



MERCY DASH: Gary Mason's dad John was bitten by a brown snake at the entrance to his Mudjimba home last week. Gary (pictured) flew over from Western Australia, fearing his father may die. **PHOTO: NICHOLAS FALCONER/19/07/17A**

Venom hammers Gary's system

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THE attack happened a week ago - 11am last Wednesday.

Licensed snake catcher Joel Keady said the common eastern brown snake was the world's second most venomous and very aggressive.

In the past week Mr Keady has cleared brown snakes from North Beach Road at Mudjimba, from the walking track between the North-shore Road car park and the river beach, and from the beach inside Twin Waters Resort.

An increase in marsupials in the coastal dunes escaping flooding had increased the snakes' food source and their activity.

Mr Mason's son Gary flew from Perth last weekend to be at his father's bedside, fearful that he may die.

He said yesterday that doctors had said his father may take up to six months to regain as normal as possible function of his kidneys.

ONCE BITTEN

COMMON EASTERN BROWN

- World's second most venomous species
- Found in coastal and inland zones around Australia
- Avoid, do not approach, the species is extremely aggressive
- If bitten, immediately apply pressure bandage from above the wound to the bottom of the limb and dial 000
- Contact snake catcher Joel Keady on 0406 869 715

"I (the snake) injected a large quantity of venom," Mr Mason said.

"They're quite aggressive. It was under the gate and dad stepped through and on it and it got him on the ankle.

"He jumped into his van and was at the North Shore Medical Centre within a minute. They put a

constriction bandage on and an ambulance took him to Nambour." When doctors cut the bandage venom poured into Mr Mason's system, causing blurred vision and palpitations.

"The venom hammered his bloodstream. He had fluid to the lungs and two minor heart attacks," Gary Mason said.

"The impact on his system saw Mr Mason's kidney function drop to less than 10%.

Dialysis has helped clear his system and he is now in a general ward and anxious to get home.

"He's pretty positive now he's out of the heart ward," his son said.

"He's now in a general ward as a renal patient.

"At this stage the doctor said it may take up to six months for his kidneys to return to normality.

"It may require more dialysis. At the moment he's impatient and feeling bed-bound."