

## William Joseph Ishmael Cole

Born 21 June 1895 in Sofala NSW

Married Grace Beecroft 21 May 1918

Died 15 March 1968 in Bathurst NSW

Bill was the first son for William & Margery Cole. He was born in Sofala and would have attended school at either Turondale or Sofala. He joined the railways on 25 January 1913, as a casual car cleaner at 1/10 per hour.

Bill married Grace Beecroft in May 1918 at Lithgow and they had five children.

Bill worked for NSW Railways there, returning to Bathurst in 1924 as a fuelman/firelighter, where they lived in Rankin Street, not far from Bill's parents.

Bill had a long career of 40 years having worked through from cleaner and fitter's labourer to sheet-metal worker, by the time he retired on 9 February 1963.

A nickname that he acquired on the railways was "The Red Fox".

Bill was also a very devoted gardener. He was a renowned dahlia grower and entered his flowers in garden shows, winning many awards over many years.

He enjoyed five years of retirement before his death on 15 March 1968 in Bathurst and Grace died on 12 September 1983. Both are buried in the Church of England section of Bathurst cemetery.

### Children of Bill and Grace Cole.

1. William Henry (Bill) Cole – 29/01/1918 – 19/12/1996
2. Marjorie Doris (Marj) Cole – 10/07/1920 – 25/03/2011
3. Ernest Neville (Ernie) Cole – 31/07/1924 – 10/03/1994
4. Stanley Norman (Stan) Cole – 04/02/1927 – 28/03/1993
5. Ronald Allan (Ron) Cole – 08/04/1930 – 09/06/2006

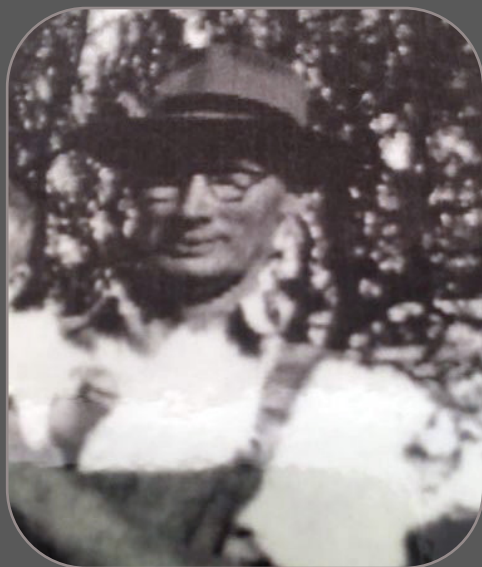


IMAGE  
William Cole

## Ernest (Ern) Cole

Born 6 September 1897 in Sofala NSW

Married Lillian Mutton 21 July 1917

Died 1 November 1969 in Bathurst NSW

Ern is the second son of William & Margery Cole. He was born in Sofala and would have attended school at either Turondale or Sofala. He joined the railways at Bathurst on 19 March 1917 as a cleaner at 6/8 per day.

Ern married Lillian Mutton in July 1917 and they had four children. The family lived in a number of houses in Bathurst, often buying a house and repairing and renovating it, before selling to do the same with another. Lillian particularly enjoyed redecorating houses as her hobby. A short time was also spent in Lithgow.

Ern worked for the railways for 41 years. In 1924 he changed from being a cleaner to working as a Fireman and he moved to Lithgow in 1939 in order to get a promotion to engine driver. The family returned to Bathurst in 1940 and Ern spent the remainder of his career as an engine driver before retirement on 1 October 1957. Ern became the president of the Bathurst branch of the AFULE (Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Employees). Ern was a good friend of Ben Chifley, who was also an engine driver.

Ern was an Alderman on Bathurst City Council, a position he held for nine years. Ben Chifley Dam was planned and built during his time on Council. Cole Street Bathurst is named after him. Ern and Lillian met the Queen in Bathurst in 1954 and Lillian joked that she would never wash her white gloves again!

Ern died in Bathurst on 1 November 1969 and Lillian on 8 March 1971. Both are buried at Kelso lawn cemetery.

### Children of Ern & Lillian Cole

1. John Harold (Jack) Cole 16/10/1918 – 18/07/1998
2. Stuart Rodger (Rodger) Cole 22/09/1922 – 9/10/1984
3. Lillian Millicent (Millie) Cole 2/12/1924 – 14/05/2014
4. Dorothy Barbara Amanda (Barbara) Cole 28/08/1939 –



### IMAGES

Ern Cole

Ern Cole with his children  
LtR: Rodger, Millie & Jack

Framed Certificate for Ald. Ernest  
Cole in appreciation of his 9 years  
service to Local Government  
14 December 1956

## John Harold (Jack) Cole

Born 16 October 1918 in Bathurst NSW

Married Wilma Ismay Williams on 8 May 1943 in Bathurst

Died 18 July 1998 in Taree NSW

Jack was the eldest son of Ernest and Lillian Cole of Bathurst NSW.

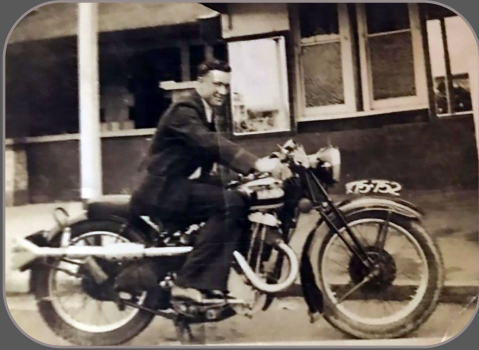
Jack started work at 17 years of age as a Junior Porter on NSW Railways in Bathurst on 9 December 1935. He was promoted to Porter Class 2 in October 1939 and then undertook Compulsory Training Duty with the Defence Forces for a number of months in 1940 and 1941.

Jack applied for permission from NSW Railways to enlist in the Australian Defence Forces in 1941, however his leave was not approved.

In March 1943 Jack was promoted to Adult Shunter in the Junee District before his marriage to Wilma Williams in May of the same year. He also worked in Albury in 1944.

Jack was promoted to Guard Class 1 in November 1945 after moving to the South Grafton District (Kempsey) and then settled in Taree in February 1964. He retired from NSW Railways after 44 years of service on 28 July 1979.

Jack and Wilma Cole settled in Taree in 1964 with their five children: Narda, Joy, John, Elizabeth and Bon.



### IMAGES

Jack Cole

Jack Cole in uniform

## William Henry (Bill) Cole

Born 29 January 1918

Married Phyllis May Fisher 15 January 1945

Died 19 December 1996

William (Bill) Henry Cole was born in Bathurst in 1918, the first son of Bill and Grace Cole.

He ultimately spent 46 years on the tracks from 1936 to 1982.

After leaving school as a teenager, Bill spent time working in a newsagent before embarking on a life-long career in the railway. In his younger days, Bill was also a well-known rugby league footballer with the former Waratah Club, which became Bathurst Charlestons.

Starting out as a Call Boy, he progressed through the ranks to become a Locomotive Fireman and then a Locomotive Driver. In the later stages of his career, Bill's regular route was Bathurst to Sydney one day, staying overnight, and then returning a train the next day.

His 46-year career in the railway allowed him to see and experience the evolution of train transport - from steam, to diesel and then electric. One thing that never changed was the "wireless" Bill always had on hand, as he was known to favour a bit of a punt, so kept a close ear on the outcome of various races!

Bill and Phyllis lived in Bathurst with their children Judy, Denise and Janice.

Bill passed away in 1996, aged 78 years.



IMAGE  
Bill Cole



## Stuart Rodger (Rodger) Cole

Born 22 September 1922 in Bathurst NSW

Married Thelma Mary Whitton on 26 April 1952 in Bathurst

Died 9 October 1984, buried in Bathurst Maranatha Lawn Cemetery

Rodger was the second son of Ernest and Lillian Cole of Bathurst NSW and he attended Bathurst Public School in Howick Street.

Rodger followed his father and older brother into the NSW Railway Service at the age of 16, employed as a Junior Porter on 16 November 1938.

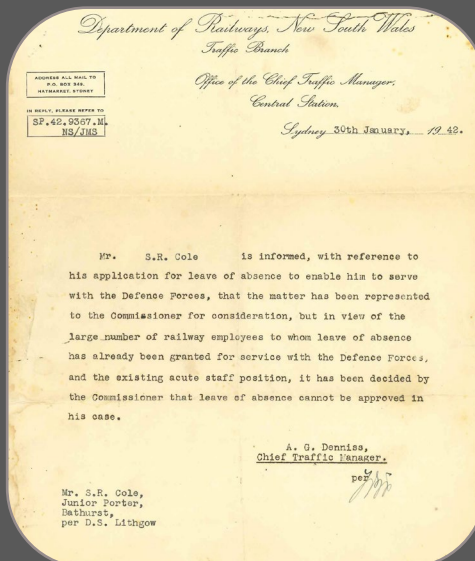
In 1941, Rodger applied for leave of absence to enable him to serve with the Defence Forces. His application was denied in writing on 30 January 1942 by the Chief Traffic Manager, A. G. Denniss, citing that *"in view of the large number of railway employees to whom leave of absence has already been granted for service with the Defence Forces, and the existing acute staff position, it has been decided by the Commissioner that leave of absence cannot be approved in this case"*.

In December 1944 Rodger was promoted to Shunter and he moved to the South Grafton District (Kempsey) in July 1948 to gain a promotion to Guard Class 1. He returned to Bathurst in June of 1950 where he met and married Thelma Whitton on 26 April 1952.

Rodger and Thelma settled in Rankin Street Bathurst and had four children: Victoria, Robyn, Leonie and Stuart.

Rodger was a Guard on the final journey of the 5910 steam train in 1974. He also played the role of Signaller in the award winning Australian 1974 short film set in the 1940s "A Steam Train Passes" that features the 3801 steam train.

Rodger retired from the NSW Railways in November 1980 after 42 years of service.



### IMAGE

Rodger Cole

Rodger Cole (front left) with the Railway Baseball team

Letter from NSWGR denying Rodger Cole permission to serve with the ADF in 1942

## Ernest Neville (Ernie) Cole

Born 21 July 1924 in Lithgow NSW

Married Veronica Diana (Betty) Stockwell on 7 October 1950 in Bathurst

Died 10 March 1994

Ernie was the second son of William (Bill) and Grace Cole.

Ernie started out as a telegram boy for Postmaster Generals at Lithgow Post Office.

Then, when family moved to Bathurst, Ernie joined the Way & Works Branch on 6 May 1940 as a shop boy. From 1942 to 1947 he had combined compulsory Defence Force duty where he also served in New Guinea. He returned as a shop labourer and fitters assistant.

In October 1950, Ernie married Betty Stockwell and resided in Bathurst and had three children Veronica (stillborn), Peter and Tony.

In May 1952 Ernie progressed to be the Coles Mobile Crane operator in Perway W/shops. This entailed doing the heavy bulk unloading of Traffic Branch freight wagons with mobile crane at Bathurst Goods Yard and Weighbridge. With the merger of Perway to Bathurst Rail Workshops (BRW) Fabrication Centre, Ernie was the B2NR Pneumatic shunter (track mobile) driver and retained that position until he retired on 22.7.1984 after 44 years and 2 months' service.

Ern was well known at Bathurst Greyhounds of a Saturday, when the team he worked, operated the publican's booth. He also did bar work for both The Railway and Victoria Hotels, along with the ARDC when the Railway Hotel Bathurst, supplied for after the Bathurst Car Races. Ern kept a very nice garden in Keppel St and Betty worked for Bathurst District Hospital.

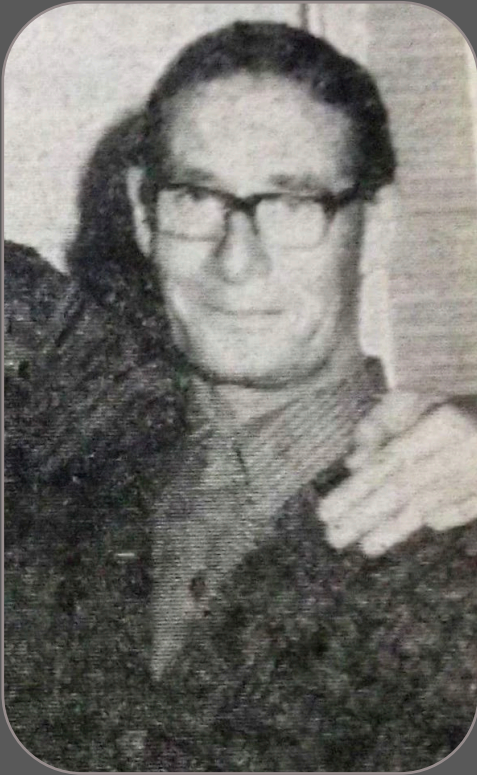


IMAGE  
Ernie Cole

## Stanley Norman (Stan) Cole

Born 4 February 1927

Married Shirley Roma Thompson on 18 February 1956 in Lue

Died 28 March 1993 in Newcastle aged 66 years

During younger years was an avid gardener. Was a member of Junior Farmers Club Council of NSW Attained several prizes and trophies for horticultural abilities.

1942 – worked for Percy J Moodie, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Bathurst NSW

1943 – commenced NSW rail service at age of 15

1948 – Station Assistant CI 1 Emu Plains, NSW

1958 – Station Master CI 6 Capertee, NSW

1961 – transferred from Capertee to Newcastle, NSW, as Assistant Station Master, CI 1 Newcastle

1976 – promoted to Coal Overseer, Port Waratah, NSW

1979 – promoted Senior Coal Overseer, Port Waratah, NSW

1986 – promoted Supervising Coal Overseer, Port Waratah, NSW

1992 – Voluntary retirement from Supervising Coal Overseer, Port Waratah after 48 years' service

Stan was a very private man and loved a bet on the races. He used to always say that he was “born by the Jordan”, (a creek that ran near Rankin St, Bathurst, where the family home stood for many years and is still there to this day).

Stan and Shirley resided at Kotara in Newcastle District, where their only child Bruce was born, in February 1959.



IMAGE  
Stan Cole





IMAGE  
Peter Cole

## Peter John Cole

Born 17 May 1954 in Bathurst NSW

Married Anne Elizabeth Boland on 18 February 1995

Peter was the first son of Ernie and Betty Cole and after attending Bathurst Demonstration and Bathurst High Schools, Peter worked in a rose nursery. He then commenced employment with NSWGR as a Junior Clerk on 1 March 1971 in the Bathurst Railway Booking Office (now known as NSW Trainlink Bathurst, formerly Countrylink).

Peter was the last Junior Clerk employed at Bathurst Railway Traffic Branch, which involved train reservations & ticket sales both local, intra and interstate and doing the coaching accounts for ticket sales and Bathurst Parcels Office. He did relief work in Lithgow District HS (home station) Bathurst, mainly at Cowra and Lithgow, relieving clerks for holidays and rostered days off. He then transferred to Bathurst Goods Office as Freight Claims and Accounts Clerk which also carried across to the Trackfast Small Freight Centre in its small freight amalgamation and restructure. In the privatisation of all State Trackfast Freight Centres, Peter was redeployed to Bathurst Rail Workshops, as a Staff Officer, which included preparation of time notes, absenteeism, compensation and claims, rehab programs, issue of passes along with updating staff records with training and relieving the Human Resources/Admin/Finance Manager for either days off or annual leave.

In a total Workshop restructure, Peter was displaced and then redeployed to the District Office of Rail Infrastructure Corporation's (RIC) Office (formerly Way & Works/ Signals Branch's combined), where he did reception, Works Clerk and Records work. In 2005, with the Federal Government privatisation of the Rail Track Maintenance contract to ARTC (now John Holland), Peter and associated staff, became displaced, when the lower Keppel Street Bathurst Office closed. Some staff accepted Voluntary Redundancy and Peter was again, redeployed this time, to NSW Department of Education, in a substantive position in their Finance Section in their William Street Bathurst, State Office, where he is still employed to this day (21.2.2020).

Peter and Anne reside in Bathurst, with daughter Laura and one very spoilt pooch "Bindi".



## **Thomas Herbert (Tom) Allison**

Born 26 June 1918

Married Marjorie Doris (Marj) Cole 15 December 1951

Died 4 May 1975

Tom was a train driver at Bathurst Loco Depot and passed away whilst still on the job in barracks, in Sydney. Exact railway service unknown at this date. Tom and Marj had one daughter Fay.

## **Ronald Allen Cole**

Born 8 April 1927

Died 28 March 1993

Ron was first employed in Royal Australian Navy and then NSW Railways at Bexley North in Sydney. Exact railway years unknown. On his return to Bathurst, Ron did seasonal work and worked for many years with George Fish and Co. He also had a role as stand-in/support in the movie of Bathurst Gaol break "Hoodwink".

## **Anthony Paul (Tony) Cole**

Born 18 April 1956

Died 24 December 2018 aged 62 years

Tony was an excellent athlete at school and a well-known rugby league player in Bathurst and Group 10. He played junior league with Bathurst Railway RSL and Bathurst Charlestons, then advanced into Under 18's and First Grade with Bathurst Charlestons.

He was a junior timekeeper's clerk at Way & Works Branch Division Engineers Office at Bathurst.

Tony then transferred to Sydney as a clerk with Blue Mountains Track Upgrading Program. Tony left the railways after 5 years of service and entered the fashion, dance & fitness industry. Tony also worked for the Lido Nightclub in Paris & Wrest Point Casino in Hobart Tasmania. He mainly lived in and around the Potts Point & Bondi districts of Sydney's Eastern Suburbs.