

TUESDAY OCTOBER 5, 2004 FREE



# mx

## Bitchy Elton

Rocker slags off at Madge  
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**plus**

## Bad-girl Gisele steals the show

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### It's almost poling day and someone will get the flick

Limber up ladies, pole dancing is sliding its way out of X-rated stripclubs and into G-rated suburban dance studios and nightclubs. Prahran's Pole Divas instructor Venus Brutnall is meeting demand from Melburnians who've quit new-age yoga for a bit of old-fashioned straddle and flick. ■ Poles apart, PAGE 4. Picture: NICOLE CLEARLY

• NIGHTCLUB FAD

# Poles apart from aerobics classes

Inga Gilchrist

Pole dancing is about to become the norm in Melbourne's bars and nightclubs.

A second city nightclub will install stripper poles next month as scores of women flock to classes at Melbourne's first pole-dancing studio.

Heat nightclub at Crown casino will follow HonkyTonks' lead, fitting four shiny poles as part of the latest craze to slither south from Sydney and the US.

Heat director Rob Bottazzi said the poles would become a

permanent fixture if they proved popular.

He said US stars such as Carmen Electra, Drew Barrymore, and Pamela Anderson were leading the trend to take the arch and pout beyond X-rated venues.

It comes as about 150 wannabe bump'n'grind queens shimmy through classes at the new Prahran studio Pole Divas.

Bored with aerobics, pilates and yoga, teachers, youth workers and receptionists are spending weeknights and Saturday afternoons finding muscles they never knew they had.

And at least five Melbourne grooms are in for a wedding night lap dance after bridal parties booked pole-dance classes for their hens' nights.

Pole Divas director Kennetta Hutchens said she limited numbers in the no-nudity sessions to ensure every student had her own pole.

Several detachable, take-home poles were sold for \$450 each within days of appearing on the studio website.

Pole class debutante Kellie Macpherson, 26, said she wanted to try "something completely different".

Macpherson said she enjoyed letting her barriers down in the classes and feeling more comfortable about her body.

But the advertising account manager has no plans for a change of career with her new-found skills.

"Definitely not. I'm not that much of an exhibitionist and I've got a good job," she said.

But the classes have critics.

Australian Podiatry Association state board member Matt Dilnot said working out in platform stilettos was an express route to bunions, arthritis and lower back pain.

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