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BY LUCY MACKEN
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INSIDE STORY visits Coogee

Anthony Bell, of accounting and yachting fame, has sold his former Coogee bachelor pad for well in excess of its \$2 million-plus guide.

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The now Watsons Bay-based husband of celebrity Kelly Landry, and more recently father to Thea and Charlize, bought the three-bedroom penthouse on Brook Street for just shy of \$1.5 million in 2000.

The founder of chief of Bell Partners traded Coogee in for Bondi Beach in 2006 when he bought his \$7,725,000 penthouse in The Bondi, snapping up the adjoining penthouse in 2010 for \$9 **million**.

Since he and Landry have settled into their Watsons Bay waterfront home, for which they paid \$12.5 million a year ago, Bell has been consolidating his real estate, offering the Bondi Beach mega spread for some \$15 million with McGrath's James Dack and Steven Chen, and handing the job of selling his Coogee spread to old school mate Adrian Bo, also of McGrath.

Most recently home to former Sydney Swan great Brad Seymour and his businesswoman wife Melissa, records show property investor Xanthi Papantoniou paid \$2.75 million for the Coogee penthouse, prompting the sale of her long-held family home nearby on Rainbow Street for \$2.2 million in June.

TITLE DEEDS

Griffiths rewrites her Palmy script

Rachel Griffiths and her husband are selling their sandstone cottage to find something larger nearby.

Rachel Griffiths and her artist husband Andrew Taylor are selling their Palm Beach retreat and plan to eventually trade up their holiday digs to something with more land nearby.

Speaking exclusively to Title Deeds, Griffiths likened her charming sandstone cottage to her own Petit Trianon, the cottage of Queen Marie-Antoinette where she retreated from the rigours of court life in the 1770s.

"It's amazing to see the impression this place has on friends. Movie stars and incredibly rich people with these huge mansions come here and are blown away by this little place. It's as if they crave that simpler life, which is really what this place is about, except with the best, high-tech kitchen."

And ocean views, which also won't hurt the \$2.5million sale price.

Title Deeds first heard whisper of the off-market listing in late May, which has only now been confirmed by LJ Hooker Palm Beach's David Edwards.

Griffiths is only the second owner of the original two-bedroom cottage, having bought it in 1998 for \$735,000 from returned serviceman Fred Lyons and his wife Dulcie, who built it in the 1950-60s. Beautifully refurbished in 2009 by architect Robert Brown, it and the neighbouring retreat of architect Philip Cox are accessed through Annie Wyatt Reserve.

"We could have just bulldozed it to build something bigger, as so many do, but the history of these old places is so important. These homes are full of happy memories of gloriously long summer days, and you can't build that. You don't get that for new."

Griffiths stressed she and her family are not cutting ties with Palm Beach, and plan to return their to usual summer stomping ground at Christmas. The only question being which house will be hosting them.

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A closer look at the dealings of David Edwards' dealings of reveals a few interesting sales of late, including a recent weekender **purchase** on Barrenjoey Road for \$2,535,000 by Mosman-based Amanda and Patrick Robinson, chief executive of rag trader Gazal Group.

And settlement records reveal what is so far the suburb's highest result this year at \$7.6 million, again through Edwards, for the Iluka Road waterfront of Frank and Amber Elsworth.

The Elsworths haven't had to move far, having recently sold their home along the shoreline for \$7.5 million to former Arrium chief Geoff Plummer.

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Property developer Vera Boyarsky is downsizing from the family's long-held, Tudor-style home in Bellevue Hill, listing it with hopes of more than \$8 million.

Boyarsky heads up Anka Property with her son Andrew, the **company** that was founded by her husband Alex in 1968 and takes credit for the Liberty Grove development in Homebush and more recently Union Balmain in Rozelle.

The 1920s-era residence with indoor pool and self-contained guest studio has been sympathetically updated over the past 30 years it has been the Boyarsky family home. Set on 923 square metres, it goes to auction on September 4 through Elliott Placks and Ashley Bierman, of Ray White Double Bay.

The listing coincides with the sale last week by Elliott Placks and Dan White of the Point Piper estate of Charles and Maria Scarf for more than \$30 million.

Neither agent would comment on the **sale**, so only settlement will reveal if it beats the \$32.4 **million** non-waterfront record paid in the stronger market of 2008 for the former mansion Craig-y-Mor by **Chinese** princeling Zeng Wei and his wife Jiang Mei.

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Singer-songwriter Gin Wigmore looks like she's cut ties with Sydney judging by the recent sale of her Enmore home. The New Zealand-born soulstress has pocketed \$785,000 for her one-bedroom cottage within days of listing it.

Ed Tancred, of Raine & Horne Petersham, declined to comment, but the cool first home purchase was by Robbie and Ashley Fidler, the latter of whom is a personal assistant at real estate agents BresicWhitney.

Wigmore sold her Marrickville home last September for \$1.2 million, and her Darlinghurst apartment in 2011 for \$575,000.

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In Mosman, the Victorian Gothic-style mansion Allowah has sold. The 1881-era sandstone residence of Citibank's Tim Robinson and his wife Kirstine was last quoted with a price guide of \$8.5 **million**-plus. After it came up sold on the Domain website on Monday, word spread it had sold above that level despite no comment from McGrath's Michael Coombs.

Shh!

Guess which recently appointed senior television executive looks set to trade up his designer digs?

Guess which savvy supermodel is offering up her eastern suburbs pad?

Rock on in Castlecrag

Original rocker-turn-actor Andy Anderson and his lawyer wife Karen Ryder, of Baker and McKenzie, are downsizing from their Castlecrag home given regular work and family commitments in LA and New Zealand.

Known to '60s stalwarts as **lead** vocalist in The Missing Links before he starred as Jim Sullivan in The Sullivans in the 70s, Anderson is best known recently for scoring best-actor accolades for his role in Honk if you're Horny.

The recently rebuilt, contemporary family home with district views, flexibile floorplan and northerly rear aspect goes to auction on September 11 for upwards of \$2.3 million through Heidi King, of LJ Hooker Castlecrag.

Funky Tama pad

Morris Symonds, founder and partner of Alceon, and his wife Di have put their funky Tamarama home up for grabs with hopes of \$4.7 million-plus.

Symonds bought the Silva Street property in 2009 for \$2.2 million, the year before he co-founded the investment and advisory firm with Trevor Loewensohn and Phil Green. Rebuilt in 2011 according to a design by architect Rob Puflett with interiors by Katherine Norman and Caroline Quaine, and with DA-approved for a third level, the four-bedder features both formal and informal living areas, ocean views and a swimming pool. McGrath's Bethwyn Richards has the listing.

Hamptons on the Park

The Queens Park home of Walker Douglas co-founder and owner Bryan Weir and his wife Janette is up for grabs at more than \$3 million.

Weir, who is also on the board of LJ Hooker, bought the four-bedroom property in 2008 for a solid \$3.42 million from Sam Wagner, founder of accessories label Sambag, who had already put her creative talent into renovating the Stanley Street property.

The freestanding, Hamptons-style home is set above a triple garage and comes with four bedrooms, separate study and spacious open-plan living area. It goes to auction on September 10 through Brighid Fitzsimons and Alexander Phillips, of Phillips Pantzer Donnelley.

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