The Sunday Herald (Sydney, NSW: 1949 - 1953), Sunday 18 December 1949, page 3

Man Drowned Trying To Rescue Boy

BRISBANE, Saturday.—A young Sunday school teacher was drowned in a gallant attempt to save one of his pupils at North Pine, near Brisbane, to-day.

He was Roy Burnham, 18, of Groom Street, Gordon Park, an assistant at a Brisbane furnishing house.

Burnham, who taught Sunday school at the Ann Street Church of Christ, took four pupils to Young's Crossing, a favourite picnic spot near North Pine.

One of the pupils, Peter McKelvie, son of a Brisbane journalist, got into difficulties while swimming in water nearly 20 feet deep.

Burnham, who was on the

opposite bank, heard McKelvie's call for help and immediately dived after him.

He had swum 20 yards and was within three yards of Mc-Kelvie when he suddenly cried out and disappeared.

The North Pine River had been in flood and was running strongly four feet above normal.

100-1 CHANCE

McKelvie, who was swept 200 yards downstream, escaped death by a 100-1 chance.

Exhausted, he grasped a tree branch and crawled to land when washed against a bank.

A companion, Lewis Vincent, then ran a quarter of a mile to a farmhouse to get help.

Farmers raced to the scene, and many dived in the current for Burnham. The current

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The current for Burnham. was running so fast that police in a dinghy had to obtain an outboard motor.

Friends said to-night that Burnham's right arm was badly weakened as a result of three fractures.

He recently gave up all sport, including a place in the church cricket team.

He was a poor swimmer, and would have been partly dis-abled in the water by his weak

Police at nightfall abandoned dragging operations for Burnham's body until dawn to-day.

http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18473295

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