



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2022





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OUR KAUPAPA

Our Vision

To develop a thriving zero waste, circular economy for Aotearoa through creative upcycling.

Our Mission

The ReCreators mission is to enable our community to live more sustainably through creative upcycling. Upcycling reduces consumerism, stopping the extraction of virgin materials and diverting items from landfill. It provides local employment through optimising our resources for a new life.

Method of Delivery

The ReCreators has partnered with more than 75 organisations across Tāmaki Makaurau and the Waikato. By partnering with a diverse range of organisations, we are able to reach a wider audience and have a greater impact. People value courses that are based on specific designs, are affordable and easy to get to. We attract people through the diversity of our classes from woodworking to tie dye, beginners sewing classes to upcycle painting techniques.

Intended Outcomes

Our work supports the following outcomes:

- Supports people to reduce consumerism/emissions through creative upcycling
- Promotes community well-being through DIY skills development
- Promotes community or cultural identity through design
- Supports community development by providing affordable, accessible classes
- Supports a sense of belonging through community making
- Development of a circular economy at a grassroots level

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR - BUFFIE MAWHINNEY

The past year presented some challenges, but as always, our huge successes outweighed them. Thanks to the opening of the RE: MAKER SPACE, we've been able to expand our class offerings, including tween woodworking, leather crafts, and a variety of sewing programmes. Having a base allows us to offer classes to groups like the Real Youth Programme and homeschooling groups. Personally, having all our resources under one roof has been great for planning and preparing for workshops.



We're excited to now offer volunteering opportunities, host our weekly Perfectly Imperfect Food Rescue, and have many more opportunities coming our way. We continue to reach all across Auckland and Hamilton, offering one-day classes, ten-week workshops, and activation pop-up events like tie-dying.

While there are looming Council budget cuts, we're exploring new options around subsidisation rates for classes. Overall, The Recreators are getting stronger year by year, and we're excited about what the new year will bring.

A WORD FROM OUR CEO- GERALDINE TEW

The ReCreators have had a successful year engaging with various community groups, including tamariki and rangatahi in high schools, and adults, on their DIY learning journey in upcycling. Upcycling provides opportunities for creativity and skill-building while promoting sustainability and reducing waste. We are excited to have established a zero waste RE: MAKER SPACE, furthering our commitment to sustainable practices. The aim is to be a hub for climate action creativity.



Given the urgency of climate action, it is crucial that we make significant changes to ensure a healthy planet for future generations. This includes reducing consumerism, minimising travel, adopting plant-based diets, and embracing simpler living. At The ReCreators, we are passionate about teaching these principles and empowering individuals to take action towards a more sustainable future.

COMMUNITY UPCYCLING WORKSHOPS

An increase in practical and creative skills leads to an increased likelihood to upcycle and engage with a circular economy. We have delivered, and continue to deliver, the following workshops:

- Woodworking and Power Tools 101
- Wooden Furniture Restoration
- Upcycled Gardens for Small Spaces
- Make a Worm Farm from a Pallet
- Upcycle Painting Techniques
- Printing Techniques
- Sewing Machine 101 and Design
- Jewellery Design
- Journal Making
- Mindful Dot Art
- DIY Beauty and Cleaning
- Make a Loom and Weave (wood or cardboard versions)
- Air Dry Sculpture and Painting
- Make a Fart (learning about climate gases)
- Paper Sculpture
- Kids Woodwork
- Kids Sewing (handmade toys and accessories)
- Kids Jewellery & Braid Making
- Origami
- Macrame
- Kids Weaving



2022 IMPACT SNAPSHOT



3012KG

WASTE DIVERTED



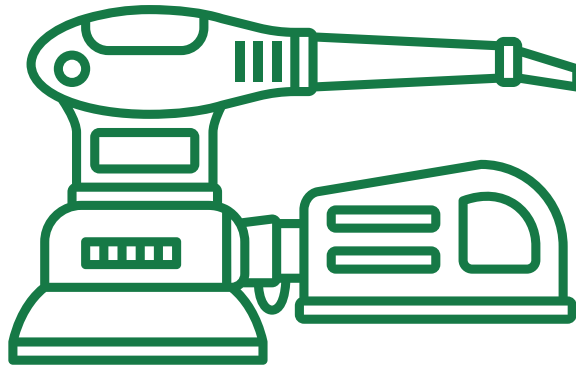
8022

PARTICIPANTS



78

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



622

WORKSHOPS DELIVERED

CIRCULAR WOODWORKING PROGRAMME

The ReCreators Circular Design Programme was created to empower people to design high-value, viable woodwork designs from reclaimed materials. These could be used for a business or community volunteering, but ultimately the aim is to showcase how the circular economy can be put into practice.

The circular design programme involves a commitment of:

- 10 weeks
- 3-4 hour class duration per week
- small group mentoring sessions on specific designs

In 2022/2023 we had **3 cohorts with 10 participants** each.

Final designs include:

- Vertical Garden
- Shelving Unit
- Shoe Rack
- Dual-purpose Coffee/ Bar Table
- Cape Cod Chair
- Farmhouse Table
- Large, raised Planter Box
- Stool

Programme partners include Auckland Council, Foundation North, Lotteries, the Menz Shed, Trow group, Faith Family, Para Kore Ki Tāmaki & Begana Ltd.



CIRCULAR FASHION PROGRAMME

The fashion industry contributes to approximately 10% of all climate emissions. Despite all the talk of climate action, we are seeing a massive increase in the purchase of fast fashion items and a reduction in the average time a piece is worn.

This programme was established to address this part of the problem and give women from different backgrounds a chance to make an income from upcycled fashion. For our current Circular Design Fashion programme, we have partnered with Migrant Action Trust and Belong to target migrant and refugee women.

In 2022/2023, we had 2 cohorts with 20 participants each who made and showcased their designs at a circular fashion show at the end of the programme. Our second cohort will finish in early April.

We are delighted that our first cohort are still chatting away on WhatsApp and meeting regularly to continue sewing together. Many come back to our hub to sew, volunteer or take materials for projects.

Some of the designs made included: cushions, bags, tops, dresses, jackets, baby clothes, ottomans and bean bags.

These sessions have been supported by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities and Community Matters.



NCEA CIRCULAR BUSINESS PROGRAMME

The ReCreators Circular NCEA Business Programme

was created to provide rangatahi with the practical knowledge and skills to create truly sustainable and circular business models. Our aim with the programme is to connect NCEA business students with DIY skills, design thinking and logistical thinking for business model development.

The total number of students reached was approximately 150. Our learnings from the year included:

- Students are most open to listening when they are making because they are in a state of FLOW
- Taking responsibility for manufacturing teaches skills, pricing and a much deeper understanding of ethical supply chain
- Marketing research and then posting can embed the values of a zero-waste circular economy.

Some of the projects that came out of this programme include:

Rewooded: Wooden chopping boards, handmade by the team with mentoring from Buffie Mawhinney. Materials were from deconstructed buildings or off-cuts.

Scrub & Co: Vegan lip scrubs in fully recyclable containers. Juliette from White Cloud Skincare mentored the team: from ingredients to an ethical supply chain and environmental maintenance.

Other products included:

Vegan lip balms, bees wax wraps, wooden soap dishes and coasters, veggie seedlings, poi Māori



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMES & SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Our after school and holiday programmes are delivered in collaboration with many community partners. Upcycling, woodworking, and sewing are all valuable skills that help kids develop creativity, problem-solving abilities, and practical skills. In addition, working with a variety of reclaimed materials can help children develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Every term, the team designs new classes based on materials that have been donated and are in storage, waiting for their new life. The team loves this design thinking challenge and then these classes are tested during school term in our five locations.

We see that upcycling is hugely beneficial for mental wellbeing. Crafting helps to relieve stress and anxiety, as it can be a calming and meditative activity. It can also provide a sense of accomplishment and pride in the finished product. The ReCreators then can provide kids with a sense of agency around Climate Action - knowing how to reuse rather than buy new.

Overall, our after school and school holiday workshops are a great way to promote learning, skill development, and mental wellbeing among children.

We have had after school and school holiday programmes in these locations:

- Manutewhau Community Centre
- Te Atatu South Community Centre
- Hub West Community Centre
- Ponsonby Community Centre
- Owairaka Community Hub
- Auckland Central Library
- Grey Lynn Library
- Manukau Library
- Mt Roskill Library
- Epsom Community Library
- Mt Albert Library

*Our ratios are 2:16, with the class lasting 2 hours



OUR WORK IN THE WAIKATO

Our work in the Waikato began in July 2022 with two school holiday classes for Shama Women's Ethnic Trust. Esther Gathambo led the work with a focus on the migrant and refugee communities.

Esther is originally from Kenya and has been living in New Zealand for the past five years.

Over the last seven months she has worked with Shama, Settlement Centre Waikato, Waikato District Council and Go Eco to deliver:

- Woodworking Workshops
- Upcycled Jewellery
- Upcycled Painting Techniques
- Printmaking
- Macramé
- Furniture Restoration
- Potions and Lotions
- Christmas Make and Gives

In 2022, Esther delivered **4 school holiday workshops** and **23 adult and family workshops**.

Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Trust Waikato, Wel Energy Trust, Hamilton City Council, Community Matters, Waikato District Council and Trust Waikato have supported these workshops.

In the new year, we look forward to working with diverse groups including youth and expanding our reach to the wider Waikato Region. We are also hoping to implement a business skills programme for migrant and refugee women who would like to earn an income from the skills they learn at our workshops.



FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS



"IT WAS AN EXCELLENT SESSION PROVIDING
LEARNING WITH FUN."



"IT WAS FUN AND THE TEAM WERE FRIENDLY
AND HELPFUL. GREAT TO LEARN A NEW SKILL
AS A FAMILY!"



"WE LOVED IT - WELL FACILITATED AND
OPTIONS FOR CREATIVITY ENCOURAGED AND
CELEBRATED"

OUR PEOPLE



Ger Tew

Founder/ CEO



Tasha Gray

Operations Manager



**Buffie
Mawhinney**

Chair & Circular
Woodworking
Specialist



Esther Gathambo

Waikato Operations
Manager & Facilitator



Hiral Shah

Admin



Carissa Hine

Social Media & Facilitator



Bea Lorimer

Upcycled
Sewing
Specialist



Magdalena Smolira

Volunteer Manager &
Facilitator

FUNDERS

We wouldn't be able to deliver our community workshops without our partner funders to whom we are sincerely grateful.

Our thanks go to Auckland Council who have been there from the beginning supporting our creative workshops, piloting programmes such as woodworking and NCEA Circular Business and the Local Boards who allow our movement across the whole Auckland region. In particular, we thank the Community Impact team, Creative Communities and the following local boards: Albert-Eden, Henderson-Massey, Hibiscus Coast, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa, Maungakeikei Tāmaki, Puketāpapa, Waitemata, Waitakere Ranges and Whau.

As we expanded into the Waikato Region, we would like to thank our new funders who have supported us at the end of 2022 and will be partners in 2023. These include Trust Waikato, Creative Waikato, Waikato District Council and Wel Energy Trust.

For our work in the Tāmaki Makaurau and Waikato region with longer-term circular programmes for adults and children, we thank Lotteries, Auckland Council, Creative Communities, Foundation North, The Trusts, TTCF and the Ministry of Ethnic Communities.

Community Matters



PARTNERS - MATERIALS SUPPLY AND COMMUNITY HOSTS

Kaupapa Māori and circular economy principles are the core of our work across the Auckland and Waikato regions. In particular, whanaungatanga, establishing meaningful, mutually reciprocal relationships is the core of what we do. With funding provided, we are approached by or approach local communities and offer our skills to suit their community-led requirements.

In order to share our designs and materials, we also must create manaakitanga, care for others, in our relationship with our suppliers. We thank all those who have donated materials to use over the year. Our ReCreators do their very best to reimagine and design your donated material's next best-optimised life.

juliette hogan



RUBY



KATE SYLVESTER

Black Sand



TĀMAKIS
NEW
URBAN
MARKET
GARDEN

MEMBERSHIPS & CERTIFICATIONS



OUR ENTITY INFORMATION

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Legal Name of the Entity:

The ReCreators

Type of Entity and Legal Basis:

Limited Liability Company and Registered Charity

Registration Number:

CC58358

Contact Details:

Physical Address: RE: MAKER SPACE

7/6 Westgate Drive, Massey 0614

Email: help@therecreators.co.nz

Website: therecreators.co.nz and remakerspace.nz

Instagram: [@therecreatorsnz](https://www.instagram.com/therecreatorsnz) and [@westaucklandremakerspace](https://www.instagram.com/westaucklandremakerspace)

Facebook: [therecreatorsnz](https://www.facebook.com/therecreatorsnz) and [WestAkIReMakerSpace](https://www.facebook.com/WestAkIReMakerSpace)