

Celebrating Schools Tree Day together with Sheffield School

Students at Sheffield School have been learning and sharing alongside local experts who work in Tasmania's forest industry. Together, they've been having fun, planting trees and giving back to the community.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania and the Forest Education Foundation proudly partnered this year to deliver the Schools Tree Day Program to more than 40 Tasmanian schools.

Schools Tree Day is part of National Tree Day and is an annual event that encourages people across Australia to put their hands in the earth and give back to their community.

To celebrate, foresters and teachers have taken forest learning directly into classrooms and playgrounds across Tasmania.

On Wednesday 28 July, Sheffield School Farm hosted foresters from Sustainable Timber Tasmania and teachers from Forest Education Foundation in a fun day filled with forest learning and tree planting activities.

Students, teachers, foresters, and the Minister for Resources the Hon. Guy Barnett donned their gumboots and braved the wet weather conditions to plant more than 200 seedlings that were carefully grown and gifted by Sustainable Timber Tasmania's Perth Nursery.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania's General Manager Conservation and Land Management, Suzette Weeding said the activities were a positive, fun way to engage our youngest generation in how their forests are cared for.

"We explored the school farm and shared with the students how the seedlings they were planting would be cared for, and the value they would provide to the School Farm as they grow".

Forest Education Foundation Teacher Kate Battishall said the Schools Tree Day Program at Sheffield School was a great success, despite the wintery conditions.

"It was great to see the students and teachers so engaged in the event and the associated learning activities," said Kate.

"Students showed curiosity and asked some thought provoking questions to the visiting foresters. A highlight of the day was seeing the students roll up their sleeves, get their hands dirty and make connections to trees and forest landscapes beyond their school farm."

Sheffield's year levels 1 and 2 enjoyed interactive hands-on activities, learning about how trees grow, why they are important and all the valuable things that can be made from trees.

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Older primary school students investigated the different types of forests we can find in Tasmania, and how different types of forests hold flora, fauna, and production values.

Trainee forester Luke Chamley, alongside his mentor, spoke to high school students about careers in the Tasmanian forest industry, and explained that career options in forestry span from working in growing forests, timber production, operational planning and even forest firefighting.

In 2021, Schools Tree Day is Friday 30 July 2021 and National Tree Day is Sunday 1 August 2021.



Image 1: Sheffield School students with Minister for Resources the Hon. Guy Barnett, planting seedlings during the Schools Tree Day Program.

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Image 2: Sheffield School students with Minister for Resources the Hon. Guy Barnett and Sustainable Timber Tasmania CEO Steve Whiteley, planting seedlings during the Schools Tree Day Program.