



**ACTIVITY:** Body boarding

**CASE:** [GSAF 2015.08.22.a](#)

**DATE:** Saturday August 22, 2015

**LOCATION:** The attack took place near the northern point of Lighthouse Beach, 320 kilometers (200 miles) north of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Dale Carr

**DESCRIPTION:** A 38-year-old male, a former rugby league player for the Port Macquarie Sharks, a regular body boarder, and a construction worker.



Facebook.com

*Dale Carr*

## **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** A high over the Tasman Sea extended as a ridge northwest along the Queensland coast combining with a trough over inland New South Wales coast next day. The trough system drifted a little further north on Monday (August 24, 2015) before a low developed over the central part of the New South Wales. At the time of the attack the sky was partly cloudy and wind direction was North at 15 to 25 knots. By 19h26, the air temperature was 62.6°F, dew point 60.8°F, humidity 94%, sea level pressure 30.12 inches and the wind direction had shifted to NNE at 4.6 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Crescent, 43% of the Moon was illuminated. First Quarter, August 23, 2015.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea surface temperature was 18°C. The seas were 1 to 2 metres and there was a southerly swell of 1 to 1.5 metres.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The New South Wales north coast has for decades been a surfing Mecca, although few Australians surf during the southern hemisphere winter and the number of surfers have dwindled off New South Wales due to recent shark attacks. Georgie Latimer, co-owner of Air T&G Helicopters, which has been engaged to spot sharks, said three white

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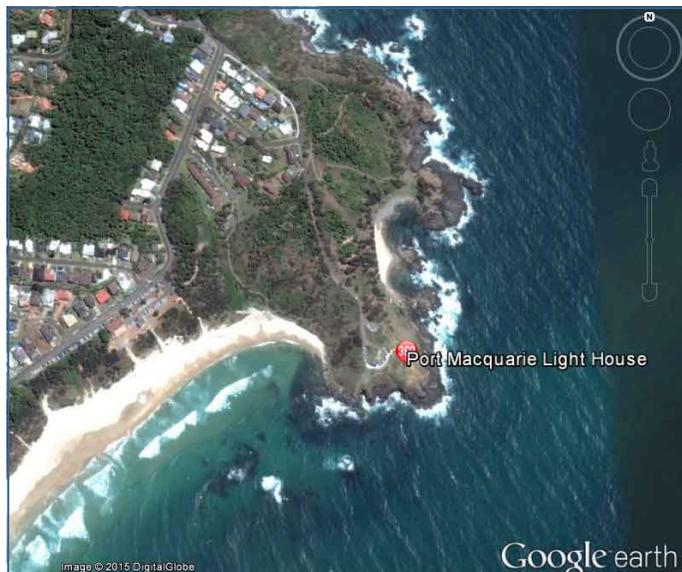
sharks, including a large animal with a distinctive white-tipped tail, were hanging around key shark-attack zones at Lennox Head, South Wall and Lighthouse Beach in the Ballina Shire. Although some Ballina surfers and fishermen have called for a shark cull, mayor David Wright says he will not support a cull until he looks at the results of tagging large sharks in the area, which is due to start on August 26, 2015. "It's no use culling if you don't know why they're there," Cr Wright said. "These sharks are coming in waist-deep water sometimes, it's a bit scary," he said. "You can virtually see them in the breakers. It's totally unprecedented." He added that nobody had been surfing at Lighthouse Beach since the attack on Mathew Lee on July 2.

**DISTANCE TO SHORE:** 200 metres, and he was 400m south of the club house when the attack took place.

**TIME:** The attack took place at 17h10, shortly before dusk.

**NARRATIVE:** Dale Carr was surfing with a friend when he saw the shark, moments before he was bitten. "I managed to get the shark to let go, still paddle 200m to shore, collapse after reaching shore and have my friend Shane De Roiste help drag me up and put my arse together while others stemmed the blood loss," said Carr. Surf Life Saving NSW closed all beaches in the region for a 24 hour period. The Port Macquarie-Hastings Council re-opened the beaches at 06h00 on August 26, 2015 after extensive air patrols.

**INJURIES:** Severe lacerations to his posterior left thigh and buttock.



**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Witnesses provided first aid on the beach and he was treated by paramedics, before being transported to Port Macquarie Hospital via Westpac Rescue Helicopter in critical condition. The helicopter landed in Port Macquarie at 18h30. It was expected that he would be flown to Newcastle's John Hunter Hospital for surgery, but doctors and surgeons at Port Macquarie Hospital were able to repair his injuries and by Saturday evening his condition was stable according to a Port Macquarie Hospital spokeswoman.

**SPECIES:** Thought to involve a white shark 2.7 metres in length.

**NOTE:** "The fact that there were random acts of kindness displayed by everyone on the beach that day who were passers-by, others who had no obligation to assist, is the real story," said Carr. "My scars will heal and surfers will continue to take that risk at any time of the day regardless of my circumstances. My thoughts are with those who knowingly risked their lives for those who have suffered an injury like mine or worse in recent weeks. That's the real story, the testament of human nature."

**SOURCES:** The Daily Telegraph, August 22, 2015, <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/shark-attack-man-bitten-on-leg-by-shark-at-lighthouse-beach-while-bodyboarding/story-fni0cx12-1227494522594>

The Sydney Morning Herald, August 23, 2015, <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/shark-attack-victim-dale-carr-saved-by-bodyboarding-friend-20150823-gj5mg6.html>

Daily Telegraph, August 23, 2015

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/shark-attack-man-bitten-on-leg-by-shark-at-lighthouse-beach-while-bodyboarding/story-fni0cx12-1227494533594>

Newcastle Herald, August 24, 2012

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Perth Now, August 25, 2015

<http://www.perthnow.com.au/technology/science/port-macquarie-shark-attack-victim-dale-carr-says-human-nature-should-be-focus/story-fnjwk7lb-1227498068053>

