

Paul de Gelder

Motivational Speaker, Adventurer, Shark **Conservationist**



Paul de Gelder's extraordinary journey is one of resilience, courage, and transformation. A former Australian Army paratrooper and Navy clearance diver, Paul's life changed forever in 2009 when he was attacked by a bull shark during a routine training exercise in Sydney Harbour, resulting in the loss of his right hand and leg.

Rather than allowing tragedy to define him, Paul rebuilt his life with determination and grit. He went on to become an instructor to elite Navy divers, an acclaimed motivational speaker, and a passionate advocate for ocean and shark conservation. Today, he inspires audiences worldwide—from global corporations to the United Nations—sharing lessons on facing fear, embracing change, and turning adversity into strength.

Paul has authored the memoir *Uncaged*, appeared as a host on Discovery Channel's Shark Week, and continues to work in television, film, and environmental advocacy. Living by the mantra "Improvise. Adapt. Overcome.", Paul's story reminds us of the power of resilience and the limitless potential of the human spirit.

Paul speaks with raw authenticity and disarming humor about overcoming adversity, embracing change, and converting fears into strengths. His presentations combine gripping storytelling with practical frameworks for personal and professional transformation. Known for creating immediate connection with audiences of all backgrounds, Paul delivers more than inspiration—he provides actionable strategies for building resilience, leading through uncertainty, and achieving what others deem impossible.



Testimonials

"His strength and will, only just out shine his humour and light heartedness, qualities that undoubtedly carried him through his darkest times. The impact and lasting impression he has made upon my groups and me personally is remarkable and I am blessed to call him friend.

- Freshstart Australia

"Paul's presentation was definitely the highlight of our conference. He spoke very well and the feedback I have from the staff was fantastic, they were very inspired and touched by his story. Some of the staff wouldn't let him leave as they had so many questions. He did a fantastic job and I only hope he continues to share his story.

- AMP Limited

I wish to thank you for your attendance at today's successful 2011 Salvation Army breakfast. Your speech was inspirational and motivating and I believe contributed to the record number of attendees. Your story is inspirational and it is a reminder to all that nothing is insurmountable; congratulations on your achievements to date, I'm sure you'll continue to achieve success.

- Brilliant Logic Pty Ltd

- Paul's presentation inspired everyone in the room from the (BASDN Group) Bosch Authorised Service Dealer Network for his achievements before and after his shark attack, this gave us so much more courage that people need not to give up a goal in your life.
- Bosch Authorised Service Dealer Network

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