



Image:: Mindful Fashion Member Kiri Nathan, NZFW 23: Kahuria | GETTY IMAGES

Welcome to our September Newsletter!

Kia ora members and partners,

I feel like spring is coming, and with it I can feel a more hopeful spirit in the air. This has been buoyed along by momentum starting to build with some of our **industry advocacy** work, and with our involvement in two recent forums; the evolution of **NZ Fashion week** with its new focus on inclusivity and sustainability, and the Auckland Climate Festival and its calendar of uplifting and engaging climate solutions and activations.

Last week we explored the future of fashion in Aotearoa at our panel discussion **Unlocking a Circular Fashion Future**, as part of the Auckland Climate Festival and NZ Fashion Week. The wide ranging discussion talked about the **challenges and the opportunities** we have here in Aotearoa to build local circular ecosystems at a scale that works for NZ, and also about the need for government policy to catch up and support the industry's call. We are looking to hold a members roundtable in October to explore the challenges and opportunities for businesses at a deeper level. Let me know if this is of interest to you.

It was fantastic to see the range of initiatives that NZFW ran to elevate conversations about responsible engagement with clothing, from panel discussions to repair workshops and more. My

highlights included Kiri Nathan opening the event with a captivating show as the first Māori designer to do so, Kate Sylvester celebrating its 30th anniversary with a catwalk show featuring a backdrop of card patterns, and next gen designers such as Nicole van Vuurven and Sandra Tupu from Flying Fox - both members of Mindful Fashion - showing a strong focus on sustainable materials and practices.

Hanga Aro Rau are due to start **reviewing the machinist qualifications** in October and are seeking industry professionals to share their expertise and knowledge to help us develop new industry qualifications. See more below and get in touch if you can help, **we need industry involved** in this for it to progress!

Do you manufacture in NZ? We've been told of a recent change of ACC classification codes with some businesses. If this has affected your business please let me know, and we can determine if there is an opportunity for Mindful Fashion to submit to ACC during their next code review cycle.

I'm attending a WeCreate Hui focussed on the **impact of AI** on the creative industries. As a representative of the fashion industry i'm keen to hear from members about your views and experience on this emerging challenge, and will report back next month on what was discussed.

We are in the planning stages for our inaugural Circular Design Award event happening at the end of November and are excited about presenting this **celebration of creativity and innovation** to our fashion and textiles community. Watch this space, as we will announce when tickets are on sale for this exciting launch.

Thanks to those members who participated in our **Membership Satisfaction survey**, we're analysing the responses and will be sharing the results with you in next month's newsletter. If you missed out and would like to have your say, you can do that [here](#) .

Lastly, a reminder you can **watch all our seminars and workshops** on demand on the events section of our website, where there is a link to the recorded sessions on [each event page](#).

I'm excited about continuing to build on our platform with you to advance an innovative, full-circle and thriving future for New Zealand's fashion and textile industry. Reach out if you want to chat, and I look forward to continuing this journey together.

Mā te wā,

Jacinta

Welcome New Members!

[Toby etc.](#)

Design and brand strategy business providing services for a wide range of clients, and brand ambassador for Campaign for Wool.

[Flying Fox Clothing](#)

Menswear brand from designer Sandra Tupu that utilises natural fibres and recycled elements.

Help us review Machinist Qualifications!

Your industry expertise is needed to develop a new pathway for sewing machinists.

Hanga-Aro-Rau is seeking industry professionals in the apparel manufacturing industry to share their expertise and knowledge to help us develop new industry qualifications.

We need industry experts to give feedback on developing a new micro-credential entry pathway for sewing machinists and review the existing apparel and fashion technology (Garment-making) qualifications. Your voice will **help ensure these qualifications are fit for your industry** use now and in the future.

Hanga-Aro-Rau is the Workforce Development Council for Manufacturing, Engineering and Logistics and has been **working with the apparel manufacturing sector and Mindful Fashion** to understand its needs. The result is this project to develop a new qualification pathway for sewing machinists across industry. This will be developed alongside a review of the existing qualifications and standards.

If you or someone in your network would like to join this review and development mahi, please email Kieran Ormandy, Industry Manager for Apparel Manufacturing | kieran.ormandy@hangaarorau.nz

Experienced Machinists available

Are you North Shore or West Auckland based, and looking for experienced machinists?

Workwear Group are closing their manufacturing arm in New Zealand effective 31st October. This will mean a group of experienced sewing machinists will be available for alternative employment. A Flexi

Wage subsidy may be available (subject to a few conditions) to any company should they wish to offer employment to any of these workers. Get in touch with jacinta@mindfulfashion.co.nz

MFNZ at NZ Fashion Week:Kahuria

Takeaways from Future Fashion | Unlocking a Circular Fashion Economy in Aotearoa.

Last week we held our dynamic panel discussion during the Auckland Climate Festival and on the official schedule for New Zealand Fashion Week 23:Kahuria.

This discussion brought together voices from across the value chain to discuss innovative **ways that circular fashion systems could take shape in Aotearoa**. While our speakers each brought their unique perspectives, there was alignment on the key challenges and opportunities - that the **value of the industry needs to be honoured**, we need to **think about scale in a different way**, and there is a need for **policy to level the playing field**.

Facing into a climate crisis, the need for systems change is clear. It was great to be able to bring this conversation to a wide and engaged audience at NZ Fashion Week and **build further momentum** for a circular change with the fashion sector in Aotearoa. Read more of our takeaways from the panel [here](#).



Leasing for Commercial and Retail Businesses - Members Event

Our partner **PwC Legal** recently hosted **Mindful Fashion members** at their city offices for a seminar on Leasing for Commercial and Retail businesses. The seminar highlighted some key considerations to be aware of in leasing retail premises, as well as some strategies to help you get the most out of your leasing arrangements.

Topics discussed included:

- What to look for when entering a lease
- Lease security and incentives
- Negotiation strategies
- Management of key dates
- Assignments and subletting
- Tenants' rights when things go wrong

Read a summary of what was discussed [here](#).

In the News

How Sustainable is Fashion Week?



The role of Fashion Week's are evolving due to technology, the rise of fast fashion and the need for more sustainable approaches to production and consumption of clothing. Our Chief Executive Jacinta FitzGerald discusses the responsibility NZFW has to promote responsible fashion in this article exploring the changing nature of the event and expectations from consumers and industry. Read the article [here](#).

Learn and Connect



MINDFUL FASHION NZ
Our clothing & textiles collective

PRESENTS

DUE DILIGENCE IN SUPPLY CHAINS



An online workshop with

Daniel King | Co-founder, The Nature of Business

SEPTEMBER 26th, 2023 | 11.00am - 12.30pm

Due Diligence in Supply Chains with the Nature of Business

September 26 2023 | 11.00 am - 12.30 pm | Online

Come along to this **members event** later this month to learn about **supply chain due diligence** for local and global supply chains; what good due diligence looks like; modern slavery risks; and how proposed modern slavery legislation in New Zealand will impact you. The workshop will share practical tips for members on getting started with risk assessments, and available tools for domestic and overseas markets.

This workshop will be led by due diligence specialist **Daniel King from The Nature of Business.**

[Register to attend here.](#)



Circular Design Award Celebration - Save the Date

November 30, 2023 | 5.30pm - 8.00 pm | Sapphire Room, Ponsonby Central, Auckland

Join us as we present the finalists of the Circular Design Award 2023. This exciting Award presentation event will host the finalists, a prestigious judging panel and industry guests, and will be an evening of recognition and celebration of the entrants and the incredible mahi taken to make each piece and the exploration of circular solutions for fashion and textiles in Aotearoa New Zealand.

[More details to come.](#)

Textile Waste Solutions

Ensure your cut-and-sew textile waste doesn't end up in landfill!

Our **Guide for Reuse and Recycling Pathways for end-of-life Textiles** in New Zealand is a live document that outlines currently available options. We are continuing to add to it as we learn more about the options available across the country. If you know of any that are missing please let us know, we'd love to hear from you. Download the guide [here](#).

Member Spotlights



Zambesi

Zambesi is a family-owned designer label, founded in 1979 by Elisabeth and Neville Findlay. Celebrating its place in the local and global market Zambesi proudly makes its pieces here in Aotearoa New Zealand. Its success is evident through its longevity, and its reputation of producing timeless and wearable collections with a sharp focus on design that evolves from one season into the next.



Nicole van Vuuren

Auckland-based designer Nicole van Vuuren has gained well-deserved recognition as a VIVA Next Gen Designer for her unique collections that repurpose waste textiles. Nicole collects offcuts, remnants and scrap fabrics to make carefully curated and re-contextualised new garments - thereby reducing textile waste within the Auckland region. Each unique piece is made by hand in Nicole's Tāmaki Makaurau studio.

What our Members are Saying

"The newsletters are great! Always a good read. So much good information about the industry - both in NZ and overseas!"

Industry Events

Auckland Climate Festival events to know about

[Natural dyes workshop](#) | Victoria Martinez Azaro

[Is this a Climate Election?](#) | Generation Zero

[Future of our economy, jobs and skills in a changing climate](#) | Climate Connect Aotearoa, Tātaki
Auckland Unlimited, Ara Ake

This Raw Material Exhibition

27 October - 9 December 2023 | Carbon Estate Arts Centre, West Auckland

Mindful Fashion member Liz Mitchell has a free, public exhibition that will feature a collection of her latest work, including a range of felted wool homewares. The exhibition will an interactive space to allow visitors to embrace and explore wool.

Find out more about the Arts Centre and the exhibition [here](#).

Planetary Facts Accounting Network - Online Webinar

12 September 2023 | 12.00pm - 1.00pm | Online

Do you want to undertake an LCA for your products but find them too expensive? Join Kate Meyer from The Planetary Accounting Network (PAN) and B-Corp consultant Tim Jones in this online webinar to learn more about how to participate in an upcoming pilot programme. The pilot is for businesses in the Food and Fibre, Apparel, Cosmetics, or Construction Materials sectors, and includes a Planetary Facts assessment of one or more of their products.

Find out more and register [here](#).

UN Environment - Sustainable Fashion Communication Masterclasses

2023 Dates TBC | Online

The Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook is a guide for consumer-facing communicators in the global fashion industry to align efforts to sustainability targets.

Apply to join UNEP in late 2023 for a virtual masterclass covering topics in the Playbook [here](#).

Global Fibre Congress 2023

September 13 - 15 2023 | Dornbirn, Austria

The Dornbirn Global Fibre Congress (GFC) is an innovation platform for global fibre, textile, non-wovens, equipment and engineering. The event includes international speakers connecting the textile value chain, from fibre to end user. Presentations and lectures will include titles such as the digitalisation of textile sorting and the potential of shape memory fibres in 4D textiles.

See more about the event and the programme [here](#).

Industry News

Inside the New Zealand Workrooms Preserving Tradition

New Zealand's clothing and textile industry proudly supports a unique variety of manufacturing hubs across the country. Samantha Murray Greenway from the Press writes "these **hubs of tradition, experience and skill**, our local workrooms are busy **creating clothes worth investing in**. They have a community feel with a respect for old-fashioned quality, an abhorrence of waste and an eye to the future."

Samantha visits three renowned workrooms that employ skilled workers - showcasing the benefits of keeping manufacturing local, and the challenges the industry has faced over the years.

Mindful Fashion member Rachel Mills shares insights and views on **why keeping it local benefits her business** and customers.

"We're not stuck with extra stock or having to guess what's going to sell. It gives us flexibility to trial new styles. We make one sample, photograph it, see what the response is. Weekly orders mean we can be agile and adaptable because everything's done here."

Read the full article [here](#).



Designer Rachel Mills at her workroom in Tāmaki Makaurau | ABIGAIL DOUGHERTY / STUFF

On the Horizon

Pangaia:ReWear | Innovative brand's first step into circular business model

73% of the materials used for clothing worldwide end up in landfill or incinerated. To reduce the impact on our planet, we **need to keep our clothes in circulation** for longer. Pangaia's peer-to-peer service allows customers to buy and sell preloved Pangaia pieces and ultimately aims to keep products in use for many years to come. [See more.](#)

How Traceability Accelerates the Decarbonisation of Supply Chains

64% of Scope 3 carbon emissions come from Tier 2-3 and beyond, over which many brands tend to have little to zero visibility. If you want to decarbonise your company operations beyond organisational, you need to look at the value chain and begin with improving your visibility of suppliers, in order to gather accurate data directly from them. [Learn more.](#)

Mā te wā,

The Mindful Fashion Team



Our work is possible with the support and collaboration of businesses across our network, including the following:



Mindful Fashion New Zealand

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