

## Mr J. R. (Dick) Wootton

Rushworth Chronicle

25 November, 1898

DEATH.

WOOTTON.—On the 18th November, in Mooroopna Hospital, John Richard Wootton, the beloved husband of Agnes Wootton, of Rushworth, aged 42 years.

A widespread feeling of deep regret was made manifest on Friday last when it became known that Mr J. R. Wootton had breathed his last in the Mooroopna Hospital that morning—another victim to that fatal complaint, Bright's disease of the kidneys.

"Dick," as he was familiarly known to almost every man, woman and child in Rushworth, Murchison, Whroo and Tatura, was born at Jones' Creek, near the Loddon, in 1856, and was therefore 42 years of age at the time of his death.

He arrived in Rushworth with his parents in 1862. After leaving school (in 1870) he went into the "Chronicle" office, where he remained for 11 years, then leaving to take charge of the "Goulburn Advertiser" at Murchison. He spent twelve months at Murchison, from whence he went to Tatura, where he assisted his father and mother in managing the Victoria hotel, a business which he had full charge of from the time of his father's death till 1888, when he removed to Ballan, where he kept an hotel for five years.

His next experience in hotel-keeping was at South Melbourne, where he had the Caledonia hotel for twelve months.

Finally he returned to Rushworth in 1894 and took the Foresters' Arms at Gunn's Creek. Unfortunately Dick was not successful in business, and his widow and family are not left too well blessed with this world's goods.

For some time latterly he had been acting as agent for Bryant and Shiels' Shepparton Brewery, for which he was working up a good connection. His eldest son has succeeded him in that firm's employ.

Dick was passionately fond of cricket, a game at which he excelled, one might almost say, right up to the time of his death, notwithstanding that for the past ten years he had been a martyr to gout. Joining the Rushworth Cricket Club about 28 years ago, he and his brother, Harry, soon became the mainstays of the club, both in bowling and batting, but it was mainly in the former department that the brothers Wootton had a reputation which was known far and wide. As stated, Dick stuck to the game right up to the last, and last season showed almost as good form as ever with both bat and ball in the local association matches.

He played against the Englishmen at Benalla on more than one occasion, and came out with excellent bowling averages.

Fair and upright in all his dealings, Dick won the respect of all whom he came in contact with, and the esteem in which he was held was testified to by the large and representative *cortege* which followed his remains to the Rushworth cemetery on Sunday afternoon, among those present being residents of all the towns previously named.

The Rushworth Brass Band and the members of the cricket club assembled at the Shire hall and forming into line marched some short distance along the Tatura road and met the funeral on its way from Mooroopna. They then headed the procession, the oldest members of the club (Messrs W. Gunn, C. J. Robinson, T. Blake and W. H. Geyle, leading the way. The line of procession was up Wigg street, thence along High street to the cemetery, where a large number of women and children had assembled.

About 70 vehicles, besides horsemen and pedestrians, followed the hearse, and altogether between 500 and 600 people took part in the last sad rites, which were conducted by the Rev. J . R. Walker. The coffin was laden with beautiful wreaths from sympathising friends, among them an everlasting one bearing the name of the Rushworth Cricket Club.

The mortuary arrangements were in the hands of Mr G. Mundy.

Bereavement Notice.

MRS AGNES WOOTTON desires to return her most sincere thanks for the floral tributes, &tc., telegrams, and sympathy extended to her on the occasion of her recent sad bereavement; also to specially thank the members of the Rushworth Brass Band and Cricket Club for the part they took in the funeral obsequies.