

Queensland

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HAMILTON HILL ON BRISBANE RIVER

Trophies galore right there in River City

Brisbane, known as the River City, is home to plenty of trophy mansions on and off the water.

Mining magnate Gina Rinehart holds the residential record set in 2014 when she bought her Federation filigree-style property. She paid \$14 million for the ornate Hawthorne property and made the position even more commanding by paying \$4m for a neighbouring 1930 knockdown. It all sits on 4500sq m with Brisbane city views.

Balaam, the contemporary Hamilton home of Consolidated Properties managing director Don O'Rorke, has been a more recent price setter. His three-storey, 2006-built Harbour Road home sold for \$11.8m last year through Ray White agent Matt Lancashire, as O'Rorke, wife Natasha and their posse of children embarked on their Brookfield tree change.

Set on one of Brisbane's prized riverfront streets, the futuristic Balaam has eight bedrooms and nine bathrooms after its custom design by architect Shaun Lockyer.

There is 48 metres of Brisbane river frontage on its 1600sq m parcel. The home, with its white concrete and dark timbered jarrah exterior, appeared in the book, *100 Dream Houses from Downunder*.

Last year, there were 29 riverfront sales of more than \$2m, the same as 2014 but five short of the record 34 in 2010, according to Johnston Dixon Quality Property.

The highest non-riverfront sale remains the \$11.2m paid in 2007 through Gail Havig for a 5600sq m hilltop property, Farsley, on Eldernell Terrace, Hamilton. John George, a founder of salad and fresh food company Mrs Crocket's,



bought Farsley, the 1860s stone home that had been the abode of Anglican archbishops for the prior five decades.

Brisbane pub baron Andrew Griffiths sold his Ascot residence for \$10.2m in 2014 through estate agent Gail Havig with Windermere on 4700sq m.

Offers over \$14m are being sought for Ruhamah, the Edwardian home at Hamilton Hill that has had just three owners in its 112-years. The dress circle home sits on 4258sq m at 23 Killara Avenue with Queensland Sotheby's International Realty agent Julie Vines saying it is an unrivalled sanctuary. There's high pressed-metal ceilings, chandeliers, leadlight, polished hard-wood floors along with the modern chef's kitchen and teppanyaki terrace off the tennis court and indoor pool house.