

Shark attack survivor

RUSTENBURG - The December holiday nearly ended in tragedy for a young Rustenburg man when he was attacked by a shark on a beach in Mozambique, mere days before Christmas. The 27-year-old Peter Fraser was on holiday with his girlfriend, Nicolene Latsky and her family at Ponta d'Ouro on the southern coast of Mozambique, when he was attacked in shallow waters by what is thought to have been a two-metre-long Zambezi shark.

The incident occurred around 14:30 on Tuesday December 22 as Peter was returning to the shore after he developed a spasm in his left foot while snorkelling on his own. It was at this point, about 15m from the beach in slightly more than knee-deep water, that he was struck from behind and knocked over. Thinking that it was his girlfriend playing a prank on

him, he did not immediately realise that a shark was attacking him. Peter says the shark bit him on his right knee and then at least twice on his left shoulder. However, he says he did not feel any pain at this time, most likely due to the shock and the resulting adrenalin rush. It was however, the frantic screams from his girlfriend and other bystanders on the beach that alerted him to the reality of the situation. As he turned to get out of the water, the shark pushed him back and then came in for the kill. Peter, who had only a rubber flipper in his hand, realised that he had to prevent the shark from biting him in the face and instinctively forced his hands and the flipper into the shark's jaws. The shark bit his hands and as Peter tried to pull his hands free from the shark's jaws, he sustained serious cuts on his fingers.

During the attack that lasted less than 20 sec-

onds, Peter sustained several injuries to his right shoulder, right upper and lower arm and chest. He also sustained cuts so deep on both his hands that he stood the danger of losing his fingers. Among the injuries he sustained, there is a 20cm gash to his shoulder, while the tendons in his hands were severed. As a result, he has lost feeling in the fingers of his left hand.

It was after Peter managed to free his hands from the shark's jaws that the shark apparently decided to back off. Peter subsequently made his way to the beach, severely injured and bleeding profusely, where he collapsed.

Fortunately for Peter, who had lost a massive amount of blood, there was a paramedic on the beach, who happened to be there on vacation, who assisted him before he was loaded onto the back of his girlfriend's father's bakkie and taken to a waiting helicopter belonging to a Johannesburg man. He was flown to the nearest hospital in the town of Manguzi, just over the border in KwaZulu-Natal, where his condition was stabilised and his wounds cleaned before he was taken by ambulance to the Provincial Hospital in Empangeni, about 200km away. Here he underwent four and a half hours of surgery the next morning before being transferred to the Bay Hospital in Richard's Bay to recuperate. Peter was discharged on Monday,

December 28 where after he returned home to Rustenburg.

Peter, who admits that he is extremely fortunate to be alive, is on his way to make a full recovery. He told the Rustenburg Herald on Tuesday that he still gets flashbacks of the attack and that he will probably never forget the sight of the shark's eyes and gaping jaws. Asked whether he'll ever venture back into the ocean, he said that with time, he probably would do so again, but that he has become very interested in shark behaviour as a result of his ordeal.

According to those who are familiar with the southern Mozambican coast, shark attacks are extremely rare in that area. pair the damage to his shoulder, arm and hands he sustained during a shark attack. (Photo: Vivienne Fraser)

Important Ratepayers meeting on Monday

RUSTENBURG - Rustenburg's Ratepayers are alive and well and are looking forward to a constructive and very busy 2010. Groundbreaking events for the Rustenburg Ratepayers Association (RPA) of 2010 will kick off on a high note with an important meeting on Monday, 18 January 2010.

The meeting will take place at the well-known Old Rustenburg City Hall in Beyers Naudé Drive and will promptly begin at 18:00. All concerned Rustenburg residents and of course, taxpayers, are invited to attend.

In addition to the association's Chairman, Mr Johan Schoeman, the meeting will be addressed by Mr Jaap Kelder, Chairman of the National Ratepayers Union (<http://www.nabuntu.org/>) and Ms Carin Visser, Chairperson of the Sannieshof Ratepayers Association who were repeatedly in the news recently.

Great news is that two new websites for use

by the Rustenburg Ratepayers Association and its members has been designed and registered by Mr Johan de Klerk, a local software specialist. The addresses of these websites are www.rbbv.co.za (Rustenburg Belastingbetalersvereniging) and www.rpa.co.za (Rustenburg Ratepayers Association). Prospective members of the Ratepayers Association and/or interested members of the public are invited to click onto the designated buttons to register and to participate in discussions and debates on the websites.

It is absolutely essential that Rustenburg ratepayers take note of our important meeting on Monday, 18 January and attend in large numbers, Mr Johan Schoeman, Chairman of the Rustenburg Ratepayers Association told Rustenburg Herald. Rustenburg Herald hopes to be present on the meeting and to report back to the community on the outcome thereof.

Ons matrieks blink!

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leerlinge met ses onderskeidings, een leerling met vyf onderskeidings, twee leerlinge met vier onderskeidings en drie leerlinge met drie onderskeidings elk. Daar was ook talle enkelvakprestaties en ons het werklik 'n uitstekende slaagsyfer gehad", het die Herald verneem.

By Bergsig Akademie is daar vanjaar ook weer eens 'n 100%-slaagsyfer behaal met 75,9% van die kandidate wat universiteitsvrystelling behaal het. Hier het een leerling nege onderskeidings behaal, nog 'n leerling sewe onderskeidings, een leerling ses onderskeidings, vyf leerlinge vier onderskeidings en agt leerlinge drie onderskeidings. Nie minder as 166 matriek-kandidate het vir vanjaar se matriek-eksamen "aangesit", is aan die Herald

gesê.

HTS Rustenburg is sommer baie trots op sy 2009-matrikulante. "Ons leerders het hulle werklik goed van hulle taak gekwynt en het HTS se naam hoog gehou", was dié skool se boodskap Dinsdagoggend. HTS Rustenburg het twee leerlinge opgelewer wat vier onderskeidings elk behaal het asook twee leerlinge wat elk twee onderskeidings verwerf het. Ja, die vreugdevure brand beslis hoog!

Rustenburg Herald het verskeie ander skole in Rustenburg vir kommentaar oor hul matriekuitslae gepols maar was ongelukkig nie oral ewe suksesvol nie. Meer volledige berigte oor vanjaar se matriek-uitslae sal aanstaande week in die Herout verskyn - moenie u uitgawe misloop nie!

Weerlig tref huis, vergruis sement soos gras

RUSTENBURG - "Ons het lekker knus in die die sitkamer gesit en TV kyk terwyl dit buite saggies gereën het. Dit was omtrent 21:15. Klein Guinevere was bo in haar kamer besig om blokkiesraaisels in te vul toe die hel skielik uit die bloute losbars!"

Só het mnr Frans Gerber van Rockridge View in Rustenburg vroeër vaneesweek vertel nadat sy huis die pas-afgelope vakansie tydens 'n hewige donderstorm deur weerlig getref en kwaai beskadig is.

"Die krag van weerlig is beslis totaal onbeprek. Ons kon dit nie glo nie." 'n Substantiële stuk sementkonstruksie wat boonop die dubbelverdiepinghuis se skoorsteen gevorm het, is deur die weerlig aan flarde geslaan slegs enkele meters van waar die elfjarige Guinevere op haar bed gelê het. Stukke sement en versplinterde stene en pleister het die wêreld vol gespat - onder meer dwarsdeur die dak en plafon van Guinevere se slaapkamer. Tot teen die voorafvervaardigde beton-omheining kon die "letsels" van die ontsettende slag meters

ver gesien word. Die skade beloop maklik tussen R80 000 en R100 000, meen Frans wat self in die ontwikkelingsbedryf is.

"Ons het dadelik opgespring en die trappe na Guinevere se kamer opgestorm maar haar ongedeerde gevind - net groot geskrik natuurlik", het Frans se eggenote, Antionette, vertel.

"Hierdie ondervinding het ons net weer op die belangrikheid van behoorlike weerligafleiers gewys - iets wat ongelukkig hierbo by ons ontbreek", het Frans aan die Herout gesê. "In die tye van vandag waarin storms blykbaar aan die orde van die dag is, sal ontwikkelaars moet toesien dat behoorlike en effektiewe weerligafleiers nie agterweë gelaat word nie - veral nie in 'n hoogliggende omgewing soos hier nie", het Frans gesê. "Ek dink hierdie was dalk maar net goeie, maar dringende waarskuwing!"

Volgens Frans sou daar nog vandeeweek met die herstel van sy huis begin word nadat die boubedryf die afgelope nagenoeg drie weke 'n ruskansie geniet het.



The extent of the wounds on Peter's right shoulder and upper arm where the shark grabbed him. (Photo: Vivienne Fraser)



Peter Fraser after undergoing surgery to repair the damage to his shoulder, arm and hands he sustained during a shark attack. (Photo: Vivienne Fraser)

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