

CITY BEAT

WITH JAMES McCULLOUGH



Sabre champers

THE champagne swords were flashing recently for local bizzoid **Michael Sherlock** as the former Brumby's bakeries boss and author of business advice book *Jumpshift!* celebrated his 60th at a knees-up at home.

Leading the charge was neighbour **Mark McLeod**, who has made champagne his life's passion and, just quietly, has assembled a nice collection of vintage champers following numerous trips to the main growing district in Epernay, France.

McLeod gave a demonstration of the sabrage technique for opening champagne with a sabre, sliding the blade along the bottle towards the neck and popping the cork and collar off together in one fell swoop.

Among the invited guests were **Kevin Kelly** from Cooe, Sentinel Property's **Warren Ebert**, **Michael Kopitke** from 1300 Smiles in Townsville and local polmie, **Scott Emerson**.

Not just popular with Napoleon's fearsome light cavalry, several of Sherlock's guests joined in mastering the sabrage tradition. His wife **Jenny** was seen fishing the pool next morning.

about 20 revellers had already danced on the thing.

In high spirits Lally took to the podium after that great **Bryan Adams** song *Summer of '69* started to belt out. Almost religious. Lally performed what we hear was an historic air guitar rendition before bouncers tapped him on the shoulder and asked him to leave.

Bouncers later escorted Lally away, despite his protests that he was the boss and paying for the entire party. Needless to say, Sunsuper never had another party at the Hilton ... and why would you?



Super shindig

WE always knew there was a reason to be afraid, very afraid, of keen bike rider and Sunsuper chief **Tony Lally**.

Our festive season deep throats report that Lally recently staged the Sunsuper Christmas party at the Sofitel Hotel, a carnivale-themed event that went over rather well with no one referred to human resources as a result.

Anyway, years back Lally used to hold Sunsuper's festive season bash at the Hilton Hotel ... until one fateful Christmas shindig.

The wine was flowing and an overly enthusiastic bouncer was insisting that no one should stand on an erected podium in the Hilton ballroom despite the fact that

TOUCHE: Michael Sherlock turned 60 with swordplay.

Real toy story

YOUR diarist yesterday found himself in a highway patrol police car surrounded by a motorcade of about 20 police bikes - but I hadn't done anything wrong.

Rather, I was part of a great charity event that started nearly a decade ago when retired constable **David Walsh** needed a few chocolate eggs to go with some toys for Christmas for needy children in hospital.

He asked a few local bizzoids and hairdresser to the stars, **Stefan**, came on board and said he would donate a few eggs to the cause.

The event has since grown to a monster thing. Yesterday, Police Commissioner **Bob Atkinson** and about 80 police escorted a highly coveted "Santa van" full of toys for the Royal Children's Hospital.

City Beat's driver was highway patrolman **Brian Flannery**, who informed me that it was one of the highlights on the police calendar. I couldn't help but wind down the window of the police car and wave to stunned passers-by in the middle of the police cavalcade.

Given the generosity of numerous kind donors, hospitals from Palm Island to the Gold Coast now hand out toys to sick children who do not have much support over the festive season.

Eye on Asia

IT'S a bit like an Asian invasion, really. Local multi-millionaire and dealmaker **Harvey Lister**, of AEG Ogden, yesterday notched up another major win in Asia.

Australian Pavilion Services, an AEG Ogden subsidiary venture company, has been contracted to provide management services for the Australian Pavilion at the 2012 International Exposition in Yeosu, Korea.

Under the contract, issued by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, APS will provide day-to-day management services for the pavilion, and have the rights for the delivery of retail services including merchandise and food and beverage. It comes on the heels of AEG gaining contracts to manage major venues in Qatar, Kuala Lumpur and Oman.

Storm on film

IT'S Storm Financial the movie! Producers were showing off the 50-minute flick in Brisbane yesterday and while it wasn't in 3D (thank goodness), it's not a bad film given the threadbare budget. Our reviewer would have liked to have seen a little more input from some of the politicians that were banging the drum for quite a few months but have now trailed off.