

## NATIONAL TREE DAY Sunday 27 July



### What is National Tree Day?

National Tree Day, co-ordinated by Planet Ark, is Australia's biggest community tree-planting event and a day for all Australians to help out by planting native trees and shrubs at a Tree Day site in their local area. Since 1996 more than 1.5 million volunteers have planted over 11.5 million native trees and shrubs!

### When?

National Tree Day is held on the last Sunday of July, with Schools Tree Day taking place on the Friday before. This year **Schools Tree Day** falls on **Friday, 25 July 2008**, with **National Tree Day** on **Sunday, 27 July 2008**. There are additional planting days spread throughout the year.

### Benefits of trees

(source: <http://treeday.planetark.com/documents/doc-47-ntd08-benefits-of-trees.pdf>)

Tree planting makes a positive difference to our environment. Planting local native trees, shrubs and ground covers helps to provide food and shelter for Australia's wildlife, increasing native biodiversity and combating the habitat loss that threatens much of our wildlife.

1. Trees are good for the environment
2. Trees are good for business
3. Trees are good for our cities
4. Trees are good for the economy
5. Trees making caring, sharing communities
6. Trees make happy, healthy children
7. Trees heal and help you live longer
8. Trees make society a better place
9. Trees add value to the world as it is
10. Trees make the world a beautiful place

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## *What has been happening in the Province?*

Friars have cared for their local environment for many years throughout the Province. For example, at Maryfields there are approximately 318 plants (e.g. Eucalyptus, Callistemon and Casuarina) that have been planted and cared for by the Friars.

Trees have always been closely associated with Francis Haven. On the property there are a number of large oaks, elms and ashes which were planted by Laura Molloy in the fifties. The Friars have continued planting and maintaining numerous native trees over the years, despite the lack of rain.

Eight years ago the local Landcare Group, at the suggestion of the Friars, seeded a large area of the property with Eucalyptus, Wattle and other trees, using only species which are indigenous to the local region. They ploughed hundreds of long furrows and put the seed in as they went. The germination was extraordinary, almost 90% successful. All the trees have flourished and now most are over 6m (18 ft) in height. Often the only way to get through the hedges is to follow the paths that the kangaroos make where they have forced their way through tens of thousands of trees - "as many as the stars of heaven."

### ***Mother Earth***

*Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi*

Dear mother earth, who day by day  
Unfolds rich blessing on our way,  
O praise God! Alleluia!  
The fruits and flowers that verdant grow,  
Let them his praise abundant show.  
O praise God, O praise God,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

To learn more about trees and tree-planting, or find out how to get involved with National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day please visit

<http://treeday.planetark.com/>

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