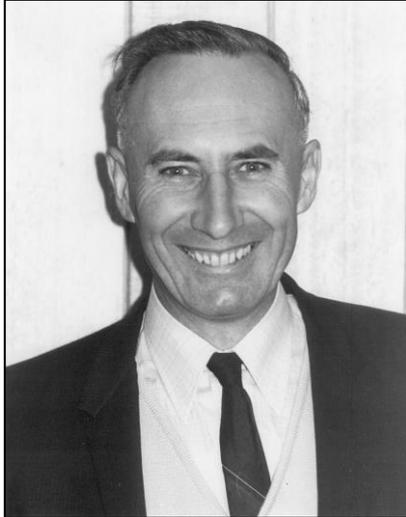


ARNOLD SHAW: ARTS AND CRAFTS TEACHER, 1963-1972



Arnold Osterley Shaw was born in England to Joseph Shaw and Sarah Jane Roe. His father's ancestry goes back to 1793 in Leicestershire England. His mother's ancestry goes back to 1745 Lincolnshire England. Joseph and Sarah married in 1916 and raised two sons: Ronald Joseph (1924) and Arnold Osterley (1929).

Ronald Joseph Shaw emigrated to Victoria and in 1949 was working as a tool maker in Ballarat. He married Gwenda Joy Lingenberg in 1954 and they had four children. Ronald died in Ballarat in 1987 at age 62.

Arnold Osterley Shaw emigrated to Australia and arrived in Melbourne per SS RANCHI in October 1951. His intended residential address was care of Mrs Kellet of Clyde Street, Ballarat. It's not known if Mrs Kellet was a relative, but possibly he was boarding there initially to connect with his brother who had already settled in the district.

In 1953 he was a resident at the Victoria Hotel in Ouyen and was teaching at the Ouyen High School. The school received some good publicity in the Weekly Times early in the year with a series of photographs of students and teachers, including Shaw.

Joseph and Sarah Jane Shaw, Arnold's parents, also emigrated to Australia, probably in the early 1950s, as they were living in Ballarat in 1954 and Joseph was working as a mechanic.

In May 1956, Arnold Shaw turned to England and married Joyce Edwards in Southwell, Nottinghamshire. Joyce's parents were Thomas Edwards and Elsie Wain. The Edwards heritage is traced back to 1891 in Nottinghamshire. The Wain heritage is traced back to 1864 in Basford Nottinghamshire.

Arnold and Joyce Shaw returned to Australia in June 1956 and settled in Ouyen, where Arnold returned to his position at the Ouyen High School. They might have stayed there until the early 1960s before moving to Melbourne and establishing their home in Brosnan Crescent, Strathmore.

According to Bruce Alcorn, Mr Arnold Shaw came to St Albans High school in 1963 as a teacher of Art and Manual Arts, he became the time-tabler and so was responsible for day-to-day organisation of the school program: "In this task he evinced those qualities of meticulous care, patience and thoughtfulness, always combined with a warm and pleasant attitude towards staff and pupils."

Shaw was also a 'team player' in the sense that he was part of the staff hockey team when they played against a student team in 1965. Unfortunately the student line-up has not been discovered.



Staff team for the Staff v. Students hockey match, 1965: (rear) Mike Smith, Ian Smith, John Grieve, Brian Belden, Brian Safe, Arnold Shaw, Norm McLeish, Martin Clancy (front) Joan Butler, Katrina Boas, Judy Sandwell, Robyn Campbell, Seng Min Phua.



In the late 1960s, Frank Lancaster Jones published in the *Australia and New Zealand Journal of Sociology* his report "A Social Ranking of Melbourne Suburbs" which reported that St Albans was ranked last. A number of residents challenged Jones' thesis and rebuffed his conclusions. Mr Shaw and two other members of St Albans High School articulated their challenge in the school magazine:

"Recent surveys by sociologists have revealed that St Albans is one of the least desirable residential areas in Melbourne. How did they arrive at this conclusion? Have they noticed the large number of houses that are being erected in the area. Did they come to St Albans, interview the inhabitants and

see the facilities offering, or did they issue a questionnaire to a group of people, place the results in a computer and so come up with a list of socially desirable areas? ... What is wrong

with St Albans that it has to be labelled so? The standard of housing is at least the equivalent of the majority of Melbourne suburbs, the people take a pride in their gardens, roads are good, it is well catered for with shops and schools there are no slums, no housing commission flats and no reputation for crime and violence. One obvious factor that could react against St. Albans is probably geographical - it is situated on bare wind-swept plain, treeless and monotonous in outlook. However, most people who decry St Albans have not been here, lived here, or known people in this area - they judge St Albans by the sociologists' report and the reputation gained from that finding."



Teaching staff 1971, Arnold Shaw in front row four from right.

In 1969 Shaw was the Senior Master at the school. In 1970 he was the Acting Deputy Principal after Headmaster John McInnerney died unexpectedly. He was still there in 1972, which was his last year, and he wrote a nice farewell column for the school magazine:

"It was with mixed feelings that I heard earlier this year then I would be leaving St Albans high school in December. To move on to tackle a new task in life made me feel eager to leave. Yet to say farewell to fellow staff members, to part company with many special students who have worked with me and to leave the school which has given me so many memorable occasions. made me reluctant to make a move. So many other teachers and ex-students to whom I have spoken have had similar feelings and would have returned had they been given the opportunity. This surely could give the those of you who remain in 1972 an aim to develop greater pride in your school. In many ways St. Albans high school is the best school in the state - always do your best to build up this reputation.

"I have known no other school of this size to have had such a friendly and united staff. My sincere thanks to all staff members, past and present, who have made my stay such a pleasant and valuable experience. Neither has any other similar school consisted of so many genuine and friendly students. There are times when a teacher has to cross swords with his students in order to teach, but these have been few in comparison with the innumerable occasions when teaching has been a pleasure - this is I have always deeply appreciated and shall long remember. May I wish St Albans High School the very best for the future."



Teaching staff 1972, Arnold Shaw in front row four from left.

Some students recall that Shaw had high expectations of behaviour and would tackle issues directly. Alex Andrianopoulos: "I remember Mr Shaw was the disciplinarian; I think he was one of the deputy principals. One day I shoved Ilio Di Paolo into the lockers, and of course I was given six of the best as a consequence. But those were the rules, and to be called to the Deputy Principal's office for six of the best was part of the learning experience."

Irene Lenc: "I remember Mr Shaw as being a fairly strict fellow. I started off the school year by being able to see the board, and then I couldn't see it properly, so I asked my friend next to me could I copy her work to put onto my book. I was so engrossed in exchanging the information that when Mr Shaw slammed the book on my desk I jumped a mile high. ... He didn't accuse me of cheating, but said that I was distracted, not paying attention to him and that I was disrupting the class. I thought he was picking on me. As it turned out, I soon found out why I couldn't see the board - I was shortsighted and needed glasses."

Mr Shaw had left St Albans in 1972 to become Deputy Principal at Laverton High, from where he moved to take up the Principal's position at Point Gellibrand High School. Unfortunately stories about his time at these schools has not been traced, but Luba Uwarow (Szwed) came across him: "I started teaching at Williamstown Girls High School in 1973 and had the pleasure to work with some wonderful Principals (all ex-St Albans High teachers) including Mr Arnold Shaw, Ms Irene Wescott, and Mr Davis (who was once my Art teacher at St Albans)."

Arnold Osterly Shaw died unexpectedly in February 1977 and was buried at Fawcner Memorial Park, Moreland (Merri-bek) City, Victoria. He had passed away at only 48 years.

Article written by Joseph Ribarow.
Photograph reproduction by Nick Szwed.