

Sunshine Advocate

Scout drowned, James Phillip Gant, Aged 13

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Scout drowned

A 13-year-old Boy Scout from Braybrook was drowned in a swimming tragedy at Macedon on Tuesday of last week, despite the efforts of a Footscray youth to rescue him.

The victim was James Phillip Gant, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gant, of 72 Myalla St., Braybrook.

He had been camping with a scout troop in the area during the holidays.

A police spokesman said later that the scouts were swimming in a railway reservoir near a Forests Commission nursery.

James Gant got into difficulties when caught in reeds. The other boys went to his aid and supported him until they became exhausted and had to struggle to the bank.

The boys called for help to a railways gauge, Brian Flynn, 19 years, of High St., Footscray. Flynn dived in and brought the boy to the surface about five minutes after he disappeared.

A service was conducted at Our Lady's Church, Sunshine, on Thursday morning, after which the funeral was to the Footscray Lawn Cemetery.

James Gant was one of eight children.