

ACTIVITY: Clinging to overturned boat
CASE: [GSAF 1916.04.03](#)
DATE: Monday April 3, 1916
LOCATION: Carrum, Victoria, Australia

NAMES: Monte Robinson and Andrew McNeill
DESCRIPTION: They were 17-year-old males.

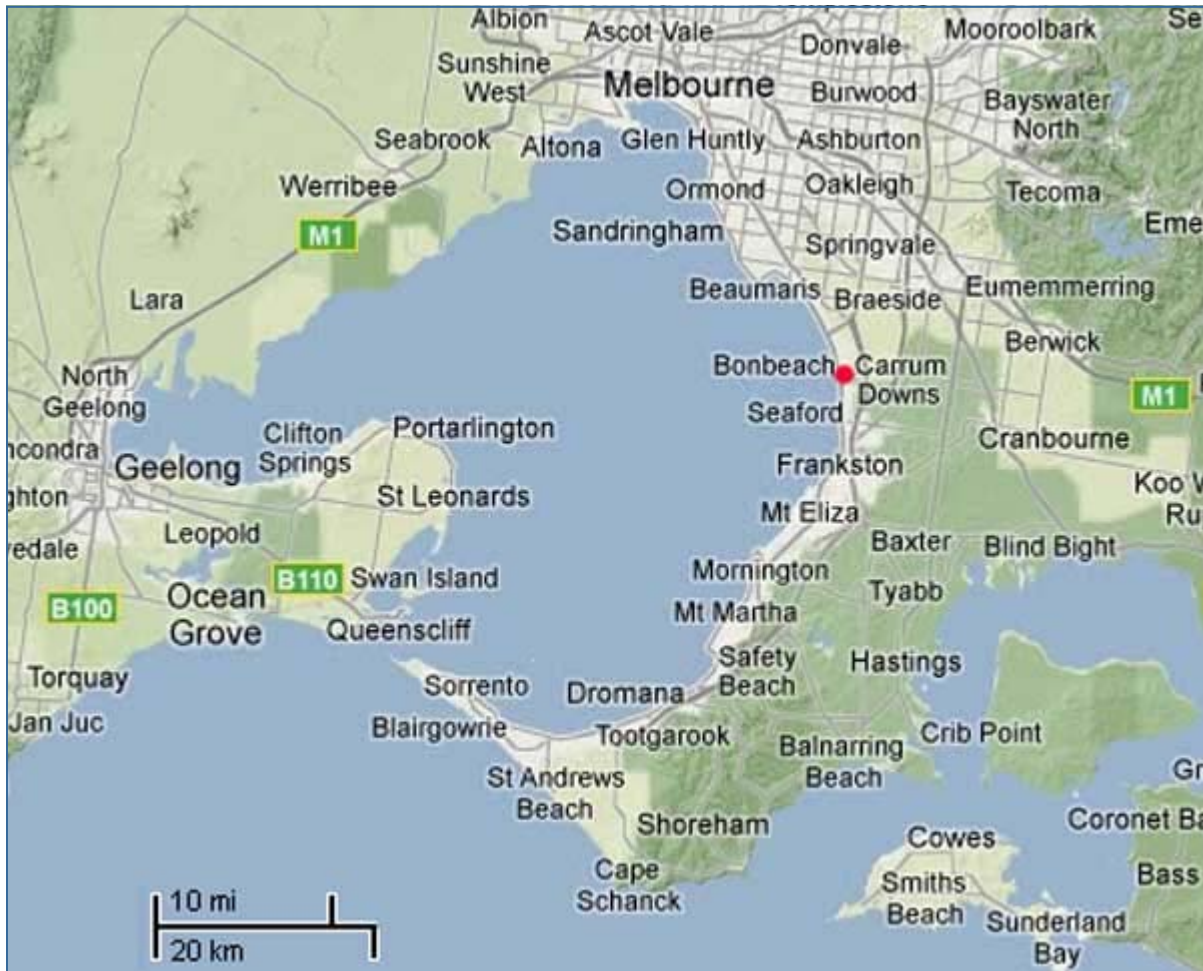
BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, April 3, 1916

NARRATIVE: The boys were clinging to their overturned rowing-boat when they were taken by sharks.

SPECIES: Not identified

SOURCE: The Argus (Melbourne, Victoria), Monday March 5, 1917, page 8



FISHING TRAGEDY.

FINDING OF MAGISTRATE.

Boys Seized by Sharks.

In the opinion of Mr. Cohen, P.M., who conducted an inquiry into the disappearance of Monte Robinson and Andrew McNeill, both aged 17 years, while fishing in the bay off Carrum in April, 1916, the boys were seized by sharks while clinging to their overturned rowing-boat. In the report which Mr. Cohen has presented to the Governor (Sir Arthur Stanley), through the Premier, he states that the evidence before him showed that when the Ports and Harbour officials were notified of the disappearance of the boys on April 3 they provided boats to conduct a search, but it was then too late. It would have been possible, in the opinion of Mr. Cohen, for the police to communicate with the Ports and Harbours branch, and arrange for a launch to search the scene of the disaster, and for the police to procure a boat themselves from district fishermen.

Mr. Cohen also finds that the rowing-boat was registered under the Fisheries Act as a fishing craft, but he considered the construction of the boat to have been faulty. The regulations did not require the inspection of a boat before registration. Apparently, says Mr. Cohen, the authorities were not concerned as to whether the boats were seaworthy or not, and the public were therefore likely to be misled by the notification on a craft that it was registered. Before any boat received official recognition the authority issuing the registration should be satisfied that it was safe for the carriage of passengers.

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