



For immediate release

BRANCHES OF AUSSIES TAKE PART IN NATIONAL TREE DAY

One month on from Australia's largest community tree-planting event, Planet Ark can reveal this year's National Tree Day saw **250,000 volunteers** plant more than **1.5 million native trees and shrubs** at over **3,500 sites nationwide**.

"With help from local councils, more than 2,000 schools, companies like Toyota which sponsors the event, green groups and individual site coordinators, National Tree Day has once again demonstrated that Australians from all walks of life support the environment and are willing to take action to ensure it survival ", says Planet Ark spokeswoman Rebecca Gilling.

Since the first National Tree Day was staged in 1996, more than 2 million volunteers have planted 15 million native trees and shrubs. An event that benefits our natural surroundings, National Tree Day is also a day for communities and families to grow and develop a connection with the environment, which it is hoped will transcend to a year-round environmental commitment.

"Planet Ark encourages all volunteers to return to planting sites regularly to provide ongoing care to the trees that they planted on National Tree Day", says Gilling. "This is great thing for families to do together because children can watch the trees that they planted grow as they grow".

Planet Ark registers a further 12 dates throughout the year for so that regions which may not find it suitable to plant native trees and shrubs on the first Sunday in August, can still take part in National Tree Day. Individuals, schools, green groups or councils interested in taking part in an upcoming National Tree Day event should 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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National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Prius

