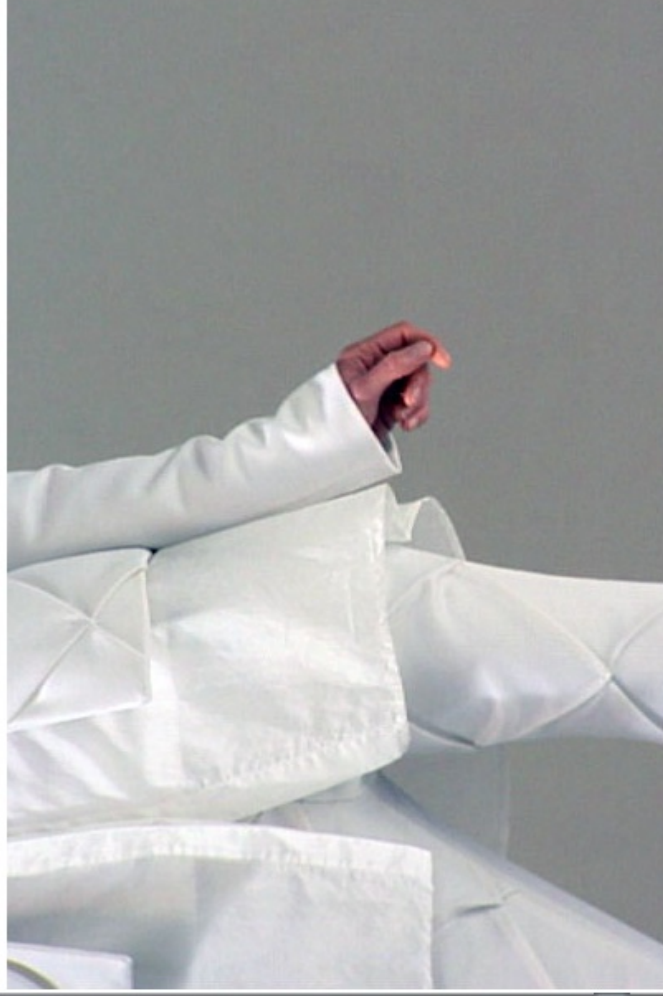


## Anti-odour fabric smells like success

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**By Samantha Hayes**

New Zealand Fashion Week doesn't officially start until tomorrow, but scientists have beaten the fashionistas to the bubbly.

They're celebrating a world first range of fabrics that are resistant to body odour.

"If you've got chemical treatments in there, which stay in the fabric, they don't migrate out, then they can prevent bacteria from growing and they stop the odour from occurring," says Dr Stewart Collie, senior AgResearch textiles scientist.

Textile scientists at AgResearch spent several years and hundreds of thousands of dollars developing the home-grown fabrics. They can treat them so they only need one dye bath to produce two colours - or even a pattern - which helps the environment by eliminating chlorine and repeat dyes.

"We've been able to create some fabrics that have some interesting reversible effects, and also print effects, and they have a much better feel than commercial fabrics do," says Dr Collie.

A handful of local designers like Alexandra Owen, Annah Stretton and Stitch Ministry have had the chance to test them out.

They're keen to use the anti-odour fabric, but for now, demand exceeds supply.

AgResearch is showing these fabrics at Fashion Week because they need to find a business partner to mass produce them at an affordable price. It's a challenge they're yet to meet for their stab and fire-proof fabric that was launched two years ago.

But they have had success with another anti-odour fabric - a super-tough wool-polyester mix called Gimono made to handle the sweat and blood of martial arts.

Just in case you prefer training to housework, the garment doesn't need to be washed for months.

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