

**ACTIVITY:** Surf-skiing

**CASE:** GSAF 1991.01.09

**DATE:** Wednesday January 9, 1991

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Scarborough Beach, Perth, Western Australia.

**NAME:** Grant Kenny

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a male, an Australian Iron Man and in training for the world swimming championships. He was a kayak bronze medal winner in LA in 1984.

### BACKGROUND

**MOON PHASE:** Third Quarter, January 8, 1991

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 2.5 km

**NARRATIVE:** Grant Kenny was just back in training after a three week lay-off with a back injury, and was paddling just north of Scarborough Beach. One of his legs had gone to sleep. He had dangled his legs over the side of the ski to get the blood flowing again. After a couple of minutes, he saw a big black fin coming towards his surf ski. "I wasn't sure if it was a dolphin or a shark but the thing just kept coming for my ski," Kenny said. "In the 20 years that I have been paddling a surf ski I have only ever seen about half a dozen sharks."

"The shark came straight for me and brushed the front of my surf ski and then circled around a couple of times before following me for a couple of minutes," said Kenny. "This is the first time that I have ever been brushed by one in all those years and it gave me one hell of a scare. I pulled my leg up and started to paddle like hell and thought about myself being a shark attack statistic. I don't think that sharks are man eaters but if I had been cut and started to bleed you wouldn't know what would happen. If the thing had bitten my ski it would have sunk to the water line and it would have taken at least half an hour to get to the shore," Kenny said.

**INJURY:** No injury, the shark brushed his ski.

**SPECIES:** Not identified. According to Kenny, the shark was about four metres in length.

**SOURCE:** Courier-Mail, January 10, 1991, page 5



Photo courtesy SLSA Archives

Grant Kenny, Australian Iron Man Champion, 1980-1983.

