

**ACTIVITY:** Body boarding

**CASE:** GSAF 2013.11.30

**DATE:** Saturday November 30, 2013

**LOCATION:** The attack took place at a break known as The Well off Riecks Point, Campbell's Beach, near Coff's Harbour in northern New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Zac Young

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 19-year-old male from Port Macquarie and a member of the Port Macquarie Bodyboarding Association.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** It had been overcast in the morning but by 15h00 Coff's Harbour recorded visibility of 19 miles. The air temperature was 70°F, dew point 54°F, humidity 47%, sea level pressure 30.04 inches (rising), and wind direction was SSE at 15mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Crescent, 12% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, December 3, 2013.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 100 metres (330 feet)

**TIME:** 14h00

**NARRATIVE:** Zac Young was body surfing with three friends: Lindsay Isaac, Kurt Gillan and Shayden Schrader. Zac and Lindsay were together when the shark came up from behind Zac. "It just came out of the water," said Lindsay. The two yelled for help to his mates who were just metres away. His mates struggled with the shark for a short time, then the shark let go and his friends headed for shore with the injured teen. It took them 15 minutes to get to shore. "We had to paddle knowing there was an eight foot tiger shark underneath us while trying to get him in," said Lindsay. "But we knew if we didn't get him in he would be at the bottom of the ocean."

**INJURY:** Fatal. According to Lindsay, the shark severed Zac's legs and he had lost a great deal of blood but still had a pulse when they got him to shore.

His friends and bystanders on the beach tried to save the young man. Paramedics arrived shortly and attempted to resuscitate him but he was pronounced dead a short time later. "He suffered a traumatic cardiac arrest as a result of his injuries", a NSW emergency services spokesperson reported.

Greg Hackfath, chief lifeguard for Coffs Harbour City Council, said the council was taking the precautionary measure of closing all beaches within a six mile radius of the attack zone for 24 hours. He said shark issues in the area were rare. "We've had two recorded shark attacks (in the area) ever – that's in 150 years of settlement. So it's highly unusual."

**SPECIES:** Marine Biologist Amy Smoothery completed a forensic analysis of Mr Young's bites and concluded on Monday a three-metre tiger shark was responsible.

**SOURCES:** <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-12-02/experts-confirm-tiger-shark-killed-19yo-zac-young-at-nsw-beach/5129430>, *et al*



Zac Young

Photo: Facebook



Pic Nathan Edwards Source: News Limited

At a paddle out memorial service next day at Port Maquarie: the three boys who were with Zac at the time of the attack and helped pull him from the water:  
Left to right: 18-year-old Kurt Gillan, 15-year-old Shayden Shrader and 14-year-old Lindsay Isaac.



Photo: Lindsay Moller

Young's friends form a circle off Port Macquarie's Town Beach to remember him.