

Workshops



Learn new skills with The Bower

The Bower's Tricks of the Trade Workshops are a great opportunity to provide community members with introductory skills for repairing, restoring and upcycling of preloved furniture or basic carpentry. All workshops (apart from basic carpentry) can be run either at our own workshop space in Redfern or in an external venue of your choice and are run by experienced facilitators.

Basic Carpentry

Learn how to plan a project and work with both power and hand tools while finishing a basic box construction. Taught by our own experienced in-house woodworkers.

Introductory Upholstery

Learn the basics of recovering a chair and take home your own fully upholstered cushion base for a milk crate seat.



Furniture Repair

We can teach you how to fix those wobbly chair and table legs and give new life to a preloved piece of furniture. This workshop includes understanding how to repair joints and replace worn out or missing parts.

Furniture Painting

Learn how to restore furniture pieces to recreate your own favourite circa look, be it shabby chic, French provincial, retro or industrial. The workshop will cover surface preparation, paint application, colours, sanding techniques and appropriate accessory enhancement choices.

Home DIY

Learn to use basic tools to do general maintenance and repair work around the house. Get a run down in using drills and drivers to hang pictures and mirrors on timber, brick, or tile walls, change taps over on a sink and learn how to fix a leaky pipe, and patch a hole in a wall. Get the run down on a basic home tool kit and where you can get one second hand, as well as what materials are good around the house, in wet areas, and outside.



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.