



Switch on to your community on Neighbour Day

Neighbours across the country will be turning on the kettle and lighting the bbq on Sunday 27th March as part of national celebrations for Neighbour Day, Australia's annual celebration of community.

With a diverse range of events planned Australia-wide, many organised by councils and residents groups, it's easy to celebrate your community says Neighbour Day founder Andrew Heslop.

"Celebrating with your neighbours can be as easy as a cuppa, a slice of cake or a Tim Tam," Andrew said.

"But for many communities it is a lot more. There are barbecues and street parties; festivals with jumping castles and face painting; walks around historic suburbs and open days at Neighbourhood Centres.

"For many residents the flexibility of Neighbour Day continues to be the key element to its success. Wherever you live, whatever your personal circumstances, everyone is a neighbour and you don't have to spend a lot of money to participate.

"However the critical element is to make that connection with the person next door, across the street or on the next farm. As we have seen just recently, you never know when you might need help from a neighbour," said Andrew.

A free Neighbour Day kit with invitations, name tags and posters can be downloaded at www.neighbourday.org

At the website you can also view the 2011 Neighbour Day television commercial that was made in Brisbane, entirely pro-bono, for national distribution. It is now on-air in metropolitan and regional areas on both free-to-air, Foxtel and Austar platforms.

Founded in Melbourne in 2003 and held on the last Sunday in March every year, Neighbour Day is the catalyst for great relationships all year round whether you live in the city or the bush, in a house, an apartment or on a farm.

There are 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.

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION ONLY

Libby Fordham
The Fordham Agency
0411 473 938

Andrew Heslop
Founder & CEO – Neighbour Day
0404 038 106

Released 13.03.11