

NUCLEAR PLANT SCRAPPED

The Japanese Government has signalled that the Fukushima nuclear power plant at the centre of the ongoing crisis will be scrapped.

POWERING AHEAD

Power has been restored to the damaged reactors after the plant was wrecked by the earthquake and tsunami.

ENGINEERS AT RISK

Three hundred engineers have been working around the clock inside the danger zone to salvage the plant.

PERFECT DAY TO GET THE NEIGHBOURS TOGETHER

Margaret Rice

OFTEN, we'd like to make contact with our neighbours but worry our overture will be seen as inappropriate.

A great excuse to reach out and connect with neighbours will happen this Sunday, March 27, on Neighbour Day.

"Small gestures will do, such as knocking on the door of the elderly neighbours and giving them your mobile phone number in case they ever need it," Neighbour Day founder Andrew Heslop said.

"Organising it around food is a good way to do Neighbour Day too, since food is a real ice-breaker and if you organise a cocktail party, not everyone drinks."

"If you live in a block of units, moving the cars out and running a party from the car spaces can be a good idea.



An old person still dies a lonely death from time to time.

"That way everyone in the block shares responsibility for the party," Mr Heslop explained.

Some Neighbour Day parties have grown into big events, with pony rides and jumping castles.

The first Neighbour Day was held in Melbourne eight years ago, after it took two years for neighbours to realise an old lady, Elsie Brown, had not left her

house. When police were eventually called, her body was discovered on her upstairs lounge.

"There were similar incidents in Sydney around the same time too," Mr Heslop said.

An old person still dies a lonely death from time to time but not as often, he said.

"People are a bit more aware and I'd like to think Neighbour Day is part of that." Visit neighbourday.org for more information and to download posters, invitations and name tags for your Neighbour Day event.



CALLS FOR A WORLD-CLASS WALSH BAY

Sydney Theatre Company artistic directors Cate Blanchett and Andrew Upton called for collaborative action to ensure Walsh Bay lives up to its potential of becoming one of the world's most vibrant cultural precincts. At a Sydney Council CityTalk with Lord Mayor Clover Moore, the pair said the burgeoning arts hub of Walsh Bay was perfectly placed to be the world's first green arts precinct and the beating heart of a cultural area stretching all the way from Barangaroo through to the Sydney Opera House. "To ensure this area delivers on its potential, it needs improved transport options, revitalised nooks and crannies, and more opportunities for people to linger and soak up the atmosphere," the directors said.