

True crime takes over from drama

FORENSIC INVESTIGATORS
Wednesday
nights at 9.30pm,
Prime

The De Gruchy family murders feature in an episode of the new series *Forensic Investigators*.

In 1996, Matthew De Gruchy murdered his mother, brother and sister in the family's Albion Park Rail home.

That episode, scheduled to air on September 29, is one of six in the series, which revisits the scenes of six Australia murders and looks into the forensic investigations that follow.

It was the unique nature of the De Gruchy murders that led to executive producer Fiona Baker including it in the series.

"There's huge amounts of forensics in that case," Baker says.

"Probably out of the six, there were more forensic people working on that case than any of the others."

There is also footage of police interviews with Matthew in the show, which Baker says people probably haven't seen before, and interviews with family members.

"We talk to Liz Karhof, who is Matthew's aunty," she says.

"She is amazing, she is incredible. At the end of that show you really do get a sense that this really tore a family apart. It must be incredibly difficult to know and accept that a family member has killed other members of the family."

Baker had the idea for *Forensic Investigators* several years ago. She tried to interest the networks but they felt it'd be a boring show full of scientists in white lab coats.

It wasn't until the success of *CSI* that the networks realised people were interested in shows about forensic science.

During research for the show, she discovered those involved in criminal investigations didn't necessarily like the accuracy of shows like *CSI*.

"A lot of the police and a lot of crime-scene examiners enjoy looking at these shows for what they are, which is a drama," she says.

"But in terms of the way it actually happens, things do not happen overnight. It is a team of people who come together to solve these crimes.

"It's not the same person who goes out and interviews an offender and also does the fingerprinting.

"It's quite different to *CSI* but I think they all like it as a drama."

So, for those investigators, Baker's show gave them a chance to put forward what actually happens.

"I'd been meeting these people over the last five years," she says.

"It took quite some time to be able to get their respect and for them to be able to give me their trust to look at these stories.

"They were certainly interested in doing it because it put forward the amazing work that they do."

- GLEN HUMPHRIES

Triple murderer
Matthew De
Gruchy in jail in
2002. His case in
the subject of an
episode of
Prime's *Forensic
Investigators*.

