

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 2007.12.15

DATE: Saturday December 15, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place off South Stradbroke Island, Queensland, Australia

NAME: Josh Edwards

DESCRIPTION: He is a teenage male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, December 17, 2007

DISTANCE FROM SHORE 30 metres

NARRATIVE: Josh's father, Paul Edwards, anchored the boat just off South Stradbroke Island about 30m from the old camping area. The group went ashore and Mr. Edwards and his wife Michelle remained on the beach while they watched the group of five teenagers swim back to the boat.

Josh was close to the boat when he was injured. "I was swimming out to the boat and it just felt like someone had stepped on my hand." said Josh. "I thought it was a crab. I didn't see anything. I was at the back and the other girls had got in the boat. It was bleeding and the girls put it in a towel."

From the shore, Mrs. Edwards said she saw the whole episode. "He was swimming with four girls when it happened," she said. "There was a slick of blood around him. I had heard squealing from the beach. I thought the girls were mucking around, but I saw Josh and he had blood dripping off his elbow."

INJURY: "Although the wound looked nasty, stitches were not able to be put in for fear of infection," Josh said, and added that "it did not hurt."

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: When the teen arrived at the Emergency Department of Allamanda Hospital Dr Ziggy Kusiak thought – from the shape of the bite and the way the tissue was pulled back – the boy had been bitten by a "medium-sized shark". "I talked to some people at the Gold Coast City Council and they said it had to be a bull shark," he said.

SPECIES: Sea World's manager of marine science, Steve McCourt, said he could not be sure from the information whether the bite was from a shark. "It could be a small shark, but I couldn't say definitely. If it wasn't a shark, I don't know what it was."

SOURCE: http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2007/12/19/6113_gold-coast-news.html

