



## MANSFIELD'S NEIGHBOURLY HERO A CHANCE FOR NATIONAL AWARD

**28<sup>th</sup> August 2007:** Mansfield good neighbour and volunteer Andrew Heslop is in the running for the local hero category in this year's Australian of the Year awards after being nominated on the Commonwealth Bank's [www.mylocalhero.com.au](http://www.mylocalhero.com.au) web site.

The Commonwealth Bank is the major sponsor of The Australian of the Year Awards and as part of their continuing long-term involvement have launched an initiative [www.mylocalhero.com.au](http://www.mylocalhero.com.au) to run in conjunction with the official awards nomination period.

The site is simple and easy to navigate and helps recognise Australians doing great things all over Australia, from Geraldton in Western Australia, to Caboolture in Queensland.

According to his nomination, Andrew Heslop founded Neighbour Day in 2003 when an elderly woman was found dead in her home.

Tragically, she had been there for two years, completely forgotten by her family, her neighbours and her friends.

"Andrew's idea for a national day to build better relationships with the people next door and across the street, to help stop tragic incidences such as this from occurring, has proved to be a hit," his nomination says.

"Held on the last Sunday in March every year Neighbour Day is now a global event with the backing of the United Nations."

Andrew has received the written endorsement of former Secretary General of the UN, Kofi Annan, former US President Bill Clinton as well as Prince Charles.

Incredibly Andrew has funded Neighbour Day entirely out of his own pocket since its inception. There is no corporate sponsorship, government funding or public appeal for funds.

Andrew's community spirit doesn't stop there. His nomination says Andrew has had a 30 year involvement with the Australian Red Cross as a volunteer and member.

He's also a Board Member of the Victorian Relief Committee where he chaired the annual Winter Blanket Appeal for three years.

In his final year a 70 year record was achieved when 10,000 new blankets were donated for homeless and vulnerable Victorians.

He's also a collector for the Red Cross Calling doorknock appeal.

His interest in volunteering and community activity was inspired by his late grandmother who was involved with the Red Cross during WWII, who in turn influenced his late mother's involvement as a school fundraiser and volunteer.

Andrew Heslop is 37 years old.

Nominations for Australian of the Year close on August 31. People can nominate Australians, like Andrew, who make us proud at [www.mylocalhero.com.au](http://www.mylocalhero.com.au) .

**-ENDS-**

Andrew is available for interviews at 0404 038 106.

**For more information, contact:**

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