

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1990.10.27

DATE: Saturday October 27, 1990

LOCATION: The incident took place in a canal, part of Little Tallebudgera Creek, a kilometer south of Jupiters Casino in Mermaid Waters, Queensland, Australia.

NAME: Craig Alan Coleman

DESCRIPTION: He is a 26-year-old male from Mermaid Waters.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, October 27, 1990

TIME: 20h30 (Night)

NARRATIVE: After being bitten, Coleman staggered to the home of Ian Gibson in Ondine Court. Gibson said, "When I opened the door this bloke said to me: 'I think I've been bitten by a shark'. He was covered in blood and I just froze for a moment and then I dashed forward to help. The poor bloke had an enormous gash in his backside."

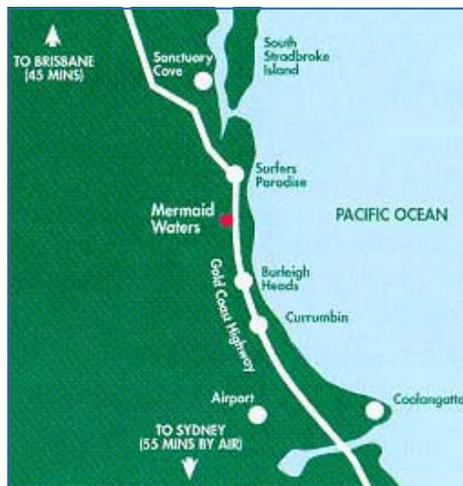
INJURY: He was bitten on the buttocks and hip. An ambulance officer said, "Our men said you could see the teeth marks. They were quite evident."

TREATMENT: He was taken by ambulance to Gold Coast Hospital and admitted to the intensive care unit. His wounds required 200 stitches.

SPECIES: Unknown

NOTE: Coleman's flat mate, Regina Welch, said the night before they had watched a TV program in which a girl was killed by a shark. She said he often swam in the canal behind their Makeri Street unit and she had told him it was dangerous because of sharks, but he replied, "Don't talk stupid, there aren't sharks in the canal".

SOURCES: Sunday Mail (QLD), October 28, 1990, page 1
The Canberra Times, October 29, 1990, page 2



Warning after shark attack

BRISBANE: People were warned yesterday to choose their swimming spots carefully after a 26-year-old man was mauled by a shark on the Gold Coast on Saturday night.

Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol manager Alan Regan said people should only swim in patrolled beach areas.

Craig Alan Coleman, of Broadbeach, was attacked by a two-metre long shark in Little Tallebudgera Creek, Mermaid Waters.

Mr Coleman will undergo plastic surgery in the Gold Coast Hospital after receiving 200 stitches to his upper leg, buttocks and hip.

"People should be all right swimming if they just apply a little commonsense," Mr Regan said.

"They shouldn't go swimming at night when sharks are feeding and they should only swim in patrolled beach areas," he said.

Mr Regan said he was expecting a full report today on the attack.

Mr Coleman said from hospital yesterday: "I got half-way across the water and stopped for a small rest and then suddenly something bit me in the side."

"I thought it must be a shark . . . I wasn't sure and I wasn't going to take any chances, so I started swimming for my life.

"I looked down at my backside and there was a big gash out of it and a flap hanging down, so I just held it up with my hand, then ran to the nearest house to get help," Mr Coleman said.

Mr Regan said Gold Coast Boating and Fisheries Patrol staff were setting six drum lines near the scene of the attack to monitor the local shark population, but he denied that these would be used to trap sharks.

He said the patrol employed a local shark contractor to reduce shark numbers on the Gold Coast but historically, sharks had not been a big problem there.