

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 5 August 2021

Much-loved Shellharbour tinkering workshop goes online to keep community connected during lockdown

Social enterprise Resource Recovery Australia (RRA) has teamed up with Shellharbour City Council to run an online workshop this Friday 6 August for locals who share a love of repairing and reusing salvaged objects and are looking for connection.

The virtual event is being run through The Tinkerage – a community space in Shellharbour, run by RRA in partnership with Shellharbour Council. The Tinkerage, based at Revolve Dunmore, is a place people can go to repair and upcycle objects they'd like to give a new lease on life.

Regular workshops at The Tinkerage are facilitated by Illawarra-based artist Anita Johnson, who works with salvaged objects to create beautiful works of art.

"It's inspiring to see people build their skills, learn how to work safely and use tools they may not have used before," she said.

"The Tinkerage is always a lively and busy space and has a great sense of community. It's been far too quiet over the last month."

RRA Dunmore Manager Jarrod Roskell said The Tinkerage had an important role in keeping the local community connected before lockdown.

"We see a steady group of regulars drop-in to The Tinkerage to work with Anita on projects they'd like to repair or upcycle," Mr Roskell said.

"Not only do they give objects a new life and keep them out of landfill, they really benefit from working together in this space."

To keep the Tinkerage community connected during the extended lockdown, RRA decided to take the workshops online.

"After taking Revolve Dunmore online through our Click and Collect program. The Tinkerage was the next step to connect with our community," Mr Roskell said.

"Going online will allow our community to tap into Anita's expertise, ask questions about projects they're working on or just say hello to each other."

Ms Johnson said fixing things could be a restorative experience for people in difficult times.

"Repairing and fixing things can be a really emotionally positive experience; people are not only keeping things out of landfill, but they're keeping themselves busy during a difficult time," she said.

People can join this Friday's workshop for free by visiting <https://bit.ly/Tinkerage>.

RRA is a national social enterprise that works in waste management to keep waste out of landfill, create jobs for people experiencing barriers to work, and engage and connect people in our communities. RRA operates in NSW, QLD and the ACT across eight regions and is part of the national not-for-profit Community Resources.

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