

British Base jumper dies

A British base jumper has died after falling from a cliff in Australia.

Police said Gareth Jones, 25, fell 90m on to rocks in Manly, Sydney, after climbing over a safety barrier during an outing with friends. The incident, which took place early on Sunday in an area called North Head, did not involve a base jump, and police said Mr Jones could not be revived.

The Foreign Office said: "We can confirm the death of a British national in New South Wales on 7 December." A spokesman added: "We are providing consular assistance to the family."

Acting Inspector Belinda Caddy, from New South Wales Police, told the Sydney Morning Herald that officers were treating the death as "a completely tragic accident". "We feel for all of the people that were there and obviously our thoughts will be with his family," she said.

Officers told the paper that Mr Jones had climbed a safety fence to get a better view, but had slipped near the edge and fallen. Mr Jones is originally from Brighton and pictures on his Facebook page show him making a number of base jumps - including one at 330m from Kuala Lumpur tower, in Malaysia.

Base jumping is a form of parachuting from a fixed structure or cliff. Base stands for "building, antenna, span, earth" - the four structures that can be jumped from.

Tributes have been paid to the 25-year-old on social networking sites, including Facebook.

Bella Smart said she was "so proud of the man you were becoming and the beautiful soul you let us see. You will be forever missed but never forgotten".

Another tribute from Echo Giesel Widmer said Mr Jones was a "wild child" who was "never boring" and "always challenged the norm". He said: "He made every moment more fun, and exciting. He pulled everyone out of their comfort zones and just let go."

BBC News UK 8 December 2014 (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-30374247>)

1. What would the basis be for calling the deceased base jumper British?
2. Why did Gareth Jones climb over the safety barrier?
3. What is a base jump?
4. Describe the job of the Foreign Office.
5. Explain the meaning of consular assistance.
6. Why is Facebook referred to as a social networking site?
7. What is meant by a "wild child"?
8. Explain the idea of a comfort zone.
9. Find three prepositions in the article.
10. What reason does the reader have for trusting the article?

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