

Australia Gets Neighbourly!

On Sunday 26 March 2017, people across the country came together to meet and get to know the people who live around them for Australia's annual celebration of community, Neighbour Day.

Neighbours from all walks of life connected at morning teas, backyard barbecues, street parties and community gatherings – all in the name of getting to know the people who live nearby. With more than 2000 free Neighbour Day kits downloaded, there were plenty of opportunities to celebrate.

“On Neighbour Day we saw people come together at more than 500 registered events in neighbourhoods all over the country,” Alison Brook, National Executive Officer for Relationships Australia said, “We’ve been hearing wonderful stories of people creating important connections with their neighbours, and the impact that has already made to their overall sense of belonging.”

This year, Neighbour Day invited Australian's to reach out to older people in their communities through its annual theme: [*The importance of social connection for the elderly.*](#)

The theme saw people connecting with their elderly neighbours in different ways. Some hosted afternoon teas at their local aged care facilities, some shared a cup of tea and baked goods with their neighbours, and some simply extended the hand of friendship by offering to bring the bins or mail in.

“What was wonderful to see this year was people of all ages taking on the theme of social connection for older people in our communities,” Ms Brook said, “The stories that we are hearing not only from Neighbour Day, but of every day interactions, demonstrate that people truly care about the wellbeing of those around them, especially the elderly and vulnerable.”

Those who celebrated Neighbour Day are being encouraged to share their stories of the day through the annual [*Tell Us Your Story*](#) competition.

The competition invites people to tell their story of an extraordinary neighbour or an extraordinary neighbourly act for the chance to win up to \$400.

This year, as a reflection of the theme, Neighbour Day is encouraging people to submit a 250-word story about an elderly neighbour. Entries could include stories about a friendship with an elderly neighbour, children connecting with elderly neighbours, or how you reached out to an elderly neighbour on Neighbour Day.

The total prize-pool for the *Tell Us Your Story* competition this year is more than \$1000. The entries should reflect the spirit and purpose of Neighbour Day, in promoting well-connected and resilient communities in neighbourhoods across Australia.

Those who hosted or attended a Neighbour Day event are also encouraged to share their photos of the celebrations on Neighbour Day's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

“The community you want starts at your front door.”™

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