

26/05/2025

Character Reference for James Edley

My name is Marlies Dorrestein. I am writing this reference for James Edley in my capacity as the manager of the DEANZ (Doughnut Economics Advocates NZ - Charity) Te Atatū South Repair Café for the last 3.5 years (<https://repaircafe.doughnuteconomicsnz.com/>). The Repair Café is a social and environmental initiative that invites members of the public to bring broken household items in to be repaired (if possible) by a suitably skilled volunteer. I am a registered occupational therapist by background.

I have known James since he joined the volunteer team in early 2023 as an IT/tech repair specialist.

James has been a committed and dependable member of the team since he joined. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge and skills for the benefit of the community and the planet (few items to go to landfill). James always has a positive and friendly attitude and has a great sense of humour.

He is always keen to work together as part of a team, enthusiastically welcoming new IT/tech volunteers when they join the Repair Café.

There is no way of knowing in advance what kinds of items will be presented in any given Repair Café session (once a month for 3 hours), and James takes all requests for repairs in his stride; He knows when an item is not able to be repaired (either at all, or in the time available in one session), he is able to give advice to member of the public about any next steps they may need to take, or purchases they need to make for a successful outcome in the end. He has gone above and beyond at time, to follow up in his own time to help someone with their IT/tech issue.

The Repair Café documentation invites members of the public to leave feedback about their experience and about the volunteer that assisted them. Some of the comments offered by the public about James' input are: "very friendly and appreciate the help", "the service was really helpful", and "appreciate the effort taken", "good stuff", "great, I learnt about the Bluetooth option".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marlies', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Marlies Dorrestein