

ACTIVITY: Standing

CASE: GSAF 1928.04.04

DATE: Wednesday April 4, 1928

LOCATION: The incident took place 150 yards south of Bar Beach at Cook's Hill, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.

32°57'S, 151°48'E

NAME: Edward Arthur Lane

DESCRIPTION: He was a 27-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, April 5, 1928

SEA CONDITIONS: Low tide was at 14h18; high tide at 20h15. The sea surface temperature was 71.5°F.

ENVIRONMENT: There was a sandbank about 50 yards from shore.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 yards

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE:

Slightly more than waist-deep

TIME: prior to 18h00

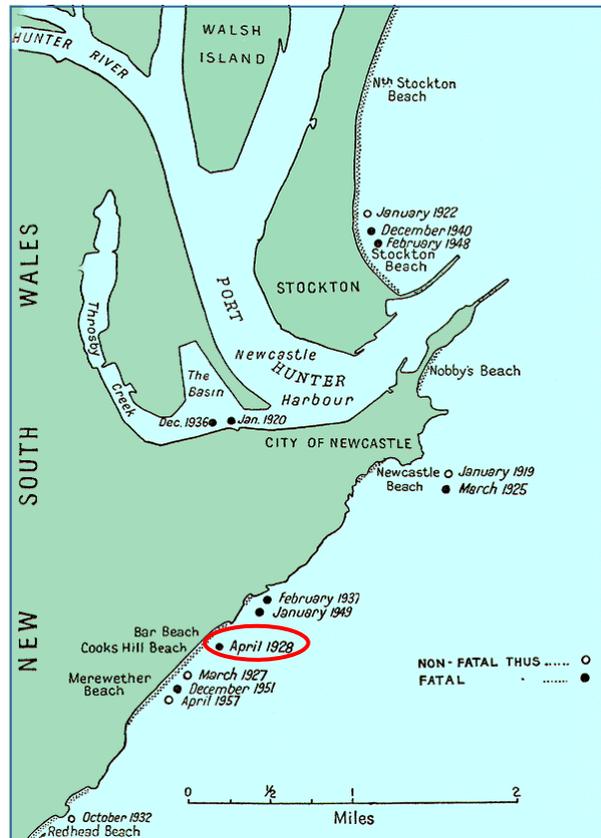
NARRATIVE: Edward Arthur Lane, Lucy Donaldson and Connie Chalton went for a swim together. The two women entered the water first. Lane swam out to the sandbank. Suddenly he threw up his arms and shouted,

"Help! A shark has got me." The water was seen to be tinged with blood.

Connie Chalton raced to the beach for help and 21-year-old Lucy Donaldson went to his assistance. Lane attempted to beat the shark off with his hands, but was bitten again and again. When she reached Lane, he was barely conscious. By splashing the water vigorously, she evidently drove the shark away. She had great difficulty bringing him ashore until assisted by two Cook's Hill lifesavers.

INJURY: Fatal. "There was a very large laceration on the outer side¹ (or inner side²) of his right thigh, just below the hip joint, extending almost down to bone, and several superficial lacerations all down the front of both legs. His right hand was amputated at the wrist¹ (forearm...above the wrist²) as cleanly as though done with a saw. ... Another report states that the wounds on the shin were more severe and that the tibia was laid bare and displayed the teeth marks of the shark. Death was probably due to blood loss and shock."...*Dr. Aubrey Pye, Acting Medical Superintendent, Newcastle Hospital.*

FIRST AID: Lane was immediately taken by ambulance to the Newcastle Hospital. At the inquest, Donaldson stated that he had a pulse while in the ambulance. Notes from the Newcastle Hospital state that he "was dead on arrival in casualty about 6 p.m. [18h00] on April 4, 1928".



SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCES: The Argus (Melbourne), Thursday April 5, 1928, page 15; ¹Victor M. Coppleson.N18.(1933); ²Victor M. Coppleson (1958), pages 76 & 77; Coppleson Archives, 1223/11/ Item 3; Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, October 1930, page 288²; Gilbert P. Whitley. (Map after Coppleson).

SHARK ATTACKS BATHER.

FATALITY AT NEWCASTLE.

BRAVE GIRL SWIMMER.

Goes to Man's Assistance.

SYDNEY, Wednesday. — Merewether Beach, Newcastle, was the scene of a shark tragedy early this evening, when Arthur Edward Lane, aged 27 years, single, of Janet street, Newcastle, succumbed to shocking injuries received while bathing in the surf.

Two young women, Miss Lucy Donaldson, aged 20 years, and Miss Connie Challen, aged 18 years, were bathing, and were later joined by Lane, with whom they were acquainted. As he entered the water Lane exchanged a few words with the young women and then swam to sand bank, about 50 yards farther out. Only a few minutes had elapsed when the girls heard Lane call out "Help! A shark's got me." He then threw up his arms. The girls realised what had happened when they saw that the water was tinged with red. While Miss Challen went for assistance Miss Donaldson pluckily swam out to Lane's assistance. As she was swimming she saw the shark attack Lane three or four times. When she reached Lane it was plain to her that he was unconscious. Vigorously splashing the water with her arms, Miss Donaldson succeeded in frightening the shark away, and, with great difficulty, managed to drag the dying man into shallow water. Assistance was forthcoming and Lane was quickly conveyed to hospital, where he was found to be dead.

Mr. Lane was managed at Newcastle for Henry Lane (Australia) Ltd. Miss Donaldson is a daughter of the Brisbane manager of Gibbs, Bright Ltd.



LATE MR. ARTHUR E. LANE

Mr. Lane, who was killed by a shark on Wednesday while bathing at Merewether Beach, Newcastle, was the manager of Henry Lane (Australia), Limited. He was 27 years of age, and was well-known in commercial circles.
