

TASMANIA



POLICE

STATEMENT

Name of Witness	DE CASTRO Surname (in capitals)	Patricio Perez Christian Names
Address	1210 Bintog, Plaridel, Bulacan, Phillipenes	46 17/3/52 Age D.O.B
Occupation	Master of ship "Helen"	(6344) 795 0325 Phone
Name and Address of Employer	Oceangas Sydney, Australia GPO Box 4480, 15th Floor, Martin Place, Sydney	612 9221 7488 Phone

Date: 31/12/98

Time commenced.

My full name is Patricia Perez De CASTRO and I am 46 years of age, having been born 17/3/52. My home address is 1210 Bintog, Plaridel, Bulacan, Phillipenes. I am Master of the LPG Tanker "Helen" having been so for the past 7 months. I have been a Master of numerous vessels for the past 10 years.

On 29th December at 0800 hours we received a call that three crew members of the yacht "Winston Churchill" were still missing and we were requested to join in the search for the missing crew members. At the time of receiving the emergency message we were at anchorage in Eden. We raised anchor and at 0900 hours and we were proceeding to the search area approximately 60 nautical miles south east of Eden. The missing crew had been participating in the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

At 1830 hours, approximately ten hours after beginning the search, at 37-29.125S and 151-17.90E my crew spotted a life jacket. We picked it up and noted it's markings "Sword of Orion" 2006 CYC. At the time of picking up the life jacket which was bright yellow in colour with small sliver reflector strips (PED type 1), we could not locate any person accompanying the life jacket, being 1900 hours we suspended the operation at 37-40.94S and 151-20.60E. From here we headed slightly West toward land until it got too dark, at which time we continued on toward our destination of Bell Bay, where we arrived alongside at 11am on 31/12/98 unsuccessful in locating the missing crew members. I consent to the release of this statement for enquiry and coronial inquest.

Statement signed by Patricio Perez De CASTRO.

Statement taken by Constable Tracey-Lee CANE, No. 2135 at Bell Bay No. 4 Berth on 31/12/98. Concluded at 12pm.