

Mrs George Hawking

Rushworth Chronicle

21 December, 1923

A DISTRESSING OCCURRENCE.

MRS. G. HAWKING MISSING.

A painful sensation was caused in Rushworth on Tuesday morning when it was learned that Mrs Hawking, wife of Mr. Geo. Hawking, who resides on the Stanhope road, was missing from her home, having disappeared during the night.

Mrs. Hawking had been in ill-health for some time past, and a few weeks ago was taken to the Mooroopna Hospital for treatment. She remained in that institution until Sunday last, when, as she seemed to have improved and expressed a desire to return to her home, Mr. Hawking motored over to the hospital and brought her home.

On Monday evening she retired to bed at about 10.30, the other members of the family retiring shortly after. Mr. Hawking was not at home, he being the manager of the "Murchison Advertiser" having to reside nearly all the week at Murchison.

When the youngest daughter, Elva, arose about 6.30 a.m., she went into her mother's room and found the bed empty. She went up the yard to look for her mother, and not finding her anywhere about the place, she informed her sisters. A search was made around about, but no trace of their mother could be found.

Information was at once sent to the police and search parties were organised. Word was sent to Mr. Hawking, at Murchison, and he was motored up by Mr. Day. The country all round was carefully searched, but no trace of the missing woman could be found.

The search was continues all day on Tuesday, and on Tuesday evening, and all day Wednesday, and a fresh contingent of searchers was organised yesterday, but to the time of our going to press, the search has been fruitless. Not a vestige of country for miles around has been overlooked. Dams have been dragged, digger holes explored, and every likely place where the unfortunate woman may have wandered to has been carefully investigated, and still her whereabouts are a mystery.

When Mrs. Hawking left home she was fully clothed, she had no hat, and she wore light felt slippers.

Very deep sympathy has been extended and expressed by all to Mr. Hawking and family in their sad and distressing affliction, with the sincere hope that the his unfortunate wife's mysterious disappearance will soon be unravelled.

(There was no edition of the Rushworth Chronicle published on 28 December, 1923)

Rushworth Chronicle

4 January, 1924

After a search extending over three days for the late Mrs. G. Hawking, who had been missing from our home since Monday night, 17th of December, her body was found floating in the Waranga main channel at the Corop Bridge on Friday 21st December.

The first clue to her whereabouts was discovered on the Friday morning when her son (Mr. George Hawking) found one of his mother's slippers floating in the channel opposite Mr. E. Cochrane's residence. He at once informed the police and Senior Constable Cullinan, in company with Constable Mason and Messrs R. J. Mitchell and L. Parrott and others proceeded along the channel to try and find the body of the unfortunate woman, which was discovered caught on a piece of wire.

On the previous Thursday, as no trace of Mrs Hawking could be found in the bush surrounding the town, Senior Constable Cullinan arranged with Mr. Merkel, of the State Rivers and Water Supply Department to have the channel searched by the channel guards which was done but their efforts were unsuccessful.

A magisterial enquiry was held before Mr. H. Catlin, J.P., on Friday 21st December, and after hearing the evidence of Mr. G. Hawking senior Miss Violet Hawking and Constable Mason, a verdict was returned that the deceased came to her death by drowning herself in the Waranga channel.

The late Mrs Hawking was born in Moonta, South Australia, and was 53 years of age at the time of the death. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Pugh of Waranga and was very much esteemed and respected by all who knew her. She leaves a husband, and a family of seven children -- two sons and two daughters -- to mourn their untimely loss.

The deepest and sincerest sympathy has been extended expressed for their sorrowing relatives in their sad loss.

The funeral took place on Saturday, 22nd inst., and as evidence of the respect and esteem in which the deceased was held, a large number of residents of the town and district followed the remains to the Rushworth Cemetery

The burial service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. F. C. Boundy, who also conducted a short service at the house where he referred to the late Mrs. Hawking's sterling qualities and Christian life.

Mr. E. F. Anderson conducted funeral arrangements. There were a number of floral tributes.

Mr. G. F. Hawking and family desire to express their sincere thanks to all friends for expressions of sympathy, floral tributes, etc., received during their recent sad bereavement. They feel they cannot adequately express their thanks to the many who gave their time and worked so nobly in the endeavour to relieve them in the time of great suspense and anxiety. Will all please accept this acknowledgment of thanks in place of personal intimation.