

## NEWS

**Fashion warriors step up**

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SPIKES, studs, knuckle-dusters and leather. Fashion has taken a tough turn this season with the warrior look stepping off the catwalk and on to the street.

Fashion experts say the trend is two-fold with designers incorporating punk influences as well as a nod to strong women.

Westfield Knox stylist Jo Blankfield said the trend was powerful, beckoning attention and sending a no-nonsense message.

“It says ‘Don’t mess with me,’” Ms Blankfield said. “Hardware has been a strong trend and you can pile it up, layering the look, or make a statement with just one strong piece.”

Melbourne University senior lecturer in social sciences Dr **Lauren Rosewarne** said she saw the look as a fight-back.

“It’s the idea of strength and to say a woman is able to defend herself,” she said.

Stylist: Jo Blankfield, Westfield Knox.

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