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PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST  
held upon the body of

Thomas Moore Butler

at

Dorra

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

31 1 190 6

✓

J. E. M. arvis J. P. coroner.



## MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

VICTORIA,  
*Eastern* BAILLIWICK,  
 To wit.

*Lord the King*  
 A MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY on behalf of Our Sovereign ~~Lady the Queen.~~  
 taken at *Toora* in the *Eastern*  
 Bailiwick of Victoria, this *25<sup>th</sup>* day of *January*  
*nine* *six*  
 in the year of our Lord One thousand ~~eight hundred and ninety-~~ before  
 the undersigned *William Edward Warner* Esquire, one of  
~~Her~~ <sup>is</sup> Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Bailiwick, upon view of  
 the body of *Thomas Moore Butler*  
 then and there lying dead.

Having duly inquired when, where, how, and by what means the said  
*Thomas Moore Butler* came by ~~his~~  
 death, I say that the said *Thomas Moore Butler*  
 died at *Supunwarri* in the said  
 Bailiwick on the *23<sup>rd</sup>* day of *January* *1896*  
 from *Suffocation in a Bush fire*

As witness my hand this

day of

*25<sup>th</sup>*  
*January* *1896*  
*W. E. Warner J.P.*



## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

\* Christian and  
Surname in  
full

This Deponent\*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

Bernard Ludvig Hillberg  
Labourer  
Woorarra East

I remember the 24<sup>th</sup> January  
I was in company with Arthur  
Q Toole and William Thomas, Deceased  
Thomas Moore Butler left Mr McKeens  
house at about 8 a m to Mr Lohs. He  
got to Mr McEvoy's and left for Mr  
Lohs. I and Arthur Q Toole and  
William Thomas found Deceased  
between Mr McEvoy's and Borkstens  
house. He was lying face downwards  
there was only one foot on Deceased  
We met Mr Ely and George Binding  
and asked them what was best to do  
Mr Ely and Binding said they would take  
the body to Toora. They took it in a bag  
to Toora. I last saw Deceased alive in  
Welshpool about 3 days ago. In my opinion  
Deceased met his death through suffocation  
going through the Bush fires and smoke  
I identify Deceased by the walking stick he  
was carrying when I saw him in Welshpool on  
Saturday last. <sup>The walking stick</sup> is a Christmas tree wood. The  
walking stick was about 2 feet away from  
the body. Deceased when I saw him was in good  
health and strength when I saw him at Welsh  
pool. I think Deceased was about 60 years of age

Taken and Sworn before me the 25<sup>th</sup> day

of January 1906

at

Toora

Bernard Ludvig Hillberg

W E Warner J.P.

Coroner.



## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

William Henry Thomas  
Labourer  
Wangip

\* Christian and  
Surname in  
full

I remember the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1906.  
~~Mr~~ in Company with ~~in~~ Company  
 with Hillberg and O Toole found Thomas  
 Butler, lying on his side on the road,  
 dead. we also found a walking stick lying  
 on the road beside him I am certain it is  
 the same stick shown to me by Const  
 Hall and I identify it. We then  
 met Mr Ely and Mr Bending. Mr Ely  
 and Mr Bending brought two bags and put  
 the body in a bag and conveyed it to Toora  
 where I and Thomas Ryan met Deceased  
 he was carrying two small paper parcels  
 He said he had come out from Welshpool  
 to McKean and was on his way to Lohs.  
 The place I found the body was at the  
 the foot of the steep hill on the  
 South West side of Bferkstone and  
 about 30 chains from Bferkstone.  
~~we~~ We found a tin match ~~box~~ box close to  
 the body. After finding the body we met  
 Mr Ely and Mr Bending on Lohs track  
 and told them we had found Butler Dead  
 and they brought 2 bags and put the  
 body in a bag and they said they would  
 take it to Toora

Taken and Sworn before me the 25<sup>th</sup> day  
 of January 1906 at Toora  
 W. E. Warner J.P.  
 Coroner.

William Henry Thomas



## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\*

Arthur O Toole

on his oath saith, I am a

Labourer

residing at

Wanypip

\* Christian and  
Surname in  
full

I remember the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1906  
I met Millers and Thomas at 2 PM at  
Kissens, we said we would look for  
Butler as we thought he was burnt.  
We found the remains of a body  
and a walking stick about 1 yard  
away, and the matchbox beside  
the body. We then went down to  
Mr Rohs. and met Mr Ely and Binding  
on our way back. We told them we  
had found a dead body on the  
road. We asked them what was best  
to do and they advised us to put  
the body in a bag. I found the  
stick within a yard of the body.  
Mr Ely and Mr Binding said they  
would convey the body to Toora.  
Mr Ely said you must come in  
to Toora tomorrow to give evidence  
at the inquiry.

Arthur O. Toole.

Taken and Sworn before me the 25<sup>th</sup> day  
of January 1906 at Toora  
W. E. Warner J.P.  
Coroner.



## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\* James Osborneon h<sup>is</sup> oath saith, I am a Farmerresiding at Wangip\* Christian and  
Surname in  
full.

I remember 24<sup>th</sup> January 1906 I was at my house the bush fire was raging at noon I last saw my father in Law alive on Monday week last the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. He left to go to Welshpool. He said he would be back the following evening, I can identify the Boots on Deceased's feet as that of my father in Law. The walking stick now produced is the one I cut for my father in Law Thomas M. Butler about 2 weeks ago. My father in Law always carried a tin match box in his vest pocket. He took a pair of Boots "new" to be stretched at the Bootmakers as he said they were hurting his feet.

James Osborne

Taken and Sworn before me the 25<sup>th</sup> day  
of January 1906 at Toora  
W. E. Warner J. P.  
Coroner.



# CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent \*

*George Butler*

on h ~~is~~ oath saith, I am a

*Farmer*

residing at

*Madalya*

\* Christian and Surname in full.

*W.E.W.* I remember the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1906 at 6 a.m. on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst Alfred O'Rourke told me my father was burnt at fire overtook him on the road at Bingenwarri. I immediately came to my Brother in Laws Mr Oshornes at Wonyip & came to Toora. My Father's age is about 69 years. He is an English man. I last saw him about 3 weeks ago at Mr Oshornes my Brother in Laws house. My Father was in the habit of carrying a Walking stick. I feel satisfied that the body shown to me by Const Hall is that of my Father

*George Butler*

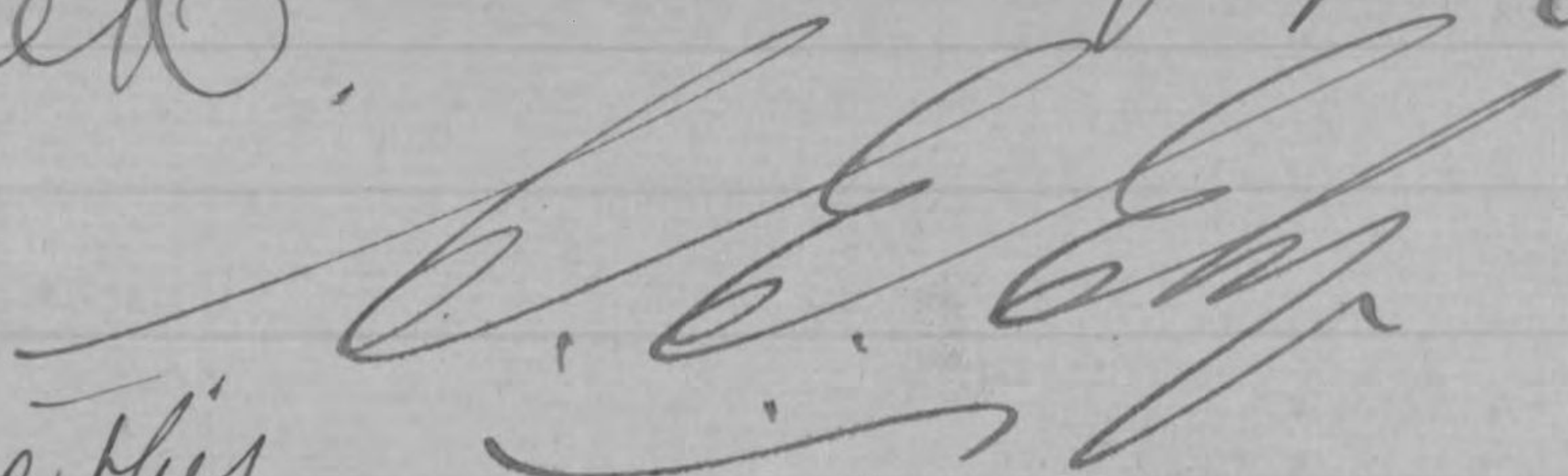
Taken and Sworn before me the *25<sup>th</sup>* day  
of *January* 189*0* at *Toora*  
*W.E. Warner J.P.*  
Coroner.



## Coroner's Inquest

This Deponent, Charles. Stuart Ely  
on his Oath saith I am an auctioneer  
residing at Toora.

I remember 24<sup>th</sup> January 1906  
I in company with George Binding  
and Reginald Stockwell met the  
witnesses Hilbery O. Toole & Thomas  
near Robs house. Hilbery informed me  
that they discovered the remains of  
a man named Butler and asked me  
what was best to be done I said as the  
roads were blocked the only thing they  
could do was to make a stretcher & convey  
the body to Olsens bridge where we could  
convey it by trap to Toora. I went to  
Rob's house & got 2 bags & returned to  
where the body was lying & got Hilbery  
~~Went~~ and O. Toole to assist to put the  
remains in a bag which I afterwards  
decided to convey to Toora, as the remains  
were considerably charred. I guided  
the bag containing the remains to  
Cust Hall lying close to the body I  
found a walking stick believed  
to be the property of deceased Butler  
I also saw a pair of boots lying on  
the road. I believe the property of  
Deceased.



Taken and sworn before me this  
25<sup>th</sup> day of January 1906  
at Toora  
W. C. Warner J.P.



# CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 53.]

COLONY OF VICTORIA, )

TO WIT.

This Deponent\*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

John McKean  
Labourer  
Woorarra East

\* Christian and  
Surname in  
full.

I remember the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1906  
on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> January I drove Mr  
Butler from Welshpool to Hissens. He  
stayed at Hissens "where I reside". He left  
about 8 a.m. for Mrs Osbornes. about 5 miles  
away. About 7 or 8 p.m. Mr Ely and Mr  
Kinding met me and said you have had  
a hard time old man they had a walking  
stick. They said do you know the walking  
stick. I said that is the stick Mr  
Butler had. it had some wire  
wrapped around it. When I left  
Butler at Hissens he was carrying  
a pair of boots in a parcel. and  
had a light pair of boots on his  
feet. I think if Butler went direct  
to Rohs, he must have got there safely.  
In my opinion he must have stayed  
on the road.

John McKean

Taken and Sworn before me, the 25<sup>th</sup> day  
of January 1906 at Toora  
W. C. Warner J. P.  
Coroner.