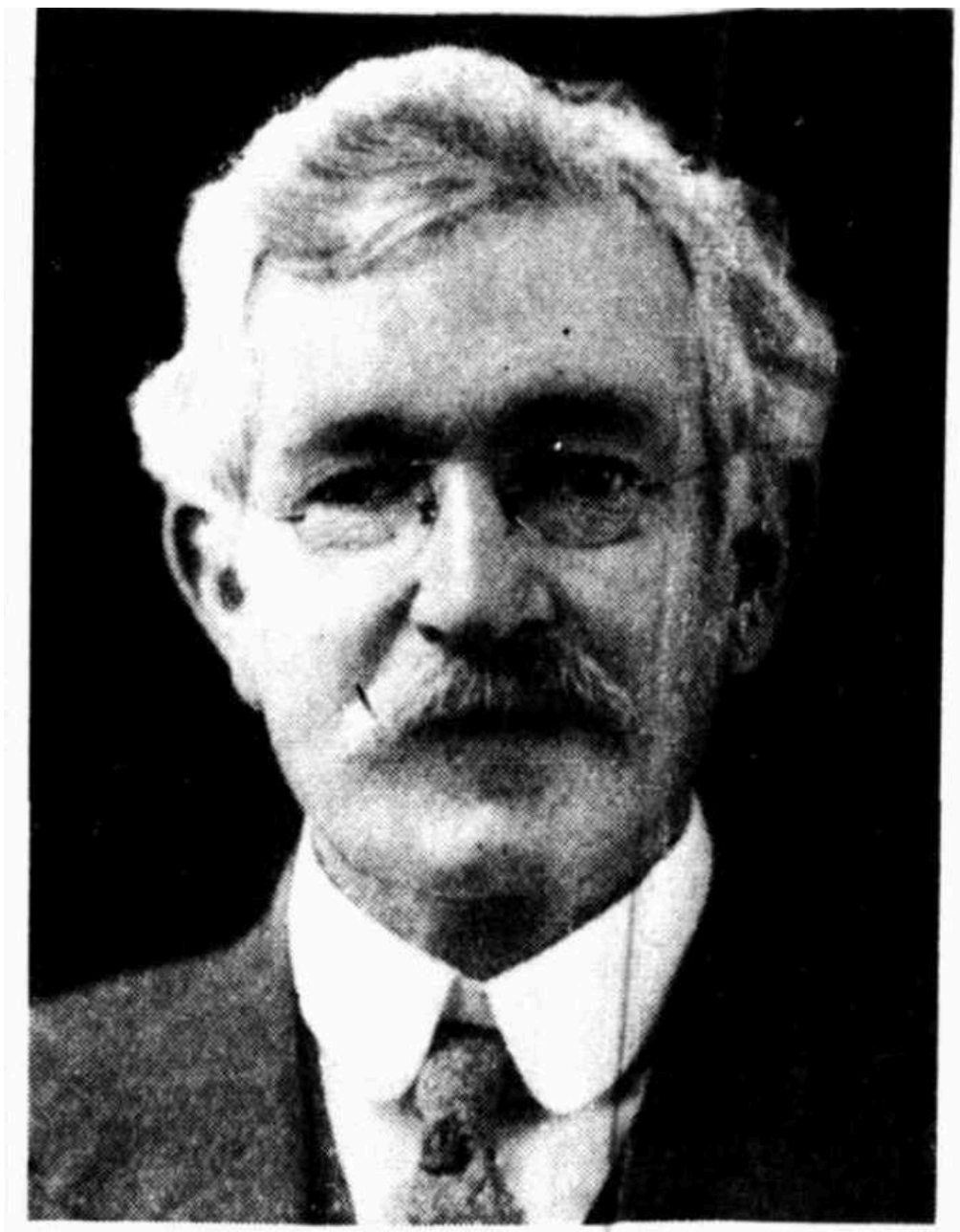


**THE DRUG DEALER WILLIAM EDWARD SHAW & THE
HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VARIOUS OCEAN
POOLS AT AUSTINMER NSW BETWEEN 1912 AND 1938**



Mr. William Edward Shaw Junior (1852-1926) was a long-serving managing director of the British-Australasian Tobacco Co., Ltd., and was prominent in commercial and church life. He was also noted for his gifts to charity.

A native of Raymond Terrace on the Hunter River, Mr. William Edward Shaw (born 1852) was born in 1852 and attended Fort-street school in Sydney. He first entered into commercial life in the early '1870s in the office of Messrs. George A. Lloyd and Company.

That enterprise conducted an extensive business in overseas shipping, mainly based on Californian wheat and flour and Eastern products. These extensive activities,

together with insurance agency and general shipping business, afforded Edward Shaw with every facility for acquiring some very broad commercial knowledge.

By the late 1870s W. E. Shaw had entered the service of Messrs. Dixon and Sons, tobacco manufacturers. Mr Hugh (later Sir Hugh) Dixon, being his brother-in-law.

William Edward Shaw's sister was thus the well-known Lady Dixon (born 1841) of Summer Hill. She died in 1922.¹

Her husband, Sir Hugh, died at Colombo in 1926.

Sir Hugh Dixon was himself the son of a tobacco manufacturer in George Street Sydney who had a factory in Wynyard Square. After coming of age, Sir Hugh joined his father's business and it eventually grew to be one of the greatest of its kind in Australia. He also became a director of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, a sometime chairman of the City Bank of Sydney, and President of the New South Wales Baptist Union. *Who's Who In Australia* notes that Sir Hugh was prominent in religious and philanthropic movements, and was a noted horticulturist. His garden at Summer Hill was even believed to contain more rare plants than any other in New South Wales, excepting the NSW Botanic Garden.²

But it was Sir Hugh's brother-in-law, William Edward Shaw, who appears to have been one of the prime movers in helping to build up the tobacco business to its very considerable proportions. In 1899 the firm was known as Dixon and Son, Ltd, and later became the Dixon Tobacco Co, Ltd, which occupied the site of the "T. and G" buildings at the corner of Park and Elizabeth streets, Sydney. In 1903 it amalgamated with the Cameron Company of Melbourne into the present British-Australasian Tobacco Co. Pty. Ltd, and in 1904 was re-created as the British Tobacco Co. (Australia) Ltd., with an issued capital of £5 million at the time William Edward Shaw was elected chairman.

In short, the man who later became Mr W.E. Shaw of Austinmer was not at all broke – and, like even more than his brother-in-law went in for religious pursuits and philanthropy in a spectacularly big way.

Apart from his commercial pursuits, Mr Shaw was an extraordinarily ardent churchman. Closely associated with numerous institutions of the Church of England, he was one of their most generous supporters. He was a member of the Anglican Synod, a member of the Committee of the Church Missionary Society for 32 years, a member of the Church Council, and was later appointed Life Governor. He also became a Life Governor and Trustee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, a member of Moore College near Sydney University, a trustee and member of the Advisory Committee of the Church of England Homes at the Glebe, a trustee and member of the Church of England Deaconess Institute and of the Church of England Children's Home at Marrickville – along with being a member of the committee of the Open Air Campaigners.

¹ *Sydney Morning Herald* 13 Apr 1922 p 10 DEATH OF LADY DIXSON.

² *The Week* (Brisbane) 21 May 1926 p 23

In this last role he assisted the conduct of some very large and long running 'Beach Missions' at Austinmer. For many years Mr Shaw was also vice-president of the Y.M.C.A.

At St Andrew's Church of England at Summer Hill (near where he established a grand home named "Penlee") he became a church warden for 28 years and devoted a good deal of his busy life to its service.

Mr William Edward Shaw had married Miss Emma H. Vallack.³ She was the only daughter of Mr. R. G. Vallack, senior partner of W. Gardiner and Co. (Warehousemen) who amalgamated with Sargood and Co., Ltd. He and his wife had two sons - Captain, W. E. V. Shaw, B.Sc., and Dr. R. G. Shaw, of Mosman and one daughter, Mrs. J. Mazel who resided in Holland.

By mid 1916 W. E. Shaw and his wife, Emma, had retired almost completely from the commercial world into private life and they began living on a more or less full-time basis at Austinmer, one of the most picturesque spots on the South Coast.

Among his munificent gifts on his departure from Summer Hill was that of his beautiful residence, "Penlee," to the Edith Cavell Memorial Association as a Rest Home for Nurses.⁴



The Cavell Memorial Home, opened by His Excellency the Governor, at "Penlee," Prospect Road, Summer Hill, donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Shaw, as a rest home for nurses who have served in the war. — ("Mirror" Exclusive.)

³ Emma was said to be an excellent public speaker, skilled at holding "the interest of her audience" and possessed of "a charming personality" when she later opened the Church of England Hostel in Corrimal Street Wollongong in 1921. (*Illawarra Mercury* 28 January 1921 p 6)

⁴ *The Mirror of Australia* (Sydney) 13 January 1917

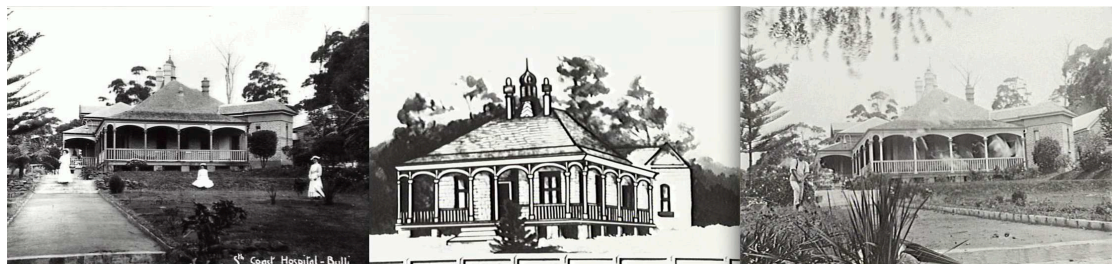


The Garden at the Shaw's residence "PENLEE" at Summer Hill⁵

William Shaw, however had been preparing for the move to Austinmer from Summer Hill for quite some time.

As early as June 1912 it was reported that a "new building" – a "cottage for W.E Shaw" - was to be built at Austinmer by John Myles and Sons of Woonona.⁶

Myles was no mug local builder and had already designed and built the original Bulli Cottage Hospital in 1893.



The original wing of Bulli Hospital built by John Myles

Just a month later additional approval was given by Bulli Shire Council for the erection of a "garage and sleeping room" on the same block above Austinmer beach.⁷

The house that was subsequently erected was very different to the Shaw's Summer Hill mansion. Nonetheless, "Keswick" (by which name it soon became known) faced the beach and had a verandah from which to admire the view - although the picket

⁵ *Sydney Mail* 14 June 1916 p 24 Handing Over the Keys of the Nurse Cavell Memorial Home.

⁶ *South Coast Times* 21 June 1912 p 9 Bulli Shire Council

⁷ *South Coast Times* 19 July 1912 p 4 Bulli Shire Council

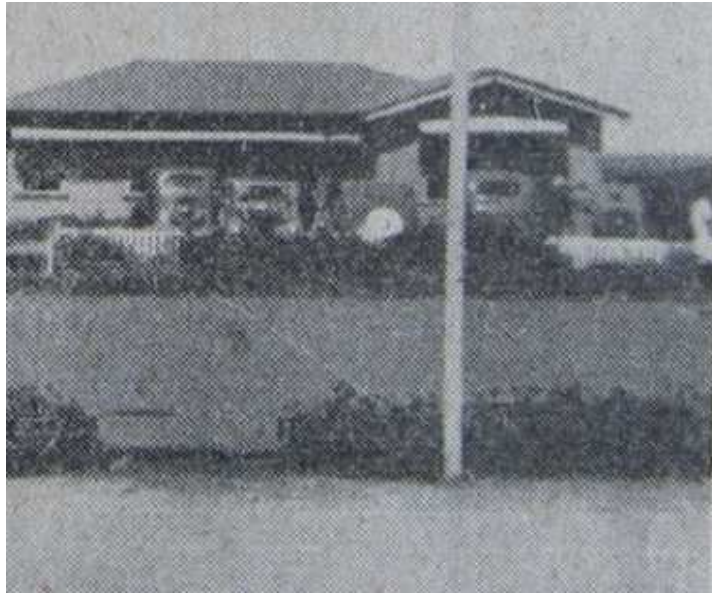
fence seen in this early photo was an exceedingly bad idea and improvements were soon made.



“Keswick” as it first appeared in 1912 (and that may well be Mr Shaw on the right)



Keswick (standing alone on the most beautiful part of the southern headland at Austinmer) after having undergone substantial modification



An image of a much later renovated version of the “garage and sleeping room” at Keswick taken from an advertisement from 1949

What “Keswick” was all about, however, was the view to the east. And that view remains to this very day one that is simply to die for. Even back in 1923 when Edward Shaw commissioned artist Charles Bryant to capture its likeness it was indeed an s pretty as picture



The view north from near “Keswick” at Austinmer c.1923 by Charles Bryant (1883-1937)



A drone view of “Keswick” from the sea looking southwest. The modern “Keswick” residence can be seen on the headland at the extreme left (4 March 2018)

It only took a couple of months in late 1912 before the Shaws moved into “Keswick” for the summer season that W.E Shaw went into action.

W. K. Shaw wrote that he was desirous of improving the bathing facilities for children on the rocks below the cliffs at Austinmer by enlarging small disconnected pools. The work would be done at his own expense. — Permission granted.⁸

Mr Shaw was trying to respond to the problem that paddlers (and others who were not strong swimmers) often found it difficult to access the shallow pools on the rock platform below “Keswick”.



Two postcard images depicting the southern rock platform at Austinmer before W. E. Shaw paid to create the first rock pool.

Mr Shaw’s initiative, however, soon started to cause him some distress. As a good Christian wowsler he stated to see some of the attire worn by young ladies attracted to his new rock pool.

⁸ *Illawarra Mercury* 8 November 1912 p 4

W. E. Shaw, Austinmer, enquired what by-laws the Council has in force to regulate bathing dress, and would like to see them posted up in some conspicuous place at Austinmer. On Friday, 3rd January, he noticed two young women walking through the main street clothed only in Canadian bathing costume, and these too small. The young women made no attempt to evade observation, but seemed rather to desire to attract it. If it is possible he would certainly endeavour to stop this sort of thing, and asked the Council's assistance. The immodest women are a menace to the surf-bathing resorts, and unless they are kept away or compelled to conform to decency it will prevent the desirable class of resident from visiting these places, which will naturally be to the detriment of the district. — It was decided that copies of the Council's regulations be exhibited at bathing resorts, and that the writer be informed the Council had appointed three beach inspectors for Austinmer.⁹

William Shaw's dismay and embarrassment was no doubt further heightened because, at the time, he had the Anglican Bishop of Armidale holidaying with him at "Keswick".¹⁰

Bulli Shire Council, however, seemed pleased with the idea of Mr. Shaw paying for the rock pool excavation.

The engineer reported that the excavation of rock at Austinmer to provide bathing facilities for children had been completed; and a wooden crossing over watertable complained of by Mr. Shaw had been constructed at the expense of the applicant.¹¹



A Rose Series Postcard c.1921 titled 'The Bathing Pool, Austinmer, South Coast.'

William Shaw then set about improving the cliff-face of the headland in front of his property order to make it safer for residents and visitors.

⁹ *Illawarra Mercury* 17 January 1913 p 5. "Canadian Bathing Costumes" were woollen swimming costume consisting of a pair of woollen pants fastened with a drawstring and extending halfway down the thighs, and a sleeveless guernsey, often in dark blue with white bands - originally two-piece but later one-piece.

¹⁰ *Illawarra Mercury* 31 January 1913 p 6

¹¹ *South Coast Times* 14 February 1913 p 3

W. E. Shaw stated that he had obtained the Council's sanction, and he is now erecting a substantial park railing fence along the seafront of the public reserve in front of his land and adjoining properties at Austinmer, and so render that part safe against accident. He was also clearing all the scrub, and levelling the ground to form a promenade, as this will be a distinct improvement he thought the Council should bear part of the cost, and provide steps to the beach.¹²



Part of the fence line originally constructed at the expense of W.E Shaw seen in 2014



The steps to the beach as seen in 2014 – a dozen of which were originally paid for by W.E. Shaw

Bulli Shire Council's engineer had the following to say in regard to Mr Shaw's request for council to contribute towards the funding of the steps

The engineer reported that Mr. W. E. Shaw had erected three chains of fencing between the ocean cliffs and the boundary of his and other adjacent allotments at Austinmer. A promenade, half a chain wide, had been cleared, including a dozen flagged steps leading towards the beach, which all looks very well, but as practically only the residents of four private houses are served by these improvements the question as to whether the Council

¹² *Illawarra Mercury* 23 May 1913 p 4

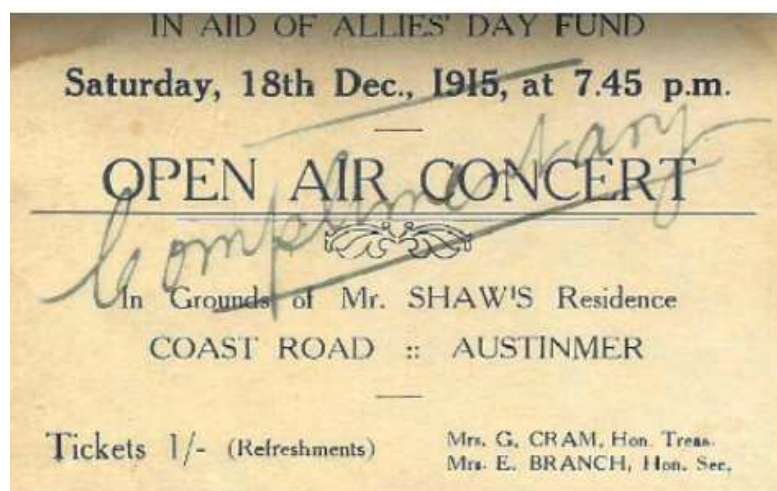
should contribute towards the cost of what has been done, is a matter for the Council to decide. — Council decided to take no action.¹³

Not only were the Shaws generous with their money for such semi-public works they also regularly lent their cliff top seafront home for concerts associated with the Austinmer Anglican Church. They continued to do this for many years and just one example of their generosity in opening up their home to the public is the following: “On Saturday evening last there was a large attendance to witness a concert and the operetta "Princess Chrysanthemum," in aid of the forthcoming bazaar on behalf of All Saints' Church of Eng-land, which is to be held about Easter time. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw kindly gave the use of their residence "Keswick" for the occasion.”¹⁴

The “garage” and attached “sleeping rooms” constructed at "Keswick" were also regularly in use during the summer months housing children and ministers of religion involved in the ‘Beach Evangelism’ for which Austinmer soon became well known. This had been the devout William Shaw’s clear intention from the outset and he had ensured he gained approval for an “attached...room intended to provide accommodation for Summer School students” way back in June 1912.¹⁵

Unhappy with Bulli Shire Council’s decision to not provide any funds for completion of the steps to the beach, “W. E. Shaw wrote that he intended, with Council's approval, to further improve the public reserve, Austinmer, by the erection of substantial steps with hand rail on the now almost impassable path down to the beach. He trusted that in the New Year the Council will have funds available for beach improvement purposes, and may then decide to recompense him wholly or in part.”¹⁶

Remarkably, a rather ostentatious invitation card to one of the many gatherings at Mrs and Mrs Shaw’s "Keswick" survives to this day – this time a fundraiser for one of the many exceedingly conservative and patriotic causes the Shaws wished to support.



This rare ‘Invitation Card’ courtesy of John Broadhead

¹³ *Illawarra Mercury* 18 July 1913 p 4

¹⁴ *South Coast Times* 19 January 1917 p 14

¹⁵ *South Coast Times* 7 June 1912 p 15

¹⁶ *Illawarra Mercury* 2 January 1914 p 5

THE SECOND OCEAN POOL



William Shaw's second Ocean Rock Baths at left (photo courtesy of Ian Foreman)

Not content with having paid for the construction of the first ocean baths in the rock platform at Austinmer, William Edward Shaw decided to plough on.

NEW BATHS, — The proposal to make a new baths near the surf beach is being taken with enthusiasm. Mr. W. E. Shaw, of Sydney, has donated £50 towards the proposal, and the Progress Association anticipate being able to go on with the work before long.

And as can be seen from the photo above Mr Shaw encouraged the “erection of a concrete wall on one side” and this, as it no doubt proved, “will be a great improvement when completed.”¹⁷

Even more impressively, Mr Shaw was determined to solve the major problem then facing Austinmer beach as a pleasure resort: the creek that ran straight through the middle of the beach.

BEACH IMPROVEMENTS. — The local Progress Association are considering a scheme to remedy the flow of water from the creek which commences near the railway station and empties across the Main South Coast Road on to the beach. This water has been a constant source of trouble for some years past, and it is now intended to devise some means of getting rid of the evil. A scheme has been submitted by a private engineer in which it is proposed to erect a small concrete wall underneath the bridge on the main road to a point near the southern headland, and then carry the water across the beach by means of a nine-inch pipe. This, it is pointed out, will be sufficient to carry off the water that has been such an annoyance for some considerable time. Mr. Shaw, a Sydney gentleman, has offered to lend the Progress Association the necessary money to carry out the work.¹⁸

¹⁷ *Illawarra Mercury* 27 April 1917 p 6. “The swimming pools” it was much later stated, “continue to be most popular, Mr. Shaw having defrayed all expense in connection with their improvement.” (*South Coast Times* 7 January 1921 p 17)

¹⁸ *Illawarra Mercury* 27 April 1917 p 6

Not quite as philanthropic as he had been previously, Mr Shaw was perhaps starting to think he'd now done enough for the community and Bulli shire Council appears to have finally taken some slight notice.

Bathing Pools. — It is pleasing to be able to report that the Bulli Shire Council has granted the sum of five pounds towards the cost of clearing the sand out of the bathing, pool. The thanks of this Association are conveyed to Councillor Wallace for his efforts in securing this grant. Last year this heavy work was undertaken by a band of willing workers, and to them are due the thanks of this Association also. Another pool is now being excavated in the rocks, and when its completed, we think it will be much availed of, as the flow of both low and high tides will reach it, and it will consequently be continuously full of fresh sea water. This pool is being donated by Mr W. E. Shaw, and we wish to place on record here the appreciation of this Association of the work done and the interest shown in Austinmer and its welfare by that gentleman.

Building the new rock baths to the east of the existing rocks baths posed problems for those constructing it.

Messrs. Lawrence, and Langdon have made a start with the work of construction of the new swimming baths but as they can only work when the tide is low progress is naturally somewhat restricted. Mr. Shaw, of Sydney, is providing the money to construct these baths, thus adding to his already long list of contributions towards the improvement of the beach.”¹⁹

Thanks largely to the efforts of Mr Shaw, Bulli Shire Council was now starting to realise that Austinmer Beach was becoming a very popular local tourist attraction and they had even facilitated the erection of a beach kiosk that looked none too shabby.

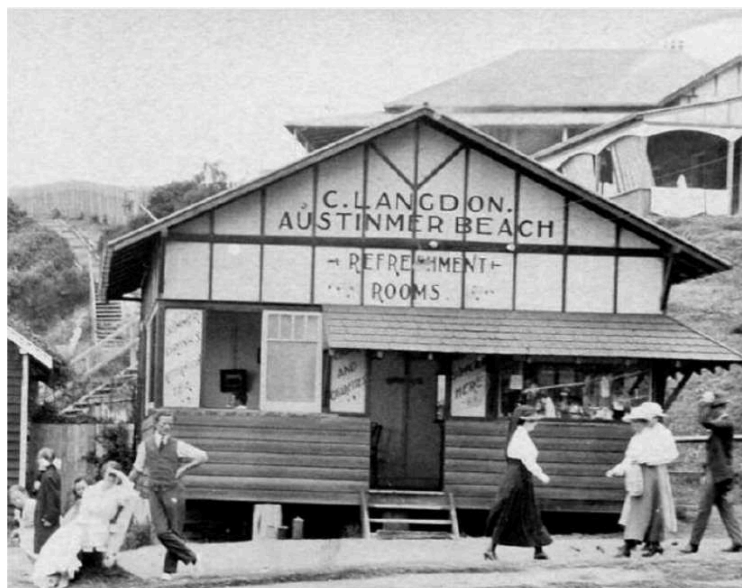


Photo c. 1918 courtesy of Jim Langdon (Mr Shaw's steps to the beach can be seen in the left background

Sydney's bourgeoisie had now begun to construct residences beside Mr. Shaw's "Keswick" in what was now the dress circle of seaside Austinmer and – as it is today

¹⁹ *South Coast Times* 9 November 1917 p 11

– if you lived in Sydney and were well-heeled then you were being a fool to yourself and a burden to others if you didn't own at least a holiday house in leafy Austinmer.



This undated photograph shows Mr and Mrs Shaw's "Keswick" residence at the extreme left and also some of the neighbouring houses that grew up beside it to the north once people saw how much the site had been improved upon.

It turns out, however, that Mr William Shaw had been not quite as magnanimous with providing funds for the second ocean pool as he had been for the first. Austinmer Surf Club soon reported that they were forced into a situation where "no further money be spent until the loan from Mr. W. E. Shaw for "making the second pool be liquidated."²⁰

From that point on Most of Mr Shaw's later 'donations' to the Austinmer community appear to have been in the form of low interest loans at 4 percent per annum.²¹

The conduct of the war was now receiving some of Mr Shaw's attention and in the same month Mr. Shaw was again engaging in patriotic activities

MILITARY. — The people of Austinmer were yesterday honored with a surprise visit of over 100 men of the Australian Light Horse from the military camp at Menangle. The men were in charge of Brigadier-General Antill and camped in the spacious grounds of Mr. W. E. Shaw where the camp and garage were placed at their disposal, and there they camped for the night.²²

Much more commendably, in his spare time Mr. Shaw also went on, with remarkable foresight, to engage in agitation to have the Illawarra escarpment between Bulli Pass and Coledale protected from being developed.²³

²⁰ *Illawarra Mercury* 25 January 1918 p 5

²¹ *Illawarra Mercury* 3 January 1919 p 2. "Accounts totalling £89/1/- were passed for payment, and which included two instalments of £37/10/- to Mr. W. B. Shaw" (*Illawarra Mercury* 20 February 1920 p 8).

²² *Illawarra Mercury* 25 January 1918 p 5

²³ *Illawarra Mercury* 2 Feb 1923 p 3 MOUNTAIN SLOPES.

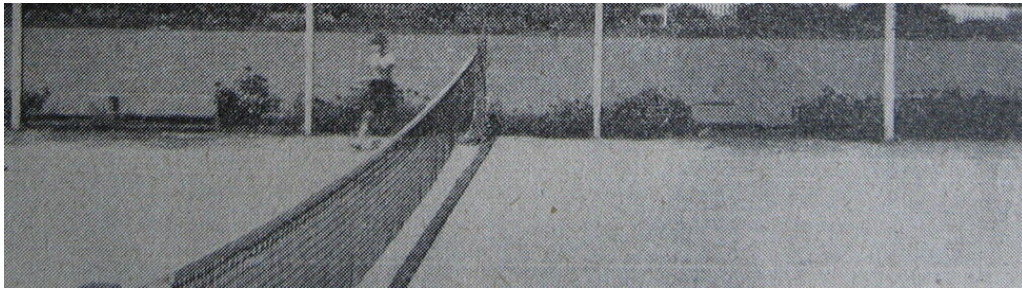


The escarpment above Austinmer and Thirroul

Despite his often repellent patriotism and conservatism, all things considered Mr Shaw's initiatives are a pretty impressive set of interventions on the part of a private citizen and lots of people should be very grateful today for what he achieved.

Oh for the return of a time when public-spirited conservatives still believed that free public swimming pools were preferable to private ones.

What's more, Mr Shaw's philanthropy also extended to sport and there was even a "meeting of members of the Austinmer Tennis Club" at the "formal opening ceremony at the new court on Mr. Shaw's grounds" in March 1921.²⁴



The tennis court at Keswick seen here taken from an advertisement from 1949

And when in 1922 The Progress Association decided that "one drawback in Austinmer, and that was the need for more means of recreation among the older gentlemen", Mr Shaw (as Vice President, along with Mr Boyce and Mr Wheatley), "suggested that the Association build a bowling green, thereby giving the resort an added attraction."²⁵ Mr Shaw, as is obvious from the above, had expended quite a bit of cash on the town and was by the start of the 1920s hoping, with considerable over-optimism, to try to recover some of it by various means.

One of his schemes was to suggest the following to Bulli Shire Council.

A letter was received from Mr. Shaw, suggesting that Miss Hurley (postmistress) be approached with a view to having a notice board with glass front placed in a conspicuous position in the post office, containing printed

²⁴ *South Coast Times* 18 march 1921 p 7. See also *Illawarra Mercury* 3 September 1920 p 7

²⁵ *Illawarra Mercury* 3 Feb 1922 p 9

matter explaining to visitors the vast amount of work done to improve the beach, such work having been paid for by voluntary subscription, and also making a general appeal for additional assistance. Mr. Shaw further suggested that cards setting forth the privileges provided for the visitors to Austinmer, and also containing an appeal for donations, be placed in the boarding houses and business premises. Mr. Shaw offered to provide the cards. The suggestions were agreed to and the offer was accepted with thanks.²⁶

The scheme, however, appears to have achieved only limited response – yet, nonetheless Mr Shaw’s good works continued apace.

Orphanage Children.

Over 40 children arrived here on Tuesday from the Marrickville C. of E. Orphanage. They are in charge of the Matron of the hospital, and are located in a furnished cottage, Mr. W. E. Shaw has kindly lent a building attached to his garage for cooking purposes.²⁷

By 1920 the Shaws were getting on in years and were no longer staying most of the year at Austinmer. The local gossip in mid 1919 was that “Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Shaw, who have been residing at Austinmer, are now staying at Petty's Hotel, and will remain there for the winter months.”²⁸ Petty's Hotel — then one of the most expensive places of its kind in Sydney - was located in York Street. It was acknowledged in the late nineteenth century “to hold the premier position as the aristocratic hotel and select resort in Sydney.”²⁹



Petty’s Hotel was a Sydney landmark. It traded for over a century as a hotel, before closing on September 1, 1950, having been sold to the Red Cross.³⁰

Before leaving Austinmer to winter in Sydney, William Shaw “generously agreed to lend Austinmer Surf Club the sum of £200 to build a club building at Austinmer.”³¹

²⁶ *South Coast Times* 14 May 1920 p 19. Some reimbursement for Mr Shaw may have occurred when the engineer recommended that 300 yards of metal excavated from the baths be purchased at 6/s [per yard] provided it is carted on to the Grove-Road. Austinmer.” (*Illawarra Mercury* 9 March 1917)

²⁷ *Illawarra Mercury* 27 February 1920 p 4

²⁸ *The Sun* (Sydney) 8 June 1919 p. 14 Social Gossip

²⁹ One enthusiastic booster declared: "At Petty's the old and the new are locked in close embrace. Solid and massive in structure, with a constant regard to convenience and comfort, it is also the home of all that is modern in art, marvellous in science, and magnificent in upholstery." It was originally the home of Dr. Dunmore Lang, Sydney's most famous Presbyterian minister in colonial days, who supervised the building of Scots Church nearby, and then for over a century Petty's Hotel.”

³⁰ *Sydney Morning Herald* 2 September 1950

Unfortunately, the club members built it on land still owned by the estate of Sir George Wigram Allen (Allen, Allen & Hemsley) and no end of disputation continued before the Council was able to buy back that section of the beach for public use.³²

William Shaw even helped out the god-fearing Anglican Austinmer parishioners who were too scared not to attend church during the Influenza Pandemic that struck Australia in 1919.

OPEN AIR SERVICE. — During the influenza embargo, Mr. W. E Shaw has kindly loaned his grounds for the holding of divine service on Sunday evenings, and the first of these was held on Sunday night last. Mr. Shaw has installed special lights in the grounds. The service was conducted by the Rev. Reid.³³

The Shaws even held a "Welcome Home" for the soldiers who had brought the influenza pandemic with them and a "large gathering was held in Mr Shaw's motor garage."³⁴

Apparently the Shaw family themselves were not much scared of disease and when the headmaster of Trinity Grammar in Sydney feared a collapse of the school due to the measles and influenza epidemics of 1918-19 he moved, on the encouragement of Mr Shaw, the boarders to Austinmer.³⁵

This was surprising as the Shaws had spent most of late 1918 "at the mountains" with Mr Shaw "recuperating" from an unspecified "severe illness."³⁶

But old age and illness would finally put an end to Mr Shaw's good works and, still a rich man, he died in 1926. His widow, Emma, dying at "Keswick" in Austinmer in 1929 and left behind a large amount of cash in her own right.

LATE MRS. E. H. V. SHAW.

Probate has been granted of the will of the late Mrs Emma Harriett Vallack Shaw, widow, of Austinmer, who died on May 5 last, leaving an estate of the net value of £59,995. Testatrix, who was 72 years of age, appointed her son, Dr Richard Glinn Vallack Shaw, medical practitioner, of Cremorne, and Mr H. L. Tress, solicitor, of Sydney, her executors and trustees. She bequeathed £620 to the NSW branch of the Church Missionary Society, towards payment of the salary of the Bishop of Tanganyika Territory, Eastern Africa, and the residue of her estate to her children, R. G. V. Shaw, William Edward Vallack Shaw and Dorothy Vallack Mazell, wife of Adrian Julien Mazell.³⁷

³¹ *South Coast Times* 31 January 1919 p 5

³² *Illawarra Mercury* 23 July 1920 p 2 A Rift in the Lute

³³ *South Coast Times* 28 February 1919 p 8

³⁴ *Illawarra Mercury* 31 January 1919 p 8

³⁵ As well as utilising Mr Shaw's facilities, the Rev. Chambers' Austinmer cottage, 'Swanwick,' also housed the students. For the later detail see Phillip J. Heath, "An examination of Trinity Grammar School, Sydney, 1913, 1976," unpublished MA Thesis, University of Wollongong, 1989, p 90.

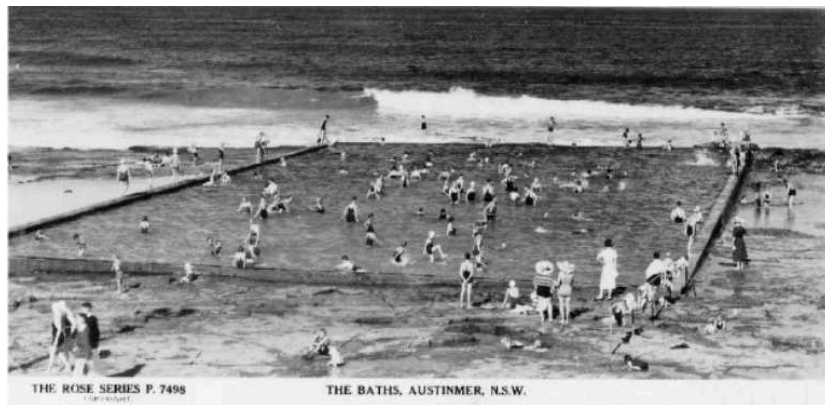
³⁶ *Illawarra Mercury* 29 November 1918 p 4

³⁷ *Sydney Morning Herald* 10 July 1929 p 12

William Edward Shaw's own funeral service held in 1926 at St Andrew's Church, Summer Hill had been very largely attended by the good and the great of Sydney and Austinmer – and a vast roll call of the *Who's Who* in NSW who were in attendance was later published in a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.³⁸

Ocean Pool building, however, continued on an even a larger scale at Austinmer in the years after both Mr and Mrs Shaw had died.

Just a decade or more after the various more rudimentary ocean pools were blasted from the rock platform, one large more formal ocean rock pool would grace the beach from December 1930.



Then, in 1938, to coincide with the building of the new brick art deco kiosk a second large ocean pool was constructed alongside the one built in 1930.



The Ocean Pool constructed in 1938 seen at right

³⁸ *Sydney Morning Herald* Saturday 1 January 1927 p 13)

Both pools remain today and continue to be much enjoyed by locals and tourists alike. They still looked good almost 20 years after the construction of the second rock pool.



A photo taken January 1956 (courtesy of Barbara Willis and Eric Riddler) showing the more modern version of “Keswick” in the far distance on the headland and the new brick kiosk that replaced the earlier timber and fibro version

And they looked as good (if not better) in 2018 by which time the 1938 brick art deco kiosk has been long replaced by a sympathetic new surf club house designed by Austinmer local Ron Forbes.



Perhaps Austinmer could today do with a few more public-spirited drug dealers of great wealth like William Edward Shaw – although some slightly less conservative and wowserish ones might be even more preferable.

Joseph Davis

March 2018