



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2014.03.18.a](#)

DATE: Tuesday March 18, 2014

LOCATION: The incident took place at Seven Mile Beach off Pacific Parade at Lennox Head, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: The incident involved a 10-year-old female, a local girl.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 17h00, Coolangatta, 120 kilometers to the north of Lennox Head, recorded scattered clouds and 6.2-mile visibility. The air temperature was 78.8°F, dew point 71.6°F, humidity 78%, sea level pressure 30.09 inches, and wind direction was ENE at 10.4 mph.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon

ENVIRONMENT: Lennox Head is a small coastal town between Byron Bay and Ballina that is popular with beach-goers, sea-changers, and holiday-makers. It is 11 kilometres north of Ballina, 776 kilometres north of Sydney, and 211 kilometres south of Brisbane. There had been no sightings of sharks in the Lennox Head area.

TIME: 17h00

NARRATIVE: The girl had been surfing with her younger brother and others opposite the Lennox Hotel when Ben Molloy heard the girl screaming. "The other kids paddled in pretty quick smart," he said. She was brought to shore by her younger brother.

INJURY: According to local officials, she sustained lacerations to her left thumb.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Molloy wrapped the girl's hand with his flannelette shirt as she came out of the water. He said the girl's mum was "stressing out" but called for an ambulance. Bystanders rendered first aid and comforted the girl until police and paramedics arrived. Paramedics treated the girl at the scene and she was taken by ambulance to Lismore Base Hospital. On Tuesday evening, she was reported to be in stable condition.

SPECIES: Although initially believed to involve a shark, it was later determined the injury was caused by a fish, possibly a mackerel.

SOURCES: Brisbane Times, March 18, 2014; , Gold Coast Bulletin, March 18, 2014; Sunshine Coast Daily, March 18 & 19, 2014



Photo alex.coles/flickr.com

A small mackerel.