



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

MESSAGE: NEIGHBOUR DAY

In tough times, Australians come together. We have seen this in the catastrophic bushfires in Victoria, and the devastating floods in North Queensland. When adversity strikes, Australians know that we are all in this together – and we need to work together to make it through.

Our commitment to help each other out – friend helping friend, neighbour helping neighbour, stranger helping stranger – is one of our greatest traditions.

It's easy to take that tradition for granted, but the truth is that it's under threat.

Many of us lead busy lives, with little time to connect with the people who live in our neighbourhood, our street or even the corridor of our apartment building.

Neighbour Day is an opportunity to make those connections with people in our local communities.

It is a great initiative and I hope you can join in the activities on the 7th annual Neighbour Day on Sunday 29th March 2009.

It's only by each of us playing our part in our local community that we can sustain local community activities like volunteer fire brigades, sports clubs, SES teams, scouts and girl guides, and keep building strong communities in our schools, churches and cultural groups.

Strong communities start with strong streets. Strong streets begin with neighbours who care and look out for each other.

No matter what you do to celebrate Neighbour Day - whether it's a beer, a barbie or just a cuppa with the people next door or across the street – don't forget to say thanks.

Thanks for being a great neighbour and thanks for being there when I needed you most.

The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP
Prime Minister of Australia