

## Boys' Terrible Death at Braybrook

With one end of a halter rope tightly tied round his waist, John Lindsay Gordon Hodgetts, a ten-year-old boy living with his parents at Napoleon Street, West Footscray, was dragged to his death by a runaway pony at Braybrook on the evening of the 13th inst. About 6.50 o'clock, William Davie, a dealer, living in Ballarat Road, Braybrook, heard a horse snorting, and, on making an inspection, discovered on a vacant allotment, close to Harold Weaver's residence, the body of the boy lying close to the pony, which had the halter firmly fastened to its head. The boy was in a terrible condition. His trousers and shoes and socks had been torn from his limbs as the animal had coursed over the rough ground. Despite his fearful injuries the boy still breathed. Abrasions covered his head, face, and various parts of his body. The rope was cut away, and police and ambulance summoned, but before their arrival the boy had passed beyond human help. Constable Jerrett conveyed the body to the Melbourne Hospital where the medical authority could only pronounce life extinct.

From inquiries made by Constable Jerrett it seems that the boy attended the municipal pound about 6 p.m. and returned the same which had been

ropes result stated. Deceased's shoes were picked up at the corner of Evans Street and Ballarat Road.

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released the pony, which had been brought in during the day by the council's ranger. The poundkeeper removed a strap and chain from the animal's near hind leg, gave them to the boy, and affixed a halter. The lad then left, leading the pony, and what occurred afterwards is a matter of surmise. Probably the animal was somewhat flighty, and the boy, fearing that it would pull away, fastened the rope about his waist, with the disastrous result stated. Deceased's shoes

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