

ACTIVITY: Surfing
CASE: GSAF 2009.07.30
DATE: Thursday July 30, 2009
LOCATION: Broken Head near Byron Bay, Australia.

NAME: Zach Skyring
DESCRIPTION: He is a 14-year-old male, and was wearing a black wetsuit.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 6:00, Amberley Military recorded clear skies. The air temperature was 35.6°F, dew point 33.8°F, humidity 93%, sea level pressure 30.27 inches, and no wind.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 70% of the Moon was illuminated.
TIME: Just after 06h00



Zac Skyring and his father Nigel, of Broken Head, show the damage to Zac's wetsuit and the compression mark on his surfboard after his brush with a shark at Broken Head

NARRATIVE: Zach Skyring was surfing with his father when he was knocked from his board by a shark. "He was knocked off his board, knocked into the air, into the water," said his father, Nigel Skyring.

Witness Neil Cameron said both father and son paddled back out into the ocean to warn other surfers. "His dad had the idea, y'know he wanted to get him back in the water otherwise he reckoned if he never got him back in then, he'd never get him in the water again," Mr Cameron said. "So they both paddled out ... there was about probably half a dozen of us sitting further up and they just come (sic) out to tell us," he said.

INJURY: The boy was shaken, but sustained only minor injuries. "(He) had a slight graze on his arm that was all, there was a couple of little puncture marks on his wetsuit," said his father.

SPECIES: The incident was thought to involve a bronze whaler shark, about 1.5 metres in length.

SOURCES: ABC News, Thursday July 30, 2009,
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/30/2641368.htm>

Lismore Northern Star, July 30, 2009, <http://www.northernstar.com.au/story/2009/07/30/shark-attack-broken-head/>

Lismore Northern Star, July 31, 2009, <http://www.northernstar.com.au/story/2009/07/31/surfers-treat-sharks-respect-not-fear/>

goldcoast.com.au, July 31, 2009, http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2009/07/31/103515_gold-coast-news.html