

ACTIVITY: Bathing

CASE: **GSAF 1863.01.10**

DATE: Saturday January 10, 1863

LOCATION: The incident took place at "Bellynahinch" on the Manning River, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: James Brown

DESCRIPTION: He was a 17-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, January 13, 1863

TIME: Evening

NARRATIVE: See press clipping.

INJURY: Fatal. His right thigh was severely bitten and he died shortly after being brought ashore.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified.

SOURCES: Courier (Brisbane, Queensland), Wednesday January 28, 1863, page 2; The Sydney Morning Herald, Thursday February 19, 1863, page 3; G.P. Whitley (1940), The Fishes of Australia, Part 1



Manning River

**A lad named Brown, son of David Brown, of Pur-
fleet, was unfortunately killed by a shark whilst
bathing near the shore at Manning River, on the 10th
instant.**

On the evening of the 10th instant, James, the eldest son of David Brown, yeoman, of Purfleet, Manning River, was bathing near the shore, and whilst swimming was seized by a shark, and called out to his younger brother, also in the water, for help. The boy swam towards his brother, and on nearing him, saw the water dyed with his life's blood. The poor lad by some means got clear of the monster, and was enabled to swim to the side. Alarm being given, assistance was soon at hand, and the young man carried into his father's house, apparently lifeless. The parties who took up the young man saw a large quantity of blood floating on the water, which had issued from large wounds on the right thigh, but saw not the shark. They clearly perceived extensive waves caused by the motion of the monster in the water. The medical man on the river being speedily summoned, found the sufferer lying on a couch, apparently dead; and on closer inspection, found that the vital spark had fled. On examining the body, he found three large torn and cut wounds on the right thigh. The two largest on the middle of the limb, opposed to each other, the one on the outer aspect seemed almost a clean cut quite to the bone, which was abraded by the teeth of the fish. The one on the inner side was about four inches wide, and the whole of the muscular and fleshy parts torn and cut away from the bone; and the main artery must have been divided and torn off to the extent of three inches. This vessel being of considerable size, death from bleeding resulted in a very short time.

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