

Bright idea proves a hit

LOVE LETTERS FOR OLD ELECTRICALS

Harrison Tippet

ONE of Darebin's brightest has brought an upcycling program back to where it first began.

Darebin will now house two donation drop off points for Bright Sparks Australia, a not-for-profit electrical repair centre based on a UK enterprise, launched by a Northcote woman earlier this year.

Bright Sparks reuses, repairs and recycles unwanted and broken electrical appliances from its headquarters in Hadfield.

Bright Sparks Australia founder Erin Lewis-Fitzgerald said the collection bins at the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre and the Northcote Library had already been a hit.

"People are using them properly, they're even leaving us little love letters inside," Ms Lewis-Fitzgerald said.

"It's been really wonderful, not only to see the bins



Bright Sparks founder Erin Lewis-Fitzgerald is encouraging people to donate their unwanted electrical appliances at the Northcote Bright Sparks donation bins.

Picture: STUART MILLIGAN

there, but also to see people really embracing them."

Since launching the Hadfield headquarters in August, Ms Lewis-Fitzgerald said they had attracted donations by the carload.

"We've had times where we've had four carloads in half an hour," Ms Lewis-Fitzgerald said.

"And we've had people drive from as far as Bendigo to visit us."

The Darebin collection bins will be available for people to use until February.

Residents can donate up to three small electrical items at the bin, but bulkier items

such as computers and microwaves must be delivered to the headquarters.

For more information visit the Bright Sparks website at brightsparksaustralia.com