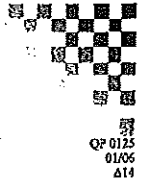




QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: One Date: 20/02/2011

Statement of

Name of witness: SPARK, Edward Robert William

Date of birth: [redacted] Age: [redacted] Occupation: Horticultural assistance

Police officer taking statement

Name: THOI, Teresa Hoang

Rank: Sergeant Reg. no.: 10869

Region/Command/Division: State Crime Operations Command Station: Task Force Galaxy

Statement:

Time Commenced: 12:30pm
Sunday 20th February 2011.
Location: Toowoomba Police Station

Edward Robert William SPARK states:

1. I am single and I reside at [redacted] Groomsville Qld 4352. I live with my family, my mother is Jackie SPARK [redacted] my father is Edward John SPARK [redacted] my sisters Amy Leigh SPARK [redacted] and Bridget Rose SPARK [redacted] and my brother Steven Jack SPARK [redacted] I have another brother who lives in Western Australia James David SPARK [redacted]
2. I am [redacted] years of age and I currently work part-time as a horticultural assistance, [redacted] Hampton. My telephone number is [redacted] and my home phone number is [redacted]
3. I have lived at our address for about 3 years; my parents bought the house in 2008. I was born in Three Springs Western Australia and grew up in Western Australia in a little town called Morawa. We moved Crows Nest three years go and it was a big lifestyle change but it was better because we got away from the wet weather there.
4. We were not affected by the flood of 10/01/2011 as our house is situated on 30 acres property and high up in the hills. There were some water in the main town of Crows Nest but it did get to our place.

[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: SPARK, Edward Robert William

5. I recall Sunday 9th January 2011, that night I came into Toowoomba and I stayed at my friend John WHEELER'S [REDACTED] house at [REDACTED] Toowoomba. I got a lift in with dad.
6. I recall Monday 10th January 2011, at about 10:00am we walked from John's house down to Grand Central Plaza, Margaret Street, and Toowoomba to hang out for day. At the time I was with Kit MASON [REDACTED], Helen WHEELER [REDACTED], Joshua QUINN [REDACTED] and there were others but I can't recall their names. John didn't come with us as he did not want to walk, as it was a fair way to walk and it took us at least an hour to an hour and a half to get there.
7. I recall the weather was cloudy with sprinkling light rain and it was very dark.
8. We got to Grand Central at about 12:00 midday. We stood outside near the bus stop outside Grand Central on Margaret Street for about an hour. It started pouring down with heavy rain and I watched the road near McDonalds opposite to where we were and I saw it was flooding very fast within 5 minutes it got to knee deep level.
9. I started walking with my friends heading up Margaret Street toward Garden Town and by this time the water was knee deep. As the water was very strong we took about twenty minutes to get there and it was only a block away. We were all wearing shoes at the time.
10. We walked into Garden Town, we met up with some other friends who I can't recall their names. We were there for about minutes talking with them and Josh wanted to leave and go back to Grand Central.
11. We heading to the bus stop on the corner of Dent and Margaret Street the water had risen up to our thigh level and was flowing very strongly. We stayed at the bus stop and the water was also thigh level.
12. I heard Jake yelled out words to the effect of; "There's someone in the car on Dent Street, we should go save them."
[REDACTED]
13. We started heading toward the car with the people in it. Jake was in the lead and I followed behind him and the others stayed where they were at the bus stop holding onto the guard rails.


[REDACTED]
(Witness's signature)

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


[REDACTED]
(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: SPARK, Edward Robert William

14. Jake and I got to the first tree on the corner of Margaret and Den Street, I saw Jake going forward to gain more grounds and I saw the water level rising up to his chest height. Jake only just got three steps away from the tree before the water got too strong for him to go any further. He came back to the tree that I was holding onto. We both stayed there about 10 minutes. At this time Jake and I realized that there were no people in the car but only the head rests.
15. Jake then told me he was going to let go and go back to safety. So he let go and got back to bus stop with the others and held onto the guard rail post. I stayed at the tree because the water got way too strong and was now head height. I remained there holding on tight to the tree and was looking around and saw objects floating by me such as wood, tyres, cars and other things.
16. I saw Fire and Rescue and the SES people nearby. There were two rescuers trying to get to me. There were 5 fire brigade officers trying to help as well. I was stuck on the tree for an hour and the water was neck height.
17. I saw one fire brigade officer throwing a rope over to me, it took six times to throw it over to me. On the seventh time I caught the rope I tied it around the tree and my rescuer came over on line and put a life jacket on me. When I had the life jacket on he told me to lie on my back against his tummy and then he they threw another rope to us and we started to drift with the water flow towards the bus stop area where the others were standing. I stood up and this time it was knee deep.
18. I collapsed as I was exhausted, they helped hold me up and one of the fire brigade officer came over and got me and walked me back to safety on Margaret Street. As I was walking out there would have been at least 70-80 people or more watching. I then put my hand up in the air as to say thank you and everyone cheered.
19. The Ambulance then came and took me to the hospital for a medical check up. Someone at the hospital took me back to John's house where I stayed there for two days as mum and couldn't come to get me due to the road closures and flooding around the area.
20. I met up with the others back at John's house that afternoon.
21. I was tired, sore and I had a couple of scratches and was relieved to be alive.
22. **I AM ABLE TO PRODUCE A HAND SKETCHED DIAGRAM NUMBERED 1, 2 and 3 OF THE LOCATION OF WHERE I GOT CAUGHT IN THE FLOOD ON 10/01/11 NEAR GRAND CENTRAL PLAZA.**


(Witness's signature)

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


(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: SPARK, Edward Robert William

23. I did not hear of any flood warning that day and I have no knowledge of previous flooding or rain fall in the area.

24. On Sunday 20th day of February 2011, I came to the Toowoomba Police Station and provided this statement to Sergeant Teresa THOI.



Edward Robert William SPARK
Statement concluded: 2:00 pm.

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 17/02/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 4 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 Toowoomba this 20th day of February, 2011....



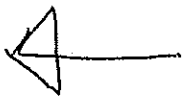
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Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

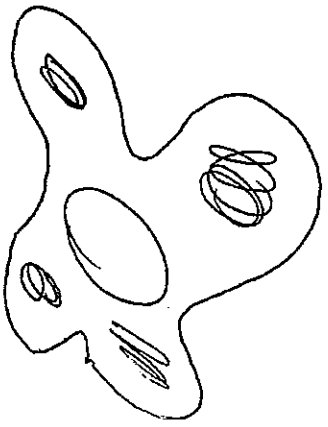


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preparing statement)

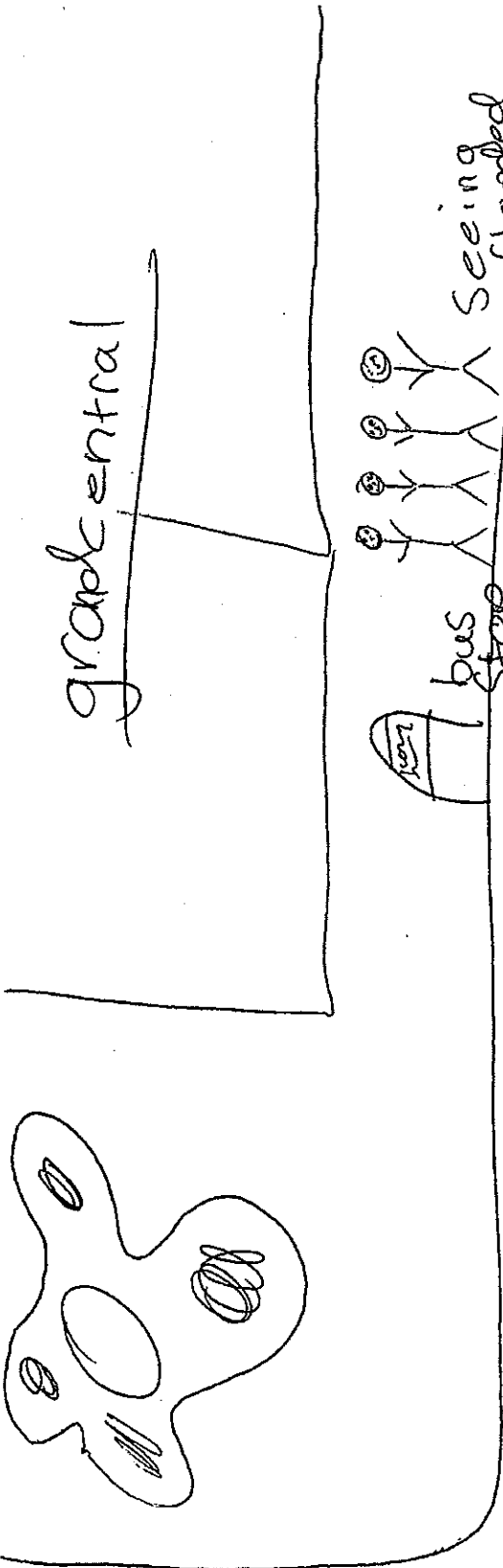
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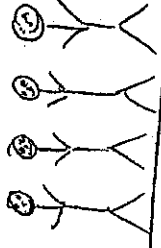
Dent Street



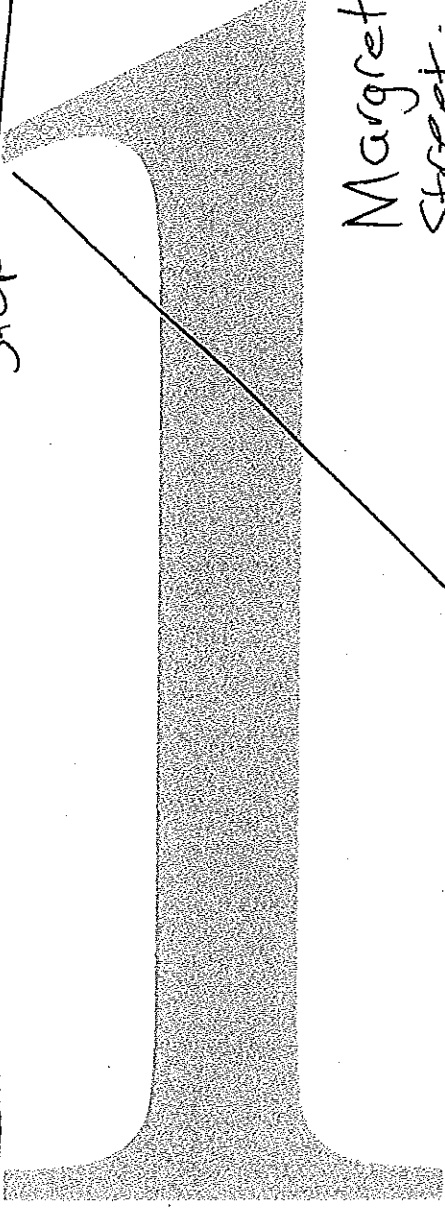
graph central



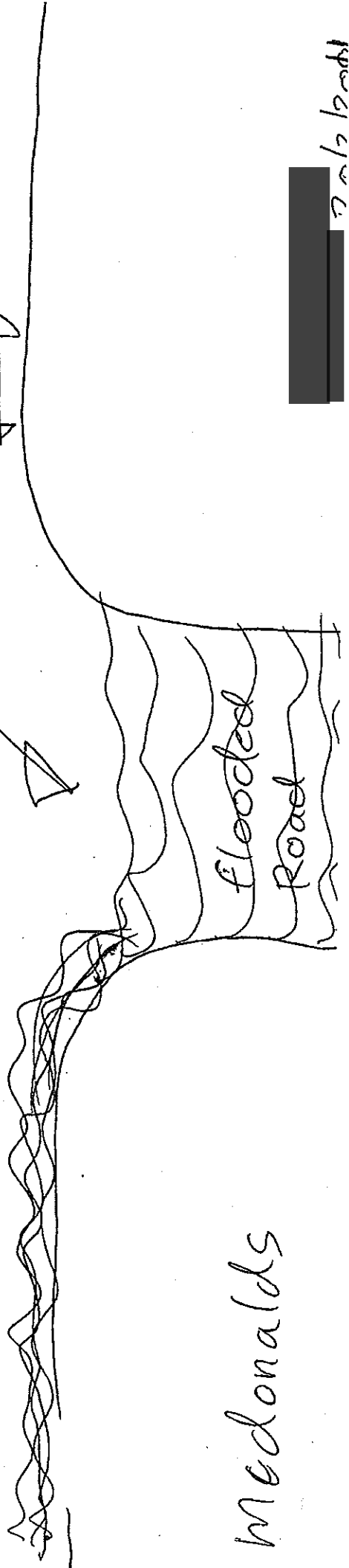
bus stop



Seeing flooded Road



Margret Street



flooded Road

Medonalds

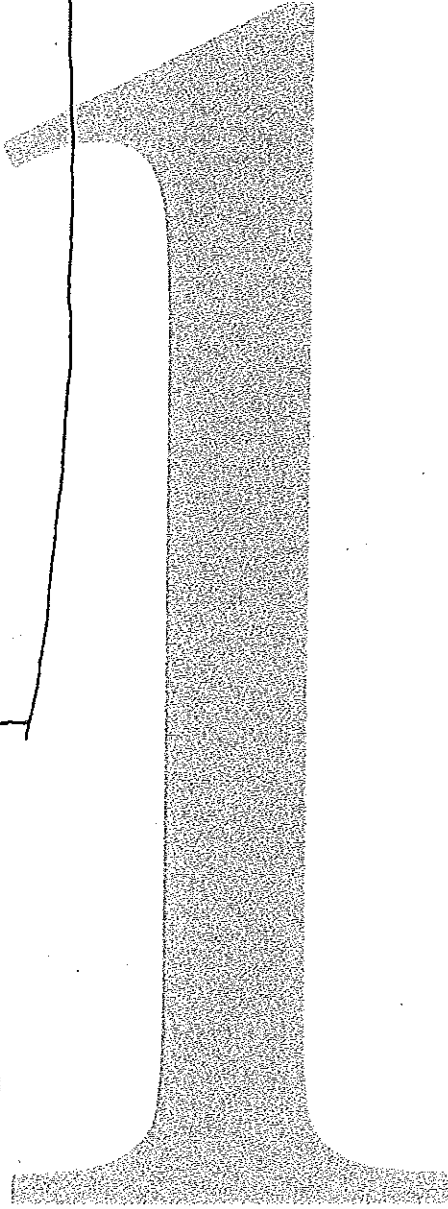


7/1/2011

(2)

Garden
Town

BUS STOP
DENT STREET



11/4/94

2/12/2011 3

