

ACTIVITY: Boogie Boarding

CASE: [GSAF 2007.03.02](#)

DATE: Saturday February 3, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Coral Sea at Angels Beach (or Shelly Beach), about 600 kilometers (370 miles) north of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Matthew McIntosh

DECRPTION: He is a 26-year-old male, a builder from Goonellabah. He was wearing a black wetsuit and black swim fins.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 06h00, Ballina recorded air temperature of 63°F [18°C], dew point 63F [17°C], humidity 92%, sea level pressure 30.04 inches [1017 hPa] and wind direction was West at 8.1 mph [13 km/h]. One hour after the incident, at 09h00, the air temperature had risen to 76°F [24°C], dew point was 65°F [18°C], humidity had dropped to 60%, sea level pressure rose to 30.09 inches [1019 hPa], and the wind had shifted to Southwest at 10.4mph [16.7 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, 99% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated.

SEA CONDITIONS: 1.5m swell.

ENVIRONMENT: According to a surfer, there were many bait fish in the water when the incident took place.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 metres

TIME: 08h00



NARRATIVE: Matthew McIntosh was catching a wave with two others when the shark approached from behind and grabbed his leg. He didn't see the shark; he felt a massive jolt, looked down and saw "blood everywhere." He got back onto his boogie board, yelled out for everyone to get out of the water, and headed for shore.

Fellow surfer Craig Harris had been waiting to catch a wave. "I saw the board go up in the air. I thought he was fooling around and joking, and then I heard the screaming."

Matthew's uncle, 53-year-old Mark McIntosh, said friends feared his nephew would drown as he battled to shore in the swell, but he swam within five metres of shore/rocks. "[Matthew] was running out of steam," he said. "Craig dragged him out of the water; he is a real hero." Mark said the two school mates had surfed together for 15 years, often with sharks around them. "Matthew has told me a few times that the sharks have been underneath his board," Mark said.

INJURY: Matthew sustained lacerations to his lower left leg and foot. The injuries were not life-threatening.

DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT: His swim fin was “shredded”.

FIRST AID: Craig helped carry Matthew to the beach where a nurse administered first aid. The beach was closed after the incident.

TREATMENT: The patient was treated on the beach by paramedics and airlifted by helicopter to Lismore Base Hospital. McIntosh underwent microsurgery on his leg and foot, and made a full recovery.

SPECIES: Not identified, but it was thought the incident may have involved a two to three-metre bronze whaler shark.

SOURCES: Daily Telegraph, February 4 & 5, 2007, <http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,21170838-5007132,00.html>; Jane Munro, ABC North Coast News.

REPORTED BY: Peter Immerz, SharkProject.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Phil Kemp, Global Shark Accident File



Matt McIntosh was bitten by a shark while surfing at South Angels Beach.