

## Michelle Power

*Wren and Mabel*



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Michelle Power set up her business offering classes in sewing and crafting in October 2022. Since then, the Navan-based entrepreneur has trained hundreds of people around Meath and neighbouring counties Louth and Cavan in the art of salvaging clothing and furniture that would otherwise be discarded.

A graduate of the Grafton Academy, Michelle cut short her career in the fashion industry after becoming disillusioned with its culture of waste and lack of environmental regard. A move into eco-tourism sparked her interest in investing her own skills in sustainability.

“I really didn’t like what I saw when I worked in fast fashion, so I set up Wren and Mabel to counter the culture the industry promotes. In my workshops, I teach people to sew and repair clothes and other household items. So far, I’ve hosted more than 400 people and the numbers are growing as people become more aware of the circular economy and the impact of certain brands on the climate and biodiversity,” she says.

As she prepares to begin construction on a new studio at her home, Michelle says her long-term goal is to develop her own Wren and Mabel fashion label, with items produced in Ireland and made wholly from Irish linen.

“The studio will be a great addition because it will help me to plan more online sewing tutorials and also give me the space to begin organising drafting patterns for dresses that I can sell online,” says Michelle.

She continues: “ACORNS helped me slow down. With small kids, it was unrealistic that I would jump straight into creating a clothing range, with everything that would involve. I realised that I could take the first step now and didn’t have to do it all right away. I would recommend the programme anyone.”

***Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.***



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