

Hugh was drowned attempting to rescue a child in Yalgoo Dam, Western Australia. He was buried in Yalgoo Cemetery (<http://www.ozburials.com/CemsWA/OtherCems/yalgoo.htm>).

TRAGIC ACCIDENT AT YALGOO. BOY AND MAN DROWNED. BRAVE ATTEMPT AT RESCUE. (From Our Own Correspondent.)

Yalgoo, October 15. A terrible double tragedy took place here on Sunday, when Walter Coyne, a bright bonnie boy, aged nine years, met his death by drowning; and Mr. Hugh Molloy, a man about 45, met his death in trying to save the boy. It seems that the boy, Coyne, went over to the railway dam immediately after his dinner for a swim. There were quite a number of children there and Walter, as everyone called him, was swimming around when suddenly he sank. As he did not come to the surface one of the children became alarmed and ran for the nearest neighbour, Mr. Molloy, who was quickly on the spot and dived, in for the boy with his clothes on. He dived four times and had the misfortune the last time to strike his head on the cement wall. It is supposed he lost consciousness through the impact and was drowned. There is a small walled-in place leading into the big dam, where all the silt collects before the water runs into the big dam and this is where the boy was swimming. Mr. Molloy was a good swimmer and is said to have saved several lives in his time. Sergeant Hamilton galloped on horseback to the dam and dived in with his clothes on and recovered both bodies in a few minutes. Sergeant Hamilton, Constable Beall, and Mr. Minchin (the schoolmaster) rendered first aid and with plenty of other willing workers tried for over two hours to restore animation but without success. The whole town was plunged in gloom; and the deepest sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. P. Coyne and family, and Mrs. Molloy and family. Mr. Molloy leaves a widow and five children, for whom the utmost sympathy is felt. Deceased was well known in the district as a fencer and a well sinker. Much sympathy is also felt for Mr. and Mrs. Coyne in their sad bereavement (The Geraldton Guardian. Tuesday October 16, 1923). A Yalgoo Appeal For The Family Of The Late Hugh Molloy. (To the Editor.)

Sir, - On Sunday, 14th October, Walter Coyne, aged nine years, was swimming in the sump at the approach to the railway dam, Yalgoo. His small companions soon noticed that he was in difficulties and one of them ran for assistance. The nearest house was that of Mr. Hugh Molloy, who was notified of the occurrence. Mr. Molloy was 57 years of age and in indifferent health. This fact did not deter him from running to the dam (a quarter of a mile or more) and, immediately jumping in. At the third time of diving he got the boy from the bottom, but owing to the depth of water and the sloping nature of the cement walls, he was unable to effect a rescue. He, however, persevered until exhausted nature made her demands felt and Hugh Molloy sank to rise no more until Sergeant Hamilton pluckily dived in and brought both bodies to the surface. Both the lad and his would-be rescuer, Hugh Molloy, lie side by side in the Yalgoo cemetery. Mrs. Molloy, who has been ill in bed for some time, is left with a family of five children and they are in straitened circumstances and well worthy of the charity of all those who understand that greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend.' In asking you to open a subscription list for the dependants of this humble hero, my committee feel assured that the public will contribute generously as they have of times done in the past, to a worthy cause. - On behalf of the Molloy Benefit Committee, yours etc., J. O'Connor, Hon. Sec. Yalgoo, October 18th, 1923.

[We readily accede to our correspondent 's request. Donations will be gladly acknowledged in these columns. He who gives quickly, gives thrice. Editor 'Guardian.'](The Geraldton Guardian. Saturday 20 October 1923).