

## Ah Thom

Waranga Chronicle

24 April, 1879

A magisterial inquiry was held before Mr J. H. Roberts, J.P., to ascertain the cause of the death of a Chinaman named Ah Thom, who expired suddenly at his hut, Merrigum road, near Rushworth, on Friday last.

Constable Horan deposed that he had known the deceased by sight; he had been ailing for some time. From information received, he went to the deceased's hut, in Snake's Gully; deceased was lying on his bunk, covered with some old blankets; he appeared to have died without any struggling; there were not any marks of violence on the body; the deceased had no money or other property.

Dr. Heily deposed that he had made a post mortem examination of the body; the deceased died from chronic disease of the heart, caused by fatty degeneration; the lungs were also affected.

A verdict in accordance with the medical testimony was given.

*The present records of Rushworth cemetery contain no reference to burial of an Ah Thom. It is difficult to imagine that he would have been buried elsewhere. Involvement of the named policeman and doctor point to a standard cemetery burial, rather than burial in the bush.*