

## Tips to Survive the Annual Game of Panic Christmas Gift-Buying and Card-Sending

by Allan Naguit. December 2005.



(This is a very busy time, I know, so this issue's short and sweet; a one-pager.)

It's almost Christmas! The silly season. End-of-year processing. Hectic times.

**If you're anything like me, you sometimes leave things till the last minute**, especially at this time of year. In that case, read on for tips on how to get through this annual crisis: **the panic of last-minute gift-buying, card-sending, and remembering** family, relatives and friends.

First, let's boil it down to the "**must dos**":

- Send Christmas Cards
- Buy Presents
- Not Forget Anyone

No time to do it all? Let's see how the internet can help.

### Send Christmas Cards

Ok, so you don't have time to physically go down to the store to buy, handwrite, and post cards. Instead of sending an e-card you could try [cardsinadvance](http://cardsinadvance.com). ([www.cardsinadvance.com](http://www.cardsinadvance.com)) This is what they say:

Welcome to the Internet's premier greeting card service. This site allows you to purchase and personalize **REAL PAPER GREETING CARDS** online; all of our greeting cards are **HANDWRITTEN** and mailed by a member of our staff on a day you choose....

Of course, you could take the easy way out and send e-cards. There are plenty of free e-card sites on the net (just Google for "e-card") but be careful; signing up at some sites might lead to you getting more spam in your inbox.

### Buy Presents

#### Shopping Online.

First, a word about on-line shopping safety. The website [ShopSafe.com.au](http://ShopSafe.com.au) gives hints on safer shopping here: ([www.shopsafe.com.au/customer\\_service/shopping.htm](http://www.shopsafe.com.au/customer_service/shopping.htm)). The tips are worth reviewing before you put your credit card on the line. The website also provides a directory for on-line shopping sites that have met their standards for security and safety.

Other interesting on-line shopping websites you can browse are:

[DealsDirect.com.au](http://DealsDirect.com.au) – seen on A Current Affair last September '05.

[Stuff.com.au](http://Stuff.com.au) – They say to order by December 18, 2005 for delivery before Christmas!

[OO.com.au](http://OO.com.au) – ("not zero zero") the OverstockOutlet company. "clearance items at clearance prices."

[eBay.com.au](http://eBay.com.au) – My current addiction. Lots of stuff to get!

[Gifts2thedoor.com](http://Gifts2thedoor.com) – buy gifts from them and they'll provide complementary cards and gift wrapping.

#### Shopping in Person (with a little help from the Net)

[BargainShopper.com.au](http://BargainShopper.com.au) – this website gives you the locations for all sorts of real-world stores for bargain shopping (factory outlets, seconds, etc.) for Sydney and Melbourne.

### Not Forget Anyone

From the makers of Writeboard ([www.writeboard.com](http://www.writeboard.com)) comes [Tada List](http://TadaList.com) – an online **To Do list**. With this, you can set up, look at and update your (shopping) list wherever and whenever you can get access to the net. You can even share your (gift-buying) list with friends and family! [www.tadalist.com](http://www.tadalist.com).

For the truly generous and charitable among us, you may want to give to a charity but are unsure which to pick or where to start. The following link is to a site that gives a comprehensive list of charities: [www.auscharity.org](http://www.auscharity.org).

And so 2005 draws to a close...

Good luck with your last-minute shopping. I hope these tips help you in your hour of need, my fellow procrastinators. I still have to finish my shopping, too!

Have a great Christmas and New Year! Be safe and happy, and see you next year!

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