

# Recycled? Well, after a fashion . .

A clothing shop in Crows Nest adds a new twist to the meaning of recycled clothing. And there is nothing 'vintage' about these latest hot new designs.

**STORY:** Mary Powis  
**PICTURES:** John Appleyard

VINTAGE clothing is hot and "one-off" pieces made from quality recycled fabrics not only look good – they feel good because they are environmentally friendly.

Internationally known label "preloved", now available in Crows Nest, produces new styles from old clothes.

They are unique because no two items are ever the same.

Owner of the shop, *handcut*, is Tanya Greenwood who says that the range has 60 basic designs and because different fabrics are used, each one is unique.

"It takes the designers a long time to choose which fabrics to team with what," she said.

"I spent six days in Toronto choosing the fabrics which were made into 50 dresses."

Those dresses are now in her Ernest Place shop.

The signature dress of the collection is "Tatiana" which is often, though not always, cut from pre-worn trousers for the top and a wool knit for the short sleeves.

Vintage bed linen is used as trim.

Some of the fabric can be decades old but the surprising thing is that it looks fresh and new.

Old jumpers have been made into scarves and mitts.

Khaki fabrics have been used for smart jackets.

Trench coats with the famous label London Fog have been transformed into men's shorts – with the label still attached.

Everything old is new again.

Tanya is a committed environmentalist and after living in London for four years decided to return to Australia and spread



Environmentalist and *handcut* owner Tanya Greenwood strongly supports the concept of using old fabrics to make new clothing.

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– Tanya Greenwood

the message of sustainability – even in fashion.

"We all throw away so many old clothes," she said.

"If the garment has a hole or missing buttons, the charities won't hand it on.

"It goes to land-fill.

"preloved is a company in Toronto, Canada which breathes new life into vintage fabric.

"In just one season, preloved rescued 20,000 jumpers, 12,000 sweatshirts, 8,000 pairs of jeans and 6,000 trench coats.

"Garments by preloved are sold in New

York and London and they are worn by Hillary Duff, Kate Hudson and Bjork.

"People are becoming conscious of dwindling resources, excessive waste and the commitment to a more sustainable lifestyle."

Tanya said that old clothes from many countries are sent to Toronto to huge "rag houses" and the people from preloved make their choices very carefully.

Each piece is taken apart, washed and then reborn as a fashion garment.

Tanya chose lighter weight fabrics for the Australian market and she is currently showing a winter range for both men and women.

» *handcut* is in Ernest Place, Crows Nest, open 11am until "whenever", Tuesday to Sunday, closed Mondays.