



Australians say firing up the barbie is the best way to celebrate Neighbour Day

There's nothing like a barbecue to bring people together and Neighbour Day supporters across the country have nominated it as their most favourite way to get to know their neighbours.

"A barbecue is the most iconic and social of Australian past times, and I agree it really is the perfect way to take part in Australia's annual celebration of community," said Neighbour Day founder and Australia Day Ambassador Andrew Heslop.

Neighbour Day – which celebrates ten years on Sunday 25th March 2012 – conducted the online survey last year, asking visitors to its website ten questions about their plans. The survey reveals the top five ways for residents to celebrate are:

2011 results

1.	Barbecue	31%
2.	Afternoon tea	16.7%
3.	Street party	15.2%
4.	Cold beer	12.1%
5.	Event in local park	9.1%
	Morning tea	9.1%
	Lunch	9.1%

2010 results

1.	Breakfast	35.7%
2.	Coffee	28.6%
3.	Morning tea	14.3%
	BBQ	14.3%
	Party at home	14.3%
	Champagne	14.3%
	Event car park/common area	14.3%

Commenting further on the survey results, Andrew said the biggest challenge surrounding the day is active participation.

"I am really pleased that 62.1% of Neighbour Day activities are organised by neighbours and 83.3% have up to 50 people attending. That's a huge vote of confidence in what is now a national grassroots community event," said Andrew.

"It demonstrates that the organic growth of Australia's Neighbour Day, which has been achieved without any external funding or paid advertising but through a strong pro-bono partnership with News Community Media in six capital cities, is because everyday Australians have embraced the statement 'The community you want starts at your front door'TM."

"What is remarkable is that people in the city and the bush – with no incentive other than a shared belief in safe, resilient and sustainable communities – willingly and enthusiastically participate.

"Knowing your neighbours has many advantages. But no matter where you choose to call home, Neighbour Day connects you directly in to your community," Andrew said.

A free Neighbour Day kit containing invitations, name tags, posters and a 'how to' guide can be downloaded from www.neighbourday.org

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