



ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 1910.01.26](#)

DATE: Wednesday January 26, 1910

LOCATION: The incident took place at Carrington, Newcastle Harbour, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Alfred Victor Clulow

DESCRIPTION: He was a male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, January 25, 1910

WEATHER: The incident took place after heavy rains.

TIME: Morning

NARRATIVE: Alfred Clulow was swimming with a friend, E. Simpson. Simpson was on the jetty when he saw a commotion in the water and Alfred disappeared beneath the surface. When the boy surfaced, the water was discolored with blood. Clulow managed to swim to the bank where Simpson pulled him out.

INJURY: Fatal. His right leg and left hand were severed by the shark, and his left leg was severely bitten.

BOY KILLED BY A SHARK.

By Telegraph.--Press Association.--Copyright, SYDNEY, 26th January.

A lad named Clulow, while bathing near Newcastle, had a leg and a hand bitten off by a shark.

The unfortunate lad succumbed later.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Other boys nearby summoned the police who quickly took the injured boy to the hospital, but failed to stop blood loss with tourniquets. On arrival at the hospital the boy conscious but in shock. Despite surgery, the boy died from shock and loss of blood.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified.

SOURCES: Kalgoorlie Western Argus, January 26, 1910, page 30; Evening Post, January 27, 1910, page 7; Victor M. Coppleson (1962), page 243

*Kalgoorlie Western Argus
January 26, 1910*

ATTACK BY SHARKS.

Sydney, Jan. 26.

A boy named Alfred Victor Clulow was swimming in the Newcastle Harbour this morning when he was caught by a shark and his right leg bitten right off close to the thigh.

Clulow went swimming with a companion, E. Simpson, at Carrington. Clulow was close in shore when there was a whirl in the water. The boy called out in agonised tones, and then disappeared.

Simpson, from the jetty, saw the commotion continue in the water, and then the boy appeared again, the water being discoloured with blood. He struggled to the bank, and Simpson pulled him out. The latter was horrified to see Clulow's right leg severed, whilst the fingers of his left hand were badly bitten and were only hanging to the hand by the skin. Other boys near by summoned the police, who quickly took the boy to the hospital.

Whilst the doctor was examining him the boy begged piteously to be given something to put him out of his agony.

No ligature had been put round the leg when he was being brought to the hospital, and, though he had lost a great deal of blood and was, in addition, suffering greatly from shock, the boy displayed remarkable fortitude. He remained conscious all the time the doctors were stitching the wound, and was able to describe the occurrence to those around him.

There are a great number of sharks around the harbour and beaches at Newcastle at present. They have evidently been attracted to the vicinity by the carcasses of stock that are being washed down the river by the recent floods.

Clulow was operated on, but gradually weakened, and died from shock and loss of blood.

The doctors said they had seldom seen such pluck and fortitude displayed. The shock and loss of blood would probably have caused the death of most men before the hospital was reached. The left leg was also badly bitten, and the monster must have been a large one.