Events & Awards

Message from Head of School

Events & Awards
It is that time of the year where the School sees the results of its years work through awards won by students. This is a special Newsletter edition for October that highlights Award winners and report on events during the October month.

Fashion designs invade iconic Australian brands

Students were given the chance to design a new range for Australian retail fashion giants.

Iconic Australian fashion stores Target, Country Road and Sportsgirl will soon be invaded by collections from RMIT University students, as part of the Young Essentials Project (YEP).

Winners of YEP 2009 were announced at a gala event that featured a keynote speech from Target Australia Managing Director, Launa Inman.

Ms Inman, said: "The Young Essentials Project sees industry and academia come together to provide exceptional learning experiences and showcases to participating businesses the up-and-coming talent”

Winners of the Young Essentials Project 2009

Target Australia Brief – Destination Youth
Winning group: Juventas (Cassandra Varigos, Lynh Nguyen, Ashleigh Templer, Miranda Glennon, Hitomi Pratt, Emma Rosenhain, Labiba Latiff, Angeline Mugamu)

Country Road Brief – A sub brand for denin
Winning group: Divinitus (Tasha Achilles, Julieanne Forbes, Angie Hanna, Emily Holdsworth, Samantha Hunt, Kishori Purcell, Natalie Saccaro, Mandeep Sharma, Sabrina Sulijevic)

Sportsgirl Brief – A rewind range
Winning group: Timberly (Chloe Brooks-Dowsett, Kari Layton, Rebeca Spiller, Emily Healey, Sofia Pace, Jade Moroney, Erin Hodge, Chee Nam Wan)

2009 Fashion Awards, Australia

Fashion Awards Australia attracts an audience of over 650 industry representatives, students and visitors to the Gala Presentation Evening.

Students from across all fashion design programs at the School of Fashion and Textiles were well
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represented in all categories with wins in

Race Wear
1st Elyse Metaxas, Diploma of Applied Fashion Design & Technology
2nd Lara Lethbridge, Diploma of Applied Fashion Design & Technology
3rd Becky Chua, Bachelor of Applied Science (Fashion Technology)

Long Gown
With entries in this section of 40 gowns our fashion students received 3 of the 6 finalist places.

Finalists
Elisa Tegutt Purnoma, Bachelor of Applied Science (Fashion Technology)
Stesha Ho, Bachelor of Applied Science (Fashion Technology)
Pamela Usanto, Bachelor of Applied Science (Fashion Technology)

Winner
Elisa Teguh Purnoma - Bachelor of Applied Science Fashion Technology)

2009 RMIT Business Plan Competition

The RMIT 2009 Business Plan Competition Awards Ceremony was held on 14th October, at RMIT’s Storey Hall. RMIT Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Margaret Gardner AO, hosted the event and presented the $25,000 first prize from a pool of almost $100,000.

Currents students studying fashion with the School of Fashion and Textiles were winners claiming the Lord Mayor’s Award for Creative Industries - $5,000 sponsored by the City of Melbourne for Team Kno Kno is visionary fashion concept were the designer collaborates with the client to create unique and original clothing and accessories that are not available in mainstream retail outlets.

Linda Vydra, another fashion student won the Portmans - Fashion & Textiles Industry Award - $5,000 for Team Lydra (who produces eco-friendly accessories for the individual women. All products are made in Melbourne and from pre-loved fabrics that are sourced locally and in need of a new lease on life. The women that purchase a Lydra product embrace the idea of having a product that is unique to them alone; appreciate colour, embellishments,

Textile Institute Awards

The development of a highly skilled workforce is essential to the economic development of the textiles industry in Australia. The Textile Institute Southern Australia Section encourages excellence in vocational education by presenting annual student awards and is dedicated to encouraging personal development and growth, and to enable our members and
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students to progress their skills and knowledge for the benefit of our industry. The awards offer students an opportunity to gain recognition for their academic and vocational achievements.

In 2009, RMIT students took out the winning prizes for 10 out of 14 categories including the major IFC Award. The prize is 4 Week tuition & accommodation at the Paris American Academy which was awarded to Elisa Teguh Purnomo.

Winners and prizes include:

- Becky Chua, RMIT - “Little Tailleur” work experience
- Claudia Gervasi, RMIT - Voyager Distributing Co.Ltd work experience
- Giorgia Trigila, RMIT - Cappellazzo Couture work experience
- Gaelle Comparat, RMIT - The Clothing Company work experience
- Jacinta Demetriou, RMIT - The Ark cash prize
- Vanessa Granato, RMIT - “Permanser” cash prize
- Jonathon Kirk, RMIT - “Tyler’s Fabrics” gift voucher
- Natasha Fagg, RMIT “Tyler’s Fabrics” gift voucher
- Gavin Lowes, RMIT “Lectra” cash prize
- Elisa Teguh Purnomo, RMIT “IFC Award” 4 weeks tuition & accommodation at the Paris American Academy
STUDENT NEWS

FASHION STUDENTS SUPPORT ORPANS
Garments produced by first year students from the Diploma of Applied Fashion Design & Technology program have been donating to the children of the Nkoaranga Orphanage & Cradle of Love Baby Home in Tanzania, Africa.

Staff member, Sharon Koenig liaised with Livia Arena, a past fashion student to have children’s garments including T-shirts, shirts and shorts delivered to the orphanage.

The image shows Sophie from the orphanage and some of her beautiful children. In her last correspondence she stated: “I am grateful for your continued efforts & support.”

Merchandising students in Barbie Shop @ Shanghai

35 students from the Advanced Diploma of Fashion and Textiles Merchandising were in the Barbie shop in Shanghai in late September as part of the China study tour - the aim of putting theory and application together.

Students were amazed and inspired by the shop display and found it hard to resist temptation.

Apart from visiting the cultural sites in Beijing, Xian and Shanghai, the study group also visited the Silk Institute in Suzhou. In contrast to natural fibre, they visited Invista to see how synthetic fibres are produced. Retail stores visited starting from brands such as Zara, H&M to bargains on the streets.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Ride To Work Day

Ride to work day - October 14th.
Thanks to the RMIT Brunswick commuter team who joined over 140,000 people across Australia for ride to work day. The conditions weren’t perfect, but it goes to show that you can cycle to work rain hail or shine if you have the right gear and motivation to do so.

Three awards were given, congratulations to Fiona Greygoose who was awarded the ‘endurance’ prize, for the longest distance travelled, 10km to work, a mighty 20km return. Fiona is a regular commuter to Brunswick campus and demonstrates that distance need not be a barrier.
Patricia Brien took out the ‘fashion and textiles’ award for the most stylish bike and outfit combo. Her classic Dutch ‘Gazelle’ bike requires no lycra or garish fluorescent colours. Patricia wasn’t far behind Fiona in the ‘endurance’ stakes travelling 7km to work, without gears!

Finally, Claire De Baux took out the ‘gadget’ award with her Swedish Skeppshult bike, it changes gears automatically just like a car!

We are keen to build the commuter culture here at Brunswick campus, if you are interested in riding to work, or need some encouragement please contact emma.lynas@rmit.edu.au

**It’s a denim Industry**

Old, discarded denim has been given new life thanks to students from RMIT University’s Brunswick campus.

About 35 second-year fashion and design students took up the challenge to transform five pairs of “unsellable” jeans into something fresh and fashionable in only 2 1/2 hours. Teacher, Patricia Brien said “the jeans had been donated to the Brotherhood of St Laurence, but because they were no longer in fashion, the charity could not sell them”.

She said the students had “creative licence” to create anything they wanted from the unwanted denim. “They (were) not allowed to add anything of their own – except thread,” Ms Brien said. She said the exercise was designed to get the students thinking about our “throw-away culture”.


**Half a kilo of ethanol from a kilo of Denim**

Professor Mohammad Taherzadeh, from the School of Engineering, University of Borås, Sweden visited the School of Fashion and Textiles on 14th October to present on the possibilities of producing ethanol and biogas from textile waste.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Agents
During the month of October, RMIT School of Fashion and Textiles was host to a number of International Agents who have visited RMIT’s annual Agent week. They were presented with information on the school programs, research activities and were given a tour of the Brunswick campus displaying the state of the art facilities.

Staff from Nahai District Education Bureau (China) also visited the School to get an insight of VET systems in Australia.

The Head of School met with John Halder, President of Community Colleges for International Development (CCID) on Wednesday 21 October, to discuss programs and how both Colleges could work together in the future.

STAFF NEWS

ISSI Awards
Inna Konopov, teacher at the School of Fashion and Textiles, specialising in knitwear production with a strong emphasis on performance textiles was awarded an International Specialised Skills Institute (ISSI) grant in 2009.

Inna’s project was to undertake an overseas study in protective and comfort assessment, and testing of advance textiles at NCSU College of Textiles, North Carolina, USA. Whilst undertaking this project,

In addition, Inna will share her learning with industry to create a more competitive edge for the Australian TCF Industries.

Fashion Teacher Tina Marino, also received an ISSI awards which included travelling to Europe as part of her research in the ISSI/Veneto Fellowship.

Tina had the pleasure of meeting up with some of our ex-students currently working in London and Paris. Tina visited the IUAV University of Venice, met with students and staff as they were preparing for their Graduate Parade, Open day and final assessments.

“It was encouraging to see that student value their teachers being practitioners in the fashion industry as well”
Tina was also introduced to unique manufacturers who work with famous high-end designers on a daily basis.

Tina’s ISS Research report will be focused on skill deficiencies in fashion design; draping for fitting, prototyping garments and pattern-making; and tailoring and couture finishing techniques. The report also will include comprehensive information on her International Experience.

Events @ RMIT School of Fashion & Textiles

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| Wednesday 28 October 09 6-7pm | Fashion and Textiles Postgraduate Information Evening | Info Corner, RMIT University  
Cnr Swanston and La Trobe Streets, Melbourne | http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=qtqjmlyyt426 |
| Tuesday 24th November 09 6-8pm | ASKEW - Fashion, Textile Design & Footwear Exhibition | | |
| 25th - 26th November 09 11am - 7pm | Exhibition from Textile Design (TAFE) & Footwear | Shed 4 North Wharf Road, Docklands | |
| 19th November - 2nd December 09  
Tue-Sat 11am-5pm  
Sunday 12-5pm | BA Textile Design End of year Exhibition | NO Vacancy Gallery, Jane Bell lane  
(access from Russell Street - Officeworks)  
QV Buildings, Melbourne | |