

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: **GSAF 2005.02.26**

DATE: Saturday February 26, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place near the boat ramp at Karalee in the Brisbane River, Queensland, Australia.

NAME: Nathan Shaxson

DESCRIPTION: He is an 18-year-old male from East Ipswich.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, February 24, 2005

NARRATIVE: Nathan said he went to the river with his friend Wade. They were swimming near the boat ramp when his strange adventure started. "Me and Wade were near the boat jetty just mucking around," Nathan said. "I got bitten by a wasp so I ducked my head underwater to get rid of it. Then boom! He bit me. I was thinking it was my mate mucking around, and then it was just shaking me and shaking me." With his head under water, he blindly reached up to push away the fish, and his left index finger went into the shark's mouth. The teen was able to fend off the shark, and said it never occurred to him that sharks were in the river.



Nathan Shaxson

INJURY: The teen was bitten on his head and finger.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The incident was said to involve a bull shark. University of Queensland professor Craig Franklin, who has studied Brisbane River bull sharks for the past four years, said he was not surprised to hear of the incident. Professor Franklin and PhD student Richard Pillans have caught bull sharks up to 1.5 metres in length in the Brisbane River.

SOURCE: Peter Foley & Daniel Sankey, The Queensland Times, March 4, 2005

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