

# INQUEST INTO THE DEATHS IN THE 1998 SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE

## STATEMENT OF PETER CAMPBELL

On 19 April 2000 I, **PETER CAMPBELL** of 64 Boronia Avenue, Cheltenham in the State of New South Wales, journalist, say:

### Background

1. I am a Yachting Journalist and have worked in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race ("SHYR") Media Centre for the past 12 years as the Media Director and in various other roles prior to that, over some 30 years.
2. In 1998 Lisa Smith, Amelia Cater, Kelly Foster and Meredith Gray worked with me in the Media Centre.
3. My role as Media Director is to supervise the Media Centre staff, write and approve press releases, do radio and television interviews and generally manage the operations of the Media Centre.
4. In 1998 the Media Centre was based on the second floor of the CYCA clubhouse until 27 December 1998 when it moved to the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart. In 1998 the change over from Sydney to Hobart was performed in stages. Cater and Foster flew to Hobart on the afternoon of 26 December 1998, Smith and I flew to Hobart at 6.00am on 27 December 1998 and Gray followed at 11.00am on 27 December 1998.
5. As occurs every year, approximately two weeks prior to the 1998 SHYR I received a copy of the CYCA official contact list ("CYCA Contact List"). Annexed and marked "A" is a true copy of the CYCA Contact List. To the best of my recollection, the CYCA Contact List was up on the wall in the Media Centre in the CYCA Clubhouse.
6. As the Media Centre was in the CYCA, we had an internal telephone which had the important contact numbers for the 1998 SHYR on it.

**26 December 1998**

7. On 26 December 1998 from approximately 11.00am to 2.30pm I was on the water on one of the media boats for the start of the race. From 2.30pm to approximately 11.30pm I was at the Media Centre writing press releases and generally dealing with the press.
8. All the Media Centre staff were on the water from approximately 11.00am to 2.30pm on various media boats. There were approximately 7 media boats in 1998.
9. To the best of my recollection, I did not receive a telephone call from anyone at the Bureau of Meteorology ("BoM") on the afternoon of 26 December 1998. I have looked through my log book and there was nothing in there to indicate I spoke to anyone from BoM that afternoon.
10. I am not aware of anyone from BoM calling the Media Centre on the afternoon of 26 December 1998. If someone from BoM called the Media Centre wanting to speak to me and expressing concern about the weather and the safety of the fleet, my staff would have put them through to me, given them my mobile number and/or taken a message and advised me immediately.
11. I have known Ken Batt personally for many years. I find it surprising that if he was really concerned about the weather situation and the safety of the fleet, why he would not have called me on my mobile telephone. As far as I am aware, Batt had my mobile number. He had called me on it previously.
12. I do not know Brett Gage and had not heard of him prior to this Coronial Inquest.
13. I do not recall how I became aware of the storm warning on the afternoon of 26 December 1998.
14. At or about 11.30pm on 26 December 1998 I left the Media Centre and returned to my hotel for approximately 3 hours. I was back at the Media Centre by 3.00am on 27 December 1998 for the second sked and flew to Hobart at 6.00am that morning with Lisa Smith.

15. When I left the Media Centre on 27 December 1998 I had not received, nor was I aware that anyone else had received, a telephone call from BoM in relation to the storm warning.
  
16. I was stationed at the Hobart Media Centre for the duration of the 1998 SHYR.

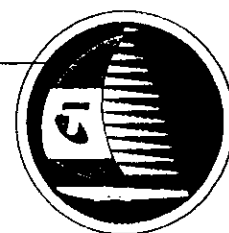
Dated: 19 April 2000

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Campbell', written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Campbell

A "

## Telstra Sydney - Hobart Yacht Race 1998 Race Personnel - Contact List



### Cruising Yacht Club of Australia

Phone: (02) 9363 9731  
 Fax: (02) 9363 9745  
 Poll Fax: 1 902 935 680  
 Recorded Information: 1 902 240 520  
 Web Site: syd-hob.telstra.com.au

Phil Thompson 9363 4445 (Sailing Office)  
 9363 9745 (Fax)  
 0417 282 172  
 9909 2643 (Home)

Mark Robinson 0418 966 766  
 Email sailingoffice@bigpond.com

Hugo van Kretschmar 0419 695 434

Hans Sommer 9953 5899 (Home)  
 Race Chairman 9428 2900 (Business)  
 0418 221 710

Peter Bush 9953 5899 (Home)  
 Immediate Past Commodore 0412 603 209

Alan Green 0414 505 666

Martin James 0419 401 902

Bruce Rowley 9363 3634 (Direct Business)  
 General Manager 9363 9581 (Direct Fax)  
 9362 8995 (Home)  
 0418 733 933

Howard Elliott 0411 508 810

Mark Pryke 0419 223 344

Sam Hughes 018 622 723  
 Aus Sar

Peter Campbell 9869 8489 (Home)  
 9869 8197 (Business)  
 0419 385 028

Lisa Smith 9521 7130 (Home)  
 0418 428 511

Young Endeavour  
 (Radio Relay Vessel)  
 Cpt Neil Galletly 450 300 141 (Sat Com)

Michael Brown 0408 446 794

### Hotel Grand Chancellor

Phone: (03) 6235 4535  
 Fax: (03) 6223 8175

### Wrest Point

Phone: (03) 6225 0112  
 Fax: (03) 6225 3744

### Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania

Phone: (03) 6223 4599  
 Fax: (03) 6223 1308

Michael Wearne (03) 6223 4599  
 General Manager 0417 052 086

Information Line in Hobart: (03) 6224 1441  
 (03) 6234 5853  
 (03) 6224 3687

### Castray Esplanade Finishing Box

Phone: (03) 6223 3082  
 Fax: (03) 6224 0056

### Liaison / Information Centre - Constitution Dock

Phone: (03) 6223 7567  
 (03) 6223 5706  
 Fax: (03) 6223 6957  
 Computer: (03) 6223 7218

### Telstra

Suzie Powell (03) 9252 1372 (Business)  
 0418 312 718

Ewen Rankin (03) 9632 8192 (Business)  
 0418 347 718

Warren Keys (03) 9808 8033  
 0418 993 569