

Williamstown Chronicle

Mr. C.B. Fisher employee drowns, William Edward Rolfe, Aged 17

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A youth named Rolfe, 17 years of age, who was employed at the new residence of Mr. C. B. Fisher, Maribyrnong, was drowned in the Saltwater River on Friday evening. It appears that after his day's work he went to bathe, and suddenly disappeared from view. Efforts were made to recover the body, but without success. The body was recovered on Monday, and an inquest was held by Dr. Candler at Maribyrnong on Wednesday. From the evidence it appears that in company with two other youths of his own age, the deceased, who was unable to swim, went into the Saltwater River to bathe at about 9 o'clock on Friday evening last, and he had not been in the water long before he got out of his depth, and sank. John Macpherson, one of his companions, swam out to his assistance, but the deceased grasped hold of him, and Macpherson had to let go his hold of Rolfe in order to save his own life. The deceased never rose to the surface again. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased was accidentally drowned whilst bathing in the Saltwater River.