



ACTIVITY: Body surfing
CASE: [GSAF 2015.02.05](#)
DATE: Thursday February 5, 2015
LOCATION: Merewether Beach, New South Wales, Australia

NAME: Ben McPhee

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 18h00, Williamtown recorded scattered clouds and 6.2-mile visibility. The air temperature was 73.4°F, dew point 53.6°F, humidity 50%, sea level pressure 30.21 inches (rising), and wind direction was SE at 17.3mph.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon

SEA CONDITIONS: Several beaches were closed next day following rough weather and more shark sightings: Bar Beach, Dixon Park, Redhead and Merewether beaches.

ENVIRONMENT: Next morning a six-foot [1.8-metre] shark was sighted by a lifeguard on a jet-ski off adjacent Bar Beach.

TIME: 18h00

NARRATIVE: The bodysurfer was in the waves behind the Ladies Pool. Surf photographer Rod Owen posted a close-up shot of what looks like five puncture wounds on Instagram. Owen said the bodysurfer told him that he "felt something come up underneath him" before the bite.

INJURY: Minor. Five puncture wounds to lower left leg

SPECIES: It was thought the incident involved a two-foot [61 cm] bull shark or bronze whaler

SOURCES: The Daily Telegraph, February 6, 2015; The Sydney Morning Herald, February 6, 2015, et al



Rob Donald