

# SKILLS BUILDER TRAINING WORKSHOP



**Get Started  
Skills  
Builder Training**

A week long and fun hands on course where participants will practically make several simple and appropriate technology solutions that can help address some of their livelihood challenges in the East Coast.

22 Participants of diverse backgrounds and ages will be retooled and upskilled in key skills like woodworking; metalworking; working with pvc; working with electricity; aluminium casting; and applying the co-creative design process to identify community challenges and work together as a community to address them using locally available material.

Lead Instructor: Amy B Smith  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) D-Lab (USA) Mechanical Engineer, Inventor, Trainer, Former Peacecorp Volunteer and long time partner of These Hands GSSE.

Lead organizer: Thabiso Blak Mashaba  
These Hands GSSE (Botswana and New Zealand)  
Edmund Hillary International Fellow, Community Development Practitioner, Cultural and Environmental Economist and life long partner of The Tolaga Bay Inn Charitable Trust.

Dates: 17 to 22 December 2023  
Time: 9.00am - 4.30pm  
Location: Hauiti Marae and Uawa Rugby Club

For more information, contact  
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027 252 6944 | bfrenchhall@eit.ac.nz

**MIT D-Lab**

**THESE HANDS**

**TOLAGA BAY INNOVATION TECH HUB**

**EIT**  
TE AHO A MAUI

**Te Pūkenga**

## MONITORING, EVALUATION, RESEARCH AND LEARNING (MERL) REPORT

Compiled by Thabiso Mashaba & Amy B Smith

As at 22nd December 2023

## **MONITORING REPORT**

### **Skills Builder Training Workshop**

1. **Dates:** 17th to 22nd December 2023
2. **Location:** Tolaga Bay
3. **Venue:** Tolaga Bay Innovation and Uawa Rugby Club
4. **Targeted Number of Participants:** 22
5. **Recruited Number of Participants:** 22
6. **Actual Number of Participants:** 12
7. **Funded by:** Adult and Community Education (ACE) Programme - Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) Hawkes Bay and Tairāwhiti with Marketing, Participant Recruitment, Tools, Materials and Catering.
8. **Supported by:** MIT D-Lab with Curriculum, Tools and Material; and Tolaga Bay Innovation with Accommodation and Transport.
9. **Implemented by:** These Hands GSSE
10. **Lead Instructor:** Amy B Smith
11. **Lead Organizer and Design Facilitator:** Thabiso Mashaba

### **Objectives of the Training:**

1. Retool and Upskill unemployed or enterprising community members with various creativity and innovation skills; the co-creative design process approach; basic metalworking ; basic woodworking, basic screen printing skills; basic aluminum casting; basic PVC working skills; basic electric circuit assembly; and basic soldering skills.
2. Connect, Train and start building a network of grassroots community innovators in the East Coast of New Zealand starting with innovators from Tolaga Bay, Wairoa and Ruatoria.
3. Build interest and assess the level of interest in the community members to address their own livelihood challenges through appropriate technology and community business solutions.
4. Do a needs assessment for a potential Creative Capacity Building Workshop and International Development Design Summit (IDDS) in New Zealand and in Oceania respectively.
5. Assemble and start building a local team of organizers for a potential IDDS Indigenous People Summit 2024 (2 weeks) and IDDS Aotearoa Summit 2025 (4 weeks) in Tolaga Bay, New Zealand.

**Participant List:**

1. Jessie Thatcher – F
2. Amber D’Arcy – F
3. Whitu Mikara – M
4. Mate Hore- F
5. Matene Maraki - M
6. Lisa Beach- F
7. Renata Fox-Haerewa - M
8. Ronald Tuapawa- M
9. April Marino- F
10. Storm James -M
11. Marylee Smyth- F
12. Wipere Maclibbon- M



Lead Instructor Amy B Smith with Lead Organizer and Design Facilitator Thabiso Mashaba

**Workshop Daily Schedule**

**Tolaga Bay Skills Builder Workshop Schedule  
Sunday 17th December to Friday 22nd December 2023**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Introductions	Morning Circle	Morning Circle	Morning Circle	Morning Circle	Morning Circle
Nametags	Bench Hooks	PVC Pump Casting	Silkscreen Frame	Silkscreen Printing	LED Stars/trees
Morning Circle Mats	Hot Wire Cutter	Aluminum Casting Closing	Silkscreen Design	Potato Slicers	IDDS conversation
	Closing		Aluminum Casting Closing	Closing	Showcase and Certificate Awarding Closing

**Day 1: Introductions; Name Tags; Morning Circle Mats (Sunday 17th December 2023)**



Participants and facilitators during the Welcome Session at the Tolaga Bay Innovation Tech Hub



Tolaga Bay Inn, Tolaga Bay Innovation and Tolaga Bay Inn Charitable Trust Managing Director Lily Stender Welcoming Participants and Lead Instructor to Tolaga Bay, The Tolaga Bay Inn and the Workshop.



Lead Instructor Amy B Smith introducing herself to the participants and hosts.



Participants introducing themselves to the hosts and instructors.



Lead Instructor Amy B Smith led and guided participants on how to make name tags.



Lead Organizer and Design Facilitator Thabiso Mashaba led and guided participants to make Morning Circle Mats.



**Day 2: Morning Circle; Bench Hooks; Hot Wire Foam Cutter(Monday 18th December 2023)**



Participants and Instructors during the first Morning Circle at the Uawa Rugby Club

Morning Circle is a 30 minute process used to build new connections, create a daily safe space and plan for each day together. It is a great tool for supporting communities to work together and co-create appropriate solutions together. It follows the following order, morning circle leaders, usually 2 at the most, are encouraged to be creative in what they do in each section.

Introductions	An opportunity for the leaders of morning circle to present themselves and share a little about their culture and what they have in common with each other.
Interactions	A time to get up and move around and interact with each other
Appreciations	A chance to share things we are grateful for and/or appreciate each other
Problems & Solutions	An opportunity to discuss issues that affect the group and to come up with solutions together... no problem is too big or small
Hopes & Dreams	A chance to share our visions for the future, so that we can inspire and help each other
Announcements	An opportunity to share information that we all need to know
Closing	A time to wrap things up



Lead Instructor Amy B Smith Introducing and demonstrating the Multipurpose Benchhook and Hotwire Foam Cutter to Participants.



Participants doing some basic woodworking making their own multipurpose bench hooks.



Lead Organizer and Design Facilitator Thabiso Mashaba supporting participants to make own their hotwire foam cutters



Proud participants after making their multipurpose bench hooks and hot wire foam cutters.

**Day 3: Morning Circle: Casting: PVC Water Pump (Tuesday 19th December 2023)**



Participants and Instructors during the second Morning Circle at the Uawa Rugby Club



Lead Instructor Amy B Smith guiding participants on how to make an aluminum casting box



Participants doing some basic woodworking to make their own aluminum casting boxes



Some of the Final aluminum casting boxes made by participants



Participants cutting out their shapes to ready them for casting



Lead instructor Amy B Smith leading and guiding participants to work with pvc to make their own water pumps

**Day 4: Morning Circle; Silk Screen Frame; Silk Screen Design; Aluminum Casting continued (Wednesday 20th December 2023)**



Participants being introduced to basic skill screen printing and guided on how to make their own silk screen frames and design their own silk screen printers





Lead Instructor Amy B Smith introducing and guiding Participants through an Aluminum Casting session at the Uawa Beach.

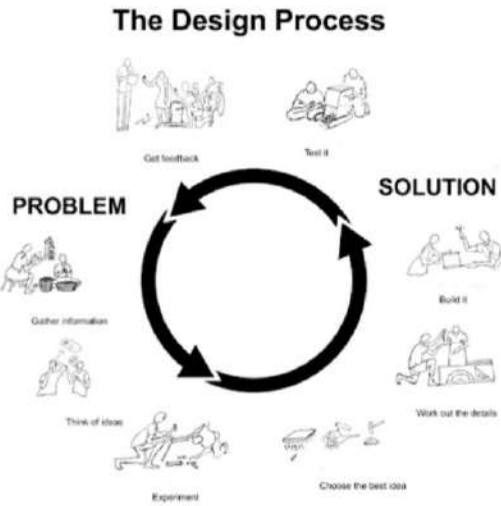


Sample of an aluminum casted maui's hook piece made by one of the participants

**Day 5: Morning Circle; Silk Screen Printing; Potato Slicers (Thursday 21st December 2023)**



Participants were guided how to use their screen printers to print various designs on tea towels and even their clothing items



Participants were introduced to the Co-Creative Design Process as a tool for grassroots community technological development and empowerment through a Potato Slicer Project Case Study from Uganda



Participants were put into teams and given a design challenge in teams to come up with their own potato slicers that can help them with slicing potatoes at home or at the maraes.



Participants came up with different designs and prototypes and showcased them to the rest of the group for any feedback



Participants put their new potato slicers to the test by making potato chips/fries which were shared by everyone as an afternoon snack

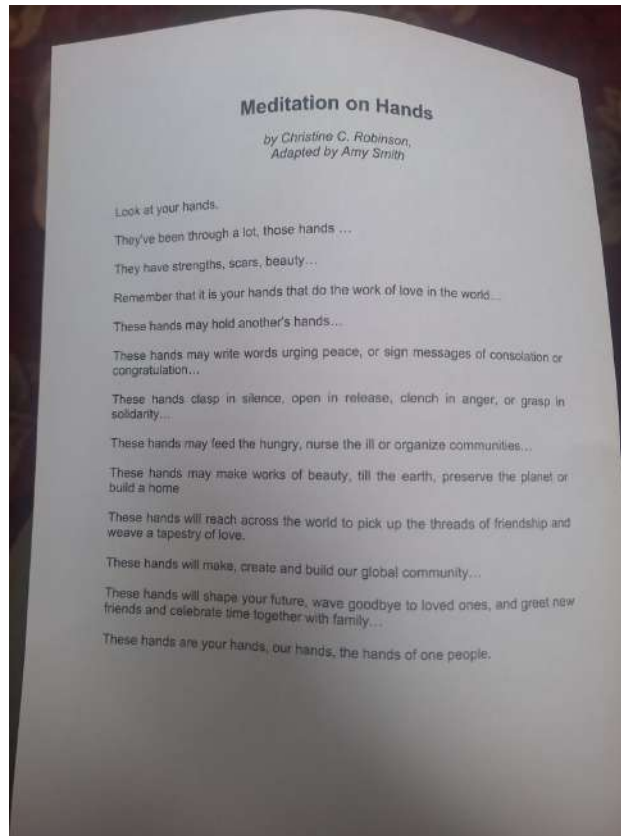
**Day 6: Morning Circle; LED Stars/Trees; IDDS Conversation; Showcase and Certificate Awarding (Friday 22nd December 2023)**



The last Morning Circle at the Tolaga Bay Wharf



Participants were introduced to basic soldering and guided to assemble a basic circuit and solder it to make Christmas Trees and Stars powered by a battery



Lead Organizer and Design Facilitator Thabiso Mashaba and Lead Instructor Amy B Smith welcoming everyone to the Showcase and Certificate Awarding Ceremony with a These Hands Poem. They also introduced IDDS; gathered interest for hosting an IDDS summit in the East Coast from the community members and participants; how it would look like; when it would be ideal to host it; and the type of projects the community members would like to work on or challenges they will address.





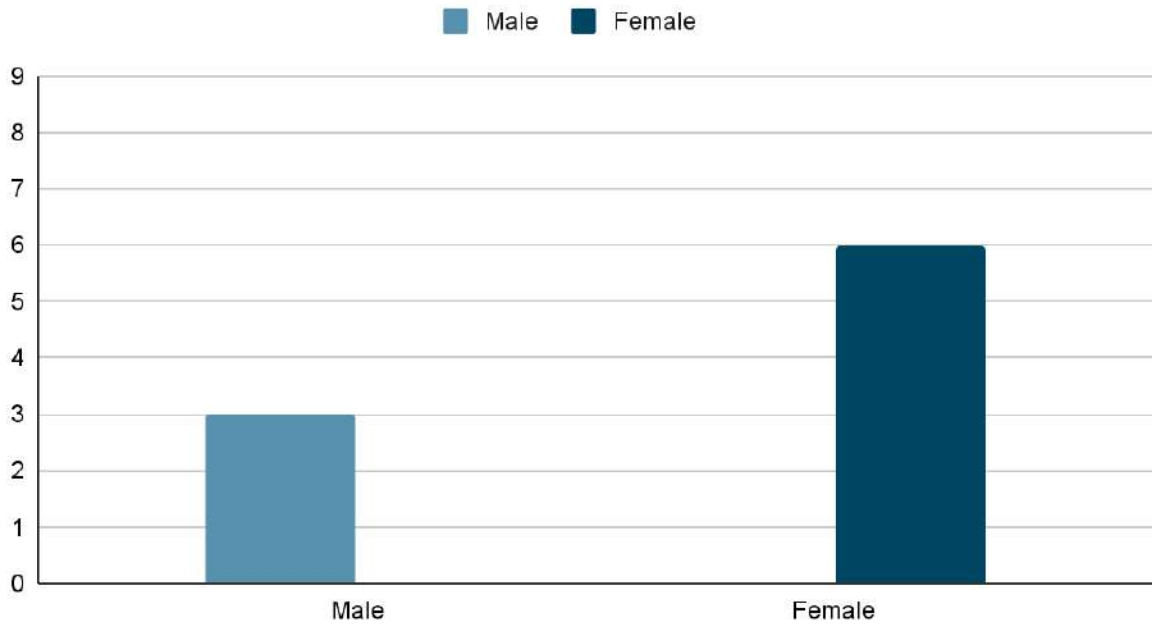


Proud participants receiving their certificates of completion from the Lead Organizer and Lead Instructor of the 6 day skills builder training workshop

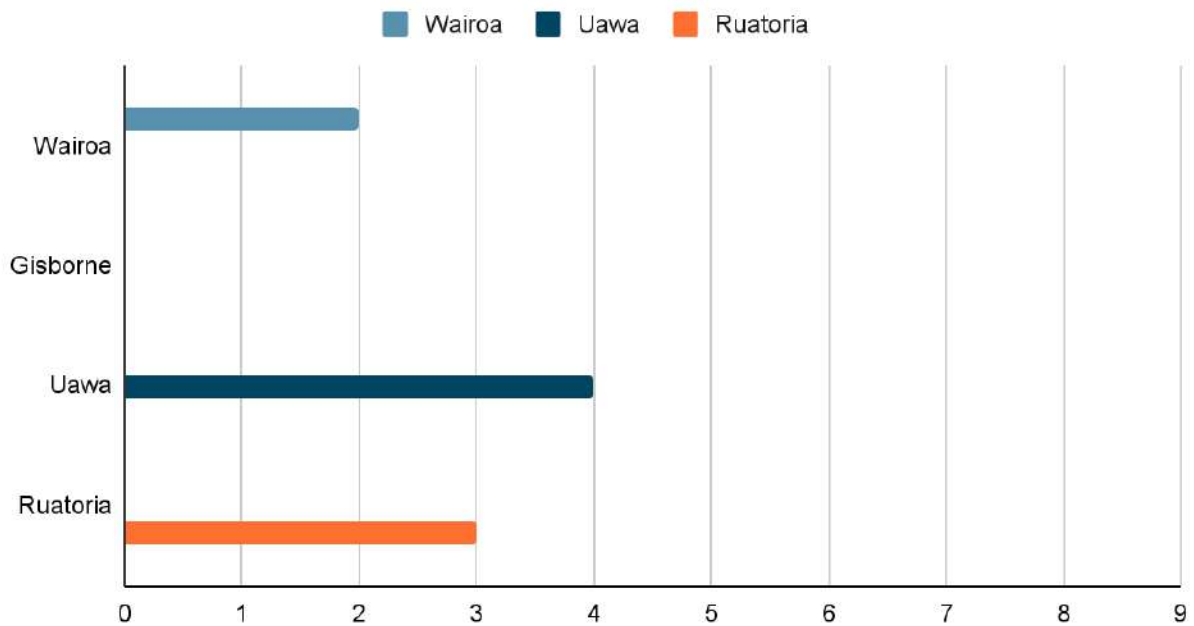
## EVALUATION REPORT

Below are results of a post training survey taken by 9 of our 12 Participants on the 22nd of December 2023.

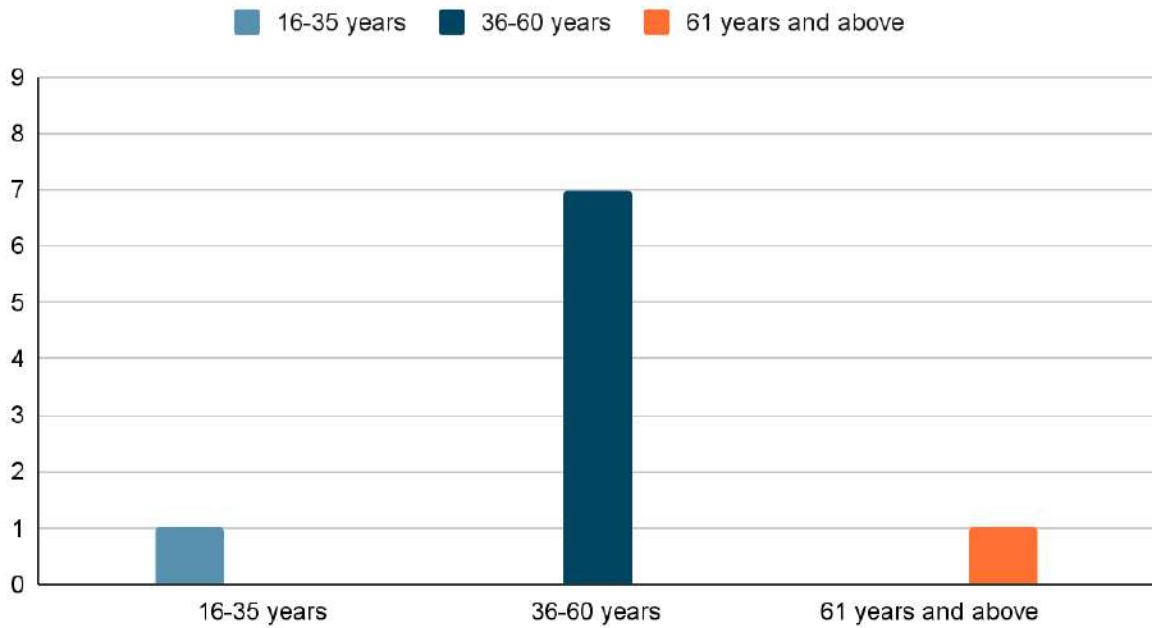
What is your Gender? (Circle the best answer)



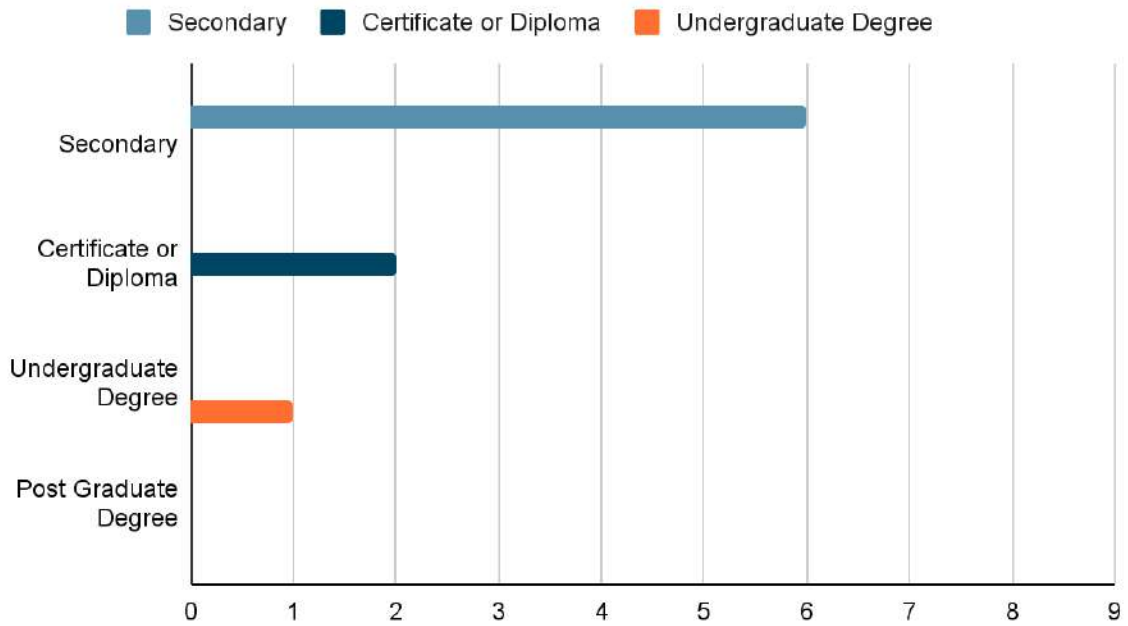
Where do you reside? (Circle the best answer)



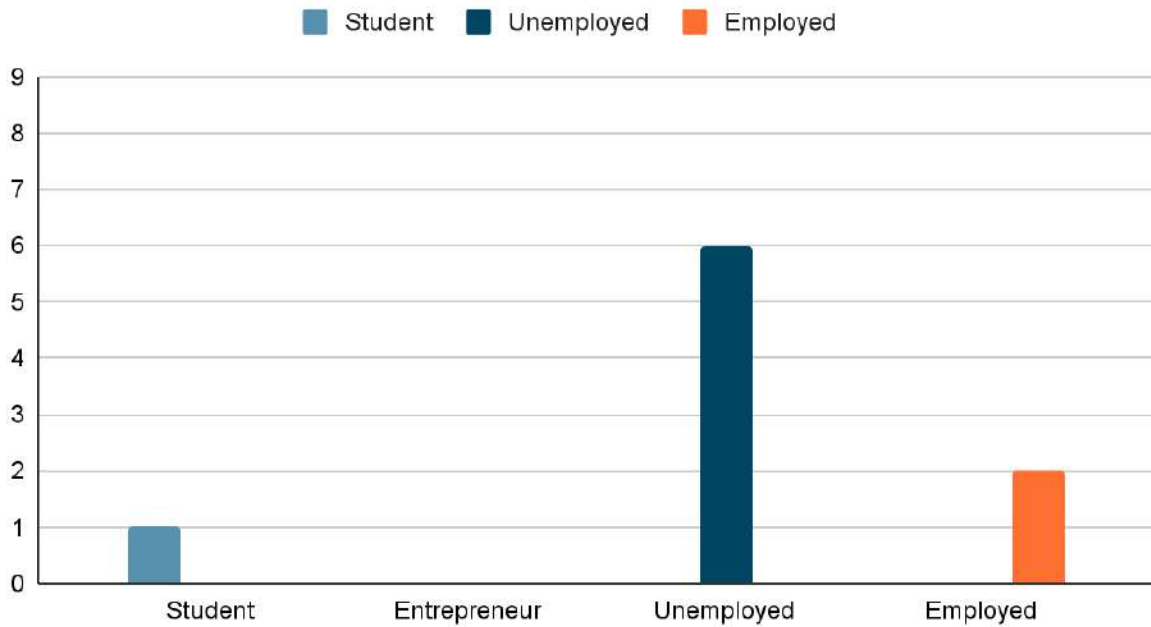
### What is your age range? (Circle the best answer)



### What is your educational level? (Circle the best answer)

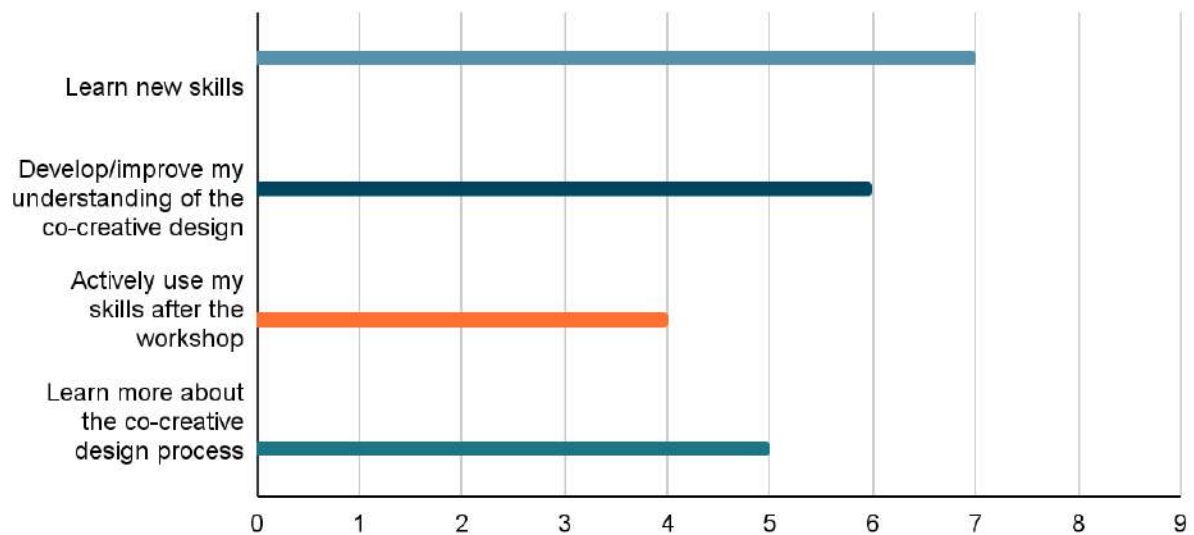


## What is your profession? (Circle the best answer)

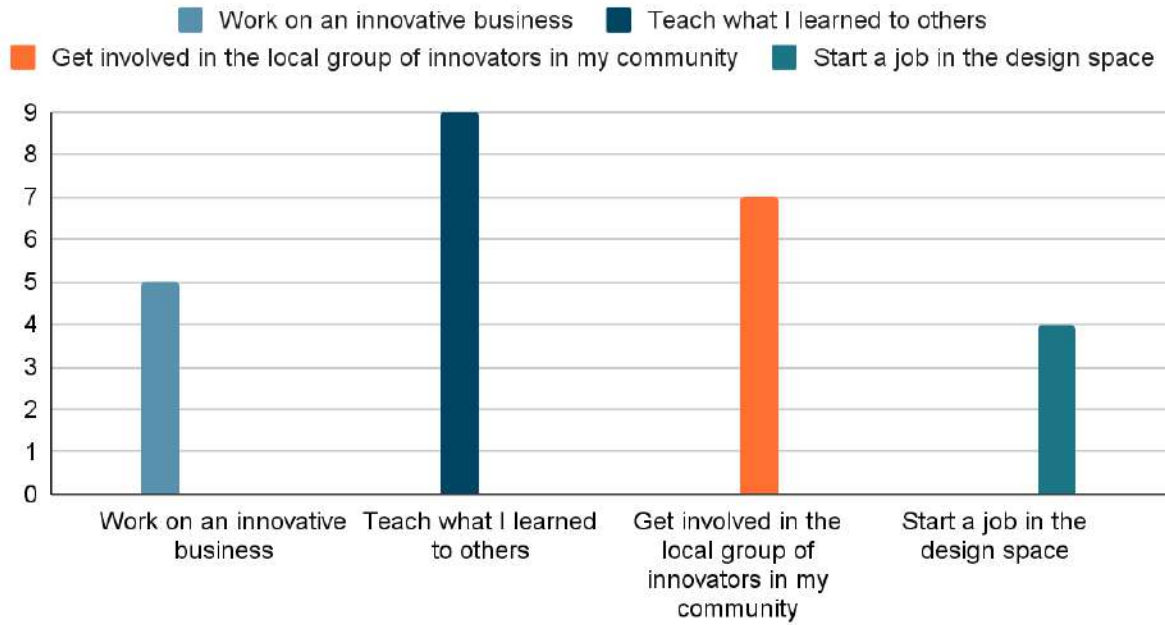


## What are your short term goals? (Circle all that apply)

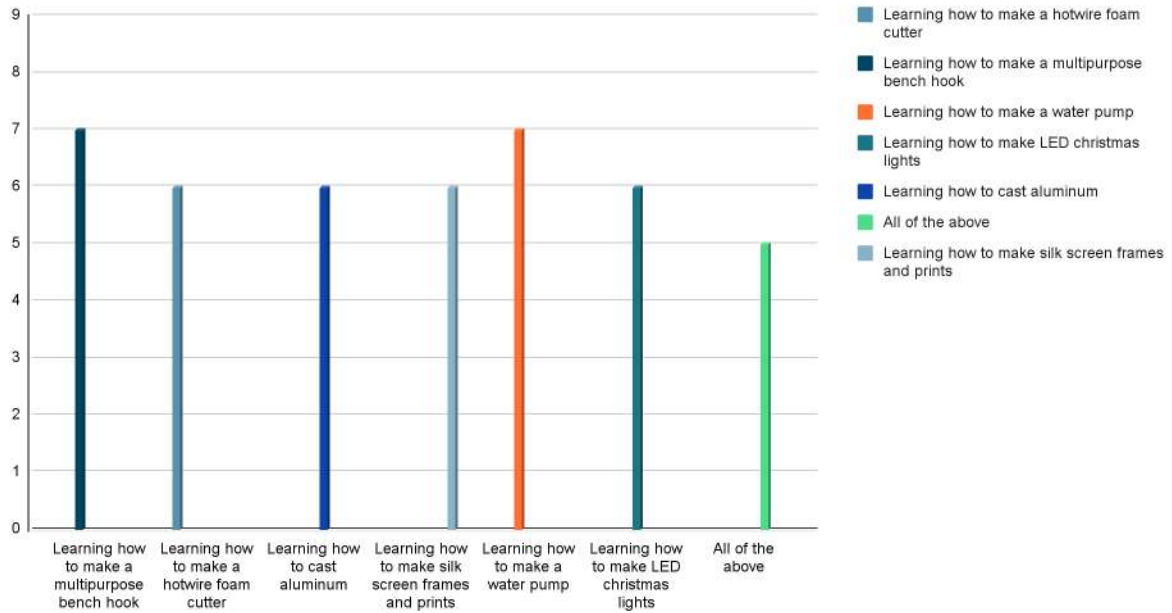
- Learn new skills
- Develop/improve my understanding of the co-creative design process
- Actively use my skills after the workshop
- Learn more about the co-creative design process



## What are your long-term goals? (Circle all that apply)

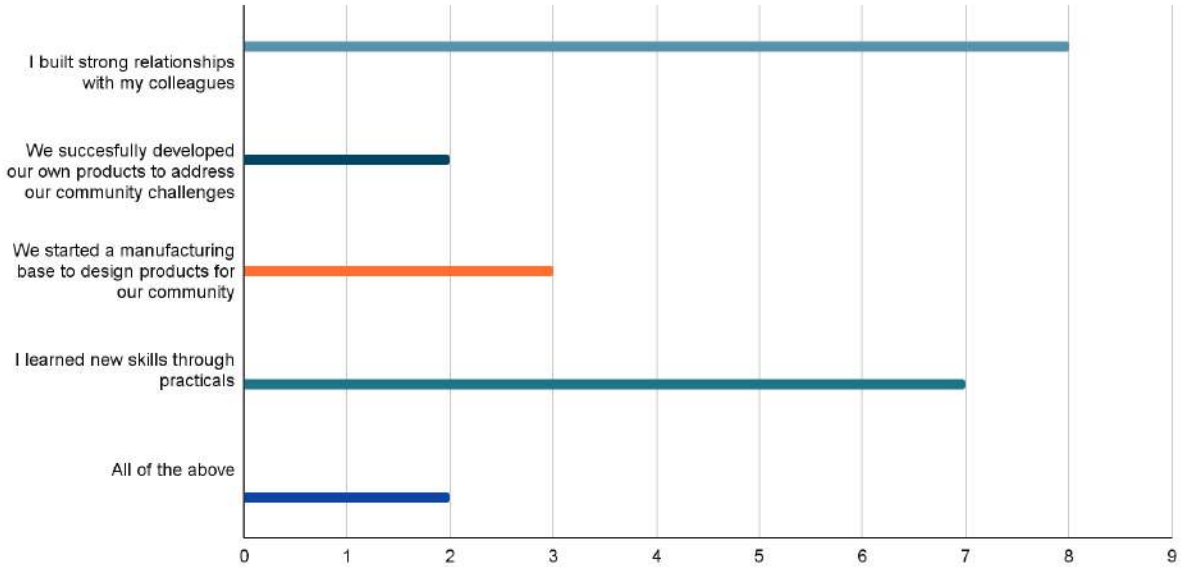


## What was your favourite topic? (Circle your top 3)

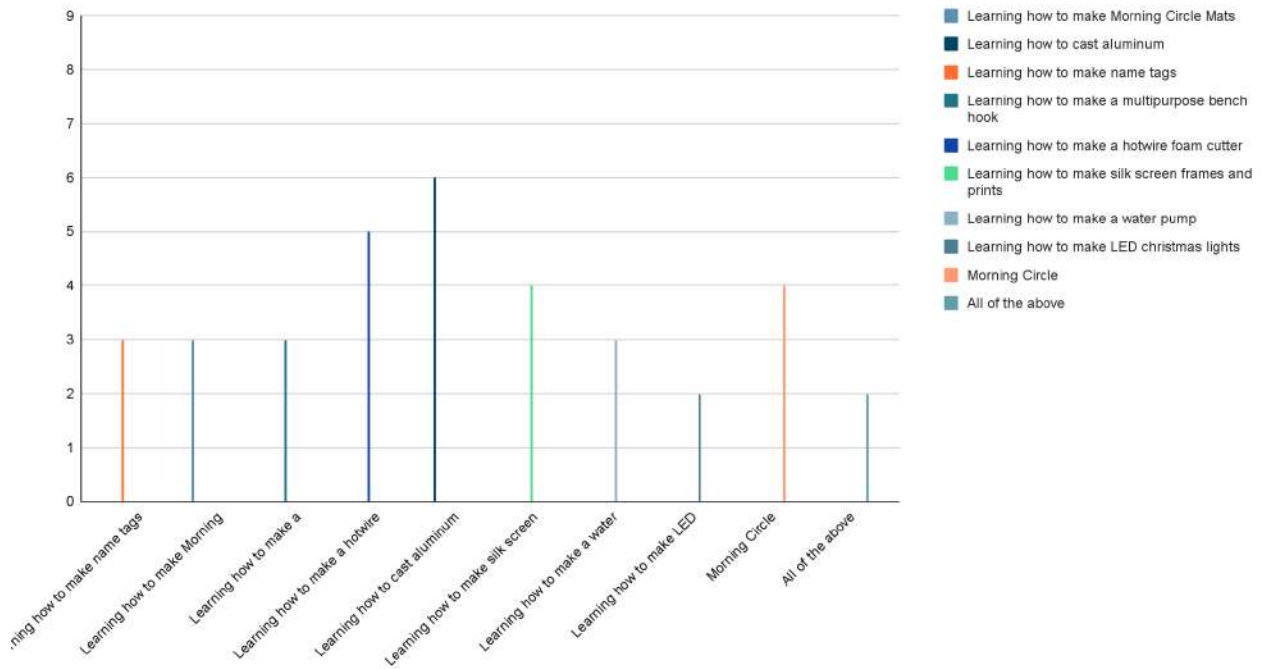


To me the skills builder workshop was a success because: (Choose 2)

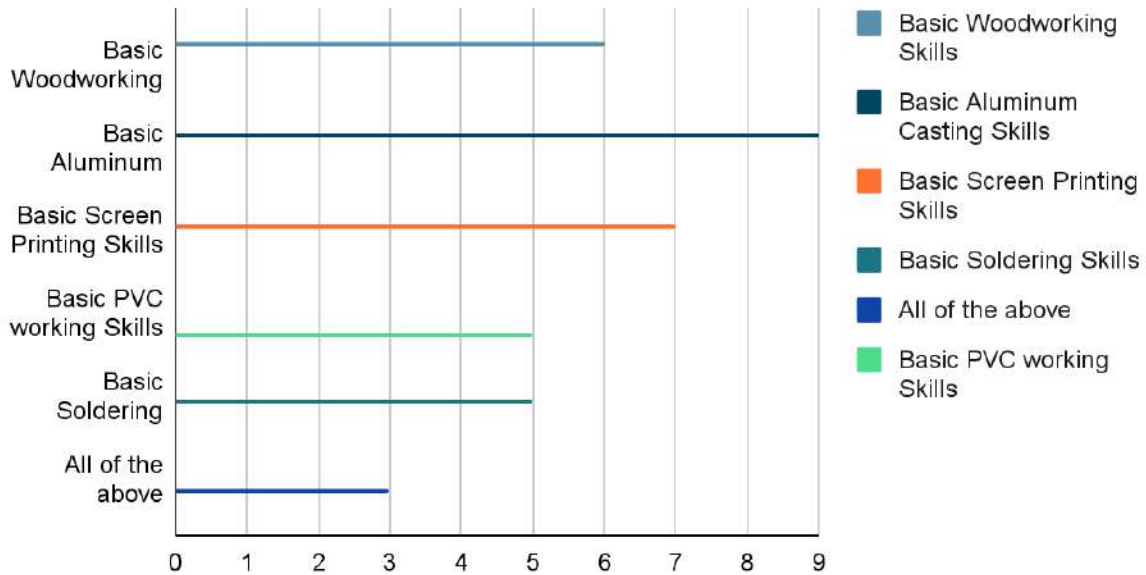
- I built strong relationships with my colleagues
- We successfully developed our own products to address our community challenges
- We started a manufacturing base to design products for our community
- I learned new skills through practicals
- All of the above



What was your favourite moment of the 6 days? (Circle your top 3)

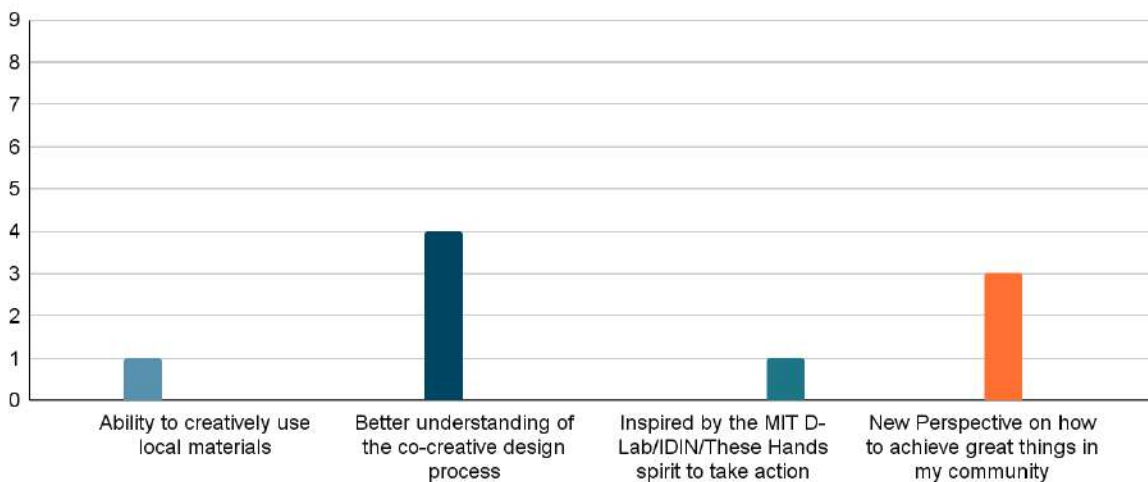


What skills have you gained as a result of participating in the training in 6 days? (Choose 3)



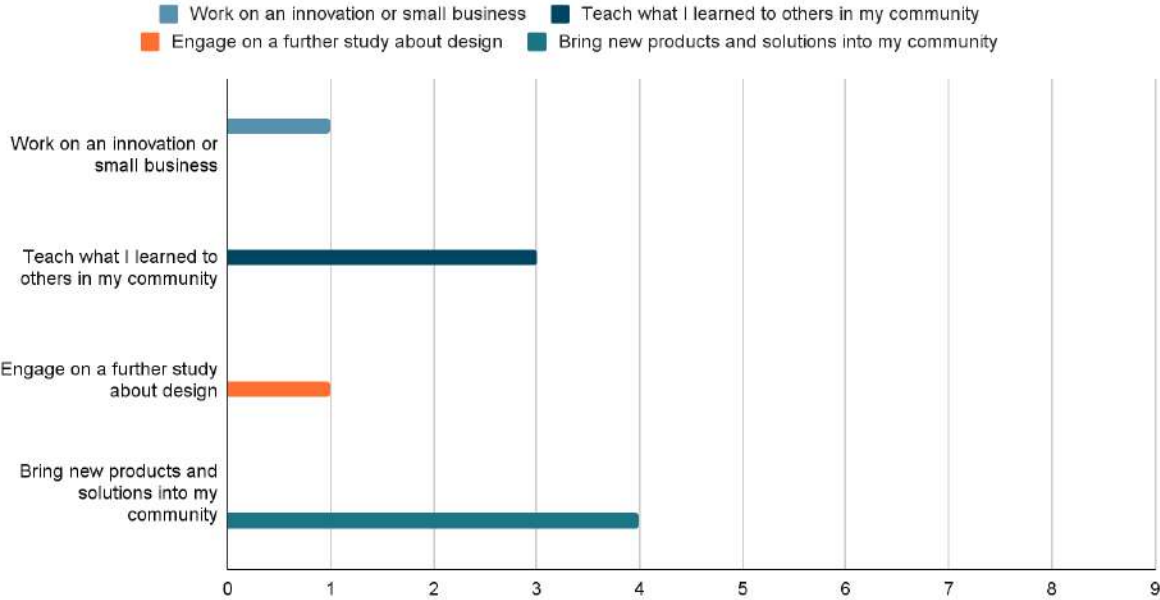
How has your attitude changed as a result of participating in the skills builder workshop in the 6 days? (Circle the best answer)

- Ability to creatively use local materials
- Better understanding of the co-creative design process
- New Perspective on how to achieve great things in my community
- Inspired by the MIT D-Lab/IDIN/These Hands spirit to take action





Now that you have completed the skills builder workshop, what are your goals for the next 6 months? (Choose the best answer)



How do you plan to continue working on your skills builder project in the future? (Circle the best answer)



## RESEARCH REPORT

1. We explored the level of interest and available skills across the 3 communities (Tolaga Bay, Wairoa and Ruatoria) of the East Coast in addressing their own livelihood challenges through appropriate technology solutions and community businesses.

There is a high interest from the community members to explore and come up with solutions to address their own livelihood challenges and carve their own development pathways that can sustain them and others within their communities and across the East Coast.

There are varying skill sets, skill set levels and commitment levels amongst the community members to engage and address their own challenges using locally available materials, the existing skill sets and their indigenous knowledge systems.

2. We explored and tested the capacity and logistics of Tolaga Bay, New Zealand as a central location to potentially host a Creative Capacity Building Workshop and International Development Design Summits respectively.

We concluded that Tolaga Bay as the gateway into the East Coast is ideal to potentially host a Creative Capacity Building Workshop and International Development Design Summits respectively as a central location.

It has a health center; police station; a fire station; 1 filling station; small grocery stores; cooks cave and hiking trail; several Marae which have accommodation space; the Tolaga bay wharf; The Tolaga Bay Inn which has accommodation space, a food catering service; a kitchen, internet and computer facilities; a community innovation center with basic tools, materials, a co-working space and business development services; two 16 seater vans (Combis); and a pub.

All community members are resourceful and skilled;and welcoming to new ideas, concepts, cultures and people.

They are proud and deeply rooted in their Te Maori culture but can all speak and understand English and are open to learning from other cultures if this does not take away from their culture but adds on.

They are open to teaching people about their Te Maori heritage and indigenous knowledge systems including their Te Reo Maori Language.

Tolaga Bay is a 30 minutes drive away from Gisborne which has the nearest airport, a bigger hospital, hardware stores and bigger shops. It is 1 hour 30 minutes away from Wairoa and 1 hour away from Ruatoria.

There is however no public transport across the East Coast. So traveling across the East Coast can be challenging if one does not have access to transport.

3. We had a deep conversation and explored potential problem areas and projects that the community members would like to tackle or develop as solutions to these challenges.

Besides the challenges brought about by Cyclones Hale and Gabriel like Slash from the Forestry Fields; Silt from the rivers; Soil erosion and land degradation caused by flooding and clear felling in the forestry fields; and biodiversity loss due to bad forestry practices.

Some of the pertinent challenges in the East Coast are around Limited Revenue Streams; Nature Restoration; Sustainable Food Production; Agricultural Processing; Clean Energy Production; Waste and Sanitation Management ; Sustainable Housing; Trauma and Mental Health; the Digital Divide; Access to Clean Water and Ocean Life Protection.

Some of the potential opportunities in the East Coast are around Alternative Food Production and Farming Methods; Nutrient Restoration; Alternative, cheap and reliable energy sources; Earth Building; Food Production as an alternative economic driver away from the dominant forestry industry; Aqua Farming as an alternative economic driver; Culture, Crafts and IKS as alternative economic drivers; Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Solutions as alternative economic drivers; Hardware Technology Solutions as alternative economic drivers; Mental Health and Life-skills Programs for the Youth and Elderly.

## **LEARNING REPORT**

1. There is a demand for our hands-on training in the East Coast Communities.
2. All our participants see the opportunity that lies in retooling and upskilling them in order to address their own livelihood challenges as having the potential to generate income for them through employment opportunities that will come out of their projects.
3. Most of our participants would like to teach what they learned from the training to other people in their communities.
4. Some of our participants enjoyed bonding with other participants using Morning Circle and the co-creative design process approach
5. Most of our participants are keen to explore how they can join the These Hands NZ team and work on supporting their communities to explore coming up with their own solutions to their immediate livelihood challenges.
6. Our unemployed participants are keen to attend such training workshops that are relevant to them addressing their community challenges.
7. The Uawa Rugby Club is an ideal training venue as it has sufficient space and amenities.
8. Tolaga Bay Inn is the best accommodation option for the upcoming CCB and IDDS summits versus the Marae's to avoid any hiccups incase of any Tangi's as we experienced during this training.
9. All our participants are keen on supporting the hosting of a Creative Capacity Building Workshop and IDDS in their communities.

## **Media Coverage**

1. <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2023/12/how-a-botswana-man-is-clearing-east-coast-cyclone-slash-and-creating-jobs.html>

This interview shows the value of how an ACE course can evolve into a project and consequently a community business that addresses local grassroots community challenges and can potentially create employment.

## **NEXT STEPS**

1. Host a skills builder training through EIT ACE program to teach 10 community members in Tolaga Bay how to make LED Torches and Wooden Block Cell Phone Chargers at the end of January 2024 or beginning of February 2024.
2. Host a [creative capacity building workshop](#) in Tolaga Bay for 15 people (5 from Tolaga Bay, 5 from Wairoa, and 5 from Ruatoria) in order for them to work together, apply the co-creative design process, their inert skills, indigenous knowledge systems and locally available resources to address 3 livelihood challenges and co-create 3 working technology/product prototypes that they can develop further into community businesses.
3. Bid to the [International Development Innovation Network \(IDIN\) Global Steering Committee](#) to host the [International Development Design Summit \(IDDS\)](#) Indigenous People Summit in Tolaga Bay in September or October 2024 for 2 weeks.
4. Host the [International Development Design Summit \(IDDS\)](#) Indigenous People 2024 with 24 participants (Indigenous People from New Zealand; Indigenous People from across the world; other individuals interested in addressing livelihood challenges of indigenous people from New Zealand and across the world) to co-create appropriate technology/product solutions that will empower these communities to address their own livelihood challenges and explore setting up community businesses around these technologies/products in New Zealand and their respective countries.
5. Incubate and start supporting the development of the projects that come out of the 2024 summit until they go to market. To be supported by These Hands NZ, Tolaga Bay Innovation, the International Development Innovation Network, EHF and EHF Fellows.
6. Bid to the [International Development Innovation Network \(IDIN\) Global Steering Committee](#) to host the [International Development Design Summit \(IDDS\)](#) Aotearoa Summit in Tolaga Bay in September or October 2025 for 4 weeks.
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8. Incubate and start supporting the development of the projects that come out of the 2025 summit until they go to market. To be supported by These Hands NZ, Tolaga Bay Innovation, the International Development Innovation Network, EHF and EHF Fellows.

# THANK YOU



# NGA MIHI