

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of Alfred Charles Shields

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of Alfred Charles Shields (known to all as Alf).

Those details are –

Born on 22nd February 1905 at The Women's Hospital, Crown Street, Surry Hills, New South Wales.

Born to parents Hugh Henry Shields and Emily Felicita Shields nee Noblet.

Married on 17th August 1929 at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney to Dorothy Agnes Ludlam.

Died on 20th April 1991 at 18 Bluehills Road, O'Halloran Hill, South Australia.

Alf was cremated, and his ashes are interred under a plaque at Individual Tree 17, Acacia Court Gardens, Centennial Park Cemetery, Pasadena, South Australia.

Alf's birth and parentage

Kath Palyga's papers included a birth certificate for Alf.

It confirms that he was born in the "District of Sydney" on 22nd February 1905 at The Women's Hospital, Crown Street. That hospital was then at the corner of Crown Street and Albion Street, Surry Hills, New South Wales. It was closed in 1983.¹

It also confirms that his father was Hugh Henry Shields, and that his mother was Emilie Felicity Shields, and that her maiden name was Noblet. (Her forenames are spelled Emily Felicita in her birth certificate, see the brief relating to Emily Felicita Shields, nee Noblet).

Hugh is described as aged 23, born in Balmain, and a Carrier's Carter (as Alf also stated in his memoirs).

Emilie is described as aged 25, born in Newcastle, and living at 73 Crown Street, which appears to be in Woolloomooloo and a kilometre north of The Women's Hospital.

Nurses Holt and Young witnessed the birth.

¹ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_Street_Women%27s_Hospital. That notes that the hospital was at 351 Crown Street, but Google Maps has it further north at 151 Crown Street on the corner of Chapel Street, although it notes it as "permanently closed". Perhaps that was a satellite site.

Form No. 2.

M. No. of Application 17745,53.



1905. BIRTHS in the District of Sydney, in the State of New South Wales.

Registered by William Gordon Hayes-Williams Registrar General.

Column.		
1	Number in Register ..	605. 605.
Child—		
2	When and where born..	22nd February 1905. The Women's Hospital. Crown Street.
3	Name, and whether present or not.	Alfred Charles. Present.
4	Sex	Male.
Parents—		
FATHER—		
5	Name and Surname rank or profession of the father, age, and birthplace.	Hugh Henry Shields. Carrier's Carter. 23 years. Balmain, Sydney.
6	When and where married, previous issue living and deceased.	16th July 1904. Sydney. N.S.W.
MOTHER—		
7	Name and maiden surname of the mother, age and birthplace.	Emilie Felicity Noblet. 25 years. Newcastle. N.S.W.
Informant—		
8	Signature, description, and residence of informant.	Emilie Felicity Shields. Mother. 73 Crown Street.
Witnesses—		
9	Accoucheur, Nurse, or names of witnesses.	Nurse Holt. Nurse Young.
Registrar—		
10	Signature of Deputy Registrar General, date, and where registered.	Wm. Ridley. 20th March 1905. Sydney.
11	Name, if added after registration of birth.	

I, **Theodore le More Wells** Registrar General,
do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the particulars in an
entry in a Register of Births kept at the Registrar General's Office,
Sydney, New South Wales, and extracted this **31st** day
of **March 1953**.

Registrar General,

A. H. PETTIFER,

GOVT. PRINTER.



Kath Palyga's papers also included the below "Certificate of an Entry in Register of Births" for her father Alfred Charles Shields, which also confirms that he was born on 22nd February 1905 at Sydney.

P.
19
Sand Park

69 Abattoir Rd
Rogella

Form No. 6. **NEW SOUTH WALES.**

Application No. 191 9/2446



Registrar General's Department,
Sydney, 3rd March, 1919.

CERTIFICATE OF AN ENTRY IN REGISTER OF BIRTHS.

No. of Entry 805/05

I hereby certify that an entry in a Register of Births kept in this Office in pursuance of the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act, No. 17 of 1899, gives the following particulars concerning the Birth of

Alfred Charles Shields,

Date of Birth 22nd February, 1905,

Birthplace Sydney.

W. R. Spence

Deputy Registrar General.

7211 St 2304

lm

Alf's marriage

Kath Palyga's papers included the original certificate of marriage for her father.

The certificate is as follows, and confirms Alf's marriage details as given above, namely that he married on 17th August 1929 at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney to Dorothy Agnes Ludlam.

(This is the only document that suggests that Alf had a third forename "Joseph". The documents above confirm that he was not registered as having that third forename at birth, and he never mentioned the name, or the fact of a third forename, in his lifetime to his grandson Steve Palyga).

No. 21.

St 4449

NEW SOUTH

WALES.

N^o.N^o. C 280095

IN MINISTER'S REGISTER.

SCHEDULE.

REGISTRAR'S No.

MARRIAGE ACT, No. 15, 1899.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

Insert Christian and
Surname in full of
Minister or
Registrar.

Insert Designation.

Place.

Insert Christian and
Surname of Bride-
groom at full length
Insert Designation,
Residence, and
Condition of Bride-
groom.Insert Christian and
Surname of Bride at
full length.Insert Designation,
Residence, and
Condition of Bride.N.B.—"Condition."
Bachelor—Spinster,
Widower—Widow,
Divorced, or
Divorced (Petition-
er), as the case
may be.I, Joseph Alphonsus O'Donnell being
a Catholic Priestdo hereby Certify that I have this day at St. Marys Cathedral
Sydney duly celebrated Marriage betweenAlfred Charles Joseph Shields, Motor Mechanic
Bachelor, Reichhardtand Dorothy Agnes Ludlam, Domestic Duties
Spinster, Hurstville

after declaration duly made before me as by law required.

DATED this 14th day of August, 1929.Joseph A. O'Donnell{ Signature of Minister
or Registrar }Alfred Shields

(Bridegroom.)

Signatures of Parties
to Marriage.Dorothy Ludlam

(Bride.)

Signatures of
Witnesses.John B. MooreJosephine LudlamVide Sections 5, 23,
and 24, Marriage
Act, No. 15, 1899.

**"The declaration on the back hereof must be duly made and signed,
otherwise the parties and the officiating Minister or Registrar are
liable to the punishment by law provided in that behalf."**

The witnesses were John Moore, Alf's best man and also his best friend (and who subsequently married Alf's sister Nell), and Dorothy's sister Josephine Ludlam (subsequently Josie Scarra).



This is the reverse side of the certificate:

DECLARATION BEFORE DISTRICT REGISTRAR OR MINISTER.

Bridegroom's name, designation or employment, residence condition.
Oath, or Declaration by Affirmation.
Majority attained or written consent (if not a widower).
Vide Sections 9 and 10, Marriage Act, No. 15, 1899.
Bride's name, designation or employment, residence condition.
Father's name, residence, and designation.

I, Alfred Charles Joseph Shields, Motor Mechanic of Leichhardt, Bachelor being duly sworn, do on my oath declare ~~for~~ do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm—that I have attained the age of twenty-one years—~~or~~—that I have duly obtained the written consent required by the Marriage Act, No. 15, 1899—and I believe there is no impediment or lawful objection by reason of any kindred relationship, or alliance, or any former marriage, or the want of consent of parents or guardians, or any other lawful cause, to my being married to Dorothy Agnes Rudlam, Domestic Duties of Hurstville, Spinster daughter of Alfred Charles Rudlam of Hurstville, Motor Mechanic and I hereby further declare that I have full knowledge that if I swear or affirm falsely I shall be guilty of perjury, and be liable to be punished accordingly.

(Signature of Bridegroom) Alfred Shields

AND I, the said Dorothy Agnes Rudlam, Spinster being duly sworn, do on my oath declare ~~for~~ do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm—that I have attained the age of twenty-one years—~~or~~—that I have duly obtained the written consent required by the Marriage Act, No. 15, 1899—and I believe there is no impediment or lawful objection, by reason of any kindred relationship, or alliance, or any former marriage, or the want of consent of parents or guardians, or any other lawful cause, to my being married to the said Alfred Charles Joseph Shields and I hereby further declare that I have full knowledge that if I swear or affirm falsely I shall be guilty of perjury, and be liable to be punished accordingly.

(Signature of Bride) Dorothy Rudlam

DECLARED and sworn—~~or~~—and affirmed—by both parties named, this 14th day of August, 1929. Before me,

Signature and Designation of Minister or Registrar. Joseph A. O'Donnell Catholic Chaplain

N.B.—ATTACH WRITTEN CONSENT TO CERTIFICATE FOR REGISTRAR

*Father, Guardian by appointment, Mother, Guardian of Minors. Vide Sections 9, 10, and 11, Marriage Act, No. 15, 1899.

THE CONSENT OF* being the
of the Bridegroom, was given in writing to the marriage.

THE CONSENT OF* being the
of the Bride, was given in writing to the Marriage.

	Birthplace.		Age last Birthday.	†Father's Christian Name and Surname.	Father's Rank or Profession.	†Mother's Christian Name and Maiden Surname.
	Town or County.	Country.				
BRIDE-GROOM	<u>Surry Hills</u>	<u>N.S.W.</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Hugh Henry Shields</u>	<u>Builder</u>	<u>Emily Noblett Dec.</u>
BRIDE	<u>Sydney</u>	<u>N.S.W.</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Alfred Charles Rudlam</u>	<u>Motor Mechanic</u>	<u>Florence Evelyn Shanahan</u>

87-4449 If deceased, the fact should be stated.

The certificate states that Alf was a 24 year old Motor Mechanic, and was born in Surry Hills, NSW, and that his parents were Hugh Henry Shields and Emily Noblett (deceased).

And that Dorothy was also 24, and born in Sydney, NSW, and her parents were Alfred Charles Ludlam and Florence Evelyn Shanahan. (In fact, having been born on 1st August 1901, Dorothy had just turned 28).

Alf's death

Kath Palyga's papers included the original certificate of death for her father.

The certificate is as follows, and confirms Alf's death details as given above, namely he died on 20th April 1991 at 18 Bluehills Road, O'Halloran Hill, South Australia.

The certificate also confirms that Alf was cremated at Centennial Park on 23rd April 1991.

District of	ADELAIDE	No. 1	19 91
Surname.. .. .	SHIELDS		
Other names	ALFRED CHARLES		
Date of death	20/04/1991		
Place of death	18 BLUEHILLS ROAD, O'HALLORAN HILL		
Date of burial, cremation or other disposal of body .. .	23/04/1991		
Place of burial, cremation or other disposal of body .. .	CENTENNIAL PARK CREMATORIUM		
Sex	MALE		
Age	86 years		
Occupation	MOTOR MECHANIC		
Usual Residence	18 BLUEHILLS ROAD, O'HALLORAN HILL 5158		
Place of Birth	SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES		
Length of residence in Commonwealth	years NATIVE		
Conjugal status	MARRIED		
Age at first marriage	24 years		
Name of Spouse	DOROTHY AGNES SHIELDS		
Total issue	Living	M. 3 F.	Deceased M. 1 F.
Cause of death.. .. .			Duration
	CARCINOMATOSIS		
	CARCINOMA ASCENDING COLON		
INFORMANT: Name	E.I. BAXTER		
Description	DAUGHTER OF DECEASED		
Residence	O'HALLORAN HILL		
Name of Undertaker	WHITE LADY FUNERALS		
Address	PLYMPTON		
Date of registration	23/04/1991		

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Entered at the Principal Registry Office this

23 04
..... day of

Lidia Kaminski
Pro Registrar

03314

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION OFFICE
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of an Entry in a Register kept in this office in the State of South Australia. Given under my hand and seal

Principal Registrant:



ZIP FORM TELEPHONE (08) 373 1584

Kath Palyga's papers also included a collage of death and funeral notices, and an obituary, which appeared in Adelaide's daily newspaper *The Advertiser* on 22nd and 23rd April 1991, as follows:

38 The Advertiser, Monday, April 22, 1991

SHIELDS, Alfred Charles. — Peacefully at his daughter's home on April 20, 1991.
Aged 86 years.
Beloved husband of Dorothy.
Loving father of Kath, Josie, Barbara (deceased) and Bette.
A fond father-in-law.
Wonderful grandfather of nineteen grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren.
Loved brother and uncle of Nell, Moore and children (N.S.W.).

Most loved and loving father of Kath and Mick Palyga.
Grandpa of Helen, Stephen, David and Rosemary and their families.
Special thanks to Bette and Josie.

Much loved father of Josie Maxian and loving grandpa of Claudia and Peter.

Much loved father of Bette Baxter.
Respected father-in-law of Chris and the late Walter Dunsmore.
Fond grandfather of Jennifer, Gregory, Douglas and Phillip.

SHIELDS, Alfred. — A happy fun loving grandfather who will be sadly missed — Rose and Kym.



SHIELDS, Alf. — Members of the Racing Drivers' Assoc. of S.A. wish to extend their sincere sympathy to the family of Alf Shields, a respected Member, former car owner and promoter of Rowley Park Speedway. Members' attention is drawn to the funeral arrangements in today's paper.
C.J. McCarthy, President
J.E. Alexander, Secretary

SHIELDS. — THE FUNERAL SERVICE for the late Mr. ALFRED CHARLES SHIELDS will be conducted at 10 a.m. on TUESDAY, April 23, 1991 in the Florey Chapel, Jubilee Complex, Centennial Park.

In lieu of flowers a donation in Alf's memory to The Southern Hospice Association, Daw Park Hospice, Goodwood Road, Daw Park, 5041 would be appreciated.

WHITE LADY FUNERALS
209 Anzac Highway, Plympton
Phone 371 1040

The Advertiser, Tuesday, April 23, 1991 5



SHIELDS, Alfred Charles. — Beloved father and father-in-law of Barbara (deceased) and Jim Guidera. A most special grandfather and friend to Irish and Andrew, Pete, Tim and Meredith, Andy, Nick, Tony and Melana, Brendan, Angela and Dan and his eight great-grandchildren. — Warm memories of great times and always our special link with Mum.

SHIELDS, Alf. — A man of many talents who gave inspiration and learning to all who knew him. A traveller, a mechanic, an ex promoter, an honored and respected friend for over 40 years.
Beryl and Ron Smith

SHIELDS, Alf. — Members of the South Australian Classic Speedway Association of S.A. wish to extend their sincere sympathy to the family of Alf Shields. Admired member of the Speedway World, ex rider, driver, builder, promoter. Sadly missed by all who knew and respected his enthusiasm and pearls of wisdom for the sport he loved.

OBITUARY

Speedway promoter

Alf Shields, a promoter of the Rowley Park Speedway during the burgeoning days of the sport in the 1950s, died at the weekend, aged 86.

Mr Shields took over promotion of the track in 1951, operating it successfully until 1954, when its promotion was taken on by Kym Bonython, who combined racing and promotion.

The Torrens Rd speedway opened in 1949 and during its early years ran at the same time as the rival track at Kilburn.

Mr Shields ran the speedway as a family business, with his wife and children involved.

He is survived by his widow and three of his four daughters.

Burial

Alf's ashes are buried under the following plaque at Individual Tree 17, Acacia Court Gardens, Centennial Park Cemetery, Pasadena SA (previously interred at Native Shrub Walk, Shrub Area E, Position 15).



Photo attribution: the photo is at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152449051/dorothy-agnes-shields>.

See also the cemetery map at https://centennialpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Centennial-Park_Map_June_2025_Hi_Res.pdf.

Confirmation of parentage – Hugh Shields meets his great-grandson

Hugh Shields is known to be Alf's father through direct personal contact in that Alf Shields introduced his grandson Stephen Palyga to his father Hugh "Hughie" Shields and his second wife Betty Stutzel at their retirement village home in Old Toongabbie in Sydney in 1972.