

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CORONER'S COURT

STATE CORONER: J B ABERNETHY

WEDNESDAY 29 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 for the Bureau of Meteorology  
Mr R Weber for The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia  
Mr A Shand QC for Mr Richard Purcell

PART HEARD

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<ROBERT CLIVE MATTHEWS (9.35AM)  
RESWORN

CORONER: For the record your name is Robert Clive Matthews,  
and you gave your address and occupation yesterday to this  
inquest.

HILL: Q. Mr Matthews, yesterday you were telling us about  
you were having difficulty with the harness buckle, is that  
it, or the clip, whatever you want to call it?

A. Yes, yes.

Q. Just behind you there's a series of clips on a board.  
Can you tell us which clip it was that you were using?

A. I had the carbine hook with the eyelet. It's marked  
here as C.

Q. What was the problem that you were having?

A. Can I take it off?

Q. Take it off, yes, take it off so that the Coroner can  
examine it.

A. The type of buckle that I had was the same as that one.  
The stainless steel--

CORONER: You can approach, Mr Hill.

A. It was the stainless steel buckle and the notch in the  
end of the clip with the strain on it, I had been right at  
the end of my line and the boat moving through the water, I  
just couldn't get it past that notch. It just wouldn't go.

HILL: Q. So that was stuck into the buckle itself?

A. Yeah, and it was only that little tiny notch in the end