

ACTIVITY: Stand-up Paddle Boarding

CASE: [GSAF 2012.12.28](#)

DATE: Friday December 28, 2012

LOCATION: Kylie's Beach at isolated Diamond Head, south of Port Macquarie, New South Wales, Australia,

NAME: Luke Allen

DESCRIPTION: He is a 29-year-old male from Wamberal. He was staying at the campground at Diamond Head with his family and friends.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 10h00, Port Macquarie recorded an air temperature of 73.4°F, dew point 62.6°F, humidity 69%, sea level pressure 29.86 inches and wind direction was North at 2.3 mph.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, 100% of the Moon was illuminated.

ENVIRONMENT: Kylie's Beach is an unpatrolled beach and is popular with surfers due to its exposed location and protection from north-easterly winds. Ten minutes before the incident a pod of dolphins came through the waves.

TIME: 10h45



Photo: Matthew Attard/Port News

Gouges in the board of Luke Allen.

NARRATIVE: Luke was on a on a stand-up paddle board when a shark slashed his thigh. "I looked down and saw a bull shark having a go at my leg," he said. "I felt the pressure under my board and then I felt a big knock underneath. I hit him as hard as I could in the nose and then I tried to hit him again with the pointy end of my surfboard." As he tried to push the shark away, his hand went into the shark's mouth, and was bitten.

He reached shore unaided. Nearby patrolled beaches at Crowdy Head and North Haven were closed as a precaution.

INJURY: He sustained three lacerations to the right thigh but no major arteries were damaged. He lost the tip of his left index finger and the tip of his middle finger was severely damaged. It is unclear if a knuckle on his right hand was also injured when he punched the shark.

FIRST AID: Luke's mates used the leg ropes on their surfboards as tourniquets to stem the bleeding. Surf Life Savers and Lifeguards from Port Macquarie and Taree assisted paramedics from New South Wales Fire Rescue. Then the man was flown by Westpac rescue helicopter to John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle.

SPECIES: According to Luke, the incident involved a bull shark, about six feet in length. He recovered a tooth of the shark.

SOURCES: Courier Mail, December 28, 2012

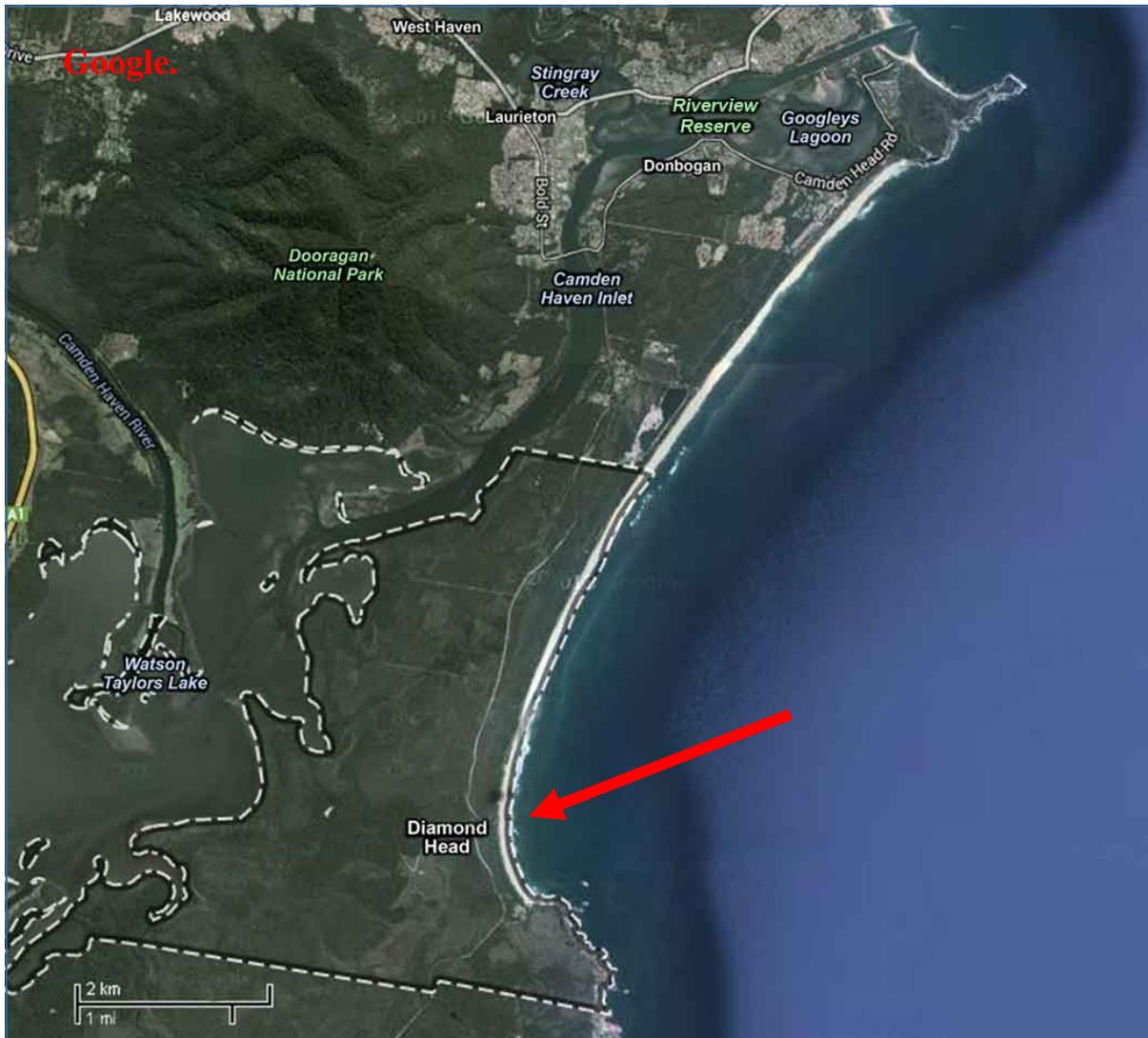
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The Sydney Morning Herald, December 28, 2012, <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/shark-attack-man-loses-finger-and-knuckle-20121228-2bynu.html#ixzz2YhReoLw7>



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