

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

## STATEMENT OF KELLY FOSTER

On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2000, I, **KELLY FOSTER** of 73 Elanora Road, Elanora in the State of New South Wales, research associate, say:

### Background

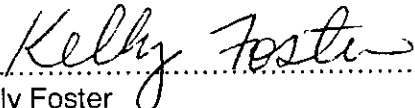
1. During the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race ("SHYR") I worked in the Media Centre as an office junior. Peter Campbell, Lisa Smith, Amelia Cater and Meredith Gray also worked in the Media Centre.
2. In 1998 the Media Centre was based in the second floor of the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia ("CYCA") clubhouse until 27 December 1998 when it moved to the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart. In 1998 the Media Centre staff change over from Sydney to Hobart was performed in stages. Amelia Cater and myself flew to Hobart on the afternoon of 26 December 1998.
3. Approximately 2 weeks prior to the 1998 SHYR I received a copy of the CYCA official contact list, a true copy of which is annexed and marked "A". The contact list was also in the Media Centre in the CYCA clubhouse.

### 26 December 1998

4. 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 1998 SHYR. From 2.30pm, until I left for Hobart later that afternoon, I was working in the Media Centre.
5. All the media staff were on the water from approximately 11.00am to 2.30pm on various media boats.
6. 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.
7. I am not aware of anyone else in the Media Centre receiving a telephone call from BoM on the afternoon of 26 December 1998.
8. As far as I am aware, the Media Centre did not receive a "direct" fax from BoM on the afternoon of 26 December 1998 which was a storm warning forecast.

9. At the time I left the Media Centre to fly to Hobart, I had not received, nor was I aware that anyone else had received, a "direct" facsimile or telephone call from BoM in relation to the storm warning.
  
10. I was stationed at the Hobart Media Centre for the duration of the 1998 SHYR. -

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2000

  
.....  
Kelly Foster

**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