

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2016.09.16

**DATE:** Friday September 16, 2016

**LOCATION:** Bells Beach, Victoria, Australia.



Photo: Justin McManus

**BACKGROUND**

**ENVIRONMENT:** Bells Beach is Victoria's most famous surf spot. It is a testing ground for the big brands and the site for the world's first Surfing and Coastal Reserve valuing the wave as resource worth protecting by law.

**TIME:** Afternoon

**NARRATIVE:** Twenty surfers were in the water when a shark became entangled in a surfer's leg rope, knocking him off his board and into the water. Witnesses say the man was screaming and splashing for several seconds before the shark swam away. A witness said, "I heard the guy scream, he was knocked off his board. There was water thrashing all around him. We all realised there was a shark on him. He started swimming away from his board. The other surfers helped the startled surfer to safety. He was pretty shaken up, everyone out there was shaken up quite a bit."

**INJURY:** The surfer was not injured by the shark.

**SPECIES:** The shark was said to be two metres in length.

**SOURCES:** The Age, September 16, 2016

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/shark-knocked-man-off-his-board-at-bells-beach-surfer-says-20160916-gridot.html>

The Age, September 19, 2016

<http://www.theage.com.au/afl/afl-news/afl-finals-2016-lachie-henderson-no-scaredy-cat-despite-brush-with-shark-20160919-grjn50.html>

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<http://magicseaweed.com/Bells-Beach-Surf-Guide/524/>