

## Q. What do chickens, wine, laptop sleeves and footballs have in common?

A. They're all gifts that give twice (or maybe even thrice)! They are, at least, if you buy them from the massive range of cards and presents linked in this email.

Whether you care about the environment, disadvantaged children, poor communities in India or homeless puppies, you can show people you care AND make a positive difference to the world.

To help you find the right gift, the list is divided into five categories, as follows:

1. **Give a gift where it's really needed** - perfect for people who have everything they need. Show someone you've thought of them by buying something that goes where help is really needed. You send your love to the person YOU love via a card, certificate or other small keepsake that the charity provides, and the real gift goes somewhere else. (Most of these are also tax-deductible.)
2. **Buy a gift that supports a favourite charity**
3. **Give an eco-friendly gift** - all the food, drink, clothing and gadgets you need are out there - in an environmentally friendly form.
4. **Give a gift that supports social sustainability** – supporting small business can create strong communities and build the local economy, while fair trade ensures that the people who produced the present you're buying received a fair price for their labour, unlike the majority of the items on the shelves... No sweatshops here!
5. **Send a charity or eco-friendly card**

### 1. GIVE A GIFT WHERE IT'S REALLY NEEDED

**Australian Red Cross** offers “warm fuzzy gifts” starting at \$13 to provide beds for people affected by disaster in the Pacific. You can give brekky to a hungry Australian child, shelter a family or really show someone you care by building a dunny in their name!

**Care Australia** offers you a great range, from a cheap cheeping chicken (\$13) and condoms (to protect against STDs - \$10) to landmine clearance (\$700) and clean water for a school (\$5000). Care Australia is a non-government, non-religious, "serving individuals and families in the poorest communities in the world."

**Climate Friendly** helps to grow the renewable energy industry when you “offset” emissions. You get the option to buy it as a gift for someone else once you add a product to your "cart". What better way to say “I love you but not your giant emissions footprint”?

**Fred Hollows Foundation** – give the gift of sight from as little as \$25.

**Humane Society International** is all about gift giving that celebrates and protects animals. Help support work in Kilimanjaro protecting elephants, create a better world for farmed animals, fund gorilla rescue, provide emergency food for troubled lions and more.

**Karma Currency** links you to almost every charity in existence. It's perfect if you're not quite sure what makes a person tick, as you just buy a gift voucher and your loved one chooses the charity that'll receive the money.

**Medicins Sans Frontieres** provides emergency medical relief to victims of natural or human-created disasters, and victims of armed conflict. They are fully funded by donations and will be happy to help

you give a gift for the festive season! You can also create a donation fund with them for your special occasion...

**Muslim Aid Australia**'s Feel Good Gift Shop gives you the chance to help eradicate poverty and hunger, promote better health and education and provide emergency relief in some of the poorest regions in the world. You can even decide to which country you'll send the gift.

**Oxfam Unwrapped** offers a massive range of gifts for people who already have everything they need. "I was going to get you a book, but you already have one. Here's a duck instead," says one card. Buy breakfast for children, a pile of poo, a hip-hop microphone, fruit trees, assistance to an indigenous footy player, seeds, a farm and lots more! Gifts start from as little as \$10.

**Rainforest Rescue** offers gift cards starting at \$25 to help buy rainforest in the Daintree or Mission Beach (Australia), in Ecuador or in Indonesia to protect it permanently - or give a Cassowary Care Package to help protect the endangered bird by planting rainforest where it's been destroyed. Rainforest Rescue is not-for-profit.

**RSPCA** allows you to make donations from \$25 to give animals a better life – from caring for senior pets to funding campaigns and shelters.

**Simply Giving** allows you to choose a Christmas present for a disadvantaged Australian child through Barnardos, Anglicare, The Children's Hospital at Westmead, The Smith Family and more – and you get a certificate, gift card or origami for your tree.

**Tear Australia** is where the concept of giving to people who need it most actually started. Tear Australia is a Christian group helping the world's poor. Gifts are priced from \$5 (for school supplies and training in fish pond construction) to \$10,000 (for a clean water project in Ethiopia or Sudan).

**Unicef** allows you to buy a range of gifts helping with education, clean water, nutrition, maternal health and more.

**WWF-Australia** offers animal "adoption". Help conserve endangered animals such as the giant pandas, gorillas, marine turtles or Bengal tigers, and your loved one will receive a photo and an adoption certificate. Some animal adoptions come with a soft toy, too!

## 2. BUY A GIFT TO SUPPORT A CHARITY

**Australian Red Cross** – as well as Red Cross merchandise, this charity now sells some beautiful homewares, including Laura Ashley gardening gloves, Blue Wren aprons and calendars.

**Amnesty International Australia** sells t-shirts (some organic cotton), books and other stuff to help fund their work protecting human rights around the world.

**BoysTown** – Support Kids Helpline with the gift of a lottery ticket and your loved one could be inviting you over for tea in their new \$3M penthouse!

**Engineers Without Borders** – just like Doctors Without Borders, only they're engineers!

**Guide Dogs Association** sells bath towels, Guide Dog wine and port, soft toys, a BBQ tool set and more.

**Oxfam** - fair trade gifts (toys! coffee! chocolate!) from around the world as well as books, greeting cards, wine, CDs and lots more.

**Royal Flying Doctor Service** sells aprons, first aid kits, teddy bears, model aircraft kits, earrings and more.

**Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children** – gifts include a cookbook featuring recipes from celebrity chefs and Entertainment Books.

[RSPCA](#) offers presents for animals lovers or the animals themselves. Create a personalised diamante collar for a pet, choose from a massive array of presents for kids (like cute animal shower caps!) or buy books and DVDs.

[Wine for Charity](#) allows you to support your favourite charity when you buy a case of your favourite wine.

### 3. GIVE AN ECO-FRIENDLY GIFT

[Baby Eco](#) does some lovely stuff for the little 'uns

[Biome](#) sells all sorts of things: bags, skincare, educational toys, home décor, natural makeup, and lots more.

[Blessed Earth](#) sells clothing and manchester made from certified organically-produced cotton and wool.

[Gaiam](#) sells a range of fair trade and eco-friendly household gifts, including a gorgeous doormat made from recycled rubber and coconut fibre.

[Hemp Gallery](#) sells curtains, bed linen, bags and baby care – all made from one of the world's most environmentally friendly materials.

[Kindred Gifts](#) offers an eclectic range including a bamboo case for an iPhone, laptop sleeves made from inner tubes and solar-powered elephant-shaped night lights for children.

[Macquariedale Estate Wines](#) are certified biodynamic and vegan – (sorry, but most wines have animal products in them). These wines are tasty, too – especially the Muscat Liqueur, which they've nicknamed "Liquid Christmas Cake".

[Multi-powered Products](#) is perfect for the person who loves gadgets. Solar-powered rechargers, a solar-powered MP3 player, wind-up torches, radios and stuff for kids, too, including a DIY solar-powered robot that can be turned into a dinosaur!

[My Eco Friend](#) sells accessories and bags made from recycled materials – including jewellery made from old magazines.

[Passionfruit](#) sells sustainable and ethical products, including the most beautiful set of cleaning products ever, stainless steel lunchboxes to stop you ingesting toxins and sustainable makeup sets.

[Soap Kitchen](#) sells an excellent range of skincare products and will often bring your order to your door themselves. Unfortunately, at the time of writing this email their website was not operating... but it might be by the time you read this.

[Tamburlaine Wines](#) is a Hunter Valley vineyard producing certified organic (and very tasty) wines – with low sulphur content, too, so you don't get such a hangover from too much of the red.

[The Natural Bedding Company](#) in Stanmore sells everything you need for a good night's sleep – and all made from natural fibres, including latex, wool, organic cotton and coconut fibre. The Cloud 9 Mattress is a dream and the quilts are snug!

[The Organic Grocer](#) delivers fresh, organically grown fruit and veges – why not give a practical gift?

[Todae](#) sells homewares, green cleaning products, books, solar-powered battery rechargers, energy efficient lighting, books and... well, most things you need.

## 4. SUPPORT SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

**Etiko** sells sports stuff (including regulation-sized balls) and shoes, handstitched the fair trade way – find a stockist for their products.

**Fair Go Trading** is an Australian-based retailer of fair-trade and organic goodies – hemp bags, musical instruments, puppets, diaries and more.

**New Internationalist** is an independent non-profit cooperative that sells a great range of fair trade and eco-friendly gifts including organic cotton manchester, games, books, clothing, bags, food and more.

**Oxfam** offers fair trade gifts from around the world - chocolate! toys! spices! homewares! as well as books, greeting cards, wine or CDs. Shop online or spend time in their stores.

**Pop Up Parramatta** is Parramatta City Council's very own project that's turning empty space into creative space to build a strong and vibrant creative community. Shop locally to find some wonderful handmade gifts including pottery in Connection Arcade and African arts in Greenway Plaza. Check out their **NEWS** page for details on workshops and exhibitions, too.

**The Trading Circle** sells some truly gorgeous gifts for children and adults, including hand-stitched educational cloth books and three-way story dolls (like Snow White, who turns upside down to become the wicked queen and the handsome prince, complete with seven dwarf finger puppets). Browse in store in Summer Hill or shop online.

## 5. SEND A CHARITY OR ECO-FRIENDLY CARD

**Charity Card Market** offers cards from over 70 charities

**Charity Greeting Cards** gives you dozens of charities to support - including The Cancer Council, Kids Helpline, World Vision, Camp Quality, WIRES, Cystic Fibrosis NSW and the Royal Flying Doctor Service – when you buy your cards

**My Cause** is an e-card website that allows you to donate to a charity when you send a personalised online card to someone. Choose between 270 charities AND save paper

**Oxfam** sells a range of seasonal and general cards

**Red Cockatoo** is a Blue Mountains based not for profit creative arts company, working collaboratively with Aboriginal artists to build and strengthen awareness about Indigenous art and culture in Australia.

**The Goodwill Charity Card Shop** has a retail outlet in Sydney CBD where a range of charities sell Christmas cards.