



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Statement No.:		Date:	22.10.2003
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Statement of: **Jacqueline Marie SHERMAN**

Name of witness:	Jacqueline Marie SHERMAN	Date of birth:	14.8.1977	Age:	26
Occupation:	Real Estate Broker				

Police officer taking statement:

Name of police officer:	Sandra K CROSS	Rank:	Plain Clothes Senior Constable	Reg. No.:	9782
Region/Command/Division:	Northern/Townsville	Station:	Criminal Investigation Branch		

Jacqueline Marie SHERMAN states:

1. I am a 26 year old single female. I currently living in Guatemala. My current postal address is 10000 NW 17th Street no 102, Miami FLORIDA, USA, 33172. I currently live at 3 Avenida 10-90 Zona 10, Guatemala City, Guatemala, 01010. My email address is jsherman@intelnett.com.
2. I arrived in Australia on the 20th October, 2003 with my father, Andrew SHERMAN, and met up with my Mum, and sister Jamie in Sydney. We travelled as a family to Townsville on the Tuesday, 21st October 2003. Dad had booked for us to go on a week long dive trip with Mike Ball Dive Expeditions on the Spoilsport. I am an experienced diver and have done about 95 dives. I have an advanced open water certification.
3. We boarded Spoilsport at 8.30pm on Tuesday the 21st October, 2003 at Townsville. We travelled out to Yongala wreck overnight.
4. We had breakfast around 8.00am on Wednesday the 22nd October, 2003, we were anchored out near Yongala wreck. The briefing commenced at 9.15am, and this was mandatory for all persons that were on the boat. I specifically remember Tina and Gabe, other guests, being at the briefing.
5. The briefing went for about half an hour or so. The briefing was conducted by Wade. He gave us details of the actual of the dive site, he drew diagrams, of the wreck, how it happened, the conditions, the current, what we might see underwater, how to get to the wreck and how to get back, emergency procedures if we got into trouble basic signals. I totally understood what he

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		Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Commissioner of Declarations

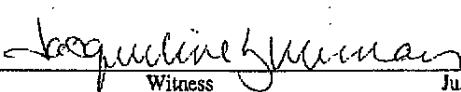
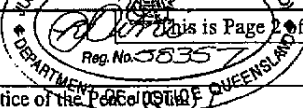
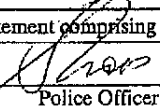
CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: Jacqueline Marie SHERMAN

was saying, it was very clear and thorough. He answered questions asked by the guests.

6. After the briefing we got our dive gear together and people started to go off in groups. Being of the strong current, Wade asked our preference and decided that they would transport us to the buoy, by a small rubber boat. And from the buoy they had a safety line, running down to the wreck. We were told to use the line to get down to, because of the strong current. I boarded a rubber inflatable boat which took us to the dive site. It was about 10.00am or 10.15am at this time. I think we were one of the last little boats out if not the last. In the boat I was in was my family, (Dad, mum and Jamie and myself) and Gabe and Tina, Michael and John, and the crew member who was running the boat. We had had breakfast with Gabe and Tina. I think, Tina had chocolate crispy cereal and a piece of toast with jam. They were happy.

7. On the count of 1, 2, 3, of the crew member we all rolled into the water together. Michael and John were the first ones to start their descent. I was buddy with my sister, and Dad was with Mum. I didn't have enough weights and couldn't sink, and neither could Mum, so Mum and I went to the surface and back to the dinghy, to ask for more weights from the crewmember. Dad and Jamie stayed in the water about five foot down. At one stage, Dad came up to see if we were okay, and we said yes, we wouldn't be long. As the crew member was handing out of weights, Gabe and Tina came back to the boat, and Gabe told the crew member that his computer wasn't recording the air in his tanks. The crew member told him to wait while he sorted us out. We took our weights and the four of us headed down to the wreck. That was the last time I saw Gabe and Tina, during the dive.

8. We did our dive, my Mum, Dad, my sister and myself. The dive was about 50 minutes to a maximum depth of 90 feet. There was a current, but I didn't experience any problems with this whatsoever, and we were briefed in relation to this, and knew what to expect. The water temperature was 77 degrees Fahrenheit. When we came back to the surface, I gave the sign to the person on the boat, that everything was fine. Mum and Dad had gone off a little earlier. My sister and I came up about 5 minutes later and swam back

 Witness	 Justice of the Peace Commissioner of Declarations	 Police Officer
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to the Spoilspport, using the lines laid out between the buoys and the boat. We took off our equipment, dried off, changed clothes and then went back out on the deck, which took about half an hour.

9. I then heard the news from one of the other divers that something was wrong with Tina. I didn't see anything else in relation to what happened to Tina. The last I saw her was when she was near the rubber inflatable and she was fine.

10. About an hour and a half later Wade gave a briefing about what happened, with Gabe and Tine, this would have been around noon. The crew then advised that we were going back to Townsville.

11. After arriving in Townsville the Police came to the Spoilspport and transported me back to the Townsville Police station, where I made this statement.

Jacqueline Sherman

J M SHERMAN

Oaths Act Declaration

OATHS ACT 1867 (DECLARATION)

I, Jacqueline Marie SHERMAN, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

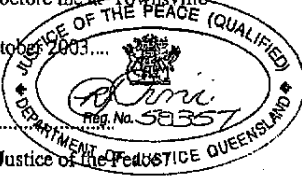
- (1) This written statement by me dated 22.10.2003 and contained in pages numbered 1 to 3 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything I know to be false.

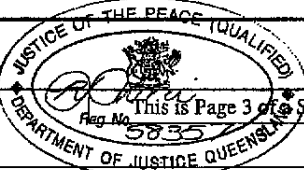
and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867

Jacqueline ShermanSignature

Taken and declared before me at Townsville
This 22nd day of October 2003....

Witness


Justice of the Peace (Qualified)
Commissioner of Declarations
Other (Please State)



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