



ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 1929.01.27](#)

DATE: Sunday January 27, 1929

LOCATION: The incident took place off Alma Bay on the extreme eastern coast of Magnetic Island, Townsville, Queensland, Australia. *19°07'S, 146°50'E*

NAME: Harry Weatherall

DESCRIPTION: He was an 18-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, January 25, 1929

SEA CONDITIONS: It was low tide.

TIME: 17h30

NARRATIVE: About 40 people were in the water and at least six bathers were seawards of Weatherall. Suddenly he was seen to be struggling violently. A shark seized him by the left arm and severed it above the elbow. The shark went for him

SHARK TRAGEDY

Youth's Frightful Injuries

DIES IN HOSPITAL

BRISBANE, Monday.

H. Wetherill, 18, was attacked by a shark while swimming at Alma Bay, a popular resort at Magnetic Island, near Townsville. His left arm was torn off above the elbow and a frightful gash was also inflicted on the right buttock and right forearm. At hospital the left arm was amputated above the elbow and the right arm below the elbow. He died late last night.

again, inflicting a large gash on his right buttock. In the third assault, his right forearm was severed. He walked ashore.

INJURY: See newspaper articles.

FIRST AID: A nurse who was present rendered first aid and he was taken by launch to Townsville. He remained conscious throughout.

TREATMENT: Weatherall was admitted to Townsville Hospital. His left arm was surgically amputated above the elbow and his right arm below the elbow. He was suffering severely from shock. He became unresponsive at 22h00 and died at midnight.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCES: The Sydney Morning Herald, Monday January 28, 1929, page 12.

The Argus (Melbourne), Tuesday January 29, 1929, page 7.

The Canberra Times, Tuesday January 29, 1929, page 1.

Victor M. Coppleson.Q.6.(1933).

;Victor M. Coppleson (1958), pages 90 & 237



ANOTHER SHARK TRAGEDY.

BATHER LOSES BOTH ARMS.

YOUNG QUEENSLANDER'S DEATH.

TOWNSVILLE (Q.), Sunday. — Harry Wetherell, aged 18 years, son of the Townsville manager of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co. Ltd., received fatal injuries when he was attacked by a shark about half-past 5 o'clock this afternoon while swimming at Alma Bay, which is a popular resort at Magnetic Island.

The tide was low, and more than 40 bathers were in the water. Suddenly Wetherell was seen to be struggling. At least six bathers were farther out than he was at the time the shark first seized his left arm, which was torn off above the elbow. Nevertheless Wetherell pluckily gave the alarm to the other bathers. The shark attacked him again, inflicting a frightful gash on his right hip, and in a third attack tore his right forearm. The shark then swam away, and Wetherell walked ashore.

A nurse who was present gave first aid, and the lad was taken to Townsville, where he was admitted to hospital. He remained conscious throughout. In the hospital his left arm was amputated near the shoulder and the right arm was removed below the elbow. He was also suffering severely from shock. At 10 o'clock tonight he had lapsed into unconsciousness, and he died at midnight.