



Don't forget your neighbours this festive season

Australians are being encouraged to remember the people next door, across the street and on the next farm this festive season – especially elderly, vulnerable and single residents who live alone.

“Christmas and the New Year can be a very lonely, depressing time for many Australians. While we’re all focussed on the best gifts to buy our partners, children and relatives it is easy to overlook the people who live around us who may not have anyone to celebrate with,” said Andrew Heslop, the founder & CEO of Neighbour Day and 2011 Australia Day Ambassador.

“While the weeks ahead promise celebration, relaxation and great food there will be neighbours who will not receive any visitors or gifts or special meals.

“So in planning to cook the perfect turkey and preparing the tastiest mince pies, consider whether there is a neighbour you could invite to join your celebration. Or someone who would welcome a special Christmas lunch delivered to their home instead?

“Asking the neighbours around for a cold beer or a glass of sparkling wine is also a terrific way to say thanks for minding the kids, picking up the newspaper, clearing the mail or watering the plants over the past year.

“Sadly, we often forget about our neighbours until something goes wrong but great relationships between residents are integral to safe, vibrant and inclusive communities all year round,” Andrew said.

Neighbour Day, Australia’s annual celebration of community, is held on the final Sunday in March every year. The ninth annual event will be held on Sunday 27th March 2011.

Founded in Melbourne in 2003 - following the discovery of the death of an elderly woman who had passed away two years earlier - Australians have embraced the day by organising street parties, morning teas, community bbqs and by attending council-run fairs, events and open days in parks and other public spaces.

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.

www.neighbourday.org

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION ONLY

Andrew Heslop
Founder & CEO – Neighbour Day
0404 038 106

Libby Fordham
The Fordham Agency
0411 473 938

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