

LES PETITS PLUS DE LEKA



• CRAFT/PROFESSION

Karine GRONDIN crafts solid soaps, solid natural cleansers in coconut shells for washing dishes, and household soaps for laundry to use in washing machines or for handwashing - ensuring nature is protected from the release of surfactants into the environment. She uses a traditional cold saponification method to create her soaps, blending essential plant oils with caustic soda. She adds powdered clay, plants and sometimes special essential oils to give her soaps specific moisturising or soothing properties.



Karine is also a beekeeper and uses beeswax to make her special bee-wraps, a natural alternative to plastic films to keep food fresh.

• BACKGROUND

Karine was born in New Caledonia and grew up in Kouaoua. Following a high school diploma majoring in science, with a visual arts option, she followed advanced studies in maths and physics & chemistry and became a



secondary school teacher in Poindimié. After a good many years as a teacher, Karine decided to change career, and began training with a soap maker friend skilled in the cold saponification method.

Karine is a keen member of “Zéro déchets Poindimié”, her local zero waste group, and plays an active part in Environment Days, Waste Reduction Week and various sustainable workshops.

• INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

Karine loves creating her soaps because the natural ingredients she uses like powdered plants, clay and essential oils give her freedom to play around with colours and shapes and to create attractive marbled effects: “It reminds me a bit of the pottery I love so much” she tells us.