

ACTIVITY: Surfing or body surfing

CASE: GSAF 1957.04.23

DATE: Tuesday April 23, 1957

LOCATION: Merewether Beach,
New South Wales, Australia.

32°55'S, 151°48'E

NAME: Paul Wilson

DESCRIPTION: He was a 15-year-old male who lived on Watkins Street in Merewether.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter,
April 22, 1957

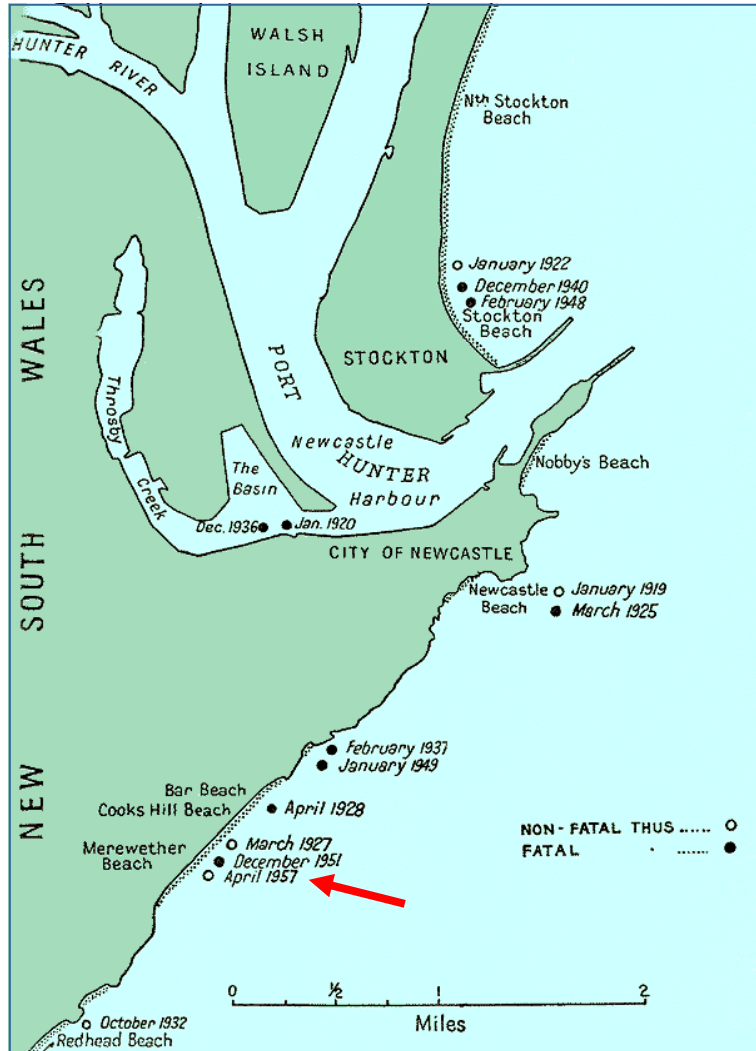
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 40 to
100 yards

NARRATIVE: .He was surfing with 20 other boys but missed a shoot and was alone and "off balance" when he was bitten.

INJURY: Minor injury to foot.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Although no shark was seen, the boy's injury was attributed to a shark. It was speculated that a wobbegong shark may have been involved.

SOURCES: The Age, Wednesday
April 24, 1967, page 1; Victor M. Coppleson (1958), page79



Shark Attacks

15-year-old Boy

SYDNEY, Tuesday.—A 15-year-old boy was attacked by a shark while swimming at Merewether Beach (Newcastle) this afternoon.

With blood pouring from a deep puncture on his right foot, he swam 100 yards into the beach and walked unaided from the water.

The boy is Paul Wilson, of Watkins Street, Merewether.

Paul said tonight he didn't think of screaming for help when he felt the shark's teeth sink into his foot.

"I had just lifted my foot to balance myself

when I felt two powerful jaws close on it," he said.

"I had been playing football on the beach with some boys and when we got hot we raced into the surf for a swim.

"I was about 100 yards from the shore looking for a big wave when it happened.

"I kicked till the shark let me go and then got into the beach as fast as I could."