

Neighbourhood Barbecue information sheet

Welcome

Welcome and thank you for your interest in hosting a Neighbourhood Barbecue.

Neighbourhood Barbecues are a great opportunity to get to know your neighbours and build community spirit. They help neighbours to build friendly relationships, enjoy a relaxing social occasion and meet new people. They provide a very positive and powerful way for people to connect to their local neighbourhood.

Neighbourhoods where people know each other tend to have lower crime rates and social issues because neighbours look out for one another. Barbecues can improve your connection to your local neighbourhood.

Why host a Wodonga Council Neighbourhood Barbecue

1. To have fun – a perfect reason to celebrate!
2. To meet your neighbours. In 2016-2017, 92 per cent of residents surveyed at the Neighbourhood Barbecues met someone new.
3. To increase the sense of belonging in your neighbourhood.
4. To make connections within the community. When you know people, you can exchange skills or resources and perhaps organise a book club, babysitting co-op, share walking to school duties or find new friends for your children.
5. To talk about how you would like the neighbourhood to develop into the future.
6. To meet some of the old-time residents in the neighbourhood and learn about its history.
7. To have a neighbourhood clean-up day, play some good music and then enjoy a barbecue once all the work is done.
8. To start a tradition of getting together at least once a year.

Guidelines

- Applications are only accepted from Wodonga residents for the street in which they live.
- Preference is given to new residential estates and streets which haven't had a barbecue before.
- Once applications are submitted to the co-ordinator, the co-ordinator will contact you to confirm a date for your barbecue.
- Due to weather conditions on the day of your Neighbourhood Barbecue (such as a heatwave or rain), the barbecue may need to be postponed.

What Wodonga Council provides:

- Invitations for you as the host to deliver to your neighbours.
- Name tags for everyone at the barbecue.
- Two A-frame signs to promote the event in your street.
- Umbrellas, sunscreen, insect repellent.
- Children's games, colouring pencils, paper, chalk etc where appropriate.
- Raffle prize.
- Free healthy catered mobile barbecue with gluten free and vegetarian options, including all plates, cutlery, service and staff.

General tips and advice

- Wodonga Council provides Neighbourhood Barbecues for free.
- Make sure you have an appropriate location for your barbecue. This may be a park in your street, the nature strip in front of someone's home or their front yard (get their permission of course), or at the end of a cul-de-sac.
- Ideally you will have an alternative plan or venue in case of wet weather. If not, the barbecue will be cancelled or postponed and you will be notified by phone with a sign also being placed on site to advise your neighbours.
- Complete the Neighbourhood Barbecue application form as soon as possible to confirm your barbecue date with plenty of notice.
- Once your date is confirmed, go door-to-door to hand out invitations. Personally getting your neighbours involved is the key to a successful event. Reach out to people who speak other languages on your street - perhaps someone can translate the invitation?
- Feel free to include extra information on the invitation if required.

Once the barbecue is over

Remember, your Neighbourhood Barbecue is just one step along the road to building a strong and connected neighbourhood.

Our aim is to see neighbourhoods come together to strengthen social connectivity, increase physical activity and volunteerism. Neighbourhood Barbecues provide an excellent starting point to achieve this aim which is part of our larger plan to see an increase in the use of our open spaces in our wider community, including our bike and walking tracks. This will involve inviting neighbourhoods to be involved in community activities in their streets and local parks.

