



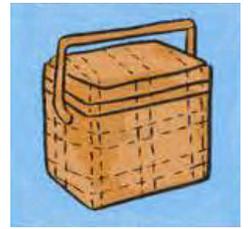
# PICNIC FOR NATURE 2025

10-16 November



# HOST GUIDE

# Roll out the rug: your Picnic for Nature



Thank you for your involvement in hosting a Picnic for Nature this year.

This initiative started in 2022 as a way to celebrate nature, the creatures that call it home, and everyone who works to protect and help it, and it is a fun event.

Last year we had over 1000 people at almost 33 simultaneous picnics across NSW. Picnic hosts reported that it was a great event to reconnect with the local community, have some fun, plant a tree or two.

There are many good reasons to host a picnic and roll out the rug! Your group may be celebrating a milestone, a success, want to highlight an area of concern that impacts nature in your community, engage new members.

Based on what we learnt last year, we've updated this guide to get you started and host your own Picnic for Nature.

## Benefits of hosting a picnic a with a purpose

The Picnic is about celebrating the natural beauty of your local area and connecting with community. But it's more than just a fun day of getting out and enjoying nature. It's a chance to get together and make plans to protect nature and take urgent action on climate change.

From feedback over past years, groups said some of the benefits from hosting a picnic included:

- Educating the public on local environment issues
- Creating awareness around what you/your group does
- Finding and engaging new volunteers and members
- Relationship building with other environmental groups
- Hosting activities linked to your group
- Building your group's capacity and the broader movement of people fighting for nature
- Reengaging current members of the group
- Having a fun day in nature!





*Tabiea Picnic 2024 @ Garrison Point, Georges Hall*



*Ben Lomond Landcare and Guyra Landcare Network Picnic 2024  
@ Little Llangothlin Lagoon Nature Reserve, Tubbamurra*

# What will the day look like?

Totally up to you!

You can choose the location, time, any activities you want to include and the focus of the day based on what message you'd like to convey.

Some suggestions to get the creative juices flowing:

- Invite other local community and environmental groups to host it with you
- You could have stalls or displays with information about your organisation and/or campaigns
- Selling or giving away items such as native seedlings for planting, group t-shirts, knitted items, baked goods
- A children's table with colour-in sheets containing images of nature. Hang them up on-site using pegs and string for all to admire and then take home.
- Activities such as: pot-lucks, a bush cleanup, bird-watching/wildlife spotting, nature-based games, art journalling, kayaking, mindfulness activities, poetry readings or storytelling, a guided nature walk
- Inviting guest speakers from within or outside your organisation – these could be political, academic, ecologists or members from other environmental organisations
- A local band playing on the day or having music playing from a playlist
- Handing out materials such as flyers or petitions

**We've created a suggested planning checklist as a Word doc so you can edit it. [See '2025 Picnic for Nature Checklist' here.](#)**





*Sydney Nature Journal Club Picnic 2024 @ Sydney Park, Alexandria*



*YILA Healing Trail Picnic 2024 @ Ulladulla Civic Centre*

# Sustainability Guide

**In both promoting and running your picnic, it is essential that you make all efforts to practice sustainability.** The following are some suggestions for how you can achieve this:

→ **Choose a location** for your picnic that is accessible by public transport and is not sensitive to human presence. Suggest that attendees use public transport because they are 'better for the environment and more effective in reducing fuel usage as well as the number of emissions per passenger'. Provide which routes are the best for attendees. Let them know if there are any bike routes too! If your location is not accessible by public transport, carpooling is a great way to reduce unnecessary emissions from half-empty cars.

→ When **promoting your picnic**, use online communication to reach a large audience with a limited footprint. If you would also like to use posters or distribute flyers, do not print in excess, use recycled and/or recyclable paper. If you put them up on poles/walls/etc. make sure to retrieve and recycle them after the event.

→ Any **decorations or banners** for the picnic should be reusable and attached securely so they do not fly away and pollute the picnic area. Do the same with any materials you want to hand out on the day, such as membership materials.

→ At the start of the day, conduct an **Acknowledgement of Country, or Welcome to Country** if possible. Respect for Indigenous peoples is essential to a holistic approach to sustainability.

→ Whether you provide **food**, or attendees bring it in a potluck style, sustainable food can be plant-based and/or local. Meat, and beef in particular, can be unsustainable because of its high land use and the CO2 emissions produced. Food being grown locally reduces the emissions created by the transport of the food.

→ It is also a great idea to have a **plastic-free** picnic, using alternatives such as glass, wood and metal. Wrapping for food is often a big culprit of unnecessary plastic waste at picnics.

→ Where possible, use reusable **crockery and containers**. Attendees bringing their own will decrease waste, whether it be plastic or biodegradable.

→ It is vital that the natural space you use is left the same, or better, than when your picnic began. If there are no bins or only landfill bins, bring your own biodegradable **bin bags** and separate them into landfill, paper recycling, compostable, etc.

Sustainability does not need to be perfect, but we must make honest efforts!



*Willoughby Environmental Protection Association Picnic 2024  
@ Northbridge Baths*



*Save Walka Reserve Community Alliance Picnic 2024  
@ Walka Water Works, Oakhampton Heights*

# How NCC can support



## We will help you to organise and host the picnic by:

- Displaying each picnic location on an interactive map.
- Inviting and encouraging people to RSVP. We will set up a registration page for each picnic through our website so you have an idea of attendance numbers. Please direct attendees to this website to register.
- Providing helpful resources to help with planning such as this host guide, digital toolkit and template checklist.
- Assisting with any questions around organising your Picnic.
- Providing a customisable Digital Toolkit that can be used to create images for promotion.

## Other Resources:

- [Digital Template Toolkit](#)
- [Checklist \(downloadable\)](#)



## NCC Staff who will be working with you:

Katie Silverman (Community Organiser) [ksilverman@nature.org.au](mailto:ksilverman@nature.org.au)

Jesse Stevens - (Organising Team Volunteer) [jstevens@volunteer.nature.org.au](mailto:jstevens@volunteer.nature.org.au)

## Imagine

Imagine that across the week of the 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> of November there will be picnics held in support of our environment across the state: from Dubbo to Albury, Sydney to Byron and beyond. How electrifying would that be!

What a message of grassroots power it would send to our communities and our politicians that we want urgent action now to protect nature and deal with environmental issues and climate change.

A coming together of those who believe our environment is worth protecting, and welcoming of those who may be getting involved for the first time. With you hosting a Picnic for Nature, this is what we can achieve.

What fun. Thank you.

