

Fuel for Thought

Well Done Ecofest

Recently QER has been delighted to host a number of university and school visits to our site, and it has been a pleasure to discuss our project with some young, inquiring minds.

I've also been proud to showcase our demonstration plant, which has generally received a very favourable response from our visitors.

In fact, it is so quiet in its operation that we have occasionally been asked by a visitor when it is starting up.

There was also plenty of interest in our project at last week's Ecofest event, and we were kept busy explaining our process for producing products such as ultra-low sulphur diesel and aviation fuel from oil shale.

As part of our support for the Wombat Factor art exhibition we also provided some information on the great work being undertaken by Australian Animals Care and Education to develop a breeding program for the endangered northern hairy-nosed wombat, and our toy wombat giveaways were a big hit with the kids.

A number of visitors to our marquee were also fascinated by the range of fossils we occasionally find in our shale deposit, ranging from crocodile bones and teeth through to fish and snail-like creatures known as gastropods. And if you call into our visitor centre you can see a fully-preserved, 40-million-year-old turtle shell.

Back in that era the ocean was some 150 kilometres east of Gladstone, and the area consisted of a series of freshwater lakes. The remains of various creatures, along with algae and other plant life, fell into the mud at the bottom of the lakes and over millions of years formed an organic material known as kerogen in the shale, which we transform to oil in our Paraho II™ heating process.

I'd like to congratulate the organisers of Ecofest for the smooth running of the event, which was attended by some 8,000 people. Ecofest represented a wonderful opportunity for the industries in Gladstone to highlight some of their sustainability initiatives, and strengthen peoples' understanding of how our industries operate and contribute to the local community.



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