

# The Auckland Library of Tools| WhareTaputapu

Own Less, Do More.

**People don't want to buy a quarter-inch drill, they want a quarter-inch hole.**

This proposal outlines the vision and plan for the Auckland Library of Tools (**ALoT**), a community hub that will provide access to tools and equipment, reduce unnecessary consumption, and empower individuals and communities to build, share and create in a more sustainable way.

## The Why:

The dominant economic model encourages ownership and discourages sharing. Tools rarely used, gather dust. Objects with owners, but no users, fall into disrepair. Overproduction has become the norm, while disused but perfectly functional items slowly make their way to landfill. All the while, people and projects without funds or equipment fail to get off the ground. ALoT offers a better way; one based on the provision of shared resources, and a reduction of the wasteful and widespread communal hoarding of objects.

A number of makerspaces, repair cafes, and similar initiatives have arisen locally and abroad in the last decade. Community, an enhanced sense of environmentalism, waste minimisation, and a resource based sharing economy are at the heart of these enterprises. While object oriented libraries have been established overseas, Auckland currently lacks a comparable resource. ALoT plans to change this.

## The What:

The Auckland Library of Tools will provide members with access to high quality and well maintained tools and equipment. The hub will consist of a well stocked "library", a storage and repair space, and, ideally, an attached or associated makerspace where members can attend workshops, learn, collaborate, meet, and share resources and ideas.

Tools will be at the heart of the library, however we use the term in the broadest sense possible. We plan to consult with the community, and to provide resources that appeal to and service a broad cross-section of people. Hammers and drills will sit alongside sewing machines and cooking equipment. Need to switch out the wheels on your skateboard? Use our socket wrench. Want to mow that berm but don't want to buy a lawn mower? Come, borrow ours! Or better yet, take the shovel and wheelbarrow and plant it up!

In addition, opportunities and space for workshops will be provided; community projects and involvement will be encouraged. Whether you want to drill a hole, or learn how to use an automated CNC router to make your own furniture, ALoT will be the place to come. ALoT will not be “just a room full of tools”, but rather, a valued communal resource, a bustling hub, and a generative space centered on participation, community engagement, and sustainable productivity.

## The How:

ALoT will be run as a not-for-profit social enterprise. Members will pay a yearly subscription for access to tools, with subsidised/pro-bono rates available for students and beneficiaries. The library is for everyone. All profits will be cycled back into the library, which aims to be financially self-sufficient by 2020. The library will be staffed by knowledgeable people who will be able to advise members and ensure the proper maintenance of equipment.

Currently, ALoT is seeking financial support, an appropriate space, and additional volunteers to help realise our vision. Research into overseas models indicate that Tool Libraries and Libraries of Things are highly valued and successful within their communities, and initial (local) feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. This is the perfect time for a Library of Things! ALoT has broad appeal within the community, and is an ideal candidate for the Waste Minimisation and Innovation Fund (WMIF). We are researching a range of opportunities, including crowd funding, however WMIF is our current priority. Given that ALoT will significantly reduce waste within the region, and fulfil a range of social and economic goals deemed valuable by council and the wider community, we feel confident in regards to our application.

## The Where:

The Auckland Library of Tools is looking for the right neighbourhood. We are locals who love the area, and we recognise a strong communal desire for innovative, environmentally oriented initiatives within the area. This outlook is well represented by the *Grey Lynn 2030 Transition Community Trust*, who we would greatly like to partner with. Grey Lynn is a diverse community, made up of families, students, artists and young professionals. One thing is certain, when we share resources and waste less, everyone benefits.

## What we need from Grey Lynn 2030:

To get started, The Library of Things needs funding and space. We will be applying for the WMIF, and would greatly appreciate the support of Grey Lynn 2030, including both collaboration and advice, and more specifically as an umbrella organisation and partner. Finding the right location is key, and we would welcome any assistance in this area. For ALoT to work well, we need a centrally located space with enough room to store a large range of tools, repair items, and hold workshops.

We hope that this proposal has sparked your interest. Please feel free to contact either Tom or Amanda with any questions or suggestions you might have. We greatly look forward to working with you.

Kind Regards,

Tom Greer and Amanda Chapman  
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## The Who:

ALoT is being spearheaded by Amanda Chapman and Tom Greer, with additional mentoring and support from Ryan Dymant, one of the founders of the Toronto Tool Library. Additional volunteers and supporters are being sought.

**Amanda Chapman** established the Auckland Community Fridge, NZ's first free food sharing fridge. Amanda blogs about waste reduction and her tiny house build. Amanda works for We Compost and United Sustainable Sisters (part of Tamaki WRAP). Amanda has completed a PGDipSci in Environmental Science and Geography.

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**Tom Greer** studies Landscape Architecture, and has worked in ecology and environmental science. He has a passion for the natural world, design and social systems. Tom previously studied biology and statistics, and has completed a BA(Hons) and PGDipSci. He also has several years experience working in libraries of books (libraries).

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Ryan Dymant is an experienced accounting professional and social entrepreneur. He successfully co-founded the Toronto Tool Library in 2012.



Toronto Tool Library and Makerspace.



Volunteers inside the Toronto Tool Library.