

STATEMENT in the matter of:  
Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race 1998

Place: Sydney Water Police  
Police Station  
Date : 4 July 1999

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Name: Stewart John LAVIS  
Address: NSW Water Police, Sydney Tel. No.: 9692 5411  
Occupation: Senior Constable of Police STATES:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable for prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

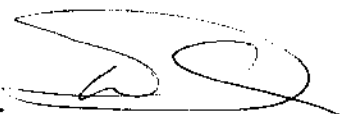
2. I am 35 years of age.

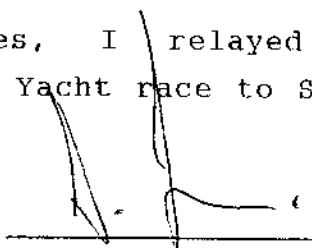
3. On Sunday the 27 December 1998, I was rostered for station duties at the Sydney Water Police, between 1900hrs to 0730hrs 28 December 1998. Duties at this time included the receiving of telephone calls to the Water police and the recording of the same on the station message pad. Also rostered on that night was Senior Constable Bingham, who was acting as the Shift Supervisor.

4. During the shift I received numerous phone calls in regards to incidents occurring during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht race. Calls are recorded on the Sydney Water Police message pad and are numbered 12/444,12/445,12/446,12/447 and 12/454.

(TENDER TELEPHONE MESSAGE PAD)

5. In addition to recording messages, I relayed any information regarding the Sydney to Hobart Yacht race to Senior

Witness:   
W. DAVIDSON S/C.  
1670 6/7/99.

Signature: 

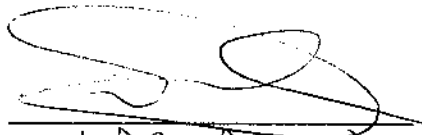
STATEMENT (continued) in the matter of: Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race 1998

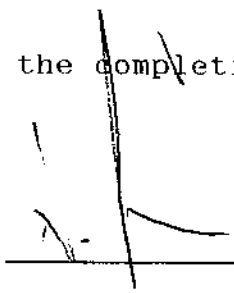
Name: Stewart John LAVIS

Constable Bingham. I was aware that Senior Constable Bingham was maintaining a Search and Rescue running sheet.

6. At 2245hrs on the 27 December 1998, I received a telephone call from Senior Constable Baker from Eden Police. He said, "We have some Hobart competitors here who are still very concerned about the Business Post Naiad. They say that there is no radio contact with them." I said, "I will contact the C.Y.C. again and see what I can find out." I then informed Senior Constable Bingham of this conversation. I then contacted the Cruising Yacht Club at Rushcutters bay. I then spoke to a male person at the race radio control centre. I said, "We have had a further request from the Eden Police as to the welfare of the yacht Business Post Naiad. They apparently lost radio contact down there." The male said, "We have just heard a conversation between a Coastal Patrol Base and the Business Post Naiad. They are under their own steam and heading for Eden." I then contacted Eden Police and relayed the information received from the Cruising Yacht Club.

7. I then attended to other duties until the completion of my shift at 0730hrs on the 28 december 1998.

Witness:   
W. DAVIDSON  
S/C 1640 6/7/99

Signature: 

New South Wales Police Service  
**GENERAL STATION PAD**

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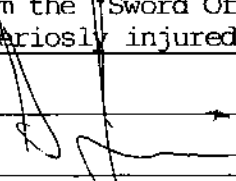
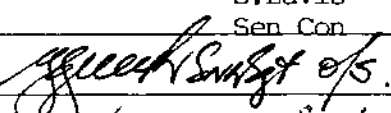
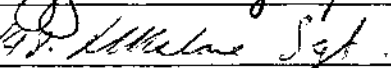
No. ....

Date, Time and Action Required	Particulars	Police in Charge, Action/Result, Time, Date, Signature and Rank of Police involved
27.12.98 8.30pm From Coastal Pat.	We have a report of a yacht on the sand bar at the entrance to Rushcutters bay. Our vessel will take about 3/4 of hr to get there. Can you get there quicker.	INTREPID.  Attended 9.15pm 27/12/98. Vessel towed to deeper water. See COPS entry E6071610. NFA.
12/443 ✓	Reply: Our vessel will be informed. If you both attend, the first vessel on scene can assist them.	<i>[Signature]</i> S.E. Watson. Sen. Const. 4.00am 28/12/98.
	S.Lavis Sen Con	
27.12.98 8.40pm From Cst ROSS Eden Police	We have a sydney to hobart vessel, "Rough and Tumble" requesting a tow into twofold bay. They are 8nm off and are willing to pay all expenses. We are arranging a tow now.	RECORD.  Shift Supervisor Bingham inf.
12/444 ✓	S.Lavis Sen Con	
27.12.98 9.15pm From Sgt Tillman Eden Police	We have a report that a vessel in the race called a mayday at 1735. The vessel is "BUSINESS POST NIAD". Can you tell me what steps have been taken to assist them. The informant states they are low on fuel and are distressed.	RCC canberra contacted aware of Mayday. On list.
12/445 ✓	S.Lavis Sen Con	From Peter Bush- Radio control cyc. This vessel has a race yacht on close standby. It is under its own steam heading for Eden. NFA at this stage.
	S.Lavis Sen Con	Info passed on to TILLMAN at eden
	S.Lavis Sen Con	10.15pm 27.12.98

New South Wales Police Service  
**GENERAL STATION PAD**

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No. ....

Date, Time and Action Required	Particulars	Police in Charge, Action/Result, Time, Date, Signature and Rank of Police involved
28.12.98 3.47am	AMBULANCE REQUIRED AT MERIMBULA	RECORD
From: Lorry Bredheuer RCC Canberra	Rescue Helicopter has picked up <u>three persons</u> from the yacht "Sword of Orion" and will be at Merimbula Airport by 4.30am and are requesting an ambulance to meet them. There are still <u>six persons</u> to be picked up.	S/C Mark BADE at Warilla Radio contacted and has arranged for ambulance to be at Merimbula Airport. Pambula hospital also advised.
12/450 / 452 /	REPLY: I will arrange for the ambulance to meet them at the airport.	 A. Brazzill 3.55am S/Cst 28.12.98
	 A. Brazzill S/Cst	
28.12.98 3.55am	RE: JOB NO 12/449 451	RECORD
To: S/Cst Craig Baker Eden Police	Approval has been given by Insp Wellings to utilise a trawler to tow the yacht in if required.	
	REPLY: Thank you but I have been in contact with the yacht and at this stage they are going to attempt to sail into Eden. We will not need to use another boat at this stage.	
12/451 / 453 /		
	 A. Brazzill S/Cst	
228.12.98 6.12am From Lawrie BREDHAUER AUSSAR.	Please arrange for an ambulance to meet a flight arriving at Merimbula Airport at 6.33am. It contains the six survivors from the "Sword Of Orion". Two are seriously injured.	Warilla radio advised and arranging. All six to Pambula Hospital.
12/452 454 /	 S. Davis Sen Con	
Seen 0630 28/12/98	 Sgt	12/325, 392, 393, 394, 400, 440
Seen 0700 28/12/98	 Sgt	