



Relationships Australia to become the new home for Neighbour Day

Responsibility for Australia's annual celebration of community, Neighbour Day, which began in Melbourne in 2003 will be assumed by Relationships Australia from 1st January 2014 following a national expression of interest process.

Announcing the decision today, Neighbour Day founder Andrew Heslop said after ten years of directing and funding the day it is time to pass the baton on.

"What impressed me most about the bid by Relationships Australia was our shared vision and values, as well as their overwhelming commitment to retain the fundamental structure of Neighbour Day and to continue the expansion of it through their well established national network," Andrew said.

"Our communities are only as strong as the people who live in them and helping individuals and families build stronger relationships has been the fundamental aim of Relationships Australia for 60 years.

"I'm delighted to be handing over responsibility to such a respected organisation and I look forward to working with the Board and Management in the transition process," said Andrew.

Relationships Australia National Executive Officer, Alison Brook, said she is very pleased the organisation has been chosen to continue promoting the benefits of well-connected communities and great relationships between neighbours of all ages right across Australia.

"Neighbour Day has developed a unique and powerful role reminding us all on one day of the year how vital, and at times critical, it is to know your neighbours on the 364 days which follow," Alison said.

"We firmly believe that a positive relationship with other residents can and does change communities, but it also assists our personal well-being in helping to prevent loneliness, isolation and depression.

"Relationships Australia is proud to have been chosen to take responsibility for Neighbour Day.

"We look forward to continuing to build on the legacy of its founder Andrew Heslop who has committed much energy, time and money in building his vision over the first ten years," said Alison.

More than 30 organisations and groups from across Australia expressed interest in acquiring Neighbour Day after a national process that began in October 2013.

The idea for Neighbour Day began as a letter to the editor of The Age after the lonely death of elderly Melbourne woman, Mrs Elsie Brown of McKinnon, was discovered two years after she had passed away in her home.

Mrs Brown had been forgotten by her family, her friends and her neighbours.

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Since 2003 Neighbour Day has had 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.

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION ONLY

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NeighbourDay



@NeighbourDay

Neighbour Day highlights

- 2003**
 - Founded in Melbourne.
 - Letter to the Editor of The Age published Monday 17th March 2003 with first interview to Jon Faine on 774 ABC Melbourne at 8.50am who suggests 'Say G'Day Day' as the name.
 - First Neighbour Day held on Sunday 30th March.
- 2004**
 - Melbourne designer Dianne Treble creates the distinctive logo with a lower case 'n' to represent a home.
 - Positioning statement 'The community you want starts at your front door™' used for the first time.
- 2005**
 - Ripefruit becomes a National Support Partner.
 - Free downloadable kit with posters, invitations, flyers provided on the website for the first time.
- 2006**
 - UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, former President Bill Clinton and HRH The Prince of Wales endorse the aims and concepts of Neighbour Day.
 - Andrew Heslop a semi-finalist for the Australia Post Events and Tourism Award at the Regional Achievement and Community Awards.
- 2007**
 - The Hon Anthony Byrne MP, Member for Holt, speaks about Neighbour Day in federal parliament.
 - Andrew Heslop nominated for the Commonwealth Bank Local Hero Award.
 - Samsung announces Andrew Heslop as its first torchbearer for 2008 Beijing Olympic Torch Relay in Canberra.
- 2008**
 - Saatchi & Saatchi creates first television commercial pro-bono. It is screened without charge on all free-to-air and pay television networks, and in-flight by Qantas.
 - Every Premier plus Chief Minister of Australian Capital Territory publicly endorses Neighbour Day.
 - Andrew Heslop speaks at the United Nations in New York about his development of Neighbour Day then is a special guest at European Neighbours' Day in Paris.
 - Neighbour Day a finalist at the annual Melbourne Awards in the Individual Contribution to Community category.
 - Andrew Heslop appointed a Champion for the National Compact, the Australian Government's strategy for the Third Sector.
- 2009**
 - The Hon Kevin Rudd MP becomes the first Prime Minister to publicly endorse Neighbour Day.
 - Radio commercials go to air for the first time.
 - News Community Media becomes a National Support Partner.
- 2010**
 - Neighbour Day receives its first award with Andrew Heslop honoured with the Westpac Prize.
 - the(sydney)magazine names Andrew Heslop as one of the city's TOP 100 Most Influential People for his development of Neighbour Day.
 - A week long Neighbour Day storyline is woven in to the 25th anniversary episodes of Neighbours, watched by 120 million daily viewers in 57 countries.
 - Andrew Heslop addresses the Neighbourhood Watch Australasia conference and delivers the keynote address to the Victorian Neighbourhood Watch Conference in Melbourne.
 - Andrew Heslop appointed a Champion for the National Broadband Network.
- 2011**
 - The Hon Julia Gillard MP endorses Neighbour Day as Prime Minister.
 - Traffic Film Production in Brisbane creates the new television commercial 'One Day Next Door Could Be Your Next Best Friend' based upon recent natural disasters. It is voiced by Angela Catterns.
 - Andrew Heslop appointed an Australia Day Ambassador.
 - Andrew Heslop appointed an Outreach Partner in the Office for the Not-for-Profit Sector, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- 2012**
 - Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, Governor-General, delivers 10th anniversary address.
 - The Hon Anthony Byrne MP, Member for Holt, speaks on the 10th anniversary of Neighbour Day in federal parliament, commending founder Andrew Heslop.
 - NSW Parliament congratulates Andrew Heslop on his development of Neighbour Day over ten years.
 - Andrew Heslop named 2012 NSW Volunteer of the Year for his development of Neighbour Day by the Hon Victor Dominello, Minister for Citizenship and Communities, in Sydney.
- 2013**
 - Prime Minister the Hon Julia Gillard MP recognises the commitment of founder Andrew Heslop in her Neighbour Day statement.
 - The Neighbour Day Garden 'Connections' by Eckersley Garden Architecture wins Gold at the 2013 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, as well as the Mark Bence Construction Award.
 - The original MasterChef, Julie Goodwin, provides recipes and support for Neighbour Day 2013.
 - Samantha Chant of Redland Bay, Queensland wins \$5000 to celebrate Neighbour Day thanks to Australian House & Garden magazine and Bauer Media.
 - Relationships Australia acquires Neighbour Day after a national Expression of Interest process.