

How to Host a Street Meet

Handbook

Got questions?
streetmeetpapakura@gmail.com
crnpapakura.org



Welcome

You're about to make your street a friendlier, more connected place. Hosting a street meet is simple, fun, and something anyone can do. This guide will show you how to bring your neighbours together with easy steps and helpful tips.

What is a Street Meet?

A street meet is just a casual get-together. Think of it as a barbecue, picnic, or driveway hangout where neighbours can meet, chat, and share snacks. No stress, no big budget—just people connecting.



Step 1: Pick a day & spot

Choose a day and time when most people will be home. Weekends or evenings are usually the best options. Find a spot that's central and easy for everyone to get to, like a driveway, park, or cul-de-sac. Make sure there's enough room for people to mingle comfortably. Since the weather in Aotearoa can be unpredictable, it's a good idea to have a wet-weather backup plan, such as moving to a carport or postponing.

Step 2: Get the word out

Let your neighbours know about the event in a friendly, simple way. Pop a quick flyer into letterboxes with the date, time, location, and what they might like to bring. If your street has a Facebook or WhatsApp group, post the event details there as well. When you're out and about, mention it to your neighbours at the mailbox or the local dairy. A personal invitation often makes people more likely to show up.

Step 3: Plan Food & Fun

Keep the food simple and easy. Sausages on the barbie, a bag of chips, or a potluck where everyone brings a plate will do the trick. If you know your neighbours have dietary needs, consider including options like vegetarian, halal, or gluten-free snacks. For fun, set up some chalk for kids (and adults!) to draw on the footpath, blow some bubbles, or put on a simple game like backyard cricket. Light music in the background can create a welcoming atmosphere without being too loud.

Step 4: Safety First

Choose a spot away from busy roads or put up some barriers to make the area safer. If it's a sunny day, have sunscreen available and maybe even a few hats or blankets for shade. Check the space for trip hazards and keep walkways clear. If your street coordinator offers a first aid kit or other supplies like sandbags for the gazebo, it's a good idea to use them. Simple precautions will help everyone feel at ease.

Step 5: Set up

Arrive early to get everything ready. Set up tables and chairs so people can gather comfortably and put out the food in a way that's easy to access. Lay out the activities in a visible spot and start playing light music to set the tone. As your neighbours arrive, greet them with a smile and help them feel welcome. Introducing new faces to each other can make the event even more inclusive and friendly.



Step 6: Enjoy the Event

Take the time to mingle and chat with your neighbours. Ask them about their hobbies, work, or what they love about the neighbourhood. Encourage people to share ideas for future gatherings or ways to improve the area. Remember, you're not running the show—let the event unfold naturally and enjoy yourself too. Your main job is to keep the vibe relaxed and welcoming.

Step 7: Wrap Up

As the event winds down, thank everyone for coming. It leaves a great impression and shows your appreciation. Once people start heading off, tidy up the area and make sure it's clean and tidy—leaving it as good as, or better than, you found it. If the event was a success, talk to your neighbours about making it a regular thing. A seasonal or quarterly get-together can help build even stronger connections over time.

Quick Tips for Success

Start small—your first neighbourhood do doesn't need to be huge. Even a few neighbours connecting is a win. Be flexible if things don't go as planned; weather, turnout, or other surprises are just part of the fun. Don't hesitate to involve others—people love to pitch in when asked. Over time, these events will make your street stronger, friendlier, and more connected.

You've got this! With a little effort and a warm smile, you'll help create a more connected, supportive, and fun neighbourhood.

