

Sunshine Advocate

Three deaths in Sunshine's week-end of tragedy

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THREE DEATHS IN SUNSHINE'S WEEK-END OF TRAGEDY

Two young men and a boy, all residents of Sunshine, lost their lives in a week-end of tragedy for this district — one struck by a train, one electrocuted and one incinerated in a plane crash.

Graham Bennett, aged about 23, of Burnewang Street, was passenger in a two-seater plane which went into an uncontrolled spin, pancaked in a paddock at Rowville, near Dandenong, and burst into flames.

The bodies of the pilot, Douglas Neale, of Beaumaris, and Bennett, were still in the cockpits after the plane had burnt out. Rescue parties were powerless against the intense heat.

Graham Bennett was a member of a well-known Sunshine family, respected and esteemed by a large circle of friends. Until recently he conducted an electrical contracting business; lately he was on the staff of Taubman's, of Sunshine.

He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Bennett, of Burnewang St., his mother being a member of the Jones family, equally well-known.

Graham's father, Mr. Fred Bennett, was for years a prominent athlete with St. Mark's Athletic Club. His grandfather, Mr. F. Bennett, of Sydney St., is president of Sunshine Horticultural Society.

NEW GATES FOR FOOT TRAFFIC

New type gates for pedestrians at the Hampshire Road level crossing have been promised by the Railways department.

Installation of these and similar facilities at St. Albans were promised during the month of February.

They are expected to provide much better passage over the crossing for foot traffic, particularly for prams.

FAULTY WIRING

Recently moved into a new home at North Sunshine, father of a young family, Alexander Walter Missen, 27, of Bedser Street, North Sunshine, was electrocuted on Sunday afternoon.

He was using an electric drill at a friend's home in Talbot Street when faulty wiring, it is believed, caused a short circuit, and Mr. Missen received the full charge of electricity.

His wife rushed in to try and help her husband, and was saved by her presence of mind in disconnecting the lead instead of trying to pull her husband from the live drill. She received a severe shock.

The late Mr. Missen had a large number of friends, gained by an engaging manner and cheerful disposition. He was a member of the staff of Pott's butcher shop.

BOY ON BRIDGE

Robert Ernest Detheridge, 12 years, of Adelaide Street, Albion was killed instantly when struck by the diesel engine of a passenger express from Ballarat to Melbourne on Friday morning last.

He was playing with a friend on the railway bridge over Kororoit Creek. He was thrown 56 feet through the air, and was killed instantly.

It is believed he was near the middle of the bridge when he first heard the engine's warning siren. The bridge is hidden from train drivers by a slight rise.

BEACH CRASH

Claud Jamieson, of Sterling Street, Footscray, was killed instantly on Saturday night when a car he was driving along the Esplanade, Williamstown, was involved in a collision with another car.

The late Mr. Jamieson was a machinist on the staff of this newspaper before transferring to the Footscray "Mall."

References were made at Monday's council meeting to the tragedies and councillors stood in respectful silence. Sympathy was also tendered to Cr. D. Thompson on the death last week of his father.