



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2015.05.03](#)

DATE: Sunday May 3, 2015

LOCATION: Saltwater Beach near Taree, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Bruce Lucas

DESCRIPTION: A 47-year-old male, a miner from Cundletown.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The air temperature was 68°F.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 99% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, May 4, 2015.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea surface temperature was 75°F. The sea was dirty from recent rains and there was a two-metre swell.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 60 metres

TIME: 15h00

NARRATIVE: Bruce Lucas was paddling out when a shark took hold of his arm. "I didn't know what was going on," said Lucas. "I was getting driven around clockwise on the board, and I looked up and all I saw was the nose and the teeth, just there, in my face. I instantly came up with my right hand and just went 'crack', right on its nose." The shark released him and swam away. "I turned around and prayed for a wave big enough to bring me in. All the time, I was looking over my shoulder, expecting it to come back and hit me again, and just yelling out 'Shark!' to the people on the shore."

INJURY: Injury to left bicep and defensive wounds to right hand and fingers.

TREATMENT: He was transported to Manning Base Hospital where the injury was repaired

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with 35 staples in his arm and four stitches in his hand.

SPECIES: Initially, it was thought the incident involved a bull shark. Department of Primary Industries shark biologists subsequently examined photographs of the injuries and determined the incident most likely involved a white shark.

SOURCES: ABC, May 3, 2015

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-05-03/surfer-bitten-by-shark-taree-nsw/6441352>

Sky News, May 4, 2015

<http://www.skynews.com.au/news/local/sydney/2015/05/04/man-fights-off-shark-on-nsw-mid-north-coast.html>

Mashable, May 5, 2015

<http://mashable.com/2015/05/05/shark-punch-australia/>

Tom Lowrey, ABC News, May 7, 2015, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-05-07/great-white-shark-believed-to-be-responsible-for-old-bar-attack/6453358>

The Sydney Morning Herald, February 6, 2016

<http://www.smh.com.au/good-weekend/shark-attack-survivors-bite-back-20160202-gmk7jv.html>