Student news
Victorian State Training Awards fashion parade

Students from the Bachelor of Applied Science (Fashion Technology) and Diploma of Applied Science Fashion Technology showcased their creative designs at the recent State Training Awards evening held at Crown Towers on Friday 24 August.

The garments were showcased in a section which focused on the best of the state’s creative industries and formed part of a fashion and dance parade as part of the awards event. The keynote address by The Hon. Peter Hall Minister for Higher Education and Skills praised all the students work and highlighted the work of our fashion garments in the parade.

For more information contact Tina Guglielmino, Program Manager Fashion tina.guglielmino@rmit.edu.au

Taking it to the streets

In June this year Textile Design and Development staff Sandra Darrington and Mary Zbierski-West once again celebrated student involvement in Coburg Carnivale, the annual mid-winter celebration presented by Moreland City Council. A program of yarn bombing and site specific textile installations in and around the outdoor mall in the main commercial area of Coburg unfolded over the week-long festival.

2nd year student Danielle Johnson talked-the-talk and wove-the-warp with her thought-provoking installation reflecting the sustainable production of cotton garments.

Creatures and creations were developed onsite to celebrate the longest night and the slow shift towards the longest day. Other student works displayed in the expansive library windows were based on Aesop’s fables and celebrated the International Year of Reading.

Spurred on by the encouraging response of an ever-vocal public, Mary Zbierski-West embarked on another public art endeavour, with fellow Textile Design and Development staff member Douglas McManus. The opportunity to paint a traffic signal box in Brunswick was presented by Urban Smart Projects who eagerly supported the collaboration, reflecting local and current designers. The four-panelled project promotes textile design in a riot of colour and pattern.

A series of afternoons spent painting and stencilling near the busy Brunswick roadside, enabled the collection of plenty of positive public reaction to the designs, especially amongst the school pickup set and local dog-walking crew.

www.urbansmartprojects.com/tsbs/view/2829
www.youtube.com/watch?v=envTFMubWlM
Photos by Estelle Joannou, Sandra Darrington, Mary Zbierski-West
Staff news
Fashion academic enters the hall of fame

RMIT University’s Associate Professor Karen Webster has been awarded one of Melbourne’s top fashion accolades - induction into the Stonnington Fashion Hall of Fame.

Associate Professor Webster was recognised for her significant contribution to Australian fashion, joining fellow fashion icons including Joe Saba, Alannah Hill and Arthur Galan in the Hall of Fame.

The co-Program Director of Fashion in the School of Architecture and Design was announced as the 2012 inductee into the Hall of Fame at the City of Stonnington's Spring Fashion Runway event.

Mayor of the City of Stonnington, Councillor John Chandler, said inducting Associate Professor Webster into the Fashion Hall of Fame was a fitting tribute.

"Karen has devoted so much of her career to nurturing Australian fashion," he said.

She is a fine addition to the Stonnington Fashion Hall of Fame and on behalf of Council, I congratulate her."

Associate Professor Webster spent five years as the Festival Director of the L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival, transforming it into one of the largest consumer fashion events in the world.

Her work before and after her time as Festival Director has been equally illustrious, demonstrating true talent and passion for the Australian fashion industry through her years as a fashion designer, cultural trend forecaster and in her current role at RMIT.

"This is an incredible honour," Associate Professor Webster said. "I truly believe that Stonnington is the only city in Australia that has such remarkable breadth and diversity when it comes to fashion, and it is a privilege to receive this induction."

Interwoven
It is not only RMIT University students whose designs have been featured during Melbourne Spring Fashion Week – the work of their RMIT mentors is also getting a showing.

"Interwoven, a textile exhibition that forms part of fashion week's Look.Stop.Shop program features the work of six RMIT academics."

The exhibition is being put on by the Design Institute of Australia Textile Practice Group and encompasses fashion, fine art and homewares.
Douglas McManus, who teaches students in the Diploma of Textile Design and Development, has his Acanthus Leaf Vest on show. Mr McManus said the work juxtaposes concealment and camouflage with exposure and scrutiny.

"I have chosen two of my favourite artists to reference this concept: Karl Blossfeldt and Alexander McQueen, both of whom created beautiful worlds," Mr McManus said.

"Very little is known about Blossfeldt's personal life. On the other hand McQueen's life as a fashion designer has been microscopically documented and celebrated, including his tragic death."

Jenny Underwood, who lectures students in the Bachelor of Arts (Textile Design), said her copper wire piece emulated the geometry and curvilinear properties of lace.

"The resultant piece has a transient quality: dynamic and fluid with its lively exchange of line, light and shadow," Dr Underwood said.

The exhibition also features the work of the School of Fashion and Textiles' Patrick Snelling, Julia Raath, Claire Beale and Esther Paleologos.

"To improve and increase the comfort of today's clothing, especially in sportswear, it is important for designers and technologists to understand the liquid moisture management properties of selected fabrics," Ms Orchard said.

"Moisture management fabrics have properties that allow the rapid movement of perspiration from the inside surface to the outside surface, via openings between fibres or yarns, then rapidly spread moisture across the outside surface, providing evaporation and greater comfort to the wearer."

Test results can greatly assist garment technologists and major fashion marketers when developing clothing.

RMIT's Textiles Testing Service focuses on fabric properties and performance testing. The range of products tested includes apparel, children's nightwear, homewares, floor coverings and other related textile products.

RMIT Textile Testing Services is an accredited textile testing and consulting facility based in Melbourne. For more information visit the RMIT website or phone: +61 3 9925 9120

For more info on Textiles Testing service [www.rmit.edu.au/textiletesting](http://www.rmit.edu.au/textiletesting)
Upcoming exhibitions and information sessions

Amalgamate

The Amalgamate exhibition, opening on 16 November is an exhibition of work by students from the Diploma and Advanced Diploma Textile Design and Development.

Grace Norris Woven Scarf

Date: 16 November to 22 November (Opening 16 November)
Time: 6pm-8pm
Gallery Hours: 11.00- 5.00 pm Friday, Saturday, Wednesday and Thursday.
Venue: Good Time Studio, Basement, 746 Swanston Street Carlton, VIC 3053.

Workroom

RMIT Bachelor of Arts Textile Design Graduate Exhibition 2012

Date: Tuesday 4 December (opening night) Show runs from 5 December - 16 December
Time: 6pm opening
Venue: No Vacancy Gallery, QV 34-40 Jane Bell Lane Melbourne 3000

For more information contact Claire Beale, Lecturer BA Textile Design. claire.beale@rmit.edu.au

Master Fashion and Textiles information session

This unique masters program has a global business focus that builds on your textiles, merchandising and fashion skills in the areas of design, technology and global supply management. Enhance your expertise and graduate at the forefront of this international billion dollar industry. Speak directly with Dr Olga Troynikov and academics about commencing your studies in 2013.

Date: Tuesday 16 October
Time: 6 pm to 7 pm
Location: RMIT University
Building 9, Level 2, Room 16
Corner Franklin and Bowen Street
Melbourne

Register your attendance now: www.eventbrite.com.au/event/4185308370/eorg