GOTYA (Victorian Graduate of the Year Awards)

The School is pleased to announce that three RMIT graduates from the School of Fashion & Textiles, BA Textile Design program have won all three prizes in the Textile category of the Design Institute of Australia GOTYA (Victorian Graduate of the Year awards) held recently at the Bathe showroom in South Melbourne.

Julie Newton took out first prize in the textile design category with her hand printed illustrated textile book.

Runner up, Jessica Eisenhauer created a themed series of swimwear body skins, and highly commended was awarded to Georgie McKenzie who developed a sustainable dream world of hand crocheted and digital textiles for body adornment.

Graduate Andrea Komninos from the Textiles Design and Development program was also a finalist for her work ‘La Colecta’.

Also, congratulations to Julie Newton who was also awarded the prestigious 2011 Victorian GOTYA award, competing against other category disciplines and textile courses from HE and TAFE programs in Victoria.

Fashion Research in Australia

The fashion industry in Australia has undergone major transformations in recent years as interest in the fashion studies has increased in universities, colleges and VET sectors. A seminar, initiated by Professor Jennifer Craik, was recently held at the Brunswick campus which was aimed at bringing together the leading fashion researchers, lecturers and practitioners to discuss how the profile of fashion studies can be raised. The School hosted a very successful seminar inviting other fashion researchers (nationally) to attend for a day and canvassed the state of research in fashion in Australia. The successful event coincided with the LMFF in March.

Amsterdam Fashion Institute Visits the School of Fashion and Textiles

The School of Fashion and Textiles hosted a visit from the Amsterdam Fashion Institute (AMFI) Visual Culture Lecturer, Frank Jurgen Wijlens in February and March this year.
The visit was funded by an EU teacher/student exchange program. In 2010, Linnemore Nefdt from AMFI visited whilst School staff, Mandy Penton and Rhonda Ingwersen visited AMFI and other EU fashion institutes.

Whilst in Melbourne, Frank also worked on a kick-start inspiration project with the Fashion and Design degree program.

**Sustainability Festival and Conference Day - 18th May**

The School’s Sustainability Committee has been gradually implementing initiatives which allow the School community to explore and adopt sustainable practices and reduce the School’s campus carbon footprint. These initiatives have been focused upon reducing waste and energy and we now have in place an established cycling group, cartridge recycling, seminars conducted by various internal and external clients in the industry and many other initiatives.

This year the School will be holding its first Sustainability Festival & Conference Day “Commune @ RMIT Brunswick” on the 18th May at the Brunswick Campus.

The event promises to be an interactive and thought provoking day. As part of the festival, there will be stalls with students’ textiles and craftwork, reworked wardrobe items, clothes and fabric swaps, organic wines and local beer, and delicious treats.

To fuel the imagination there will be live link-up presentations with students from the London College of Fashion Sustainability program and the Free Fashion bloggers from Amsterdam.

The program for the day is full and varied with staff running workshops such as stencil printing coffee bags with Julie Paterson, heat transfer dyeing methods with Lucy Adam and deconstruction/reconstruction workshop with Steve Wright from the Canberra Institute of Technology. The day will conclude with the RMIT/TFIA public lecture series with the MINKA collective from South America.

Full program on its way!

**Students Active in School’s Sustainability Commitment**

Students at the School have also been instrumental participants on the School’s Sustainability Committee. Currently, the committee has two very passionate student members, Elysia Herriot and Ella Hemsley. Both students have very strong interest in this area and share their profile below.

Elysia Herriot - student in 3rd year - Bachelor of Textile Design specialising in Knit.

“I have a lifelong interest in ecology and social justice. Prior to studying at RMIT I completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in International Development, Certificate 3 in Fashion Design and dabbled in a Bachelor of Visual Arts.

I am originally from Adelaide but now living, studying and working in Brunswick. I love the community - diverse, down to earth, creative. I own and manage a small retail store on Sydney Road, Woods and Fields Ethical Fashion, which specialises in local..."
and international brands that have a social and environmental focus to their practice.

I would like to see Brunswick campus forge a stronger student community culture; and would also like to encourage other students to engage with the idea of sustainable practice and see many creative approaches to what that can mean developing.

My future hope is to forge a career of practice-based research in fashion and textile sustainability.

Ella Hemsley – student in 2nd year – Diploma of Fashion Design

‘Having moved from Perth just last year, I still feel pretty new to Melbourne - but it’s definitely apparent that this place is bursting with amazing ideas! Particularly in regards to ways we can live ethically and sustainably; increasing the wealth of culture existing in this city.

I’ve always been passionate about environmental and human justice, and ways they can be incorporated into the design industries and our communities. Being part of the Sustainability Committee as a student representative is a great opportunity to be involved in the change happening at RMIT, and also around the world.’

RMIT Public Lecture Series Commences


This lecture provided an insight on how cotton sustainability standards are shaping and securing future supply within our sector, while building better frameworks around people, planet and ultimately securing company profitability.

FIRST YEAR BA TEXTILE DESIGN AVEDA PROJECT

Aveda launched their 2011 international event ‘Earth Month Walk for Water’ campaign in March. The event acknowledges the daily struggle that women in developing countries walk to collect water each day.

Congratulations to the BA Textile Design staff and students for their support and involvement in this project. The project required students to design T-shirt graphics to celebrate the event, whilst considering the T-shirt’s relevance and life post the event.

Also, congratulations to Tara Whalley whose work was selected and printed onto 100% organic cotton t-shirts certified by GOTS and manufactured in India using solely renewable green energy from wind and solar power.

All funds raised from the Aveda ‘Walk for Water’ in Australia will be donated to the Premier’s Disaster Relief Appeal to assist the many communities which have been devastated by the recent natural disasters in Queensland.

Winning Design by Tara Whalley