

ACTIVITY: Dived into the water

CASE: [GSAF 1956.02.26](#)

DATE: Sunday February 26, 1956

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Pioneer River near Mackay, Queensland, Australia.

21°09'S, 149°13'E

NAME: Barry Keith Antonini

DESCRIPTION: He was a 15-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, February 26, 1956

DEPTH OF WATER: Five feet

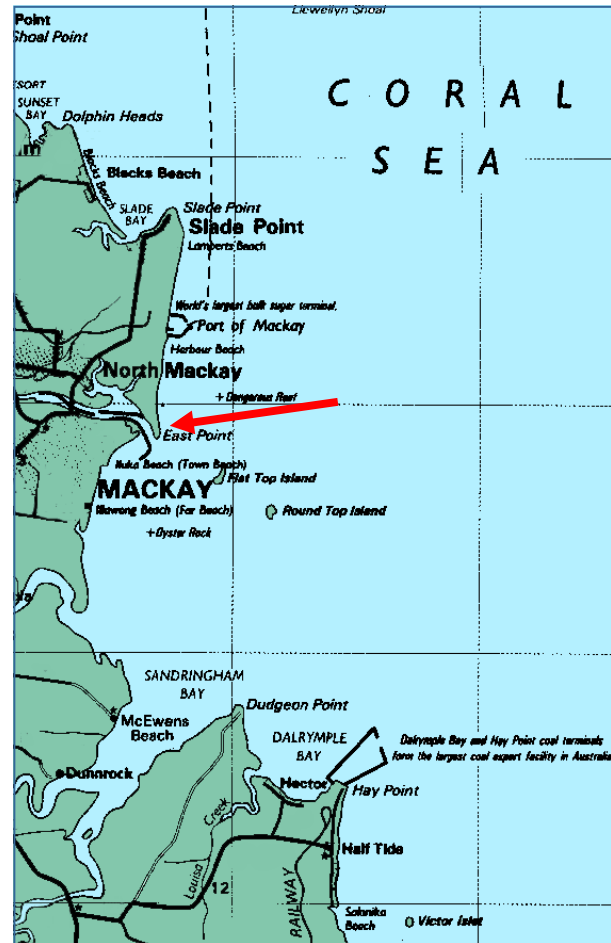
TIME: 11h00

NARRATIVE: He was swimming with two 13-year-old friends: Colin Harris and Barry McLeod. Barry dived into the water and was bitten by a shark.

INJURY: Fatal. A large amount of tissue removed from his right leg and an artery was severed.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The shark was six feet in length.

SOURCES: The Age (Melbourne), Monday, February 27, 1956, page 1; The Central Queensland Herald, Thursday March 1, 1956, page 15; B. Thompson; Daily Mercury (Mackay), December 29, 1961



MACKAY BOY FATALLY MAULED BY SHARK

MACKAY, February 26.—A 13-year-old boy died on his way to hospital after being mauled by a shark in the Rocklea reach of the Pioneer River this morning.

He was Barry Keith Antonini.

The fatality was the first in the Mackay district for over 16 years.

The boy went swimming in the morning with two friends, Colin Harris, 13, of Shakespeare Street, and Barry McLeod, 13, of Archibald Street. Nude, they dived in once and then swam to the bank. The water where they were swimming was deep as the bank fell away sharply. Colin Harris dived in again and swam out while Antonini dived in.

BITTEN ON LEG

Antonini surfaced about three yards from the bank and then swam to the shore and Harris dragged him out. Antonini had been bitten deeply on the calf of the right leg and part of the muscle was removed. He was bleeding profusely.

Barry McLeod then ran down the beach to where Detective Sergeant R. G. Field, of the Mackay police, was fishing and took him to the scene of the attack. Sergeant Field saw Antonini and immediately sent McLeod for the ambulance while he ap-

plied a tourniquet to the boy's leg.

Bearers treated Antonini, who was then placed on a stretcher. Before he left he said to his friends: "It looks as though I will have to have my leg taken off."

This was the first shark fatality since December 14, 1939. On that date a railway worker Frank Gurren, 20, was mauled by a shark in Dump Creek, a tributary of the Pioneer River, and died in hospital a week later.

Mackay Boy Killed by Shark

BRISBANE, Sunday.
—**Barry Keith Antonini, 14, of Mackay, was fatally mauled by a shark today.**

The attack was made at 11 a.m. in five feet of water half a mile upstream from Forgan bridge.

Two boys who had gone to the river bank with Barry heard him cry out almost immediately after he had dived.

He swam to the bank, and his mates pulled him ashore.

Barry died in an ambulance on his way to hospital.

Police said only a very high tide today had allowed swimming in the

part of the river where the attack occurred.

Usually the river there was too shallow.

It was the first shark attack for 16 years in the Pioneer River.

Police estimated the length of the shark at six feet.