



MEDIA RELEASE

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Neighbour Day – Biggest Neighbourhood Celebration Ever!

Neighbour Day 2015 recorded the largest number of registered events ever with close to 70,000 people celebrating their neighbourhood on Sunday, 29 March. “We would anticipate that many more people attended a local street party, community event or neighbourhood barby to acknowledge Neighbour Day last Sunday,” Mat Rowell, Chair of the Relationships Australia Board said.

“It really has become one of Australia’s great celebrations of community and it is primarily community based,” Mr Rowell said. Relationships Australia is the home of Neighbour Day.

This year people were able to connect with Neighbour Day via the website as well as on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Some of the Neighbour Day events included street parties run by neighbours, community celebrations run by local councils, morning teas, bar-b-ques and local cricket games. Darwin Council opened all its public pools for free, inviting neighbours to join them for a swim!

“Neighbour Day is our annual reminder of the importance of getting to know our neighbours,” Mr Rowell said. “Well connected communities begin with good relationships with those who live close to us. It’s well recognised that well-connected neighbourhoods are better equipped to face and recover from emergencies or natural disasters than residents in other communities are. We’d like to encourage communities to celebrate Neighbour Day, and to live the values every day of the year.”

The principal aims of Neighbour Day are to:

- Strengthen communities and build better relationships with the people who live around us.
- Create safer, healthier and more vibrant suburbs and towns.
- Promote tolerance, respect and understanding.
- Break down community barriers.
- Protect the elderly, the vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

If you have a great story to tell about your neighbourhood enter the [Tell Us Your Story](http://neighbourday.org) competition at neighbourday.org. *Tell Us Your Story* encourages people to submit a 500 word story about a great neighbour or an extraordinary neighbourly act. There is more than \$1,000 in cash prizes to be won.

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

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Media contact:

Monique Hauber-Davidson

Communications Manager, Relationships Australia National office

PH: 0404 839 664

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