

This process was used to facilitate the initial neighbourhood gathering. The results were used to inform the Neighbourhood Action Plan.

Time	Activity	Resources
5 mins	 Welcome Acknowledgment of country Intro RUKI and The Neighbourhoods Project (what it is and isn't) Overview system – individual > pod > neighbourhood > Hub 	Whiteboard markers
10 mins	 Mingling activity Create a line/s that represent the street/s in your neighbourhood using rope/ string/ flour. Invite people to stand on the line in relation to where they live in your neighbourhood. "Turn to the people near to you and share where you live and what you love about living in this area" "Share why you have come to this gathering." "Share how you were impacted by the recent disaster." Introduce pod leaders (or identify the need for pod and neighbourhood leaders) 	Rope/ string/ flour
10 mins	 Reflection # 1 – 2022 floods Draw from the large group and look for a story from each pod: How were you impacted by the 2022 floods? How have you been travelling since? Share 	
10 mins	Reflection # 2 – Neighbourhood response - In small groups (pods) share: o what worked well x 2 o what didn't work well x 2 in how we responded as a neighbourhood - In small groups (pods) share: o What worked well x 2 o What didn't work well x 2	Whiteboard
5 mins	Risks - Brainstorm – What are the risks we face as a neighbourhood now and moving forward (internally and externally)?	Whiteboard
15 mins	 Needs + Ideas Neighbourhood Leaders share what is already happening In small groups come up with 2 – 3 needs and 2 – 3 ideas for how we can meet those needs. I.e 1 idea per need eg 	Whiteboard



Here are some contact details that you might find useful.

Your Neighbourhood Contacts

Your Neighbourhood Leader/s	
Your Pod Leader/s	

Support Services

Safe Haven	Safe Haven hubs provide a welcoming,	Open 12 — 6pm every day.
community	caring environment for all people	Drop-ins encouraged, no
support and	needing mental health support. You'll	appointment necessary.
wellbeing hub	be able to get advice, information, and	<u>Shop 10-12/41-45</u>
	connect with people who care.	Murwillumbah Street
		https://safehavennc.org.au/
Nimbin /	Nimbin and Pottsville RSS offers	Nimbin RSS >
Pottsville	a FREE service that helps flood-affected	nimbinrss@nnic.org.au or
Recovery	people in their recovery by providing	call/text 0488 144 647.
Support Service	personalised, long-term support.	Pottsville RSS >
		rss@pbnc.org.au
		or call/text 0476 677 422

Council Info.

Tweed	The Emergency Dashboard provides Tweed	The Recovery Dashboard provides
Shire	residents with links, useful information and	the right information to rebuild
Council	contacts >>>	and recover >>>
	https://emergency.tweed.nsw.gov.au/home	https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/co
		mmunity/emergency-planning-
		recovery/recovery-dashboard

Help lines

Lifeline	13 11 14
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People	13YARN (139276).
NSW Mental Health Line	1800 011 511
Beyond Blue (24 hours)	1300 224 636
MensLine Australia	1300 78 99 78
Kids Helpline (up to 24 years old)	1800 55 1800
Suicide Call Back Service	1300 659 467
1800 RESPECT (Domestic Violence support) -	1800 737 732
Health Direct (24 hour access to a registered nurse or after-hours GP if you're	1800 022 222
concerned about your or someone's physical health)	







Before you start door knocking, it is important to recognise, that some people may be traumatised from their experiences of natural disasters and this can have a lasting impact on their lives. Just talking about the 2022 floods may bring up negative feelings.

The trauma from these events can make it harder for individuals to accept support. They may struggle to trust others and feel the need to handle everything on their own. Simply being a patient and empathetic ear can be helpful. It may also be appropriate to provide them with a useful contacts page that includes details of support services and neighbourhood contacts, which may assist in them reaching out for support on their own terms, if they wish, in the future. Make sure you take some copies of the Contacts Page with you.

We wrote this 'door knocking' script at the request of some neighbourhood leaders. We encourage people who may feel confident to door knock using their own words without the assistance of a 'script' to do so. For others, you may feel that using a script is a useful starting point. I suggest using it as a reference document, rather than simply reading directly from it. After a few times, you will likely find your own words.

1. Introduce yourself

• Hi there, my name is > <. I am one of your neighbours. I live at > <.

• Together with a group of people who live in our > < neighbourhood, we have set up a 'neighbourhood group' as part of The Neighbourhoods Project.

2. Introduce the project

Have you heard about it at all?

• If yes.... Great, do you have any questions?

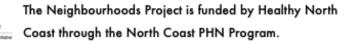
phn

• If no.... It is a project that has been initiated by RUKI (Resilient Uki) a local organisation set up by a group of passionate community members after the 2022 floods.

The idea is to help the 12 neighbourhoods in and around Uki, from Mt Burrell to Mt Warning Rd to be better able to support themselves before, during and after natural disasters and crises.

We learnt from the 2022 floods that often, emergency services can't even get to us, if we even have the ability to contact them and the people that can best support us in our times of need are our neighbours.







Along with the other 11 neighbourhoods, we had a neighbourhood gathering in > February/ March/ April <, where the people who attended identified a number of ideas (*NB you could show them the 8 point Activation plan*) that we thought would help us as a neighbourhood to be more connected and able to support each other.

One of those ideas is to survey all the people in our street/pod/neighbourhood, so we have the right information that will allow us to:

- Communicate with each other through email / a message group / radio / face to face visits. Then we can share emergency info, check in on each other, ask for help when needed in an emergency, share info about neighbourhood activities and events.
- Know how well-equipped people are in our neighbourhood in the face of an emergency...and how we might potentially share our resources and/or skills.
- Recognise how people may need to be supported and therefore reach out if we can, when it matters.

3. Let them know about some opportunities

• There are also a few opportunities coming up, that you might like to know about • NB Check with your Neighbourhood leader about some relevant opportunities e.g.

- We will be having a social gathering in our neighbourhood on.....
- There is some training coming up
- We are going to be hosting some back verandah sessions called Get Prepared. The focus will be on supporting each household to get prepared for future floods/ fires. You will walk away with a checklist and a plan and a buddy.

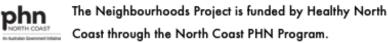
4. Invite them to complete the survey

• So we can keep you in the loop around all these opportunities and more and for you to be an active member of the neighbourhood group, I want to give you the opportunity to fill out the survey today. You can fill out as little as just your contact details or as much as including info about your skills, resources and needs etc.

• Let me explain that filling in the survey doesn't commit you to do anything other than be contacted in the future. And at the time of contact, you will be under no obligation to give time or share skills or equipment or even receive support. It will always be your choice.

• I filled it out myself because > *Include your reason* < e.g. I want to not just be able to receive information and support if I need it but also so I can support others in my street if they need it. I want to be a part of my neighbourhood and a part of the solution. I think this is an exciting opportunity.







• It only takes about 5 minutes to complete and I can answer any questions that you might have if you do it now. Plus it means it is done and out of the way and won't get lost and forgotten under a pile of newspapers, if I leave it with you to do later.

• If you have any concerns or questions about privacy or security regarding your information, have a read of this cover note first. (*provide the cover note*)

5. If they don't want to fill it out now or at all

• I completely respect your reasons for not wanting to fill it out now/ ever.

• How about I leave a copy for you and then if you change your mind, you can give me a ring and I can pop in and pick it up. I'll write my number here on the top of the survey.

• If at this stage you don't see any reason to be involved in your neighbourhood group, that's okay, but, at least let me give you a contacts page that includes the phone number/s of your neighbourhood leader/s and/ or pod leader and some other support services, in case you change your mind. (*NB you could staple it to The Neighbourhoods Project fridge magnet postcard and leave it with them*)

• Thanks for your time. It's been a pleasure to meet you and to hear your feedback. Go well.







Welcome to Uki, 'the village in the clouds'

Congratulations for joining a thriving community committed to sustainability, environmental conservation and community culture.

Inside this kit you will find information to help familiarise you with the Uki community, including where to find help, things to do and how to get involved and become part of Uki's ongoing story.

Brief History:

Listed as a heritage conservation area for its historical buildings such as the Old Buttery, the Bank and the Blue House, Uki was established at the beginning of the timber and dairy industry in the area and is now home to an array of traditional and organic farmers, alternative cultural practitioners, healers, artists and musicians.

Uki sits on Bundjalung Country, a large area that spreads across the North-East coast of NSW and the Southern Eastern coast of Queensland. Bundjalung people all share ancestors who once spoke as their first, preferred language one or more of the dialects of the Lower-Richmond branch of the Yugambeh-Bundjalung language family.

Located on the banks of the Tweed River, Uki is nestled under the shadow of Wollumbin ("cloud catcher"), the mountain that is first in Australia to be touched by the sun at dawn.

There are many tales about the name "Uki" including a story about timber quality, but the name indeed originates from "yugoi", which means 'bandicoot' in the local Ndunguwal language.

You can find details about the history of Uki and the area at The Uki Historical Society (<u>https://www.ukivillage.com.au/historical-society</u>), which has a large collection of information and vintage photos and provides village walks to residents and visitors.

Information service and village facilities:

A local visitor's information service is located at the Community Technology Centre (CTC) in the Old Buttery. The Uki CTC is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers. The CTC serves as the administrator of the Uki Village and District website, prints the Uki News and Uki Calendar, provides computer, office and printing services, as well as local tourist information.







Uki News is published bi-monthly by the Uki Residents Association (UKIRA) <u>https://www.ukivillage.com.au/uki-news</u>

Main amenities in the village include the Post Office (Art Post Uki), the Mount Warning Hotel, the Uki Supermarket, Uki Dental, and Uki Automotive and service station.

For deliveries of clean, council-approved water for residential and commercial use contact Gary Arnold Water Supply <u>https://www.garyarnoldwatersupplies.com.au</u>

For delivery and swapping of LPG cylinders check with the Uki Supermarket or contact the distribution network of Swap a Bottle <u>http://www.swapabottlegas.com/lpg-gas-delivery.html</u>

There is a caravan park and campsite located in Mount Warning Road (https://www.mtwarningrainforestpark.com).

There are also several shops, cafés, restaurants and art galleries in the area.

Two regular markets are held in Uki: the Uki Farmers Market is held every Saturday in the Uki Hall and the Uki Buttery Bazaar is held every 3rd Sunday of the month at the Old Buttery.

For more information about CTC and a complete list of Uki's businesses, events and community information go to: www.ukivillage.com.au

Sport and leisure activities:

Activities like yoga, pilates, singing, dancing, AA meetings, social games etc. are held at the Uki Hall – check the board outside the Hall for timetable. The Hall is available for casual hire – check availability and prices online (<u>https://ukihall.org.au</u>)

There is a Mountain Bike Park run by the Tweed Shire Council at 165 Smiths Creek Road (<u>https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/community/recreation-outdoors/outdoor-activities/uki-mountain-bike-park</u>)

The Uki Sporting Horse Association is at 340 Rowlands Creek Road (https://www.facebook.com/ukisportinghorse/)

The Uki Pythons Soccer Club is based at the Uki Sport & Recreation Club at Gerald Parker Park on Kyogle Road. (https://www.facebook.com/groups/ukipythonsfc)







The Uki Touch Football Club has been running since 1978. Find them at: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/993020877896842</u> (or search 'Uki Touch Footy' on Facebook).

Educational facilities:

Uki Public School (kindergarten to year 6), 1463 Kyogle Road. For details check <u>https://uki-p.schools.nsw.gov.au</u>

Mount Warning Community Preschool (for children 3-5 years old),120 Glenock Road. For details check <u>https://mtwarningpreschool.com</u>

The Aetaomah Steiner School (kindergarten to year 8), 2486 Kyogle Road. For details, check <u>https://www.steinereducation.edu.au/member-schools/schools/aetaomah-school/</u>

Churches and places of worship:

- Holy Trinity Church (Anglican)

https://www.anglicanchurchmurwillumbah.com/?page_id=21

- St. Columba Catholic Church <u>https://shpmurwillumbah.com.au/?page_id=126</u>
- Sri Govinda Dham (Hare Krishna Temple) https://srigovindadham.com.au

Community:

Community Facebook groups:

- Uki Community and Social Group https://www.facebook.com/groups/166808783512264
- Uki Residents and Friends <u>https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069682217877</u> Uki Community <u>https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068123414178</u>

Resilient Uki (RUKI)

RUKI is a not-for-profit incorporated association, focused on supporting the Greater Uki area to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, disasters and crises.







Uki is set in a beautiful natural region, with rivers, creeks and bushland. Exacerbated by climate change, we find we are susceptible to natural disasters, including storms, floods and bushfires.

In 2022, after the flood events of that year, RUKI established The Neighbourhoods Project. RUKI recognised that, when disaster strikes, it is frequently our neighbours who provide us with the urgent support we need. Often well before emergency services can reach us and then well after they have gone.

The Neighbourhoods Project supports the establishment of 12 neighbourhood groups across the Uki district. Each one has a team who supports their neighbourhood's connection, capacity building and involvement. Each neighbourhood is broken into smaller, more manageable pods of geographically close households. Most pods also have a pod leader who acts as a coordination point.

The focus is to strengthen our neighbourhoods so we can become more connected in good times and bad, and be better prepared and confident to look after ourselves in times of need.

Initiatives include: neighbourhood communications (e.g. a uhf radio network, online forum and email group); a check-in system during disasters; skills and equipment sharing; and support to prepare for flood and storm, and bushfire planning.

Active Neighbourhood Groups exist in 1. Mt Burrell, 2. Kunghur, Kunghur Creek, Terragon, 3. Byrrill Creek 4. Uki to Terragon 5. Uki Village 6. Rowlands and Chowan Creek Rds, 7. Smiths Creek Rd 8. Braeside, Bonnydoon,Toon Pl, Kyogle Rd 9. Meadow Pl 10. Dum Dum, 11. Mt Warning Rd.

You live in this Neighbourhood:

Contact your Neighbourhood Leader to be included in neighbourhood communications and notified of activities and opportunities:

Your Neighbourhood leader is:

In case of emergency, the following people in your pod have UHF radios:

More information is available at https://resilientuki.org







In a small community like ours it is important to respect one another's privacy and communicate respectfully. Tweed Council has created a useful guide to get to know your neighbours and to resolve issues that may arise between neighbours. To learn about it, go to:

https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/documents/property-andrates/know-your-neighbour-information-pack.pdf

Emergencies:

The emergency number for police, fire brigade or ambulance is 000.

Health & Animal Health

The nearest hospital Emergency Department is at Murwillumbah District Hospital in Ewing Street, Murwillumbah. The ED is open 24 hours. Tel (02) 6672 0000

The closest General Practitioner clinics are in Murwillumbah and you can find a full list by searching 'Uki' at <u>https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/australian-health-services/search/</u>

The closest veterinarians are in Murwillumbah and some have after-hours on call services but failing that the closest emergency animal hospital is Animal Emergency Services (AES) at Carrara, Gold Coast, on 07 5530 6370.

Disasters

Council's Tweed Emergency Dashboard is a great resource to find useful information, contacts and resources about all manner of emergencies. Good to bookmark: <u>https://emergency.tweed.nsw.gov.au/home</u>

You should also consider downloading the Hazards Near Me app, which delivers emergency warnings and advice for fires, floods and tsunamis in NSW -<u>https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/hazards-near-me-app</u>

There are two volunteer fire brigades local to this area, the Uki Rural Fire Brigade and the Kunghur Rural Fire Brigade, made up of professionally trained volunteers who respond to fire and other emergencies. You can find their Facebook pages at:: www.facebook.com/ukiruralfirebrigade/







https://www.facebook.com/people/Kunghur-Rural-Fire-Brigade/100078786773889/?paipv=0&eav=AfYXTw0QSYPcZ041f1iLN2uyTcq9MIHujGbG7-4EFM7ut0iOzO8DL9HaUyNdPtKxkc&_rdr

For bushfire updates, go to the Hazards Near Me App or visit https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me

To prepare for the fire season, check <u>https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan</u>

In case of heavy rain, storm or flood, check the map of flooded causeways and other relevant information on www.ukiflood.org and http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDN60140.html

To prepare for a flood, check <u>https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/floodsafe/prepare-your-home/before-a-flood/</u>

For other resources about community response to emergency, go to: <u>https://resilientuki.org</u> and follow the Caldera Community Emergency Support Facebook page at <u>https://www.facebook.com/calderacommunityfiresupport/</u>

Volunteering and community services:

There are plenty of volunteering opportunities in Uki, depending on individual interests and availability.

Uki is home to the Uki Refugee Project (URP), a volunteer-based organisation working to help refugees and asylum seekers. For more information go to http://www.ukirefugeeproject.org

CTC, UKIRA, RUKI, the Rural Fire Brigade, Uki Historical Society, Uki Hall Committee, URP and the sports club associations all welcome volunteers to join their membership. For details, click on the links mentioned in this kit.







Resilient Uki (RUKI) is a not-for-profit incorporated association, focused on supporting the Greater Uki area to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, disasters and crises.

RUKI was born from the flood events of 2022, but it is built on the foundations of the Uki Flood Group, which was established in 2014 and has done extensive groundwork in keeping our community informed of flooding risks and response.

RUKI works to support a grassroots base of neighbourhood groups to assist Uki and surrounding areas in being a connected, kind, responsive, robust, resilient, regenerative and healthy community.

We are a diverse group of community volunteers working collaboratively and compassionately to strengthen Uki to become more connected and resilient in this changing world. We are here to support the community to help themselves and each other. RUKI is a completely independent association with no economic, political or religious affiliations.

What we are working on:

- Securing hardware for and establishing a community-owned UHF radio network, connecting the Greater Uki area when traditional communications systems are down.
- Improving the community's resources and capacity by building a cache of wellpositioned community owned assets for immediate, local response to flood or fire.
- Establishing a network with neighbouring communities along the Koonyum Range to support each other when we become isolated.
- Assisting the Uki School of the Arts Hall to have off-grid capacity for use as an emergency hub
- A Neighbourhoods Project for Greater Uki, supporting the connection and mental health resilience of our neighbourhoods (see over for more).
- We organised an online recovery event for more than 600 parents and carers called After the Floods, featuring three national parenting experts.
- Working with emergency services, Council, State Government and other Community Resilience Network stakeholders to better coordinate our response to the next disaster.
- Partnering with Plan C to deliver the Community Carers and Responders program in Uki, training more than 25 local leaders and giving Greater Uki increased capacity for on-the-ground community support in times of disaster and crisis.
- Establishing key relationships with leading disaster response agencies, researchers and not-for-profits to learn from and ensure a community voice in preparedness for, response to and recovery from disasters.

Our People

The RUKI committee office bearers include Melanie Bloor (president), Carmen Myler (vice president), Geoffrey Colwill (treasurer) and Brendan Esposito (secretary).

Getting Involved

There's a lot going on in this space and as a grassroots community association, RUKI hopes to involve the whole community. If you would like to know more, please don't hesitate to contact us at secretary@resilientuki.org.au

"You don't have to be best friends, But, are you good neighbours?"

THE NEIGHBOURHOODS PROJECT

RUKI's *Neighbourhoods Project* slogan recognises that, when disaster strikes it is frequently our neighbours who provide us with the urgent support we need. Often well before emergency services can reach us and then, well after they have gone.

RUKI's (Resilient Uki) 'Neighbourhoods Project' supports 12 neighbourhood groups across the Uki district. Each one has a team who supports their neighbourhood's involvement.

The Neighbourhoods

- 1. Doon Doon, Midginbil, Commissioners Creek
- 2. Mt Burrell
- 3. Kunghur, Kunghur Creek, Terragon
- 4. Byrrill Creek
- 5. Uki to Terragon
- 6. Uki Village
- 7. Rowlands and Chowan Creek Rds
- 8. Smith's Creek Rd
- 9. Braeside, Bonnydoon, Toon PI, Kyogle Rd 10.Meadow PI
- 10.Meadow P 11.Dum Dum
- 12 Mt Worping
- 12.Mt Warning Rd

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

The first and most important reason is that a community formed through kindness is a wonderful place to live.

We believe, this will help to further strengthen our neighbourhoods so we can become more connected in good times and bad, and be better prepared and confident to look after ourselves in times of need.

- Be better prepared for when disaster strikes
 Help each other during
- Find out what our needs are
- afterwards

Basically, we hope to become a better prepared and resilient community, well equipped and confident to look after ourselves. It is community led, so which activities each neighbourhood chooses to participate in is up to the neighbourhood and how much involvement each household has, is up to the household.

Possible neighbourhood activities include:

- Surveying residents
- 'Get prepared' developing a flood & storm or fire plan for your property
- Skill Share Sessions neighbours sharing skills with neighbours
- Radio handling training
- Social meet ups
- Head check neighbours working out how to check on each other during disasters.
- Let's share neighbours sharing skills and equipment with each other especially during a crisis.
- Resilience First Aid training
- First aid skills training

The Neighbourhoods project provides: support for the neighbourhood leaders; facilitators for activities; 'how to' guides; information; free training; and equipment on loan for your community gatherings e.g. gazebo, lighting, an urn.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Marlena on 0404486712





This project is funded by Healthy North Coast through the North Coast PHN program.



• Attachment #5 / Sign in sheet

Event >

Name	Address	Mobile phone #	Email	UHF radio?	Have you completed the survey?





The Neighbourhoods Project is funded by Healthy North

Coast through the North Coast PHN Program.



The Neighbourhoods Project 15. SKILLS SHARE

During the 'Neighbourhood Gatherings', participants identified that there were a lot of skills in their neighbourhoods that could be shared. Skills like generator maintenance, vegetable pickling, tree trimming, deep listening, basic first aid and more. Many of these skills would help to build the capacity of our neighbourhoods and the individuals within them, allowing them to help themselves and each other, before, during and after a disaster.

While this 'skills sharing' may happen informally in some places; by providing a structure and system for people to share their skills and others to receive them, it allows for a more comprehensive approach that can include everyone who might be interested.

This sheet provides some guidance for establishing a 'Skills Share' program for your neighbourhood. You might like to follow the steps below. The suggestion is to read through all ten steps before working through them.

1. Do a CALL OUT

While some of the residents in your neighbourhood may have indicated their skills on the 'neighbours survey'; to inspire greater participation, you could put a 'call out' for people interested in sharing a relevant skill with their neighbours through a talk, a demonstration or a workshop. Have the interested presenters complete an 'expression of interest' form. See Attachment # 1 'Call out' communication and EOI form.

2. SCHEDULE the skills share activities

The response from the 'call out' may inform your decision on wether you:

- Organise a one off activity (to see how it goes) or
- Run a number of activities across the year or
- Hold a 'skills share' weekend with a number of activities taking place at different locations over two days (this could culminate in a big shared pot luck social activity)

Once you have decided, develop a 'Skills Share' activity schedule on a spread sheet identifying workshop dates, times and locations. Check the dates don't clash with other community events happening in the area that day.

Confirm these details with the presenters.

3. Workshop Planning **RESOURCES**

Provide a workshop planning checklist to each presenter to assist them in organising their 'skills share' activity.







You could also offer them a guide for leading workshops effectively.

See Attachment # 2 Skills Share facilitator guide

4. **COSTING** your skills share activities

Work with your presenters to identify wether there are any costs in running their activity.

In most cases it will mainly be people's time in presenting. The majority of people will be happy to volunteer their time. But in some cases there might be material costs e.g. printing, equipment, refreshments, name tags etc.

There are a number of ways to meet the costs.

- Approach local individuals, businesses or organisations that may want to collaborate or sponsor activities. It makes sense to limit yourself to entities within your neighbourhood, so as not to 'compete' with other neighbourhood groups doing the same.
- Ask for a contribution (define an amount or ask for a donation) from attendees.
- Ask participants to b.y.o. Outline what equipment to bring eg a pen, a jar, a mug; email handouts and ask participants to print themselves a copy etc.

5. PROMOTION

Firstly, consider who your audience might be. It is likely to be limited to the residents of your pod or neighbourhood. In some cases you might choose to go further afield e.g. in an adjacent neighbourhoods collaboration.

Design a strategy for promoting your 'skills share' program. You might want to consider:

- A visually appealing flyer/ poster to distribute around the neighbourhood
- Social media graphics for social media posts to reach your audience.
- Pre-written emails for sending announcements, reminders, and followups to participants.

6. **SAFETY** Measures

Consider and discuss any safety concerns and precautions with the workshops presenters e.g. for a chainsaw workshop, it would be safer to limit the workshop to a demonstration rather than having the participants operating a powered chainsaw.







Make sure a basic First Aid Kit is available for any minor injuries that may occur during workshops.

7. FEEDBACK and Evaluation

Make sure you have a feedback form for participants to provide feedback on the activity. It will allow you to assess the success of each activity and make improvements. See Attachment # 3 Feedback form

8. DOCUMENTATION

Consider documenting the activity using a camera/ smartphone. You can use the photos for future promotion and to report back to any sponsor/s. The presenter might also like to watch themselves on video so they can make improvements.

You could ask participants to sign a release form for photographs and videos.

See Attachment # 4 Release form

9. REFRESHMENTS

If you choose to offer refreshments during the workshop or to host a social element of the activity at the end of the workshop, you might choose to:

- Ask participants to BYO
- Ask for a donation from participants to cover the costs
- Cover the cost with a separate donation/ sponsorship.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

The following items are worth considering having in place for your skills share activities.

- Name Tags: For participants and workshop leaders. The cheapest solution is a roll of masking tape, a pair of scissors and a permanent marker
- A sign-in sheet: To keep track of attendance. Add them to a database of participants and facilitators for future communication about upcoming 'skills share' activities. See Attachment #5 Sign in sheet
- A registration system, to track participants.
- Tablecloths and Decorations: For an inviting workshop environment.
- Storage Containers: To organise and transport workshop materials. Tailor this kit to the specific needs of your skills share activities. You can customize and expand this kit to enhance the success of future activities.







While these steps might be useful in creating a structure, it's also important to be creative, flexible, and open to feedback to foster a thriving 'skills sharing' community in your neighbourhood.







Attachment # 1 / 'Call Out' communication and EOI form.

'Call Out' Communication

Hey neighbours,

We are launching the 'xxxx' Neighbourhood 'Skills Share' Program. And the first step is to identify people who would like to share their skills.

Do you have a skill that could be useful before, during or after a disaster? e.g. tree trimming, generator maintenance, creating an emergency kit, vegetable pickling, fruit preserving, deep listening, basic first aid, food security or other....

Would you like to share this skill with people from your neighbourhood? You might like to do this through a presentation, a demonstration or a workshop.

Time? It can be as long or as short as you like. Size? It can be for a small or a large group. Venue? It can be at your place or we can find another suitable venue in the neighbourhood.

Thanks

XXXXXXX







'Skills Share' Expression of Interest Form.

Your name				
Mobile #				
Email address				
Address				
What skill do you want to share?				
What are your qualifications or relevant experience?				
Do you want to	o offer	a presentation	a demonstration	a workshop
Select one > X				
Describe your offering e.g. what will you cover, what are the benefits for participants				
Duration. How lo it last?	ong will			
What is the minimum and maximum # of participants?				
Will you host it at your place? If no, where do you propose it be held?				
Describe any risk involved in your offering and the precautions you will take.				
When would you like to make your offering? Propose some possible month/s or date/s or time/s				



phn



What equipment/
resources/ materials will
you need?
What (if any) costs are
there in running your
offering?
What support will you
need to run your
offering?







• Attachment # 2 / Facilitator Guide

Whether you are an experienced or inexperienced facilitator or presenter, it can be useful to have a guide to support you in planning your skills share activity.

- 1. Know Your Audience:
 - Understand the participants' backgrounds, needs, and expectations.
 - Tailor the content and approach to their level of knowledge and interests.
- 2. Clear Objectives and Agenda:
 - Ensure that the activity has well-defined objectives and a structured agenda.
 - Communicate these clearly to participants at the beginning of the session so they know what to expect.
- 3. Engage Participants:
 - Create an interactive and participatory environment.
 - Encourage questions, discussions, and activities to keep participants engaged and active throughout the workshop.
- 4. Effective Communication:
 - Practice active listening and clear communication.
 - Be mindful of your tone, body language, and use of language to convey ideas effectively.
- 5. Adaptability:
 - Be flexible and responsive to the needs of the group.
 - Be prepared to adjust the agenda or activities if necessary to address unexpected challenges or opportunities.
- 6. Time Management:
 - Keep the workshop on schedule by managing time effectively.
 - Allocate appropriate time for each segment, and avoid rushing through or spending too much time on any one topic.

In addition to these key points, it's important to foster a positive and inclusive atmosphere where all participants feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and ideas. Encourage collaboration and respect among participants, and be open to diverse perspectives and experiences. Remember that the success of a skills share activity often depends on the facilitator's ability to create a dynamic and supportive learning environment.







• Attachment # 3 / Feedback form

SKILLS SHARE FEEDBACK FORM

Thank you for participating in this 'Skills Share" activity. We hope it was a positive experience for you.

We want to receive your feedback so we can keep improving as well as measure the impact of these activities . Please complete this quick form and let us know your thoughts (your answers will be anonymous).

Which activity did you attend? >	
Which date? >	
Which neighbourhood are you from?	

Du	ring the Activity	All of the time	Most of the time	Some of the time	Not really
1	l enjoyed myself				
2	I was satisfied with the content				
3	I was treated with respect				
4	I was satisfied with the presenter/s				
5	I felt supported around my experiences				

As a	result of the Activity	Definitely agree	Somewhat agree	Just a bit	Not at all
6	I feel more connected with my neighbours				
7	I feel better in myself than before				
8	I feel more optimistic about the future				
9	My skills have improved, enhancing my ability to support myself and others				
10	I am more confident in my ability to deal with future disasters as part of a community response				
11	I feel more confident to participate in future neighbourhood activities				

PLEASE TURN OVER AND COMPLETE THE BACK AS WELL







What was	
most useful	
about the	
activity?	
What would	
have made	
the activity	
better?	
What other	
skills would	
you like to	
learn in	
future 'Skills Share'	
activities?	
activities?	

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback







• Attachment # 4 / Release form

'Skills Share' Photo/ Video Release Form

Hi there!

We're excited to have you participate in our 'Skills Share' activity. We'd love to capture some moments to share the experience with others. By signing this form, you agree to let us use photos or videos that might include you for things like social media posts, website updates, and other promotional materials.

Participant's Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature (if over 18): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18): _____

Feel free to reach out if you have any concerns or want to chat more about it.

Cheers,

> Name <







The Neighbourhoods Project 14. CHECK IN

One of the main reasons to have a solid neighbourhoods system in place, is to ensure that everyone gets timely assistance during a natural disaster.

The aim is that everyone survives.

There are many reasons that a person might fall through the cracks and not get the assistance they need.

1. Power outage	2. Mobile phone outage	3. Car breakdown
4. Landslide	5. Isolation	6. Injury
7. Vulnerability e.g. age,	8. Not connected with	9. Other
disability	neighbours	

It is at these times that having a 'check in' system is important.

Which check in system a pod/ neighbourhood goes with will depend on a number of factors that include accessibility, fitness, available communications... and more.

There are many 'check in' systems that a pod could use. Here are 5 ideas with pros and cons for each idea

#	System	Pros	Cons
1	Neighbourhood Watch App: Create a dedicated 'neighbourhood watch' app or group chat where neighbours can regularly check in, report their status, and request assistance if needed. Someone would need to be overseeing to make sure all residents have checked in and follow up those who have not.	• Real-time communication: allowing for instant updates.	 Dependent on technology: relying on stable internet or cellular networks. Privacy Concerns: some residents may have privacy concerns about sharing their status on a digital platform.
2	Buddy System: Establish a buddy system within the pod/ neighbourhood, where each household is paired with another. Neighbours can check on their assigned buddy's well-being during and after a disaster, ensuring that no one is left unattended.	 Personal connection: fostering a strong sense of community and personal responsibility for one another. Easy to Implement: simple and low-tech approach that everyone can participate in. 	 Limited Reach: doesn't account for neighbours outside of the assigned buddy pairs. Potential buddy unavailability: if a buddy is away or also affected by the disaster, the system may break down.
3	Round Robin: Set up a circular flow chart of the names of the people in your pod. The first name on the list would be the pod leader. They check	• Structured communication: ensuring a systematic way of checking in.	• Delay in communication: taking time to pass around the circle,







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	in with the next person on the list (their adjacent neighbour). Then that person checks in with the next person on the list and so on until the end. If a person cannot contact the next person, they report it to the pod leader and then move to the next person on the list. The Pod leader makes extra efforts to check in with the people that weren't contactable.	• Personal touch: allowing for a more personal connection	delaying check in. • Complexity: managing a 'round robin' can be cumbersome, especially in larger pods or neighbourhoods.
4	Color-Coded Flags: Develop a color- coded flag system that residents can display outside their homes to communicate their status. For example, green may indicate all is well, yellow may signify a need for assistance, and red may signal a medical emergency. This could be combined with the buddy/ round robin system	 Quick visual communication: providing a clear and easy-to-understand way of signaling one's status. No technology dependence: not relying on technology or internet access. 	 Limited Information: flags can convey basic information but lack details about specific needs or emergencies. Visibility issues: flags may not be visible in certain weather conditions or in densely populated areas. Consistency: a person's status may change and they may not have the ability to change the flag resulting in a miscommunication.
5	Check-In stations: designating specific check-in stations within the neighborhood, such as a community hall or safe house. Residents can go to these locations to register their status and receive updates on available resources.	 Physical Gathering Points: Offers a central location for neighbours to gather, share information, and receive assistance. Resource Distribution: Can serve as distribution points for emergency supplies. 	 Mobility Issues: Some residents may have difficulty reaching check-in stations, especially if roads are blocked. Resource Constraints: The station itself may be affected by the disaster, limiting its effectiveness.

Each system has its own set of advantages and disadvantages, and the choice of which one to implement should consider the specific needs, technological capabilities, demographics and preferences of the neighbourhood in question.





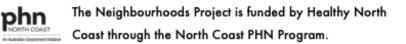


A combination of these systems may also be effective in addressing various aspects of communication and assistance during a disaster.

Ideally a pod will sit down together and come up with the system that best suits. You might like to follow these steps to achieve a good result.

- 1. Discuss: why do we want a check in system? what do we want to achieve?
- 2. Brainstorm the following:
 - What are the strengths that we have to work with? e.g. most people have a UHF radio, most people can walk to each others homes even during a disaster.
 - What are the challenges we have to consider? e.g. many households in our pod get isolated, we have many vulnerable people who have difficulty walking distances
 - What's most important to us when considering a system? e.g. self responsibility, sharing the load
- 3. Devise the right system
 - Present the 5 systems
 - Identify any ideas for other systems
 - Discuss which model best takes advantage of your strengths; addresses your challenges; and takes into consideration what is most important
- 4. Plan
 - What needs to be done?
 - Who will do it?
 - By when?
 - What resources are needed?
- 5. Practice
 - Plan a trial
 - Plan to reflect and adapt the system
 - Schedule 3 practice runs and reflections per year.







There are times in neighbourhoods when it can be necessary to share skills, resources and equipment. This is never more relevant than during an emergency or natural disaster, as during these times it can be difficult, if not impossible for emergency services or private contractors to get to people in crisis, when they need it.

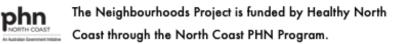
In some communities where trust and familiarity have been built up over time, knowing who has what skills and equipment and feeling comfortable to ask for help can be normal practice. However, that is not always the case, particularly in neighbourhoods where there are a lot of newer arrivals.

In some neighbourhoods it will be necessary to develop a culture of sharing. This needs to be done with sensitivity and awareness, as for many people privacy and security are highly valued. The following steps and protocols may be helpful in establishing a 'Let's Share' initiative in your neighbourhood.

Steps

- 1. Neighbourhood and pod leaders become familiar with who has what expertise and equipment across the neighbourhood/ pod
 - The information gathered in the survey will let you know who has which skills, resources and equipment.
 - You may want to organise your spread sheet in such a way as to make that information more easily accessible during an emergency. One way to do that is to create an additional sheet that has the headings for most frequently sought after skills and equipment and list the names and contact details of the relevant people under those headings. E.g. medical skills, owns a chainsaw, has a generator and satellite internet. Others may prefer to organise this information on cards like in a recipe index. Make sure this information is stored securely to ensure privacy.
- 2. Let residents in your neighbourhood know about the Let's Share initiative.
 - Prepare a communication to let people know how the Let's Share initiative will work in your neighbourhood. You may wish to use or adapt the sample communication provided on the next page.
 - Include a set of protocols that serve to protect privacy and security, encourage self sufficiency and not over burden particular community members who happen to be well resourced.
 - Send the communication to all your residents via your email group.
- 3. Enable the matching of a person with a need to a person with the needed skill, resource or equipment. It might look like this:
 - A resident contacts you as the pod/ neighbourhood leader with a request for support e.g. a tree has fallen, blocking their driveway during a big storm.
 - You clarify:







- that they do not have the appropriate equipment or skill to remove the fallen tree themselves
- that they are unable to get help from emergency services or to pay a private contractor to remove the tree.
- what is required to do the job i.e. at least 1 skilled person and their chainsaw.
- What the person with the blocked driveway is able to do to assist e.g. provide petrol and manual labour of removing the debris.
- \circ $\;$ What the ideal timeframe would be.
- You check your spread sheet to identify the person/ people with the necessary skills and equipment.
- To get the quickest response you could contact the relevant people individually to see if someone is able to help within the required timeframe. (NB Be sure not to approach the same person every time. Spread the load around the neighbourhood.) NB No-one should feel obliged and pressured to share their skills, time, resources or equipment. It is important that they understand that it is their choice.
- If the urgency is not great, an alternative would be to put out a call to the whole pod/ neighbourhood online messenger or what's app group.
- If you are unable to find someone within your pod or neighbourhood to help, you may need to go farther afield i.e. adjoining pod or neighbourhood.
- Once a willing person has been identified, connect them to the person in need.
- Ask both parties to let you know when the job has been completed.
- Check that the person in need is okay and acknowledge the 'helper' for their efforts.

An alternative approach is that individuals in your neighbourhood/ pod could put out a call for help themselves via the messenger or What's app group. In a neighbourhood that is well organised, connected, functioning and with high levels of trust, this approach may work well. In other cases the facilitating role of the neighbourhood/ pod leader may ensure the process runs more efficiently and smoothly in the early stages of implementation.

Sample Communication

Hey there,

I am writing to let you know about an initiative that we are introducing to our neighbourhood. It's called 'Let's Share'. The purpose is to support residents to safely access and share needed expertise, resources + equipment, especially during a crisis or an emergency.

We recognise that during these times, it can be difficult, if not impossible to access help from emergency services or paid contractors. Additionally we don't always







know who in our community might have the skills or equipment we need and we might not feel confident to ask for help. This initiative will help to bridge that gap.

The idea is to match people in need to willing people with the relevant skills (eg medical skills, chainsaw operation, psychological first aid), equipment (e.g. a tall ladder, a trailer, a generator) or resources (water, medicines, fuel)

Here are some scenarios as examples

During a flood, when	During a storm, a tree may	During a bushfire, a
roads are cut off, a person	fall and block a person's	vulnerable person may
may have a medical issue	driveway. A neighbour/s	want to evacuate but not
e.g. an allergic reaction	with chainsaw skills and a	have a working vehicle to
and need some medical	machine may be called on	get themselves out . A
support. A neighbour with	to help clear the driveway.	neighbor with a car with
medical training and an		available space and a
extensive medicine		similar plan to evacuate
cabinet may be called on		may be called on to
to provide some support.		transport the person to an
		evacuation centre.

In responding to these scenarios and others, we will be following these 6 protocols.

1.	There is free choice in offering help. i.e. no one should be pressured or feel obliged to offer expertise, time, resources or equipment. Nor should anyone offer for another person to help without their explicit consent.	2.	Information about what skills, resources and equipment people have to share is confidential. This information was likely collected through the survey and is private, only to be accessed by pod or neighbourhood leaders.
3.	This system will only be initiated during a crisis , emergency, or natural disaster. During 'peaceful' times, people are likely to be able to arrange their own support.	4.	In all instances people are to be encouraged to help themselves first, by applying their own expertise and resources; or accessing emergency services; or paying private contractors, before asking for help. At the same time, a person should not be judged or humiliated for asking for help.
5.	The intention is to share the joy of helping across the neighbourhood. If we ask the same person (who happens to be abundant in skills and resources) to help every time, they may feel burdened.	6.	It is not the intention that this system replace an existing culture of sharing amongst neighbours. Where previously it would have been the norm for a person to call their neighbor directly to ask to borrow a ladder, then that would continue. This system would value add.







The 'Let's Share' system would more or less follow these 5 simple steps.

- 1. A person in need contacts their pod leader (PL) or neighbourhood leader (NL) with a request for help.
- 2. The PL/NL assesses the need.
- 3. The PL/NL puts out a request to the people with the relevant skills/ resources or if appropriate, to the pod/ neighbourhood at large.
- 4. Once the relevant, willing person is identified, the PL/NL makes the match.
- 5. On completion, both parties let the PL/NL know how it went.







Organising a successful community event requires planning and coordination. Whether it's a neighbourhood picnic, a skills sharing day, or a street garage sale, this step-by-step guide will help you navigate the process smoothly.

Step 1: Define Your Event's Purpose and Goals

- Work out the purpose of your event (e.g., fundraising / community connection / building awareness). It may have multiple purposes.
- Set specific goals and objectives (e.g. raise \$1,000, attract 200 attendees, increase people's awareness around being prepared for bushfires).

Step 2: Assemble Your Planning Team

- Planning and executing an event on your own may be too much
- By recruiting some enthusiastic volunteers or committee members to help plan and execute the event, you can share the load.
- Assign roles and responsibilities based on individual strengths and interests.

Step 3: Establish a Budget

- Create a budget spread sheet to estimate expected expenses and needed income.
- Seek sponsors, donations, or grants to cover costs.
- Be clear of what the sponsors etc. need in return e.g. a report, proof of expenditure, photos, recognition.
- Keep track of all financial transactions throughout the planning process.

Step 4: Choose a Date, Time, and Location

- Pick a date that doesn't clash with other local events and suits your target audience.
- Select and book a venue that can accommodate your expected attendance and has the necessary facilities.

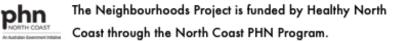
Step 5: Secure Permits and Insurance

- If necessary, contact local authorities to obtain any required permits or licenses.
- Consider liability insurance to protect against unforeseen incidents.
- Step 6: Plan the Event Program
- Develop a detailed event schedule, including activities, performances, speakers etc.
- Ensure a good flow of activities, with breaks for food and relaxation.

Step 7: Promote Your Event

- Create a marketing plan that includes fliers, social media, local newsletters/ newspapers, letter box drop, neighbourhood online forum/ email group and community bulletin boards.
- Build a dedicated social media page for updates and registration.







Step 8: Register Participants or Attendees

- Set up an online registration system or use paper forms, if necessary.
- Collect necessary information and fees if required.

Step 9: Organise Supplies and Logistics

- Create a checklist of supplies needed (e.g., tables, chairs, decorations, lighting).
- Book items from the RUKI Event Kit
- Arrange for food, beverages, and catering if applicable.
- Coordinate transportation and parking logistics.
- Plan and make signs
- Make sure you include the relevant BYO information on the invitation/ flier.

Step 10: Recruit Volunteers

- Encourage community members to volunteer for various event roles.
- Provide clear instructions and briefing for volunteers.

Step 11: Execute the Event

- On the event day, arrive early to ensure everything is set up as planned.
- Put up signage, registration table, gazebos etc.
- Assign volunteers to their respective roles.
- Be prepared to handle unexpected issues or emergencies.

Step 12: Post-Event Evaluation

- At the end of/ after the event, gather feedback from participants, volunteers, and sponsors. Use the RUKI evaluation form and share the results with them.
- Evaluate the achievement of your goals, including financial success.
- Consider what worked well and what could be improved for future events.

Step 13: Thank Participants and Sponsors

- Show gratitude to all involved, including volunteers, attendees, and sponsors.
- Send thank-you notes and acknowledge their support.

Step 14: Follow Up

- Document the event's success and lessons learned for future reference.
- Have a well earned rest.
- Begin planning for the next community event.

Remember that successful community events require effective communication, collaboration, and dedication. By following this simple guide, you can create memorable and impactful experiences for your community. Good luck with your event!







The Neighbourhoods Project 10. RADIOS

The radio network is a last resort and even a back up for communications within neighbourhoods and between neighbourhoods and the hub during a disaster. When the power, internet and phones are down then we can use the UHF radio system. Some neighbourhoods might find that using the radios, even during 'peace time', works better for them.

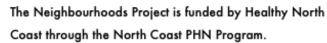
It is hoped that a UHF radio can be supplied to each pod where one does not already exist. Radios provided by RUKI remain the property of RUKI and can be relocated as necessary to fill any gaps in the system. This network can then be used to communicate through to relevant bodies such as the SES/ RFS / RUKI during a crisis. Training will be provided and regular testing is mandatory for those with a RUKI radio.

Systems level	Centrally	In the neighbourhood
 Identify location for a 	 Bernd appointed as 	• NLs to identify radio
comms hub (specs	coordinator/ Done	coordinators (RC) for each
summary has been	 Set up a radio comms 	neighbourhood / by end of May
circulated to NLs by Bernd) / by yesterday	team / Done	• RC to identify 3 dedicated
	• Bernd made contact with all NLs / Done	radio operators to be on the job in the case of disasters/ by end of June
	• Training materials developed by Tim Rose / Done	
Model UHF coverage	 Bernd will advise re radio 	• Audit of radios available in the
for each neighbourhood	specs for personal purchase /	pods > neighbourhood (Q's in
by computer by Bernd +	late May	surveys) / by early June
comms team – ID		
strategies to overcome		
gaps - with n'hoods / the		
day after yesterday		
 Field tests from Uki 	 Assign radio channels for 	 ID areas/ pods that get
Hub to n'hood hubs –	each n'hood (working with	isolated and where there are no
comms team / Early June	the wider region) – Bernd &	radios in those areas / by mid
	comms team / by end of	June
	May	
• Field tests at the Uki to		• Explore ways to fill radio gaps/
neighbourhoods level –		by mid June i.e. reshuffle/ Red
adjustments till a working		Cross/ purchase/ RUKI >
solution is found –		requests to Bernd by June 2
Comms team / by mid		
June		
Training for radio		Neighbourhood based radio
coordinators and		training for all radio holders /
operators – Tim + team /		July - Aug
Aug		

Here is the plan for setting up the radio network:



phn





All of system simulation	• Field tests at the
/ field test / September	neighbourhood level –
	adjustments till a working
	solution is found / Aug

For further information re radios contact Bernd Langer on 0418428877 / vk2ia@vkcc.net







One of the keys to building a connected, supported and informed neighbourhood, is having an effective way to communicate with each other both in good times and bad. You may choose to communicate at a neighbourhood level and/or at pod level.

Some neighbourhoods may want a number of communication channels that may include:

 Email – by setting up a database of community members and emailing them as a group. An alternative is groupsio. Groups.io provides an invitation system for coordinators (with the right permissions) to submit the email addresses of people they want to invite to join the group. The system sends an email invitation to each person. To join the group, each recipient just has to click on the link in the invitation or reply to the invitation. Coordinators can track each invitation and see whether it has been accepted. For more info on Groupsio go to <u>https://groups.io/</u>

There are several benefits to using an email group as compared to say an online forum, including:

- 1. Familiarity: Email is a more familiar technology, which can make it easier for members to participate in the community. Many people are comfortable using email, and are more likely to engage with an email group than an online forum.
- 2. Convenience: Email groups can be more convenient than online forums, as members can receive notifications and updates directly in their inbox. They can also reply to messages directly without having to log in to a separate website or platform.
- 3. Privacy: Email groups can be more private than online forums, as messages are only visible to members of the group. This can be important for sensitive or confidential discussions, or for communities that value privacy and security.
- 4. Better Engagement: Email groups can encourage better engagement among members, as messages are more likely to be seen and read than posts on an online forum. This can lead to more active discussions and a stronger sense of community.
- 5. No Need for constant Internet Access: Email groups don't require constant internet access to participate, which can be a benefit for members with limited or unreliable internet connections.
- 6. No Learning Curve: Email groups don't require members to learn new software or platforms, which can be a benefit for members who are less tech-savvy.
- 2. UHF Radios for times when mobile reception and internet is down and especially during emergencies, battery operated UHF radios are an effective way to communicate within neighbourhoods. RUKI has a radio coordinator Bernd Langer who is working on setting up an effective UHF radio network with protocols and guidelines. For more information Bernd can be contacted on 0418428877 or at vk2ia@vkcc.net
- 3. Online forum/ messenger platform an online platform can be better for building a sense of community among members, as they offer more opportunities for members to interact and collaborate with each other. However, setting up an online community from scratch requires some work. To help you get started, here is a list of ten tips for setting up an online community.







1. Define Your Community's Purpose

Before you start building your online community, you need to define its purpose. What do you want to achieve by building this online community? Having a clear purpose will help you to moderate your online community.

Within the context of The Neighbourhoods Project, the purpose of an online community might be to:

- Provide a platform for neighbourhood members to be able to talk to each other about things that relate to the safety, support and resilience of the neighbourhood e.g.
 - Share updates regarding weather events, road blocks, lost pets, burn offs e.t.c.
 - Provide information about activities, events and opportunities for capacity building,
 - Put out and respond to calls for help

Some neighbourhoods may choose to set up two messenager groups. One may have a focus on emergency and disaster communication. The other may be more for community information sharing during 'peace time'.

2. Choose Your Platform

Once you've defined your community's purpose, it's time to choose a platform to host your community. There are many options. While some apps cost \$ and are technically more complex, there are 2 options that many people are familiar with and are free i.e. Facebook Groups and What's App. Here are some pros and cons for using the two platforms.

a. Facebook Groups

Pros: easy to set up and use; wide audience reach; integrates with other Facebook features like Events and Pages; robust moderation tools

Cons: dependence on Facebook's algorithm; potential for privacy concerns; can be difficult to keep discussions organized; limited customization options

NB Some people don't want to join a messenger group because they think they have to be active on FB to do so. This is not the case.

"You'll need to create a Facebook account to use Messenger. You can then deactivate your Facebook account and log into Messenger using your Facebook account information. This is called a Deactivated Except Messenger Account (DEMA).

- When you have a DEMA:
- You can still chat with friends on Messenger.
- Your picture will only be visible in your conversations on Messenger.
- Other people can search for you in Messenger and send you a message.







• You won't be searchable on Facebook.

• You'll have a deactivated Facebook profile that you can activate at any time. You'll need to confirm your birthday and may be asked to create a password for account security.

For more information, go to https://m.facebook.com/help/messengerapp/117818065545664

b. WhatsApp

Pros: wide audience reach, with over 2 billion active users worldwide; easy to set up and use; good for real-time communication; allows for group chats with up to 256 members; supports multimedia content, including photos, videos, and voice messages; end-to-end encryption for added security; available on both mobile and desktop devices

Cons: difficult to keep discussions organized; limited customization options; lacks moderation tools; can be overwhelming for new users; dependence on phone numbers, which can raise privacy concerns; limited to mobile devices, with limited functionality on desktop

3. Create Community Guidelines

Setting simple, clear community guidelines is essential to ensure that everyone is on the same page. Your guidelines should include the community's purpose, the type of content that's allowed, and what behaviour is acceptable. Make sure to enforce your guidelines to maintain a positive and safe community environment.

Here's a two sample Codes of Conduct for an online community:

Sample One

- 1. Respect Others: Treat all members of the community with respect and kindness, regardless of their background, identity, or beliefs. Do not engage in hate speech, discrimination, or harassment of any kind.
- 2. No Trolling or Spamming: Do not post irrelevant, repetitive, or offensive content. Do not engage in trolling or flame wars, or post inflammatory comments intended to provoke others.
- 3. No Illegal Activity: Do not engage in any illegal activity or post content that violates the law. This includes posting copyrighted material, engaging in piracy, or promoting illegal drugs or activities.
- 4. Keep It Safe: Do not post anything that could compromise the safety or privacy of community members. Do not share personal information, or engage in behaviour that could be harmful or threatening to others.
- 5. Use Common Sense: Use common sense and good judgment when posting content or engaging with others. Be mindful of the impact your actions may have on the community and its members.







- 6. Moderation: Follow the instructions of the community moderators, and report any inappropriate behaviour or content to them. Do not engage in behaviour that violates the community's rules, or that could harm the community or its members.
- 7. Accountability: Take responsibility for your actions and their impact on the community. If you make a mistake, apologize and make amends. If you are called out for inappropriate behavior, listen to the concerns of others and work to make things right.

Sample Two

Please do:

- Share information about weather events, disasters, lost pets, burn offs, preparation ideas..
- Provide information about opportunities for capacity building, activities and events
- Put out and respond to calls for help
- Engage in friendly discussion or debate about the topic of the post.
- Keep comments brief and to the point.
- Flag inappropriate comments, by e-mailing

Please do not:

- Attack other commenters.
- Use profanity.
- Use language that is libelous, defamatory, obscene, threatening, offensive, demeaning, derogatory, disparaging, or abusive, or post links to content that contains any of this language.
- Degrade others on the basis of gender, race, class, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual preference, disability, or other classification.
- Make remarks that are off-topic.
- Write lengthy comments beyond the scope of the original post.
- Post spam.
- Post commercial messages.

Remember that these are just sample Codes of Conduct, and may need to be customized to fit the specific needs of your neighbourhood. It should be clearly communicated to all members of the online community, and regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains effective and relevant.

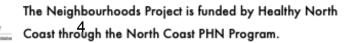
4. Recruit Members

To build a thriving online community, you need members. Start by inviting the people who have completed the survey at your neighbourhood gathering and indicated an interest in being included. You may need to follow up by inviting other members of your neighbourhood to join. You could do this through asking existing members to invite friends and neighbours, or through a letter box drop, or a door knocking exercise.

5. Encourage Engagement

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Engagement is the key to a successful online community. Encourage your members to participate in discussions, share their thoughts and ideas, and provide feedback. Ask questions, run polls, and create challenges to keep your members engaged.

6. Foster Relationships

Building relationships within your community is crucial for creating a sense of belonging and community spirit. Encourage your members to connect with each other and participate in group activities. Create opportunities for members to collaborate on projects and initiatives.

7. Provide Value

Offering value to your community is essential for building trust and credibility. Provide your members with valuable resources, educational content, and exclusive benefits. This will incentivize your members to stay active and engaged. NB Some of this may be provided through The Neighbourhoods Project.

8. Listen to Feedback

Listening to your community's feedback is critical for improving your community and keeping your members happy. Use surveys, feedback forms, and focus groups to gather feedback and insights from your members. Use this feedback to make changes and improvements to your community.

9. Moderate Effectively

Moderation is crucial to maintain a positive and safe community environment. Assign moderators to monitor the community and ensure that members are adhering to the code of conduct. Moderators should have clear guidelines for when and how to take action in response to inappropriate behaviour, gently enforcing the community guidelines while not being a 'dictator'.

Develop a protocol for addressing conflicts within the community, such as mediation or arbitration. Make sure that all members are aware of the conflict resolution process and have access to it if needed.

10. Stay Consistent

Finally, consistency is key to building a successful online community. Post regular updates, create a content calendar, and maintain an active presence. Consistency will help you build trust and credibility with your members and keep them engaged.

In conclusion, setting up an online community requires time, effort, and dedication. However, with the right strategy and approach, you can build a thriving community that adds value to your neighbourhood. Use these tips to get started and create a community that fosters engagement, collaboration, and relationships.







Neighbours Survey

А	Do you consent to your information being held by your	Yes	No	
	neighbourhood coordinator and pod leader ?			

Contact information

В	Name	
С	Address	
D	Mobile #	
E	Email	
F	Emergency contact/s	

Do you give consent to being included in:

G	A neighbourhood email group	Yes	No	
Η	A neighbourhood What'sApp/Messenger/SMS/Signal group (tbc)	Yes	No	

I	Include details for others in your household (A=Adult, C=Child, D=person with a disability, E=Elderly)							
	Name	A/C/D/E	Phone if different					

J Pets/livestock? What kind? How many?					
Dog/s	Cat/s	Birds			
Guinea pigs	Horse/s	Goat/s			
Cattle	Other				

No

Κ	In the event of an emergency, would you need assistance (if it's	Yes	
	available) with anyone in your household or your pets/livestock?		L

L	Based on previous events, in the event of a flood, in what way/s are you likely to be impacted?					
Prop	erty inundated		House inundated		Cut off	
Whe	re would you					
be cu	ut off?					

Thanks for sharing / Please turn over and complete the other side too.



M Do you have a back up power system?								
Battery	Solar	F	ixed g	enerator		Mobile	generator	
N Do you have any extra communication systems?								
Satellite internet Satellite phone VHF (CB) UHF radio								
O If yes to ow	ning a U	HF radio.	ls it:					
On loan from RU	< I	Donate	ed e.g	. from Red Cr	oss		Owned privately	
Hand held		Mobile	statio	on			Installed in a car	
-	ncy? (the	•		urces that may tion/ expectation 4WD			o your neighbourhoo	d in
				Terree				
Trail bike	Bo	at		Tarps			Slip on fire unit	
Extra fridge/ freezer space								
Battery operated blower	Dr	one		Fuel in store	age		Water pump	
Other								

Q Do you hav	Do you have any skills that may be of value to your neighbourhood in an emergency?						
Medical	First aid	Fire fighting	Swift water boating				
Chainsaw operation	Organising	4 Wheel Driving	Mechanical repairs				
Cooking	Carpenter	Plumber	Electrician				
Able to heavy lift & carry thru bush	Other						

R	Would you consider billeting someone in the event of an emergency	Yes	No	
S	Do you have a Static Water Source on your property? (Over 10 000 L in a tank designated for fire fighting or a dam or a pool with easy access for a fire truck.)	Yes	No	
Т	Are you a member of the SES Community ActionTeam?	Yes	No	

Additional comments



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THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN COMPLETING THIS SURVEY

Allow residents to read this document before completing the survey. It will inform them about how the information will be used and privacy and security issues.

We are collecting this information so we can better support each other as a neighbourhood before, during and after a disaster.

We will use this information to:

- Communicate with each other (through an email group / a message group / via radio / face to face visits) to share emergency info, check in on each other, ask for help when needed in an emergency, share info about neighbourhood activities and events.
- Know how well-equipped people are in our neighbourhood in the face of an emergency...and how we might potentially share our resources and/or skills.
- Recognise how people may need to be supported and therefore reach out if we can, when it matters

As we've learnt from previous disaster situations, this information can be extremely useful in making sure people are okay and it can save lives.

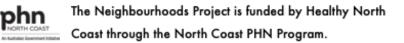
PLEASE NOTE: If there is any information that you do not feel comfortable sharing, don't enter it on the form. If you are comfortable to include your contact details, then we can make sure you are included in updates and communication. Also, completing this survey does not commit you to assisting or sharing your skills, resources or time in any way. That will be a personal decision at the time.

PRIVACY: This information will only be kept by your neighbourhood leader/s and pod leader/s in paper format, securely stored. In time, we plan to summarise it in a spread sheet but it will only be available to the neighbourhood and pod leaders, offline and will also be held securely.

If you change your mind about sharing this information you can contact your neighbourhood and pod leaders and ask to have your information changed or removed.

THANKS







Why do we survey the residents?

In The Neighbourhoods Project, the surveys are used to gather useful, consistent information from residents in your neighbourhood. Having this information will help you have a clearer picture of who lives in your neighbourhood and assist you to better support each other before, during and after disasters. As we've learnt from previous disaster situations, this information can be extremely useful in making sure people are okay and it can save lives.

The gathered information will assist you to:

- Communicate with each other using the contact information to set up an email group / a message group / via radio / face to face visits. Then you can share emergency info, check in on each other, ask for help when needed in an emergency, share info about neighbourhood activities and events.
- Know how well-equipped people are in your neighbourhood in the face of an emergency...and how you might potentially share your resources and/or skills.
- Recognise how people may need to be supported and therefore reach out if you can, when it matters

While some people will have filled in the survey at your neighbourhood gathering, there will still be people in your neighbourhood who have not done so. In some cases people will choose to abstain, which is of course their right. In other cases, people may not have had the opportunity or understand the benefits of doing so.

Door knocking

One way to get this done is to have pod leaders visit the residents in their pod who have not completed the survey, to explain the benefits and provide the opportunity. It also gives them a chance to meet the people in their pod.

Some people might feel they are being too pushy by 'door knocking' especially if the resident has already been given an opportunity to complete a survey and hasn't. However, remember, everyone is different and research indicates that some people will need up to 7 points of contact before they take action. In this instance, the one to one personal contact might just be the trick.

Here are some tips...

- If you don't want to 'just turn up' you could drop a note in the letterbox letting them know why and what day and time you will be 'popping in'. Provide a phone number to give them the option of contacting you to 'cancel' or to make a more appropriate time.
- You could write a similar note to leave if you drop in unannounced and no one is home.
- Go door knocking with a 'buddy'. It might give you more confidence and safety.



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- Be prepared to talk about the benefits of the neighbourhood group and the survey. Speak from your heart and your own positive experience of engaging with your neighbours. Explain how the survey information will be used and that they can choose what information they want to share. You may wish to use the provided door knocking script.
- Provide them with the 'survey note' to read, to reassure them around privacy and security.
- Encourage them to complete the survey while you are there. It should only take
 5 minutes and if they have any questions you will be there to answer them.
- Provide them with an offering of something to engage with. It might be an invitation to an upcoming neighbourhood social gathering or training event.
- If someone you visit is being negative about the project or the survey, here are 4 simple principles to consider and follow
 - No-one has to participate if they don't want to, so you don't need to win them over
 - o Simply speak your truth
 - Be welcoming of their feedback e.g. "Your feedback is welcome"
 - o Don't take anything they say, personally

Storing data

In Australia, the main law governing the collection of personal information is the Privacy Act 1988. This law sets out rules and guidelines for how personal information can be collected, used, and disclosed. It requires organisations to obtain the consent of individuals before collecting their personal information, and to provide them with clear information on how their information will be used. Additionally, organisations must take reasonable steps to ensure that the personal information they collect is secure and accurate, and must provide individuals with the right to access and correct their personal information. These laws are designed to protect the privacy of individuals while also allowing organisations to use personal information for legitimate purposes, such as providing services or conducting research.

When storing the data, remember the promise we make in the survey note.

This information will be kept by your neighbourhood coordinators and pod leader in paper format, securely stored. Long-term, we plan to summarise it in a spread sheet but it will only be available to the neighbourhood and pod leaders, offline and will also be held securely.

So this means we can only store the data in two ways:

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- 1. In the paper format in a secured box or cabinet
- 2. In an 'offline' spread sheet, stored on a password protected USB





It is important that however it is stored, the information can only be accessed by neighbourhood and pod leaders and for the purposes outlined at the beginning of this document.

Sharing the data

Ideally, the stored data would sit with the neighbourhood leader + one other in case the neighbourhood leader is away when access is needed.

The pod leaders would have access to the information pertaining to the residents in their pod. This will help the pod leader have a clear picture of who is in their pod and assist them in organising before, during and after a disaster.

It is important that neighbourhood and pod leaders understand and accept the privacy and security measures.

There are a number of ways to share the information. Here are two examples:

- 1. On a password protected spread sheet that only contains the info of the residents of their pod
- 2. On a card system that shares relevant information. E.g. One card may be headed contacts and below is listed the names and contact info of all pod residents. Another card may be headed 'generator' and below is listed the names of the people in the pod who own a generator. One might be listed medical skills and below is listed the names of all the people with those skills. Again, this information would be securely stored.

For further information on survey data gathering, storage and sharing, contact Marlena Basser on 0404486712







- Maps are an important tool for The Neighbourhoods Project. It allows neighbourhood leaders and pod leaders to have a clear picture of their neighbourhood and pod boundaries, and to locate properties/ households, geographic points of interest e.g. landslides, places of flooding, access and assembly points, fire trails etc.
- 2. Extent of Uki neighbourhoods:- There are 12 defined Neighbourhood areas, extending along Kyogle Road from the first Nimbin turn off in the south west to the Mount Warning Road in the north east, and including the valleys and roads intersecting with Kyogle Road.
- Each of the Neighbourhood areas is divided into pods. How the pod divisions are made is up to the leaders of each Neighbourhood area. Although a manageable pod size is around 10 – 12 properties.
- 4. Neighbourhood area representatives will be provided with interim maps of their area for them to draw a proposed layout of their pods within their area. These maps have been temporarily prepared from the 1:25,000 topographical maps until such time as the updated Property and Contour maps are available from TSC. The updated maps will show aerial photographical imagery with cadastral boundaries and natural features overlaid which will make identification easier than from the topographical maps you have now.
- 5. When the layouts of the Neighbourhood Area maps are returned individual pod maps at a larger scale will eventually be produced and returned to the pod representative and used to add information that the members of that pod considers necessary for its intended function.
- 6. On the initial pod level maps, you may want to write relevant information that will support you developing a familiarity with your pod e.g. the name of the main contact/s at that address, the # of residents, plus some code letters to indicate relevant information e.g. S (survey complete) V (vulnerable) R (radio) NI (not interested) C (comms i.e. included in email group and online forum) e.t.c.
- 7. The ultimate aim is to collate all the information collected into a master plan/map in digital format from which hard copies may be generated at a suitable scale for the purpose; for example, individual pod maps should be at a large enough scale that is easy for even non map readers to read.
- 8. Privacy of personal information needs to be taken into consideration when putting information into maps, in the same way as the survey information. Storing the maps offline and securely and limiting access is as important here.

For further information about maps, contact Trevor White on 66795180 / tredeewhite@hotmail.com







The Neighbourhoods Project #3. POD LEADER ROLE DESCRIPTION

Overview

The Pod Leader:

- provides support and coordination to the households in their designated area
- acts as a central point of contact for those households
- disseminates information and organises activities that support connection, resilience and kindness
- facilitates information, skill and resource-sharing throughout their pod

Yellow ones have been created Blue ones are to be created

Tasks	Support documents
 Map > Be familiar with your pod Get acquainted with the households in your designated area by checking out the map boundaries of your pod. Find out from the neighbourhood leader, which households have already completed the Neighbourhoods survey and which households have indicated they are not interested in being contacted. 	<mark>#4. Maps doc</mark>
 Reach out > Introduce yourself to each household in your pod. Make your initial contact in a way that's comfortable for you; it could be a letterbox drop with info about RUKI and the Neighbourhoods Project; it could be door knocking, with a preceding note in the letterbox; it could be an invitation to a meet-n-greet or just having a chat when you run into them at the shops. Alternatively, it could be with or through someone else from the pod. Find what works for you and do it at your own pace . Reach out to your neighbourhood coordinator if you are feeling uncomfortable or encounter any difficulties. 	• Info flier doc
 Survey > Invite your neighbours to complete the survey Ask if they have heard of RUKI and the N'hoods Project. If not, explain what it's about – how the purpose is to build support and safety networks so we can keep an eye out for each other in the event of a flood, fire or other emergency. This includes communication like an email group, WhatsApp group and radio network. Explain how these work and offer to join them up there and then if possible. Ask if they would like to complete the 'neighbourhood survey' if they haven't already done so, and do it with them. Leaving the survey to be filled in later involves a return visit. It's much easier to get it "done and dusted " if that feels ok to everyone. Explain that the info will be securely stored and that it enables identification of their needs and resources, as well as being able to communicate with them via email and/or WhatsApp at the neighbourhood and pod level. 	 #5. Surveys Door knocking script Contacts list doc #6. Survey note doc #7.N'hood Survey
• Store > Securely store survey data	<mark>#5. Surveys doc</mark>



The Neighbourhoods Project #3. POD LEADER ROLE DESCRIPTION

\mathbf{r}	UKI #3. FOD LEADER ROLE DESCRIFTION	
-	Input data into a secure spread sheet Pass survey information to the neighbourhood leader to be stored centrally and to ensure pod members are included in the neighbourhood communications system. Update the neighbourhood leader as new data is gathered.	• Data spread <mark>sheet</mark>
-	Communicate > Set up a comms system within your pod Set up and manage a pod level communications system with the households who have given you their contact information and consent within the pod. Share relevant information as it becomes available. Consider if this is appropriate & needed, as many may feel that being on a neighbourhood wide thread will be enough.	#9. Communicating
• F	Radios > Inform the pod households of the UHF radio system	#10. <mark>Radios</mark>
-	Explain; who has it; how and under what circumstances it can be accessed. Work together with your neighbourhood Radio Coordinator and neighbourhood leader to arrange testing/ practice/ training.	
• 5	ocial connection > Create opportunities	 Events doc
-	Organise social activities that support connection, resilience and	 Event kit hire
	kindness such as pot luck dinners, games days etc	doc
-	These may be pod specific or part of a larger neighbourhood gathering.	
• '	Get Prepared' > Deliver to your pod	 Get Prepared
-	Participate in the training events	kits
-	Deliver 'Get Prepared for Floods & Storms' and 'Get Prepared for	
	Fires' sessions for the households in your pod.	
	haring resources > Facilitate the safe accessing and sharing of	 Let's Share doc
ex	pertise + equipment.	
-	Facilitate resource sharing within your pod and between pods if necessary.	
-	Be familiar with who has what expertise and equipment across the	
	pod. Arrange your data spreadsheet to support this.	
-	Link people with need to people with the resources at critical times	
	(in liaison with the neighbourhood leader.)	
-	Ensure privacy, security and not over burdening particular	
	community members who happen to be well resourced.	
	Check in > There is a check in system in place across the ighbourhood to ensure timely assistance during disasters. Develop a pod system for checking in with each household during times of emergency. Facilitate a test run across the pod. Initiate the check in system during times of disaster.	• Check in doc
• S -	ikills share sessions > Neighbours share skills with neighbours. Source local people; through the survey or a call out; who are happy to share a skill that is relevant to disaster resilience e.g. maintaining a generator, pickling vegies, listening with compassion, bush tucker + more.	• <mark>Skill Share</mark> Sessions doc



Plan a schedule of Neighbourhood 'Skills Share' activities. Maybe a number of events across the year. Event plan and promote them

Desirable qualifications, experience, values and qualities /

- Be able to do the above duties or delegate or share responsibility for doing them.
- Be careful to not to be a gate keeper, doing only those things you are comfortable with. Others may be interested in things you are not.
- Care about the wellbeing of your pod and be willing to take action to support and foster that wellbeing.
- Lead collaboratively and non-intrusively, fostering co-empowerment, agency and inclusion.
- Be especially mindful and considerate of those households or individuals who are vulnerable, isolated, marginalised or at risk, e.g. small children, frail elderly, sick or with chronic health conditions, mental health issues, diverse abilities, etc.
- Respect people's privacy.
- Understand that to lead means to serve
- Know how to care for yourself first, before going to care for others
- Do no harm



The Neighbourhoods Project 2. NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTIVATION PLAN

Activating Our Neighbourhood In 8 easy STEPS



GET MAPPED • Mapping our neighbourhoods to identify pods, properties, hubs, assembly points, fire trails, points of flooding, helicopter landing pads etc



GATHER INFORMATION • Gathering useful information from all neighbours who wish to participate and storing it securely with access for Neighbourhood and Pod leaders only.



FUN & FRIENDSHIP • Social gatherings to strengthen connections and build a sense of community and cooperation.



CONNECT UP • Ways for neighbours to communicate with each other when we have power, phone reception and internet.



THAT'S A BIG 10-4 • A comprehensive radio network that supports effective communication when all else fails.







HEAD CHECK • An agreed way for neighbours to check on neighbours during disasters.



HELPING HANDS • Neighbours working together to help each other out when needed

Page 1 of 2..... KEEP READING

Get Skilled

Building our capacity as individuals and neighbourhoods to support ourselves and each other in times of disaster





Workshops coming to your street/ neighbourhood soon...

- Radio handling
- Get Prepared developing a flood & storm and fire plan for your household
- Skill Share Sessions (neighbours sharing) skills with neighbours)



Workshops coming to Uki that you can join in...

- First Aid Skills
- Using and Maintaining a Chainsaw Safely
- Healing Trauma
- Resilient First Aid
- Fundraising



For more information, contact marlena.basser@gmail.com

Heglthy NORTH COAST



An Australian Government Initiative

The Neighbourhoods Project is funded by Healthy

North Coast through the North Coast PHN Program.

The Neighbourhoods Project #1 NEIGHBOURHOOD GATHERING PROCESS

RUK	#1. NEIGHBOURHOOD GATHERING PROCESS
	 RISK = 1 rd in and 1 rd out NEED = knowledge about tracks and paths for getting out if rd is blocked IDEA = a map with paths identified – hold a practice run Share and map ideas onto the board Add in any additional ideas already generated through the project. Voting (3 dots each to vote) Identify the priority areas
5	Training
mins	- Identify proposed training
	- Brainstorm additional ideas
	- Ask people to identify which training they would be
	interested in attending i.e. straw poll
5	Pods - how to be involved
mins	- Ask who is/ would be interested in being involved in this
	project/ initiative?
	- As a pod leader?
	- In the neighbourhood team?
	- What time/skills/energy do you have to contribute to
	aspects of this project?
10	Moving forward
mins	- Next steps
	- Evaluation
L	- Postcards
5	Closing
mins	- Share 1 word that describes how you feel.