

# winterstyle



## Tunics and pants get a leg-in this winter, colours go pastel

Soft pastels, sophisticated dresses and 1940s suits, androgynous dressing and a reworking of 80s fashion are all the rage this season, according to Fashion Quarterly magazine.

What's more animal prints are back with a vengeance, it says.

However, in Warkworth, long tops and slim pants are the garments moving off the racks at top speed.

Gaby's owner Brenda Hawley says while she has some "subdued" animal prints and retro style dresses, what sells in the city, doesn't necessarily reflect what the local market wants.

Here the trend is still longer lines and tunic tops with tights or slim leg pants.

Merino is immensely popular with fine knitwear in a variety of colours.

Many women are using the merino vests to punch some colour into an ensemble of this seasons colours which tend to be a lot of charcoal, silver and grey, she says.

Purples and reds are also very strong with smatterings of orange, lime green and cerise pink, and turquoise.

Brenda says merino dresses – often with a draping front which is flattering over the bust and tummy – are also popular.

"Merino has taken over from the cotton skivvy," she says. "A lot of people who can't wear lambs' wool next to their skin can wear merino. It's soft, easy care and feels cuddly, comfy and light."

Boot cut and narrow leg jeans are also popular, while short ankle boots are making a comeback.

Warkworth Menswear owner/manager Kathy Woodcock says the R.M. Williams range proves popular and that men seem to be gradually accepting a softer cotton fabric in shirts.



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FASHION FEATURE

winterstyle



Pamela, with daughter Loulou, is never short of new ideas for her designs.

Parasols take off "like topsy"

An epiphany at a music festival has launched a Snells Beach woman on a personal crusade to re-launch a fashion accessory of a bygone era.

Pamela "Binky" Collier was at the Parachute Festival three years ago, observing thousands of music fans being scorched under the hot sun. All of a sudden she recalled a photo she had from a 1920s movie starring a woman with a beautiful hand-coloured parasol, and presto!

"I was so excited," she says. "I decided I was going to make it my personal mission to bring these back into fashion."

Pamela was at the time living in a remote farm in Taihape, but as she waded through the paddocks in her gumboots, her mind was awl with designs for parasols. She contacted friends abroad to track down a source for the parasols, and then she and daughter Clare paid a visit to Asia to see if they could be produced for her. Container loads of parasols began arriving at the farm and Pamela's business "Parasoul" took off.

Eighteen months ago the family moved to Snells Beach where Pamela's husband Malcolm or "Tiger" manages the infrastructure

for the Lifeway campus.

Under their Goodall Road accommodation, Pamela has styled "The Parasolium" where she and Clare collect and dispatch parasols to retailers around the country.


Pamela says the business is "growing like topsy" and they are constantly coming up with new parasol ideas. They love spots and stripes and have imported some larger parasols as garden umbrellas.

The parasols have been particularly popular for weddings where they can be a prop for photos, as well as a practical and fun accessory. The waxed cotton styles are also waterproof so can double as rain umbrellas.

"Parasols have been around a long time, they were in vogue in western societies in the 1920s. We feel that their time is back especially considering our awareness of the effects the sun has on our skin."

The company donates 10 percent of its profits back to a Thai aid organisation.

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FASHION FEATURE

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# “Real models” grace Lions catwalk in Warkworth

A range of autumn fashions available from local retailers will be modelled by Lions Club members at a show this month.

The Lions Club of Kowhai Coast is having its annual Dorothy's Autumn Splendour Fashion Parade on Tuesday, April 27, at the Bowls Warkworth Club in Mill Lane.

Club president Olywyn Hill says it's a great opportunity to see fashions modelled by “real people” of all shapes and sizes.

“None of the women are stick insects,” she says. “You get to see what looks good on what type of body and the models stop and let you feel the fabrics and ask questions.” Olywyn says about 10 members who have volunteered to be models are picking a range of outfits they like from Dorothy's in Neville Street.

These will be accessorised by hats and bags from Not Just Hats and shoes from Warkworth Shoes.

Doors open at 7pm for refreshments, the parade starting at 7.30pm. There will be entertainment and a light supper provided.

Tickets \$10 from Dorothy's, Not Just Hats and Warkworth Shoes. All proceeds go directly to local charities.



Christine Pulman and Kristine Bayer model clothes at last year's show.

ADVERTORIAL

## Latest sewing machines break new ground for Bernina

The art of sewing in all its forms has seen a huge resurgence in recent years - so too has the sale of lower priced sewing machines. To meet this growing demand, Bernina New Zealand has just released a new range of machines that break new ground for this iconic sewing brand.

Introducing their lowest priced sewing machines ever. Country Manager for Bernina New Zealand, Kevin Anderson, explains that while there are plenty of cheap machines around, the latest additions to the Bernina stable are a much smarter buy.

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chains and discount stores.”

### Black makes a comeback

The standout machine in Bernina's new range is the bernette 46 with its cool retro look - reminiscent of the very first household machine produced by Bernina in 1932. But even more appealing than the look, this new machine comes at the very special launch price of just \$299 (normal retail \$349).

Another first is the new bernette overlocker - sure to make anyone who's gone without an overlocker think again. This fabulous little machine makes it possible for everyone to enjoy the perfect finish on all their fashion and creative projects.

For almost 60 years in New Zealand, Bernina has dominated the market for high quality, technically advanced machines. It has been a favourite with dressmakers, crafters and quilters and is the machine of choice in schools right across the country. Despite the high profile however, many have regarded Bernina as the brand for serious sewers only. With these new models, that same Bernina quality is now available to all who enjoy sewing, whether beginners, casual sewers, menders, or passionate sewers.



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FASHION FEATURE

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## Celebrities lead home knitting comeback

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**Pictured:** Crinkled Top/Jacket from Jean De Courcy

If you think knitted jumpers are "nana-ish" think again.

Celebrities such as Kate Moss and Julia Roberts are picking up knitting needles and inspiring a new generation of knitters. And what's hot in fashion this winter seems to reflect this – lightweight home knits in natural fibres, particularly jumpers, tunics, scarves, fingerless gloves and leg warmers!

Charmaine Connell, the owner/manager of Warkworth knitting and craft shop Twinset & Pearls, says the fashion in Europe is for home knits and there are a lot of easy knit patterns around to target those who are new to knitting circles. Charmaine, who knits for about three hours a day, says she is addicted to knitting and others seem to be realising its social and stress-relieving charms.

"You are also creating something yourself out of nothing but two sticks and a ball of wool," she says.

Part of the new knitting groundswell is also the availability of new wools that are softer, natural and easier to wash.

"People who think wool is scratchy on the skin need to revisit it. Most wool these days is merino which is a lot smoother on the skin."

The way the wool is treated means it is also a lot harder than old wools,



Knitting addict Charmaine Connell in a garment she whipped up in just three days.

and usually can be put through a gentle cycle in a washing machine.

Bamboo is also a new trend.

"Bamboo feels like silky cotton and because the fibres are hollow it keeps you cool in summer and warm in winter, plus its antibacterial."

Many new knitters are putting a modern spin on old knitting favourites like tea cosies and winter scarves. They are also trying their hand at shawl scarves which aren't wrapped around the neck, but are knitted in a loop like a cowl neck.

Knitted or crocheted jewellery and funky knitted toys are also popular.

Twinset & Pearls was formerly Connie's Wool and Hand knits and was run by Charmaine's mother for 16 years until she passed away last year. Charmaine has given the shop a fresh look, which she hopes will inspire the creativity in people who visit it.

She is also running crochet and knitting classes Thursday evening 7pm to 9.30pm, and is starting a social knitting club for sharing tips and tricks. **Info: Ph 425 7246.**

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