



ABC News: Eloise Farrow-Smith



*Cooper Allen*

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** **GSAF 2016**

**DATE:** Monday Monday, September 26, 2016

**LOCATION:** Lighthouse Beach, Ballina, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Cooper Allen

**DESCRIPTION:** A 17-year-old male

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 09h00, Lismore Airport recorded visibility of 6.2 miles. The air temperature was 69.8°F, dew point 48.2°F, humidity 46%, sea level pressure 29.92 inches and wind direction was SSW at 6.9 mph

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Crescent, 23% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, October 1, 2016.

**TIME:** 09h00

**NARRATIVE:** Cooper Allen went surfing at 08h00 with two friends: Tom Harper and Jae Waters. He had just paddled out beyond the break and was sitting on his board just when he was knocked into the water by the shark. "I felt the power of this thing and the pressure and I just fall off my board," Cooper said. "I just see a fin cutting across and I thought 'this is a shark I've just been attacked by a shark' and straight away I turn to the two people I was surfing with, Tom and Jae, and they were looking at me and their faces were just utter horror. I wasn't feeling the pain of the bite I was trying to tell myself I've just been bumped," said Cooper. "And then I looked down and I'm bit. And then I felt weak, and I thought 'I've just got to get to shore'."

"I just saw fins thrashing everywhere and I just saw Cooper panicking and knocked off his board. I was scared but it was a mate so you've got to help him out," said Harper. "I got

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Cooper and Jay was just towing him in we were going in the beach and I kept looking back to make sure it didn't come back and it was just following us, behind us all the way.”

**INJURY:** Four deep widely spaced lacerations to the upper-thigh.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Cooper’s friends helped him to shore, where a nurse and lifesavers provided first aid which included using a surfboard leg rope as a tourniquet. Cooper was treated at the scene for his injuries by NSW Ambulance paramedics before being taken to Lismore Base Hospital where the lacerations were stitched.

**SPECIES:** The incident is thought to have involved a white shark around three or more metres in length.

**SOURCES:** ABC.net.au, September 26, 2016  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-26/ballina-shark-attack:-teenage-surfer-bitten-at-lighthouse-beach/7876892>

The Sydney Morning Herald, October 9, 2016  
<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/tv-and-radio/news-and-current-affairs/shark-victim-cooper-allen-tells-sunday-night-how-he-felt-the-power-of-this-thing-20161009-gryaxv.html>



*This 3.5m white shark was sighted off the beach just after the incident.*

*Photo: Twitter/SharkSmart*