

W1036 243/00 NJW-G1

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CORONER'S COURT

STATE CORONER: J ABERNETHY

WEDNESDAY 19 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 R J Weber for the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia
 Mr P Callaghan SC for the Royal Australian Navy

PART HEARD

CALLAGHAN: Could I have your Worship's leave to appear on behalf of the Royal Australian Navy.

CORONER: Leave is granted.

<ANTHONY JOHN HUGHES(10.15AM)
 SWORN AND EXAMINED

HILL: Q. Would you give the inquest your full name please?
 A. My name is Anthony John Hughes.

Q. And your professional address?
 A. Is the Australian Maritime Service Authority in Canberra.

Q. Your occupation?
 A. I'm a senior search and rescue officer with the Australian Maritime Service Authority.

Q. And perhaps if you could give us your experience in regards the sea?
 A. I come from a naval background. I was a communications officer in the navy and principal welfare officer and I left the navy to join the search and rescue organisation some eighteen years ago. I have been involved in search and rescue in that time. I am also a recreational sailor. I've had some 10,000 or so sea miles in ocean racing. I am a qualified bridge watch keeping officer. I hold a Queensland master's certificate and I'm a professional qualified radio officer as well.

Q. You recall giving a statement to the police and I think that was on 20 July 1999?
 A. That's correct.