

# Murder suspect drove Holden wagon



CCTV film: another victim, Jane Rimmer, sharing a joke with a mystery man minutes before she disappeared. See page 94

By **BRET CHRISTIAN**

**A young man warned murder victim Ciara Glennon not to get into a white Holden station wagon the night she disappeared from Claremont.**

The man and two others waiting at a bus stop near Christ Church on Stirling Highway saw her talking to the occupants of the car.

She had her knees bent and the palms of her hands resting on her knees to bring her down to the car's passenger window level.

One of the men called out to her that she was stupid to hitch-hike.

Ms Glennon looked up and waved him off with a middle finger sign, and

continued talking to the car occupants.

The young men at the bus-stop looked away. When they looked back, both Ms Glennon and the car had disappeared.

Ms Glennon's body was found in coastal scrub 40km north of Perth two weeks later.

She was the last of three young women who disappeared from central Claremont after leaving local nightspots.

The 27-year-old Mosman Park lawyer was seen standing on the footpath in Stirling Highway talking through the window to the occupants of the Holden.

Police have never released a description of the car.

So far no witnesses have come forward to say they saw her get into that car or any other.

Police have not been able to trace the Holden, its occupants or the occupants of the five other cars known to have been passing at the time.

They are very anxious to do so.

At a press conference on Thursday, Major Crime detective superintendent Jeff Byleveld said it was not clear whether or not the wagon was a taxi, and said witness accounts of it could not be confirmed.

But at least one of the young men is positive it was a white Holden station wagon without taxi markings.

It is a mark of honour among many

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## Science in dazzling display

**Egg races, model lighthouses and spectacular flaming grass trees marked national science week and the grand opening of an outdoor classroom at John XXIII College.**

The open-sided classroom, fitted with sinks and laboratory benches, could be hosed down after use, said science teacher Gerard McCann.

It is part of an environmental centre that includes chicken runs, fish ponds and a walled garden.

Students were set the challenge of building a 90cm working lighthouse from paper, foil, a short wire, a peg and sticky tape.

"The secret was to use the foil to make a circuit," Mr McCann said.

The lighthouses were tested for strength by standing them in front of a fan.



Students *Btadig Taylor*, left rear, *Simon Stobie*, *Max MacKenzie* and *Tahlia Norrish* watch grass trees burning, part of the transplanting process. Picture: *Robin Kornet*

## Lords hopes rise

By **GEORGE WILLIAMS**

**Lords sports complex may be saved – if Subiaco council can swing a deal through a door that opened a chink this week.**

Mayor Heather Henderson and acting chief executive Sue Burrows will start talks with Foxington, the Kerry Stokes-owned company that runs Lords.

The Subiaco team will replace chief executive Chester Burton, finance chief Scott Hawkins and consultant Ray Davy, who has handled talks in the past.

For more than a year, the council has been in conflict with Foxington, which holds a lease

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# Walker accuses Marmion of Sunset backflip

**Independent MP Sue Walker says her Liberal opponent Bill Marmion has changed his position completely on the issue of the riverfront Sunset site in Dalkeith.**

She said he had gone from urging development to now opposing it.

She said she first met him in 2004 when he was a consultant urging development of the site.

"He was lobbying on behalf of Hall and Prior, operators of nursing homes," she said.

"Others in the industry had told me that the old buildings at Sunset would not meet modern standards for nursing homes.

"He called at my office on Hampden Road and asked how he could join the Liberal Party. I put him in touch with the Curtin division office (in Floreat)."

Since that meeting she had found that Mr Marmion, who worked in the office of former Liberal Premier Richard Court, had handled the issue for the

Court government in 2000 – before she met him.

She said he had also canvassed residents around the Claremont campus of Edith Cowan University (the old Claremont Teachers' Training College) about housing being built here.

Last week, in a letter to a constituent, Mr Marmion said: "I am personally not in favour of selling off any land at Sunset; apart from being an A-class reserve, there is an opportunity to turn it into a valued community asset."

When asked to comment on Ms Walker's accusation, Mr Marmion said: "The people of Nedlands don't want a history lesson on what previous governments have wanted to do with Sunset Hospital in the past.

"They want to know what I am going to support at Sunset, if elected as their representative.

"I support the retention of the site as an A-class reserve and for no part to be sold off to the private sector for development as

housing or apartments.

"I also support the refurbishment of the heritage-listed buildings and for these buildings and the site to be opened up so they can be enjoyed by the public.

"If elected, I would seek the immediate relocation of the fence so the public can have access to the southern part of the site and enjoy the picturesque walk and river views.

"I understand that my stand on this issue is in line with the Liberal Party's position."

Ms Walker said she had consistently argued that Sunset must remain a public property and none of the land should be used for private housing.

But, she said, Mr Marmion had been co-author of the Symes-Marmion report to the Labor government which led to the legislation which could lead to the property being developed.

This had recommended a nursing home be built on the foreshore

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# Who is the mystery man speaking to Jane Rimmer?

By LOUISA HARDING

**Chilling images of murder victim Jane Rimmer laughing with a mystery man during the last recorded moments of her life were released this week.**

Dozens of people were milling around, but he was the only one not identified after 12 years, police said.

The film shows Jane (23) checked her watch after standing near security men in Bay View Terrace for 10 minutes before she disappeared from the film.

As police investigating the Claremont murders of 1996-7 finally went public with closed circuit TV footage recorded on the night she disappeared.

Other images show her checking her watch and waiting by the kerb in Bay View Terrace.

The footage shows Jane emerging from the Continental Hotel in Claremont shortly before midnight on June 9, 1996, and standing for nearly 10 minutes by a street lamp near the edge of the road.

At one minute after midnight, the footage shows a man approaching Jane from behind as she stands outside the hotel, and they have what Detective Superintendent Jeff Byleveld, from the Major Crime Division, calls "the briefest of interactions".

During that encounter, the man's back is to the CCTV camera, and Jane throws her head back and laughs as he walks up to her.

The man has an arm out with his palm facing upwards.

The man then walks south down Bay View Terrace before disappearing out of shot.

Jane stands alone on the edge of the footpath, clearly waiting.

She leans on the street lamp and looks south down Bay View Terrace, in the direction that the man who spoke to her was shown to be heading.

She stays there for nearly five minutes before disappearing out of shot, but the security footage - which jumps from camera to camera and skips some moments -



Jane Rimmer looks at her watch in Bay View Terrace.

doesn't show how she leaves her place on the footpath.

The footage is of very poor quality, captured by rotating CCTV cameras on Bay View Terrace.

It distorted a great deal of the detail of the scene, Mr Byleveld said, making it very difficult for investigators to give any reliable description of the man other than simply saying, "He is a man".

The man is seen only from the back, and appears to be wearing a pale top, but police cannot even say what colour that top might have been.

Similarly, they cannot say whether his hair - which appears dark in the footage - was in fact dark, or blonde.

Jane's blonde hair appears obviously blonde in the footage, and she is wearing jeans or trousers and a light-coloured top, and is carrying a dark-coloured jumper or a wrap, with a small handbag slung across her left shoulder and resting on her right hip.

Despite the footage being digitally enhanced by a film company involved in creating a documentary on the Claremont murders that went to air on Foxtel this week, the images are blurry and jump from one angle to another as the cameras rotate.

Police have released the footage, 12 years after Jane's murder, in the hope that the man in the footage will come forward, or be identified by someone else.

"Other people in that footage have been identified during our investigations, but the man who spoke to Jane is the only one outstanding,"

Mr Byleveld said.

"He remains the outstanding line of enquiry. We have done mapping of the people who were there that night, and no one else in the footage remembers him."

Before being publicly released this week, the footage has previously been shown to 700 people during the investigations, but the family of another murder victim, Ciara Glennon, was not one of them.

Mr Byleveld played down claims it was an error of judgment on the part of the Macro taskforce investigating the murders to keep the footage back from the public.

"It's a decision taken in an environment in 1996," he said.

"To start to criticise a decision of a group of intelligent investigators is wrong.

"I think they had concerns about the quality of the footage, and they didn't want to turn the public to one person only."

The investigations remained "very live", he said, as well as broad.

"Some 3000 people have been investigated."

He said investigators didn't want to narrow their investigations - or the information coming from members of the public - by making assumptions about the man in the footage.

"If we start drawing assumptions, we can go down roads that aren't correct," he said.

He said the footage was being released now in the hope that information from the public could help the Special Crime Squad identify and locate the man.

He conceded that 12 years after the murders, memories of the night of Jane's disappearance were less sharp, and the chance that the footage would lead to the man being identified were less than they might have been had the footage been released earlier.

"We've got to acknowledge the 12 years that have passed, and the movement of people that happens in that time," he said. "But it's never too late to release this information."

Det-Sgt Jim Stanbury, of the Special Crime Squad, said Jane

Rimmer's friends who were with her on the last night of her life had left the Continental Hotel in a group, including Jane, and headed around the corner from Bay View Terrace to a taxi rank in Guger Street.

Jane pulled away from the group, telling them she didn't feel like going home yet.

She then appeared outside the Continental Hotel on her own, in the footage released this week.

Mr Stanbury said her friends were of the opinion that Jane had gone back to the Continental to meet someone.

This raises the questions: were they right in thinking this, and was the person she was waiting for the man who spoke to her as he walked past her on Bay View Terrace on her last night?

## Car clue

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young men to instantly distinguish Holdens from their similar-looking rival Fords.

Ms Glennon disappeared around midnight on March 17, 1997. She had been drinking at the Continental Hotel, now the Claremont.

Young men in a car in Stirling Highway also feature in newly released information about the sighting of a car seen next to Sarah Spiers in Stirling Road more than a year earlier.

Ms Spiers (18) was the first of the three young women to disappear.

On Australia Day 1996, she vanished after calling a taxi from a phone box in Stirling Road, Claremont, diagonally opposite Christ Church.

The new information is that the young men in a car in Stirling Highway saw her cross Stirling Road to wait by the kerb.

They discussed offering her a lift as good samaritans, but decided against it. They then saw the headlights of a car arrive from the direction of the subway, and stop.

No trace of Ms Spiers has been seen since. Police have been unable to obtain a description of the car or had contact with its driver.

was from WA," she said.

"From the east, though, there were many offers of support.

"The difference was that the eastern states viewer had not been contaminated by eight years of negative and sensational media reporting on the case.

"Parents blame ABC for trio's acquittal" was a headline after the appeal court found the jury's verdict was unreasonable.

She said that in all cases of wrongful conviction she had covered, parents, and especially the mothers, had been unable to accept the ultimate verdict.

She said the WA media should now be pressuring the authorities to find out how Mr Walsham died. They should be campaigning for a cold case review.

## Juries

• From page 3

the news media, which nobody could escape.

He said that in the Walsham case, the three young men had been convicted in the news media before the trial began.

"Later, the jury convicted the men, and jurors were convinced they were right, even after the appeal court overturned their decision," he said.

Appeal courts had to consider whether a reasonable jury could have considered that the case was proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Three appeal judges concluded that the second Walsham jury's ver-

dict was "unreasonable and cannot be supported on the evidence".

Wendy Page, a producer with the ABC's Australian Story program, told the conference that Perth journalists had adopted a herd mentality about the case.

Crime reporters relied on police contacts and friendships and inevitably got caught up in the police version of events, she said.

She produced four episodes of the national program about problems with the convictions.

"I was astounded by the level of hostility I encountered in WA when I embarked on this story, even amongst some of my own Perth relatives," she said.

"One commercial television reporter told me the men were as guilty as hell.

"In the ABC newsroom in Perth - my own organisation - I heard I was being called a 'crim lover'. Imagine the pressure the jurors felt."

Only the POST looked more closely at the facts, she said.

She said it would be fairly remarkable if jurors were not affected by the negative media coverage.

"The wrath of Western Australia descended on the program after the first three episodes were broadcast," she said.

But the reaction from other states was completely the opposite.

"In the east the reaction was one of shock and even sadness about the conviction," she said, but from WA it was a "tsunami of abuse".

"Every abusive letter we received

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## Traffic a joke

• From page 10

councils and councillors have always struggled to understand the separation of executive responsibilities and councillor input.

I pity those poor Nedlands council staff who must wander around in a dazed stupor dominated by befuddled councillors with their personal agendas.

What a mess this country is in with its three financially draining and incompetent levels of government.

Don't get me wrong - I have met some excellent politicians and councillors in my time - but they tend to be in the minority and one bubble gets lost in the squeak of stupidity.

I am all for traffic control in the right areas - outside schools, kindies etc. But this example of what the Hollywood traffic management committee is doing to this area of Nedlands is mind-numbingly stupid.

Anyone driving along this road must wonder why this particular stretch of tarmac adjoining the ceme-

tery (yes that's right, the cemetery is on one side) and a very small number of resident homes with maybe three or, shock horror, four (yes four!) driveways directly entering this section of road - has attracted speed bumps and traffic islands every 50 or so metres.

These things would test any western suburbs four-wheeler and reduce normal vehicles to around 5km per hour to safely traverse without loss of undercarriage and exhaust system.

Is there some misunderstanding of what constitutes a black spot?

So what should we as humble citizens and ratepayers do? Well, we could sit back and shrug our shoulders. We could write a polite letter to Nedlands council and hope it comes to its senses.

We could pop the letter in the POST for more public comment.

We could invite all western suburbs four-wheel drivers to get their kids and take them for a Disney ride along Carrington Street every day for free and watch their glee as the four-wheeler is thrown into the air.

Grant Girdler

Godetia Gardens, Mount Claremont

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