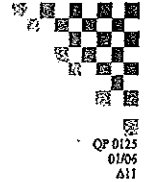




QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: QP110002800

Statement no.: 1 Date: 30/01/2011

Statement of

Name of witness: RICHARDSON, Lance William

Date of birth: [REDACTED] Age: [REDACTED] Occupation: Bar Manager

Police officer taking statement

Name of police officer: RONALD, Deane Andrew

Rank: Plain Clothes Senior Constable Reg. no.: 4017528

Region/Command/Division: Southern/Ipswich Station: Ipswich Criminal Investigation Branch

Statement:

Lance William RICHARDSON states:

1. I am a [REDACTED] year old male and I live at [REDACTED]
I live at this address with my mother Monva RICHARDSON, who is [REDACTED] years old. I have lived at this address for about 26 years now.
2. My mobile number is [REDACTED] and the mobile carrier Telstra. The Hotel phone number is [REDACTED]
3. I am the manager of the Grantham Hotel and I have managed the Hotel on and off for about 13 years. My parents brought the Hotel in 1985 and my mother still owns the Hotel.
4. I moved to the Lockyer Valley area in 1985 when my parents purchased the Hotel and except for five years when I lived overseas I have lived in the Lockyer Valley area.
5. On Monday the 10th of January 2011, I drove from Grantham to Toowoomba to the First Choice Liquor Bottle Store in Herries Street at Toowoomba. I got there at 10:00am as that was when the First Liquor Store opened. I purchased alcohol for the Grantham Hotel from there.

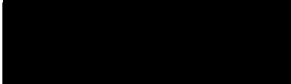
[REDACTED]
(Witness's signature)

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

[REDACTED]
(Signature of police officer preparing
statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: RICHARDSON, Lance William

6. From memory the weather was overcast and drizzly with sunny periods. It took about half an hour to load the trailer and I would have left Toowoomba about 11:00am and got back to Grantham, about midday. It was pouring rain in Withcott and by the time I got to Helidon it was fine.
7. I unloaded the alcohol and Robbie WILKENS, and 'Yawny' SMITH gave me a hand to unload the trailer. I just can't think of 'Yawny's' first name. It was raining on and off in Grantham and we unloaded the trailer between showers and it took us about an hour to unload.
8. After we finished unloading the trailer I was just serving customers in the Hotel for a couple of hours. I was also keeping an eye on the Marburg 'radar' on BOM.gov (Bureau of Metrology). The radar was reading huge storm cells sitting over Toowoomba.
9. This would have been about 2:00pm-3:00pm and I thought well it's over 3-4 inches of rain here we go again a nice little flood. I went out the back of the Hotel to check the Sandy Creek and there was really nothing out of the ordinary just a bit of water under the Railway Bridge.
10. That was about the time I got a phone call from Chris (nickname Kiwi) saying that water was lapping the Helidon Highway Bridge. Chris works for Derek SCHULZ at Derell Farms at Armstrong's Road at Grantham. I don't know Chris's last name.
11. When Chris told me this I said, "Thanks Kiwi thanks" and that was the end of the conversation. I was in a bit of disbelief.
12. Kelvin WOODS drove past ~~towing his trailer and he stopped~~ and told me what Kiwi said and he was taking his trailer up to the railway yard and by the time he left the water was lapping up the Helidon-Gatton Road Bridge that is about 20 meters from the back of the Hotel.


(Witness's signature)

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


(Signature of police officer preparing
statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: RICHARDSON, Lance William

13. Kelvin WODDS came back from dropping his trailer off and the water was flowing down the Highway down past the pub. Kelvin went to Harris Street and picked up Roy ABRAHAM'S trailer and he came across the Highway and the water was lapping his bonnet of his white duel cab Toyota Hilux 4-wheel drive with a canopy on the back.

14. Kelvin and Roy walked back from the railway yard and tried to cross the Highway and the water was flowing to fast and neither of them could get across to go home in Harris Street.

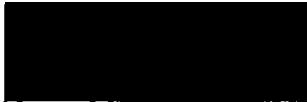
15. Kelvin, Roy myself and my son, Evan AAMODT-RICHARDSON, who is 13 years old, started to walk back to the Hotel and the water had doubled in height within those few minutes. From the backyard of the Hotel I could see the Chris BARRET'S shipping container float down between the Hotel and 8 Harris Street. The shipping container hit the side beer garden deck and the shipping container floated down Anzac Avenue and the last I saw the container it was at the Garage.

16. We all walked back into the Hotel and I was thinking about Kiwi's phone call so I thought I had better lift my computers up higher as they were sitting on the floor. This would have taken a couple of minutes max and I then went out onto the loading dock to check the water level and the water was already coming into the Hotel.


17. All of us then ended up on the front veranda and there was Morva, Evan, Roy, Kelvin and myself. I then saw a car being swept past the Hotel and I grabbed my camera and started filming.

(I started filming from 4:14pm and the last one was 5:36pm and there was also video footage)

18. There was no one in or on the car and it was a dark blue hatch back and it is still in the paddock in SCHULZ'S paddock. Then another car came floating past and it was a silver/blue station wagon and I think it was a Ford Falcon.


(Witness's signature)

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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: RICHARDSON, Lance William

19. The water got higher and parts of the brick wall at the front of the Hotel fell over and I could hear a lot of noise as wood was cracking and then the kitchen out the back ended up being moved to the front part of the Hotel.

20. The house across the road started floating past and then the ceiling on the Hotel Veranda cracked and I thought 'we are gone'.

21. We all moved out from the veranda area to the Beer Garden deck as it was steel framed and steel posted and we thought it may be the best place to be. While standing on the deck I heard a loud noise and I looked across to [REDACTED] to see the roof of the house falling into the water and disappearing.

22. My son had a major attack as his friend Josh ROSS, was in the house. Then another house across the road went and got swept away as well.

23. For the next two or so hours we all just stood there and hung on and water was up to the roof at the back of the Hotel. Where we were standing the water was at knee level deep as the deck was a meter and a half of the ground. When the flow of water reduced a little Roy, Evan, Kelvin and myself climbed onto the roof of the Hotel.

24. I could see the house across the road had come to rest against the trees in the backyard of their property and Leroy, Wendy and Wendy's son were all on top of the roof. I don't know the house number but it is on the Gatton-Helidon Road and I so don't know their last names.

25. Jim HOLZE who lives at [REDACTED] was on the veranda with his wife and we gave them a wave. The house at the back that is in William Street had Zack, his partner, and there two daughters were sitting on their roof as well.

[REDACTED]
(Witness's signature)

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

[REDACTED]
(Signature of police officer preparing
statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: RICHARDSON, Lance William

26. The helicopters started to arrive and there was a Channel 7 helicopter and there was a blue and red rescue helicopter and there was another two helicopters as well. The rescue helicopter was hovering behind the trees near Armstrong's Road and I now know they were rescuing the two people from a house that had been swept away.

27. By this time it was getting dark and we all went back down to the deck and waited and about midnight or a bit after the were three Queensland Fire Rescue officers in wet suits and they evacuated Morva and Roy to the Grantham State School.

28. They came back about 15-20minutes later and they wanted to evacuate us but we were fine and told them their were others in more desperate need than us.

29. We all stayed there until about 4:00am and more and more rescue people passing through and the water had receded enough and Kelvin went home and Evan and I stayed until dawn and then we went up to the Railway Yard and slept in my car. Evan went to sleep and I could not sleep so I went for a walk and around town and Grantham was a mess, it was just destroyed.

30. I then went to the Evac Centre at Grantham State School and I have been staying at 16 Victor Street ever since.

31. I did not see anyone being swept away or anyone in the cars that were swept away either.

32. There was no official warning that Grantham was going to flood and I never thought the water would ever come down like it did. It was more mud than water and the 1974 floods water came level to the floors and this was easily over a meter higher than the 74' floods.

33. The way the water just flowed it was unbelievable and the water sounded like you were standing underneath a water fall and I would say the flow of the water would have been 30 knots easy.



(Witness's signature)

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(Signature of police officer preparing
statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: RICHARDSON, Lance William

34. There had been some minor flooding like the flooding on Boxing Day 2010, and Monday the 3rd January 2011, as well as Thursday the 6th of January 2011 and then the big one on the 10th of January 2011.

35. On the 11th of January 2011, it rained as we were trying to sleep in the car and it rained for the next few hours and by 9:00am Grantham was flooding again. On the Tuesday it was still above the 1974 flood levels. The water just came up nice and slow on Tuesday as it was more like a flood but on Monday it was just mud and the speed it came through Grantham was unbelievable.

36. On the 30th of January 2011, I attended the Gatton Police Station and provided this statement.

.....
[Redacted]

Lance William RICHARDSON

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 30/01/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 6 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.

.....
[Redacted]

.....Signature

Signed atGatton.....this.....30th.....day of.....January.....2011....

[Redacted]

(Witness's signature)

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

(Signature of police officer preparing
statement)