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PROCEEDINGS of INQUIRY.

held upon the body of

John Ernest Duncum

at

Southwark

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

190 /

John Bell G. /

Coroner.

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

VICTORIA,
Central BAILIWICK, }
To wit.

A MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY on behalf of Our Sovereign ~~Lady~~ the Queen
 taken at ~~South Bonyip~~ in the ~~Central~~
 Bailiwick of Victoria, this ~~Seventeenth~~ day of ~~June~~
 in the year of our Lord One thousand ~~eight~~ hundred and ~~ninety~~ before
 the undersigned ~~John Bell~~ Esquire, one of
 Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Bailiwick, upon view of
 the body of ~~Alfred Ernest Duncan~~
 then and there lying dead.

Having duly inquired when, where, how, and by what means the said
~~Alfred Ernest Duncan~~ came by his death, I say that the said ~~Alfred Ernest Duncan~~
 died at ~~South Bonyip~~ in the said
 Bailiwick on the ~~14th~~ day of ~~June~~ ~~1890~~
 from Accidental death from drowning
 ((while attempting to rescue his sister))
 Jane Hilda Duncan from drowning.

As witness my hand this

17th

day of June 1890

John Bell

J.P.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

* Christian and
Surname in
full.This Deponent* John Duncanon his oath saith, I am a Village Lessorresiding at South Bunyip

I am the father of the boy Alfred Ernest Duncan now deceased; his age is Ten years and nine months.

At 8 am on the 14th June 1901 I saw the deceased getting ready to go to school to South Bunyip a distance of two miles. The road to the school is along the main tram line on the South side and the school is on the north side. The drain could be crossed at either the fifteen mile bridge or the Thirteen mile bridge. They had ^{his} own choice of which bridge ^{they} should cross.

He was accompanied by his sisters Jane Hilda and Annie Maud Duncan about twenty minutes to ten same morning I heard that one of my children had fallen into the main tram and was drowned. I went to the place near the school and then heard that the two children Alfred Ernest and Jane Hilda were lost drowned.

About 12³⁰ pm on the 15th Inst I saw my son Alfred Ernest taken out of the main drain at the Thirteen mile seventy chain bridge. he was then dead.

Taken and Sworn before me the 1st day
of June 1891 at Bunyip South
John Bell I.P. {
John Bell
Coroner.

John Duncan

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* Melinda Norton

on her oath saith, I am a

residing at Bunyip South with my Parents* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I remember Friday the 14th ^{June instant} I was going to school on that morning at about 8.30 am I met Janie Duncan her sister Annie we were on the south side of the drain. Her brother Alfred Ernest Duncan and my brother Noel were there. My brother and Alfred Ernest Duncan crossed the creamy bridge on to the north side of the drain we remained on the south side of the drain we walked along the road till we came to the plank which was across the stream in front of Gostello's. Jane Duncan said I will go across the plank will you come with me I said alright. She stepped on to the plank and went back on to the bank. I then walked across she said come back and catch hold of my hand I walked back and caught hold of her hand and started to walk across when we got ~~out~~ on to the middle of the plank she pulled me and let go her hand and she fell into

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 189 _____ at _____
} _____
Coroner.

the

VICTORIAN POLICE-[74B.]

Name of Witness.

Statement.

the water she screamed I then went up on to the road to Mr. Bunder I told Mr. Bunder I then went back to the drain I saw deceased floating on top of the water Alfred Ernest Duman (deceased) was then in the water down stream below his sister

He caught hold of his sister I then ran on to the school to tell the master I did not see either of them again after that.

While I was walking across the plank I had hold of deceased hand we walked side ways we were not pushing each other or playing I think deceased got Giddy from looking at the water. I could not say whether "annie" had hold of her sister's hand when we started to walk over the plank

Meta Norton

Taken and sworn before me the 17 day
of June 1901 at Bunyip South.

John Bell

J.P.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

• Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent *

John Rastton Woods

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

South Bumyip with my parents

Saith I am 11 years of age and reside with my parents. About 9 am on the 14th Inst (Friday) I was going from the Post Office at South Bumyip to the school on the north side of the train drain and I caught up to Annie Duncan (the deceased). We walked along together till we came to the plank which was across the stream in front of Mr. Estell's. His sister Jane put her foot on the plank. (She was then on the south side of the drain.) deceased said to her are you going across? She said Yes. He said You can go across if you like. She then stepped on to the plank and walked a few feet and turned back and said I will not go across. At the time Mabel Norton had walked across the plank. Mabel Norton walked back across the plank, Jane caught hold of her hand, and Jane (deceased) caught hold of her sister Annie's hand. They were then on the plank. Mabel Norton was leading after they

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day

of _____ 189 at _____

Coroner.

VICTORIAN POLICE-[74B.]

Name of Witness.

Statement.

had gone about four feet across the ~~stream~~ Annie Duncan started to cry. Jane (deceased) let go her hand and she walked back and got up on the bank when Jane got in the middle of the stream she fell off the plank. She seemed to have got frightened and overbalanced and fell in to the water. Her brother Alfred Ernest called out to his sister lay on your back. I then ran to Mr. Bratello for help when I returned with Mr. Bratello Alfred Ernest Duncan (deceased) was in the water. He had hold of his sister around the waist trying to hold her up out of the water. He let her go and tried to get out. He was about six feet off the side when he sank (that would be about a chain and a half from Mr. Bratello's plank) I ran along the bank for about 16 chain I saw Mr. Kelly on the south side of the bank I said Annie Duncan and

VICTORIAN POLICE-[74B.]

Name of Witness.

Statement.

and I and Duncan are in the draft and by his direction I ran on to the bridge to tell some men who were working there to keep a look out for the bodies. That would be about 26 chain from where the girl fell into the water. The three girls had hold of hands and were walking sideways there was no pushing or playing. After I returned from Mr. Costello's I picked up a piece of timber on the bank and went down close to the water and held it out to Ernie & I touched his hand with it but he seemed not to be able catch hold of it. He has let his sister go at this time.

John Bushton Woods.

Taken and sworn before me the 17 day
of June 1901 at Bunyip South.

John Bell

I.P.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent*

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

• Christian and
Surname in
full.

on her oath saith, I am a

residing at Bunyip South with my parents

I am 7 years of age and reside with my parents at Bunyip South. I remember last Friday. I started from home for school & my brother Alfred Ernest and my sister Jane were with me. When we got to the creamery bridge we met Mabel Norton and Noel Norton. My brother Alfred Ernest and Noel Norton crossed the creamery bridge to the north side of the drain, we kept on the south side. When we came to the plank across the drain in front of Borstello's my sister Jane said to Mabel Norton will you go across the plank Mabel Norton said yes she walked across my brother who was on the opposite side of the drain said to my ~~poor~~ sister you can come across if you like. Mabel Norton came back to where my sister was caught hold of her hand when they reached the middle of the drain Mabel Norton let go my sister's hand she seemed to get giddy and fell into

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day

of _____ 189 at _____

Coroner.

the

VICTORIAN POLICE-[74B.]

Name of Witness.

Statement.

The water. My brother Alfred Ernest ^(deceased) who was on the opposite side of the bank jumped into the water caught hold of my sister and tried to get her out but could not. He then let my sister go and tried to get out himself. The boy John Woods picked up a stick ran down to the edge of the water and held it out to my brother. The stick touched him but he did not catch hold of it. I ran along the bank to Mr Kelly's and said to him Jane and Priscilla in the drain we ran back to the water but could not see him.

We never walked across the plank in front of Ostell's before. I started to walk the plank first but got frightened and came back. Madel Norton then walked across herself. I am not sure whether I had hold of my sister Jane's hand when she started to walk the plank with Madel Norton.

Annie McDuncan

Taken and sworn before me the 17 day of June 1901
at Bunyip South John Bell J.P.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent* James Wellwood
 on his oath saith, I am a Police Constable
 residing at Dromin

on the 14th instant I received a report
 of a case of drowning in the man-
 drin Bunyip South I proceeded there
 in company with Constable Ryan of
 Longwarry while dragging the drin
 on the 15th instant I heard a call
 that a body had been recovered by
 shore working in the boat a short
 distance up stream I proceeded to
 the spot at the bridge opposite the
 State School I assisted to take the
 body of deceased out of the water
 and conveyed it to the state school
 and assisted to remove the clothing
 I examined the body but found no
 marks or iff violence on it.

J. Wellwood
 M. 3814

Taken and Sworn before me the 17th day
 of June 1891 at Bunyip South
John Bell I.P.
 Coroner.