

THIS CARNIVAL, BE PREPARED

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FINGERS are crossed for fine weather for the Melbourne Cup Carnival, but if the weather gods don't smile there are plenty of fashion solutions for cold and wet conditions.

Myer ambassador Lauren Phillips took a few for a spin in the inclement conditions of the last few days.

"You never know what Melbourne weather will bring, especially for the races," she says.

"Obviously if it's wet you need a jacket and an umbrella; you also need more structured pieces that won't lose shape or flap around in the wind and rain."

"Fabrics change when it gets cooler so a leather skirt is great because it keeps you warm.

"And a felt hat, which we don't usually see over spring and summer, is definitely OK if it's cool trackside."

The brunette is preparing herself for every possible situation, trying out options for hot, cold and wet weather as well as looks that reflect the key trends in traditional racewear, if you're heading on to the lawn or into the exclusive marquees this Melbourne Cup carnival.

Phillips says observing traditional racewear rules is also important.

"Racewear is all about being conservative, nothing too low-cut at the front and an appropriate knee length," she says.

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Marquee race day look (right): Ellery dress \$790, Millinery Collection \$89.95, Lipstik shoes \$79.95, Olga Berg clutch \$79.95.

Traditional race day look (left): Cooper Street dress \$149, Lisa Tan millinery \$499, PeepToe clutch \$109, Tony Bianco shoes \$149.95.

Wet race day look: Manning Cartel skirt \$379, Manning Cartel top \$299, YB J'aime jacket \$499, Max Alexander millinery \$109.95, Princess Highway umbrella \$22, PeepToe shoes \$199.

Hot race day look: Leona by Leona dress \$149, Tony Bianco shoes \$149.95, Morgan and Taylor hat \$229, Olga Berg clutch \$49.95. Pictures: JASON EDWARDS

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VIDEO: Lauren's tips for elegance in all elements

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