

# Waste Wisdoms

Second edition

FEBRUARY 2024 - ISSUE 5

Printed on compostable paper

**Welcome to a new year. This issue we focus on Repairs supporting Circulating Products and Materials. Meet a local repairer from Kensington's monthly Repair Hub. Learn about the benefits of repairing, tips on circulating longer, a free sewing repair workshop and giveaway, plus more!**

## REPAIRING CREATES A KINDER MORE CARING COMMUNITY

Research suggests there is a connection between the way societies treat material objects and people. Social researchers and authors Katherine Wilson (Tinkering: Australians) and Francisco Martinez (ethnographer from Helsinki University) are finding that repairing is an investment in us, and the repair economy could help create a kinder, more inclusive society. Material repair generates a deep sense of care, pride, belonging and civic participation.

Martinez's research found repair made "late modern societies more balanced, kind and stronger". Mending and the reluctance to dispose of possessions is a way for us to resist the throwaway culture and to hold memories and value.



The environmental benefits of repair are obvious, we save resources and prevent waste. Richard Denniss argues in his book *Curing Affluence*, a community that repairs goods employs more people per dollar spent than a community that discards goods - creating more high-skill jobs and reducing the cost of living.

Did you know the first Repair Café started in 2009 in the Netherlands? Today, there are over 2,500 worldwide. Repair Cafés are local places where people can meet and bring items for repair, talk to repairers, and learn to use tools. [The Kensington Repair Hub](#) was established in 2019, has run monthly sessions since, and to date has kept over 1 tonne of products out of landfill.

## RIGHT TO REPAIR

Decades ago, manufacturers packaged appliances with instructions on how to repair them. Today they come with danger warnings and threats that in doing so removes warranty. Some manufacturers make repairs harder and actively discourage repairs by not providing replacement parts, gluing assemblies, and incorporating tamper-proof designs, making parts difficult to open. Too often manufacturer service centres push you to buy new instead of repairing.

**ifixit.com** have established a repair manifesto and provide over 100,000 free manuals.



## MEET A LOCAL - EMILY QOROYA

### How long have you been hand-repairing and why?

I learnt to hand sew and mend clothes as a child. During the COVID lockdowns I refreshed my skills; it was easier to mend our clothes than buying online and waiting for delivery. In 2021, I joined the Kensington Repair Hub and have since set up a small mending business working from home.

I enjoy problem solving and with mending skills I can make something useful again and keep it out of landfill. Mending is one small way that I help tackle climate change and other environmental problems. (cont.)



**How many items do you think you have kept out of landfill?** Since 2021, I have kept over 100 pieces of clothing from going into landfill.

**Any advice on how to keep items circulating longer?**

Try and fix problems you see in your clothing while they are small. The longer it is left, the bigger the problem will be. Caring for your clothes is also a simple way to extend their life. This includes following the washing and drying instructions on the clothing labels.

## TIPS FOR CIRCULATING GOODS

**Local Op Shops and Thrift Stores can offer quality secondhand clothes, furniture, or household goods**

- Rotary Op Shop, 444 Racecourse Rd, Flemington
- St Georges Anglican Church Parish Bargain Shop, 302 Racecourse Rd, Flemington
- Red Cross Shop, 64 Puckle St, Moonee Ponds
- Vinnies, 160 Barkly St, Footscray
- Savers, 33 Albert St Footscray
- Or buy cheaply at Tip Shops or online selling sites e.g. Marketplace, eBay



### Reuse

- Facebook sites– Kensington Good Karma, Kensington Actual Good Karma
- Hard rubbish collections
- Borrow books, magazines, DVDs etc. from your local library

### Repair

- Kensington monthly Repair Hub starting Sunday 25 February at Christ Church Hall, 76 McCracken St Kensington
- Mend your clothes, replace buttons, darn a hole, fix a hem
- Refurbish old furniture with a clean or coat of paint

Contact us at the Unison Housing office:

42 Derby St, Kensington | 9371 2000 | [dwilson@unison.org.au](mailto:dwilson@unison.org.au)

Contributors: Deb Wilson, Jacqueline van Heerden, Esther Sadek and Anne Douglas

Please let us know if you would like an E-version of this newsletter, or not delivered at all.

### Repurpose

- Glass jars for food storage
- Cut down old clothes and turn into children's clothes, shopping bags, cleaning cloths, etc.
- Undo old, knitted clothes to reuse the yarn



### Donate to help others

- Clothes suitable for office work donate to charities such as Wear for Success or Dress for Success
- Household items and good clothing to West Welcome Wagon or WERN, Rotary Western Emergency Relief Assistance, to help those in need
- Donate bras in good condition to Support the Girls

### Free Sewing Repair Workshop, Sun 24 Mar 1-4pm, Christ Church Hall, 76 McCracken St, Kensington

Buttons, holes, and hems are common problems that can be easily fixed by hand with a needle and thread. Learn simple sewing repairs to help fix these and other clothing problems. To attend please register c/o [jacquivanheerden@gmail.com](mailto:jacquivanheerden@gmail.com)



### GIVEAWAY



**Come to Unison's office for a Kensington Repair Hub Gift Voucher for one item to be fixed without donating. Vouchers limited, first in first served.**

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung peoples on whose land we work and deliver our services.