

## ● INTIMIDATING STYLE

# Black holds you back

**Maria Bervanakis**

It's the colour that defines Melburnians but, if you want to get ahead in the world, it's time to bin the black.

According to Melbourne-based image adviser Helen Robinett, wearing black clothes scares off potential clients and employers.

"Black is... confrontational,

it's designed to intimidate and psychologically it's not rapport building," Robinett said.

"Black is a fashion statement. Have a look at all the fashionistas, look at the cafe society, it's about being cool.

"You look at Karl Lagerfeld and Giorgio Armani as well... put him in black and he looks deadly."

Robinett says that black

also exaggerates age and weariness, giving fresh-faced rivals an advantage.

"Black becomes too harsh and it's ageing. Now who wants to do business with someone that looks old and tired," she said.

Robinett reckons black should be replaced by softer greys, navys and charcoals.

"It's about stepping down to the charcoals and other tones

which I call 'rapport-building' colours which make you visually more likable and increase your visual presence," she said.

But black is slimming, right? Not according to Robinett.

"This is a myth the fashion industry put through to us... We fill our wardrobe with black and then we have this wardrobe full of nothing to wear.

"And anyway, who notices

whether you're slim or not if you look haggard and old."

But Robinett admits black still has a place among cafe and restaurant staff who are "meant to fade into the background".

Robinett is a guest speaker at the Executive Secretaries and Personal Assistants Conference in Melbourne next Monday.

Visit [www.pics.com.au](http://www.pics.com.au) or call 9835 8900 to register.

## ● 2011 LINE-UP

## Foals return for Laneway

British hipsters Foals, Brooklyn band Yeasayer and indie rockers Deerhunter will play next year's St Jerome's Laneway Festival.

The line-up, announced today, also includes Two Door Cinema Club, Jenny and Johnny and Holy F.k.

Aussie acts Cut Copy, Cloud Control and Violent Soho will also perform at the February 5 festival, held at Footscray Community Arts Centre.

Tickets will go on sale at 9am next Wednesday at [lanewayfestival.com.au/buy](http://lanewayfestival.com.au/buy) or by calling 1300 369 882.

A limited number of tickets will be sold at Polyester Records.

## ● TV DELAY

## Hooker wins, viewers lose

Channel 10 has come under fire after failing to provide live coverage of Steve Hooker's gold-medal winning efforts today.

Ten did not manage to cross live to any of Hooker's pole vault attempts as they happened, focusing instead on events on the track.

Hooker secured gold at 12.45am, when England's Steven Lewis failed in his attempt at the height of 5.70, but Ten broadcast these events 45 minutes later.

Ten blamed a faulty cable.

■ Sport: PAGES 26-27

## ● SECURITY BREACH

## Man held for airport crash

A man was arrested after crashing a car through security barriers at Adelaide airport today and running on to the tarmac.

Witnesses said the driver, aged in his 30s, fled from the Toyota Camry sedan about 7.50am after breaching the security barriers, then scaled a 4m fence to get to the tarmac.

He was then tackled by several federal police officers.

Sgt James Fauser said AFP officers searched the car and there were no further security fears.



### Looks like spring

Australia's *Next Top Model's* 2007 winner, Alice Burdeu, strikes a pose in a Thurley dress and hat with Nine West heels ahead of Melbourne Central's Designer Series catwalk parade tomorrow. Check out the new spring fashion looks from 11am on Level Two. For more information, visit [www.melbournecentral.com.au](http://www.melbournecentral.com.au).

Picture: MORGANNA MAGEE

## What the? \*

Tickets to mingle with US First Lady Michelle Obama were selling for 50 per cent more than those for a similar event with her husband. President Barack Obama hosted a cocktail party for Illinois Senate candidate Alexi Giannoulias at Chicago's Drake hotel, with tickets starting at \$500. But for a Giannoulias fundraiser hosted by Michelle, tickets start at \$750.

## ● SCAM CALLS

## Phonies got your number

Scammers are increasingly posing as telemarketers to con Aussies into giving out their private information.

About 2000 cases were reported to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in the past two months, up from 200 in the previous period.

ACCC chairman Graeme Samuel said people should never give out their personal and financial details to callers.

Known scams include callers claiming a person's computer is infected with a virus and asking for credit-card details to fix it.

Another scam uses a recorded message asking people to "dial nine" for a free holiday.

It's true !

Tadpoles of horned frog *Ceratophrys ornata* make an audible scream when they come under attack.

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