

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2007.03.20](#)

DATE: Tuesday 20 March 2007

LOCATION: South Golden Beach, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Jodie Cooper

DESCRIPTION: She is a 42-year-old female, a former professional surfer. She achieved the rank of world number two on the women's surfing circuit in the 1980s,

BACKGROUND:

MOON PHASE: New Moon

SEA CONDITIONS: "The water was a bit murky," according to Jodie.

ENVIRONMENT: "Earlier on we had been swimming with dolphins," reported Jodie.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 metres

TIME: 10h00

NARRATIVE: Jodie Cooper was surfing with a friend, Andy Scott. She had just finished riding a wave and was turning back to catch another wave. "I took a paddle, drove my hand down into the water, and then it locked on and I knew what it was." The shark latched onto her left hand, biting her knuckles. "It just came up from underneath me and just bit me, just like in the movies," she said. "It just locked on and I started shaking and shaking my hand and when it did release it ripped a bit and the bite went down to the bone into my knuckles. I just screamed to my mate 'shark, shark' and then started paddling ... that was probably the scariest part, that paddle back to shore. It is not a nice feeling. You don't know if it is going to come back for you. Because I didn't know how big it was I didn't know if it would come back." Jodie is keen to play down any notion that she was brave, saying that she was afraid the shark would return to another try. "It's one of those things in all honesty that we can laugh about now and I'm just laughing about it."

Asked if it felt like time stood still as she scrambled to get out of the water, Jodie said it was like time slowed down. "Luckily I caught a wave in but it is like ... time slows. I just didn't want to feel that bite (on my side)."

INJURY: "It's just like I've been bitten by a big dog. Just down to the bone on two knuckles, and then about 10 teeth lacerations up my hand" The injury consisted of deep lacerations across her outer three fingers.

TREATMENT: "I remember just feeling pretty amped-up when I got to the beach," she said. Mr Scott drove her to Mullumbimby Hospital for treatment "I got the old tetanus shot and they patched me up with some butterfly clips and gave me some antibiotics and painkillers. While I was waiting, this other guy turned up with a snakebite. His three mates, traditional hippies, turned up in this Kombi van to drop him off and they whisked him off before me. So



Daily Telegraph

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I wasn't a big emergency. I'll just take a bit of Panadeine Forte then get back into the water.”

SPECIES: “I didn't see it myself but my friend did and he said it was this small [1.5 m / 5'] bull (shark) or a bronze whaler.”

SOURCES: Daily Telegraph

http://news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,21421871-5006009,00.html?from+public_rss

Sydney Morning Herald,

http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/ok-im-being-attacked-by-a-shark/3007/03/21/1174153139495.html?s_cid=rss_smh

Gold Coast Bulletin,

http://www.gcbulletin.com.au/article/2007/03/21/3986_news.html

NOTE: Ms Cooper says she is determined to get back out on the water as soon as possible. Cooper, a surfing commentator who handles various local competitions, said she had to face the likelihood that the incident might not be her last run-in with a shark. But it would not deter her from surfing, she said. “There doesn't appear to be any ligament damage ... and I can sort of wiggle my hand. I'll give it a couple of days and then I'll go surfing for sure.”

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Phil Kemp, Global Shark Accident File