



# neighbour day

Sunday 27 March 2016

The community you  
want starts at your  
front door.™

## What is Neighbour Day?

Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community, held on the last Sunday of March every year.

It's the perfect day to say thanks for being a great neighbour, connect with new neighbours and feel part of your community.

## How did Neighbour Day begin?

Neighbour Day was founded by Andrew Heslop in Melbourne in March 2003 after the remains of an elderly woman were found inside her suburban home. Andrew Heslop is a community activist, social commentator and well-known Australian. Mrs Elsie Brown had been dead for two years - forgotten by her neighbours, her friends and her family.

While Andrew did not know Mrs Brown he was appalled by the apparent ease in which the world had left her behind. Widespread local and national media interest followed and it was this coverage that prompted Andrew to suggest a 'National Check on Your Neighbour Day' in a Letter to the Editor of The Age in 2003.

The first 'Neighbour Day' was observed in 2003, and in January 2014 Andrew handed responsibility for Neighbour Day to Relationships Australia to continue to build and grow the initiative.

In 2015 Neighbour Day is supported by six Ambassadors; The Hon Fred Chaney AO, Costa Georgiadis, Julie Goodwin, Natalie Ahmat, Nick Duigan and Andrew Heslop.

## What are the aims of Neighbour Day?

The five principal aims of Neighbour Day are to:

- Strengthen communities and build better relationships with the people who live around us.
- Create safer, healthier and more vibrant suburbs and towns.
- Promote tolerance, respect and understanding.
- Break down community barriers.
- Protect the elderly, the vulnerable and the disadvantaged.



## Getting involved

You can make your Neighbour Day as big or small as you'd like. It might involve a chat with the people next door, a cuppa with the neighbours on the farm over the road, or a barbecue with everyone in your street.

## How to celebrate ideas

- Host a BBQ with neighbours
- Plan a 'bring a plate' street party
- Organise a game of cricket on the local oval
- Have a party on your front lawn
- Meet for afternoon tea in the back paddock
- Enjoy a neighbourhood picnic in your favourite park
- Or simply have a cup of tea or a chat with a new neighbour.

## More information

Visit the website for more information, to register your event and to download a free kit to help celebrate Neighbour Day.