

Cr. Ernest William Cochrane

Rushworth Chronicle

7 July, 1939

When it became known that Councillor William Ernest Cochrane had passed away in a private hospital at Canterbury following a sudden death, quite a gloom was cast over Rushworth and Stanhope districts.

Mr Cochrane had been in indifferent health for about three months but had carried on his civil and other public duties. While in Melbourne last week he became seriously ill and had to be taken to hospital where his condition had gradually become worse and he died early on Wednesday morning. With his passing the district has lost one of its most respected and highly esteemed residents who, by his courteous and obliging disposition, and willingness at all times to be of service to any member of the community or district body, had made a wide circle of friends during his residence in the district.

Born 60 years ago at Costerfield, the late Cr. Cochrane came with his parents, the late Mr. Donald and Mrs. Susan Cochrane, from Bailieston at an early age and resided in the Bailieston and Stanhope districts ever since. During his residence at Bailieston the deceased gentleman pursued farming and grazing interests and also engaged in mining activity at Rushworth and Bailieston. Leaving Bailieston about 11 years ago, the late Mr. Cochrane moved to Stanhope where he engaged in fruit growing and dairying on a Soldier Settlement block and followed that occupation up to the time of his death.

The late Cr. Cochrane was married at Bailieston Methodist Church to Miss Elizabeth Jones of Bailieston, who predeceased him eleven years ago, and leaves a family of one son, Gilbert John, and four daughters, Nellie (Mrs. N. Powell), Dorothy (Mrs. S. N. Burney), Margaret and Joyce, to mourn the loss of a devoted father. One daughter, Charlotte, predeceased him. He is also survived by three sisters (Mrs. Horsburgh, Ascot Vale), Nellie (Upwey) and Eva (Mrs. W. Davis) Canterbury.

Elected to the Council of Waranga Shire in September 1920, the late Cr. Cochrane had been president on two occasions, and during his term as a counsellor had recorded excellent service to the ratepayers of the Eastern Riding. His extensive knowledge of the district and its requirements enable him to give invaluable service and he represented the Council on many important deputations to the various Government Departments and at all times carried out his duties as councillor in a very able manner.

During his residence at Bailieston, the late Cr. Cochrane took a great interest in the Bailieston Cricket Club, which at that time was one of the leading clubs in the district, and he was also a player of note at the club during the prime of his life. He continued to take a great interest in cricket after his return to Stanhope about twelve years ago and was an ardent supporter of the Stanhope club. The deceased took a keen interest in all the sporting activities and movements for the benefit of the town.

An impressive service was conducted at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church prior to the funeral on Wednesday and residents from around the district attended to show their respect to the memory of a man who had given great service to his community and gained the respect of all who knew him.

The funeral procession left the church at 3 p.m. and the mortal remains were followed to their last resting place by a large and representative gathering of residents of Rushworth, Stanhope, Colbinabbin, Bailieston and Nagambie. The service at the graveside was conducted by Mr. G. F. Draffin, who also conducted the service at the church.

The Masonic service at the graveside was read by Wor. Bro. F. Wilson and members of the Lauderdale, Jubilee and Nagambie Lodges were present.

The casket was borne to the grave by Messrs Leslie, Albert, Keith and Kenneth Horsburgh (nephews) and the pall was carried by the deceased gentleman's colleagues at the council table, Crs. J. K. Finlay, R. C. Taylor, R. A. Williams, R. H. McCauley, S. M. Weeks, J. McKee, J. Borger, and W. C. Geyle.

Amongst the numerous floral tributes was a wreath from the President, Councillors and Officers of Waranga Shire.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Le Pine and Sons, Melbourne.