

# STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Investigation No:

Date:

12 Nov  
2003.

Statement  
Number:

Name of Witness (in full)	Christopher Brian COXON				
Address of Witness	PO Box 2465, Cairns 4870				
Occupation	Workplace Health and Safety Inspector				
Home Telephone		Business Telephone	0740481436	Date of Birth	28 Oct 1964
Inspector taking Statement:	As above	District Office	Cairns	Telephone	As above

*Christopher Brian COXON* states:

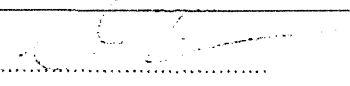
1. I am employed as the Principal Workplace Health and Safety Inspector (Diving) by the Department of Industrial Relations. I hold diving qualifications including a Professional Association of Diving Instructors Open Water SCUBA Instructor certificate and an Australian Divers Accreditation Scheme Level II (Surface supplied breathing apparatus to 30m) certificate. I hold a Master Class V (Trading) certificate from the Department of Transport (Maritime) Queensland. I have knowledge of the principals and operating parameters of a range of dive computers.

2. On 29 October 2003 I received from the Regional Investigations Manager for Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHS), David WILLIAMS three dive computers. I was advised that these computers had been seized as evidence into investigations into the death of Christina Watson nee Thomas that took place at the Yongala wreck off Townsville on 22 October 2003. The investigations were being conducted by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and WHS. I was requested to download data from the computers and provide a report.

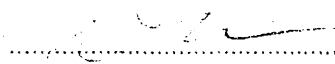
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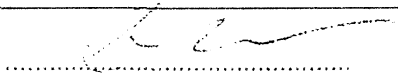
3. The computers were an Oceanic Versa computer serial # 103817, an Oceanic Data Trans, serial # Y01390107 and an Uwatec Aladin Ultra. I was advised that, during the dive in which the incident occurred, these computers were worn, respectively, by Christina WATSON, the deceased; by David WATSON, the dive buddy and husband of the deceased; and Wade SINGLETON, a dive worker who recovered Mrs WATSON.
4. On 29 October 2003 I inspected and photographed the Versa. The Versa is a model which does not allow a download function to a personal computer. Relevant extracts from the Operating Manual are attached (Attachment 1).
5. Certain details regarding dives undertaken by the computer can be viewed by scrolling through the LOG function of the computer. This was done for all dives (n9) stored by the computer. Two screens were viewed for each dive.
6. Interpretation of the data displayed can be found on pages 32-34 of the Operating Manual. This data were recorded by digital photography (Photographs 1-18, Attachment 2).
7. The most recent dive (Photos 1-2) recorded by the Versa shows that the computer commenced the dive at 7:28, went to a maximum depth of **89 feet (30.97 meters** – conversion factor 0.3048) and the dive time was 10 minutes. It is unclear why there is a discrepancy between the dive start time and the actual dive start time at approximately 10:30am AEST although differences in time zones between Christina WATSON's previous dive history and this dive may account for this.
8. The tissue loading bar graph showed three segments within the green zone, the upper most of which was flashing. The variable ascent rate indicator showed 5 segments, the maximum allowable, all of which were flashing. The graphic "TOO FAST" was also flashing. Interpretation of this information displayed can be found on page 20 of the Operating Manual. Diver's who ascend too fast are at risk of developing a range of medical conditions, most notably decompression illness and cerebral arterial gas embolism.

	
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9. The other dives logged on the computer, if conducted by Mrs Christina WATSON, are indicative of her previous dive history. The previous maximum depth recorded is 30 feet (9.14 meters) (Photos 12 and 10). Three of the dives show maximum depths of 7 feet (2.13 meters) (Photos 13-18).
10. The previous maximum dive time is 33 minutes (Photo 4). Of the other dives, 4 are between 10 and 20 minutes (Photos 6 to 12) and three are under 10 minutes (Photos 13-18).
11. Two of the previous dives showed the variable ascent rate indicator with all five segments flashing. The graphic "TOO FAST" was also flashing (Photos 3 to 6).
12. On 03 November 2003 the Ultra computer was taken by me to Quicksilver Diving Services, Port Douglas, a diving operator with the necessary hardware and software to download this computer. I was assisted by an employee of this company, a Hiromi IWASAKI. A file was created called WS1.log and the data downloaded saved to this. After inspecting the downloaded data, the data and graphs for the last two dives recorded were printed (Attachment 3)
13. The most recent dive (#37) recorded by the Ultra shows that the computer commenced the dive at 10:31 on Wednesday 22 October 2003, went to a maximum depth of **27.6 meters** and the dive time was 09 minutes. The dive was recorded as a NO STOP dive indicating that the no mandatory decompression stops were required for this profile. An alarm was activated called ASCENT. The period during the dive when this alarm was activated is shown on the graph from between the 8.30 and 10 minute sections of the dive profile.
14. The dive profile graph shows a descent to the maximum depth between 0 and 8 minutes, followed by a direct and rapid ascent to the surface.
15. The previous dive recorded by the Ultra is dated Sunday 12 October 2003 and as such does not appear to be significant in this matter.

	
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16. On 12 November 2003 the Data Trans was downloaded at the offices of Workplace Health and Safety, Cairns, using hardware and software supplied by Oceanic Australia. A file was created called "David Watson" and the data downloaded saved to this. After inspecting the downloaded data, certain data records and graphs were printed. The computer was set for Imperial measurements. Using a facility available within the download system, all printed records were made in both metric and imperial measurements. (Attachment 4)
17. A total of 54 dives were downloaded. The dates recorded for these dives were between 01 January 1996 and 27 May 2002. This apparent discrepancy may be explained by the operator removing and replacing the computer battery prior to diving causing the system to revert to its manufacturer's settings. (QPS statement para 26-28) (Data Trans Operator's Manual p 76-77- Attachment 5)
18. It was noted that the date and time setting for this computer when it was downloaded were 2:10am (AEST 10:59) and 22 January 1996 (actual date 12 November 2003).
19. From this it may be surmised that 21 days have passed since the incident occurred on 22 October 2003. Using the date setting on the Data Trans, this would record the incident date as 01 January 1996. The Ultra records data for three dives on this day. The dive data and graph were printed for each of these dives (Attachment 4)
20. In his statement made to the QPS, David WATSON stated that he recalled looking at his computer after the incident and noting that his previous dive had been to 54 feet for 13 minutes. (Para 45-46). Of the three dives identified above, one was to 54 feet (16 meters), the other two being for 27 feet and 8 feet respectively. None of the three dives was for 13 minutes however, being 7 minutes, 33 minutes and less than 1 minute respectively.
21. It may be of note however that the 54 foot (16 meters) for 7 minutes dive had a start time of 00:13 am and a surface interval of 00:13. This may have

	
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created confusion at the time of the incident as to which figure indicated the dive time. In its LOG mode, the most prominent figure on the display is the surface interval time, which for this dive was 13 minutes. Therefore a conclusion may be drawn that this profile is the most likely one to indicate the dive undertaken by David WATSON during which the incident occurred.

22. This profile shows a descent for the first 5 minutes to the maximum depth of 54 feet before a single ascent to the surface over the last 2 minutes. No ascent or decompression violations are recorded.

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I have read and adopt this statement contained in the foregoing pages numbered pages 1 to 5 that was made by me on the date below. The information contained in the statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed at Cairns this 12 day of November 2003

Witness signature: .....

Inspector: ..... Date: 12/11/03

Signature witnessed by:

.....	
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