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December 26, 2020

## Celia Hammond cops war crimes rebuke

By BEN DICKINSON

The head of the Australian Defence Association has rebuked Curtin MP Celia Hammond for "denial" of war crimes allegedly committed by the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR).

Australian Defence Association executive director Neil James said Ms Hammond's speech was "driven by denial".

The SAS regiment, based at Swanbourne's Campbell Barracks, has been in turmoil since the Federal Government's Brereton Report found evidence

of the unlawful killing of 39 unarmed Afghan civilians between 2005 and 2016.

Ms Hammond said the angst was felt by more than 1000 veterans and their families who live in the western suburbs.

SASR's 2 Squadron has been disbanded and Prime Minister

Scott Morrison has appointed a special investigator to prosecute soldiers.

In a speech to Federal Parliament last month, Ms Hammond said the actions of "a small number of people" should not cause defence personnel to be "universally demonised".

"No-one contests that the allegations against a small number of people involved with the SAS, which are detailed in the report, are extremely disturbing," Ms Hammond said.

"But there is enormous concern, anger and dismay that all • Please turn to page 37



## Santa swaps his reindeers

By JANE WISHAW

In the year that Cottesloe had to cancel its Christmas Carols, Christmas cheer was brought to the beach on Sunday evening for everyone to enjoy.

Dashing through the sand was Chris from Kalamunda Camels, together with Santa and his fun-loving elves.

"It's very special to see all the smiles and hear the laughter from the children with their parents on the lawns and along the sea shore," Cottesloe mayor Phil Angers said.

"I'm delighted we could bring a little festive spirit to the beach.

"I hope it's going to be a good Christmas for everyone ... and for those who can't be at home with their families that they are able to join with friends wherever they are.

"God bless from the Town of Cottesloe."

Cottesloe beach will be patrolled including Christmas Day from 8am until 6pm.

Santa's camels were at home on the beach sands, walking with Cottesloe mayor Phil Angers while Santa's helpers Rachael, Hannah and Daisy on Santa's camels rode into the sunset, to the delight of picnickers and beachgoers. Photo: Jane Wishaw

## EDWARDS 'TO DIE IN JAIL'

I used to call him a monster but he is a coward



Bradley Robert Edwards

By BRET CHRISTIAN and HUGO TIMMS

Bradley Robert Edwards, the Claremont killer, will rot in jail at least until he becomes eligible for parole at the age of 88.

"The Attorney General who will consider his release is still in primary school," senior criminal lawyer Tom Percy said after the verdict.

Families of murder victims Jane Rimmer and Ciara Glennon believe it is a just sentence "but it will never replace their loved ones", said Police Commissioner Chris Dawson.

He called Edwards evil.

Families of victims, survivors and their supporters applauded loudly when Justice Stephen Hall sentenced Edwards to the longest stretch without parole in WA's history.

The judge called Edwards "pitiless and remorseless", but said the case was not extreme enough for life without parole.

A window was provided into the grief Edwards caused by



Ciara Glennon Jane Rimmer

two survivors of his crimes, who personally told Justice Hall of the harrowing life-long effects of Edwards' attacks.

One survivor, now aged 43, told of the "most horrific night of my life" when she was aged 17, and the trepidation she felt sitting in the courtroom on Wednesday telling of her enduring pain with Edwards sitting in the dock.

But like the other victim, she appeared to become empowered as she looked straight at Edwards, who looked back, and told her truth.

She said she and her family once called him a monster.

But on Wednesday she faced him directly and called him a coward.

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## DUET

### Season's Greetings

From our family here at DUET, we wish you and your family a safe, restful and happy holiday season.

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The POST is local and relevant with the highest readership in the Western Suburbs. See [www.postnewspapers.com.au](http://www.postnewspapers.com.au) Each week 51,990 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.



# Victims relive horror attacks

By HUGO TIMMS

**Bradley Robert Edwards is no evil mastermind, rather he is the "definition of a coward", said the woman he raped in Claremont in 1995.**

"You preyed on weak and vulnerable women ... how pathetic," the woman, whose identity is suppressed, said.

On Wednesday, more than a year since his trial for the Claremont Serial Killings began, Edwards was sentenced by Justice Stephen Hall.

Showing confidence and courage the women, 17 and 18 respectively when he attacked them, sat metres from him as they read aloud their victim impact statements.

The woman who he raped at the Karrakatta Cemetery, aged 17 at the time, told Edwards directly that she hoped he was treated as well in prison "as you have treated us."

"I have found joy that you are to be locked behind bars," she said.

"Suffering behind the bars of your own crippled mind."

Luckily she was not murdered, unlike Jane Rimmer and Ciara Glennon.

Yet the pain and the terror that Edwards subjected her to, in which she was gagged, bound, hooded and repeatedly raped before she was left in bushes at the Karrakatta Cemetery, have remained for life.

"You don't ever recover from sexual assault; it is a life sentence," she said.

"It was a night of so much terror and so much pain, it is hard to know where to begin."

She said she struggled to sleep, could not eat, lost clumps of hair and has endured 25 years of paralysing anxiety.

"I'll never be able to truly convey the impact of being captured and deprived of my liberty," she said.

"I was picturing my own gravesite."

"Then I actually had to survive it."

"It is the loneliness ... the deep, gut-wrenching loneliness that no-else can understand."

"So much is taken from you so quickly... your dignity, your security... my home."

She said that Claremont was all she knew - it was where she shopped, socialised, learnt to drive and lived with her family.

"It was my complete childhood, and where I felt safe," she said.

"After that night it became something different."

"Cruelly, it has continued to be so."

Not only has she suffered great psychological trauma because of her rape, the nature of her offender and the murders he



The site of the sexual assault at Karrakatta.

would go on to commit meant she has had to relive that night repeatedly.

She told the court of the tests, the interrogation, Edwards' trial and the legal meetings.

It was all because Edwards

was too gutless to own up to it, she said.

Yet in spite of the crime and its legacy, she told Edwards that she had made a choice that it would not define her.

"It is not the measure of who I am," she said.

"You can survive it and you can thrive, just as I have."

She said she had faced a choice between letting the event control her or spending each day fighting for her life back.

She chose the latter and told the court "there is a power to that".

"I have realised he is not a monster," she said.

"He preyed on weak and vulnerable women ... how pathetic."

"He slipped through the cracks because he is so unremarkable."

The woman who Edwards attacked years earlier, after he broke into her home in Huntingdale, said she had lived with a lifelong abhorrence of men's facial hair.

After breaking into her house

Edwards disconnected the phone line, entered her room and straddled her and sought to place a piece of stocking in her mouth.

"Every night of my life I fall asleep with the fear someone might attack me," she said.

"Then there are the dreams."

She said in her dreams she would be trying to hide but found she was always breathless and trapped.

She said she wakes up and looks to see if her offender is there.

Nor has she ever been able to sleep alone in her house since the offence.

She said her dreams changed when Edwards was arrested in 2016.

Not only was he charged with the murders of Ms Spiers, Ms Rimmer and Ms Glennon, he was charged with the 1988 assault of which she was the victim.

"Bradley Robert Edwards features as the nightmare of my dreams and I can't make it

stop," she said.

"I now go weeks without speaking to my friends and family... I feel like I have a label on my forehead with 'Huntingdale Victim' tattooed there."

She said she still hates to be touched and has forever been unable to embrace her children and her husband affectionately.

The worst day of the trial, she said, was the second-last day of the prosecution case in which Edwards' post-arrest interview was played.

A photograph of her childhood bedroom was placed before Edwards by Detective Joe Marrapodi - a man who headed the investigation into Edwards and has been a constant presence at his trial.

"I wanted to scream stop Joe stop - don't let him in there."

She said at times she has felt guilty for being alive, and guilty for being unable to help police catch Edwards before he committed further sexual assaults and murders.

## Edwards to die in jail: Justice Hall

• From page 1

The mother, who was in court for most of the seven-month trial, had her last sight of Edwards' face with these words:

"I will leave this courtroom and finally go and live my life without you in it."

"I will live and you won't."

Justice Hall sentenced Edwards for two murders, a home invasion and deprivation of liberty at Huntingdale in 1988 and two rapes in 1995.

He said that when Edwards attacked Jane Rimmer with a sharp weapon in 1996 he had intended to kill her.

"She screamed but you were not deterred and killed her," he said.

"She died fighting for her life."

He said Jane suffered a large and gaping wound to the neck and shoulder.

"You made an effort to conceal Ms Rimmer's body to ensure any connection with you [and this crime] would not be discovered," he said.

"Her family had to suffer the ordeal of not knowing what happened to her."

"I am satisfied that the killing was sexually motivated," he said, citing her age, gender, her lack of clothing and Edwards' prior history.

"You went to that area [Claremont] knowing there was likely to be vulnerable and intoxicated young women."

"Ms Rimmer was vulnerable to attack."

"Her vulnerability must have



Carmel Barbagallo



Paul Yovich



Denis, Una and Denise Glennon.

been obvious to you; indeed, it must have been what attracted you."

He had also intended to kill Ciara Glennon when he attacked her in 1997.

He had taken her from Stirling Highway, Claremont, in darkness.

"Whatever method was used, you were able to subdue her," he said.

Ciara had also fought for her life and managed to scratch or gouge Edwards' skin in a fight to the death.

The judge said that during the trial Edwards appeared stoic.

"You maintained a calm demeanour throughout the trial."

"This ability to dissimulate ... may explain how you went on to lead such an overtly unremarkable life."

"Under the cover of ordinariness you were committing a series of increasingly serious offences."

After Edwards' first marriage in 1991, he took his Telecom van to Claremont and lay in wait for a vulnerable victim.

He threw the 17-year-old to the ground, gagged and tied her, carried her to his open vehicle

and placed a bag over her head, then drove her to Karrakatta Cemetery.

This survivor told the court that while in the van she was sure she was going to die and envisioned her own gravestone.

After Edwards twice raped her he discarded her by throwing her into bushes, the judge said.

The deceased women no longer had a voice, he said.

"It is always an unspeakable tragedy."

He told the Glennon family that he understood why they did not want to make a victim impact statement.

It did not mean they were any less devastated by what Edwards had done.

"No parent wants to outlive their children," he said.

"Take the cherished memories of your child back to a quiet and private place."

He sentenced Edwards to four years for the Huntingdale home invasion and two deprivation of liberty offences and 12 years for each of the rape offences.

Edwards pleaded guilty to those charges.

The judge said he deserved little discount for his late guilty

pleas because they appeared to be tactical moves to show the court he was "a rapist not a murderer".

All sentences are served at the same time. They are not added up together as often happens in the US.

For the two murders Edwards, aged 52, was sentenced to a life term for each offence, with 40 years to be served before being eligible for parole.

He has already served four years to the day in jail since his arrest.

The judge addressed Edwards before passing this sentence for the murders:

"They were both young women with family and friends who loved them," he said.

"They had much to live for, such as successful careers, marriage and children of their own."

"You robbed them of their lives, their hopes, their dreams and the dreams of others for them."

"When seen as a whole [the offences] show you were a dangerous predator who sought out vulnerable young women for your own personal gratification."

"Your actions were premeditated, executed with pitiless determination, [you were] remorseless for the pain and suffering you caused."

"There is a high likelihood that you die in prison."

"You have had the undeserved benefit of your liberty for many years."

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**Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**