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***Media Release <Insert date>***

**Inspiring kids is in our nature on Schools Tree Day**

Students from **<Insert School Name>** will be leaving their desks and heading outside to green their playground and connect with nature for Planet Ark’s Schools Tree Day on Friday 28 July.

“Schools Tree Day is a great opportunity to teach children from a young age how to care for and protect our natural environment. Students also learn about the important role nature plays in the life of our planet and why we must protect it,” said **<Insert School spokesperson>.**

**<Insert school’s activities for Schools Tree Day>.**

More than 2,500 schools get involved in Schools Tree Day each year as part of National Tree Day, Australia’s biggest community tree-planting and nature care event. It’s an opportunity for students to plant and care for the seedlings as they grow, and a hands-on experience which also beautifies school grounds.

National Tree Day Manager Debbie Agnew says that participating in Schools Tree Day, which has been running since 1996, is a fun, exciting way for students to have an authentic nature experience and benefit from learning outside.

“Planet Ark’s research[[1]](#endnote-1) shows that students who take part in outdoor learning programs develop key skills like emotional intelligence, grit or resilience and problem solving. They also perform better in reading, writing, maths and science, with 77% of teachers reporting student improvement in standardised tests. Time spent in nature also reduces stress, and enhances concentration and creativity,” Agnew said.

This year’s theme – *Be Inspired: It’s in Our Nature* –highlights how nature ignites our inspiration, creativity and purpose, as well as offering significant health and wellbeing benefits.

Schools Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Australia’s Dealer Network, which provides on-the-ground support at local tree planting sites Australia-wide.

To find out more about Schools Tree Day on Friday 28 July or National Tree Day on Sunday 30 July, visit **treeday.planetark.org**, call the **National Tree Day Hotline on 1300 88 5000** or contact your local participating Toyota Australia Dealership.

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1. **For interviews, images, or information about tree day sites in your area, please contact:**

**<Insert name of school contact>** Carol Warwick

**<Insert contact’s title & school>** PR and Media Manager, Planet Ark

**<Insert school’s contact tel number I email>** 02 8484 7205 I carol@planetark.org

 *Learning from Trees: Life Lessons for Future Generations* report, Planet Ark, 2017 [www.treeday.planetark.org/research](http://www.treeday.planetark.org/research) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)