



neighbour day

Alice Springs sows the seeds of strong neighbourhoods

For the past two years, Alice Springs community groups and local volunteers have teamed up with the town council to fill 3500 packets of seeds that they share with local children in school assemblies to spread the message of Neighbour Day.

Each primary school is visited by community members who talk to the children about the importance of connecting with those who live in their neighbourhood and how they with their families can have safe and respectful relationships with their neighbours.

Children take their packets of peas, sunflowers, and silverbeets home to their families to spark conversations and to grow and share the seeds with their neighbours to help develop strong relationships in their community.

“This year, we are launching Neighbour Day on 9 March by celebrating the very neighbourly community of Alice Springs,” said Alison Brook National Executive Officer of Relationships Australia.

“The theme for Neighbour Day 2018 is the importance of a supportive neighbourhood for children and young people, and the community of Alice Springs is doing a fantastic job of showing how this can be done.

“It’s so important for our children that they feel supported, safe and valued in our neighbourhoods so this year we are throwing out the challenge to neighbourhoods across Australia - what can you do to provide a safe, child-friendly place where children are truly welcome and free to imagine, play, learn, navigate, negotiate, explore and create?

“Relationships Australia is responsible for Neighbour Day and we see it as an ongoing opportunity to remind people about the importance of community connection.

“Neighbour Day is held on the last Sunday each of March - this year it’s Sunday 25 March – but you can hold events on any day in March.

“With Neighbour Day just three weeks away now is the time to start planning neighbourhood gatherings including street parties, soccer in the park, a BBQ on the front lawn or an afternoon tea in the cul-de-sac.

“Our neighbourday.org website offers great ideas to help celebrate Neighbour Day as well as free, easy-to-use resources including posters, selfie signs and calling cards to download,” Ms Brook said.

“The community you want starts at your front door.”™

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