



The time to plan for your Neighbour Day street party or community event is now

Residents wanting to have a street party or community event in a public space on the 9th annual Neighbour Day on Sunday 27th March need to contact their local council or shire now, says 2011 Australia Day Ambassador and Neighbour Day founder Andrew Heslop.

"Each year more and more Australians are deciding their Neighbour Day celebration is going to be a street party with other local residents," said Andrew.

"It is a terrific way to get to know your neighbours. Closing off the street to create a mini-festival and to safely allow games of street cricket is a very good idea.

"However the application process and timeframes required varies between councils and shires. So neighbours who want to hold a street party or major community event in a public space should apply to their local government authority now," Andrew said.

Over the past nine years Neighbour Day has grown from a simple idea in a Letter to the Editor to become Australia's annual celebration of community.

"No matter where you live – in the city or the bush, in a house, an apartment or on a farm – knowing who your neighbours are creates a community. When you are connected with the people who live nearby you care about what happens locally and are directly helping to ensure your suburb or town is safe, friendly and sustainable," added Andrew.

Founded in Melbourne in 2003 - following the discovery of the death of an elderly woman who had passed away two years earlier - Australians have embraced the day by organising street parties, morning teas, community bbqs and by attending council-run fairs, events and open days in parks and other public spaces.

Neighbour Day has 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.

www.neighbourday.org

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