



GOOD NEIGHBOURS Make GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

When people make the choice to be a good neighbour, individuals, families and neighbourhoods benefit. We know that when Australian communities foster connections and everyday 'neighbourliness', they are soon safer, stronger and more resilient. Besides this, our neighbourhoods provide a great chance for us to meet people who are different to us, which can help us learn how to connect with a variety of people.

It's about Palmerston residents taking the time to take part in small and local acts of neighbourliness. For some that may mean a first wave or smile, a chat over the fence, inviting a neighbour over for a cuppa or holding a neighbourhood barbeque. Put simply, it's about going one step further in getting to know those 'next door'.

Share food

Share food together; organise a street barbeque, morning / afternoon tea, pot luck dinner, or pancake breakfast. Ask neighbours to bring a plate to share.

Progressive dinner party; move between houses for each course: entrée, main, dessert and coffee.

Bake something to share; a cake, a batch of muffins or some biscuits for your neighbours to enjoy. Go door-to-door and drop them off.

Share home-grown produce; if your veggie patch is overflowing, share some of the produce with your neighbours.

Games and activities

Organise a sports or games afternoon for the kids in the neighbourhood. This could include egg and spoon race, sack or relay races, chalk drawing, treasure hunt, or a soccer, aussie rules or cricket game for everyone to enjoy.

Lolly / Easter egg hunt; hide lollies/ Easter eggs in a nearby park or a neighbour's large backyard for kids to find.

Make up a list of questions for people to ask and find out about each other to break the ice.

Indoor activities

Start a street book club; invite neighbours over to discuss your favourite books.

Have a tea party; organise a group of neighbours to bring a plate of sandwiches, scones or muffins to share.

Organise a DIY party; make natural cleaners, chutneys, homemade facials or learn to bake something new together.

Swap and share

Do a street clothes swap; recycle clothes to update your wardrobe.

Next time you mow your nature strip mow your neighbour's as well.

Organise a street clean-up /gardening working bee.

Exchange phone numbers in case of emergencies. With their permission, help your neighbours by giving them all a copy of each other's contacts.

Keep safe; set up a Neighbourhood Watch group or organise a home safety gathering with your neighbours (visit www.nhwnt.org.au).

Swap, meet and greet; grab your 'perfectly-useful-but-not-to-you- anymore' items and invite your neighbours to attend a swap meet.

Exchange greetings in different languages; with neighbours' help, try to learn some basic phrases of the various languages spoken in your street / neighbourhood.

Get connected

Are you and your neighbours on Facebook? Set up a street / neighbourhood Facebook group to help people meet neighbours, organise get togethers, swap goods, and share information.

Set up an informal and inclusive residents' group with a few neighbours if there isn't one in your area to keep the momentum moving after your Building Better Neighbourhood activity.





Out of the box

Get creative with your neighbours and decorate your letterboxes together.

Do you enjoy writing? Make a book of stories with some neighbours to record memories that celebrate great things about your street.

Find out who plays what instrument in your street and organise a musical jam session.

Start a neighbourhood library for things you and neighbours are happy to lend / share with each other (e.g. ladders, tools, books, toys, sports gear, music, and art and craft supplies).

Giant Lawn Sale; invite your neighbours to join you in one big garage sale.

10 steps to kick start your know your neighbour activity

1. Start simple

If you already know one or two neighbours, ask them if they have any ideas and would like to help out. If you don't know any neighbours, introduce yourself or flier drop with your contact details asking for help to organise your local activity.

2. Decide on your local activity

What do you want to do? Decide on what, where and how you will organise your event. Start small; you could invite your neighbours over for a cuppa or say hello to them over the fence. Want to have a get together? See our ideas for what participants have done. Keep it simple and most importantly, have fun!

3. Follow up with your keen neighbours

Keep talking with them about ideas, make a plan and delegate tasks. Gather email addresses or phone numbers so you can keep in touch in the weeks leading up to your event.

4. Organise your invitations

Include all the details - what, where, when, who. Involve kids along the way; for example, you could ask your kids (or your neighbours' kids) to help design the invitation. Put the invitations into your neighbours' letterboxes at least two weeks before the event.

5. Invite people in person

In the week before your event, go door-to-door and invite your neighbours in person. Make sure you go with someone else to stay safe. If some of your neighbours have limited English abilities, try to find ways to communicate and include them as this will help everyone feel welcome and part of the neighbourhood.

6. Keep everyone involved

Invite input from people and take up offers of help. The more people involved in organising, the easier it is for you on the day. Allocate activities and keep people informed about how the planning for your event is going.

7. Remind them again

A few days before the event, you could put a simple reminder note in your neighbours' letterboxes.

8. On the day, be a good host

Arrive early to set up and welcome people. Look out for neighbours who don't know anyone, and do your best to make everyone feel welcome. Name tags (with neighbours' house numbers) can be a great help.

9. Plan to stay in touch with each other

During the event collect your neighbours' contact details (if they are happy to share them). This way you can keep in touch throughout the year.

10. Turn your street into a neighbourhood

Try to keep the neighbourly connections going. What other activities can you get involved in during the year? Do you want to set up a Neighbourhood Watch group? Keep in touch with everybody and build momentum for local activities year round.

Have fun!

