

W884 115/00 JRB-A1

## NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CORONER'S COURT

STATE CORONER: J ABERNETHY

WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 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 Ms P Lazzarini assisting the Coroner  
 Mr J Harris for the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia

**PART HEARD**

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HILL: Mr Coroner, there are three witnesses today from the rescuers, Mr Boag who was aboard a fixed wing aircraft. He was the first aircraft that came across the Sword of Orion, and then it's the general run of what occurred. Then we have Mr Jones and Mr Key who were aboard the helicopter, they picked up the man overboard from the Kingura, and they will be able to tell us about the conditions of that. It will be short evidence and we will probably finish by about 12 noon.

<NEIL JOHN BOAG(10.06AM)  
 SWORN AND EXAMINED

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

A. Neil John Boag.

Q. And your address?

A. 21 Hastings Avenue, Beaumaris in Melbourne.

Q. And your occupation?

A. A pilot for General Flying Services at Moorabbin Airport.

Q. I understand that General Flying Services have a dedicated aircraft for sea rescues, is that correct?

A. For search and rescue operations in general, not just sea rescues.

Q. Right, so it's search and rescue generally, over land as well?

A. That's correct.

Q. When you say it's dedicated an aircraft, would you explain what that means?

A. What it means is the aircraft is left in a prepared