

# Luxury facelift for Burnham Beeches

**P**ROPERTY investor Adam Garrison, the man who was, until recently, a joint-venture owner of Spring Street's controversial Windsor Hotel redevelopment, has purchased a significant Dandenong Ranges property.

Sources say Mr Garrison is planning to restore the former Burnham Beeches estate in Sherbrooke, about 40 kilometres east of town, into a luxury resort. The distinctive three-storey art deco property was built in the 1930s as a private home for wealthy businessman Alfred Nicholas, who made his fortune from the headache medication Aspro. The property is set on 22.7 hectares of historic landscaped gardens.

The building reputedly cost an estimated £200,000 to build at the time — the equivalent of \$40 million today.

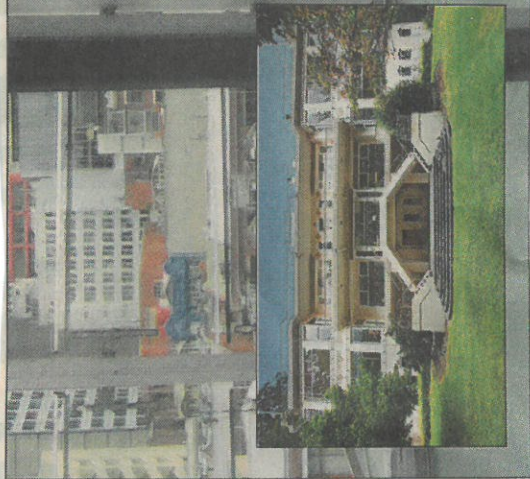
Designed by architect Harry Norris, the building, composed mainly of reinforced concrete, has lines reminiscent of an ocean liner. At one stage, the exterior of the house was reportedly decorated with motifs of koalas and possums. Burnham Beeches was converted from a residence into a restaurant and hotel in 1980, but shut its doors in 1993. The estate includes four staff res-

idences. It was marketed with approval for a 51-lot subdivision.

CB Richard Ellis's Scott Callow and Paul O'Connell marketed Burnham Beeches on behalf of receiver and manager Grant Thornton, but declined to comment. Mr Garrison was unavailable.

In 2008, Mr Garrison sold his half-share interest in the Windsor Hotel to joint-venture partner the Halim Group. Planning Minister Justin Madden recently gave the green light for a 26-level, 91-metre hotel to be developed behind the Windsor.

Mr Garrison was involved in the restoration of Bourke Street's General Post Office, and was also the co-founder of restaurant Fifteen with celebrity chef Jamie Oliver.



Adam Garrison and the former Burnham Beeches estate (inset).