



Follower of fashion: John McKenzie will host the Air New Zealand Millennium Hotels and Resorts Fashion in the Field competition at Riccarton Park.

Day of socialising, fun and fashion

New Zealand Cup and Show Week revolves around the major horse-racing events, but it offers so much more than racing alone.

"The fashion competitions bring out the best in hats, heels, suits and hemlines for a day that is as much about socialising as it is about watching the spectacular sport," says master of ceremonies, entertainer, television presenter and communications marketing consultant John McKenzie, of enthuse.

McKenzie should know. He has been a finalist several times in Addington's Best Dressed competition, once finishing runner-up, and for the third year running, he will host the Air New Zealand Millennium Hotels and Resorts Fashion in the Field competition at Riccarton Park.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing what comes out for the Fashion in the Field event at Riccarton. Every year without fail there is a surprise or two that can make things very interesting.

"We even had a dress made from grass last year. We had to make sure it didn't get close to any of the horses," he says.

The Air New Zealand Millennium Hotels and Resorts Fashion in the Field has been well supported

by a core of great sponsors, which means it can offer some wonderful prizes, says McKenzie.

The overall women's winner at Riccarton on Saturday, November 12, will receive a trip for two to London flying Air New Zealand and staying with the Millennium Hotels and Resorts valued at \$8500, while the Best Dressed Man will win a trip for two to Fiji.

The women's winner will also receive airfares and accommodation and automatic semi-final entry into the National Fashion in the Field event at Ellerslie in Auckland to fly the Canterbury flag. Last year's winner, Fiona McSoriley, made it to the final in Auckland.

Those wanting to enter the Air New Zealand Millennium Hotels and Resorts Fashion in the Field competition at Riccarton Park this year should arrive a little earlier this year, since registration will be open from 10.30am and the first heat will be before the first race.

Entries on the day are taken in the Fashion in the Field venue, next to the Birdcage. Those wanting to preregister can lodge their entries at Life Pharmacy in Riccarton Mall or by phoning Riccarton Park, (03) 336-0000.

The competitions on the day at Riccarton include Young's Antique

Jewellers Canterbury High Fashion, The BDM Grange Thierry Mugler Angel Young Designer, Champs Elysees Ready to Wear and the Lindauer Men's Best Dressed.

"It's always a great day," says McKenzie. "The fashion is a little more relaxed than Addington and there's a fantastic atmosphere."

For those thinking of entering, here are a few helpful tips from someone who has "been there and done that":

- Remember that it's a day at the races, not the Oscars.
- You need to be well co-ordinated, including makeup, hair, hat, handbag, stockings, nails, shoes, and for men, ties and cuffs.
- Make a statement with a bag or jewellery.
- Men, are those shoes shined?
- Choose colours that complement your skin tone.
- Relax, have some fun, be a little daring, try not to take it too seriously, and get there early.

"Cup Week and Show Week are always outstanding, with lots of racing, fashion, socialising and food," says McKenzie.

"There's a lot of networking and hospitality and it's the biggest week of the year in Canterbury.

"Everyone gets dressed up, and I can't wait for it to start," he says.