

Eric Robert McIntosh

Rushworth Chronicle

23 September, 1938

MCINTOSH. -- On the 19th September (suddenly) at the Bush Nursing Hospital, Rushworth, Eric Robert, third son of Walter and Vera McIntosh, aged 14 years. Sadly missed.

FATAL ACCIDENT

Fall from cycle causes lad's death

Widespread sympathy was felt for Mr. and Mrs. W. McIntosh and family, of "Paringa Vale", Rushworth, when it became known that their fourteen-year-old son, Eric Robert, had passed away, following an accident in which he sustained a broken ankle.

The unfortunate lad was returning from Mr. Black's residence to his home on Monday morning when he fell, from his cycle. He was conveyed to Rushworth Bush Nursing Hospital and while receiving attention, collapsed and died very suddenly despite all efforts being made to save his life.

An enquiry into his death was opened by Mr. D. Crothers, Deputy Coroner, and adjourned to a date to be fixed. An order for burial was given.

The funeral to Rushworth cemetery was largely attended, the cortege being headed by senior boy scholars of the Higher Elementary School, who also acted as coffin bearers, pall bearers and flower bearers.

The service at the grave was conducted by Rev. H. W. Laity.

The pall-bearers were: Stan Morgan, Keith Lawrie, Harold Bourke, Graeme McLeod, Ray Francis, Tolly Mandel, Cedric Wall, Stan Parfrey, Dick Jones, Stan Hilder. The coffin-bearers were: Jack Francis, Keith Emmett, Bill Darroch, Stan Beck, Doug Pocock, Jim Laurie. The flower bearers: Kevin McLeod, Maurice Cox, Graham Morgan, Frank Robinson, Frank Perry, Geoff Ewart, Stan Hilder, Doug Williams, Norman Hamilton, Vincent McArdle.

Other school children attending were Bruce Thompson, Ted Hammond and Gerard Sexton.

Rushworth Chronicle

30 September, 1938

INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF ERIC ROBERT MCINTOSH

FINDING OF DEATH BY MISADVENTURE

The inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Eric Robert McIntosh was held on Wednesday last, before Mr. D. Crothers, Deputy Coroner.

Walter John McIntosh, father of deceased, deposed that in company with Mr. D. Crothers, J. P., deputy coroner, he went to the Bush Nursing Hospital, Rushworth and saw the body of a boy whom he identified as his son. About 8.30 a.m. on 19th September he saw his son in a motor car driven by Ernest Edward Black and his son told him he had just had a fall from his cycle and hurt his right leg. He son was then driven to Rushworth B. N. Hospital and attended by Dr. MacInnes, who explained to witness what was wrong with the boy's leg and that the pain of setting without an anaesthetic would be severe. He gave permission for the anaesthetic to be administered.

Ernest Edward Black stated that he saw Eric Robert McIntosh at his (Black's) home when he called for milk, and, receiving it, left the house. He was riding a bicycle. A few minutes later he saw the lad lying on the road beside the bicycle, about five chains from the house. Nothing appeared to be wrong with the cycle and the road was in good condition and quite dry. He conveyed the lad to Rushworth for medical attention.

John Griffiths Moreland deposed that he was a legally qualified medical practitioner. He administered an anaesthetic to Eric Robert McIntosh on 19th September at the Rushworth Bush Nursing Hospital. His general condition prior to the administration of the anaesthetic was good. The examination revealed a hole in the palate, the remains of a complete hare lip and cleft palate. He had had an injection of morphia half an hour prior to the operation and the anaesthetic was commenced at 11.45 a.m. and was normal. The leg was set and he began to come out of the anaesthetic about 12 noon, when he vomited a quantity of undigested food, portion of which was inspired into the wind pipe causing asphyxia. This was probably contributed to the deflective palate. Attempts to dislodge the obstruction failed and attempts at resuscitation were fruitless, heart failure quickly supervening. The cause of his death was cardiac due to asphyxia, caused by the presence of vomited material in the wind-pipe.

Allan Finlay MacInnes stated he was a medical practitioner. He examined Eric Robert McIntosh, after he had injured his leg by a fall from a bicycle. He was admitted to the Bush Nursing Hospital. He had advised a general anaesthetic to enable him to attend to the injury and the father gave his consent. The boy said he had breakfasted at 7.30 a.m., so he arranged for Dr. Moreland to give the anaesthetic at 11.45 a.m. the same day. The boy seemed to take the anaesthetic in a satisfactory manner. As soon as he was sufficiently under the anaesthetic he manipulated the broken bones and began the application of the plaster to keep them in the correct position. No further anaesthetic was given, and soon after the patient began to vomit. At this stage Dr. Moreland announced that the boy was having difficulty with his breathing and he (witness) stopped the application of the plaster and noted the breathing seemed difficult and he was not a good colour. Pieces of meal were removed from the boy's throat but the breathing became more difficult and it became evident that during inspiratory movement a piece of food had lodged itself in the breathing passages and was causing obstruction, which they were unable to relieve and in spite of our combined efforts at resuscitation, breathing failed and was soon followed by cardiac failure, and death about 12.10 p.m. The boy had a cleft palate and his opinion this was a possible cause of the food lodging in the wind-pipe.

The Deputy Coroner gave a verdict that death was due to cardiac failure due to asphyxia caused by the presence of vomited material in the wind-pipe when under an anaesthetic and that such death was due to misadventure.

Rushworth Chronicle

18 November, 1938

Meccano set presented.

Mr. and Mrs. McIntosh, of Paringa Vale, have donated a fine meccano set for the use of the school. This was the property of their late son, Eric, who was a pupil of the school. Mr. W. J. Kirk, in accepting the gift said the school would value it, because of its association with their school mate, and thanked the donors for their kind expression to the school.