



**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** [GSAF 1996.04.25.a](#)

**DATE:** Anzac Day, Thursday April 25, 1996

**LOCATION:** Mona Vale, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Aya Hamaea

**DESCRIPTION:** She is a 16-year-old female, a Japanese exchange student from Kanagawa near Tokyo. She has been staying with the Baker family for three weeks and plans to complete the HSC in Australia.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Crescent, 43% of the Moon was illuminated. First Quarter, April 26, 1996.

**NARRATIVE:** Aya Hamaea and 11-year-old Luke Baker (GSAF 1996.04.25.b) were swimming together. "I felt something grab my leg and I thought it was Luke playing around – so I kicked him," said Aya. "Then my leg started to hurt – I was scared. I knew it was a shark and I thought it might eat me. Then Luke was screaming – It must have bitten him." Aya said she kept kicking at the shark until it swam off. "Then I got Luke out of the surf," she said.

**INJURY:** Aya had tooth marks in her right leg.

**SPECIES:** Pittwater Council environmental spokeswoman Skye Addison said the shark was almost certainly a wobbegong. "Wobbegongs are bottom dwellers. They never attack unless provoked," Ms. Addison said. "The children did not see the size of the shark, but wobbegongs grow up to four metres. I think the kids must have provoked the shark in some way – either intentionally or by stepping on it."

**SOURCES:** The Daily Telegraph Mirror, Saturday April 27, 1996, page 9; Daily Telegraph, April 27, 1996, page 9

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