



Each year around 3,000 preschools, kindergartens, primary and high schools across Australia take part in Schools Tree Day. Students nationwide have learnt how to dig in for the environment and have fun getting grubby, planting over 470,000 native seedlings, trees, shrubs, edibles and flowers. Planet Ark recently celebrated twenty-two years of National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day - Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature care event. Proudly sponsored by Toyota Australia, Tree Day is an opportunity to do something positive for your local environment and community and to reconnect with nature. National Tree Day started in 1996 and since then more than four million people have planted over twenty-four million trees and plants and it's still growing. National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day combine to make Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event.

Our Lady Help of Christians School Murtoa participated in this activity, as we have done in the past.

Schools Tree Day can mark the beginning of a long-term environmental program, and is a reminder of the importance of nature in our daily lives. It is a call-to-action for educators to introduce nature-care activities, outdoor learning and fun and healthy environmental programs into the day-to-day experience of our children to help them grow. Research shows that time in nature helps us thrive as individuals - physically, intellectually, emotionally, mentally, and ethically.

Schools Tree Day 2018 was held on Friday, July 27 and National Tree Day was on Sunday, July 29. Bunnings and Toyota were sponsors of this project. Bunnings supplied twenty-five native trees (Cupressocyparis Castlewellan gold), one for each student to plant and look after. These trees will provide a wind break on the west side of the large block beside the rain water tanks. They should look beautiful once fully grown.

Horsham Toyota provided the tree guards, gardening gloves and t-shirts. Ian, a representative from Horsham Toyota, also came to school on the day and helped with the planting.

*Anne Newton – OLHC Murtoa*

