Sustainable Communities AGM Report: 2025

Repair Café Campbelltown SA

The current situation:

The Campbelltown Repair Café currently has 26 volunteers offering their service as either repairer, guide, or administrative support. Our offerings include sewing/darning, needle felting, locksmith, mechanical/bicycles, wooden, jewellery, software, tool sharpening, electronics and electrical.

The CRC working party – Vas Dolman, Kathy Pfeiffer, Susan Lloyd, Sue Forrest

Volunteers – Graeme Packer, Martin Calleja, Debbie Jones, Sue Croser, Keith Karp, Josh White, Kris James, Tony Davies, Bruce Dolman, Graham May, Blusa Ferrari, Judy Mather, Sophie Kavoukis, Beryl Thorpe, Prakhar Jain, Bonnie Langtree, Cathy Olsson, Colin Thomas, Wendy Richards, Giovanna De Meo, Rodney Bolton, and Daryl Lloyd

Volunteers have contributed 1782 volunteer hours across 11 events. This is an average of 162 volunteer hours per event.

The Campbelltown SA Repair Café is keeping historical data since establishment in 2020. In June we will celebrate our 50th event.

Historical figures:

No. of Items: 2381
People attended: 1643
Total Items Fixed: 1872
Total Kgs saved from landfill: 2253

The popularity of the Repair Café has steadily grown, as attempts to promote the event have increased. Furthermore, satisfied item owners are returning and advocating for the CRC by spreading the word. CRC is currently averaging 58 repairs at each event. Promotion has included the following.

1. Social media posts on both Facebook and Instagram have attracted more followers. Multiple group FB pages for Campbelltown and that of the Campbelltown Council have promoted the Repair Café.
2. The use of Humanix has attracted users of the event management and ticketing website.
3. The Council have promoted the event in their monthly newsletter, and on their website.

4. The group's email address has enabled interested parties to communicate with the group privately. This has been useful for potential new volunteers to seek information, and for the public to ask questions.
5. Volunteers have conducted flyer drops, displayed posters, set up leaflet stands in local businesses, distributed flyers to local exercise groups, sent quarterly emails to local community service groups, churches, aged care facilities, childcare centres, preschools, and schools.
6. The CRC Coordinator has shared information regularly with Campbelltown residents participating in the Council's social hosting program.
7. Members of the CRC Working Party have conducted information sessions for community groups

The coordinating group are collecting monthly data, keeping records, and displaying this electronically at each event. This is done to assist in planning, monitoring trends, measuring the effectiveness of advertising, recording item owner's feedback, and measuring the reduction to landfill (in kilograms) being made by the community. Since the commencement of record keeping the overall saving to landfill is more than 2250kg.

Our key challenge and next step due to the number of electrical items that come in for repair is to attract more volunteers able to do electrical repairs.

Vas Dolman - Coordinator