

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2010.06.06

**DATE:** Sunday June 6, 2010

**LOCATION:** Conspicuous Beach, a rugged and isolated stretch of the Southern Ocean near the southwest town of Walpole, Western Australia. The area is considered suitable only for experienced surfers.

**NAME:** Michael Bedford

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 40-year-old male from Walpole, and a "big guy" weighing close to 100 kg.

### BACKGROUND

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Crescent, 31% of the Moon was Illuminated; New Moon, June 12, 2010.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 150 metres, possibly more

**TIME:** Just after 12h00

**NARRATIVE:** Lee Cummiskey was surfing with Michael Bedford. Cummiskey's leg rope broke and he returned to the beach but was watching Bedford because he was a long way out and on his own. "And bang I saw the hit, I didn't really see the fish, he said. "I could just see this explosion of water and I knew straight away what had happened." Bedford spotted the shark when it was 20m away and racing "straight for him". The shark knocked him off his board, then went after him a second time. Bedford managed to scramble onto his board before a well-timed wave pushed him into shore.

**INJURY:** Severe laceration to the surfer's right knee.

**FIRST AID:** About eight people used Mr Bedford's surfboard as a stretcher to carry him a couple of hundred metres along the beach, then more than 300m up a steep climb to the car park. During the 30-minute wait for an ambulance, they used a shirt and a towel to apply pressure to the wound and a surfing leg-rope as a tourniquet. A fishing tackle box was used as a pillow and they elevated Mr Bedford's leg on an esky.

**TREATMENT:** An ambulance rushed the man to Denmark Hospital, about 50km away. He was then he was transferred to Albany Regional Hospital, about an hour away, where his injury was surgically repaired.

**SOURCE:** The West Australian June 7, 2010, <http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/7354542/mauled-surfer-catches-wave-to-flee-shark/>



*Lee Cummiskey with his mate Mick Bedford at the Albany Hospital the day after Mick was injured by a shark.*