



FOR USE ON: WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2009

JACK THOMPSON DIGS IN FOR NATIONAL TREE DAY

This World Environment Day, Australian film and television actor and **National Tree Day** Ambassador, **Jack Thompson**, is urging all Australians to join **Planet Ark's** tree-planting revolution as National Tree Day volunteers.

Registration lines officially open today and the race is now on to recruit volunteer Site Coordinators for this year's National Tree Day (to be held on Sunday 2 August) and Schools Tree Day (to be held on Friday 31 July). Thompson is calling on individuals, schools and community groups to register and run local tree planting or bush regeneration sites.

"Environmental issues are now receiving real attention and the community's desire to do something to help our planet as a whole is unprecedented," says Thompson. "We hope that this increased awareness will translate into positive action and that this year the event will be bigger and better than ever."

Now in its 14th year, Planet Ark's National Tree Day has successfully mobilised more than two million volunteers to plant over 13 million trees. This extraordinary feat is largely due to the thousands of individuals who each year volunteer to coordinate tree-planting sites in their local area. Last year more than 3,500 individuals registered as National Tree Day Site Coordinators, providing their local communities with the opportunity to come together to plant for the future.

"National Tree Day is about so much more than just planting trees. It's about growing habitat for Australia's native wildlife," says National Tree Day Ambassador Jack Thompson. "It's about growing communities, growing an appreciation for our environment, and growing a future for our children."

Planet Ark needs volunteers who have an interest in making a positive environmental difference, to register as Site Coordinators and run local tree planting sites so they can share their expertise and teach future generations how to care for and preserve the local native environment.

Site Coordinators are required to organise and supervise their registered tree-planting site. Planet Ark provides support to all registered Site Coordinators through its National Tree Day Hotline and website, where downloadable resources and a step-by-step guide, as well as tools to help Coordinators promote their tree planting, are readily available. For more information or to register a site visit <http://treeday.planetark.org> or call the National Tree Day Hotline on 1300 88 5000.

National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota and Its Dealer network which provide on-the- ground support at local and community tree-planting sites Australia wide.

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**For interviews, images, logos or further information, contact
Michelle Cook
p. 02 8484 7200 | m. 0414 702 697
e. michelle@planetark.org**

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

