

W883 99/00 CMM-C1

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CORONER'S COURT

STATE CORONER: J ABERNETHY

FRIDAY 31 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 with P Lazzarini assisting the Coroner
 Mr R Stanley with Mr Santamaria for the Bureau of
 Meteorology

Mr J Harris for the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia

Mr P Callaghan with Mr M Williams for Mr R Kothe

Mr N Hunt for Mr R Purcell

PART HEARD

<ROBERT MAXWELL KOTHE(10:19AM)
 RESWORN, EXAMINATION CONTINUED

CORONER: Where are we up to, Mr Harris.

HARRIS: Yes, your Worship, I did indicate I wanted to speak
 with Mr Kothe, but I've lost that desire since we've cleared
 up the safety harness.

HILL: Q. Mr Kothe, I've got some further questions that I
 want to ask you and they are these. It's not quite clear to
 me about what happened on the turn when you turned to go
 back. You say the motor was running and it was engaged?

A. I can only say what I know.

Q. Yes?

A. Which was I instructed them to turn the motor on and it
 was on. There's a distinct difference in the volume when
 it's idle and when it's in, you know, in active forward
 motion or reverse motion and it was loud, as if it was in
 forward motion. There was way too much noise to hear if
 there was the click of it being in gear, but I have no
 reason to believe it wasn't in gear and it was certainly
 loud - indicated that it was, you know, the boat was using
 its motor.

Q. Using its motor to turn?

A. Yeah, yes.

Q. It was helping the turn?

A. Correct.