



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2009.06.27](#)

DATE: Saturday June 27, 2009

LOCATION: Seven Mile Beach at Gerroa, south of Kiama, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Les Wade

DESCRIPTION: He is a 52-year-old male from Jaspers Brush. He was wearing a full .wetsuit.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 34% of the Moon was illuminated; First Quarter, June 29, 2009.

ENVIRONMENT: The beach was closed and unpatrolled because it was the winter off-season, but a lifesaving official said the incident had prompted him to request future surveillance, including use of shark-spotting aircraft.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 metres

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

TIME: 08h45am

NARRATIVE: Les Wade was surfing alone at Seven Mile Beach, Gerroa, for an hour when a wave brought him closer to shore about 8.30am. "I got off the board and was standing on the sand in waist-deep water about 20m from shore, with the board facing back to where the break. "I started walking and was just about to jump back on the board and go back out when I felt something hit me from behind," he said. "I felt a pressure on my leg, I thought it was another surfer, I turned around to say, 'What are you doing', and then I saw the back of a shark, I didn't realise what had happened. I paddled back out and said, 'I think there's a shark and I think it's just bit me'. The other guys sort of looked at me as if to say 'OK'."

INURY: The surfer sustained 12 separate puncture wounds/lacerations to his lower left leg.

TREATMENT: He was taken to Shoalhaven Hospital where his injuries were repaired with 50 stitches. The injury was not regarded serious enough for him to be admitted overnight and he was discharged the same afternoon.

SPECIES: According to the surfer, the incident involved a two-metre bronze whaler shark.

SOURCES: ABC News, June 27, 2009,
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/27/2610375.htm>

Illawarra Mercury, June 29, 2009,
<http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/news/local/news/general/bronze-whaler-hooked-just-before-shark-attack/1553479.aspx>



© Global Shark Accident File, 2009. All rights reserved. This report may not be abridged or reproduced in any form without written permission of the Global Shark Accident File.