



## **National Tree Day 2009 fact sheet**

- National Tree Day is on **Sunday 2 August** and Schools Tree Day is on **Friday 31 July**.
- The theme for National Tree Day in 2009 is **Get Growing**. This theme has multiple meaning – growth of native trees, growth of communities and community spirit as well as personal growth.
- The first National Tree Day was held in 1996 and in the event's 14 year history more than 2 million Australians have planted **over 13 million native trees and shrubs** at National Tree Day sites Australia-wide.
- In 2009, Planet Ark aims to plant its 15 millionth seedling.
- Last year **312,000 people** planted **1.6 million native trees and shrubs** at **3,500 sites** around Australia. 229,000 of these volunteers were Australian school children from 2,100 schools that took part in Schools Tree Day.
- The aim of National Tree Day is to increase the environmental, educational and community development outcomes of mass plantings of indigenous plant species and bush regeneration to benefit Australia's eco systems.
- To register a National Tree Day site or an offer of support, or to find a local tree-planting site near you to volunteer at, call the National Tree Day Hotline on **1300 88 5000** or go to **treeday.planetark.org**
- 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.
- Planet Ark encourages the planting of trees and plants native to people's local communities, because:
  - Those species are best suited to local conditions,
  - Native plants use far less water than exotic species,
  - They help restore the natural character of an area,
  - They provide food and shelter for local native wildlife.
- Planet Ark is a not-for profit organisation that works to show people and businesses the many ways they can reduce their day-to-day impact on the environment - at home, at work and in the community. for more information on Planet Ark's campaigns visit <http://planetark.org>

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



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