



GrandFriends NZ and the Chatty Café Scheme



About GrandFriends New Zealand

Connecting Generations, Strengthening Communities

Founded in 2016, **GrandFriends NZ (CC54933)** is a nationwide charitable trust dedicated to reducing social isolation and strengthening intergenerational connection. We match older adults (GrandFriends) with families and individuals seeking meaningful, supportive relationships—creating a modern-day “surrogate family.”

Through these connections, we foster companionship, share life skills and wisdom, and build a stronger sense of belonging across communities.

Our work supports wellbeing, reduces loneliness, and helps create more connected, resilient neighbourhoods—where people look out for one another and no one feels alone.

GrandFriends New Zealand



Create your free GrandFriends account



It takes a village to raise a family. GrandFriends helps to find that village

More information can be found on our website www.grandfriends.nz

About Chatty Café New Zealand

Chatty Café New Zealand is a national initiative led by GrandFriends NZ, designed to reduce loneliness and strengthen community connection.

Participating cafés host a designated “Chatty Table” where customers know they are welcome to sit, chat and connect with others.

Each Chatty Table is supported by trained volunteers who help welcome people, start conversations, and create a safe, inclusive environment where everyone feels comfortable to join in.

A simple sign that says “**This is a Chatty Table**” signals that conversation is welcome.

The concept began in the UK and has grown into a recognised community movement with hundreds of venues creating spaces for connection. The model is now also successfully operating in Australia.

Cafés are uniquely positioned to bring people together — and **Chatty Café** simply makes that invitation visible.

Our Vision

Our goals are simple but powerful:

- To make it easy for anyone in New Zealand to find a place where conversation is welcome - and connection comes naturally
- To reduce loneliness and social isolation in New Zealand by creating welcoming spaces for connection in everyday community venues.

Chatty Café tables will create simple opportunities for human connection, helping people feel seen, valued, and part of their community.

A simple idea that could change someone's day — or even their life.



How does it work in practice?

Cafés and community venues can sign up in two ways.

- At set days and times, cafés offer a Chatty Table. Hosted by a Chatty Cafe volunteer, these are a safe space for people wanting to make connections.
- Cafés offer the opportunity for customers to take a Chatty Table sign to their table, showing their openness for conversation. This can happen at any time.

For a modest annual fee, participating cafés receive promotional material, including posters, brochures, table toppers and window stickers to help promote the scheme as well as a local volunteer (if requested).



Why this matters

Loneliness and social isolation are rising globally and in New Zealand. Research shows that:

- 1 in 4 New Zealanders report feeling lonely at least some of the time
- Social isolation increases risk of depression, anxiety and declining physical health
- Chronic loneliness can be as harmful to health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

The Chatty Café Scheme is a solution-focused response.

- Reduces loneliness and isolation - Encourages social interaction - Boosts self-esteem and confidence - Simple and effective - Community building - Supports vulnerable individuals - Provides a platform for connection - Promotes well-being - Easy to join

Cafés already act as informal community hubs.

Chatty Café simply unlocks that potential - intentionally.



The Impact

Creating:

- Hundreds of welcoming tables across NZ
- Thousands of conversations each week
- A powerful national story about connection and belonging

Helping spark thousands of conversations across New Zealand.



Chatty Café Promotional Materials



HAVE A CHAT

...AT OUR CHATTY TABLE

DAY

TIME

WHAT IS CHATTY CAFÉ?
Chatty Café is a dedicated global movement, weaving connections within local communities to prevent and reduce loneliness and social isolation. By inviting customers to engage in friendly conversations, we actively bring people together, fostering a sense of togetherness and building lasting connections within local communities.

WHO CAN YOU CHAT WITH?
Our Chatty Tables extend a warm welcome to everyone, whether you find yourself alone, with a partner, accompanied by a friend, a caregiver, a parent with babies and children, or a grandparent. People of all ages and walks of life are embraced in the inclusive atmosphere of our Chatty Tables.

VOLUNTEER WITH US?
Chatty Café takes pride in training local volunteers to actively assist at our Chatty Tables, assuming roles as facilitators or "ice-breakers" to encourage engaging conversations. Our Chatty Volunteers possess the essential skills of adept conversation and active listening, ensuring a warm and inviting atmosphere for all participants.

Chatty Café is an initiative of GrandFriends NZ (CC54933) www.grandfriends.nz

Venue Poster



THIS IS A CHATTY TABLE

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SUPPORT US
If you'd like to help us grow the Chatty Café movement across New Zealand, we would be very grateful for your support. Simply scan the QR code and "Buy us a Coffee".

Table Topper



THIS IS A CHATTY TABLE

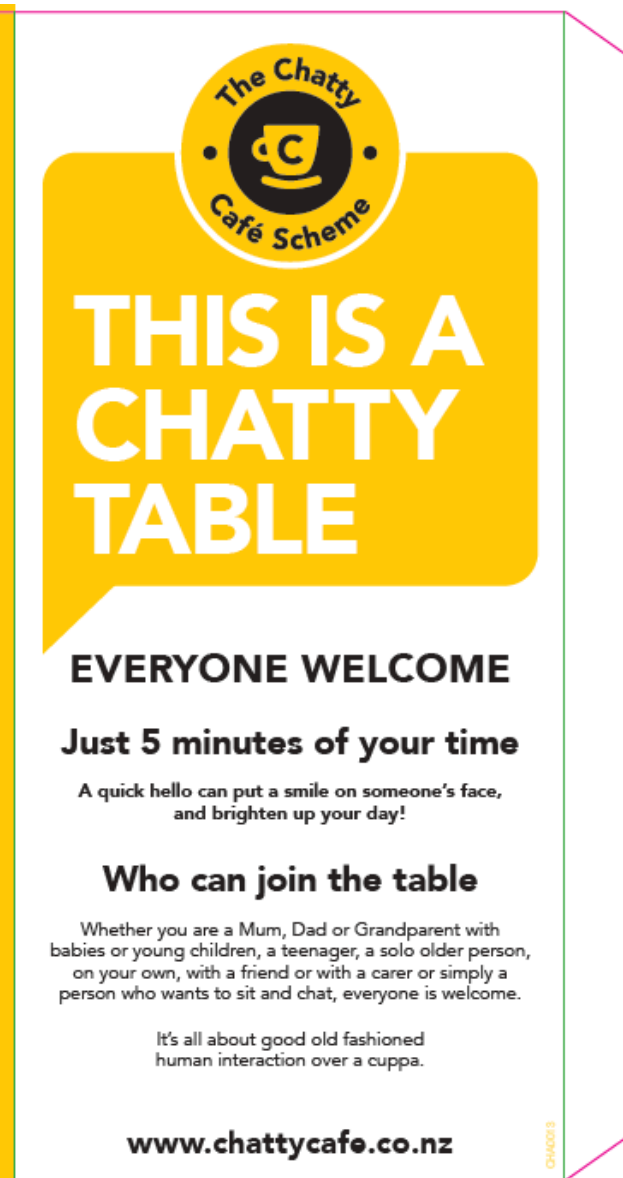
CONNECT WITH US ON

[f](#) [i](#) <#>
ChattyCafeNZ

Start a Conversation

What is one thing life is teaching you right now?
What is something you would like to do more of?
If you could instantly gain a skill, what would it be?
What piece of wisdom would you like to pass on to your future self?
What's the most useful thing you own?
Where is the most beautiful place you have been?

www.chattycafe.co.nz



THIS IS A CHATTY TABLE

EVERYONE WELCOME

Just 5 minutes of your time

A quick hello can put a smile on someone's face, and brighten up your day!

Who can join the table

Whether you are a Mum, Dad or Grandparent with babies or young children, a teenager, a solo older person, on your own, with a friend or with a carer or simply a person who wants to sit and chat, everyone is welcome.

It's all about good old fashioned human interaction over a cuppa.

www.chattycafe.co.nz



LOOKING FOR A FRIENDLY CHAT?

Chatty Café is a simple community initiative helping people connect through conversation.

Across local cafes and community venues, you'll find a Chatty Table - a welcoming space where people can sit down and enjoy a chat with others.

Whether you're:

- New to the area
- Feeling a bit isolated
- Keen to meet new people
- Or just up for a friendly conversation

You're warmly invited.

- Some people come along for company.
- Some come to listen.
- Some just want to feel part of something.

There's no pressure - just a cuppa and a conversation.

Find your nearest Chatty Café or get involved:

[chattycafe](#)
[chattycafe](#)
[chattycafe](#)
chattycafe.co.nz
connect@chattycafe.co.nz

Building stronger, more connected communities - one conversation at a time.

General Community Poster



Chatty Cafe Window Sticker

Chatty Café Promotional Materials cont.

[chattycafenz](#)
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[chattycafenz](#)
[chattycafe.co.nz](#)
connect@chattycafe.co.nz

COME CHAT WITH US

Chatty Café aims to spark conversations that go beyond the ordinary, fostering social connections within our local communities. By creating an environment where people feel encouraged to chat and connect, we aim to prevent and reduce social isolation and loneliness.

www.chattycafe.co.nz

SIP | CHAT | CONNECT

BRIGHTEN UP YOUR DAY, GO LOCAL, GET SOCIAL
KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTED
EVERYONE WELCOME

Visit www.chattycafe.co.nz
for more information and to apply

Chatty Café is an initiative of GrandFriends NZ (CC54933).
www.grandfriends.nz

HOW CAN YOUR VENUE JOIN IN?

We invite all community-focused social and commercial hospitality venues across New Zealand to be a part of this impactful movement. Venues, ranging from neighbourhood houses, community centres and libraries to cafés, pubs, retirement villages, churches and op shops, can participate in one of two ways:

Option 1: "Have a Chat" Table

- Designate a specific time and day for customers to connect.
- Set up a Chatty table with our provided promotional material.
- Encourage community connection with the help of a local Chatty Volunteer.

Option 2: "Sip | Chat | Connect"

- Promote a caring venue environment by displaying our "Sip | Chat | Connect" window sticker.
- Encourage staff to engage with customers and foster a friendly atmosphere.
- Encourage people sitting alone to share a table if they choose.
- No specific table or Chatty Volunteer required.

PROMOTION OF CHATTY VENUES

Venues get listed on our website, featured in social media, and advertised in promotional materials. Local media outlets are keen to highlight Chatty venues. We encourage venues to share their Chatty day and time using the promotional materials provided on registration and subscription, as well as on social media, using the hashtag #ChattyCafeNZ.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VENUE

Becoming a Chatty Café New Zealand café is easy! Visit www.chattycafe.co.nz for more information and to register.

Once registered, you'll receive a fabulous promotional pack that includes everything you need to kickstart your Chatty Café journey.

VENUE BENEFITS

Local businesses and community centres play a crucial role in keeping our communities connected. Having customers sit together, sharing conversations, is a win-win for all. Gain exposure and recognition in your community, showing that you care about the well-being of your patrons.

Visit www.chattycafe.co.nz
for more information and to register

BRIGHTEN UP YOUR DAY WITH CHATTY CAFÉ

WHAT IS CHATTY CAFÉ?

Chatty Café is a global movement dedicated to preventing and reducing loneliness and social isolation. We weave connections within local communities by inviting customers to engage in friendly conversations at designated Chatty tables or embrace the "Sip | Chat | Connect" ethos at various commercial and community venues across New Zealand.

WHY "HAVE A CHAT"?

Simple yet powerful, chatting is essential for mental and physical well-being. Loneliness can impact one's sense of happiness and lead to a range of disorders like anxiety and depression.

WHO CAN YOU CHAT WITH?

Everyone is welcome at Chatty Café! Whether you're on your own, with your new baby, with a friend, a parent, as a student, or a grandparent please join us at a venue of your choice. Our Chatty community spans all demographics, embracing diversity and inclusion.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Chatty Café New Zealand is looking for passionate Chatty Volunteers to host and facilitate friendly respectful conversations at designated "Have a Chat" tables across New Zealand. Volunteer at a local venue with a Chatty table on set days and times to chat with lonely or isolated people in your community.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Perfect for those seeking a relaxed volunteering role, no specific skills are required, just a willingness to enjoy meeting new people and having a friendly chat. Induction, handbooks, and materials are provided upon sign-up. Various volunteer roles, from administrative support to running online Zoom meetings, cater to diverse preferences.

Ready to make a difference? Visit our website for more information and to apply. Let's build a community where no one feels alone!

Visit www.chattycafe.co.nz
for more information and to apply

Chatty Café is an initiative of GrandFriends New Zealand (C59433)

Bi-Fold Flyer - Front & Back

DLE Flyer - Front & Back



Versatile Logos

Key Impact Metrics we can track

Participation

- Number of sessions held
- Number of volunteers

Community engagement

- Attendance numbers
- New participants vs returning participants
- Demographic Diversity

Social Impact

- Self reported reduction in loneliness
- Increased sense of belonging
- New friendships and support networks formed.

Stories of impact

- Personal stories & testimonials
- Community Case studies



Community Outcomes

- Reduced loneliness and isolation
- Stronger community connection
- More welcoming local spaces
- Increased intergenerational engagement
- Greater participation from older and isolated people
- Stronger, more resilient communities
- A lasting culture of connection



Neighbourhood Support x Chatty Café

Connecting neighbours in real life — through everyday moments, shared spaces, and simple conversations.

Neighbourhood Support brings:

Local knowledge of communities
Trusted relationships with residents
Ability to identify those needing support
Established communication networks
Focus on safety, resilience & neighbourliness

Chatty Café brings:

Welcoming spaces for conversation
Easy, low-pressure social connection
Early intervention for loneliness
Friendly volunteer hosts
Regular, visible community touchpoints

Together we can create:

- Simple pathways for connection
- Stronger, more inclusive neighbourhoods
- A culture of looking out for one another

From isolation → to connection → to belonging



How Chatty Café supports you as a Coordinator

A simple practical tool to help you strengthen connection in your community

What this means for you

- An easy place to refer people who are feeling isolated
- A low-pressure option (no forms, no commitment)
- A way to engage people who don't attend formal groups
- Helps you reach new or harder-to-connect residents

How it works in practice

- You simply suggest a local Chatty Café
- People can drop in anytime and join a conversation
- Friendly hosts help welcome and include them
- You can visit, host, or connect informally if you wish

The two-way benefit

You refer people → they find connection
Chatty Café connects people → we link them back to you
Stronger, more connected neighbourhoods



No extra workload — just another pathway to support your community

Launching early June 2026

- Our website is nearing completion, due to be ready by the end of April/early May 2026, currently a holding page at www.chattycafe.co.nz
- Our Social Media are set up - come give us a follow on facebook, instagram, pinterest, LinkedIn (and soon to come TikTok, Youtube) - @chattycafenz #chattycafenz
- We are actively seeking expressions of interest nationwide for Chatty Café hosts
- We are speaking with two major coffee franchises to launch with them.
- We have secured nationwide outdoor advertising for the end of June/early July 2026

We are so excited to be bringing this initiative to New Zealand.



Any questions?



For more information, please contact:

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