

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: **GSF 2000.03.14**

DATE: Tuesday March 14, 2000

LOCATION: The incident took place in Australia, off McMasters Beach on the New South Wales Central Coast.

Latitude: -33.5

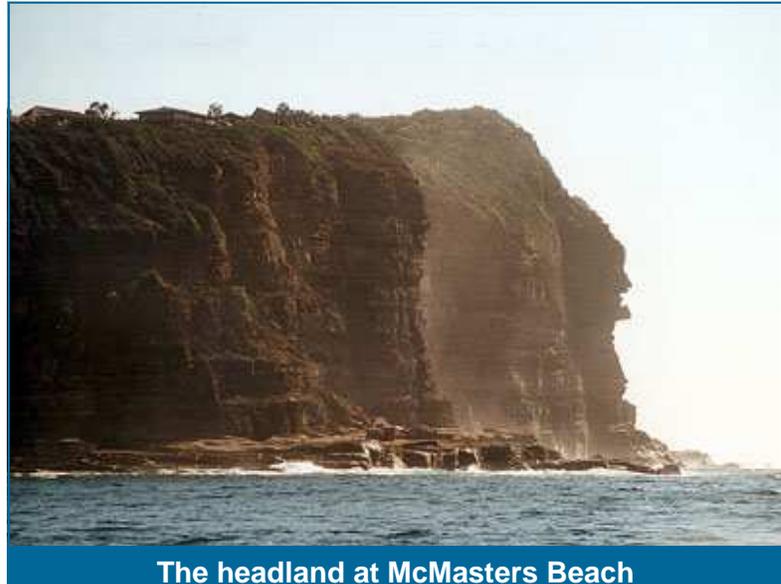
Longitude: 151.4167

Latitude (DMS): 33° 30' 0 S

Longitude (DMS): 151°25' 0 E

NAME: Craig Ruth

DESCRIPTION: The surfer, a 40-year-old male, teaches high school science and marine studies.



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, 59% of the moon's visible disk was illuminated.

ENVIRONMENT: A tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, was spotted in the water off the beach at 15h00.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 metres

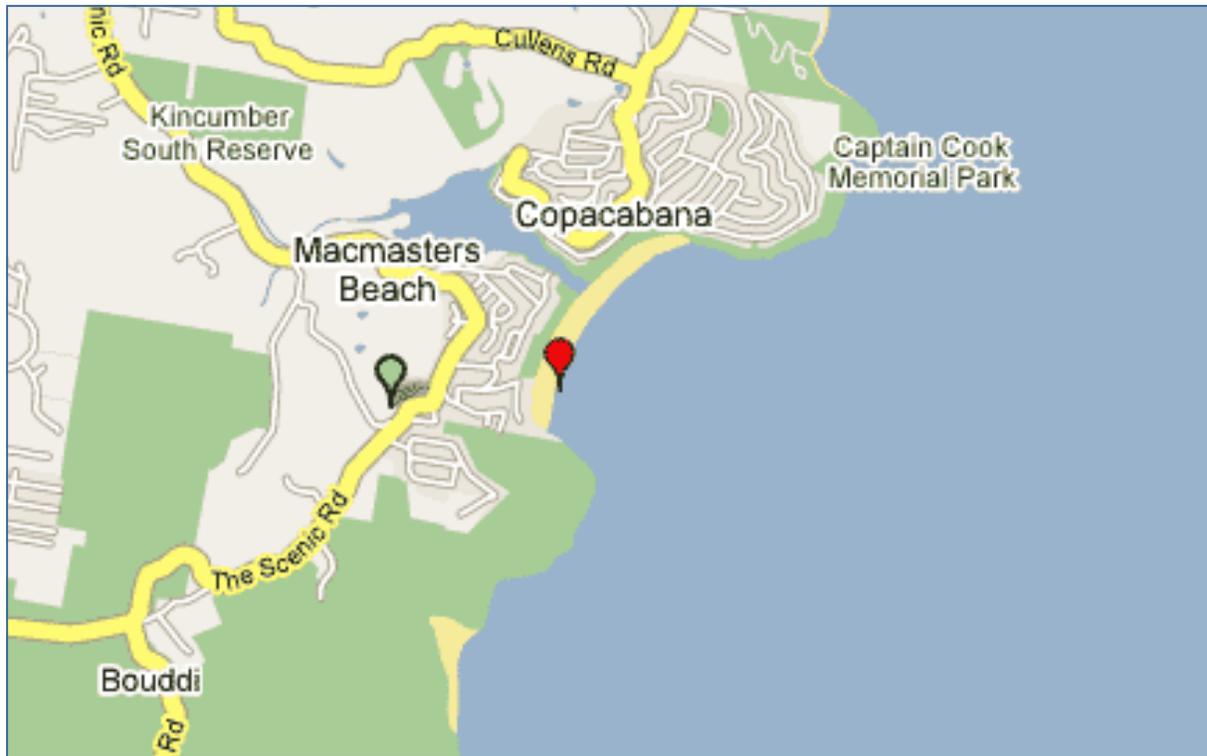
TIME: 19h30 (After dusk)

NARRATIVE: Craig Ruth was surfing when the shark knocked him off his board. At first, he thought he had hit a rock or had been hit by a wave, but as he groped in the water for his leash, he realized a shark was pulling him seawards. "It was like something out of Jaws when the girl gets dragged under when she was not really expecting it," he said. Then the shark let go of the leash and the surfer swam back to shore. "I swam the 100 metres back in about 10 seconds," he said.

INJURY: No injury.

SPECIES INVOLVED: "It had just gone dark — I didn't really see," Mr. Ruth said.

SOURCED: Illawarra Mercury, March 16, 2000, page 3; The Sydney Morning Herald, March 16, 2000



NOTE: Longitude/Latitude on previous page are for MacMasters Beach (town), but the incident site is slightly east. Also note, the map above spells the town as “Macmasters” although the website containing the map (traveljournals.net) points to “McMasters “Beach.