

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2010.08.17](#)

**DATE:** Tuesday August 17, 2010

**LOCATION:** The attack took place 300 metres from the South Point surf break south of Cowaramup Bay, near Gracetown, Western Australia.

**NAME:** Nicholas Edwards

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 31-year-old male from Busselton, a fly-in, fly-out miner. He was on his last day of leave from the Goldfields. He and his wife, Melissa, have two children, a 2-year-old daughter, Lucy, and a 10-year-old son, Nathan.

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 08h00 Cape Leeuwin recorded air temperature of 13.9°C, dew point 8.8°C, humidity 71%, sea level pressure 1004.7 hPa, no rain, and wind direction was Northeast at 9 km/h with gusts to 19 km/h

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, 59% of the Moon is Illuminated

**SEA CONDITIONS:** “The sea was glassy and smooth, with a relatively small swell rolling into the bay,” reported Mark Tomlinson, who witnessed the attack.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Department of Fisheries supervising scientist of fin-fish Brett Molony said lots of different species of sharks have been reported at that beach, from white sharks to bronze whalers and various other species. He said seal colonies frequented the area year-round, and many seals were in the vicinity when the attack occurred. The area where the attack took place is only accessible by four-wheel-drive vehicles.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 300 metres

**DEPTH OF WATER:**

**TIME:** 08h15

**NARRATIVE:** Nicholas Edwards was surfing alone when he was bitten. According to witness Mark Tomlinson “I saw a lot of whitewater where there was no wave breaking.” The injured surfer swam to the rocks where rescuers reached him.

**INJURY:** The posterior right thigh was severely bitten and avulsed, and his calf was severely lacerated.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Rescuers used leg-rope as a tourniquet to slow blood loss, and



*Nicholas Edwards*

performed CPR when he arrested. The ambulance arrived 30 minutes after the attack. He was rushed to Margaret River hospital but he was dead on arrival.

**SPECIES:** The attack was thought to involve a white shark about 10 feet in length.



*Edward's surfboard, broken in two during the attack, was stowed in a ranger's vehicle afterwards.*



*Snapped in half: Senior Constable Ross Bartley with the remains of the surfer's board*

