



## It's the everyday things that really count

Minding the dog ... watering the plants ... bringing in the bins ... collecting the mail or the papers ... taking the kids to school. These are just some of the ways neighbours across Australia help each other out every day of the year.

So how will you and your neighbours celebrate your community on Neighbour Day, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009? That's the question being posed by Neighbour Day founder Andrew Heslop.

"Will it be a bbq with the neighbours on the front lawn? A local festival? A neighbourhood picnic? A game of street cricket? Or a major party with everyone invited?," asked Andrew.

"Or will it be a simple chat over a cup of tea and a slice of cake to say thanks for being a great neighbour?"

"Knowing our neighbours creates a community, provides a sense of belonging and gives reassurance there will always be someone to help out in a crisis, disaster or emergency.

"During February's bushfire infernos across regional Victoria and the floods through northern NSW and North Queensland we really saw how vital neighbours are to each other.

"Ordinary Australians coming together to lend each other a hand.

"That's why getting together with our neighbours creates vibrant, healthy communities. It breaks down the barriers of loneliness and isolation experienced by the elderly and other people who live alone.

"In doing so we make our suburbs and towns safer, happier places to live and raise a family," said Andrew.

It's easy to participate in Neighbour Day and you don't have to register or make a donation.

### What to do -

- ✓ Say G'day to your neighbours.
- ✓ Make a special effort to introduce yourself to older residents in your street and anyone who lives alone.
- ✓ Leave your mobile and home telephone number for their use in an emergency.
- ✓ Agree to keep in contact.

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### 2009 NATIONAL SUPPORT PARTNERS



“Neighbour Day aims to bring us closer together with a message of tolerance, respect and understanding,” Andrew added.

“We often forget about those who live around us until we need their help in an emergency or there’s some other problem at home. With increasingly busy lives Neighbour Day brings our focus back home,” Andrew added.

**For more information visit [www.neighbourday.org](http://www.neighbourday.org)**

**The 127 suburban titles within the News Community Media group and 60 stations within the ABC Local Radio network are proud National Support Partners of Neighbour Day.**

- **Download 2009 Neighbour Day poster here**  
[http://www.neighbourday.org/image\\_library/2009\\_Neighbour\\_Day\\_poster.pdf](http://www.neighbourday.org/image_library/2009_Neighbour_Day_poster.pdf)



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#### **FOR MEDIA INFORMATION ONLY**

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