



The Gold Coast Tool Library acknowledges the Kombumerri people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the library stands. We pay respect to all Elders past, present and emerging as they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of our Indigenous people.

# Table of Contents

01

Our Story

02

Our Vision

03

Our Sustainable  
Development  
Goals

04

Our Key  
Outcomes

05

Our Members

06

Our Member  
Feedback

07

Our Community

08

Our Impact

09

Our Future

# Our Story

It all started with an idea in mid 2019 to create a hub where people could come together and share resources, skills and experiences, whilst making a positive impact for the planet by reducing consumption, one loan at a time.

A few social media posts later and what were once previously strangers, were now forming friendships, sharing food and a laugh, learning, networking and creating the Gold Coast's first Tool Library (GCTL).

All start ups face challenges and the biggest road block faced by the GCTL was finding a suitable venue to call home. After over 12 months of searching and exhausting all avenues through Council and other NFP groups, founder David Paynter had to get more creative in his search to find a suitable venue.

David turned to the private sector and after a lot of door knocking and rejections, had a fortuitous meeting with the Director of PRD Robina. They quickly found an understanding around shared community and environmental goals and PRD Robina became a Foundation Partner and invited the GCTL to establish their lending headquarters in the adjoining shed to the Robina PRD offices.

Corporate support was the final ingredient that allowed a small team with a passion for diverting waste from landfill, as well as helping build connected and resilient communities, to bring their dream to life and build a community hub around the sharing of resources and community connections.



# We believe in a world free of waste

## Our Mission

To operate inclusive, vibrant and thriving community hubs that enhance the natural environment by reducing the demands for natural resources and enabling materials to be shared, repaired, upcycled and reused.



## Our Objectives

### **Sustainability and Waste Reduction:**

The GCTL's main objective is to promote sustainability by encouraging the reuse and sharing of tools, thereby reducing the demand for new purchases and minimising waste. By facilitating access to tools that might otherwise be underutilised, the organisation contributes to a more environmentally conscious and resource-efficient community.

### **Social and Economic Inclusion:**

We aim to create a more inclusive and equitable community by providing access to tools and resources to individuals of diverse backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses. By removing financial barriers associated with purchasing household items, the organisation strives to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to engage in DIY projects, carry out their own repairs, or try a new hobby.

### **Community Engagement & Collaboration:**

Another objective of the tool library is to foster community engagement and collaboration. By providing a shared space for tool borrowing and performing repairs, the organisation facilitates connections among community members, encouraging them to share knowledge, skills, and ideas. Collaborative projects are actively promoted and supported.

### **Skill Development and Education:**

Through workshops and skills-sharing events like Repair Cafes, the GCTL aims to empower individuals to acquire new skills and increase participation in actioning solutions to reduce waste. We also encourage community awareness and advocate for environmentally responsible long life design and manufacture of products to be repairable, made from sustainable, recyclable and reusable materials.

# How our objectives align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals?



## Sustainability and Waste Reduction

**SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production** – Target 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.



## Social and Economic Inclusion

**SDG 1: No Poverty** – Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular, the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources.



**SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities** – Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status.



## Community Engagement and Collaboration

**SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** – Target 11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management.



## Skill Development and Education

**SDG 4: Quality Education** – Target 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.



**SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure** – Target 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

# Our Key Outcomes

3 of our top borrowers have saved over \$3000 each since joining!

## 134 Members

### **Saving the world, one tool at a time!**

Since launching the GCTL in Robina in January 2021, we have had 134 members come through our doors, with over 80 members active at any one time. We have been growing steadily, with 58% of our current members joining us in the last 12 months. Based on our recent member survey, each membership benefits an average of 2.1 people; add to that our repair cafe events and the GCTL has directly helped over 345 people.



## 547 Items

### **Available in the library right now**

And it's not all tools - we have SUPS and kayaks; plenty of camping gear; tables, chairs and a gazebo for your next party; and our personal favourite, the Cricut machine.

## 1329 Loans

### **Not all heroes wear capes**

By borrowing instead of buying, our members have saved approximately 3100kgs of things from being manufactured.

## \$84,791

### **Saved by Members over 2.5yrs**

By borrowing items from the library instead of buying them, our members have saved an average of \$600 each!



From our very first repair cafe in August 2020 to June 2023, we have saved 589 household items from being thrown away into landfill. This includes over 500 items being donated to the library and items fixed at repair cafes. This doesn't include the countless items our members have fixed themselves since joining the GCTL.

**1.34 tonnes  
Saved from  
landfill**

# Our Members

## A community of waste warriors!

According to our recent member survey, before joining the GCTL, the majority of our members were already familiar with the concept of circular economy and waste reduction, and were buying secondhand where possible, repairing, sharing and recycling.

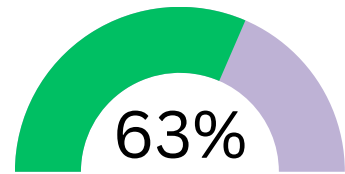
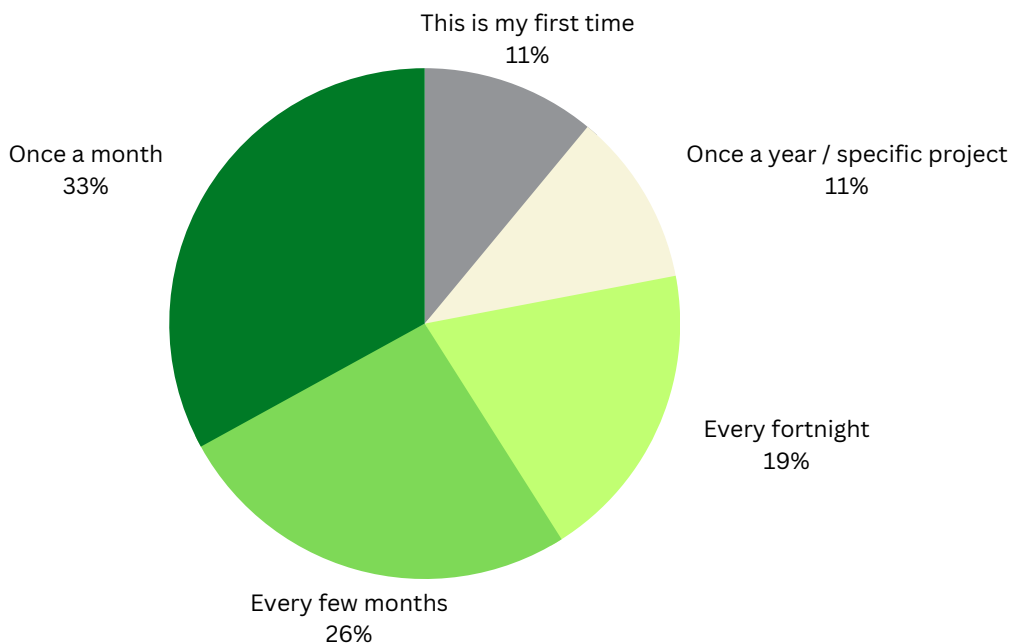
85% of members surveyed believed they had saved money from renting or buying elsewhere and all of them thought it was important for individuals to take action towards reducing waste.

96%



96% of members surveyed believe that the GCTL is a needed facility in the community and 52% said that the GCTL has encouraged them to look at other ways to reduce consumption.

## How often do members use the GCTL?



63% of members surveyed said that the GCTL allowed them to learn a new skill or hobby, or attempt a new project.

**"I came for the tools and stayed for the people."**

*- Tool Library Volunteer*

60%

of our members are female

50%

of members surveyed are immigrants

100%

of members surveyed have come to rely on the library

# What Our Members Are Saying



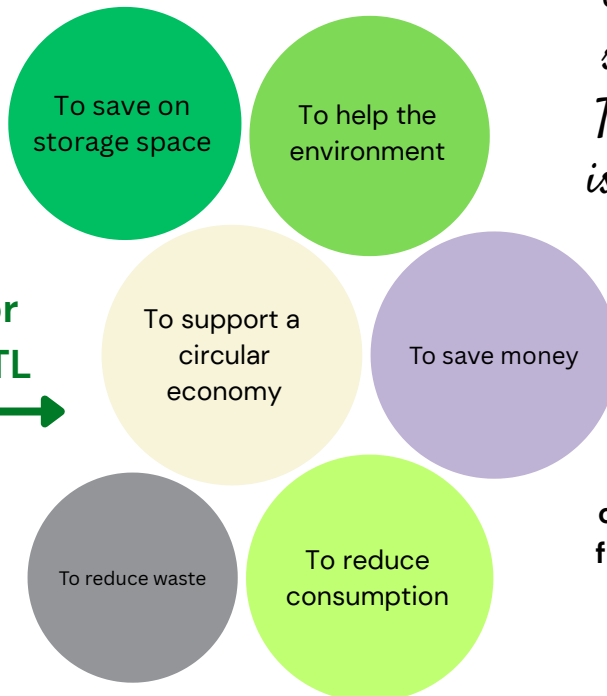
"After selling all our tools etc when moving, it has allowed us to save money and use products that are well maintained."

"GCTL is superb. It has enabled me to complete dozens of projects without filling my garage with tools that I would only use once. I tell my friends, neighbours and even a few strangers about how great this Tool Library is. Every suburb should have a tool library like this!"

"Every community should have one, and be backed and supported by local council."

*"Having the online catalogue and booking system is very helpful! The equipment for loan is in good condition and are helpful & useful items."*

## Top Reasons For Joining The GCTL



*"The idea is brilliant. It is a wonderful way to support the community."*

"The GCTL is a much needed part of the community that has a great flow on effect for people and the environment. It has saved us money, reduced needless consumerism and reduced our carbon footprint and overall impact on the environment."

"It's definitely a good idea. I think it has benefitted my household and the community in reducing waste and sharing of resources."

*"It's amazing! Have borrowed the sewing machine many many times, have learnt how to use power tools, have borrowed things I have only needed once."*





# Our Community



## 43 Volunteers

**A small but mighty crew!**

As a wholly-volunteer run organisation, the GCTL could not operate without its volunteers! From running the library, fixing items at repair cafes, testing and tagging, grant writing, bookkeeping, policy writing and generally keeping the spirit alive, there's plenty to do and we are proud and grateful for all of their hard work.

## 3134 hrs

**Hours Invested in the Shed**

Our dedicated team in the shed have volunteered over 3000hrs making sure items are safe, clean and ready to pick up every Saturday morning.



## Partnerships

The GCTL also offers memberships to local community groups and believes in fostering a collaborative circular economy here on the Gold Coast. We are actively building relationships with other Library of Things across Australia too, and are excited to see more green hubs coming to life.

*Thanks to some of our friends who have supported us along the way:*

PRD Robina  
123Host  
Seed the Ground  
GC Tech Space  
Renew Gold Coast  
Share Shed Brisbane

Gecko Environment Council  
QLD Social Enterprise Council  
Rotaract Club Gold Coast Makerspace  
Restore Social Enterprise Brisbane  
Springbrook Community Association  
Australian Library of Things Network

Robina Lions  
Karma Collab Hub  
Nerang Men's Shed  
Ashmore Men's Shed  
Rotary Club Surfers Sunrise

*"The GCTL is an enabler of a circular economy and long term sustainability. It necessarily requires society to embrace some aspect of communalisation that will be required to achieve sustainability objectives – sharing land, sharing resources (power, water, transport, telecomms, etc). The GCTL is achieving this cultural shift one member at a time and it is exciting to watch."  
– Tool Library Member*

# Our Impact



The GCTL's efforts result in a multi-faceted impact, ranging from environmental conservation and waste reduction to social empowerment, economic savings, and fostering a cultural shift towards sustainability. These outcomes collectively contribute to creating a more environmentally conscious, resource-efficient, and interconnected community, aligned with the organisation's vision of a world free of waste.

## Sustainability and Waste Reduction

The thriving culture of reuse and sharing within our community is evident through the significant number of items donated.

Our environmental impact metrics, such as tonnes of new products saved from manufacturing and landfill diversion, provide clear quantitative evidence of our success in waste reduction and sustainability efforts.

Surveyed members' responses strongly align with our waste reduction goal; their 100% reliance on GCTL over purchasing showcases our achievement in offering sustainable alternatives. Furthermore, 70% of surveyed members recognising us as a circular economy pioneer underscores our role in minimising waste and promoting circular practices.

Our commitment to promoting sustainability has yielded tangible reductions in waste generation and heightened community awareness about the significance of waste reduction.

## Social and Economic Inclusion

Highlighted collective and average member savings emphasise the substantial financial benefits the tool library provides. This not only supports individual members but also bolsters the local economy by redirecting spending. These savings, along with the empowerment experienced by our 60% female membership and top borrowers, extend beyond finances, encompassing skill development and self-sufficiency.

## Community Engagement and Collaboration

While we aim to serve as a hub for knowledge sharing and collaborative projects, fostering a sense of belonging and collective responsibility for environmental stewardship, we have been faced with the challenge of finding an appropriate space for this purpose.

However, continued volunteer engagement, support and donations from across the community bolster our commitment to achieving this goal in the future.



## Skill Development and Education

The reported percentage of members learning new skills is encouraging, however, the GCTL has found the challenge of finding a suitable space to conduct workshops and regular repair cafes very difficult. In order to create a meaningful impact in this space, the GCTL is actively looking for a corporate sponsorship or community partner to create a much needed forever home and sustainability hub.

# Our Future

## Where to next?

### A message from our founder:

After two and a half years of successful operation, we are commencing the long game to create a larger space with a more comprehensive offering. Our aim from the beginning has been to create a Share & Repair Hub for grass roots organisations embracing Circular Economy methods to flourish.

This includes creating a Makerspace which is inclusive and empowering to all, to expand on the principals of Reuse, Repurpose, Refurbish, Repair, as well as Upcycling and creative endeavours across many genres.



The aim is to either build or secure a lease on a suitable premises of approximately 300m<sup>2</sup> located in the central GC area

Now is the time to take the next step in that journey and we are putting the call out to Gold Coast groups and individuals who through their activities, complement our vision and are curious to join us on this expansion.

We will rely heavily on increasing our pool of volunteers, on grant funding and support from multi levels of Government, corporate and supporters to enable this project to succeed. Collectively we will have a stronger voice and a more compelling case to pitch.

*- with thanks from David Paynter, GCTL*



## Makerspace:

a self-directed community space to Repair, Create, Learn & Share.

The types of activities that occur in a Makerspace can include:

- *Woodwork, CNC, Laser cutting.*
- *Metalwork*
- *Sewing & Textiles, Leatherwork, Cosplay*
- *Electronics & Robotics, 3D Printing*
- *Crafting, Creating, Paint & Sip, Clay Work*
- *Prototyping*
- *Tinkering & Fixing*

Our Passion is with Libraries of Things, Repair Cafes and Makerspaces. We are looking for complimentary groups and passionate people to join us.

Example complimentary groups: Circular Economy Education, Community Compost Hubs, People's Shed, Teen Shed, Creatives and Artists involved in upcycling, Toy or Kitchen Libraries, Bicycle Repair Hubs, classes and instruction, crop swaps, clothing swaps... What other great ideas are out there?

Would you like to join with us? Then get in touch and let's see what we can create!

We thank you for your  
ongoing support of our  
not-for-profit organisation.



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