

Your 10-Step Guide to planning a get-together with your neighbours

1. Start simple

Think of who lives near you. Is there someone you already know? If you don't know any neighbours, give door-knocking a go, drop a note in their letterbox, or speak to a couple of neighbours when you see them.

Dare to break the ice and ring the bell to your neighbour. They're sure to have something to talk about.

Discuss your ideas with them and invite them to take part. Two people are enough to start, so keep at it and don't give up!

2. Decide what kind of get-together you'd like to have!

Keep talking with them about ideas, make a plan, decide what to do for the event and decide who will do what.

Keep it simple. A barbecue, a working bee, a garage sale, drawing or games night, pot-luck dinner, street sports - whatever suits your community best.

3. Choose the place and date

Set a date and think about a suitable location. If you live on a cul-de-sac, the end of the street is an ideal place to gather. If you live in an apartment, is there a party room, or a park or café close by? Do you or one of your neighbours have space to host people?



4. Make a simple invitation for the event

Include all the details (what, where, when, who...). Involve children along the way. For example, you could ask your children, or your neighbours' children, to help design the invitation. You can also use templates on neighboursday.org.nz.

5. Invite your neighbours

In the weeks before the event, have each person invite 3-4 others so it is not too big a task for any one.

Distribute flyers to houses and buildings around your neighbourhood, and go door-to-door to invite your neighbours face-to-face (as they will be more likely to come).

If some of your neighbours have limited English, try to find ways to communicate and include them - it's important to make everyone feel welcome and part of the neighbourhood.

Share the event through your social networks: you can create an event on Facebook and spread the word on Twitter using a hashtag that includes your neighbourhood.

6. Keep everyone involved

Stay in touch and keep talking with the other neighbours who are helping you and work out details along the way. It is a good idea to divide tasks to share the load.

Create an online group to coordinate more easily.

If you are having a street barbecue, you may want to have a few easy games up your sleeve.



7. Remind them again

A few days before the event, you could put a simple reminder note in your neighbours' letterboxes or send out a message on social media.

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 house numbers) can be a great help.

9. Treasure the moment

Take pictures and record videos, and share what you are uploading with your social networks.

During the event, share contact details with your neighbours (with their permission).



10. Keep things going

Try to keep the neighbourly connections going - start thinking about your next activity and encourage others to do the same. You and your neighbours could take turns at being a 'street/building coordinator' to help keep momentum - or you could form a community support group.

Remember that communities usually start small and slowly. Keep talking to people and eventually one connection will become many.

Share your fun event using the hashtag [#NDAwellington2019](#) [#wellynextdoor](#) on Instagram and Twitter.



For more information visit wcc.govt.nz/neighboursday, or contact us at Wellington City Council, by email neighboursday@wcc.govt.nz or phone the Council's resilience team on (04) 499 4444.

- What you can do**
1. Join in - find and join people working together in your local community.
 2. Take the lead - plan something for your own neighbourhood and invite others.
 3. Spread the word - tell your friends, family and of course, your neighbours.

Neighbours Day Aotearoa

Atwhāingia te pa harakeke

Neighbours Day Aotearoa (NDA) is a nationwide initiative to remind us all to connect with our neighbours and be more 'neighbourly' so that together we can feel more connected and strengthen trust in our neighbourhoods.

It's not about big events, but encouraging people to get together and plan their own celebration in every street, neighbourhood or apartment building. That may mean a first wave or smile, a chat over the fence, inviting one neighbour in for a cuppa or holding a street barbecue.

Why do we need it?

Isolation is becoming an increasing challenge in New Zealand communities with serious flow-on effects. We believe that through fostering better-connected neighbourhoods and more everyday 'neighbourliness', all New Zealand communities can counteract this to be stronger and more resilient.

Who should get involved in Neighbours Day Aotearoa?

If you have neighbours, whether they're next door, down the hall,



It's Neighbours Day - and everyone's invited!

Your guide to a Neighbours Day get-together

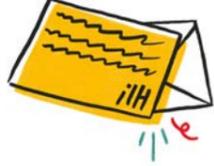


Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

How to get involved

Here are a few ideas to celebrate Neighbours Day Aotearoa:

- Say kia ora, hello, talofa, malō ē lelei, mi hao or whatever works for you and your neighbours!
- Use the 10-step guide to help you with organising a gathering for your neighbours.



- Organise a shared meal, game night, or drawing competition in your street or building.
- Next time you mow your lawn, why not do your neighbour's as well (with their permission)?



- Share home-grown produce with your neighbours or start a local community garden.
- Pay it Forward at your favourite cafe.



- Get creative with your neighbours and decorate your letter-boxes together.
- Organise a street cleanup, gardening/working bee or garage sale.
- Organise a musical jam session. Do a street clothes swap: recycle clothes and refresh your wardrobe!
- Start a neighbourhood library for things you and your neighbours are happy to share with each other (e.g. ladders, tools, kitchen mixers, books, toys, sports gear, music, art and craft supplies).

- Get online: organise your activities with a Facebook page, WhatsApp group or similar.
- Organise a sports/games afternoon with retro games - egg and spoon, sack, relay races, chalk drawing competitions are simple and great fun.

wcc.govt.nz/neighboursday
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