



Hunters Hill votes against aircraft noise

Voters in the NSW election on 25 March 1995 disregarded previous political loyalties to record high percentage votes for the No Aircraft Noise Party at the three Hunters Hill polling booths. At the Hunters Hill (All Saints) booth, NANP recorded 37.7%, just behind the Liberal 44.8% first preference vote. In the 1991 election, Liberal votes at the booth were 70.5% of the total. Informal voters were also shaken by aircraft noise. Informal votes at the booth dropped to 2% from 5.5% in 1991.

The percentage of NANP votes for the electorate of Lane Cove, of which Hunters Hill is a part, was 14.1% for Peter Astridge. The Liberal candidate, Mrs K Chikarovski, was returned to Parliament with 52.3% of the primary vote. The following figures come from a survey of booth results five days after the election. This is how you voted:

Hunters Hill booths:	Hunters Hill (All Saints)	Hunters Hill West (St Marks Hall)	Woolwich (Marist Sisters)
Independent	23	32	7
Greens	32	29	16
Labor	130	194	70
NANP	612	333	165
Democrats	67	47	38
Liberal	726	546	281
Total	1590	1181	577
Informal	32	44	12
Total	1622	1225	589

Percentage comparison 1991 & 1995

1991 election

Labor	12.7%	24.2%	17.2%
Democrats	11.3%	11.3%	9.8%
Liberal	70.5%	56.8%	67.6%
Informal	5.5%	7.7%	5.4%

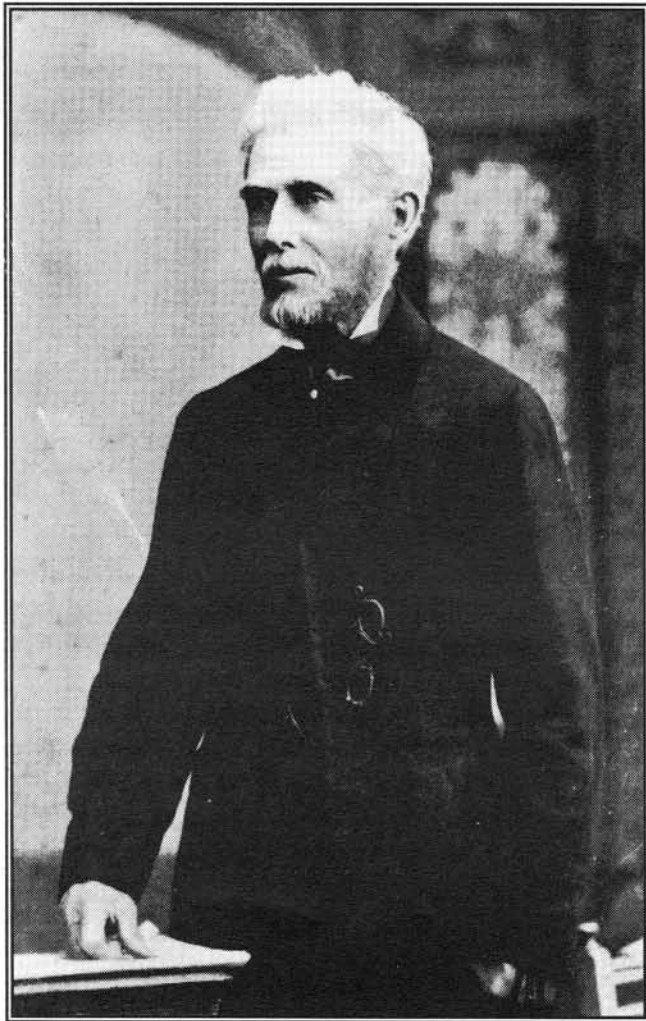
1995 election (minor parties omitted)

Labor	8%	15.8%	11.9%
Democrats	4.1%	3.8%	6.5%
Liberal	44.8%	44.6%	47.7%
Informal	2%	3.6%	2%
NANP share	37.7%	27.2%	28%

VIENNA VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Would you like to help out at Vienna Cottage? We are open on the 2nd and 4th weekend of each month, 11am-4pm. You could act as a guide for the cottage, or as a guardian when we have an exhibition (about once a month). You would only be needed once or twice a year. Shifts 11.00am-1.30pm and 1.30-4pm. If you can help please ring Sheila Swain 817 2510.

He was a man of many parts and talents who lived 96 years, never wasting a moment of that time. He was primarily a writer and the pseudonym "Old Boomerang" was the one he chose for most of his publications. He came to Australia in 1839 and by 1841 had moved to Raymond Terrace where he was a shopkeeper and ship owner. He was also appointed postmaster at Raymond Terrace in 1842 and he continued this position until 1852. In 1842 he married Elizabeth Hannaford and their three daughters Lucy, Emma and Maria were born while at Raymond Terrace. Lucy was my direct ancestor and she married the Rev William Kelynack in 1862. Emma married John Hardy whose family owned the well known Hardy Bros Jewellers until recently. Very few people would have known of Maria's existence since she died at the age of one year. I only recently discovered her when I was looking at a list of unmarked graves in the Raymond Terrace Pioneer Cemetery.



*John Richard Houlding in 1870
from Christopher Cockle's Australian Experiences 1913*

Why did J R Houlding go to Raymond Terrace? One of the mysteries I am still investigating is his family relationship with Robert Dawson, first manager of the Australian Agricultural Company

which had extensive holdings in the Hunter River area.

I have always been fascinated by a story that J R Houlding retired as postmaster in 1852, aged 30 years, due to ill health and suffering from overwork. That may not seem so odd but when you consider that he then went on to live to the grand age of 96 years, maybe we should all consider early retirement. After retirement he took a trip to England but I am yet to find out if his wife and daughters also accompanied him. He had always been a churchgoer and on his return to Australia he converted to the Methodist faith and became a dedicated worker for the church. He is written up in various Methodist histories for his benevolence which included being one of the founders of the Ragged School and the Sunday morning breakfast for the poor. He helped with the Soup Kitchen and the Female Refuge and become involved in the temperance movement.

This part of his life is another of my mystery areas. One of his contemporaries wrote of him that "his open-handedness in assisting those who were in difficulties was taken advantage of by some who shamefully succeeded in depriving him of his hard-earned fortune". No mention of his family and what they were doing to survive, only the comment that "he was severely prostrated and for nearly two years he was incapable of physical exertion".

It was at this time he began to publish books and write for the *Sydney Mail* and other periodicals. His first novel was *Australian capers* (Routledge 1867) which was reprinted in 1913 as *Christopher Cockle's Australian experiences*. Other major books were *Australian emigrant's song* (Chappell 1868), *Australian tales & sketches from real life* (Sampson Low 1868), *Rural and city life: or, the fortunes of the Stubble family* (Sampson Low 1870), *Investing Uncle Ben's legacy: a tale of mining and matrimonial speculations* (Robertson 1876), *Launching away; or, Roger Larksway's strange mission* (Hodder & Stoughton 1882), *In the depths of the sea* (1885), and *A Flood that led on to fortune* (Sampson Low 1886).

It is reported that he had a circulation of 20,000 books in all and that they were considered wholesome, interesting and witty stories of colonial life. Today they appear quaint and somewhat dated but should be read as a time capsule of attitudes to life in their time. Houlding must have been a compulsive writer for it is said that he wrote under 150 assumed names in the 60 years that he contributed to many publications.

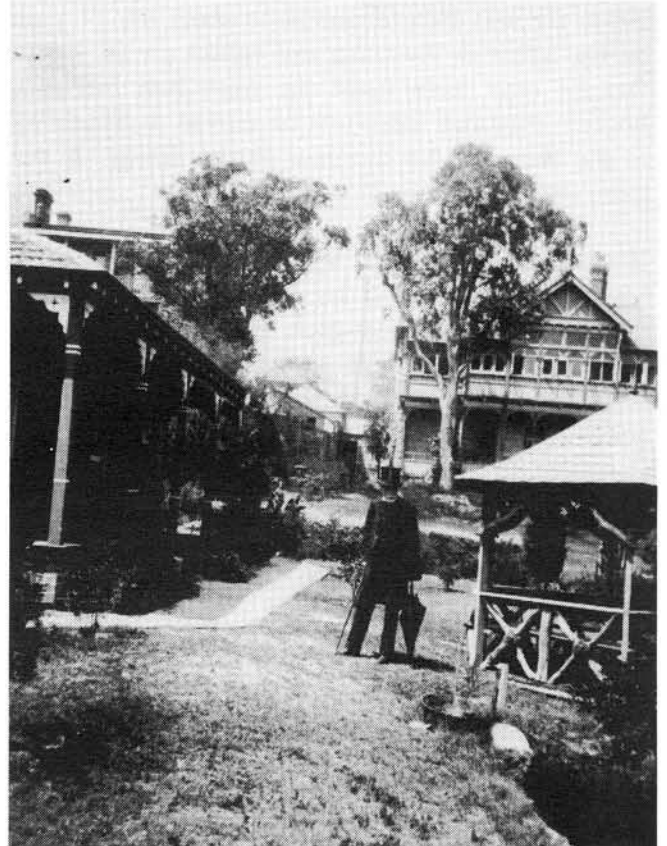
So what is the connection with the Hunters Hill area? In the front of my copy of *Christopher Cockle's Australian experiences* there are three photographic plates. One is a delightful scene of Houlding sitting near a dove-cote, one is a photograph of the author taken in 1870 and the third is a photograph entitled "The Author's Home at Woolwich, Lane Cove River, Sydney". I always meant to go for a drive and see if I could find the small cottage beside the river, but I never quite got around to it.



J R Houlding at Dulce Domum ◇ c. 1913

Recently I was talking to my mother about Houlding and we took out of her bookcase her copy of *Australian emigrant's song* only to find two loose photographs inside the book. Both show a very old J R Houlding next to his house at Woolwich, but more interestingly, one showed the large house behind. Then we began to speculate that he may have had the first "grandpa flat" in the back yard of a relative for it had always mystified me that I had been unable to find him in Sands' Directories for the last ten or so years of his life. I should have used some lateral thinking earlier and checked which relatives lived in the area but for some reason I had not done this. Maybe I was waiting for Megan Martin at Ryde Library to come to my rescue as she did when I asked her who was Local Studies Librarian at Hunter's Hill. She told me that Hunters Hill was part of her responsibility. I sent her copies of my photographs.

She directed me to a publication of the Hunter's Hill Trust, *Heritage of Hunter's Hill*, which shows on page 132 a photograph of *Vailele*, the home of Arthur J Kelynack from 1903 to 1920. It says in the short entry which accompanies the photograph that Kelynack "had a cottage built in the garden for his father-in-law Mr Holden who is said to have known Robert Louis Stevenson" and that the name *Vailele* was the name of a property near Stevenson's home *Vailima* in Samoa. The cottage is of course *Dulce Domum*.



J R Houlding, Dulce Domum & Vailele ◇ c.1913

I had found my house at last and the extra photographs which my mother found showed Arthur Kelynack's house *Vailele* in the background.

Arthur James Kelynack was a well known lawyer and Queen's Counsel who married Sara Alice Bestie in Sydney in 1889. He was the son of the Reverend William Kelynack who was President of Newington College until his death in 1891. Arthur studied theology but graduated with an Arts degree and taught at Church of England Grammar School at North Sydney for a year before he returned to university to study Law. He spent some time in the Civil Service working in Parliament and commenced a practice at the NSW Bar in 1894. He specialised in Industrial Arbitration and was for many years an examiner in Law at Sydney University. He died on 7 May 1923.

"Old Boomerang" lived in his cottage at the rear of *Vailele* in Woolwich until sometime in 1917. The Reverend J E Carruthers visited him there shortly after his 90th birthday on 22 April 1912. Carruthers described Houlding as "a patriarchal colonist" "spending the eventide of his life in an idyllic retreat looking out upon the picturesque scenery of the Lane Cove River."

Houlding gave another interview from Woolwich to in 1917, this time to the *Maitland Mercury*. He was then almost blind but his mind was wonderfully clear. He was able to reminisce about the 77 years he had spent in Australia and reflect on the impact that he may have made on Australian literature. Shortly after this interview he moved to Strathfield to the home of his daughter Emma Hardy. It was there that he died on 25 April 1918.

His home at Woolwich was a place for him to be happy and contented in his declining years. When I think of my great-great-great grandfather, I always imagine him as the man sitting contentedly reading beside the dove-cote in the garden of his home *Dulce Domum*.



SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Subscriptions to the *Hunter's Hill Trust Journal* are due on the first of March each year.

Current rates are:

Life membership	\$200
Family	\$25
Single	\$15
Pensioner/Student	\$5

To renew or subscribe please post your cheque to:
Hon Secretary, The Hunter's Hill Trust
PO Box 85 Hunters Hill 2110

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Hunter's Hill Trust will be held on:

Wednesday 31 May 1994

commencing at 7.30pm
at the RSL Hall

cnr Ady & Alexandra Streets Hunters Hill

Guest Speaker:

IAN STAPLETON

conservation architect, speaking on

*"The conservation of the
Gladesville Hospital site"*

Enquiries:

Contact Jenny Thompson 817 4440

HUNTER'S HILL TRUST COMMITTEE

The Hunter's Hill Trust Committee meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at *Vienna Cottage* 38 Alexandra Street Hunters Hill. Committee members include President Jenny Thompson, Secretary Len Condon, Treasurer Rob Pillans, Vice President Diana Temple, Minutes Secretary Moya Crane, Robyn Christie, Chloris Latham, Megan Martin, Barry Swain and Gil Wahlquist. The *Hunter's Hill Trust Journal* usually appears three times a year and contributions are welcome. Contact the editor Megan Martin on 952-8340.