



2025 Annual Report

Table of Contents

1.0 The Bower Board of Directors.....	3
1.1 Chairperson's Report.....	3
1.2 Board Details.....	4
1.3 Treasurer's Report.....	5
 2.0 Co-operative Management Report.....	 6
2.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report.....	7
2.2 Our Locations.....	9
2.3 Educational Programs.....	10
2.3.1 Workshops.....	10
2.3.2 Tiny House Course.....	11
2.3.3 Festival of Repair.....	11
2.3.4 Youth off the Streets.....	11
2.4 Repair and Reuse Services.....	12
2.4.1 Bower Bikes.....	12
2.4.2 Bower Electrical Repair and Reuse.....	13
2.4.3 Bower Recycled Plastics.....	14
2.5 Collection and Rehoming Service.....	15
2.6 House to Home.....	15
2.7 Bower People.....	15
2.8 Sales, Grants and Fundraising.....	16
2.9 Our Partners.....	16
2.10 Conclusion.....	17
 3.0 Auditor's Financial Report.....	 17

The Auditor's Financial Report can be downloaded from the Bower website via the listed documents for this year's AGM: [The Bower 2025 Financial Report](#)

1.0 The Bower Board of Directors

1.1 Chairperson's Report

As Chairperson of the Bower Reuse and Repair Centres, it is my privilege to present the 2025 annual report. This year has seen our organisation continue its commitment to environmental sustainability, community engagement, and the circular economy. Throughout 2025, the Bower has continued to lead by example in promoting reuse and repair across our local community and beyond. We have managed to deliver more workshops, increase sales at both of our stores, and grow our House to Home program; this growth is the result of the hard work and dedication of staff, particularly our CEO, our many volunteers, and my colleagues on the Board.

The last couple of years have been financially difficult for the Bower, with challenges stemming from increasing operational costs, moving premises, shifts in government policy, and an evolving not for profit business context around reuse and repair. Consequently, a key priority for the Board and CEO this year was ensuring the Bower can achieve and maintain a solid financial base on which to build going forward, while remaining focused on our core social and environmental principles.

The outcomes of this work were a program of short- and longer-term initiatives, including to improve operational and reporting systems, enhance our working partnerships with other organisations, and refine our core programs to ensure we can achieve the greatest positive impact with the limited resources at our disposal. We are still on this journey but already seeing the benefits; the significantly improved financial results compared to the previous year demonstrate that we're heading in the right direction.

Looking forward to the coming year, we intend to continue growing our course offering, work with council partners to develop innovative solutions for improving the household goods collections process, and significantly uplift the capacity of our House to Home program. It's an exciting time to be at the Bower!

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the CEO and his team of staff and volunteers, and all our donors, supporters, partners and customers, for helping the Bower lead the way as a community-driven catalyst for social and environmental progress.

Paul Wade
Chairperson



1.2 Board Details

Position	Name
Chairperson	Paul Wade
Treasurer	Henry McKenna
Secretary	Christine Simmons
Member Director	Shwetha Prem
Member Director	Michelle Sheather
Independent Director	Marcelle Psaila
Independent Director	Kirk Simmons

The Directors were in office from the 2024 AGM on 24 November 2024.

For more information on each Board Director visit: [The Bower Board](#)



1.3 Treasurer's Report

Similar to 2024, the 2025 financial year was a year of rebuilding and consolidation. After a difficult first few months the financial position has had a positive trend, leading to an operating surplus of \$4,730, compared to last year's deficit of over \$125,000. The cash position also improved from \$148,522 at the end of 2024 to \$131,107 as at 30 June 2025.

On the income side, Store Sales improved by 26% in 2025 compared to 2024 and Workshop revenue by 52%. However, Services income was down 46% and Grants down 29%. Overall, 2025 income was \$761,214, \$7,744 less than 2024 (\$768,958).

The key to the 2025 year was expense management. The Bower has two main outgoings being occupancy (rent, insurance, utilities plus a non-cash imputed lease cost) and staffing (salaries & wages, super and on costs).

Year	Sales Revenue	Overall Income
2025	\$443,580	\$761,214
2024	\$351,430	\$768,958
2023	\$318,817	\$738,832
2022	\$239,524	\$642,899
2021	\$628,901	\$1,455,085
2020	\$520,924	\$1,148,837
2019	\$544,255	\$927,284
2018	\$528,416	\$877,485

With regard to staffing, some difficult but necessary decisions were made to realign staff hours and responsibilities to current operational needs, resulting in some savings in 2025. Thankfully we have many generous volunteers who contribute many, many hours to assist in all aspects of the Bower's operations.

Additionally, service delivery and workshop costs have been carefully managed, with volunteer contributions playing a major role in delivering these programs and keeping costs down.

Overall operating expenditure for 2025 was \$756,484, a 15% reduction on 2024, leading to a \$130,000 dollar turnaround and an operating surplus of \$4,730. This is the first surplus in over 7 years, and while small, demonstrates that our financial health is improving.

Although I joined the Bower as Treasurer after the 2025 financial year end, I understand the amount of effort required to deliver this result and must commend everyone involved. Crucially from Nathan Smith and his staff, the team of volunteers, David Mansfield our long-standing external accountant and the board, especially the Finance Committee led by my predecessor Henry McKenna. The discipline and diligence required to manage cashflow in very tight operating circumstances and deliver this result is a strong endorsement of the quality and commitment of all persons involved.

Craig Rudd
Treasurer

2.0 Co-operative Management Report

Bower Sustainability Impacts FY2024–2025

Core Impact Metrics: Divert, Repair, Reuse & Engagement

Divert

Landfill Waste Diverted

170 tonnes

Total waste kept out of landfill across electronics, bikes repairs, stores and household reuse (House2Home).

Landfill Diversion Breakdown

145 tonnes
Household items

15 tonnes
Electronics
(**75,000** items)

9 tonnes
Bikes

1 tonne
Plastics

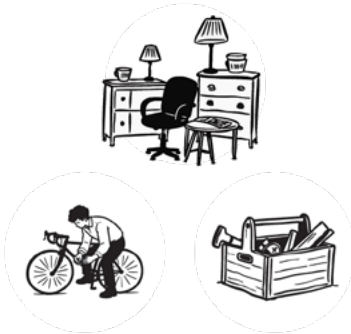
Repair

Electrical Repairs

135 electrical items repaired*
*March – June 2025

Bike Repairs

200 bikes repaired*
*September 2024 – June 2025



Reuse

Store

37,515 items recirculated
(sold as 2nd life)
\$244,275 revenue generated

House to Home

17 tonnes reused
79 homes furnished
355 furniture items reused

Bikes

206 bikes sold
259 bikes stripped for parts*
*September 2024 – June 2025

Engagement

Workshops

76 workshops run
1,076 participants
\$156,429 revenue generated

Volunteer Hours

2,784 hrs – Workshops
3,744 hrs – Stores
2,704 hrs – Bikes

Partnerships

18 councils
across Sydney metro

2.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report

This year has been one of focused renewal and measurable progress at the Bower. Thanks to the commitment of our staff, volunteers, Board, and partners, we've strengthened our financial position, sharpened our focus, and delivered more for the communities we serve.

Scaling What Matters

We set out to simplify, prioritise, and get better at the things that matter most. And it's paid off:

- Our House to Home program supported 50% more households, helping people transition from crisis into safe, furnished homes.
- We ran 50% more workshops, teaching practical repair and reuse skills that people can carry with them for life.
- We diverted 170 tonnes of usable goods from landfill - three times more than last year.
- Our store sales grew in Marrickville and even more so in Summer Hill, helping to rehome donated items and generate vital income that directly supports our charitable work.



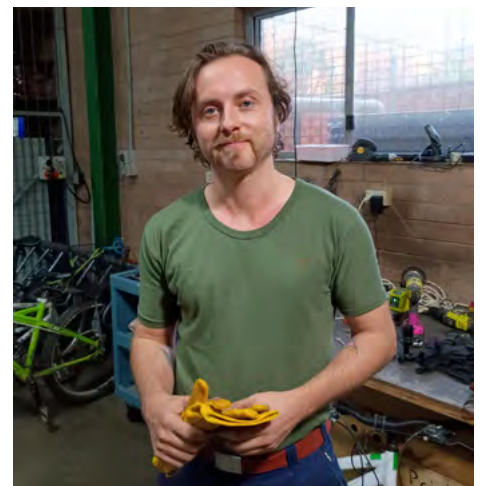
These results aren't just statistics; they represent real, hands-on impact. Less waste. More homes furnished. More skills shared. A stronger, more connected community and real progress toward a more inclusive, circular economy.

Financial Turnaround

Following a significant deficit last year, we closed this financial year with a modest surplus of \$4,730. Careful budgeting, streamlined operations, and improved revenue focus helped turn the tide. While challenges remain, we've laid the groundwork for longer-term sustainability.

Becoming More Responsive and Supportive

Internally, we simplified systems and modernised operations making it easier for people to book, donate, attend, and engage with us. More importantly, we've empowered our team and volunteers with clearer roles, better tools, and more autonomy. The result is a more agile, confident organisation, better able to meet community needs.



Doing More Together

We've achieved what we have this year because we've done it with others. Our work has been supported by:

- City of Sydney and Inner West Council, who've helped us maintain and grow our footprint
- Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC), who backed our Bike Tune-Up program
- UTS Shopfront, who brought student talent to our digital projects
- Our key community partner Youth Off The Streets who've helped us make our workshops more inclusive and purposeful, especially with the launch of our pathways to employment program
- House to Home front line agency partners: Bonnies Support Services, Neami National, Women and Girls' Emergency Centre, Jesuit Refugee Service, Wesley Mission, Life Without Barriers, Uniting, and Catholic Health Care
- Sector friends like Reverse Garbage, SSROC, The Australian Repair Network, and Charitable Reuse Australia, with whom we've shared ideas, challenges, and a vision for broader change

These partnerships are central to our model and multiply our impact.

Our Community in Action

Across our sites in Summer Hill, Marrickville, and Redfern, the Bower continues to serve as a hub for reuse, repair, and community connection. The Sustainability Hub at Summer Hill, in particular, is fast evolving into a vibrant public space thanks to the support of the Inner West Council and fellow tenants and the energy of the Saturday events and weekday programming.

We've also invested in building a stronger volunteer experience, with clearer pathways and more responsive support. Volunteers remain the backbone of our operations, and their contribution this year has been extraordinary.

The Year Ahead

There's still plenty to do. In the year ahead, we'll be focusing on:

- Strengthening our staffing structure to meet growing demand
- Improving the long-term viability of key programs like House to Home and Collections
- Deepening our fundraising capacity and broadening our income base
- Improving our data collection and impact reporting so we can tell our story better
- Exploring new opportunities for collaboration in the circular economy space



None of this happens without people. To our team, our volunteers, our Board, our council partners, donors, Co-op members, and every person who's donated an item, booked a workshop, or simply shared our story, thank you.

The Bower is powered by the community. Together, we continue building a grassroots model of circular economy that gives back every single day.

Nathan Smith

Chief Executive Officer

2.2 Our Locations

The Bower, Redfern

107 Redfern Street, Redfern New South Wales 2016
(Workshop and woodworking space)

This remains our most active workshop space and is a critical facility for delivering our expanding range of workshops and empowering hundreds of community members every year with valuable skills and confidence. This workshop is well-equipped with workbenches and specialised woodworking equipment, and also hosts the Marrickville Men's Shed.



The Bower, Marrickville

Hut 34 142 Addison Road, Marrickville, New South Wales 2204

Our flagship store and historic home since 1996, is still a well-loved second-hand shop. We have continued to improve the operation and lay-out of the store, and as a result we have seen a positive trend in sales over 2025.



The Bower, Summer Hill

**Located in Inner West Sustainability Hub,
7 Prospect Rd, Summer Hill 2130**

Our Summer Hill store goes from strength to strength, and has expanded in footprint and sales volumes over the course of 2025. The Inner West Sustainability Hub is a great place to have a presence for the Bower, and the benefits of being located here with other like-minded organisations continue to grow.

Also on site are:

- Bower Bikes, repairing and training locals in bike maintenance
- Our Electrical Repair Shop, a bookable service open on Tuesdays & Thursdays
- Electronics recycling - every Wednesday Sydneysiders drop off their unwanted electronic items for us to repair and reclaim or dispose of responsibly for resource recovery
- Our teaching workshop for our workshop overflow from Redfern and our more industrious courses
- A prototyping space for like-minded not-for-profits currently houses Remade Plastics. They are working on scaling a circular re-use process for waste plastic from packaging.
- House to Home warehouse – where we store furniture and whitegoods to supply household furniture free to clients of services we partner with who are escaping family violence, newly arrived refugees, or recovering from homelessness.



2.3 Educational Programs

2.3.1 Workshops

Workshops delivered by the Bower have more than doubled from 2024, with up to 12 being offered every month. This increase reflects both the growing demand for hands-on repair and reuse skills, and the Bower's increased capacity and improved internal systems for managing this program.

While originally aimed at general DIY, the workshops now strategically focus on empowering people to repair and repurpose household items, and increase their confidence in using reclaimed materials, such as salvaged timber and second-hand furniture. These sessions therefore contribute directly to reducing waste, and indirectly through empowering our community with the skills and confidence they need to repair and reuse household goods themselves.

A key component of the Bower's workshop program is partnering with other charities that extend these opportunities to those in need, including youth, seniors, and underprivileged groups. This ensures that the benefits of repair, reuse, and circular economy practices are available to everyone across the diverse communities of Greater Sydney.



2.3.2 Tiny House Course

The *Build a Tiny House Course* was held in March 2025, with feedback from participants being very positive. The resulting Tiny House was sold for \$27,000 to one of the course participants, who intends to fit it out and live in it.



2.3.3 Festival of Repair

The *Festival of Repair* ran from 13 to 18 August 2024. This event was attended by over 1500 participants, and encompassed a range of activities including repair shops, demonstrations, workshops, guest speakers, panel sessions, and live music. There was an amazing lineup of guest speakers, including Craig Reucassel, Anita Vandyke, Nina Gbor, and Councillor Adam Worling, and was enabled with the support of the City of Sydney and NSW EPA.

This is a unique event developed by the Bower and underpins our commitment to the core role of repair in the circular economy. However the event is very resource-intensive and is being reassessed to ensure it can be delivered in a more cost- and resource-effective manner.

A promotional graphic for the Festival of Repair. It features a poster on the left with the event details: "Festival of Repair", "13-18 August 2024", "107 Redfern St, Redfern", and logos for the City of Sydney, EPA, and NSW. To the right are three portraits of guest speakers: Craig Reucassel, Anita Vandyke, and Nina Gbor. At the bottom is a blue banner with the BOWER logo and the text "Repair demos, speakers, films, art".

Festival of Repair
13-18 August 2024
107 Redfern St, Redfern
CITY OF SYDNEY
epa nsw
107

Craig Reucassel, ABC
Anita Vandyke @rocket_science
Nina Gbor @eco.styles

BOWER REUSE & REPAIR CENTRES
Repair demos, speakers, films, art

2.3.4 Youth off the Streets

Our partnership with Youth off the Streets continues to strengthen. This year we introduced a new Pathway to Employment program - Try a Trade. This was based around three large-scale workshops designed for young people considering entering trade apprenticeships, to help them to make more informed decisions about their career options.

2.4 Repair and Reuse Services

2.4.1 Bower Bikes

Bower Bikes continued to grow this year, delivering a broad spectrum of services and activities, including:

- Repair, refurbishment, and upgrade of donated bikes, with over 200 bikes sold
- Upcycling of bike frames to current specifications, e.g. better brake systems, and building new bike frames from reclaimed metal tubing. This year the team built two prototype e-bikes - probably the lowest carbon e-bikes built in Australia!
- Repair, maintenance and education in partnership with Inner West Council and SSROC, with over 170 bikes repaired.
- Over 120 repairs delivered to 380 satisfied customers.
- Hundreds of bikes and bike parts donated
- More than 600 bikes saved from landfill

A big thank you to the skilled and dedicated crew of volunteers who make Bower Bikes possible, and collectively donated more than 2700 hours of their time.



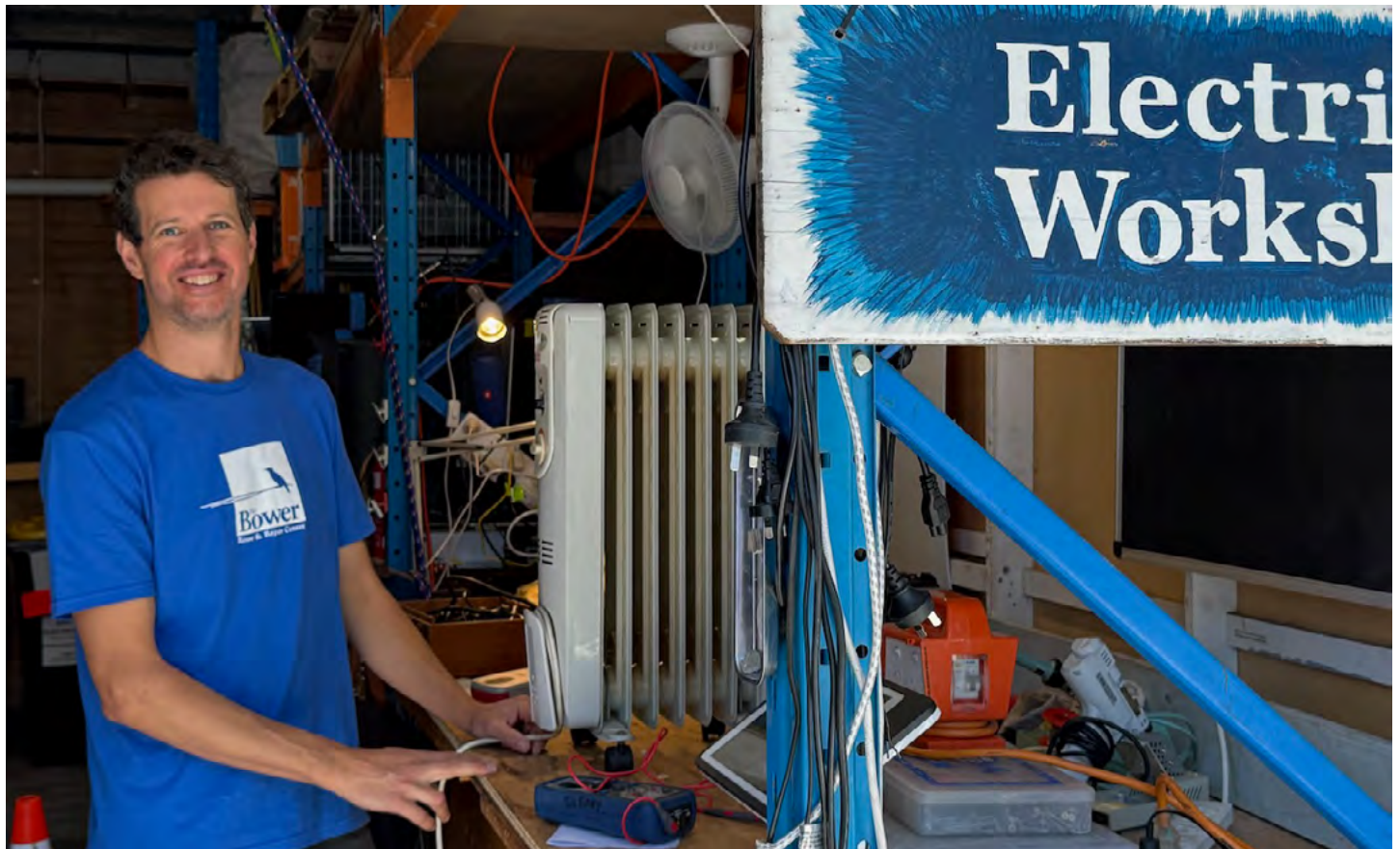
2.4.2 Bower Electrical Repair and Reuse

Since reopening in March 2025, Bower Electrical Repair has delivered over 100 repair appointments, with an impressive 84% success rate. We also hosted two off-site Repair Cafés and established a TV/DVD testing station for the House to Home program.

Our commitment to the Right to Repair movement has also gained strong momentum, with over 4,000 community signatures collected for our petition. Beyond the numbers, we actively participate in the Australian Repair Network programme. This year we supported their Reimagining Repair initiative in conjunction with Monash University for funding which we expect to be involved with next financial year. We are also supporting the SSROC repair incentives project. Both are focussed on how to enable a widespread repair culture in Australia which is a core priority for the Bower.

Bower Electrical Recycling

We took over this program from our neighbours at Re-Place in October 2024. The Electrical Recycling program relies heavily on a dedicated group of volunteers, who have grown from three to nine, and are central to the program's success. This has enabled the Bower to divert around fifteen tonnes of electrical goods from landfill through collection, testing, repair, and retail sales.



2.4.3 Bower Recycled Plastics

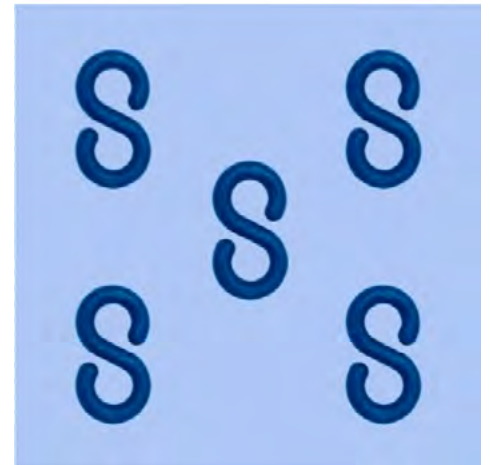
Recycling diverted landfill plastics

The Bower partners with the plastics recycling initiative 'REMADE Circular' at the Inner West Sustainability Hub. This program demonstrates hyper-local, traceable, and closed-loop reuse models for recycled plastic material, and has facilitated the recycling of over 1 tonne of retail plastic, generated by IKEA Tempe, into reusable feedstock.

The plastics workshop currently comprises a small plastics injection machine, design moulds and shredders. The inaugural design made at the plastics maker space was a "chunky carabiner", a sturdy version of a useful object. The carabiner making process is open to the public on select days throughout the year..

A 3D printing repair service

On the back of established repair movements in Europe and the UK, the Bower is exploring how a local 3D printing repair service can be established in Sydney. Building on the platform of leaders in the space such as iFixit (<https://www.ifixit.com/>), the Bower 3D Printing repair service aims to work with brands and manufacturers on end-of-life product responsibility and product stewardship to champion repair, avoid landfill and educate the public on the circular economy in general.



2.5 Collection and Rehoming Service

Our Collection and Rehoming Service (CRS) is our partnership with 19 Councils in the Greater Sydney Region. It offers an alternative to standard bulky goods collection, enabling the Bower to divert 145 tonnes of household items over the year from waste streams and re-home them through our store and House to Home program, tripling what we achieved last year.

2.6 House to Home

Our flagship program "From House to Home" furnishes homes for refugees and asylum seekers, survivors of domestic violence, those who have been homeless, and others most in need in our community. We do this according to individual needs and preferences by facilitating the re-homing of donated household goods, furniture and appliances.

Each furnished home diverts hundreds of kilograms of furniture and whitegoods from landfill, linking urgent social needs with sustainability. This two-fold benefit is unique: no other service in Sydney delivers both environmental and social solutions at this scale.

We were able to increase our truck days to twice a week once our financial position improved halfway through the year, taking our deliveries to 79, a 50 per cent increase from last year. This next year we are aiming to further increase collection days to three, and targeting 150 homes furnished through this program.

2.7 Bower People

The Bower shops, programs, services and courses are only possible due to the committed support of our amazing staff and volunteers. The staff of the Bower Reuse and Repair Centres are passionately united by the common goal of achieving a circular economy, reducing our environmental footprint, and helping social causes. A circular economy is one that retains the value of materials in the economy for as long as possible, reducing the depletion of natural resources and the impacts of material use and waste generation on our environment. Our staff and volunteers believe that everything has more than one purpose!

Nathan Smith took up the role of General Manager of the Bower in February 2024 and became Chief Executive Officer in September 2025. Paul Wade commenced with Bower as a Director in November 2023 and took up the role of Chairperson in December 2024.



2.8 Sales, Grants and Fundraising

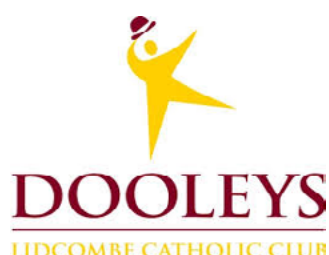
The Bower generates revenue in a number of ways.

- Retail sales via our outlets in Marrickville and Summer Hill, where a range of donated goods find new homes through walk-in customers.
- Workshop fees - the range of Bower workshops on offer has grown and now covers a range of areas including the ever-popular DIY, furniture repair, tiling, plumbing, introduction to power tools amongst others.
- Repair services including bikes, electrical and wood as well as the sale of bikes
- Donations and Crowdfunding through Give Now
- Membership fees
- Grants

This funding is then used to cover our costs and run our House to Home program.

2.9 Our Partners

The Bower wishes to thank our many partners and supporters who make it possible for the Bower to continue its work. These organisations support us through grants, donations, and service delivery partnerships that make a real difference to people in need, while reducing landfill, empowering our community, and providing leadership in the circular economy.



2.10 Conclusion

In 2024-25, the Bower sharpened its operational and financial focus, while maintaining and enhancing its core programs and support for our community and the environment. This has put us on a solid base for the coming year, and continues to build our reputation as a circular economy leader. Going forward, we will continue to innovate and improve the valuable services we provide to our customers and partners, and make it an even better place to work for our staff and volunteers. The success of the Bower is possible only with the dedication of our high calibre staff and volunteers, and the amazing support and encouragement we get from our partners, donors, customers and local community.

3.0 Auditor's Financial Report

The audited Financial Report can be viewed here: [The Bower 2025 Financial Report](#)

