



MEDIA RELEASE

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Big wool wins for Raffles College graduates

Raffles College Fashion Design graduates, Gabriel Lee and Peggy Hartanto, took out top prizes at last night's Australian Wool Fashion Awards at Sydney Olympic Park.

Gabriel Lee won first place in the Tertiary category for his black wool cocktail dress, while Peggy Hartanto won two prizes: first place in the Woven section with a little black dress inspired by Audrey Hepburn and second place in the Bridal wear section. Both graduates completed their Bachelor of Design degrees last year.

For Gabriel, the win is further recognition of his emerging talent as a designer. Last year, he won the Raffles College Best Major Studio Project Range Award of an internship with leading Australian fashion designer Akira Isogawa.

He has just completed the internship which he described as "a really, really great experience." The budding designer now has his sights set on some further international competitions in the next few months while he looks for a job in the industry. He won \$900 cash and an internship with Australian fashion design icon Alex Perry.

Peggy wins \$900 cash for her little black dress and a further \$600 cash prize for her amazing bridal gown. Awards are not new to the recent graduate who last year won first place in the Kinokuniya Digital Art Prize; second place in the 2009 Australian Wool Fashion Awards; and was a finalist in both the Textile Institute's Student of the Year Awards and the 'Little Black Dress' category of the Tessuti Awards. She is currently seeking work in the fashion industry.

Robert de Giovanni, Program Director of Fashion Design at Raffles College says he's extremely proud of his former students' wins.

"They are both exceptionally talented," he says. "To construct a beautiful garment from wool is a major challenge, and for them to be recognised in these awards is a huge personal achievement and a great career boost. I can't wait to see what they do next," says Mr de Giovanni.

As part of the wool fashion awards, Raffles College also provides a half-fee scholarship prize, valued at \$27,770, to study for a Bachelor of Design majoring in Fashion Design. This was won Christina Ruhno of Pymble Ladies College.



The Australian Wool Fashion Awards are sponsored by Australian Wool Innovation Limited. The awards are designed to showcase the use of merino wool by national and international fashion designers and students. The competition aims to educate young designers on the quality and diversity of wool.

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