



ACTIVITY: Free diving (skindiving)

CASE: GSAF 1995.11.29

DATE: Wednesday November 29, 1995

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Chatham Islands, east of New Zealand.

NAME: Kina Scollay

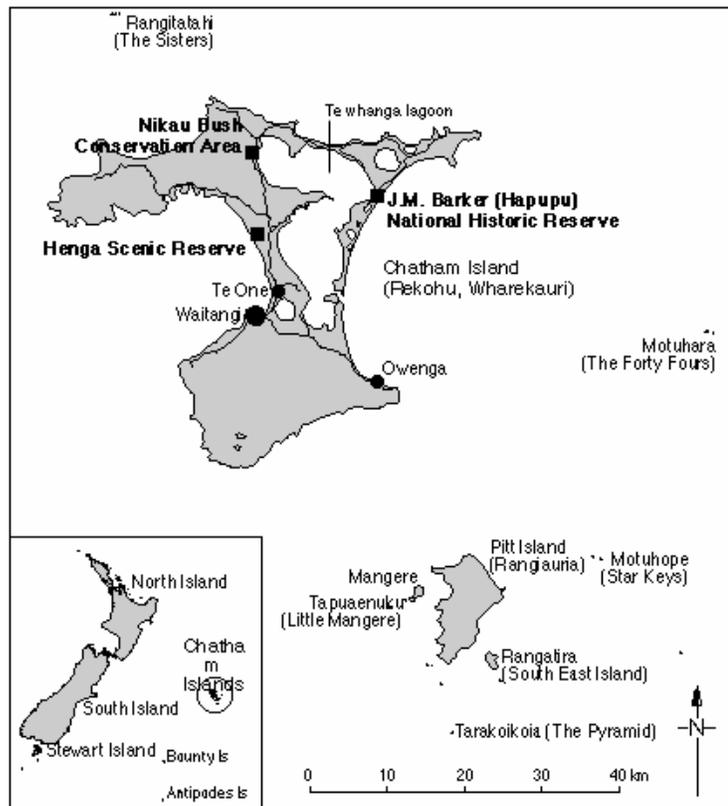
DESCRIPTION: A 22-year-old male. He spends much of his time traveling overseas between diving contracts, and recently returned from Kashmir in India. Tim Gregory-Hunt, a friend who witnessed the attack, describes him as courageous and lucky.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place near a seal colony.

DEPTH OF WATER: 18 metres



NARRATIVE: Kina Scollay and Tim Gregory-Hunt were diving for paua (abalone). “As a dare, Mr. Scollay reckoned he could snorkel to the bottom, which was about 18m down,” said Mr. Gregory-Hunt. “He was that type of guy. He would do anything. I was talking to the other guys while he was down and next minute he broke the surface and yelled ‘Shark’. There was an instant fear on his face. He shouted ‘Don’t let it get me, don’t let it get me’”. On the dare, Mr. Scollay had dived to the seafloor and brought up a stone to prove it. “He used the stone to beat the shark about the head,” said Mr Gregory-Hunt. Although the shark initially attempted to engulf Mr. Scollay about the midriff, his weight belt prevented serious injury. “The weight belt has big teeth marks around it,” noted Mr. Gregory-Hunt. But then the shark came back a second time and dragged Mr. Scollay below the surface of the water, ripping his leg open from thigh to knee.

INJURY: Some reports state that Mr. Scollay was bitten on his leg *and chest*. However, hospital admission records state: “IP_A_OPEN WOUND OF HIP AND THIGH, WITHOUT MENTION OF CO_ICD9-CMA_INJUR (CHRISTCHURCH)”

TREATMENT: Mr Gregory-Hunt said the newly-installed VHF radio repeater on Pitt Island proved its worth and the St John Ambulance and Air Chatham staff did a great job in the mercy mission. The patient was treated in Christchurch Hospital where he remained until December, 11, 1995. Mr Gregory-Hunt said Mr. Scollay’s courage and determination played a major factor in his surviving the attack. “I told him while he was being treated that I will go out and get that shark and he can have the jaw as a souvenir.”

SPECIES INVOLVED: The attack involved a white shark about five metres in length.

SOURCES: Herald Sun, December 1, 1995, page 27; Interviews with Kina Scollay and Tim Gregory-Hunt; Christchurch Hospital Records; Otago Daily Times, December 1, 1995 edition, front page (Dunedin Public Library).

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Richard D. Weeks, Global Shark Accident File



*2015: Jenny Oliver and Kina Scollay tracking sharks
Photo / Discovery Channel*