

Four killed in family car smash

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FOUR KILLED IN FAMILY CAR SMASH

St. Albans is still shocked by the car smash in which three members of the Mullan family and a 17-year-old girl, Robina Booker, were killed last Monday night.

It is the worst family tragedy St. Albans has suffered, and it is the third time death has struck at the Irish migrant family in two years.

The three members of the Mullan family who died will be buried in Keilor Cemetery tomorrow (Friday) after Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart Church in St. Albans at 9 am. Rosary will be recited at Sacred Heart Church at 7.30 pm tonight (Thursday).

The funeral of Miss Booker will leave for Western Suburbs Memorial Park after a service at 1.30 pm today (Thursday) at St. Mark's Church of England, Sunshine.

Seven members of the Mullan family and Miss Booker were returning from the Footscray-Geelong football match when their car collided with a semi-trailer loaded with sheep, near the corner of Boundary and Fitzgerald Rds.

Those killed were: Robina Booker, 17, of Bell St., West Sunshine. Cr. James Mullan, 46, of Keilor Council, and his youngest child, Alphonse Mullan, 10, of Adelaide St., St. Albans. Cr. Mullan's brother, Bernard Mullan, 40, of Vule St., St. Albans, who died in Footscray and District Hospital early last Tuesday.

Injured

The injured were: Alf Mullan, 37, of Craigielea Ave., a brother of James and Bernard, who has head injuries and a fractured leg and fractured arm, and is still in hospital. Alf's son, Patrick, 10, of the same address, who has head and internal injuries, and is in hospital. A son of Bernard, Thomas Mullan, 10, of Vule St., who suffered lacerations and shock, and is now discharged.

A son of Cr. James Mullan, Daniel Mullan, 18, driver of the car, who suffered facial injuries and shock, is now discharged. Miss Booker, who was killed, was a girl friend of Daniel.

Mr. Alf. Mullan arrived in Australia from Belfast 13 years ago, and was followed by his mother and brothers and sisters.

The first of two tragic years began when the mother of the family, Mrs. Anne Mullan, 72, of Emily St., St. Albans, died.

A year ago one of her daughters, Mrs. Maisie Sparks, of Vista St., St. Albans, died of cancer, leaving three children.

The wives of two of the brothers in the smash, Mrs. Jim Mullan and Mrs. Alf. Mullan, were to have left Melbourne tomorrow (Friday) on a six months' trip home to Ireland to see their families.

They had spent all last week preparing and packing for the trip.

Cr. Jim Mullan followed his brother to Australia about nine years ago and Bernard arrived about six years ago.

All three were active workers in community activities and were widely known in St. Albans.

Cr. Mullan was elected to Keilor Council two years ago and was one of the most active and conscientious councillors to ever represent St. Albans.

Cr. J. Eddie, a fellow ward councillor, said yesterday, "Jim did a good job, a really good job. Only last Saturday I spoke to him on his way to church.

"He was a good churchman, a good citizen. He worked hard for the Red Cross and other efforts. We are sorry to lose him."

Cr. Mullan was employed at the ICI Fabrics Factory at Deer Park.

Other tragic accidents, see Page 3.

Police worried over crime wave in St. Albans

St. Albans is in the grip of a crime wave, which has police worried.

Daylight housebreakings are increasing and most of them are committed by young hoodlums, some of them still at school.

Because the law does not permit the reporting of children's court cases, the public is not fully aware of the amount of juvenile crime.

Some juveniles now out on probation have up to 30 offences.

A local resident with years keys were kept, and this could lead to further trouble.

Police said keys left in front doors, even when householders were home, was another enticement to thieving.

Thieves had been known to steal keys from doors and then return when the houses were unattended.

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