

Best June sales

HOME TRUTHS

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BARRY Plant has bucked the trend of a flattening winter property market, recording its 18th record month in a row. Further evidence of its success was 16 offices reporting their best June ever, and the Bayswater office having its best month in history. "With our expansive spread of offices across metropolitan Melbourne, the Mornington and Bellarine Peninsulas as well as Queensland, the Barry Plant Group is often used as a barometer to measure how the wider real estate market is travelling," group director and chief executive Mike McCarthy said. "The overall market is strong with solid results being reported. While a greater number of properties are being passed in, good buyer activity prior to and after auction has still meant solid competition."

Education projects

IT'S a busy time in the education sector, with contractor APM Group rolling out private and state education projects across the state, to the tune of \$62.5 million. Recently completing Carey Grammar School's performing arts centre and Luther College Middle School, the construction company is completing building works for Lowther Hall Anglican Girls School, Western Heights College, Balwyn High School, Wodonga Middle Years College and Bendigo College Flora Hill. APM Group managing director Brian Sands said the increased activity in the education sector was due, in part, to government stimulus support.

Top Green Star rating

AUSTRALIA'S 250th green star building has been certified and it's appropriately the country's first carbon-neutral building. Green Building Council of Australia chief executive Romilly Madew said Grocon's



Carey Grammar's performing arts centre.

Pixel building has been awarded the highest green star score ever — a perfect score of 100. The Green Star environmental rating system was launched in 2003, with the first Green Star rating being awarded in 2005. In April last year, the council presented the 100th Green Star certification. "Just over a year later, we've more than doubled the number of Green Star-rated buildings around Australia," said Ms Madew. "We now have 3.57 million sq m of Green Star certified office, retail, education and residential space nationwide."

Flat-out winner

DARWIN is the most expensive city to share a flat, according to new figures from flatmate website EasyRoommate. The average monthly rent for a flatshare advertisement in Darwin is \$779, compared with \$603 in Sydney and just \$577 in Melbourne. EasyRoommate director Radek Dobrolecki said choosing to share a home still offered great value for money compared with renting alone. "What's interesting is that living in Sydney or Melbourne can actually save you money when compared with Darwin. Australia's two largest cities are not the most expensive to live in."