

WHALE OF A TIME
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STARS VIE FOR ARIA AWARDS
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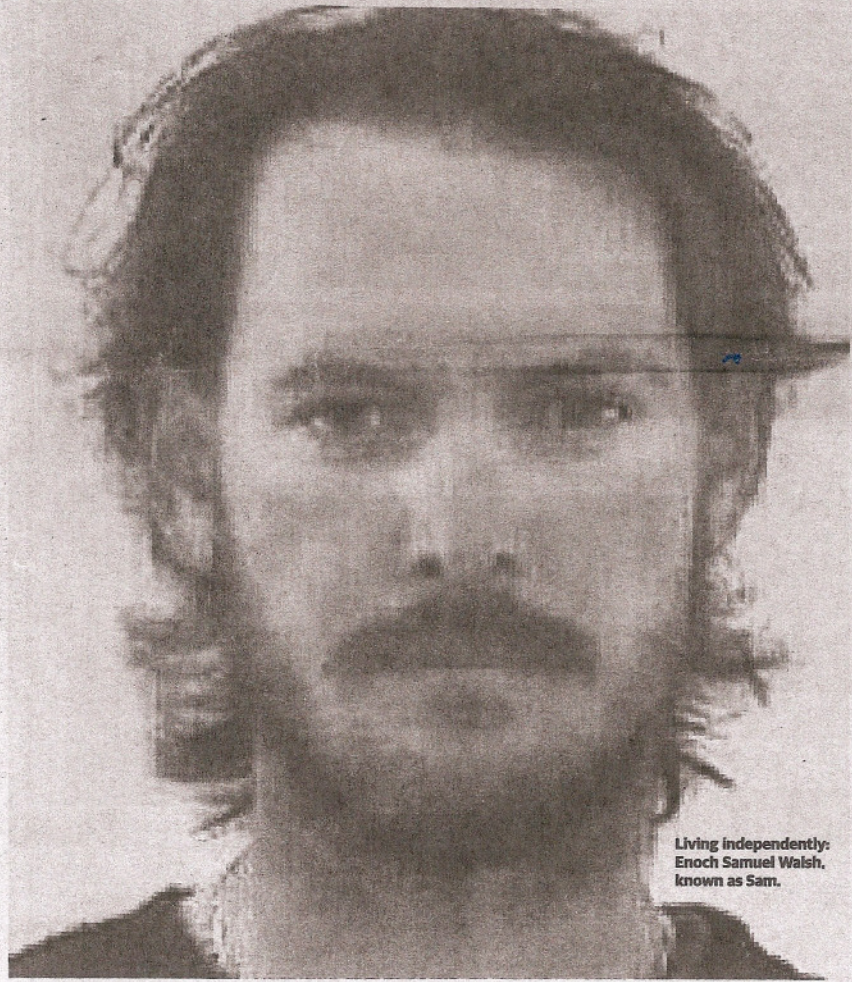


TRUTH ABOUT SKIN CANCER
HEALTH+MEDICINE LIFTOUT



KILLER FLEES

Schizophrenic man missing from hostel



Living independently: Enoch Samuel Walsh, known as Sam.

Angela Pownall and Gabrielle Knowles

A paranoid schizophrenic who slit his mother's throat in 2005 but was found not guilty of her murder on the grounds of insanity spent less than three years at a secure psychiatric hospital before being granted supervised freedom in the community.

A manhunt continued last night for Enoch Samuel Walsh, known as Sam, who has been missing since Sunday after he failed to return to the Claremont psychiatric hostel where he was living.

Fears are held for Mr Walsh's state of mind because he has not had the twice-daily medication needed to manage his schizophrenia since early on Sunday.

He showed no signs of mental illness or any problems before he disappeared, according to hostel licensee Judith Balfe.

The 38-year-old had been living at Romily House for four years and had not put a foot wrong before he failed to return from a church service, she said.

"We are just devastated because this boy has walked the line for four years without making one mistake," Ms Balfe said.

"He had a job. He was driving his own car. He was a responsible person."

Mr Walsh was granted supervised release by the Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board in January 2008, less than three

years after he was placed on a mandatory custody order when he faced trial over his mother's death.

The "leave of absence order" enabled him to leave Graylands Hospital and later live independently at Romily House.

He had to report to Graylands once a month — which he last did on September 23 — when he would spend a night and be assessed by a psychiatrist.

On Sunday Mr Walsh went to the evening service, telling staff he would phone if he was going to be later than 9pm.

When Mr Walsh, who changed his name from Enoch Wright, had not returned by 10.30pm, the hostel alerted Graylands Hospital.

Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board chairman Robert Cock said the board had become aware on Monday that Mr Walsh had breached his conditions.

Police were not informed until Monday afternoon, sparking a search. The public were alerted only yesterday morning.

Opposition Leader Mark McGowan said the Government had to explain why the public was not made aware immediately.

Attorney-General Michael Mischin said he would seek a report on how the situation was handled.

The police hunt has been centred on Kalgoorlie-Boulder after Mr Walsh's car was seen near

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PERTH 8-23 Sunny. Tomorrow: Morning showers, 13-23. Yesterday: 5.8-22.2

Weather details P109

OPENING NIGHT THIS FRIDAY 6:30
FROM \$10/CHILD & \$20/ADULT



Principal Partner **alcoholthinkagain**

Game Night Partner **pnbank**

PERTH WILDCATS vs NZ BREAKERS | PERTH ARENA

TICKETEK 132 849