

# COAST

## NRA FASHION AWARDS

# HIGH *Accolades*

The GC turned it on for fashion's finest with our own yearly fashion event to rival any state. The Fashion Awards kept plenty of fashionistas on their toes, and saw new talent emerge

The Gold Coast's leading fashion event – The NRA Fashion Design Awards and Festival heralded some of the biggest names in fashion to our golden shoreline in April. One such fashion celeb joined the judging panel this year. Akira Isogawa was a winner himself two years ago, taking out the Award for Fashion Excellence in 2006. He joined a host of the hottest names in the fashion industry – Gail Elliott, Ana Maria Escobar, Jessika Allen, Camilla Franks and Melissa Hoyer – who all took up judging positions for Australia's premier fashion design competition.

### **Gail Elliott**

After cutting her teeth on the catwalk for the likes of Gucci, Prada and Ralph Lauren, Elliott decided to try her hand at design with the resulting label Little Joe by Gail Elliott. What originally began as a range of beautiful, flattering slips and camisoles that served not only as clothing to lounge and sleep in but could be worn out as well, later developed into a coveted clothing line accommodating almost all wardrobe occasions. From its inception in New York's Hamptons in 2002, Little Joe has spread its wings across the globe with more than 70 stores worldwide.

### **Jessika Allen**

Designer Jessika Allen aspires to make each woman feel beautiful with her glamorous swimwear range JETS by Jessika Allen. The label, approaching its 30th anniversary, was shifted to the forefront of Australian and International fashion when it was bought and re-launched by Jessika and Adrian Allen in 2001. Jessika has used the



skills learned during her Degree in Fashion Design and Textiles and post-graduate course in Tailoring at the Istituto Marangoni in Milan to create flattering silhouettes through a swimwear range that enhances a woman's natural curves. The result is a sophisticated collection of swimwear that combines soft, sensual fabrics and unique, exclusive designs, stocked in high-end department stores across the world.

### **Camilla Franks**

Camilla Franks was inspired to establish her own fashion label during her acting days where she also worked behind the scenes, creating costumes for her flamboyant characters. The fashion designer draws inspiration from her passions – food, love of life, gypsy lifestyle, theatre and the sea for her eponymous label, Camilla, which is famed for lively, feminine, exotic pieces – in particular her glamorous kaftans. Her designs can be worn by women of all age and sizes and from all cultures and places; resulting in a diverse celebrity following which includes Sharon Stone, Prince, Nicole Kidman, Paris Hilton, Bette Midler, Kim Cattrall, Beyonce and the Pussycat Dolls.

### **Akira Isogawa**

The Japanese-born designer draws inspiration from contemporary Japanese design. He has risen through the ranks to the top tier of fashion royalty in Australia, having received the Award for Fashion Excellence at the 2006 NRA Australian Fashion Design Awards,

