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Vol 47 No.39

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September 26, 2020

# GUILTY



## Ciara nails Edwards

By BRET CHRISTIAN

**Ciara Glennon's last defiant act towards her murderer scratched out the one piece of evidence that ensures Bradley Robert Edwards probably never walks free again.**

Her obstinate refusal to give up meant that her killer was caught and convicted of two murders.

Fierce and tenacious is how the family and friends described the diminutive 1.52cm (five-foot) lawyer, who took on her much taller and heavier armed murderer, a Telstra technician.

Callously, Edwards stabbed her left arm to the bone twice, cut her throat and slashed her face.

But the tiny fragment of his DNA lodged under her torn left thumbnail led directly to his day of shame in court on Thursday.

Edwards hung his head after Justice Hall told him to stand while he was read the guilty verdicts for the wilful murders of Jane Rimmer and Ciara Glennon.

Earlier, he shook his head three or four times when Justice Hall reached points in his verdict where he concluded Edwards used his work vehicle to abduct Jane in 1996 and Ciara in 1997 from the streets of Claremont, nine months apart.

The judge said that DNA, fibre and similarities in the victims and their abductions from Claremont proved both were murdered by the same man.

He found Edwards not guilty of the wilful murder of Sarah Spiers in January that year.

He said the propensity evidence made it likely that Edwards murdered Sarah, but the evidence did not prove this beyond reasonable doubt.

No physical evidence was found connecting that murder to anyone. Ms Spiers's body has not been found.

Sarah's parents Don and Carol Spiers looked bewildered, then ashen-faced, when they realised nobody had been held responsible for their 18-year-old daughter's death.

They were hugged by the prosecutor Carmel Barbagallo after the judge had left the court.

Surviving victims of Edwards and their families were heav-



Telstra technician Bradley Robert Edwards in 2005.



Ciara Glennon



Jane Rimmer

**One brave survivor wiped away tears after Thursday's verdicts.**

ily represented in court on Thursday morning when Justice Hall read a six-page summary of his verdict.

They had been present for much of the trial that spanned seven months and heard from 240 witnesses.

Jane's elderly mother Jeni Rimmer, who was present on the first day of the trial, was in court to finally face Edwards as her daughter's murderer. Her husband Trevor died in 2008.

One brave survivor wiped away tears after Thursday's verdicts.

She had been aged 17 in February 1995 when Edwards abducted her from Rowe Park in Claremont, gagged, hooded and tied her before taking her in his Telecom van to Karrakatta Cemetery where he twice sexually assaulted her.

She was a regular presence in the public gallery during the trial.

Edwards had not once looked at her or at the courtroom corner of pain where the victims and their families watched proceedings.

• Please turn to page 31

## Garden variety murderer

**The scariest visible quality of Bradley Robert Edwards is his ordinariness.**

He does not have a bolt through his neck like a character in a horror movie. His knuckles don't drag on the ground.

He looks ordinary. He has a sense of humour, laughs easily and can be engaging.

He once lived, worked and played in the community, even received awards for community service at the local athletics club.

We saw his relaxed, jocular side via video link from jail before an unscheduled court hearing in March, a big contrast to the rigid face he presented over seven months of court hearings.

"Garden variety, average," was one local's recollection of a teenaged Bradley Edwards from his life at the family home in Gay Street, Huntingdale, near Gosnells.

He still lived in the suburb as a married man in the mid-1990s when the Claremont serial killings began.

Female neighbours and acquaintances recalled this week how, at the height of the fear from the murders, they reassured each other that they were safe because they lived so far from Claremont.

They did not connect him at the time with an earlier spate of thefts of women's bras and underwear from local clotheslines.

Edwards was born in Merredin in 1968, the first child of Bruce and Kaye, who lived in a caravan.

Bruce was a Telecom phone installer who roamed the southwest of WA with his growing family, Bradley eventually the eldest of three children.

Bruce became a real estate agent and the family settled on a semi-rural holding in Huntingdale. Bradley attended Huntingdale primary and Gosnells high schools.

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Each week 52,000 copies of the POST are distributed, reaching 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.

















# We will never give up on Sarah: Dawson

• From page 3

“I think we all just wanted to have our own grief, that’s what I saw ... just thinking about the Spiers all the time – hope they get the result they need.”

Ms Rimmer was the only family member to address waiting journalists.

The others, including the parents of Bradley Edwards, left without speaking.

Mr Dawson said it was an important day for justice in WA.

“The Claremont killings struck at the heart of our way of life stretching back almost a quarter of a century,” he said.

He said there were many lives affected by Edwards’ crimes and many to thank for bringing him to justice.

“We must also recognise the devastation and serious crimes committed on those other women that Bradley Edwards has admitted and is now also convicted of,” Mr Dawson said.

“These victims and the witnesses must be commended for their courage and their resilience.

“I acknowledge and thank all those family members for their strength and resilience.”

He said he spent some time with

those family members immediately after the verdict.

“They have carried themselves and continue to with patience, grace and dignity under the most tragic of circumstances,” he said.

Mr Dawson said the verdict was a testament to the many years of work and “never give up” attitude of WA police officers and others.

“The current team that stand behind me today are one of over 700 police and analysts and forensic experts that were directly allocated to investigate these crimes which stretch back 32 years,” he added.

“Many hundreds more police were involved in painstaking land searches, in answering tens of thousands of phone calls and other work over the years.

“We can all be immensely proud of those officers and the contribution they have made over many years.”

He also thanked forensic experts from PathWest and WA’s ChemCentre and their international colleagues for the “vital forensic evidence” they brought to court.

He said there were too many international law enforcement groups,



Sarah Spiers before she went missing in January 1996.

profilers, analysts and members of the community who came forward with information to mention and thank individually.

But he did thank the Director of Public Prosecutions Amanda Forrester SC and her deputy Carmel Barbagallo SC.

“To Carmel Barbagallo and her supreme prosecution team at the DPP we are in awe of your dedication, we are in awe of your skill and unswerving commitment to prosecute Bradley Edwards,” he said.

“It must be remembered that the DPP also secured crimes against two other young women in the lead up to these proceedings today.”

## Contamination debunked

• From page 6

must have evaded all cleaning measures, which included bleaching testing surfaces after each test.

On this matter, the judge referred to the evidence of Dr Whittaker, who said during the trial that this was an “inordinately long” period of time for DNA to randomly survive in a laboratory.

It was Dr Whittaker who emerged as one of the central witnesses in the successful case against Edwards.

It was at Dr Whittaker’s Birmingham laboratory, the Forensic Science Service, that the key breakthrough had been made in 2008.

Dr Whittaker pioneered what is termed “Low Copy Number” DNA testing, which amplified a DNA profile to an extent not previously possible.

In December 2008 a full male profile was obtained from beneath Ms Glennon’s fingernails; a male profile that the judge found matched that of the male DNA detected on the Karrakatta victim.

It was Dr Whittaker’s conclusion that this fact made it even more unlikely that Edwards’ DNA was there by contamination.

“The only rational explanation for the presence of the DNA at that time is that it was deposited under the nails of Ms Glennon as she fought against her attacker shortly before her death,” the judge said.

“I am satisfied beyond reasonable doubt.”

## Cambridge Notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE FIREBREAK NOTICE 2020/2021 BUSH FIRES ACT 1954

#### Town of Cambridge Appointment of Bush Fire Control Officers 2020 - 2021

In accordance with Section 38 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 the following officers have been appointed Bush Fire Control Officers:

**Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**  
Steve Cleaver

**Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer**  
Mark Allies

**Bush Fire Control Officers**  
Corey Parkinson, Joanna McBride, Katrina Curtis, Luke Lawrence, Shane Nicholls, Simon Millington, Susan Stevens.

All previous appointments are hereby cancelled. Enquiries in relation to this Notice may be directed to Ranger Services, Monday to Friday between 8:00am and 4:00pm, on 9347 6000.

#### Town of Cambridge Firebreak Notice 2020 - 2021 to all Property Owners and Occupiers

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are hereby required, on or before **2 November 2020** or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier after **30 September 2020**, to remove from the land owned or occupied by you, all flammable material and/or clear firebreaks in accordance with the following land areas and thereafter to maintain that land or firebreaks up to and including **31 March 2021**:

##### Where the area of the land is less than 2000 square metres:

Slash/mow all grass to a height no greater than five (5) centimetres and remove all slashed materials and other flammable matter from the land. This standard must be maintained until 31 March 2021.

##### Where the area of the land is greater than 2000 square metres:

Slash/mow all grass to a height no greater than five (5) centimetres and remove all slashed materials and/or install a firebreak of three (3) metres wide, clear of all bush and flammable material along all external boundaries of the land. This standard must be maintained until 31 March 2021.

If it is considered impracticable to clear a firebreak or to remove flammable material from the land as required by this notice, an application to the Town of Cambridge in writing may be made prior to **9 October 2020**, for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions or to take alternative action to mitigate the fire hazard. Until written permission is received from the Town, compliance with this notice is required.

Burning off is strictly prohibited within the Town of Cambridge. The penalty for failing to comply with this notice is a fine of up to \$5,000. If the works are not carried out by the date required in this notice, the owner of the land is liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay all costs for performing the works directed in this notice.

**JOHN GIORGI, JP  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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## Gallery packed for height fight

• From page 14

will be an eyesore in our neighbourhoods for decades to come.

“We urge the council to reject the draft local development plan.

“We are not opposed to developing the site but urge the council to support a development more in line with LPS3’s height limit of three storeys, the character of our neighbourhood and the wishes of our residents.”

Brett McGuire, who lives in Wellington Street next door to the proposed buildings, raised laughter when he said that two years ago the council knocked back his application to put an open-sided double carport on the front of his house, because it added bulk to the landscape and didn’t fit in with the streetscape.

He said the transport and traffic reports provided with the LDP were misleading and did not address the impact on the community appropriately.

“These traffic increases on already busy streets are significant,” he said.

“From a personal perspective the impact on our wellbeing would get unquestionably worse.”

He said traffic on the proposed centre access, Turnbull Way, would increase 6500% and would pass his children’s bedrooms at all hours of the day.

The exponentially increased traffic volume along Turnbull Way would affect his children’s sleeping patterns “with ample science informing the impact on learning of regular sleep disruption”.

Other speakers raised concerns about inadequate consultation with residents, increased traffic congestion, parking, noise, the

size and number of studio and one-bedroom apartments, the loss of the village atmosphere and community amenity.

Most speakers said they were not against redevelopment of the site but wanted it to comply with TPS3.

Mosman Park director of planning and operations Amy Nancarrow said there were a number of processes to go through before an application was approved or not approved by the council.

“When it goes to the next process for development approval, it then involves the state government,” she said.

“They can have regard for, or not be bound by, a local development plan.”

Mayor Brett Pollock said the public consultation period had been extended to October 16 and the council intended to hold a “meet the planner” event for residents to discuss their concerns.

He said the council hadn’t approved anything and would consider all the public and community comments and the officers’ recommendations before making any decisions.

“So no decisions have been made,” he said.

“When an application is put in we have to consider it and understand what the community wants.”

ADC director Adam Zorzi said the initial proposal would be open for public comment until mid-October.

“From this stage, a development application will be finalised and lodged, and more detailed information about the project confirmed and shared with the community,” he said.

He said the plans would continue

to be refined as they worked with the council and took in community feedback.

“We’ve put a huge amount of time into considering a development that would enhance the local community with new living, shopping and lifestyle options,” he said.

“The lead architect for this project grew up in Mosman Park and knows the area well, and our brief to him was to come up with a design that would showcase the best a neighbourhood centre could be – one that delivers great new community and public spaces, high-quality landscaping and greenery, convenience and places to meet, eat and relax.

“Mos Lane has been designed to provide a new village heart for Mosman Park.”

Mr Zorzi said some misinformation about the project had been circulated in the community.

“I’d encourage anyone looking for the most up-to-date and accurate information available on our proposal to visit moslaneinfo.com.au,” he said.

## Cambridge Notice

### Planning and Development Act 2005

### ADVERTISEMENT OF RESOLUTION TO PREPARE A LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME TOWN OF CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME NO. 2

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Cambridge Council of the local government of the Town of Cambridge on 25 August 2020 passed the following resolution:

That Council:

1. APPROVES the Administration to prepare a new Local Planning Scheme with reference to the entirety of the Town of Cambridge and as shown on the Scheme Area Map (Attachment 2), pursuant to Part 4, Division 1, Section 19(1) of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 and Part 5, Division 1, Section 72(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2005;

Dated this day 25th of September 2020

**JOHN GIORGI, JP  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



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## Mayoral hopefuls urge residents to vote

• From page 29

Channel7 TV presenter and newspaper columnist Basil Zempilas said expanding the free CAT bus service through Nedlands and Crawley was something he would champion if elected as Lord Mayor.

“The ratepayers and residents have told me it is a top priority for them, which means it’s a top priority for me,” Mr Zempilas said.

“Also a solution is required for the current inadequate on-street parking options for residents living in Nedlands and between the hospitals and UWA.”

Di Bain, a former journalist at the ABC who has served as a chair of Activate Perth, said she also would support the extension of the CAT bus through Crawley and

Nedlands, but would not support a King’s Park cable car.

She would also focus on stimulating the night-time economy of West Perth by bringing night markets to the area, as well as making parking free after 6pm and at weekends.

The election will be on Saturday October 17, with ballots to be sent out to all eligible voters roughly three weeks before that date.

It will be conducted via postal voting, but a ballot box will be available from Monday, on the ground floor of the Perth council offices, for those who want to return their vote in person.

The City of Perth encourages ratepayers to get in contact via phone or email if they have not received their ballot papers.

Polls will close at 6pm on the day of the election.