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April 15, 2023



Dangerous
dog savages
terrier
- see page 3

What made Jane Rimmer laugh

"Little Jane Rimmer, what are you doing here?"

The mystery over the identity of the man who shared a joke with Jane Rimmer on the night she went missing from Claremont has been solved.

And the man's comment, which made Jane, 23, laugh in the CCTV footage that Macro task force detectives kept secret for 12 years, has also been revealed.

Was the mysterious man her murderer, Claremont serial killer Bradley Robert Edwards?

This enduring question was

raised again this week in a television dramatisation of the 1990s Claremont killings.

The film-makers re-enacted how Jane was approached by a broad-shouldered man as she waited outside Claremont's Continental Hotel just after midnight on Sunday June 10 in 1996.

Vast police resources were unsuccessfully put into locating the man, although the CCTV image of the encounter was not released to the public until August 2008, a delay that caused much public criticism.

When it was eventually released publicly, Mystery Man immediately recognised himself, but said nothing.

Since then many lurid theories have surfaced in news reports, documentaries and international publications that purported to connect Mystery Man with Edwards.

But the mystery is solved in the third printing of a book on the murder investigation, *Stalking Claremont*, by POST editor Bret Christian.

Christian tells how Mystery Man

contacted him after reading an earlier edition.

Mystery Man was a child when he first met the editor and wanted to explain why he had remained silent for so long. He said he had last seen Jane 10 years earlier at her home in Shenton Park.

In the video clip shown hundreds of times since it was belatedly released, Mystery Man is seen approaching Jane on the edge of the footpath in Bay View Terrace.

• Please turn to page 18



Jane Rimmer encounters Mystery Man, among the last to see her alive.



I've always been able to hold my heart and say it doesn't happen in my country - and now it's happening in my local area.

Seeing red ... Churchlands MP Christine Tonkin says Cambridge council's new postal voting restrictions are based on unfounded allegations of election fraud. Photo: Paul McGovern

MP blasts election change:

Erodes democracy

By BEN DICKINSON

Churchlands MLA Christine Tonkin will push to overturn Cambridge council's new election rules, calling them "an erosion of democracy".

Speaking at her Wembley home this week, the Labor MP said she was incensed by last week's decision to cancel the automatic distribution of postal ballots for this year's elections, which was "based on a false premise".

She and the Wembley West Leederville Residents Association will attempt to call a special electors meeting to persuade councillors to reverse the decision.

"I think this is being done to further individual interests, not the interests of the community," Ms Tonkin said.

"It smacks of the situation in the United States where postal voting is being restricted, voter registration is restrictive, where there are gerrymanders, and all these terrible things.

"I've always been able to hold my heart and say it doesn't happen in my country - and now it's happening in my local area."

The council's 5-3 vote, made at an early-morning meeting without a public consultation, came after mayor Keri Shannon claimed postal votes were vulnerable to election fraud (*Postal votes crushed*, POST, April 8).

"There are a number of issues with the integrity of the vote," she told the meeting.

Voters will have to cast their ballots in person for the October election, or apply in advance for a postal ballot.

The move is expected to slash voter turnout from 30% to 10%, according to the WA Electoral Commission, though Ms Shannon predicted a turnout of up to 40%.

Ms Tonkin said she and other residents aimed to collect the required 100 signatures to call a special electors meeting.

The MP stressed she was lobbying the council "as a private

• Please turn to page 18

Stunning Sanur setback

By BEN DICKINSON

WA's top planning body has rejected a Subiaco developer's bid to use specialised state powers to build a 12-storey tower on the site of historic shops in Hay Street.

Barry Lepley's Sanur had asked the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) to impose an "improvement plan" on its 450 Hay Street site, in an attempt to end a years-long impasse with Subiaco council.

An improvement plan could have allowed Sanur to build above and below a council-owned right-of-way - Burley Lane - that bisects the site.

It would also have opened the door for the demolition of



The boarded-up Hay Street shops.

historic early 20th century shops in Hay Street.

The shops and the former Wests Theatre were boarded up more than two years ago, marking the start of a protracted legal fight that is still working its way through the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT).

Improvement plans have typically been reserved for major

state infrastructure projects, such as the Browse liquefied natural gas precinct north of Broome.

This week, a spokesperson for the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage confirmed the WAPC voted not to support an improvement plan on the Sanur site at a closed-doors meeting on March 29.

Unlike many other WAPC decisions, the refusal does not require the sign-off of planning minister Rita Saffioti.

Before the decision, Sanur consultant Malcolm Mackay told the meeting an improvement plan was "the only way to enable development".

He said Sanur wanted to build a \$250million tower on the site to accommodate 2300 workers.

"This is the fourth attempt to redevelop the property, each of the previous attempts having

• Please turn to page 18

Property page 47 • Trades and Services page 50 • Classifieds page 53

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What made Jane laugh

• From page 1

He clearly says something to Jane who throws back her head and laughs.

“I was surprised to see her all grown up and out and about,” Mystery Man revealed.

“I walked up to her and said: ‘Little Jane Rimmer, what are you doing here?’”

The pair disappear from the rotating camera eye, and when it returns to the scene, both are gone.

Mystery Man used a photo he had taken before Jane’s abduction to confirm he was the man in the image.

The photo shows him wearing the same patterned shirt as in the image captured outside the hotel.

Mystery Man still does not want his identity revealed, although the POST has confirmed it.

In the 12 years before the footage was released, Mystery Man’s personal life had taken complicated, stressful turns.

He knew that if he presented himself to police in 2008 he would immediately be treated as a suspect, his reputation trashed and he would be hounded night and day, as were suspects Lance Williams, former Claremont mayor Peter Weygers and taxi-driver Steven Ross.

“I already had enough to deal with and there is no way I could cope with that,” he said.

The finale of the Claremont murders drama, based on the



Jane Rimmer

book *Stalking Claremont*, will be shown on Monday night.

• **Editor’s note:** It is likely Mystery Man would have come forward immediately if the footage of him and Jane had been released publicly at the time. Instead, police wasted countless hours searching for him.

Erodes democracy

• From page 1

resident” and not as a representative of the state government, although her concerns were echoed by local government minister John Carey.

“There is no doubt this decision will make it harder for ratepayers to vote,” Mr Carey said.

“We only have to look at the most recent extraordinary election that the council held [in Wembley ward last year] as an in-person vote, where just 4.77% of eligible voters turned up.”

“I am deeply disappointed for the ratepayers, as they also had no say on the matter and on such a significant decision for how their elections are conducted.”

On ABC radio last week, Ms Shannon said there was not enough time to consult residents about the voting changes before the October elections, in which she will be a candidate.

“We have had a number of issues in recent elections where ballot harvesting is occurring,” she said.

“We know that property managers are apparently getting bunches or bundles of ballots... for rental properties.”

“Candidates are advertising on their website that they will collect ballots. That’s actually a breach of the local government electoral rules.”

Ms Shannon showed last week’s meeting a screenshot of a Facebook post by a candidate in last year’s Coast ward by-election, in which the candidate wrote “pickups of your completed envelope can be arranged by contacting me”.

She removed the candidate’s name from the screenshot.

An unknown person delivered a printout of the same Facebook post – with the candidate’s name

included – to the POST on the morning of last week’s meeting.

The POST has chosen not to name the candidate.

The WAEC received a complaint after the Facebook post went live, on the day before the election.

But a spokesperson said the complaint did not relate to illegally handling ballots.

“It was not alleged that a candidate had taken custody of a postal vote,” they said.

“The commission is not aware of which issues the mayor is referring to.”

Ms Shannon told radio listeners the council would run an extensive community engagement campaign aimed at boosting voter turnout.

Six polling places would be open on election day, she said, and early voting would be available.

“We will be hammering our community,” she said. “We’re going to be explaining to them why they need to vote.”

She rejected the commission’s 10% turnout estimate, calling it a “thumb suck” that was based on last year’s Wembley ward by-election.

She said the low turnout at that election would not be repeated.

“[It] occurred during COVID and when we had a very short window to undertake a communication campaign,” she said. “If I can get 40%, I’ll be really happy.”

Ms Tonkin blasted the proposed advertising blitz, calling it a misuse of council funds.

“The communications plan uses ratepayers’ money to promote the initiative of a divided council, including the mayor, who is standing for re-election,” she said.

“I argue that such a promotion amounts to the use of ratepayer funds for campaign purposes and is therefore improper.”

Stunning Sanur setback

• From page 1

been thwarted by the city,” read a public summary of Mr Mackay’s presentation.

“The City is using its ownership of the private right-of-way to block the approval and the subsequent implementation process.”

“The Hay Street buildings, which are not heritage listed, are dangerous, uninhabitable, cannot be remediated and should be demolished to make the street safe again and allow for development.”

“If not, the town centre will have a hole in its heart for decades to come.”

Subiaco council CEO Colin Cameron and development services director Alex Petrovski told the WAPC that imposing an “unprecedented” improvement

plan on the site would inappropriately benefit Sanur.

“[It would] result in the demolition or destruction of the heritage places,” read a summary of Mr Petrovski’s speech.

“The theatre and row of seven shops is unique.”

“The heritage precinct of Rokeby Road and Hay Street is known all around the country and should be preserved, protected and incorporated into any development.”

Mayor David McMullen welcomed the WAPC’s decision.

“This site has significant capacity for large scale development under the City of Subiaco’s planning framework,” he said.

“Such development can and should be achieved in a way that preserves the heritage fabric of

the existing buildings – which we know is greatly valued by our community.”

WAPC chairman David Caddy declared two perceived impartiality interests but was allowed to remain in the meeting.

Mr Caddy’s son’s partner, former Subiaco mayor Penny Taylor, received a \$2500 election donation from Sanur in 2017.

Planning minister Rita Saffioti also asked Mr Caddy to mediate a dispute between Sanur and Subiaco Council in 2021.

Commissioners found that the conflicts were “unlikely to influence Mr Caddy’s conduct”.

Sanur is continuing its SAT case with Subiaco council over demolition approval.

The company did not respond to a POST query.

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