



Switch on to your community this Sunday

Residents across Australia will be turning on the kettle and firing up the barbie as part of celebrations for Neighbour Day on Sunday 28th March 2010.

Now in its eighth year and with the personal endorsement of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, the national event has evolved to become Australia's annual celebration of community by bringing neighbours closer together. Councils and government bodies have also got behind the day too by organising events and activities in public parks and spaces.

"Our communities are only as strong as the people who live in them which is why Neighbour Day provides a chance to pause, reflect and celebrate the people who live around us," said founder Andrew Heslop.

"We know how vital neighbours are to each other during bushfires, floods and emergencies but everyday actions like borrowing power tools, taking in the recycling bin or walking the kids to school are often forgotten.

"Whether you live in the city or the bush, in a house, an apartment or on a farm Neighbour Day is the day to say thanks for being a great neighbour, thanks for helping me out and thanks for being there when I needed you most," Andrew said.

Neighbour Day began in Melbourne in 2003 after the body of an elderly woman was discovered in her home. She had died two years earlier but had been forgotten by neighbours, friends and family.

"We sometimes take for granted that our neighbours will be there for us and that's why Neighbour Day is so important. It celebrates strong communities and the great relationships which exist between neighbours all over Australia," added Andrew.

Neighbour Day has five principal aims -

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

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