

**ACTIVITY:** Bathing

**CASE:** GSAF 1896.01.11

**DATE:** Saturday January 11, 1896

**LOCATION:** Johnstone's Bay, Pymont, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Ready or Reddie

**DESCRIPTION:** A boy

**BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** Sydney was experiencing a heat wave. On Saturday it was 100°F, and by Monday it was 105.2°F in the shade.

**MOON PHASE:** Third Quarter, January 8, 1896. New Moon, January 15, 1896

**TIME:** Afternoon

**NARRATIVE:** See press clippings

**INJURY:** Fatal

**SPECIES:** Not identified

**SOURCES:** The Brisbane Courier, Monday January 13, 1896, page 4; The West Australian, Tuesday January 14, 1896, page 5; Launceston Examiner, Tuesday January 14, 1896, page 1; The Southland Times Thursday January 23, 1896

**THE SHARK TRAGEDY.**—The Sydney correspondent of the Argus supplied the following particulars of the killing of a boy by a shark :—“ Five young boys oblivious of the danger incurred in open harbour bathing, went for a swim in Johnson's Bay, at Pymont. They dived off the wharf and splashed about in the water, when a man named Alfred Johnson observed the fin and tail of a large shark, which was swimming towards the bathers. The monster dashed past one boy and seized William Reddie, aged 11 years. So near did it go to the other bather that its tail actually struck him as it seized Reddie. Regardless of danger, Johnson bravely plunged in with his clothes on and waded out until he reached Reddie. The poor lad was unable to speak but feebly stretched out his hand in supplication. Johnson immediately clasped him by the hand, only to find that the shark still retained its hold. A second effort to drag the boy away was successful, and Johnson brought him to the shore. It was then found that his right leg, hip, and side were almost completely torn away, besides a portion of the entrails up to the ribs. The left foot had also been bitten, and part of it was missing. Despite his extensive injuries the boy was still alive, and all haste was made in conveying him to the baths near at hand. Soon after reaching there he expired.

**A boy named Ready, while bathing at Johnstone's Bay, Sydney, was attacked by a shark and fatally injured.**

## **TERRIBLE BATHING FATALITY**

**SEIZED BY A SHARK.**

**HORRIBLE INJURIES SUSTAINED.**

**SYDNEY, January 12.**

Yesterday afternoon five young boys were bathing a stone's throw from the Pyrmont Baths, when a large shark seized W. Reddie, aged 11. Regardless of personal danger a young man named Alfred Johnson plunged into the water with his clothes on, and waded out to Reddie, who was unable to speak, but stretched forth his hand in supplication. Johnson immediately clasped his hand, but the shark retained its hold. Johnson was successful, however, in a second attempt, and brought the boy ashore, when it was found that his right leg, hip, and side had been completely torn away, besides a portion of the entrails up to the ribs. Part of the left foot was missing also. Despite his injuries, the boy was still alive. All haste was made to convey him to the baths. Soon after reaching there he expired, and the remains were conveyed home.

*The West Australian, Tuesday January 14, 1896, page 5*

Whilst bathing with four other boys at Pyrmont, Sydney, on Saturday a lad 11 years old was seized by a shark and fearfully injured.

A man who saw the shark making for the lad bravely went to his rescue, but did not get him until a portion of his body was torn away, and the boy died after being taken on shore.

*Launceston Examiner, Tuesday January 14, 1896, page 1*

