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

**Get students to connect in nature this Schools Tree Day**

Students from **<Insert School Name>** are heading outside to plant trees, maintain their green spaces and connect in nature for Planet Ark’s Schools Tree Day on Friday 27 July.

“Schools Tree Day is an amazing opportunity to not only tell students about how they can improve the environment, but to let them do it firsthand,” said **<Insert School Spokesperson>.**

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

Over 2,500 schools on average participate in Schools Tree Day every year in the lead up to National Tree Day, which is Australia’s largest community tree-planting and nature care event.

The theme for 2018 – *Connect In Nature* – looks at the myriad ways in which modern technology can enhance time outdoors and enrich our appreciation for the natural world using apps and other digital resources. It’s also an opportunity for students and teachers to record the contribution they’ve made to their schools for future generations.

Rebecca Gilling, Planet Ark's Deputy CEO, said the theme reflects the necessity of balancing the need to be digitally savvy with spending vital time in nature.

“This year we want teachers and students to consider merging their green time and screen time. Our research over the past few years has told us that not only can students learn while connecting with nature but that they benefit emotionally and intellectually from doing so.”

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 27 July or National Tree Day on Sunday 29 July, visit **treeday.planetark.org**, call the **National Tree Day Hotline on 1300 88 5000** or contact your local participating Toyota Australia Dealership.

**-ENDS-**

**For interviews, images, or information about Schools/National Tree Day sites in your area, contact:**

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