



**CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: KILAH, Gilbert Charles**

4. I did not speak to anyone about to possible folding as it was just a gut feeling. The 1974 flood level at my house was stump cap level which is 4footsix inches. It has never come to that level since the 1974 floods and since I have been living in the house the highest flood level was 2 foot below the stump level. Since I have moved into the house there would have been about 10 times that the lawn and shed area has flooded at different depth levels.
5. On Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2011, I received a phone call from my daughter, Rebecca SPARKES (her mobile numbers are [REDACTED] land line [REDACTED], but I can't remember if it was from her land line or mobile. The mobile phone I received the call on is water damaged and I can't enter the mobile to tell the exact time she called. I think she called me at 12:30pm it may have even been 1:00pm I just can't remember.
6. Rebecca told me, "Nick said (Rebecca's husband Nicholas SPARKES) the water has just gone over the fuel pumps at the Freedom Fuel depot at Withcott".  
I said, "It's got to be bull shit, maybe it was going over the cement surrounds at the fuel bowsers".
7. I then checked the BOM web site (Bureau of Meteorology) for the Lockyer Creek height gauge and found it to be reading 12.9meters. I did not believe it and I thought it was a mistake. I checked back to the previous Monday night height to check the level for that flood event and the level was 6.9metres. I then rechecked the height for Monday the 11th and found it to be 12.94meters.
8. Rebecca had driven her Toyota Parado car into the drive way of my house by this time and I went out to see her and she told me her friend, Sandy HALLIDAY, rang her to tell her a car had been washed off the road at the Helidon Bridge. When I heard this I was expecting the 1994 flood water levels.
9. We then shifted her Toyota Hilux, with the camper trailer attached to the back, to higher ground at the corner of Charles Street and Sorensen Street at Grantham. We also parked my white 1974 XF Ford Falcon sedan (deregistered nil plates), my fibreglass open dinghy 5.4 meters with the name 'Lively Lady', but I can't remember the registration. Also we parked my silver/gray 2009 BF Ford

[REDACTED]  
(witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/  
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

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(Signature of police officer preparing  
statement)

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Falcon utility with registration [REDACTED] and Nick's unregistered orange VN Holden Commodore there. Where I parked all these vehicles was a level that previous flooding had not reached not and I though the vehicles would be safe.

10. While I was moving these vehicles the water was starting to rise in Sandy Creek. Sandy Creek is about 100 meters from my house. I told my daughter to leave town but she would not have been able to because when the water is coming into my drive way it would be going across the main road at Grantham, Helidon-Gatton Road. I know this from previous flooding.

11. Rebecca felt she could not drive through the flood water on the main road. I advised Rebecca to get to her house with her children and stay there. Rebecca's house is also a high set house. Rebecca went home and then I drove Rebecca's Prado to the junction of Railway Street and Citrus Avenue and Charles Street at Grantham. I spoke to Robert WILKENS and we briefly discussed the expected flood level. I said we could expect a 74' flood level or larger and Robert agreed.

12. Robert then looked across the top of the Prado and saw the water in the paddock on the other side of the Gatton-Helidon Road. Robert then yelled out, "Get out the water coming".

Robert then noticed Marcus CASALINO (Marcus lives opposite Citrus Ave) about 50meters away on Citrus Avenue with flood water and debris to his knees.

13. The water and debris just appeared and was around Marcus's knees and by the time Robert and I got to him it was between his knees and his waste. Marcus is about 187cm tall the same height as me.

14. We walked Marcus as quickly as we could to Robert's boat and I assisted Marcus into the boat while Robert and his brother Jim (Jim WILKINS) unhooked the boat from the boat trailer. The boat was a white aluminium about 5.2 meters long.

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(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/  
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**CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: KILAH, Gilbert Charles**

15. I left Robert, Jim and Marcus at the corner of Railway and Citrus Street. I then ran to my daughters Toyota Parado and moved it to the corner of Sorenson and Charles Street at Grantham.

16. Two young girls in a blue Jumbuck ute parked in front of me and I advised them to get in the back of that vehicle. Both these girls got into the back of the vehicle.

17. I have never seen these girls before and I would describe the first one as being about 18years old, 158cm tall, Caucasian, olive complexion, shoulder length brown hair. The second one was about the same age, she was lightly bigger frame, Caucasian, brown hair. That is about all I can remember about these girls I don't remember what clothing they were wearing.

18. I then attempted to go to my boat which was about 50meters away to retrieve some life jackets but while I was proceeding to my boat it floated away. By this time the water was about to cover the bitumen of the road. The road height I was on was about four foot above ground level and I was at the corner of Charles and Sorensen Street.

19. I returned to the Parodo and the Jumbuk ute was starting to float and I advised them to climb onto the Parado. The first one I described climbed directly onto the bonnet and the second one slipped and fell in between the Jumbuck ute and Parado bull bar. I managed to push the Jumbuck ute away from her to enable her to climb onto the bonnet of the Parado. I then climbed onto the bonnet of the Parado myself and by this time the water level was flowing over the bonnet of the Parado.

20. The two girls climbed up onto the roof and were hanging on by the side rails of the roof. I was hanging onto the bonnet of the Parado with my feet on the bull bar. The Parado floated away towards Citrus Avenue down Charles Street. There was a house in Charles Street and the Parado was heading towards the house but we missed the house by 10 meters.

21. I told the two girls not to grab the over head power cable that were connected to that house. If the girls had stood up they would have been able to grab them. The power poles were still standing but the water level had risen that much they would have been able to grab the power lines.



(Witness's signature)

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**CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: KILAH, Gilbert Charles**

22. We floated past Robert WILKENS house and I saw the house get washed of the stumps and we continued to float past the intersection of Citrus and Charles and Railway Street and the Parado floated down Railway Street backwards to [REDACTED] Railway Street where I believe the Parado hit the stay cable (cable connected from ground to power pole) and this tipped me and the one of the girls of the Parado. The Parado continued to float with one lighter frame girl on the roof to the Railway Bridge where she jumped into the arms of someone trying to rescue her. The girl was safe then.
23. When the other girl fell into the water I lost sight of her as she went under the Parado and she somehow managed to get to the house at [REDACTED] Railway Street where John KING rescued her from the water.
24. When I was tipped of the Parado I saw the Parado float away with the girl on it I managed to float and swim in the water and I grabbed a power pole between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Railway Street. I just hung on to the power pole and I kicked my pants off and it was lucky there was a earth cable which runs to the power pole and is clamped to the pole. I was able to hook my fingers between the cable and the pole and I kept my hands above the level above the water and there were sticks and logs, gas bottles, fridges and debris floating past in the torrent.
25. As the water level rose I had to try and pull the cable through the clamps so I could get myself higher up the pole. I recon the water level was about 9foot up the power pole. I hung onto the pole for about an hour and a half. I thought it was about an hour but other people who saw it recon it was there for an hour and a half. The water did not really have any noise and the only time I really heard loud noised was when the buildings collapsed.
26. A surge of water came through and I was unable to hold onto the power pole and I let go and hoping to catch the tree in the front corner of my yard which was about 75 meters down the street towards Sandy Creek. I managed to catch a branch of the tree and I was dragged under the water by the current and I managed to feel around with my feet and located the front pool type steel fence and I hooked my toe into the top of the fence and was just able to force myself into the tree.

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**CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: KILAH, Gilbert Charles**

27. I managed to get into the tree and secured myself in a safe location of the tree and I waited there for the water to recede. About this time the Helicopters started to arrive and there were media and State Emergency ones and I think the media ones arrived first. I waited in the tree and the State Emergency helicopter started to pick up people. The State Emergency helicopter hovered over near my location and I gave them the flat waving hand signal and the thumbs up signal to indicate I was okay so they were able to pick up other people.

28. I then waited in the tree for about an hour and a half until the water had receded to a level and the flow rate where I could climb out of the tree and walk across my front lawn to my house. I got to my house and I went inside and I managed to locate my mobile phone and I rang my son, Joshua, on [REDACTED] and then my brother Graham on [REDACTED] to tell them I was okay. I then rang another brother Alex on [REDACTED] to tell him I was safe and to advise other members of my family.

29. I can't remember if it was the SES or police but I got walked out of my house at about 9:30pm that day. I walked to the Gatton-Helidon Road where I waited until other evacuees were put in a police car and driven to the Helidon Evac Centre. I stayed in Helidon overnight and then I have been staying at friend's house in Gatton since then.

30. While I was hanging to the power pole or in the tree I did not see any other cars or people being swept away in the floods. I did see abandoned vehicles being swept away but none with people inside or on the roofs.

31. There were no warnings given of the flooding but if there was I would have got up onto the hill but the only way you can get to high ground in Grantham when the road is cut by flood water is by the railway tracks.

32. The pace of the water was unbelievable and to describe the flow of the water within one hundred meters of water the dept rose from 0feet-6feet deep in about 2-3 minutes. In the 25 years I have lived at Grantham I have never seen anything like this and even the 74' floods did not rise as quickly as this water rose.

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[REDACTED]

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**CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: KILAH, Gilbert Charles**

33. I did not take any photographs of the flooding. Also I am unable to give any exact times that these events took place on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of January as I did not have a watch on. I have been since told both girls survived.

34. My house was completely flood damaged.

35. On Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2011, I attended the Gatton Police Station and provided this statement.



Gilbert Charles KILAH

**Justices Act Acknowledgement**

**Justices Act 1886**

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 21/01/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 7 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 that I know is false.



.....Signature

Signed at .....Gatton.....this.....21st.....day of.....January.....2011....

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(Witness's signature)

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(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/  
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

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