

Your Guide to Organising A Successful Block Party

**BLOCK
PARTIES
ARE THE
NEW
GOING
OUT**



Building Friendlier Neighbourhoods

Why hold a Block Party?

Apartments make up almost 60% of all dwellings in the City of Port Phillip. We would like to invite those who live in apartments, units or flats to have a block party and get to know their neighbours in a safe way. Many people in the City of Port Phillip want to make their neighbourhoods friendlier. They've told us that as they've got to know more people who live around them they've felt safer, happier and more connected to their community. While some have made new friendships, others have said that they haven't necessarily had to become close to their neighbours to make a noticeable difference. Just breaking the ice and stopping to say "Hi" every now and then has been enough.

Some neighbours who met each other through street parties now look after each others' pets, plants and mailboxes while they are away, store spare keys for each other, mind each others' children and share things such as tools or books. Some have even said that it's much easier to deal with neighbourly disputes such as car parking or noise, if you start off with a friendly relationship.

Want to get started?

Contact the Port Phillip Community Group on [9525 8746](tel:95258746) or the City of Port Phillip on [9209 6606](tel:92096606).

The Port Phillip Community Group have registered over 120 street parties between 2004 and 2009, but have found that these events didn't always suit the needs of people living in blocks of apartments, flats or units. Block parties are designed to bring these people together, break the ice and share the benefits of living in a friendly neighbourhood.

This guide will give you a few tips on how to organise a block party and things you may want to take into consideration. Block parties are a new, exciting and clever way to celebrate our streets and places we live.

Why not try

- A games night
- Coffee together at a local café
- A BBQ
- Afternoon tea
- Traditional party
- Friday night pizza
- Progressive dinner up the floors

What street party organisers told us about street parties

"It's nice to live in a street where people can greet each other by name when we run into each other on the way to the coffee shop or the post box."

Guide to a successful block party

Step 1: Knock on a door and discuss your ideas with a neighbour who can help organise it and spread the word

Why not involve local people's skills? Are there any local or budding musicians, artists, performers, storytellers, historians, chefs or simply long term residents who may like to assist with the event?

Ask people to design invitations, play music at the event, make lanterns or decorations, share local stories or their favourite recipe.

Step 2: Settle on a place, time and theme and *Hey Presto You've got yourself a block party!*

Finding a venue is easy, you can try the car park or a common space in the apartment block—perhaps a green patch or at the side of the block.

Step 3: Check with your Strata Group or body corporate

Depending on your strata body or body corporate and on your event, you may need to notify them of your party.

It might be a good to bring up the idea at the next strata meeting. You never know, you may start recruiting helpers there.

Remember, respecting others in your block is the best way we can create friendly and healthy neighbourhoods.

Tips & Ideas from Regular Street Party Organisers

- Get everyone to come along and share the responsibilities – everyone to BYO food on the day makes it really easy
- Give people at least three weeks notice of the date and time
- Make it fun by coming up with a theme, like Christmas, or something related to your street or block name
- Set up in a place that's central to your block
- Provide an Ice-hub for drinks
- Take photos for the next year
- Have name tags
- A BBQ is great and Port Phillip Community Group can lend you one free of charge
- Be very clear on the invitations about what you would like people to bring eg. *'Bring a chair and some drinks'* or *'Bring a sausage and a plate'*.
- Make sure you ask people to BYO crockery and cutlery unless you arrange paper plates and cups.
- Remember that neighbours will be your key supporters. Your enthusiasm can set the tone for other people's positive experience of the block party and create the appeal of helping to make our neighbourhood a friendly and fun place to live.
- Make it fun and make sure if you do have performances and music, that it doesn't disturb the neighbours.

Note: It is not legal to **sell** food or alcohol at a block party without obtaining the necessary food trading and handling permits. This procedure is not covered in this kit, but can be accessed by contacting the City of Port Phillip's Health Services on 9209 6292.

What can the Port Phillip Community Group provide for your party?

Public Liability Insurance

By registering with Port Phillip Community Group as a volunteer organiser, you will be covered under the Port Phillip Community Group public liability insurance cover.

This means that residents attending the party are assured that there is an accountable and responsible organiser and you will be covered should they sustain an injury related to the organisation of the party. However, should people injure themselves at the party in an incident unrelated to the organisation of the party; they would have to take responsibility for this.

In order to become a volunteer of the Port Phillip Community Group for the purposes of organising a block party, you simply need to fill the Block Party Agreement form and the 'Consent to check and release national police record' form and provide 100 points ID. The police check* is part of the funding guidelines and volunteer policy. All costs will be covered by Port Phillip Community Group. Any information provided by the police is strictly confidential and will only be released to the Executive Officer of the Port Phillip Community Group.

*Police checks have been introduced into the area of community events in recent years in the interests of public safety. Traffic offences and minor misdemeanours will not prevent you from being a volunteer block party organiser.

Equipment

You can borrow a barbecue from the Port Phillip Community Group which you can pick up during business hours. Just remember to book it about three weeks before your scheduled party.

Please contact the Port Phillip Community Group on 9525 8746 for more information.



Acknowledgements

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Block Parties are part of the City of Port Phillip's Social Cohesion Project. Increasing social cohesion is a key action in the City's Health and Wellbeing Plan 2007 - 2011.

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Extra Resources

Public BBQ Facilities

You can always go across to a public facility and have a picnic or a BBQ with your neighbours. Contact the City of Port Phillip for more information 9525 8746.

Albert Park

Gasworks Park, Richardson St

Elwood

Elwood Park, Ormond Esplanade

Elwood/ St Kilda Neighbourhood Centre, 87 Tennyson Street

Marina Triangle, Marine Parade

Point Ormond Reserve, Point Ormond Ave

Middle Park

H.R. Johnson Reserve, Canterbury Road

Port Melbourne

Catani Gardens, Beaconsfield Parade

JL Murphy Reserve, Williamstown Road

Lagoon Reserve, Liardet St

Port Melbourne Foreshore, The Boulevard

Sandridge Beach, The Boulevard

South Melbourne

Bowen Crescent Reserve, Kings Way

Sol Green Reserve, Montague St

South African Memorial Reserve, St Kilda Road

St Kilda

Alma Park, Alma Road, St Kilda East

St Kilda Foreshore (Rotary Park) Jacka Boulevard

Waterloo Crescent Reserve, Waterloo Crescent

Sample invitation

You're invited to our Block Party!

Block Parties are the New Going Out

At apartment , we think that our block deserves a bit of a celebration this summer. Don't be shy, come and meet your neighbours at our casual afternoon BBQ.

Where: Outside on the lawn

Time: 4 – 6pm

When: Sunday 13 Dec 2009

Come along, bring a plate to share, your fold out chair, an esky and anything else you may think we'll need – maybe board games or a game of bocce?

Please RSVP to:

number:

See you there, Regards

Don't do your block, throw a block party!