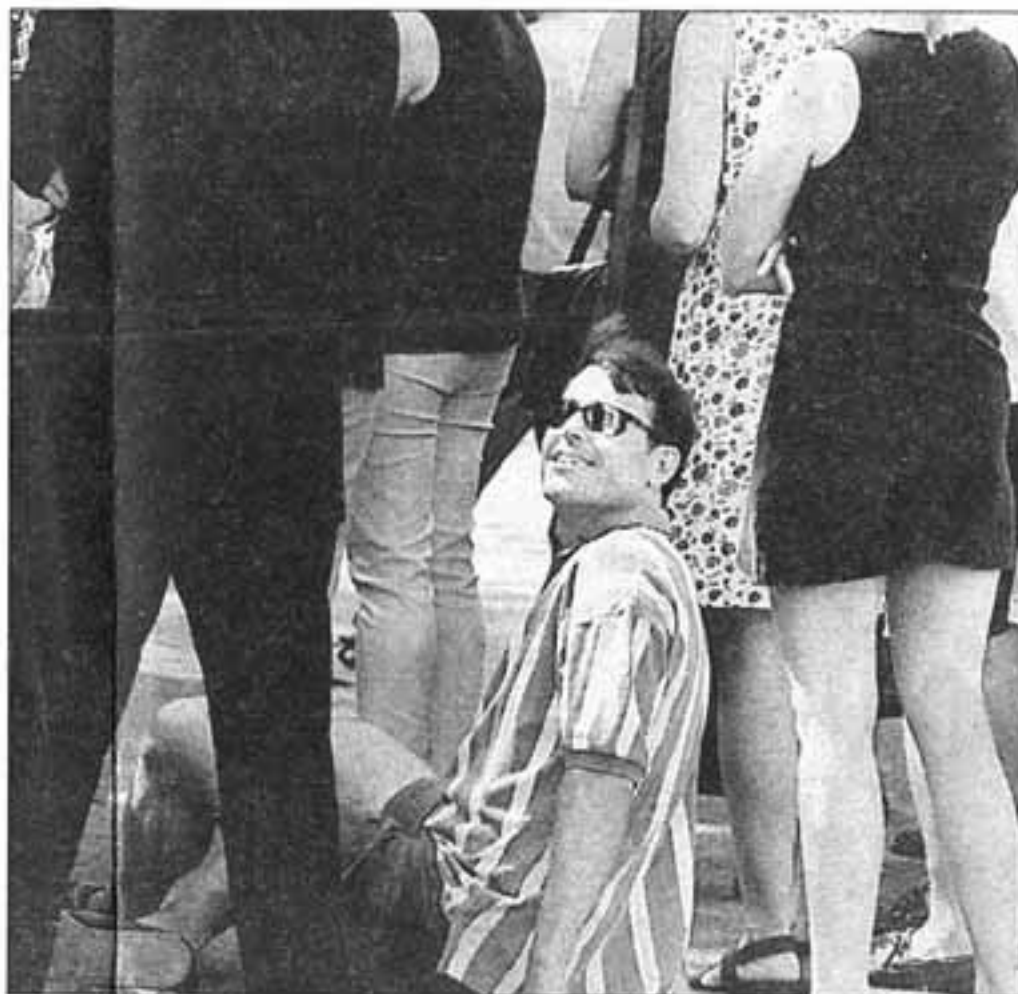


Bad news for Rick



Newsreader Rick Ardon could still smile, even though he missed out on a house in St Johns Wood.

Picture: KERRY BERRINGTON

\$1½ million bid falls short

By NEIL SMITH

AN unidentified couple yesterday outbid Channel 7 newsreader Rick Ardon for a two-storey executive residence in St Johns Wood, Mt Claremont.

About 19 people attended the sale and bidding was spirited.

Ardon, who arrived with his wife and two young daughters, took part in the early bidding but dropped out when bids reached \$560,000.

Ardon, who already has a house near the ocean in Scarborough, is said to be looking for a new home close to the John XXIII College.

The house on offer yesterday at 10 Pine Tree Lane is only about 300m from the school.

Ardon and his family arrived about 30 minutes before bidding started.

They inspected the architect-designed house and then crossed the road to see another home open for inspection.

Bidding on No.10 started at \$480,000 but quickly rose to \$560,000 with about four people bidding.

Past the \$600,000 mark, only two families remained.

The house eventually sold for \$628,000 to a jubilant couple who hugged and kissed when auctioneer Greg Rossen brought down the hammer.

Designed by Chris Baverstock, the solar-passive home has five bedrooms and three bathrooms, including a spa in the ensuite.

The vendor is the principal of a leading Perth advertising agency.

In other auctions, a house in Bay View Tee, Mosman Park,

with views over Freshwater Bay, sold for \$1.4 million when auctioned by Chris Shellabear.

Shellabear also sold a three-bedroom house in Fairway, Nedlands, for \$446,000.

A vacant block in Nedlands listed by Leo Waters of Acton Consolidated sold for \$715,000.

An apartment in Hawkestone St, Cottesloe, opposite the home of Diana Bliss, Alan Bond's wife, sold for \$370,000 when auctioned by David Bell for Peter Bell and Associates.