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Low-maintenance mutt: One of the wall-pets at Isar terraces in Beaconsfield.

ETCH A PET

Architect and artist Nikki South has come up with a "virtual pet" for apartment dwellers not allowed to have a real one. Terraces in the Isar development at inner-city Beaconsfield, to be released for sale next month, will each have a dog, cat or canary etched into the courtyard wall. There's even a patch of grass for them to do their business. A stainless-steel push mower is also part of the package. See www.isar.com.au

MCGRATH'S MANLY FORAY

John McGrath (pictured) is about to invade the last remaining belt of affluence in Sydney not yet under his, ah, belt. One of the secrets of McGrath's success is that he has targeted only high-priced areas (aka fat commissions): the eastern suburbs, inner west, lower and upper North Shore, northern beaches and, more recently, the Sutherland Shire. This time it's Manly, with

with power before blocks can be registered with the land titles office. Somebody should tell Country Energy, which has advised a builder in Marulan to let them know two weeks before residents move into a new (as yet unbuilt) house. The cables have all been laid by the developer but "you can't expect us to hook up power just so a builder can build a house", he was told. Anyone want a cheap power saw and nail gun?

CLASH OF OLD SCHOOL TIES

From the emails received after our item on surveyors, it seems we have uncovered a turf war for membership between their professional associations. Russell Kell of Goulburn says the professional body for surveyors in NSW is the Institution of Surveyors and claims 80 to 90 per cent of registered surveyors are members. He says the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) "is an English body which has no

