

Millinery

IN FASHIONS ON THE FIELD



Photos courtesy of Richard Shaw

Millinery and Fashion

The first Fashions on the Field (FOTF) competition was held at Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne back in 1962. Since then the relationship between millinery and racing fashion have gone hand in hand. You simply can't have one without the other trackside!

Many racing clubs across Australia run Fashions on the Field events at their Group 1 or Country Cup race days. These offer both a fun day out and an occasion to dress up and make friends. For those who wish to show their style and flare for fashion this competition offers the ideal platform to unveil up and coming trends.

With Australia having several climate zones ranging from temperate to tropical, choosing appropriate seasonal millinery to complement your outfit can be confusing. The Millinery Association of Australia (MAA) offers this guide to assist FOTF entrants to select the right millinery to match seasonal outfits and events.

The Millinery Association of Australia takes great pride in the quality of millinery created and showcased by its members and is an enthusiastic advocate for the fashion subculture at race events and for Fashion on the Field competitions.

As such they created this millinery guide and gives consent for the guide to be reproduced and shared in part or in full amongst its members, judges, competition participants and hosts of Fashions on the Field events. Its intent is to clarify what is seasonally appropriate with regards to millinery, gentleman's hats, appropriate fashions and differing seasons and climate zones.

'In the grammar of fashion, hats are the punctuation!' Stephen Jones, Patron of the Millinery Association of Australia.

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Season or Weather?

Australia is a large country with diverse climates, so trying to classify fashions into four seasons simply does not work for all regions. Thus, we have divided our millinery FOTF guide into two categories:

- **Temperate** - southern regions of the country where there are four distinct seasons
- **Tropical** - northern regions where the climate remains warm all year round

Confusion may arise if individuals in the same competition are dressed for different seasons on the same stage. By standardising guidelines, it's hoped that this document will provide clarity for competitors and judges alike. By formalising what materials are appropriate for millinery for each of the racing seasons it will ensure consistency in competition and continued advancement of Australian FOTF on the world stage.

Fashions on the Field Guide: Temperate

SPRING/SUMMER - Sep to Feb

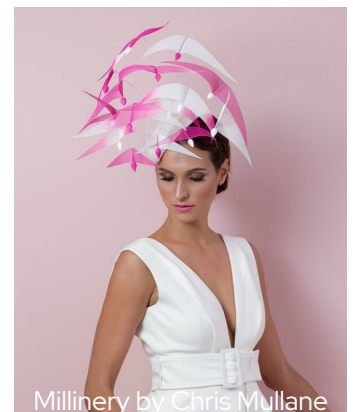
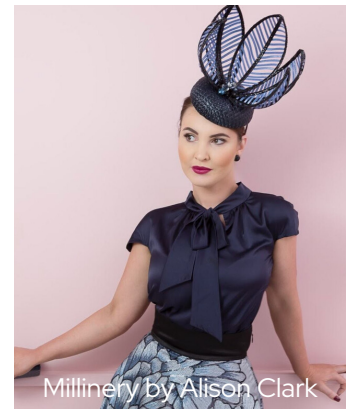
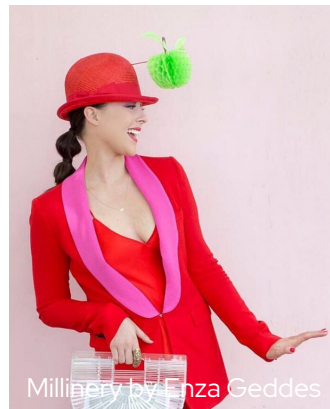
Spring and summer is the time to leave winter colours and fabrics behind. Think florals, geometric prints, soft pastels or bold, bright colours that make a 'pop'. Get creative with feathers and lace teamed with straws, sinamay and silk for millinery choices.

Spring and summer in temperate zones is classified strictly from the start of September through to the end of February. It is important that millinery reflects this even if it is a cooler rainy day early in the season.

It's hard to look past beautiful fashion, shoes and accessories when putting a look together, but a fabulous piece of millinery can take an outfit to the next level. It may be the one element that really wows the judges, so it's important to get it right by adhering to seasonal appropriate fabrics.

Examples of spring/summer materials include:

- Straw
- Sinamay
- Lace
- Silk Abaca
- Jinsin
- Silk
- Rafia
- Paper Straw
- Wire work
- Pinokpok
- Braid
- Tulle
- Leather
- Crinoline
- Feathers
- Veiling
- Thermoplastics
- Textured fabrics
- Light weight fabrics
- Embellished fabrics



Photos courtesy of Richard Shaw

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Fashions on the Field Guide: Temperate

AUTUMN/WINTER - Mar to Aug

With the changing of the seasons and colder temperatures clothing is more tailored and heavier fabrics are in use. This should also be reflected in millinery choices. Don't be tempted to bring out a sinamay or straw hat for an unseasonably warm autumn day. Think felt, wool and leather for millinery designs at this time of the year. Other examples of autumn/winter materials include:

- o Fur/wool felt
- o Wool
- o Fur fabrics
- o Leather
- o Suede
- o Velvet
- o Tweed/Plaids
- o Guipure lace
- o Feathers
- o Velour ribbons
- o Veiling
- o Chenille
- o Wire work
- o Brocade
- o Thermoplastics
- o Cashmere



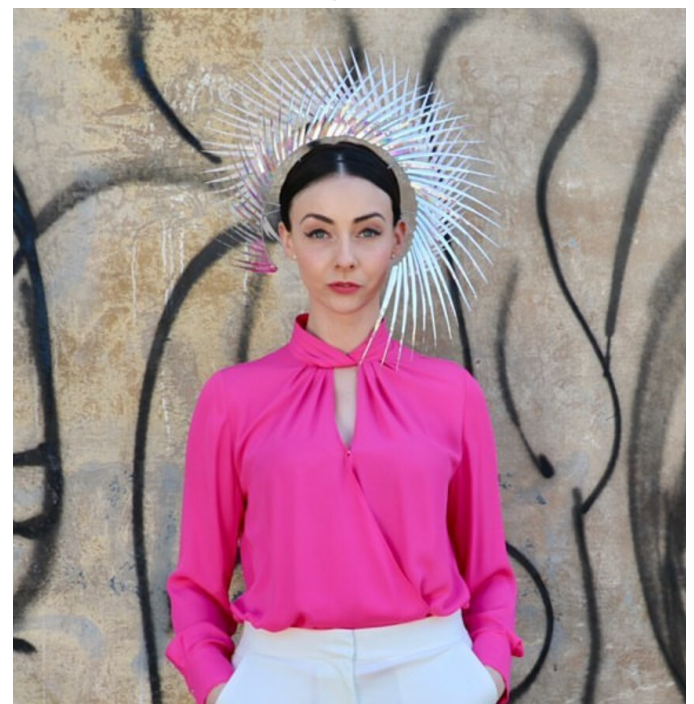
Millinery by Rachel Henry
Photo courtesy of Lindsay Ridings

TRANS-SEASONAL - All Year

Trans-seasonal refers to materials which have qualities that can be used in both spring/summer and autumn/winter seasons.

Leather is a great example of a trans-seasonal fabric. In spring/summer millinery you would expect to see leather in shades of white, soft pastels or exciting vibrant colours. In autumn/winter millinery, however, if leather is used it should be darker or more subdued in colour to reflect the season. Colours such as navy, burgundy, black or brown would be more appropriate.

Other examples of trans-seasonal materials include feathers, perspex, thermoplastics and metals.



Millinery by Lynette Lim
Photo courtesy of Richard Shaw

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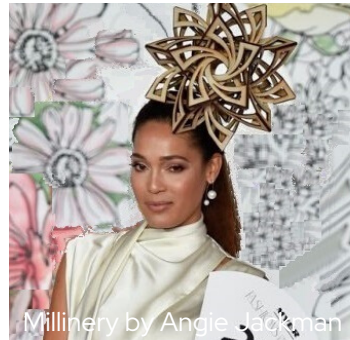
IN FASHIONS ON THE FIELD



Millinery by Rose Hudson



Millinery by Cynthia Jones-Bryson



Millinery by Angie Jackson



Millinery by Karin Goodman

Photos courtesy of Richard Shaw

Fashions on the Field Guide: Tropical

ALL SEASONS - Year Round

Suggested or recommended materials to use in trans-seasonal millinery include all those listed earlier in this guide for spring and summer millinery. Materials such as straws and sinamay are acceptable for millinery designs at events held during 'autumn/winter' months in northern states as it is recognised that temperatures are hotter in these parts of Australia so seasonal rules do not apply.

More information about millinery materials can be found on the following websites:

- o www.torbandreiner.com
- o www.houseofadorn.com
- o www.buniquemillinery.com
- o www.hattersmillinerysupplies.com.au

Millinery Trims

When it comes to millinery, there's a vast array of materials that can be used as trimmings on women's (and men's) hats.

Traditionally hats have always been decorated with ribbons, flowers, feathers and veiling but the types and styles of trims used today is really only limited by one's imagination.

Millinery trims should be judged on their ability to compliment a hat or headpiece, how it balances the overall design, whether it suits the season, style and outfit being worn.

Which side of the Head?

Women's millinery has traditionally always been worn on the right-hand side of the head. Depending on hair parting, hair style and the preference of the wearer, creating balance for the entire outfit is a more important consideration than judging purely by which side of the head the piece 'should' be worn on.

Some women declare that they just can't wear hats because they don't feel or look good in them, but this often has more to do with the fit of the hat and how it is placed on the head.

Hats generally look best when worn at a dramatic angle, just above the eyebrow. If the hat has a brim a sense of intrigue and romance is created if the brim cuts through the line of sight. This can be seen in the first few photos above.

'How a hat makes you feel is what a hat is all about.' Philip Treacy, Milliner

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Photo courtesy of Sharon Schreurs

Judging Fashions

Due consideration must be given to seasonally appropriate millinery, fashion and accessories as style, current trends, originality, imagination, creativity and attention to detail is paramount.

Judges should evaluate an individual's overall presentation, deportment, grooming as well as attention paid to their millinery and accessories to add the finishing touches to their outfit.

It's wonderful to see individuals up on stage 'owning it' and allowing their personalities to shine through as they compete in Fashions on the Field events around the country.

Points for FOTF judges to consider:

- Appropriate colours for the season
- Correct seasonal fabric choices
- In keeping with competition themes ie. Derby Day
- And of course AMAZING millinery!



Wendy Diggles



Ana Pribylova



Neil Grigg



Louise Macdonald



Belinda Osborne

Photos courtesy of Richard Shaw

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IN FASHIONS ON THE FIELD

Judging Millinery

When it comes to judging millinery, current trends should be observed. Are brims wider or narrower this season? Are crowns rounded or more angular? Percher style hats are very popular for FOTF events as they make a statement and can add valued centimeters to someone's height, but it is important to consider whether the percher hat is in proportion to the rest of the outfit? Is it the right style choice? Does it suit the season? In other words, is the millinery balanced?

New materials are constantly being developed thanks to the ingenuity and creativity of some very clever milliners. Materials such as wood, metals and thermoplastics are regarded as modern trims whereas silk and feathers are more traditional. All are valid if they are made from quality materials and are in keeping with the outfit.

Milliners often layer fabrics like sinamay to give a more opaque look to the millinery and therefore denote a higher quality finish and hat. Similarly, is the hat an unusual a shape? Chances are the milliner has made this shape themselves using many years of skill and practice which the participant has decided

to invest in for that outfit. Note how the hat or headpiece is adorned or 'trimmed'. Do the flowers, feathers, quills etc. look like they have been 'worked' by knowledgeable hands?

Also note how the millinery has been designed, whether it has good proportion and has balance. Finally, does it suit the wearer? A participant may be wearing the most beautiful Dior brim - styled hat, but if she is petite such a wide brim may overpower her.

In summary, here are a few tips to consider when judging millinery for FOTF competitions:

- Correct choice of seasonal millinery
- Appropriate seasonal colour choices
- Does the millinery suit wearer/outfit
- Is it balanced/proportionate
- Being worn correctly
- In keeping with competition themes ie. Derby Day
- Originality of design
- Consideration given to current trends
- How is the design trimmed



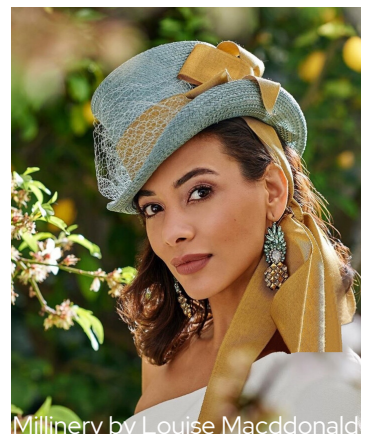
Millinery by Jo Peterson
Photo courtesy of Fab Femme



Millinery by Irene Moore
Photo courtesy of Richard Shaw



Millinery by Brenda Wilson
Photo courtesy of Richard Shaw



Millinery by Louise Macdonald
Photo courtesy of Kirsty Duchet

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IN FASHIONS ON THE FIELD

Men, Hats and Fashions on the Field



Millinery by Jo Peterson

Photo courtesy of Jo Peterson



Millinery unknown

Photo courtesy of @getracy



Millinery unknown

Photo courtesy of Steve Giofches

The stylish male Fashions on the Field entrant is a gent who considers the extra details when planning his outfit. He needs to wear something that looks fantastic to indulge his 'passion for fashion' and he needs to stand out in a crowd.

Each competitor is judged based on their originality and interpretation of current fashion trends, appropriateness of the suit (or jacket and pants) for the climate and the individual's attention to detail. Accessories such as a button hole flower, tie, pocket square, socks or umbrella are just a few ways to individualise personal style and have fun. Grooming and deportment are also essential.

Men should be encouraged to wear hats when entering Fashions on the Field competitions as it adds style and a point of difference to their outfit. Hats can also add personality, give confidence to the wearer and inject a sense of fun when up on stage.

Depending on the season hats can be made from straw, felt (fur or wool), leather, suede and fabrics such as tweed, tartan or linen. Gents have many hat style options to choose from including:

- Fedora
- Panama
- Trilby
- Flat cap
- Pork pie
- Cowboy hat
- Bowler
- Top hat

'For no matter what in the world, men who wear hats are men to be trusted above any other.' Frank Beddor, Author

We hope you have found this guide helpful. If you have any queries or comments please contact us [here](#)