

Sunshine Advocate

Young man loses life in holiday tragedy, Graham Elston Doak, Aged 21

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Young Man Loses Life in Holiday Tragedy

Tragedy struck at a well-known Sunshine family over the holidays when Graham Doak, 21 years old son of Mr. and Mrs. O. Doak, of 35 Glengala Road, was accidentally drowned at Wilson's Promontory on 2nd January.

A fine physical specimen, Graham was a powerful swimmer and athlete. Last year he came second in the Victorian weight-lifting championship.

With several other companions, Graham had been hiking at the Promontory and they decided, as it was hot, to swim back to their camp across the bay instead of walking round from Norman Point to Pillar Point at Tidal River.

A heavy surf was running and Graham got into difficulties. Kevin Simmins of Coburg bravely risked his life in a desperate struggle to save Graham.

Resuscitation was carried out for hours by Gordon Doak, brother of Graham, and the other young men, but to no avail.

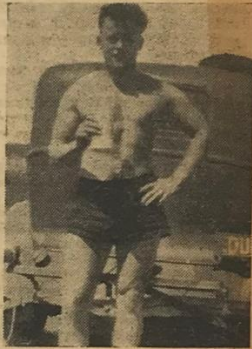
Gordon had not attempted the hazardous swim, but had carried the gear of the young men around the bay.

Local people who knew Graham Doak were greatly shocked at the news of his death for he was a splendid type of young man. With his brother he had run a backyard gymnasium for years and had helped many other young men and boys.

His mother has been very prominent in community service in this district and in her work she has been greatly assisted by her sons.

Graham was a grandson of Mrs. M. Elston of Devonshire Road and the late Mr. B. Elston. He was the great grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Armour, pioneer business people of Sunshine.

His life was short, but very full. He had a keen wit and his personality attracted young people around him. Apart from



A recent photograph of Graham Doak.

his interest in the physical well-being of youth, he showed a keen interest in every aspect of natural phenomena through hiking, fishing, surfing, skiing.

He was educated at Braybrook State School and Sunshine Technical School after which he worked at the Newport Workshops as a boiler-maker.

Mr. and Mrs. Doak are highly-respected citizens and they, and their other children, Gordon, Miles and Glenys have the sympathy of the district in their sorrow.

ALBION MAN DROWNED

An Albion man was drowned whilst swimming in the Maribyrnong River at Braybrook on Thursday afternoon last.

He was Louis Xuereb, of 38 Hesser Street, 21 years, and the drowning occurred about 3-40 p.m.

Christmas Mail Kept Postmen Busy