

# EVERYBODY NEEDS GOOD NEIGHBOURS

## (Community and Culture)

### 1980s - HOW IT WAS

Since the 1980s, our culture and society in terms of the way we live, communicate with others and express ourselves has undergone some subtle shifts.

Neighbours often saw and spoke to each other in their backyards. The 3 foot fence served as the wicketkeeper or boundary in backyard cricket - over the fence on the full was six and out! The Hills Hoist leaned to one side from children, and sometimes parents, swinging around it once too often. Competing for attention was the slip-n-slide and totem tennis, whilst up in the corner behind the lattice screen was the incinerator where the newspapers would be burnt every week.

Fashion went from fluoro t-shirts, shoulder pads, leg warmers and permed hairstyles for women to skinny leather ties, aviator glasses, Miami Vice jackets and mullet hairstyles for men. We listened to music on boom boxes or watched music clips on MTV. Television, video, radio and cassette tapes were the dominant communication media, although cd's had started replacing vinyl record albums. Computers mainly featured floppy disks and computer games were still about Atari, space invaders and frogga.

A broader mix of intercultural influences came our way through increased immigration, which allowed us to sample different forms of lifestyle, including food, music, art, entertainment and literature.



See over...

## 2006 - HOW IT IS

Being a more culturally diverse society, questions of identity are just as pronounced as ever before. The range of choice and information is also greater than ever before, which



impacts across how we communicate, the food we eat and how we express ourselves. We are also an aging population, brought about by medical and nutritional advances.

Couples and women particularly are having children later in life and/or choosing to have fewer children. More women in the workforce has meant that there is a larger number of child care arrangements.

Life in general is moving at a faster pace. People may be working longer hours and spending less time in the home, with leisure time also at a premium.

Children are more conversant with computers and technology than previous generations. Technology is playing a larger part of our lives, particularly as a communication device. Cable TV, DVD players, iPods, MP3 players, mobile phones, the internet, emailing, sms texting and downloading information are all common practice.

## 2026 - HOW WILL IT BE

What will families be like? What will be the impact of sole person households?

How will the aging population change our family interactions?

What will child care be like?

What will aged care be like?

How will we socialise? Where will our friends come from and what will their hobbies/interests and values be?

What will happen to our diet, how and where will we eat?

How will we communicate with our families and friends?

How will we express ourselves culturally and what form will that expression take?

