

hello

hi

COMPETITION

IN THE KNOW

Get into the Neighbour Day spirit and you could win \$5000 to spend on your community celebrations!

We all have neighbours, but not all of us know who's living next door or across the road. That's a pity, says Andrew Heslop, founder of Neighbour Day, a not-for-profit initiative that aims to foster a sense of community among people who live near each other.

"It doesn't matter if you have a quick chat over the fence or invite the whole street to a barbecue," says Andrew. "It's essentially a catalyst for Australians to get to know their neighbours."

This Neighbour Day, on March 31, Andrew hopes more people than ever will seize the opportunity to become a little more connected to those around them. By doing your bit, he says, you are laying the foundation for a stronger, safer, healthier and more vibrant local community.

One of the reasons why Neighbour Day has grown in popularity is its flexibility. You can celebrate the event in your own way or, if you're not sure of the best approach to take, go to the Neighbour Day website, which offers advice and free downloadable invitations, posters and name tags.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the event, which Andrew started after learning of an elderly Melbourne woman who'd died in her home and wasn't found for two years. Since then, some wonderful stories have arisen.

"I know of people who'd lived next to each other for 30 years and hadn't met," says Andrew. "One slipped a Neighbour Day invitation under the other's door. It turned out both were shift workers in similar industries. They hit it off the minute they started talking."

In another case, a community that banded together to protect their homes in the face of a bushfire now gathers annually on Neighbour Day.

Andrew Heslop

FOUNDER, NEIGHBOUR DAY



"In 2012 more than a million Australians participated in Neighbour Day in some way, but there's still a need to spread the message further."

This year's Neighbour Day is Sunday, March 31. For more information, go to www.neighbourday.org.

Decades ago everyone knew their neighbours but now, in an era where it's not uncommon for both parents to work, where suburbs are dominated by cars and new houses often present a 'keep away' facade to the world, there's a need for an initiative that reminds us to open the door to those around us. **H&G**

WIN \$5000 TO SPEND ON NEIGHBOUR DAY!

Simply send us a photo of you and your neighbours, and finish this caption in 25 words or less: "I love my neighbours because..." Enter online at www.houseandgarden.com.au or email your entry with full name, address and telephone number to us at h&gneighbourday@bauer-media.com.au or post to Neighbour Day Competition, *Australian House & Garden*, GPO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028.

Entries close at 11.59pm (AEDST), March 3, 2013. Open to Australian residents. Entrants under 18 years must have parental or legal guardian consent to enter. One entry permitted per person. Full terms and conditions available at www.houseandgarden.com.au. See contents page for location of Bauer Media's Privacy Notice. If you do not want your information provided to any organisation not associated with this promotion, please indicate this clearly in your entry. The promoter is Bauer Media Limited (ABN 18 053 273 546).

