

James Wickens

Rushworth Chronicle

4 March, 1938

Pensioner found dead. Old mining identity.

James Wickens, aged 79 years, pensioner, was found dead at his tent at Whroo on Tuesday last at 11 a.m.

He was last seen about 1 p.m. on the previous day. When found he was in a sitting posture on the side of his bed, with his head resting on a box. He suffered from miners' pthisis [lung illness] and there was evidence that he suffered a severe haemorrhage shortly before his death.

Deceased was an old mining identity, who had been on Western Australian fields for many years. He had been "fossicking" at Whroo for some years.

The remains were viewed by the Deputy Coroner, Mr. A. J. Sleep, J. P. He gave an order for burial, and the remains were interred in the Whroo cemetery on Thursday at a date to be fixed [??].

Rushworth Chronicle

Pensioner's death. Coronial Inquiry.

On Tuesday, the Acting Coroner, Mr. A. J. Sleep, J. P., conducted an inquiry into the death of James Wickens, old age pensioner, who was found dead in his hut at Whroo on 1st March.

Evidence was given by Noble Birney, of Whroo, that he saw deceased at about 1 p.m. on 28th February, when he appeared to be in fair health. He went to deceased's camp at 11 a.m. on 1st March and found him dead. He had known deceased for thirty years. He was about 79 years of age at the time of his death. In the past six years he had often complained of suffering from miners' complaint and had known him to have severe coughing turns recently.

Arthur Cheong, of Whroo, also stated that deceased complained of suffering from miners' complaint and severe coughing turns.

Constable N. J. Ryan stated that he saw deceased dead in his camp at Whroo. He was in a crouching position on the side of a bed in a tent and it appeared as if he had attempted to get out of bed and put on a pair of trousers, which were clasped in his hands. There was a considerable amount of blood on the floor and bed clothing and on deceased's face, which appeared to have come from his mouth. There were no suspicious marks on his body.

Dr. A. F. MacInnes said the body showed signs of wasting disease. In his opinion deceased suffered from advanced pulmonary tuberculosis and the cause of death was haemorrhage from the lungs, resulting from this complaint.

The acting coroner returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

Whroo cemetery records show James Wickens, 79, buried on 3 March, 1938.