

Rosy rural opportunity

TESSA HAYWARD

A SPRAWLING lifestyle property, which has provided roses to Oprah and Queen Elizabeth, has hit the market.

While the property is known for its beautiful and delicate roses, it is the renovated house and ample shedding on 1.52ha of land that is for sale at 1-9 Drakes Rd, Drysdale.

However there is potential to buy the business, Soho Rose Farm, as well, which vendors Clare Russell and husband Wally Stannard are really hoping someone will do.

"The business is too good to go ... it is well set up and I would love to continue seeing roses out in the paddock," Ms Russell said.

Ms Russell said they took on the business about 12 years ago and worked maybe one day a week.

"The business has grown very well and we now both work full-time," she said.

Due to health reasons the couple are selling the family property and hopefully the business but are planning on staying in the area.

During their time with Soho Rose Farm they have not only

provided roses to Oprah and the Queen but also Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall and Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge.

Ms Russell said one of them loved the roses so much they moved them from the bathroom to the bedroom when they were staying at Government House.

Bellarine Property, Barwon Heads, agent Levi Turner said the family property had a lot of potential.

"(The vendors) have spent a huge amount of time and effort

in the gardens, they are really nice and private," he said.

Mr Turner said the property could be ideal for a tradie - with three sheds including one big enough for a boat, one a workshop and the other a four-car shed with office.

"The house has been fully renovated and extended, it is a great family house with a really nice country rural feel to it," he said.

There is an expressions of interest campaign running which closes on April 28 at 5pm with a price guide of \$1.4 million plus for the property, excluding the business.



SWEET SMELL OF OPPORTUNITY: The Soho Rose Farm at Drakes Rd, Drysdale, is on the market.



WINNERS ARE GRINNERS. Mates Brad Pett and Richard Shirley were pleased with their winning bid for the property in South St, Belmont. BELOW RIGHT: Stockdale & Leggo agent Laura Berry speaks to the large crowd.

Pictures: PETER RISTEVSKI

Mates have keen eye on potential to build units

TESSA HAYWARD

BEST mates joined forces and bought a property with plenty of potential for \$118,000 over reserve on Saturday.

Brad Pett and Richard Shirley plan to develop the 863sq m property at 9 South St,

Belmont and potentially turn it into units.

"They outbid another party to secure the property for \$618,000 after bidding started at the reserve price of \$500,000.

"We are just entering the property market and wanted to purchase something we could develop," Mr Shirley said.

"It is likely the house is coming down and we will build something on it. My father is a builder."

Mr Pett said they were attracted to the property because of its location and size.

"We will probably do a unit development and perhaps occupy one ourselves and rent

out the others in another year or two down the track," he said.

Stockdale & Leggo, Belmont, agent Laura Berry said the property was in the heart of Belmont's river precinct.

"There is so much interest in the Belmont market, it is fantastic ... people just see the value in it," Ms Berry said.



Council in clean-up help on flooding

SHANE FOWLES

GEELONG residents hit by flash flooding last week are able to dispose of their water-damaged goods for free.

The bulk of the 100-plus calls to the SES after last Tuesday's thunderstorm were received in Clifton Springs and Drysdale, where 84mm of rain fell in the space of several hours.

Among the affected properties was Drysdale's St Thomas Catholic Primary School, which had to close to students as staff waded through the debris and cleaned up the site.

Homes were also affected in Belmont and Lara.

The City of Greater Geelong has been contacting people to organise for damaged rubbish to be taken away from affected sites, city services director Will Tieppo said.

"The City is working with its partner emergency management agencies to map the potential needs of storm-affected properties, especially across Drysdale and Clifton Springs," he said.

"Free hard-waste collection is available for those who have suffered genuine storm or flood damage."

Further flood recovery information can be found at emergency.vic.gov.au/relief or dhs.vic.gov.au

Trial to test promising drug for treating Alzheimer's disease

SUE BURLLEY

A NEW drug to beat Australia's second biggest killer Alzheimer's disease will be trialled on Australian patients within months.

The medicine Xanamem blocks the stress hormone cortisol to improve mental function and is being billed as the world's next blockbuster drug

after it improved the mental function of mice.

Australian company Actinogen Medical will begin trials of its new Alzheimer's disease drug Xanamem on the Central Coast of NSW, as well as Sydney and Melbourne.

More than 170 patients with mild dementia in Australia, the United Kingdom and the US will take part in the placebo-controlled 12-week trial.

University of Newcastle's Professor Jonathan Sturm whose patients will take part in the trial said there was great need for an effective Alzheimer's treatment but while this new pill was promising "it's still an early stage study".

"It's very important to get new treatments, the current treatments boost neurotransmitters so they treat the symptoms but they don't treat the

underlying disease," he said.

A CSIRO study of 1000 elderly Australians that began in 2006 found a link between elevated cortisol in the blood and the subsequent development of Alzheimer's disease.

In 2015 an Edinburgh University study in mice showed reducing cortisol in the brain improved their memory and decreased the number of amyloid plaques in the brain that

are associated with Alzheimer's disease. A 2016 study at the same university showed Xanamem was safe in humans, decreased the production of cortisol in healthy humans and successfully crossed the blood-brain barrier.

The next phase of testing will determine whether it improves the mental function of people with mild dementia.

Actinogen Medical manag-

ing director Dr Bill Ketelby says the medication may also be useful in treating post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and other mental problems.

It might also help patients recover from heart attacks.

Over 413,000 Australians are living with dementia and nearly a million will have the disease by 2050. Currently there are no treatments that control the disease long term.