

# How To Host a Neighbourhood Porch-Fest

It is a simple idea. Use the front of your house or apartment as a stage for music, story-telling, poetry, theatre or whatever you like!

A 'porch' could be your verandah, front yard or even a garage.



South Fremantle Porch Fest 2021, organised by South Freo Corner Pocket

Not sure where to start? Below are some handy tips to help guide the success of your first Neighbourhood Porch-Fest!

Thanks to South Freo Corner Pocket Town Team for sharing your experience.

- 1. Get together with a few neighbours and brainstorm what resources, skills and connections are available in your community.**
  - a. Brainstorm with your team how it is going to work. Keep it practical and doable. We suggest focusing on one street only and limiting your event to an early evening between 1-2 hours (but it's your event, so feel free to ignore this advice completely).
  - b. Create a checklist or plan of who's doing what (remember multiple people can help with multiple roles):
    - i. Who has connections with local musicians and performers?
    - ii. Who is good at communicating and dealing with your government authority?

- iii. Does anyone have access to outdoor speakers, lights, etc? (optional)
- iv. Who is a good connector and neighbourhood communicator?  
Always good to ensure sure your entire street is on-board.

2. **Inform your Council about what you are doing, but don't freak them out.**

Make sure you make your government authority aware that this is a small-scale initiative intended to activate porches on your street only. Let your council know:

- a. Intended date and time
- b. What properties are involved
- c. Who you expect will attend (surrounding streets)
- d. Re-assurance that you are contacting your entire street and anyone else who possibly could be impacted by increased noise and foot traffic
- e. Re-assurance that you will implement safe social distancing measures appropriate to your region.

3. **Get support from your street.**

Door knock your street and let your neighbours know what's happening (date and time) and ask them to sign your letter of support (see example attached).

If you are looking for more porch 'stages' or performers, ask if more people on your street would like to get involved. Make sure everyone is informed and there are no objections. Also, use this as an opportunity to promote the event.



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#### **4. Organise your performers and porch stages.**

- a. We suggest organising 30 min sets of solo or group performers and avoid using large sound systems. Remember, it really only needs to be heard from the porch to the street.
- b. Also, think about creating safe noise distances between each 'venue'. It is suggested to keep a minimum 30m or a two-house distance from each other for acoustic performances.
- c. Create a performance schedule and stick it on the fences and mailboxes of participating houses (on the day). Consider also creating a map and schedule and posting on a local social media page.
- d. Want to raise money for performers? (optional). Create a crowdfunding page or apply for a community grant and share equally with all performers involved in the event.

#### **5. Porch-Fest Day!**

- a. We recommend having volunteers with high-vis vests in case there are any issues to report and resolve (optional).
- b. Make it clear what houses are participating by having balloons or some sort of colourful sign in front of the property. And use tape or chalk to create 1.5m separation viewing spaces.
- c. Make sure all porch venues are aware of the performance times and have one person allocated to ensure the event is running smoothly.
- d. Think about texting or creating a Whatsapp group for each porch venue to ensure performances start and stop on-time.
- e. Finally, have fun and rock on! Make the most of your porch-fest experience!

#### **6. Ask for Neighbourhood and Council Feedback**

Ask your neighbours and council for event feedback. Is this something people would like to see happen again? What could be improved? Do more people want to get involved in future initiatives?

And remember, a quality porch-fest is targeted at your immediate local community. You don't need a big budget or fancy marketing. Instead, think more about utilising the passion in your neighbourhood for doing something good, having a fun time and ching-chinging a coldy with your mates.



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## Example Letter of Support for a Neighbourhood Porch Fest

<add the date>

Dear <Insert Street Name> Neighbour!

### LETTER OF SUPPORT: PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD PORCHFEST EVENT

My name is <add name> and I'm a resident at <your address>. With some help from a few neighbours, we've come up with a great idea to get us all moving, grooving and enjoying being on <insert street name>. It's called the 'Neighbourhood Porchfest'!

Our neighbourhood-led event is simple, free and easy to get involved. We just need 5-6 properties to help donate their porch for a couple hours and allow some local acoustic performers to do what they do best on <insert date and time> (and don't worry, it won't be late, and it won't be too noisy).

Why you ask?? It's a pretty fantastic little spot here so let's celebrate, listen to a few performances and have a social night to hang out with each other.

#### What exactly is the 'Neighbourhood Porchfest' and why?

This is a free neighbourhood-led event, which will include a few performers singing on porches, neighbours listening and having a boogie from the footpath. We would love to see more residents and community members engage with our street and spreading positive vibes.

#### Who do we expect to attend?

There is <no budget> for our Porchfest, no Facebook event page and it's not intended to be a 'big deal'. We simply want to invite our neighbouring streets to join us for this fun initiative.

#### Are you interested in getting involved?

Awesome! Please get in touch with us to donate your porch, a musician and/or to help out on the day.

#### Who do I contact for more information?

For further information regarding the Neighbourhood Porchfest please contact me(!), enter contact details

Yours sincerely,

<your name>

