

Sunshine Advocate

Maribyrnong River death trap

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Maribyrnong River a Death Trap

Weak swimmers should not bathe in the Maribyrnong River unless closely attended by competent instructors.

This summer's third drowning on Monday last emphasised the warning given by First Constable D. Power, who said that too many did not realise the dangers of the river.

Latest victim was a 17-year-old youth, Brian Heffernan, of Empress Street, West Footscray who, before entering the river near Duke Street, told his companions that he would be a proficient swimmer before the end of the season.

He vanished not more than six feet from the shore.

Attempts to recover the body by ordinary diving were unsuccessful. Grappling irons were then used, and later the services of a skin diver, Mr. Ager, of Prahran, were sought. Earlier diving efforts were hampered by the murky deep water and it was some time before Mr. Ager located the body of the young man.

Mr. Ager afterwards said the river bed sloped sharply for some distance and then dropped away suddenly to form a narrow channel. Ordinary diving in the gloomy depths would be hazardous and futile, and the grappling iron had passed over the submarine trough in which the body was found.



WEEK-END TRIP TO N.S.W.

Sunshine Anglers' Club will be holding a week-end trip to Moonacalla, N.S.W., on the ANA day week-end.

The party will leave at 8 p.m. on Friday, 25th January. Weigh-in for the competition will be on the Monday.

Any member wishing to go should contact the secretary (E. Willey) as soon as possible as there is a limited number of seats.

Reports indicate that fish are in great numbers and the trip should be very successful.

Police Personals

Senior Constable J. Iskov, of Sunshine, is at present on annual leave, part of which he intends to spend in the Wangaratta district.

Sergeant K. McLeod has returned from holidays. He resumed duty on Tuesday last.