

Acorn is so Racc'moder

*A tree lost in Storm Ciarán has found a new purpose thanks to a collaboration between local organisations, with its timber transformed into handcrafted café tables that support skills, sustainability and social inclusion*

Racc'moder. It's a word from Jèrriais which means 'to mend, make new, revive, or bring back to life'.

It is also the name of a social enterprise set up by Xanthe Hamilton to explore innovative uses for fallen timber from Storm Ciarán.

And now the word is appearing on new tables at Cooper & Co, crafted from a Macrocarpa tree that fell on private land in St Martin during the storm and processed by the Acorn Woodshack.

The timber crafted from a Macrocarpa, which fell on private land in St Martin. David Warr from Cooper & Co explained: 'Macrocarpa is a hardy cypress native to Monterey, California. It is a magnificent species, capable of living for more than 200 years. Sadly, the life of this tree was cut short by Storm Ciarán on the night of 4 November 2023. It was one of thousands of trees felled across the Island. But in its death, a new chapter began.'

Having heard about Racc'moder, David ordered 17 new tabletops for his café at Castle Quay.

The roughly cut slabs were sanded, bevelled, oiled and varnished at Acorn's Woodshack before a laser-cut inscription was added, telling the story of the tree.



'Years of exposure to the elements had turned the outer wood a dull silver, but hidden within the trunk was extraordinary beauty,' David said. 'As each plank emerged from the saw, the excitement became impossible to ignore. We knew immediately that this was something special.'

'A magnificent tree has been immortalised in a table. Everything about this table is local, it encourages skills, builds resilience in the economy, and raises awareness.'

Xanthe added: 'Acorn Woodshack have been an amazing partner. David Senior is an incredibly talented craftsman, and it's been a



real pleasure to work with him and bring his skills and experience into the project. There's also a wider impact to the project, as by working with Acorn we're able to support their broader aims of providing meaningful work, training and development opportunities for Islanders with a disability or long-term health condition. It's a really good example of how local organisations can work together and create value beyond the project itself.'



David Senior said: 'It's been an interesting and beautiful journey. Several coats of diamond-hard varnish have revealed beautiful grain, some of which resembles marble, clouds, water currents and even close-ups of the planet Saturn. Each tabletop is unique. The Japanese have a term for it, *wabi-sabi*, finding quiet beauty in natural, unrepeatable patterns.'

There are two further benefits from the project. Now that Racc'moder has its own portable timber mill, it will take its sawdust and wood shavings to the Woodshack to make into briquettes, an environmentally friendly fuel that can be sold to generate income.

And the next step? The table tops that are being replaced at Coopers will be donated back to Acorn.

Ian Florence added: 'The Woodshack is very much about producing things from waste, so I love the theme of Racc'moder and the story of using timber from Storm Ciarán and giving it a new life.'

In fact, Xanthe said, Racc'moder also happens to be a word that could apply to Acorn Enterprises.

'It's so Racc'moder, Acorn,' she said.