

## Charles Bowen

Rushworth Chronicle

16 February, 1934

A Sad Occurrence.

### MR. C. BOWEN'S UNTIMELY END.

The residents of the town were greatly shocked when they learned that Mr. Chas. Bowen, a well-known and respected resident of the town, had taken his life some time on Tuesday night.

Mr. Bowen lived by himself, his wife having predeceased him about six months ago, and he felt her death very deeply.

He was in the habit of obtaining his supply of milk from Mrs. Lawley, a neighbour, who was very kind to him in cooking his meals, etc., on occasions. On Tuesday evening Mr. Bowen called at her place between 8 and 9 o'clock and brought her back some plates, etc., on which she had supplied him with his evening meal and thanked her. That was the last time he was seen alive.

On Wednesday morning Mrs. Lawley sent one of her children over to Mr. Bowen's house with the milk at about 8 o'clock. The child returned and told her mother that Mr. Bowen was not up and the doors were locked. Mrs. Lawley thought it strange as Mr. Bowen was an early riser. She went over herself. About 11 o'clock, accompanied by another neighbour, Mrs. Warden, and called out to Mr. Bowen, and receiving no answer she succeeded in unlocking the door of the house, and went in.

She found Mr. Bowen's bed empty, but noticed that it had been slept in. Becoming suspicious she made a thorough search of the premises. She found the door of an incubator shed at the rear of the house locked from the inside, and managed to force it open when the gruesome spectacle met her eyes of Mr. Bowen hanging by a clothes line to a rafter of the roof. The feet were touching the ground, and the knees bent. He was quite dead and appeared to have ended his life a few hours before being discovered. Information was at once sent to the police.

Mr. Bowen was in the town on Tuesday and spoken to by a resident, who inquired after his health and he replied that he was not too well at times and going for a holiday. It appears that his stepson, who resides near Kerang, intended coming to Rushworth tomorrow (Saturday) with the intention of taking Mr. Bowen back with him for a holiday.