

## The Repair Co Op Hamilton in action

We live in a throwaway society. Rising consumerism and consumption have become a normal part of our lifestyles. Our faster pace of living means we demand convenience in all aspects of our lives, and once items appear no longer useful, we tend to throw them away.

‘Projections show that, with current population trends and without increased intervention, the annual amount of waste disposed to landfills will almost double within 10 years’ (Source: [recycle.co.nz](http://recycle.co.nz))

Repair Co Op is an initiative that aims to change consumer mindset, by educating people that you can repair your own items. With a bit of help you can learn the skills you need in order to repair your broken items so rather than having them end up in the landfill, the life of the item is extended.

Tania Ashman is one of the volunteers that runs the Repair Co Op initiative. She says that Repair Co Op is a community initiative.

“Repair Co Op was built by the people for the people, it’s an event to upskill, share skills, form friendships, repair your own stuff, and save money!” says Tania.

Repair Co Op is free to attend, everyone is welcome, and no bookings are necessary. Currently Repair Co Op has 4 areas operating for repair: Electronics, Textiles, Jewellery, and Wall fixing (Gib stopping).

Tania says that the project is run by an incredible team of volunteers that are willing to share their time and skills.

“We are always on the look-out for people with skills that they are willing to share. We could do with a certified electrician, anyone handy at fixing appliances, someone with expertise in fixing sewing machines, or any skills really that you have to offer!” says Tania.

Repair Co Op is an empowering experience for people who attend. They learn some handy skills, and that they do not need to throw things away. This small change in mind-set is good for the world.

The Repair Co Op Initiative is supported by Go Eco, who provides community education, collaborates with and supports environmental groups and projects, provides inspiration for living lighter, advocates on behalf of the environment, provides a depot for recycling electronic devices, batteries, light bulbs, toner cartridges, and runs Kaivolution Food Rescue.

Repair Co Op Hamilton is on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 10am to 12noon, Go Eco, Frankton. If you would like to find out more, or have skills to share, contact [repaircoophamilton@gmail.com](mailto:repaircoophamilton@gmail.com). You can also like us on [Facebook.com/RepairCoOpHamilton/](https://www.facebook.com/RepairCoOpHamilton/)



Caption: Repair Co Op Hamilton Volunteers L to R: Dominik Feiler, Stuart Crook, James McKellar, Douaine Simmons, Tania Ashman (sitting), Anna Casey-Cox, Shepherd Isaac