

Sandra Tupu

Flying Fox Menswear. flyingfoxmenswear.com

"I used to collect men's Harris Tweed jackets when I was a teenager, as well as old men's waistcoats, braces and bow ties. I've always liked re-using things so it seemed fitting for me to use recycled garments when I started designing menswear. I find designing menswear much more challenging than womenswear, and I enjoy that challenge. My Flying Foxes 'Tatau' collection was designed as part of my graduation year and with it I won the Otago Institute of Design Sustainability Award at the Dunedin iD Emerging Designers Show in 2010. At the moment, I'm using a lot of old men's shirts as the trim in some of my garments. In the past I have incorporated old picnic and army blankets and cotton flour bags into my designs. I mainly scout for things in second-hand shops, army surplus stores, or antique shops. I'm not into mass production. My designs are well-crafted, sustainable clothes that take quite a while to complete. I want Flying Fox to stay small and niche – high-end menswear that is designed specifically for that person. I just want to do something that I love, that isn't throwaway fashion and that can let me go at my own pace."

Photography by Andrew Coffey