



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2023



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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

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

A YEAR OF GROWTH & RESILIENCE AT RE: MAKER SPACE

In our inaugural year at RE: MAKER SPACE, the transition into the RE: MAKER SPACE set the stage for a transformative journey. However, challenges arose in January 2023 with storms causing widespread landslips, flooding, and personal loss, including our ReCreator, Tasha, who lost her home.

Despite these adversities, from February onwards, the RE: MAKER SPACE thrived with activity—featuring 10-week courses, introducing new workshops like laser cutting, and strategically shifting memberships into classes at the RE: MAKER SPACE, showcasing our optimal business model.



The introduction of a laser cutter marked a pivotal moment, elevating our capabilities. Collaborating with the council on skip audits underscored our commitment to environmental responsibility. Actively participating in Auckland-wide festivals, conducting after-school classes, and hosting engaging holiday programmes strengthened our ties with the community. Our expansion reached beyond Auckland, with growing Hamilton workshops and the addition of Sandy to our team.

This success story brings us to the present, prompting consideration of a move to a larger space for wood storage and preparation due to our outgrowing the current space.

As we anticipate the new year, enthusiasm remains palpable. Ger's networking efforts, including participation in the de-growth conference and a nomination for SBN awards, reflect our commitment to community engagement and sustainability. Here's to another year of growth, collaboration, and success at the RE: MAKER SPACE.

Buffie Mawhinney
Chair
Re-Creators Charitable Trust

FOUNDER/ CEO REPORT

5 YEARS SOCIAL ENTERPRISE, 1 YEAR RE: MAKER SPACE

This year has brought both excitement and challenges to RE: MAKER SPACE. With a focus on the well-being of our community, we have developed new educational content for rangatahi, emphasizing mental health, and delivering woodworking alongside garden resilience skills.

Esther's exceptional efforts in the Waikato, leading a Circular Business & Product Programme, have expanded our reach and impact. We have also welcomed new creatives in this region to our network.



The impact of climate change is evident in the daily struggles faced by Tasha Gray, whose home was red-stickered. Despite these challenges, our commitment to providing accessible classes, either free or heavily subsidised, has resulted in a significant influx of individuals through our doors. Currently providing income to approximately 16 individuals, many of whom are mothers benefiting from flexible and creative work, we recognise the importance of adapting to a changing world.

Our key future objective is to cultivate practical resilience skills, especially with the increasing cost of living and the ongoing challenges of climate change. As we navigate these uncertainties, our commitment to fostering a supportive and creative community remains unwavering.

Geraldine Tew

Founder & CEO

The ReCreators/Re-Creators Charitable Trust

MEET THE BOARD



NAT ROSE TE HEI – Te Ao Maori Representative

With a focus on Te Ao Māori values, sustainability, and empowering rangatahi, Nat spearheads impactful workshops and events. Her role at Massey Matters drives positive change in Massey and across West Auckland. Originally from the East Coast, Nat Rose embraces all things practical, living close to the whenua and creatively using resources.



MICHELE EICKSTAEDT - Secretary

Driven by a profound passion for enabling individuals to transform challenges into opportunities that enrich lives via kai security. In her current capacity with Healthy Families Waitakere, she plays a pivotal role in identifying and supporting opportunities aimed at enhancing the food and nutrition landscape within communities, where individuals live, learn, work, and engage in leisure activities.



HEATHER IRVINE - Trustee

Heather is specialist qualitative researcher with twenty years' experience. I am looking for freelance work conducting, analyzing and reporting qualitative research. I love exploring the consumer's reality and bringing that to life for marketers.



CHERIE BROWN - Treasurer

With a career spanning nearly two decades in the beauty and well-being industry, Cherie brings a wealth of experience as a business owner to the board. Her commitment to the community of West Auckland is evident through her passion for creativity and upcycling.

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS



TIM MAURICE Treasurer

Tims is currently the General Manager for Auckland Budgeting.



Buffie Mawhinney Chair

Buffie will continue to focus on leading our circular woodworking and designing new classes.

OUR WORKSHOPS

COMMUNITY & CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY
ARE AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO.



An enhancement in practical and creative skills increases the likelihood of engaging in upcycling and participating in a circular economy. We have conducted and continue to conduct the following workshops:

- Woodworking and Power Tools 101
- Wooden Furniture Restoration
- Tween/ Teen Woodworking
- Woodworking for Gardens & Kai
- Circular Business & Product Design
- Laser Design & Cut/ Engrave
- Upcycle Painting Techniques
- Printing Techniques
- Sewing Machine 101 and Design
- Tween/ Teen Sewing
- 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



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



Magda Smolira

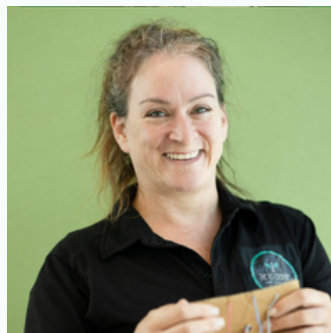
Upcycled
Sewing
Specialist

OUR PEOPLE



Michelle Zhao

Specialist in Laser,
Test & Tag and
Macrame



Juliette Jones

Skincare Specialist



Yalini Krishna

After School & School
Holiday Facilitator



Sue Ollerton

South Auckland Facilitator
& Upcycled Sewing
Specialist



Lene Kjeld

Print Art
Specialist



Adriana McKeown

Circular
Woodworking Specialist



Carla Bonnici

Accounts &
Social Media



Kals Kugadas

After School & School
Holiday Facilitator

2023 IMPACT IN A NUTSHELL



4015KGS

WASTE DIVERTED



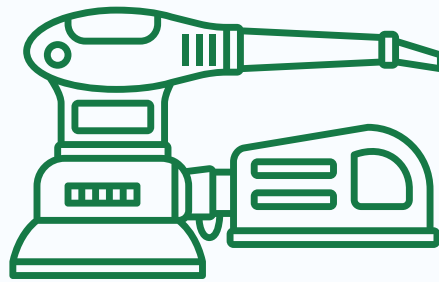
6893

PARTICIPANTS



128

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



937

WORKSHOPS DELIVERED

TOP 3 REASONS TO ATTEND A WORKSHOP

1. CREATIVE TOPIC

2. COST

3. LOCATION (CLOSE BY)



2023 IMPACT

CONTINUED

Each year, we conduct a behavioural survey in Auckland and Waikato to understand how our workshops are influencing the community. Below, we clarify the theory of change and provide a brief summary of the survey results.

THEORY OF CHANGE

99.97%

Are taking small steps towards a sustainable lifestyle.

95.6%

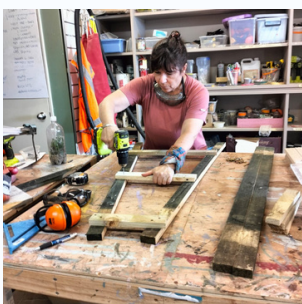
Are more likely to reuse, mend or upcycle rather than buy new after attending our workshops.

68.6%

Have used their new skills regularly or occasionally since the workshop(s).

BEFORE workshops, **34.7%** were upcyclers, **50.2%** knew what upcycling was but did not practice and **5.9%** limited to no knowledge of upcycling

AFTER workshops, **44%** reuse A LOT more, **24.6 %** reuse a LITTLE more, and **29.3%** intend to use the new skills gained.



WEST AUCKLAND RE: MAKER SPACE

1 YEAR STRONG



Our very **first RE: MAKER SPACE** has been an incredible opportunity for us and the community. In October 2022, we found the perfect location that could house separate areas for **woodworking, crafting, sewing, a refillery, an upcycling shop, and a communal area.**

Our vision is to be part of a circular economy through sharing tools, resources, and skills in Tāmaki Makaurau. We want to create a space that **delivers practical, creative, and innovative pathways** that unlock values from localised waste streams through the sharing of equipment, space, and ideas. Creating a West Auckland epicentre for a movement that will connect our creative community, rangatahi, tamariki, and green entrepreneurs to ideas, resources, equipment, and education to support a sustainable, low-carbon way of living.



CIRCULAR WOODWORKING PROGRAMMES

FOR TEENS AND ADULTS

The ReCreators Circular Woodworking

Programme was established to empower teenagers and adults to create high-value, viable woodworking designs from reclaimed materials. These designs could be utilised for business purposes or community volunteering, with the ultimate goal of showcasing the practical application of the circular economy.

To extend these programmes, we have introduced a gardening element to ensure that people can be resilient around growing their own kai. It's very important to be able to construct structures that work for regenerative food.

The circular design programme entails a commitment of:

- 3-10 weeks
- 2-4 hours per class per week

In 2023, we had **227 participants** in our circular woodworking programmes.

Some of the designs that participants worked on include:

- Chopping Board
- Mini Table
- Planter Box
- Creative Artwork
- Foot Stool
- Chess Boards
- Toolbox
- Shelf
- Canvas Frame



CIRCULAR FASHION PROGRAMMES

FOR ADULTS & TEENS

For **beginner and intermediate sewers**, our participants have gained valuable skills in redesigning with reclaimed materials and fashion off-cuts, enabling them to create simple and beautiful designs.

In addition to getting acquainted with their sewing machines, they've learned to repurpose existing materials such as ribbons, shoelaces, and straps. They've also acquired knowledge on what not to discard by salvaging zips, buttons, and fastenings from garments destined for landfill.

Our sewing courses have covered a range of topics, including **exploring op-shop shopping strategies**, **discussing sewing machine care**, **delving into sewing supplies**, **mastering the use of a rotary cutter and fabric scissors**, and **learning the techniques of inserting zips and working with various types of fabrics**.

In 2023, we successfully conducted **24 sewing courses** in Auckland and **8** in Hamilton for both teens and adults. This initiative is supported by Creative Communities.

The fashion waste crisis significantly impacts both people and the environment, making it crucial for individuals to develop the skills to repurpose and create sustainable designs, contributing to the reduction of fashion-related environmental harm.



NCEA CIRCULAR BUSINESS PROGRAMME

The Circular NCEA Business Programme by The ReCreators was established to equip rangatahi with practical knowledge and skills essential for developing truly sustainable and circular business models. The programme's goal is to bridge NCEA business students with DIY skills, design thinking, and logistical thinking for the development of business models.

Approximately 500 students, 57 teachers and 12 schools were reached through this programme.

Key learnings from the year encompassed:

- Akonga learn best by doing
- One issue at a time - planetary boundaries is complex and depressing to explain to a young audience
- Some sessions need to be repeated if more complex

Types of businesses helped:

- Childrens educational wooden toys
- Reclaimed chopping boards
- Laser cut jewellery
- Lip balms/ scrubs
- Body butters/ exfoliating creams
- Ethical upcycled candles
- Ethical and low sugar chocolate
- Upcycled bags
- Fruit plushies
- Journals
- Planter boxes
- Accessories



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMES & SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Our **after-school and holiday programmes** operate in collaboration with numerous community partners, focusing on upcycling to instill valuable skills in children, fostering creativity, problem-solving abilities, and practical skills. Engaging with a variety of reclaimed materials not only promotes these skills but also enhances children's fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Each term, our team devises new classes based on donated materials awaiting transformation in storage. This design thinking challenge is embraced by the team, and the resulting classes are tested during the school term.

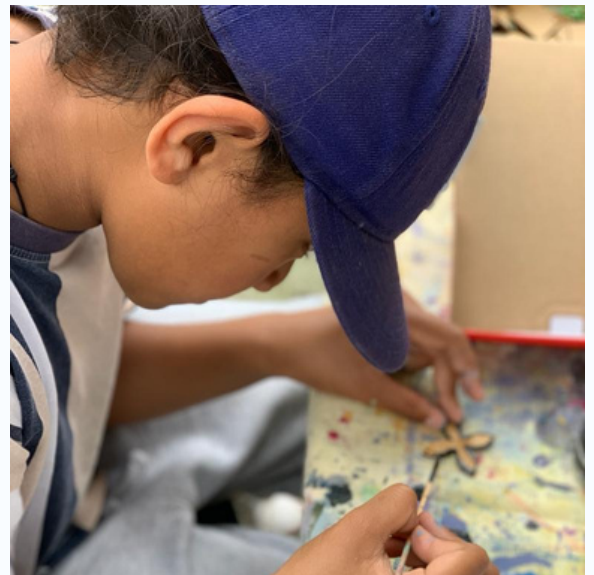
We recognise the significant mental well-being benefits of upcycling for children. Crafting serves as a stress-relieving and anxiety-alleviating activity, offering a calming and meditative experience. Moreover, it instils a sense of accomplishment and pride in the finished product.

In summary, our after-school and school holiday workshops provide an excellent platform for promoting learning, skill development, and mental well-being among children.

Our programs are conducted at the following locations:

- Manutewhau Community Centre
- Te Atatu South Community Centre
- Hub West Community Centre
- Ponsonby Community Centre
- Te Puke O Tara Community Centre & Library
- Manukau Library
- Gribblehist Hub
- Grey Lynn Library
- Mt Roskill Library
- Epsom Community Library
- Mt Albert Library

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



OUR WORK IN THE WAIKATO

The work in Waikato has experienced substantial growth, with the number of workshops increasing from 27 to 87 this year. Additionally, we have established valuable partnerships with new community organizations, including:

1. Go Eco
2. Te Awamutu Museum
3. YWCA Hamilton
4. Pirongia Community Centre
5. Shama Ethnic Community Trust
6. Wintec- RAMP Gallery
7. Taylor Made Community Space Cambridge
8. Waimarie: Hamilton East Community House

This progress has been made possible through the generous support of key stakeholders, including the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Trust Waikato, Wel Energy Trust, Hamilton City Council, Community Matters, Waikato District Council, and Trust Waikato.

Esther Gathambo has been at the forefront of these initiatives, with support from Sandra (sewing), Karla (macrame), and Saima (DIY skincare). The workshop topics have been diverse, encompassing woodworking, sewing and design, macrame, DIY jewellery, print art, upcycled painting techniques, and various school holiday workshops for tamariki.

Looking ahead to the new year, we anticipate collaborating with diverse groups, particularly youth, as we extend our outreach to the broader Waikato Region. Additionally, we aspire to engage in additional community projects, such as constructing garden beds for community centres in need.



YWCA FEEDBACK



“Workshops with the Recreators has been a huge part of our year at the YWCA of Hamilton! We started with only a few workshops scheduled to see how it would go with our community and the workshops far exceeded our expectations.

Not only was the content of each workshop fantastic, but Esther has been the best facilitator! Esther has become a huge part of our team at the YWCA and we always look forward to her coming to facilitate a workshop. We love the respect that the workshops have for our environment and our community has learnt so much about recycling materials and how to create some wonderful items in their own home. Esther is a great facilitator who creates a safe space to experiment and try new things. I have personally loved being able to have an idea and follow it without judgment. At the start, I used to want to make each item perfect and I would get so nervous about starting the activity, but as time went on and I saw how Esther responded to the group, I became confident to follow my crazy ideas.

We look forward to our monthly workshops starting again in 2024!”

-Julia from YWCA Hamilton

WE COLLECTIVE BUSINESS PROGRAMME



The WE Collective is our flagship upcycling business programme in partnership with Shama Ethnic Women's Trust in Hamilton. This year we launched the programme and nine people went through the programme.

Tailored for former refugees and women, the programme aims to train individuals in upcycling techniques, specifically with reclaimed materials such as wood and textiles. Our goal is to empower women with the skills and knowledge to transform these materials into unique creations and establish sustainable businesses. By doing so, we promote creative entrepreneurship and contribute to environmental sustainability.



Geared towards women aged 18 and above with a former refugee or migrant background, the programme addresses the challenges these women face in finding flexible work and income opportunities in New Zealand.

The 10-week programme integrates hands-on sessions, expert mentoring, and business-focused guidance, emphasising crafts and creative upcycling. We create a supportive and inspiring environment for participants to learn, grow, and thrive.

One of **our previous participants, Raissa**, found the programme fulfilling and instrumental in kickstarting her upcycling business, Hi-Cycled. She now creates upcycled sensory earrings, particularly for individuals sensitive to sound, inspired by a conversation with someone with autism.



FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS



“When we joined this course (Beginner Sewing Skills for 5 weeks) - I was hesitant to let my daughter do this (she is only 11 years old). She joined in every Monday night between a bunch of adults, but gosh.....did she enjoy it!! And the fact that she kept up made us so proud. The instructor is a great person!.”

- Juanita Brown

“Thanks so much for such a great event. Both of my daughters loved the event and the owls. They were so proud of what they had done.”

- Rachel Fulton



“I loved this class! Sue was the most patient and kind teacher. I learned so much, and not just about sewing, but about sustainability. Making new out of old, mending clothes, not wasting bits of thread and material - everything has a use.”

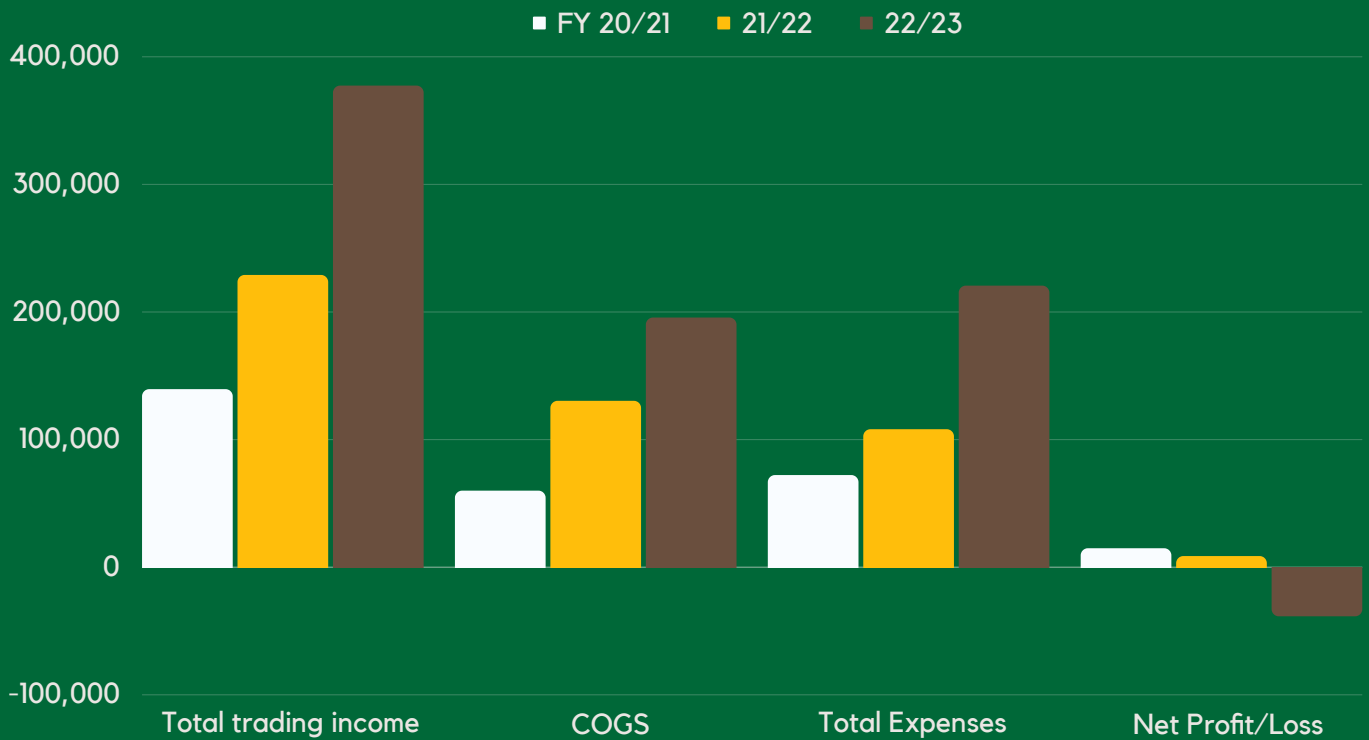
- Victoria Hearn



“We were an intermediate school. I love these guys, the lessons were so well-resourced, hands-on and interesting and all the kids including my high-needs kids got heaps out of it from knowledge to skills and then being able to apply this in other contexts. You guys are amazing, thank you :-). It is heartening to see people like you out there doing such important work.”

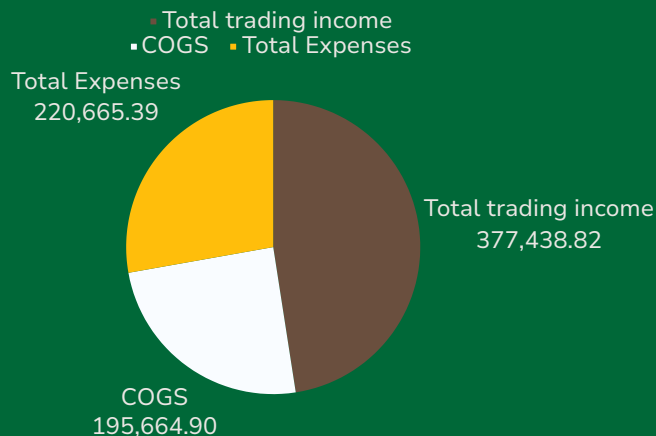
“I think that community development through these types of courses is extremely valuable in teaching sustainable ways to reuse, fix and produce products.”

FINANCIAL REPORT



Revenue in 2023

The fiscal year 2023 marked a significant milestone for us as it emerged as the most prosperous period in terms of income. Our revenue experienced a notable surge, registering an impressive growth of 64.81% when compared to the financial results of the preceding year, 2022. Despite this commendable increase in revenue, it is noteworthy that our expenses concurrently escalated. The inauguration of our West Auckland RE: MAKER SPACE contributed to this rise in expenditures, reflecting our commitment to expansion and the establishment of new creative avenues.



NEXT STEPS

WE HAVE AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR 2024, AND HERE ARE A FEW KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

01

Dedicated Wood Processing Space in Auckland

We will be opening a larger, dedicated space to process deconstructed wood and other materials, enhancing our commitment to optimising the circular economy.

We intend to optimise resources through compartmentalised design - sending materials out to community as useful products such as planter boxes, compost bins and other furniture items.

02

Expand our work in the Waikato

In 2024, our goals include expanding the workshop offerings in the Waikato to 150 sessions and collaborating with additional talented creatives for these engagements. Additionally, we aspire to provide community garden classes and infrastructure to 10 community centres in the upcoming year.

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, Waste Solutions, Creative Communities and the following local boards: Albert-Eden, Henderson-Massey, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa, Maungakeikei Tāmaki, Puketāpapa, Waitemata, Waitakere Ranges, and Whau.

As we expand into the Waikato Region, we would like to thank our new funders who have supported us in developing in 2023. These include Trust Waikato, Creative Waikato, Waikato District Council, Waipa 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, whakawhanaungatanga, 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

INNATURE
PURE REST



RUBY



KATE SYLVESTER

Black Sand



Abilities



MEMBERSHIPS & CERTIFICATIONS



Finalists 2023

OUR ENTITY INFORMATION

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Legal Name of the Entity:

The ReCreators/ Re-Creators Charitable Trust

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 [WestAklReMakerSpace](https://www.facebook.com/WestAklReMakerSpace)