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HD **TITLE DEEDS Local pays top price for Medich mansion INSIDE STORY visits Byron Bay**
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But controversy surrounding the vendor was enough to turn away several **Chinese** buyers.

Mystery surrounds the identity of the buyer who **purchased** the Point Piper waterfront mansion of **property** developer Ron Medich and his former wife Odetta this week.

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This year's highest **sale** - at just over \$37 million - is all the more intriguing given that agents Ken Jacobs, of Christie's, and Bill Malouf, of LJ Hooker Double Bay, will confirm only that the buyer was an Australian.

The \$40 million listing was never an easy one to get over the line given buyer reticence over Medich's forthcoming trial in connection with the 2009 murder of his business associate Michael McGurk. That controversy was enough to turn off more than one cashed-up buyer from **China**.

Savills' Martin Schiller introduced the "local" buyer, with speculation over how local is local. Other sources point to Network Seven's **commercial** director Bruce McWilliam, but that rumour was quickly scotched by McWilliam, who bought Medich's investment waterfront **property** down the road last October for \$10.65 million.

Ron Medich and Odetta bought the **property** in 2003 for \$15.5 million from restaurateur Wolfie Pizem.

Natalie Imbruglia has closed a chapter on her Sydney life, selling her North Bondi townhouse on the quiet for \$1.22 million.

Imbruglia bought the Blair Street **property** for \$660,000 in 2000, soon after she and former husband Daniel Johns first hooked up.

The singer, songwriter and Neighbours alumni is now based in London pursuing an acting career, recently appearing at the Theatre Royal Bath in the play Things We Do For Love.

The three-bedroom investment **sold** to a local couple before McGrath's Damien Steele could take it to auction.

Kristy Hinze and her billionaire husband Jim Clark have relaunched their Point Piper waterfront **apartment** to the market with hopes of more than \$7.5 million ahead of its July 8 auction.

Now listed with Jaime Upton, of Alison Coopes, the three-bedroom spread comes with a cinema room, gym and opulent high-end finishes. Hinze and Clark, the Texas-born founder of Netscape, bought the 317-square-metre **apartment** in 2009 for \$7.6 million from receivers PPB Advisory after the developer Michael Bezzina, of Bezzina **Group**, went into liquidation.

The couple recently announced they are expecting a sibling for their daughter Dylan, due in September.

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UBS's **Hong Kong**-based senior banker Matt Hanning and his wife Jessica are taking a keen interest in their Sydney real **estate** of late.

Coinciding with Hanning's recent promotion heading up the bank's Asia Pacific corporate client solutions, the couple have listed their Bellevue Hill residence for about \$4.5 million, through Sotheby's James McCowan.

And now settlement on the Mosman Federation mansion Rona reveals the \$8.75 million buyer to be Jessica Hanning, who snapped up the home of Millers Self Storage founder Jim Miller and his wife Jocelyn through Belle **Property** Mosman's Tim Foote.

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In Bellevue Hill, ANZ Bank state chairman Warwick Smith and his wife Kathryn look like they have finally **sold** their home Arjuna.

The Kambala Road **property** was first listed in 2011 with hopes of recouping the \$6.3 million they paid in 2007, but more recently price expectations dropped to \$5.5 million.

Smith, who was elected to federal parliament in 1984 and was later part of John Howard's government until he lost his seat in 1998, is now chairman of the advisory **board** of Australian Capital Equity **Group** of Companies.

Brad Pillinger and Alain Waitsman, of LJ Hooker Double Bay, were sticking to the "it's been withdrawn" script, but sources say it's a done deal and the only question now is how much the result exceeded the \$5 million mark.

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John and Frances Ingham, of the chicken farming and thoroughbred racing family, have bought a Palm Beach retreat, paying \$7.2 million for the hilltop residence of lawyer Derek Heath and his wife Elizabeth.

The Inghams aren't expected to make it their permanent home. That is one of the penthouses at The Residence, overlooking Hyde **Park**, for which they paid \$12.7 million in 2011.

Designed by architect Simon Parsons, the Sunrise Road **property** was listed last October for more than \$7.5 million with Christie's Ken Jacobs.

Shh!

Guess which rag trader family has just **sold** their home in an off-market deal worth about \$15 million.

Guess which Mosman waterfront is the latest **sold** to a **Chinese** buyer? Rumour is it **sold** for almost \$8.5 million.

FOR **SALE**: About \$20m

Trophy mansion listed

Luxury car dealer and racehorse owner Terry Mullens and his wife Wendy had only recently completed a three-year restoration of their Potts Point mansion Jenner House, before they listed it earlier this week for about \$20 million. This would eclipse the suburb record they set in 2009 when they bought the mariner villa unrenovated for \$15 million from horse breeder Tony Peterson.

The Regency Revival-style mansion on one of the suburb's largest blocks of some 1900 square metres is listed with Jason Boon, of Richardson & Wrench Elizabeth Bay, Michael Pallier, of Sotheby's International, and Barry Goldman and Robert Page, of Raine & Horne Double Bay.

FOR **SALE**: About \$10m

Grand Gothic by Bay

Citibank's Tim Robinson and his wife Kirstine have listed Allowah, their grand Victorian Gothic-style mansion overlooking Mosman Bay, with a guide price of about \$10 million.

Built in 1881, the sandstone residence remains one of the oldest in the neighbourhood, and was used as a block of apartments until the couple bought it in 2008 for \$4 million.

It has been extensively renovated in recent years, with non-original additions removed and period finishes restored. Now a five-bedroom, five-bathroom **property**, it features formal and informal living rooms, library, media room, study, pool and space for eight cars. McGrath's Michael Coombs has the listing.

FOR **SALE**: \$1.8m+

Terrace fit for **sale**

Gym owner and former president of the International Federation of Bodybuilding (IFBB) in Australia Paul Graham, and his wife Carole are selling the Paddington terrace they bought a year ago.

The Grahams, whose best man at their 1981 wedding was Arnold Schwarzenegger, bought the double-fronted Victorian terrace last May for \$1.7 million from James Couche and his wife Anna, who are currently selling the Lord Dudley **Hotel**.

Now with plans for a tree-change, their Quarry Street home on the Woollahra border has been listed with Ric Serrao and Louise Snowden of Raine & Horne and Di Jones's John Anderson for \$1.8 million-plus.

INSIDE STORY visits Byron Bay

FOR **SALE**: \$5.5m+

The Lane family went to Byron Bay in search of a big old Queenslander as their holiday home, but came away with something more modern.

Tom Lane, of the Lane family who founded the Orotan fashion empire, and his stylist wife Emma, bought the ultra contemporary white-box-style residence Amileka for \$4 million in 2011. Designed by architect Sharon Fraser, it was **sold** by Fraser's partner Stephen Esson.

It was the Lane family's home away from Sydney until last September when they bought 30 hectares of land in Ewingsdale to establish the organic farming and tourist venture known as The Farm at Byron Bay.

Now with plans to build something nearby their new farm, the couple have listed the 10-hectare **property** Amileka for \$5.5 million-plus through Nicolette van Wijngaarden, of Unique Estates.

But the Lanes have no intention of quitting Sydney. Having bought their beachfront home on Little Manly Beach for \$4.4 million in 2007, and with work recently completed building a new family home on the prized **site**, the family still plan to spend six months of the year in Sydney.

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