

Fillies ready to frock up

By **BRITTANY MURPHY**

SPRING racing... a time for elegant frocks, the casual bet, fashions on the field and let's not forget the Equumen Gift.

With the annual Girls Day Out at the Goulburn And District Race Club tomorrow, the *Post* investigated what's hot in the spring fashion stakes.

A staple among spring racing fashion is anything and everything floral, and

bright coloured combinations are walking out of the store, according to Target stylist, Marion Rogers, who predicts a field of pastels and pop-colour, with the classic 'black and white' also a popular choice among race-goers.

Fitted and flared styles such as the popular peplum dress are also tipped to be a massive feature in the Fashions on the Field.

Isabella McKenzie, Samantha Staples and Whitney Blake show a selection of frocks and accessories available at Target ahead of tomorrow's Girls Day Out.

Gates open at 10am, entry is \$15. First 200 girls through the gate get a 'goodie bag'.

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Hostel finds a home

By **LOUISE THROWER**

THE Council has approved a homeless men's hostel amid allegations legal shortcomings have allowed convicted sex offenders to stay at the facility.

But operators, St Vincent de Paul Society said they would never knowingly house such a person and have questioned the claim, made by an anonymous third party.

Councillors approved permanent use of the 39-bed Market St facility six votes to three at their meeting on Wednesday.

The decision, which followed a two-year trial, drew keen interest from a packed gallery and speakers for and against.

But Something Special gift store owner Janarie Micallef dropped a bombshell during open forum.

She told councillors an anonymous person, who had clear knowledge of the system, had contacted her on Tuesday.

"This person claimed that child sex offenders and sex offenders have stayed at Kennedy House in the past and that these men come and go frequently," she said.

"The reason they stay there is that they are not registered on the sex offenders register."

Mrs Micallef and husband Rob discovered that under the Child Protection Act (2000), if a person was convicted of a sex offence before October 15 2001, they did not have to be registered.

"In which case, sex offenders could be residing at Kennedy House undetected," Mrs Micallef said.

"...My question to Council is how can the community be 100 per cent sure that sex offenders do not reside here, opposite a park, where there are public toilets...?"

She said the woman would not reveal her identity due to "the position she held" and the risk to her family.

Mrs Micallef told the meeting she was just as disturbed as councillors that the allegation had not been raised earlier. But she felt a strong obligation to make it public.

The couple originally supported the hostel but have since strongly opposed it, given incidents affecting their business.

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