



ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 2011.10.10](#)

DATE: Monday October 10, 2011

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean in front of the Indiana Tea Rooms at Cottesloe Beach in Perth, Western Australia.

NAME: Bryn Martin

DESCRIPTION: He was a 64-year-old male from Mosman Park. He was an experienced swimmer and chief executive of James Point, a private port builder.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 08h00, the sky was clear. The air temperature was 59°F, dew point 46.4°F, humidity 63%, sea level pressure 29.98 inches, and wind direction was ENE at 18.4 mph.

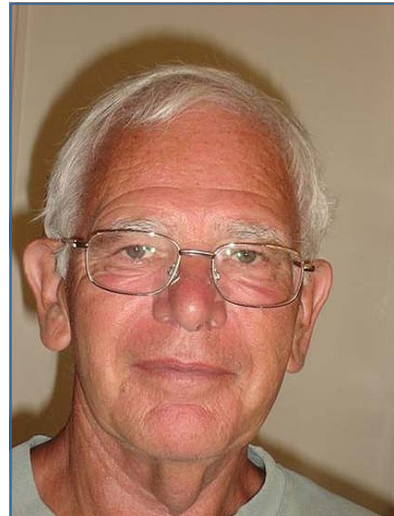
MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 97% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, October 12, 2011.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was murky.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 350 to 400 metres

TIME: 08h10

NARRATIVE: Martin was swimming alone towards a pylon (or buoy) about 350m (1148ft) from the beach when he vanished from view. A friend who joined him in the water called the police after Martin disappeared and did not surface for about 10 minutes.



INJURY: Presumed fatal. The wife of Bryn Martin identified the Speedo bathers recovered by divers as the type used by her husband and "Fisheries experts have viewed the bathers and were of the opinion the damage (tears) is consistent with that a white pointer shark could cause," said duty patrol commander Neil Blair, according to Perthnow.com.

Cottesloe Beach was closed until Wednesday.

SPECIES: It was thought that a white shark about three metres in length was involved.





Authorities search for missing swimmer Bryn Martin (inset) at Cottesloe Beach in Perth

Missing swimmer inquest told shark attack likely

A coronial inquest into the suspected death of a Perth man who disappeared off Cottesloe Beach last year has heard police have no doubt he was taken by a shark.

Bryn Martin, 64, was last seen swimming towards a marker buoy about 200 metres off Cottesloe in October last year. His torn bathers were found on the ocean floor soon after but despite an extensive search, no trace of Mr Martin has been found.

Department of Fisheries' senior scientist Rory McAuley was called in to examine the bathers. Today he told the Coroner's Court tears on them were consistent with a great white shark bite. Police officers involved in the search also told the court that witnesses reported seeing a commotion with lots of thrashing in the water on the morning Mr Martin disappeared. Another witness reported seeing a dark shadow in the water.

Coroner Alastair Hope deferred releasing his official findings but told the court Mr Martin's death has been established beyond doubt. He said it was clear he was taken by a great white shark.

Mr Martin's family is in court for today's inquest but made no comment. Acting Inspector Denise Grant says the family has been waiting for the inquest. "It's been a long 12, 14 months for the family," she said. "Sadly we couldn't bring Bryn back to his family but we're very thankful for the coroner and for his assessment as well."

SOURCE: ABC News, December 3, 2012, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-12-03/inquest-into-swimmer27s-death-hears-from-witnesses/4405148>

Shark suspected in Aussie swimmer's disappearance

Sydney (AP) — Australian officials were hunting Tuesday for any sign of a 64-year-old man who authorities believe was attacked by a great white shark off a popular west coast beach.

Bryn Martin, who regularly swam in the turquoise waters off the city of Perth's Cottesloe Beach, vanished Monday while swimming toward a buoy about 380 yards (350 meters) offshore. Police divers later found Martin's torn swimming trunks on the sea bed near the buoy, West Australian Police Senior Sget. Denise Grant said.

"There were a number of fabric tears to those briefs and our information on a preliminary examination was that the tearing was consistent with that of about a 3-meter (10-foot) great white shark," Grant told reporters at Cottesloe Beach on Tuesday.

The search effort had moved from a rescue to a recovery operation following the grim analysis, Police St. Gerry Cassidy said. "We've got to be honest ... obviously, the likelihood of finding him alive is virtually nil," Cassidy told The Associated Press.

Murky water in the area where Martin disappeared was keeping divers out of the water early Tuesday due to the difficulty of spotting any shark that might be roaming nearby, Cassidy said. The beach remained closed, though a few people ignored the warnings and went swimming anyway. Martin's son, Alistair Martin, said his father was an experienced swimmer who spent a lot of time in the water.

"He loved his morning swim and was aware and accepted the risks associated with ocean activities," he told reporters on Cottesloe Beach. "Yesterday, we received news that any family would dread and hopefully today will bring the closure we need."

Cottesloe Beach is beloved by Perth residents and visitors for its powdery sand, pine trees and clear water. But it has been rattled by shark attacks before. In 2000, Perth businessman Ken Crew was killed in front of hundreds of horrified beachgoers while wading in knee-deep water off Cottesloe. Officials believe the culprit was a 13-foot (four-meter) great white shark.

Australia's's last fatal shark attack was in April, when a surfer lost both legs off another beach south of Perth.

SOURCE: Kristen Gelineau, NewsOK, October 10, 2011, http://newsok.com/shark-suspected-in-aussie-swimmers-disappearance/article/feed/305636?custom_click=pod_headline_asia

Shark attack fears after damaged bathers found off Perth's Cottesloe beach

- Hopes of finding swimmer alive fade after bather's discovery
- Marks "consistent with that a white pointer shark could cause"

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DIVERS have found the damaged bathers of a 64-year-old swimmer missing off Cottesloe beach on the ocean floor as hopes of finding the man alive fade.

Police grave fears for a man who disappeared this morning while swimming at Cottesloe beach.

The missing man is believed to be Bryn Martin, a successful businessman and proponent of a private port in Kwinana,

Duty patrol commander Neil Blair said the missing man's wife confirmed the black Speedos were the type of swimmers her husband had worn. "Fisheries experts have viewed the bathers and were of the opinion the damage is consistent with that a white pointer shark could cause," he said last night.

Mr Martin was last seen by a friend swimming out past the pylon in front of the Indiana Tea Rooms at about 8am yesterday. He was a couple of hundred metres offshore when he disappeared.

Mr Martin is the chief executive of James Point, a company appointed by the State government to build private port facilities in Kwinana. According to the James Point website, he is the company's chief executive and has spent several years in talks with the State government to get the project underway.

Keen swimmer

A keen swimmer, Mr Martin has competed in the Rottneest Channel Swim and set the record for the oldest male duo swimmer in 2002.

Police said it was too early to suggest a shark attack and that rescuers were exploring all options. Cottesloe beach has been closed.

Police Senior Sergeant Denise Grant said officers searched the water until sundown, but held grave fears for the missing man's safety. "Given that this gentleman has been missing since 8.10am, police are very concerned for the welfare of this man," Sgt Grant said. "Hopes are definitely fading that we will find him safe, however, we don't give up hope and we will remain in the area, as will our water police, police air wing and ATV vehicles searching the beachfront until sundown."

The search will continue this morning.

Police are yet to confirm reports the man has a heart condition. The man's wife raised the alarm about 9.30am after he did not arrive for breakfast and the family conducted a search of the beach.

Shark sightings "He was swimming by himself at the time, however he was down at the beach with a friend," Sgt Grant said. "His friend was entering the water, he saw him and about 10 minutes later he couldn't see him anymore."

Cottesloe Surf Lifesaving have issued an email to members advising them that the missing man is not a member of the club.

A Surf Life Saving WA helicopter had not been monitoring Cottesloe Beach yesterday as it does not fly during weekdays until mid-December. Cottesloe Beach was closed in November last year after several sightings of a 2.5m shark that was attracted to baitfish in the area.

FATAL SHARK ATTACKS IN WA

September 4, 2011: Kyle Burden was killed while body boarding with friends at Bunker Bay, near Dunsborough, in Western Australia.

August 2010: Nicholas Edwards, 31, fatally mauled at Gracetown, near Margaret River.

December 2008: Port Kennedy fisherman Brian Guest, 51, taken by a giant white pointer while snorkelling for crabs in about 5m of water near his beachside home.

March 2005: A 6m white pointer killed boat skipper Geoffrey Brazier, 26, while he snorkelled off the Abrolhos Islands.

July 2004: Carpenter Brad Smith, 29, was attacked and killed by two sharks while surfing off Gracetown.

November 2000: Businessman Ken Crew, 48, was killed by a 4m white pointer in waist-deep water at North Cottesloe. In October 1997, Former St Kilda footballer Brian Sierakowski and friend Barney Hanrahan escaped injury when a 5m white pointer attacked their double surf-ski 150m off Cottesloe.

November 1925: Samuel Ettlton, 55, was fatally attacked by a tiger shark while floating on his back at Cottesloe Beach.

SOURCE: Ashlee Mullany, PerthNow, October 11, 2011, <http://www.news.com.au/national/man-missing-off-cottesloe-beach/story-e6frfkvr-1226163485333>

No doubt shark took man: Coroner

Despite an exhaustive land and sea search, a pair of torn bathers bearing the distinctive tooth marks of a great white shark were all that was discovered of Bryn Martin who disappeared off Perth's Cottesloe Beach in 2011.

One year on, an inquest has been launched into the 64-year-old Mosman Park man's disappearance at the request of his family.

The evidence heard was "overwhelmingly" consistent with a shark attack death, WA Coroner Alastair Hope found, although he has yet to hand down his official findings. "The deceased was taken by a white pointer shark," Mr Hope said.

Mr Martin was last seen about 300 metres off the shoreline of the popular beach about 8am on October 10, 2011, the Coroner's Court of WA heard. At the time of his disappearance Western Australia was in the midst of an alarming spate of shark attacks. But swimming out to a yellow buoy 500m off Cottesloe Beach and back had been Mr Martin's morning ritual for more than 12 years, the Coroner's Court heard.

When Mr Martin failed to return to shore to meet his wife for breakfast, she alerted the authorities. The same day, police found Mr Martin's black and blue Speedo bathers on the sea floor. Fisheries Department senior research scientist and shark expert Rory McAuley examined the bathers and discovered tears consistent with those of previous white shark attacks. White sharks tended to have more symmetrical teeth with "fine scalloped edges," Dr McAuley told the Coroner's Court.

The WA government channelled funds into learning more about shark behaviour after three fatal attacks in 2011. Dr McAuley said some of the most important new research - relating to tagging of great whites - was still being gathered.

However, new data has already come to light debunking the myth of sharks only appearing in choppy water, during overcast weather, he said. Recent Fisheries Department research had also revealed the white sharks haunting WA's coastline tended to prefer cooler waters, Dr McAuley said. And they were moving between South Australia, the North West Cape and parts of the Indian Ocean.

It was this transience of great whites that made shark netting and baiting programs used to control residential bull shark populations in New South Wales less viable for WA, he said. "Their effectiveness has not been proven," he told the Coroner's Court.

Senior Constable Derek Hutchinson who led the sea component of the search for Mr Martin said it was called off after three days when police were convinced of the extreme likelihood of a shark attack death. "It is my belief that Martin was attacked, killed and removed from the area by a great white shark," Senior Constable Hutchinson told the Coroner's Court.

Mr Hope did not set a date for delivering his findings.

SOURCE: Rania Spooner, WAtoday, December 3, 2012, <http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/no-doubt-shark-took-man-coroner-20121203-2aqub.html>