

Japan fashion here and now at showgrounds

By Jocelyn Rein

The old and the new are set to come together in a fashion show celebrating all things Japanese.

Tradition in the Now is the theme of this year's Taste of Japan Festival being held at the ASB Showgrounds in Greenlane tomorrow.

The fashion show will showcase garments ranging from traditional kimonos, yukata and miko, to the outrageous costumes of the modern harajuku and Tokyo Girl subcultures popular in Tokyo.

AUT University fashion and design lecturer and Lolita subculture enthusiast Kathryn Hardy Bernal will also be wearing her own Lolita design down the runway.

Elaborate dressing up in styles such as Lolita and Gothalia, a mix of Gothic and Lolita, has become so popular with young people in Japan it is even shown in Tokyo tourist guides where visitors can go to get their photo taken with fashion cliques.

AUT visual arts graduate Vivien Masters will be wearing a Gothalia costume which she has designed and put together herself.

She became a fan of the look after seeing street-style photos of young Japanese girls and now regularly dresses up when she goes out.

"It just looked like they were having so much fun and I've always loved



Lolita chic: From left: Vivien Masters, Kathryn Hardy Bernal and Bomi Park will be showing contemporary Japanese fashion at the Taste of Japan Festival.

Photo: JASON OXENHAM

dressing up," says Vivien.

Her look for the fashion show, she says, is an eclectic mix of garments ranging from chain store purchases to a pink mosquito net from her bedroom.

The spectacular wig she will wear is a custom-design bought online.

Fashion show organiser Bevan Chuang says the event will feature both old and new elements

of Japanese fashion.

"A lot of people know about the kimono but then you go to Tokyo and see these girls.

"Japan has a huge influence on the fashion world."

The fashion show will run from 2.30pm to 3.15pm at the Taste of Japan Festival.

The free festival features various elements of Japanese culture, from tradi-

tional drumming, dance and sports to food and music.

For more information on Taste of Japan, visit www.asbshowgrounds.co.nz.

Chainsaw massacre is near

By Janie Smith

A LAST-MINUTE law change to remove general protection from many urban trees has been greeted with disappointment by the Auckland City Council's city development committee.

Clause 52 of the Resource Management Streamlining and Amendment Bill was passed at the 11th hour last week despite opposition from tree advocates.

"The Texas chainsaw mas-

sacre is just around the corner," said councillor Cathy Casey at the committee's meeting last Thursday.

The clause prohibits local authorities from making blanket tree protection rules for urban environments unless the tree or group of trees is specifically noted in a schedule to the district plan, or is in a reserve or area subject to a conservation management plan or strategy.

Tree trimming as of right

will come into effect on October 1, with general protection to be completely phased out by January 2012.

The committee asked staff to urgently talk to and work with other stakeholders to develop an interpretation of trimming that is "limited to measures that takes into account the tree's basic form and health".

Councillor Leila Boyle also moved an amendment that the committee express disappointment at the last-

minute change, which was carried.

Councillor Mark Donnelly supported the sentiment.

"It isn't a good way to make legislation. If it had gone out through a proper legislative process, we would have been thinking about the definition of trimming four or five months ago."

A public meeting about clause 52 was held in Grey Lynn earlier this month and brought together more than 200 members of the public,

along with tree advocacy groups, where the consensus was that the clause should be deleted.

Tree Council chairwoman Sigrid Shayer says the group is disappointed by the "ill thought out" legislation.

"It has not taken on the views of a wide range of people who operate in the field, including the council officers."

She says while the existing rules around tree protection need reviewing, adopt-

ing clause 52 is "throwing the baby out with the bath water".

Many significant trees on private land will be at risk without general protection and separately listing all the trees that need protecting would be an enormous job for the councils, she says.

Ms Shayer says there is concern developers will level sites before seeking building consent so there are no trees to protect.

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