

*Buddina Beach, Queensland*



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**ACTIVITY:** Floating on an inflatable raft.

**CASE:** **GSAF 1977.08.23**

**DATE:** Tuesday August 23, 1977

**LOCATION:** Buddina Beach, south of Noosa, Queensland, Australia.

**NAME:** George Thomas Walter

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 25-year old male, a horse breeder from Blackburn.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, August 22, 1977

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 30 metres

**NARRATIVE:** George and his friends were to board a 34-metre fishing trawler for a 10-day trip, but they missed the boat and so went to an unprotected beach. Walter's friends saw him knocked off the raft and struggling violently but were unable to help him because of a severe rip current.



*George Walter,  
with the first foal he bred*

**INJURY:** Fatal. His left arm was severed and his legs were bitten by a shark.

**SPECIES:** Not identified

**SOURCES:** The Age, Thursday September 1, 1977, page 1

The Canberra Times, September 1, 1977, page 3

Alan Sharpe, page 104

**NOTE:** The Canberra Times article has a date of Wednesday August 24, 1977 for this case, while The Age has a date of Tuesday August 23, 1977

# Melbourne man taken by shark

By GERRY CARMAN

A shark has killed a young Melbourne man after dragging him into the sea from an inflatable raft off Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

George Thomas Walter, 25, horse breeder, of Malabar Street, Blackburn, was on the rubber raft about 30 metres from shore at Buddina Beach when he was attacked by the shark on August 23.

His mauled body was washed up five days later only 100 metres from where he was last seen.

His father, Mr. George Walter senior, said last night: "The police advised me to let my other son, Barry, identify him . . . they said I should remember him as he was."

Mrs. Allison Walter said George was the eldest of seven children and she felt bound to warn people going up there about the dangers at unprotected beaches.

"I will have some comfort if George's death could be a lesson to others."

Mr. Walter said his son loved horses and helped his two younger brothers run a breeding property near Seymour.

## Saved horse

In fact, about five years ago he nearly drowned in the Yarra at Warrandyte while saving one of his horses.

"He was giving it a wash in the river when it lost its footing, panicked and was drowning. But George held on to its neck and pulled it out," Mr. Walter said.

Mr. Walter said his son had driven three friends to Queensland to catch a 34-metre fishing trawler for a 10-day trip, but they missed the boat.

"So they went down to the unprotected beach. His friends saw him knocked off the mat and struggling violently, but they couldn't do anything because there was a severe rip at the time."

Meanwhile a 17-year-old youth was attacked by a six-metre white pointer shark at Cactus Beach, 90 kilometres off Ceduna, South Australia yesterday.

Phillip Horley, of Scarborough, WA, is in Ceduna Hospital with gashes on his legs, thigh and knees.

Police said the shark rammed Horley and his surfboard and sent him skidding about five metres across the water.

It then seized Horley, dragged him under, and swam in circles holding him in its jaws before finally releasing him. The shark then ate the surfboard.

## Shark victim

**BRISBANE:** A medical examination has shown that Mr George Thomas Walter, 24, of Box Hill North, Melbourne, who disappeared in the surf off Buddina Beach on Queensland's Sunshine Coast last Wednesday, was attacked by a shark. Police found his body when it floated to the surface about 800 metres north of the spot where he disappeared. The left arm was missing and there were shark bites on both legs, police said.

*The Canberra Times*  
Thursday September 1, 1977, page 3