

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE GRAY

Q1 This is an electronically recorded interview between Detective Senior Constable Stuart Gray and Mr Ian Milner at 9A Murray Street, Launceston on Wednesday, the 25th of August, 1999. Also present and to my right is Senior Constable David Upston from the New South Wales Water Police. The time on my watch is now 11 minutes past 2.00. For the purpose of the record, Ian, could you please state your full name?

A Ian James Milner.

Q2 Your date of birth?

A 8th of the 7th, '58.

Q3 Your current address?

A 56 Grinter Street, Riverside.

Q4 And that's in Launceston?

A Yes.

Q5 O.K. And your occupation?

A Boat builder.

Q6 Right. As I've explained to you prior to the interview, Senior Constable Upston and myself are making inquiries in relation to 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, and part of our involvement in meeting you was in relation to a replica model which was made of the Business Post, Naiad and that model is currently undergoing tests at the tank at the Australian Maritime College. And basically today we'd just like to speak to you about how in fact you made that model and on what sort of plans and precision that you used to make

that model. So if I could just, before we go into that if I could just start by getting your qualifications.

A I'm a, I'm a qualified boat builder.

Q7 Right.

A Been working in the industry for 23, 24 years. Primarily building sailing boats and yachts and in the last couple of years progressed into just doing the model building, through lack of, lack of work in the boat building industry.

Q8 Right. And how long have you been building the model scale for the A.M.C?

A 2 years.

Q9 2 years, O.K. Now if you could just perhaps take us through the process that you adopted to actually in fact build that model.

A Well, after Martin Reynoldson contacted myself with regard to building the model, had a meeting with him and Gregor McFarlane in which they showed me the plans that were supplied by the Bruce Farr Design Office, of the original boat, which was built in New Zealand. We then discussed what the requirements were with regard to what was needed for the testing scale of boat, what was required on the boat, weight, things like that. Then it was just left up to me pretty much to, to go ahead and do the job, which meant treating it like it was a boat. In some respect you have to scale the, the size of the boat off the plans because, because the boat was a different size to what the, the

plans were, everything had to be rescaled. It was a series of frames that were set up, and then it was planked, which then theoretically gave you the real shape of the boat of which a mould was then taken off, a fibreglass mould, so that a carbon fibre copy could be taken of, of exactly that hull shape, which would then give us a, the, the weight that was required of the vessel and it had to be done out of one layer of carbon fibre to, to try and reduce it to the scale weight, so that there could be a real and true test done of the boat. Once, once it was completed, supplied to the Maritime College where they did some preliminary testing and any modifications that they deemed necessary after that, which were quite minor, were then done to the vessel so that it's, it was ready for testing now.

Q10 What modifications were made?

A Originally we built a fibreglass fin - - -

Q11 Yeah.

A - - - for the model, which was filled with lead shot and resin, and they found that not, they, they couldn't get the required stability that the original boat had through that, so we had to then take the fibreglass fin out and cast a complete lead fin, which then gave them the density and volume that was more of a replica of, of what the original boat was.

Q12 O.K. Now I believe that the cockpit was somewhat different to - - -

A Yes - - -

Q12 - - - the plans?

A - - - interestingly on the, I was building the model exactly to the, exactly to the plan, and that, the plan had a large bathtub type cockpit with a closed end on it, closed transom on it, and after a, a discussion and a viewing with Steve Walker, who was one of the crew of Naiad, he, he then advised me that that wasn't the true and correct cockpit, and through that we had, we looked at photos of the, of the boat and scaled off the photo what the cockpit was, was like and then we modified the cockpit to suit.

Q13 O.K. And so far as accuracy, accuracy is concerned in scale, is it, can you you sort of expand on that, like millimetres or - - -

A Oh - - -

Q13 - - -

A - - - well it's, it's a, it's a 12 and a half to one scale of the original boat, so if the boat was 12 metres long it's roughly a metre long, slightly smaller than that. And then it's, we just have to scale, we just scale rule off the plan all the measurements of the boat, which in, in the plans they have what's called a set of offsets, so the numbers for, it's very hard to say, the numbers for each, each measurement of the boat are already written down in black and white, so you then just have to read those numbers onto your scale rule to give you an - - -

Q14 Right.

A - - - accurate indication of, of the size or measurement that you're looking for. So that then that's all reproduced onto the, onto the frames.

Q15 Right.

A To give you the right size and shape.

Q16 And what was the final product made of?

A Final product was made out of carbon fibre, one layer, which was then just lightly filled and tared, because weight was a primary requisite for the whole job. It had to be built very, very lightly. The plan was for it to be about 500 gram - - -

Q17 Right.

A - - - the complete vessel. We couldn't quite build it to that, that light a weight but it was obviously adequate for the testing that they needed it, it came in slightly over.

Q18 O.K. That's fine. Yeah. Anything else you'd like to say about the building of it?

A Oh, no.

Q19 What I'd like to do is, is if we can go out into the workshop there, we'll get the video and you, you can perhaps explain the - - -

A Yeah.

Q19 - - - the ribbing and - - -

A Yeah.

Q19 - - - how you've done that.

A O.K.

Q20 O.K. The time on my watch now is 13 minutes past, 14
 minutes past 2.00. This interview is concluded.

INTERVIEW CONCLUDED