

Neat solution for Balmoral apartment

NEW Zealand-born Gavin Dixon, the owner of the international computer software company Solution Six, flew into Sydney last week and snapped up a three-bedroom apartment in Balmoral.

Home Truths

Peter Weekes



King Property for \$800,000.

The apartment, with views through the heads of the harbour, was sold under the hammer by Nick King of

King took over the property after it was passed in at auction last year after attracting a final bid of \$780,000.

WHAT was, until earlier this year, Australia's largest house is being sold by its owner Mr Ian McDonald.

Tara-Halehana on the Gold Coast has a large office and reception area, seven double bedrooms and en suite bathrooms, two staff quarters, library, music room, gymnasium ... the list goes on. Suffice to say it has more than 30 rooms and two pools.

The "bungalow" is spread over 300 squares.

Mr McDonald said this year he received a phone call from a Melbourne man claiming the title of Australia's largest mansion with 310 squares.

"It doesn't worry me, it just means he has to hire more staff," Mr McDonald said.

Tara-Halehana was built in 1994 for \$7.5 million. Mr McDonald's company, May Trade, is selling the house for \$5.5 million.

JUST in case you missed the midweek article in *The Australian*, the mystery buyers of the five-level house at Cranbrook Ave, Bellevue Hill, were the retired lawyer Mr Cedric Symonds and his wife Elizabeth.

This was the house that one Sunday newspaper trumpeted as having been bought by Hollywood star Kevin Costner.

The home, which sold for \$3.8 million, has its own internal lift.



Desert living: The interior of the Coober Pedy dugout

The Symonds bought the house from Mr Ray Pillion.

Mr Symonds became the first lawyer to win an injunction against his own client, who was questioning the bill.

THE residents of the outback opal town of Coober Pedy must be a little odd — how else to explain the fact that many of them live underground.

Built by the owner in 1995, this sandstone dugout has four bedrooms, a dining room, a family room, modern kitchen and bathroom — all underground, "providing the perfect environment for desert living at 25 degrees all year round", the accompanying blurb says.

Michael Nance of Stuart

their harbour views. Another case of Not In My Backyard?

MS Cathy Amour, a senior associate at Sydney law firm Mallesons, Stephen Jaques, is auctioning her four-bedroom Surry Hills terrace through Gail Florence of Di Jones. She expects around \$350,000.

Also on the move — and using the same agent — is Ellen Farmer Maloney. She recently bought a property in Waverton, on the other side of the harbour, so is selling her Surry Hills house, which is expected to fetch around \$380,000.

ONE Sydney agency, Ray White in Alexandria, is so keen to find property to sell — or even to rent — that it is offering home owners in the area a chance to win \$200 worth of house painting if they use the agency. Pretty useful if a bit of pre-sale sprucing up is needed.

In a cold-sell letter to one resident, the agent offers the usual "obligation-free quote" together with the chance to win the paint job — though we're not sure how far \$200 would go on the average house in the area.

And demonstrating just how plugged in Ray White is to the changing role of women, the letter is addressed to the male occupant by name "and others". We presume that means the little woman.

QUEENSLAND
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