

Sewing seems a strong point

By PIERS FULLER

Not only does the textiles and design department at Wairarapa College have school fashion awards all sewn up, it has also been stitching up national competitions.

Wairarapa College head of textiles and design Ruth Bucknell, won the top award at the inaugural TOF (The Oversew Fashion) Awards at the Carterton Events Centre last weekend and her year 12 student Samantha Hodgins, who entered independently, won the Young Designer title.

Both have a passion for clothing design.

Ms Bucknell has her own vintage clothing museum at home and made her winning entry out of fabric from men's trousers and lined it with an old table cloth.

"I entered myself because it is a challenge and it is a good way to keep up with what work students are doing. I inspired them and they inspired me. It is 'tuakana teina', the older and younger generation learn from each other," she said.

Samantha's creation used fabric

she took from garments she found in op shops, as well using sequins and aluminium can tear tabs.

Her piece was based on the awards concept of turning old garments into modern street wear. The strapless beach maxi dress; with a skirt of ribbons of blues and greens was very floaty and feminine. The bodice was decorated with tear tabs.

Ms Bucknell says Samantha is a dedicated student and puts a lot of effort in to all her pursuits inside and outside the classroom.

She has been designing clothes since she was little and making them since year 9. As part of her Young Designer prize package she received a new sewing machine sponsored by Sew Carterton, \$500 and an internship with top Carterton designer Lorraine Hall.

"I feel honoured to be given the opportunity to work with local designer Lorraine Hall and can't wait for this to happen," said Sam.

Wairarapa College has also had success at the Hokonui Fashion and Design Awards and hosted their own wearable art competition for Wairarapa secondary schools.



Runway success: Wairarapa textiles and design head teacher Ruth Bucknell and student Samantha Hodgins were both star designers at the recent TOF (The Oversew Fashion) Awards in Carterton.

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