

After 6 hours deliberation ...



Wayne De Gruchy at the trial of his son Matthew at the Darlinghurst Court complex yesterday.

De Gruchy jury is deadlocked

By LOUISE TURK

The 12 jurors considering the fate of Matthew De Gruchy remained deadlocked after six hours of deliberation yesterday.

The jury, which began its deliberations in the triple murder trial at 10.08am yesterday, left the historic Darlinghurst Court complex shortly after 4pm without reaching a verdict.

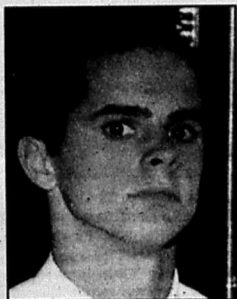
They decided to return to the courthouse today in an attempt to reach a unanimous decision, rather than continue their discussions late into yesterday afternoon.

Judge Michael Grove told the court that most juries, in his experience, could usually reach a verdict if given more time to consider the evidence.

The judge reminded the jury that although it was important to listen to each other's points of view each of them had to agree on the verdict.

He told them not to discuss the case with anyone because they were the only people who could make an informed decision based on all the evidence before the court.

The jury sent its first note to Judge Grove at 10.45am asking for



MATTHEW DE GRUCHY

a transcript of the evidence of Alyssa Brindley and Gail Brindley.

Alyssa Brindley was the then girlfriend of De Gruchy.

De Gruchy spent the night of the murders with Alyssa Brindley and her mother at their Luxor St, Woonona, home.

Just before 1pm the jury sent a second note to Judge Grove requesting a transcript of the evidence of Detective Senior Constable Gary Moffat, from Wollongong's fingerprint unit, and foren-

sic scientist Robert Goetz.

The judge was notified by a note before 4pm that the jury at that stage was unable to reach a verdict.

De Gruchy, 20, was dressed in a dark blue suit with a white shirt and dark blue tie during yesterday's proceedings.

His father Wayne De Gruchy sat in the public gallery alongside Matthew's two uncles Steven and Paul and his paternal grandparents.

Jennifer De Gruchy's mother Dorothy Halliwell was supported by her son Ray Halliwell and friends who have travelled to court daily from Wollongong.

Jennifer's sister Liz Karhof has also sat through all of the evidence and was present at court yesterday.

The Illawarra supporters include Kiril and Fanka Josifovski, whose daughter and three grandchildren were murdered by Ljube Veleviski at their Berkeley home in 1994.

De Gruchy has pleaded not guilty to murdering his mother Jennifer, sister Sarah, 13, and brother Adrian, 15, in the family's Albion Park Rail home on March 12, 1996.