



GLTBI community has a role to play in Neighbour Day

With a reputation for throwing the best and most glamorous parties – at which only the finest wines and most delicious home cooked food is quite often served – the GLBTI community can actively contribute to making our suburbs happier, more vibrant places to live, says Neighbour Day founder Andrew Heslop.

“Neighbour Day is all about developing better relationships with the people next door or across the street – or on the same floor if you live in an apartment. But most of all it’s about breaking down the barriers of loneliness and isolation for people who live alone.

“As individuals we tend to take a greater interest in our immediate community because for the most part we don’t have the pressures and distractions of raising kids and everything that entails. So we have more free time to socialise and consequently pay greater attention to what’s going on around us.

“With many GLTBI people often disconnected or separated from their families we also have a collective responsibility to look after them, especially if they live by themselves. That’s why getting together on Neighbour Day for a beer, a sausage roll or a chardonnay does make a real difference,” Andrew said.

Neighbour Day was founded in Melbourne in 2003 when the remains of an elderly woman were discovered in her suburban home two years after her death. Since then it has received the support of former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Prince Charles and President Bill Clinton. Mr Annan pledged the UN’s support to promote Neighbour Day worldwide and now there are steps in place for it to become an official UN Observance Day which could lead to an International Year of Neighbourliness being declared.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore has also thrown the support of the City of Sydney behind Neighbour Day as have her interstate colleagues Cr John So (Melbourne), Michael Harbison (Adelaide), Campbell Newman (Brisbane) and the Darwin City Council.

So far Queensland Premier Anna Bligh along with WA Premier Alan Carpenter, ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope and the Hon. Jay Weatherill (Minister for Families and Communities in SA) have committed their respective governments to Neighbour Day.

“Neighbour Day promotes the values of tolerance, respect and understanding – values integral to our community,” Andrew added.

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 the 6th annual Neighbour Day on Sunday 30th March 2008 -

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

For more information visit www.neighbourday.org

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION ONLY

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