



Image credit - John McRae

Andrew Heslop

Founder of 'Neighbour Day', Australia's annual celebration of community, bringing together the people next door, across the street or on the next farm for a beer, a barbie or just a cup of tea. Andrew shows how the power of community advocacy can change the way we interact, achieve and communicate.

Key Audiences

Government, Community, Special Interest Groups, Not-for-profits, Fundraising, Marketing

Presentation Opportunities

- Key Note
- Panel
- Workshop
- Think Tank
- Advisory

Other areas of interest

- Fundraising
- Volunteering
- Human Rights

Recent clients include

- United Nations, NY, USA
- Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

Achievements

- International public face of the Australian Red Cross post the 9/11 tragedy
- Nominated for Australian of the Year award, the prestigious Melbourne Award and Commonwealth Bank Local Hero Award
- Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay, Australia – torch bearer

What they say

Based

Canberra, Australia

Availability

Worldwide

Available for media interviews

Andrew Heslop's commitment to community, and his acknowledgement of its collective ability to create and cause change, is fast gaining him a reputation as a leading commentator both in Australia and Internationally.

He is the sole founder of Australia's 'Neighbour Day', the annual celebration of community, which he instigated in 2003. The event is supported by the Australian Government, through the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, as well through a wealth of media partnerships which run the length and breadth of the country.

In May 2008 Andrew spoke at the United Nations headquarters in New York about the global development of Neighbour Day, which has grown from a simple idea expressed in a letter to the editor to become a national community event. He has also presented a paper to the Gulbenkian Organisation in the UK on the establishment of Neighbour Day as a concept through the UK and Europe.

In 2009, he delivered the keynote address at the launch of the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras to an audience of 70,000 people at Fair Day in Victoria Park.

He was listed by the [sydney]magazine as one of Sydney's TOP 100 Most Influential People in the January 2010 edition.

He has also been recognised for his work within community through:

- The Westpac Kookaburra Awards – winning the individual category in 2010
- Selected by Samsung to run with the Olympic Flame through Canberra during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay.
- Nominations for Australian of the Year Award – 2005-2010
- Nominee for Commonwealth Bank Local Hero Award 2008
- Semi-finalist for 2006 Regional Achievement and Community Awards sponsored by The Weekly Times and Prime Television
- Nominated for a prestigious Melbourne Award within the Individual Contribution to Community category for raising the international profile of Melbourne through the development of Neighbour Day.

A portrait of Andrew, by Sydney artist Bruce Remmer, was submitted as an entry in the 2010 Archibald Prize.

For engagement enquiries phone Libby Fordham on +61 411 473 938

The Fordham Agency

General Biography

Professionally Andrew started his career at 5DN 972 in Adelaide aged 15 and later gained wider experience at the ABC, B105, QTQ 9, HSV 7 and 3AW. Today Andrew is an accomplished marketing communications executive and media spokesman.

In Sydney he has represented the Rail Corporation of New South Wales - the NSW Government operator of passenger rail services under the CityRail and CountryLink brands; TransdevTSL - as operator of the Yarra Trams franchise in Melbourne; The University of Melbourne, British Red Cross and Australian Red Cross.

Until September 2008 Andrew was Senior Media Adviser to NSW Deputy Premier John Watkins until Mr Watkins retired from the NSW Parliament.

In London in 1999, Andrew was the Project Manager of the Valentino Autumn Collection Fashion Show for domestic and international aid projects of British Red Cross. Over lunch attended by Valentino, Elle Macpherson, Joan Collins, Sophie Anderton and other celebrity guests around £60,000 (\$AUD150,000) was raised. At 10 Downing Street then Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Hon. Gordon Brown, hosted the launch of the International Fundraising Committee in November.

As the first National Communications Manager for Australian Red Cross Andrew developed and launched the Asia Pacific HIV/AIDS Appeal in 2001 to highlight a massive regional health issue. When planes crashed into the World Trade Centre, The Pentagon and a field in Pittsburgh on 11th September 2001, Andrew became the international public face of Australian Red Cross.

In December 2004 the National Australia Day Council advised Andrew he had been nominated for the 2005 Australian of the Year Award. Andrew was subsequently nominated for Awards in 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009. He was also a nominee for the Commonwealth Bank Local Hero Award - part of the 2008 Australian of the Year Award - for the development of Neighbour Day and his association with Australian Red Cross and the Victorian Relief Committee.

Andrew was a semi-finalist in the 2006 Regional Achievement and Community Awards sponsored by The Weekly Times and Prime Television.

In 2007 he was nominated for a prestigious Melbourne Award within the Individual Contribution to Community category for raising the international profile of Melbourne through the development of Neighbour Day.

As recognition for his outstanding community involvement Andrew was selected by Samsung to run with the Olympic Flame through Canberra during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay.

In May 2008 Andrew spoke at the United Nations headquarters in New York about the global development of Neighbour Day, which has grown from a simple idea expressed in a letter to the editor to become a national community event.

Following Andrew's presentation to the United Nations, Neighbour Day was a finalist at the 2008 Melbourne Awards within the Individual Contribution to Community category for the global promotion of Melbourne.

On Sunday 15th February 2009 he delivered the keynote address at the launch of the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras to an audience of 70,000 people at Fair Day in Victoria Park.

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