



Plant the seed



national
tree day



PLANET ARK  TOYOTA

Libraries
Guide

national tree day

treeday.planetark.org

At Planet Ark we are always excited to see new sectors of society join us on our journey to a more sustainable future. As important community hubs, libraries can both run Tree Day activities themselves and play a crucial role in promoting other local planting events.

For many people, the simple act of planting a seedling into the ground for National Tree Day is a powerful, tangible way to feel part of a concerted local solution to the environmental problems we all face. By supporting our campaign to Get Outside and Grow, you'll be helping ignite lifelong passions for fostering our treasured natural spaces.

To make it easy to get your library involved in Tree Day, we designed a tailored guide based on the initiatives that libraries are already doing. However, the ideas within are simply suggestions - we hope you enjoy crafting a memorable experience for your library that you can be proud of this year and many years from now.



Paul Klymenko
Planet Ark, CEO

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



CONTENTS

ABOUT NATIONAL TREE DAY	4
What is National Tree Day?	4
Why get involved?	4
GETTING STARTED	4
What your Library can do as part of National Tree Day	4
Suggested books, songs and rhymes to use	5
Running a Tree Day Activity at your Library	6
5 easy steps	6
SPOTLIGHT ON:	7
Double Bay Central Library and Woollahra Library	
Stay in touch	7
LIBRARY resources available online	7



ABOUT NATIONAL TREE DAY

Founded by Planet Ark in 1996, National Tree Day has become Australia's largest planting and nature care event. Each year hundreds of thousands of people plant around a million seedlings, bringing communities together to beautify neighbourhoods that are native wildlife friendly. Anyone can join this national initiative to help to grow nature where they live, work and play.

Why get involved?

- Nurture a newfound passion for nature in your neighbourhood, helping to grow future custodians of our planet,
- Diversify and increase local intrigue in the library with a little creativity (eg. If you're bringing a little of the outside inside for a native display to help kids learn about iconic local plants),
- Highlight the work of your local council, Landcare or community group.
- Planet Ark and Toyota's research from the last two years has shown a myriad of benefits resulting from time in nature, including improved learning, creativity, mental and physical health. However, growing diverse green spaces is also critical for our local wildlife and environmental wellbeing.

GETTING STARTED

What your library can do as part of National Tree Day

Promote an existing Tree Day Event in your area

Most Tree Day events are run by local councils, Landcare or community groups, who are aiming to increase community participation. Help promote their event to library visitors - find a public Tree Day planting event near your library on our website using your postcode. Note down their location, day/time and contact person. You can then help promote them in any number of ways, for example:

- Include a mention in your next e-newsletter with one of [our graphics](#).
- Type the event's details into our [adaptable poster](#) or [fliers](#) available online. These can then be distributed at other green events or workshops being run at your library.

Run your own Tree Day activity

Here are just a few ideas:

- Theme one of your Storytimes, Rhymetimes or Songtimes, or your School Holiday program in July around caring for nature and Tree Day.
- Designate a display area to Tree Day using local native plants, animals soft toys and nature-related books.
- Promote nature-themed books in your Staff Picks and Premier Reading Challenge area
- Display campaign posters and Tree Day related arts and crafts from your themed activities in the library



Suggested books, songs and rhymes to use

Songs:

“The kookaburra song” by Marion Sinclair,
“Feathers, fur or fins” album, by Don Spencer
Jambu Tree Kids
“Home amongst the gum trees.”

Books about trees

This Tree, 1, 2, 3. By Alison Formento.
In My Tree. By Sara Gillingham and Lorena Siminovich.
This Tree Counts! By Alison Formento.
Last Tree. By Mark Wilson. (Set in Victoria and about a eucalyptus tree).
The Magnificent Tree. By Nick Bland.
Last Tree in the City. By Peter Carnavas.
(E-version available for free)
The Curious Garden. By Peter Brown.
The Tiny Seed. By Eric Carle.
Tess’s Tree. By Jess Brallier.

Books about Australian animals

Diary of a wombat. By Jackie French.

Books about Indigenous Australia

The Naked Boy and the Crocodile. By Andy Griffiths.
Kangaroos Hop. By Ros Moriarty.
Ten Scared Fish. By Ros Moriarty.
(The sale of the above two books raises money for the Indi Kindi program, which supports literacy for Indigenous children.)
Ernie dances to the didgeridoo. By Alison Lester.

Interactive rhymes

Enliven your favourite nature poems and nursery rhymes with puppets, accompanying “choreography” to assist in the learning of new words, or props if you can find them. If you have trouble finding some good poems, or if some are too long, try extracts instead, or edit a well known poem like we’ve done below!

Weary Will

The strongest creature for his size
But least equipped for combat
That dwells beneath Australian skies
Is Weary Will the Wombat.

He digs his homestead underground,
He’s neither shrewd nor clever;
For kangaroos can leap and bound
But wombats dig forever.

The boundary rider’s netting fence
Excites his irritation;
It is to his untutored sense
His pet abomination.

And when to pass it he desires,
Upon his task he’ll centre
And dig a hole beneath the wires
Through which the dingoes enter.

And when to block the hole they strain
With logs and stones and rubble,
Bill Wombat digs it out again
Without the slightest trouble.

The boundary rider bows to fate,
Admits he’s made a blunder
And rigs a little swinging gate
To let Bill Wombat under.

So most contentedly he goes
Between his haunt and burrow:
He does the only thing he knows,
And does it very thorough.

From the book, *The Animals Noah Forgot.* By A. B. Patterson.

I’m a watering can

I’m a watering can
Short and stout,
Here is my handle, here is my spout,
Help my plants all grow up,
From a sprout,
Tip me over pour me out!



Christmas where the gum trees grow

Christmas where the gum trees grow, there is no
frost and there is no snow,
Christmas in Australia's hot,
cold and frosty's what it's not,
when the bloom of the jacaranda tree is here,
Christmas time is near

Extract from poem by Lesley Sabogal.

Spring awakening

Spring is the magical time
When the rainbow lorikeets hum
and the honey suckles blossom,
When I actively bounce down the sand dunes
And onto the pea green grass,
The waratahs and the wattles bloom,
And my heart opens to the riot of spring.
I love this time when everything comes to life,
Nature triumphs in the trees, swaying freely in the
wind,
Stealing my train of thought
And making my imagination run wild.

Extract from poem by Lily Baker.

Running a Tree Day Activity at your Library: 5 easy steps

- 1. Nominate a library staff member to be the contact person.**
- 2. Pick an activity to run, and any date to run it.** Each year Schools Tree Day is held on the last Friday of July, with National Tree Day on the last Sunday of July. Planet Ark has arranged insurance coverage all year round for registered Tree Day activities should you need it.
- 3. Promote your activity.** When the details of your activity are confirmed, **list it on the Tree Day website**, as well as in your calendar and e-newsletter. We can send you an official poster set, or you can download them yourself. If you do want your poster in the mail, we just need ten days notice.
- 4. Enjoy your activity.** If there's a local Tree Day planting event near your library, it would be great to promote it as part of your activity as well. Find one near you by entering your postcode on the **Tree Day website**.
- 5. Be counted.** Tell us how big you grew your community, by **logging your results online** or ringing us on 1300 88 5000. Show us snaps from your activity or display by posting them to **our facebook page**.



SPOTLIGHT ON: Double Bay Central Library & Woollahra Library

“As part of our Childrens Program, each of the three service points present a Storytime which is targeted to children aged between 3-5 years. Storytime involves stories, songs, rhymes, craft and an interactive activity. The activity depends on what resources are available to us each year. In the past we have planted a tree in the gardens, played with worms and given each child a pot and some seeds so they can watch herbs grow. The children love playing with the worms from the Council’s worm farm (plus it’s free).” – Michella McIntosh, Information Service



Stay in touch

National Tree Day Hotline:

1300 88 5000

National Tree Day Website:

<http://treeday.planetark.org>

Contact Email:

treeday@planetark.org

Mailing Address:

Level 3, 15-17 Young St, Sydney 2000

Facebook Community:

<http://www.facebook.com/NationalTreeDay>

Library resources available online:

In your **organiser’s toolkit** to download after registering your activity:

- Adaptable A3 Poster
- General A3 Poster
- Results Form
- Photo Release Form
- Accident/Incident Form

Elsewhere on the website:

- Library Activity Guide

Colouring and activity sheets

Free download of “**Last Tree in the City**”

