



# IMPACT REPORT

## Highlights

TOTAL LOANS SINCE  
WE STARTED

9,990

EACH HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP  
BENEFITS ON AVERAGE



4 PEOPLE.

1,220 PEOPLE benefited  
FROM A LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

COLLECTIVELY THE LIBRARY  
SAVED OUR MEMBERSHIP

\$451,286



2686

PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN *Saved* FROM  
BEING MANUFACTURED THIS YEAR  
THANKS TO THE LIBRARY OF STUFF.



16,000 People

HAVE USED OUR STUFF  
AT OUR NON-PROFIT  
MEMBERS EVENTS

WE HAVE *Supported*  
30 NON-PROFITS  
THIS YEAR.

MEMBERSHIPS INCREASED BY 45%

With 141 NEW MEMBERSHIPS



2,613 VOLUNTEER HOURS  
SINCE WE OPENED

749 THIS FINANCIAL YEAR



2861

PRODUCTS WERE DIVERTED  
FROM LANDFILL THANKS TO  
MEMBERS USING THE  
LIBRARY, ITEMS DONATED  
AND ITEMS REPAIRED

TOTAL ITEMS IN THE LIBRARY 1220

TOTAL LOANS THIS YEAR 4,495

WE GAVE 47 COMMUNITY MEMBERS A  
*Free* 6 MONTH FLOOD SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP

96% OF OUR SURVEYED  
MEMBERS HAVE COME TO  
RELY ON THE LIBRARY  
INSTEAD OF BUYING ITEMS  
THEY RARELY USE

96% OF OUR SURVEYED MEMBERS  
BELIEVE THE LIBRARY IS A CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY PIONEER IN THE WAY IT  
REDUCES WASTE AND INCREASES VALUE

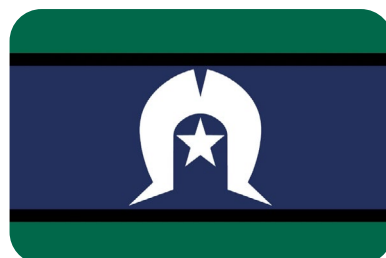


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## Acknowledgement of Country

Mullum Cares Incorporated proudly acknowledges Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional custodians of the land and water on which we rely.

We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to Australian life and how this enriches us.



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# Introduction to the Library of Stuff

The overall purpose of the Library is to reduce the need for resources and emissions to be generated from the production of irregularly used goods. To simplify the idea, instead of 52 homes having an item they use once a year we provide the opportunity for those 52 households to use the same item for 7 days each. Instead of the resources and emissions required to make 52 items we only need 1 to meet the needs of these 52 Members. A pressure cleaner is a great example - we have 6.

The library of stuff offers the community access to over 1000 items that they can borrow for the price of an affordable membership - when adversity strikes our town we offer free memberships to affected households. We focus on growing our impact by increasing our value to our members and allowing the membership numbers to grow organically while we continue to build the case for the permanent funding required to sustain the operation long term. We are part of the sharing economy which prioritises access over ownership.

## ACTIVE MEMBER RUN

Did you know that we are completely reliant on active members to open our doors? Our active members are the lifeline that offers the library to the community - not just once but three times a week! Support from local philanthropists allow us to work on recording and reporting our impact - this report being the best chance we have of lobbying our governments for reliable funding.

During the 2021 - 2022 financial year we were generously supported by a large team of active members. We'd like to thank the following active members for their commitment and generosity in sustaining the library (in no particular order): Keith, Kylie, Claire, Tommy, Matcham, Zoe, Neil, Paul, Lukas, Tash, Sasha, Lorraine, Jude, Kristen, Celine and Tahiel. You're all librarian angels!





**Our  
Purpose**



**The Library of Stuff is a project  
of Mullum Cares Incorporated.**

**Mullum Cares is a not for profit  
organisation that inspires and  
enables consumer demand for  
conservation.**

**For more information visit:  
[mullumcares.com.au](http://mullumcares.com.au)**

**“The Mullum Library of Stuff is such an important community resource and has saved us thousands of dollars.”** Aiden



**“We all have way too much stuff and in a region, where landfill space is scarce and transport is expensive, the last thing we want to do is create more waste. To manufacture new stuff uses up finite resources and produces emission. So don't buy things you only occasionally use leaving their embedded resources lying idle, or that you can't find room for and dispose of. Borrowing from initiatives like The Library of Stuff help to avoid waste and reduce emission - and they save you money!”**

Jeanie McKillop, Coordinator  
North East Waste.

## Why the Library

The Library of Stuff maximises the utility of infrequently used items by sharing them amongst its members. This directly reduces the demand for more of these items to be required to meet our communities needs. We partner with the Mullumbimby Repair Cafe (for items out of warranty) and the local retailers we purchase our goods from to keep them in use as long as possible.

**“The Library of Stuff has been an amazing help after the floods as always. I borrowed cleaning supplies, pressure washers, blow up mattresses and camp mats and kept the kids happy with games from the library after the flood. They started the washing service which was amazing and I witnessed them help so many people after the floods with a smile, even though they were flood victims themselves. The Library of Stuff are such an incredibly valuable service to our community.”** Dom



# Our Year 2021-2022



We won the Byron Shire Community Initiative of the year award!

What a year it's been. From covid lockdown to floods, we've been through it all. But throughout all the ups and downs, we've committed to supporting our community no matter what.

## What has this looked like...

Through covid lockdown in 2021 we adjusted our operation to provide contactless home deliveries and pick ups. Capacity was provided by team members whose focus on textile waste workshops had diminished due to covid restrictions. Our members were very grateful to still have access to the items in the library. Particularly popular were board games, gardening tools and cooking items. After the major flood on Feb 28, we opened our doors again after just one week. Our facility flooded over 50cm from the floor but our team prepared well and very little was lost.



Active members cleaning library items after the floods.

The building was very damaged though so we moved upstairs until the entire building was determined a hazardous environment and we were relocated into a small brick garage adjacent to the hall. Luckily we had ongoing help from the community at every stage: - **cleaning, moving, sorting.**

I love everything about the library! Its such a practical and easy way to get things done without buying, owning and storing these items. It enhances my life. I was so thankful that I had borrowed the dehydrator right before the floods and had dried so many herbs that were in their full glory before the plants were subsequently damaged. The items you can borrow actually make you think creatively in regards to things you wouldn't normally have on your radar. A great community resource. And the active members are all so interesting to discuss things with!





Our new premises is much smaller than our previous operational space in the scout hall however we have made the most of funding provided by the state government for flood relief to extend the space by laying a concrete slab and achieving energy independence by installing solar panels and a battery, meaning we are no longer reliant on the grid.



We instantly created a free membership type for flooded residents and continue to provide rate relief to anyone still struggling to recover from the devastating impacts of the flood.



Meanwhile, Mullum Cares launched a flood resilient adaptation project, helping community members with information on how to make their homes resilient and adaptable for any future scenario. To find out more, go to [mullumcares.com.au/flood-adaptation-project](https://mullumcares.com.au/flood-adaptation-project)

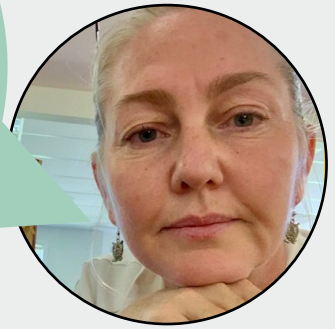


# Social Impact

Info from our survey

The library is a great community led action on waste reduction. And it strengthens the value of sharing, something we instill strongly in our children and then undermine with marketing designed to drive consumerism.

Tora



**90%** of all members report the Library of Stuff offers affordable memberships.



**67%** of all members of the Library of Stuff were affected by the flood.



**51%** were helped with a free flood affected local membership.



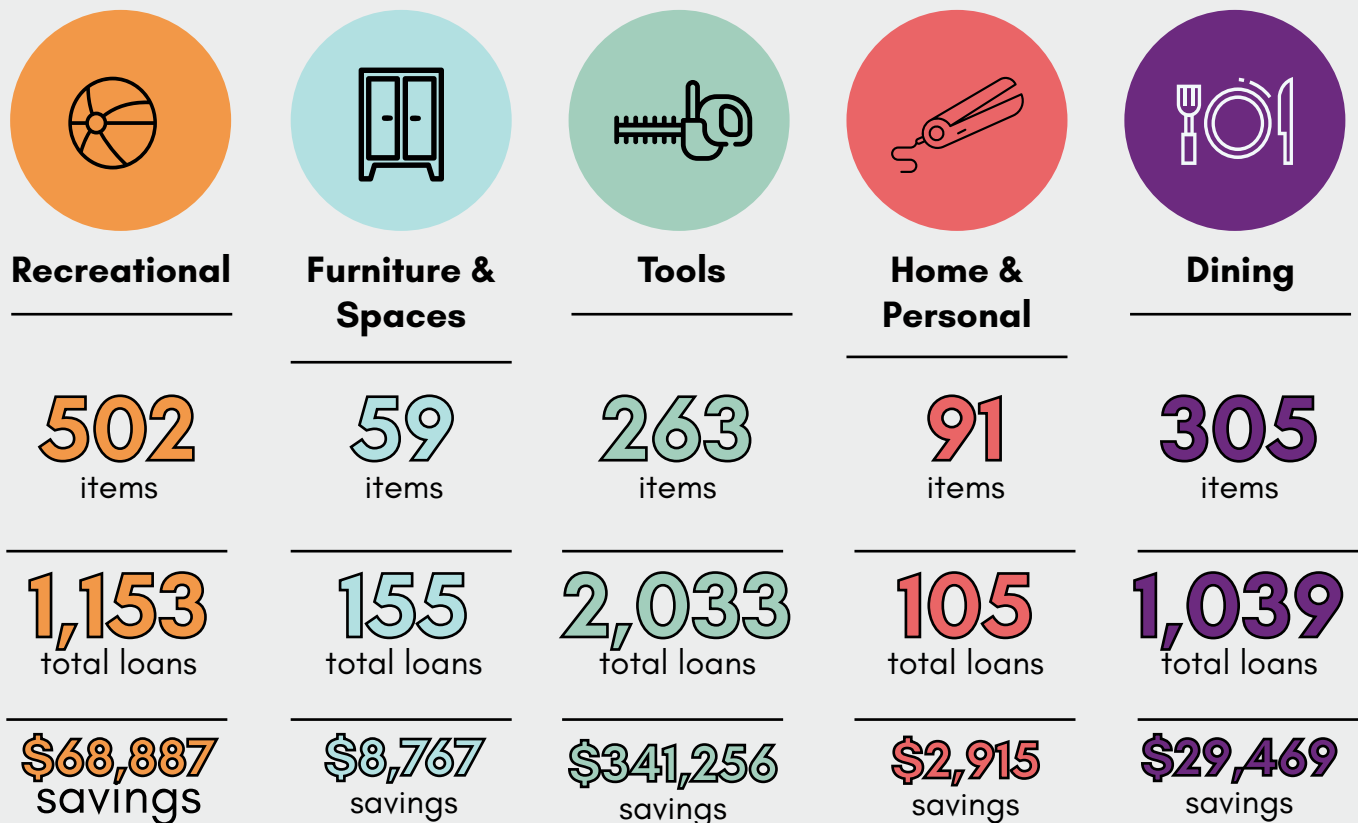
**30%** would not have been able to afford a paid membership to recover from the flood.

The Library of Stuff is a brilliant community initiative. It not only saves money it saves the waste of everyone buying items they do not use that often. It fosters a sharing and conscious community, is great value and staffed by an awesome crew. Lisa



# Loans and Members Savings

These are the library's FIVE broad categories and the breakdown of number of items, loans and the savings from each category for 2021-2022.



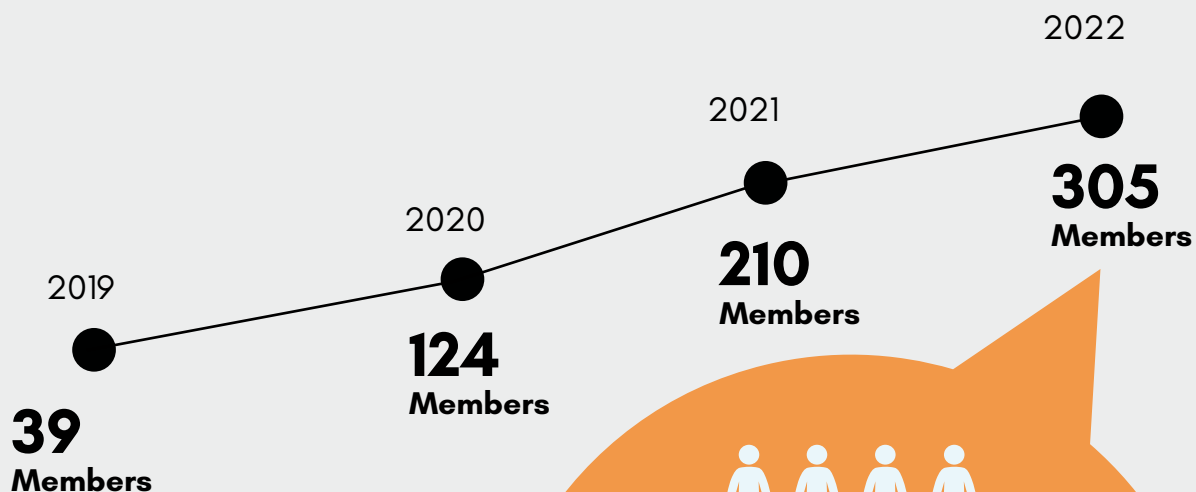
The Library of stuff is extremely significant in increasing the community's ability to reduce waste by contributing to a sharing economy. Through providing an alternative to purchasing new products that may be used only once or break easily we will reduce waste to landfill. The library also builds resilience in our community by providing accessible items that may be needed before or after an emergency.



\* \$451, 286 - The savings is based only on the financial year and may be slightly inflated for items with a life greater than one year that were borrowed in previous years. We know that our members would probably not have purchased everything that they borrow from the library. The benefit of the library is not only that you just have access to items that you would have bought if the library didn't exist, but that you have access to much more diversity of items.

Our members saved a total of **\$451,286**, which is theoretically **\$1,500** per member, allowing for our **\$50** membership fee.

This year, we also provided **47** people who were impacted by the 2022 Floods with free flood support memberships.



Each household membership benefits on average 4 people.

This year **1,220** people benefited from a library membership.

# Environmental Impact

## Positive Impact of Items Lent Out



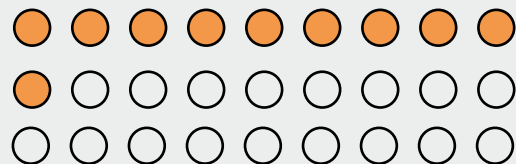
**30**  
Non-profit  
Collaborations

Library of Stuff works with 30 NPs, offering **3 different** membership types including free sponsorship, discounted for small organisations and ones for larger organisations.

**129**

Loans were made by these organisations in 2021-2022.

I thought I would have to buy a clothes steamer and mannequin to raise money for a NPs by selling clothes at a local market but instead we just hired them from the library of stuff. It worked great. All the pieces and instructions were there. It was awesome! - Baylee



**11** of these NPs directly contribute to the environment/sustainability in some way such as seabin, rainforest rangers, etc.



**16,000** People

**HAVE USED OUR STUFF AT OUR NON-PROFIT MEMBERS EVENTS**

**WE HAVE** *Supported* **30 NON-PROFITS THIS YEAR.**

# Saved Products from Being Manufactured

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**2686**

Saved  
products  
from being  
manufactured

+

**157**

items  
donated

+

**18**

items  
repaired

=

**2861**

Products diverted  
from landfill.

**We help divert waste from landfill by giving people the opportunity to borrow rather than buy. This year we helped divert a total of 2861 products from landfill.**

The Library directly works towards Byron Shire Council's objective of empowering the community to increase avoidance, reuse and reuse objective by helping community members to avoid consuming irregularly used items and borrowing these instead. This helps the Byron Shire community reduce its disposal of bulky waste to landfill, with less items consumed and therefore less being disposed of.

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**We are currently partnering with 180 degrees consulting to calculate an accurate carbon emissions number. More to come next impact report.**

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# Members Survey Results

**96.4%** Say "I have come to rely on the Library of Stuff instead of buying items I rarely use."

**96.4%** Say "The Library of Stuff is a circular economy pioneer in the way it reduces wastes and increases value."

**94.5%** Say they "Believe being a member of the Library of Stuff is a conscious way of reducing emissions and waste."

**80%** Say that "Becoming a member made me more conscious of the impact of my consumer choices on the planet."



Our community takes turns borrowing from the library of stuff for our camping trips. Our annual camping trip has over 50 people and our entire camp kitchen is from the library of stuff! That benefits us and the environment. We are so grateful for this amazing local organisation.

- Nicole



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth - all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests. **Here is how the Library aligns with these goals:**





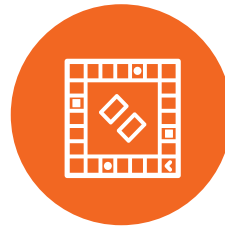
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## Top 10 most popular items



**Whipper  
Snipper**

**84**  
Loans



**Forbidden  
Island  
board  
game**

**40**  
Loans



**Trestle  
table**

**84**  
Loans



**Impact  
driver**

**38**  
Loans



**Bamboo  
bowls,  
plates &  
cups**

**75**  
Loans



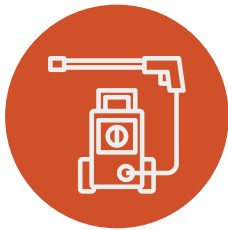
**Trailer**

**39**  
Loans



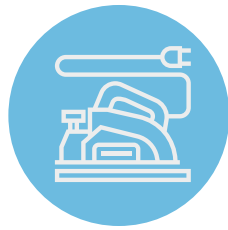
**Camping  
chair**

**68**  
Loans



**Pressure  
Washer**

**54**  
Loans



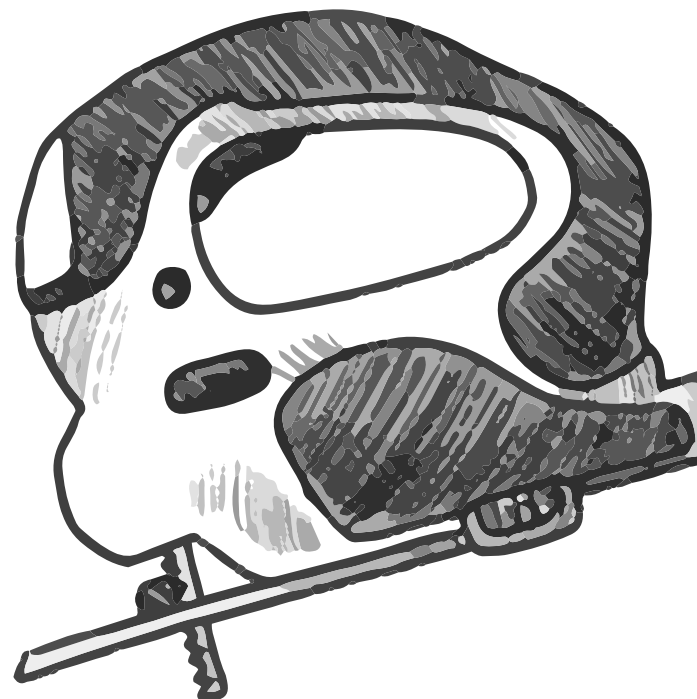
**Orbital  
Sander**

**49**  
Loans



**Clamp**

**41**  
Loans



LIBRARY OF  
**STUFF**  
MULLUMBIMBY

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