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Student News

2009 Dreamweaver Award

The presentation of the 2009 Dreamweaver Awards was made this year at a prestigious Cocktail Party held in the show rooms of Warwick Fabrics for the best design suitable for a woven fabric for furniture upholstery.

The finalists of the award are given the opportunity to work with the head designer Helen McDowall from Beaulieu Pacific in the Queensland design and sample room. Once the designs are completed they are woven at Beaulieu and sent back to Melbourne for the final judging. The fabric is then used to upholster chairs selected by the finalists. These chairs are sponsored by Bluestone Upholstery, Colby Furniture and Nicholls by Design.

This year’s finalists were Jennifer Corcoran, Michelle Brown and Laura Labrin.

The Winner of the Award this year was Laura Labrin, Diploma or Art (Studio Textiles and Design).

Laura’s award includes an all expenses paid trip to ‘Mood’ Textile Expo in Brussels – Belgium that includes the Beaulieu factory in Belgium and Warwicks show rooms in London.

Fashion student creates dress for Minister

The School of Fashion and Textiles was invited by the Department of Innovation and Industry and Regional Development (DIIAD) to design and produce a gown for the Minister for Regional & Rural Development, Minister for Skills & Workforce Participation Jacinta Allen Minister to wear to the Awards through a student project.

Student Christina Tang from the Advanced Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology created an outstanding range of designs for the Minister to choose from. Christina met with the minister on several occasions to discuss the design themes, style requirements and fittings. Christina has completed the garment successfully for the Minister to wear at the Awards function. In addition, Diploma and Advance Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Technology students will be showcasing their creative works through a fashion parade at the Training Awards event at the Crown Palladium on Thursday 20th August.

Renee Farina Shoes

Renee Farina is currently undertaking the Certificate IV Custom made Footwear program and has already started up her own designer label shoes titled Renee Farina Shoes. Ms Farina shoes are all handmade in Australia and is looking at extending her range to include male shoes.

You can purchase Renee Farina shoes at All of the Above, 109 Victoria Street, Fitzroy or contact 8415 0461.
Sustainability News

RMIT signs up to Zero Carbon Moreland

Sustainability is no fashion fad at RMIT University’s Brunswick campus. The leading local educational facility has signed up to Zero Carbon Moreland, as demonstration of its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. On top of that, the School of Fashion and Textiles is aiming to develop a “sustainability culture” among students and teachers by embedding principles of sustainability in the way they teach and guide the next generation of fashion and textile designers, technologists and printers. As part of its programs, the school includes sustainability modules whereby students explore areas such as ethical production in the national and global supply chain, sustainability and fibres, new synthetic fibres, organic fibres, toxicity and pollution, production innovations, and Redesign and recycling clothes and fabrics.

The school is also aiming to promote environmental, ethical and creative solutions on a wider scale by bringing together design, industry, technology, educators and academic research in an innovative resource rich environment. Keith Cowlishaw, Head of the School of Fashion and Textiles at RMIT, said: “Teaching our students how to integrate sustainability into their future careers as fashion and textile designers is essential”. “Signing up to Zero Carbon Moreland is an important part of that drive and an effective way for us to deepen our commitment to fostering a culture of sustainability among our students and staff.” With the Moreland Energy Foundation (MEFL), RMIT is currently looking to measure the carbon output of the campus and then develop an action plan. RMIT’s School of Fashion and Textiles has also invited MEFL to arrange workshops on reducing energy consumption at home and at work for students.

The S Word Presentation

Professor Joan Farrer, Auckland University was a guest of RMIT School of Fashion & Textiles and presented to staff, students, community and industry about the “S” word at the July research collegiate.

The presentation was attended by over 40 people who were taken on a visual journey through issues, designs and smart and dumb interventions exploring how Textiles can be used to communicate, not just an emotional ‘feel-good’ factor, but socio-political and ecological philosophies in order to ‘give shape or form to something’ including societal change.
International News

China’s Ministry of Education visit RMIT

A group delegation from the Department of China Ministry of Education visited RMIT on 14th July to learn about the dual sector tertiary programs at RMIT. Of particular interest was pathways between TAFE and higher education as well as credit transfers and RMIT’s TAFE programs.

Program Manager, Merchandising & Management Chris Clark presented to the group on the various courses within the School of Fashion & Textiles and pathways.

Research Update

Natural Fibres and Sweden

Dr Olga Toynikov, HDR Program Director presented on behalf of Dr Rajiv Padhye a paper on the applications of wool fibre into ballistic armour at the Homtextil Natural fibre conference in Frankfurt in June and then represented the School at the Technical Textiles Seminar organised by Austrade in conjunction with the University of Boras Sweden. The seminar was aimed at developing collaborative research linkages between Swedish and Australian technical textiles manufacturers.

Industry News

Fashion Work Integrated Learning program with Yakka

Fashion students have just completed a WIL project designing workwear for the Pacific Brands Yakka company.

The students were set a brief by the Stylecorp group at Yakka and students were mentored by Nicki Rowse (Snr. Product Manager, Yakka) and their teacher Julie Wood on the client market group and their needs.

Yakka supplied the students with the fabric and were on the assessment panel to hear each individual student presentations and provided students with feedback on their designs. Nicki then advised each student on which design she felt best met the design brief and the student then went ahead to dye and print fabrics and produce the final garments. The students then made up the chosen design for the final presentations to Yakka with full design presentation boards and production specifications.

A cocktail party was held at Yakka head office and each student was awarded with a participation certificate and gift at the event. The winning students 1st Prize Jacinta Demetriou, 2nd Prize Alejandra Valdes Pizarro and Industry Prize winner Simone Chaitra all received prizes and the industry winner will have her modified shirt put into production ready for showcasing at Melbourne
Fashion Festival in September where Pacific Brands will be exhibiting.

**RMIT University conducts Innovation and Collaboration Workshop on Engineered Textiles**

University research staff, discipline leaders and companies manufacturing or using Engineered Textiles attended a half-day Innovation & Collaboration Workshop on Engineered Textiles at RMIT University's Brunswick campus on Tuesday, 14th July. The Workshop was facilitated and led by Dr Marcus Powe - RMIT’s Entrepreneur in Residence.

The Workshop is part of the RMIT Engineered Textiles Innovative Industry Program (ETIIP), funded through the International Fibre Centre.

The objectives of the Workshop were to:

- Promote innovation in the use of engineered textiles
- Foster collaborative research and development in engineered textiles
- Disseminate product knowledge and awareness of engineered textiles

Outcomes of the Workshop included the:

- Enhancement of knowledge by the Engineered Textile industry about the research activities and capabilities of RMIT, Deakin and CSIRO staff
- Promotion and development of inter-disciplinary collaboration between RMIT University Textile, Engineering, Science, Design and Architecture researchers and academics

Follow-up actions to be considered were:

- The creation of on-line capability data bases readily accessible by industry
- A continuation of information sharing via research Roadshows and Open Days
- The convening of formal industry groups to provide advice on R&D needs

**Program Profile**

**Program:** C6082 Advanced Diploma of Textile Design and Development

**Pathways:** Graduates of the Advanced Diploma Who have been successful in gaining a place in the Bachelor of Arts (Textile Design) will be eligible to apply for an exemption of two years, leaving an additional one year to complete the degree program.

**Career Prospects:** Graduates have a range of career pathways involving the research and development of commercial textile design and textile products for the textile industry. Opportunities for employment include self managing textile designers, textile product designers, production managers, textile artists and small business operators.

For further information, contact pat.jones@rmit.edu.au