

Murdoch McInnes

Rushworth Chronicle

22 October, 1915

SAD DROWNING FATALITY.

A shocking drowning fatality occurred at Rushworth on Wednesday afternoon last, whereby a lad named Murdoch John McInnes, the eldest son of Mr and Mrs Angus McInnes, lost his life.

It appears that deceased, together with Jack Mason and a younger brother, went out rabbiting somewhere about dinner-time, eventually working their way to within about a mile and a half of Rushworth. While in a paddock of Mr J. H. Wootton, nearly opposite Mr Gallagher's, about four o'clock in the afternoon, they found a log in which they considered there were some rabbits. Deceased rode home for an axe, and while he was away the other lads indulged in a swim.

On his return deceased also went in for a swim. He swam along one side of the dam and then went to swim across. He went under and when he came up sang out for assistance. The other boys could not swim and deceased went down.

An alarm was at once raised and Messrs McInnes, Wootton and W. Lambden proceeded to the dam. W. Lambden stripped and went in and recovered the body with the aid of a rake. Dr Heily was also soon on the spot but efforts at resuscitation proved unavailing.

Deceased was a fine little fellow of fourteen years of age and the blow is a severe one for his parents, for whom the utmost sympathy is felt.

A magisterial inquiry was held yesterday afternoon by Mr E. A. Muhlhan, J.P., when a verdict of accidental drowning was recorded.

The funeral will leave Mr McInnes'[home] for the Rushworth cemetery this afternoon, at 3 o'clock.