

gather your TRIBE

CAROLINE WEBSTER ON
A JOYFUL WAY TO BRING
FAMILIES CLOSER.

JUST RECENTLY I've become aware of how tricky it can be to find time to come together as a family. So yesterday I announced that Sunday would henceforth be known in my home as 'Sunday Collective'.

As both children looked at me incredulously and my husband rolled his eyes, I went on: "Technology of all kinds will be unplugged and everyone is to willingly help in the kitchen."

"And here's how it works," I declared. "During the week, each family member has to collect three things from inside, three things from outside and prepare two stories — either imagined or real. Then, on Sunday we will set the table, enjoy a meal together and share our finds." My daughter said, "Cool!", my son snorted and my husband just gave me a curious half smile.

Of course, the three outside things were the easiest for the children and me. I collected one beautiful leaf rich with colour, a bowl of stunning tomatoes picked fresh from the garden, and some fragments of pottery found in our creek.

My two stories included recounting the joy I felt helping one of our ewes give birth and the excitement I was feeling having almost completed a children's book.

And while they hadn't had a week to prepare, on it went through the family. Televisions and computer games were forgotten, the telephone was left to ring and chores were put to one side. It was an evening when traditions, rituals and routines collided — and we loved every minute of it.

I can't wait for next Sunday — and you know what? I think my family is looking forward to it as well. *



AUTUMN ACTION With the weather cooling down, now is the perfect time to head outdoors. Leaves will be changing colour, birds will have flown the coop and you may be lucky enough to find a discarded nest or dainty eggshells. You might also find some rosehips, which make a pretty vase arrangement, or you could have a go at making rosehip jelly.

