



BAEBAO



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• CRAFT/PROFESSION

Mélissa SALLELES makes natural soaps, using methods in line with her zero waste principles. Everything she makes is handmade in her workshop. Mélissa is an adept of traditional cold saponification, a method which involves no heating of essential oils, thus preserving their moisturising properties. Her range of cleansing products includes soaps for face and body, solid toothpastes, household soaps, shampoos and shaving soaps...

She concocts her soaps using only seasonal local ingredients, 100% pure and natural (coconut, gaïac, niaouli, mint, rosemary, green clay, banana...). Mélissa is committed to minimising any environmental impact from her activity.

She bought her equipment, mixer and blender, second-hand, and she built her own soap curing cabinet using pallet wood and repurposed refrigerator racks. Mélissa has achieved the type of environmentally responsible business model we should all aim for!

• BACKGROUND

Mélissa was driven to set up her craft business by her fierce desire to be creative and to make enough money to live full-time from the proceeds of her creativity.

The idea took shape in 2017 when she began making her own skincare products with the aim of reducing waste in her own home. In 2018, Mélissa became one of the founding members of the NC zero waste association, dedicated to raising local awareness about reducing waste. Meanwhile, she was also leading zero waste workshops as part of her association work.

• INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

“We can do such a lot of new and inventive things with our local products. We need to share our thoughts and pool our ideas, that’s what motivates me every day” explains Mélissa. So she keeps in touch with other New Caledonian craftspeople to encourage collaborations in designing ceramic soap dishes, recycled fabric bags and biodegradable sisal nets. Mélissa is never short of ideas to pioneer new looks for local products, to wit: her raspberry or ambarella soaps... genius!