

## Style queen cleans up Fashions on the Field

# On a \$100k winner



FASHIONS on the Field devotee Crystal Kimber has turned a love of looking good into a lucrative hobby.

Having put her best foot forward in an estimated 45 race-day fashion competitions around Australia, the marketing brand manager from Cremorne has collected prizes valued "around \$100,000".

Highlights include a \$30,000 Alfa Romeo car, a \$25,000 trip to Royal Ascot, holidays in Hong Kong and Bali, a \$12,000 Melbourne Cup Carnival experience, and numerous shopping vouchers.

"I sold the car — it was a manual and I would have burnt out the clutch," she said. "I've won some beautiful vouchers to shopping centres so I have quite a nice bag collection.

"I bought one practical item (with the vouchers) — a bed. And I bought a Magimix."

In recent weeks, she has won the Westfield Style Stakes on Caulfield Cup day, reaping

### FIONA BYRNE

\$10,000 in prizes, and triumphed at the Geelong Cup, where her haul included a \$5000 Charles Rose diamond pendant.

Kimber, 27, previously won the Geelong Cup title in 2015 and the Caulfield Fashion Stakes in 2014.

Other victories include the 2014 Ballarat Cup, 2013 Cranbourne Cup, 2012 Sandown Cup, 2013 Queensland Myer Fashions on the Field state title, and the 2014 South Australia Fashion at the Races title.

But one title has eluded her — at Flemington, where her best result was second runner-up in 2013.

Kimber will line up in the Myer Fashions on the Field competition on Melbourne Cup day, hoping her years of experience will win out.

She said her secret weapon was her mum, who made most of her dresses, and not being a slave to fashion trends.

"The key is to find a trend or an

element that you like and then add your creative flair," she said. "I think sometimes it is worth taking a little bit of a risk; if you absolutely love something and feel confident and happy in it, then go for it."

Kimber's Fashion on the Field odyssey started as a junior at Flemington over a decade ago. Then six years ago she took a run at the womenswear section at Caulfield and made the final in an op shop hat and a dress from eBay.

Sometimes she and her mother spend weeks on an outfit. Other times, the dress will be finished the evening before the competition.

While she has enjoyed vast success, Kimber said she had no plans to hang up her hat and heels.

"We all have great days where we might have a great win, and then you have other days when you are knocked out in the first round and you just have a really fun day at the races with your friends," she said.

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Crystal Kimber has honed her winning style with help from her mother. Pictures: ADAM HEAD, TAIT SCHMAAL, ALEX COPPEL, AAP