

MEDIA RELEASE For issue: Thursday 12 March 2015

Neighbour Day – Prepare to Celebrate!

With less than three weeks till Neighbour Day, Australians everywhere are preparing to celebrate their community on Sunday, 29 March.

Relationships Australia, the new home for Neighbour Day, is asking people to tell their story of a wonderful neighbour or an extraordinary neighbourly act. There is a prize pool of more than \$1000 to be won for the best stories nationally. Enter your story here: <u>Tell Us Your Story</u>.

"The community you want starts at your front door," according to Alison Brook, National Executive Officer for Relationships Australia. "We all feel better when we feel we belong, so as part of Neighbour Day we're encouraging people everywhere to get together, have a cuppa or a barby, organise a street party or simply start a conversation with those who live around you."

You'll find everything you need to help organise your Neighbour Day event at neighbourday.org. You can also follow us on Twitter (@NeighbourDay) or connect on Facebook (neighbourday). Everyone is encouraged to register their Neighbour Day event to access event invitations, selfie signs, posters, calling cards and other great resources.

If you are planning on organising a larger event or what to find out about other events in your local community the Neighbour Day team suggests getting in contact your local council for further information.

Now in its twelfth year, this year's Neighbour Day on 29 March is shaping up to be an exciting celebration of community. All over Australia neighbours, local councils, businesses, and community groups are organising barbeques, street parties, morning teas and community gatherings in an effort to get to know the people around them.

Neighbour Day was founded in Melbourne in March 2003 by Andrew Heslop after the remains of an elderly woman, Elsie Brown were found inside her suburban home. Andrew Heslop is a community activist, social commentator and well known Australian. In January 2014 Andrew handed responsibility for Neighbour Day to Relationships Australia to build and grow.

The five principal aims of Neighbour Day are to:

- Strengthen communities and build better relationships with the people who live around us.
- Create safer, healthier and more vibrant suburbs and towns.
- Promote tolerance, respect and understanding.
- Break down community barriers.
- Protect the elderly, the vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

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