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Totalled ... Bystanders mistook this Mazda sedan for a utility after Monday's crash. Photo: Billie Fairclough

Container truck in Curtin crash

By RHIANNON SHINE

A black Mazda was destroyed in a collision with a container truck in Curtin Avenue this week.

Neither driver was injured, but both were shaken.

Cottesloe CEO Mat Humfrey said the accident reaffirmed the council's position on Curtin Avenue's unsuitability as a heavy haulage route.

The collision happened on Monday morning as the woman driving the Mazda was rear-ended while turning at the corner of Salvado Street and Curtin Avenue.

Senior Constable Ral Herring said the truck driver had not been given enough time or distance to brake.

Mr Humfrey said the involvement of a container truck was



The container truck that hit the Mazda, the arrow showing where the car was projected across Curtin Avenue.

a worry.

In July, the council resolved to petition Cottesloe MP and Premier Colin Barnett and Transport Minister Dean Nalder to ban heavy vehicles from Curtin Avenue, designated for heavy vehicles.

Mayor Jo Dawkins said after Monday's accident: "Curtin Avenue is a local road, providing direct access to people's houses. "The road is shared with cyclists and schoolchildren." "It is not an appropriate route for heavy-haulage vehicles."

'Someone will die'

By LOUISA WALES

Cottesloe residents say Curtin Avenue is becoming increasingly dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists to cross and are frustrated that no pedestrian crossings are being put in place.

A buck-passing stand-off between Cottesloe council and Main Roads WA has led to inaction, as each claims that responsibility for the busy road lies with the other.

Ten years ago, Cottesloe MP Colin Barnett described Curtin Avenue in one of his electorate newsletters as a "disaster waiting to happen."

He also dubbed the road a "makeshift highway".

Finey Street resident Rebecca Boyce Cam, whose home is on

Every morning I see schoolchildren running across the road to get the train - it's kamikaze.

the corner of Curtin Avenue near the Forrest Street intersection, at Cottesloe railway station, said it was a matter of time before disaster struck.

"I've seen so many close calls," she said. "Someone's going to die on that stretch of road."

She said that from her front door she watched a parade of pedestrians through the day taking their chances crossing the road - schoolchildren dashing for the train, tourists lugging

suitcases, or young mums pushing prams.

"Every morning I see schoolchildren running across the road to get the train - it's kamikaze," she said.

"In the afternoons it's even worse. There are more trucks and lots of kids getting off the train after school."

Mrs Boyce Cam said the traffic and pedestrian dangers had worsened in the four years she had lived there.

"Curtin Avenue is a very busy road now," she said.

"The trucks are shocking - they just start to rev up at the Jarrad Street lights and get up speed, so when they reach the Forrest Street intersection, where people are pouring into and out of the Cottesloe station, they're charging along."

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CLAREMONT BREAKTHROUGH

Fourth serial killer victim



Sarah Spiers



Jane Rimmer



Ciara Glennon

By BRET CHRISTIAN

Police have made a positive link between an unknown rapist and the murderer of one of the three victims of the infamous Claremont serial killer.

The forensic link shows that the man who abducted a woman from a Claremont street late at night and sexually assaulted her in Karrakatta Cemetery in 1995, is the same man who murdered Ciara Glennon.

Police hope the breakthrough will lead to the arrest of the man who preyed on and murdered young women who had been partying in central Claremont in the mid-1990s.

Police have long linked three crimes, all assumed to be murders.

But it is now known that there is a link between at least one of the murders and an abduction and sexual assault where the victim survived.

Ms Glennon, a 27-year-old lawyer, was the last known

victim, in 1997, of the unknown man who became notorious Australia-wide as the Claremont serial killer.

She was last seen after leaving the Claremont Hotel around midnight on March 17. She was talking to someone in a white station wagon stopped on Stirling Highway, opposite Hungry Jack's.

The attacks by the same person are now known to span at least three years.

When the Claremont cold case investigation that uncovered the vital clue began in 2004, police announced that the cases of 16 missing women would be included.

The Special Crime Squad is actively investigating the mystery that began nearly 20 years ago with the disappearance of secretary Sarah Spiers (18) from Stirling Road in Claremont after she had left Club Bay View around 2am in January 1996.

On February 12, 1995, a year before the abduction of the first

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Andrew Forrest injured in cliff fall - page 3

Here's where we go...

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Fourth serial killer victim

• From page 1

known “serial killer” victim, Sarah Spiers.

The 17-year-old rape victim had left Club Bay View after midnight and was walking to a friend’s house in Gugerri Street, opposite the Claremont Showgrounds’ arena.

But she did not arrive. As she walked past Rowe Park opposite the Claremont subway, a man abducted her and forced her into what was described at the time as a van.

He tied her wrists with what was described as telephone cable, and her head was covered.

She later told police she did not see her attacker’s face.

She was driven into the darkness of a remote part of Karrakatta Cemetery, stripped and sexually assaulted then released.

She ran to the nearest visible light, the admissions section of Hollywood Hospital in nearby Monash Avenue, Nedlands, on the other side of the cemetery from Gugerri Street.

A few months after Sarah Spiers

disappeared, local child-care worker Jane Rimmer, who had been at the Claremont Hotel, disappeared.

She was thought to have been abducted walking east in Stirling Highway, Claremont. Her body was found south of Perth.

Ms Glennon’s body was found north of Perth and Sarah Spiers’ body has never been found.

That crime remains unsolved.

A 12-man squad has been working almost full-time on the Claremont serial killer case since the forensic link was made, with the help of advances in forensic science, in 2009.

Detectives are also keen to re-investigate any other attacks, sexual crimes, attempted abductions or even home invasions in the 1990s in case the same culprit was involved.

This could provide small but important links to the killer police seek. Since then, detectives have interviewed and re-interviewed thousands of people in the hope of completing the link, so far without success.

The breakthrough forensic link has led police to abandon their focus on a Cottesloe public servant, where they had focused most of their resources for many years.

Perth metropolitan media at the time freely referred to him as the chief suspect.

The cold case squad has also eliminated former Claremont mayor Peter Weygers, whose home was raided in 2004 after a tip from a clairvoyant.

When, in 1997, the POST published the opinion of a US crime expert that the first place to start looking for the culprit was the cemetery attacker, WA police issued a press statement asking the media not to publish the views of outside experts.

Detectives at the time said the cemetery and Claremont serial killer attacks were not linked.

They have now totally changed their view. They believe all four crimes, all blitz attacks, were sexually motivated and linked to the same man.

Van a life changer for Rachael

• From page 9

The Mosman Park club donated the remaining \$9550.

Club member John Law said strict Japanese emission controls meant cars in Japan were replaced every 10 years, making it cheaper to import it.

“I did a lot of research and found it would cost \$40,000 to buy a similar van in Australia and another \$30,000 to get it converted,” he said.

The Alphard is custom-built for people with disabilities and has been a blessing for Judy and Rachael.

“It’s beautiful, except the sat-nav talks to me in Japanese!” Judy said.

“The seat lies down and goes into one big bed, which is great if we go out and Rachael gets sick.

“It’s made a big difference. Before, we could only use the manual chair, not the electric one.

“I had to push her and I am not as young as I used to be.”

Last Monday night Rachael was at the Mosman Park Men’s Shed to thank the Rotary club members and tell them how the van had changed her life.

She is doing an online writing course and hopes to write a book about her life or a children’s book about soreness and pain.

She has also become an ambassador for Rocky Bay.

“I believe that I was given this illness for a reason,” she said.

“I would like to speak at school and corporate charity events about my illness to bring about awareness of EDS.

“Through awareness, maybe one day there could be a cure or at the very least some relief from the pain and suffering.”

Judy said the Alphard was easy to drive and park, making it easy to take Rachael to speaking events.

“Before, she had to say no to a lot of events, but now we can go anywhere,” Judy said.

“It’s really good for her because she can’t work but she wants to make people understand her disease.”

Rachael said EDS would shorten her life to about 40.

“But I don’t want my life to be a waste, I want to help make a difference,” she said.

“I want to speak out and raise awareness.”

She said Rotary helping raise the money for the van would make her dream of speaking out come true.

Rachael can be contacted on rachaelmr97@gmail.com for speaking engagements.

Ban on panels

• From page 9

still be installed above this height,” he said.

“They could be up to 1.5m above the maximum height.

“On sloping terrain where the living area of one house overlooks the roof of another, this can have a devastating impact on outlook.”

He said the panels needed regulating because of the big area they occupied.

He said with their reducing cost, increased efficiency and cheaper battery storage, solar panels would become more popular.

The sloping terrain in the Saunders Street area meant elevated solar panels would obstruct people’s views, he said.

“To avoid this scenario occurring, the petition is requesting that for the Saunders Street precinct all new panels are erected flush or nearly flush with the roof,” he said.

CEO Kevin Poynton accepted the petition, saying council staff would analyse the petition and report back to the council.

Wheels fall off free parking push

• From page 28

Councillor Stephanie Stroud put up an alternative motion that went further and called for free all-day Sunday parking.

This would support the new markets and coming Christmas shopping, she suggested in her motion.

Councillor Murray Rowe also had an alternative motion, which suggested that two hours’ free parking on Sundays should be introduced at council-owned carparks on both sides of Rokeby Road, between Bagot Road and Hay Street, when the new markets opened.

He also proposed that bays in and around several council carparks should have a 30-minute limit, to encourage turnover.

“The initiative to provide some 30-minute bays to replace those lost on Rokeby during market days is simply to keep general business ticking over,” Mr Rowe said in his motion.

“This is particularly important for those businesses less reliant on market-goers.

“We wouldn’t want to see any more businesses closing on Saturday afternoons or Sundays due to lack of access.”

At the start of the debate on the issue, Ms Matheson said Mr Rowe, who sits next to her in the council chambers, had a proximity and financial declaration to make and leave the meeting.

Mr Rowe is an owner of Friendlies pharmacy in Rokeby

Road, which backs on to the carpark between Coles and Crossways Shopping Centre.

It would have been one of the carparks affected by the changes.

Mayor Heather Henderson said it was up to elected members to make declarations at meetings.

Mr Rowe said his shop was separated from the carpark by a lane at the rear of his premises and did not make a declaration.

Ms Matheson repeated her belief he should make a declaration but the motion lapsed for lack of a seconder.

Ratepayer group attacks

• From page 4

He said his job was to implement council decisions.

If he had not hired lawyers, the council would not have been represented in court, Mr Buckley said.

The verbal assault on Mr Buckley was a shift in focus for the group, which has for months targeted mayor Simon Withers with questions.

Ms Shannon and Mr Withers are both lawyers.

Ms Shannon directed some remarks to the mayor on Tuesday.

“In my opinion, you are trying to give Mr Buckley retrospective approval for a decision he has already made,” she said.

“You have nailed him K,” Mr

Timmermanis said from the public gallery.

Ms Shannon said: “Why don’t you just let the judge make the decision and abide by the umpire’s decision?”

Mr Withers said that if someone sued the council, it responded, which was what organisations did.

“You have sued everyone else, why leave him out?” he said to Ms Shannon, referring to Mr Buckley.

In the past months, ratepayers have been allowed up to two hours at the start of council meetings to ask questions.

After about 45 minutes on Tuesday, deputy mayor Alan Langer proposed the council move on to other business on the agenda.



Builder Brad Ross says the property has been shored and propped to prevent further cracking.

Tenants left homeless after wall collapses

• From page 3

Sophia said it was hard to find help because she was from New Zealand and Nic was American so they did not know the appropriate organisations to contact for support.

“There’s no one to really turn to,” she said.

“So we just have to pack up and go.

“We don’t have a leg to stand on legally.”

Cottesloe CEO Mat Humpfrey confirmed the council had asked Sophia and Nic to leave.

“We are investigating whether or not all of the conditions of the building licence were being met at the time the portion of wall collapsed,” he said.

“An assessment is still being made of the damaged house to identify what work is required.”

Mr Ross said he had not contacted the tenants again because it was his insurance assessor’s job to communicate with them.

He said on Monday he understood Sophia and Nic had been contacted by his insurance assessor.

“While this is being investigated it’s in the best interest of all parties to leave it to the insurance assessors,” he said.

“As far as we’re concerned we have done everything by the book.

“All the necessary insurance policies have been put in place.

“I have devoted a hell of a lot of time to this since it happened [but] I can’t get too involved.

“The tenants are definitely being kept up to date.

“I’ve spent the last hour trying to find them accommodation just off my own bat.

“It’s not my fault it happened.

Mr Ross said everything had gone to plan until the wall came down.

“There was an issue – it wasn’t an accident – nothing negligent.

“But I can’t really say anything else while it’s being investigated.”

Peard Real Estate licensee Sam Mannino said the owners of 169 Curtin Avenue lived interstate.

“They are disappointed but obviously it’s done now,” he said.

“In the meantime, the poor tenants have been left out in the cold.”

Mr Ross said he was shocked and disappointed the incident had occurred.

“We always diligently follow correct procedures and standards,” he said.

“BRH engaged fully qualified and insured contractors to carry out the works on the development.

“We immediately ensured the structure was adequately shored and propped to prevent further cracking.

“The property was inspected by an assessor that day and a structural engineer the following morning.

“Both parties deemed the structure to be well supported.

“The incident is still being investigated. However, it is our professional opinion that the resulting damage can be effectively remediated to its original condition without delay.”