

60

TASMANIA POLICE

STATEMENT

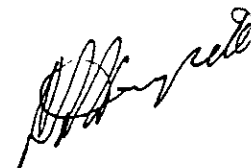
Name of Witness	HONEYSETT Surname (in capitals)	John Lincoln Christian Names
Address	314 Nelson Road Mt Nelson Hobart	70 18/12/29 Age D.O.B.
Occupation	Retired	03 62252449 Phone
Name and Address of Employer		Phone

Date: 20th July, 2000

Time commenced:

STATES -

1. My sailing background is as follows, I started sailing as a young fellow in dinghies then Graduated to keel boat I competed in the 1956, 1958, 1960 1968, 1970 Sydney to Hobart yachts Races. I was on board the Radio Relay Vessel in 1972.
2. I have been involved in sailing for the last sixty odd years and I would consider myself an experienced sailor. Through the Australian Yachting Association I was qualified as a measurer in 1977. I became the head measurer of Tasmania. I am currently retired from the CSIRO as an experimental scientist.
3. I hold a Bachelor of Science which I obtained from the University of Tasmania in 1957. I spent the majority of my working life with the CSIRO in Tasmania. My services to the Royal Yacht Club Tasmania have been as a volunteer in the Race Information Centre.
4. I have been a member of the Royal Yacht Club Tasmania since 1956 and currently a life member. During my membership with the Club I was a member of the Board for 10 years. That was from 1970 to 1979. During my membership I have seen I have witnessed a great deal of changes in Ocean Racing. I feel sponsorship has changed sailing dramatically.
5. In 1982 the Club introduced the position of Race Director information Centre and Race centre Officers in charge. I was in fact the first person in that position under the new regime.
6. The aim of this position was to organise staff, our main purpose was to disseminate the positions of yachts to the media and the general public. However, now we disseminate information to the community. In detail we receive yacht positions and plot them, in the early days we predicted finishing times and winners.
7. The usual practice was the Race Committee would establish the positions of yachts via the radio and this information would be provided to us to plot and disseminate.



STATEMENT - *Continued*

Name of Witness	HONEYSETT Surname (in capitals)	John Lincoln Christian Names
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8. In the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race I once again performed this task. Ordinarily the Race Information would become operational around 6.00am on the 27th December. That was the case in 1998. I commenced duty there at 6.00am. There were three other persons rostered on to assist in the information centre. Upon my arrival there were already other people working in the centre.
9. The Race Control Centre was set up but I can't recall whether any persons were active in the centre at that time. Usually a member of the Race Committee attends the Centre in the morning and completes the setting up process. I recall that Bob BADENACH who was the Race Director from the Tasmanian side of things had been at the centre most of the night. I recall he left in the early hours of the morning, I would say after the 3.00am schedule.
10. When he left the Race Control Centre was empty and the only point of contact Race Information Centre. In the Information centre we had a fax machine, and photocopier which was separate. We always experience some teething problems and ensure they are working for the first day.
11. These items of equipment remain in the information centre throughout the race. If any faxes are received they are forwarded Information centre to the appropriate person in the Race Control Centre. Those were the standard protocols. There exists a job responsibility for the staff in the information centre, it was broad but effective.
11. In the early stages in the race the Information Centre is manned from 6.00am till midnight. Then when the leading yachts are off the coast of Tasmania the information centre is manned 24 hours a day. This responsibility is shared between the staff of the Information Centre.
12. The Race Control Centre is not ordinarily manned 24 hours a day. However during the 1998 Race it was manned for the entire period. I would remain at the centre for up to 18 hours a day as the overseer. Recently we appointed a second in command to share the load.
13. The Information room is set up in the upstairs area alongside the boardroom at the Northern area of the Club. The Race Control Centre is situated right next door. The hot phone so to speak is situated in the Race Control Centre, however, when the Race Centre is not manned we do not man those phones. We have our own phones. There is a phone set up in our area for emergency use.
14. As I said I commenced duty at the Race Information Centre around 6.00am on the 27th December, 1998. My duties on this occasion included, to check on the latest information of yacht positions, if necessary plot the position of the leaders. ON this occasion we did plot some positions.

STATEMENT - Continued

Name of Witness	HONEYSETT Surname (in capitals)	John Lincoln Christian Names
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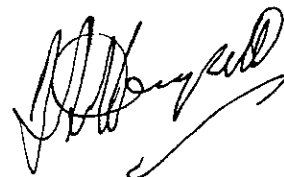
I can't recall if the weather faxes were there waiting or they came later. But in any event I went about my duties. Sometime later, but before the arrival of the officials from Sydney I poll faxed, that is I dial preset numbers to the weather Bureau a fax comes back with all of the relevant coastal reports. I did this and a short time later these faxes returned.

(Sometimes in the early stages we have problems finding the relevant numbers to dial up in the early stages of the race) This was the case on this occasion. I recall saying, "Where do we get these numbers, where are they listed."

Finally we found the numbers and as I said I commenced the poll fax. Prior to dialling the faxes I became aware of the position of some of the front yachts and infect the whole fleet. This prompted me to check on the weather, I specifically wanted to know what the weather was like at Gabo Island. It was obvious to me there had not been a southerly souwesterly change as I believed had been predicted, that is a normal thing. I became aware of the speed of the yachts as being unusual from observing the 3.00am plot on the chart in the Race information Centre. In fact I have the yacht positions with me and I have observed they sked 2 which had been faxed from the CYCA on the 27th December, 1998 at 7.04am.

I PRODUCE A COPY OF THAT DOCUMENT:

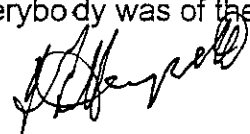
15. Once we printed that out and plotted it the whole fleet was ahead of the Morning Glory Record. The average speeds here were amazing, the leading yachts had averaged 15 knots and some of the small ones 10 knots, which was most unusual and I concluded there was a strong southerly current and no head wind.
16. Sometime later we received the coastal reports from the Weather Burea. These were not forecasts they were data about actual wind direction and speeds around areas Tasmania and Bass Strait. The information relating to all of the reports was on one sheet. I made an observation of that sheet and I observed the following as I recall. Eddystone Point North East Tasmania there was no wind, the southern tip of Tasmania was a strong easterly, the I think it was the West Coast, Cape Grim and King Island there were strong southerly winds, I think it was 35 or 40 knots something like that. The outstanding thing was Wilson Prom, with winds it was either 75 or 79 knots the fax was very hard to read. I can't recall at Gabo Island but I think there was nothing excessive. These positions would have been for about 5.00am in the morning, the times vary a little bit.
17. The wind strength concerned me, but I am aware that the wind speeds are exaggerated by the landmass, but nevertheless I felt concerned that there was some nasty weather about and the depression was obviously forming somewhere in Bass Strait.

STATEMENT - *Continued*

Name of Witness	HONEYSETT Surname (in capitals)	John Lincoln Christian Names
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18. I made a photocopy of that document and placed the original document I received on a desk in the Race Control Centre for their attention.
19. I can't recall the exact time, I feel it was before midday, I think the Phil THOMPSON, Mark ROBINSON, I think Sam HUGHES arrived either earlier of the same time. I think they were all on the 10 am flight from Sydney. I had a talk to them all, I bought them up to date on the information I received. I assumed they would have been up to date anyway. I recall pointing the fax I received to Sam HUGHES. I recall saying, "Its blowing in excess of 70 knots at Wilson Prom."
I can't recall his reply but he seemed a bit concerned.
20. Later that morning, It could have been before they arrived, that is Phil and the other chaps I received a fax in relation to the Melbourne Hobart Race and the Melbourne to Devonport. The fax indicated the start of those races had been postponed. I probably did bring this to the attention of Phil and Sam HUGHES.
21. I went about my work and they went about doing their work. However, any additional information that was received at the Information Centre was passed to the Race Control Centre.
22. It was sometime in the afternoon, it was early afternoon I was made a ware of a situation by a cheer from the radio room. I inquired as to what the problem was, a man had been recovered from being lost overboard.
23. Not long after that or even during the situation hotted up and we all began to manage the situation as best we could. I can't recall if I overheard, Sword of Orion informing the Radio relay vessel they were experiencing in excess of 70 knots at Wilson Prom. That information concerned me greatly, because of all of the other reports coming in relation to being in trouble.
24. At no time did I discuss the situation with the members of the race committee because they were well aware of the unfolding situation, they were busy trying to manage it. I supplied information to them if it came via fax. They were listening on the radio at times.
25. I had no idea personally, how the situations was going to be handled, we didn't know they were bringing in choppers to remove crews, no idea about the size of the seas. I felt we needed to know, we played it by ear. We had continual phone calls from people asking for updates, all we were able to supply was their last know position. As the situation evolved, the boats in serious trouble. I sought information from the race control centre, they were monitoring the whole situation, because they had the various boats in trouble, they had a control centre activated for the emergency. They had lists of all the crews, boats and contact numbers.
26. I am of the opinion it was to late to cancel the race. I believe everybody was of the attitude that you just have to ride it out.



STATEMENT - *Continued*

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- 27. These types of things happen, It was a long hard squall. I was never aware of a storm warning which had been issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. I am aware that a strom warning when issued for the coast is the highest warning for these waters that can be given.

- 28. I was never aware of the Bureau's wind formula adding 40 percent to winds and 86 percent to waves.

27/12/98, SUN 06:06 FAX 61 2 9363 9745 CRUISING YACHT CLUB

CYCA 1998 Telstra Sydney - Hobart Yacht Race Sked 2 - Line Honours Results

Scr Pos	SailNo Name	IMS Div	PHS Div	CHS Div	Latitude	Longitude	Leg	Date Time	Distance		Distance To Go	Est Finish	Comments
									Made Good	VMG kt			
36	SA999 Maglieri Wines	B			36 30	150 48		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	167.59	11.90	462.81	28-Dec 17:50:35	16 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
37	GBR4640R Havk 5	B			36 26	150 28		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	167.01	11.86	463.39	28-Dec 18:09:36	12 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
38	9000 Midnight Special	D			36 25	150 24		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	166.33	11.81	464.07	28-Dec 18:22:35	11 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
39	YC4882 VC Offshore Stand Aside		1		36 28	150 46		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	165.93	11.78	464.47	28-Dec 18:30:24	14 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
40	242 Sea Jay			1	36 24	150 32		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	164.13	11.65	466.27	28-Dec 18:05:32	10 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
41	PNG 6 Dixie Chicken		1		36 26	150 46		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	163.96	11.64	466.44	28-Dec 19:08:52	12 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
42	Sm 1695 Wild One		1		36 25	150 45		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	163.13	11.58	467.27	28-Dec 19:25:24	11 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
43	GRE49040 Aera			1	36 22	150 35		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	161.71	11.48	469.69	28-Dec 19:54:08	8 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
44	8338 AFR Midnight Rambler	D			36 22	150 35		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	161.71	11.48	469.69	28-Dec 19:54:08	8 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
45	5486 Business Post Nalad	C			36 21	150 42		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	159.66	11.31	470.74	28-Dec 20:35:25	7 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
46	1997 Bright Morning Star		1		36 21	150 47		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	158.90	11.28	471.50	28-Dec 20:52:26	7 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
47	3144 Loki			1	36 20	150 45		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	158.22	11.23	472.18	28-Dec 21:06:47	6 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
48	A8 Mirabooka	E			36 20	150 55		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	156.69	11.13	473.71	28-Dec 21:39:32	6 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
49	2170 Margaret Rincout II	E			36 16	150 35		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	155.81	11.06	474.59	28-Dec 21:58:44	2 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
50	SA98 Renegade	E			36 17	150 43		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	155.58	11.05	474.82	28-Dec 22:03:50	3 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
51	SM377 Bacardi	E			36 16	150 39		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	155.20	11.02	475.20	28-Dec 22:12:11	2 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
52	27 Winston Churchill	F			36 16	150 41		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	154.90	11.00	475.50	28-Dec 22:18:56	2 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
53	1274 Mercedes IV	E			36 17	150 48		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	154.81	10.99	475.59	28-Dec 22:20:50	3 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
54	4169 Kendell		2		36 16	150 42		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	154.75	10.99	475.65	28-Dec 22:22:20	2 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
55	Sm 117 Tilling At Windmills			1	36 16	150 43		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	154.59	10.98	475.81	28-Dec 22:25:43	2 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
56	M762 Inner Circle	C			36 16	150 44		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	154.44	10.97	475.96	28-Dec 22:29:08	2 miles SOUTH of Montague Is
57	1999 Hallel Adrenalin		2		36 14	150 39		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	150.25	10.67	480.15	29-Dec 00:05:16	1 miles NORTH of Montague Is
58	7633 Bln Rouge	D			36 15	150 43		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	149.97	10.65	480.43	29-Dec 00:11:54	Abeam Montague Is
59	MH106 Impeccable			1	36 9	150 32		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	147.73	10.49	482.67	29-Dec 01:05:50	6 miles NORTH of Montague Is
60	4057 Aurora	C			36 15	150 51		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	147.56	10.48	482.84	29-Dec 01:10:04	Abeam Montague Is
61	3107 Alexander of Creswell	F			36 9	150 34		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	147.12	10.45	483.28	29-Dec 01:20:30	6 miles NORTH of Montague Is
62	B23 Kingarra		2		36 13	150 47		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	146.91	10.43	483.49	29-Dec 01:26:00	2 miles NORTH of Montague Is
63	3848 Tartan		2		36 10	150 40		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	146.24	10.38	484.16	29-Dec 01:42:35	5 miles NORTH of Montague Is
64	7314 Forzada	D			36 14	150 53		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	146.02	10.37	484.38	29-Dec 01:47:58	1 miles NORTH of Montague Is
65	99 Siena			1	36 14	150 53		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	146.02	10.37	484.38	29-Dec 01:47:58	1 miles NORTH of Montague Is
66	M2000 Solo Globe Challenger		1		36 9	150 38		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	145.92	10.36	484.48	29-Dec 01:50:39	6 miles NORTH of Montague Is
67	533 Pippin	D			36 10	150 43		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	145.33	10.32	485.07	29-Dec 02:05:19	5 miles NORTH of Montague Is
68	4337 Relish IV		2		36 8	150 37		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	145.29	10.32	485.11	29-Dec 02:06:23	7 miles NORTH of Montague Is
69	4966 King Billy	D			36 13	150 53		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	145.10	10.30	485.30	29-Dec 02:11:18	2 miles NORTH of Montague Is
70	4527 Sha's Apples Two	C			36 9	150 47		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	143.20	10.17	487.20	29-Dec 03:00:01	6 miles NORTH of Montague Is

RECEIVED FROM: 61 2 9363 9745 27/12/98

CYCA 1998 Telstra Sydney - Hobart Yacht Race

Sked 2 - Line Honours Results

Scr Pos	SailNo Name	IMS Div	PHS Div	CHS Div	Latitude	Longitude	Leg	Date Time	Distance		Distance To Go	Est Finish	Comments
									Made Good	VMG kt			
71	M120 Ruff N Tumble	E			36 7	150 41		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	143.15	10.16	487.25	29-Dec 03:01:07	8 miles NORTH of Montague Is
72	6074 Henry Kendall Akubra		2		36 5	150 40		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	141.60	10.05	488.80	29-Dec 03:41:57	10 miles NORTH of Montague Is
73	3940 Trust Bank Hummingbird	D			36 8	150 50		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	141.36	10.04	489.04	29-Dec 03:48:19	7 miles NORTH of Montague Is
74	3809 Lady Penrhyn		2		36 6	150 44		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	141.32	10.03	489.08	29-Dec 03:49:26	9 miles NORTH of Montague Is
75	M19 Indian Pacific		2		36 9	150 54		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	141.08	10.02	489.32	29-Dec 03:55:49	6 miles NORTH of Montague Is
76	5275 Unipro Ocean Road		1		36 0	150 27		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	140.69	10.00	489.51	29-Dec 04:00:49	15 miles NORTH of Montague Is
77	317 Kickalinalong		1		36 8	150 46		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	140.71	9.99	489.69	29-Dec 04:05:38	9 miles NORTH of Montague Is
78	5527 Polaris	E			36 5	150 51		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	138.27	9.82	492.13	29-Dec 05:12:27	10 miles NORTH of Montague Is
79	M236 New Horizons		2		36 4	150 49		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	137.95	9.80	492.45	29-Dec 05:21:29	11 miles NORTH of Montague Is
80	B409 Avanti		1		36 4	150 50		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	137.65	9.77	492.75	29-Dec 05:29:58	11 miles NORTH of Montague Is
81	5659 Antipodes Sydney	C			36 5	150 54		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	137.37	9.75	493.03	29-Dec 05:37:54	10 miles NORTH of Montague Is
82	B116 Jubilation		2		36 1	150 42		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	137.28	9.75	493.12	29-Dec 05:40:15	14 miles NORTH of Montague Is
83	3930 Jack Guy		2		36 6	150 50		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	136.78	9.71	493.62	29-Dec 05:54:26	9 miles NORTH of Montague Is
84	5521 Not Negotiable	F			36 2	150 47		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	136.70	9.71	493.70	29-Dec 05:56:50	13 miles NORTH of Montague Is
85	Sm 596 Breakaway	D			35 57	150 36		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	135.39	9.61	495.01	29-Dec 06:34:36	18 miles NORTH of Montague Is
86	A113 Mark Twain	E			35 58	150 41		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	134.80	9.57	495.60	29-Dec 06:51:41	17 miles NORTH of Montague Is
87	WS91 Antika		1		36 0	150 51		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	133.63	9.49	496.77	29-Dec 07:26:16	15 miles NORTH of Montague Is
88	4924 She II		1		36 0	150 57		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	131.82	9.36	498.58	29-Dec 08:21:10	15 miles NORTH of Montague Is
89	RQ23 Boomerang Morse Fans	F			35 53	150 37		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	131.37	9.33	499.03	29-Dec 08:34:50	22 miles NORTH of Montague Is
90	5009 Komatsu Blue Lady	E			35 58	150 48		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	130.83	9.29	499.57	29-Dec 08:51:45	19 miles NORTH of Montague Is
91	R133 Vagrant			1	35 59	150 59		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	130.28	9.25	500.12	29-Dec 09:08:45	16 miles NORTH of Montague Is
92	C2 Gundy Grey		1		35 57	150 53		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	130.24	9.25	500.16	29-Dec 09:10:03	18 miles NORTH of Montague Is
93	A55 T42 Solandra	F			35 59	151 0		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	129.98	9.23	500.42	29-Dec 09:18:16	16 miles NORTH of Montague Is
94	265 Wailangi II		2		35 54	150 45		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	129.88	9.22	500.52	29-Dec 09:21:29	21 miles NORTH of Montague Is
95	371 Beminda		2		35 52	150 48		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	127.11	9.03	503.29	29-Dec 10:50:41	23 miles NORTH of Montague Is
96	D34 Liquid Asset		2		35 52	150 50		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	126.51	8.90	503.89	29-Dec 11:10:45	23 miles NORTH of Montague Is
97	780 Canon Mads	F			35 54	150 59		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	125.94	8.94	504.46	29-Dec 11:29:40	21 miles NORTH of Montague Is
98	2919 Tenacious		2		35 46	150 41		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	123.66	8.78	506.74	29-Dec 12:47:33	29 miles NORTH of Montague Is
99	407 Alusive		1		36 0	151 24		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	123.65	8.78	506.75	29-Dec 12:48:11	15 miles NORTH of Montague Is
100	590 Adagio		2		35 51	150 57		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	123.46	8.77	506.94	29-Dec 12:54:43	24 miles NORTH of Montague Is
101	327 Zeus II	F			35 52	151 4		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	122.27	8.68	508.13	29-Dec 13:36:46	23 miles NORTH of Montague Is
102	5488 Morning Tide	F			35 50	151 3		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	120.71	8.57	509.69	29-Dec 14:32:52	25 miles NORTH of Montague Is
103	5643 Veto	F			35 45	151 3		27-Dec-98 03:05:00	116.07	8.24	514.33	29-Dec 17:29:26	30 miles NORTH of Montague Is
104	0887 ABH AMRO Challenge	B						27-Dec-98 03:05:00	0.00				RETIRED
105	0099 Assassin	B						27-Dec-98 03:05:00	0.00				NO REPORT

CYCA 1998 Telstra Sydney - Hobart Yacht Race

Sked 2 - Line Honours Results

Scr Pos	SailNo Name	IMS Div	PHS Div	OHS Div	Latitude	Longitude	Leg	Date Time	Distance	VMG kt	Distance	Est Finish	Comments
									Made Good		To Go		
106	YC1000 Ausmaid	B						27-Dec-98 03:05:00	0.00				NO REPORT
107	C1 Brindabella	A						27-Dec-98 03:05:00	0.00				NO REPORT
108	2557 Hogsbreath Witchitector		2					27-Dec-98 03:05:00	0.00				NO REPORT
109	5838 Milintia		2					27-Dec-98 03:05:00	0.00				NO REPORT
110	M678 Misty	F						27-Dec-98 03:05:00	0.00				NO REPORT
111	N11 Noumea	D						27-Dec-98 03:05:00	0.00				NO REPORT
112	4000 Sagacious V	C						27-Dec-98 03:05:00	0.00				NO REPORT
113	5705 Sledgehammer	B						27-Dec-98 03:05:00	0.00				RETIRED
114	38 Southerly	F						27-Dec-98 03:05:00	0.00				NO REPORT
115	6070 Sydney	A						27-Dec-98 03:05:00	0.00				RETIRED

