

John Edward Toohey

Rushworth Chronicle

7 January, 1938

Fatal Accident. Rushworth Man Killed.

Motor Cycle Strikes Tree on Victim's First Day of Ownership.

The holiday period at Rushworth was marred by a shocking accident which resulted in the death of John Edward Toohey, 28 years, a well-known local resident.

Mr. Toohey's death was caused by a motor cycle he was riding colliding with a tree in Wigg street about 8.15 p.m. on Wednesday last week.

It appears that Mr. Toohey had taken delivery of the motor cycle that day and was returning home, attended by a motor car driven by his brother Dan. Attempting to negotiate the turn from Murchison road into Wigg street, he apparently failed to turn sharply enough and the machine struck a tree in Wigg street. Mr. Toohey was thrown from the cycle, which continued a few feet into the deep drain at the side of the road.

Dr. Moreland was immediately summoned, but the victim was beyond human aid. It was found the deceased had broken his neck and death would be almost instantaneous.

The remains were conveyed to the Rushworth police station, where the body was viewed by the Deputy Coroner, Mr. D. Crothers, J. P., who gave an order for burial.

The inquest will be held tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon.

The unfortunate victim of the incident was the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. Con. Toohey, senr., of Rushworth. He was born at Rushworth and with the exception of periods when employment took him to other parts, had lived all his life here. He married about three years ago and leaves a widow and two small children to mourn their tragic loss.

Surviving brothers and sisters are Pat, Mat, Con, Dan, Mary (Mrs. W. Anderson, Rushworth) and Katie (Mrs. V. Christie, Jerilderie, N.S.W.).

The sympathy of the whole district is extended to the bereaved relatives.

The remains were interred in the Rushworth cemetery on Friday last when the funeral cortege was a very large one. The last rites were performed by Rev. Fr. Tehan. The coffin was carried to the graveside by Messrs P., M., C., and D. Toohey (brothers), S. Fraser and W. Anderson. The pall-bearers were Messrs. H. Geisler, O. Connally, P. Bell, G. Lloyd, P. Kenny and G. Whitson, and the flower-bearers Messrs. C. McArdle, A. Hannah, D. Cameron, D. Lawrie, R. Corner, C. Fox, C. Miller and J. Roach.

Funeral arrangements were carried out by Graham Diggle.

Rushworth Chronicle

14 January, 1938

On Monday last the Deputy Coroner, Mr. D. Crothers, J. P., held an inquiry into the death of Edward John Toohey, of Rushworth, who was killed on 29th December last.

Cornelius Toohey, brother of deceased stated: At about 8 p.m., on 29th December, 1937, I was riding in a motor car along Murchison road, Rushworth. My brother, Edward John Toohey, was following on a motor cycle about fifty yards behind. The car turned from Murchison road into Wigg street and a few seconds later I heard a crash and looked back and saw my brother lying against a tree on the north side of Wigg street about one chain from the intersection. I ran back to where he was lying and sent my brother, who was in the car with me for the doctor. Dr Moreland arrived about five minutes later.

My brother had about twelve months experience of riding a motor cycle. He was sober at the time the accident occurred. We came from Murchison, where it took us about an hour to get the motor cycle going. He had only ridden this particular motor cycle twice to my knowledge.

Samuel Albert Michael Cleary, stated that about 8 p.m. on 29th December he was riding a bicycle towards Murchison road from the railway bridge. He saw a car, followed by a motor cycle about fifty yards behind. Both were travelling under twenty miles per hour. He heard the car blow its horn approaching the intersection and the car continued up Wigg street. The cycle slowed down to take the corner and suddenly appeared to gather speed. The rider took his feet off the footboard as if trying to stop the machine and dragged them in the loose gravel.

The machine travelled across to the right of the road and he heard it crash into a tree. He rode up to where the man was lying in the gutter some yards further on. He immediately went for the doctor. In his opinion the accident was caused by the rider turning the petrol on instead of off at the corner, causing the machine to gather speed. No other traffic was near at the time.

The Deputy Coroner recorded a finding of accidental death.