

'Strong interest' shown in units

A pig farmer in a bow tie from Gundagai – not a sight seen regularly on the streets of Maryborough.

But yesterday Ron Blyth, pig farmer come property developer, unveiled the pricing for his boutique unit development, Riverview on March, the first in Maryborough's new "Millionaire's Row".

"It's really exciting that it's all a reality," Mr Blyth said. "They told me I had to dress up so I thought a tux was appropriate."

Priced from \$799,000 to \$1.15 million, five units are up for grabs. Mr Blyth has kept one for himself.

Two river view units are for sale as are three facing March Street.

"There was some very strong interest," Mr Blyth said after last night's launch. "One buyer is definite and two more are very keen."

In the early 1990s Mr Blyth, who lives in Gundagai, discovered Maryborough driving down the coast from Gladstone.

He fell in love with the country charm and regal architecture of the Heritage City and bought the old Metway Bank building.

"It just sort of went from there. After I bought the bank I also helped develop Tinana Greens Estate."

Riverview on March is one of a string of developments touted for Maryborough including Mr Blyth's \$30 million Fraser Coast Marina.

Maryborough developer Rollo Nicholson is also awaiting approval to start work on Woodstock on Lennox Street.

Trade talks deliver another setback

By ANNE-LOUISE BROWN

No deal is better than a bad deal for Fraser Coast farmers according to Warren Truss.

Speaking from Canberra, the Member for Wide Bay and Nationals leader yesterday described the breakdown of the World Trade Organisation's Doha talks in Geneva as "disappointing but not surprising".

"After being involved in negotiations as agricultural and trade minister I know how hard these talks can be," Mr Truss said. "But it's better to have no deal than a bad one."

The Doha trade talks began in 2001 with an emphasis on development and opening global markets in agriculture, manufacturing and services. The latest round collapsed on Tuesday after a dispute involving the US, China and India.

Talks broke down over a tariff safeguard developing countries demanded to protect them against a sudden surge in imports or drop in prices.

"Things important to our farmers can't be traded off just to get a resolution," Ms Truss said. "Huge subsidies given to US and European farmers need to be reduced and Aussies need more access to bigger



Australian Trade Minister Warren Truss is disappointed but not surprised by the breakdown of talks in Geneva.

THE POLITICAL LIFE OF WARREN TRUSS

1990: Mr Truss entered federal parliament in 1990 as the Nationals member for Wide Bay
1997: He was appointed Customs and Consumer Affairs minister; in 1998 he became Minister for Community Services
1999: Appointed Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, a portfolio held for six years
2005: Mr Truss became Minister for Transport and Regional Services portfolio; in 2006 he became Minister for Trade
2007: Mr Truss was chosen as federal leader of The Nationals; he is Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and Local Government

markets. World trade needs to be free and fair."

Involving delegates from about 30 countries, the Doha talks were set to be completed by January 1, 2005. They repeatedly collapsed as developed countries failed to agree with developing nations on market access.

FAST NEWS

FRAIL MAN ON RAPE CHARGE: An elderly and visibly frail man facing one charge of rape and one charge of indecent treatment of children under the age of 16 has fronted the Maryborough Magistrates Court. The wheelchair bound man was pushed into the courtroom by his wife and was excused from standing when the Magistrate addressed him. He had his bail enlarged until his next appearance on September 22. He was ordered to have no contact with the alleged person involved in the charges.

ACCOMMODATION PRIORITY: Putting student accommodation "back on the front burner" is a priority for the powers that be according to USQ Fraser Coast chief Ken Stott. Yesterday Mr Stott said the university had been "bending over backwards" to help international students who were still looking for accommodation. He explained the students were eager to live together as part of their university experience but while student accommodation was not available, it was not possible for them to do so.

CHILLY NIGHT AHEAD: July is set to close on a cold note with Fraser Coast temperatures expected to drop another degree tonight. After yesterday's low of 7.5 degrees in Hervey Bay and 4.1 degrees in Maryborough, the mercury was expected to slip to 5 degrees and 4 degrees respectively last night. However, earlier lows this month of 3.1 degrees in the Bay and 1.9 degrees in Maryborough are unlikely to be breached.

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