



PRESS RELEASE

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Repair the World – StGiles Leader

StGiles assistive technology and seating technician Shaun Lyall recently took part in an Israeli project with the ambitious aim to `repair the world` at Melbourne's Swinburn Factory of the Future.

The Tikkun Olam Makers Makeathon, puts `need knowers` (client) with `makers` at makeathon events globally.

It was the first such event held in Australia with previous TOMs in Barcelona, New York, Ho Chi Minh City, Tel Aviv and San Francisco.

"TOM: Tikkun Olam Makers is a global movement bringing together people with disabilities and Makers to develop open source assistive technology to address everyday challenges. During the 72 hour makeathon we developed hardware and software product prototypes designed to meet needs that people with disabilities identify are important to them. By bringing together people who understand the needs ('need-knowers') alongside engineers, designers, developers and makers, and providing a space for innovation and prototyping, we will create solutions, make new connections and share unique experiences."

Their solutions are put, copyright free, onto an open-source data base for anyone, anywhere to access.

Mr Lyall's group challenge was for a 90kg, 20-year old-male with a range of physical disabilities who wanted a seat incorporated into his crutches. The group was comprised of bio-medical, software and materials engineers.

"He didn't want a walking frame and he didn't want a wheelchair," Mr Lyall said.

"He wanted to incorporate a seat so he could sit down when he gets tired."

The solution was a canvas sling that expands out of the crutches, with rear support legs which work like a ladder, providing six points of support.

Mr Lyall is a member of StGiles SEMAT team and is based in Launceston, but works with clients all-ages statewide.

"The positive impact of this experience will be felt here and globally," StGiles Chief Executive Ian Wright said.

"StGiles could not have participated without the philanthropic vision of the Commercial Travellers Association of Tasmania who earlier this year made a significant donation towards innovation and development projects at StGiles.

"This is among a suite of projects funded by the CTA that offers extraordinary potential for our delivery of progressive and relevant services to Tasmanians living with disability," he said.

ENDS.