

MEDIA RELEASE

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Reward those who reward you this Neighbour Day

With less than three weeks to go until this year's Neighbour Day, Australians everywhere are preparing to celebrate their communities on Sunday, 30 March.

Relationships Australia, the new home for Neighbour Day, is asking people to tell us their story of a wonderful neighbour or an extraordinary neighbourly act. There are cash prizes of up to \$500 to be won for the best stories. Enter your story here: www.neighbourday.org/tell-us-your-story/

National Executive Officer of Relationships Australia, Alison Brook, firmly believes in the importance of belonging in your neighbourhood, "No matter where we choose to call home we're all part of a local community. Knowing who our neighbours are is vital to feeling connected and supported - not just by the people next door, across the street or on the next farm but in the surrounding area," said Alison.

This year's Neighbour Day is shaping up to be the biggest celebration of community in its eleven year history. Based on the registrations on the Neighbour Day website, there are events happening all over Australia. From barbeques to street parties and morning teas, people are really getting into the spirit of the day.

We are also privileged to have Senior Australian of the Year, the Hon Fred Chaney AO and Gardening Australia's Costa Georgiadis join us as National Neighbour Day Ambassadors. Please visit www.neighbourday.org to read their messages of support.

You will also find on the website everything you need to help organise your Neighbour Day event and everyone is encouraged to contact Relationships Australia or Neighbour Day Twitter or Facebook accounts to let us know about your exciting plans.

Please also contact your local council for further advice if you are planning a larger event or to find out what's happening in your local community.

Founder and Neighbour Day Ambassador, Andrew Heslop urges Australians to take advantage of this opportunity to make new friends, "Use the day as a catalyst for great relationships all year round by meeting your neighbours for the first time, or to reconnect. Exchange phone numbers for use in an emergency and reassure them that help is only a phone call away. "

"Our communities are only as strong as the people who live in them, which is why Neighbour Day continues to be relevant wherever you live in Australia," Andrew said.

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