

Swapping, not shopping



Second-hand style: Lyttelton's Kris Herbert is getting ready for New Zealand's first ever Swap-O-Rama-Rama. Photo: Alex Herbert

Samantha Carstens

New Zealand's first Swap-O-Rama-Rama, an event designed to teach people to creatively reuse their clothing, is coming to Lyttelton this weekend.

At a Swap-O-Rama-Rama, people bring in a bag of unwanted clothes and \$10, the garments are sorted into similar types and then participants swap to their hearts' content, with no limit to how much they can take. Volunteer sewers are stationed at machines to help people alter the clothes they've just found.

One of the organisers, Kris Herbert, said sleeves can come off jumpers to become legwarmers, skirts can become handbags or a T-shirt could become a dress.

"The idea is to help people create unique gar-

ments and to be inspired to look at second hand clothes in a new, more creative way," she said.

New York artist Wendy Tremayne started the Swap-O-Rama-Rama concept in 1994 as a response to concerns about the fashion industry's impact on the environment, from the chemicals used in cotton production to the tonnes of clothes which are chucked out each year. Since the concept started more than 100 Swap-O-Rama-Rama events have been held around the world.

Lyttelton's Swap-O-Rama-Rama will be held on February 20 from 11am until 4pm at the Lyttelton Recreation Centre on Winchester Street. The event is part of the Lyttelton Summer Street Party and all proceeds to go Project Lyttelton.

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