

Two caught in murder trial spotlight

Two men in the hot seat over the disappearance of Susan Christie faced each other across a tense courtroom on Wednesday.

In the witness box was a Darlington doctor, and sitting a few metres away in the dock was Mrs Christie's ex-husband Rory Christie (36), who is facing trial for her murder in Daglish in November 2001.

Dr Andrew Dunn (51) sometimes became heated as he answered questions from Mr Christie's lawyer, Tom Percy QC.

Dr Dunn was questioned vigorously by Mr Percy about two missing women - Susan Christie and a former patient of Dr Dunn, missing Parkerville woman Sarah McMahon (20).

Ms McMahon was last seen five years ago in Claremont and her car was found at Swan Districts Hospital in Midland.

Dr Dunn said he knew the McMahon family as patients and they had bought his Parkerville house.

He had treated Sarah about six times, including when she fell from a horse.

He had returned once to the house and slept in it after it was re-sold.

He said he did not work at the Swan Districts Hospital.

His former wife, Pauline Vigus,

By BRET CHRISTIAN

told the court that Dr Dunn had not attended patients there since the late 1980s.

Justice John McKechnie rebuked Dr Dunn about six times when he raised his voice to Mr Percy, asked him questions and passed comments.

"Try not to trap me with your clever words," Dr Dunn said to Mr Percy.

He said it was "absurd and untrue" to suggest that he had been drinking bourbon with Mrs Christie on the afternoon of the last day she was seen alive.

"I have no need to construct alibis about anything," Dr Dunn said when questioned about trip Rottneet trip the weekend after Mrs Christie disappeared.

He accused Mr Percy of "creating a smokescreen that doesn't exist".

Dr Dunn's cross-examination began with questions about a letter and two videos of evidence he had sent to the Queen at Buckingham Palace in the early 1990s.

It involved child abductions, pornography and occult happenings, a Mundaring stabbing victim, alleged threats to the royal family if they visited



Rory Christie

Australia, and Australia's governor general.

"I didn't have any definite information," Dr Dunn told the court.

Dr Dunn said he had met Susan Christie only twice, fleetingly.

He did not know where she



Dr Andrew Dunn

lived, and there had been no other contact.

He said the first meeting was at the 40th birthday party of Darlington architect Andrus Budrikis.

He had met Mr Budrikis at the UWA Karate Club 20 years ago, and in 2001 they were living

close to each other in Darlington.

There were about 120 people at the party at Darlington Town Hall and he struck up a conversation with Mrs Christie while lining up at the bar.

The conversation lasted between 30 and 120 seconds, and he could recall nothing of it, except that they had exchanged names.

He next met Mrs Christie at Subiaco Markets, where she was with Kelli Budrikis, wife of Andrus.

Dr Dunn was with his then girlfriend, Maree Bullard.

He could not recall talking to Mrs Christie, but remembered chatting with Mrs Budrikis, who he described as "ebullient, extroverted and probably bombastic".

He said he could remember "no exchange of communication" with Mrs Christie.

He said that at the party, Maree Bullard had not made a scene about his attention to Mrs Christie, but about his conversation with a group of three other women.

"I was not flirting with Susan Christie," he said.

"I only saw her twice, in transient chance meetings.

"I never saw Susan again, I

• Please turn to page 73

• More reports, pictures pages 8 & 9.

'Ban those unhelpful TEE tables'

"League tables" that compare schools' TEE performance should be made illegal, says Garth Wynne, principal of Christ Church Grammar School.

In a letter to the POST, he said: "I challenge the state government to ban and/or make illegal publication of tables that compare individual schools.

"Such tables, which have unfortunately already led to public money being misdirected, are shallow and unhelpful and add nothing to the quality of educational outcomes for the students of WA."

His total opposition is an extraordinary public statement by the man who leads a school with 1200 boys.

He said: "I write on the eve of the 2005 TEE exams from the privileged position of being the principal of one of Australia's leading independent schools and also as a parent of a current Year 12 student.

"The issue of league tables and the associated public comparisons of individual school performance that will occur in early January 2006 are of great concern.

"Such league tables completely fail to represent my daughter's total school experience of the past 12 years and the quality of the experience of her current school.

"The league tables will inappropriately compare the supposed 'performance' of the school that I lead, the one that she attends and every other school in the state.

"The measures used fail to take into account the particular circumstances of individual schools and their communities and are completely unrepresentative of much of what is truly important in education.

"Publication of league tables has led to the unfair criticism of teachers and school administrations across all education sectors.

"Most recently, the comparisons have seen the spending of public money on programs that have no intent other than to ensure that some schools appear in the top part of these invalid comparative tables.

"The statistical material collected at the end of each school year by the Curriculum Council is highly valuable. It is important for the future planning of schools in whatever context. School administrators can use these performance measures in both TEE and Wholly School Assessed courses, to plan for improvement and to assess the success of innovations over time.

"Individual schools can set this information against their particular circumstances and evaluate their performance against realistic goals.

"The data also allows for individual students to be rewarded for their performance through the highly respected

Curriculum Council Awards.

"These wonderful young people deserve nothing less and these awards are a celebration of excellence, which all schools applaud.

"A portion of this same material is completely misused when creating the league tables that compare individual schools with each other.

"These tables present a confused message to the community of what is 'valuable' in education and are an exploitation of public information.

"I know that my daughter, her school, the school that I lead and all schools in our state, are each in a 'league of their own' because they are distinctive and unique."

Claremont dumps Multiplex

Claremont has thrown out Multiplex/Hawaiian's latest bid to build a big shopping complex in the town centre instead of the previously proposed urban village.

The plan, which includes a tunnel that one councillor said would create a "black hole", is the fourth in seven years to be considered by the council.

Eight of the nine councillors at a special council meeting this week voted against the \$125 million plan - a two-storey, scaled-down version of the "urban village" but with no apartments and

extra shop space and parking.

Councillors objected to the increased retail space, a central mall that would trap shoppers inside a big complex, a smaller town square - and mostly to a 50m tunnel formed by shops spanning over a new road through the western end of the shop block.

They also said they wanted a residential component to invigorate and help improve safety and security in central Claremont.

Councillor Diana Christian said the plan was "like transplanting a Booragoon or Karrinyup box into the middle of the town".

"It has no architectural merits and the tunnel will encourage crime," Ms Christian said.

Councillor Wendy Stephens said: "We have been talking about an urban village but have been asked to agree to a shopping centre."

Describing the western end of the town as "moribund" and in need of revival, councillor David

• Please turn to page 73

WIN a meal for 2 at Bellissimo's Claremont - see page 48

SHENTON PARK HOMES FOR SALE



433 Railway Road

Character 3 bedroom
2 bathroom home on a
650sqm block
For Sale \$635,000



20 Cuthbert Street

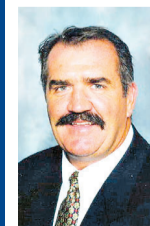
Charming 3 bedroom
timber home in quiet
street with pool
For Sale \$649,000



52 Aberdare Road

Character 3 bedroom
home with new kitchen
and bathroom
For Sale \$649,000

FREE PROFESSIONAL MARKET APPRAISAL



With Over 30 Years of Professional Service Call

Richard Coakley

Sworn Valuer, Cert Real Est. Mgt. CD

Mobile: 0407 387 943

BUYING and SELLING

with your area specialist

Office: 9386 7822

Web: www.shellabears.com.au

Shellabears

THE TRUSTED NAME IN PROPERTY SINCE 1925

Here's where we go...

The POST is local and relevant with the highest readership in the Western Suburbs. See www.postnewspapers.com.au

Each week 51,000 copies of the POST are distributed to every household and business in the western suburbs.

These suburbs are shown on the map on page 2. Extra copies are delivered to other selected riverside suburbs.

