



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: _____ Date: **19/01/2011**

Statement of

Name of witness: **STEINHARDT, Susanne Kay**

Date of birth: [REDACTED] Age: _____ Occupation: **Cook**

Police officer taking statement

Name: **SHELTON, Rodney Neville**

Rank: **DSC** Reg. no.: **9618**

Region/Command/Division: **State Crime Operations Command** Station: **Fraud and Corporate Crime Group**

Statement:

Susanne Kay STEINHARDT states:

1. I am a married lady and was living at [REDACTED] Harris Street Grantham. I am now living at [REDACTED] Gatton with my mother Marie OSBORN. My current phone number is [REDACTED] I work at the Shine Centre of Learning at Murphy's Creek and my work phone number is [REDACTED] My husband is Darren STEINHARDT and I have two sons Dalton STEINHARDT whose date of birth is [REDACTED] and Keanan STEINHARDT whose date of birth is [REDACTED]

2. Our home at [REDACTED] Harris St is a three bedroom wooden structure and is approximately 1 metre above the ground. It is on the right hand side of the street as you go away from Anzac Avenue. On the ground level at the rear of the house and attached to the house is the laundry and toilet. There are five steps to get up to the level of the house.

3. On Monday 11th of January 2011, I was at my home at [REDACTED] Harris Street Grantham and because of the rain I was concerned about any flooding. At approximately 7:00am to 7:30am I phoned my place of work, to say that I wouldn't be coming into work as I was concerned about the Sandy Creek

[REDACTED]
(Witness's signature)


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

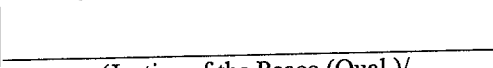
[REDACTED]
(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)


CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **STEINHARDT, Susanne Kay**

bridge at Grantham being flooded and I couldn't get back home later that day.


4. Darren and I then went for a walk down Harris Street into Anzac Avenue and I took photos of the debris on the road and one of the fire trucks which was on the side of the road in Anzac Avenue. I believe that it had been washed off the road the night before. I believe that the water was dropping at that stage from the night before.
5. At that stage water was still flowing down Anzac Avenue which is the main street of Grantham. The water was flowing in the direction of Gatton. We then walked back towards home. On the way, we had a chat to the Channel 9 camera-man who was walking on the median strip of Grantham near the hotel. He said to watch out for brown snakes as he had filmed some near the railway bridge. We were on the footpath next to the hotel and there was water flowing between the footpath and the median strip. There were also several of the locals out walking. I believe that the sun was out at this time and the weather was fine.
6. I know that around this time, Darren received a phone call from someone who told him the Helidon Bridge was going under water. We were going to go for a drive to look at the flood waters but he said that maybe we shouldn't.
7. Darren and I became concerned about the possibility of a flood so we took our cars to the railway yard which is on high ground. We drove a car each. As I was walking down from the railway yard and past the garage in Grantham, I spoke to Marty Warburton who said that the water would get very high.
8. As I got to the start of Harris Street, I saw water flowing into the street from Sandy Creek bridge. The water was reasonably clear and not muddy at that stage. I thought this was odd as it is normally very dirty when it is flooding.

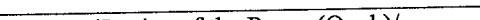

(Witness's signature)



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9. I started walking very fast to get home and I was calling out to our neighbours to get things up away from the water. This is what we normally do when a flood threatens. I think I said "The creeks are coming up".
10. When I got home, I saw that there was no water in the yard and I went into the house and said to our son Keanan to get his wallet and mobile phone together as we might have to get out. I also started to get some other things ready. I had a port packed from the night before and was ready to leave.
11. I went down the stairs and saw a small amount of water coming down our drive way. I think Darren arrived home at this stage. I wanted to secure the wheelie bin to stop in floating away if more water came. I put some pumpkins in it and as I was putting a pot plant into it as well, I saw that it was starting to float away and I saw the water in the driveway was knee deep. I looked up and saw the water rushing down our driveway towards the front of our house. I then saw the fridge in the laundry float off the milk crates we had it on and tip into the water. I went back to the top stair of the house but estimate that the water would have been waist deep if I was on the ground.
12. I looked outside and Darren and our son Dalton were trying to get the chooks onto the shed and the water was to the tops of their legs. I know that Darren was trying to get things out of the way and free up the water flowing past.
13. Darren came into the house and I heard him make a phone call to some emergency number that I had written down the night before and he told us that we were advised to get onto the roof of our house through the man hole. However when we tried to get into the manhole which was in the laundry it was too high and the ladder had been washed away at that stage.


(Witness's signature)


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14. Dalton and our other son Keanan tried to break some windows but the security screens and the glass stopped them getting through. Darren came and smashed out the rest of the window. I got out through the window and held onto the house gutter and the roof of the carport and Darren pushed me up onto the roof. Dalton and Keanan climbed out of the window and up onto the roof and then came Darren. This was approximately 3.30pm
15. We all got to the high point of the roof and I started taking pictures with my Fujifilm camera. The water was as far as I could see and I took many photos in all directions. At a later date, I down-loaded these photos onto my mother's computer. On the 17th January 2011, Detective Ken Murray attended where I am staying and he down-loaded these photos onto a USB which he took with him. When Detective Murray inspected my camera, he told me that the times were 7 minutes out. That is my camera time and therefore the times on the photos were 7 minutes fast.
16. While on the roof I observed rushing water in all directions. It is normally a back flow that comes into our street but this water was raging and boiling. I saw a great amount of debris floating past including a quad bike and I saw a man in a boat with a motor trying to go against the water. I even saw our own furniture floating past. I also saw the house from [REDACTED] Anzac Avenue float past in the distance. The noise at the time was like a roar and there was much banging from things hitting our shed.
17. At approximately 7.15pm we came down from the roof again through the window and back into the house. We tried to phone the emergency number but it was always busy. We got some candles lit and tried to clean some of the mud from the floor. When the water dropped off the actual road of Harris Street we all went walking to check on our neighbours and that Rodney and Kath an older couple two houses down were OK.

[REDACTED]
(Witness's signature)

[REDACTED]
(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
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[REDACTED]
(Signature of police officer
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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **STEINHARDT, Susanne Kay**

18. Darren and I lay down on the bed and the boys were in the lounge room. At approximately 12.30am on 12th January I heard a roaring noise and could see flickering lights at the town end of the street. Eventually a front end loader came to our house and we got into the bucket and we were then taken across the bridge and eventually we got to Helidon for the night.

19. I have lived in Grantham since 1998 and have never had flood water past the bottom step of our house.

[Redacted]
Susan Kay STEINHARDT

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 19/1/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 5 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 at ..Gatton...this..19th..day of..January 2011....

(Witness's signature)

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

[Redacted]
(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)