

## Illawong Crescent

Jeff A. Green

Illawong Crescent forms part of the 59 acres of land granted to Henry William Hopwood on the 4th January, 1855. Henry William Hopwood was the heir-at-law of George Hopwood, a settler from Norfolk Island, who received the location order for this land in 1813.

It was conveyed to Jessie H. Dennett on the 6th July 1889<sup>1</sup>. On the 7th August 1906 it was conveyed to Richard Brandon Beddome, farmer of Broadmarsh<sup>2</sup>, and on the 27th June 1908, 27 acres, 3 roods, 14 perches of the 59 acres was conveyed to J.H. Hinsby<sup>3</sup>. Then on the 2nd November 1908 William Dixon purchased 17 acres, 15 perches from Hinsby for £700<sup>4</sup>.

The Dixon family lived on the property in a dwelling house situated adjacent to the present junction of Illawong Crescent with the Channel Highway. William Dixon was a brother of George Dixon of "Retreat Farm", and farmed the area up to the 1950s. He cultivated a small orchard of apricot trees and subsequently grew vegetables. The remains of the old dwelling were demolished at the time

of completion of the subdivision of the property in 1958-59.

In the mid 1950s William Dixon constructed a house for his daughter Mrs Violet Doreen Pulford and her husband on the property which is now 19 Illawong Crescent<sup>5</sup>. Access to this dwelling was gained from the Channel Highway. This house was subsequently occupied by Mrs Pulford's brother, Milfred Dixon.

In 1951 Mr J.F. Jacob, Esq. purchased land between the Dixon property and the area now known as the Monomeath subdivision, at that time occupied as a riding school. To gain access to this property Mr Jacob purchased a right of way over the land beside the Pulford house to the Channel Highway and constructed a driveway to his dwelling<sup>6</sup>. Part of this is now the private right of way connecting Illawong Crescent and Wandella Avenue.

In 1958 Milfred Robert Dixon and Violet Pulford arranged with the Real Estate firm, Crozier and Christie, subsequently part of the Hooker Corporation, to subdivide and sell the remainder of the property, then known as Dixon's Subdivision. The blocks were transferred to the purchasers in 1959<sup>7</sup> and the



*John and Diana Twin's residence, the first house constructed on the new subdivision, October 1959.*

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## *Subdivisions*

first home completed on Lot 20 (now 8 Illawong Crescent) and occupied on the 30th October, 1959 by John and Diana Twin and their children, Rosemary and Robert. They were followed by Jeff and Peg Green at number 13 and Alan and Hilary Wallace at number 16 Illawong Crescent.

The street was named in 1960 when the residents were requested to submit a name and Illawong Crescent, meaning "view of the sea", was selected by popular choice.

Although none of the properties suffered any damage in the 1967 bushfires, the area was completely surrounded by fire and the residents patrolled the whole Crescent and adjacent land throughout the night, extinguishing any outbreaks of fire that developed.

### References

1. Fol.8/2765, DO.
2. Fol. 11/4065, DO.
3. Fol. 11/8475, DO.
4. Fol. 11/9355, DO.
5. Fol. 38/5148, DO.
6. Fol. 32/875, DO.
7. Fol. 31/9682, DO.



*Illawong Crescent just after completion.  
Robert, Rosemary and Diana Twin in  
foreground, May 1959.*

PHOTO DIANA TWIN.



*Illawong Crescent looking south, showing the foundations of number 16,  
the home of Drs Alan and Hilary Wallace.*

PHOTO DIANA TWIN.

