

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2003.12.08

DATE: Monday December 8, 2003

LOCATION: The incident took place at Collendina Beach east of Ocean Grove on the Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria, Australia.
38°15'S, 140°30'E



Ocean Grove Beach

NAME: Sam Myer

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 36-year-old male.

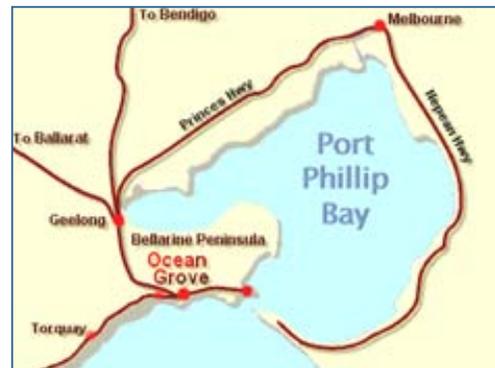
BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, December 9, 2003

ENVIRONMENT: The surfer noticed sand rising to the surface and movement under the water, and believes he had been inadvertently surfing among feeding sharks.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 to 200 feet

TIME: 09h30



NARRATIVE: Sam Myer was surfing alone. He was paddling out to catch a wave when he thought he had snagged some kelp. He reached down to clear it from the surfboard leash (connecting his ankle to his board), but the leash wasn't there anymore ... "it was in front of me and I was being dragged back out," Sam said. "Letting go of the board wasn't going to work because it had a hold of me physically [by the ankle leash]." The pulling stopped and Sam was trying to ride a wave into shore when the shark caught his leash again. "This time it pulled back and under, so I was under the water and I realized this actually was for real and I thought if I don't do something about this I'm going to drown." A large black shark the size of a "kitchen table," was towing him out to sea.

The surfer managed to unfasten his ankle leash and swam to shore while the shark took off with his board.

Safe on the beach, he could see the surfboard bobbing up and down as it was pulled out. Then, suddenly, the surfboard stopped moving and sat on top of the waves. "I laid down, I thought 'I'm not going out to get it. If it comes back in I'll pick it up'. I waited, and eventually it came back in and I picked it up off the beach."

INJURY: No injury

SPECIES INVOLVED: Senior-Constable Kevin Lister, of Ocean Grove police, believed the sharks were chasing fish and Sam was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Lister believed the sharks "would most likely be makos."

REPORTED BY: James Eager, Scubaradio.com