



ACTIVITY: Scuba diving

CASE: GSAF 2016.02.16

DATE: Tuesday February 16, 2016

LOCATION: The wreck of the *Lady Bowen* which lies two nautical miles off Kennedy Shoal, Queensland, Australia.

NAME: Steven "Fozzy" Foster

DESCRIPTION: A 54-year-old male, owner of Mission Beach Dunk Island Water Taxi.



Steven Foster

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, February 15, 2016

ENVIRONMENT: The 671-ton iron four-masted schooner *Lady Bowen* left Dungeness (what is now Lucinda), Queensland, on August 18, 1894, bound for Sydney, in ballast. Next day, breakers were sighted which the captain, mistook for Agnes Island. Due to a strong current the schooner was driven onto Kennedy Shoal and immediately began to break up. The crew took to the *Lady Bowen's* life boats and safely reached Cardwell. The Marine Board inquiry found the wreck of the *Lady Bowen* was the result of the captain mistaking Agnes Island for Hillock Point, and Eva Islet for Agnes Island. The captain was severely censured and cautioned by the Marine Board. Today the wreck lies upright listing to starboard on a sandy bottom and can be partially covered by sand. Site features include an iron hull, ballast, broken planks, large anchor winch and anchor. Her superstructure is a habitat which provides food and shelter for a variety of marine life including sponges, corals, shellfish, urchins, sea cucumbers, nudibranchs, schools of fusiliers, snapper, sweetlips, cod, lion fish and sea snakes. The site, only suitable for advanced and experienced divers who are certified for diving below 30 metres, can be affected by currents, a bottom surge in heavy seas and an average swell of 2-metres. The site should only be dived at slack water and in good sea conditions.

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DEPTH OF WATER: 27 to 35 metres

TIME: Afternoon

NARRATIVE: Steven Foster was diving with three others on the wreck of the *Lady Bowen* when he disappeared. Mr. Foster's dive equipment and clothing recovered during a three-day search suggested he was taken by a shark.

INJURY: Presumed fatal

SPECIES: Shark involvement suspected but not confirmed at this time.

SOURCES: ABC, February 20, 2016

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-20/shark-attack-suspected-missing-diver-equipment-found/7186756>

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/land/heritage/dive-qld-shipwreck-lady-bowen.pdf>