

Fashion

Stylewatch

Look good, feel better

A pretty camisole bra with lace detailing? This little number would surely be a favourite in any woman's lingerie collection, but for women who have survived breast cancer, this particular bra offers more than good looks. Manufactured by German company Anita UniqueBody Wear, it is designed especially for women who wear breast prostheses, with built-in prosthesis pockets, a higher finish under the arms and a higher neckline for added support and to cover scarring. It is one of several Anita bras stocked by Lingerie on Barrington, in Barrington Mall. Owner Gaye MacKenzie has been in the business of bras for about 25 years and her particular passion is helping women who have had mastectomies to find lingerie that is comfortable and that they feel good about wearing. While many are happy to wear regular bras with prosthesis pockets added, the Anita products (which include prostheses) have found an appreciative following.

"The ladies that are wearing them think they are wonderful," MacKenzie says. "And that makes me feel good, too."

Anita bras and prostheses are also available through the Cancer Society and from Bendon Lingerie, Northlands. The bras range in price from \$75 to \$146.

Natural nappies

Babies sure are big news these days — Stylewatch notes a rash of new baby clothing lines and trendy-wee-tot stores springing up across the city. Well, you probably can't be a real yummy mummy if you don't have the yummy bubble to match. And in line with this trend, we now have nappies made from bamboo, with the cute name of Bamboozles. The reusable, fitted, cloth nappies, in bamboo towelling, are apparently silky-soft and naturally absorbent, with the added benefit of natural anti-bacterial properties. Bamboozles are stocked by NappyDays, a New Zealand-owned online retailer of fitted cloth-nappy systems. Go to www.nappydays.co.nz.

Beauty and the beast

Bugged by bugs? The Giant Madagascar Hissing Cockroach brooch is the latest and truly creepiest fashion accessory. It is a live, bejewelled cockroach worn as jewellery reminiscent of the odd Victorian-era trend of wearing live insects. The cockroach is about 7cm long and actually does hiss (perhaps because it has Swarovski crystals glued to its hard outer shell?). A clasp



is linked to a silver chain attached to the cockroach's carapace, the other end is a cameo pin which you pin to your clothing to stop him from running amok. Yes, him. All brooch roaches are male to ensure sterility. It will not surprise you to learn that the creator of the bug brooch, Salt Lake City-based fashion designer Jared Gold, is bugging animal rights groups. A spokesman for PETA reportedly said: "For a person who doesn't mind a small animal excreting on them throughout the day and doesn't have an ounce of compassion for these small, defenceless animals, this could be just the gift." Available for \$US80 at www.blackhandelier.com.

Be proud

According to Fayreform, the average bust size of New Zealand women increased from a 12B to a 14C between 2000 and 2005. "People often associate bigger breasts with weight gain. However, we are seeing a growth in breast size even on small-framed women, particularly in the younger age groups, says Fayreform "bra-ologist" Carol Rashleigh. It's a rather astonishing increase, and the reasons for it could be debated for hours, but the fact is, on average, we have bigger breasts than we used to, and Fayreform is recognising this with this week's inaugural National Breast Pride Week, which aims to encourage full-breasted women to celebrate their size and to enjoy the growing range of lingerie now created especially for them. National Breast Pride Week also marks the release of results from the annual Fayreform full-bust survey. These showed that 61% of women want their bra to create a more



Beetle beauty: the live-cockroach brooch.

Pretty, pretty: camisole-style post-mastectomy bra, by Anita UniqueBody Wear.

rounded shape, 33% felt bigger breasts made them more confident, and 23% thought women with bigger breasts were more sexually attractive.

Moustache be gone

Is it just Stylewatch or does the moustache seem to be growing in favour? Moustaches that once sprouted out of laziness, or as jokes, or as the result of drunken dares, are clinging to younger upper lips these days. Take note, moustache-wearers — it is difficult to wear the face furniture without looking like a 70s porn star or a wonky walrus. We only hope the lads were in training for the European Beard and Moustache Championships, to be held on September 23 in Germany. Go to: www.worldbeardchampionships.com.



Growing for gold: the competitive moustache, as seen in the 2003 World Beard and Moustache Championships.

Golly gee, gran

For centuries, the hills around the tiny Polish village of Koniakow echoed with the sound of grannies tirelessly crafting doilies, tablecloths and tea cosies in their homes. When they were no longer able to sell these traditional staples, the grans didn't become crotchety. They merely started crocheting lingerie. Stylewatch notes that demand for their home-made g-strings is such that the grans are now selling their wares online. Go to: www.koniakow.com.