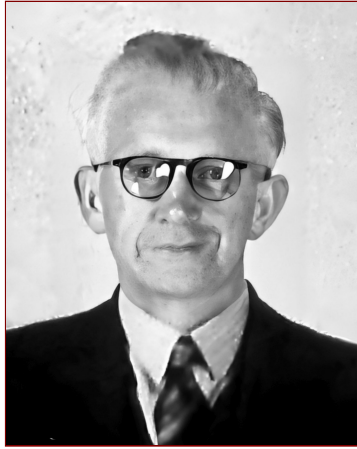


RAYMOND WILLIAM HOUNSLOW: MEMBER OF ADVISORY COUNCIL, 1956 - 1958



Raymond William Hounslow was born in 1903 in Brunswick, Victoria, to William James Hounslow and Amy Alice "Emmy" Day. The Hounslow heritage stretches back to 1690 in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England; James and Hannah Hounslow emigrated to Port Phillip (Victoria) in 1848 and settled in Moonee Ponds. The Day heritage goes back to 1793 St Leonard, Streatham, Surrey, England; and John William Day arrived as a child in 1822 to New South Wales. William Hounslow and Amy Day married in 1899 at the North Carlton Baptist Church and raised seven children; Raymond was their third-born.

Life became difficult for the family when Emma Hounslow passed away in 1917 at the young age of 44 years. The children were then looked after by Alice Errington of St Albans, who was William's sister. (Alice Errington is remembered as the person who donated a large paddock to the people of St Albans so that they could have a sport and recreation reserve, which still exists as Errington Reserve.)

In 1929 William Hounslow married Lousia Howqua (who had previously married St Albans' storekeeper Harry Harrison who died in 1926) and she took over the care of the younger children who were not yet independent, including Rupert, Constance, Raymond, Beatrice, Edward and Joseph.

Public Notice

Motorists of St. Albans and surrounding districts are hereby notified that the business conducted by R. W. Hounslow for the sale of motor spirits and oils have been purchased by the Misses Self, and will be carried on in the new position Main street, St. Albans. (Signed) R. W. Hounslow, M and E. Self.

By the late 1920s William and his son Raymond (who was now in his mid 20s) established a furniture factory in Main Road East, which was built jointly and known as "W. J. Hounslow and Sons" - it was approved by Braybrook Council in 1927.

Unfortunately the business collapsed during the 1930's Depression. For a while they were selling petrol but this was not a sustainable business on its own as there were few cars in St Albans, so they sold that to the Self family who were setting up their own store. Nevertheless, it's accurate to say

that the Hounslows had the first petrol station in St Albans. Raymond went jobseeking and became a storeman for Nettlefolds in Sunshine.

In the meantime Raymond started converting the disused factory and built a home, where his future family lived for over 30 years.



Hounslow home in Main Road East.



In 1937, Raymond William Hounslow married Mary Ellen Lewis of St Albans. For them it had been a courtship of ten years as, because of the financial crisis, they wanted to gain some financial stability before starting a family. Mary was born in St Albans in 1908, and attended St Albans Primary School. Her parents were Elizabeth Ellen Johnston (of Deer Park) and Thomas David Lewis (of St Albans). The Johnston family were from Worcestershire, England, and the Lewis family were from Pembrokeshire, Wales.

Mary Hounslow gave birth to three children: Coral (1939), Raymond (1941), and Wendy (1944). Sadly, Raymond junior died shortly after birth, but the daughters thrived. Coral married Kevin Patrick Jennings in 1961; he was from Bundaberg in Queensland. Wendy married Philip George Taylor in 1965 and they moved to Colverdale, Perth.

Raymond Hounslow had become active within the community in his early years. In the 1920s he was supporting the St Albans Presbyterian Sunday School. e.g. by taking people in his motor truck to their annual picnic in places like Williamstown. He was also with the St Albans Independent Order of Rechabites, as were other members of the family. In 1927 William James Hounslow was elected Deputy Ruler of the St Albans Tent and Raymond William Houslow was appointed Tent representative for the next annual meeting of the Order.

In 1956, when St Albans High School was established in its temporary location in the Presbyterian hall in Anderson Street, Sunshine, both Raymond and Mary joined the school's advisory structures: Raymond sat on the Advisory Council and Mary on the Parents and Friends Association. It was the year that their daughter Wendy started at the school and undoubtedly they all would have supported the school's relocation to central St Albans in the following year.

Raymond William Hounslow passed away in December 1961 in the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Parkville, at age 58 years. His remains are buried at the Footscray cemetery.

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Mary Ellen Hounslow née Lewis passed away in June 1987 at a retirement home in Queenscliff, at the age of 79 years. Her remains are buried at the Footscray cemetery.

Information and photographs provided by Wendy Taylor.