



## **Want to celebrate Neighbour Day with a street party? Talk to your local council now.**

Neighbours thinking of holding a street party to celebrate the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Neighbour Day should contact their local council, shire or municipal authority now. That's the message from Neighbour Day founder Andrew Heslop, who warns some local government bodies have strict application and approval requirements for residents seeking to close-off their street for an event.

"Many councils have developed special 'street party kits' to easily guide people through the application process to temporarily close off their street, and some even offer bbq hire and games to help make the day a success.

"Neighbour Day is the perfect opportunity to get together over for a snag, a cuppa or maybe a beer. It's the day to meet people who may have moved in to your street over the past year – or simply celebrate with old friends. Getting together with neighbours creates vibrant, healthy communities. It breaks down the barriers of loneliness and isolation experienced by the elderly and people who live alone - making our suburbs and towns safer, happier places to live and raise a family.

"We often forget about those who live around us until we need their help in an emergency or there's some other problem at home. With increasingly busy lives Neighbour Day brings our focus back home," Andrew said.

### **GETTING INVOLVED -**

Participating in Neighbour Day is easy because you don't make a donation, you don't wear a ribbon and you don't buy a badge. You don't even have to register or volunteer or set up a committee.

### **WHAT TO DO -**

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008 -

- ✓ Say G'day to your neighbours.
- ✓ Make a special effort to introduce yourself to older residents in your street and anyone who lives alone.
- ✓ Leave your mobile and home telephone number for their use in an emergency.
- ✓ Agree to keep in contact.

### **BACKGROUND**

When an elderly woman was found dead in her suburban Melbourne home in 2003 the news of her death created headlines around Australia – she had been forgotten for two years. It prompted Andrew Heslop to propose in a Letter to the Editor a day to check on elderly neighbours and other single people at risk.

In 2006 former UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan pledged the organisation's support to promote Neighbour Day worldwide. Now steps are in place for it to become an official UN Observance Day which could lead to an International Year of Neighbourliness being declared following ratification by the UN General Assembly.

Key global supporters include also include Prince Charles and former President Bill Clinton.

For more information visit [www.neighbourday.org](http://www.neighbourday.org)

### **FOR MEDIA INFORMATION ONLY**

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*Released 14.01.2008*