

**ACTIVITY:** Bathing

**CASE:** **GSF 1878.00.00**

**DATE:** 1878

**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Balmain, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Unknown

**DESCRIPTION:** He was an 11-year-old boy.

**BACKGROUND**

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Two feet

**NARRATIVE:** No details.

**INJURY:** His leg was severed.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Unknown.

**SOURCES:** Sydney Morning Herald, page 3; January 7, 1978, Gilbert P. Whitley, citing Dr. Cleland in Medical Journal of Australia, October 4, 1924 issue.



### PUBLIC BATHS AT BALMAIN.

A deputation, consisting of Messrs. S. H. Hyam, J. Roby, and Alderman Gow, of Balmain, was introduced by Mr. John Taylor, the Mayor of Balmain, to the Minister for Works, yesterday, for the purpose of soliciting the aid of the Government in the erection of baths in that borough. Mr. Taylor explained that the object of the deputation had been accelerated by the facts that a boy had lately been severely torn by a shark while bathing at Balmain, and that a public meeting had recently been held at the School of Arts there strongly in favour of public baths being erected for the use of the residents. There had been an agitation for them during the past eight years, but a difficulty existed in regard to a site, in consequence of the place being principally private property. Mr. Sutherland said he would like to know the sum of money required for the purpose, and was informed that for land for two baths the amount would be about £1500, and that the idea was that the Government should contribute £750 of it. This Alderman Gow said would be only reasonable, seeing what had been done for the North Shore. Mr. Sutherland, in reply, said no one would question the necessity for baths at Balmain, or the benefits thereof to the people there, but the question was whether the Government should create a precedent for lending assistance in such cases. It was quite true that St. Leonards was offered £200 for the purpose, on condition that the people there raised an equal amount by private subscription, and that Parliament offered no insuperable objection to the item. That, however, was the only instance of the kind he knew of, and the offer had not been accepted so far. If the object of the deputation was to obtain a reasonable sum supplementary to an equal amount raised by the residents of Balmain for baths, he would ask the Cabinet if such a principle was to be introduced. It had been conceded by Parliament in the case of St. Leonards, and he had no doubt Parliament would agree to the present application. The deputation expressed their thanks to Mr. Sutherland, and withdrew.