

# THE Manly Daily

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## Dress for success

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## Designer has a ball after win

Liz McDougall

ALLAMBIE Heights' Brad Butler has beaten more than 200 entrants from across Australia and New Zealand to take out a national design competition.

His bronze satin evening gown began as a bodice assessment for his bachelor of design with a fashion major at Raffles College of Design and Commerce at North Sydney.

His lecturer suggested he transform it into a gown and enter it in fabric retailer Spotlight's third national Formal Wear Competition.

The gown features rows of intricately draped and moulded pleats over a strapless bodice and full-skirt.

"I wanted to do something architectural with folds and lines," Brad, 22, said.

"It took 20 hours to do the bodice then a week's worth of hours to finish the dress.

"There's a lot of layers and fabric and a corset underneath."

Brad, who is on a college scholarship, won a \$1000 gift voucher from Spotlight and an expenses-paid trip to Melbourne to spend the day with top designers Jacob and Anthony from J'Aton Couture.

"This is absolutely wonderful!" he said.



Brad Butler with his winning gown.

Picture: VIRGINIA YOUNG PP208987