

# ON THE MEND

## IMPACT REPORT 2019

The Formary

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THE FORMARY

# Purpose

The clothing and textile sector has a considerable part to play in the transition to a low carbon future. Over 100 billion garments are produced every year with only a fraction recycled. Textile production creates about 1.2 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year - more than international flights and maritime shipping combined. It takes 2,700 litres of water or 2.5 years of a persons drinking water to make a single cotton tee shirt, with each kilo of clothing consigned to landfill generating over 3kgs of greenhouse gases as they decompose.

To reduce the impacts at a local level, The Formary created *On the Mend*, a community-focused education series, where basic sewing and mending skills are taught free of charge (so all socio-economic groups are included). The purpose of *On The Mend* is to teach community members how to extend the life of their garments and to raise awareness of the environmental impacts of clothing. By increasing skills and knowledge, participants are empowered to repair their clothes - saving resources and carbon emissions associated with purchasing new, landfilling or offshoring clothes.

According to Wrap UK (2012), extending the life of clothes by just nine extra months of active use reduces carbon, water and waste footprints by around 20-30% each. The Formary held four *On The Mend* classes during 2019 on the following dates:

## Class 1

Tricia Given, Community Hub Coordinator, taught participants how to make pom-poms using decommissioned Wellington Zoo T-shirts for Christmas tree decorations or a pet toy.

- Date: 27 June 2019
- Location: The Formary office
- Registrations: 10
- Attendees: 4





## Class 2

Anna Hicks, sustainable fashion & textile artist and fashion graduate from Massey University, taught participants how to repair knitwear using visible stitching and darning techniques.

- Date 24 July 2019
- Location: Sunday Night Club
- Registrations: 50
- Attendees: 26

## Class 3

Barbara Wheeler, Australian textile artist and owner of sustainable clothing label "Every Thread Counts", taught participants the basics of mending including an introduction to sashiko and boro stitching techniques.

- Date: 22 August 2019
- Location: Sunday Night Club
- Registrations: 80
- Attendees: 34



## Class 4

Sarah Wirth, Head of Department Technology at Samuel Marsden Collegiate, taught participants how to mend jeans using sashiko stitching, patches and darning techniques.

- Date: 03 October 2019
- Location: Sunday Night Club
- Registrations: 62
- Attendees: 24

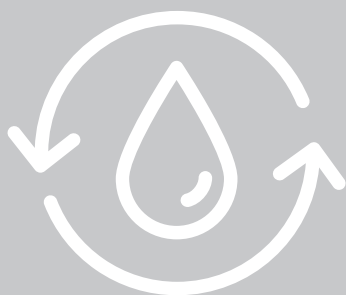
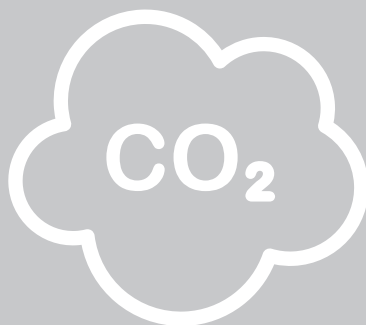




# Impact

A total of 88 participants attended the classes and mended at least one garment per person resulting in the following environmental conservation:

**4.32**  
CO<sub>2</sub>e(t)  
conserved



**477.4**  
H<sub>2</sub>O(kL)  
conserved

\*calculated using average footprint by cotton fibre type. 'Valuing our clothes: the evidence base', WRAP, 2012, available from [www.wrap.org.uk/clothing](http://www.wrap.org.uk/clothing)



# Impact Equivalencies

It's difficult to visualise the impact of carbon emission and water conservation. The below are the impact equivalencies of the environmental metrics calculated:

4.32 CO<sub>2</sub>e(t) is  
the equivalent of driving  
**15865 km**



477.4 H<sub>2</sub>O(kL) is the  
equivalent of filling

**5968  
Baths**

\*calculated using the EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, 2019, available from <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>, and average bath being 80 litres of H<sub>2</sub>O.



# Survey Results

A survey was sent to participants after each class. Here are the results:

88%

Of participants rate the class **excellent**. 6% rate the class **very good** and a further 6% rate the class **good**.

94%

Of participants mended **1 to 2** garments per class. 6% of participants mended **3 to 4** garments per class.

100%

Of participants said they were **very likely** to attend a class in the future.

83%

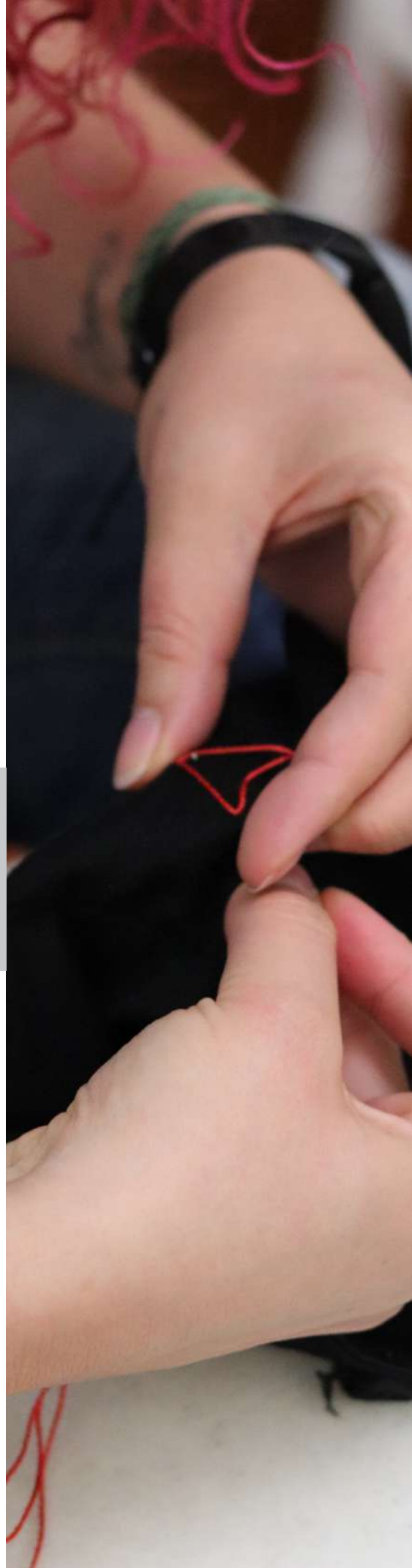
Of participants identified as **female**. 17% identified as **male**.

45%

Of participants were in the age range **18 to 35**. 39% were in the age range **36 to 50** and 16% were aged **51 and above**.

78%

Of participants were working **full-time**, 11% were working **part-time**, 6% were **disabled** and a further 5% were **unemployed & searching for work**.





**“More classes  
please!”**

**“It was precisely  
what I hoped it  
would be”**

**“More events  
like this!  
I loved it”**



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Me Heke Ki Pōneke



THE FORMARY

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