

Ideas for connecting with your neighbours.



Here are some simple and easy ideas to start connecting.

1. Stop and chat when you see your neighbours.
2. Walk more, relax on a front porch or garden open to the street so that you get to interact more with your neighbours.
3. Plant a lemon tree for the street.
4. Share or swap fruit, herbs or veggies if you grow more than you need.
5. Make a regular time for pot luck dinners or lunches, picnics.
6. Make a regular time for walking or running with neighbours at a nearby park.
7. Make a regular time for a barbeque in the park and whoever is free comes along.
8. Make a regular time for parents and kids to meet at the park.
9. Make a regular time for socialising over a cuppa, at a local café or at someone's home.
10. Make a regular time for playing cards or other games.
11. Have a regular mothers gathering, with or without kids.
12. Have a weekly 'Happy Hour' where whoever is free drops in to say hello. This may or may not include having a drink – it's more about being happy!
13. Find other people with dogs to go on walks together.
14. Find people who would be happy to walk your dog when you can't.
15. Offer to collect mail, feed pets and keep an eye on each other's property when going away.
16. Be especially mindful of elderly neighbours and ones with a disability – whether or not they have joined your neighbourhood group – to make it easier/possible for them to live independently: Bins? Changing a globe? A lift to the shops?
17. Give your number to elderly neighbours or people with a disability or their carers in case they need a hand and check in on them – phone or visit – in a heatwave, disaster or if the power goes out. This could save a life.
18. Create a sign – a large T is used by T-House in Cairns – and when you see it in someone's yard, you are invited to drop in.
19. Make use of local businesses for meeting with neighbours – this provides a place to meet and encourages people to support their local businesses chat when you see your neighbours.

Great ideas

20. Find a spot (e.g. a recycled cabinet put in a front corner of someone's property) for leaving anything others can use, book swap (take a book, leave a book).

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21. Find others who enjoy gardening and take in turns working on each other's gardens.
22. Find others who enjoy renovating / repairing things and take in turns working on each other's homes.
23. Find others who prefer to eat with company and take in turns preparing meals.
24. Find other parents/carers, and once you have established trust, look after each other's children from time to time. (perhaps regularly to allow parents a date night?)
25. Find out if you have a group home for people with a disability in your area and if you do, visit and find out how you can connect with the residents, many of whom would love to be a part of their community but may not know how.
26. Find speakers to talk with the group about any topics of interest (council, local services, businesses or others may help find speakers).
27. Share a list of everything you are happy to share with your neighbours (tools, recipes, skills, advice, help with specific things) along with your requests and then tap into your neighbours regularly.
28. Find a way to put on movies in your neighbourhood.
29. Have a clothes / household stuff swap, donating what's left to an op shop.

Ambitious ideas

30. Establish a neighbourhood community garden or join the nearest one.
31. Hold a street party – remembering to contact your council for permission and support.
32. Do a walking tour of your neighbourhood looking for how it could be improved – any better use of space possible? What would make it safer? – and follow up to make those changes.
33. Develop plans to handle possible disasters and unusual weather events: fire, flood, storms, heatwaves.
34. Start a choir and sing together: a community choir lets anyone in – no need to be any good!
35. Link those looking for work or young people starting out in their career with experienced people who can mentor and assist them.
36. Establish a men's shed or a women's shed, or a shed for everyone, where you build or repair things together.
37. Take actions to live more sustainably, consider becoming a transition town (<http://www.transitionnetwork.org/support>).
38. Buy solar panels jointly, particularly if you're in an apartment building.
39. Buy food in bulk jointly to save money and reduce packaging.



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