

Festive day launches apartments for students

by Russell Page-Wood

The Auckland University of Technology's Wellesley student apartments held a festive open day last week, offering tours of the complex for the meek, and a bouncy castle for the adventurous.

Accommodation service manager David McGregor says the building is the largest student apartment block in Australasia.

"We have 501 beds. All the apartments are fully furnished and suitable for student living," he says.

It is only a three-minute walk from Queen St and a free bus service takes students from the apartments to do their grocery shopping.

The rent is priced between \$160 and \$175 depending on the view from your room.

Residential assistant Adam Stephenson says the apartments were "minimalist" while he was

living there earlier this year.

"They got built really quickly. I think they rushed them.

"A lot of people had problems with their door handles and bath rails falling off," he says.

He has been back to the apartments since living there and says now that the building is fully completed, it has a lot more to offer to residents.

"There are heaps more facilities there now, such as bigger study space and a common room with a pool table. It would be cool to live there now," says Stephenson.

The apartments opened earlier in the year and McGregor says feedback so far has mostly been positive and he is looking to the future.

"Our focus is now on 2005, we currently have 300 residents," he says.

"We are aiming to be full by the start of the 2005 university year."

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PHOTO: RUSSELL PAGE-WOOD

STUDENT LIVING: The Wellesley apartments is the "largest student block in Australasia".

AUT designers on display

by Grace Edwards

More than 40 fashion students will hit the big time on Tuesday with a catwalk show at NZ Fashion Week.

The one-hour *Rookie* show features third year Art and Design students majoring in fashion at AUT.

Fashion Design programme leader Mandy Smith says *Rookie* is a great opportunity for the students to showcase their raw creative talents.

"We're rookies on the fashion design scene and we felt the theme described where our students sit within the fashion world - newcomers starting out on their fashion career."

Forty-five were selected from the 63 graduating fashion students to show pieces from their final collections.

Student Suzie Aston, 21, says the *Rookie* show is a mix of "out there" collections as well as commercial collections.

The apparel, knitwear and costume garments will put a modern twist on clothing from a past era.

Aston's female knitwear collection is made from light wools and cotton and is based on a 1920s theme crossed with 2004 punk.

"It's urban evening wear. It's dressy and it's feminine," says Aston.

Christopher Woods specialised in costume design and took inspiration for his collection from the 1940s.



DESIGN BIG TIME: Christopher Wood's and Suzie Aston's work will appear at New Zealand Fashion Week.

"I decided to base my collection on strong women. It was the first time women went to work in huge numbers. There were women that were flying for the first time."

The former hairdresser says he is excited about the chance to show his work to industry insiders at NZ Fashion Week.

"It opens doors. It allows the industry to see you and it generates interest."

Both Woods and Aston aspire to have their own show at NZ Fashion Week some day.

"I think unless you are positive about something it won't happen," says Woods.

This is the second year AUT students have held a show at NZ Fashion Week.

The invitation-only *Rookie* show is at 8pm, October 19, and broadcast live on the NZ Fashion Week website.

Vets give drugs to 'anxious' cats

by Jo Lewis

People aren't the only ones to suffer from mental health problems — your pet cat could be a victim too.

Animal psychologist Vicki Erceg says anxiety disorders in cats are common.

"It's surprising how many people have cats that have anxiety," says Erceg.

She says cats develop anxiety for similar reasons that humans do, but it depends on the cat's personality.

Erceg says cat anxiety can be induced by trauma, for example, as a result of injury.

She says anxiety is common in households with more than one cat.

Symptoms of anxiety in cats can be determined by changes in their behaviour.

Spraying urine is a common symptom.

Erceg says spraying urine makes the cat feel better and relaxes them.

Cat anxiety is usually treated with a drug very similar to Prozac, says Erceg.

Behaviour modification is also used to teach the cats to relax, and can usually be carried out by the owner at home.

"I spend most of my day doing this — treating anxious ani-

mals," says Erceg.

North Shore resident Carrie McColl's cat, Kaos, suffers from anxiety.

She recently sought treatment for the cat's illness.

The four-year-old cat was given to McColl two years ago.

McColl already had one cat and says Kaos always seemed "very edgy".

It took the cat several months to settle in.

She took Kaos to the vet when she started to look and smell unhealthy.

It was then that she discovered the cat was suffering from what the vet described as "severe anxiety".

Kaos is currently being treated, and McColl is happy her cat is on the road to recovery.



CAT ANXIETY: Treatment for Kaos.