

ACTIVITY: Bathing
CASE: [GSAF 1877.01.28](#)
DATE: Sunday January 28, 1877
LOCATION: Emerald Hill, Victoria, Australia.

NAME: William Marks
DESCRIPTION: Male

BACKGROUND
MOON PHASE: Full Moon, January 29, 1877
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 300 yards
TIME: Morning

NARRATIVE: When he suddenly disappeared, it was presumed he was attacked by a shark.

SOURCES: The Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday January 30, 1877, page 5; Bunyip (Gawler, South Australia), Friday February 9, 1877, page 4; The Mercury (Hobart, Tasmania), Monday February 19, 1877.

MELBOURNE.

MONDAY.

A man, whose name is supposed to be Marks, while bathing yesterday near Emerald Hill, suddenly disappeared. It is presumed that he was attacked by a shark.

MISCELLANEOUS.

KILLED BY A SHARK.—A Mr. Dession, residing at Sandridge, reported to the police there that on Sunday morning while walking on the beach between the Chinamen's huts and the Butts fence he saw a man swimming in the water about 300 yards from the shore, who suddenly disappeared and did not rise to the surface again. A man's clothes were found on the beach, and it is believed another victim has fallen a prey to the sharks, which are very numerous in the Bay at present. It appears from enquiries made by the police that the man was William Marks, who was employed as a ferryman at McCullum's ferry, on the Yarra. Marks is an American, and as he had not been long in the colony he might not have known that it is highly dangerous, in consequence of the large number of sharks in Hobson's Bay, to bathe in any part of it excepting such as is properly enclosed for bathing purposes. The place where he disappeared was only a few hundred yards from the Emerald Hill Bath, which are well secured and thoroughly shark-proof, and the reluctance to pay a few pence for admission to the baths most likely caused the loss of his life. Nearly every Sunday morning some scores of men and boys bathe in the open Bay, close to where a young man was seized by a shark a few months ago, and unless the practice is given up, more deaths from sharks will doubtless be heard of, as the Bay seems just now to be full of them. Only a few mornings ago the Chinamen who fish off the rifle ground at Emerald Hill caught a dozen young sharks amongst the fish they landed in one haul of their net, and it is impossible at any time to drag in nets set for fish without obtaining several young sharks. It was evident when the body of Marks was landed that he had met with his death from a shark. The flesh on each leg from the knee upwards was entirely torn out, and there were marks of the two jaws of a large fish on one breast, and also on the back. The rows of marks made by the fish's teeth were about 14 inches long. At the inquest the Jury returned a verdict that the deceased was killed by a shark whilst bathing.—*Australasian*.