



Professor
AGL Shaw AO

3 February 1916 - 5 April 2012

A Tribute

It is with great sadness that the death of Professor Alan George Lewers Shaw AO, former President of the La Trobe Society, is recorded.

Professor Shaw, popularly known as 'AGL', is acclaimed as the historian of the colonial period of Australia's history, his Gipps-La Trobe Correspondence and A History of the Port Phillip District being two of his most influential works.

He was President of the La Trobe Society from 2002 to 2003 and continued to give typically wise counsel on many of its efforts in promoting recognition and understanding of the achievements of Victoria's first Lieutenant Governor.

A founding member of the La Trobe Society, he generously supported the commissioning of the fine bronze statue of Charles Joseph La Trobe by sculptor Peter Corlett OAM which stands on the forecourt of the State Library of Victoria, recognising that such a tribute to this visionary administrator was long overdue. In 2010, Professor Shaw sponsored a La Trobe Society Fellowship under the umbrella of the State Library, and this will lead to the publication of a fascinating approach to Port Phillip's colonial past, including a biography of Henry Condell, first Mayor of Melbourne, by Dr Helen MacDonald.

Professor Shaw was a founding member of the Committee of the Friends of the La Trobe Library, now the State Library of Victoria Foundation, and a member of the Library Council of Victoria from 1976 to 1985. He continually supported scholarship at the State Library, most recently hosting the *AGL Shaw Summer Research Fellowships* to help honours or postgraduate university students pursue research projects using the Library's unparalleled collections.

On a personal note, I was fortunate as a very inexperienced La Trobe Librarian to be able to call on Professor Shaw from time to time for valuable advice on developing the collection. I was privileged to work with him when he chaired a committee to commission and oversee the publication of the biography of Rev Joseph Orton, first clergyman to officiate at Port Phillip, and he was the expert advisor on my text of Charles Joseph La Trobe, Landscapes and Sketches, published by the State Library of Victoria and the Tarcoola Press in 1999.

Professor Shaw has influenced countless students, researchers and readers of Australian history and, since its inauguration, has been a popular presence at many La Trobe Society functions. He will be greatly missed.

Dianne Reilly
Hon Secretary