

DAVID UNAIPON

David Unaipon was a valued First Nation Australian and is of Ngarrindjeri descent. He was a very well known inventor and avid writer. He was also the first Aboriginal writer to ever be published. By the 1920s, he was the most well known Aboriginal in Australia. Unaipon was born and grew up in the point Mcleay Mission. He has always been interested in writing and science since he was little.

David was born on the 28th of September 1872, at the point McLeay Mission, (now known as Rauk Ran in South Australia) He was the 4th child of James and Nymbulda Unaipon. He went to point McLeay Mission school and was interested in reading and played the organ. He left school at age 11 to work as a servant for C.B. Young in Adelaide, where Young encouraged his interests in literature, science and philosophy.

On the 4th of January 1902 David married Kathrine Carter, a Tangani woman, servant and daughter of Harry Carter and Eva Darpung Summer. They got married at Point Mcleay, where David was born. His son Talmadge was born on the 27th of January 1903 in Coorong, South Australia. Talmadge was David and Katherine's only child. When David was not spending time with his family, he was working away, inventing or writing.

In 1909, David invented a hand held sheep shearing tool, with improved efficiency. Although he created it, he was never fully acknowledged for his work. He then later went on to file nine different patent applications, but he was struggling financially so he was never able to complete any of them. Since he never completed them, he was never financially compensated for his work. One of his most famous inventions used the idea of a boomerang to get the idea of helicopter flight.

David can be found on the Australian \$50 note along with an illustration from Shields from Ngarrindjeri nation. An excerpt from his book *Legendary tales of the Australian Aborigines* is written on the note in micro print. He was also awarded the coronation medal in 1953.

David passed away on the 7th of February 1967 at Tailem Bent hospital. He was buried at Point Mcleay cemetery. He was well remembered after his death, receiving different awards and medals for his work. He was posthumously awarded the F.A.W award and was honoured with Weikhart award for Aboriginal writers in 1985. He was awarded the establishment of an annual David Unaipon award for unpublished Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers and an annual Unaipon lecture in Adelaide.

David Unaipon was a hyper intelligent person. He was known by pretty much everyone in the 1920s, that says a lot about him. He was an advocate for Indigenous rights, an inventor and an avid writer. In 1909, he was put on the Australian \$50 note along with an excerpt from one of his books in micro print. He is a great attribute to Indigenous history and is a great idol to have.