Sunshine Advocate

Girl's body found in deep end of pool, Kay Sturman, Aged 11

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GIRL'S BODY FOUND IN DEEP END OF POOL

The body of Kay Sturman, 11 years, of Elizabeth Street, Braybrook was found in the deep end of Sunshine swimming pool last Saturday afternoon.

St. Albans High School pupil Wally Kosiak, of Percy Street, recovered the body and desperate resuscitation efforts were made without success.

Kosiak and a friend were among about 2800 at the pool and were diving for stones. The other boy went down and saw Kay's body in about 10 feet of water but was unable to bring it to the surface.

Kosiak then went down and made a successful rescue bid. Meantime an alarm was raised and pool manager Mr. Wilf. Wild arrived with oxygen equipment, which with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and other methods failed to restore breathing.

Mr. Wild yesterday said that after some delay the services of Dr. Anchen were secured and he massaged the girl's heart. An ambulance took her to Footscray District Hospital, but further efforts to revive her failed.

SISTERS THERE

Two of Kay's sisters, an older and a younger one, came with her to the pool but did not know how she could have got in at that end. She is believed to have been a non-swimmer or a very inexperienced one.

Neither of the sisters knew Kay was missing until some time after her body was recovered.

Mr. Wild said he and his staff had great difficulty in calling medical help, on account of an apparently "jammed" telephone service. In the end somebody had to run for the doctor and his daughter ran around nearby streets until she could find a phone to call the ambulance.

It was not the first time he had experienced difficulty when more than minor accidents had occurred at the pool. A few days previously a child was brought to the office with his eyebrow cut. With telephones not responding he was driven by nearby bus depot manager Mr. Styles to a doctor.

"In that case," said Mr. Wild, "the child's only evidence of life was his faint breathing."

LEARNERS PROBLEM

Although it would not completely obviate the human element, Mr. Wild considers the construction of a learners pool would lessen any risk. He had asked for this to be built.

The toddlers pool was limited to children under six years, and any over that age had at present to be sent to the big pool. Closer supervision would be possible if those over six and unable to swim had safe facilities to learn.

In the big pool small children often climbed along the scum gutter at water level and would not know the depth of water behind them.

"I feel responsible for every child who comes to the pool," said Mr. Wild, "and provide every kind of supervision.

"But with 2800 to look after at once, as was the case last Saturday, the task is a colossal one."

Mr. Wild praised Mr. Anchen for his prompt response to the call for help and for his efforts at revival.

A swimmer himself, Dr. Anchen has promised to supply extra oxygen equipment for the pool and instruct Mr. Wild in its use.