

## What nipped Eamon in the surf?

WAS IT a small shark, a large longtom or a moray eel that snapped at Year 4 St Thomas More student Eamon Kriz's leg in the surf at Peregrine on Monday afternoon?

Whatever it was, it left a full set of teeth marks, caused severe pain and resulted in him being carried bleeding from the surf about 5pm.

Eamon's father Rod, who runs Emergency Response First Aid Consulting, was watching from the shallows when Eamon was bitten in about a metre of water. He wrapped the bleeding limb in a towel and carried the boy home, at first thinking his son had trodden on a broken bottle or twisted can.



"When I first saw the marks I thought it may have been the barbs of a fish," Rod said yesterday. "He was still a bit hysterical so I put the leg in hot water which relieved the pain, and then called the ambulance." On closer examination a clearly defined set of bite marks could be seen on both sides of the limb. "They were definitely bite marks," Rod said.

"They are clear puncture marks. It looks like he's been grabbed and released. If it had happened in the river or a canal I would have immediately thought it was a small whaler shark because they can be quite territorial. But out in the surf, I'm not sure." Rod sent pictures of the injury to Sea World and UnderWater World in the hope of identifying the cause but is yet to receive a response.

Eamon, 10, said the family had taken Knoxie, their dog, for a walk and had gone for a swim in dumpy surf. "I dived under a wave and something grabbed my foot and released it," he said. "It felt like 20 needles going into my foot. It hurt a lot."

The incident did not cause lasting damage and has not put Eamon off the ocean. He went back to school yesterday where his teacher read the class *Soul Surfer*, the story of Hawaiian Bethany Hamilton's inspirational return to the sport after losing her arm to a shark in Kauai.

The attack came as surfers along the Maroochy River north shore have been reporting a number of shark sightings between Pincushion and Mudjimba.

**SOURCE:** Bill Hoffman, Sunshine Coast Daily, December 1, 2011, <http://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/story/2011/12/01/what-nipped-young-eamon-kriz-in-the-surf-bite/>