

Key Facts about Neighbours Day Aotearoa

WHAT is Neighbours Day Aotearoa?

Neighbours Day Aotearoa is a community-led campaign encouraging Kiwis to take the time to build stronger connections in their street during the **last weekend of March** (24-25 March 2012).

That may mean a first wave or smile, a chat over the fence, inviting one neighbour in for a cuppa or holding a street barbeque. It's not about big events, but local activity in every street and neighbourhood.

WHO is involved?

Neighbours Day Aotearoa is championed by Lifewise, Inspiring Communities, Mental Health Foundation of NZ, and Neighbourhood Support NZ (Neighbours Day Development Team). It is also being promoted nationally through the community sector, health and social services sectors, and several local Councils are participating.

WHY do we need it?

Isolation is becoming an increasing challenge in New Zealand communities with serious flow on effects. National research in 2008¹ showed that 72% of Kiwis surveyed were interested in getting to know their neighbours better.

The Neighbours Day Development Team believes that through fostering better connected neighbourhoods and more everyday 'neighbourliness', all NZ communities can be stronger and more resilient.

Who should get involved in Neighbours Day Aotearoa?

As well as catalysing strong neighbourhood connections, Neighbours Day Aotearoa is a vehicle for working together across sectors, to bring together wider community building efforts and create new connections and opportunities for collaboration. Anyone who cares about strong communities can help make this happen!

How can I / my organisation support Neighbours Day Aotearoa locally?

1. **Spread the word** –through your organisation's communications channels and your own – Facebook etc
2. **Take the lead** – Plan something for your own neighbourhood and encourage others to take part
3. **Initiate and Support** efforts in your community to get people working together to promote local participation.

Background

History of Neighbours Day in New Zealand

New Zealand's first Neighbours Day was in Auckland in 2009, championed by Lifewise. In 2011 was the first national Neighbours Day. Thousands of New Zealanders took part in celebrations in their neighbourhoods, from Whangarei to Invercargill.

Neighbour celebrations around the world

- In Europe Neighbours Day has spread from Paris to 30 countries. (<http://www.european-neighbours-day.com>)
- One million UK neighbours share lunch for the UK's annual Big Lunch (<http://www.thebiglunch.com/index.php>)
- Australia's Neighbour Day is celebrated each year on the last Sunday in March (<http://www.neighbourday.org>).

For more information visit www.neighboursday.org.nz

To contact the Neighbours Day Development Team email: kiaora@neighboursday.org.nz

¹ Reference: Colmar Brunton, 'State of our Neighbourhoods' Research, for Neighbourhood Support and Nestlé, April 2008. Conducted online in March/April 2008, with 654 adult respondents across New Zealand. Referenced with permission of Neighbourhood Support.