

# Nurturing memories

SINCE her mother died of breast cancer in 1998, Nardia Streat has found Mother's Day tough.

Moving to Melbourne from Queensland put her farther away from her family and made the day even lonelier.

Now the 26-year-old is starting a new tradition by joining other sons and daughters who have lost their mothers for a tree-planting ceremony in St Kilda.

"When my mum died, I sent flowers to her grave - but no one sees them," Ms Streat said. "This has longevity."

The Trees for Mum project started in Sydney in 2002 and is being held in Melbourne for the first time this year.

Co-founder Deena Raphael said a leadership course she was taking required her to create a project that would make a difference to a community.

"I lost my mum as a teenager, and whenever someone tells you

their mother has died, you instantly feel a bond," Ms Raphael said.

"It was three or four weeks before Mother's Day and I wanted to do something positive."

Ms Raphael came up with the idea of planting trees, which she said were both "nurturing and a symbol of growth".

With co-founder Lauren Adlam, she pair won the support of Manly Council and did some small-scale publicity.

"We thought no one would turn up, but we had 300 people there," Ms Raphael said.

"They were so grateful for the opportunity."

This year, tree plantings will be held in Sydney, regional New South Wales, Canberra, Perth and Melbourne.

Port Phillip Council will provide native trees for planting and donations will go to the National Centre for Childhood Grief.



Nardia Streat keeps her mum's memory alive. Picture: DAVID SMITH. N45CK205

## » Growing event

**Remember:** The Trees for Mum project is dedicated to the memory of mothers

**Where:** St Kilda's Peanut Farm Reserve, opposite Luna Park

**When:** 9am-noon on May 8

**Register:** email [info@treesformum.com](mailto:info@treesformum.com) or phone (02) 8230 2438

### WORDS

Kate Hagan

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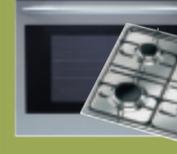
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