

Tragedy still fresh

Memorial for drowned boy

BRENDAN O'MALLEY
brendan.omalley@news.com.au

WHEN little Arthur Mobsby drowned at the former site of the Indooroopilly Bowls Club, his death made headlines in Brisbane.

Now, 112 years later, his relatives and the Indooroopilly and Districts Historical Society (IDHS) have unveiled a plaque and memorial seat to ensure memories of the 11-year-old's death never fade.

IDHS secretary Michael Yeates said Brisbane City Council provided the seat and the interpretative plaque which told the sad story. "It's important because we've lost a lot of historical elements in Indooroopilly. The creek where this happened, Sandy Creek, is now buried under pipes," he said.

There was widespread flooding at the time, December 21, 1905. What was then known as Indooroopilly Flats was awash.

Little Arthur, an Indooroopilly State School student, was sailing his toy boat with some friends when he climbed out onto the limb of a tree overhanging a water-hole and lost his grip. He could not swim. Students from his class, each carrying a wreath, marched at the head of the funeral procession all the way to the Toowong Cemetery from his home at Station Rd.

His parents, Henry and Nellie, started two prizes in his honour, one for the Indooroopilly State School student who attained the highest marks in the State Scholarship Examination, and the Mobsby Book Prize.

Kaye Mobsby, who has published a book on Henry, said he was a prominent Brisbane artist and cinematographer whose postcards of early Brisbane were shown at four international expositions. "We're very proud to have a member of our family remembered in this way," she said.



Relatives David, Peter and Arthur Mobsby with the memorial seat and (inset) Arthur Mobsby, who drowned at the former site of the bowls club. PICTURE: AAP/RICHARD WALKER