

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198901578**

**Britten Norman Islander**

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for his descent to be arrested. Both parachutists were wearing altimeters. The deceased's altimeter was mounted on his chest whereas the other parachutist wore his on his wrist. It was evident from the video record of the descent that the deceased did not monitor his altimeter. The deceased's altimeter was smashed when he hit the ground. The other altimeter was thoroughly checked and found to be functioning correctly. From the video it was also evident that it took some time for the parachutist who was being filmed to formate on the jumper with the camera after they left the aircraft. The parachutist operating the video camera had made about 930 jumps at the time of this accident. The deceased was making his 103rd jump.

**Significant Factors:**

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. Loss of altitude awareness by both parachutists due to the circumstances of the jump, probably including . concentration on video filming, . exit altitude lower than planned, . failure of jumpers to monitor altitude during descent, and . the time taken by the jumper being filmed to formate on the jumper doing the filming.

**Reccomendations:**

1. The Australian Parachute Federation was involved in this investigation and as a result of their involvement their investigator has recommended that in future camera jumps an audible altimeter warning device should be used to prevent loss of altitude awareness. This recommendation is supported by the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation.
2. During the investigation both parachutist's altimeters were dismantled and thoroughly checked. The deceased's altimeter showed evidence of prior salt water immersion in that internal corrosion of some of the working parts was evident. His log book indicated he had jumped into the sea seven months previously. It was the opinion of the investigator who conducted that examination that such corrosion, as it progressed, would cause an altimeter to fail. It is recommended that The Australian Parachute Federation advise its members of this and require that altimeters that have been subjected to salt water immersion be thoroughly cleaned and checked prior to further use.