

25th March 1916

3051

Magistrate's Court
PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST

held upon the body of

Man named unknown

(known as Jim)

at

Bury

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

28th March 1916

John Pearson J.P. Coroner.

15237.

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

VICTORIA,
Central BAILIWICK,
 To Wit.

Burns

RECEIVED
 28 MAR 1916
 C. L. O.

A MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King,
 taken at *Burns* in the *Central*
 Bailiwick of Victoria, this *25th* day of *March*
 in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and *nineteen* before
 the undersigned *Charles Pearson* Esquire, one of
 His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Bailiwick, upon view of
 the body of *a man about 70 years of age 5 feet 8 inches high slight*
build fair complexion fair mustache grey hair
balder from forehead known as Jim
 then and there lying dead.

Having duly inquired when, where, how, and by what means the said
man (as described) come by his
 death, I say that the said *man (as above described)*
 died at *Garfield* in the said
 Bailiwick on the *20th* day of *March* 19/*16*
 from *being burnt to death in a fire*
the cause of such fire being unknown

As witness my hand this

day of

23th
March 19 *16*

Charles Pearson

J.P.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

John Munro

Labourer

Garfield

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I occupied an old store known as Archer's
I have ^{been} there for about four months
About four weeks ago a man who I knew
as Jim came to live there with me
I have known him about 2 years I never
knew his surname. He told me he was
over 70 years of age. he was fair complexion
fair hair fair moustache and stooped
He said he had no relations in this
country. A man named Alf Shearer
came to the camp on Friday 17th
March. Deceased. Shearer and I had a
few drinks on that day up till the morning
On Monday 20th March Shearer and Jim
left the camp in the morning. I saw
them at the camp about 6³⁰ p.m. Both
were fairly sober but had been drinking
The three of us then went down to the
hotel at Garfield we had drinks
I went out on the footpath and Jim
followed. he would have fallen over
I caught hold of him. I said we had
better go back to the camp he said
alright. I then brought him up to the
camp which is about 300 yards from
the hotel. Shearer came up to the
camp also. When I got Jim inside

Taken and Sworn before me the.....day

of.....190

at.....

Coroner.

J. E. W.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent*

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

he sat down on a ~~beam~~ can for about 10 or 20 minutes when he got up to go into his room and he fell on the floor. I went to get him up he said let me lay I am alright. I left him there. This was about 7 o'clock. Shearer and I went back to the hotel. and some drink and I went into the billiard room leaving Shearer in the bar. Some time after I heard the cry of fire and I was told my camp was on fire. I went up and found it burning. I inquired for Jim and looked around for him but I could not see him. I saw him today later. I was sober. Shearer had a drink but knew what he was doing. Jim was drunk. He smoked and had matches. There was no fire in the fire place or no light burning when I left him. He wanted to light the candle but I would not let him. He was smoking while Shearer & I was there but he was not smoking when we left him. The rooms were lined with paper and Kerosene

Taken and Sworn before me the..... day

of..... 190

at.....

Coroner.

J. C. B.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent*.....

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h oath saith, I am a.....

residing at.....

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I think that Jim must have
tried to light his ^{pipe} ~~papers~~ and
accidentally set fire to the place
Shearer cleared out that night
and I have not seen him since
when Jim and Shearer came home
at 6³⁰ for Jim was nearly drunk
He was not in the habit of getting
drunk. I never saw him drunk
before. I am certain that Shearer was in
the bar when the fire broke out.

John Ellwood

Taken and Sworn before me the 25th day
of March 1906 at Township
Chas Pearson
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

Thomas Scanlon
Farmer
Garfield

On Monday evening 20th March 1916 about 8 o'clock I was sitting on my front Verandah with the wife and a lady friend. My house is opposite the old store occupied by John Munn. about the hour mentioned my wife said to me so that a fire pointing to where Munn lived I looked and I saw ~~that it was~~ ^{that it was} the building on fire. I ran across to the house and went inside I saw the flames near the fire place at the back running up the walls and into the ceiling. I looked around and saw there was no hope of saving the place. I never saw anything to save and the fire began to fall from the ceiling and I stepped outside on the Verandah. I looked back when I saw a man pass the door inside the building, he picked up a billy. I sang out to him 'Get for your life!' then he disappeared from there. The whole place then got.

I believe the man that I saw with the billy was the man who was burnt, I thought that he would have left the building.

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 190 _____ at _____

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent*
 VICTORIA, TO WIT. on h oath saith, I am a
 residing at

* Christian and Surname in full.

by a back door, I know as I have
 I did not see him at the first or afterwards

J. W. Scallan

Taken and Sworn before me the 25th day
 of December 1906 at Bury
 Chas. Pearson J. W.
 Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA. TO WIT.

This Deponent* Leonard George Arisueon his oath saith, I am a Constable of Policeresiding at Burnside*Christian and
Surname in
full.

On Monday 20th March 1916 at about 8³⁰ pm from a report received in company with Constable Allen 5706 I proceeded to Garfield and there saw ~~an~~ ^{an} old store occupied by John Murray had been burned down. Amongst the burning debris we found the trunk of a humane form burned beyond recognition. The head, arms and legs had been completely burned to ashes. We removed the remains to the Iono Hotel Garfield. I made exhaustive inquiries to ascertain the surname of deceased but I could not do so. He was known as Jim. I also ascertained that deceased was helplessly drunk on the night of the fire. I would describe deceased whom I had seen before as a man about 70 years of age about 5 ft 8 high slight build fair complexion fair hair bald in front stooped. I could find no suspicious circumstances as to the origin of the fire which I believe was caused by the deceased himself.

L. S. Arisue 4896

Taken and sworn before me the 25th day
of March 1916 at Burnside
Chas. E. Pearson
Coroner.