

Media Release

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The forest starts here: students help shape Tasmania's future landscapes

Schools Tree Day gives young Tasmanians hands-on learning with a lasting impact—one seedling at a time.

Across the state, thousands of students will be rolling up their sleeves to plant seedlings, as part of Schools Tree Day, a state-wide collaboration between Sustainable Timber Tasmania and the Forest Education Foundation.

"This is where the forest — and the fun — begins," said Suzette Weeding, General Manager Conservation and Land Management at Sustainable Timber Tasmania. "It starts in the hands of students who are learning, through real action, how to care for their schools and communities."

"Schools Tree Day builds a sense of purpose and community. They're learning about the environment and actively shaping it."

More than 3,000 native seedlings, cultivated at Sustainable Timber Tasmania's Perth Nursery, have been gifted and delivered to schools across the state.

Throughout July and August, schools across the state and teachers will plant gifted seedlings, with some schools holding outdoor planting events with Sustainable Timber Tasmania foresters — digging holes, planting seedlings, while having fun and learning.

Darcy Vickers, Manager at the Forest Education Foundation, said the program brings the forest curriculum to life.

"Planting a tree is a beginning. It gets kids asking questions, noticing patterns in nature, and seeing themselves as part of the landscape," he said.

Schools Tree Day, held in conjunction with National Tree Day, connects students with the science and practice of sustainable forestry while creating habitat, shade, and climate resilience in their own school communities.

Many of the seedlings planted during past Schools Tree Days continue to thrive and grow on school grounds, now part of maturing landscapes that students can observe, measure, and monitor for years to come.

Planet Ark's National Tree Day started in 1996 and has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event. This year, National Tree Day will be celebrated on 25th July. It's an encouragement for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to the community.

For more information please contact (03) 6169 2869 or email media@sttas.com.au