

## DESIGN | GUY ALLENBY



It probably won't matter if you accidentally leave a red-wine ring from an opened bottle on this dining table because the wood's already been marinated in the stuff for nearly a century. Made from old oak wine vats, circa 1913, this table and the others like it in the Brown Dog Furniture Company's range are made from timber reclaimed from one of Australia's well-known wineries, Mildara. The vats were decommissioned in 2007 so Brown Dog's David and Tamara Gorrie, based in Victoria, fashioned some limited-edition furniture pieces from them. The tops made from weathered wood and the bases are contemporary. As David Gorrie puts it, "It's enriching to be able to sit around table, look at the wine markings in the wood and realise this is something that grew from an acorn in rural France last century." The range is made up of dining, side and coffee tables. [www.browndogfurniture.com](http://www.browndogfurniture.com).



TOP FIVE

HIGHEST PRICED SALES (\$)

4,310,000

**VICTORIA:** 49 Sackville St, Kew. A five-bedroom, three-bathroom renovated 1920s house with period features and split-level rear extension, home theatre and terrace overlooking in-ground pool on 1229sqm.

**AGENT:** Marshall White



3,795,250

**VICTORIA:** 87 Broadway, Camberwell. A five-bedroom, three-bathroom circa 1910 home with grand formal rooms, Wunderlich ceilings, leadlights, and open fireplaces on 1033sqm.

**AGENT:** Jellis Craig Hawthorn



2,900,000

**QUEENSLAND:** 15 Mooloolah Island, Minyama Waters. A five-bedroom, three-bathroom riverfront home with pool, pontoon and views to Mooloolaba skyline.

**AGENT:** Elite Lifestyle properties



2,370,000

**NSW:** 17 Strathfield Ave, Strathfield. A five bedroom, two-bathroom home with entertainment deck, pool and undercover paved barbecue area on 790sqm.

**AGENT:** Devine Real Estate

1,305,000

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** 6 View Rd, Walkerville. A four-bedroom, two-bathroom family home with leadlight glass and high ceilings on 1086sqm.

**AGENT:** Klemich Real Estate

# Goodbye 'burbs, I'm trending up



BERNARD SALT

I'm sick of being boring and suburban. I have decided to groove it up by converting to the church of inner-city trendism.

Out goes my wardrobe of chinos, boat shoes and polo shirts, the uniform of the professional urban middle class in nice suburbs.

In comes black jeans, black shirt and black suede shoes. As well as an obscure European brand of watch with a huge face.

How do you think I'd go with a tattoo? I'm thinking a Chinese character on my forearm. Mandatory I'm afraid if you want to become part of the inner-city set. Same goes for an ear stud (diamond preferred) or, ideally but not absolutely de rigueur, either an eyebrow or a nose ring.

And if you cannot contemplate the pain of any of these options then you simply must have a thumb ring. Yes, a thumb ring.

I mean how on earth is anyone going to know that you are really, really trendy if you are only relying on them catching a glimpse of your obscure branded watch?

The solution of course is to sport a silver thumb ring. Yes, silver.

Look, I don't know why it has to be silver, it just has to be, all right? Sheesh, you suburbanites really have no idea, do you?

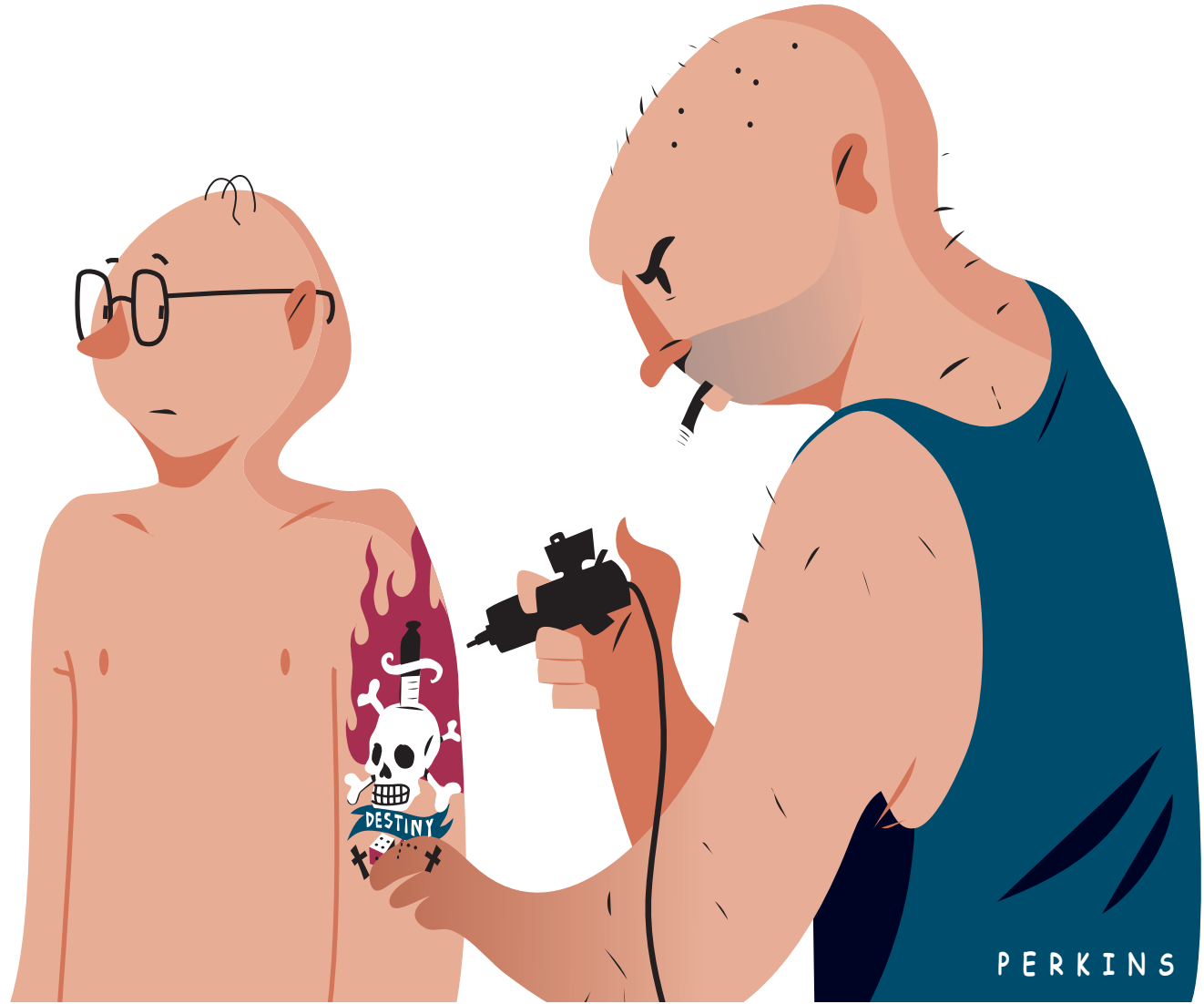
As for trendy inner-city occupations, well, anything in the arts, the media, computing (extra points for web-page design) or the entertainment industry is fine. Although if you really want to make it to high society in the inner city, and frankly who doesn't, then you need to work for an environmental cause that can be local, national or international. Anything to do with the Amazon is well regarded.

In your spare time you can either be writing a novel or blogging about food. Here is where inner-city trendies do their best work.

To be part of this set you need to understand not just the latest restaurants and cafes, but also the pedigree of their fashionable chefs.

"Yes, well I was in Cafe X last week. The chef there used to be at Cafe Y. He moved across last year because he had a dispute with the owner and I have to say that his smashed avocado with roasted mushrooms is to die for."

Brilliant. You have demonstrated in one fell swoop that you are familiar



MICHAEL PERKINS

How do you think I'd go with a tattoo? I'm thinking a Chinese character on my arm

Surry Hills, Melbourne's Carlton or Brisbane's Paddington and you will be branded a philistine or, worse, a suburbanist.

There is of course a range of accoutrements required to support any claim to being an inner-city trendy.

A bicycle on the veranda is good even if it isn't used. Cars should be small and European. A Toyota Prius is acceptable but only if decorated with, say, an "Obama 08" sticker.

Holidays should be taken frequently, but never to middle-class destinations such as Noosa or Fiji.

Do not embarrass yourself by mentioning that you have been to the worlds on the Gold Coast. If an inner-city trendy must go to the beach it should be an untrammelled island off the coast of Vietnam or Lombok, accessible only by fishing boat.

I also hear that Berlin is favoured this year but only if you can cite the suburb in which you stayed (hint: Prenzlauer Berg beats Potsdam).

Gosh there's a lot to learn about being an inner-city trendy.

Perhaps I'll stay where I am, wedged between the inner city's beard stubble and goatees and outer suburbia's comb-overs and mullets.

**Bernard Salt a KPMG Partner.**  
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TIP

'History shows that while falling stockmarkets may initially unsettle the property market, in the medium term demand and values firm off the back of falling interest rates and investors seeking tangible, safe-haven assets'

**MONIQUE SASSON WAKELIN**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BUYERS  
ADVOCATE WAKELIN PROPERTY ADVISORY



## SUNBURNT COUNTRY

RURAL PROPERTY

THE live cattle trade suspension may have been lifted, but the effect will be felt for a long time in the Top End as uncertainty engulfs the fickle market.

The 306,000ha Legune Station on Joseph Bonaparte Gulf, valued at about \$70 million, is back on the market after a would-be buyer pulled out in light of live cattle trade conditions.

Station owners wanting to move to crops have also pulled back due to uncertainty about the value of their operations, with a number of irrigation properties remaining on the market, including 4876ha Lynora Downs at Rolleston, Queensland, passed in at auction for \$21.5m and 3262ha Kingower at Emerald on the market for \$15.5m.

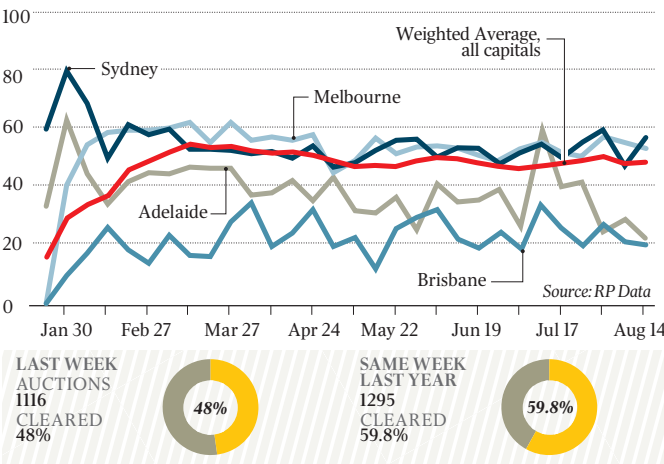
Foreign acquisitions have slowed a little, but one recent sale, in the range of \$15m, was overseas-owned NSW irrigation holdings Gunedra and Redcamp to a British consortium.

Two more Twynam Agricultural Group Riverina properties have been listed for sale with Cobran Station and Gundaline, Carrathool, on the market with a combined estimated value of \$55m to \$60m along with the Mount at Forbes, valued at \$3.5m to \$4m.

**LIZ COTTON**

## AUCTION CLEARANCE RATES

% { WEEK ENDING AUGUST 14 }



CAPITAL city auction clearance rates saw a slight improvement last week, moving up to 48 per cent from 47.8 per cent the week before. The average clearance rate has remained fairly steady around the 50 per cent mark since April and the market hasn't seen a clearance rate higher than 60 per cent since October. There were 1116 auctions last week compared with 1063 the week before and 1295 in the corresponding week last year. Australia's largest capital city market, Melbourne, recorded a clearance rate of 54.6 per cent across 492 auctions, while the second largest, Sydney, saw 54.7 per cent of 399 auctions cleared. The highest sale price achieved last week was \$4.3 million for a five-bedroom, three-bathroom house at Sackville Street in Melbourne's Kew. Two out of the top five sales noted by RP Data were in NSW, with the three most expensive sales in Victoria.

**TIM LAWLESS**, RP DATA

## PRIME CUTS

IT would take rapidly rising interest rates, increasing unemployment and bad lending practices for the housing market to collapse, Stockland's managing director Matthew Quinn says. If any company knows housing, it's Stockland. As the country's biggest residential developer, it's the company's bread and butter. "The market seems to be pricing in a correction in house prices in Australia. We think it is unlikely to happen," Quinn told investors earlier this month. Despite Stockland posting an 8.7 per cent annual profit lift to \$752 million, its shares were belted, falling 3.6 per cent on the day. Part of that fall came from poor sentiment over housing. But as Quinn points out, none of the factors he lists are present in Australia today. The sentiment is far more negative than the reality.



TURI CONDON  
PROPERTY EDITOR

## Earlville 105 - 107 Mansfield Street

Luxurious Living with Uninterrupted Ocean and City Views

Anchored atop Earlville, this rare estate is a triumph of design ensconced amid 80 acres of natural terrain. The 1km long private driveway leads up to this unique residence designed to maximise the panoramic backdrop. With stunning views from every floor it has been expertly sculpted to make the exterior natural world the interior living experience. This estate represents an exceedingly rare offering in today's market - it is the most prestigious estate in Cairns and now is your chance to make this yours!

- Pool with waterfall, diving board and water slide
- 100,000 litre rainwater tank & irrigation dam • Huge shed capable of housing a 30 foot boat
- Vacuum aid, wine cellar, intercom & valet system
- Ample parking for multiple visitors vehicles, 2 acres of flat usable land around residence - Tennis Court

On Site 12pm 17 Sept, 2011  
**View** Call to book your private appointment  
**Angela Capitanio 0418 772 315**  
**www.angelacapitanio**

6 4 6

Cairns Central

**Ray White**

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