



Brisbane 1860

State Library of Queensland

ACTIVITY: Swimming
CASE: [GSAF 1862.12.19.R](#)
DATE: Reported December 20, 1862
LOCATION: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

NAME: Unknown
DESCRIPTION: Male

NARRATIVE: The boy was trying to capture a wounded bird which fell into the river near the racecourse when he was seized by a shark and dragged beneath the surface.

INJURY: Fatal

SPECIES: Not recorded

SOURCES: Courier (Brisbane, Qld.), Friday December 19 & Saturday

It is stated that a few days since a black boy, whilst trying to capture a wounded bird which fell into the river near the racecourse, was seized by a shark and dragged beneath the surface. He was never afterwards seen.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

A MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.—CAUTION TO BATHERS.—A respectable correspondent sends us the following strange statement, and vouches for its correctness. He says—
“A lad named Thomas Murphy was shooting upon the Racecourse, when a bird that was wounded fell into the middle of the river. A black boy on the opposite side jumped in after it; when about thirty yards from it he saw a large shark. He immediately turned round and dived for the shore, but the shark still pursued him. He dived three times, but upon his rising the third time the shark was seen to turn upon his belly and seize the boy, who gave one scream and disappeared. The blacks all screamed and were heard mourning all night. The reason the lad who was shooting did not report this circumstance was because he thought he should be called to account for shooting upon the Racecourse, but you may rely upon the truth of this statement, and it may act as a warning to the many who now bathe in the river.”