Networked Knowledge Media Reports

Networked Knowledge Sue Neill-Fraser Homepage

This page set up by **Dr Robert N Moles**

On 25 August 2014 Sally Glaetzer of the Mercury reported "New 'break-in gone wrong' theory emerges in Bob Chappell murder".



Victim Bob Chappell's body has never been found.

Supporters of convicted husband murderer Sue Neill-Fraser believe her victim Bob Chappell was killed during a bungled break-in. A *60 Minutes* segment on WIN television last night raised a new theory on the disappearance of Mr Chappell in early 2009 – that an itinerant man with a violent past had tried to break into his boat while he was on board.

Neill-Fraser's supporter, former Integrity Commission chief Barbara Etter, has released a report from Victoria Police forensic services refuting a hypothesis, put forward by prosecutors during Neill-Fraser's trial and appeals hearings, regarding the DNA of a young homeless woman found on Mr Chappell's yacht. "There is no evidence to support the hypothesis that the DNA ... was the result of a secondary transfer event caused through foot traffic on the deck of [the yacht] *Four Winds*," the [Etter] report concluded.

Ms Etter said on her website last night that she expected Tasmania Police to argue the DNA was deposited while the boat was at Goodwood some time after Mr Chappell's disappearance. But Ms Etter said she would argue against that potential theory. "There should now be substantial doubt about the safety of the Sue Neill-Fraser murder conviction," Ms Etter said.

Mr Chappell disappeared from the yacht, which was moored off Marieville Esplanade, on Australia Day 2009. His body has never been found. Speaking by telephone on last night's program, Neill-Fraser, who is serving 23 years for Mr Chappell's murder, said she believed her partner was the victim of a break-in gone wrong.

Pressure from legal experts is mounting on Attorney-General Vanessa Goodwin to refer the case back to the Court of Criminal Appeal. A former associate professor of law at Adelaide University, Bob Moles, told a rally of Neill-Fraser supporters last week the case was a "serious miscarriage of justice".

Tasmania Police was unable to comment last night but referred the *Mercury* to Commissioner Darren Hine's comments last week reiterating the soundness of Neill-Fraser's conviction. "An

investigation by the Coroner, which reviewed all the available evidence, supported the findings of the criminal proceedings," Mr Hine said.