

# neighbours day AOTEAROA

24-25 March 2012



## IDEAS for Neighbours Day Activities

If you work in the Health or Social Services sector you will be well aware of the benefits associated with 'knowing your neighbours'. Not only are there specific measurable outcomes around crime and safety related issues, knowing your neighbours brings an increased sense of belonging, connectedness and overall wellbeing.

Neighbours Day Aotearoa is a nationwide initiative to celebrate great neighbourhoods and encourage people to get to know their neighbours. The project is being led by LIFEWISE, Inspiring Communities, Neighbourhood Support NZ, and The Mental Health Foundation and they are encouraging other organisations to help promote the initiative in their own neighbourhoods.

"It's not necessarily about organisations putting on a special event, it's about them sharing the idea with their own clients, supporters and networks" says Rebecca Harrington, Neighbours Day Aotearoa Co-ordinator.

"Neighbours Day is really about neighbours getting together and doing special things in our own streets and backyards."

While Neighbours Day is all about informal celebrations, organisers are encouraged to sign up and share stories about their neighbourhood activities on the Neighbours Day Aotearoa website. This helps build the profile of the initiative, and in turns encourages other neighbourhoods to get involved. In 2011, 215 neighbourhoods signed up on the website, but feedback suggests the actual number of people taking part in Neighbours Day was much greater.

Neighbours Day means different things in different neighbourhoods, and as such, celebrations can vary greatly from one city to the next. Last year some people hosted a neighbourhood barbeque or picnic, while others carried out simple acts of kindness such as delivering baking to homes in their street. Stories of 2011 Neighbours Day activities are highlighted at [www.neighboursday.org.nz](http://www.neighboursday.org.nz).

If you are keen to get involved with Neighbours Day Aotearoa, either as an organisation or as a 'neighbour', check out [www.neighboursday.org.nz](http://www.neighboursday.org.nz) or visit [www.facebook.com/neighboursday](https://www.facebook.com/neighboursday) For more info email [kiaora@neighboursday.org.nz](mailto:kiaora@neighboursday.org.nz)

Put up a slippery-slide in the backyard and invite the neighbourhood kids (big and small).

Organise a progressive dinner with one course being hosted at each home in your street.

Have a neighbourhood scavenger hunt.

Create a neighbourhood time capsule and ask permission to bury it in the local park.

Host a clothes swap for the Mums and a tool swap for the Dads.

Bake some cupcakes and deliver them throughout the neighbourhood.

Host a barbeque or pot luck meal.

Have a friendly game of touch rugby at the local park, with even house numbers versing odd.

Host a Sing-Star or Wii battle with kids versing grown-ups.

Organise a street-wide garage sale.

get the kids playing together

hold a street BBQ

share a cuppa

chat over the fence



What you do makes a difference in your neighbourhood!  
[www.neighboursday.org.nz](http://www.neighboursday.org.nz)