

ACTIVITY: Swimming
CASE: [GSAF 2013.04.02](#)
DATE: Tuesday April 2, 2013
LOCATION: Mullaloo Beach, Perth, Western Australia.

NAME: Martin Tann
DESCRIPTION: He was a 24-year-old male, an experienced diver and swimmer from New South Wales.

NARRATIVE: His clothes and belongs were found abandoned on the beach. A witness said he saw Tann swimming in waist-deep water shortly before he was reported missing. Despite a sea and land search, no trace of the man was found.



Martin Tann

While police would not rule out the possibility that the man was taken by a shark, it is more likely that he drowned.

Shark attack theory in missing man case

Fears that a man missing from a Perth beach was taken by a shark are growing as search efforts have so far failed to find any sign of him.

While it has not been confirmed if Martin Tann, 24, who is from New South Wales, even entered the water before disappearing on Tuesday, Senior Sergeant Peter Trivett told ABC Radio on Thursday morning that a shark attack could not be ruled out.

But a shark attack could be more likely after a witness came forward overnight to tell police they saw Mr Tann enter the water on Tuesday afternoon.



Martin Tann

The section of water where Mr Tann went missing from was the same area a shark took a bite out of a surf ski last year. In the past couple of years Western Australia has been deemed "shark attack capital" of the world following five fatal shark attacks in the past 19 months.

On Wednesday, as searchers scoured the coast from air, land and sea, Surf Life Saving WA reported shark sightings off Fremantle, Ocean Reef, Leighton's Beach and Clayton Beach.

In June 2012 Martin Kane was tipped into the water by a three-metre shark at Mullaloo Beach when it launched at his surf ski. He had been paddling with a group of friends about 150 metres off shore at the time. Mr Kane tried to scare away the shark by throwing his paddle at it and was plucked to safety by a friend who paddled him to shore.

Mr Tann, is understood to have gone to Mullaloo Beach about 1pm on Tuesday, but from there police are not sure what happened. His belongings were found on the beach that afternoon and police were alerted that he was missing about 8.30pm. A full air, land and sea search, which was launched on Wednesday, failed to spot any sign of Mr Tann.

Originally from Narrabri, Mr Tann was staying with his uncle on holiday and was in Perth for a wedding. It is understood that his parents are travelling to Perth today as the search continues.

SOURCE: Aleisha Orr, WA Today, April 4, 2013, <http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/shark-attack-theory-in-missing-man-case-20130404-2h8u1.html>

Comments on this article included:

- "Hard to believe that people are jumping to shark attack. If all we know is that he entered the water and disappeared. I would say there is a 99.9% probability that he drowned. Shark attack is about as likely as death by sting ray to the heart or dehydration."
- "It could have been a leopard seal that thought he was a penguin, or a whale that thought he was plankton or krill, whatever it was, murderous intent must be ruled out, under the new paradigm, the eater is always innocent. Long live the new paradigm, backwards is the new forwards, etc."

MYSTERY: Missing NSW man Martin Tann, 24, was seen swimming in waist deep water at Mullaloo Beach on Tuesday, but has not been seen since.

THE marine search for the man missing from Mullaloo Beach since Tuesday has been called off, without finding any trace of him. Searchers have been at the beach since NSW man Martin Tann, 24, an experienced diver and swimmer, was reported missing on Tuesday night.

Authorities cannot rule out that he was taken by a shark. However Mr Tann's family said on Friday that they remained hopeful that he will be found alive.

Police began scaling back the sea and land search for Mr Tann on Thursday after he went missing on Tuesday, and said the possibility of a shark attack could not be ruled out. But on Friday, police issued a joint statement from Mr Tann's family saying they would continue the search until all possible avenues were exhausted. "An extensive search and rescue operation continues to be conducted, however so far, no evidence has been recovered," police said.

"Marty is a friendly, outgoing and gregarious person. His family find it extremely difficult to think that he could disappear without a trace." Family and friends have flown interstate to help with the search, and remain confident Mr Tann will be found alive and well, police said. Mr Tann's clothes and belongings were found abandoned on a Perth beach on Tuesday. A witness came forward late on Wednesday to confirm Mr Tann was swimming in waist-deep water shortly before he was reported missing. Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

SOURCE: Perth Now, <http://www.perthnow.com.au/breaking-news/sea-search-for-missing-man-martin-tann-24-called-off/story-e6frfkp9-1226613879859#ixzz2PfWZ7A8k>