



May 2019 Newsletter



Dr Don Garden, OAM, FFAHS, FRHSV, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and Associate Professor, University of Melbourne, as he gave his interesting address to our members at the Annual General Meeting on 3 March 2019.

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Note this does not work on the printed version. :-)

Next Event

Sunday 9 June at 2:00 pm
SDHS Resource Centre,
31 Abbott Street, Sandringham
General Meeting

SANDRINGHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Your newsletter for May 2019
It's Your History Too

NEW COMMITTEE

President:	Lorraine Huddle
Vice President:	Olivia Abbay
Secretary:	Gwen Zammit
Treasurer:	Michael Miliotis
Committee Members:	Margaret Tripp (Hon. Minute Secretary)
	Sally Edwardes
	Don Garden
	Allan Jones
	Liz Millman
	Jan Withers



Our President Lorraine was born in Brighton, went to school in Sandringham and has a strong feeling of belonging to this area. After completing a Bachelor of Architecture Honours at the University of Melbourne, with a major in architectural history and conservation, she worked for 11 years as a lecturer in the Architecture School at Deakin University and has, for the past 20 years, run her own business called Heritage Intelligence Pty. Ltd. In 2012, Lorraine curated the SDHS Exhibition called Our House, which focussed on the architectural styles in the suburbs of Bayside. Lorraine now lives in Ballarat where

two of her grandchildren reside and travels to Bayside to visit her mother, also a member, and to attend to SDHS business.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have a lot of exciting news to report:

Our General Meeting and AGM was a happy and relaxed event with our esteemed guest speaker Dr Don Garden inspiring our Society with many fabulous ideas and examples implemented by other historical societies around Australia. Vice President Olivia Abbay thanked all members and volunteers who worked so hard over the past year. Gwen Zammit thanked our Honorary Auditor Trevor Wotley who was appointed at the 25 March 2019 Committee Meeting. The GM and AGM meetings were followed by delightful refreshments organised by Margaret Tripp.

All committee members were elected unopposed. We thanked two incredibly hard working members who retired from the Committee, Robyn Watters and Judy Bruce, and welcomed three new members, Dr Don Garden, Liz Millman and Allan Jones.

Office Bearers for 2019-2020

President: Lorraine Huddle
Vice President: Dr Olivia Abbay
Association Secretary: Gwen Zammit
Treasurer: Michael Miliotis (admitted at Committee Meeting on 25/3/2019)
Minute Secretary: Margaret Tripp
Committee Members:
Sally Edwardes
Dr Don Garden
Allan Jones
Liz Millman
Jan Withers

A heartfelt welcome to our newest members: Di McDonald, Sandi Pullman and Michael Miliotis. Michael has also been accepted by the committee to undertake the important role of Treasurer. Thank you Michael.

We have continued to update our electronic equipment: a new NAS server with four times the storage capacity of our ancient one.

New volunteer Phil Badger, is keeping our web site and other media updated.

Our Facebook page now has over 90 followers.

Preparations for our major project, the self guided History Tour of Hampton, are underway. Graeme Disney, Olivia, Margaret and Jan have put together lists of important places in Hampton, which are being developed into an illustrated walk by our new member Di McDonald. Jennie Kelly is new to volunteering at SDHS and we have accepted her generous offer to do the graphic design for the walk.

The relocation of our Society to the former Masonic Hall has been postponed until late 2021. We will notify members when we have more information available.

We gratefully received an extremely important donation from *W.D.Rose Funerals* consisting of hand written, leather bound journals dating from the 1880s to the 1960s. Please read the article by Robyn Watters about the incredible significance of this donation. (See page 6)

Our resource centre in Abbott Street has a fresh and organised atmosphere and I sincerely thank our regular volunteers who work there on the days we are open to the public.

The Committee thanks you, the members, for your support and particularly the members who "volunteer to keep the Society running. We look forward to even more success this coming year.

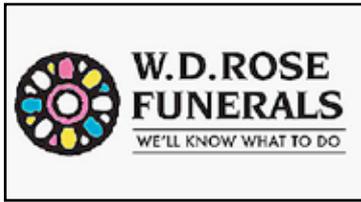
Lorraine Huddle

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COLLECTIONS REPORT: March - May 2019

- 5224 Transcription of Graeme Disney's talk at opening of 'By the Seaside' exhibition on 30 September 2018 - donor author
- 5225 Identifying plants in old photographs and paintings' article in Australian Garden History, issue October 2018 pp25-28 - donor Sandi Pullman
- 5226 Papers, photographs, DVD of Marjorie's 90 years. From Estate of Miss Marjorie Marris - donated by Helen Rayment
- 5228 Book - Beaumaris Modern by Fiona Austin December 2018 - donor Olivia Abbay
- 5229 DVD of Miss Beach Girl 1956; Sashes for Miss Sandringham and Winner of Sun Beach Girl Contest 1955-56 won by Miss Patricia Marie Leder of 12 Arthur St, Sandringham; Original bathing costume worn; Coloured framed photograph of Pat Leder in costume 30.5 cm x 37.5 cm; Original B&W newspaper photograph 21.5 cm x 36.5 cm Pat Leder and Mary Dwight of the Water Follies who won Miss Florida beauty contest; Scrapbook of cuttings of Sun Beach Girl contest 1955-56 collected by Tony Leder brother of Pat; Documents and DVD of Victorian Beach Girl Quest Finals; Embroidered pockets for many schools done by Eileen Leder.
- 5230 Book - Fallen Diggers of Goldstein 1915 - 1918 - Society Publication
- 5231 Book - 'What's in a Name?: The origins of many of Melbourne's suburbs' - Golden Days Radio 2016 - donor Mrs Jenny Page
- 5232 Manuscript volumes x 49 - WD Rose Funerals records 1882 - 1966
- 5233 Newsletter x 5 - 'The Sandy Review' 1993-1994 - donor Richard Day

SIGNIFICANT FUNERAL RECORD DONATION



Article by Robyn Watters.

Robyn is a member, volunteer and former Secretary of the Society. She is a lawyer, loves family history and is currently focussing on her convict ancestors. Her dream job would be to work as a genealogist.

A very significant funerary donation has been made to the Sandringham & District Historical Society Inc. by W.D. Rose Funerals.

On hand to receive the beautiful journals of funeral records was Ms. Lorraine Huddle, President of the Society. Lorraine said “We are thrilled to be the chosen recipient of this truly superb collection. We will be able not only to preserve the journals using modern conservation techniques, but to use them as a record of how late nineteenth century to mid-twentieth century Melbourne treated their departed loved ones. As death also says a lot about life, we know the collection to be a most prized resource.

The collection starts at 1882 and finishes in the 1960s and contains thousands of funeral records from all over Melbourne, not just limited to the Bayside area. This is because early metropolitan Melbourne was much smaller in size than our current footprint and funeral homes were able to service much of this area. With the spread of Melbourne, additional funeral homes sprang up to cater to their local area. Over time some of these funeral homes became defunct or merged into other funeral homes. Their legacy records were acquired by modern funeral homes and that is how they came to reside with W.D. Rose Funerals at their East Brighton premises. So it is a local resource with application to all of Melbourne.

A contact to the Society by Area Manager Mr. Peter Sharry ably assisted by Location Manager, Ms. Debra McAllister, ensured that the Collection was going to a place where it would be treasured. The Collection is regarded as so precious that Peter consulted with the company’s Sydney management before the donation was made. For a number of years, Debra has been wanting to find a suitable home for the collection and President

The Society’s preliminary plans are to firstly preserve the Collection possibly utilising the services of a pro bono conservator. Once assessment has been completed, the collection may be digitised and indexed to enable the information to be accessed by historians. The Collection of journals will be proudly on display securely and carefully preserved behind glass at the Masonic Hall, Sandringham, which is being refurbished by Bayside Council for Bayside community groups.

This preservation and accessibility of a rare Collection like this is a major purpose of our Society and the Council’s provision of state of the art conditions for the Collection is a reflection of their appreciation of the importance of it to our community.

It will be interesting to see whether the funeral records accord with the death records of the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria. Reporting of deaths early last century and the century before may have been less reliable than today’s record keeping. We need to ensure that any funeral records released are in line with the community’s expectations of privacy but also accessibility. Journals behind glass cabinets look lovely but we want historians to be able to see how funerary worked at various time periods. We hope the collection will be both ornamental as well as providing historians with a rich perspective on funerary practices.



Mr. Peter Sharry and Ms. Debra McAllister (left) delivered the W.D.Rose Collection to President Lorraine Huddle at the Historical Society Resource Centre in March 2019. (Photographs: left by Lorraine Huddle and right, by Peter Sharry.)



A lot of preservation work has to be done on these journals. (Photograph by Robyn Watters)

The Collection is a microcosm of Melbourne cultural practices as well as sometimes reflecting even world events such as military engagement of the deceased. Early on, plumed horse-drawn glass hearses were often used which is an example of the minute detail recorded about each person's funeral including how much the funeral cost and whether their executors paid on time. Stillborn deaths are recorded just using the surname of the baby. It is expected the records will be enjoyed not only by members of the public but by religious, cemetery and military record groups keen to fill in the gaps in their own knowledge. It is evident in the later funeral records from the 1960s that the times are-a-changing.

“It is evident in the later funeral records from the 1960s that the times are-a-changing. Each decade of funeral records rings in the changes.”

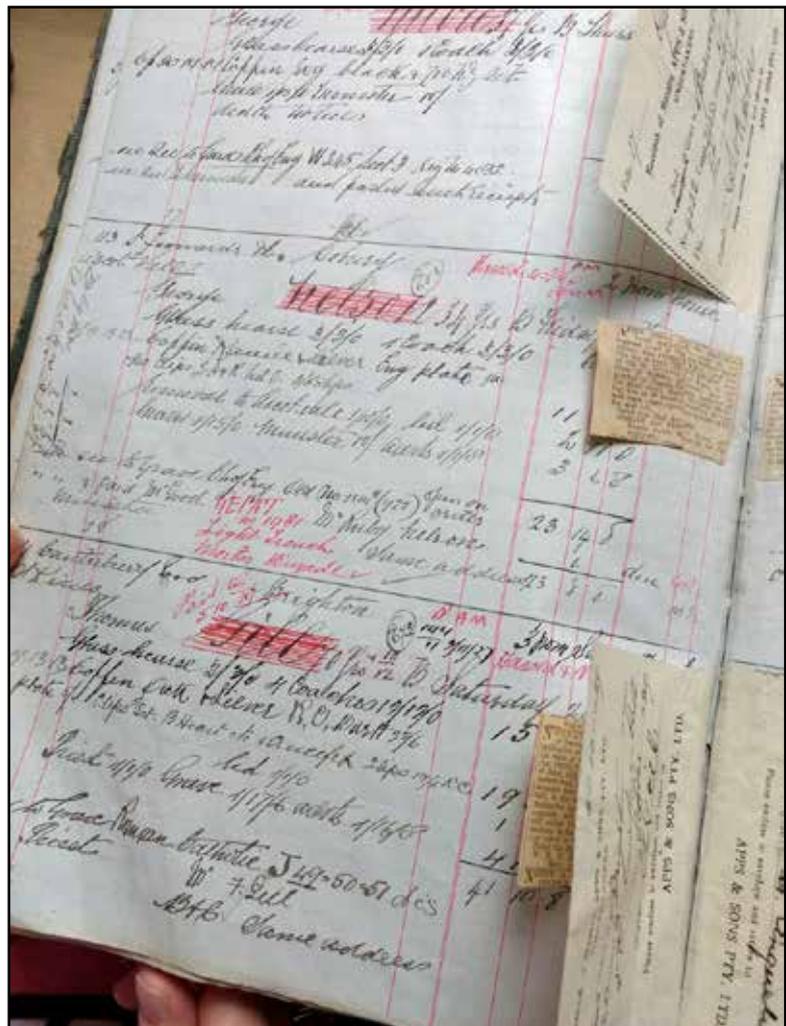
President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and Sandringham & District Historical Society Inc. Committee member, Dr. Don Garden, said “This is indeed a huge win for historians not only in Melbourne or Australia but for those interested in both family history and funerary practices in earlier times. As funeral practices are representative of cultural practices, there is no better place to look at life than by starting with death.”



The Society thanks W.D. Rose Funerals for their donation.

Their web address is:

<https://www.wdrose.com.au/> and <https://vimeo.com/321713585!>



Note the middle funeral for Nelson ordered a glass hearse and coach, he was a 'repat' of the Number 1981 Light Trench Mortar Brigade. (Photograph by Robyn Watters)

MARIA MILLARD and the BIGAMIST

Great Great Granddaughter of Maria Millard

Cheltenham Story



*Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery has the longest inhabitants of Cheltenham stretching back 154 years.
My Great Great Grandmother is amongst them.*

Grass area where Maria Millard is interred with two others at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery. 17*BRC*O. (Photograph by author Robyn Watters) The Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries conduct tours and have a wealth of information, including membership opportunities, on their website: <http://www.focrc.org/index.htm>

A trip to the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery to find my Great Great Grandmother's grave was disappointing. I imagined a weathered but attractive gravestone and all I saw was a grass lawn. Delving deeper I discovered she was interred with two other paupers, Ah Hoy and Ah Sun on 2 January 1912. All three came from the Benevolent Asylum at Cheltenham.

How did Maria Millard come to be there? Maria's journey from Somerset, England to Cheltenham, Victoria took a circuitous route.

Maria's mother died by the time she was two and the evidence is that she had a difficult relationship with her step-mother. In 1857, age 20, Maria upped stumps and came to Melbourne.

By age 22, Maria had married or had she? Her husband Caleb George came from quite a prosperous family in Gloucestershire, England. His three brothers were model citizens who emigrated to Australia. Maria and Caleb married at Beechworth in 1859, spinster and bachelor on the marriage certificate.

Within six months of the marriage, they were at each other's throats. She found out he was cheating on her. A local paper reported that Maria requested that her husband be bound over in jail to keep the peace at home!

(The Constitution and Ovens Mining Intelligencer and The Ovens Register, 2 November 1859)

Their daughter Sarah was born in 1860. By May 1865, Maria made application to the court for wife desertion and maintenance of their child, my Great Grandmother Sarah. This was to prove futile as Caleb left many creditors apparently escaping to London and dying in 1869.

Was their marital split caused or partially caused by Maria discovering the truth? Not only was her husband Caleb unfaithful during marriage, he was already married to someone else when he married her. Caleb was a bigamist. In 1856 he had already married Miss Isabella Howie at Buninyong. Beechworth, where Caleb and Maria married, is 350 km away but mining was prominent in both areas so perhaps news does indeed travel fast in the same circles.

Maria's life spiralled out of control after 1865 and she became an alcoholic. She was in and out of jail for decades. Convictions of being drunk and disorderly, using obscene language, engaging in larceny, prostitution, child stealing and being a vagrant; she was "well known on the Yarra bank". Even the Salvation Army in 1898 gave up on her and put her into the custody of the court after she smashed one of their windows at their Exhibition Street shelter. (The Argus 12 January 1898)



Victorian Prison photograph of Maria Millard circa December 1896 (courtesy Public Records Office of Victoria). Note that she was using her maiden name of Millard, not her 'married' name of George. Her aliases were "Sarah Ryall" and 'Angelina Ryall'. Sarah Ryall is her mother's name. Coupled with the diminutive of 'angel', Maria poignantly referred to herself as the little angel of Sarah Ryall.



Admission photo of Maria to the Kew Mental Asylum 1907 (courtesy Public Records Office of Victoria). She pathetically petitioned the governor to drill a hole in her head to let out the insects and voices that were in there.

In 1907 Maria was admitted to the Kew Mental Asylum and within a couple of years she was resident in the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum at North Melbourne transferring to the new Benevolent Asylum premises at Cheltenham in 1911. By the end of the year, she was interred in a shared pauper's grave at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery.

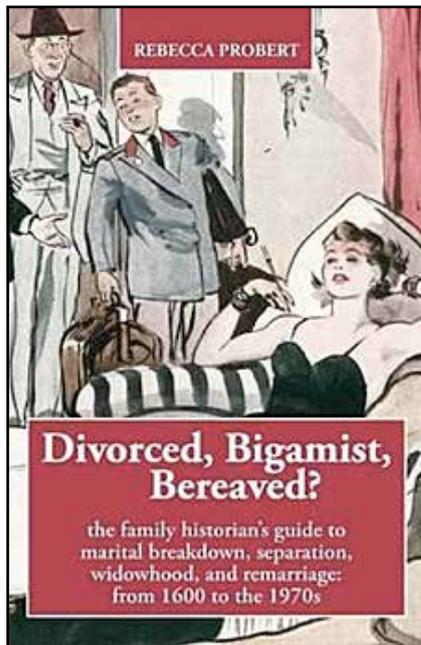
The sour twist to Maria's sad life is that her hated step-mother died 20 years before leaving an estate worth UK£4,000 (in today's money about AU\$900,000).

So, a pauper's grave at the other end of the earth for Maria and a big send-off for her step-mother in Liverpool.

Bigamy

It is likely that Maria discovered that Caleb was a bigamist. Family lore has it that she did know as her descendants, including myself, knew to look more closely at her marital situation.

What were the legal consequences for Caleb as a bigamist? By escaping to England did he also escape Scot-free of bigamy laws? Ms. Rebecca Probert, lawyer, academic and the UK's leading family law historian says of Caleb: "English law did in fact allow for prosecution of bigamous marriages made in the colonies – the 1861 Act was very clear that the offence was committed 'whether the second marriage shall have taken place in England or Ireland or elsewhere'. And I have come across a few examples of individuals who were prosecuted even though the marriage took place on a different continent – so there was no guarantee of escape." (Email from Rebecca Probert to Robyn Watters dated 16 September 2016.)



An excellent book for the family historian.

Descendants of Maria and Caleb

What happened to Sarah, daughter of Maria and Caleb? Sarah Jane George, my Great Grandmother somehow survived despite her mother spending most of her time in jail or in the mental and benevolent asylums. Sarah was a tough old bird because she had to be. Sarah married a labourer in Wilcannia and they had nine children, the third being my grandmother Gertrude Knox Duncan.

In 1916 Gertrude married an ambitious and capable man escaping humble rental property in Port Melbourne to ultimately live in salubrious Kooyong Koot Road, Hawthorn. Gertrude joined the upper-middle class. Her daughter Dorothy Brown is my mother.

Six Degrees of Separation

Also in the Benevolent Asylum at both North Melbourne and Cheltenham was another Great Great Grandmother of mine. Her name was Mary Ann Oakley (née Bowcock). Mary Ann and Maria could have rubbed shoulders for at least six years. Mary Ann also died at the Benevolent Asylum in Cheltenham but was buried at the Melbourne General Cemetery. Of course, these two would have had no knowledge that they were to have a Great Great Granddaughter in common. I call this Six Degrees of Separation.



Three direct descendants of Maria Millard George – her daughter Sarah (sitting left), her granddaughter Gertrude (sitting right) and her great granddaughter Dorothy (kneeling in front). (Photograph supplied by author Robyn Watters, daughter of Dorothy Brown Watters)

MARIA LOUISA MILLARD

Born circa 1836 • Frome, Somerset, England

Died 30 December 1911, Cheltenham, Victoria, Australia

Buried Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery 17*BRC*O

FREDERICK CALEB GEORGE

Born 2 May 1835, Petworth, Gloucestershire, England

Died c. 1869 St. James, Westminster, Middlesex, England (not confirmed)

Buried 16 March, All Souls, Kensal Green, England (not confirmed)

References:

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/family-tree/person/tree/14740108/person/206934729/facts>

Author and Member Robyn Watters

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Family Reunion:



Descendants of passengers who arrived on the “David Clark” (the first ship to bring assisted immigrants direct to Port Phillip) in October 1839

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Clark_\(1816_ship\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Clark_(1816_ship)) are invited to attend a reunion to mark the 180th anniversary.

This will be held on Sunday 27 October 2019 at Gulf Station, Yarra Glen, Victoria (historic farm, once owned by William Bell, one of the passengers). To receive information as plans are settled, email now to

davidclark1839@gmail.com.

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A Magnificent Man and his Flying Machines

By Tim Harding

Major Harry Turner Shaw, OBE (1889-1973) was an Australian pioneer aviator, both in wartime and peace, and later a boat builder. He lived at 'The Point' mansion overlooking Ricketts Point, Beaumaris from around 1922 until he sold it in 1959. He and his wife then moved to their former servants' quarters and coach house 'Pointside', which still stands as a renovated family home at No. 17 Lang Street, Beaumaris.

In the 1920s and 30s, Major Shaw had a private airstrip on the estate at what is now Nautilus Street. He used to fly to and from his engineering factory at Fisherman's Bend, sometimes even flying home to Beaumaris for lunch. The existence of this private airstrip was not widely known, and so sometimes there were reports to police of a possible air crash when he landed.



Aerial view of Beaumaris looking south to 'The Point' estate and Ricketts Point. Major Harry Turner Shaw took this photograph from his aeroplane in 1927. His private airstrip (now Nautilus Street) as shown by arrow, is at the centre of the picture. Source: Bayside Library Service (image on public access).

Harry Turner Shaw was the son of Thomas Turner Shaw (1864 -1949) and Agnes May (nee Hopkins). Agnes May Turner Shaw (1865-1967) lived in good health until the ripe old age of 102 (I once met her at a garden party at Pointside). Harry was raised at a 30,000-acre sheep station called 'Wooriwyrite', on the Mount Emu Creek near Mortlake in Victoria's Western District. His father and grandfather were breeders and producers of fine Merino wool.

Harry was educated privately before attending Geelong College from 1903 until 1906. He then studied engineering at the Melbourne Working Men's College (which later became the RMIT). He appears to have inherited his father's interest in things mechanical. (Thomas Turner Shaw invented a patented fence post lifting machine and was a one of the first motor car owners in Victoria).

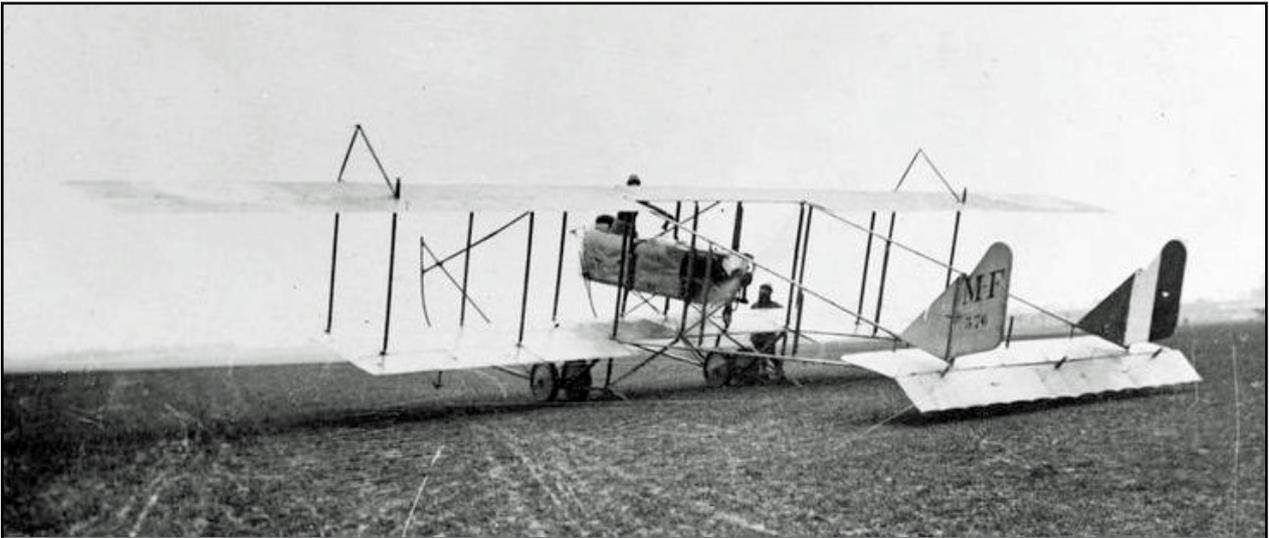
Major Shaw's younger sister Mary (Mollie) Turner Shaw (1906-1990) was born in Caulfield, but brought up at Wooriwyrite. She was one of the first women to be employed as an architect in the early 1930s in Australia. She also became a distinctive figure as an architectural historian, when she started writing books and articles (including a book about Wooriwyrite).

As I mentioned in the last (February 2019) issue of this newsletter, I was brought up at No. 6 Point Avenue, Beaumaris, on the corner of Lang Street. I knew Major Shaw (we called him 'the Major'), his family and servants very well. His daughter Raithlyn was a lifelong close family friend of ours. I have a vague recollection of being bitten or kicked by their malevolent Shetland pony named 'Mintie' when I was very young.

The Major married Violet Laura Willis, daughter of Herbert and Alice Willis, of Koolomurt sheep station near Harrow in Western Victoria. I knew her as 'Mrs. Shaw'. She was taller than the Major, and although debilitated by arthritis was very much in charge of the house and servants in the traditional landed gentry manner. She was always very nice to us children.

When I knew her, Mrs. Shaw drove a large black Rover P5 sedan, although my mother told me that earlier on Mrs. Shaw drove a Rolls Royce. Once a week she would drive to Dandenong South to collect rents from her caravan park 'Shawlands', which still exists today (owned by the Dandenong Christian Reformed Church). The Major himself drove a small 1930s German DKW car with a two-stroke engine that sounded like a lawnmower. Why he drove such a dinky little car while his wife drove a large Rolls Royce is lost in the mists of history.

Neil Follett, Editor of Aviation Heritage magazine wrote of Shaw's war service: 'He travelled to England in May 1913. After the outbreak of World War One, he missed the first intake of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC), enlisting as a dispatch rider with the Royal Engineers on 19 September 1914. Sometime in 1915 he transferred to the RFC and trained as a pilot at Shoreham, Kent. He soloed on a Maurice Farman Longhorn on 13 December 1915 and two days later received his FAI licence (No 2196), before going to Gosport [on the English south coast] on 1 February 1916'.



Maurice Farman S. 7 Longhorn Reconnaissance and Training Biplane c.1915. Source : Wikimedia Commons

As the Royal Air Force was not established until 1918, the RFC at this time was part of British Army – hence his rank of Major rather than an Air Force rank. He served and saw action in France as a Flight Commander before returning to Home Establishment as a flying instructor at Doncaster. By the end of the war, he was Officer Commanding No 27 Training Wing RFC as Acting Lieutenant Colonel. Somewhere along the way, he had also become a certified aircraft engineer.

On 26 June 1916, Major Shaw wrote in a letter to his father Thomas Turner Shaw: 'I was playing round among the clouds over their [the Germans] lines yesterday, at from 1,500 to 2,500 feet—playing 'tig' over and under and round the small drifting clouds, trying to 'spot' our bursting shells and 'wireless' corrections to our guns....then I was cruising round at about 400 feet, doing no harm to anyone, when suddenly I heard a hungry metallic sort of bonk behind me, and found a nasty black smoke puff* only about ten yards distant, and right on my level. I put on the brake—or rather jammed the right rudder hard, which had the effect of making me skid about a hundred yards and drop a hundred feet. The rest of his shooting was wide and wild, but he must have had a couple of dozen shots at me in about as many seconds. I didn't like him!' [*Of exploding anti-aircraft fire, called 'Archie' – the word 'flak' was German and not used by the British during the First World War].

Major Shaw himself used to tell me stories from his war exploits. Sometimes these were told in his large workshop at 'Pointside' where he built prototype wooden boats; and other times when we were both sitting on the horizontal poles at Ricketts Point beach, where he took his Great Dane dogs for a walk. For a young boy like me, the Major was my own personal Biggles! A particular childhood recollection I have is of the Major telling me: 'One day in the air I saw the red aeroplane of the Red Baron [German air ace, Baron von Richthofen] in the distance. So, I hid in a cloud and came up behind and underneath him, where I fired a row of .303s into his fuselage!'. He told me that he hit the Baron's plane but not the Baron himself. Presumably he jammed his rudder again and dove away

before he could become the Baron's 81st kill.

The Major also told me that he kept a rack of small bombs by his feet in the cockpit, and when he saw a suitable target on the ground, he would drop a bomb by hand over the side of his plane.



Major Shaw's canvas flying helmet and aviation tool box, 1918. Source: Museum Victoria.

The Geelong College Pegasus Journal reported that Major Shaw was awarded the 'Mons Star'. This medal was given only to the men of the first seven divisions who were actually serving in France for the Retreat from Mons and the Advance of the Marne. He was also entitled to wear the red and three blue chevrons for his length of active service, which dates from the outbreak of the war

On 25 October 1917, Major Shaw wrote in a letter home: 'Flying has come to stay. The machines of the future will be simple and inexpensive. The ordinary man of mechanical taste could get a working knowledge of its riggings and engine in a few days. Up-keep should compare quite favourably with an ordinary large car. Breakages will depend on the pilot to a large extent, and a couple of smashes would of course boost the up-keep tremendously'.

In 1919, Major Shaw returned to Australia on the 'SS Nestor', and on 8 January 1920 established the Shaw-Ross Engineering & Aviation Company at Fishermen's Bend. His business partner was H. Galsworthy Ross who, with two passengers, was killed in a crash at Port Melbourne on 22 May 1922. The Shaw-Ross company had an agency for Bristol and Farman aircraft; and in 1921, they imported several of the first post-World War I aircraft into Australia. Major Shaw also had an aerial photography business named 'Airsy', with a photographer named Hansen.

In 1924 Major Shaw was elected as committee member of the Victorian Section of the Australian Aero Club and later chaired the Air Convention, a lobby group comprised of various aviation interests. He was influential in selecting suitable sites for aerodromes, including Essendon Airport in 1921. (Moorabbin Airport was not established until much later, in 1949). Major Shaw was one of the first tenants of Essendon airport when it still had a grass runway.



Major Shaw (centre) inspecting potential aerodrome sites in 1921 near Old Man Plain in north-western Victoria. Source: Civil Aviation Historical Society & Airways Museum

On 25 February 1950 Melbourne's Argus newspaper carried the following Report: 'Pioneer pilot will retrace flight. The aviator who made the first civil Melbourne Sydney flight in 1922 has never flown in a modern passenger aircraft - until today. In 1922 Major Harry Shaw piloted a 50-h.p. single-engined Farman aircraft at an average speed of 60 mph, and was awarded the Oswald Watt Memorial Medal for the year's best flight by an Australian. Today he will retrace his pioneer flight (at 180 mph or more) in an Ansett DC-3, which will take three hours for the trip that once took him four days ('including engine trouble'). Major Shaw, who is now 61, and lives in Beach Rd., Beaumaris, made his 1922 flight to attend a Sydney air regatta. He took off from an aerodrome 'opposite the cement works in the Williamstown ferry short road', and got as far as Moss Vale (NSW) before the engine spluttered. Repairs took two days, but he reached Sydney in the next 'hop.' 'I wasn't even in time for the regatta', Major Shaw said yesterday, 'but I stayed in Sydney for two days, and then flew back, spending a night at Tumut. There were no such things as airports on the route then.'



Major Harry Turner Shaw (right) with his boat building business partner Gerald Benson (left). Date on calendar looks like January 1947. Source: Black Rock Yacht Club via Sandringham & District Historical Society

Major Shaw and Gerald Benson were partners of the Melbourne boat building firm of Benson & Shaw, on the Mordialloc Creek. (Their boat building factory later became the Bolwell car factory). The Major had built sailing boats late in the Second World War. He used a jig on which he had built a Sabot for a tender in the early 1930s. The plans came from the American 'Rudder' magazine which he had started reading in 1904. Another six boats followed in 1945 as soon as the firm of Benson & Shaw was established at the end of the war. In Shaw's own words: 'Both Gerry Benson and I sailed at Black Rock. I only weighed nine stone wringing wet, so was suited to Sabots.

When we sold out, we had built over 3,000 boats, some 250 being Sabots. We built them as dinghies as well as for sailing. I built a special Sabot as a motor boat which did 28mph with a 14hp motor. Our work was condemned for being too light, but today 80% of builders have copied our ideas. I was an aircraft engineer and used ideas I had in the construction of aircraft'.

Initially plywood was used in the construction of aircraft and it was these two men, through their vast experience in this field who realised that plywood could be adapted for marine construction as well. Ultimately in 1946 they built the first plywood boat in Australia. They also built a twin-hulled fibreglass power boat called the 'Shawcat'. Major Harry Turner Shaw was an intriguing and colourful Beaumaris identity – possibly even a little eccentric. But he was also much more than that – a distinguished war pilot and a pioneer of the Australian aviation, aerial photography and boat building industries.

It was a pleasure to have known him.

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Anon. (1950). 'Pioneer pilot will retrace flight'. The Argus newspaper, 25 February 1950 page 6, Melbourne.

Anon. (undated) 'Flying Helmet - Major H.T Shaw, RFC & RAF, circa 1918'. Museum Victoria <<https://trove.nla.gov.au/version/248098806>>

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Turner Shaw, Mary (1969) On Mount Emu Creek. Robertson and Mullens, Melbourne.

About the author:

Tim Harding is a member of the Sandringham and District Historical Society. He has studied history, philosophy and science at Monash University; and works part-time as a regulatory consultant.

Tim Harding is a member of the Sandringham and District Historical Society. He has qualifications in history, philosophy and science from Monash University. He writes a philosophy and history blog called 'The Logical Place' <<https://yandoo.wordpress.com/>>. Tim spent most of his career as a senior manager and regulator in the Victorian Public Service, and now works part-time as a regulatory consultant specialising in animal welfare. He is interested in history generally, in terms of how we got to where we are today, which he thinks is taken too much for granted. Although he now lives in Cheltenham, he belongs to our Society because he has a particular interest in the history of the bayside area where he grew up.

SDHS





Vice President Olivia Abbay with President Lorraine Huddle at the AGM.



Guest speaker Dr Don Garden delivers his address to the AGM attendees.



There was a good attendance by members for the March AGM held at the Hampton Community Centre.

SDHS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Management Committee welcomes the following new members and volunteers who have joined us recently.

New Members

Admitted at Committee of Management Meeting 28 February 2019

Julie Stanley (Newsletter Editor)

Admitted at Committee of Management Meeting 25 March 2019

Di McDonald (also Volunteer)

Michael Miliotis (Incoming Treasurer)

Sandra Pullman

New Volunteers

Phil Badger (IT Coordinator)

John Donaldson (Design and Production Newsletter)

Jennie Kelly (Graphic Designer)

Member and Volunteer Profiles

We plan to profile our new members, volunteers and Committee of Management regularly in our newsletters this year. We are sure you will enjoy getting to know them better and also to learn of the contribution they are making to your Society.

John Donaldson (Design and Production Newsletter)

John Donaldson is well known to many of you via his vice-president and life member role at VicGUM, a software users support group for family historians. (www.vicgum.asn.au) He also edits their newsletter. John is the author of two books, *So You're Totally New to Family Tree Maker* and *Opening the Doors to Family Tree Maker*, published by *Find My Past*.

He also conducts workshops and seminars on Family Tree Maker Australia-wide as a result of his expertise. He was an alpha tester for Ancestry for Family Tree Maker. John has used his software skills to transform our newsletter too. When not on the computer in his Sandringham home, he is a lifeguard to his six grandchildren when they visit and use granddad's pool.

Michael Miliotis (Incoming Treasurer)

After graduating from University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg South Africa, Michael's career began in 1978 where he worked for a small accounting practice. After moving to Greece in 1982, Michael joined Ernst & Young as a senior auditor advancing to supervisor in 1990. Michael and his wife Alex started their family in Greece and remained there (with a short stint back in South Africa to manage a family business) until 2003 when they emigrated to New Zealand. During his time in Greece, Michael worked as audit manager for Ernst & Young and as Financial Controller, East Mediterranean Area for Lloyds Register Classification Society. In New Zealand he worked for a small tax accounting practice in Auckland full time until December 2017, when he and Alex moved to Australia permanently to be with their two adult children who were living and working in Melbourne.

Michael and Alex enjoy long walks and excursions to different places in Melbourne to get to know their new environment. Having more time available now that he is semi-retired, Michael offered to take this position as a way to get to know people and the history of their new place of residence.

Gwen Zammit

SDHS

SECRETARY'S NOTICES

Notice of General Meeting of SANDRINGHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
Incorporation Number A0018151X ABN: 75 395 603 584

Notice is given that a general meeting of the members of the Sandringham & District Historical Society Inc. will be held on 9 June at 2.00pm at the SDHS Resource Centre, 31 Abbott Street, Sandringham 3191.

The meeting will be for the purpose of:

- (1) Confirming the Minutes of the General Meeting of 3 March 2019
- (2) Reports From The Management Committee
- (3) Any Other Business.

The draft minutes are available for perusal in the Resource Centre at 31 ABBOTT STREET, SANDRINGHAM 3191.

Gwen Zammit, Secretary, by authority of the Management Committee.

SDHS

Proxies:

A member entitled to attend and vote at the general meeting may appoint a person to attend and vote at the meeting as the member's proxy. A proxy must be a member of Sandringham & District Historical Society Inc.. A proxy may be appointed by returning the proxy form below to the Secretary at the club's registered office at 31 Abbott Street, Sandringham at least 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

Inquiries:

All inquiries should be directed to the Secretary, Gwen Zammit, Sandringham & District Society Inc., 31 Abbott Street, Sandringham, telephone (03) 9597 0985. Email: sandringhamhistorical@gmail.com

SANDRINGHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Number A0018151X ABN: 75 395 603 584

Contact Details: 31 Abbott Street, Sandringham, 3191

P.O. Box 8, Sandringham, 3191

Telephone (03) 9597 0985

www.sandringhamhistorical.org.au sandringhamhistorical@gmail.com

Appointment Of Proxy

General Meeting to be held on 9 June 2019.

I, of address.....

(name)

Being a financial member of the Society, hereby appoint

Name of address

Or failing that person, the Chair of the General Meeting as my proxy, to vote for and on my behalf at the General Meeting being held at SDHS Resource Centre, 31 Abbott Street, Sandringham on the above date, and at any adjournment thereof.

My proxy is authorised to vote in favour or/against any resolution

.

DateSigned (Member)

Proxy form must be received by the Secretary no later than 24 hours before the meeting **SDHS**

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Application For Membership

To: Secretary

Sandringham & District Historical Society Inc.

P.O. Box 8,

Sandringham. Vic. 3191

I/We desire to become a member/s of the Society.

(insert your name/s here)

In the event of admission, I/we agree to be bound by the "Rules of the Society" being in force at the time. My/our details are listed below and I/we enclosed remittance for mu/our annual subscription by cash/cheque/bank deposit to the SDHS for \$25.00 single and \$40 for a couple.

Bank Deposit: BSB 633-000 A/C 128251360 Reference: Your name

NAME/S

Number and Street

SDHS

Volunteer Application

Suburb Post Code

Contact Details Phone

Mobile

Email

Signed Date/...../.....

I/We would like to volunteer my/our time to help SDHS. YES MAYBE NO

I/We have some information that I/we would like to share. YES MAYBE NO

I/We have some photographs that I/we would like to share YES MAYBE NO

I/We have skills that the Society might require in future. YES MAYBE NO

Office Use only:

Date of Admission Category of Membership

SANDRINGHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. NEWSLETTER MAY 2019

Newsletter Team

Editor: Julie Stanley

Email: julie.stanley@optusnet.com.au

Design and Production: John Donaldson

Email: johndd@inet.net.au

Contributions to the Newsletter

Copy for the next edition is due by 1st July 2019.

Copy is preferred in electronic form and may be sent to the Editor.

Most file formats can be handled. If graphic files are included in your article, TIFF preferred.

Please also send them separately and indicate their placement in the text via a PDF of the complete article. Please do not send images only embedded in the article as the image quality is degraded making them unsuitable for printing. Every attempt has been made to correctly attribute photographs to the copyright owner.

Opinions expressed in the newsletter are that of the individual authors and not of the Society, Committee or its Members.



Visit us on Facebook by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/Sandringham-District-Historical-Society-1135867603110493/>

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