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# Swap-O-Rama-Rama

By [Cityscape](#) • Dec 1st, 2009 • Category: [Christchurch What's On](#), [News](#), [Out & About in Christchurch](#)

This amazing creative clothes recycling event comes to Lyttelton! The first New Zealand Swap-O-Rama-Rama creative clothes recycling event will be held on February 20 as part of the Lyttelton Summer Festival.

So what on earth is Swap-O-Rama-Rama? It's a giant clothing swap and series of do-it-yourself workshops in which a community gets together to save clothes from going to landfill by reusing them in creative ways. It's also a community education event, offering participants workshops from creative locals, as well as equipment and materials for transformation.

As well as being able to swap clothes, participants are taught how to remodel, embellish and otherwise transform their finds. The full-day event will feature food and coffee to keep up the creative flow and roving entertainment for the in-between times.

Just bring along a donation and a bag of clothes for entry. The clothes will be sorted into big piles and then you can dive right in and begin to innovate with your finds! There'll be sewing and screen printing stations as well as DIY workshops available to help you transform your chosen garments.

If you want to complete your triumph by strutting the catwalk, there'll be one provided for you!

Swap-O-Rama-Rama was developed by New York artist Wendy Tremayne in 2004. It grew from a private, home event to a large-scale public event and then spread across the globe – from Jerusalem to Istanbul to Perth.

"I put the idea out to Project Lyttelton and they came back straight away with an enthusiastic invitation to add Swap-O-Rama-Rama to the Summer Festival agenda," Herbert says. "I love the creative edge that this event has. I hope people will leave with an armful of clothes and a year's worth of inspiration. I think Swap-O-Rama-Rama will become a regular favourite on the Lyttelton Festival calendar."

"The world is awash with chucked-out, Chinese-made clothes and it just takes a bit of sideways thinking to break out of that cycle. I hope people will get a taste for the satisfaction of recycling and doing-it-yourself."

The Lyttelton Swap-O-Rama-Rama is a fundraiser for Project Lyttelton, a grass-roots community organisation which strives to build a sustainable, connected community in the Lyttelton Harbour Basin. Project Lyttelton's initiatives include the Community Gardens, Timebank and Farmer's Market. The group also puts on two major festivals each year. Swap-O-Rama-Rama is currently looking for volunteers to man the sewing stations, screen printing stations and run workshops. Volunteers will also be required to work as sorters and general helpers for the event.

When: Saturday, February 20, 11am – 4pm Where: Lyttelton Recreation Centre, Winchester St, Lyttelton

Website: [www.swaporamarama.webnode.com](http://www.swaporamarama.webnode.com)

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