

## Mr John Sands

Waranga Chronicle

21 November, 1872

In memoriam.

We have this week to perform the melancholy duty of chronicling the death of Mr John Sands, one of the oldest, best known, and most universally respected of the residents of this town, who died on the morning of the 15th inst.

Mr Sands, we are informed, came to this colony in the year 1851, and resided at Beechworth and Sandhurst, but finally settled down here in the year 1857.

He soon became connected with the principal Common School of the place, as correspondent, and rendered himself conspicuous by his increasing activity in all matters appertaining to the educational welfare of the children of the district, and by his uniform urbanity and kindness to them individually, he at once gained great popularity amongst them, and the unqualified esteem of their parents.

On the appointment of the committee for the erection of the new Vested School he became a member, and by the advice which his long experience enabled him to give, he mainly contributed to bring the labors of his colleagues to their present successful issue. In fact, his devotedness to the interests and welfare of the children of the town seems to have been an absorbing study with him, oftentimes, we fear, to the detriment of his pecuniary means.

No appeal to "Johnny Sands," on behalf of the school children, was ever known to be made in vain, and by his instrumentality many a treat has been given them, and many a convenience or comfort supplied to them, which, but for his thoughtfulness would have been wanting. It is not unnatural then, that the more thoughtful of the children should have looked upon him in the light of a kind friend, and that they did so is sufficiently evidenced by the fact of so many mournful young faces appearing around his grave on the occasion of his burial.

Mr Sands had been in a weak state of health for some time previous to his death, but had so far recovered as to be able to attend to his business, when he unwisely undertook to superintend the preparation of coffee for the merrymaking at the late ball held in aid of the funds of the school. The alternate heat of the fire and the cold night air to which he was exposed while performing this last service in connection with the school, resulted in a severe attack of erysipelis which in his barely convalescent state he was unable to shake off, and which became the immediate cause of his death.

He may thus be said to have died in harness, his last act being given for the benefit of the cause to which he was so greatly attached.

Besides school matters, Mr Sands must be credited with the reclamation of the Cemetery from the disgraceful state into which it had fallen a short time ago, and to his zeal is to be attributed its present order and neatness. As a man and citizen he was "*sans reproche*" and as a public man, taking a lively though unostentatious interest in, and promoting the growth of local institutions, his loss is one which will be long felt, and not easily supplied. He was followed to the grave by a large number of mourners consisting of all classes of the community on Saturday last at three p.m., and as a mark of respect, and in token of the general esteem in which he was held, the business places in the town were closed from two o'clock until after the funeral without any previous arrangement, but so unanimously was this carried out, that it appeared to be the result of common consent.

We are glad to see that his memory is not likely to be allowed to die for the want of a suitable memorial, and that the school children are to be allowed to institute a collection for the purpose of providing a fitting tablet to mark the resting place of their best friend.