

059

27th January 1923

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST

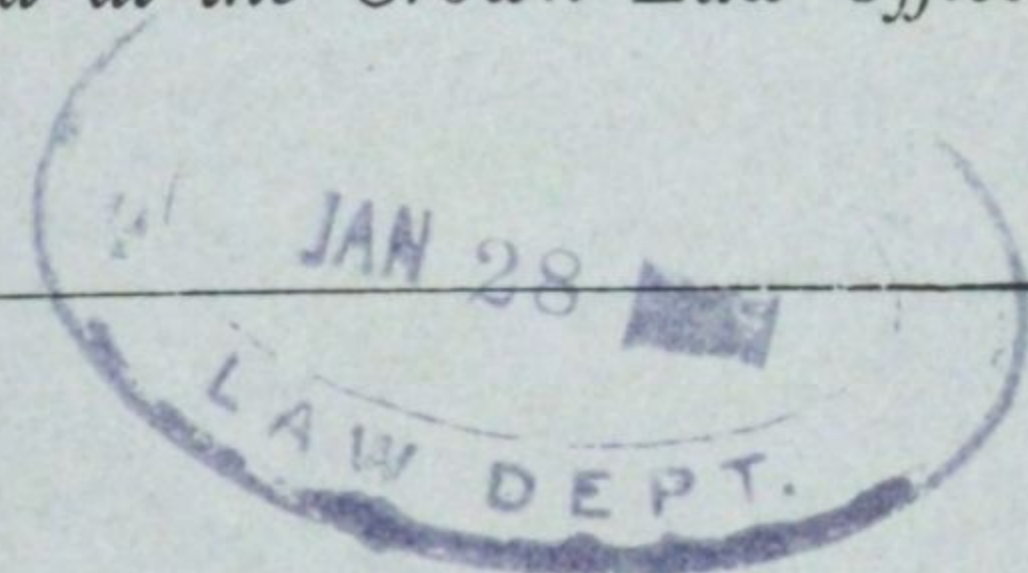
held upon the body ^{ie?} of

John Robert Charles

at
James William Charles
Queenscliff.

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

19



H.

C. H. Campbell J.P.

Coroner.

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

VICTORIA, }

TO WIT. }

INQUISITION

(WITHOUT A JURY.)

RECEIVED
28-JAN-1933
C.I.O.

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lord King George, taken at

Queenscliff

in

Victoria, the 27th day of January

A.D. 1933, in the twenty-third year of the Reign

of our said Lord the King, before me the undersigned

Justice of the Peace

Gentleman, a Coroner of our Lord the King

for Victoria, upon the view of the bodies

of John Robert Charles etc.
and James William Charles.
then and there lying dead.

Having duly inquired upon the part of our Lord the King when, where, how,

and by what means the said John Robert Charles

James William Charles came by their death I say that the said

John Robert Charles and James William Charles

died at Queenscliff on the 22nd

day of January 1933, from Misadventure

Drowning by accident

Justice of the Peace

In witness whereof I the aforesaid Coroner have to this Inquisition put my

hand and seal on the day and year and at the place above mentioned.

Robert Campbell

CORONER

Justice of the Peace.



CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * James Leslie Charleson his oath saith, I am a Farmerresiding at Cardigan near Ballarat* Christian and
Surname in
full.~~xxxxxxx~~ At about 3pm on the 22/1/33 I viewed the body of my son

John Robert Charles lying at Mr Priddle's Mortuary Hesse Street, Queens-

cliff. I last saw him alive at about 10.30 am on 22/1/33, when in

company with his brother James William Charles (also deceased) he accomp-

anied my wife and I to the back beach at Queenscliff, where both deceased

went in for a swim. After they had been in for about a quarter of an

hour to twenty minutes I saw them in the water about forty yards from the

beach, they were about fifteen yards apart. I could see that they were

in difficulties. I ran down to the water and saw two young men with the

Life-saving reel, they tried to unwind it but it jammed and would not

work. They then plunged into the water with two or three other men who

were present. I saw one of the men catch hold of one of the boys (I think

it was the deceased John Robert) but owing to the roughness of the sea

and the waves he was compelled to leave him go. I did not see either of

the deceased again until the body of John Robert Charles was brought

from the water about an hour later. He was then dead. *Neither of**the deceased could swim.*Taken and sworn before me the 23rd dayof January 1933 at QueenscliffColin CampbellJ. L. CharlesJustice of the Peace

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

John Coomher Robertson* Christian and
Surname in
full.on his oath saith, I am a The Overseer of the Victorian
Benevolent Home Royal Park
residing at 26 Bruncha Street Brunswick West.

I know the deceased James William Charles.
He is my nephew. At 11 am on the 22nd day of
January 1933 I went to Mr. Fiddler's Mortuary
Keele Street. Queenscliff where I viewed the
body of deceased, and I identify it as the
body of my nephew James William Charles.

Taken and sworn before me the

23rd

day

of

January

1933

at

QueenscliffLeslie CampbellJ. C. RobertsonJustice of the Peace

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

Lily Emma Stevenson

* Christian and Surname in full.

on her oath saith, I am a

Proprietress of the Kiosk at back beach Queenscliff.

residing at

Beach Street Queenscliff.

At about 10.15 am on the 22nd day of January 1933 I was ^{in the} Kiosk at the back beach Queenscliff. I looked into the sea in front of the Kiosk and saw the two deceased. The ^{two} was coming out, and that would be about thirty yards from the shore. I saw one of the deceased, he appeared to step into deep water, the other deceased caught hold of him, I ran out of the Kiosk, to get assistance as I could see that they were in difficulties. Deceased were the only persons in the water and very few about the beach. I then was unable to obtain assistance on the beach and I ran into the football ground adjoining, where there were some soldiers; I called out ^{to them} "Come, some one in trouble in the water." The soldiers ran to the sea and plunged into the water and endeavoured to save the deceased, but owing to the rough seas they were unable to rescue them. One of the deceased floated further out to sea, where the body sank. A few seconds later the other body sank. The soldiers tried to try and get the bodies without success. About an hour later I saw the body the eldest deceased John Robert Charles recovered from the sea and brought to the shore.

Examined by Mr. Campbell.
Crossed questioned
Later in the morning I saw a number of other persons diving from a fishing boat. I saw body of John Robert Charles recovered by Mr. Norman Gannon.

Taken and sworn before me the

27th

day

L Stevenson

of

January

1933

at

Queenscliff

Colin Campbell

Justice of the Peace

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

Colin James King

on his oath saith, I am a clerk

residing at 31 Clowes Street, South Yarra.

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

At about 10.20am on the 22nd day of January 1933
I was on the football ground adjoining the
back beach, when upon hearing the witness
Edenenson call for assistance "Some one
is in trouble," with others I ran to the
beach, taking off my coat. I dived in
and swam to the nearest of the deceased
who was then floating in the water,
apparently unconscious. They were
about twenty or thirty yards from the
shore and about eight yards apart.
I swam to the nearest of the deceased
which I now know to be John Robert
Charles. I caught hold of him and
attempted to swim to the shore with
him. The rough seas forced me to let
him go, and I attempted to push
him in front of me to the shore. He
was unconscious. He sank and I
tried to save him but I was swamped
by waves; and forced to leave him go.
He then sank. I remained on the
beach for about when the body of the
deceased John Robert Charles was
recovered from the water and
brought ashore, by Mr.

Taken and sworn before me the 27th day

of January 1933 at Queenscliff

Colin Campbell

Justice of the Peace

C. King

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * Thomas Evelyn Williamson his oath saith, I am an Electrical Engineerresiding at 4 Brown Street. St. Brighton* Christian and
Surname in
full.

At about 10.20 am on the 22nd January 1933
I was on the football ^{ground} when I heard the
witness Stevenson calling out for assistance.
In company with others I ran to the
back beach adjoining the football ground
and in front of the kiosk I saw the
bodies of the two deceased floating
in the sea one about forty yards from
the shore and the other about sixty yards
from the shore. They both appeared to
me to be floating face downwards
and appeared to be unconscious.
I partly undressed and dived into the
water and attempted to rescue
the one nearest the shore, but
owing to the ^{disappearance of the bodies} ~~roughness~~ I was unable
to rescue either of them before they sank.
After the bodies sank ~~we~~ I with others
dived endeavouring to locate the
bodies without success.

T. E. Williams

Taken and sworn before me the 27th day
of January 1933 at Queenscliff
John H. Campbell
Justice of the Peace

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

Keith Allan Regan

on his oath saith, I am a

Packer

residing at 117 Asling Gardenwall.

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

At 10.30 am on the 22nd day of January 1933
in company with others I was in the
football ground adjoining the ~~foot~~
back beach at Queenscliff. From
something one of my companions
said to me I ran to the back beach
opposite Kioko pulling my clothes
off as I went. On arriving at the
beach I saw the two bodies of
deceased floating face downwards
in the water, so all appearances
unconscious. I dived into the
water and swam out ~~to~~ towards
the body which was ~~farthest~~ ^{farthest} from
the shore, but before reaching it it
had apparently sank and I was
unable to find it. With others
I endeavoured to locate the
bodies, but without success.

Examined by Mr. Campbell.

I went to ~~farthest~~ ^{the farthest} body because
the witness King had ^{the other} one. I am
a strong swimmer.

Taken and sworn before me the 27th day
of January 1933 at Queenscliff

John H Campbell

Keith Allan Regan

Coroner.

Justice of the Peace

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

Storman James Zanoni

on his oath saith, I am a

Fisherman

residing at

Beach Strev. Queenscliff

* Christian and Surname in full.

The 22nd day

At about 11. ~~30~~ am on, January 1933 in consequence of something I was told I in company with others I went to the

scene of the drowning at the back beach Queenscliff, by boat. and made a search for the bodies of two deceased about half an hour later the body of John Robert Charles was located in about twelve feet of water about thirty yards from the shore I dived from the boat and recovered the body from the bottom of a hole in between the rocks, and with the assistance of others present took it was taken to the shore.

Examined by Mr. Campbell. The sea was rough. I am only an ordinary swimmer.

St. J. Zanoni

Taken and sworn before me the

27th

day

of

January

1933

at

Queenscliff

John H Campbell

Coroner.

Justice of the Peace.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

Samuel. Caple Stephens

on his oath saith, I am a

Fisherman

residing at

Beach Street, Queenscliff

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

Q. about. I am on the 23rd day of January 1933
 I ~~was~~ with others in my boat. I went searching
 for the body of the deceased James William
 Charles. I was cruising near Light House
 Point at about 9.30 am when I saw
 the body of deceased lying between
 the rocks about thirty yards from
 the beach and about three hundred
 yards from where the drowning
 occurred. The body was lying
 on the bottom of the sea, in about
 ten feet of water. I recovered
 the body and took it to the
 Fishermans pier where it was
 taken possession of by Constable
 Blain. My brother Jack Stephens
 dived and secured the body from
 the sea.

S. B. Stephens

Taken and sworn before me the

27th

day

of January

1933

at

Queenscliff

Leslie H. Campbell

Justice of the Peace

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * ^{David} YOFFA ~~David~~* Christian and
Surname in
full.on h & oath saith, I am a Medical Practitioner
residing at Mahaba Queenscliff

I was called on the morning of the 22nd Jan^y 1933 to a case of drowning in the vicinity of the Kiosk at the Back Beach Queenscliff. The body of John Robert Charles was recovered over an hour after the accident.

Artificial respiration and all resuscitation methods were persevered with most strenuously for more than hour after the body was recovered.

There was no response whatever to all our efforts.

An examination showed no signs of life.

In my opinion death was due to drowning. I was called on the morning of the 23rd Jan^y 1933 to view the body of James William Charles who was drowned on the 22nd Jan^y 1933. An examination showed that life had been extinct for many hours.

In my opinion death was due to drowning. I was called about 11 a.m. on the morning of the 23rd to view the body of James William Charles.

I was called about 11 a.m. on the morning of the 22nd to the accident.

D Yoffa M.D.
Melb^{ne}

Taken and sworn before me the 23rd day
of January 1933 at Queenscliff
John H. Campbell
Coroner
Justice of the Peace

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * William Martin Farrellon his oath saith, I am a First Constable of Policeresiding at Queenscliff* Christian and
Surname in
full.

In consequence of a message received at about 10.30 am on the 22nd day of January 1933 in company with Constable Blain I went to the back beach where I was informed that a double drowning accident had occurred. A search for the bodies was made and after about an hour search the body of the deceased John Robert Charles was recovered from the sea by the witness Zanoni, after after artificial respiration had been applied by Doctor Goffa and Doctor Linn for over an hour without success, I removed the body to Mrs. Duddle's mortuary. The following day the (23/1/33) at about 11.30 am. I again went to Duddle's mortuary in company with Mr. G. H. Campbell J.P. where I viewed the body of the deceased James William Charles.

W. M. Farrell
1st Const 6255

Taken and sworn before me the 27th day
of January 1933 at Queenscliff
Police Campbell
Justice of the Peace.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent *

Robert John Blain

on his oath saith, I am a

Constable of Police

residing at

Queenscliff

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

From something I was told at about
10.30 am on the ~~23rd~~ day of January 1933
I went to the Fishermans Wharf at
Queenscliff where I saw the body of the
deceased James William Charles
in the witness Stephens boat.
I took possession of the body.
and removed it to Mr Maddles
mortuary, 288 St. Queenscliff
I was also present at the beach
head at 11³⁰ am on the 22nd day
of January 1933 when the body of the
deceased John Robert Charles was
recovered from the sea.

Taken and sworn before me the 27th day
of January 1933 at Queenscliff

Colin Campbell

Justice of the Peace

Robert John Blain
Const. 655