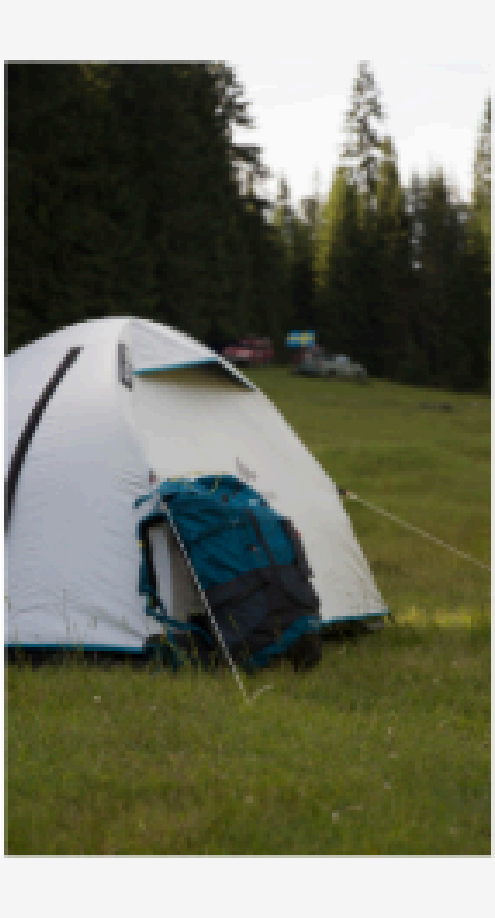
December
PĀNUI



In this issue: Christmas tips, ideas for reducing waste, and ways to support biodiversity during the summer holidays, plus a sneak peek at the exciting events coming up next year.

GENERAL

From the ENM Team,
Meri Kirihimete & Happy New Year

Thank you for everything you do. Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season, Meri Kirihimete. We can't wait to see you in the new year! We will be on holiday from the 18th of December to the 4th of January.

Save the Dates - ENM Events

Looking ahead to next year, we're excited to keep developing community connections and supporting your activities to flourish! We have some great events planned to bring us together to inspire us all for continued environmental action.

Tuesday 27 January - Simplifying Local Govt: Submission Support and Discussion. Invitation for our community to learn about the issues together and gather our thoughts for what and how to submit.
Thursday 12 February – Proof for the Planet: Turning Data into Community Power
Thursday 26 February – Textile Rescue and Repurposing Hui: Action, Connection, Collaboration
Tuesday 24 March – Harvest Hui - Celebrating a strong season of community food growth and considering how to save our collective seeds of change.
Wednesday 22 April – Climate Clarity Hui - full-day focus on supporting and developing youth action supported by ENM.
Tuesday 19 May – Biodiversity Hui: Nurturing Life from Source to Sea
Tuesday 23 June – Winter Solstice Hui: Dreamtime for an Environment Centre
Tuesday 21 July – Food Futures: Building Climate-Resilient Food Systems - exploring the intersection of food production and climate change.
Thursday 13 August – Circular Economy Hui: Education and Advocacy toward Waste Minimization
Thursday 24 September – Food Sovereignty meets Circular Economy: All about Composting
Thursday 22 October – ENM Membership Gathering & Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 3 November – Biodiversity Hui: Rewilding from Back Garden to Back Block
Thursday 1 December – Community Food Sovereignty Summer Hui: Celebrating Impacts of Volunteer-Led Environmental Action

Simplifying Local Government

The Simplifying Local Government consultation is currently open until 20 Feb 2026. The Regional Council is responsible for ensuring the quality of air, land and water, so ENM is planning to make a submission on this topic and encourage others to do so as well.

5:30pm Tues Jan 27 at ENM Office: Simplifying Local Govt: Submission Support and Discussion. Invitation for our community to learn about the issues together and gather our thoughts for what and how to submit.

Read More Here

Large Grant Opening Soon!

www.enm.org.nz
PALMY
Eastern & Central Community Trust
eif Environmental Initiatives Fund
Need Funding For Your Environmental Project?

We're here to help! The Environmental Initiatives Fund supports community projects that:
- ✓ Improve food resilience, security, and sovereignty
- ✓ Protect biodiversity and freshwater quality
- ✓ Reduce waste and support a circular economy
- ✓ Take action on climate change

📍 Projects must be within the Manawatū River catchment — from the source to the sea, including Tararua, Palmerston North, Manawatū, and Horowhenua.

💰 Large Grants ($1,000–$15,000) – Open 1 Jan to 15 March 2026
👫 For organisations

More Info Here

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

A collection of stories, updates and events broken down into our four pou.

Biodiversity Protection & Enhancement

Camping This Summer? Protect Nature & Reduce Waste!

Aotearoa's outdoors are precious—let's keep them thriving while we enjoy them!

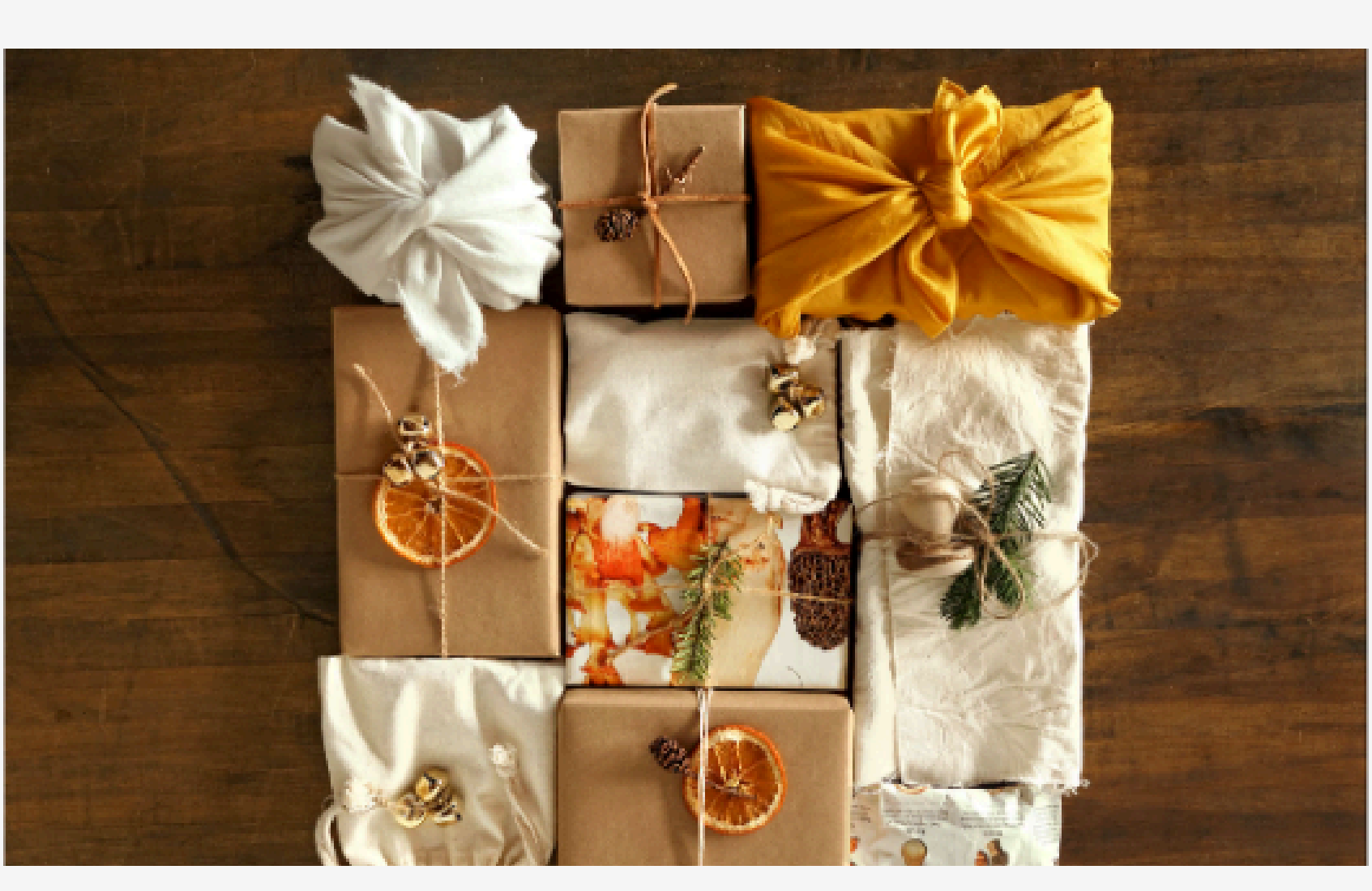
Here are some easy ways to make your camping trip eco-friendly:

1. Respect Biodiversity
   Stick to marked tracks, avoid disturbing plants and wildlife, and never feed animals.
2. Pull Out Weeds
   Help protect native species by reporting invasive plants and pests:
   - Old Man's Beard: horizons.govt.nz/contact-us
   - Yellow-Legged Hornet: report.mpi.govt.nz
3. Pick Up Rubbish
   Leave no trace—and if you see litter, take a moment to pick it up.
4. Reduce Waste
   Bring reusable containers, cutlery, and water bottles instead of single-use items.
5. Set Up a Recycling System
   Pack separate bags for recyclables and rubbish so it's easy to sort and dispose of properly when you leave. Research ahead of time where you can take them.

Let's make this summer about adventure and protecting our beautiful environment!

Circular Economy

Sustainable Gifts and Wrapping Ideas – Thoughtful & Waste-Free

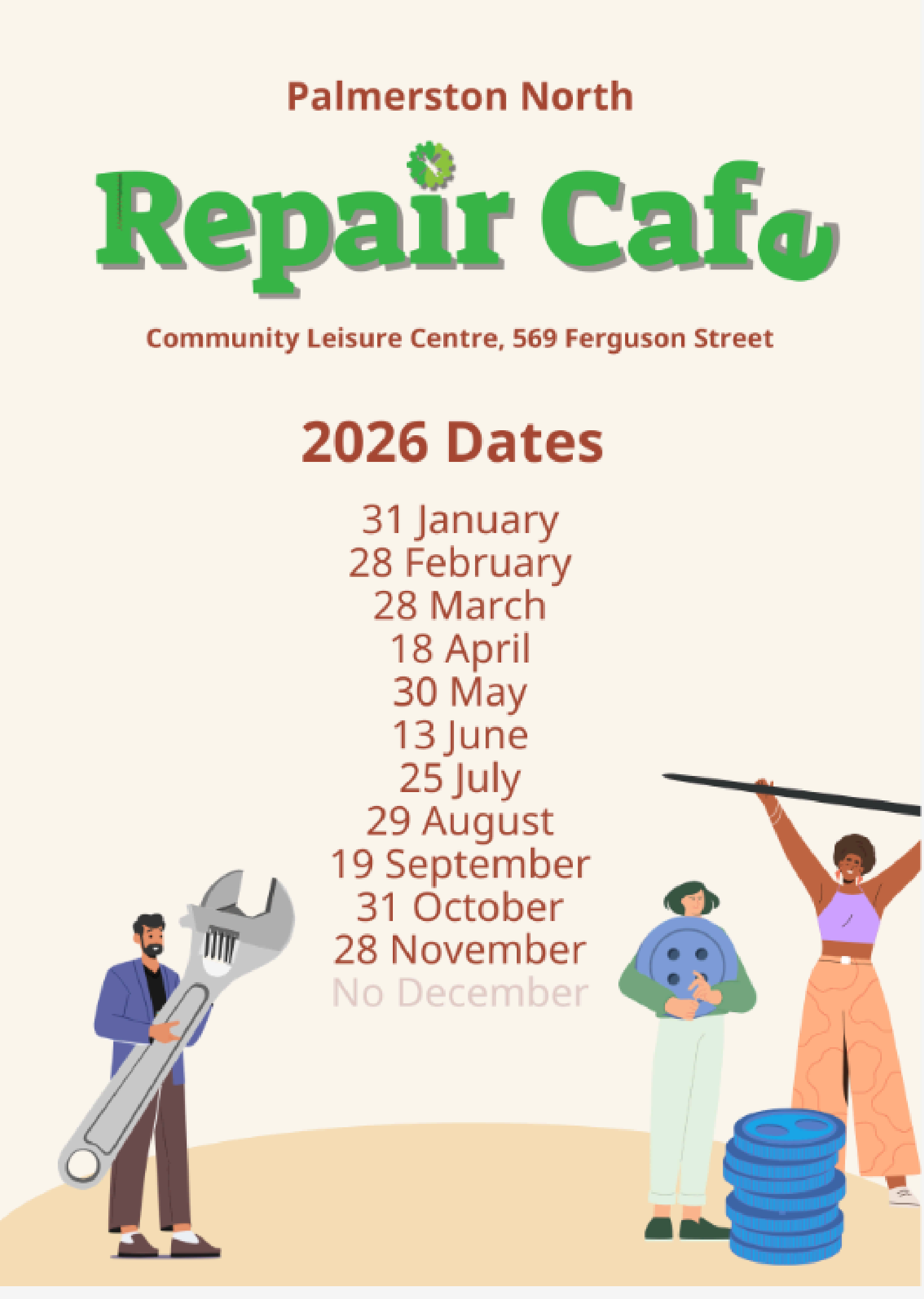


Sustainable Gifts
This holiday season, give gifts that matter—for people and the planet!

- Non-physical gifts – Experiences, vouchers, or quality time together like magazine subscriptions (digital options available!), vouchers for local restaurants, or cinema memberships.
- Sustainably-produced gifts – Locally-made food & drinks, bamboo or fair-trade items.
- DIY gifts – Handmade treasures for a personal touch.
- Zero-waste starter packs – Reusable bags, coffee cups, beeswax wraps, bamboo toothbrushes, and more!
- Skip Secret Santa – Avoid cheap, gimmicky gifts that often go unused.

Sustainable Wrapping
We all know the mountain of wrapping waste after gift-opening time! Here's how to keep it eco-friendly:

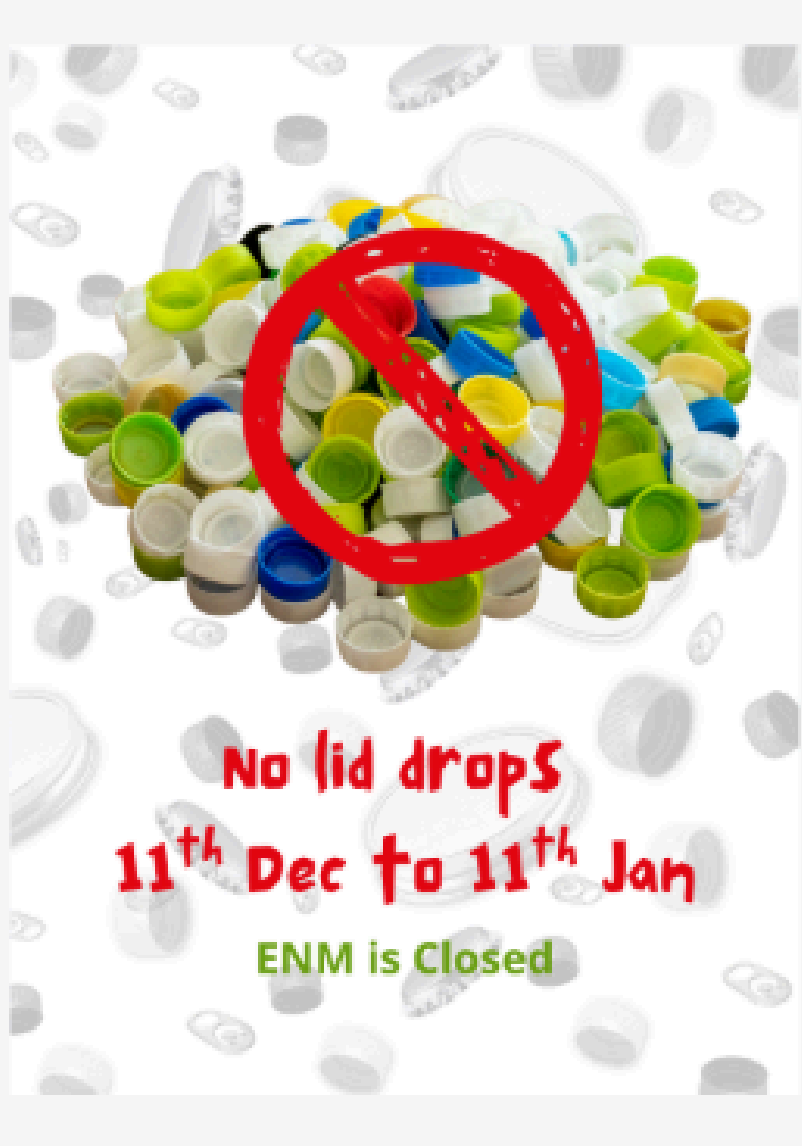
- Skip wrapping altogether – Non-physical gifts don't need it!
- Reuse materials – Give old wrapping, bags, or boxes a second life.
- Choose recycled paper – Avoid shiny or glitter paper (it can't be recycled).
- Go creative – Try cloth bags, furoshiki wraps, or upcycled fabric scraps.
- Natural touches – Newspaper, leaves, flowers, or curtain offcuts. Let's make gifting more meaningful and less wasteful this year!


Palmerston North
Repair Cafe
Community Leisure Centre, 569 Ferguson Street

2026 Dates
31 January
28 February
28 March
18 April
30 May
13 June
25 July
29 August
19 September
31 October
28 November
No December

ENM Lid Sorting

As we close down for the summer holidays, we won't be taking lids from the 11th of December to the 11th of January.



Climate Action

IKEA has arrived in New Zealand with plenty of excitement—but is there more to the story than bright colours and Swedish charm?

These articles take a closer look at the multinational retailer, questioning its tax strategies, carbon credit "greenwashing," and even its potential impact on food security.

👉 Read the full article and share your thoughts—are we seeing the true cost behind the flat packs?

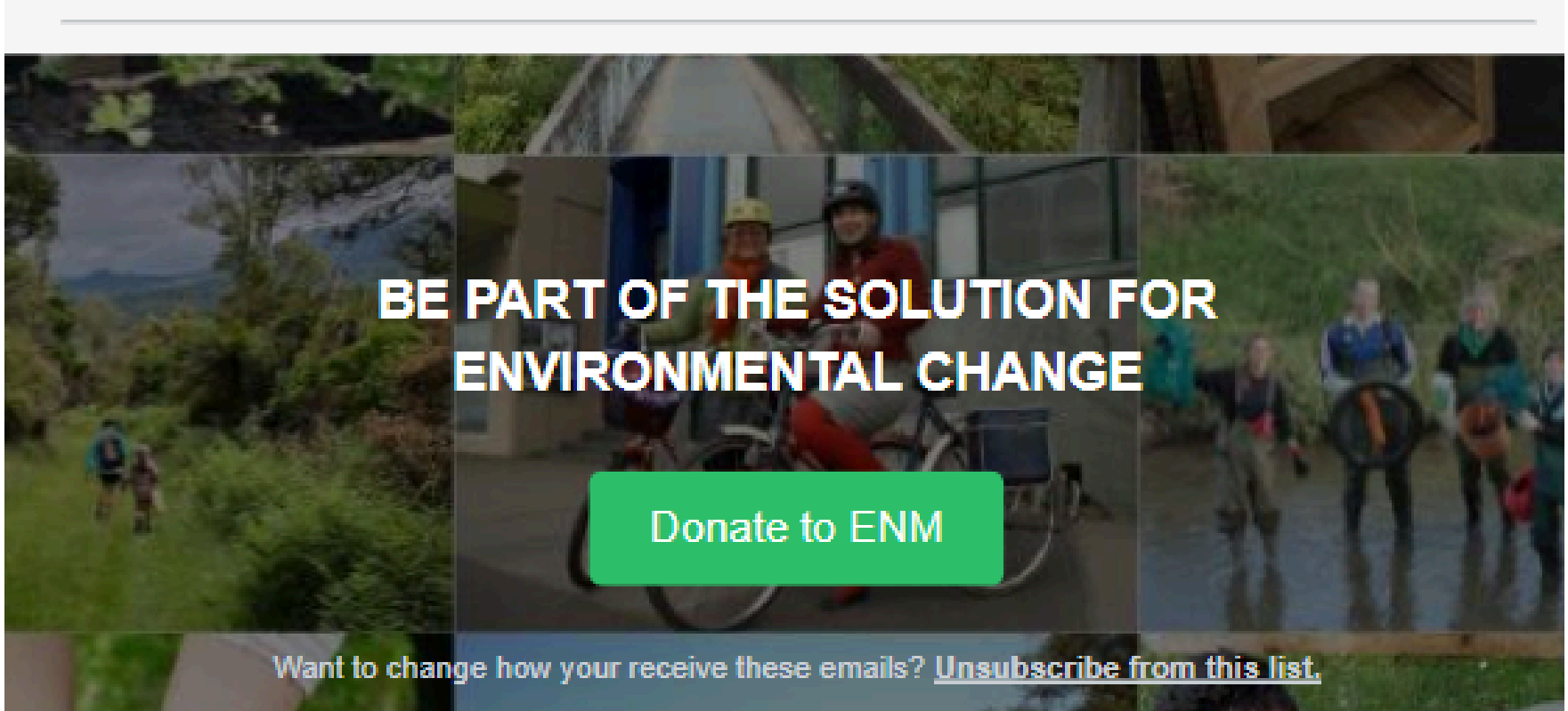
1. Ikea snaps up farms to plant pine forests
2. Ikea snaps up southern farmland amid forestry crackdown
3. In New Zealand, Ikea hogs land, jeopardising native ecosystems

Community Food Sovereignty

Zero-Waste Christmas Food Tips

The festive season is all about delicious feasts—think mince pies, pavlova, and ham sandwiches! But did you know food waste skyrockets at Christmas? This year, let's keep the celebrations tasty and sustainable with these simple tips:
1. Plan Your Menu
Keep it simple and spread the feast over a few days. A little planning goes a long way.
2. Make a Shopping List
Check what you already have and plan for leftovers. Avoid impulse buys that lead to waste.
3. Store Food Correctly
Use airtight containers and freeze extras to keep food fresh longer.
4. Serve Smart
Put out smaller portions and restock as needed—less waste, same enjoyment.
5. Clear & Chill Quickly
Get leftovers into the fridge or freezer as soon as possible to prevent spoilage.
6. Boxing Day = Leftovers Day
Relax and enjoy what's already made. It's the ultimate stress-free meal!
This Christmas, let's celebrate without the waste—because every bite counts.

Thank you for a wonderful year everyone! We look forward to doing it all again in 2026



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