The Sun-Herald

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No. 1 for entert

Jonathan Sabarre, Katie Burgess and Patrick Netrayana at Cargo Bar.

Rebecca Gibbs, Megan Powell and Bronwen Hodgson at Etch.

Melbourne Cup parties

All over Sydney

hit The sweltering heat did nothing to dampen Sydney's party spirits on Melbourne Cup day. Bubbles flowed generously at The Victoria Room, which was decorated with hundreds of fresh roses and white picket fences. Two Shetland ponies set the tone, although the female-dominated crowd kept their eyes on the few blokes in the room rather than the horse racing. Over at Cargo Bar, poorly applied fake tans and plenty of cleavage couldn't distract corporate lunch crowds from betting big. Winners shouted drink rounds well into the evening and this party didn't wrap up until the wee hours. Etch's far more civilised lunch attracted beautiful PR and magazine types, while the ivy drew Skye Leckie recycling her Derby Day dress, and her besties, including Collette Dinnigan and Gail Elliott.

miss It was beautifully presented and the staff were outstanding but unfortunately Fringe Bar copped rowdy drunks. One large group in particular created unnecessary amounts of noise pollution as they carried on like drunken NRL players. We realise this is the only day you're allowed out of the office each year but shouting AC/DC tunes at a sit-down lunch is just not on.

KRISTIE LAU, JONNO SEIDLER, KATE LEAVER, SUSIE CAMERON

PHOTOS: HELEN NEZDROPA, SASHA WOOLLEY, SCOTT NEEDHAM

Susan Pinto with Eskimo and Wizard at The Victoria Room.

Liz Avery at Fringe Bar.

Katterina Talbot, Lauren Emery and Marlyn Awadalla at Cargo Bar.

Helen Dudgeon, Charlette Elliot and Vanessa Wright at The Victoria Room.

Joe Coffey and Gail Elliott at the ivy.