

W1036 242/00 RMB-C1

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CORONER'S COURT

STATE CORONER: J ABERNETHY

TUESDAY 18 JULY 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
 GLYNN RODERICK CHARLES

Mr A Hill with Mr M Papallo assisting the Coroner
 Mr R Stanley QC for the Bureau of Meteorology
 Mr RJ Weber for the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia
 Mr T Elsworth for the Australian Yachting Federation

PART HEARD

HILL: Today the first witness will be Mr Tony Mooney from the Australian Yachting Federation, followed by Mr Andrew Dovell, who is an expert yacht designer and qualified marine architect. I have set out various witness lists. I understand that still to come is a statement by Mr Green. My friend Mr Weber will undoubtedly tell you more about him. We have at this stage tried to meet the various desires for witnesses to be called on particular days. However, I think Mr Weber may have an application but I should say this, that we have only just received yesterday the statement of Mr Bush on behalf of the CYC. Mr Van Kretschmar's statement is being couriered to us this morning. It does make it extremely difficult.

CORONER: It certainly does.

HILL: Especially when they have as many annexures to the statements that we've seen from Mr Bush. So if there is to be any more I really would like a firm time if it's possible from my friends, because on the last occasion back in April we were told it would be two weeks and those statements would be on. Especially from the Bureau of Meteorology's point of view they have to contest a lot of those statements.

CORONER: That's right. Mr Stanley's entitled to have a bit of a look at them, Mr Weber. What do you say, Mr Weber?

WEBER: Your Worship, we've put on 14 statements, many of which are quite brief. They're statements of staff at the CYC on Boxing Day of 1998 who prove the negative, or attempt to prove the negative that they weren't called by the Bureau of Meteorology. That evidence has been on for some time. In addition, there are statements from what you might call