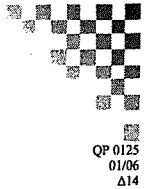




QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: 1 Date: 26/01/2011

Statement of

Name of witness: WOOD, Kelvin Peter

Date of birth: [REDACTED] Age: [REDACTED] Occupation: Unemployed

Police officer taking statement

Name: ROLPH, Shayne Gerard

Rank: Detective Senior Constable Reg. no.: 14007

Region/Command/Division: Southern Region Station: Toowoomba CIB

Statement:

Kelvin Peter WOOD states:

1. My full name is Kelvin Peter WOOD. I currently reside at [REDACTED] Street, Grantham with my wife Michelle Dorothy Jane WOOD [REDACTED] and my [REDACTED] year old son Peter James WOOD [REDACTED]. I have been residing at this address with my family for about 10 years but have been living in the Grantham area for the last 25 years.
2. My home phone number is [REDACTED] and my mobile phone number is [REDACTED] which is provided through Telstra.
3. My house is a highset QLD'er on timber stumps which is not built in underneath. It is about the [REDACTED] house on the left as you turn into Harris Street from Anzac Avenue.

[REDACTED]
(Witness's signature)

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

[REDACTED]
(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

4. Since I have lived in Grantham I have come to realise very quickly that flooding is not an uncommon thing for the area.
5. I can recall in 1996 there was quite a big localised flood event in Grantham which was probably the biggest flood that I had seen in the area until the 10th day of January 2011.
6. I can remember back in 1996, I owned the block of land in Harris Street where I am living now but there was no house built on the site.
7. On this occasion, I can remember that the flood water came up about 300mm-400mm over my block of land from Sandy Creek on the other side of the road.
8. When Grantham floods, it is basically because Lockyer Creek fills up and backs up into Sandy Creek where they both join near the bridge on Gatton Helidon Road as you come into Grantham from Helidon. Sandy Creek then breaks its bank and the town floods.
9. Prior to the 10th day of January 2011, we had about 4 flooding events in Grantham since about Christmas day. On one occasion we actually had the flood water come into our yard and got about 100mm-200mm deep but it went away pretty quickly. Most flooding events in Grantham happen quickly but they also go down just as quick.

[Redacted Signature]
(Witness's signature)

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

[Redacted Signature]
(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)


10. I'm not quite sure of the exact date of this flood but it was only a couple of days before Monday the 10th day of January 2011.
11. I don't really take much notice of how much rain is falling in Grantham as that is not what affects us it is the water from further upstream closer to the mountains of the Toowoomba area.
12. At about 2:30pm-3:30pm on the 10th day of January 2011, my wife and I were driving along and she received a phone call from a work friend of hers Renee TROST. Renee told her that the Lockyer Creek was lapping the bridge onto the road at Helidon and that the water was obviously heading our way.
13. I have then dropped my wife at her mothers place (Dorothy ARMSTRONG) at [REDACTED] Avenue, Grantham and I then drove home.
14. When I got home I spoke to Roy ABRAHAM of [REDACTED] Street, Grantham as he was hosing silt out from underneath his house from the previous flooding event just days prior.
15. I told Roy, "I think you're wasting your time Roy because the Lockyer Creek is lapping the bridge at Helidon".
16. I then grabbed a few things at my place which were downstairs that I didn't want to lose and I put them up onto my deck.

[REDACTED]
(Witness's signature)


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

[REDACTED]
(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

17. By this time my wife had walked home to our place and she encouraged me to take my tool trailer up to the Railway Station at Grantham to higher ground.
18. Roy helped me do this and as I was driving on Anzac Avenue to go to the railway Station there was flood water about .5m deep. I was driving a Toyota Hilux 4WD and the water actually came up to the running boards of the car.
19. I managed to get the trailer up to the Railway Station and then I drove back with Roy to Harris Street and went to his place.
20. When we got back to Roy's place I attached his trailer onto my ute and loaded his ride-on mower onto the trailer and drove it to the Railway Station also.
21. My wife and son stayed at our place when I took Roy's trailer to the Railway Station and on this occasion the flood water on Anzac Avenue was literally lapping over my front headlights of my ute.
22. The water had risen very quickly and at this stage it was travelling pretty quickly and the only reason I got my ute through was that I was actually going with the current.


(Witness's signature)

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


(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

23. When I got to the Railway Station I parked my ute and Roy and I tried to walk back to our houses in Harris Street but we couldn't make it.
24. We were trying to walk across Anzac Avenue but we were in waist deep water and the current was that strong we just couldn't get through.
25. We then walked back along William Street and to the back of the local Grantham pub.
26. When Roy and I got there, we met up with Lance RICHARDSON and his [REDACTED] year old son Evan on the footpath on William Street out the back of the pub.
27. The water then started getting very high very quickly and whilst we were standing there we watched a shipping container get washed away from the back of the old Post Office. The container came towards the pub where it then glanced off the rear back wall of the pub and then hit the deck before heading down onto Gatton Helidon Road where it then just floated towards Gatton way.
28. We all then went inside the pub and met up with Morva RICHARDSON (Lance's mother). Morva is actually the licensee holder of the pub and there were only five of us in the pub.

[REDACTED]
(Witness's signature)

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

[REDACTED]
(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

29. It all happened very quickly from then on and Morva told us that there was already water in the back area of the pub which is the accommodation area.

30. We then all started lifting the electrical items onto the bar so they wouldn't get damaged.

31. When we had done as much as we could in the pub all 5 of us went out to the deck area of the pub which is on the southern side of the pub and we had a clear view of the water flowing along Anzac Avenue which is sometimes referred to as Gatton Helidon Road.


32. The sequencing of events is not very clear but we heard the citrus room which is the function room at the back of the pub totally get destroyed.

33. We then saw the accommodation block at the back of the pub wash away and come to rest against a Moreton Bay Fig Tree which is on the boundary on the Gatton side of the property.

34. At some stage whilst we made our way onto the front veranda of the pub and whilst we were standing on the veranda we heard and saw the soffit on the pub start cracking. At this stage we started shitting ourselves so we decided to go back out onto the deck as we thought this was the safest place for us.


(Witness's signature)

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(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

35. When we were standing on the deck, we saw the brick house beside the pub just move sideways and all of a sudden it just imploded and disappeared right before our eyes.
36. We didn't know at that stage if any persons were inside the house but we knew that there was most likely 2 people if not 3 people in the house at the time.
37. We didn't actually see anyone in the house at the time but I know the old lady Brenda ROSS lives there and she never leaves the house and her partner Chris FACE pretty much stays with her all the time.
38. I also knew that Brenda's son Josh ROSS may have been in the house but as I say I just couldn't be 100% sure.
39. It was at this stage, I knew we were in big trouble and I think I actually said to everyone, "I think we're going to die here".
40. Morva was visually and verbally upset so we were trying to keep calm for her and Lance's [REDACTED] year old son Evan who was also very upset.
41. I think we waited at the pub for several hours and during that time we saw many cars being washed down in the flood waters but I don't know how many because I lost count.

[REDACTED]
(Witness's signature)


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

[REDACTED]
(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

42. There was that much shit being washed down the flood waters that if you name it we saw it. I would say everything was flowing past at about 60kph and we just waited there for help.
43. At one stage we were standing on the tables on the deck and we could see the helicopters flying over above us.
44. I actually don't know exactly what times this all happened as I was just not looking at my watch.
45. After the water peaked, we actually weren't worried about getting rescued as we thought we were pretty safe where we were.
46. We could actually see people on the roof of a house that had moved from its foundations and we knew that they were in more need of help than we were.
47. I actually received a few phone calls from my wife in this time and she was just telling me what was happening at my place and telling me what was disappearing from our yard.


(Witness's signature)

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(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

48. I think we all stayed at the pub for quite some time until 2 SES workers came to the pub and helped Morva and Roy out of the pub and took them up to the local school where it is higher ground. I am guessing this would have been about 2:00am in the morning but I honestly have no idea and I could be way off the mark with that time.

49. Lance, Evan and I decided to stay at the pub and after a while I went home to [REDACTED] Street to my wife and son.

50. When I went home water was still flowing down Anzac Avenue which was negligible but about knee deep. There was no water in Harris Street but at this stage the authorities were evacuating the entire Street.

51. My wife and son left but I chose not to evacuate and grabbed some sleep on the couch.

52. I woke up in the morning on the 11th day of January 2011 but I don't know the time and all I can say was it was daylight.

53. I went for a walk through town and had a look at the destruction and I just couldn't believe what I was seeing. There was debris and property absolutely everywhere.

[REDACTED]
(Witness's signature)

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

[REDACTED]
(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **WOOD, Kelvin Peter**

54. Whilst I was out walking I met up with Paul LOCKYER from ABC media and I did an interview with him about what had happened.
55. Whilst I was speaking to Paul LOCKYER another Grantham resident I know as Leroy also spoke with him.
56. At this stage, the water started coming up again and the ABC media moved their helicopter from William Street and I went home and sat this flood out.
57. The flood water on the 11th day of January 2011 actually peaked at about 10:00am and it was only 500mm lower than the night before but there was nowhere near the same velocity as the previous night.
58. By about 2:00pm, the water had again gone down and I had just had enough so I tied my dogs up, fed them and left town.
59. There is not much more I can say about the floods as that is all I can remember.
60. I actually didn't take any pictures or video footage of the floods but I am aware that Lance RICHARDSON did when we were all stuck at the Grantham pub. I have seen this footage of Lance's and it is very clear and clearly shows what we saw that day.

[Redacted Signature]
(Witness's signature)

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

[Redacted Signature]
(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

61. On Wednesday the 26th day of January 2011, I attended the Gatton Police Station and provided this statement to Detective Shayne ROLPH.

K. P. WOOD

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 26/01/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 11 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 26th day of January 2011

(Witness's signature)

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

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)