



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2013.01.25](#)

**DATE:** Friday January 25, 2013

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Coral Sea at Noosa, 136 kilometres north of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

**NAME:** Matthieu Cassaigne

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a male from Montpellier, France, who had been living in Australia for a few months.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Gibbous, 96% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, January 27, 2013.

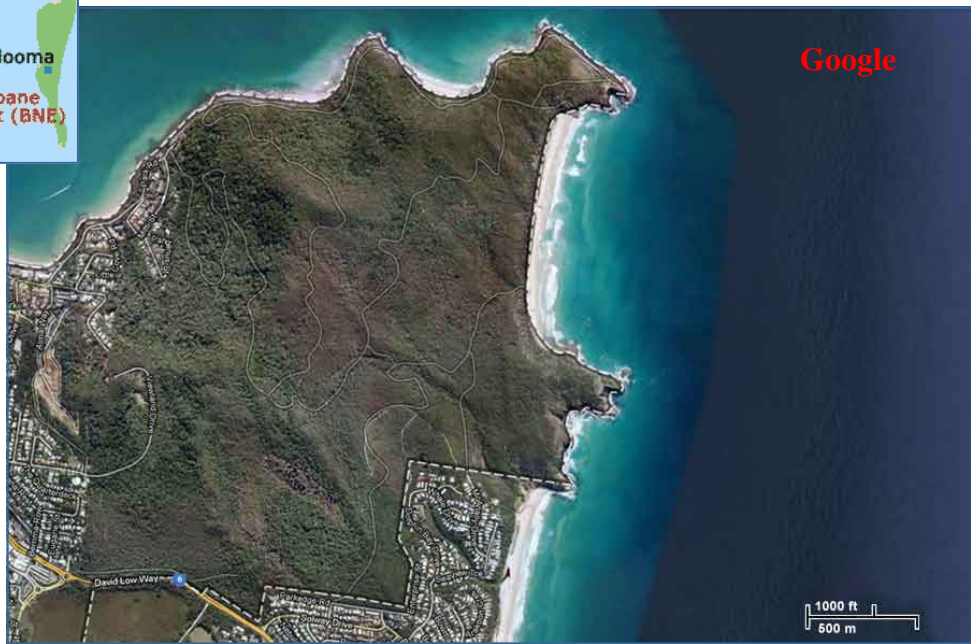
**ENVIRONMENT:** The Noosa River forms one boundary of Noosa Heads, the headlands of the Noosa National Park another. Nearby are the suburbs of Tweantin and Noosa Junction, which create a continuous urban area at the northern end of the Sunshine Coast. Noosa Heads' main beach and its small bays around the headland are known on world surfing circuits.

**NARRATIVE:** Matthieu Cassaigne was surfing alone on the secluded east side of Noosa. He was resting on his board, lying on his back when the shark approached. The shark grabbed the bottom of the surfboard with its lower jaw, the upper jaw lacerating the surfer's neck. The surfer abandoned his board and swam to shore.

**INJURY:** The surfer sustained an arc of shallow lacerations extending from his neck to upper torso. The teeth of the shark narrowly missed his jugular.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The surfer was shaken by the event. He joined a friend who took him to a hospital.

**SPECIES:** According to the doctor, the incident involved a small shark, but the diameter of the arc suggests that the shark was not small.



*The Headlands*

**Un surfeur français attaqué par un requin en Australie**  
**Un surfeur originaire de Montpellier s'est fait mordre au cou par un requin alors qu'il surfait du côté de Noosa. Il nous raconte son attaque**

**Matthieu Cassaigne**, un surfeur originaire de Montpellier parti vivre quelques mois en Australie, **s'est fait attaquer par un requin** vendredi dernier alors qu'il surfait seul du côté de **Noosa** (côte Est). Il s'en sort avec des blessures légères au cou, mais a frôlé le drame, les morsures du requin n'étant passées qu'à quelques millimètres de la jugulaire.

*Il raconte les circonstances de l'accident :*

*"J'étais sur ma planche, allongé sur le dos en train de me reposer, quand j'ai ouvert les yeux par hasard. A ce moment j'ai vu une gueule ouverte venir vers moi. Les souvenirs sont assez flous. La mâchoire a attrapé le bas de la planche et s'est à peine refermée sur le dessus, me mordant au passage au cou.*

*J »avais fait l'erreur de partir **surfer seul** sur une plage isolée, et elle était déjà fermée, il n'y avait pas de secours. **C était une grosse erreur de ma part**. Je suis aussitôt sorti de l'eau à la nage, je n'ai pas réfléchi à ma planche que j'ai d'ailleurs laissée là-bas. J'étais évidemment très effrayé. J'ai pris mon sac et j'ai voulu prendre le premier bus pour rentrer chez moi. Je voulais juste prendre un café avec un ami, oublier ça. Heureusement, mon ami avait pris conscience de la gravité de l'accident et m'a donc emmené à l'hôpital. D'après le médecin **j'ai eu affaire à un petit requin**, d'où la faible profondeur des traces de morsures.*

*Le choc est maintenant passé, d'où l'importance d'être bien entouré après des expériences comme celle-ci. Je **prévois de retourner à l'eau demain**, je suis assez effrayé mais il y aura du monde, ça facilitera bien les choses. Je sais que j'ai eu énormément de chance, on en prend conscience quand des choses comme ça arrivent."*

*Avec 22 accidents, dont 3 fatales, **l'Australie** a de nouveau été classé en 2012 le deuxième pays en nombre d'attaques de requin, derrière les USA et devant l'Afrique du Sud*

**A French surfer attacked by a shark in Australia**

*A surfer from Montpellier was bitten in the neck by a shark while he was surfing on the side of Noosa. He tells us his attack:*

Matthew Cassaigne, a surfer from Montpellier few months left to live in Australia, was attacked by a shark last Friday when he surfed Noosa one side (East). He escapes with minor injuries to jugular.

*He says the circumstances of the accident:*

*"I was on my board, lying on his back trying to rest, when I opened my eyes by accident. At that time I saw a mouth open towards me. Memories are rather vague. Jaw grabbed the bottom of the board and has hardly closed on top, biting my neck in passing.*

*J "had made the mistake of going surfing alone on a secluded beach, and it was already closed, there was no relief. C was a big mistake on my part. I immediately out of the water to swim, I do not think my board I also left there. I was obviously very scared. I took my bag and I wanted to take the first bus to go home. I just wanted to have a coffee with a friend, forget it. Fortunately, my friend was aware of the seriousness of the accident and so I was taken to the hospital. According to the doctor I had to deal with a small shark, hence the shallow bite marks.*

*The shock is now past, where the importance of being surrounded after experience like this. I plan*

to return to the water tomorrow, I'm pretty scared but it will in the world, it will facilitate things well. I know I've been very lucky, it becomes conscious when things like this happen. "

With 22 accidents, three fatal, Australia was again ranked the second country in the number in 2012 of shark attacks behind the USA and ahead of South Africa

**SOURCE:** [www.surfsession.com/2013/01/31/un-surfeur-francais-attaque-par-un-requin-en-australie/](http://www.surfsession.com/2013/01/31/un-surfeur-francais-attaque-par-un-requin-en-australie/)