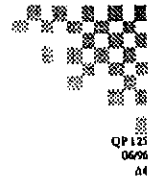




QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Statement No.:	Date: 22/10/2003
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Statement of:

Name of witness:	Michael Dendy LAWTON	Date of birth:	18/06/1952	Age:	51
Occupation:	Retired				

Police officer taking statement:

Name of police officer:	A C SMITH	Rank:	PCSC	Reg. No.:	7608
Region/ Command/ Division:	NORTHERN	Station:	CIB		

*STATEMENT OF MICHAEL DENDY LAWTON TAKEN AT TOWNSVILLE
COMMENCING AT 9.55PM ON 22/10/2003.*

I am a citizen of the United States of America but I presently resided in South Africa at 29 Moss Street Newlands.

I arrived in Australia on the 15th of October 2003 and I will be leaving Australia on the 29th of October 2003 to return to South Africa.

I arrived in Townsville on the 20th of October 2003 to take part in a dive trip on the 21st of October 2003.

On the evening of the 21st of October 2003 I attended the quarter deck marina at around 6pm to board the vessel and we were not able to board at 6pm so I attended the quarter deck bistro with other passengers and had a meal.

Whilst at the Quarterdeck the trip director Wade had us all sit together and Gabe and his wife Tina who is now deceased sat with us.

We all boarded the ship at 8pm and were allocated rooms and after room allocation, gear check and forms we had a briefing in the main saloon.

There were 3 briefings, one by the captain, one by Wade the trip director and one by Uzi a staff member.

After the briefings everyone either attended to their equipment or went off to bed.

M D LAWTON	<i>[Signature]</i>	This is Page 1 of a Statement comprising 3 Page(s). A C SMITH PCSC Reg No. 7608 JUSTICE QUEENSLAND
Witness	Justice of the Peace (Qual) Commissioner of Declarations	Police Officer

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: M D LAWTON

The vessel sailed after the briefings and headed towards the Yongala dive sight.

I went to bed at about 10pm and I was sharing a room with a male person called Stuart.

The following morning I woke up at about 6am and had breakfast at 7am and after breakfast wade gave another briefing in relation to general activities for the day followed by a comprehensive dive briefing for the dive on the Yongala.

Wade gave us a full briefing on the Yongala site and advised us of the current in the location and also advised us of the signals to be used whilst diving and the placement of emergency air. This was backed up by a drawing placed on a blackboard depicting the lines and positions of the emergency air.

I found the briefing to be very professional and I was happy with its content and happy that I understood the requirements.

When it was time to dive I teamed up with John DOWNIE as a dive buddy and we were taken by rubber duck out from the vessel to enter the water.

John and I entered the water and completed our dive, which lasted for about 28 minutes.

When we finished the dive we surfaced on a buoy line, which is located near the bow of the Yongala wreck and I saw Wade beneath us and he had some people with him and he was doing an orientation dive.

The rubber duck was already at the buoy when we surfaced and Craig who was operating the rubber duck asked us to move away from the orange Buoy so other divers could gain access.

John and I moved to another white buoy a short distance away and we were picked up there.

On the way back to the vessel and John said to me that he was concerned about Tina who was Gabe's wife as she had grabbed onto to him in the water and pushed him down. he said she appeared to be really panicky.

We got our gear off and then suddenly John said there is something wrong and I noticed that there was a lot of activity from the staff.

M D LAWTON	<i>M D Lawton</i>	This is Page 2 of a Statement comprising 3 Page(s).
Witness	Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Commissioner of Declarations	A C SMITH PCSC 7608 733 Police Officer

State v. Watson
003387

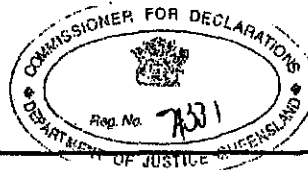
CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: M D LAWTON

A short time later someone called out to John that they needed him and he left in a rubber ducky and was taken to the other vessel moored nearby.

The weather was perfect and there was about 15 plus metres of underwater vision whilst on the dive.

I did not see Tina in the water at all whilst I was diving.

[Signature]
Oaths Act Declaration



OATHS ACT 1867 (DECLARATION)

I, Michael Dendy LAWTON solemnly and sincerely declare that:

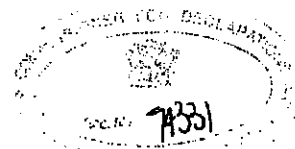
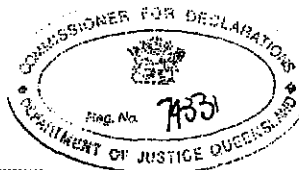
- (1) This written statement by me dated 22/10/2003 and contained in pages numbered 1 to 3 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything I know to be false.

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

[Signature]
Michael Dendy LAWTON Signature

Taken and declared before me at TOWNSVILLE this 22nd day of October 2003

Witness
Justice of the Peace /
Commissioner of Declarations
Other (Please State)



M D LAWTON	<i>[Signature]</i>	This is Page 3 of a Statement comprising 3 Page(s).
Witness	<i>[Signature]</i>	A C SMITH PCS 7508
	Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Commissioner of Declarations	Police Officer