

Unveiling Ceremony at Bunyip.

At Bunyip on Monday last the ceremony of unveiling the tablet erected to the memory of the heroic lad Ernest Alfred Duncan, who lost his life in an unsuccessful attempt to save his little sister from drowning, took place in the Bunyip Cemetery in the presence of a large number of local residents, including most of the scholars attending the State School.

The function was of an impressive nature, and all the arrangements were carried out in a thorough and sympathetic manner, many of those present being visibly affected during the service.

The Rev. E. T. Leslie, hon. secretary to the movement, read apologies from Mr. A. C. Groom, M.H.R., Mr. A. Downward, M.P., and also apologised for the non-attendance of Rev. Mr. Lee, of Drouin, and Rev. Father Gleeson, of Dandenong, who were unavoidably prevented from being present.

The service commenced by singing the hymn "Rock of ages," after which prayer was offered by the Rev. A. R. Edgar.

The Rev. G. S. Lloyd gave a brief but interesting account of the disaster which took place on the 14th of June last, on which morning the Duncan children were instructed to return home from school quickly as their mother intended visiting Melbourne. Instead of crossing the main drain by the school bridge, the children used a plank which had been thrown across the drain near Mr. Costello's place. The gallant though fruitless act of young Duncan, and other incidents in connexion with the fatality were reviewed by Mr. Lloyd. Residents had unanimously decided that something should be done to perpetuate the memory of the boy, and they had before them to-day the result of the resolution arrived at—a beautiful token indeed and one worthy of the occasion.

The Rev. A. Hankinson having read an appropriate chapter from the bible, an eloquent address was delivered by the Rev. F. Lynch, of Warragul. The Rev. A. R. Edgar, president of the Wesleyan Conference, also gave an excellent address, at the conclusion of which he duly proceeded to unveil the tablet, which carried the following inscription:—
 "Erected by the residents of Bunyip district in memory of Alfred Ernest Duncan, who lost his life by drowning on June 14, 1901, at Bunyip South, in a gallant attempt to save his sister aged 10 years and 9 months. 'Greater love hath

no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.'"

The hymn "Safe in the arms of Jesus" was sung, after which the concluding prayer was offered by the Rev. A. R. Edgar.

The solemn ceremony terminated by Messrs Leithhead and Lyons proposing that a vote of thanks be accorded the Revs. A. R. Edgar and F. Lynch for their assistance given to the movement that day.