



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

PG /105

25 July 2008

MINISTER CELEBRATES NATIONAL SCHOOLS TREE DAY

Environment Minister, Peter Garrett and Planet Ark Founder, John Dee today joined students at Malabar Primary School to celebrate Schools Tree Day.

Mr Garrett said the day provided students with an important hands-on lesson about caring for their environment and congratulated Planet Ark on making the day such a landmark event.

“Young people are becoming increasingly aware of the environmental challenges we face and the importance of taking action now to protect both the health of our local environment and the globe.

“Schools Tree Day involves students in practical action to create and care for the natural spaces which make and filter the air we breathe and provide important habitat for native birds and animals.

“Around 200,000 students around the country are expected to take part in events today and I am delighted to be here today with kids from my own electorate planting a ‘green corridor’ in the school grounds.”

Mr Garrett said Schools Tree Day came ahead of celebrations around the country this Sunday for National Tree Day, which would this year involve its two millionth volunteer.

“Now in its twelfth year, National Tree Day is responsible for more than 12 million trees being planted around the country.

“National Tree Day is a great celebration of community action to protect and improve our environment and as we tackle the impacts of climate change, its theme ‘Get Growing’, underlines the importance of action now to help grow a cleaner and greener future.”

Mr Garrett said anyone interested in finding a tree-planting site or wanting to register a site should visit treeday.planetark.org or call the Planet Ark Tree Day Hotline on 1300 88 5000.