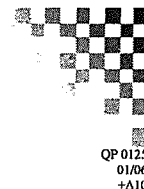




QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: 1 Date: 31/01/2011

Statement of

Name of witness: BELLETTE, Julie Dianne

Date of birth: [redacted] Age: [redacted] Occupation: Home duties

Police officer taking statement

Name of police officer: FISHBOURNE, Daniel

Rank: Constable Reg. no.: 22006

Region/Command/Division: Toowoomba Station: Toowoomba CIB

Statement:

1. My name is Julie Dianne BELLETTE and up until the 10th of January 2011 I resided at 3 Harris Street, Grantham. I lived there with my defacto partner Allan Patrick MARSHALL and my sons Rory Mathew MacKENZIE, Ryan James MacKENZIE and Rhys Michael MacKENZIE and Hayley Louise BELLETTE. We had lived at that address for about 3 and a half years.
2. We now live at [redacted] Helidon. We moved into this address on Monday the 24th day of January 2011 as a result of the floods.
3. We will be living at this address for a couple of month while things get sorted out.
4. My phone number is [redacted] and my mobile [redacted]
5. [redacted] Harris Street was a lowset weatherboard house with 4 bedrooms. It was on a 700 square meters. It was on the western side of Harris Street, which backed onto Sandy Creek. It was the 2nd house down from the Gatton-Helidon Road.
6. Over the last 3 and a half years there haven't been many floods.



(Witness's signature)

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

(Police officer's signature)

7. About 6 or 8 months ago there was a minor flood but it didn't even reach our back fence
8. There was one that was the day after Boxing Day 2010; It ran down the main street of Grantham. It also flooded our whole yard and was even into Harris Street.
9. The other happened on the 9th day of January 2011, it came up even further than the flood that happened the day after Boxing Day.
10. There may have been another 1 or 2 minor floods in between Boxing day and the 9th of January.
11. We don't have to have rain in Grantham for Sandy Creek to flood. If it rains heavy enough in Spring Bluff or Murphy's Creek we'll get the flooding in Grantham.
12. The flood that came on 9th day of January 2011 was the biggest to date.
13. It got with in 10 centimetres of the floor boards.
14. As a result of this flood we went and stayed at our friends, George and Lyn McEWAN's, house across the road at [REDACTED] Street for the night.
15. I recall the events that occurred on the 10th day of January 2011.
16. We got up and had breakfast. I'm not sure whether we went down to the pub or stayed at George and Lyn's place for a drink. We pretty much just hung around the house.
17. At about 2:30pm George got a call from someone who said that there was a wall of water coming from Helidon way. I don't know how he knew or who the guy who called was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(Witness's signature)

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

[REDACTED]

(Police officer's signature)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: BELLETTE, Julie Dianne

18. I thought that we'd be stuck at George's place for a bit longer so I decided to walk back to my house to get some more clothes.

19. My son Ryan yelled "Hurry up, we've got to go!"

20. I then walked outside and saw the water. It was waist deep at this stage.

21. I think I started to get a little hysterical at about this time.

22. I watched Allan and my oldest son RORY try to tie the gates shut because they kept washing open.

23. The water was getting quite strong. If we stayed there any longer we'd have been washed over so we went back to George and Lyn's place. By that time the water would have been nearly a meter high.

24. When we got back to George and Lyn's place we stood on the balcony and watched the water rush past.

25. I saw a dark coloured sedan wash down Anzac Avenue but I didn't see anyone in it.

26. I saw the massage parlour next door move first. It washed off its stumps and towards the house we were in. I think it hit the house we were in but there was a tree between the houses which took the brunt of the hit.

27. Then I saw our house start to move. It floated up slowly and then started to move towards the street. It moved forward until it hit a telegraph pole and stopped.



(Witness's signature)


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




(Police officer's signature)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: BELLETTE, Julie Dianne

28. I didn't really see much else; I only saw the one car. There was lots of big logs and debris flowing through. Bales of hay, pumpkins, water melons... There was even a freezer that bobbed by.
29. We waited at the house. When the water reached the height of the veranda we decided that we should get up into the roof.
30. We went inside and stacked some bedside tables on a dressing table so we could get up into the roof through the man hole.
31. While we were up there George used the weight bar to punch a hole through the tin roof just in case we had to get onto the roof. The guys went on to the roof to try and get attention of helicopters and that but I stayed in the ceiling with the kids.
32. We kept looking down through the man hole to see if the water had come inside George and Lyn's place. When we saw that no water had come in the boys jumped down and grabbed some food and a blanket and climbed back up into the ceiling.
33. We ended up being in the ceiling for 10 hours.
34. At about 1am we could see that the water had gone down to a safe level so we decided to get back down into the house. We just gathered our stuff and got ready to leave Grantham.
35. Lyn was getting photos together.
36. I don't remember seeing too much more.
37. At about 1:30am to 2am a front end loader came down the street. People all came out of their houses and were starting to mill around the front of their places to get ready to be taken out.


(Witness's signature)

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


(Police officer's signature)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: BELLETTE, Julie Dianne

38. After a while they came and got us. They took us over the Sandy creek bridge towards Helidon where Police were waiting.

39. When we got there the Police got all our particulars and then we got ferried down to the Helidon Community centre.

40. When we got down there they took our particulars again. They provided us with some bedding and we went to sleep.

41. On the 31st day of January 2011 I attended the Gatton Police station and made this statement to Constable Daniel FISHBOURNE of my own free will.



Julie Dianne BELLETTE

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 31/01/2011 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.



.....Signature

Signed at Gatton this 31st day of January 2011.



(Witness's signature)

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



(Police officer's signature)