

ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: [GSAF 1923.12.02](#)

DATE: Sunday December 2, 1923

LOCATION: Urunga, Bellinger Heads, New South Wales, Australia.
30°30'S, 152°28'E



NAME: James Elton

DESCRIPTION: He was a male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, December 1, 1923

ENVIRONMENT: Urunga is a small coastal town situated on either side of the Kalang River at the mouth of the Bellinger River.

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

NARRATIVE: He was standing in the water when he felt a strong pull on his line. "When about to haul it in, either a shark or the undertow seized him and he disappeared," writes Copleson. "His wife, who was a witness of the accident, thought he was taken by a shark."

INJURY: Fatal.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCES: Victor M. Copleson (1933 — date of November 2, 1922 listed in error); Gilbert P. Whitley, page 260; The Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday December 5, 1923, page 13

FISHING FATALITY.

SHARK OR UNDERTOW?

BELLINGEN, Tuesday.

At Urunga, Bellinger Heads, on Sunday night James Elton, with his wife and 13 months' old child, was fishing on the beach south of the breakwater at night. Elton was fishing up to his waist in water, when he felt a good bite, and was about to haul in the line, when either the undertow or a shark seized him, and he disappeared. His wife collapsed, and is in a serious condition. Recently the wife came in for a fortune in money, and landed property in Canada, and the couple were spending the time awaiting the next Canadian steamer. Elton came from South Grafton, and was a cabinetmaker there.

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