

Schoolboys Use Bridge As Short-Cut

The Maribyrnong tramway bridge was perfectly safe for pedestrians, the publicity officer of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board, Mr L. E. Russell, said today.

Last night, Edward Kordus, a New Australian, of Raleigh Street, Maribyrnong, was drowned when he slipped into the river from the bridge.

"Hundreds of people pass over the bridge every day," Mr Russell said. "This is the first fatal accident that I have heard of."

Today, a Herald reporter and photographer inspected the bridge.

It has three wooden gangways for pedestrians. They are about 2ft 3in wide and are bolted to the tramline sleepers. There is a clear drop through a two-foot gap, between the sleepers, to the water below.

It would be possible, but unlikely, for a man to slip through. The bridge is lit at night.

IS SHORT-CUT

The reporter saw half-a-dozen people pass unconcernedly over the bridge. They included a small boy who said that he and his schoolmates used the bridge as a short-cut to school.

Pedestrians cut off about 100 yards by using this bridge instead of a neighboring one, which is for motorists and has only one footpath.

The bridge has notices "Trams Only," but this is meant to apply only to cars. The gangways were put across the bridge expressly for pedestrians.