

*Half Tide Beach*



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 1989.01.03

**DATE:** Tuesday January 3, 1989

**LOCATION:** Half Tide Beach near Ballina, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Adam McGuire

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 17-year-old male.



*David McGuire*

**BACKGROUND**

**ENVIRONMENT:** Half Tide is a secluded beach some 500m South of Sharks Bay which is visible from the Razorback Lookout. It is an 80 long patch of north facing sand and rocks. When the wave conditions are right, Half Tide is frequented by many local board riders.

**TIME:** 17h15

**NARRATIVE:** The shark first bit a huge chunk out of McGuire's surfboard, knocking him into the water. "It had knocked me off the board and then came back and bit me on the right side. It came back for another go and I managed to push it off with my hand," he said.

"The dolphins then started thrashing around in the water, and they just seemed to chase the shark off. I don't think I could have fought it off again," he said. "The dolphins definitely saved my life."

McGuire reached the beach with the help of two friends who had watched helplessly from

their boards while the shark attacked.

**INJURY:** The teen sustained lacerations to his abdomen and his surfboard was holed. "I knew it had taken a bite at me, but I didn't realize how bad it was until we got back to shore, and after one look I just collapsed," said McGuire.

**TREATMENT:** He was treated in Lismore Hospital, 375 miles north of Sydney where he underwent emergency surgery Tuesday night

**SPECIES:** The shark was said to be 12-feet in length. John Hajje, a shark specialist, said descriptions suggest that the incident involved a tiger shark. He said it was not the first time he heard of dolphins interfering in a shark attack. "Dolphins are highly intelligent creatures and it certainly wouldn't be beyond them to know when a human is in distress and help out," Hajje said.

**SOURCES:** Courier Mail, January 4, 1989, page 1  
Herald, January 4, 1989, page 1  
Miami Herald, January 5, 1989, page 22A  
The Post-Standard (Standard, NY), January 5, 1989  
Alan Sharpe, page 87

# Dolphins Save Youth From Shark's Attack

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Dolphins saved the life of a 17-year-old boy who was attacked by a large shark while surfing off the north coast of New South Wales state, police said. The shark tore a huge chunk from the boy's surfboard.

Police said a group of dolphins chased off the shark that attacked Adam McGuire Tuesday at Evans Head, about 400 miles north of Sydney.

McGuire, from Newcastle, about 100 miles north of Sydney, suffered a badly cut abdomen in the attack, police and ambulance officers said.

He swam to shore despite his injuries and raised the alarm. Ambulance officers attended McGuire and rushed him to a hospital, where he underwent surgery and was in stable condition.

Police said McGuire was surfing about 300 feet or more off Half Tide Beach with two friends when a shark, believed to be a tiger shark, attacked him twice.

On the first pass, the shark gouged out a big piece of his surfboard and knocked him into the water.

Sydney shark expert John Hajje said McGuire probably could thank his surfboard as much as the dolphins for his survival.

"The police told me that when the shark attacked it took a chunk out of the board and he fell off," he said.

"Rather than attack him it kept on going for the board. It really just brushed him and didn't take much of a bite."

Hajje said it was not the first



AP

**Police Constable Greg Smith of Evans Head, Australia, displays a surf board bitten by a shark in an attack Tuesday.**

time he heard of dolphins intervening in a shark attack, although he had yet to confirm the details of this incident.

"Dolphins are highly intelligent creatures, and it certainly wouldn't be beyond them to track when a human's in distress and help out," he said.



### **Big bite**

**Police constable Greg Smith from Evans Head police station in northern New South Wales, Australia, points to a large section bitten from a surf board by a shark yesterday. Seventeen-year-old Adam Maguire was surfing off Evans Head when the shark attacked. Maguire and his friends told police that a school of dolphins chased the frenzied shark away and no doubt saved their lives. Maguire is in the hospital and has undergone surgery for two deep lacerations from the attack.**

**AP photo**