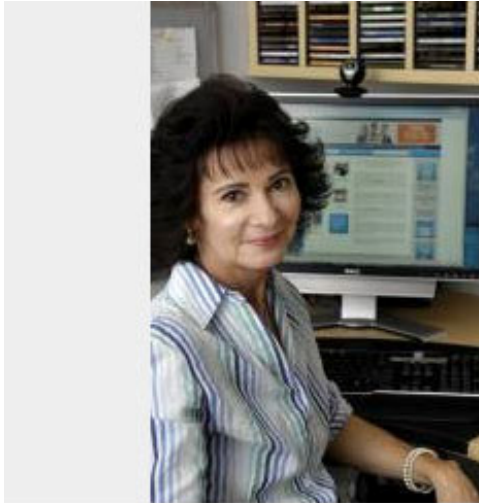


## Swap school items online and save cash

29 Apr 09 @ 11:14am by Prue Roberts



Claire Pearson.

In these tough economic times, a new online service is helping families save money on school uniforms, musical instruments, books and other educational resources.

**Schoolxchange** is a website where sellers can register and list their unwanted items and buyers can find what they need by searching by item or school, both public and private.

When the buyer finds what they want, they contact the seller directly to make a purchase.

This is to allow trading to operate at a community level, says founder Claire Pearson, so postage and packaging costs

that would normally be associated with online trading systems, such as eBay, are eliminated.

Mrs Pearson said the ability to search by school made the site convenient and that, in time, every school in Australia would be represented.

Since the site went live in November, **schoolxchange** has become a full-time job for Mrs Pearson, who said blazers were one of the most popular items.

Mrs Pearson, who has two boys, said the site had been a long time coming, after she spent years in many schoolyards chatting with other parents.

"It's a recurring theme that almost everybody you talk to needs something, whether it's for the next season or the new sporting team that the children are joining or music instruments that they're taking up, and within a matter of months or a year those items are no longer relevant," she said.

"Generally with the school-specific things, with the logos, you can't buy them anywhere else, so it just seemed to me that everyone's got something in their cupboards or at home that they no longer need and I thought that the internet was the perfect way to put people in touch with each other."

Mrs Pearson also wanted to achieve a concept of togetherness with **schoolxchange**.

"One thing I've been really pleased about is how it's bringing the community together to help each other out," she said.

The cost is a maximum of 10 per cent of the list price of an item. For more details visit

<http://www.schoolxchange.com.au>.