

## CAPITAL GAIN

# Mearres prepares to remodel South Yarra site

TELEVISION personality Jodhi Mearres is part of the design team chosen to turn a former South Yarra rubbish dumping ground into a luxury village, with a focus on glamour and wellbeing.

Ms Mearres has been employed as a "lifestyle collaborator" for Clara, a \$140 million parkside apartment project being developed by boutique builder R. Corporation on the former Surrey Road Transfer Station site on a prime location off Surrey Road.

She will help design the interiors of villas, units and apartments in the development. Clara will include among other luxuries a Turkish hammam-style steam room, vertical gardens and a sauna. It will be built around a 5400-square-metre park and restored historic horse stables.

R. Corporation managing director Andrew Reintz said plans for Clara, construction on which would start in the middle of next year, would be revealed soon. It is believed a "Jodhi Mearres-styled display suite" will be available for inspection when marketing starts next month.

On orders from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, Stonnington City Council approved the town-



MARC PALLISCO

house and villa component of the project. An eight-level apartment building has also been proposed.

The 36-year-old former Mrs Packer started her career aged 16, as a Moore milk moulder, before gaining notoriety as a swimsuit model.

ASX-listed Billabong late last year bought her swimsuit clothing label, Tigerlily, for a price reported as between \$3 million and \$5 million.

Ms Mearres in 1999 married James Packer, but separated from him in 2002, about the same time she changed the spelling of her name from Jodie. Most recently Ms Mearres has hosted reality TV show *Australia's Next Top Model*.

He said VCAT "has not been very kind" after the council had rejected many proposals, and said the tribunal's overriding approvals risked putting strain on infrastructure and amenity. It further risked affecting the ambience and exclusivity of the suburb.

VCAT has used the contentious Melbourne 2030 policy to approve several high-rise developments in suburban areas. In the past 12 months, developers have proposed about 1000 new apartments in several South Yarra high-rise projects including a 38-level building at the Fun Factory site on the corner of Toorak Road and Chapel Street.

High-rise apartments are also planned for land behind the Gorno Hotel, the Jam Factory, the Lamborghini car dealership, all on Chapel Street, and the precinct west of the South Yarra train station.

Mr Ullin said if VCAT insisted on approving apartment projects, these projects should have public recreation space and prominently feature art.



Strutting her stuff: Jodhi Mearres is a lifestyle collaborator for R. Corporation's Clara project.

## CAPITAL GAIN

# Meares prepares to remodel South Yarra site

TELEVISION personality Jodhi Meares is part of the design team chosen to turn a former South Yarra rubbish dumping ground into a luxury village, with a focus on glamour and wellbeing.

Ms Meares has been employed as a "lifestyle collaborator" for Clara, a \$140 million parkside apartment project being developed by boutique builder R. Corporation on the former Surrey Road Transfer Station site, on a prime location off Surrey Road.

She will help design the interiors of villas, units and apartments in the development. Clara will include among other luxuries a Turkish hammam-style steam room, vertical gardens and a sauna. It will be built around a 5400-square-metre park and restored historic horse stables.

R. Corporation managing director Andrew Rettig said plans for Clara, construction on which would start in the middle of next year, would be revealed soon. It is believed a "Jodhi Meares-styled display suite" will be available for inspection when marketing starts next month.

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