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Photo: Jane Wishaw

Lifesavers sleigh beach crowds

While Santa the jolly fat man needs a sleigh to get around, 23 fit young lifesavers were eager to help him spread Christmas cheer.

For the second Christmas, members of the Swanbourne Nedlands Surf Life Saving Club

took to the beachfront with gifts of milk, biscuits and the best of Christmas wishes.

Relaxing and picnicking beachgoers smiled, laughed clapped and took photos as the Santas and elves arrived at Cottesloe, having run all the

way from Swanbourne.

"At Swannie surf club, we have a strong community focus," club captain Chris Bettridge said.

"We use our Santa fun run as a chance to promote a healthy lifestyle and spread Christmas joy, and the kids

we pass by love it.

"It's also good training for a run that we have each year as part of the Swanny Ocean Classic."

On February 6, up to 1000 participants are expected to swim, run or paddle the same 2km route from Swanbourne

to Cottesloe.

After this Christmas's Swannie Santa run, the men and women in red suits took over a bar at the Cottesloe Beach Hotel and raised the rafters with Jingle Bells and other Christmas songs.

Teen lured into Claremont car

By BRET CHRISTIAN

A woman has described her apparent attempted abduction in central Claremont the year before the first known attack by the Claremont serial killer.

The woman gave the POST details of the unreported incident following the paper's publication of new evidence that police hope will lead them to the killer (POST, December 5).

She said she believed the incident had happened in 1994, when she was 18 and out on the town in Claremont with her husband and brother.

The teenager found herself alone in a big carpark late at night when a man approached and asked for her help in finding his car keys.

He said he thought he had lost them down the back of the driver's seat of his car, a white Holden Commodore.

She opened the front door of the car, but the stranger said it would be much easier to find the keys from the back seat.

She got in the back seat and was groping for the keys when

SERIAL KILLER

she felt the presence of the man behind her, and very close to her.

At that moment her brother, who had been urinating in a secluded spot, turned up and said: "What the hell are you doing?"

She said she and her brother quickly moved on and she did not see if the car had left.

‘What the hell are you doing?’

The POST has passed on to police other details, including a description of the man and the identity of the teenager, which it has chosen not to publish.

"It was weird but nothing really happened," the woman said. "I did not see at the time that it might have been significant, and did not report it."

It was not until a year later that another teenager who had



Sarah Spiers Jane Rimmer Ciara Glennon

been to a nightclub in central Claremont was abducted, blindfolded, tied up and driven to Karrakatta Cemetery, where she was sexually assaulted by the man now known as the Claremont serial killer. She survived ("Fourth serial killer victim", POST, October 17).

The next year, 1996, Sarah Spiers (18) was abducted from a Claremont street after visiting the same nightclub, followed a few months later by Jane Rimmer (23) and Ciara Glennon (27) in 1997.

While there is no firm evidence to connect the car-key man to the serial killings, experts in the field say it is very likely the killer would have been familiar with Claremont and responsible for other abductions or attempted abductions before and after the known "Claremont series".

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Locals may help police

Claremont mayor Jock Barker has called on local people who may have further information that may help police identify the Claremont serial killer to come forward.

"Many young people from the western suburbs left for overseas when the investiga-

tion was at its height," he said.

"Those now returning or visiting might be surprised to learn that there is still an active investigation into the murders that so shocked our community," he said.

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*Source: Roy Morgan Research, September 2015

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