



RT Edgar Manningham  
Boroondara director  
James Hatzolos and  
consultant Zee Sarwari  
sold the island after  
a week of negotiations.  
Picture: David Caird

Mystery buyer  
snaps up  
deserted  
weekender

# MY ISLAND HOME

EXCLUSIVE  
CHRISTINA KARRAS

A PRIVATE island off the coast of the Mornington Peninsula has sold in a secretive multimillion-dollar deal. Sandstone Island has been uninhabited for years. But now the new owners – who had only seen it in photos before committing to the sale – are set to use the serene destination as their exclusive holiday retreat.

The Herald Sun understands the rare 22.25ha property sold to a Sydney family for between \$5.6m and \$6m.

RT Edgar Manningham and Boroondara director James Hatzolos said about a week of negotiations were required to execute the sale, after contacts of his at Property Developers Hub introduced him to the interstate

buyers looking for “something unique”.

“It has just been sitting there dormant,” Mr Hatzolos said.

“But the buyers were chasing something different so we got in touch with the owners to see if they would sell.

“We managed to secure the buyers just by the photos – it’s not everyday that you get

the opportunity to buy an island. They will be using it as their own private residence (for holidays).”

Sandstone Island was sold by a consortium of five Melbourne-based families who had owned it as an investment and a weekender since the late ’90s. The group publicly listed the island for sale in 2018, with buyers circling it

for between \$3m-\$5m, but no deal was done.

The landholding was first settled in 1854 by the Rogers family, who ran a small cattle breeding program there. It was later used to farm potatoes.

The island is about 600m off the Mornington Peninsula, 1km from Hastings and 80km from the CBD, and is

only accessible via private boat, plane or helicopter.

The exclusive package includes two beaches and water frontage around the island’s 1.9km circumference.

A “dilapidated” house is the sole property on the island, which is also covered in weeds after a lack of upkeep.

“The house is old and falling apart, so the buyers will

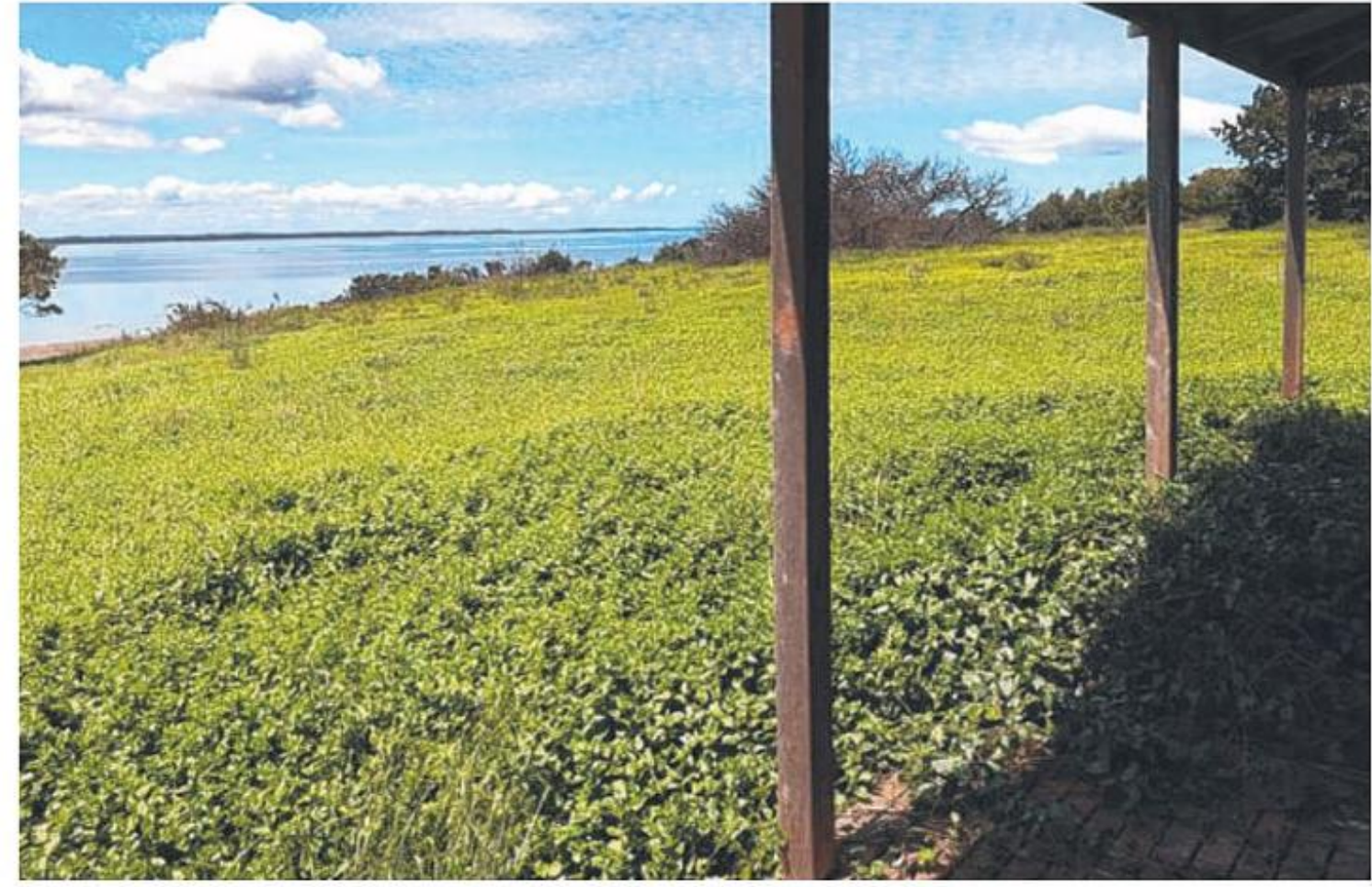
renovate it or build something new, because you can’t live in it now as it is,” Mr Hatzolos said.

“The landholding doesn’t allow you to subdivide it or build multiple properties on it. Anyone privileged enough to be able to afford an island is buying it for the lifestyle, privacy and peace and quiet.”

Mr Hatzolos – who partnered with sales consultant Zee Sarwari on the sale – said there had been some hype around island real estate recently, with billionaire Andrew “Twiggy” Forrest snapping up the luxurious Great Barrier Reef’s Lizard Island for a staggering \$42m.

christina.karras@news.com.au

PROPERTY  
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MUST-READ TOMORROW



Dani Laidley.

## New Laidley pictures trigger second probe into cops

MARK BUTTLER  
OLIVIA JENKINS

A CORRUPTION inquiry has been launched into allegations police members have shared new photos of former AFL coach Dani Laidley, with transphobic comments.

The Independent Broad-Based Commission Against

Corruption announced on Wednesday it was examining claims the images were shared by officers.

They were taken without Ms Laidley’s consent at the Ballan Cup meeting at Geelong racetrack last Saturday.

“IBAC is asking any member of the public or police personnel who witnessed the

photo being taken, or has information about the photo in a text message being sent or received, to contact IBAC,” it said in a statement.

Ms Laidley was at the centre of an internal Victoria Police probe examining allegations officers took unsolicited photos of her last year when she was in custody at St Kilda

police station. They were shared online within hours, generating a privacy storm.

One of those images was a mugshot and the other appeared to have been taken in an interview room.

Ms Laidley sued, claiming in documents filed with the Supreme Court of Victoria that the officers acted with malice

and exposed her to humiliation and ridicule.

Ms Laidley sought damages, claiming she had been “brought into public ridicule and contempt” and had her reputation damaged after two images were circulated on social media.

Three officers were charged for leaking the photos.

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Authorised by Craig Kelly, United Australia Party, Level 17, 240 Queen Street, Brisbane 4000

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