

Sharpes Beach



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2016.10.12](#)

DATE: Wednesday October 12, 2016

LOCATION: Sharpes Beach, Ballina, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Seneca Rus

DESCRIPTION: A 25-year-old male from Brunswick Heads.



Seneca Rus

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: Sunny sky. At 10h00, Lismore Airport recorded mostly cloudy skies, air temperature 68°F, dew point 50°F, humidity 52%, sea level pressure 30.01 inches and wind direction was SSE at 4.6 mph. By 11h00, the air temperature was 71.6°F, dew point and sea level pressure remained unchanged, humidity was 46%, but the wind direction had shifted to ENE and was 2.3 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waxing gibbous, 78% of the Moon was illuminated. First Quarter, October 10, 2016.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was clear

ENVIRONMENT: No baitfish were in the water, but there was a pod of dolphins in the area.

DEPTH OF WATER: No more than two metres

TIME: 10h30



Photo: Scott Crump Facebook

NARRATIVE: Ten surfers were riding a break on a sandbar when the incident took place. Surfboard shaper Scott Crump was among 10 surfers riding a break on a sandbar when the incident took place. He saw Seneca Rus launched into the air when the shark hit him. “[Seneca Rus] screamed loudly and I knew something was really wrong,” said Crump. “Then his friends were calling out to everyone to paddle in.”

“[The shark] came up from underneath, hit my board and I fell off, and it just kind of had

another couple of goes,” said Rus. “It just got onto my board in the white wash, it was kind of thrashing, and luckily it headed off and I started paddling in. Just a blessing to have all the limbs still here. When I was in the water I got hit in the head a bit, probably by my board or maybe the shark.” he said.

INJURY: Minor injuries to right calf. “I saw the wound on his leg – it looked like he’d been stabbed, like a tooth had got him,” said Mr. Crump who also noted that the bite marks on Rus’ board looked “like the shark’s jaw was about 30 cm wide.”



Photo: Scott Crump Facebook

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The surfer’s mates bundled him into a car and took him to Ballina Hospital where the wound on his leg was repaired with five stitches. He was discharged from the hospital around 11h00.

SPECIES: Not identified

SOURCES Courier Mail, October 12, 2016

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/surfer-at-ballina-lucky-to-escape-serious-injury-after-shark-attacks-him-and-board/news-story/c21706e10a342fb891144942d5f640c7>

Tracking sharks, October 12, 2016

<http://www.trackingsharks.com/shark-attacked-a-surfer-in-ballina/>

