

You can be a Gucci girl at the hire end of fashion

LUCY HOOD
FASHION EDITOR

FROM Gucci and Chanel to Prada and Louis Vuitton, women now can hire bags and shoes from the world's top fashion labels for less than \$100.

Love Me & Leave Me is a new Melbourne-based internet site offering 100 designer handbags, belts, shoes and jewellery for weekly or monthly hire anywhere in Australia.

Founder Simone Santana said the accessories retailed between \$100 and \$3000 but could be hired from just \$24.95 per week, depending on their value.

"Before lovemeandleave me.com, only celebrities could spend thousands of dollars on a lavish handbag or the latest pair of designer heels but now its available to every Australian fashion consumer," she said.

"Our members are borrowing everything, from earrings to a special occasion, to a handbag for

PAGE 16: Your view

work or shoes for a girl's night out - it's like having an extra wardrobe."

Among the most expensive items for hire is a Dior Gaucho tote which is worth more than \$3000 but can be hired weekly for \$99.95, or monthly for \$199.95.

Ms Santana said while consumers could hire the item for as long as they liked, they were responsible for repair or replacement if it became dirty, broke, was lost or stolen.

"And if they fall in love with it and just can't bear to send it back to us, they can buy it at a discounted price," she said.

Axel Beers Hire store manager Claude Di Vittorio said it was great to see women could now hire garments just like men.

"We have \$1300 suits that can be hired for \$199 to \$225 for about five days, so it is the same concept," he said.

"It's giving girls a chance to hold or wear a designer item that they may never have been able to afford - it's a fairytale thing."



LATEST LOOK: Jade Pantazis, of Exclusive Models, with gear hired from the Love Me & Leave Me website.
Picture: TAIT SCHMAAL

Police target bikie 'forts'

NICK HENDERSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

A HEAVILY armoured suspected Rebels bikie fortress will be the first of four properties police will target using anti-fortification laws.

The property, located at Wood St, Brompton, has solid steel covers over its windows and is protected by a large steel gate.

An application to remove the armour will be made to a court within weeks, a source said yesterday.

The Advertiser understands police are also continuing to gather evidence against fortified properties at Wingfield, Royal Park and Clarence Park.

Applications to strip those properties of armour are expected to be lodged with the court after the Brompton application has been dealt with.

Police surveillance into activities at the Brompton property began last August but stalled pending a Supreme Court ruling over the legality of a removal order against an Adelaide Hills bikie fort.

The Government won that test case and police resumed investigations into the four Adelaide properties which are currently under scrutiny.

Police Minister Paul Holloway yesterday said he

expected police to use their powers to apply for the removal of fortifications but would not comment any further on specific operational matters.

"I have just been reinforcing that if these fortifications have been identified and there is criminal activity going on or suspected criminal activity, the law will be enforced," he said. "The legislation now has the backing of the courts."

They are not in there having tea and scone parties

Mr Holloway said properties where motorcycle gang members gathered were most likely being used for criminal activities.

"We know from local experience, and overseas and interstate experience, that outlaw motorcycle gangs are very prominent within organised crime," Mr Holloway said. "They are not in there having tea and scone parties."

"Rest assured the police will take advantage of the laws now that they have been defined," he said.

PAGE 24: Bikies to face blackmail charges

Murray booms in place

SA Water has installed booms on the River Murray to prevent algae from entering its pumping systems.

The booms have been attached as a precaution to protect pumps at Renmark, Cobdogla, Kingston-on-Murray and Swan Reach to

safeguard the quality of Adelaide's water supply.

Low flows combined with hot weather can increase the risk of algal blooms in the waterway.

The booms will remain in place until the risk of an algal outbreak is reduced.



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