



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Statement No.: 1	Date: 22/10/2003
------------------	------------------

Statement of:

Name of witness:	Dawn Leimomi ASANO	Date of birth:	29/6/1963	Age:	40
Occupation:	Physical Therapist				

Police officer taking statement:

Name of police officer:	R.A.GODFREY	Rank:	PCC	Reg. No.:	10942
Region/ Command/ Division:	NORTHERN	Station:	Townsville JAB		

Dawn Leimomi ASANO States;

I am a 40-year-old woman and live at 221 Altura Vista, Los Gatos California. I live there with my husband, Gary STEMPLEB. My email address is dasano@earthlink.net.

Gary and I travelled to Australia on Tuesday the 21st October 2003 and arrived in Townsville. We had booked a 7-day dive trip out to the Barrier Reef and the Yongala Wreck. I have my advanced open water certificate and have completed about 30 dives.

We left Townsville on the night of the 21st of October 2003, at around 8.30pm. We travelled out to the Yongala Wreck and arrived there in the middle of the night. In the morning we had breakfast at around 7.30am. I remember talking to Tina at the breakfast table, due that they had just got married as well, we talked about weddings. There was another girl at the same table who also had just got engaged. Tina seemed relaxed at breakfast.

I went to the briefings that were held after breakfast. I went to the briefing for the Dive Site. That involved how deep the dive was and the direction of the wreck. I remember them also briefing us about some safety procedures. The briefings went until around 9.30am. The weather was sunny and no clouds. It was warmer than I expected.

Gary and I had decided to do a separate orientation dive so we had attended the briefing with staff for that dive. Gary and I were in the last group to be taken out to the dive site. I'm not sure

<p><i>Dawn Leimomi ASANO</i> Witness</p>	<p>COMMISSIONER FOR DECLARATIONS This is Page 1 of a Statement comprising 3 Page(s).</p>
	<p>Justice of the Peace (Qualified) Commissioner of Declarations</p> <p>71331 Police Officer</p>

State v. Watson
002971

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: Dawn Leimomi ASANO

when I last saw Gabe and Tina, but I know that there was a girl in our rubber boat with blonde hair, but I couldn't see if it was Tina because of the wetsuit. I think she was in our boat.

When we got to the descent line, Gary and I went into the water with everyone else. There were four of us in the orientation group including Wade, Myself, Gary and another female. Then there was the other two who also had come out on the rubber boat with us. (I think it might have been Gabe and Tina) I can't remember if they descended with us.

I was with the Dive instructor Wade, so was feeling OK. We descended down to the wreck, I remember Wade adjusting my buoyancy on the way down. We had got down to the bottom and we were looking at the wreck. I remember being at the bottom and I was looking for Wade and I thought I'd seen something below, but it was hard to tell with perception under the water. I thought it was just another diver. I think we started the dive at the front of the wreck and then we ~~were meant to swim to the back. We'd been in the water for about 10 minutes or maybe less.~~

Then I saw Wade swimming towards someone who was further away from the group. I had thought it was just another diver, but when I saw Wade swimming towards them, I realised he must have been concerned about them. I turned to see that I hadn't seen gotten away from Gary and the other divers. I turned back and saw Wade ascending with the other person. It looked like he was holding them and seemed to be taking them up. It was hard to say with the current whether the person with Wade was moving. Wade seemed to signal to the other staff member to stay together. The other staff person was the fourth person of our orientation group.

We continued the dive and then reached the surface after about 25 minutes. When we got to the surface we swam to the boat. I got back onto the boat the 'Spoilsport'. I took off my dive gear and wet suit and stayed on deck.

I spoke to Gary about the fact it had been difficult to continue the dive after what I'd seen, but I didn't talk to anyone else about what I'd seen. When Gary saw Wade I remember him asking Wade how things were. I can't remember the reply, but it seemed things were critical.

Wade later made an announcement to the group and told us that Tina had passed away and that there had been an accident. We were also told that we would be travelling back to Townsville.

<i>Dawn Leimomi ASANO</i> Witness	This is Page 2 of a statement comprising 3 Page(s).
	Justice of the Peace (Qual) Commissioner of Declarations

OFFICE OF JUSTICE - SUDBURY
POLICE OFFICER
P.O. No. 7133

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: Dawn Leimomi ASANO

When we got back to Townsville, Police asked that we attend to the Townsville Police Station and give a statement. I later attended that night.

Dawn & Asano
Dawn Leimomi ASANO

[Handwritten mark]

74331

Oaths Act Declaration

OATHS ACT 1867 (DECLARATION)

I, Dawn Asano do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 22/10/2003 and contained in pages numbered 1 to 3 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 I know to be false.

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867

Dawn & Asano Signature

Taken and declared before me at Townsville

this 22nd day of October 2003

Witness *[Signature]*
Justice of the Peace /
Commissioner of Declarations
Other (Please State)

74331

This is Page 3 of a Statement comprising 3 Page(s).

Witness	Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Commissioner of Declarations	Police Officer
---------	---	----------------