

5 Steps to Being Neighbourly

Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community, encouraging people to connect with those who live in their neighbourhood.

Below are our tips for how to build a small connection with your neighbours, so on Neighbour Day, you already know everyone well enough to host a friendly event.

1 Start With a Smile

We've all been there, you're heading out to the car and in a bit of a rush, maybe you're herding a minor flock of boisterous kids or pets, maybe juggling some groceries, either way, your mind is elsewhere. Then you see a neighbour in the driveway adjacent and although your mind is everywhere else, this is the perfect moment to begin your neighbourly mission. **Make it a habit to always flash a friendly smile or say hello in these moments - it's sure to make a difference!**



2 The Initial Chat

The next step is to strike up a conversation. Pick a time when neither of you are too busy and strike up a conversation. **A genuine compliment or a query can be excellent ice breakers.** Ask them about the plants in their front yard or if they know any good local dog parks. Make it light and relevant!

3 Follow Up

You've spoken to your neighbours now, maybe even introduced yourself for the first time, so the hard part is done! Next you have to **follow up with them on what you spoke about last time**, this shows your interest and people will generally appreciate feeling listened to. Ask them "How was your time away?" or "How did the kids go in their soccer game last week?"



4 Kind Gestures

Kind gestures are the ideal way to build positive connections. Consider what you might be able to offer such as to bring their bins in or water their garden if they're going away or maybe offer them extra produce or cuttings from your own garden.

5 Host Your Event

You've reached the final step, slowly but surely you've made a connection with your neighbours. **Now its time to organise your Neighbour Day get together or other neighbourly action.** You could do something on Neighbour Day, another day in March, or whenever is convenient for you. Pick something your neighbours might be interested in, such as a BBQ, morning tea or some friendly games. You've already built the connections to make it a success!

