A date with Sarah-Kate

MY OSCARS GLORY

The Budget Glitz Blitz Award goes to ... Sarah-Kate

s I've mentioned once or 7000 times, I've just been to the Oscars. Getting a ticket wasn't exactly easy, but working out what to wear ... Well, how does one compete with the glitz and glamour of the Hollywood set?

They all keep a team of hairdressers in their purses and have a helicopter flying overhead with a spare something from Prada to be lowered in an emergency.

But since a helicopter flying overhead would frizz my hair, I had a dress made in Auckland instead. I'd seen a skirt that I loved but which was too expensive for me, so I went to local dressmaker Helen Rench about getting something similar.

She knew of some silk on sale for \$10 a metre, so I hightailed

it to the store and bought seven metres in the only colour that vaguely suited me. One week later, I was the proud owner of the most stunning creation I've ever come close to. The rose-coloured fabric that seemed a bit "lolly-ish" in the store came to life once Helen fashioned it into a full floor-length number with a halter top.

It fit like a glove but was also supremely comfortable. And the total cost of this gorgeous gown? Just \$261.

Shoes were the next thing. As I am practically a giant, I don't wear heels, but I do have some platforms that I bought in Paris on my birthday a while back and I wanted to wear them because they're special and don't give me blisters.

Jewellery-wise, the dress did not need it, but Jacqui – whose

husband Tony Johnson had been nominated and wangled my Oscar ticket – had been given a sparkly bracelet in a goodie bag that went with my outfit, so I could tick that off too.

That just left a clutch purse. I'm more of an overnight-bag sort of person, so just the idea of buying something that would fit only a bus ticket, a lip pencil and a couple of breath mints made me feel sick.

An entire day shopping for it in Beverly Hills didn't help. The closest thing I could find that was the right colour and would hold at least my phone and a protein bar cost \$1000.

But then Jacqui said she'd seen some on sale at Macy's department store, so the next day I set off in comfy shoes, walked into the shop and over to a table ... and there, sitting on top, was a sparkly, rose-coloured clutch – just the right size – on sale for \$50.

What's more, the sales assistant advised me where to get my nails done and told me to say hello to Leo DiCaprio.
Actually I got a lot of that and while I never clapped eyes on him, Tony did – he was standing next to him in the men's room.

Now I may not be rich, but I felt a million dollars on the big night, thanks to the friends who helped get me there and the fact that not one but half a dozen different people stopped me to compliment me on that dress. At the Oscars!

It's not always easy being comfortable in your own skin, but when seven metres of silk and a massive frisson of excitement make it happen, it's gold.