



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Statement No.:		Date:	22/10/2003
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Statement of:

Name of witness:	Claudia Michaela PETERSEN	Date of birth:	5/2/1984	Age:	19
Occupation:	Backpacker - Tourist				

Police officer taking statement:

Name of police officer:	Gary Colin CAMPBELL	Rank:	Det. Sgt.	Reg. No.:	6690
Region/ Command/ Division:	Northern	Station:	Townsville Criminal Investigation Branch		

Claudia Michaela PETERSEN states:

I am a single woman, 19 years of age, and am currently working as a domestic volunteer on the motor vessel SPOILSPORT. I'm not employed however work on the motor vessel in the kitchen and galley. In exchange I get some free scuba dives. My home address WALDWEG 3 51519, ODENTHAL, Germany. My contact email address is claudiapetersen@gmx.de and my contact home telephone number 0049 22028795.

On Tuesday the 21st day of October 2003 I boarded the motor vessel SPOILSPORT to go out on a week long dive trip. The vessel left port at about 10pm. I went to sleep at about quarter to eleven. I woke up at about quarter to six this morning. I attended to setting up breakfast and cleaning up afterwards. I then went down and listened to the dive safety briefing. This also included safety issues on the back deck, safety in general while diving, and procedures while diving around the wreck itself. I have been scuba diving since last September and have completed 36 dives. Twenty four of those dives have been in the last three months. I have not dived on the Yongala wreck and have mainly dived off Cairns in those last three months.

I found the safety briefing to be good for me. It told me what I needed to know for the dive. In hindsight there wasn't anything lacking in the briefing for me. Earlier that morning three of us were briefed in the use of the dive computers that were provided by the company for us to use while diving. This briefing was not for the deceased or her husband.

I spoke briefly to the deceased and her husband yesterday and this morning before the dive but this was just to say hello. The night before I had saw and heard her talking to other people. I noticed that she is one of these persons that is just a bit stressed anyway. She reacted in a bit of a fed up and stressed way when someone mixed up her name.

I did not have any involvement in giving the actual briefing to the deceased or her husband. I have no knowledge as to their level of diving experience.

 Witness	 Justice of the Peace (Qual) Y Commissioner of Declarations	 Reg. No. 71870	This is Page 1 of a Statement comprising 3 Page(s).
			Police Officer

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: Claudia Michaela PETERSEN

I got ready for diving separate from the deceased and her husband. In my dive group was Wade SINGLETON, Gary and Dawn but I don't know their last names. When we went out to actually enter the water there was my dive group and the deceased and her husband. The tender driver was Craig who is a crew member. On the way out in the tender I remember looking at the deceased and thinking that she was a bit stressed and not as happy as someone who should be on her holidays and diving.

Craig pulled the tender up at one of the ends of the boat. All six of us tipped into the water at the same time. On the way out I had my face down and was not looking towards the deceased. Once I entered the water the deceased was to my left. We all swam over to the safety rope at the same time.

On the way to the safety line I have drifted a bit and was sorting my own gear out. At the rope I have put my regulator in my mouth and our group of four has started to descend. I remember looking down and seeing that the deceased and her husband, which formed their own group, were already descending ahead of us. They were about three to five metres in front of us.


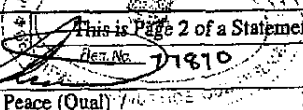
At that time I did not see anything to indicate to me that anything was wrong with the deceased or her husband.

We got down to the ten metre line. When I say we I mean our group of four. Gary and Dawn looked a bit uncomfortable and Wade was looking after them. I did not see the deceased and her husband but I was not looking for them either.

A short time later we were down near the wreck itself. We were on the side where the deck is and not the hull side. I was facing parallel to the deck and Wade, Dawn and Gary were to my right and behind me. I turned around and looked towards them. I saw that something had caught their attention and I looked in the same direction that they were looking.

I saw a scuba diver lying on it's back on the ocean. I assumed it was on it's back as I could not see it's tank. I don't remember if the regulator was in the mouth and the body was not moving at all. I think the body was about three metres but I am not a real good judge of distances underwater.

Wade swam over to the body. I stayed where I was and looked over to the other two members of our group to make sure they were okay. I did not see what Wade did when he initially got to the body. The next thing I saw was Wade start to take the body up and signalling to me to stay with the other two and keep an eye on them. I was unsure what we should do next so I indicated to the other two to stay in the small area around where we were.

<i>C. Petersen</i> Witness	 Justice of the Peace (Qual) Commissioner of Declarations		This is Page 2 of a Statement comprising 3 Page(s).
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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: Claudia Michaela PETERSEN

All up the three of us stayed in the water for about another 15 minutes. I reached the surface a short time after them as I stopped at the five metre mark as a safety stop. When I actually surfaced I was right underneath the boat. Gary and Dawn got on the boat before me. When I got on our boat I was told the deceased was on another dive vessel. I do not recall seeing her husband. I asked another crew member what was going on and was told that it was a very serious situation and that she was unconscious.

I did not have anything to do with the dive equipment of the deceased or her husband. I then returned to Townsville on the vessel and later gave this statement to Detective CAMPBELL.

Cc. Petersen
Claudia Michaela PETERSEN

Oaths Act Declaration

OATHS ACT 1867 (DECLARATION)

I Claudia Michaela PETERSEN do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 22/10/2003 and contained in pages numbered 1 to 3 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything I know to be false.

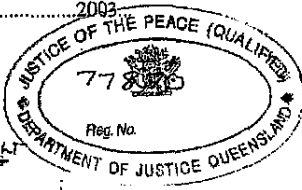
and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867

.....
Cc. Petersen Signature

Taken and declared before me at Townsville

this...22nd..... day of October..... 2003

Witness *[Signature]*
Justice of the Peace /
Commissioner of Declarations
Other (Please State)



This is Page 3 of a Statement comprising 3 Page(s).		
<i>Cc. Petersen</i> Witness	<i>[Signature]</i> Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Commissioner of Declarations	<i>[Signature]</i> Police Officer

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