

ACTIVITY: Surfing
CASE: **GSAF 1992.03.10**
DATE: Tuesday March 10, 1992
LOCATION: The incident took place off the back beach at Point Lonsdale west of Melbourne in Victoria, Australia.



NAME: Mark Jepson
DESCRIPTION: He is a 17-year-old male. He was wearing a wetsuit.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, March 12, 1992
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 200 metres

NARRATIVE: Mark Jepson noticed a dark shadow beneath his board and thought it was seaweed until “it came up, munched my leg and snapped my board in half,” he said. “I didn’t really want to look around to see. I thought my leg may not be there any more. I was panicking heaps, actually pretty terrified.” Mark fought the shark off with his hand and it backed off and disappeared.

INJURY: His right leg and hip were bitten and his hand was badly lacerated.

DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT: Jepson’s wetsuit was torn and his board damaged.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: When Dr. Goeff Allen arrived on the beach, the boy was calm despite his injuries. Jepson was placed on a Malibu surfboard in the back of a utility vehicle and driven to nearby Queenscliff Community Health Centre. He was transferred to Geelong Hospital for surgical repair of his wounds.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The incident was thought to involve a three-metre bronze whaler shark.

SOURCES: The Mercury, March 12, 1992, Page 15; Alan Sharpe, page 116