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The Pram Man Andrew Thompson, has scoured Melbourne's streets for decades looking for abandoned prams.

INNER SOUTH

Yarra Valley man collects and recycles prams for St Kilda Mums charity

Belinda Humphries, Port Phillip Leader

November 11, 2015 12:00am



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manufacturers while recycling many other prams for mums in need.

“It kind of exploded,” Mr Thompson said.

He is on a mission to stop the waste he sees as “preloved” prams end up in landfill.

Mr Thompson recently pledged 50 recycled prams to St Kilda Mums, delivering batches in late October and last week.

He said he had made previous donations of restored prams to groups including Anglicare, Parents Without Partners in Upper Ferntree Gully, the Eastern Emergency Relief Network and the Caroline Chisholm Society.

“It makes me very happy to take something that was just going to get crushed in a truck and return it to something that’s safe and clean and will go to someone who needs it,” he said.

St Kilda Mums held a “Push for Prams” campaign in spring, collecting 392 prams to help families in need, but the charity accepts donations year-round.

Chief executive officer Jessica Macpherson said the service had been working with Mr Thompson about three years. During that time he had contributed prams and many spare parts to restore items, as well as sharing his expertise, she said.

Like Mr Thompson, she is keen to find ways to put more preloved prams to good use, including by working with local government.

St Kilda Mums and regional branches, Geelong Mums and Eureka Mums, were recently recognised at the 2015 Premier’s Sustainability Awards for their work in saving more than 52,000 second-hand items including prams, cots and high chairs from going to landfill.

Mr Thompson estimates he had more than 1000 prams at one stage, including items he had found on the roadside during work in the transport industry as well as examples painstakingly tracked down, unearthed at op shops or donated.

Look at his museum online: thepramman.smugmug.com

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