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New generation causes stir

Auckland, October 23 (JY&A Media) The police presence outside at the conclusion of the Sabatini autumn–winter 2003 collection hinted that there was something different about the next show, the *Sunday Star–Times* New Generation collection with nascent labels Federation, Jonathon Hall, Tatton, Doosh and Bridget Saunders Fur with Ethics.

Auckland Animal Action staged a protest against Saunders's show, even though the designer uses possum fur, the only type approved by the New Zealand World Wide Fund for Nature. Possums harm native flora and fauna. However, the activist group had its own viewpoint.

Nevertheless, the protest did not interrupt the show, which began with Federation's two skateboarders, who made use of a temporarily installed raised section of the catwalk to perform some simple feats.

Federation, founded by husband-and-wife team Jenny and Nick Clegg, is targeted for those who need clothes for work and play.

While casual, there were surprises: a grey on white cape; a belt with hand-printed graffiti lettering spelling 'Federation' in capitals; and hidden pockets without stitching around them that had their outlines screenprinted on instead.

The unassuming Jonathon Hall showed his Les Grotesques autumn–winter 2003 collection, although the use of metallic thread on a blue–green–grey skirt, whose colours appeared to shift as the model proceeded down the catwalk (the skateboarding platform having been removed at the close of the Federation segment) was anything but grotesque. A black coat with tassles on sleeves and yellow stitching on a cowl-back black dress were other notable Hall items.

Hailing from Nelson, Annie Tatton, who has already gained a reputation at the Wearable Arts' Awards, demonstrated that exquisite custom design is one of her fortés: a sleeveless top that looked like a knight's shield, adorned with a single rose on the front and a knitted white strapless dress that was particularly flowing were two favourites. Other Tatton creations wandered close to



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costume and wearable art genres, showing a mastery of design skill. Throughout this segment, there was no music: only the sound of a sword.

Doosh, from Steve Ingram, was rougher, with a rebellious image. Oversized pockets appeared on a pair of denim jeans; the silhouette of a head appeared in black on the back of a checked shirt. Gold Hebrew lettering emerged on a white T-shirt and a hooded coat gave an industrial appearance. A pink T-shirt with a brown seagull motif over a deep pink pinstripe pant was the least rebellious and comparatively softer.

Bridget Saunders's show divided opinions. While everyone loved the two children who dressed as possums with the words 'Protect our forests' on their chests and 'from us' on their backs, not everyone was convinced that parading garments with a bird, two Newfoundland dogs, ferrets and rats were a great idea. However, there seemed to be fewer concerns about the use of possum fur on a brown possum fur coat and a white sherling jacket with fur trim, among others. • **Jack Yan**

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