

# NATIONALS

**ANDREW STONER MP**  
MEMBER FOR OXLEY

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Stoner encourages locals to celebrate Neighbour Day**

Member for Oxley, Andrew Stoner is encouraging people on the Mid North Coast to join together and celebrate their communities on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009 for Neighbour Day.

Neighbour Day began in 2003 and Mr Stoner said Sunday 29 March 2009 is a chance for people to get together with the people next door or across the street and celebrate their community with anything from a cuppa to a major festival.

Mr Stoner said Neighbour Day has five principal aims:

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

“By facilitating street parties, community festivals, or simply a BBQ out the back, individuals and organisations have made stronger community ties between neighbours.

“It is important that people have a sense of belonging within their neighbourhood – this helps to create stronger more resilient communities.

“When people feel part of a community, they are generally more comfortable asking those around them for help or advice,” said Mr Stoner.

Participating in Neighbour Day is easy and free. For more information visit the website [www.neighbourday.org](http://www.neighbourday.org) and follow the links.

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