



## Dark horse in stables

WE KNOW that it wasn't Elle, but the buyer of the historic Stonington stables remains a mystery following news that it sold last week for a figure agents said was close to \$4 million.

Word that Stonington stables, in Somers Avenue, Malvern, was on the market had reached the British press, which suggested it could make a suitable residence for model Elle Macpherson as she apparently wants to return to Australia.

Jock Langley, the agent handling the sale, said the speculative story on Elle had prompted considerable interest in the property from potential European buyers.

Mr Langley, a director of Abercromby's, said the buyer was local but would not disclose the identity. He said it was understood the stables would be developed into a family residence.

The stables are on land that was formerly part of the grounds of Stonington mansion, and was acquired by developer Ashington in 2006.

The Sydney-based developer announced plans to build 75 homes on the acquired land and decided to sell the stables.

The 119-year-old mansion was sold to art dealer Rod Menzies in 2007 for more than \$18 million.

The two-level stables comprise 540 square metres and are on 2046 square metres of land.