

# Chuckling out, responsibly

**Amanda Davey**

**F**EBRUARY is general clean-up month with many councils setting aside a particular day for collection of redundant household items.

An ideal time to get organised and declutter the home, householders have the opportunity to sort through the mess piling up in bedrooms, junk rooms, garages and garden sheds, chucking out anything that is no longer valued or useful.

Northern beaches professional organiser Linda Eagleton (pictured) says general clean-up days are a great way to declutter and rejuvenate the home but that too many of us have developed a habit of dumping perfectly good items out on the street that could otherwise be of use to somebody else.



“But what bothers me even more is that anything and everything is being dumped on streets, at charity shopfronts and even in clothing bins,” she said.

“As consumers, we are the ones

that bought the item in the first place so when we have finished using it we need to dispose of it responsibly.”

Ms Eagleton advises using the internet to research the many businesses and charities in the local area that specialise in collecting, recycling or disposing.

“Once you’ve decided that something is clutter in your house and you want to let it go, you have several options including selling it, donating it, chucking it or swapping it.

“You have to look at the quality of the item and if it is good quality and you want to recoup that cost you can sell through a garage sale, e-Bay, markets, second-hand stores or even antique dealers.”

For toys in good condition but requiring a lick of paint or a simple finetune, Ms Eagleton cites a charity in Ingleside called the Peninsula Senior Citizens Toy Repair Group, which fixes toys then donates them to underprivileged children and charities. Collection spots include Warringah Libraries.

She recommends Battery World in Brookvale as a good place for



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battery recycling, while ratty old towels are often gratefully accepted by vets. Along with toxic chemicals, Ms Eagleton warned that e-waste, which includes computers, printers and TVs, are no longer accepted in council general clean-ups and advises visiting the website

[recyclingnearyou.com.au](http://recyclingnearyou.com.au) to find the nearest collection point for such items.

“There’s also a website called Gumtree which is a ‘freecycling’ site specialising in removing all sorts of recyclable items to avoid the hassle of getting rid of them yourself.

“And for those who find garage sales a bit invasive, [marketsandfairs.com.au](http://marketsandfairs.com.au) is an excellent website listing all markets and fairs in NSW.”

■ **For a comprehensive list of local resources for recycling, disposing and donating go to [www.creativesurrounds.com.au](http://www.creativesurrounds.com.au).**