

Neighbour Day Comes to the Goldfields-Esperance Region in 2023!

As part of the Leading Australian Resilient Communities Program (LARC), which recently commenced in the Goldfields-Esperance region, a group of local champions are excited to bring 'Neighbour Day' to the region. This is aimed at "bringing people together, building friendships and making lifelong connections".

What is Neighbour Day?

Neighbour Day is a day of action that is held on the last Sunday in March each year – which in 2023 falls on Sunday 26 March 2023.

It is a movement focused on bringing people together and creating a sense of belonging within our local community. People are encouraged to register to hold an event in their street.

Neighbour Day was launched in Melbourne in 2003 as a day to check in on your neighbour. It has since evolved into much more. In 2014, Relationships Australia became the custodian of Neighbour Day, which has since grown into an ongoing year-round social connection campaign. It is supported by numerous West Australian Local Government Authorities and [Very Neighbourly Organisations](#) across Australia.

How can I be involved?

Create (and register) an event! Introduce yourself in person or with a letterbox drop to your neighbours (if you don't already know them) and invite them to have a street BBQ, bring a plate picnic, verge gardening day... use your imagination and spread the word.

Learn more here: [Frequently asked questions](#) | [Neighbours Every Day](#)

Who is bringing Neighbour Day to our region?

A small cohort of community-minded individuals, who have taken the opportunity to participate in the Leading Australian Resilient Communities Program (LARC), are working together to bring Neighbour Day to the Goldfields-Esperance region. This is to improve the liveability of the region and forge stronger community connections and resilience in times of need.

The LARC Program is fully funded by the Australian Government in collaboration with Leadership WA, the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation and the Regional Australia Institute, to engage local community members to broaden their skills and help increase the resilience of regional and remote Australia. 25 local individuals from the Goldfields Esperance region attended a 3-day intensive session in February 2023 in Esperance where they were asked to collaborate on a community project. This will be followed up with a final intensive session in May 2023 in Kalgoorlie, the last day of which the local community will be invited to attend to see the results of the group initiatives.

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Our local champions:

Andy Campbell, Manager, Lucky Bay Brewing, Esperance
Anthony Sherlock, Chief Operations Officer, Native Title Service Goldfields
Rebecca Seiner, Community Development Officer, Shire of Esperance
Gina Price, Managing Director, Integrity Lifestyle Supports
Peta Griffiths, Project Officer, Regional Development Australia Goldfield Esperance
Raana Scott, Esperance Community Member
Robyn Cail, Co-Owner, Lucky Bay Brewing, Esperance

Peta Griffiths, a Project Officer at Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance and who brought the idea to the LARC Program, said,

"I want to help bring Neighbour Day to our local communities as a way of bringing people together, building friendships and lifelong connections.

I first experienced Neighbour Day when I hosted an event in my previous street due to a local Council promotion (City of Cockburn). That event resulted in numerous long-lasting friendships and connections within our street. When I moved to the Goldfields in March 2020, the week of the first COVID lockdown, I really missed having that neighbourhood connection. I believe connections in our community are important in order to live our best lives, especially when living regionally where many members of our community are separated by long distances from their families.

The beauty of Neighbour Day is you can see the connections being made right in front of your eyes – it was amazing to see how quickly other LARC participants jumped on board to work on the project together."

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