

ACTIVITY: Unknown

CASE: [GSAF 1997.11.05](#)

DATE: November 5, 1997

LOCATION: The incident may have taken place in Botany Bay, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Luke McIntyre

DESCRIPTION: He was a 21-year-old university student.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, November 8, 1997

NARRATIVE: No details. His family reported him missing on November 5, 1997.

On November 14, 1997 two fishermen reported seeing a body in the waters near Kurnell. Water Police Senior-Constable Dick Worrad was attempting to retrieve the body and was only 10 metres from it when a five-metre white shark took it. Police chased the shark by boat and helicopter, but neither the body nor the shark were seen again.

Officers later recovered a four-cm piece of human tissue from the water, believed to be part of an intestine. DNA later confirmed the tissue belonged to Luke McIntyre.

INJURY: "The only aspect of the case unresolved was how Luke died. Constable Worrad said the matter was expected to be dealt with by the coroner later this month or early next year.

SPECIES: A white shark was observed feeding on the remains.

SOURCE: Courier-Mail, December 7, 1998, page 3

Courier-Mail, Edition 2 - December 7, 1998, Page 003

Police identify shark attack body from a sliver of flesh

By Miranda C

Source: QNP

A FOUR centimetre piece of human flesh found after a shark attack in Botany Bay last year has been identified as belonging to a 21-year-old university student.

Luke McIntyre was reported missing in November last year. But after a year of police investigation his family has been told the 4cm sample — all that was left after the shark attack — belonged to Luke.

The finding, through DNA technology, ended what police described as one of the strangest cases in Australia's history.

Luke's family reported him missing from his Hillsdale home on November 5 last year. On November 14, two fishermen reported seeing a body in waters near Kurnell.

Water Police Senior-Constable Dick Worrad was only 10m from retrieving the body when a 5m great white shark took it. Police chased the shark by boat and helicopter, but neither the body nor the shark were seen again. Officers later recovered a 4cm piece of human tissue from the water, believed to be part of an intestine.

In December last year, Luke's stepfather Andy Huggin, brother Jim and an uncle stuck posters on walls and poles across Sydney calling for public help in finding him.

It was not until June this year when a university student saw the poster and told the family about an assault on Luke on a beach a few months before his disappearance.

“That just got us thinking and we contacted water police about that then we spoke about a body they had found and everything just rolled from there,” Mr Huggin said.

Luke's father and an aunt provided blood to be matched to the human tissue sample through DNA, but the result was inconclusive.

The match came through comparing Luke's New Born Screening Test sample and the piece of tissue.

The only aspect of the case unresolved was how Luke died.

Constable Worrad said the matter was expected to be dealt with by the coroner later this month or early next year.