

MEDIA RELEASE

February 12 2019

You are invited to the Kensington CommUNITY Festival

The much loved Kensington CommUNITY Festival is back in 2019!

Come along on Sunday March 31 from 10am to 4pm to Kensington's JJ Holland Park precinct and enjoy a huge day of FREE family fun.

Now in its 11th year the Festival is a much anticipated community event celebrating Kensington's diversity. This year the Festival compliments Cultural Diversity Week and is held on Neighbour Day.

The Festival promises a family friendly and festive atmosphere with live music from *Bollywood* to China, global food vans, henna hand painting, community stalls, face-painting, an animal farm, hula hoop and tai chi workshops, art and craft and African drumming and dance.

The Kensington Sustainable Living Expo is back as part of this year's Festival, including a pop up mini repair hub (byo small items for repair e.g. jewellery, textiles and wooden items, and bikes), information on backyard chickens and worm farms, local composting, food gardens, DIY seeds, the UpShop Industries and much more.

The Festival started in 2007 as a small event initiated by Kensington public housing tenants to connect the redeveloped public housing estate to the local community and celebrate its diversity. Today, the original purpose of the Festival remains to:

- Strengthen connections between the Kensington Redevelopment and the wider community
- Celebrate and showcase the local community with activities that foster a spirit of togetherness, fun and cultural exchange
- Promote local business, community and government services and agencies

The Kensington CommUNITY Festival is now led by Unison Housing with a whole host of residents and community partners. Unison Housing is the long time place manager at the Kensington Redevelopment, bordered by Derby, Ormond and Altona Streets and Kensington Road. Today the neighbourhood is a mix of social, affordable and private homes.

Festival partners include the Kensington Neighbourhood House, Kensington Community Recreation Centre, The Venny, Kensington Children's Cooperative, Kensington Chinese Friendship Association, Victoria Police and the Somali Women's Development Association.

The Festival's principal sponsors are the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

Festival information and updates can be found on the website www.kencommfest.org