



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Your FREE community paper

Cudgerie Edition
October 2021
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RECORD PRICE FOR NIMBIN FARM

by Bob Dooley

An avocado farm at Mountain Top near Nimbin, known as Mountain Top Orchards, has sold for more than \$14 million after attracting strong interest from buyers.

The 117ha (290 acres) property, set over two titles, includes two homes with a total of five bedrooms and DA approval to add a third dwelling.

The farm included 14,398 Hass avocado trees ranging in age from six months to nine years, and boasts a 187meg irrigation licence and 10meg bore plus harvestable rights.

The sale also included an extensive list of machinery and equipment, and an on-site nursery used for grafting avocados.

The owner, Barry Kuhnell started the orchard from scratch ten years ago, and for about five years cropped passionfruit as well as some avocados, which he grew from seeds because of the limited availability of trees.

Around two years ago, he replaced the passionfruit with more

avocados, and now the farm is estimated to return \$4-5 million pa, though farm prices have dropped this year due to over-supply.

The property was sold through an expressions of interest campaign by LJ Hooker-Lismore agent Geoff Venn, who said there were close to 160 buyer inquiries.

"We saw great interest across the board from mum and dad investors, other farmers and district buying groups to even those working in the food space industries wanting to secure their own supply of avocados," he told *The Daily Telegraph*.

The purchasers are an Australian agricultural assets management and farming group which owns several other farm across the country.

They have appointed a manager with experience in growing avocados, and will be keeping the employees on.

Commenting on the sale, Nimbin Hills agent John Wilcox said, "Avocados are the golden crop at the moment."

He said he was surprised by the record price paid, but said that sales



Photo courtesy Barry Kuhnell

are currently hot, it and was not often that big income-producing properties came on the market.

"Most of the farms on offer are

lifestyle properties," he said.

Barry Kuhnell has bought a 20-acre farm at Koonorrigan and retired from farming, saying,

"Avocados have been pretty good to us, but you're at the mercy of the weather."

He says he'll grow a few veggies.

VOTE 1



ELLY BIRD FOR MAYOR



Gwen Trimble FOR COUNCIL

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