

## ● MASTERCHEF

**Towering TV success**

The return of patissier king Adriano Zumbo saw *MasterChef* hit a ratings season high last night.

Almost 2.1 million people watched as the contestants struggled to recreate Zumbo's macaroon tower.

Comeback kid Peter Kritikides was eliminated for the second time after he produced the most disappointing macaroon of the four contestants up for elimination.

The show helped Ten pick up 25.5 per cent of the night's audience. Nine pulled 23.4 per cent and Seven 22.2 per cent.

Nine's *Rescue Special Ops* received a welcome bounce for its second episode, up more than 100,000 viewers to 1.09 million.

**What the? \***

Several Israeli soldiers look set to face the music over a viral video of them dancing on duty. A clip of the soldiers stopping a patrol in the West Bank as a Muslim call to prayer is heard to dance to Ke\$ha's hit *TiK ToK* has been pulled from YouTube. But Israeli TV stations have picked it up and they've been identified as soldiers in the Palestinian city of Hebron.

## ● STAR SMOOCHES

**Dance goes on for Finch**

*Dancing with the Stars* contestant and former Miss Universe Australia Rachael Finch has confirmed the reason she and her hot Russian dance partner have such great chemistry on the dance floor.

The beauty queen and Michael Miziner have been seen kissing and holding hands after leaving rehearsals for the show in Melbourne.

"Michael and I have been dancing together for a couple of months now and we're having a great time," Finch told *New Idea*.

"It's early days in our relationship but we're really enjoying each other's company and I guess we'll see where it leads."

Finch has previously been linked to champion swimmer Eamon Sullivan

## ● DISHONEST SHOPPERS

**I'm spent from lying**

Maria Bervanakis

Relationships are built on trust, right?

Well, not when it comes to shopping, with a new survey finding one in two Australians lie to loved ones about their spending.

A survey of 1000 people by online shopping site dealsdirect.com.au found half

tell fibs about their spending sprees. When asked why, the majority said it was because they didn't want to deal with a negative reaction from a partner or relative (52 per cent).

Other excuses included feeling guilty about overspending (47 per cent), being embarrassed about how much they paid (27 per cent), and wanting to appear like bargain hunters

(20 per cent). And married shoppers were the most dishonest, with more than half saying they lied because they faced disapproval from their partner when they spent too much.

Women were more likely to lie because they felt guilty (51 per cent), but men bend the truth about the price to their friends (17 per cent), usually to appear

as bargain hunters (22 per cent). One in five aged 35-49 admitted they still faced disapproval from their parents when they overspent.

DealsDirect.com.au managing director Paul Greenberg said some people even created secret bank accounts to hide their spending.

He said the research showed it was not unusual for Aust-

ralians to lie about the price of their purchases when they knew they've paid too much for something.

"People fear the disapproval of their loved ones and feel buyer's remorse when they overspend," he said.

"On the flip side, there is real pride in saving money, reflected by those who lie to appear like a bargain hunter."

**The way of the drumstick**

It looks like a scene from a Kurosawa movie, but it's actually Drum Tao, Japan's most celebrated and elite company of martial arts drummers, and there are no swords involved. But the bangin' troupe will be summoning the spirit of the samurai on their huge wadaiko drums at The Palms at Crown tonight until Sunday.

Picture: NICOLE CLEARY

## ● INDIA KIDNAP

**Coffin your new home**

A family in India kidnapped a relative and kept him in a coffin for 2½ years after he refused to give them his home.

Scientist Rajan Killaker, 41, was rescued after police in Porbunder, western India, received an anonymous letter saying property dealer Hitesh Karavadra had killed him to stake claim over his bungalow, the *Indian Express* reports.

Police raided Karavadra's home and found Killaker. He said he had been kept in the coffin since December 2007 when Karavadra hit him on the head with a baseball bat and was let out once a day for a meal.

## ● CINEMA TRAGEDY

**Twilight death probe**

New Zealand police are investigating the mysterious death of a young man at the screening of the new *Twilight* movie in Wellington.

The 23-year-old was found dead in his seat by a security guard at the end of a 6pm screening of *Twilight: Eclipse* on Sunday night.

The guard was alerted to his presence by a staff member who thought he was "asleep" after everyone else had left, police said.

Ambulance officers tried in vain to resuscitate him.

Police said the man had no obvious injuries and his death was not being treated as suspicious.