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Real Estate Post
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Christie murder trial:

Sex, drugs and death in Daglish

A Supreme Court judge and jury were told this week of a life of heavy drinking, casual sex and domestic conflict in the Daglish, Shenton Park and Floreat areas.

The outline of unhappy lives emerged from the first wave of 117 crown witnesses who will be called in the murder trial of Rory Christie, who is charged with killing his estranged wife Susan Christie.

The trial is set down for six weeks with a jury panel of 15, to be reduced to 12 when the time comes to reach a verdict late next month.

Defence lawyer Tom Percy QC said several people had motives and opportunities to kill Mrs Christie.

He said the killer of the woman described as a "lost soul" might appear in the court as a witness.

Crown prosecutor Troy Sweeney said Mr Christie visited Herdsman Drycleaners and left a floral tie among other garments on the day Mrs Christie disappeared, November 16, 2001.

Later, a floral tie owned by Mr Christie was found to have blood stains on it, and the blood belonged to Mrs Christie.

Mr Christie has pleaded not guilty to the wilful murder of Mrs Christie at her unit in Currie Street, Daglish, on or about November 16, 2001.

Mrs Christie's body has never been found. Prosecutor Troy

By BRET CHRISTIAN

Sweeney said it had been totally out of character for Mrs Christie not to contact her family and friends.

Her last known action was to make a phone call at 10.36pm on Thursday, November 15.

But Mr Christie's lawyer, Tom Percy QC, said Mr Christie denied having killed his former wife or knowing what happened to her.

He only accepted that the evidence was strongly suggestive that she was dead.

Mr Percy said Mr Christie had been at home with his partner all night on the night Mrs Christie vanished.

"He couldn't have killed his wife," Mr Percy said.

He said there was no evidence the tie Mr Christie put in at the drycleaners was the one with the blood-stains.

Mr Percy then made a statement to the jury.

"It is entirely possible you will see the real murderer give evidence as part of the prosecution case," he said.

He said there were other people with the opportunity and motivation to kill her.

Ms Sweeney outlined the Crown case against Mr Christie to the jury



Susan Christie, whose body has not been found.



Dr Andrew Dunn at the Supreme Court.

on the first day of the trial.

She listed a vast cast of characters, mostly from the Shenton Park area where Mrs Christie had variously lived in Harvey Road, Evans Street and

Keightley Road.

Mrs Christie was an intelligent woman with many friends and many lovers.

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Daily trip to a fake job

Rory Christie (34) dressed in an immaculate suit each morning, took his briefcase and laptop and his partner dropped him at the Daglish station.

But he had no job. "His life had been, in effect, a façade," prosecutor Troy Sweeney told the Supreme Court this week in her opening address.

The charade went on for weeks, the court was told.

Mr Christie would catch the train to the city and spend the day at the State Library, have lunch and coffee with friends and return home to Whitfield Street, Floreat.

He was reluctant to discuss his work day as a computer consultant with his partner, Michelle Terdich, a hairdresser he had met while having his hair cut at Circles, in Subiaco, after his separation from Susan Christie.

This reluctance became a point of tension between the couple. It came to a head when Ms Terdich looked in his briefcase and saw only a newspaper.

Mr Christie had no car, but had access to Ms Terdich's Ford Festiva.

The couple did not have joint finances. Mr Christie received money from his family in Canada.

He has been in custody since August 6 last year, when he was charged with wilful murder.

Doctor tells of meeting

A Darlington doctor told the Supreme Court how he met Susan Christie at a neighbour's 40th birthday party at the Darlington Hall.

Andrew Dunn (49), one of 117 witnesses who will be called, said he started talking to Mrs Christie at the

drinks table.

They spoke for 70 to 80 seconds, and he did not recall speaking to her again that night.

In answer to a question from defence lawyer Tom Percy QC, he denied having said later that night that he knew Mrs Christie lived in the Wembley area or that she was single with children.

Mr Percy put it to him that as he left the party, he had an argument with his then girlfriend Maree Bullard, when Ms Bullard accused him of flirting with Mrs Christie.

"She was concerned

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Georgia on our minds

The Georgia supporters' headquarters in Subiaco will be the focus of the Rugby Union World Cup launch next Wednesday.

The supporters are invited to a morning tea at Clancy's, in Subiaco Village, Hay Street (opposite Waldecks), to hear John O'Neill, Australian Rugby Union managing director, outline what to expect when World Cup Rugby Union hits town.

Georgia supporters have been practising their war cry - "Lelo, Lelo, Sakartvelo" ("Go Georgia, go!") - and they and a Georgian choir will be there to front the media and Rugby Union heavies.

There will be a \$10 charge for the 10.30am morning tea, with \$5 going to children's hospitals in Georgia and the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation.

The supporters' club, started by the POST, has raised more than \$4000

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Two-storey shock for Subi

A Nedlands man has won approval to build a two-storey home on Megalong Street, despite opposition from Subiaco council.

The Town Planning Appeals Tribunal has upheld the owner's objection to the Subiaco decision to refuse approval.

But Subiaco is now complaining about the

tribunal to Planning Minister Alannah MacTiernan and asking other local councils to join the fight.

Subiaco says its policies have been overturned and a dangerous

precedent has been set - at a cost of \$18,000 for this case.

It says: "It concerns the council that the tribunal should approve a dwelling that is contrary to two of the

city's key policies and is a dwelling that the city considers to be the very type which the scheme was engineered to prevent.

"The decision has effectively disabled the policies and the function they were intended to fulfil and has created a most undesirable precedent as to what is and what is not considered to have an adverse impact on adjoining residential sites or the general amenity of the locality.

"These issues need to be raised with the minister and the tribunal to provide the city with direction on how to protect the character which makes Subiaco



Architect's drawing of a house, to be built in Megalong Street, Nedlands, has upset Subiaco council.

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