

OP SHOP GUIDE

Parramatta



A photograph of a wardrobe. The top half shows several items of clothing hanging on hangers, including a grey jacket, a striped shirt, a white shirt, a blue jacket, and a brown jacket. The bottom half shows a wooden surface with folded clothes, including a striped shirt and a brown jacket. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text.

**Australians throw away
6 tonnes
of clothes and textile waste
every 10 minutes!**



Why buy second hand?

Buying pre-loved items not only **saves you money**, but **benefits the environment** and **helps support the good work of local businesses and charities!**

Each time you purchase something from a second hand store or op shop, more items are kept out of landfill. Buying second hand also extends the life of common household items such as clothing and furniture, which can be environmentally costly to make. It takes 2,700 litres of water to make one cotton T-shirt, that's enough for one person to drink for 900 days!

So why not stop by your local op shop the next time you're looking for your next pair of jeans or the perfect cupboard to suit your room... you might be pleasantly surprised at what you find!



Op shop tips

Stepping into an op shop for the first time can be daunting! Where do you begin? How do you find the hidden treasures? Here are some simple tips to keep in mind to get the best out of your op shopping experiences.

Be patient

Give yourself time to properly search through the racks and forage the bookshelves and accessories. The more time and patience you have the more likely you are to find items that will surprise and delight you!

Be prepared

If you're shopping for furniture, bring a tape measure and know the dimensions of the space you need to fill. When looking for clothes, have an idea of what you need and know what colours and styles work best on you.

Think outside the season

If you come across a great coat, but it's the middle of summer, don't dismiss it! Grab a bargain when you see it. Great buys won't hang around for long.

Visit frequently

Some days you won't find anything, but sometimes you will hit the jackpot. Just be patient and don't get discouraged.

Always try it on

Most op shops do not allow returns so make sure everything fits and only buy the things you love.

Reimagine items

It's not likely you'll stumble across exactly what you are looking for, so think about sanding back and painting furniture, altering clothing or adding cushions/accessories.

Look for quality

It's important to look for quality fabrics, classic cuts and well-made items. Buying items just because they are cheap isn't worth it in the long-run if the quality isn't there.

Shop the whole store

You never know what you're going to find in an op shop, so it's best not to limit yourself to a particular size or section of the store, but instead shop all over.

Donate

Remember to give back to your favourite op shops by donating quality clothes and furniture and keep the cycle going.

Have fun

The main thing is really to go in there and have fun. You never know what you're going to find, but that's part of the fun of it!

Looking for a new couch, cupboard or bike? Consider checking out your local second hand store before buying a new item. You can easily stumble across an amazing find at a bargain price! Here are some examples of great pieces from second hand stores around Parramatta.



Stock in stores continually changes. Products shown may be no longer available.

Top left: Arm chair from Vinnies, North Parramatta.

Top right: Kitchen hutch from The Bower, Parramatta.

Op shop finds



Clockwise from top: Chairs starting from \$20 each from The Bower, Parramatta.
Bikes starting from \$40 from The Bower, Parramatta.
Assorted plates starting from \$1 each from Vinnies, North Parramatta.



You might be surprised at the quality items you can find in op shops. With a keen eye you can create different looks and find pieces that compliment your unique style, all for a fraction of the price of new items!

Stock in stores continually changes.

Left: jacket (50% off), jumper, jeans and shoes from Vinnies, Carlingford.

Below: jacket, shirts, shorts and dress from Salvos, North Parramatta



Op shop finds



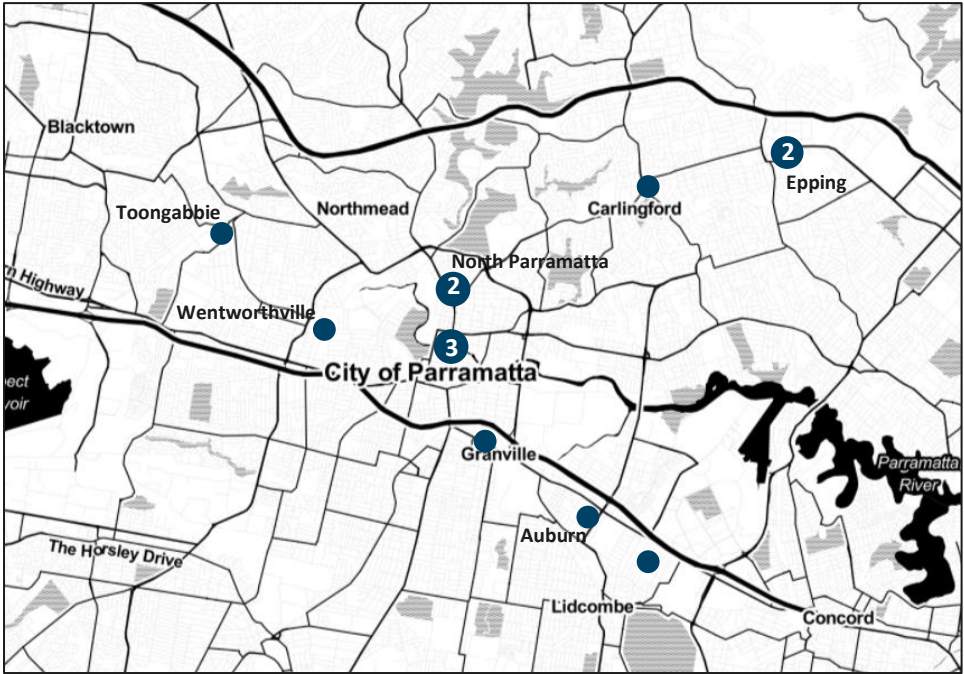
Clockwise from left: Dress from Anglicare, Mt Druit.
Men's shirt from Salvos, North Parramatta.
Shirt and shoes from Lifeline, Epping and skirt from Vinnies, Epping.
Jacket and dress from Vinnies, Carlingford.

PARRAMATTA OP SHOPS

SUBURB	ADDRESS	PHONE	STOCK
NORTH PARRAMATTA	Salvos 29 Castle St	02 9683 5599	Clothing, furniture, homewares, books, manchester and linen
NORTH PARRAMATTA	Vinnies 583 Church St	02 9890 8424	Clothing, furniture, homewares, books
PARRAMATTA CBD	Anglicare 71 Macquarie St	02 9635 1783	Clothing, shoes
PARRAMATTA CBD	Red Cross Shop 245 Church St	02 9689 1432	Clothing, shoes
PARRAMATTA CBD	The Bower 1/4-14 Hunter St	02 9568 6280	Furniture, homewares, building materials, bikes, books
CARLINGFORD	Vinnies 285 Pennant Hills Rd	02 9871 2649	Clothing, shoes, homewares, books
TOONGABBIE	Vinnies 1 Cornelia Rd	02 9769 1011	Clothing, shoes, homewares, books
WENWORTHVILLE	Vinnies 33 Dunmore St	02 9631 8853	Clothing, shoes, homewares, books
AUBURN	Salvos 103/123 Parramatta Rd	02 9648 0794	Clothing, shoes, homewares, books
GRANVILLE	Anawin Op Shop 11 Good St	0431 361 519	Furniture, homewares, clothing
EPPING	Vinnies 21 Oxford St	02 9868 5569	Clothing, homewares, books, manchester and linen
EPPING	Lifeline 8 Oxford St	02 9869 7868	Clothing, books, homewares
LIDCOMBE	Salvos 4/82 Parramatta Rd	02 9647 1006	Clothing, furniture, homewares, books



Finding your local op shop





Donations

You can support your local charities not only by buying from them but also by donating your old items that are still in good condition.

Just remember to:

- Only drop off your donation items during store business hours. Second hand stores are not dumping areas, so don't leave your donations if the store is closed.
- Call ahead to make sure they accept the items you are donating. Not all stores accept the same things so it's best to check before you donate.
- Only donate items that are still in good condition. If donations are in poor condition, it's the charity that will have to pay to dispose of them.

Don't forget about your council household clean-ups. If you have a lot of items that are in poor condition, book a clean-up with Parramatta City Council, just visit <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au>

A man wearing a straw hat and a blue shirt is looking at a stack of books. The books are stacked on a wooden surface, and some are wrapped in paper. The man is seen from the side, looking down at the books.

Buying and selling

You can also consider buying or selling second hand items online. This can also help reduce waste to landfill and can save new items from being made. Check out:

- Ebay: www.ebay.com.au
- Gumtree: www.gumtree.com.au
- Freecycle: www.freecycle.org

Collection & Rehoming Service: Do you have household items and furniture you no longer need or want? Call The Bower to enquire about their free Collection & Rehoming Service.

The Bower Reuse & Repair Centre is the place where second-hand comes first. They're an environmental charity and cooperative committed to stopping usable items from going to landfill.



Shop 1, 10 Hunter St Parramatta, Mon – Sat: 10am to 4pm

(02) 9568 6280

Notes

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For more information on City of Parramatta's sustainable initiatives visit <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/> or call 1300 617 058