



Snag a local this Neighbour Day

There has never been a better time to crank up the BBQ and invite the people next door and across the street over than on **Sunday 30th March 2008** – the sixth annual **Neighbour Day**.

“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,” says Neighbour Day founder Andrew Heslop.

“Getting together with our 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 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 Sunday 30th 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

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION ONLY

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