



Bombo Beach.  
Picture: Michael Sutherland

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2016.03.30

**DATE:** Wednesday March 30, 2016

**LOCATION:** Bombo Beach at Kiama, 94 kilometres south of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Brett Connellan

**DESCRIPTION:** A 22-year-old male from Kiama Downs.



## BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** The sky was overcast.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Gibbous, 66% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, March 23, 2016.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** There was a slight 2-3m swell.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 100 metres off the of the northern end of Bombo Beach.

**TIME:** Just after 19h00

**NARRATIVE:** Another surfer, Joel Trist, was 50 metres from Brett Connellan when he heard him scream and paddled as fast as he could to him to him. The shark had vanished before Trist reached Connellan. "I said to him: 'What's it like?' and he said: 'It's not good.' And at that point I



Brett Connellan

knew something was horribly wrong,” Trist said. Trist dragged Connellan on to his board and the pair caught a wave to shore.

**INJURY:** Although the surfer sustained no damage to his major organs, he lost a large amount of tissue from his left thigh with the quadriceps torn away down to the bone. He also sustained lacerations to his hand.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Once onshore, Trist and two off-duty nurses used a leg rope as a tourniquet to stem the patient’s blood loss. The patient was given a blood transfusion at the scene before being flown to St George Hospital in Sydney for surgery. He was not expected to lose the limb.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Bob Myatt, Global Shark Accident File

**ADDITIONAL SOURCES:** Daily Telegraph, March 30, 2016

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/man-attacked-by-shark-at-bombo-beach-near-kiama/news-story/6aa819e4084620d75ce81c291b0f78d9>

Daily Telegraph, March 31, 2016

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/man-attacked-by-shark-at-bombo-beach-near-kiama/news-story/6aa819e4084620d75ce81c291b0f78d9>

The Sydney Morning Herald, April 5, 2016

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/shark-attack-survivor-brett-connellan-in-good-spirits-after-marathon-birthday-surgery-20160405-gnykpk.html>

The Sydney Morning Herald, September 13, 2017

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/shark-attack-rescuers-and-collar-bomb-police-honoured-for-bravery-20170912-gyfj6d.html>

Illawarra Mercury, October 29, 2017

<http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/5016990/bretts-life-after-trauma-of-bombo-shark-attack/>



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