U.K. wrote:*

*It is with regret that I write to say that my father Adrian Home Nisbet, father to Christina, Dianna, Carrie, Fiona, Guy (myself), Alex & Kate passed away peacefully on the 30th Jan 2011, aged 87.*

*Our condolences to members of Adrian's family, especially fellow N/N members Carrie Moczynski and Christina Gifford.*



**(NES)-BITS & PIECES**

**DNA Results** – differences/groupings

*N/N DNA – how “new” DNA groups may have arisen historically.*

**A NEW DNA**

**Deed of Entail** (such deeds in the past could give change of DNA if there were no sons and the daughters inherited unfortunately many such documents may not have survived).

**1669** Ratification in favour of Sir JOHN Nisbet of DIRLETON, his majesty's advocate Our sovereign lord, with advice and consent of his estates of this present parliament, considering the diverse good services done to his majesty by his majesty's right trusty councillor Sir JOHN Nisbet of DIRLETON, his majesty's advocate, and one of the senators of the college of justice of this kingdom, has ratified, approved and confirmed and, by this act, ratifies, approves and confirms the charter granted by his

majesty, under his majesty's great seal, and new gift therein contained, of **the date 29 February 1664**, to his said right trusty councillor Sir JOHN Nisbet, therein designed knight and advocate, and to the **male heirs of his own body, which failing to the eldest female heir lawfully procreated or to be procreated of his own body without division, which failing to any other person or persons and their heirs which the said Sir John, at any time during his lifetime, even in death, shall name and design, by whatsoever writ, nomination or designation under his hand, to be heir or heirs of tailzie to him in the lands, lordship, baronies and others underwritten and under such conditions, qualifications and restrictions as he shall express in the foresaid nomination or designation, which failing or if the said Sir John shall not make such nomination or designation in his own lifetime, or being made if it shall please him to revoke the same, in these cases or any of them, to the nearest and lawful heirs of the said Sir John and his assignees whatsoever (the eldest female heir being always preferable and succeeding without division), and who and her husband and bairns shall be held and astricted, in all time thereafter, to assume AND BEAR THE SURNAME AND ARMS OF NISBET, heritably and irredeemably, of all and sundry the lands, lordship, baronies and others after-specified, namely, (Charles II: Translation 1669, 19 October, Edinburgh, Parliament Parliamentary Register At Edinburgh 23 December 1669 Charters: ratifications Ratification in favour of Sir John Nisbet of Dirleton, his majesty's advocate [1669/10/93]).**

As we know John made changes to above and hopped over his daughter and gave Dirleton to his great nephew William.

**A son of Christian Nisbet Dirleton married to John Scott whose name was JOHN SCOTT assumed the name of JOHN SCOTT NISBET as he later inherited some of JOHN of DIRLETONS property and by the above entail had to take the name of NISBET (ie. new DNA).**

CHRISTIAN Nisbet ~ 15 Sep 1692 called eldest daughter in 1722 of William N of Dirleton. She married Sir John Scott of Ancrum. They had 4 sons and 1 daughter; known is John, Patrick ~14 Nov 1720 and William ~1 Mar 1723.

**Christian and her husband John Scott were succeeded in the estate of Craigintinnie by their second son John who used the surname NISBET (new DNA) this part was inherited from Jean Nisbet of Craigintinnie inherited from her father Walter N of Dirleton. She died 1752; and was succeeded by her cousin John Scott-Nisbet of Craigintinnie, baptised 15th May 1729 and died at Edinburgh 31st December 1764. Married, 21st December 1756, Margaret, daughter of Chambres Lewis, collector of customs, Leith. His wife, Mrs Margaret Scott-Nisbet, died at Portobello 2nd November 1828, aged 88. He was the last Nisbet of Craigintinnie, and in 1762 he sold the lands to William Miller.**

**I believe they had sons John 16 Nov 1757 and William 19 Nov 1758 both with surname Nisbet; and I believe their son William also had sons William 27 Dec 1794 and Robert 1 Mar 1795.**

Jean Skar



## SUCCESS

**Edward Nesbit** – relatives

Christina Gifford - from U.K wrote:

Hello. I am a member of the UK branch of the N/Ns & am very pleased to now be a member of the Australian branch as well. My Aussie link began in 1875 when my great great grandfather William David Nisbet arrived in Brisbane from the UK aged 38years to work as a harbour & drainage engineer. He was born in Northumberland as was my great great great grandfather Edward Nesbit.

*Again, welcome to Christina and note that we have had several articles regarding William David Nisbet and his efforts in Brisbane in past editions of N/News.*

*Christina is the eldest daughter of Adrian Home Nisbet – Biographical Dictionary lineage 079.*

Great-grandfather emigrated to Australia. Father and grandfather are Australian – (Adrian Home Nisbet, Alwyn Tom Hays Nisbet, Walter Blake Nisbet).

*In response, Ian G Nisbet from Melbourne wrote:*

*Christina,*

*If there ever was a case for calling the Society the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society your family is a good example.*

1841 census Edward Nisbet and Jane Nisbet and Walsie Nisbet, aged 1 year;  
1851 UK census Edward Nesbit and Jane Nesbit parents of William D Nesbit;  
1861 census Nesbit;  
1871 census Naisbett inc Thomas C (Collins) and Walter B (Blake) Naisbett;  
1881 census Walter B Nisbet staying with his gmother Mary Collins;  
Walter Blake Nisbet dies in Queensland 7 May 1920. He had three sons; Alwyn T H Nisbet born 1892, Richard born 1893, died young and Edward W B born 5 July 1896. More work to be done on the later generations.

Ian

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### **John Nisbet – descendant**

Deb McKay from St Andrews, Victoria wrote:

Re: Brian's message of May 2008. I too am a descendant of William Watson Nisbet, son of John Nisbet and Isobel Watson. William came to Australia with his parents and 2 brothers (James & Alexander) from Scotland. William then went on to marry Sarah Smith and produce 8 children: Elizabeth Watson, James William, William Alexander, Alexander Thomas, Sarah Isabel, John Frank, Thomas Wilfred and Laura Gertrude (my grandmother).

*Deb is thus a relative of mine (Ed) and is of Biographical Dictionary lineages 005 & 053.*

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### **John Dunlop Nisbet – link found**

*Ian G Nisbet (Society Secretary & Treasurer) has identified a link with Effie Todd (past Chairman) – at last! – stay tuned, as indications are this branch may link into the Nisbet of Greenholm lineage. Following is Ian's revelation to Effie.*

*Effie,*

*Doing a little delving into John Barth's files of the family trees for the biographical dictionary came across your details and a bell began ringing in relation to John Dunlop Nisbet.*

John D is the son of Hugh Steven Nisbet and Sarah Dunlop, his second wife born in 1859 at Mauchline; Barbara Mitchell his first wife dying during child birth. Hugh Steven Nisbet is the son of Robert and Harriet (ms Steven) Nisbet.

Robert Nisbet is the younger brother of Hugh Nisbet whose first wife was Agnes Steven, Harriet's sister. Agnes died and Hugh married Agnes Walker (ms Mitchell) and they had three sons including Thomas Nisbet, my ggrandfather.

*Hello cousin, albeit a few times removed!!  
Ian G*



### **N/N's IN THE NEWS**

#### **Alistair Nisbet – on duty**

*The Age of March 28, 2011 reported on the case of the murder of Darcey Freeman, aged four who was thrown from the West Gate Bridge on January 29, 2009 by her father Arthur Freeman. Within the report was the account from the Police, an excerpt of which follows:*

Water police raced to the scene to retrieve Darcey's body from the water below the giant concrete structure. Senior Constable Alistair Nisbet and a colleague found her floating in the river near a rock wall.

"As I got closer I began to make out a figure of a child much like a doll lying in the water," he said.

He noticed bruising on parts of Darcey's body after his colleague swam to her and they lifted her into the boat. She did not appear to have a pulse.

*We commend Alistair on his role in this, a most unpleasant case and, I daresay, one of the many disturbing aspects of his work.*

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**David Nisbet** – biomedical engineer

*The Age of November 16, 2010 entitled “Staying in touch” – carrying snippets from a number of educational institutions it was reported:*

#### **Monash nominees**

Two Monash University academics have been nominated for Australian of the Year awards. Waleed Aly, a politics lecturer and ABC broadcaster, is nominated for the Victorian Local Hero award. David Nisbet, a biomedical engineer, is a finalist in the Young Australian of the Year category. Dr Nisbet is working in the field of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.

*From the “Australian of the Year” website, David’s Bio is:*

Dr David Nisbet

#### **Stem-cell scientist**

Dr David Nisbet is a new breed of scientist with expertise that bridges the traditional fields of materials engineering and biology. His research deals with the fabrication of synthetic cellular microenvironments that support cellular adhesion and promote stem cell differentiation. He is working in neural and bone tissue engineering, both of which have far reaching applications. In 2006, he was awarded a grant from the Australasian Society of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering and the Cooperative Research Centre for Polymers to spend eight months working at the University of Toronto with Professor Molly Shoichet, who is arguably the world’s foremost expert of neural tissue engineering within the spinal cord. This led to an ongoing collaboration with her group. In collaboration with others, David is developing techniques which may revolutionise nerve regeneration using stem cells and ‘smart’ nanomaterials. While in its infancy, this interdisciplinary advance in stem cell research is aimed at providing optimism in the search for treatments of crippling conditions, such as Parkinson’s Disease and spinal cord injury. David’s groundbreaking work has received attention both nationally and internationally, and been recognised with a prestigious Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Australian Research Council.

*David was state finalist and nominated for Young Australian of the Year which was awarded to Jessica Watson. We congratulate David on his nomination and wish him well with his postdoctoral fellowship and every success with his research.*

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**Royal Wedding** – N/N mentioned

*The Women’s Weekly April 2011 edition page 41 in the article entitled “The People’s Prince” – about Prince William’s recent visit to Australia and his impending marriage to Kate Middleton included some by-lines (with accompanying pictures). One of these is entitled “The UK’s most eligible bachelor & bachelorette”, (once William & Kate are married); being Prince Harry and Philippa ‘Pippa’ Middleton, respectively. The accompanying caption states:*

*“Philippa Middleton, 27, best known as Pippa, is Kate’s only sister and like Kate went to Marlborough College and then to Scotland for university. Like Harry, she’s known as a party animal and suitably works for party planners Table Talk. She’s dated banking heir Jonathan “JJ” Jardine Patterson and socialite Billy More Nisbett, but is currently single and has been voted **Tatler** magazine’s most eligible bachelorette.”*

*Billy More Nisbett is a businessman and son of George Alan More and Patrea Nisbett (nee MacDonald), of The Drum.*

*In previous internet searches for N/N’s in general I had however already noted the following engagement notice, announced in July 2010:*

(Billy) More Nisbett, scion of that LG family, and descended from the Earls of Stair, son of George Alan More Nisbett, of The Drum, Edinburgh, by his wife the former Patrea MacDonald, & Charlotte F.D. Davison, daughter of the late Mr David Davison and of Mrs Davison, of North Canterbury, New Zealand.

*Billy’s great-great-grandmother was Lady Agnes Dalrymple, dau of the 9th Earl of Stair.*



#### **WANTED**

**Andrew Barrowman Nisbet** - relatives

John Hewison from AUSTRALIA wrote: I would like to hear from relatives or descendants of Andrew Barrowman Nisbet who is my mother’s uncle. My mother’s mother was Margaret Nisbet daughter of Robert Nisbet and Catherine Barbara Taylor.

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**Horace Rhodes Nesbitt** – relatives

Stefanie Nesbitt - from Queensland wrote:  
RE: HORACE Rhodes NESBITT

I am trying to locate any relatives of my father's father (my grandfather) or any information about him or his lineage. His name was Horace Rhodes Nesbitt, of Molong, NSW Australia. I believe his father's name was Thomas Nesbitt, married to Jane Cockram. I am doing a family tree and would be delighted to hear from any long lost relatives!  
Thanks

Stefanie

*Ian G Nisbet from Melbourne responded:*

Stefanie,  
You are correct on the marriage of Thomas and Jane, 1890 at Molong.  
They had the following children:  
Thomas Nesbitt 1891 Thomas, Jane - Molong, New South Wales  
Grace S Nesbitt 1892 Thomas, Jane - Molong, New South Wales  
Wallace J Nesbitt 1895 Thomas, Jane - Molong, New South Wales  
Gerty E Nesbitt 1897 Thomas, Jane - Molong, New South Wales  
Cecil P Nesbitt 1900 Thomas, Jane - Molong, New South Wales  
Herrick S Nesbitt 1903 Thomas, Janie - Molong, New South Wales  
Horace R Nesbitt 1905 Thomas, Janie - Molong, New South Wales  
Mervyn A Nesbitt 1908 Thomas, Jane - Molong, New South Wales.  
Thomas may have had some relations also as in the 1936 Census for Bathurst an Eric Stanley Nesbitt shares the same address as Horace.  
Hope this helps in getting you started.

Ian - Secretary N/N Society

*Stefanie Nesbitt - from Emerald, Qld further responded:*

Thanks Ian for that info. I happened across similar info from NSW Births/Deaths/Marriages just the other day in fact! Fantastic resource.

Anyhow thanks again and yes this will definitely get me started!! Stef

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**William Nisbet** – of Mauchline

Ian G Nisbet - from Melbourne wrote:  
Leanne,  
Your great grandfather William was the son of Robert and Harriet (Steven) Nisbet of Mauchline, Ayrshire. William was born in Mauchline 16 April 1837 and married Jane McCall Rennie 16 July 1861. They had five sons and four daughters.

Ian

*Leanne Nisbet White from Armidale, NSW, Australia responded:*

Ian - thanks so much for the information about William Nisbet from Mauchline (b. Apr 1837) and his parents. I can trace my Nisbet line back to that early 1800s date, with the help from so many. Am interested in pressing on further now, to find out more about generations before that date. Does anyone have additional info on generations of Nisbets before the marriage of Robert Nisbet to Harriet Steven at Mauchline in the early 1800s? It's quite fascinating! I had heard that some of the Nisbets were sent to Ayrshire by John Nisbet (Lord Dirleton) in the 1600s. Interested to know whether my branch of the family is from this group.

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**Nisbet** – of Rothesay, Bute

Denise Alice Nisbet Wallis - from Umina, NSW wrote:  
Just joining. I heard about you from my cousin Julie Jones. I have a few old papers about the Nisbet family who lived in Rothesay, Bute in the early part of last century and who moved to Glasgow in the middle of the 19th century. My Nisbet Family Tree is very incomplete, but is free to view for anyone on Ancestry.com

Dr Denise AN Wallis

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### **Harry Nesbit** – any information?

Phyllis Duignan from Eltham, London wrote:

I belong to the Edith Nesbit Society, who wrote "The Railway Children" and other children's books. We are trying to trace Edith's brother Harry born 1855 died 1928 married to Jessie and a son John Collis. Harry emigrated to Australia in the early 1880s to join his brother Alfred in Adelaide who died in 1894 leaving a wife and two children Anthony and Anthonia. Can anyone help please?

*If you are able to assist please respond direct to Phyllis via our Guestbook on our homepage.*

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### **Nisbet of Ladybank** – cont'd

Jean Skar from Norway wrote:  
Nisbet of Ladybank that I was asking about (N/News 98); some of the children immigrated to USA.

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### **Basil Nesbitt** – relatives

Elizabeth Nesbitt from Rockingham, Western Australia wrote:

It occurs to me that my husband knows very little of his ancestry. This is what I am aware of (the private, compressed version anyway):  
The patriarch is Basil Nesbitt born in then India (now Pakistan) in the 30's the youngest(?) of a large family. Descended from anglo/indian stock - who went to India to work on British Railways). He had three children (m,f,m) then emigrated to Bristol, England before having two more children (m, m). Later moved the family to Bunbury, Western Australia where they settled.

If anyone has a family tree that has a branch or two in India, I would love to compare notes. I have also noted that there are an incredible number of baby boys in my branch of the Nesbitt tree...has anyone else noted the same of their family?

Elizabeth Nesbitt



## **MISCELLANY**

### **Scots of Victoria**

*Extracted from the SCOTTISH VOICE October/November 2010 - newsletter of the Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group.*

#### Scottish Reformation

John Knox is regarded as the leader of the Scottish Reformation. The Scottish Reformation was Scotland's formal break with the Papacy in 1560, and the events surrounding this. It was part of the wider European Protestant Reformation; and in Scotland's case culminated ecclesiastically in the re-establishment of the church along Reformed lines, and politically in the triumph of English influence over that of the Kingdom of France.

The Reformation Parliament of 1560, which repudiated the Pope's authority, forbade the celebration of the Mass and approved a Protestant Confession of Faith, was made possible by a revolution against French hegemony. Prior to that, Scotland was under the regime of the regent Mary of Guise, who had governed in the name of her absent daughter Mary, Queen of Scots (then also Queen of France).

The Scottish Reformation decisively shaped the Church of Scotland and, through it, all other Presbyterian churches worldwide. From the fifteenth century, Renaissance humanism had already encouraged critical theological reflection and calls for ecclesiastical renewal in Scotland. Martin Luther's doctrinal ideas were influential in Scotland. As early as 1525 the Scottish Parliament thought it necessary to forbid the importation of Lutheran books, and to suppress 'his heresies or opinions' throughout the realm. However, this attempt was largely unsuccessful.

The Martyrs' Monument at Saint Andrews, commemorates those executed before the Reformation, including Hamilton and Wishart. In 1528, the nobleman Patrick Hamilton, influenced by Lutheran theology whilst at the universities of Wittenberg and Marburg, became the first Protestant martyr when he was burned at the stake for heresy, outside St Salvator's College at Saint Andrews.



## **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, Lyndell Nisbet, Karen Nisbet, vacant.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

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

### PUBLICATION OFFICER:

Vacant

### EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE:

Ian G Nisbet, vacant.

### 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: Nick Nesbitt, 154 New Hanby Avenue, Westerville, OH 43801, USA.  
UK: Angus Nisbet, 7 Trent Avenue, London, W5 4TL, 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>**