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The Story of "Coolooli"

"Coolooli" was the name of the property at the end of Alexandra Road, Ringwood East which was subdivided in the late 1960s to early 1970s, giving us streets such as Walhalla Drive where the intriguing property, 9 Walhalla Drive, proudly sits.

"Coolooli" forms part of an earlier larger holding which can be traced back to the 1878 Crown Grant of 81.74 acres (33 hectares) to George Blood of Box Hill, Farmer. The price of £82 or about £1 per acre, was the going rate at the time.

That parcel extended north to cover the area now occupied by Tintern Girls Grammar School, west to Malcolm Court and east to Hender Street.

The land passed through a series of owners after George Blood and was progressively subdivided until 1915 when, as 47.33 acres (19.15 hectares) it was sold to Charles Patterson of "Coolooli", Wattle Valley Road, Canterbury, Accountant.

We therefore now know where the name "Coolooli" came from. But do we know what it means?

It was most likely Charles Patterson who built the homestead on the property which he called "Coolooli". That homestead – an oiled weatherboard dwelling – was set on the crown of the hill overlooking the Dandenong Ranges. The site of the homestead is now Coolooli Court. However, the homestead lives on. It was actually moved years later when the land was subdivided yet again – but more of that later.

Patterson died in 1939 with his widow's address then noted as being Alexandra Road Ringwood East, which was at that time the correct address of "Coolooli". The property then passed through various owners until, as 14 acres (5.7 hectares), it was purchased by Kenneth Ross Landy in 1950.

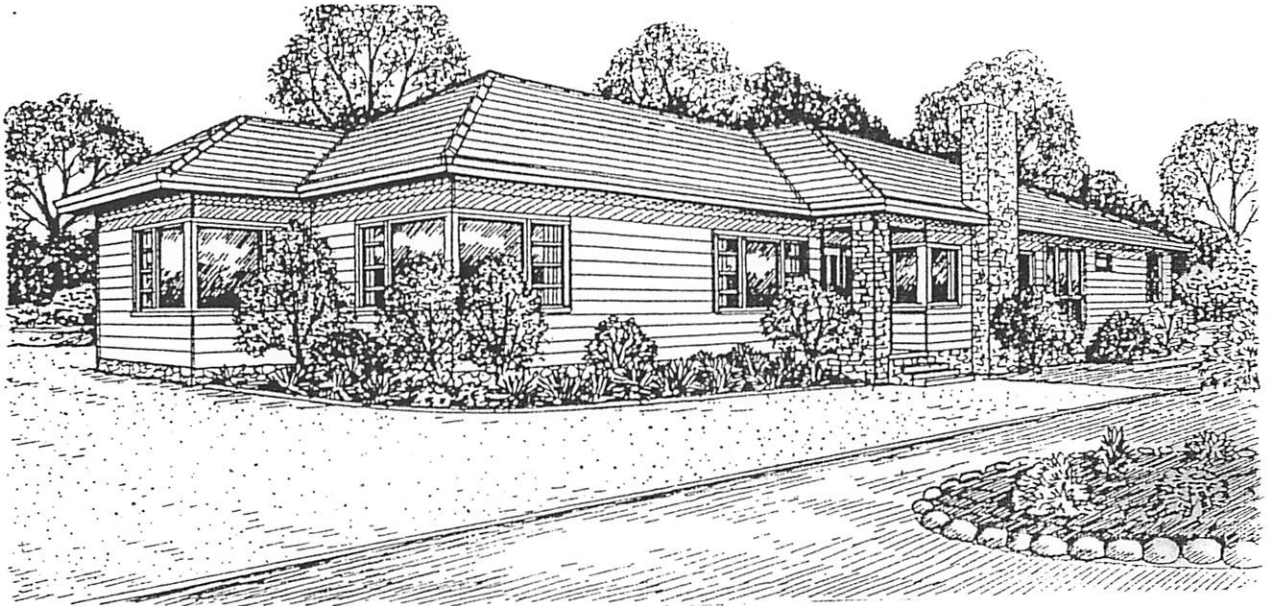
It was Ken Landy who subdivided "Coolooli" into the home sites which were then built on from the 1960s through to the 1970s.

It is worth digressing at this point.

Landy's neighbours at this stage were Mr. and Mrs. Cleland who owned the property "Byways" to the north and east of "Coolooli". Cleland had commenced their subdivision – Byways Drive – before moving to the township of Buronga, north of Mildura (hence Buronga Avenue). Cleland's and Landy's subdivisions were closely integrated. Each relied on the other's road patterns. Each subdivision (of various stages) was marketed by C.E. Carter & Son (now Carter Real Estate) from 1965 to 1975. Hence the locality is often referred to as "Byways/Coolooli" as each shared a similar treed environment, topography, views and attraction.

There were four various stages of the "Coolooli" subdivision, starting with lots fronting Isabel Avenue, then Byways Drive and Coolooli Court and then finally down Walhalla Drive. By that stage, the old homestead had physically been moved down the hill to its new, and current, location on a large bush block in Cleland Street.

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