

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CORONER'S COURT

STATE CORONER: J ABERNETHY

TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2000

5/98 - EVENT OF THE 1998 SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE

INQUEST INTO THE DEATHS OF JAMES MICHAEL LAWLER
MICHAEL BANNISTER
BRUCE RAYMOND GUY
PHILLIP RAYMOND CHARLES SKEGGS
JOHN WILLIAM DEAN
GLYN RODERICK CHARLES

Mr A Hill assisting the Coroner
Mr R Stanley QC with Mr P Santamaria for the Bureau of
Meteorology
Mr J Weber for the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia
Mr Colefax SC with Mr Jungwirth for Lewis Carter

PART HEARD

CORONER: Yes, Mr Hill, we're starting on the Business Post
Naiad phase of these inquests.

HILL: Yes.

<STEPHEN ROSS WALKER(10.06AM)
SWORN AND EXAMINED

HILL: Q. Mr Walker, would you give the inquest your full
name, please?

A. Stephen Ross Walker.

Q. And your address, sir?

A. 84 Jackson Street, Wynyard, Tasmania.

Q. And your occupation?

A. I've got my own business as a sail maker.

Q. And I think you've been sailing for some 37 years, is
that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were a crew member aboard the vessel, Business
Post Naiad?

A. That's correct.

Q. And I think that you sailed that vessel before the 1998
Sydney to Hobart race, is that correct?

A. I've sailed on that vessel a lot, yes.

Q. Now, as you know, at one stage there was some lead
removed from the keel?

A. Sorry, was that from the keel?