

INDULGE

# summer loving

Let us warm you up with a sneak peek at Invercargill designer Warwick Woodfield's spring/summer collection. **Craig Lawson** reports.

Invercargill fashion designer Warwick Woodfield takes the current trends in Europe and adapts them to suit the Invercargill market. Mr Woodfield said Invercargill women were very clued up on fashion. The excitement of fashion and being part of trends on the international runway was what they love, he says. His top designer influences on the world stage are Marc Jacobs, Moschino, D & G and Blueberry. The talent and ability of these designers to create something so innovative was really cool, he says. The European designers always work ahead and have just finished showing their collections for the following summer. Mr Woodfield watched what was happening on the catwalks in Paris, Milan and London. The bubble skirt remained the stand out trend that would be huge, he says. So he took a fantastic floral print, added his own unique bubble hemline and designed a fresh new look. And the great thing is our summer is before theirs, which means we will be wearing the trend before them. The confidence fashion can bring women is what keeps him in the business. "I enjoy it when a woman walks out the door with their head held high and proud of themselves," he says. And who would have thought, all this talent from a man who 20 years ago was a farm manager on the West Coast of the South Island. He then decided to move to the bright lights of the big city. Auckland was where he landed and found his first job stitching buttons on women's clothing. Very quickly he then found the opportunity to start his own clothing manufacturing business. He was taught how to make patterns and that's when the designer was born. Moving to Invercargill six years ago, Mr Woodfield found himself to be in demand, designing for labels such as Country Road. Then taking the leap of opening up his first boutique in Invercargill early last year. "I like how fashion is always changing and challenging me, with no time to get bored and I get bored easily."

**Warwick's fashion tips:**

- Jewellery will be big and bold.
- Waist length is high on jeans, trousers and shirts – adds a more flattering shape to the body.
- Shirts left open with a T-shirt underneath and a belt through the middle.
- Dresses are pretty and long flowing.
- The summer trench coat is a must-have.
- Colours! Black and white together – floral is big again this summer.
- Clashing – Stripes under prints is bold and stands out.

Warwick gives us a sneak peek at his soon-to-be released spring/summer collection.



**Summer trench:** Single-breasted, static floral, memory fabric, holds its shape. Lightweight. Perfect for protecting you from the wind on a summer's day. Can be worn with anything.



**Elastic, fantastic:** Elastic belt, with leather front panel, fits to your shape.



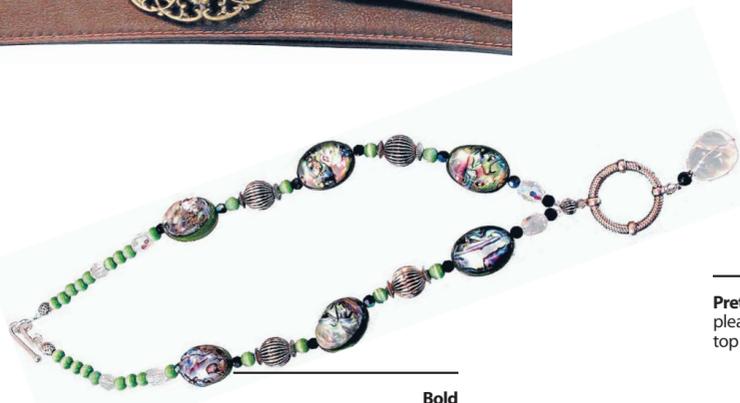
**Black and white together:** Short frilly sleeved, perfect with contrasting stitched jeans.



**Belted:** Wide belt, big buckle, cool hip-fitting belt.



**Bubble skirt:** Light-weight, silk/cotton, floral print, dress up or down, looks good with boots or can look fantastic with tights underneath.



**Bold jewellery:** New Zealand paua.



**Pretty in pink:** Fitted pleated crossover top with lace trim.

## judge Rex Turnbull happy 21st birthday



With the Hokonui Fashion Awards just around the corner **Craig Lawson** chats to international artist Rex Turnbull about the awards and his view on how the fashionable trench coat should be worn.

From Hepburn to Madonna with safari suit to fishnet stockings, this constructed item is sexy hot and can be dressed up or down. It is such an easy item of clothing that it can be worn with anything – or nothing! Rex Turnbull has an art practice in Sydney, and has exhibited worldwide. "But my part-time passion is fashion with the idea that New Zealand will be able to continue to make its mark on the world stage by discovering talent to follow the likes of Karen Walker." The Hokonui Fashion Awards are about to turn 21, and what a party it will be. The awards have gone from strength to strength with the fashion industry heavy weights eager to be part of this national event. The invitation to be a judge is the opportunity to see the creative passion and faith young designers have in the industry. Every major New Zealand designer has taken part in this event. Karen Walker, Nic Blanchet, Francis Hooper (World), Trelise Cooper, Kate Sylvester, Tanya Carlson, Liz Findley (Zambessi) and Margi Robertson (NOM\*D). Mr Turnbull has been asked to judge the event for the past six years. It had gone from a home machinist award to a nationally recognised fashion event, he says.

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