

Information For Schools



What is National Tree Day?

National Tree Day is Australia's biggest community tree-planting event, bringing people together to plant trees and shrubs that are native to their local area.

Schools Tree Day, held on the last Friday of July, is a special day for Australia. Over 220,000 school children were involved in last year's event. Tree Day shows children how easy and fun it is to help their environment.

The majority of Tree Day plantings happen over the last weekend of July. This year the dates have been arranged to allow for school holidays in NSW:

Schools Tree Day - Friday July 31st 2009
National Tree Day - Sunday August 2nd 2009

Schools are not restricted to Planet Ark's insured dates - you can plant at any time that suits the local weather conditions and your curriculum! (Note: Your school's insurance must cover tree planting activities if you plant on a date that is not insured by Planet Ark).

In partnership with local councils, community groups and schools throughout Australia, National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark and supported by Toyota.

More than 312,000 volunteers participated in Tree Day in 2008, planting over 1.6 million native trees and shrubs at 3,500 sites around Australia.

Schools Tree Day creates learning opportunities that can achieve outcomes in the Key Learning Areas of Studies of Society & Environment and Science. Tree Day has also been incorporated into Art, Poetry, Maths, English, Communication, Horticulture, Technology (woodwork) and Work & Community (life skills) studies.

For more ideas about how getting involved in Schools Tree Day can help your school work towards achieving objectives in environmental education and other Key Learning Areas, see the case studies and useful web links at the end of this document, and visit the **Teacher Resources** section of our web site treeday.planetark.org.

Where local conditions are not suitable for planting, there are other ways that your school can be involved in Tree Day. See the Get Involved / Other Activities section of our web site for some ideas.

National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Prius



Proud sponsor

Seven Easy Steps to Get Your Students Involved!

1. Nominate a teacher or parent who is willing to oversee preparation for the day.

This can be a K-6 teacher or a Year 7-12 teacher of Science, Geography, PD/H/PE or Design & Technology. Could this be you?

2. Pick a spot for students to plant trees. This can be at the school or in the local community. Perhaps there is an existing revegetation programme that your school could get involved with? Talk to your local council or environmental group.

3. Pick a day to plant your trees. Your school may want to hold a tree planting event on a day other than Schools Tree Day or National Tree Day - or maybe even register sites for a number of days!

Where planting takes place on a date not insured by Planet Ark, the school is responsible for ensuring that adequate insurance cover is in place for the activities undertaken. For further information visit treeday.planetark.com/insurance or call the National Tree Day Hotline on 1300 88 5000.

4. Register your school for Tree Day. There are 3 easy ways you can register:

Register online at treeday.planetark.com/coords and save paper!

or - Send us a School Site Registration Form (download the form from our web site).

or - Register over the phone by calling 1300 88 5000.

5. Structure the experience around a simple lesson on trees:

- a. By planting native trees and shrubs, students help provide food and shelter for local native wildlife.
- b. Students can find out if they can help to solve any particular environmental problems in their local area by planting native species.
- c. Students can plant native tree species to offset the yearly carbon dioxide emissions produced by their family car. 17 native trees, over a 30 year lifetime, can offset the carbon emissions produced by an average year of car use (for details visit the [Greenfleet](#) web site*), or this same amount can be offset within one year by planting 200 native trees (for details visit the [TreeSmart](#) web site*).

**Please refer to the web links page overleaf*

- d. Students can plant a tree to honour a beloved friend or relative, a retired teacher or former pupil – or even to celebrate the birth of a new family member.

National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Prius



Proud sponsor

Information For Schools



6. Ask the local community for assistance. Your local community nursery, Council Tree Officer, [Bushcare](#) or [Landcare](#) group may be able to help by supplying native seedlings or seeds. Perhaps they can also provide buckets and shovels on the day or help with preparing the site and maintenance? Your local Lions or Rotary club may help by providing a sausage and veggieburger sizzle on the day!

Please be sure to get in touch with your local council or other group as early as possible, especially where ordering plants are concerned, in order to avoid disappointment.

Our National Tree Day hotline can advise on local contacts in your area - call **1300 88 5000**.

7. Plan to care for your plants. It's vitally important to take care of the plants and schedule in watering and maintenance. Why not start an environmental group at the school or have groups of students adopt a tree? You can also incorporate other activities such as weeding, seed collecting, bush regeneration and propagation.

- Have a great day!

Useful Web Links

Planet Ark

<http://treeday.planetark.com/teachers/>

Information, Case Studies, "Living Landcare" lesson plan & more useful links

Sustainable Schools Program

<http://www.sustainableschools.com.au/sustainableschools/default.asp>

Pilot program in NSW & VIC now being implemented nationally

Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative

<http://www.environment.gov.au/education/aussi/>

Includes contacts for each State and Territory

The Gould League

www.gould.edu.au

Specialists in environmental education

WILDSCAPE (Gould League)

<http://www.wildscape.com.au/curriculum/>

Environmental education resources for teachers and students

National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Prius



Powered By

PRIUS
PEOPLE



Proud sponsor

Information For Schools



Playground Planting Guide

<http://www.environment.gov.au/education/publications/school.html>

Activities for students to investigate why plants are an essential part of the ecosystem

NSW Department of Education and Training

www.schools.nsw.edu.au

Men of the Trees – Million Trees Program for WA Schools

www.menofthetrees.com.au

Urban Forests Program - SA

www.urbanforest.on.net

Trees For Life - SA

www.treesforlife.org.au

Landcare Australia

www.landcareonline.com

Includes information and links for Junior Landcare & Landcare for schools

Greening Australia

www.greeningaustralia.org.au

Find local contacts for advice and school resources and case studies

Teachers Toolkit

www.teacherstoolkit.net.au

Download lesson plans for primary schools

Australian Greenhouse Office

<http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/education/tips/school.html>

Resources for Teachers and Students

References to Tree Planting to Offset CO2 Emissions:

Greenfleet

<http://www.greenfleet.com.au/>

TreeSmart

<http://www.treesmart.com.au/>

Additional web links can be found at treeday.planetark.com/teachers

National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Prius



Powered By

PRIUS
PEOPLE



Proud sponsor

Schools Tree Day Case Studies

A great day for learning and cooperation!

No matter how big or small your school or planting site – you can make it a great success by working together with local councils, community and environment groups, and local businesses. These schools show how it's done! Think about what you can do too!

Baldivis Children's Forest, WA

Baldivis Children's Forest is located in the semi rural town of Baldivis approximately 60 kilometres south of Perth. A site that spans 20 hectares, it encompasses what remains of the Tuart Woodlands and a portion of the heritage listed Outridge Swamp.

Revegetation activities have been taking place at the Baldivis Children's Forest for eight years. It was originally chosen as a Schools Tree Day site because concerned school children wanted to preserve some of the local environment that was being cleared for housing.

The project has since grown to a year round project with corporate funding for two part time staff. In 2007, 900 children from 12 schools joined dozens of teachers and a host of community volunteers to plant more than 2,800 seedlings over ten days.

With help from local Government and community groups such as Landcare and the Baldivis Bush Fire Brigade, students and teachers undertake year round site maintenance including watering and weed control.

The Forest provides food and shelter to many animals including the western grey kangaroo, southern brown bandicoot and 25 different species of reptiles. In 2005 a capital works program commenced and has seen walking tracks, fencing, toilets, a BBQ, outdoor classroom and amphitheatre constructed allowing the community to enjoy the environment they have worked so hard to sustain. Year round Nyoongar cultural workshops and school activity days focus on environmental conservation, science, the Arts and Aboriginal culture.

Information For Schools



Manorvale Primary School, Werribee VIC – Trees for Frogs

As part of the Sustainable Schools program the students have set up the Manorvale Frog Squad! This group has an environmental focus and takes responsibility for things like mulching and weeding the gardens and generally raising environmental awareness at the school.

The Werribee River borders the school and has provided an opportunity to study and integrate the river ecosystem into the school grounds. Frog ponds have been installed and indigenous trees and shrubs planted throughout the school to provide habitat for native birds and frogs.

Muswellbrook Public School NSW – Green Thumbs Up!

With assistance from the Environmental Education teacher, students from K6 grew seedlings in the school's green house and distributed them to over eight schools in the district for sale on their tree day. On National Tree Day in 2005 they were responsible for the sale of over 3,500 trees!

Revegetating the Eyre Peninsula - Bringing Schools and Communities Together in SA

In July 2005 Urrbrae Agricultural High School, based in Cummins, SA, sent two busloads of students to rehabilitate a bush-fire damaged area of the Eyre Peninsula. After traveling for a day, they joined local schools in planting 7000 seedlings over 3 days.

In 2006 students from Reynella East K-7 School worked in partnership with the Friends of Kyeema Creek Conservation Park to propagate 3,000 native plants from locally sourced seeds collected by Greening Australia and Trees for Life volunteers.

The school joined up with Tumby Area School to plant the seedlings on fire-affected properties near Tumby Bay during August.

Reynella East has restored 1 hectare of native bush each year since 1995!

National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Prius



Powered By



Proud sponsor

Information For Schools



Anula State School, Darwin NT – Competition Winner!

In 2005 Anula State School incorporated Schools Tree Day into their pilot Sustainable Schools program. They sent in a photo and a few words about their project and were chosen as one of 20 winners of the AMP Schools Competition, winning \$1,000 for their school!

Here is their winning entry:

“We planted a Bush Tucker Garden of 27 regionally native plants, aiming to eventually develop the site as a biodiversity garden. Two classes researched and selected trees. The parent community and staff laid irrigation pipes and organic soil. Each class across the school adopted, planted, mulched and fenced a tree.”

Their plans for 2006 include involving the students in creating a mosaic path through the garden that reflects the various cultures of the students attending the School. In the long term it is hoped that the garden will also be accessed by students from other schools and the wider community as a resource for learning about the Bush Tucker of the 'Top End'.

National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Prius



Proud sponsor