

Alice gets new flat and kettle

Alice has a new home and a gleaming new kettle.

She said this week she was very happy after having been miserable for months since the Public Trustee sold her house while she was being treated in Graylands Hospital.

Two weeks ago, in desperation, Alice, a pensioner, had moved into a shabby two-level flat on Broadway, Nedlands, but had to confront a spiral staircase between her sleeping/living area and the toilet upstairs.

The POST reported on her plight last week after she and friends had asked Liberal Nedlands MP Sue Walker to help.

Alice's friend, Pip Gavranich, phoned several real estate agents to try to find her more appropriate housing.

Richard Young, at Caporn

Young, stepped in.

He said: "We were having a business meeting and everybody was talking about the reports in the POST about this poor old lady.

"We got in touch with the Public Trustee and then Alice.

"We took her and a man from the Public Trustee office to see the flat.

"She loved it and he approved it as suitable accommodation for her."

Alice moved in on Tuesday and stayed up until 3am arranging her furniture and possessions and setting out crockery for morning tea to thank the real estate team.

Alice has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and has to go to a clinic in Claremont for daily medication.



Alice invited the POST to take this photograph of her real estate agents Brad Mantle, Richard Young and Honour Woolhouse, presenting her new kettle. The POST has been threatened by the Justice Department with jail or a \$5000 fine if it identifies Alice, not her real name. Picture by Paul McGovern

When the Trustee sold Alice's home for \$157,000, the Trustee took a fee of \$3454, the real estate agent took \$5810 and her son was paid \$30,000 under orders of the Supreme Court.

The balance is being held by the Trust on behalf of Alice and she has to ask for money when she wants it.

Two weeks ago, when she asked for money to buy a kettle, the Trustee asked her to explain why she needed one.

Last week, she still had not been given any of her money to buy a kettle.

So Mr Young took a top of the range cordless stainless steel kettle to her new apartment.

Roberts threat to Walker

Justice Minister Michelle Roberts has agreed to help in the case of Claremont pensioner Alice and warned Liberal Nedlands MP Sue Walker she could risk a \$5000 fine or one year in prison because of her involvement with the case.

Ms Roberts told Parliament: "I am deeply concerned the member for Nedlands has chosen to become part of an attempt to exploit a vulnerable member of the community to try to score a few cheap points and make a hero of herself in the local newspaper.

"There are appropriate ways in which the member for Nedlands could have raised

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Karen Pryce-Howells spreads the wings of the exhausted American Petrel found pecking surfers at Cottesloe Beach.

Petrel runs on empty

A very tired southern giant petrel was pecking at the heels of surfers at Cottesloe after a long journey halfway around the world.

Blown in, thin and weakened by ocean storms, the two-year-old bird was found at North Cottesloe by local ranger Neil Ferridge.

The bird had a US coded tag around its leg, which might have been attached when was in the nest or if it had been previously injured.

Karen Pryce-Howells, who owns Native Arc, an animal shelter, said storms would have knocked the bird around and stopped it fishing properly.

It was the first petrel she had at her shelter this year but she expected up to a dozen.

With beaks sharp enough to tear flesh from whale carcasses, the birds are known to kill each other

if put in a cage together.

Karen said: "We've known them to eat fishermen's floats which get stuck and can't be digested."

The petrel, though wobbly on its feet and cranky from being handled, was not vicious as Karen held it, saying: "Going at a hundred miles to the gallon, aren't you?"

Karen said that after three weeks of fish and meat the petrel was expected to be released back at sea so it could continue migrating, following the whales to warmer climates.

She said anyone who found washed-up seabirds should contact the shelter rather than putting them to sea, which was the worse thing for them.

Native Arc, in Bibra Lake, is run by volunteers and on donations made by the community. It offers education talks for schools and can be contacted on 9417 7105.

Christie case jolts judge

A Canadian forensic report will not be used in Rory Christie's appeal against his conviction for the murder of his former wife, the Supreme Court was told this week.

Mr Christie has appealed against his conviction for the murder of Susan Christie at her flat in Daglish in 2001. He is serving a life sentence.

The appeal hearing is listed for late next month.

The report on the Christie evidence is from Canadian police officer Joseph Slemco, an in-

ternational crime scene blood expert.

At a preliminary directions hearing on Wednesday, a lawyer for Mr Christie, Sean O'Sullivan, told Justice John McKechnie that Mr Christie's legal team knew nothing in advance of press reports about the Canadian expert's inquiries (POST 19/6).

Justice McKechnie said it was surprising to read details of the report over cups of coffee in the western suburbs when there had been no mention of the forensic report in the

grounds of appeal submitted by Mr Christie's lawyers.

He said he was concerned that if the new material were included, the appeal might run longer than the four days allocated.

If the Court of Criminal Appeal had to be adjourned, it might not be possible to convene the appeal judges again until next year.

Mr O'Sullivan said that at this stage it was not planned to introduce the report into the appeal, and Mr Christie's legal team was ready to proceed.

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