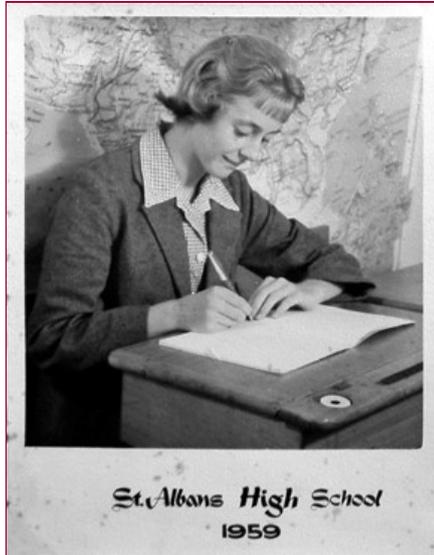


# WENDY HOUNSLOW: PIONEER DESCENDENT, HOMEMAKER

## Starting at the High School



I was one of the first students of the St Albans High School when it was established in 1956 - the classes were held in the Presbyterian Church Hall in Anderson Street, Sunshine, in that first year. My parents were Raymond and Mary Hounslow of Main Road East, St Albans. They supported the high school from the very beginning as my father was on the school's inaugural Advisory Council and my mother was on the Parents and Friends Association.

We were a local family and related to the Erringtons of The Esplanade and the Lewises of Walter Street, so the family origins in Australia go back to the mid 1800s and my parents were in the district in the early 1900s. We had a number of other relatives around St Albans during the fifties and sixties including the Priests and McIntyres, to whom we were related through marriage.

## The Hounslow Family

My Father, Raymond William Hounslow, was born in 1903 and by the late 1920s had a furniture factory in Main Road East, St Albans. This was built jointly with his father William Hounslow. It was known as W. J. Hounslow and Sons.

When the "Depression" came the business folded and Dad started selling petrol on the property and many people remember it being the first Petrol Pump in the area. He sold this business to the Self family in 1933 when they were setting up their own store. He then later on received employment with Nettlefolds in Sunshine as a storeman and remained there till 1963.

The "shell" of the furniture factory became a home over the years. It was built from parts of the old factory and went on to become a "California" style home which still stands today but not at its original address which was 33 Main Road East, St Albans.

My father married Mary Lewis in 1937. Mary was the eldest child of Thomas and Elizabeth Lewis of Walter Street, St Albans. My Dad during his childhood lived in the Esplanade at the home owned by his aunt Mrs Alice Errington. She was a sister of his father and she took in the children of the family when Dad's mother passed away in 1917. Coral was born in October 1939 and Wendy born in August 1944. (We had a brother born in September 1941 but he passed away at six weeks.) We attended St Albans Primary School which was in West Esplanade just up the road from the old Errington home.

Where the Hounslow house was on the corner of Collins Street and Main Road East is now a Woolworths Supermarket. Over the years this quiet area we all knew became a very busy shopping strip. The Arcade was next door and more shops started being built opposite us including Unger's Milk Bar and Newsagency, the Commonwealth Bank, the Foodland Supermarket, Joe Loccisano's Fruit Shop etc. These were big changes. The street became a Main Road in more ways than just the name.

## The Lewis Family



My mother's parents were Elizabeth and Thomas Lewis. They had the poultry farm on the corner of William and Walter streets, St Albans. He was from Williamstown and she was from Deer Park. My Grandfather was Welsh and came to St Albans in 1892. He was connected with the Presbyterian Church as superintendent of the Sunday School.

I am told that during the thirties Thomas Lewis was Chairman of the St Albans Severance Committee - the group that wanted to break away from Keilor and join Braybrook to get better value for ratepayers. This attempt at severance obviously did not work. Mum had six sisters and one brother: David, Helena, Gwladys, Jessie, Margaret and Betty. They are all deceased. Over the years four families lived in the Walter Street home: Mary Hounslow's grandmother, Jane Johnson, sister Jessie and Alan Priest, sister Helena and Harry Minns, and sister Betty McIntyre.

Mary Ellen Lewis married Raymond Hounslow in 1937 and they had three children: Coral, Raymond (deceased) and Wendy. David Stephen Lewis married Doris and they had three children: Lorraine, Doris and David. Helena Lavinia Lewis married Harry Minns and their children were: David, Ian, Elizabeth, Christine and Sheryl. Gwladys Muriel Lewis married Jim Arden and their children were Douglas and Thomas. Margaret Lewis married Len Rae and their children were Joan and Beryl. Jessie Martha Lewis married Alan Priest and their children were Elaine and Robert. Betty Lewis married Thomas McIntyre and they had no children.

## The Errington Family

Mrs Alice Errington, after whom Errington Reserve is named, was my great-aunt: she was Alice Hounslow who was born 1864 in Campbellfield. Her brothers were George Albert, William James (my grandfather), and Arthur Thomas, and her sisters were Annie Elizabeth, Emily, and Eliza Hester; so it was a large family and they mainly settled around Campbellfield and Broadmeadows. Alice Hounslow married William Errington of St Albans in 1893 and they had a son Robert Errington who was born in 1901. They lived in a big house called Strathalbyn on the Esplanade west of the railway line. Alice was connected with the Presbyterian church that was over the railway line on the corner of Circus East and Elaine Street. She was an instructor at their Sunday School classes.

William Errington died in 1907 and Alice remained a widow and raised her son Bobby on her own. But she also took on the children of her brother William (my grandfather) when his wife, Amy Alice Day, died in 1917. These children were Rupert, Constance, Raymond (my father), Beatrice, Edward and Joseph (all deceased). Alice passed away in 1931, so I never knew her personally. Bobby Errington moved to Sunshine about 1950 and died in 1973.

Probably the biggest donation that Alice Errington made to St Albans was the farmland she had in Main Road East that is now the sports ground known as Errington Reserve. That was six acres of land that she donated in 1910 and it became the home of cricket, football, tennis, scouts and other youth club activities.

## Family History



My parents were Raymond William Hounslow and Mary Ellen Lewis. My father married Mary Lewis on the 21st August 1937 after a ten-year courtship, due to the Depression and no work being available for many. He came from a family of seven children. They lost their mother in 1917 after the last child was born and they went to live with their father's sister, Mrs Alice Errington in St Albans. They remained with her for a few years till, as they got older, they moved on to look after themselves. Hence Dad becoming a carpenter and builder. They built churches in Victoria (places unknown) and later had the furniture factory which became our home.

My mother was Mary Ellen Lewis who was the eldest daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Lewis of Walter Street, St Albans. My Mum and Dad had a daughter Coral born 1939, a son Raymond born and deceased 1940, and Wendy born 1944.

My mother's father came to St Albans in 1890 and was a poultry farmer like many in the area. The poultry farm was on the corner of Walter and William streets, St Albans. Their grandmother also lived close by on the opposite corner along with two more houses that had family living in them. Mary being the eldest of seven children which meant there were lots of family in the area and many family functions were held in our home. Two of my aunts lived at different times in these homes over the years. So lots of family were around when I was growing up.



We as children attended St Albans Primary School which was in the West Esplanade just up the road from the old 'Errington' home that my Dad had lived in as a child. When Coral finished school there in 1951 she went to Footscray Girls School because there was no secondary school in the local area.

I finished primary school in 1955 and enrolled in the St Albans High School that was starting. We began classes in the Presbyterian Church Hall in Sunshine the first year. Mr James Barker was the Headmaster and his wife Bernice was also a teacher at the school.

In 1957 the new high school was built in Main Road East, so it was just a short walk for me to get to school each morning. My sister Coral married in February 1961 and later lived in New South Wales and Queensland as her husband was in the RAAF. My father Raymond died in December 1961.

I married Phil Taylor and went to West Australia to live in 1965 - while there my mother had an offer for our house and land so our home was moved to a

location down Main Road East, St Albans. It remains there to this day. It is nearly opposite the St Albans High School at 168 Main Rd East and owned by the Good Shepherd Group. They are using it for getting different people together and playgroups for little ones. The Woolworths supermarket is now where our old home was.

My Mother died in 1987 after living in Laverton and later in Hoppers Crossing with my family for her remaining years.

## **Back to St Albans**

My married name is Wendy Taylor. I have lived in Hoppers Crossing and now Wyndham Vale since returning from West Australia where I lived after being married to Phil Taylor in 1965.

I do not visit St Albans much these days except to see old friends and remember how it was. I have read lots of stories in the St Albans history books and lots of memories come back in doing that. The photo exhibition that was held at the Tin Shed on Errington Reserve a few years ago was really good to see.

On one of our visits to St Albans we had a bonus, our old Home was looking like it's Old Self again. Previously it had been looking a bit sad as it had been moved to its present location but nothing had been done to it. Now it was owned and cared for by the Good Shepherd Group. They use it for getting people together that may be new to Australia or just in need of help. It gave me a boost after losing so much of my family from this area to think one small bit of it was still there.

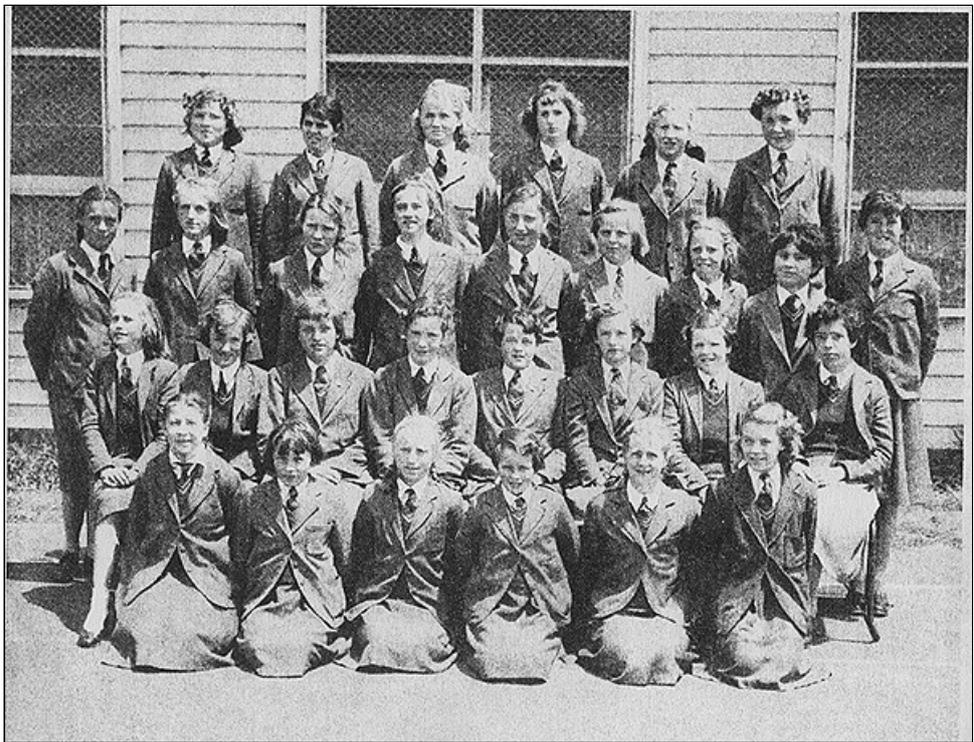
My Father built this house from the remains of the Family Furniture Factory that he had that went broke during the Depression. He slowly converted it to our home. I have talked to the people of Good Shepherd who own it now and they say it has a warm homely feeling.

**Wendy Taylor, 2006**

## **Photographs**



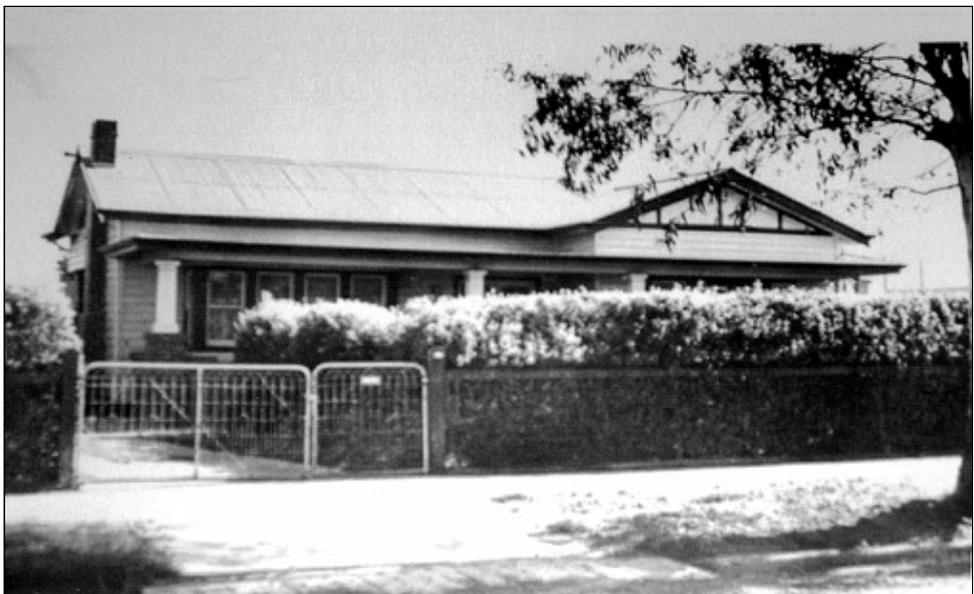
Wendy Hounslow (front row, second from right), St Albans Primary School Grade 6, 1955.



Wendy Hounslow ( front row, second from right) St Albans High School Form 1B, 1956.



Wendy Hounslow (front row centre) and best friend Joan Lewis (front row right), Form 4B, 1959.



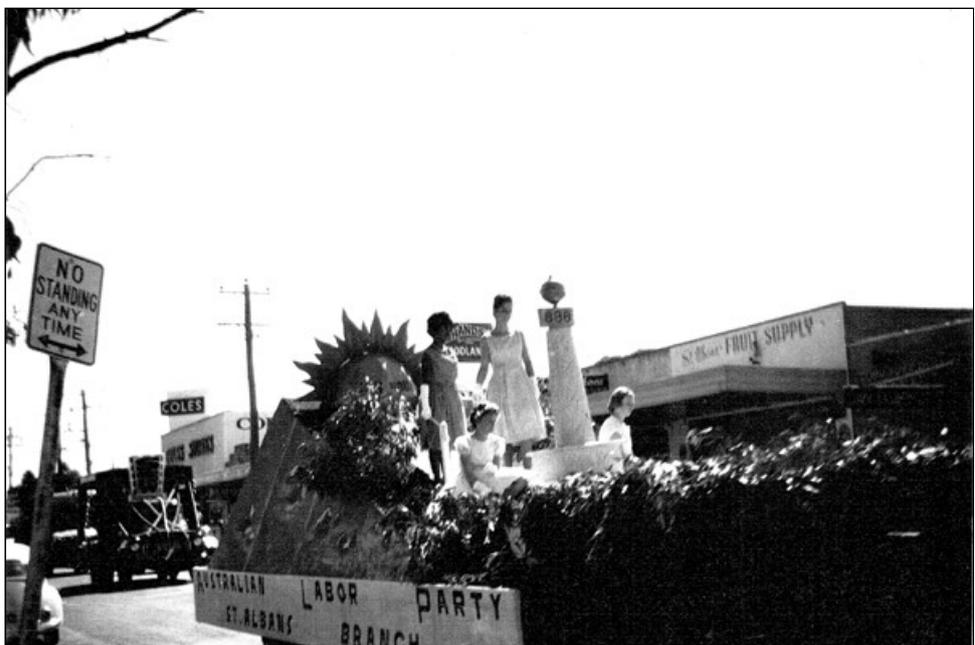
The Hounslow property, opposite corner of Main Road East and Collins Street, 1950s.



"Unger's Corner" at corner of Main Road East and Collins Street, 1960s.



"Scheurer's Corner" at corner of Main Road East and Collins Street, 1960s.



Street parade along Main Road East, Coles and St Albans Fruit Supply in background, 1960s.

**Menu**

[People](#)

[Photos](#)

[History](#)

[Albas](#)

[Top of Page](#)

[Home Page](#)



Wendy and Phil Taylor, school reunion 2016.

---

High school photographs courtesy of Nick Szwed.  
Family photographs courtesy of and copyright Wendy Taylor.