



ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 1989.11.02](#)

DATE: Thursday November 2, 1989

LOCATION: The incident took place in a canal at Mermaid Waters, Queensland, Australia.

NAME: Kristoffer Fredriksen

DESCRIPTION: He is a 10-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, October 30, 1989

ENVIRONMENT: The Mermaid Waters canal system connects with the Nerang River, which runs into the sea at Southport. Bull sharks are not uncommon in the tidal canals.



NARRATIVE: Kristoffer Fredriksen was swimming with friends near his Mermaid Waters home when he was bitten. He felt something brush past him and slice his leg as he swam, then the shark grabbed his leg and attempted to pull him beneath the surface. *"It took a chunk out of my leg and I kicked at it with my other leg and swam to the shore as fast as I could,"* he said. *"I wasn't really thinking about my leg. I knew I had to swim to the shore. I was thinking about whether I would make it and stay alive. I learned in nippers that you don't panic and just try to swim to shore. Luckily it didn't come back."*

The boy said the wound did not start hurting until he reached shore and saw the extent of his injuries. *"It was disgusting and all torn. It felt like bull ant bites all over your leg and it looked*

like blood was pouring out," he said.

INJURY: The boy's left ankle was broken and lacerated.

TREATMENT: Kristoffer was treated at Allamanda Hospital where his injuries required 108 stitches during micro-surgery. His doctors said he will fully recover from his injuries.

SPECIES: Doctors estimated from the wound that the boy was bitten by a shark up to two metres in length, possibly a bronze whaler. On November 6, Mr. Neal, the Maritime Services Minister, ordered a shark contractor to set two traps for the shark. *"The shark catchers will set drum lines in the extensive Mermaid Waters canal estate area. In case the shark is still in the canals, the lines will be set for seven days and be checked daily."*

SOURCE: Cindy Wockner, Courier-Mail, Tuesday November 7, 1989, page 3.