

Tell Us Your Story Winners 2017

Today the Neighbour Day team announced the eight winners of the annual *Tell Us Your Story* competition. All the stories received strongly supported the Neighbour Day themes of friendship, kindness and inclusiveness.

The *Tell Us Your Story* competition invites people to share their stories about a great neighbour, an amazing neighbourly act, or something they appreciate about the people in their neighbourhood. This year, in the spirit of our annual theme: [*The importance of social connection for the elderly*](#), entrants were encouraged to share a story about an elderly neighbour.

“Each year the *Tell Us Your Story* competition is something we really look forward to, as it demonstrates that connected and healthy neighbourhoods exist all over Australia,” Alison Brook, National Executive Officer for Relationships Australia said. “We were delighted to see so many of the entries this year embody our annual theme, which focused on the value of social connection for older people in our communities.”

The winning entries for the *Tell Us Your Story* competition 2017 are Annette from New South Wales, Jennifer from the Northern Territory, Joan from Western Australia, Dan from South Australia, Daniel and Aynur from Victoria, and Eve from Tasmania. No entries were received from the Australian Capital Territory.

The winner for Queensland, and our overall national winner for 2017, is Laura, whose heart-warming story showed the difference community connections can make in times of loss, and how it's sometimes the smallest things, like mowing your elderly neighbour's lawn, that make the biggest difference.

Other winning entries included stories about buying pets as companions for elderly neighbours, Facebook groups designed to help people sell or swap garden produce, and how older members of the community can become an important part of your extended family.

We encourage you to read each of the winning stories to be inspired by acts of kindness and connection. You can read them by visiting us [here](#).

This year Neighbour Day was celebrated on Sunday 26 March at more than 500 registered events across the country. Thousands of neighbours came together over backyard barbecues, street parties and community gatherings.

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

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