

W1036 244/00 RMB-K1

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CORONER'S COURT

STATE CORONER: J ABERNETHY

THURSDAY 20 JULY 2000

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5/98 - EVENT OF THE 1998 SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE

INQUEST INTO THE DEATHS OF JAMES MICHAEL LAWLER**MICHAEL BANNISTER**

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BRUCE RAYMOND GUY**PHILLIP RAYMOND CHARLES SKEGGS****JOHN WILLIAM DEAN****GLYN RODERICK CHARLES**

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Mr A Hill assisting the Coroner

Mr P Santamaria for the Bureau of Meteorology

Mr R Weber for the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia

Mr A Colefax for Mr Lew Carter

Mr P Callaghan SC for the Royal Australian Navy

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Mr N Hunt for Mr Richard Purcell

PART HEARD

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COLEFAX: Your Worship, I seek to renew your Worship's leave to appear on behalf of Mr Carter, my name is Colefax.

CORONER: Thanks Mr Colefax, leave is granted. Do you have something, Mr Weber?

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WEBER: Yes, your Worship, just in some respects a housekeeping matter. I raise this as a matter of courtesy to the Court. A witness by the name of Amelia Cater, who was a junior in the media office on Boxing Day of 1998, the Crown says has received a letter of 24 May requiring her attendance on 18 July. Her mother has been in touch both with my client and with the Crown to say that she never received such a letter and that she is overseas and that she will not be back in Australia during the currency of this brace of dates.

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CORONER: On that basis, if she's overseas, we'll probably have to do without her.

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HILL: I should perhaps correct my friend. The mother has never been in touch with the Crown.

CORONER: Alright. Thanks for that. We'll probably have to do without her. Thanks, Mr Weber. Did you have an application, Mr Hunt, for anything that you want to put to me? Clear it up now.

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HUNT: Yes your Worship. Just that I've seen there's some difficulties with the 25th.

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CORONER: I know, I understand that. But of course this