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Material Development: adding value to wool waste through innovative design

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An exegesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Design.
Massey University, Wellington, 2015.
This research project employs design and technology to add value to waste wool fibres retrieved through the manufacturing process of sheepskin tanning. It is supported through a Callaghan Innovation fellowship with Classic Sheepskins, a Napier based tannery. They have been in business for over 40 years and provide high-quality natural New Zealand products and custom tanning. The focus of this research is to find innovative solutions for the wool waste, through material-responsive and industry-centered design methodologies and experimentation. A critical position has been developed within sustainability, with concepts of traceability and authenticity also being examined. Consultation with Classic Sheepskins, and on-going evaluation of material properties and aesthetics in regards to potential applications, has determined the direction of products and end-outcomes.

ABSTRACT

Classic Sheepskins have found themselves with a challenging problem faced by similar companies; how best to be utilizing waste material generated during their production process.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank my supervisor Dr Sandy Heffernan for her guidance, support, and invaluable expertise. Julieanna Preston for always having a listening ear and helpful advice. Special thanks to all the team at Classic Sheepskins, in particular Maurice Callaghan, Troy McParland and Kieran Callaghan for their time, expertise and support for the duration of this project. Callaghan Innovations for their education fellowship funding of this project. Woolyarns, for their generous scholarship. SGS Kilbirnie, and Resene for their generosity, and willingness to contribute the project. Textile Technicians Amy Sio-Atoa and Hannah Clement for their knowledge and on-going support. And to my friends and family, in particular Bernard & Gloria Hutchinson, Julie Murphy, and Ian Johnson for their continuous support and encouragement throughout my study.

Thanks.