

MEDIA RELEASE For issue: Thursday 26 May 2016

Neighbour Day 'Tell us Your Story' Winners Announced

The Neighbour Day team today announced the eight winning entries of the national *Tell Us Your Story* competition, which invited people to write a short story of an extraordinary neighbour or neighbourly act.

"A key theme this year was that every day is Neighbour Day, and each of the winning stories personified this. The many stories we received showed us that well-connected communities exist all over the country," Alison Brook, National Executive Officer for Relationships Australia said.

The Neighbour Day *Tell Us Your Story* competition national winner, Cathy from New South Wales, told the story of local neighbourhood hero, Sandra, whose dedication and commitment to her community resulted in the creation of a community garden and a supportive social network in a housing complex. The garden is a place for residents in the community to source fresh vegetables, or to just sit, relax and enjoy the company of others.

Other winning entries included stories about community projects carried out by local neighbourhood groups; the importance of neighbourly connections in times of need; and the friendships formed through getting to know the people across the street, down the road, or over the fence.

While the *Tell us Your Story* competition had a combined prize pool of over \$1000, many of the entrants were content in having their neighbours and local communities recognised.

This year Neighbour Day was celebrated on Sunday 27 March. Hundreds of neighbourhoods across Australia came together to celebrate over barbecues, afternoon teas and street parties.

To read the winning entries, please click <u>here</u>.

"Neighbour Day – the community you want starts at your front door." TM

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