

ACTIVITY: Surfing (or boogie boarding)

CASE: GSAF 1992.01.29.a

DATE: Wednesday January 29, 1992

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Coral Sea at Point Danger near Tweed Heads, New South Wales, Australia.

28°10'00"S, 153°33'00"E

NAME: John Bayliss (or Ballis)

DESCRIPTION: He is a 19-year-old male from Kirra in Queensland.



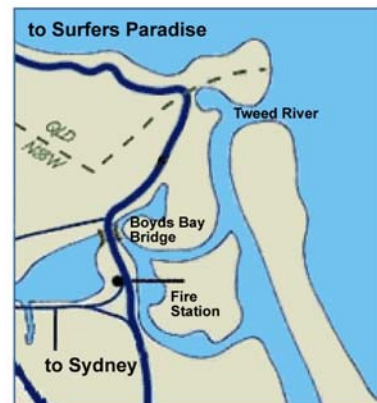
BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, January 27, 1992

ENVIRONMENT: Point Danger is a headland at Coolangatta. It is bordered by Rainbow Bay on the west and the Tweed River mouth to the south. Tweed Heads lies across the borders of New South Wales and Queensland.

TIME: 20h00 (Dusk)

NARRATIVE: John Bayliss and a friend, 18-year-old Matthew Hunter, were surfing together when the shark approached from behind, throwing Bayliss into the air and lunging at his leg. The shark circled Bayliss as he tried to paddle to shore. "[The shark] thrashed around," Hunter said. "It was just in a frenzy." Hunter helped Bayliss to shore.



INJURY: The surfer's right thigh was severely lacerated, exposing bone. The bite was 30 cm in diameter.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Another swimmer phoned for an ambulance and Bayliss was transported to Tweeds Heads Hospital. Later he was transferred to the Gold Coast Hospital for surgery where surgeons worked through the night on his damaged leg.

SPECIES: The attack was thought to involve 2.3- or 2.4-metre bronze whaler shark

SOURCES: The Mercury, Thursday January 30, 1992, page 13; Herald Sun, January 30, 1992, page 7 and February 1, 1992, page 4; The Advertiser, January 30, 1992, page 7, and February 1, 1992, page 4; Courier-Mail, Friday 2 October 1992, p.2