

Repair Cafés



Fix it, don't toss it!

The Bower opened the first Repair Café in Australia in 2014. Operating on Wednesday afternoons, numerous technicians are on hand to advise and assist members of the community to fix dodgy small electrical items, rickety tables and chairs, and wobbly bicycles. It's so popular that we now take the Repair Café 'on the road' to councils, community centres and festivals, offering our services to residents in all parts of Sydney in order to avoid items going to landfill. Residents are invited to bring their own broken lamps, chair or bike. We take time to explain the repair process to every participant, helping them to learn new skills and understand the benefits in repairing and reusing.

Small Electricals Repair Café (3 hours)

From lamps to stereo equipment, vintage desk fans and radios to remote control cars.....our electrical technicians have fixed them all. Sometimes a simple re-soldering of a join or replacing a dodgy plug is all that's needed to get those electrical goods working again. If we can't fix it, we can safely recycle it through e-waste collections. 1 x electrical technician can serve maximum 10 – 12 people.

Timber Furniture Repair Café (3 hours)

Chairs, stools and side tables are the most common timber items brought to the Repair Café for a quick fix. Our woodworkers explain the process of fixing the item to show how simple it can be to restore a broken item to functional furniture. 1 x woodwork specialist can serve maximum 8 people.

Bicycle Repair Café and Maintenance (3 hours)

Our bicycle mechanics are experts in getting you back on two wheels. A quick tune-up of the gears, patching up a puncture or realigning the wheels – it's all part of the service. 1 x bike mechanic can serve maximum 10 people.

The logistical requirements necessary for operating a repair café are:

- Suitable undercover (or indoor) location with easy access and parking for cars to load/offload repair items
- Venue to preferably have wipe-clean flooring; alternatively we will provide floor covering options for carpeted venues
- Tables and seating for all participants (roughly 10 – 15)
- Catering (tea/coffee/biscuits)
- Note: Small Electricals Repair Café also requires access to a standard power point

The Bower is an environmental charity committed to reducing waste going to landfill. The shopfronts sell furniture, appliances, household goods, salvaged building materials, bikes, books and more. It's a treasure trove of delights with donations arriving daily – you never know what you'll find – all at incredibly low prices. The Bower also runs 'Tricks of the Trade' workshops teaching basic carpentry, furniture restoration and upholstery and regularly holds Upcycled Art workshops for children. Every Wednesday, The Bower holds a Repair Café at Marrickville where you can get technical assistance fixing dodgy electrical appliances, wobbly bikes and rickety furniture. The Repair Café also operates on the last Saturday of each month at The Bower Parramatta.