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HD **Slow movers, power couples, big numbers**
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TITLE DEEDS

To celebrate a big year in prestige real **estate**, Title Deeds presents the highlights of 2014.

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Angela Fleming's **sale** of her Bellevue Hill mansion for \$19 **million** to Bank of America Asia president Matthew Koder and his wife Shanyan marked a strong start to 2014.

A week later Caledonia Investments co-founder Michael Darling and his wife Manuela Darling-Gansser went one better with the \$20.5 **million sale** of their nearby Rovello **estate** to steel engineering **company** boss Rupert Henry and his wife Sarah.

And then nothing. Sydney was left all dressed up with more than \$1 **billion** in ultra-prestige stock to sell, and only the odd \$12.5 **million** waterfront **apartment sale** by David Gonski to get excited about.

The real trophy action didn't take place until the second half of the year, but meanwhile there was much excitement down the price chain to keep Title Deeds busy. Cate Blanchett became a pin-up star for Kippers everywhere (kids in parents pockets eroding retirement savings) when Title Deeds revealed in January she and husband Andrew Upton bought a \$1.92 **million** investment **apartment** for their sons in Elizabeth Bay.

Celebrity chef Pete Evans put expression to his new lifestyle with a paleo diet and a move to Malabar, where he bought a three-bedder for \$1.27 **million** in March.

Lara Bingle put on a good show when she listed her Darling Point one-bedder with no less than two photo shoots to get things just right. She then went holidaying in Italy with boyfriend Sam Worthington, which made post-auction negotiations awkward when she was not contactable. But at least she later snagged a buyer at more than \$865,000.

Point Piper highlights

It wasn't until June 2 rolled around that the first of Sydney's most expensive slow-movers finally **sold**. The daughter of the late Peter and Ruth Simon, Marion Richmond, had long said her bottom line for the family waterfront on Wolseley Road was \$40 **million**. Then \$35 **million**. Ultimately she would not sell for a cent less than \$30 **million**. And so it was that Global Renewables chief David Singh and his wife Belinda bought into Sydney's most expensive suburb.

It was enough to set some sort of benchmark for waterfront values and a week later another waterfront mansion was put out of its for-**sale** misery at \$37 **million** when Ron Medich **sold** to aged-care industry boss Peter Wohl and his wife Jennifer.

The Wohls then **sold** their cliff-top home in Dover Heights for \$9.5 **million** to technology investor Kevin Bermeister and his wife Beverley, and in turn they **sold** their Rose Bay home last week for \$27 **million** to Hunters Hill businessman Frank Geng.

Charles and Maria Scarf were the next Point Piper locals to sell their non-waterfront **estate** for more than \$30 **million** to Hunters Hill local fund manager Nick Langley and his wife Lorraine.

The Langleys are trading up from their Hunters Hill waterfront Windermere, which was bought by Kui Zhang Guo for \$11.45 **million** just in time for his up-coming 50th birthday celebrations.

Sophie Chen was the fourth big-ticket buyer into Point Piper, laying down just over \$30 **million** for the 1970s waterfront mansion of the late Salvatore Paino.

Julia Ross had already agreed to sell her non-waterfront prize Villa del Mar earlier in the year for \$39 **million** to a buyer from **China**, but that deal was scotched when the bank valuation came in at much less than that amount.

Chinese billionaire Xu Jiayin was not so easily put off. Word from the art world is Ross refused to throw in her prized Snow Leopard print by artist Peter Hickey to sweeten the \$39 **million** deal. No matter. The chairman of real **estate** developer Evergrande flew into Sydney on his private jet in October during the **Chinese** holiday break known as Golden Week, and flew out having exchanged on this year's highest **sale**.

Liquor baron John Piven-Large came close to hitting the \$30 **million** mark when he **sold** his Edwardian-era waterfront mansion. All fingers are pointing at local Bruce McWilliam as the buyer, although the Network Seven **commercial** director dismissed such talk as odd when contacted by Title Deeds.

Then there was the \$32 **million** on the Darling Point waterfront of the late Sir William Tyree. The half-exchange arrangement (known as a put-and-call option) with yachtie Matt Allen was widely reported the year before, but the full exchange didn't take place until March.

The power couples

The power couples were also out in force this year. Media slashies Jennifer Byrne and Andrew Denton scored well on their Double Bay home, taking \$4 **million** ahead of their June auction, and renting in Elizabeth Bay while they finalise their \$4,025,000 **purchase** of a split-level penthouse in Surry Hills' St Margarets complex.

Lachlan and Sarah Murdoch got real about the price expectations on their former Bronte home, selling for more than \$10 **million** although on rather long and boring settlement terms.

Former High Court judge Michael Kirby and his partner Johan van Vloten didn't dally around either, selling their Rose Bay modernist classic for more than \$10 **million** in less than three weeks with a caveat on the **property** indicating the buyer to be Faina Stolyar, who has owned the \$6.75 **million apartment** in The Bondi since 2009.

Aussie John Symond, accompanied by his girlfriend Amber Keating, picked up a lovely investment in Double Bay, formerly home to Trent Nathan, for close to its \$4.8 **million** guide.

Nick and Kathryn Greiner celebrated an end to 40 years of marriage selling their Centennial **Park** home for close to \$6.5 **million**.

Sydney University chancellor Belinda Hutchinson and her husband Roger Massy-Greene banked more than \$7.5 **million** for their Darling Point mansion thanks to barrister and former Liberal MP Maurice Neil, QC and his lawyer wife Natasha Goulden, who are now selling their Spanish mission-style home in Double Bay, the Taj.

North snore

Talk of Rachel Griffiths and her artist husband Andrew Taylor quietly listing their Palm Beach weekenders earlier in year finally proved right when she conceded as much to Title Deeds in spring, and was paid \$2.25 **million** 10 days later.

Bec and Lleyton Hewitt were similarly inspired to sell their Palm Beach retreat, although it took eight months to get over the line. They eventually took more than \$4.6 **million** for their former love nest when it was bought by Avalon Beach locals Sasha Carrel and David Gibson, of racing car transporter Gibson Freight.

Kyle Sandilands was late to this year's fun, only listing his St Ives home two weeks ago for about \$3 **million**, with a possible **sale** looming as Title Deeds went to print.

The busiest wheelers and dealers were Jennifer Hawkins and her husband Jake Wall, who bought a double waterfront block in Newport for \$4 **million** in March. That then prompted them to sell their former North Curl Curl home in July for \$4.1 **million** to Fortescue Metals non-executive director Elizabeth Gaines, who in turn **sold** her Berowra Waters weekender to climate change activist Cate Blanchett for \$1,495,000.

Family matters

The Jacenko family tree was busy trading **property** stocks. PR diva Roxy Jacenko and her stockbroker husband Oliver Curtis **sold** their not-for-**sale** Woollahra home in an off-market deal worth more than \$8 **million**.

Jacenko's parents Nick and Doreen took \$15.6 **million** for their half-complete home on the Vaucluse waterfront from Canberra Data Centres chairman Ken Lowe and his wife Maree.

And miner Nick Curtis and his wife Angela are said to have taken to a certain converted warehouse in Surry Hills having off-loaded their Woollahra residence for \$10.65 **million** to Rupert Murdoch's eldest daughter Prue MacLeod and her husband Alasdair.

Record makers

Bondi Beach proved an **apartment** winner when former Multiplex chief executive Andrew Roberts paid about \$25 **million** for his yet-to-be-completed double penthouse.

Vaucluse's high for the year was fairly humble compared with previous years, at \$15.45 **million** for the home of former ragtrader Izhar Ronen, who then splashed \$6.35 **million** for his Point Piper penthouse.

It beat the \$14 **million** that newlyweds Jacques and Lulu Kurdian took for the family home and the \$12.75 **million** paid by Westpac's incoming chief executive Brian Hartzler and his wife Georgiana.

Mosman only did marginally better topping the year at \$16.3 **million** for the waterfront home of Graphite **Energy** chief Nick Bain and his wife Katherine when it was bought by **Hong Kong**-based expats Brand Loyalty boss Philip Spanton and his wife Kate.

Restaurateurs Frank and Rima Criniti **sold** their Glenhaven home Petalinda for \$9 **million** on Tuesday, setting a record for the Hills District.

The inner west excelled itself setting an all time high of about \$12 **million** for the Balmain East waterfront of former lawyer Rob Bryden. The off-market **sale** isn't expected to settle in time for Christmas but rumour has it the buyer is Todd Buncombe and his art collector wife Paris Neilson, the daughter of Kerr Neilson, Australia's 10th richest person according to this year's BRW rich list.

TOP 20 SALES OF 2014

Houses & Apartments

1. \$39 **m** in October

Wolseley Road, Point Piper

Ross to Xu (vendor to buyer)

2. \$37m in June

Wolseley Road, Point Piper

Medich to Wohl

3. \$32m in March

Lindsay Avenue, Darling Point

Tyree to Allen

4. *\$30m+ in August

Wentworth Street, Point Piper

Scarf to Langley

5. *\$30m+ in October

Wolseley Road, Point Piper

Paino to Chen

6. \$30m in June

Wolseley Road, Point Piper

Simons to Singh

7. *\$29.7m in October

Wunulla Road, Point Piper

Piven-Large to Unknown

8. *\$27m in December

Dumaresq Road, Rose Bay

Bermeister to Geng

9. *\$25m in November

Bondi Pacific, Campbell Parade Bondi Beach

Litver/Linz to Roberts

10. \$20.5m in March

Ginahgulla Road, Bellevue Hill

Darling to Henry

11. *\$20m in July

Coolong Road, Vaucluse

Mayo to Malek

12. \$19m in March

Drumalbyn Road, Bellevue Hill

Fleming to Koder

13. \$18m in September

Wharf Road, Vaucluse

Blundy to McKinley/Rowe

14. \$16.3m in September

Curraghbeena Road, Mosman

Bain to Spanton

15. \$16m in September

Burran Avenue, Mosman

Morgan to Whitford

16. \$16m in September

Ginahgulla Road, Bellevue Hill

Votraint (Sariaatmadja) to Longmuir

17. *\$15.8m in November

Loch Maree Place, Vaucluse

Jacenko to Lowe

18. \$15.6m in April

Carrington Avenue, Mosman

Paulsen to Brehn

19. \$15.45m in May

Vaucluse Road, Vaucluse

Ronen to Jing

20. \$14.5m in April

Wallaroy Crescent, Woollahra

Yeldham to Winten

(* Yet to settle)

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