

Kids WOW with fashion creations



Keeping the beat: The Samba sounds of Rata St School's OSCAR group, directed by Battacuda drum group member Darryn Sigley, were a big hit at the show. Drummers included, from left, Tyrell Packer, Whetu Tuariki, Antonia Vole-Packer, Ryon Sinclair (OSCAR assistant) and Katiri McGregor. They even played one of the pupil's own compositions, *Tyrell's Groove*.

By SIMON EDWARDS

There were warriors and explorers, aliens and bugs, princesses and prickly plants, but the overall winner at the Wearable Arts in Valley Schools shows last week was a humble – albeit very cute – sheep.

Maungaraki School seven-year-old Alistair Fox stole the audience's hearts, and impressed the judges, with his woolly get-up, black tight-covered limbs and wagging of his tail on the town hall catwalk.

City council environment officer Sandy Beath-Croft said the 76 entries in the Valley's junior equivalent of the big-name World of WearableArts show was down on last year, but once again there was plenty of enterprise and creativity shown.

This fourth annual show was jointly organised by pupils of Wa Ora Montessori School and Wainuiomata High School, with their involvement counting towards unit standards under the project-based learning curriculum.

Mrs Beath-Croft was particularly pleased that some year 13 Wainuiomata High School pupils, and even some who had left school, returned to help the current crop of year 12s with the 2010 show.

Title winners, junior, then senior, were: *Mask Mayhem* – James Scott and Haylee Hannah of Maungaraki School, Jamie Purdie-Starling, Wainuiomata High; *Trash 2 Treasure* – Alistair Fox, Maungaraki; Maxie Packer, Kasey Bircham and Katie Bognuda, Wainuiomata High; *Hot off the Press* – Mya Birkhead and Lara Baxter from Rata St School, Kaiwhata Kemp and Briony Ure, Wainuiomata High; *Absolutely Aotearoa* – Sophe Galletly, Maungaraki School; Nadia Szriyani, Sts Peter and Paul.



Box of birds: Nadia Szriyani models a garment created by Sts Peter and Paul School pupil Gemma Woolcock. Gemma, who called her garment *Back to grass roots*, used grass, crepe paper, "googly eyes", and wool to make a 3-D-effect pohutukawa, birds and tuatara. It won the intermediate/senior Absolutely Aotearoa section.



Heard it through the grape vine: Natalie Shackleton, 12, from St Peter and Paul School, used papier mache balloons to transform herself into a bunch of delicious-looking grapes.



Bashful baa-baa: Alistair Fox won over the crowd with his cute lamb outfit.



Tie me down: Maxie Packer rescued businessmen's ties from secondhand shops so that she and fellow Wainuiomata High School friends Kasey Bircham and Katie Bognuda could create this peacock-like skirt and tail-feather creation. It won the senior Trash 2 Treasure category prize. In front is Maungaraki School eight year-old Miah Martell in her native butterfly outfit, which won the primary school prize in the Mask Mayhem section.



Winners all: They're a creative lot up at Maungaraki School, with six pupils winning prizes or being named finalists in the Wearable Arts in Valley Schools show. From left is Max Noble (with his spiky, lights flashing outfit *I Like Aliens*), Alistair Fox as a sheep, butterfly Miah Martell, Sophie Galletly as a majestic and large poodle (Absolutely Aotearoa junior winner), Jared Taylor is a Maori warrior and James Scott as a moa.