



ACTIVITY: Spearfishing / free diving

CASE: **GSAF 2014.02.08**

DATE: Saturday February 8, 2014

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Gulf of St. Vincent off Goldsmith Beach on the Yorke Peninsula, South Australia.

NAME: Sam Kellett

DESCRIPTION: A 28-year-old male. He was wearing a camouflage-patterned wetsuit and hood, mask, snorkel and long swim fins and carried a speargun. He was free diving and was not wearing any scuba gear. He was a Year 8 English teacher at the prestigious Glenunga International High School in Adelaide's eastern suburbs.



Sam Kellett

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 62% of the Moon was visible. First Quarter, February 7, 2014.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was clear but choppy.

ENVIRONMENT: The coastline at the bottom of Yorke Peninsula is a well-known hotspot for recreational divers because the water is relatively calm and deep close to shore. According to a local fishermen, snapper had been "prominent in the area lately". Shark researcher Andrew Fox, whose father Rodney was bitten by a great white while spearfishing off a southern Adelaide beach in 1963, said the area where Sam Kellett was attacked was a

known shark migratory path.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 metres

DEPTH OF WATER: Seven to eight metres

TIME: 12h00

NARRATIVE: Sam Kellett was one of a group of seven people practicing for the Yorke Peninsula Classic, a spearfishing competition to be held the next day. The group had originally planned to dive at Chinamans Hat Island in Innes National Park but a catastrophic fire warning forced them to move to Goldsmith Beach, about 100km away. The divers were preparing to get out of the water and on to a shallow reef. "They were within 10 metres of each other and two of them were very close to [Kellett]," said Jonathan Hammond, a friend and organizer of the event. "The shark came, and they saw it attack and there was a lot of blood in the water. There was nothing they could do."

Aaron Whitaker said he was swimming on the surface when he heard Wyatt Raymount yell out to him. "It made me turn around back out to sea and as I turned around I saw the tail of a shark come out of the water and it was thrashing around," he said. "I put my face under the water to see the shark but I could not see it. All of a sudden a white pointer shark came out the murky water vertically towards the surface just behind me and almost launched itself out of the water." Whitaker said the visibility of the water meant he could not clearly see what the shark had grabbed about 5m from him. He said he saw a lot of blood in the water near Sam Kellett's boat, where he had last seen him.

Wyatt Raymount said he looked under the water and saw a shark, which he assumed had taken Kellett. "I did not see Sam, however it was in the exact position I had last seen Sam," he said. "It was thrashing and moving around a bit. I saw the shark vertical with its tail towards the bottom and its head near the surface."

Nicholas Carson said he was about 25m from Sam Kellett when he saw a shark tail thrashing from side to side. "I saw the whole body of a shark surface out of the water and dive down again into the water," he said. "I was directly behind the shark so I saw the whole body jump out of the water and I think the shark was about 5m long and it was a dark grey colour. "It looked like a great white shark. It happened so fast." Carson said the surrounding water was bright like red blood.

INJURY: Presumed fatal. Authorities started searching for the missing man about 13h00, after his friends failed to locate the diver. The police coordinated the search which involved local State Emergency Services Crews, the man's friends and the local residents. Two vessels from the Sea Rescue Squadron operations, a police helicopter, were also involved in the search as well as a Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol vessel from Port Victoria and two smaller private craft including a jetski searching closer to the shore. At 20h00, the search was called off and continued at 08h00 next morning. Although no trace of the man was found police recovered two lead weights and his spear gun, which scientific experts concluded had "discernible serrated incisions" consistent with white shark teeth impressions. "

SPECIES: It was thought the attack involved a white shark, five metres in length.

SOURCES: The Advertiser, February 9, 2014
<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/national/witnesses-saw-fatal-shark-attack-on-diver-off-goldsmith-beach-south-of-edithburgh-on-yorke-peninsula/story-fnii5yv7-1226821301522>

The Sydney Morning Herald, February 9, 2014
<http://www.smh.com.au/national/man-missing-feared-dead-after-shark-attack-off-sa-coast-20140208-328jp.html>

The Australian, February 10, 2014
<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/friends-horror-as-great-white-takes-teacher/story-e6frg6nf-1226822011707#>

ABC News, February 10, 2014, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-02-10/shark-attack-victim-sam-kellett-no-cull-family-statement/5249396>

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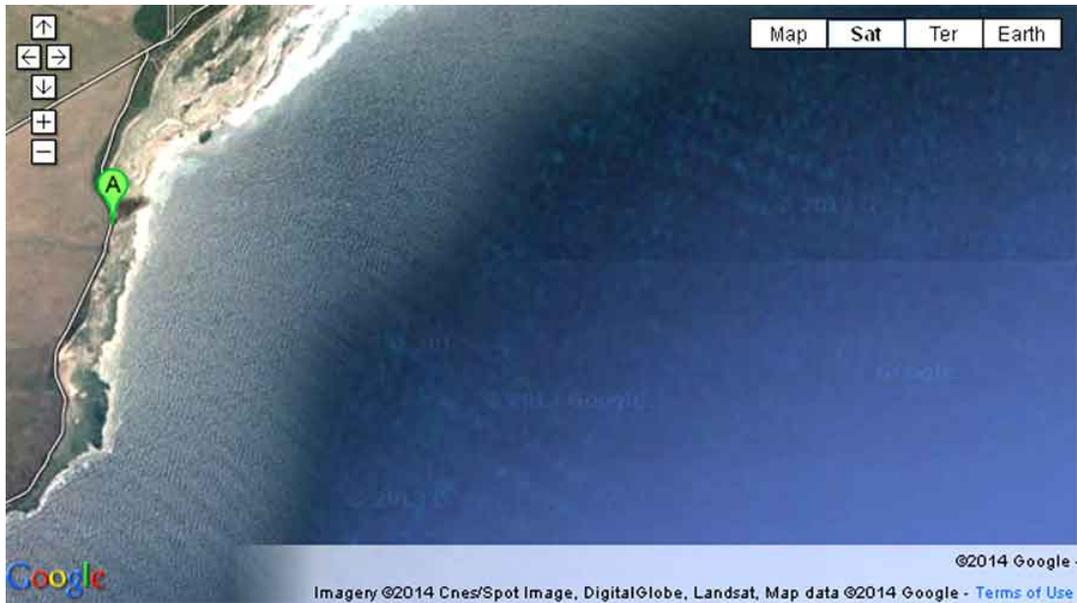


Sam Kellett shortly before he was attacked by the shark



ABC News: Alina Eacott

A police diver with the speargun recovered from where the man was taken.



RECENT SA ATTACKS

1. **May 1999:** Tony Donoghue taken while sailboarding at Hardwicke Bay, Yorke Peninsula
2. **April 2002:** Scallop diver **Paul Buckland** taken at Smoky Bay, Great Australian Bight
3. **Dec 2004:** Nick Peterson taken while being towed on a surfboard behind a boat at West Beach, western Adelaide
4. **August 2005:** Marine biologist **Jarrod Stehbens** taken by a shark while searching for cuttlefish eggs off Glenelg Beach, western Adelaide
5. **Feb 2011:** Abalone diver **Peter Clarkson** taken by two sharks near Coffin Bay, Eyre Peninsula
6. **Feb 2014:** Teacher **Sam Kellett** taken while spearfishing off Goldsmith Beach, Yorke Peninsula

A map of the southern coast of Australia showing the locations of six shark attacks. The map includes labels for Wudinna, Whyalla, Port Augusta, Adelaide, Port Lincoln, and Kangaroo Island. Numbered markers 1 through 6 are placed along the coast to indicate the locations of the attacks. Marker 1 is near Port Lincoln, marker 2 is near Wudinna, marker 3 is near Adelaide, marker 4 is near Adelaide, marker 5 is near Port Lincoln, and marker 6 is near Adelaide. A small globe icon is in the top right corner of the map area.



Mr Kellett's diving weights bore marks consistent with white shark teeth